

Star
SPORT**Siddikur misses UBS cut**
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's vaunted golfer Siddikur Rahman bowed out of the UBS Hong Kong Open on Friday after being placed on tied 87th position with 5-over-par (145) after the second round at the Hong Kong Golf Club yesterday.

The halfway cut was set at 142 with 65 pros and an amateur making the week-end rounds.

Siddikur, winner of the 2010 Brunei Open, carded a par round on day two, but a five-over-par first round meant he made little headway to avoiding the cut.

Siddikur fans though can find some solace in the fact that some of his close counterparts like Jeev Milkha Singh, Shiv Kapur and SSP Chowrasia of India and world stars like Marcus Both, Rikard Karlberg and Matteo Mannasero of Italy also failed to make the cut.

Meanwhile, Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland battled to a one-under-par 69 to retain a share of the halfway lead along with big-hitting Spaniard Alvaro Quiros.

CWAB attends meeting with ILO
SPORTS REPORTER

Huan Somavia, Director-General of the International Labour Organisation held a meeting with UNI Global Union at its headquarters on November 24 in Geneva.

ILO director-general Somavia met up with Philip Jennings, general secretary of UNI Global Union, to welcome the new platform of world player associations established under its umbrella in which the platform will tackle crisis in governance of world sports organizations.

Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) general secretary Debabrata Paul attended the meeting as the local body is part of the world player associations that has more than a hundred other associations from around the world that represents over 150,000 athletes.

Kamal's grant for BKSP
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board president AHM Mustafa Kamal has declared a Tk five lakh grant to the BKSP's cricket department yesterday.

During the visit to Savar, the Kamal-led BCB delegation Kamal looked into the possibilities of aiding the institute in infrastructural development of its cricket facilities.

They discussed with BKSP director general Brig Gen MM Salehin the prospect of developing cricket grounds No 3 and 4 into full-fledged venues with all necessary facilities. Both the grounds were leased to the cricket board.

They also discussed the plan of building a cricket academy for women at BKSP. BCB Dewan Shafiqul Arefin, Jalal Yunus and Gazi Ashraf Hossain accompanied the president.

Div I cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

Ishaq took five wickets in Partex's 26-run win over Khelaghar in a First Division Cricket League match at the BKSP-2 ground yesterday.

Batting first, Partex made 218-9 from 50 overs with Sajib hammering a half-century. Later, left-arm spinner Ishaq stopped the former Premier League team to 192 all out in the final over.

Orient Sporting Club, Motijheel T&T Club, Bangladesh Boys and Uttara Sporting Club also won their respective matches across the city.

Buck stops
FROM PAGE 16

is considering bringing back the out-of-form Imrul Kayes as Tamim Iqbal's partner in the match and in that case, all-rounder Forhad Reza will make way.

It shows how helpless the think-tank is with the batting,



West Indies all-rounder Ravi Rampaul cuts one during the second ODI against India at the Rajasekhara Reddy Stadium in Visakhapatnam yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Rampaul rallies WI

Cricket

AFP, Visakhapatnam

Tailender Ravi Rampaul and opener Lendl Simmons both cracked half-centuries as the West Indies recovered from an early collapse to post 269-9 in the second one-day against India on Friday.

The West Indies were reeling at 63-5 after being put in to bat in overcast conditions in Visakhapatnam.

But Rampaul (86 not out) and Simmons (78) ensured the team posted a competitive score.

Rampaul's 66-ball knock,

containing six sixes and as many fours, was also the highest by a number 10 batsman in one-day internationals.

He put on 99 runs with Kemar Roach (24 not out), the third-highest stand for the last wicket in one-dayers, as the tourists frustrated India by adding 120 for their last two wickets.

Indian paceman Umesh Yadav grabbed three wickets and Vinay Kumar two to do the early damage before Simmons and Rampaul

came to the rescue.

Simmons steadied the innings with a 56-run stand for the sixth wicket with Kieron Pollard (35), who was adjudged caught by wicket-keeper Parthiv Patel off the gloves after smashing spinner Ravichandran Ashwin for two successive sixes.

Simmons was the ninth man to be dismissed, run out while coming for a second run after cracking one six and eight fours in his 10th half-century in one-day internationals.

Yadav struck in his opening over when he had Adrian Barath caught behind with a delivery that moved away and nearly got another wicket in his third over but Rohit Sharma dropped Marlon Samuels in the slips.

The lapse did not prove costly as Yadav soon had Samuels caught by Suresh Raina, who dived to his right to hold a low ball at third slip.

Kumar put more pressure on the West Indies when he grabbed two wickets off three balls, having in-form Darren Bravo (13) caught by Ashwin at mid-on and Danza Hyatt caught behind for no score.

India retained the side that won the opening one-day by one wicket in Cuttack on Tuesday, while the West Indies replaced spinner Anthony Martin with paceman Rampaul.

Cricket

LATEST

Virat Kohli scored afine 117 as India beat the West Indies by 5 wickets with 11 balls to spare.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES			
Simmons run out		78	
Barath c Patel b Yadav		0	
Samuels c Raina b Yadav		4	
Bravo c Ashwin b Kumar		13	
Hyatt c Patel b Kumar		0	
Ramdin c Jadeja b Yadav		2	
Pollard c Patel b Ashwin		35	
Sammy lbw b Jadeja		2	
Russell b Jadeja		11	
Rampaul not out		86	
Roach not out		24	
Extras: (lb-6, nb-1, w-7)		14	
Total: (For nine wkts in 50 overs)		269	
Fall of wkts: 1-3, 2-25, 3-55, 4-55, 5-63, 6-119, 7-131, 8-149, 9-170.			

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kumar	10	2	43	2
Yadav	10	0	38	3
Aaron	10	0	66	0
Jadeja	9	2	39	2
Ashwin	10	0	74	1
Raina	1	0	3	0

Vettori shrugs off missing ton

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

New Zealand's Daniel Vettori was philosophical about his brain snap which cost him his first Test century against Australia at the Gabba on Friday.

The veteran all-rounder, playing in his 107th Test match, was just four runs away from his seventh Test hundred when he inexplicably set off for a quick run.

Unfortunately for Vettori -- playing on the second day of the first Test against Australia -- Mike Hussey swooped in from mid-off and run him out with a direct throw at the bowler's end.

"I wasn't (feeling) too bad. When you play for a long time you realise the ups and downs of the game and to have 96 on the board you're pretty proud of that effort," he said.

Vettori lay prone in disappointment as he sprawled to make his ground and ending his three hour knock laced with 10 boundaries.

"Four more runs and you're always disappointed to get out in that manner but it was more about the batting getting easier and to be dismissed in that manner was pretty disappointing," he said.

"Dean (Brownlie) and I could have batted for a long time, that's simply the game, you have to deal with it and get on with it. "It took a direct hit, if it wasn't been a direct hit I would have been in and he's a very good fielder, I picked the wrong guy."

Vettori put on a Gabba record sixth-wicket stand for New Zealand of 158 runs with Brownlie, eclipsing the previous best of 95 between Nathan Astle and Chris Cairns at the ground in 2001.

Australian-born Brownlie batted for 249 minutes and faced 175 balls for his unbeaten 77.

Vettori credited his batting resurgence to being more positive and aggressive and trusting his technique.

"I was embarrassed with my (batting) statistics, I thought I was a better player than that," he said. "It was a little bit loose and a bit nervous when I went out to bat and I tried to turn those things around, tighten up my technique and be a lot more positive when I went out to the middle. "It's allowed my game to flourish and I have been aggressive and hopefully I now put teams on the back foot."

"All the good players at seven, eight and nine have been aggressive and they try to take the game away from you and I suppose I've tried to model myself on that."

Vettori said the Black Caps were feeling good about themselves with a 141-run lead over the Australians who have seven wickets left heading into Saturday's third day.

"I don't think anyone really gave us a chance of scoring almost 300 in those conditions and all the talk and all the history of the wicket indicates that's a good score," he said.

Ilievski still

FROM PAGE 16
Mithun together as they are not fully fit but I tired with both of them in each half," said Ilievski adding that substitute Atiqur Rahman Meshu could not make good crosses in the second half.

Pakistan coach Zavisha echoed the sentiment of Ilievski and said that Pakistan also still retain a chance to qualify for the semifinals.

"The match was a final before the final for us and the tournament is still open for us and I hope Pakistan will qualify for the semifinals," said Zavisha.

"Bangladesh played better in the midfield than Pakistan but both teams have same problems with genuine strikers. But I am happy with the way Pakistan played," said the Serbian.

Delhi Belly

FROM PAGE 16
on Thursday but the journalists were informed that the accreditation cards were on the way. However, other journalists managed to enter the venue 20 minutes after the match between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

ONLYECHOES

The 60,000 capacity Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium saw hardly any spectators except the officials related to the game and security personnel during the opening match between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Except for a few banners around the gates of the venue, it was hard to understand that the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium is hosting the regional football extravaganza.

However, spectators from Nepal and Maldives brought some life at the venue during the second match as they kept on cheering their respective teams from the galleries but the number of spectators were approximately 1000, most of them Nepalese, who need no visa to enter India.

LOCAL snippets

Bagerhat rule in TT

SPORTS REPORTER

Bagerhat emerged champions in the men's team event of the AB Bank National Table Tennis Championship yesterday. Bagerhat defeated Bangladesh in straight 3-0 sets with Manash, Hamlet and Hasib Ansar winning their respective matches. Feni finished third beating Bangladesh Biman in 3-0 sets.

Hasib and Rocky of Bagerhat beat same team's Manash and Hamlet to lift the men's doubles crown.

In the women's doubles, Ansar's Soma and Rumi became champions beating Snigdha and Sharmin of Dhaka in 3-2 sets.

Satkhira play N'ganj today

Satkhira to play Narayanganj in first semifinals of Women's Football tomorrow

Group A champions Satkhira will take on group B runnersup Narayanganj in the first semifinals of the KFC Women's Super League at Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur today.

Group B champions Jessore will meet group A runnersup Bangladesh Ansar & VDP in the second semi on December 5 while the final is slated for December 7 at the same venue.

Taekwondo competitions this week

Two taekwondo competitions will be held this week in the city. The Korea Cup Taekwondo Competition will be held on December 4 and 5 while the Trust Bank 11th National Junior and Senior Taekwondo Competition will be held on December 6 and 7.

Mahmudul Islam Rana, the general secretary of Bangladesh Taekwondo Federation briefed on these two events at a press conference at the National Sports Council auditorium yesterday.

300 participants will compete in 23 weight categories in the Korea Cup which is being sponsored by the Korean embassy here. Meanwhile, the Trust Bank sponsored national competition will have 32 weight categories.

Saif, Fahad to go to USA

National junior champion Abdullah Al Saif and sub-junior champion Fahad Rahman are to leave for the United States to take part in the Orange Bowl tournament. Two federation officials along with Fahad's father will accompany them in the tournament, informed Bangladesh Chess Federation's general secretary Nazrul Islam.

Split, tours hurt Dhaka

MOHAMMAD ISAM



This season's National Cricket League has been nothing short of a nightmare for Dhaka division. They have lost five out of the six games, gathering just 31.52 points which is more than seven short of Barisal who are in fifth place.

When one considers that teams like Barisal, Rangpur and Sylhet have not just won games but kept their hopes alive for a second phase berth, it is hard to fathom how a team that was the beaten finalists last year are rooted to the bottom of the pile.

But this isn't the Dhaka divisional side that everyone is used to. The expansion of the National Cricket League to eight teams have met that Dhaka had to be split into two squads, the other being Dhaka Metro (sitting pretty at the top with five wins).

Last year, Elias Sunny, Anamul Haque and Mehrab Hossain Jr all scored more than 400 runs for Dhaka while Sunny also topped the wicket-takers' list for the divisional side. This year, none of these are in the Dhaka squad with only Mohammad

Sharif, Mosharrarf Hossain and a few others retained.

But Ali Hossain, the Dhaka manager, points out that it is not just the split that has hurt his side.

"It has been a terrible season for us. The decision to make the NCL larger has meant that Dhaka Metro would have our players. Apart from that, most of our top players have been missing for us due to West Indies, tour to the Caribbean as well as Hong Kong Sixes," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Two of our players including Abdul Majid had to be relieved due to examinations. You know, our captain is officially Mahmudullah Riyad but Mohammad Sharif has been captaining because Riyad hasn't been available even once," said Hossain.

They had written to the Bangladesh Cricket Board to defer the tournament at one stage but were denied the request.

One player who didn't wish to be named said that it was bad form of the batsmen that has continually hurt the team.

It was also learned that Shahadat Hossain's indifferent attitude has also hurt the team's morale.

Ponting leads Aus fightback

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

Ricky Ponting, searching for an elusive century to save his Test career, led an Australian fightback on the second day of the first Test against New Zealand at the Gabba on Friday.

Ponting, without a century in his previous 28 Test innings and under pressure to keep his place, had a few close shaves to have Australia in reasonable shape at 154 for three in reply to New Zealand's 295 at stumps.

The former skipper, whose last big innings of 209 against Pakistan in Hobart was almost two years ago, was unbeaten on 67 with his successor Michael Clarke not out 28.

Ponting narrowly avoided being run out before he had scored when Brendon McCullum's throw just missed the stumps at the non-striker's end and he also survived a video referee's referral for lbw on 63.

Ponting, who turns 37 later this month, unfurled some of his classic drives and pulls among his 11 boundaries to look back in scoring nick.



Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting executes his favourite pull shot during the second day of the first Test against New Zealand at the Gabba in Brisbane on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Battle lines drawn

FROM PAGE 16

"We have to play with the same mentality we have shown previously and I am confident," said Italian Trapattoni. "I know Italy better but every game is different."

"Spain are also a very strong team but we have to think about our moment. It will be important our squad is complete with no injuries."

Russian international midfielder Alexander Samedov said that the could have been a lot worse.

"It's a normal draw," Samedov said. "It could be much, much worse."

"All four teams are looking quite even and all are dangerous opponents. We shall take all of the opponents seriously. But I believe we can reach the play-offs."

France look relatively comfortable, but the former champions were being wary.

"We can go through this group," former France defender Bixente Lizarazu told Eurosport. "The only problem is we will be the favourites along with England and that's a label that does not suit us."

"In South Africa (for the 2010 World Cup) we said it was an easy draw and yet we did not qualify."

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 176-5)			
McCullum c Warner b Starc		34	
Guptill c Haddin b Siddle		13	
Williamson c Khawaja b Lyon		19	
Taylor b Pattinson		14	
Ryder c Warner b Starc		6	
Brownlie not out		77	
Vettori run out (Hussey)		96	
Young c Clarke b Siddle		2	
Bracewell c Clarke b Lyon		0	
Southee c Hussey b Lyon		17	
Martin b Lyon		1	
Extras: (lb-9, lb-1, w-3, nb-3)		16	
Total: (All out in 82.5 overs)		295	
Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-56, 3-78, 4-93, 5-96, 6-254, 7-256, 8-259, 9-290, 10-295.			

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pattinson	15	1	64	1
Siddle	24	8	57	2
Starc	20	1	90	2
Lyon	21.5	1	69	4
Hussey	2	0	5	0

AUSTRALIA: First innings			
Warner c Young b Southee		3	
Hughes c Guptill b Martin		10	
Khawaja run out (Williamson)		38	
Ponting not out		67	
Clarke not out		28	
Extras: (lb-1, w-1, nb-6)		8	
Total: (For 3 wickets in 46 overs)		154	
To bat: Hussey, Haddin, Siddle, Pattinson, Starc, Lyon.			
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-25, 3-91.			

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vettori	9	2	23	0
Southee	12	5	31	1
Martin	12	2	38	1
Bracewell	10	2	50	0
Guptill	1	0	6	0
Brownlie	2	0	5	0