### Siddikur a bit better

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman had a relatively better outing at the New Delhi's Avantha Masters yesterday after he carded a three-under-par score in the third round.

The 27-year-old Bangladeshi, who had a oneunder-par first round followed by a one-over par second round, was up to 41st position from the overnight 54th. Siddikur is eight shots off the leader Jbe Kruger of South Africa who snatched the lead with a six-under-par 66 at the DLF Golf and Country Club yesterday.

Siddikur had a good start as he carded a birdie on the fourth hole, followed it up with another on-the-sixthhole to finish the front nine on 34. Siddikur endured his first bogey of the day on the 11th hole before managing two more birdies on the 15th and 18th holes to finish the back nine on 35.

ASIAN ARCHERY GP

### Milon, Sujan bow out in Round 3

SPORTS REPORTER

Two archers from Bangladesh made it to the third round before bowing out of the 1st Asian Archery Grand Prix that is being held in Bangkok, Thailand from February 15-19, said a press release from Bangladesh Archery Federation yesterday.

Bangladesh's number one archer Imdadul Haque Milon defeated Khudir Khalid of Iraq in the first round of the individual recurve bow event before beating Thailand's Olympic qualifier Thamong Uttraya by in 4 sets. However, Milon lost to Thuichab Ekasak of Thailand in the third round to bow out of the

competition. Another archer of Bangladesh team Sujan beat Saiyedeev Wedeke 6-0 before beating an Iranian in the second round. However, like Milon, Sujan's spree ended there as he lost to Geroil Romail of France 4-2 in the next round.

Other archer of the team Ziaul Haque Zia bowed out of the competition from the first round losing to Chi Chun Man of Hong Kong in 4-2 sets.

A total of 314 archers from 30 countries from across the world are taking part in this

competition. The Bangladesh team will

return home tomorrow.

### Rajshahi

FROM PAGE 16

to be dashed when they were restricted to 126 for six in their share of 20 overs but the bowlers did an excellent job to deliver the win.

Sunny did the main damage in the Rajshahi innings by taking three wickets for 13 runs.

In reply, Chittagong made a confident start but lost composure once Jahurul Islam fell victim of a run-out.

Saglain then captured two wickets in his first over and in his next he also dismissed the in-form Nasir Jamshed to bring back the excitement in the match. Thereafter it was Pakistan paceman Sami, who took the first hattrick of the competition the other day, who kindled his team's hopes by

taking two wickets in one over. Chittagong were left to score 18 runs from the last two overs but they could manage

only eight. In the last over Chittagong needed 12 runs but could manage only two from the

#### Sami over. SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI: 126 for 6 in 20 overs (Shahzaib 20, Khalid 14, Mushfigur 24 not out, Razzaq 19, Sabbir 17, Muktar 16; Sunny 3-13, Cooper 2-17) CHITTAGONG: 117 for 9 in 20

overs (Jamshed 20, Jahurul 13, Riyad 18, Shamsur 24, Forhad 15 not out; Sami 2-16, Saqlain 3-22)

Result: Duronto Rajshahi won by nine runs.

Man-of-the-match: Saglain Sajib.



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus is ecstatic after beating Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium during their Qatar Open match in Doha on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

### Azarenka in semis

Tennis

AFP, Doha

World number one Victoria Azarenka won her 15th consecutive match of the season to make the semifinals of the WTA Qatar Open on Friday, a year after she almost quit the sport.

The Belarusian star defeated Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium 6-0, 6-4 to stay on course for a third title this year, after victories at Sydney and the Australian Open. Australia's Samantha Stosur also

advanced with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 win over Romania's Monica Niculescu, while France's Marion Bartoli defeated Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic 7-5, 4-6, 6-1.

Azarenka lost in the first round to Daniela Hantuchova in Doha last year, and after another lacklustre show in Dubai, where she was beaten by Flavio Pennetta, she had become so demoralised that she even considered quitting the sport for good.

"Last year by this time I was a little bit of a mess. I couldn't control any of my emotions, and I didn't really enjoy playing tennis," she

"I lost a really, really bad match here and a few before that. It was just not fun for me to do, because I'm the type of player that plays with a lot of passion, a lot of desire.

"Every time I was stepping on the court, it was a misery to me. So I just told my mom, I don't want to play anymore because it's not

'She's like 'You know what? I think maybe you're tired, you're burned out. Just come

home and see what happens'. "And then a few long talks with my grandmother and I kinda bounced back. I realised there are more important things in life than just losing a tennis match."

Azarenka was in imperious form in the first set on Friday but stuttered slightly in the second when she was broken for the second time in the eighth game by Wickmayer to level the scores at 4-4.

But Wickmayer could not hold her serve

in the next game, hammering the ball into the net and then sending a backhand wide to concede what proved to be the decisive break for Azarenka.

The top seed then closed out the match by winning the final game without conceding a point.

Earlier, Australian third seed Stosur overcame a spirited fightback by Niculescu to advance to her first semifinal of the year.

Stosur, the reigning US Open champion, won in a little short of two hours after totally losing her momentum in the second set and surviving a tough spell in the third when Niculescu took three games in a row to level at 3-3.

Niculescu had a wonderful opportunity to break Stosur in the seventh game when she was leading 30-0, but sent an easy volley long after a lengthy rally to give the Australian the opening she was looking for.

Bartoli ended Safarova's giant-killing run, but not before conceding the second set, and gave credit to her fitness.

"The turning point was my fitness," the Frenchwoman said. "I was fitter than her and that helped me win the match."

Safarova had knocked out former world

number one Caroline Wozniacki on her way to the last eight.

### **BFF** protests concert at Kamalapur

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has protested the hosting of a music concert at the Kamalapur Stadium without its permission through a press release yesterday.

The concert, titled 'Winter Festival Open Air Concert' on Friday, was awarded by the National Sports Council without any consultation with the BFF. There were no matches of either the Championship League or the First Division on Friday and NSC took this opportunity by awarding permission to hold the concert.

The BFF statement said that a few commercial houses have turned this stadium into a centre of hosting such concerts which is damaging for football. It also said that a lot of hard work goes behind maintaining the pitches which are badly damaged by such programmes.

#### Abahani start with a win

SPORTS REPORTER

Pushkor Khisha Mimo scored a brace and Iqbal Nadir Prince grabbed the other as Abahani beat Bangladesh Police 3-2 in the first match of the Exim Bank-Noorjahan Group Shaheed Smriti Hockey Competition at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Enamul Kabir Turjo scored both the goals for Police.

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Army defeated Bangladesh Navy 5-3. Milon and Sirajul score two each for the winners while Malek grabbed the other. Limon, Shuvo and Belal scored one apiece for the losing side.

### Beanibazar beat Wari

SPORTS REPORTER

Striker Nazrul Islam scored a brace as Beanibazar beat Wari Club 2-0 in a marquee battle of the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Nazrul broke the deadlock in the 28th minute and sealed the victory with his second on the 69th minute.

The win takes Beanibazar to four points from three matches to join Wari Club who too have four from points from the same number of matches.

1 Office

**11** High-

notes

6 Disband,

for short

ranking

angel

**12** Brought

forth

wheel

material

**16** Literary

17 Jeans

24 Higher

than

26 Military

28 Anger

leader

30 Parcel of

31 Rubicun-

35 Trounces

Lake

mama

land

dity

39 Great

40 Calf's

contralto

42 Settled

44 Video-

**46** See

down

43 Work unit

game

47 "— than a

hedgehog

## Ricky can't be rested Important match against India today

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Ricky Ponting needs a rest but he cannot afford to leave the senior batsman out of the Australia team with regular skipper Michael Clarke injured, coach Mickey Arthur said Saturday.

Ponting, 37, has played in all six of Australia's Tests this season as well as four one-day internationals but he has yet to pass 10 in the tri ODI series.

Ponting failed again with just two runs in Friday's thumping eight-wicket loss to Sri Lanka in Sydney. Arthur said in an ideal world Ponting

would be taking a break rather than preparing to lead Australia against India in Sunday's tri series match at Brisbane's Gabba ground. "If I have to be totally honest, Ricky is a

little bit jaded, like a couple of our Test players who have played all summer," Arthur told reporters in Brisbane.

"But that is the treadmill of international cricket and they have to find a way to make their performances count and have an take on board. impact on the team."

Ponting conceded after Friday's loss that his own form was not satisfactory but said he had no intention of calling time on his 374 one-day international career. Arthur said there was no doubt Ponting's

experience and knowledge were vital to Australia but that wouldn't ensure a future at ODI level unless his performances start to improve.

'Every cricketer's currency is perfor-

mance, that's what gets you into the Australian team," he said.

"A character like Ricky Ponting is someone you want around the team all the time because he's so inspirational, he's still our fittest player and hardest trainer and he trains with the most intensity, he's a fantastic example to every guy who comes into this team.

"Ricky is a class act, there is no way you can write off a champion like Ricky Ponting.

"He faced those same issues around the first couple of Test matches and he came through the Test series, had a great series against India and I hope he turns it around tomorrow.' Ponting admits his form is unacceptable,

but said he hadn't considered avoiding the captaincy in Clarke's absence even though that leadership role is set to extend a game further with Clarke ruled out of Sunday's ODI.

"This week is nothing different for me, just got a little bit of added responsibility that I've had 170 times before," he said.

"It's nothing new to me but being able to make the team bounce back strongly for Sunday is something that we've all got to "I'm going to have a leading role in that

and I'm going to make sure I do everything I can to get the boys up on Sunday." George Bailey joined the international

squad in Brisbane on Saturday as cover in the absence of Clarke.

Spinner Jon Holland was also with the squad in a covering role following Xavier Doherty's back spasms in the lead-up to Friday's match.

# PCB asks for evidence

### Kaneria claims he is innocent

Cricket

AFP/CRICINFO, Lahore

Pakistan cricket bosses will ask British authorities for the full judgment and evidence in a spot-fixing case that implicated leg-spinner Danish Kaneria, officials said Saturday.

Kaneria's Essex teammate in England, Mervyn Westfield, was sentenced to four months in prison on Friday after he pleaded guilty to taking money to bowl badly in a 2009 match between Essex and Durham.

receiving 9,200 dollars to bowl so that 12 runs would be scored in the first over of the contest, although in the event only 10 were conceded. Prosecutors said the player had been

At the Old Bailey Westfield admitted

lured into the fix after an approach by Kaneria, who was arrested in connection with the case in 2010 but later released with-

On Saturday Kaneria was captaining Sindh province against Punjab in the Pakistani domestic Pentangular Cup final in Lahore.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) legal adviser Taffazul Rizvi said the organisation had to seek evidence or material before it could act against the leg-spinner.

"Since Kaneria is a Pakistan player we are obviously looking into the matter with a lot of concern," Rizvi told AFP. "Since the match was an England domes-

tic match, it's in the England board's jurisdiction and we will seek evidence from the concerned authorities.

54 Practices 11 False

pugilism

substitute

surface

DOWN

1 Villain

2 Poor

53-Across 3 Wrestling

"Once it comes we can only then summon him before the Integrity Committee of the PCB where his case is still pending."

earnest-

big-time

ness

18 Without

21 Slate or

delay

Salon

13 Fear

Kaneria was selected for Pakistan's series against South Africa in October 2010 but was withdrawn at the last moment when the Integrity Committee did not clear him. He challenged the decision in court but his

case was dismissed in November last year. "The stance of the PCB is one of zero

tolerance towards any player with questionable integrity. The judgment of Westfield raised a lot of questions but in law everybody is innocent until proven guilty," said Rizvi. The case implicating Kaneria is the latest

blow to Pakistani cricket after a spot-fixing scandal on the team's tour of England in 2010 ended in lengthy bans and jail terms for Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer. That prompted International Cricket

Council (ICC) to force Pakistan to form an Integrity Committee to check players' assets and suspicions against them. Meanwhile, Kaneria has claimed he played

no role in the spot-fixing case in which Westfield has been convicted and sentenced. He has said he is completely innocent.

"I am completely innocent from Day One. All allegations against me are false," a nervous-looking Kaneria said repeatedly, after the opening day's play of the final, in Lahore. "The Essex police cleared me and I have clearance certificates from both the English cricket board and ICC, so I am not feeling any pressure. I am just enjoying my cricket."

Kaneria now faces the possibility of a disciplinary tribunal in England. Essex police will hand over the evidence to the English cricket board, which will decide whether to hold its own investigation. The maximum penalty, if Kaneria is found guilty, is a lifetime ban from all cricket worldwide.

# Win pleases Mahela

Cricket

CRICINFO, Sydney

Mahela Jayawardene is pleased Sri Lanka's turnaround in the triangular series has begun with youngsters stepping up. Thisara Perera, the promising all-rounder who is slowly becoming a key member of the side, and Farveez Maharoof, who made vet another comeback in an in-and-out career, took four wickets for 47 runs between them, and broke the back of the Australian innings.

"These are the guys who are going to take Sri Lanka cricket into the future," Jayawardene said. "Hopefully we can build on that. "I am a big fan of his

[Maharoof's]. He has been playing some good cricket back home. Especially with two new balls, he is one of the guys who can give us something extra with the bat and the ball in different conditions. It's good to have him back. He felt really confident. He is an experienced player, he played in the 2007 World

Cup as a 20-year-old." Perera, a more regular member of the side than Maharoof, had earlier been dropped in Sri Lanka's second match of the tournament. In their big win against Australia,

he contributed to two runouts apart from taking two wickets. "Brilliant," Jayawardene said. "These are young guys who are coming through. They believe they belong here, which is great.

The energy level they bring to

the team is fantastic. "He [Perera] is a fastbowler-all-rounder, who can field at any position, he is a good slip fielder as well. It's good to have this group of players we can work with for the future. Got other youngsters who are coming back from injury. We will get a bigger pool going forward. Exciting times as long as we

keep working hard." Apart from youngsters, Jayawardene was pleased Sri Lanka finally got a decent start to their innings. Jayawardene moved back to the opening role, dropping Upul Tharanga, and the captain and former captain put on 74 for the first wicket. "We needed a tactical change," Jayawardene said. "We were not getting starts upfront. Upul is a very good player. But unfortunately he is going through a bit of a period. We felt giving him a break will do him justice, freshen him up. I

"Lahiru is a middle-over batsman, he can fit anywhere. We just need to settle things upfront, make sure we get a

just jumped in straightaway.

good start, which we did today."

#### **Brothers**

Brothers when he found himself at the end of a through ball and one-on-one with the goalkeeper, but his awful attempt

said he was happy with the performance of the boys, and claimed a number of injuries were the reason for their poor performance in the league.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 

Jayawardene has seen good signs from Tillakaratne Dilshan. "Dilly plays his own game," Jayawardene said. "We never restricted him. He goes out there and plays naturally. He is a fantastic player to have. On the field he saves 20 runs. Even on a good wicket he can bowl five-six overs for you. A complete package. The way he batted today was beautiful. We just want to make him a free player so he can win matches for us. He has got three good starts now, hopefully he will get a big one next game."

#### FROM PAGE 16

missed the target by a mile.

Naeemuddin's counter-

part Jakaria Babu, who guided the team to the final of the Federation Cup, felt his side should have won the match had the strikers not wasted the chances they got.

#### originality **20** Ceremony 22 Comical DeLuise

Brothers coach Naeemuddin

23 Extremist speeding 4 News-14 Overcome bullet" 25 Tramcar paper 15 Furniture 49 Bigger load page 27 Scepter 51 Gilbert 5 Vestige 29 Stags 6 What's who collection lacks painted the 31 Coral George point of arith-Washingstructures 19 Show no 32 Proofmetic? ton 52 Eastern 7 Cheese readers' choice finds poten-8 Greek tates 53 With 46-34 Junior conso-36 Heavy Across, nants 23 Eye layer socializ-9 Page size ing at the 10 On-call 37 Hells lodge Angels, accessory e.g. Solution time: 27 mins.

O F F T O M HUSHABY TESLA BETTER ARIL BRAHER LUSTY OINKASPEN ADDONSLATHER PIETASUMO STREPRIPSUB CROCRUNINS H U S K I E S P A E A N W E E D D T E V I C T ADS SOY SYNTH

33 Unearths overcoat 38 Wields a teaspoon 41 Henry had six 44 Withered

45 Overly

48 Paving

50 Red or

goop

Black

**CRYPTOQUIP** 

GTWFIY PBIE WABTY W HITHY PIOWSFIE PBZRABNS VFYD

XFGTFN: DBOOFAXR FYP

WAS BUILT IN THE STYLE OF AN EARLIER ERA.

BI SBT." W PZRXX Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS SUBWAY SYSTEM theatrical

> IT'S DEFINITELY A RETRO METRO. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals U