Mumbai bowl Kings out for 112

SPORT

CRICINFO, Chennai

Pragyan Ojha made a seamless transition from Deccan Chargers to Mumbai Indians, taking two wickets in his first two overs for his new side to pull back defending champions Chennai Super Kings just when they were threatening to break free.

The holders were eventually bowled out for a paltry 112, leaving Mumbai Indian with an easy task. Richard Levi smashed 37 off 25 balls and Sachin Tendulkar struck 13 as Mumbai raced to 53 for no loss in just six overs.

Super Kings were 69 for 2, having made a bit of a comeback from a slow start, when Ojha was introduced in the 10th over, and three wickets in the next four overs including those of danger men Suresh Raina and Dwayne Bravo - meant they could add only 43 in the rest of the piece. Kieron Pollard was a good deputy to Ojha, taking two wickets after the spinner had dismissed the settled batsmen.

Ojha's introduction was a crucial moment in the game. Put in on a surprisingly green Chennai pitch - definitely not a pitch IPL chairman Rajeev Shukla would have approved of - Super Kings were just coming out of a period of struggle then.

At the other end, though, Raina enjoyed his homecoming to the tournament he revels most on. But at 99 for 7 in the 17th over, with two Lasith Malinga overs left, no one would have expected an addition of many more than the eventual 13.

SCORES IN BRIEF CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 112 all out in 19.5 overs (Raina 36; Pollard 2-15, Malinga 2-16, Ojha 2-17)

Ctg, Faridpur

FROM PAGE 16

when they beat Chapainawabganj by 132 runs. Batting first, Pabna banked on Mohsin and Mamun's half-centuries to build 276 runs in 50 overs. Chapainawabganj had no chance, being bowled out for 144 runs in 48 overs.

In the other matches, Bogra beat Joypurhat by three wickets, Jamalpur defeated Sherpur by five wickets, Magura routed Bagerhat by eight wickets, Thakurgaon snuck past Panchagarh by two wickets, Comilla beat Bandarban by four wickets while Rangpur edged past Nilphamari by one wicket in a rain-reduced game.

Openers give FROM PAGE 16

a four-hour vigil at the crease.

Tim Bresnan had Herath edging a catch to wicketkeeper Matt Prior, before Swann terminated the innings by bowling last man Suranga Lakmal.

SCOREBOARD SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 238-6): Thirimanne lbw b Anderson Dilshan c Prior b Anderson Sangakkara c Strauss b Anderson M Jayawardene Ibw b Swann Samaraweera Ibw b Bresnan Mathews c Strauss b Swann P Jayawardene c Prior b Finn Randiv c Pietersen b Swann Prasad not out Herath c Prior b Bresnan Lakmal b Swann Extras: (b-4) Total: (All out in 111.1 overs) 216,6-227,7-258,8-261,9-270,10-275. Bowler R

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-21, 3-30, 4-154, 5-22 5 62 Anderson 4 51 21 3 47 Bresnan 16 3 32 Patel 28.1 4 75 Swann 2 0 4 Pietersen **ENGLAND:** First innings Strauss c P Jayawardene b Dilshan

Cook not out Trott not out Extras: (nb-1) Total: (For one wkt in 66 overs) To bat: Pietersen, Bell, Prior, Patel, Swann, Anderson, Finn, Bresnan.

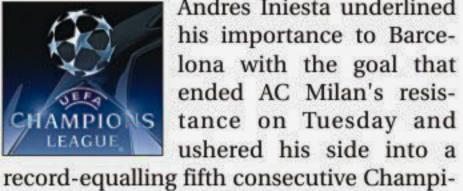
Fall of wicket: 1-122. M R W Bowler 34 Lakmal Prasad 24 46 2 Dilshan 16 34 17 4 Randiv



The players of Dinajpur are overjoyed as they celebrate with the Tribal Hockey Tournament trophy after beating Bandarban in the final at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The other star

REUTERS, Barcelona



Andres Iniesta underlined his importance to Barcelona with the goal that ended AC Milan's resistance on Tuesday and ushered his side into a

ons League semifinal.

The Spanish international rarely appears on the scoresheet and was not as effective as usual against Milan, but he has an uncanny knack of grabbing crucial goals on big occasions.

Two penalties from Lionel Messi had put Barca 2-1 up at the Nou Camp before the break, with Milan only needing to score once more to go through on the away goals rule after last week's 0-0 draw at the San Siro.

In the 53rd minute, Messi raced across the edge of the area and had his shot blocked by a defender. The ball broke free to Iniesta, who showed

great composure to wait until the keeper had committed himself before dinking a shot over him to score. It was only Iniesta's seventh goal in all com-

petitions this season, but the two-goal cushion allowed Barca to ease back and defend their lead from a position of strength with their trademark dominance of possession.

"I think Andres has more goals in him than the statistics show, but he does so much

more than just score goals," Barca coach Pep Guardiola said after the holders had completed the win. "He is a fantastic player."

The 27-year-old Iniesta is one of the trio of outstanding midfielders at the heart of Guardiola's team, alongside fellow youth-

team graduates Xavi and Sergio Busquets. More noted for his intricate dribbling, lightning-quick feet and clever link up-play, the waif-like Iniesta has weighed in with some famous goals in his career.

He struck the dramatic late semi-final equaliser from outside the area at Stamford Bridge that guided Barca past Chelsea and into the 2009 Champions League final in Rome, where they went on to beat Manchester United.

In 2010, he grabbed the most important goal in the history of the Spanish national team when he struck the added-time winner against Netherlands in the World Cup final in South Africa.

The World Cup winner has made Iniesta hugely popular across Spain, where he is regularly applauded by opposition fans, but the shy and retiring playmaker is more than happy to let others take the limelight at Barca.

Messi is on course for a fourth consecutive Champions League top scorer award with 14 goals in Europe so far, and he has racked up 58 in all competitions, but Iniesta may still be required to lend a helping hand again before the end of the campaign.

Deonarine, Rampaul back for Windies

Cricket

CRICINFO, Port Of Spain

West Indies have recalled batsman Narsingh Deonarine for the first Test against Australia in Barbados, starting April 7. The 13member squad also includes fast bowler Ravi Rampaul, who missed the one-dayers and Twenty20 due to injury and illness.

Deonarine, the left-handed middle-order batsman and offspinner, last played for West Indies during the home series against South Africa in 2010. He was the leading run-scorer in the Regional Four-Day Competition with 582 runs in seven matches at an average of 44.76. He also took 20 wickets for Guyana, including two five-wicket hauls.

"Deonarine has been the leading the batsman this season in the Regional Four-Day and has demonstrated his commitment and a new level of maturity," said Clyde Butts, the chairman of selectors. "We have not seen many big scores from the batsmen in this year's competition, but he has played some very good innings for Guyana and also bowled very well coming onto the latter half of the tournament. We expect this same level of focus against the Aussies. He is sure to be an asset."

Deonarine was among those not offered a contract or retainer last year by the West Indies Cricket Board because his fitness was "deemed unsatisfactory". The board was not pleased with his attitude to fitness, which it said was "unacceptable for an international cricketer".

Butts said he was impressed by the performances of the batsmen on the two away tours of Bangladesh and India last year, and backed them to do the same against Australia, ranked No.3 in the world.

Kirk Edwards, who scored a century on Test debut against India last year, has been named Darren Sammy's deputy. Those missing from the squad that toured India include the experienced batsman Marlon Samuels, wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin and spinner Shane Shillingford. Samuels, who played the one-dayers recently is away in India for the IPL.

Rampaul was unable to be considered for the West Indies pre-tour training squad or the ODI series due to a bout of dengue fever. He also had to shrug off a shoulder problem. He played for the Trinidad and Tobago in the Regional Four-Day semi-final against Barbados, taking 4 for 55 in the first innings.

The one-dayers and Twenty20 series were shared 2-2 and 1-1 respectively.

Messi sparks **FROM PAGE 18**

the rebound became a through-ball, the chase for it a straight sprint. Messi beat Philippe Mexes. He laid it to Xavi who nudged it to Iniesta. When the ball ran free to Messi, Antonini brought him down. Messi's low penalty squeezed in between the post and Christian Abbiati's hand.

Barcelona wanted an early goal, but they stAnd Guardiola was right: Milan did score. ill wanted another. Abbiati had made a handful of saves, even if few were outstanding. Just after the half-hour Ibrahimovic turned and assisted Antonio Nocerino, who side-footed past Victor Valdés. Barcelona had been looking for the second goal anyway but now desire became an obligation. They needed two, notone.

The second came from another penalty just before half-time and the initial reaction was surprise. Sergio Busquets was held by Alessandro Nesta at a corner and Bjorn Kuipers blew. At first it was not clear what the referee had given but Milan's shocked players surrounding the referee was a clue. The wait for Messi was a long one but he hit the other corner.

If Guardiola assumed the risk before, now he sought to minimise it, immediately sending Alves to full-back. Barcelona still attacked and so did Milan in the first minute of the second half they were appealing for a penalty of their own when Alves lunged at Robinho. Soon, though, Messi's deflected shot squirmed to Iniesta, who controlled and shot past Abbiati to make it 3-1. At last Barça had the cushion they craved; they could step down off that knife edge and keep the ball.

Eyes on elbows



The Indian Premier League (IPL) has decided to crack down on chucking and has asked the umpires to apply the relevant laws strictly to deal with bowlers with illegal actions.

The Suspect Action Policy, effective from February 1 this year, has detailed

the process for dealing with a bowler who is called by the umpires for chucking during the tournament or is suspected by the umpire(s) and/or match referee for bowling with an illegal action in a match, according to its official website www.iplt20.com. IPL has also asked the umpires and match referees to go

by what they see with the naked eye during the match and decide whether the bowler's action contravenes the relevant Law 24.2 before reporting the bowler. "The Umpires and Match Referee, in deciding whether to

report a Player under this Policy, should use the naked eye for viewing the relevant player's bowling action during the match -- either live or on television at normal speed. Slow motion video footage or other technological support should only be used to confirm initial suspicions," the website stated. The IPL has also circulated to all match officials and rele-

vant franchisees "a list of players who (a) either were on the Warning List at any time in the previous Season or (b) have been reported in BCCI domestic cricket for a suspected illegal bowling action and (c) in either case have not been Cleared by the Committee (the "Initial List")."

"If a Player is called by an Umpire for throwing in accordance with Law 24.2 or is suspected by the Umpire(s) and/or Match Referee for bowling with an Illegal Bowling Action during a Match, the procedures in clause 2 shall apply."

As per cricket's laws, a third call against a bowler in the same innings by either umpire for chucking would debar him from bowling again in the innings.

Rooney bullish

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Meanwhile, Rooney has praised the impact of Danny Welbeck and believes his fellow striker is a leading candidate to be United's player of the season.

He told Inside United: "There are a few candidates but I'd have to say Welbeck.

"To play so many games for United in his first full season has been brilliant. sure on him but he's done really well and scored some important goals for us.

There has been a lot of pres-

"He got an opportunity from the start of the season and he came in and played very well and scored a few goals. He's an exciting player and credit to him for the way he's performed - he's played in a lot of matches this season."

Cricket in once more

AFP, Lahore

Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium opened its gates to a foreign team on Wednesday for the first time since a terror attack on the Sri Lankan team bus forced a halt to international cricket in Pakistan. It was near the Gaddafi

Stadium -- Pakistan's cricket headquarters -- that militants opened fire on the visiting Sri Lankans as they made their way to the ground for the third day of the second Test in March 2009. Eight people were killed

and seven touring players and their assistant coach were wounded. No internationals have been played in Pakistan since.

A British Universities side took on a Pakistan Cricket Board Under-19 XI at the Gaddafi on Wednesday, losing the 50-over match by

a huge 302-run margin. While the contest may have been one-sided, Pakistan officials hope the presence of an overseas side will

encourage others to follow -and ultimately lead to a return of international fixtures to the cricket-mad country. "It's a great development

that some foreign players, no matter University players, have played a cricket match at Gaddafi Stadium and it will give them a positive picture about Pakistan," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) director Intikhab Alam told AFP.

47 48 49

58

goalkeeper. The way their (Farashganj) player fouled the goalkeeper could have wounded Sohel but the referee didn't even bother to give us a free-kick," said Abahani's Iranian coach Ali Akbar. "The referee did not award

Abahani

FROM PAGE 16

us a clear penalty during the game. He also did not send off the Abahani goalkeeper despite the fact that Sohel pushed the referee twice. If this is how the matches are officiated, then lightweights like Farashganj stand no chance against heavyweight like Abahani," said Farashganj coach Kamal Babu.

On the pitch, Abahani were clearly the dominant side and put on an organised show with Aram Aziz playing brilliantly in the midfield.

The national discard saw his two brilliant defence-split passes squandered by Lucky Paul and Awudu Irahim before he fired his first goal of the season to put Abahni ahead in the 38th minute with a side-volley off a Nasir low cross.

Then Twum Frank tried his luck from 35 yards but his dipping shot went inches over the Farashganj crosspiece before his compatriot Lucky Paul finished clinically from inside the box after availing a through-pass from substitute right-back Linkon in the stoppage time of the first half.

After resumption, Farashganj reduce the margin and yielded two good chances before Zunapio scored his fortuitous goal in the 61st minute.

Abahani continued on their attacking vein, and Towhid was sent on to strengthen the attack and the left-foot oriented winger sealed the fate of the match tapping in a low drive from Paul on 74 minutes.

Locapets

FROM PAGE 16

State Minister for Chittaong Hill Tracts affairs Dipankar Talukdar witnessed the final and distributed prizes among the winners while sponsors First Security Islam Bank deputy managing director Syed Wasek Mohammad Ali and Hockey Federation's general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah were among others present.

Div-II Football

Friends Social Welfare Association recoded a 2-0 win over BG Press S & R.C-in the Super League of the Destiny Group 2nd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday. Sajal and Shahnur struck one goal apiece for the winners.

Mid-term transfer window

Bangladesh Football Federation extended the period of the mid-term players' transfer for a week after Sheikh Russel KC appealed to shift the schedule to May from April.

Now the transfer window will be opened on previous declared date of April 20 and close on May 3 instead of April 26.

Junior Table Tennis

The First National Junior Table Tennis Championship got underway yesterday in Dinajpur with 150 players from 25 districts taking part.

The four-day meet will be held in two sections boy's and girl's division and six events -- boy's and girl's singles, doubles and team, said a press release.

Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation president Abdul Karim inaugurated the meet while Dinajpur's deputy commissioner Jamal Uddin was also present.

School Handball

Viquarunnissa Noon School & College registered a 26-0 win over Summerfield in girl's section of the Polar Ice-Cream 20th School Handball Tournament at the Handball Stadium yesterday.

In the day's other match, Dhanmondi Tutorial defeated Banani Biddya Niketan 9-6 while in boy's section, Scholastica thrashed Wari High School 16-9 and Motijheel Govt High School routed Heed International 17-8.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 39 Hatfield-DOWN 22 Discover-1 Fool ers' cries McCoy 1 Dumb-4 Morse arsenal struck 23 Coffee-

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU KNOW THAT FAMOUS OLD MILK MASCOT ELSIE THE COW? I WOULD SAY SHE'S A REAL BEAST OF BORDEN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T