

Emre banned for racist slur

Fenerbahce midfielder Emre Belozoglu has been handed a two-match ban for allegedly racially abusing Trabzonspor's Ivory Coast player Didier Zokora, it was reported Friday.

According to the reports, Turkish international Emre, who allegedly called Zokora a "dirty negro", has become the first player to be punished under a new law aimed at ridding sport of racism.

Emre was reprimanded by the disciplinary commission of the Turkish football league (PFDK) for abusing Zokora during a league

AHF CUP HOCKEY
Bangladesh emerge group champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Skipper Russel Mahmud Jimmy struck four goals including a hat-trick while Mamunur Rahman Chayan scored three as Bangladesh thrashed hosts Thailand 9-0 in their last group match to emerge group champions in the AHF Cup Hockey Competition in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday. Penalty corner specialist Chayan scored the opening goal in the eighth minute before Jimmy scored in the 11th, 15th and 18th minutes and Chayan netted another in the 31st minute as the defending champions took a 5-0 going into the breather. Krishna Kumar and Iqbal Nadir Prince added two more after the breather before Chayan netted his third. Jimmy put the icing on the cake with his fourth in the 57th minute to confirm the rout.

Four of the nine goals came from penalty corner while the rest were field goals. Bangladesh had earlier defeated Chinese Taipei 4-2 and Singapore 4-1 in their previous matches. The defending champions will now take on either Sri Lanka or Oman, depending on where they end up in Group A, in the semifinal on Monday.

Siddikur steady, yet far off

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman steadied his position to a joint 16th position with an aggregate of 2-under-par after 14 holes of Round 2 in the CIMB Niaga Indonesian Masters yesterday.

The Bangladeshi golfer managed three birdies and two bogeys on the day before lightning cut the day short at the Royale Jakarta Golf Club. Play was also suspended earlier in the day for two hours and 20 minutes for the same reason. Siddikur will be among 74 players who will return at 6.30am Saturday to complete their rounds.

Meanwhile, overnight leader Lee Westwood of

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



Rajshahi opener Mizanur Rahman acknowledges his teammates' applause after reaching a century against Sylhet in the second phase of the National Cricket League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Mizanur, Anamul blast tons

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Anamul Haque's relentless strokeplay lit up the Fatullah Cricket Stadium while it was a fulfilling of a wish at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium by Rajshahi opener Mizanur Rahman during the opening day of the National Cricket League matches held yesterday.

Khulna latched on the unbeaten 178 by Anamul as well as half-centuries from Imrul Kayes and Taposh Ghosh as they completely dominated proceedings against Dhaka Metro in the first day of their second phase game of the first-class competition that returned to action after December 21 last year when it was suspended to make room for the Dhaka Premier League.

Ironically, the NCL has come to the rescue of the club competition's organisers after their failure to convince the three clubs enforced the country's domestic cricket to be stopped for three weeks.

RAJSHAHI-SYLHET

In a virtual semifinal between teams in second -- Sylhet -- and third -- Rajshahi -- positions, the latter made a tremendous start when the openers Jahurul Islam and Mizanur added 186 runs spanning two sessions.

It helped Rajshahi end the day on 291-4.

Despite his experience, Jahurul took a cautious approach to the more attacking Mizanur, who made 105, at the other end. Jahurul struck 87 off 180



ANAMUL...178 n.o

balls with ten boundaries but it was the centurion who kept the Sylhet bowling attack at bay.

Mizanur hammered the only six of the day off Enamul Haque Jr while also hitting fourteen boundaries in his 145-ball knock. He was the first to be dismissed when Ejaz Ahmed freakishly caught him at short-leg when he had already turned to protect himself; the ball lodged into his lap by chance.

"It is always a dream to play in Mirpur, so to score a hundred is always special," said Mizanur, whose earlier first-class hundred was against Dhaka last season, at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium.

"I think it was a very good wicket to bat on. The batsman had a good time in the middle but there were times when the bowlers extracted bounce," he added.

Hamidul Islam and Sabbir Rahman were the unbeaten batsmen as the Rajshahi batsmen, barring two wickets in the middle-order, were in command.

KHULNA-DHAKA METRO

Anamul became the second batsman this season, after Mohammad Mithun, to score three centuries in first-class cricket. He scored 108 out of his unbeaten 178 in boundaries (24 fours and two sixes) as Khulna racked up a formidable 388-4 on Day One.

Khulna captain Tushar Imran won an important toss on a sweltering day but it was Anamul who was too hot to handle for Dhaka Metro for whom nine men tried their luck with the ball.

Anamul batted at a strike-rate of 70 during his 254-ball stay that was for more than five hours (except the time he sat in the shade while Imrul Kayes and Soumya Sarkar opened the innings). Imrul and Anamul added 154 for the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

2nd Test edges to draw

Cricket

AFP, Port of Spain

Australia retained their two-decade grip on the Frank Worrell Trophy when heavy rain meant the second Test against the West Indies petered out into a draw on Thursday.

The disappointing end came just when the home side were cranking up their pursuit of a 215-run victory target at Queen's Park Oval.

Australian skipper Michael Clarke had declared his team's second innings at 160 for eight early in the afternoon, leaving West Indies with a minimum 61 overs to force a result and level the three-game series.

But after reaching 53 for two off 11 overs, the umpires led the teams off as bad light and heavy rain, which had restricted Wednesday's action to just 30.4 overs, returned.

"I think it was going to be a good final day if the rain stayed away," said Clarke, whose team won the first Test in Barbados.

"It was disappointing for both teams and the fans. It's going to be a tough fight in Dominica (where the final Test starts on Monday) because we played inconsistent cricket here."

In an effort to win the game, West Indies

captain Darren Sammy switched his batting order, moving Kieran Powell to open and placing himself at number three.

Australian seamer Ben Hilfenhaus soon had the West Indies rocking, trapping Powell lbw for just four in his second over and the decision stood despite another wasted review by the home side.

Sammy, himself, then came to the crease. However, Hilfenhaus had both openers back in the dressing room just two overs later when he produced a beautiful outswinger that took the edge of Adrian Barath's bat and the catch was taken by Clarke at first slip.

That left West Indies on 13 for two.

Sammy, though, still had his sights firmly set on a win and launched into an attack on Hilfenhaus, striking him for two boundaries and a six over long-off.

He reached 30 not out from 26 balls with his team still needing another 162 runs to win when the weather intervened.

"We were going after the runs. We lost two wickets, but we had Shiv (Chanderpaul) and Narsingh (Deonarine) in the end. We made a positive statement. We looked at it as a one-day scenario," said Sammy.

During the morning the unlucky Fidel

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Pattinson, Siddle to return home

Cricket

AFP, Port of Spain

Fast bowlers Peter Siddle and James Pattinson are to return home to Australia from the West Indies owing to back soreness, Cricket Australia revealed Thursday.

Team physiotherapist Kevin Sims said: "Peter Siddle developed some back soreness late in the first Test against the West Indies and scans conducted in Trinidad showed the early signs of a low back bone stress injury."

"He was subsequently ruled out of the second Test and after further consultation we feel that to prevent this injury developing any further it is in Peter's best interest for him to return to Australia to rest and for appropriate physiotherapy to ensure he is fully fit when next selected for Australian duties.

Clarke to keep pressing

Cricket

AFP, Port of Spain

Australia captain Michael Clarke vowed to keep making ambitious declarations even if it meant risking seeing his plans come back to haunt him.

Clarke set the West Indies a 215-run target off 61 overs in the second Test on Thursday, after declaring on 160 for eight early in the afternoon, only for torrential rain to wash away any chance of a result.

His decision to tempt the West Indies to force a result had paid dividends in the first Test in Barbados, which his team won by three wickets, despite declaring his team's first innings 43 runs behind.

Thursday was also set for an intriguing finish when West Indies reached 53 for two off 11 overs before rain returned to end the weather-battered contest.

"My goal my whole career has been to help the Australian team win as many games as possible and I guess now that I am captain I have the opportunity to show that," said Clarke.

"At times with my declaration, when there is a chance for winning, you've got to

have a go at it.

"There's going to be times that it might backfire and we might lose every now and then. But I enjoy the brand of cricket that we're playing at the moment.

"I know the guys are really focused on the team having success and trying to win as many games as we can. And I think it's bringing the best out of the team."

The draw meant that Australia retained their two-decade grip on the Frank Worrell Trophy with just the final Test to play starting in Dominica on Monday.

In an effort to win on Thursday, West Indies captain Darren Sammy switched his batting order, moving Kieran Powell to open and placing himself at number three.

But Australian seamer Ben Hilfenhaus soon had the West Indies rocking, trapping Powell lbw for just four in his second over which allowed Sammy, himself, to come to the crease.

Hilfenhaus had both openers back in the dressing room just two overs later when he produced a beautiful outswinger that took the edge of Adrian Barath's bat and the catch was taken by Clarke at first slip.

That left West Indies on 13 for two.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Boys Club and Friends Social Welfare Association were promoted to the First Division League after they finished the Destiny Group Dhaka Metropolitan 2nd Division League in the top two places.

The two sides drew their last group match of the Super League stage 2-2 at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Mohammad Salahuddin and Rabbi scored for Bangladesh Boys while Mohammad Sabuj and Shahin scored for the Friends Social Welfare Association.

Championship League

Beanibazar Football Club defeated Victoria Sporting Club 2-0 in their Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship encounter at the Cox's Bazar Stadium yesterday. Mohammad Biplob gave Beanibazar a 32nd minute lead before Milon Barman made it 2-0 in the 41st minute.

Beanibazar have 15 points from 11 matches and are third in the table while Victoria are in fifth with 13 points from same number of matches.

School football

Isdair Rabeya Hossain High School moved to the final round of the National School Football Tournament after emerging champions in the zone with a 5-1 win

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



Royal Challengers Bangalore pacer Zaheer Khan (C) is congratulated by teammates after he dismissed Kings XI Punjab batsman Paul Valthaty (not in picture) during their IPL Twenty20 match at the PCA Stadium in Mohali yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bangalore ride on Gayle storm

SPORTS REPORTER



Royal Challengers Bangalore rode on a responsible knock of 87 by Chris Gayle to beat Kings XI Punjab by five wickets in their IPL match at Mohali yesterday.

Put into bat, Kings XI were in early trouble as Indian paceman Zaheer Khan made early inroads by removing both their openers inside five overs with the scoreboard on 27. And when Shaun Marsh fell with the score on 57 in the ninth over a low scoring total was on the cards.

But Kings XI pulled back admirably with David Hussey, Azhar Mahmood and Mandeep Singh all contributing to take the score to a defendable 163 in their allotted overs.

It looked to be enough once Parvinder Awana had sent back both Mayank Agarwal and Virat Kohli with only 8 on the scoreboard.

But despite also losing Tiwary, Gayle kept his nerve in an extremely responsible knock off only 57 balls to see his side almost to the finish line. He was ably supported by AB De Villiers in a 131 run partnership, and the South African struck a classy 52 as Bangalore got home with three balls to spare.

BRIEF SCORES

KINGS XI PUNJAB: 163 for 6 in 20 overs (Hussey 41, Mahmood 33) lost to ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 166 for 5 in 19.3 overs (Gayle 87, De Villiers)