

Peter arrives for MSC

SPORTS REPORTER

The former coach of the Bangladesh national hockey team Gerhard Peter Rach said he needs some time to get an idea of the Bangladeshi domestic competitions as the German took charge of the defending champions Mohammedan Sporting to guide them in the upcoming Premier League.

"We obviously want to win the league title but at first I have to know the situation here. I did not see any local competition here," said Peter who was in charge of the national team for 18 months from December 2009 to May 2011.

Peter, who has been linked with Mohammedan since his departure, will conduct a training session with the club at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium today. Peter has brought with him his deputy, Akim, when they arrived yesterday. The German's first assignment will be to guide the Black and Whites in the Club Cup competition which starts on May 31.

Eagles win Div-I b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Eagles emerged champions in the Citycell First Division Basketball League defeating Flame Boys by 78-61 points in the last league match at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday. Eagles led the first half by 34-22 points. Shaheen of Eagles caged the highest 32 points for Eagles while Nitai scored 16 points for the winning side.

The champions Eagles and runners-up Flame Boys qualified for the Premier Division League which begins at the same venue today.

Flame Boys will take on Europa Youth in the opening match of the league at 4:30pm today.

10-man

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receive the marching orders in the 30th minute, quite an unnecessary act from the winger who was having an otherwise excellent outing.

However, despite going down to ten men, Abahani continued to play in the same vein of attacking football and doubled the lead in the stoppage time of the first-half. Mohammad Lincoln's floating cross found an unmarked Frank at the top of the six-yard box who put the ball at the back of the net with a powerful header.

The Sky Blues' dominance continued into the second-half as they scored a third in the 48th minute, this time another Ghanaian Awudu Ibrahim slotted in an angular shot past a host of defenders into the net, after receiving a cut-back from Brazilian Carlo Da Silva from the corner flag. It was clear lack of communication as Brothers defenders failed to mark Awudu on the top of the box.

Legs got weary at both ends, as the searing heat started to tell on the players fitness, and blunders began to rack up. One of those mistakes gave Brothers a lifeline on the stroke of the hour-mark when Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel missed the flight of an innocuous long ball, which Nigerian striker Joshua Olatekin obliged by heading in.

But Abahani's reply was quick as four minutes later veteran midfielder Arman Aziz restored the three goal margin by racing on to a through ball from Awudu before sliding it past the advancing goalie into the net.

Brothers profited from another lapse in the Abahani defence in the 76th minute. Nigerian Kingsley Chigozie, this time, cashed in on a defensive error from Abahani defender Mohammad Sujon to slot it past the goalkeeper to make it 4-2.

Abahani's Iranian coach was not satisfied with the result as he said they should have won by a bigger margin. "We must have won 4-0. The goals that we conceded were due to defensive blunders. And we missed a couple of chances too," said Akbar.



West Indies captain Darren Sammy punches the air in celebration upon reaching his first Test century on the second day of the second Test against England at Trent Bridge in Nottingham yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

England steady after strong Windies show



AFP, Nottingham

England captain Andrew Strauss led England's reply after West Indies skipper Darren Sammy scored his maiden Test hundred on the second day of the second Test at Trent Bridge here on Saturday.

At tea, England were 123 for one -- a deficit of 247 runs after West Indies had made 370 in their first innings.

Strauss was 45 not out and Jonathan Trott 35 not out, with their unbroken second-wicket stand of 80 coming in just 101 balls.

Alastair Cook, Strauss's fellow left-handed opener, was the man out in the session, for 24, after twice being 'caught' behind off no-balls.

Fast bowler Kumar Roach repeatedly over-stepped -- his 10 overs had so far featured eight no-balls.

One of those was when Cook, whose 79 helped England to a five-wicket win at Lord's that gave England a 1-0 lead in this three-match series, was brilliantly caught one-handed by diving wicket-keeper Denesh Ramdin for one.

However, Cook was recalled after umpire Aleem Dar used television technology to check for a no-ball he hadn't called on the field.

It was a similar story when the paceman, angling the ball had Cook, on 12, edging a regulation catch to Ramdin.

This time, however, Dar had signalled the no-ball himself.

But Cook wasn't able to make the most of his double reprieve.

Ravi Rampaul, who missed the first Test with a neck injury, produced an excellent rising delivery which Cook could only nick to the reliable Ramdin, who made no mistake as he 'caught' the Essex batsman for the third time.

Rampaul kept things tight in an opening spell of one for 28 in 11 overs.

But the pitch was still a good one on which to bat.

Strauss's back-foot force for four off Sammy brought up England's fifty while Trott got off the mark with a cover-driven boundary against the medium-pace.

Eventually, with England 96 for one, Sammy brought on Shane Shillingford after the off-spinner had been left out at Lord's.

It wasn't long though before Trott was driving him for four while Strauss weighed in with a trademark square-cut four off Sammy,

whose pace meant he'd little margin for error on such a good surface.

West Indies resumed Saturday on 304 for six, having collapsed to 63 for four after their top-order's latest failure, with Marlon Samuels 107 not out and all-rounder Sammy a then Test-best 88 not out.

Sammy went to 98 by slicing a drive off Stuart Broad over the slips and next ball had another lucky break when, aiming legside, he somehow got the ball through point for another boundary that took him to a century.

But the 28-year-old, playing his 26th Test, had produced plenty of 'proper' shots too in completing a 140 ball-hundred with a six and 16 fours in just over three hours at the crease.

However, both he and Samuels were out soon afterwards as Tim Bresnan, expensive on Friday, removed the century-makers in a spell of three wickets for 10 runs in 19 balls that saw him finish with four for 104 in 27 overs.

Sammy was dismissed when he holed out on the hook to Kevin Pietersen at deep square leg.

His partnership of 204 with Samuels was a West Indies record for the seventh wicket against England,

surpassing the 155 shared by Garry Sobers and Bernard Julien at Lord's in 1973.

And 340 for seven became 341 for eight when Samuels, who'd added just 10 to his overnight score, edged Bresnan and Anderson held a sharp catch in the gully.

ENG-WI SCORECARD

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight: 304-6)

Barath c Anderson b Broad	0
Powell c Anderson b Broad	33
Edwards b Anderson	7
Bravo c Swann b Anderson	3
Chanderpaul lbw b Swann	46
Samuels c Anderson b Bresnan	117
Ramdin b Bresnan	1
Sammy c Pietersen b Bresnan	106
Roach c Strauss b Bresnan	7
Shillingford st Prior b Swann	16
Rampaul not out	6
Extras: (b8, lb18, w1, nb1)	28
Total: (all out, 109.2 overs, 468 mins)	370
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-26, 3-42, 4-63, 5-125, 6-136, 7-340, 8-341, 9-360, 10-370	

BOWLER	O	M	R	W
Anderson	30	12	73	2
Broad	27	4	81	2
Bresnan	27	4	104	4
Swann	20.2	4	62	2
Trott	5	0	24	0

ENGLAND: First innings
Strauss not out 45
Cook c Ramdin b Rampaul 24
Trott not out 35
Extras: (b4, lb5, nb10) 19
Total: (1 wkt, 34 overs, 140 mins) 123
Fall of wickets: 1-43

BOWLER	O	M	R	W
Roach	10	1	31	0
Rampaul	11	2	28	1

Butt Ashraf's envoy?



PTI, Lahore

Stating that he had a fruitful discussion with the Indian Premier League chief Rajiv Shukla, former Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt said that he has been assured that the Pakistani players would be allowed to take part in the next edition of the IPL.

According to a report in Daily Dawn, Butt briefed his successor, Zaka Ashraf on the discussions he had with Shukla and former BCCI president and current ICC chief Sharad Pawar, recently in New Delhi during his visit to India.

"Rajiv Shukla has assured me that Pakistani players would be allowed to take part in the next IPL," Butt said.

"I held the meetings with the BCCI officials with the consent of the PCB chief and have briefed him accordingly," he added.

The PCB had urged Butt to hold discussions with the Indian Board (BCCI) on resumption of the cricketing ties between the two nations.

Butt said that the recent announcement by the BCCI that Pakistan would be allowed to send its Twenty20 champions team for the Champions League was a good progress and had made him believe that the discussions

were moving in the right direction.

Ashraf, who will himself be leaving for India today to watch the IPL final in Chennai scheduled on Sunday after the BCCI extended an invitation to him, told the media that the visit would be a good opportunity to discuss the resumption of bilateral ties with the Indian officials.

"Things have been moving in the right direction in recent times and the recent thaw will pave the way for resumption of bilateral ties," he said.

"The BCCI has already taken the first step by including our team in the Champions League. And during my visit to India negotiations are expected to happen on the resumption of bilateral ties as well," Ashraf added.

Ashraf said that Pakistan could offer the BCCI to host a bilateral series at a neutral venue if the Indians refuse to send their team to Pakistan on security grounds.

"The BCCI may also host Pakistan but whatever decision is taken it will be in best interest of Pakistan cricket," said Ashraf.

Interestingly, Shukla during a recent private visit to Pakistan had made it clear that whenever a bilateral series will be held it would either be in India or Pakistan and not in any neutral venue as that would serve no purpose to either of the country.

Wins for GYC, MSC and Rising Girls'

SPORTS REPORTER

Gulshan Youth Club, Mohammedan Sporting Club and Rising Girls' Cricket Academy won their respective matches in the 4th Women's Club Cricket League yesterday.

An all-round performance from Lata helped Gulshan Youth secure a 127-run victory over Indira Road Krira Chakra.

Lata made 47 and later picked up two wickets after Gulshan Youth were all out for 195.

In reply, Indira Road were bundled out for 68 in 31.1 overs.

Mohammedan posted a six-wicket victory over Cricket Coaching School, who were dismissed for 57, which Mohammedan chased in 15 overs with Tahin Tahera top-scoring with an unbeaten 21.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Rising Girls' defeated Kalabagan KC by six wickets.

Arifa Akter made an unbeaten 33 and Nupur added 25 as Rising Girls' scored 108 for four in 27.5 overs in reply to Kalabagan's 107 all out in 27.3 overs.

Bolt's bad start



AFP, Ostrava

Usain Bolt opened his European track season here on Friday by clocking 10.04sec in the 100m after what he dubbed a "very bad day at the starting blocks".

The double sprint gold medalist from the 2008 Beijing Games overcame a dreadful start at the second time of asking and into a -0.8m/s headwind and grimaced his way from the 50m mark, the long-legged Jamaican opening up a lead on his rivals to the line.

Veteran Kim Collins of St Kitts and St Nevis came second in 10.19sec with American Darvis Patton third in 10.22.

"I don't really know what went on," said Bolt, who added that he hadn't run as badly as this one since an outing in Canada back in 2009.

"At the start, I didn't feel as explosive as I normally feel. If you don't get that first start, well that's where my power comes from for the transition and everything comes together.

"That's reality, a very bad day at the starting blocks. I don't know exactly where it went wrong.

"I was looking forward to coming here and doing a good time. I guess it's just one of those days."

Bolt said he had not managed to get the crucial "drive" phase of his race from 50 metres going as he liked it.

"When I was in the back warming up, I did some starts and I was flying," he said.

"I ran out and didn't get going, couldn't generate speed up in middle of race so I had to work hard to get some speed up."

Bolt added: "I'll go back, look at the replay, talk to my coach and he can explain what I need to do and then I can go to Rome and improve on my time."

As introductions were made on the stadium big screen, reggae music booming, Bolt danced, played air guitar and generally goofed around for the benefit of a capacity 20,000-strong crowd at the Vitkovice City Stadium in this eastern Czech city.

When the screams and whistles died down, Bolt, wearing luminous green spikes and loose blue singlet over grey camouflage shorts, settled in his blocks after crossing himself and looking skywards.

Case against Pomersbach dropped

AFP, New Delhi

An Indian court has dropped a criminal case against Australian cricketer Luke Pomersbach after the woman who accused him of molesting her said they had agreed to an out-of-court settlement.

The Delhi High Court on Friday said charges against Indian Premier League (IPL) player Pomersbach, 27, of molesting the American woman and later beating up her fiancé in a posh hotel room in New Delhi had been dropped.

The cricketer's arrest last week made headline news in Indian and Australian newspapers, adding to a recent string of bad press for the cricketing league.

Police said Pomersbach, an IPL Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) team player had been accused of molesting the 27-year-old woman and beating up the woman's fiancé after he objected to Pomersbach's alleged moves.

The cricketer has battled depression and drug problems and narrowly avoided a jail sentence in Australia after admitting assaulting a police officer who was trying to arrest him for drink driving.

Schumacher the quickest

AFP, Monte Carlo



Michael Schumacher rolled back the years on Saturday with the fastest lap in qualifying for Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix, although Australian Red Bull driver Mark Webber will start the race from pole position.

In this season of the unexpected and the unpredictable, few could have suggested that the 43-year-old German, a seven-time champion who has been under fire for his poor form, would have produced such a performance ahead of the season's most glamorous race.

But he did it in astonishing fashion with a flying late lap in his Mercedes around the twisting barrier-lined street circuit to outdo the Red Bull of Webber.

It was a great lap, but to little real avail because he brought a five-place grid penalty with him to the Monaco race weekend from the Spanish Grand Prix, following his collision there with Brazilian Bruno Senna of Lotus.

As a result, pole will be taken by Webber, who posted the second fastest lap and is looking for his second victory in the principality having previously won in 2010.

Schumacher's best lap of 1min 14.301secs stunned his

team and his rivals and he drove a lap of the circuit with one finger in the air in celebration before blowing kisses to the fans and then kissing his car.

It would have been the 69th pole position of his astonishing career and would have given him a great opportunity -- having made his comeback after a three-year retirement -- to deliver a 92nd win. But, from sixth, it is a different story.

Flame Boys group champs

SPORT REPORTER

Flame Boys emerged Group B champions to reach the super four stage of the Igloo Metropolitan Men's Second Division Handball League beating Nabadwip Sangha by 39-37 points in a group match at the Shaheed Capt Mansoor Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

Quantum Foundation also moved into the super league as Group B runners-up eliminating Tipu Sultan Sporting Club by 21-15 points in the day's other group match while Singna Sangha defeated Rajdhani SC by 19-17 points in the last group encounter on Saturday.

French Open

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winning ways, has stopped the rot against the World No. 1 with successive straight-sets wins in the finals of Monte Carlo (record 7th title) and Rome (record 6th title). Having been beaten in the last three Grand Slam finals, he will be particularly keen to nail his supremacy on clay.

Djokovic lost just one match on clay in 2011, to Federer in the semifinal stage in Paris. This year, he has been a clear number two behind Nadal, but the relative ease with which the Spaniard dispatched him in Rome and Monte Carlo does not inspire confidence in the world No. 1's prospects of reigning supreme over all the Grand Slams. The clinical way that he has overcome all others however, bode well for his chances of reaching the finals. Federer is a possible semifinal opponent, but Nadal lies in the opposite half of the draw.

Federer's chances are the poorest among the big three. Victory on Madrid's blue clay speaks to his superb ability to adapt, but the surface has little in common to the clay of Roland Garros. A good head-to-head record against Djokovic stands in his favour, but a win over Nadal in the final will go against both history and current trends.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 McNally's partner
5 Lawyers' org.
8 Verve
12 Sandwich
13 Turf
14 Interoffice note
15 Rip
16 Alpine coatings
18 Drum on which cable is wound
20 "Sid-dhartha" author
21 What-ever amount
22 Teeny
23 Long-legged bird
26 Oven in an Indian restaurant
30 Help
31 Monkey suit
32 Shock and—
33 Entrance rug

DOWN

1 Campus mil. grp.
2 Neighborhood
3 Tide type
4 On the back
5 Analyze ore
6 German city
7 Commotion
8 Ran the show
9 Meadows
10 Pumps up the volume
11 Schnozz
17 Timely question?
19 Stick with a kick
22 Grow

Solution time: 21 mins.

G A P S D A B P E R U
A R E A O N E E M U S
L I E F N I N E P I N S
A L P A C A T E S T E R
R A T A K I T
N I H I L I S M N I P S
A R A M O T E T N I A
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O W N S U P L O I T E R
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C L U E L E I T E R Y
E Y E S E T C S O N I S

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38 Summer-time mo.
39 Cover
40 Swiss money
43 Griffith's lawyer role
47 Longtime airplane manufacturer
49 Capri, e.g.
50 Cain's victim
51 Fish eggs
52 Online journal
53 Existed
54 Massachusetts cape
55 Drunkards

23 Despondent
24 Uncle (Sp.)
25 Altar affirmative
26 Egypt's boy king
27 Rowing need
28 Have bills
29 Roulette bet
31 Play-ground game
34 Cause anger
35 Greatly
36 Healthy
37 Goes off script
39 Burdened
40 Imperfection
41 PJs coverup
42 Computer brand
43 "You're putting —"
44 Norway's capital
45 Coagulate
46 Small barrels
48 Historic period

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CRYPTOQUIP

PYAT JPK GBUAGMAC AVOAGJJI
YHUA IBLBDHG KOBTKTJL
JYAW OGGKMHMDW AVQDHBL
"LW IACBLATJI AVHQJDW!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THAT BIG OPERA STAR SINGS NOTABLY DEEP BASS PARTS, WOULD YOU SAY HE HAS A SO-LOW CAREER?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals M