

Siddikur, Jamal in Myanmar

Asian Tour from today
SPORTS REPORTER

Golfer Siddikur Rahman is eager to put the disappointing 2012 season behind when he begins a new season of the Asian Tour by teeing off at the Zaykabar Myanmar Open today.

Siddikur went to Myanmar on Monday and had two days to practice. He felt that he was in good form to win again on the tour.

"I just did some workout and practised on my game. It was bad toward the end of 2012. I think I played in too many tournaments but I won't make the same mistake again this year," said Siddikur while talking to Asiantour.com on Tuesday.

The one-time Asian Tour winner will be vying against the likes of Tour number one Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand, defending champion Kieran Pratt of Australia, Rikard Karlberg of Sweden and Bangladeshi qualifier Jamal Mollah, among others, in the 300,000-dollar event.

"I have the confidence to win another Asian Tour event. I've tried very hard to do that but I feel that it is coming closer. I've improved a lot since 2010. There's a big difference in my game so I think it will be very soon before I win again," Siddikur said.

Booters bank

FROM PAGE 16
Zahid Hossain and Shakil Ahmed, defender Mohammad Sujon have been suffering from different injuries.

Physio Doliur Rahman said that Shakil and Zahid have been recovering from their injuries and the condition of Emily and Sujon would be known after the medical tests.

Syed Golam Jilani along with goalkeeping coach Atiqur Rahman had conducted the first day of the training as Dutch coaches Lodewijk de Kruif and Rene Koster are scheduled to arrive here on Friday to take charge of the national side.

Money talks

FROM PAGE 16
440 runs and 17 dismissals deserved to be the man-of-the-series ahead of Shakib Al Hasan.

Despite the positive performances on the field, the matter of the fact is that the payment irregularities received more coverage and continue to haunt the image of the competition.

The challenge of the governing council up ahead would be to clear the payments within the next six months. This task, if not done, will create a similarly difficult scenario for the board before the next season.

Inspired

FROM PAGE 16
were recorded as Bangladesh held on for a famous victory.

"I'm feeling very proud because we have defeated China for the first time in twenty years," said man-of-the-match Jimmy just after the game.

"I could not play well in the last match, but today I played well and contributed to my team's success," he added.



Unlike this picture, England's Joe Root was in full control of his game in the second ODI against New Zealand in Napier yesterday. Root scored an unbeaten 79 in his side's winning reply. PHOTO: AFP

Joe show after Jimmy's

England draw level with New Zealand



AFP, Napier

A five-wicket haul by James Anderson backed by a dominant England batting display set up an eight-wicket win over New Zealand in the second one-day international in Napier on Wednesday.

Facing a series defeat after an upset loss in the first match in Hamilton, England bounced back after standout performances from Anderson and up-and-coming batsman Joe Root.

England's top-order rose to the occasion, with half-centuries to captain Alastair Cook (78), Jonathan Trott (65) and Root (79), the 22-year-old tipped as a future star.

But the foundation for England's victory came from a miserly five for 34 from Anderson, who swept through New Zealand's batsmen to restrict the home side's total.

Anderson's scalps included both the Black Caps opening batsmen and Ross Taylor. His century late in New Zealand's innings threatened to set England a formidable total, along with a quickfire 74 from 36 balls from Brendon McCullum.

The Black Caps made a slow start after being sent into bat on a tame wicket and were all out for 269 after 48.5 overs, with England reaching the target of 270 after 47.4 overs.

New Zealand, missing injured opener Martin Guptill, were pedestrian, with the first boundary coming when Hamish Rutherford pulled a delivery from Anderson in the fifth over.

Anderson dismissed openers BJ Watling (7) and ODI debutant Rutherford

(11) cheaply as New Zealand's frustration mounted and the home side were on just 22 runs after 12 overs.

Kane Williamson and Taylor gradually increased the run rate, putting on 72 together to take the Black Caps to 91 before Williamson (33) dragged a ball from Chris Woakes on to his stumps to slow the momentum again.

New Zealand's struggle was apparent when Taylor, in his best performance since returning to the international fold after being axed as captain late last year, brought up his half-century off 81 balls with only three fours.

Backed by McCullum, his successor as captain, Taylor notched a century off 116 balls with a four but was dismissed by the next delivery he faced.

England's Ian Bell and Alastair Cook made a brisk start to the run chase with an opening partnership of 89 in the first 20 overs before part-time spinner Williamson dismissed Bell for 44.

Captain Alastair Cook brought up a chanceless 50 from 67 balls, including five fours and one six, but was dismissed on 78 after hitting the ball straight back down the wicket to Tim Southee.

Trott and Root then combined to see England home, with Root displaying a wide variety of shots ranging from authoritative drives to risky reverse sweeps.

SCORES IN BRIEF
NEW ZEALAND: 269 all out in 48.5 overs (Taylor 100, B McCullum 74, Williamson 33, Elliott 23; Anderson 5-34, Woakes 3-68)
ENGLAND: 270 for 2 in 47.4 overs (Root 79 not out, Cook 78, Trott 65 not out, Bell 44; Williamson 1-39, Southee 1-54)
Result: England won by 8 wickets.

Radwanska in qtrs



REUTERS, Dubai

World number four Agnieszka Radwanska overcame a misfiring serve to beat Kazakh teenager Yulia Putintseva 7-5, 6-3 in the second round of the Dubai women's tennis championships on Wednesday.

The Pole, who received a first-round bye, lost three of her first four service games on an overcast Centre Court and she will need to improve if she is to retain her Dubai title, with Petra Kvitova or Ana Ivanovic awaiting her in the next round.

"For me, the first match is always a bit tricky," Radwanska told reporters. "I didn't hit on the centre court here this year, and I was just practising outside -- it was actually much faster. I was surprised -- the ball is just not going anywhere and it was tough for me."

Serving at 3-3, Radwanska saved four break points after falling 0-40 behind, but Putintseva was undeterred and she earned another break point with a forehand winner down the line that fizzed past the advancing Pole.

Rattled, the 2012 Wimbledon finalist double-faulted to fall 4-3 behind. Radwanska, 23, responded by coming to

the net more frequently to force Putintseva, ranked 101 in the world, to play on the back foot.

The Kazakh, seeking her third victory over a top-50 player, was found wanting and Radwanska broke for 4-4, with six out of eight games going against serve.

Putintseva, who beat Britain's Laura Robson in an all-teenage first-round battle, prefers brute force over finesse and although a fast hitter, she consistently played the ball too short, allowing Radwanska to stay in rallies with relative ease.

The Pole was too out of sorts to fully exploit her opponent's shortcomings but as the overcast sky gave way to a muggy desert sun she also upped the playing temperature on court, earning two set points with a flat forehand winner down the line. She needed only one as tempestuous Putintseva smashed an attempted winner long.

Radwanska's greater pedigree -- she has 12 tour singles titles in her name, while Putintseva has never made it beyond the second round of a tournament -- eventually told, and she won five of the last six games.

"In the very important moments a bit of experience is always good to have," added Radwanska. Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki

routed Chinese qualifier Jie Zheng 6-0, 6-1, while Russian veteran Nadia Petrova had a similar romp against Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro, winning 6-1, 6-0. In the day's other matches, Italian Roberta Vinci recorded a 7-5, 6-1 victory over Angelique Kerber of Germany, seventh-seeded Australian Samantha Stosur beat Taipei's Su-Wei Hsieh 6-4, 6-0 and Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova sweated for a 7-5, 7-6 (7/1) win over Serbian Ana Ivanovic.

Shakib goes

FROM PAGE 16
possible here. I'm very much positive but we have to wait for the second opinion from Australia," said Dr. Debashish Chowdhury, the BCB physician.

Shakib had missed the one-day series against West Indies in November-December last year after being diagnosed with the injury.

New coach

FROM PAGE 16
India three or four times, Pakistan before, the first time here, so I am really looking forward to visiting new places and introduction to your culture. With the help of Shane [Jurgensen] and couple of other guys here I will not face any hindrance," said Corey.

'He fought with Reeve'



AFP, Pretoria

Witnesses claimed hearing arguing, a woman screaming and gunfire at the house of "Blade Runner" Oscar Pistorius the night he shot dead his model girlfriend, police told a South African court Wednesday.

Pistorius's defence team undermined the reliability of the claims as the South African sporting hero sought bail for the Valentine's Day killing that he insists was a horrible accident and not intentional, as prosecutors aim to prove.

Police also said Pistorius had previously been arrested at his Pretoria home for assault, although he was not charged, and faced further charges of possessing an unlicensed gun.

A woman who lives in the same highly secured Pretoria complex as Pistorius "heard talking that sounded like non-stop fighting from two to three in the morning", hours before she was killed, Prosecutor Gerrie Nel said.

Another witness reported hearing gunshots, screams and then more shots, police said.

"We have the statement of a person who said after he heard gunshots, he went to his balcony and

saw the light was on. Then he heard a female screaming two-three times, then more gunshots," Detective Hilton Botha said.

But Pistorius's legal team disputed these accounts as police said the witnesses were 300 metres (660 feet) from the house.

And the prosecution, which wants to prove that the Paralympian had deliberately planned to kill Steenkamp, was forced to admit that Pistorius's claim that he mistook Steenkamp for an intruder matched the crime scene.

"It sounds consistent," Botha said. Steenkamp, a 29-year-old model, was shot three times through the bathroom door early on February 14, with wounds to her head, elbow and hip.

She was declared to have died later by medics who found her covered in bloodied towels and wearing white shorts and a black vest.

Pistorius, the first double amputee to compete against able-bodied athletes in the Olympics in London last year, says he shot her by mistake through a locked bathroom door, believing she was a burglar.

"I had no intention to kill my girlfriend," he said in an affidavit read to the court on the first day of his bail hearing Monday.

"We were deeply in love and couldn't be more happy," he said.

Pistorius, 26, said he kept a firearm under his bed at night because he had been a victim of violence and burglaries before and had received death threats.

But the state prosecutor said the athlete would face an additional charge of possessing unlicensed .38 special calibre ammunition.

A police search of his home also found testosterone and needles in a dresser in his bedroom, Botha said, amid speculation that performance-enhancing drugs may have influenced his mental state.

But his defence lawyer, Barry Roux, said the sex hormone was an acceptable supplement. "It's a herbal remedy and he can use it and he has used it before," he said.

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) announced that he was drug-tested before and during last year's Paralympic Games in London and on both occasions the results were negative.

Magistrate Desmond Nair said he could not rule out that there was some planning involved in the killing, which may be considered as a premeditated murder, setting a high bar for bail.

The bail hearing was adjourned until Thursday.

Dhaka Bank series in SL

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Bank earned the rights to become the title sponsor of the upcoming series between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The Tigers leave for Colombo on February 28 to play two Tests, three ODIs and a T20 International on the tour which opens with a three-day game.

"We took the opportunity to sponsor a series abroad after Sri Lanka Cricket approached us because we know that cricket is the only game in our country that has the potential of gaining global recognition. And our cricket team is doing well in the international arena, so it's a privilege to be associated with the game," said Khondker Fazole Rashid, managing director of the bank, at a press conference yesterday.

He however was not ready to disclose the amount of the deal.

Three logos -- Dhaka Bank Test Series 2013, Dhaka Bank ODI Cup and Dhaka Bank T20 -- were also unveiled during the press meet at a city hotel.

2nd Women's League from Saturday



SPORTS REPORTER

The 2nd Dhaka Metropolis Women's Football League will begin on Saturday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium with eight teams, split into two groups, fighting it out.

Mohammedan, last season's runners-up, will take on Arambagh KS in the opening match as defending champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club decided not to take part in the league.

Not only Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, Wari Club and Rahmatganj also did not take part in the second edition of the league though the trio participated in the

inaugural meet.

However, some new teams including Abahani and Feni Soccer Club ensured their participations.

Top two teams from the each group will qualify for the semifinals to be held on March 3 while the final will take place on March 5.

Walton has earned the right to sponsor the league by providing Tk 4.5 lakh even though the estimated budget of league is Tk 5.25 lakh.

GROUP A: Mohammedan, Arambagh, Dipalee Jubo Sangha and Jatrabari Krira Sangha

GROUP B: Abahani Ltd, Soccer Club, Bangladesh Police SC and Nasrin Sports Academy.



Bangladesh cricket team's vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad (C) poses with officials of the Dhaka Bank, title sponsors of Bangladesh's away series in Sri Lanka, at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Band-leader
4 Equitable
8 Frizzy hairdo
12 Hockey surface
13 Andy's pal
14 Circulate
15 Historic time
16 Twist
18 "Aida" composer
20 Expert
21 Food
24 Poolroom supply
28 Bring together
32 Hammer or sickle
33 Inseparable
34 Casino machines
36 "Kitchy-...!"
37 Young female
39 Remorseful
41 Milk-maid's place
43 Analgesic target

DOWN

1 Ukraine's capital
2 Farm measure
3 Once around the sun
4 Salon treatments
5 I love, to Livy
6 Charged bit
7 Answer an invite
8 Showing buoyancy
9 Winter bug
10 Deteriorate
11 Have bills
17 Sphere
19 Dict. info
22 Body powder
23 Urban hangout
25 Mischievous Norse god
26 Swag
27 Gin fizz
28 Gear teeth
29 Not procrastinating
30 Pianist Peter
31 Sicilian spouter
35 Grad student's income
38 Blockage of a sort
40 Genetic letters
42 "Skip to My ..."
45 Quite some time
47 Muse's instrument
48 Intend
49 Cutting implements
50 "Ei ..."
51 Praise in verse
52 Born
53 Exist
54 Can matter

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-16

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CRYPTOQUIP

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XHDULGDME YCG UDODHCJ
SDWCJD SIVDU YD WLBYE
MCWD EYDW MLVIM'U OLVDMU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: STANDARD MOTTO KNOWN TO BE USED BY CIRCUS EMPLOYEES WHO WORK WITH LIONS: "WE TAME TO PLEASE!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals H