

Baridhara move atop

SPORTS REPORTER

Uttar Baridhara SC recorded a lone-goal win over Rahmatganj MFS in the Premier Bank Bangladesh League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Swapan separated the sides after converting a penalty kick in the very 2nd minute of the game.

The triumph put Uttar Baridhara on top of the table with 11 points from five matches while Rahmatganj remained to their previous seven points from five matches.

V'ball meet in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Dishary SC recorded a 2-1 win over Shaheed Mohammad Ali Smriti Sangsad in the opening match of a volleyball tournament at the Thakurgaon Govt Boys' High School ground yesterday.

In the second match of the day, Thakurgaon Town Club defeated Mohadeb Smriti Sangha 3-0.

BPL payments

Tamim Iqbal could not be contacted.

The CWAB in their press release stated: "CWAB had submitted the survey to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) but did not find an improvement in the case. The association is disappointed."

When contacted, member-secretary of the BPL IH Mallick said, "There are three things to consider here. Many players took direct payments from their clubs and we don't have their accounts. And there are a number of franchises who are not paying. We set deadlines and if it still does not work out we will sit with them and fix the problem. The players have to be paid."

He also claimed that some of the players calculated their dues in an incorrect manner. "For instance if the cut-off bidding value of a player was 20,000 dollars and he was sold for 67,000 after a re-bid, then he is going to receive 30 per cent of the 47,000 dollars after six months of the BPL. This was already mentioned," Mallick explained.

Bangalore's

FROM PAGE 16 the onus was on Vinay. He managed to keep his cool.

But Bangalore's win would not have been possible without the batting heroics of the talismanic Gayle: where the bombastic Jamaican made 92 off 58 balls, the rest of the Bangalore batsmen managed 48 off 62.

Mumbai's chase saw two legends of the modern era in Sachin Tendulkar and Ricky Ponting open the innings, which offered cricket fans a treat. Their alliance yielded 52 runs in 7.3 overs with neither really dominating, but there were a couple lovely shots from Tendulkar and Ponting that set the pulse racing.

SCORES IN BRIEF
BANGALORE: 156 for 5 (Gayle 92 not out, Kohli 24, A Karthik 19 not out; Bumrah 3-32)
MUMBAI: 154 for 5 (D Karthik 60, Ponting 28, Tendulkar 23, Rayudu 18; Vinay 3-27)
Result: Royal Challengers Bangalore won by 2 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Chris Gayle.



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark makes a forehand return to Silvia Soler-Espinosa of Spain during their Family Circle Cup encounter in Charleston on Wednesday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Stosur, Wozniacki sail



AFP, Charleston

Ex-champions Samantha Stosur and Caroline Wozniacki cruised into the third round of the WTA Tour's Family Circle Cup Wednesday, while Venus Williams had to battle her way through.

The second-seeded Wozniacki breezed past Spaniard Silvia Soler-Espinosa 6-1, 6-1 just under an hour, while the third-seeded Aussie Stosur routed New Zealand's Marina Erakovic 6-1, 6-2 on the green clay at Daniel Island Tennis Center.

Wozniacki, who won here two years ago, only entered the tournament on the weekend, after she and golfer boyfriend Rory McIlroy postponed a trip to Haiti.

Stosur won here in 2010, while Wozniacki claimed the title in 2011.

"I felt like I really served well and returned well today," Wozniacki said. "Playing your first match of the year on clay, it's always going to be difficult to slide and move unbelievably, but I felt like I did a pretty good job of that out there and I'm pleased

with my work."

Stosur was playing her first match since withdrawing prior to the quarterfinals at Indian Wells in March with a calf injury.

"But as the match went on I felt really good and the way I was playing all came together," Stosur said. "And of course, I really enjoy playing on this court, so I always try to do my best every time I'm out there."

Williams, the fifth seed who won the title here in 2004, had to work harder to get past 19-year-old Puerto Rican Monica Puig.

Puig pushed the seven-time Grand Slam winner to three sets, Williams advancing 6-2, 5-7, 6-3.

Yet another former champion was taken to the limit as seventh-seeded Jelena Jankovic, the winner here in 2007, rallied to beat French qualifier Caroline Garcia 5-7, 7-6 (12-10), 6-3.

American qualifier Mallory Burdette surprised 15th-seeded 2009 champion Sabine Lisicki 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 in their second-round match.

Burdette booked a third-round clash with world No. 1 and reigning Charleston champ Serena Williams.

Mash not up for Zim Tests

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likely to be the time the tour starts and left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal, who had available from the first Test which will start from April 17.

"Tamim is a bit of a push, he got injured a week ago and with hand injuries it takes 4 to 6 weeks to heal. We have stopped his cricket skills and are pushing his fitness. I feel that full recovery is still two weeks away. I want to do another investigation. We could bring him back a little sooner; that is my feeling right now. If not for the first Test then certainly the second one," informed Singh.

Shakib's injury had paved the way for left-hander Mominul to tour Sri Lanka and despite the inspirational all-rounder's return to the squad, the young middle-order batsman is set to retain his place as opener Anamul Haque has made himself unavailable for the trip due to his HSC examinations. The selectors however are more concerned with the form of vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad, whose position in the team was the subject of considerable discussion.

There was however no scope for the selectors to make any major changes in the team after an impressive show in the just-concluded Sri Lanka tour where Mushfiqur Rahim's men drew their first test against the hosts and shared the ODI series. The tour will be remembered for the captain's double hundred and Mohammad Ashraful's brilliant comeback after he had gotten the a spot in the team following Shahriar Nafees's last-moment freak injury.

Bangladesh will play the second Test from April 25 before travelling to Bulawayo to play three ODIs - on May 3, 5 and 8 - and two T20Is on May 11 and 12.

Shoddy state before Games

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hazards for any athletes. The electronic timer at the BNS too, is still uncertain, as the process of the installation has not started yet.

Recently the organising committee of the Bangladesh Games had requested the National Sports Council (NSC) to renovate those venues including amplifying lights, repair wooden floors, installing of electronic boards, electronic timer, and supplying non-stop electricity during the games.

The NSC has already taken the initiation to repair the wooden floors at Tajuddin Gymnasium and Dhanmondi Gymnasium and painting works and light-amplifying works at some different venues but they could not ensure whether they would be able to install the electronic device at swimming pool and repair the damage at the athletic track.

"We have estimated a budget of Tk 1 crore and nine lakh for the renovation works at different venues and already started some works at some venues but it is not possible to install a new electronic board at the swimming pool before the Games," said NSC director (planning and finance) Habibur Rahman adding that he had no idea about the present condition of the athletic track, which was supposed to be repaired soon after damages were found.

The NSC has also said that there is the need to renovate the torch at the BNS as the gas-line was cut down soon after the completion of the 2010 SA Games in a bid to avert the gas bill.

'Ryder didn't suffer skull fracture'

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand cricketer Jesse Ryder was only punched once and his injuries were not as serious as reported, a lawyer for one of the two men charged with his assault told a court Thursday.

Jonathan Eaton said Ryder was sharing a friendly drink with the accused before a dispute broke out, and the cricketer was injured as he fell to the ground "after being punched once".

Police have said Ryder was rushed to hospital in a critical condition after the assault outside a bar in the South Island city of Christchurch a week ago, and that he was put into an induced coma suffering from a fractured skull and internal injuries.

But Eaton said witness accounts that Ryder had been punched and kicked were "wildly inaccurate" and he had not in fact suffered a fractured skull.

The two men, a 37-year-old and his 20-year-old nephew, who cannot be named for legal reasons, appeared in the Christchurch District Court charged with assault and were bailed to reappear in two weeks.

Eaton told the court the men had been at a family dinner when the chance meeting with Ryder occurred.

Siddikur

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fared reasonably well with an even-par-72 that placed him in joint 29th position. The third Bangladeshi, Jamal Hossain Mollah, however retired from the tournament after playing nine holes for a score of six-over-par-42.

BD women slump to 2nd defeat

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's cricket team slumped to their second consecutive defeat as they lost the second T20I against India by seven wickets at the Reliance Stadium in Baroda.

After electing to bat first, Bangladesh were restricted to 88 for four in the stipulated 20 overs. Shuktara Rahman top-scored with 29 and was ably supported by vice-captain Farazana Rahman's 23. India's Ekta Bisht, who finished with figures of one for 11, was the pick of the bowlers.

In reply, India comfortably reached their target with seven wickets and two overs in hand. They rode on a half-century partnership between Mona Meshram (29) and Anagha Deshpande (28). Pacer Panna Ghosh, who finished with figures of two for 18, was the pick of the bowlers for the visitors.

The two teams will play one more T20I today before leaving for Ahmedabad to face off in three ODIs.

Siam loses

FROM PAGE 16

Zhanat of Kazakhstan beat him in their sixth round game in Sharjah on Wednesday.

His third defeat in six matches meant he would remain glued to three points.

Muktis booters skip training

SPORTS REPORTER



The footballers of Muktijoddha Sangsad stayed away from training for the second successive day in protest of their unpaid wages.

A couple of players on condition of anonymity said that they had not been paid their wages for the last few months despite the club authority's promise to clear all dues.

"I have been paid only fifty per cent of my contract money and the case is same for most of the other players. We don't know when the balance payment will be made, but the league is almost finished. Now we don't have any alternative to skipping practice," said one of the players yesterday.

The club's coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, who apparently admitted the claims, said yesterday that he did not find any player for practice in the last two days.

Termining the decision of the players as suicidal, Emdad Hosain Motin, secretary general of Muktijoddha Sangsad KC, told reporters that they could not clear the dues because of fund shortage, adding that they did not have any past record of not clearing players' payments.

I'm no god: Tendulkar



PTI, Bangalore

He might be revered by billions of fans but Sachin Tendulkar insists he is "not god of cricket" as many would like to call him as he does "make mistakes" unlike the almighty.

"I am not God of cricket. I make mistakes, God doesn't," Tendulkar said at a promotional event on Wednesday.

The 39-year-old cricketer, who has almost all the batting records that are there to be taken under his belt, said growing up he wanted to be a combination of Sunil Gavaskar and Vivian Richards.

"I wanted to be like Sunil Gavaskar as a kid. When I grew up and started watching players from outside, someone who attracted me was Vivian Richards. Everything that he did was effortless. I always thought I should be a combination of these two," Tendulkar said, while answering questions from children.

The diminutive Mumbaikar, considered the most complete batsman in modern cricket, recalled the agonising wait he endured before getting to his 100th international hundred last year during the Asia Cup.

"When I got to my 100th international century, I was not jumping or celebrating. My first question to God was why did it take so long? What did I do wrong? With a billion plus people waiting for this, it shouldn't have taken so long," he said.

"Where did I fall short? I used to practice hard, maybe harder. I got close to getting a hundred in the semifinal against Pakistan (in the 2011 World Cup) but at that stage, everybody's focus was on the World Cup. After that it was a big disappointment. But such is life, it is always better late than never," he said.

Asked what he would have been had it not been a cricketer, Tendulkar quipped he didn't really have much of a choice.

"I don't think there were many options for me. In school, the kids better not follow me. It's good to study. I tried maintaining a balance between my studies and cricket

U-16 Hockey Five Bangladesh's sound start

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh started off on a winning note in the Asia Cup U-16 Hockey Five tournament as they handed a 7-2 defeat to hosts Singapore yesterday.

Deen Islam and Sagor struck two goals each while Riazul, Rakin and Nayeem netted one goal apiece in the match which was divided into three sessions of 12 minutes each.

The boys from Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) carried their first match's success into the second as they outplayed mighty Malaysia 6-3. Emon scored four goals while Nayeem struck twice for Bangladesh.

but it didn't work. I thought cricket was something which gave me sleepless nights. Such was my love for the game," he said.

"[But] at one stage in my life, I would go to the terrace with a tennis racquet in one hand and a cricket bat in the other. For 20 minutes it would be racquet, the next 20 would be cricket. I enjoy tennis.

"It is difficult for me to imagine a life without cricket. If at all -- tennis," said the veteran, who is often seen at the Wimbledon and other Grand Slams.

On wearing the national jersey and the effort he put in to earn it, Tendulkar said, "Wearing the India jersey and cap was the ultimate thing for me. After that it didn't



SACHIN TENDULKAR

matter if I had 10 pairs of jeans or 20 T-shirts. That journey to play for India was incredible.

"I look back, being pushed around in trains and buses but I would be there well before practice started," he recalled.

Going down memory lane, Tendulkar said he thought his first Test, against Pakistan, would be his last as he found it hard to deal with the pressure.

"The difference between standard of play [in Ranji and Tests] was way too much. I thought this is my first and last Test. When I came back to the dressing room, I was in tears. I thought it was way too good for me. After that I spoke to a few players, they told me not to worry," said the batsman, who got hit by a Waqar Younis bouncer but continued to bat in a bloodied T-shirt.

"I wonder how did I survive for so long," he added.

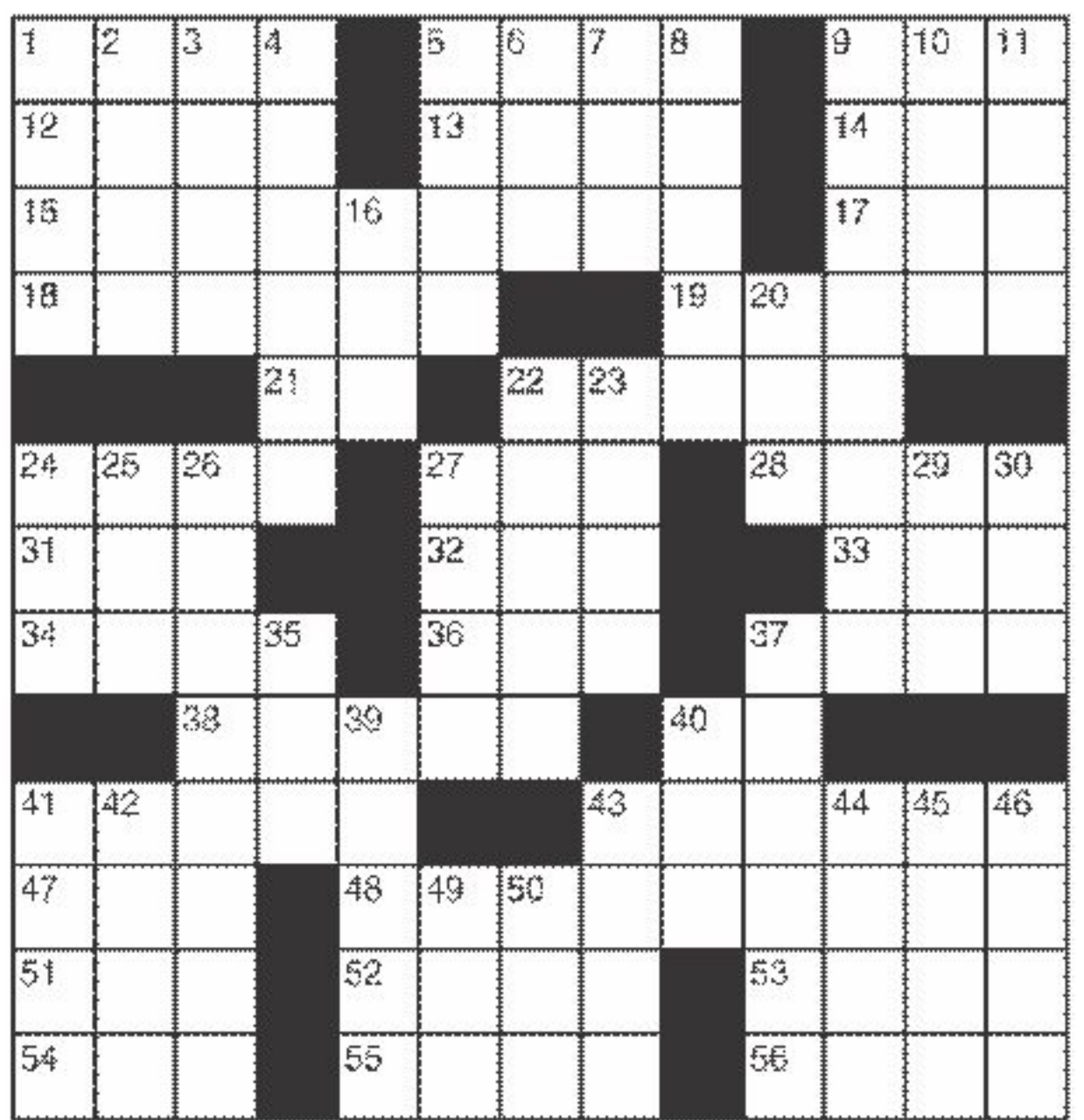
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Cleo-patra's slayer	2 Cattle, old style	23 Rope fiber
1 Gumbo ingredient	37 Dance lesson	3 On pension (Abbr.)	24 Pump up the volume
5 Master-Card alternative	38 Core	4 Depth charge	25 Ultra-modern (Pref.)
9 Night flier	40 "I think, therefore I ..."	5 Temptress	26 Getting there
12 Conks out	41 Massage	6 "— Got a Secret"	27 Culture medium
13 State with conviction	43 Meager	7 D.C. VIP	29 "Hail!"
14 Formerly called	47 Fresh	8 Passion	30 Chart
15 Healing	48 Traveling, maybe	9 Promptly	35 Vast expanse
17 1933 dam org.	51 George's brother	10 "— Only Just Begun"	37 Intelligence
18 Porter	52 Boyfriend	11 Shake-spearean king	39 Pueblo building
19 Different	53 Frat party garb	16 Dine	40 Mimic
21 What @ means	54 Plaything	20 Afternoon affair	41 Make booleous
22 A crowd?	55 Black, poetically	22 Rendez-vous	42 Infamous fiddler
24 Soon, in verse	56 Stalk	43 Stay away from	44 Source
27 Exist		45 Wise one	46 Cheese choice
28 Cain's pop		49 Kan. neighbor	50 Confucian concept
31 Chaps			
32 Workout venue			
33 Eggs			
34 Cook-ware			

SOLUTION TIME: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-28

S	U	D	S	B	L	T	S	P	A	M
A	T	O	P	E	E	R	H	A	L	E
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CRYPTOQUIP

LEV RNF KEB KCLWEVY BDVZ
LEV QSX BZLCTL UQREL -
YXUQLLQTR MVDQWVY QY C
DVZF DQRUCTL XZQYS RNCZM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'D LIKE TO PRODUCE A HYBRIDIZED CHINESE FRUIT WITH FUZZY SKIN. IT WOULD BE A PEACHY LITCHI.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T