

Dulal upto third

SPORTS REPORTER

Young golfer Dulal Hossain took a giant step on the second day of Surya Nepal Masters to move to joint third from joint twelfth position at the Gokarna Forest Resort in Kathmandu yesterday. Dulal, who had scored four-under-par on the first day, continued to show his brilliance after scoring seven-under-par 65 in the second day to hold the third position along with two Indian golfers with a total score of 11-under-par 133.

Indian Abhijit Singh Chanda was leading with a score of 15-under-par 129.

Dulal's compatriot Shakhawat Hossain Sohel was at joint 15th position after scoring seven-under-par 137 while Zamal Hossain Mollah was at the 31st position with a score of four-under-par 140.

Another Bangladeshi golfer Shahid Khan failed to make the cut despite playing one-under-par 143 in two rounds.

Cagers leave for India

SPORTS REPORTER

A 13-member Bangladesh Basketball team left for India yesterday to take part in the qualifying round of the 27th FIBA Asia Basketball Championship to be held in New Delhi from May 13 to 15.

Hosts India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh will compete in the South Asian Zone and the top team of the zone will qualify for the finals to be held in Philippines in next September.

Bangladesh beat Pakistan and Nepal recently in the SABA tournament in Bangladesh. The contingent comprised ten players and three officials.

Tk. one lakh fine on Feni

SPORTS REPORTER

Feni Soccer Club have been fined Tk one lakh following the incident that occurred during their Bangladesh Premier League home match against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club on April 26.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the BFF disciplinary committee yesterday. The committee also banned Feni Soccer manager Anwar Hossain for six months and fined footballers Lutfur Rahman Nayan and Arafat Ali Rony Tk 15,000 each for verbally abusing assistant referee Anwar Hossain on that day.

An emotional

FROM PAGE 16 players, have asked readers to be thankful for the time he has given them and not be saddened or frustrated by the time he may no longer be putting in as skipper.

If indeed the first poor tour in a year and a half of leadership had driven him to resignation from leadership duties, then he will be one of the few Bangladeshi cricketers who demand such high standards from himself and the team -- not an unwelcome development. If he does eventually take back the captaincy as there are efforts within the board afoot in that regard, it will be a boon for Bangladesh. If he does not, then the country should be happy to have a player with such integrity and one who cares extremely deeply about the team's fortunes.



Rajasthan Royals opener Ajinkya Rahane plays off the back foot through covers during their Indian Premier League match against Kings XI Punjab in Mohali yesterday.

PHOTO: CRICINFO

Royals roll on

PTI, Mohali

Kevon Cooper scalped three vital wickets before Ajinkya Rahane scored an unbeaten half-century to help Rajasthan Royals beat Kings XI Punjab by eight wickets and inch closer to securing a play-off berth in the on-going Pepsi Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

By virtue of this win, Rajasthan have moved to the second position in the team standings with 18 points from 13 games behind table toppers Chennai Super Kings (20 points). Opting to field, Cooper picked up the wickets of Adam Gilchrist (42), Shaun Marsh (77) and danger man David Miller giving away just 23 runs off his four overs to help Rajasthan restrict Kings XI to 145 for six.

The visitors then rode on Rahane's unbeaten 59 off 49 deliveries and useful contributions from Sanju Samson (47 not out) and Shane Watson (31) to chase down the target with an over to spare.

Rajasthan's chase, however, did not start on a good note as they lost skipper Rahul Dravid early when he was cleaned up by left-arm spinner Bipul Sharma. Rahane and Watson then shared 65

runs off 50 balls for the second wicket to set the platform for Rajasthan's chase.

Just when it seemed the duo would run away with the game, Piyush Chawla went through Watson's defence. The Australian all-rounder laced his 25-ball innings with three boundaries and one huge hit over the fence.

But that was all Kings XI could manage as Rahane and Samson played sensibly thereafter and mixed caution with aggression to guide Rajasthan home without any further damage.

While Rahane struck three fours and as many sixes during his knock, young Samson's knock came off just 33 balls with the help of five hits to the fence and one over it.

Earlier, Rajasthan bowlers maintained discipline despite an attractive half-century by Marsh and an equally useful contribution from Gilchrist, to restrict Kings XI Punjab inside the 150-run mark.

SCORES IN BRIEF
KINGS XI PUNJAB: 145 for 6 in 20 overs (Gilchrist 42, Marsh 77; Cooper 3-23)
RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 147 for 2 in 19 overs (Rahane 59 not out, Watson 31, Samson 47 not out; Sharma 1-21)
Result: Rajasthan Royals won by 8 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Kevon Cooper.

Smith will miss it

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa Test captain Graeme Smith will miss the ICC Champions Trophy in England in June because of an ankle injury, Cricket South Africa announced Thursday. A replacement has yet to be named.

Smith will return to South Africa after scans in London Wednesday revealed a stress fracture to his left ankle. Smith will also miss the rest of the season with English county Surrey, who had appointed him captain.

Proteas team manager Dr Mohammed Moosajee said: "Graeme has been troubled by left ankle pain over the last few months and despite extensive treatment and physiotherapy, it has recently deteriorated significantly while playing for Surrey.

"He underwent a rescan of his left ankle in London on Wednesday and it was determined that since his last scan the condition has progressed to a stress fracture.

"Surgery will be required and he has been advised to follow a rest-and-rehabilitation programme over the next four to six months."

Smith captained South Africa in 149 one-day internationals before relinquishing the one-day captaincy to AB de Villiers two years ago.

In a statement, Cricket South Africa quoted Smith as saying: "It's a big blow for me personally to be missing out on the Champions Trophy next month.

"The ODI squad is creating something special and I was looking forward to being part of that family.

"I will no doubt be supporting from my living room and I know the players, under AB's leadership will be giving all that they can during the tournament."

Smith is the second experienced South African player to be missing from the Champions Trophy following the decision of all-rounder Jacques Kallis to make himself unavailable for personal reasons.

BFF names 29

FROM PAGE 16

while Mohammad Sujan, Mamun Mia, Alamgir Kabir Rana, Jamal Hossain, Maruf Ahmed and Ziaur Rahman have been dropped from the squad that played the AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers in March.

The selected players have been asked to report to manager Iqbal Hossain on May 15 at the BFF House.

SQUAD

Shohel, Mustak, Mamun Khan, Wali, Meshu, Arif, Nasir Chowdhury, Raihan, Tapu, Reza, Linkon, Nasir, Kesto, Pranotosh, Komol, Manik, Sohel Rana, Mamunul, Shakil, Zahid, Omar, Sifat, Rony, Emily, Mithun, Tokhlis, Jamal Jamal, Anando Rahman and Reasat Khaton.

Nadal moves into qtrs

AFP, Madrid

Rafael Nadal safely booked his passage into the quarterfinals of the Madrid Masters as he saw off Mikhail Youzhny 6-2, 6-3 in just under an hour and 15 minutes.

The World No.5 started brightly with his forehand in particular doing damage down the line to the Youzhny backhand and he broke the Russian to move 2-1 in front in the first set.

Another blistering forehand down the line opened up another two break points for the Spaniard with Youzhny serving at 2-4 and a cute drop shot at the net secured the double break before two big serves closed out the set in the next game.

An error strewn game from Youzhny then handed the 11-time Grand Slam champion another early break in the second set, but after staving off a break point on his own serve at 2-1, Nadal was broken for the first time in the match as Youzhny levelled at 3-3.

Nadal broke again straight away, though, to ease towards the finishing line and he sealed victory in typical fashion as he scampered to retrieve a Youzhny dropshot before flashing a backhand crosscourt winner past his forlorn opponent.

Bolt winner in photo finish

AFP, George Town

Six-time Olympic gold medalist Usain Bolt edged teammate Kemar Bailey-Cole in a photo finish to win the 100 metres at the Cayman Invitational track meet on Wednesday.

Jamaica's Bolt kicked his 100-metre season off Wednesday with a less than impressive time of 10.09 seconds at the Truman Bodden Sports Complex.

Bailey-Cole, who finished with the same time, is one of Bolt's training partners. Antigua Daniel Bailey finished third with a time of 10.23.

Bolt has been battling a hamstring problem but said that wasn't to blame for the slow time.

"It was just a bad race," he said. "I just have to go back and figure out with my coach what went wrong.

"I felt it [hamstring injury] slightly. It wasn't a bothering pain so I can't blame it on that."

In the women's events, American Carmelita Jeter became the first to finish in under 11 seconds in the 100 metres, winning with a time of 10.95.

SLC seeks change in CPL dates

CRICINFO, Colombo

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has asked the West Indies Cricket Board to reschedule the inaugural Caribbean Premier League (CPL), in order to avoid a scheduling clash with the Sri Lanka Premier League, SLPL director Ajit Jayasekara has said. The CPL is scheduled between July 29 and August 26, while the SLPL is pencilled in for an August 10 start. SLC cannot postpone their tournament because the Champions League T20, which will feature SLPL winners in the qualifying stage, begins in mid-September.

"There is quite a big overlap there, and because we announced our tournament last year and have set that window aside, we have asked the Caribbean Premier League tournament to move their tournament up," Jayasekara said. "Those discussions haven't started yet, but we are hopeful we can work something out."

ICC clarifies its stand

Cricket

PTI, Dubai

The ICC on Thursday clarified its stand on the recent appointment of Laxman Sivaramakrishnan as the players' representative in its Cricket Committee, saying a re-vote was conducted due to confusion over the first voting process.

Sivaramakrishnan, who is employed by the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) as a commentator, replaced Tim May on the ICC cricket committee, an appointment that attracted criticism from various quarters.

"In January this year, because of confusion in the voting process for such representatives (for example in respect of what should happen in the case of a tied vote and, where teams had different captains for different formats of the game, which captain should be entitled to vote), the ICC Board considered the matter carefully, and following clarification of the process to be followed, decided that another vote should be taken," ICC said in a statement.

"Subsequent to the re-vote, the ICC is concerned to note a number of factual

inaccuracies appearing in the media in respect of the results of the voting and the underlying basis for the Board decision that a re-vote was necessary, as well as unsupported allegations of impropriety in the voting process," it added.

The furore over the former India spinner's appointment was caused following allegations that BCCI forced a re-vote to get Sivaramakrishnan on the committee after May won the initial vote 9-1.

"In that respect, the ICC can confirm that it has received a written request from the Federation of International Cricketers' Associations (FICA) to refer the matter to the Ethics Officer.

"This request is being considered, but in view of the allegations already appearing in the media, the ICC wishes to state for the record that the re-vote took place according to the determined procedure and that the ICC has seen no evidence that supports allegations now being made that captains were put under pressure by their Member Boards to vote for a particular individual," the statement read.

The ICC stated that it would not make any further comment regarding the issue.

Kolkata keep afloat

PTI, Pune



Defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders scored a convincing 46-run win over an ever-struggling Pune Warriors on Thursday, to keep alive their outside hopes of qualifying for the play-off stage of the ongoing Pepsi Indian Premier League.

Opting to bat, KKR first rode on skipper Gautam Gambhir's 50 and a late surge by Ryan ten Doeschate (31 off 21) to post a challenging 152 for six, and then dished out a clinical bowling performance to bowl out Pune for 106 in 19.3 overs.

By virtue of this win, KKR moved up to 10 points from 12 games. But in order to stand in with an outside chance of making it to the play-offs, the defending champions need to win all their remaining three games.

Pune witnessed a horrible start to their run chase as their batsmen found the going tough against a disciplined KKR attack and scored just 41 runs for the loss of three wickets at the halfway stage.

Pune lost skipper Aaron Finch, star player Yuvraj Singh and Udit Birla in quick succession. While Finch was bowled by Jacques Kallis, Yuvraj nicked an away going Laxmipathy Balaji delivery to Manvinder Bisla behind the stumps.

Birla's stay at the crease was a struggle which finally came to an end when Iqbal Abdulla went through his defence.

Robin Uthappa tried hard to hang in there but the ever-climbing asking rate finally took its toll on him. He was caught by Gambhir at backward point off Abdulla.

Angelo Mathews played a rearguard 28-ball 40-run knock but that was not enough to save Pune from slumping to its 11th defeat in the tournament. He decorated his innings with four huge sixes before perishing in search of quick runs.

Earlier, Pune wasted a good start by leaking runs in the death overs to allow Kolkata post the challenging total. They were in a spot of bother at 99 for five at one stage, but Pune bowlers gave away a whop-

ping 53 runs in the final four overs to help the visitors cross the 150-run mark.

KKR reached fifty in quick time after electing to bat, thanks mainly to Gambhir. Pune bowlers, however, managed to put brakes on KKR's scoring by picking up wickets at regular intervals.

Bisla was the first to depart, stumped by Mahesh Rawat off Bhuvneshwar Kumar. Off-spinner Parvez Rasool, the first cricketer from Jammu and Kashmir to play in the IPL, leaked nine runs in his opening over.

But Rasool came back strongly in the next over and dismissed big man Kallis to pick up his first wicket of the tournament. Kallis was caught by Mathews at short cover of a fuller delivery from the off-spinner.

Gambhir, however, was steady at the other end and notched up his fifty in 43 balls with the help of six boundaries.

But Mitchell Marsh's two wickets in two overs changed the equation. Marsh first accounted for Eoin Morgan, who scored a run-a-ball 15, and then an over later he picked up the crucial wicket of Gambhir, caught by Mathews.

SCORES IN BRIEF
KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 152 for 6 in 20 overs (Gambhir 50, Ten Doeschate 31, Tiwary 15 not out, Morgan 15; Kumar 3-25, Marsh 2-7)
PUNE WARRIORS: 106 all out in 19.3 overs (Mathews 40, Uthappa 31; Balaji 3-19, Narine 2-12, Abdulla 2-26, Kallis 2-27)
Result: Kolkata Knight Riders won by 46 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Gautam Gambhir.

Draw delights

FROM PAGE 16

Iranian coach Ardeshtir Pournamat. Top two teams from the group will advance into the final round.

"Draw was not what we had expected. We were looking for a win rather than playing for a draw."

The Iranian coach however admitted that they adopted a defensive strategy.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Collocations
5 Toward the stern
8 Being, to Brutus
12 Enticement
13 Actress Myrna
14 "Once — a time ..."
15 Operatic solo
16 Harem's housing
18 Hex
20 "Long Day's Journey Into Night" writer
21 Fairy tale villain
23 Explosive letters
24 Three-striper
28 Dueling sword
31 Opposite of "post-"
32 Be philanthropic

DOWN
1 Pole or Czech
2 Continental coin
3 Small dead battery
4 Sailing veteran
5 Losers
6 Enemy
7 Novice
8 First name of 20-Across
9 Green type of soup
10 Earth
11 Carbon compound
17 Pismire

19 Curved molding
22 Finished
24 Hot tub
25 Blunder
26 Tend a dead battery
27 Bullfight VIP
29 Chow down
30 Historical period
33 Whip mark
36 Invisible rabbit of stage and screen
38 Spry, like Jack
40 Luau bowlful
42 "Hey, you!"
43 Listen to
44 Read bar codes
46 Verbal
47 Without (Fr.)
48 Youngster
50 Id counter-part

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12				13			14					
15				16			17					
18				19			20					
				21			22					
24	25	26				27		28	29	30		
31				32			33		34			
35				36			37		38			
				39			40		41			
42	43					44		45		46	47	48
49						50			51			
52						53			54			
55						56			57			

CRYPTOQUIP

T M P X U C W L T B S S X T U C W M
U W Q E G Q C X , P G V C R X T P X B -
Q H U X T H V B E P W W K G T C
R X Y W L X T C V Y Z K S C V Y Z K X .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT STUNT DRIVER WHO ENJOYS STURDY MILITARY VEHICLES IS KNOWN FOR PERFORMING JEEP TRICKS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals O