

Star SPORT

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Siddikur finishes joint 7th

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman failed to retain the Hero Indian Open title after enduring a difficult final round at the Delhi Golf Club yesterday. The two-time Asian Tour winner, who was two shots off the pace overnight, finished in joint seventh position after settling for a five-over-par (76) in a dramatic final day on Sunday.

World Number 38 Anirban Lahiri, who started the day eight shots behind the overnight leader SSP Chawrasia, beat the latter in a two-way play-off to seal the 250,000-dollar winner's cheque. For Chawrasia, it was fourth time unlucky as he had previously lost against Siddikur in the same fashion in 2013 following second-place finishes in 1999 and 2006.

Siddikur had started the day at 10-under-par (203), with only Chawrasia in front of him at 12-under-par (201) and third-placed Marcus Fraser at seven-under-par (206). The 30-year-old Bangladeshi golfer had taken a temporary one-shot lead after the front nine where he had hit just one birdie while Chawrasia had traded two bogeys and a double bogey for a birdie by then. But five bogeys in six holes at the back nine threw Siddikur out of the race, only to be somewhat redeemed by a birdie in the 18th hole, for an aggregate of five-under-par (279).

Meanwhile, Lahiri traded

five birdies for only two bogeys in the fourth round to force a play-off with Chawrasia. The Delhi-born golfer then birdied the play-off 18th hole to seal the title as Chawrasia managed only a par.

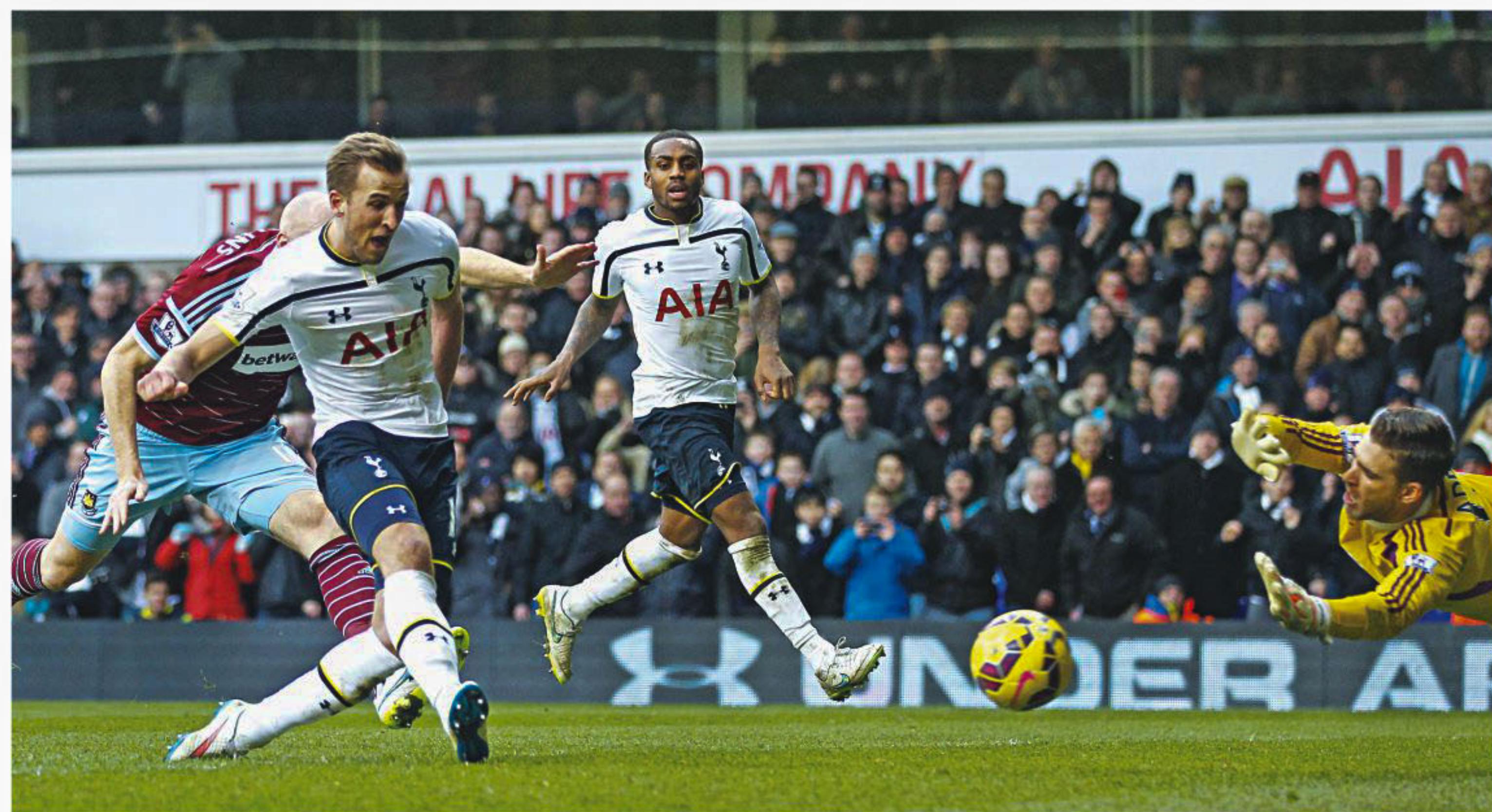
When the less

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be pondering upon. Will the Lankans choke in an atmosphere that is likely to be filled with Bangladeshi supporters at the MCG?

Ask the South Africans and they will tell you what it's like to have a thousand Indian flags being waved at the corners of their sights. It was a match that was supposed to witness an intense finale. But just like all the other matches between the full member teams, this one too ended on a one-sided note.

Prior to the tournament there were talks about how the South Africans had the most number of match-winners in a team. The only unfortunate aspect though was that none of them were able to fire yesterday. If the trend continues, the Cup will end as yet another 'missed opportunity' for the Proteas.



Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane equalises by pouncing on the rebound after missing his initial penalty in the 94th minute against West Ham United at White Hart Lane yesterday.

HOTEL FOOTBALL

Ryan Giggs' "Hotel Football" is ready for a grand opening on the and he has revealed what's inside the 24 million-pound investment. Giggs, along with former teammate Gary Neville, came up with the idea and has filled the hotel with colourful art, football photos and even footballing greats used as wallpaper among 133 rooms, a restaurant and a roof-top football pitch. In very close proximity to Old Trafford, there is also an "Old Trafford Supporters' Club," and a post-match analysis by Giggs or Neville after every matchday. --INTERNET



Zahid cleared to play

Winger pays off Tk 16 lakh fine

SPORTS REPORTER

Zahid Hossain is set to be free to take part in the remaining fixtures of the Federation Cup as the national team winger yesterday paid off Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) Tk 16 lakh fine imposed on him regarding a complaint lodged by his former club Mohammedan SC last October.

Evaluating the complaint, the BFF disciplinary committee had asked Zahid to return half of what Mohammedan had paid him last season, or else face a one-year domestic ban.

The winger had signed for Sheikh Russel KC for the running season but the game's governing body withheld his registration formalities following instruction from the disciplinary committee. However, after payment of the fine, the professional football league committee is processing Zahid's registration formalities which will pave the way for him to play for Sheikh Russel KC.

FEDERATION CUP Last 8 line-up completed

SK RUSSEL 0 - 0 MUKTIJODDHA
ABAHANI 0 - 0 CTG ABAHANI

SPORTS REPORTER

The quarterfinal line-up of the Federation Cup was completed yesterday after the last two fixtures of the group stages ended in stalemates at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Title contenders Sheikh Russel KC and Abahani were held to goalless draws by Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Chittagong Abahani respectively in two different groups as the two giants avoided facing each other in the quarterfinals. Sheikh Russel and Abahani, despite having equal four points with Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Chittagong Abahani, finished top in their respective groups by virtue of better goal difference.

Group B champions Sheikh Russel will now face comparatively easier opponents Chittagong Abahani on Thursday while Group C champions Abahani, who could not reach the final of season's curtain-raising tournament on three previous seasons, will play against last season's runners-up Muktiyoddha Sangsad on Friday. Holders and Group A champions Sheikh Jamal will square off against Group D runners-up Brothers Union in the first quarterfinal tomorrow before Group D champions Mohammedan take on Feni Soccer Club on Wednesday.

QUARTERFINALS

Qtr 1	SK Jamal v Brothers	Feb 24
Qtr 2	Mohammedan v Feni Soccer	Feb 25
Qtr 3	Sk Russel v Ctg Abahani	Feb 26
Qtr 4	Muktiyoddha v Abahani	Feb 27

Kane rescues Spurs

AFP, London



Harry Kane wrote another chapter in his storybook season as the Tottenham striker rescued a 2-2 draw with the last kick of a pulsating London derby against West Ham on Sunday.

Mauricio Pochettino's team had fallen 2-0 behind at White Hart Lane as the Hammers struck through Cheikhou Kouyate and Diafra Sakho, but an error by goalkeeper Adrian allowed Danny Rose to halve the deficit with nine minutes left.

And when Kane was fouled in the area by Alex Song deep into second half stoppage-time, he kept his composure to smash in the rebound after his spot-kick was saved.

It was a welcome point in the end for the home side but really they needed to win to put pressure on Southampton and Liverpool before their game.

Tottenham did go close to the opener when Kane won a race against James Tomkins for a simple ball over the top from Rose.

Winston Reid's challenge forced the Spurs forward to improvise a poke with his studs rather than a clean strike, but the ball still beat Adrian only to clip the outside of the base of a post and spin to safety.

But West Ham also looked dangerous and Sakho alertly nipped in between Hugo Lloris and Eric Dier as the ball bounced between them and headed goalwards.

Fortunately for the home side, Jan Vertonghen was on hand to clear, but there was no salvation for Spurs after 22 minutes as West Ham went ahead.

Tottenham failed to clear a West Ham attack but still had plenty of defenders between ball and goal as the ball was worked down the left to Aaron Cresswell.

But when the left back swung the ball across, Kouyate rose unmarked to head firmly past Lloris. In the 62nd minute Noble crossed from the left, two defenders went with Valencia, and Sakho stole in unnoticed at the far post to touch the ball back across Lloris and in.

Spurs then brought on Roberto Soldado but even though that pushed Kane into a supporting role, he still looked Tottenham's most dangerous player, and he thought he had halved the arrears when scoring at the second attempt, only to be flagged offside.

Tottenham's lifeline arrived in the 81st minute and owed more to Adrian, the West Ham goalkeeper, than any attacking skill.

First he came out to claw a cross from the head of Dier but got no distance on the ball. And as Rose's shot bounced back towards the unguarded net he appeared to leave it, before realising the ball was going to drop in and diving too late. Adrian almost redeemed himself by saving Kane's last-gasp penalty in the sixth minute of stoppage-time, but he couldn't prevent the new hero of White Hart Lane hitting home the rebound for his 24th goal of a remarkable campaign.

Sociedad win a thriller

AFP, Madrid

David Moyes's Real Sociedad struck twice in the final 10 minutes to come from behind and beat Sevilla 4-3 in a thrilling match on Sunday.

The hosts had got off to an ideal start as Imanol Agirretxe slotted home the opener after 16 minutes, but Timothee Kolodziejczak levelled for the Europa League holders before the break.

Sociedad were then gifted a soft penalty at the start of the second period, which Xabi Prieto converted, but Sevilla responded once more when their top scorer Carlos flicked home Ever Banega's free-kick.

Kevin Gameiro then scored from the spot after a handball by Inigo Martinez inside the area.

However, there was a final twist as Sociedad equalised when the ball ricocheted into the net off the unfortunate Arribas from Gonzalo Castro's initial effort.

And Moyes' men then grabbed the winner when Prieto flicked home a corner at the near post as the game entered stoppage time.

Defeat means Sevilla still trail Valencia by five points in the fight for fourth place, while Sociedad jump three places to 10th and are now eight points clear of the relegation zone.

Champions Atletico Madrid are now just three points behind Barcelona after they cruised to a 3-0 win over Almeria thanks to a double from Antoine Griezmann.

Mario Mandzukic put the hosts ahead from the penalty spot after 13 minutes and the Croatian then turned provider for Griezmann to double Atletico's advantage seven minutes later.

The two combined once more just before the half-hour mark as Mandzukic headed down for Griezmann to slam home his 17th goal of the season.

Coach Diego Simeone then removed both his front men early in the second half to keep them fresh ahead of Atletico's return to Champions League action away to Bayer Leverkusen on Wednesday.

BCB withdraws Al-Amin

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They showed him a photograph of that person and Al-Amin recognised that person by saying that the man had a long beard and long hair back then. Al-Amin informed that the man told him he was a fan. The man also wanted his phone number and facebook ID, which the bowler didn't provide.

The source also informed that Al-Amin, upon asking, denied getting any match or spot-fixing approach from that man.

According to the source, ACSU kept their eyes on the bowler and followed him when he went out on February 19 after 10pm and then someone dropped him after 12pm. ACSU then asked the team management whether they have any team rules for the players.

Before that incident some BCB high-ups including President Nazmul Hassan Papuri reportedly discussed the ACSU quizzing, where the BCB boss was of the opinion that it was better to send Al-Amin home to dispel any doubts.

However, The Daily Star could not verify the ACSU's apparent quizzing from the BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury, who said that the board's press release would be their only statement. Besides that, Mahmud also refused to make any comment with regards to the issue.

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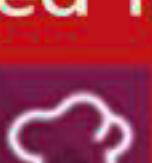
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