

SHARP SINGLES

Corporate honchos to battle for samvedana's event



Sunil Shah of Vasant Group bats as Jayesh Brahmabhatt of Intas Pharma looks on

Thirty-three corporate entities of Ahmedabad began their cricket battle on Sunday to raise funds for social causes to herald in an era of awareness. The 8th edition of Samvedana's 'Sahyog - cricket for a cause' will continue till February 12. A host of corporate CEOs, leading celebrities and professionals including doctors and advocates will play to help municipal school children. It will enable

corporates to contribute to a social cause and participate in the holistic growth of society. The inaugural match was played on Sunday wherein many CEOs and senior representatives of corporates along with some prominent citizens participated.



Action from the day five of the TransStadia ADFA Football junior League between SBI (Red) and Sharpshooters on Sunday

United FC beat Bopal Sports Club

Justifying their name, United FC defeated Bopal Sports Club in the TransStadia ADFA Football League junior boys match on Sunday. Other two matches ended in tame draws. United's Dhiraj opened the account with his 5th minute strike. For next thirty minutes both teams invaded each other but without any result. Interestingly, in the 35th both the teams scored in span of a few seconds. Nirmit Limbachiya netted for United while Davendra



Gangjee bogeys, Kieffer birdies

German challenger Max Kieffer walks away with Gujarat Kensville Trophy after a play-off against home favourite Rahil Gangjee

DNA Correspondent • AHMEDABAD

Indian sportspersons' tendency to succumb under pressure was once again illustrated at Gujarat Kensville Challenge 2012, a Euro 200,000 golf tournament here at Kensville Golf and Country Club on Sunday.

All the four days, Rahil Gangjee led or shared the top position and was favourite for the title. But the Kolkata-based golfer first squandered a three-stroke lead and then lost the play off to Max Kieffer of Germany. The play-off became necessary as both the players had finished four rounds with an identical score of 281.

Kieffer was richer by Euros 32,000 while Gangjee received Euros 22,000. There was a three-way tie for third place with Paul Dwyer (68), Andreas Harto (71) and Callum MacCaulay (70) at five-under 283. Gangjee's second place was a big boost for Kensville Challenge, which in the previous year had provided an Indian winner in

I think it's going to be my year, I really feel I'm going to win, I've played solid, practiced a lot. The mind is much better than it used to be. I think I perform better under pressure now than I used to be, because I've actually worked more on getting better when I get into the situation. I've talked a lot about this with my coach and mind coach and they've both given me good tips, especially my mind coach. She's done a lot of sessions with me. —Rahil Gangjee

It's so tough to win on the Challenge Tour, so I'm really happy. In the end I was a bit disappointed with my first season on the Tour last year, but this definitely makes up for it. I hadn't really been in contention since losing the play-off to Nicolas in France last year, so I really enjoyed playing in the last group today. Of course there were a few nerves on the inside, but I was delighted with how I coped mentally. —Max Kieffer

Gaganjeet Bhullar, who was tied 36th this time. With four holes to go, the 33-year-old was three clear and on his way to end an eight year title drought. But on the home straight which should have ideally given him the title, Gangjee faltered and allowed Kieffer to get a foothold. It became more challenging when Rahil bogeyed on the 16th hole and Kieffer birdied. "The

turning point was the 16th. That gave him a two-shot swing and we were even. At some point when I was three ahead I did think the momentum was on my side and I could win, but Kieffer pulled off those two late birdies to get into play-off," said Gangjee, who admitted it was little pressure that did him in. It was a see-saw battle right till the end of regulation play after

which Gangjee gave it away with a bunker shot from the edge, hit the lip and went into the stream ahead. Champion Kieffer, 57th in the Challenge Tour Rankings last year, said, "Of course there were a few nerves on the inside, but I was delighted with how I coped mentally. Obviously when Rahil went into the water in the play-off I could afford to relax a little bit, but I still expected him to make a five so I had to concentrate. It was a great relief to roll my birdie putt close, and when Rahil missed his bogey putt, I knew the title was mine. It gives me a great chance to finish in the top 20 of the Rankings this year, but there's still a very long way to go."

Shiv Kapur, who had shared the midway lead with Gangjee shot 72 on the final day and ended tied ninth at one-under 287. The next best Indian was Ashok Kumar (74) at tied 28th and with him was Sri Lankan Mithun Perera (72), who plays mostly in India.

FINAL SCORE

281 M Kieffer (Ger) 70
71 70 70, R Gangjee
(Ind) 68 69 73 71,
Kieffer won on first
play-off hole
283 A Harto (Den) 73 70
69 71, P Dwyer (Eng) 71
72 72 68, C Macaulay
(Sco) 74 70 69 70,
285 C Doak (Sco) 74 70
72 69, R Russell (Sco) 73
69 74 69,
286 C Lloyd (Eng) 72 70
74 70,
287 S Benson (Eng) 70
68 76 73, Shiv Kapur
(Ind) 69 68 78 72,
288 P Archer (Eng) 73
71 68 76,
289 D Kemmer (USA) 69
72 70 78, J Dantorp
(Swe) 70 68 74 77, P
Uihlein (USA) 76 72 71
70,
290 L Goddard (Eng) 71
71 70 78, J Gibb (Eng) 72
72 72 74, O Henningson
(Swe) 73 72 68 77, C
Brazillier (Fra) 72
70 74 74,

