SPÖRT

GMG squash results

SPORTS REPORTER

Top-seed Swapan Parvez dropped a set before beating Dilu 2-1 in vesterday's Premier League match of the GMG Open squash tournament at the Gulshan Club.

Swapan's South Asian (SA) Games teammates Ram Jagdish and Bhola Lal. however, won by identical 3-0 margins against their respective opponents.

Bhola blanked fellow SA Games teammate Bishu Nath while Ram outplayed Masud Rana.

In Division A, Omar beat Johnny 2-0 and Raju defeated Ram Gopal

Roxy upbeat

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who has been running the residential camp for the past three months. "I am satisfied with preparation

so far and look forward to this tournament. Another advantage would be playing Vietnam, who will be in our group in the finals," he added

Bangladesh who play Vietnam in the opening match of Group D in the Asian Championship on September 4, are also pitted against Syria and China on September 6 and 8 respectively.

The team, which include six players from the last edition of the School Football Championship, will be led by prolific striker Towhidul Islam Sabuj. They will return home on August 18 and will camp at BKSP till August 30 before their departure to Singapore on September 3.

Like Roxy, team manager and former national footballer Alok agrees that the team's strength is in the midfield.

"I think we have some very talented players and three or four will make it to the national team within two-three years. I am hopeful they will play attractive football,"

BCB names

FROM PAGE 17 proved their worth," he added.

The former national skipper said that they were still crying for a young prospect with off-spin all-round ability but there were none to catch

the selectors' eyes and that was the

reason why veteran Jamaluddin

Babu was recalled. Under the new format Bangladesh will play the preliminary round of the second biggest cricket extravaganza after the World Cup along with Sri Lanka, West Indies and

Zimbabwe in October. **PROBABLES**

Habibul Bashar, Tushar Imran. Khaled Mashud, Sakib Al Hasan, Mohammad Rafique, Tapash Baisya, Javed Omar, Nafees Iqbal, Rajin Saleh, Enamul Haque. Hossain, Aftab Ahmed, Nazmul Hossain, Mashrafee Bin Mortuza, Mehrah Hossain, Shahriar Nafees, Nazmus Sadat, Abdur Razzak, Mahbub Ullah Riyad, Syed Rasel, Maniarul Islam, Shahadat Hossain, Jamaluddin Babu, Alok Kapali, Sahagir Hossain, Forhad Reza, Nadif Chowdhury, Mushfiqur Rahim and Shafaq Al Jabir.

Sarfraz urges

flamboyant all-rounder Shahid

Afridi in the first two Tests and of paceman Mohammad Sami, who was chosen after Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Asif and Navedul Hasan were ruled out by injuries.

"How long they are going to try Sami in international matches? He should make way for some other young fast bowler," said Sarfraz, who took 177 wickets in 55 Tests for Pakistan.

The former pacer praised the performance of English bowlers in the absence of their star Andrew Flintoff.

Another report from Karachi says, former captain Imran Khan described the team's performance as spineless and hit out at Inzamam for not ensuring he could bat higher up the order on

the final day. "Inzamam should have known that he would not be able to go up the order on the crucial last day and so should have made every effort to spend time in the field on Day Four to be eligible to bat in his regular position." Imran wrote in

his column for the Daily Nation. "When a captain leads from the front and plays through injuries, it inspires his charges to brave

challenges and adversity.' Former captain and coach Javed Miandad put Pakistan's defeat down to a lack of planning while TV commentator Rameez Raja's column also in Daily Nation screamed: "Time to throw out the deadwood."

Chief selector Wasim Bari blamed the defeat partly on Pakistan's woeful fielding.

"This side has been performing well and it even had a chance to win in England. But already with a weakened attack we spilled too many catches which was criminal," he told the news agency



Bangladesh under-17 football coach Mahbub Hossain Roxy (L) addressing a press conference at the BFF Bhaban yesterday prior to their departure to Vietnam.

Serena's solid start

Tennis

Serena Williams kept her comeback on track Tuesday, ousting 11thseeded Maria Kirilenko 6-2, 6-1 to reach the second round of this 600.000-dollar US Open tune-up.

"I'm slowly but surely going in the direction I want to go," said Williams, who wrapped up the victory in 66 minutes with her eighth ace of the

After seizing the first set with a service return winner, Williams saved three break points in the first game of the second set and never looked back

But the seven-time Grand Slam champion said she still had plenty of work to do as she seeks to regain the summit of tennis

"I missed a lot of first serves, I definitely think I can improve on that." said Williams, who is playing in just her third tournament of the vear, having been sidelined for six months by a knee injury.

The absence saw her tumble out of the top 100, and her return tournament, at Cincinnati three weeks ago, marked her first unseeded

Pakistan were also hamstrung by

"Run-outs have been a perennial

problem for Pakistan." Woolmer

added ruefully. "You don't need that in

Mohammad Yousuf's departure for

eight in the second innings, after he

had made 192 in the first, was a pivotal

moment. For Woolmer, indeed, it was

England, in contrast, played close

to the top of their game. There was one

expensive miss. Paul Collingwood.

diving in the slips, dropped Yousuf

when he was still in single figures on

his first visit but, for the most part, they

snaffled their chances with confi-

been a strength, was of the highest

calibre. Fittingly, it was Collingwood

who ran out Yousuf on the final morn-

ing to set England on course for vic-

outs in a Test match but the great thing

for us was that we had four opportuni-

ties and took them all, three of them

tice ground that goes into that. We

"There's a lot of work on the prac-

with direct hits." he said.

"Generally you don't get four run-

Their fielding, which has not always

four run-outs.

Test cricket."

the pivotal moment.

No Pak complaints

appearance in a WTA Tour event

She reached the semifinals there, but said two weeks of practice since had left her feeling sharper.

"I played better than I did the past few matches," she said. "I did feel like I was hitting the ball cleanly. I want to keep that up."

Kirilenko acknowledged that as a seeded player she was "unlucky" to draw Williams in the first round. "Second set she started to play

much better, she start to play more relaxed," Kirilenko said. "She did some different things, came to the net, made some unbelievable While Williams was pleased with

her progress, second-seeded Russian Nadia Petrova's bid to rebound from injury remained Unheralded Spaniard Virginia

Ruano Pascual shocked Petrova 6-

3. 6-2 in a second-round clash. It was a second straight disappointment for world No. 5 Petrova. who won four titles early this year and rose to a career-high No. 3 in the rankings before falling prey to

injury at the French Open. She withdrew from Wimbledon with a hip injury, and her return to

have been really targeting that aspect

The point will not be lost on

It was the great South African golfer

Yousuf and Younis Khan have

Gary Player who, when told that he

was lucky, agreed while adding: "It's

funny but the more I practise, the better

been Pakistan's leading lights in the

series. Yousuf made a double century

while the pair teamed up at

Headingley to put on 363 runs for the

third wicket, a Pakistan record against

the pair as close to perfect as you can

served as the league's president

Italian Football Federation until

dent of AC Milan, was banned from

any involvement in football for nine

months for his involvement in the

He then moved on to lead the

Galliani, who is also vice presi-

Lega Calcio

between 1982 and 1987.

Italian match-fixing crisis.

Practice, it seems, tends to make

England for any wicket.

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in the first Test to keep his side afloat.

of our play over the last few weeks."

ended in a second-round exit after a first-round bye. Petrova, 24, said her problem

Tuesday was mental rather than 'The problem is especially in my head," she said. "I'm not on the

court, I'm somewhere next to it. "It's a little hard to explain," she added. "I try to tell myself to fight, but my whole body is against it. It does-

A trio of Americans engineered

to be motivated."

n't want to move fast, it's hard for me

US wildcard Bethanie Mattek, ranked 128th in the world, surprised eighth-seeded Italian Flavia Penetta 6-4, 2-6, 7-5 to reach the third round, while in first-round matches Laura Granville ousted ninth-seeded Ai Sugiyama of Japan 7-5, 6-2 and Meghann Shaughnessy beat No. 17 Nathalie Dechy of France 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

In other second-round matches third-seeded Russian Elena Dementieva beat German Julia Schruff 6-2, 7-5 and fifth-seeded Russian Dinara Safina rallied to beat American Vania King 1-6, 7-5,

things when Jones probably tried to

"It's a very unfortunate incident," said Lal. "Knowing the gentleman I just a mistake. I am sure Deano himself would have been embarrassed with what has happened."

Former Test all-rounder Madan Lal said experts should make no

making comments against individuals," said Lal, a member of the 1983 World Cup-winning squad.

"Luckily, in my experience I have not made or heard such remarks from my co-commentators. However, mistakes do happen and some pay a big price for it, like

Jones said he had written a fullpage apology to Amla and the South African team, as well as saying sorry to the bowler directly.

spoke to him for a certain amount of time. I gave him my sincerest apologies and he was gracious enough to accept it," said Jones, who sacked after a complaint from Cricket South Africa chief executive Gerald

Klose, Klinsmann

Klinsmann also dominated the opposition in the vote, taking 392 votes compared with 98 for Hamburg's Thomas Doll in second and 94 for Jurgen Klopp, the coach of Mainz, in third.

Felix Magath, the coach of double winners Bayern, failed to make it into the top three. Birgit Prinz, who is on the verge

of her 150th international cap, won the women's award for the sixth time

Japan beat T&T

feature at a World Cup finals in Germany, struggled to find their rhythm or break down the Japanese

several dead ball opportunities. including or even the 20th minute miscue by Japanese goalkeeper Yoshikatu Kawaguchi. Trinidad striker Gary Glasgow

repeatedly broke down the right flank but seldom succeeded in providing penetrative crosses. Trinidad coach Wilhelmus Riisbergen said: "The game was a

Woolmer gives **Eng Ashes** chance

AFP, Leeds

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer insisted England could mount a successful defence of the Ashes after they crushed his side by 167 runs here at Headingley.

England's victory left them 2-0 up in the four-match series, with just the final Test later this month at The Oval to come, and was their first Test campaign triumph since they regained the Ashes last year.

And this series win was achieved without star all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, the man England hope will captain them in Australia later this year, who scored 402 runs and took 24 wickets against Ricky Ponting's side in 2005.

"If they can get Andrew Flintoff back and keep their bowlers fit they've got a reasonable chance," said Woolmer.

"Australia are very difficult to beat at home but England will take a lot of positives out of these last two games,' added the former England all-rounder, whose side hadn't previously lost a Test series since going down 3-0 to Australia

England second ranked Test team

REUTERS, London

England have moved into second place in the world Test rankings behind Australia after taking an unheatable 2-0 lead over Pakistar in their four-Test series on Tuesday.

A statement from the International Cricket Council on Tuesday confirmed that England's 167-run win over Pakistan in the third Test at Headingley in Leeds had put them ahead of the tourists.

"The forthcoming Ashes series between Australia and England will be a battle between the top two sides in the Test Championship table," the statement said. hoped to keep the Swede at the

The first Ashes Test starts in

Israelis to flee to airbase

AFP, London

The Israel cricket team was forced to move a European championship match to the security of a British airbase Tuesday after protesters disrupted their matches at venues in the host city of Glasgow.

Their European Second Division Championship match against Guernsey, due to have been played in the western Scottish city of Glasgow, took place 150 miles (240 kilometres) away at Royal Air Force base Lossiemouth.

The match was moved to the ortheast Scottish coastal sit previous Israel fixtures were disrupted by protests against the Jewish state's ongoing conflict with the Hezbollah militia in Lebanon.

"We were approached to host two matches due to the cancellation of previous games," an RAF Lossiemouth spokeswoman said.

Ganguly

Left-arm Zaheer was discarded after the Pakistan tour over poor form, fitness and attitude, but is back in the frame after his consistent showing for English county Worcestershire.

The list also includes three uncapped batsmen, 19-year-old Mumbai player Rohit Sharma, Subramaniam Badrinath and Tejinderpal Singh.

The list, which includes all the players chosen for next week's one-day triseries in Sri Lanka, would be pruned to 14 by September 7. **PROBABLES**

Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Aiit Agarkar, Irfan Pathan, Munaf Patel, Harbhaian Singh Ramesh Powar, Anil Kumble, Dinesh Mongia, Rudra Pratap Singh, Suresh Raina, Sourav Ganguly, Venkatsai Laxman, Venugopal Rao, Robin Uthappa, Gautam Gambhir, Rohit Sharma, Subramaniam Badrinath, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Tejinder Pal Singh, Vikram Rajvir Singh, Dinesh Karthick, Parthiv Patel, Zaheer Khan, Shib Shankar Paul, Piyush

Aussies feel

disagreed, saying: "It is totally insane calling someone terrorist just because he has beard which represents a relgious belief."

occasions about racism on the

address the problem.

Racial controversy in Australian sport is not limited to cricket. wanted this gold in Gothenburg badly.' NSW Waratahs prop Justin Harrison was suspended last year

for a racial slur against a Cats winger in South Africa, while tennis Slovenia bronze in 10.14sec. star Lleyton Hewitt was accused in 2001 of singling out a black linesman for criticism when playing African-American James Blake The Aboriginal community has also complained on numerous

playing field, prompting many finish fourth in 10.16sec. Australian sporting organisations to There was no dream comeback for develop codes attempting to

More time for integration: Ballack

Football

INTERNET, undated

Michael Ballack insisted it will 'take some time' until he gets used to his new Chelsea teammates and vice

The Germany skipper gave Jose Mourinho a first account of his trademark goal hunger when he played the full 90 minutes in the Blues' 1-0 victory over Feyenoord.

He came close to scoring on three occasions, including two headers as well as a close-range shot that cannoned over

But still Ballack was pleased with his performance. 'It was the second match - you

cannot be at the level where you want to be,' he said after his first win for Chelsea 'Lots of players were at the World

Cup and had a long season followed by some time off. 'You just need time to get back.

We just need games to grow together. And it was looking pretty good today. We were much sharper than in the first match (against the MLS All Stars). Yet he feels his troops are still a

far crv away from top form. 'We are not used to each other

'I don't really know the team yet, and the team doesn't really know me. It still takes some time, but it will

improve from game to game 'We've just been together for one week, whereas it normally takes weeks and months for a team to

reach a top level - even a team like

MICHAEL BALLACK

Ballack said he was pleased not to be the only star on the team which he pretty much was in Munich

'It's good to know you have good players alongside you, 'he stated.

'That is a lot of fun. The responsibility does not rest on one or two shoulders but on the whole team. That's very nice. It is especially good someone is not having a good

And the stiff competition only makes the team better in Ballack's

'We have every position doubled up and there is a lot of competition going on within the group,' he said.

'That pushes the team without a Meanwhile, midfield partner

Frank Lampard, who scored the game4s only goal at Rotterdam, believes Ballack's England career was off to a good start.

'It felt good and started well,' he

'I enjoyed playing with him. He is a top-class player, a very clever player. He is enjoyable to play with. He just has a good football brain. I look forward to working well with him

However, he admitted Ballack was 'not yet' fully integrated.

'No one is at 100% vet but we have still got one-and-a-half weeks left and that is the game to be fit for,' Lampard added.

Juve reject Ibrahimovic offer

Football

INTERNET, undated

Juventus have declined an Inter offer they deemed as too low for unhappy striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic,

The Via Durini outfit allegedly made a £15m bid on Tuesday evening, but the Old Lady told the Nerazzurri to dig a little deeper. Juve President Giovanni Cobolli

Gigli said on Tuesday that he still

club, but did not exclude the possibility of a transfer. "If Ibrahimovic does leave, then

he will go to the club that pay us best," he warned at the Lega Calcio meeting in Milan. The 24-year-old, who landed in

has expressed his desire to leave Juventus following their demotion in Ibrahimovic has also been linked to Milan, who are reported to be

Turin from Ajax in 2004 for £11.5m,

willing to offer up to £17.8m even if the Old Lady hope of netting something around £20m. Inter are now back in the Ibra race after Luca Toni, their primary transfer target, confirmed on

Tuesday his desire to stay with A new meeting between Ibra's agent Mino Raiola and Milan is planned for Thursday, the day after the first leg of the Champions League preliminary match against Red Star Belgrade, the result of which may affect further developments in the negotiation.

In the meantime, Juventus officials are scheduled to meet David Trezeguet's agent on Thursday and are expected to offer an improvement to the French international's contract in order to persuade him to stay in Turin.

Juventus have also maintained that goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon and Mauro Camoranesi will not leave the fallen Italian giants



Portuguese sprinter Francis Obikwelu holds the flag after winning the 100m final at the 19th European Athletics

Kluft-Obikwelu show

Athletics

AFP, Gothenburg

Francis Obikwelu of Portugal and home favourite Carolina Kluft lived up to their top billing at the European Championships here Tuesday, destroving their rivals to win the men's 100m and heptathlon respectively.

Championships in Gothenburg on Tuesday.

Both posted championship records - 9.99sec for Obikwelu and 6.740 points for Kluft -- as their class shone

through two mediocre fields. As in the heats Obikwelu's reaction time out of the blocks was terrible, but once the towering figure of the 27vear-old Nigerian-born sprinter became fully erect after 20 metres, there was no question who was going to win the race.

Obikwelu, silver medallist at the Athens Olympics and European record holder at 9.86sec, just steamed through the field. "This title means a lot to me." said

Obikwelu, who has had Portuguese

nationality only since 2001 and now

lives in Spain. "I was number one in Europe all year and now I also have the medal. After silver in Munich (four years ago) I

In an upset to the formbook, Andrey Yepishin of Russia claimed silver in 10.10sec and Matic Osovnikar of Joint pre-race favourite Ronald

Pognon of France, who along with Obikwelu and Dwain Chambers was the only other sprinter on show here to have raced a sub-10sec race, also made a disastrous start and could only

returning British drugs offender Chambers, whose European gold four

after the Briton failed a doping test and was handed a two-vear ban. He could only finish seventh in 10.24sec.

In the heptathlon, defending

champion Kluft -- remarkably still only 23 years old -- made the most of the withdrawal through injury of chief rival Eunice Barber of France to dominate The current world and Olympic champion completed the seven

massive 317pts ahead of silver medallist Karin Ruckstuhl of the Netherlands, while German Lilli Schwarzkopf won bronze three points further adrift In front of a vocal crowd of 30,000 on Tuesday, Kluft recorded a best of

disciplines in the gruelling event a

6.65m in the long jump, threw 46.94m in the javelin, and completed the 800m in a conservative 2min 14.95sec. "There was a fantastic feeling

during the last lap," said an emotional "Yes, there was the pressure, but again I was able to do what I wanted

before the home crowd with the support of fantastic spectators." In other events on the second day of the week-long continental competition, Italy's US-born Andrew Howe won the men's long jump with a best

iump of 8.20m. British teenager Greg Rutherford claimed silver with a dramatic last jump of 8.13m, nudging out Oleksiy Lukashevych of Ukraine by a centi-

Francisco Fernandez of Spain won the men's 20 kilometres walk, the Olympic and world silver medallist finishing the course around the streets of Gothenburg in 1hr 19min 09sec. Valeriy Borchin of Russia took

silver, 51sec off the pace, with Joao

Vieira of Portugal coming in third. The men's 10,000m might not have been guick (28min 10.46sec) but it had

Gothenburg crowd on their feet. Germany's Jan Fitschen turned in a blistering 58sec last lap to catch Jose Manuel Martinez and Juan Carlos de la Ossa on the home bend and

a fantastic finish that had the cheering

outsprint the Spanish duo to the line. In the field, the women's hammer was won by Russian Tatyana Lysenko with a best of 76.67m, a new championship record, ahead of compatriot Gulfiya Khanafeyeva (74.50m) and Poland's Kamila Skolimowska

Ancelotti critical

(72.58m).

"UEFA will not hesitate to intervene severely, should AC Milan be involved in any activities aiming to arrange

improperly the outcome of a match." Milan, six times European champions, were found guilty along with Juventus, Lazio and Fiorentina last month in a Serie A match-fixing probe although a soccer appeals court reduced their initial punishment of a

15-point penalty down to eight. Looking ahead to the match with former European champions Red Star, Ancelotti said Milan would be feeling the absence of Ukraine striker Andriy Shevchenko, who joined Chelsea after seven years with the Italian club.

"Shevchenko has been with us for many years and it certainly has an effect," he told a news conference.

"But we need to think about those who are with us and I am sure they can overcome this important absence.

Domenech rings

he wanted time to reflect on his future, could be back for the European Championship qualifiers which begin in September. "I am waiting and hoping for this," said Domenech. "I have spoken to

international retirement after the

World Cup, and Thuram, who said

France play Georgia on September 2 before a clash with Italy four days later.

"I will do everything possible to

both of them, I will do what needs to

have the best team and best players available," added Domenech. Of the new boys, Lyon duo Francois Clerc, 23, and Jeremy Toulalan, 22, were called up but did not play against Slovakia on March 1, while Bordeaux's youth international Julien Faubert, 23, gets his

Domenech also recalled Bordeaux midfielder Rio Mavuba, 22, who has three caps but has not played in two years, and Roma defender Philippe Mexes. Inter Milan midfielder Patrick Vieira takes over the captain's armband

(Juventus Turin/ITA/D2), Sylvain following the retirement of Zinedine Zidane after the World Cup. "He was captain before the

logical. He has proven that he's capable and he will prove it again, said Domenech

Only three of the World Cup team

have so far returned to competition.

Bayern Munich defender Willy

Sagnol, Monaco defender Gael Givet and PSG goalkeeper Mickael Landreau. Goalkeepers: Gregory Coupet (Lyon), Mickael Landreau (Paris SG) Defenders: Eric Abidal (Lyon), Jean-Alain Boumsong (Newcastle/ENG), François Clerc (Lyon), William Gallas (Chelsea/ENG),

Gaël Givet (Monaco), Philippe

Mexes (AS Rome/ITA), Willy Sagnol

(Bayern Munich/GER) Midfielders: Alou Diarra (Lens) Julien Faubert (Bordeaux), Florent Malouda (Lyon), Rio Mavuba (Bordeaux), Jeremy Toulalan (Lyon), Patrick Vieira (Inter Milan/ITA) Strikers: Thierry Henry (Arse-

nal/ENG), Franck Ribery (Mar-

seille), Louis Saha (Manchester

United/ENG), David Trezeguet

Wiltord (Lyon)

Jones jibe

FROM PAGE 17

personal comments, especially against religion. "Producers anyway warn us from

"I got hold of Hashim Amla and I

FROM PAGE 20

The visitors failed to benefit from

good experience for my players. who will be able to bring that back to their domestic league.'