

Schools handball semis today

The semifinal matches of the schools handball tournament will be held at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex today, reports UNB.

Group A champions Viharunisa Noon School will take on Maghbazar Girls High School at 4 pm while group B champions Dhanmondi Govt Girls will encounter Lake Circus Girls School in the semis at 5 pm.

The final match will be held tomorrow at 4:30 pm.

In the day's match, Viharunisa emerged unbeaten group champions outplaying Lalmita Girls 7-1 in the last group match.

Maghbazar Girls booked a seat for the last four beating Rajarbagh Police Lines High School 8-1 in the position play-off match.

Compton's criticisms

LONDON, May 4: Former England Test cricketer Denis Compton launched a critical attack on England's selectors on Wednesday and urged them to gamble on youth, reports Reuter.

Compton, speaking at the launch for a charity match at The Oval next Saturday, was particularly scathing about chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth and captain Mike Atherton, who has just been reappointed for the forthcoming series against the West Indies.

"You need someone who has a bit of flair as chairman," Compton said. "You want someone who is prepared to gamble. You don't want anyone who is cautious, which he (Illingworth) is. He is frightened of his own shadow."

Compton, now 76, also criticised Atherton and questioned his ability to lead the national side.

"What's Atherton actually done as captain? Is he really an inspiration? Where is his genius as a captain? He is a good batsman but does he motivate the boys on the field?"

"This is game for youngsters. I wouldn't pick anyone over 25. Get them into the team and give them a chance. And get a captain who has some flair."

Compton believes Alan Wells, who led England A on their successful tour of India earlier this year, should replace Atherton.

"What did Wells do wrong for the A team in India? Asked Compton. "He did a marvellous job."

Gatien goes down not France

TIANJIN, China, May 4: World champion and World Cup holder Jean-Philippe Gatien of France suffered a defeat but his team defeated the Czech Republic 3-1 Thursday in the men's preliminary round of the World table tennis championships, reports AP.

In women's team competition, France won their first victory, defeating winless Slovakia 3-0.

The Czech Republic's Petr Korbek defeated Gatien 21-13, 21-13. But France's Patrick Chila defeated Roland Krmaschek 12-21, 21-19, 21-17. Christophe Legout won a hard fought 21-16, 18-21, 21-19, victory over Josef Plachy, and Chila wrapped it up by beating Korbek 21-17, 26-24.

Spurs hold Newcastle

LONDON, May 4: Newcastle solidified their campaign for a UEFA Cup berth Wednesday with a 3-3 draw against Tottenham in the Premier League, while Crystal Palace remained perilously placed for relegation after a 3-1 defeat at Southampton, reports AP.

In a thriller at St James' Park, Newcastle goalkeeper Pavel Srnicek and Spurs' defender Colin Calderwood were sent off, and German striker Juergen Klinsmann missed a penalty.

Trailing 2-0 after 10 minutes, Tottenham turned the tables with three goals in a four-minute span to lead 3-2, but Newcastle snatched a point with a Peter Beardsley strike with 20 minutes to play.

The result left Newcastle fifth and Tottenham seventh in the 22-team league. A fifth-place finish would guarantee Newcastle a UEFA berth, and sixth place may be enough if Manchester United win the Football Association Cup and fail to win the league title.

Orient Bread schools kabaddi

Dolairpar High School emerged champions of the fifth Orient Bread schools Kabaddi beating Ansars and VDP High School by 21-5 points in the final at the Outer Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Ten school teams of the metropolis took part in the 13-day competition which began on April 22.

Aussies dethrone Caribbean kings

An era of supremacy ends



KINGSTON, Jamaica, May 4: An Australian side of rare discipline and commitment became the first team to defeat West Indies in a Caribbean series for 22 years with victory by an innings and 53 runs in the fourth Test on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Mark Taylor's team dismissed the home side for 213 in their second innings to finish the Test in under four days and win an enthralling series 2-1, inflicting the first series defeat on the West Indies in 15 years.

The platform for the fourth Test victory was constructed by the Waugh brothers Steve and Mark, who made a double century and a century respectively in Australia's first innings of 531.

West Indies had hoped to improve on their first innings 265 with a fighting second term at the crease when they resumed at 63 for three on Wednesday.

But four wickets each by Paul Reiffel and Shane Warne ensured Australia were not required to bat again on the Sabina Park wicket.

When the last West Indies wicket fell at 2.45 pm local time, Australia had regained the Frank Worrell Trophy for the first time in 19 years and nine attempts.

They also inflicted the first international Test series loss on West Indies in 29 contests — 27 series and two one-off Tests — since 1979-80 and became only the seventh Australian team to beat them by an innings.

By winning the series Taylor, the 39th Australian cricket captain, achieved what his distinguished predecessor Allan Border was unable to do in four attempts.

Australia were comprehensively the better side in the series despite the loss through injury of key bowlers Damien Fleming and Craig McDermott.

They won the first Test by 10 wickets, played the better cricket in the rain-affected second Test and drawn back from a nine-wicket defeat in the third Test on a wicket Queen's Park Oval track in Port of Spain.

West Indies paltry batting

here reflected their struggle throughout the series.

Embattled captain Richie Richardson will come under increased pressure after the defeat, which will also add fuel to the already heated regional discussion over the exclusion of experienced Desmond Haynes.

A champagne-soaked Taylor had no hesitation in claiming the unofficial world champions title after the series victory, which he put down to 'variety and teamwork.'

"The West Indies have been the world champions for 15 years and now that we've beaten them, then we are now a better team than the West Indies," he said.

"If they were playing us next summer and came out

the team and that is what we are working on at the moment," Roberts said. "It's been there for a long time and it's very difficult to just come in and change that overnight."

Roberts pointed the finger at his batsmen who failed to post a 300 score in the series.

"Over the years the bowlers have been pulling us out of bad situations and now it was the turn for the batsmen to do it and they just couldn't get the job done," he said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the fourth Test between West Indies and Australia here on Wednesday:

WEST INDIES: 1st innings 265 (R Richardson 100, B Lara 65, P Reiffel 3-48)

AUSTRALIA: 1st innings 531 (S Waugh 200, M Waugh 126, G Blewett 69, C Walsh 3-103, K Benjamin 3-106)

WEST INDIES: 2nd innings (Resumed at 63 for 3)

S Williams	b Reiffel	20
R Richardson	c and b Reiffel	14
B Lara	lbw b Reiffel	0
J Adams	c S Waugh b McGrath	18
W Benjamin	lbw b Reiffel	51
C Hooper	run out	13
K Arthurton	lbw b Warne	14
C Browne	not out	31
C Ambrose	c Healy b Warne	5
C Walsh	c Blewett b Warne	14
K Benjamin	c Taylor b Warne	6
Extras: (b-3, lb-8, nb-6)		27
Total: (all out)		213

Fall of wickets 1-37; 2-37; 3-46; 4-98; 5-134; 6-140; 7-166; 8-172; 9-204.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Reiffel	18	5	47	4
Julian	10	2	37	0
Warne	24	8	70	4
M Waugh	1	0	1	0
McGrath	13	2	28	1
S Waugh	4	0	9	0

Man-of-the-match: Steve Waugh.

Man-of-the-series: Steve Waugh.

Result: Australia won by an innings and 53 runs.

1st Test, Bridgetown, Barbados: Australia won by 10 wickets.

2nd Test, St John's, Antigua: Drawn.

3rd Test, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad: West Indies won by nine wickets.

Australia win four-match series 2-1 to win the Frank Worrell Trophy.



STEVE WAUGH... man-of-series

and beat us, they'd be world champions. That's what I'd like to see in world cricket.

"Pakistan will play in Australia next year in three Test matches. If they beat us on our soil they're world champions."

West Indies captain Richie Richardson promised his side would bounce back during the upcoming six-Test tour of England but coach Andy Roberts said some of the senior players had clearly let the side down and they would have to show drastic improvement.

There is an attitude problem with several members of

West Indies on the wane?



KINGSTON, Jamaica, May 4: Richie Richardson will presumably be heading for China or the North Pole after Australia ended the West Indies reign here on Wednesday, reports AP.

He had said they were the only places from which he could escape the lynch mob.

The writing has been on the wall for some time for the Caribbean who have been unable to replace their feared four-man pace bowlers.

Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh are the wrong side of 30 while Winston and Kenny Benjamin are not in the top bracket.

And there is a dearth of emerging batting talent. Brian Lara, who normally comes to their rescue, was bowled for a duck yesterday while the dependable Jimmy Adams also failed.

But Australia can justifiably claim the unofficial title of world cricket champions after an historic win achieved without their quickest bowler, Craig McDermott, who broke an ankle while jogging at the beginning of the series.

Paul Reiffel, one of the new generation of seamers who played a great part in the tri-

umph, bowled Lara leg before yesterday and finished with four for 47.

Spinner Shane Warne took four for 70 and, appropriately, Mark Taylor, who replaced Allan Border as Australia captain 12 months ago, held the last catch as Warne bamboozled Kenny Benjamin.

"It's definitely the highlight. I don't know if it's going to get any better than this over my captaincy career," Taylor said after a 2-1 series success hard on the heels of their Ashes win over England.

Border had never beaten the West Indies in seven series.

Since losing to New Zealand in the first Test of three at Dunedin in February 1980, the West Indies had gone 29 series around the world without being beaten.

But lately they have had to come back time after time to keep their record intact.

England almost beat them in 1991, winning in Jamaica and then being robbed off a second victory in Trinidad before losing the series 2-1.

Australia were one-up at home in 1992-93 before losing by one run in Adelaide and then being destroyed by Ambrose in Perth.

India were one-up going into the final Test last

December but again the West Indies tourists levelled.

Australia's innings and 53 runs victory on the fourth day of the fourth Test made them the first team to win a rubber in the Caribbean since Ian Chappell's Australia won a five match series 2-0 in 1973.

This was the 10th series between the two sides since then and only once in that period had Australia been successful in capturing a series. That was the infamous 1975-1976 series in Australia.

So Taylor was quick to point out that one of the best things about this win was the lack of any animosity.

"There were very few incidents, both sides got on with it. We had a few beers with the West Indians and they had a few beers with us," he said.

"Both sides played it tough in the field and I think every-one who played in the series enjoyed it."

He said they might not have had the flair of the West Indies but they had a really good professional cricket team and more variety in attack.

"We've made the most of our potential," he said.

"We didn't bowl anywhere near as many short-pitched balls as they did but we had other way of getting them out."

Parma draw first blood



PARMA, Italy, May 4: The less famous of the two Baggios scored the game winner for the home team in the fifth minute to give Parma a 1-0 victory against Juventus in the first-leg of an all-Italian UEFA Cup final Wednesday night, reports AP.

Midfielder Dino Baggio, in relation with Juventus star-forward Roberto Baggio, lifted a lob past goalie Michelangelo Rampulla from the penalty area edge after receiving a perfect assist from Gianfranco Zola.

The ball slowly rolled into the net as Juventus defender Robert Jarni vainly rushed behind it in the attempt to clear.

It was the only goal in a tense match featuring the two teams who have been battling all season at the top of the Italian league and who will also play each other in the two-leg finals of the Italian Cup on June.

Juve, starting a reshuffled defence because of injuries and suspensions which sidelined Juergen Kohler, Ciro Ferrara and Moreno Torricelli, left a few scoring chances to Parma while putting the home team under steady pressure for long

periods.

The Turin team, who are owned and financed by the Agnelli family of auto tycoons, produced several scoring chances which were squandered by striker Fabrizio Ravanelli or saved by Parma's goalie Luca Bucci.

Bucci made two sensational dives on powerful drives by Gianluca Vialli and Gian Carlo Marocchi in the second half.

Flashy Colombian forward Faustino Asprilla led some dangerous counterattacks of Parma but was gradually overwhelmed by Juventus defenders, as he was left isolated in front while his teammates defended the one-goal lead.

Wednesday's defeat at Tardini Stadium, before 27,000 fans, was Juventus' first in UEFA Cup matches this season.

While winning the first leg final, Parma lost 3-2 the battle of suspensions.

Parma's Argentine midfielder Nestor Sensini, defender Luigi Apolloni and midfielder Gabriele Pin received their second yellow card in the tournament and will be automatically suspended for the second-leg final on May 17.

fender Alessio Tacchinardi of Juventus also face automatic suspension after receiving their second caution.

Deschamps was punished for a rough tackle on defender Antonio Benarrivo, who has to leave the field with a strained ankle after 8 minutes.

The second-leg final will be played at Milan's San Siro stadium, where Juve already staged their semi final game against Borussia Dortmund.

The Turin club decided to move to Milan, about 150 kilometers east of Turin, following a controversy with the owners of their home stadium, Delle Alpi.

"For Parma, it was important not to allow a goal in the home match," coach Nevio Scala said. "It's good result for us. We will see in Milan if we are the strongest team."

Goalie Rampulla, who made a decisive intervention on a close-range header by Asprilla in the 50th, said he and his teammates had high hopes to fight back in the second leg.



GOLDEN QUARTET: Members of the Indian 4x200m freestyle relay gold medal winning team pose after their victory in the South Asian Swimming championship at the Mirpur National Complex yesterday. — Star photo

Victory parade for Aussie victors

SYDNEY, May 4: Australia began planning a victory parade today for the country's cricket team after it clinched a long-sought Test series win against the West Indies in the Caribbean, reports Reuter.

Australia took the series 2-1 in Jamaica on Wednesday by winning the fourth Test by an innings and 53 runs on Wednesday. It was the West Indies' first Test series defeat in 15 years.

The parade was being planned for Sydney. It will be Sydney's first parade since it paid tribute to fire fighters early last year for saving Australia's biggest city from bushfires.

The New South Wales state government, Sydney authorities and the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) will finalise details of the parade over the next few weeks, a spokesman for the state's premier told Reuters today.

Most team members are expected to return home on May 13, and the others in early June.

Lazio might let Gazza go after all

ROME, May 4: Paul Gascoigne's return to England next season now looks certain following a lightning visit this week by Lazio officials to London, the "Carriere Dello Sport" reported on Thursday, says AFP.

Lazio's owner Sergio Cragnotti and club president Dino Zoff made the visit on Wednesday for transfer talks with two British football agents, Mel Stein and Len Lazarus, the paper said.

Lazio's Czech coach Zdenek Zeman has made it clear he no longer has a place for the Englishman's attacking football, which he says leaves the team took exposed at the back.

Referring to Gascoigne's appearance as a 76th minute substitute in last Sunday's goalless draw with Cagliari, Zeman said: "It's not by chance if Lazio ran a lot more risks as soon as Gascoigne appeared on the pitch. He's an attacking player and not a defender."

Zeman also has the team owner's full backing.

French League Cup PSG's

PARIS, May 4: Paris St Germain won the French League Cup final amid controversy on Wednesday with a 2-0 victory during which Bastia were denied what seemed like a valid goal, reports Reuter.

The Parisians took their first title of the season thanks to a headed goal in the 22nd minute from captain Alain Roche, a late effort from Rai and a linesman's flag two minutes before the break.

Xavier remains fastest in S Asia Indians sweep 'em all



Five more new South Asian records were set up on the second day of the second South Asian Swimming (SAS) championships at the National Swimming Complex at Mirpur yesterday, reports BSS.

The records were set up in 1500m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 50m freestyle, 200m butterfly and 4X200m freestyle relay.

The inaugural day was featured also with five records.

Indian ace-swimmer Sebastian Xavier retained his title as the fastest swimmer of South Asia when he bagged the gold of the 50m freestyle with a record time of 24.37 seconds. Compatriot IC Raju took the silver clocking 25.08 seconds while hosts' Ripon got the bronze with a time of 25.54 seconds.

The Indian short-distance swimmer improved his previous 1992 record (24.44 seconds) in Calcutta by 0.07 seconds. Xavier, however, recorded his best timing in the event when he swam the distance in 23.11 seconds in the last year's Asia-Pacific swimming meet in New Delhi.

Indian coach Kashinath Roy said, Xavier failed to put up his best as he could not join the training camp in time due to graduation examinations.

India maintained their absolute dominance in the pool and secured all the six gold of the second day to take their tally to nine gold, four silver and one bronze.

Pakistan, who won four more silver yesterday, are in the second position with one gold, six silver and one bronze followed by Bangladesh with one gold, one silver and nine bronze.

Promising Indian swimmer Abhijit displayed a superb per-

formance yesterday snatching three individual gold. He grabbed his favourite 1500m freestyle gold with a record time of 16 minutes 58.58 seconds bettering his previous 1992 record of 17 minutes 11.82 seconds in Calcutta.

The silver and bronze of the event went to Kamal Salman Masud of Pakistan and Asaduzzaman of Bangladesh, who clocked 17 minutes 18.86 seconds and 18 minutes 49.83 seconds respectively.

Abhijit earned his second gold in the 400m individual medley clocking five minutes 4.01 seconds. Bangladesh's Mahbubur Rahman, who was chasing Abhijit in the first two laps, surprisingly fell behind the only other Pakistani participant Mohammad Taz to deprive the hosts of a silver. Mahbub clocked five minutes 18.54 seconds to get the bronze.

Abhijit won his third gold as a member of the Indian quartet in 4X200m freestyle relay. The Indian team set up a new SAS record in the event clocking 8 minutes 27.97 seconds. Pakistan and Bangladesh got the silver and bronze respectively.

India Suresh Kumar bettered the South Asian and SAF Games record in 200m butterfly with 2 minutes 10.52 seconds.

The SAF Games record was 2 minutes 11.98 seconds and the South Asian record in the event was 2 minutes 13.04 seconds.

Kamal Salman Masud of Pakistan and Din Amin of the locals took the silver and bronze with 2 minutes 14.28 seconds and 2 minutes 19.30 seconds respectively.

Suresh also won the gold in the 100m butterfly Wednesday. Indian Bhanu Sachdeva, who won the 200m backstroke gold Wednesday, also bagged

the gold in the 100m backstroke yesterday with a time of 1 minute 2.06 seconds establishing a new South Asian record. His compatriot Raja Ram Tokas got the silver with 1 minute 4.70 seconds while Arshad Mahmood of Pakistan took the bronze with 1 minute 5.23 seconds.

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif gave away the medals of 50 freestyle to the winners.

President of the International Swimming Federation Mustapha Larfaoui distributed the medals to the winners of 100m backstroke while Asian Amateur Swimming Federation president Hironoshin Furuhashi gave away the medals to the winners of 1500m freestyle.

MEDAL TABLE

C	G	S	B
India	9	4	1
Pakistan	1	6	1
Bangladesh	1	1	9

Meanwhile, India won both the gold in the diving competition of the meet.

Umesh Prasad bagged the gold in the 5m platform at the Naval headquarters' swimming pool in the city yesterday. He scored the highest 385.25 points.

Sri Lankan Mohinda Liyanage and India's Rajnarayan Singh got the silver and bronze scoring 371.03 and 358.70 points respectively.

India, won the other gold, 3m spring board diving event Wednesday.

MEDAL TABLE

C	G	S	B
India	2	1	1
Sri Lanka	0	1	1
Bangladesh	0	0	0

Mohammedans ride on Alfaz



Mohammedan Sporting Club badly missed the need of a quality striker when the black and whites began their Nirma DMFA Cup football tournament campaign with a lone goal win over Farashganj in one of the two final round matches of the curtain raiser meet at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The beleaguered Mohammedans, who failed to win a single title last year, were impressive in their first match of the season but had to be content with one goal due to poor marksmanship by their forwards.

Shahidul Haq Ranjan, the speedy national left winger, took charge upfront in the absence of a recognised striker.

had spoiled at least four easy chances in a rather one-sided affair with Farashganj always remaining at the receiving end.

But Ranjan, who joined Mohammedans from Brothers Union along with three other players, made some amends providing Alfaz for the match winner in the 53rd minute.

Alfaz, who got the nod from the national selectors following a successful season with Arambagh last year before switching to MSC, was rather fortunate for having the only goal in the match when his feeble header partially parried by an agile Farashganj custodian Bijoy rolled into the net after hitting a defender.

However, the result merely reflected the dominance of

Mohammedans who could have led the first half by two goals to nil had Ranjan not sent those easy sitters in the 29th and 39th minute respectively wide off the mark with Bijoy at his mercy.

Shortly after the breather Ranjan, who seemed shy of the target hit the ball straight at Bijoy before Alfaz gave the frustrated Mohammedan supporters a welcome relief in the 53rd minute.

After taking the lead Mohammedans pressed hard for more but all their efforts went in vain in the face of some brilliant saves by Bijoy, who stood firmly under the bar.

BROTHERS WIN

Meanwhile, in the day's first match Brothers Union also recorded an identical 1-0 victory over Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society (MFS) to maintain the pattern that was set on the inaugural