

Uni Games AIUB atop table

BSS, Dhaka

Hosts American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) were leading the medals table of the AIUB First Inter-Private University Games with 12 medals, including five after the second day of the Games yesterday.

The IUB are in second position with five medals, including three gold, while UAP remain third winning five medals with two gold.

Following are the results of some events on day two:

KABADDI: AIUB clinched the gold defeating MIU 66-37 in the final while DIU grabbed the bronze.

HANDBALL: NSU trounced DIUK 28-3 while AIUB defeated IUC 5-2 to brighten their gold medal hopes in the event. They will meet in the deciding match today.

TABLE TENNIS: Huang Sifeng of North South University won gold in the women's singles defeating Ashraf Asia of AIUB 21-6, 21-2.

BASKETBALL: AUB defeated AIUB 83-51 while NSU beat IUC 69-46 to enter the final at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium. The final takes place today.

The two-day Games concludes today with a spectacular closing ceremony at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Mirpur.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman is expected to attend the ceremony as the chief guest.

Eleven non-government universities took part in 11 disciplines.

Fed Cup final Slovakia draw level

REUTERS, Maspalomas

Daniela Hantuchova showed the form that has rocketed her into the world's top 10 this year to beat Magui Serna and pull Slovakia level with Spain in the Fed Cup final.

Conchita Martinez had earlier defeated Janette Husarova 6-4, 7-6 to give the hosts, chasing a sixth Fed Cup victory, a flying start. But Hantuchova then outclassed Serna 6-2, 6-1 to leave the best-of-five final poised at 1-1.

Hantuchova, the event's highest-ranked player at number eight, was close to her imperious best as she outplayed Serna, a late replacement for Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario who pulled out of the opening day's singles because of a thigh injury.

"It didn't matter to me who I was playing because I just play my own game," Hantuchova said. "Of course I had to change tactics a little. Magui has a good 'lefty' serve but I was really pleased with the way I returned."

Ganguly delighted

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cap it off with a win," he said.

"But it was a 50-60 per cent improvement in our performances. We have been struggling to get three figure scores but (Shivnarine) Chandepaul, (Wavell) Hinds and (Marlon) Samuels came through."

"For once, we put India under pressure," added Hooper.

Hooper conceded Sunday that Tendulkar and Laxman had taken the third and final Test away from his team.

"The morning session today was very important. But Sachin and Laxman played very well to deny us a win," said Hooper. "Tendulkar is a world-class player and we have to admit that."

Hooper said his team's batting had been a high point in the third Test.

"We batted well here, which we couldn't do in the last two Tests. But our fielding was as poor as in previous matches," said Hooper.

Jason nearly fit



AFP, Brisbane

Australian paceman Jason Gillespie is searching for a lengthy hit-out in the nets on Tuesday before declaring himself ready to take on England in the first Ashes Test at the Gabba on Thursday.

Gillespie joined the Test squad here on Sunday with an encouraging fitness report on the injured calf muscle, which kept him out of Australia's last two Test victories over Pakistan in Sharjah last month.

He bowled 10 overs for South Australia in their one-day loss to New South Wales at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday but wants a work-out in the Brisbane humidity to satisfy medical staff he is fit for a five-day Test.

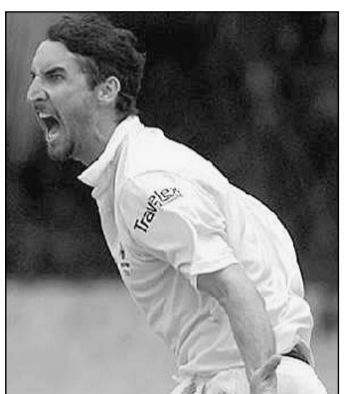
"My calf pulled up a little bit stiff but that was to be expected. It didn't pull up sore where I actually strained it and I'm happy with that," Gillespie said on Sunday.

"I'm sore all over from not a lot of bowling in the last few weeks but I'm feeling very confident (of playing)."

"But I want to have a really good bowl on Tuesday after a light bowl tomorrow (Monday) and see how I pull up."

If Gillespie is passed fit, Australian selectors must decide between Brett Lee and Andrew Bichel for the third and final fast bowling place.

Captain Steve Waugh wasn't willing to split the pair on Sunday even though Bichel exceeds the series with far better statistics than



JASON GILLESPIE

Lee in the last two seasons.

"You have to remember that (Lee's) had a serious injury - he's had a shoulder reconstruction. It takes time to get over something like that and sometimes we just expect people to pick up where they left," Waugh said.

"It's going to be a tough decision for selectors."

"Brett bowled really well in the second innings in Sharjah. He bowled a good line, and Andy was great in both Test matches."

"He's found a yard in pace since last year and he looks the complete Test bowler and I think he really believes he's a Test bowler."

"But (Gillespie) has got to make sure he's 100 per cent right first."

Waugh was a spectator at Allan Border Field where England's Test attack was being thrashed by Queensland on a flat wicket in a three-day tour match.

"You don't want to read too much into these games because they're not a good indication of what might happen in the first Test," Waugh said.

"From our point of view, it's pretty good, but England has had the chance to work a few things out in the field."

"They can take some positives from what's going on. It's not a complete loss."

"I played in that 1986-87 (Ashes) series that we lost and I don't remember England's form being that crash-hot before the series."

"You don't want to peak in these games, you want to work things out and get little bits and pieces right."

Snooker crown goes to Zia

SPORTS REPORTER

Zia-ur-Rahman Azad of Winia Snooker Parlour won the snooker title in the Gulshan Club President Gold Cup Billiards and Snooker Tournament on Saturday.

In the final he edged past Dhaka Club's M Yasir Farooq by six frames to five.

The 21-year-old Australian will face Marat Safin on Sunday after

Nat'l youth v'ball Comilla clinch title

BSS, Dhaka

Comilla clinched the title of the Silver Line Group National Youth Volleyball Championship defeating Jessore 3-1 at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

Earlier, Satkhira beat Rajshahi 3-2 to grab the third spot.

Ten district teams took part in the meet.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman distributed prizes as chief guest.

Burger baffles Kenya

AFP, Nairobi

Jan Berry-Burger hit a century to lead Namibia to a four-wicket upset win over Kenya in the first of four one-day matches here on Saturday.

Chasing Kenya's 271 for six in 50 overs, Namibia, reached the target with two balls to spare.

Burger's 110 runs laid the foundation for the stunning victory, a morale boost for the Namibians, who will make its debut in the 2003 Cricket World Cup in South Africa.

Burger cracked 10 fours in his impressive display before he was bowled by Tony Suji in the 45th over.

Kenyan captain Steve Tikolo top scored for his side with 88. The two teams play each other on Sunday.

Spirited Eng

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shots square of the wicket in a sign they can challenge the Australian new-ball attack.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the three-day cricket tour match between Queensland and England at Allan Border Field on Sunday:

Table with columns: Queensland, First innings, Second innings, England, First innings, Second innings. Lists players and scores.

Table with columns: England, First innings, Second innings, Bowling, Bowling. Lists players and scores.

Hewitt, Safin showdown



REUTERS, Paris

Top seed Lleyton Hewitt survived a battering from Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan before securing a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 victory to book his place in the Paris Masters final.

The 21-year-old Australian will face Marat Safin on Sunday after

the Russian beat Spain's Carlos Moya 7-5, 7-6.

Hewitt looked to be heading for a straightforward win as errors flowed off Paradorn's racket in the opening set. But the 23-year-old Thai, with nine successive victories under his belt, hit back with some sensational tennis to level the match.

The momentum appeared to have swung completely in Paradorn's favour at 3-3 in the decider when Hewitt stood at 0-40,

but he failed to take his chance and Hewitt made him pay in the next game when he broke serve to lead 5-3.

Paradorn saved two match points with backhand winners but floated another backhand long on the third to hand Hewitt victory in just under two hours.

"I wasn't surprised at how well he played," said Hewitt. "He's had a great second half of the year and is full of confidence. I felt I didn't hit the ball as well as I can but I just toughed it out."

"He could smell the break when I was down 0-40 at 3-3 in the third, but after I got through that game I knew he would be a bit down."

"I just had to hold my serve as much as possible and take my chances when I could."

Paradorn, who has jumped more than 100 places in the rankings this year and will be around the 15 mark on next week's ATP list, said he was just one point away from pulling on the lucky red shirt he saves for "finishing off" matches.

"If I had got that break to lead 4-3 I would have put on the shirt," he said. "I'm still happy with the way I played even though lost, it was just a couple of points that decided it in the end."

"Semi-finals here at my first attempt, that's great for me. Next year I'll come back and try and do even better."

Earlier, on centre court Safin reached his third Paris Masters final in four years with a comfortable victory over Moya who failed to repeat the form that toppled Andre Agassi and defending champion Sebastien Grosjean.

Safin, in outstanding form this week, believes he is playing better now than when he crushed Pete Sampras in the 2000 US Open final.

"I'm playing much better, I'm feeling good and have got my confidence back," said the 22-year-old who is still looking for his first title of the year after failing at the final hurdle in the Australian Open and Hamburg Masters.

"Now I hope I can play like this for another few weeks, for the Davis Cup final and (the Masters Cup) in Shanghai."

The third seed was always in control against the 10th-seeded Spaniard who looked jaded after his earlier exploits.

Safin missed a chance to break Moya's serve in the eighth game of the first set and squandered two set points two games later.

There was no escape for Moya as he served at 5-6, however, as Safin clinched the set in 45 minutes with a drop volley.

The pattern was repeated in the second set as Moya was made to work hard to hold serve, while never remotely threatening the Russian's booming delivery.

Moya did well to push Safin into a tiebreak. But when he failed to put away an easy smash, Safin pounced to arrow a forehand down the line for victory.

Booters camp

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letter on Thursday and we are definitely going to take the chance to play some practice matches," said Roy.

Roy also revealed that the BFF will start the under-14 camp from November 7 for AFC football festival in Nepal.

Perfection thy name is Serena



BBC ONLINE, London

Serena Williams will get the opportunity to cement her position as the world's best player in the WTA end-of-season championships.

The younger Williams sister has won eight of the 12 events she has entered this year, including three Grand Slams.

Her achievements have taken her to the world number one position and put her older sibling, and her only rival, Venus firmly in the shade.

Serena now heads to Los Angeles, the new venue for the WTA's flagship event, along with 15 of the world's best - including a fully-rested Venus.

The injury-troubled 22-year-old has not played since losing to Magdalena Maleeva at the Kremlin Cup in September and will be keen to end her year on a more positive note.

Rubin has troubled both Williams sisters this year.

Venus has lost the last three Grand Slam finals to Serena and her tally of six titles is unlikely to make up for the disappointment of ending the year without a Major.

But though the smart money is on a fourth all-Williams final in Los Angeles, there are several players who could upset the family monopoly.

Chanda Rubin is the only player to beat Serena in her last 37 matches and gave Venus a scare at

Elements slow Lankans down



AFP, Lenasia

Sri Lanka added a further 89 runs to their overnight score of 226 for four, before bad weather ended play with the score on 315 for five at the Lenasia Stadium south of Johannesburg on Saturday.

When the weather had the final say with two sessions left to play, Hashan Tillekaratne, 71, and Hasantha Fernando, 47, had struck up a partnership of 74 for the sixth wicket.

Rookie Fernando, making his first tour, was particularly harsh on quickie Garnett Kruger smashing him for 16 runs including one almighty six, he launched over square-leg onto the pavilion roof.

Overnight batsmen Mahela Jayawardene and Tillekaratne on 66 and 40 respectively added 15 runs before Jayawardene - 76 off 165 balls that included 11 fours - edged a rising delivery from Jon Kent into the hands of second slip.

Before that the pair had knocked out 104 for the fifth wicket.

MSC complete

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League titles. It was Mohammedan's eighth triumph in the Federation Cup.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman witnessed the final as chief guest and handed over a cheque of Taka three lakh to the winners. Runners-up Muktiyoddha received Taka two lakh.

Mohammedan forward Rokonzuzaman Kanchan, who scored six goals in the tournament, was declared player-of-the-tournament.

Red card: Salisu (MSC) **Yellow cards:** Joy (MSC) and Abdullah (Muktiyoddha Sangsad).

Table with columns: Team, Player, Goals, Assists. Lists players and statistics for MSC and Muktiyoddha.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 25 mins.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a 4x11 grid of letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP

CRYPTOQUIP: R B S N R Z W O X D S Z F - D P Z F J H O O T W R Z N W P G S T J R M H B R H O P W W M R X F R W D I N N O R N H O O W M R W S G R. Includes a solution for the puzzle.



Zia-ur-Rahman of Winia Snooker Parlour who became champion in the Gulshan Club President Gold Cup Billiards and Snooker Tournament on Saturday.