

Sparkling Jewel sets new SAF mark

Swimming

SPORTS REPORTER

Jewel Ahmed broke the SAF (South Asian Federation) Games record in the 50-metre butterfly on the third day of the 20th National Swimming Championship at the Army Swimming Complex yesterday.

The 21-year-old Bangladesh Navy natant, who finished third in this event in the Islamabad Games earlier this year, set the pool afloat when he clocked 26.04 seconds to win his third gold in the meet. But this one is very special for Jewel as he shattered the region's record of 26.11 seconds in style. It is all the more memorable for the sailor as it bettered his own personal mark of 26.19 seconds, which he set in the Pakistan capital.

His fantastic swim also stunned officials of the Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) who are now hopeful that he would bring a gold in this event at the next SAF Games in Sri Lanka in 2005.

"It is absolutely unbelievable what he clocked today. It was especially significant because he swam in difficult condition with the rain coming down hard." BSF general secretary Shaabuddin told The Daily Star Sport last night.

The swimmer was over the moon after his achievement.

"Actually the training in Thailand and China before the Athens Olympic helped me a lot to improve my timing. I was confident of doing better in this event but I never expected of breaking the SAF mark," said Jewel.

Rafiqul Islam of BKSP finished second in a time of 27.10 second and Jewel's teammate Jamal Hossain bagged the bronze clocking 27.81 seconds.

Jewel also led Navy to win the 4x100m freestyle relay along with Munmun Ahmed, Kazi Monirul

Islam and Rubel Rana with a new national record. They clocked 3:44.71 seconds beating the old record of 3:45.54. **SEE PAGE 14 COL 5**



PHOTO: STAR FILE

Vettori leads NZ ODI squad in Bangladesh

REUTERS, Wellington

All-rounder Daniel Vettori will captain New Zealand's one-day squad on their tour of Bangladesh later this month.

Vettori, a left-arm spinner and solid lower-order batsman, will also be vice-captain of the Test team on the tour, coach John Bracewell said on Thursday.

"There is a heavy reliance on Stephen Fleming as captain and a succession plan is required to ensure we have cover in the event he is injured," said Bracewell in a statement.

Fleming will only play in the Test matches in Bangladesh.

Another potential future captain, Jacob Oram, will be rested from the one-dayers in Bangladesh ahead of the home series against Australia.

Vettori, 25, has played for New Zealand for eight years and has 114 one-day and 158 Test wickets. He has a one-day batting average of 11.1 and a Test average of 20.25, including a century.

Experienced all rounder Chris Cairns, who has usually deputised for Fleming but retired from Tests after the tour of England earlier this year, will concentrate on his one-day game and help the younger players, Bracewell said.

Batsman Craig McMillan, who was left out of the Test side for

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Women's soccer ignores shower and threats

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite threats from religious bigots, the women's football tournament resumed after the Bir Sheshthar Shahid Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Dhaka dumped Jessore Educational Board 5-0 in the first match while VIP defeated Khagrachari 3-0 in the second match.

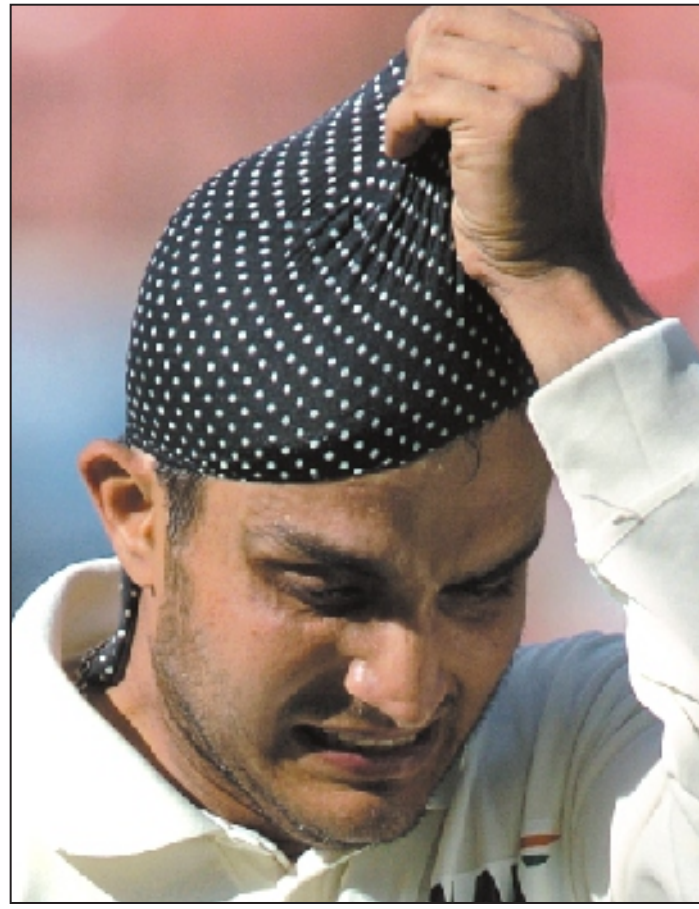
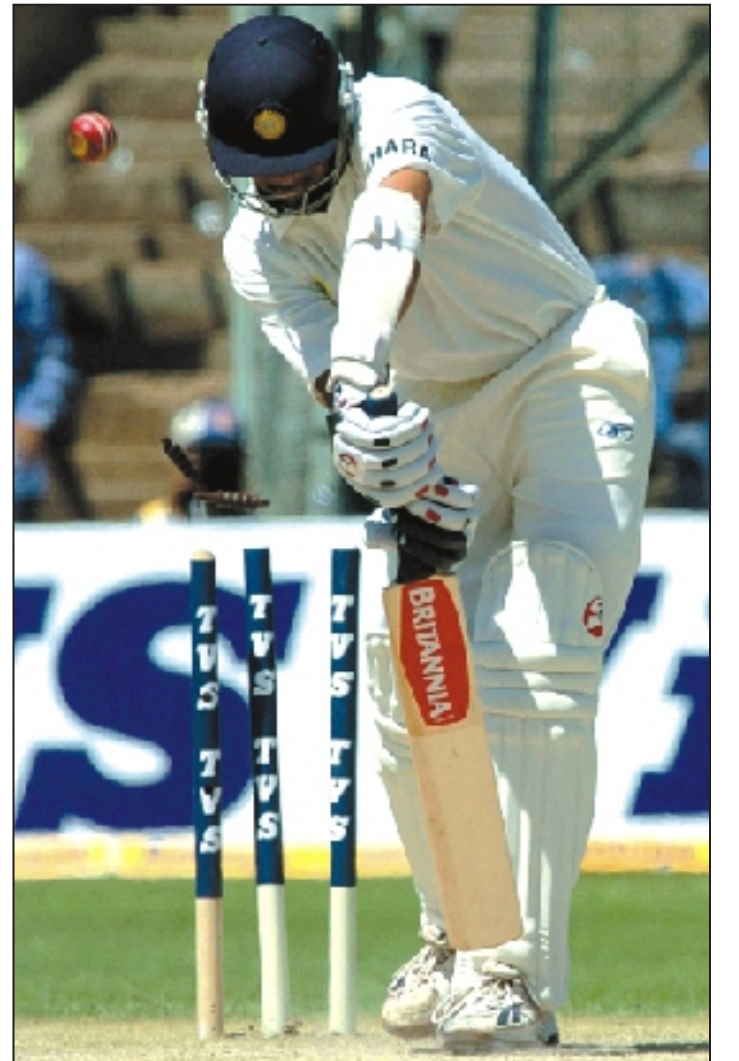


PHOTO: AFP
WHEN EVERYTHING GOES WRONG: India captain Sourav Ganguly (top) takes off his bandana in utter disgust after his dismissal while dependable batsman Rahul Dravid (R) is clean bowled by a Glenn McGrath gem for nought on the second day of the first Test against Australia in Bangalore yesterday.



Monir new BFF vice-president

SPORTS REPORTER

Monir Ahmed was elected the vice-president of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) with an overwhelming victory yesterday.

He received 91 votes while his rival Professor Shaminuzzaman Basunia got only 16. A total of 113 councillors cast their votes where five votes were cancelled.

The election was held yesterday at the National Sports Council conference room after the post was left vacant with the killing of Khairul Anwar Piaru early this year.

Earlier the annual general meeting of BFF was held at the same venue.

More frustration for the Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

The country's national cricketers endured another frustrating day as they could not knock even in the indoors nets of BKSP yesterday.

Heavy downpour forced coach Dav Wharmore to cancel the batting session and his boys only had a running session.

The Tigers are to go to the gym and have swimming session today at the Bangladesh Army Stadium.

Gloster too released

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) confirmed yesterday that physio John Gloster had tendered his resignation.

"Yes, he tendered his resignation citing family problem. We have accepted it and are searching for a replacement."

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Rain holds up U-21 hockey final

SPORTS REPORTER

Heavy rain forced organisers to postpone the Challenge Cup U-21 hockey tournament final between hosts Bangladesh and India yesterday.

Technical director Rana Mujahid Ali, the former Pakistan international, called the game off after inspecting the pitch at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

Weather permitting the final will now be played at 10 am today.

The turf became waterlogged following heavy downpour, which was a result of a depression in the Bay. And if the rain continues to play foul again then both teams would be declared joint champions.

"We hope for the best tomorrow because it will be a disappointing end if there is no final action," said Rana following his inspection half an hour after the scheduled 3 pm start yesterday.

It was learnt that India wanted a toss to decide the title rather than a joint-champions declaration.

Meanwhile, Oman finished third in the five-nation competition yesterday beating Myanmar 3-1 in the place-deciding match at the BKSP yesterday.

Aussies assume control

REUTERS, Bangalore

Michael Clarke hit a sparkling 151 on his debut and a revitalised Glenn McGrath then ripped the heart out of India's batting as Australia took command of the first Test on Thursday.

Fast bowler McGrath took three wickets, including that of Rahul Dravid as he claimed two in his first two overs, to leave India tottering at 150 for six after the second day, still 125 runs shy of avoiding the follow-on.

Paceman Michael Kasprovicz ended Indian hopes of a fightback with two quick wickets before leg-spinner Shane Warne produced the ball of the innings to bowl Vangipurappu Laxman (31).

The Australians, also spurred on by a rapid century from Adam Gilchrist, had amassed 474 before being dis-

missed one hour after lunch.

Their domination of an exciting second day was built on the slender shoulders of the 23-year-old Clarke.

The New South Wales batsman anchored the innings from a shaky 149 for four on the first day as he shared a 167-run sixth-wicket partnership with stand-in captain Gilchrist.

The pair maintained an excellent tempo after resuming on 316 for five to increase the pressure on the home side.

Clarke, 76 not out overnight, had a few tense moments in the 90s before reaching triple figures by pushing left-arm paceman Irfan Pathan to mid-wicket for two.

He threw his arms up in triumph, kissed his baggy green cap and bat before being hugged by Gilchrist. He was eventually eighth out, edging behind a wide ball from Zaheer Khan to end a 249-ball, five and three-quarter stay which included 18 fours and four sixes.

Gilchrist's 104, his 11th Test hundred, came off only 109 balls before he was dismissed on the stroke of lunch when Harbhajan

took a low return catch. He hit 13 fours and three sixes.

Harbhajan then triggered a slide as the last five wickets tumbled for 51 runs. His victims included Warne, who was caught by Dravid in the slips for a single to claim his 100th Test catch.

Off-spinner Harbhajan, who took a record 32 wickets in India's 2-1 victory over the Australians three years ago, ended with five for 146.

McGrath, however, concentrated on the top order as he removed Aakash Chopra and Dravid for ducks to reduce India to four for two before returning to send back Yuvraj Singh (1).

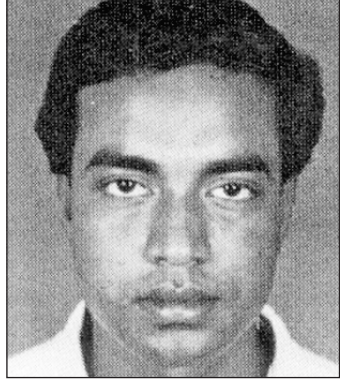
McGrath, aged 34 and back from a long injury lay-off, showed that he still has the guile to trouble top batsmen as he seamed a ball back to trap Chopra lbw before bowling Dravid between bat and pad with another fine off-cutter. He ended with three for 37 off 15 overs.

India captain Sourav Ganguly (45) and opener Virender Sehwag (39) put on 83 runs but Kasprovicz

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Reporter Monwar no more

SPORTS REPORTER



MONWAR AHMED

The sports fraternity was saddened yesterday by the untimely death of Monwar Ahmed, a young sports reporter of the Daily Manabzamin.

Monwar died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in the early hours of Thursday. He was 26.

The energetic sports writer was also a student of the Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University.

Monwar was rushed from Ziaur Rahman Hall to the DMCH after he complained of pain in his chest. The attending doctors declared him dead soon after his admission at the hospital at 2:30 am.

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'Twenty20 doesn't fit'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Bangladesh captain Akram Khan said that the introduction of Twenty20 in the Corporate Cricket League (CCL) would greatly diminish the appeal of the competition after a brilliant start last year.

"I don't understand why they (the Bangladesh Cricket Board) changed an already successful format. If they really wanted to launch Twenty20 they could have easily invited the Premier League clubs to use it as part of their warm up for the League," Akram told reporters after signing for BEXIMCO at the BCB's Bangabandhu National Stadium office yesterday.

"The opening CCL generated a lot of enthusiasm among the corporate houses in the country and it could have been a bonus for fans and cricketers alike had it been held side by side with the popular Dhaka League. Believe me I am not against Twntey20 but I'm afraid the CCL which promised a lot might turn into another 'holiday cricket'," said the former champion batsman, who played for Bashundhara Group last season.

Bashundhara skipped this year's event because they were against changing a 50-over competition into a spectacle that only involves big hitting in a three-hour package.

Akram also brushed aside the arguments that Twntey20 would help the players' big hitting skills. "I don't think so. Cricketers can only improve if there are proper domestic structures in place including of course good wickets," said Akram, who is regarded as one of the big hitters of a cricket ball.



AKRAM KHAN

Akram also feared that tempering with the CCL format would close a window of opportunity for cricketers in the country.

"I think the Board should have taken a sample of former and current cricketer views before taking the decision," he said.

"There is no shortcut if Bangladesh wants to survive at the highest level. I am not ready to blame the

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PHOTO: STAR

RAIN PLAYS: The Maulana Bhasani National Stadium is deserted after heavy downpour forced the final of the



PHOTO: AFP

THE PROUD CLARKES: Australia batsman Michael Clarke (C) poses for a photograph with his parents and

He is very proud

AGENCIES, Bangalore

Australian batsman Michael Clarke described posting his highest first-class score on his Test debut against India as "something I'm very proud of".

The 23-year-old hit 151, dominating India's slow bowlers late in his innings as the tourists reached 474.

"I love facing spin and with conditions like this I expected to face a lot of spin bowling," said Clarke at stumps, after India had slumped to 150-6.

"A lot of preparation has gone in and thankfully it paid off."

Clarke was the 17th Australian debutant to hit a century and the first since Greg Blewett in 1995.

"It was a dream come true," he said. "It was a great day for Australia and me personally."

"The last four restless nights were fully worth it," added Clarke, whose parents Les and Debbie were in the

crowd. His grandparents were also watching as he reached three figures, and kissed the badge on his baggy green cap.

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TOP AUSSIE DEBUTANTS

REUTERS, London

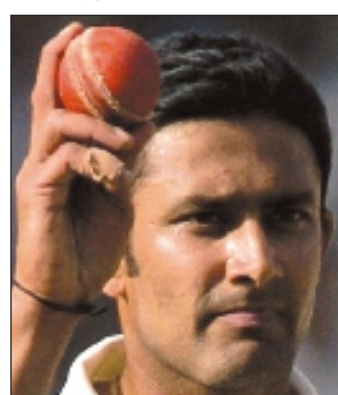
List of leading scores by Australian players on their Test debuts after Michael Clarke scored 151 on his debut against India in the first Test on Thursday:

Batsman	Runs	Opponent	Venue	Year
Charles Bannerman	165	England	Melbourne	1877
Archie Jackson	164	England	Adelaide	1929
Kepler Wessells	162	England	Brisbane	1982
Wayne Phillips	159	Pakistan	Perth	1983
Doug Walters	155	England	Brisbane	1965
Michael Clarke	151	India	Bangalore	2004
Mark Waugh	138	England	Adelaide	1991
Roger Hartigan	116	England	Adelaide	1908
Bill Ponsford	110	England	Sydney	1924
Gary Cosier	109	West Indies	Melbourne	1975



Did U Know?

Presently, world football's governing body FIFA has 204 members in every



ANIL KUMBLE

(Indian ace leg-spinner)

"It has been a long, hard career. It took a lot of overs to get to 400 wickets. The shoulder injury was a hurdle and once I got over that I was expecting to get to the mark."



DD Sports

Australia v India
First Test, Day Three
Live at 10 am

ESPN

Hockey Test Series
India v Pakistan
Live 1.30 pm

STAR Sports

IFA Shield
Second Semifinal
Live at 6 pm

TEN Sports

2006 WC Football Qualifier
Brazil v Venezuela