

BUET sports

BSS, Dhaka

The annual sports competition of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) was held at its playground yesterday.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr M. Alee Murtaza inaugurated the competition in the morning.

Among eight residential halls, Sher-e-Bangla Hall secured the first position while Dr MA Rashid Hall and Nazrul Islam Hall became second and third.

Besides, there were some events for teachers, officers, other employees and their children.

The VC handed over prizes to the winners in the afternoon.

Director of Students' Welfare (DSW) Professor Dr Fazlul Barea, advisor of BUET Athletics Club Professor Dr Maglub Al Nur and provosts of residential halls were present during the ceremony.

Magura handball

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Arpana Girls School recorded a 9-0 victory over Dudmallick Girls School in the second match of the women's handball tournament at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Tania scored four goals while Swarna two and Seema, Toma and Shampa netted one each for the winners.

No Sachin, Shoaib

FROM PAGE 13
game, Shoaib added: "I could go in and rip my hamstring off... and be out of the team for six months."

Woolmer was seen on television during Wednesday's final day of the Sydney Test having animated words with Shoaib in the team pavilion during the tea interval, but he would not elaborate on what was said between the pair, just saying: "That's between me and him, sorry."

"I have to say he was tired. I suppose, in a way, everyone was disappointed with his commitment," he said.

"From a team point of view, we understand that he's given everything in the first two Test matches and it didn't go for him in this Test."

Shoaib, one of the great sights in Test cricket off his long flowing run-up to bowl, would have been one of the major drawcards for the star-studded Asian team, which features Sourav Ganguly, Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Muttiah Muralitharan, Sanath Jayasuriya, Anil Kumble and a limited appearance by Sachin Tendulkar.

Mourning

FROM PAGE 13
international Test ground, and somehow we did it, with a lot of difficulties," Warnaweera said. "And now, within such a short period of time, we are left having to face this."

The stadium was also a vital boost for Galle's economy, with hotels, guesthouses and restaurants packed out during international matches. Warnaweera reckons more than 200 local families were supported because of its presence.

Rebuilding will cost at least 300 million rupees (3 million dollars), he estimates. It will be a massive job.

For a start, about six inches (15 centimetres) of soil must be removed from right across the field and replaced. All of the drainage systems must be rebuilt from scratch. Maintenance machinery, computers and files are destroyed.

But a few lines have been spared. Warnaweera proudly points out a photograph of the opening day of the first Test match, hanging on the wall of his office. The two-metre high watermark on the wall runs right across it.

And while cricket-mad Sri Lankans grieve for the more than 30,000 Sri Lankans killed by the tsunami, many are also sparing a thought for the loss of Galle's pride and joy.

Hotel management student Harsha Fernando, 24, who once played here as a schoolboy, dropped by to see the damage for himself.

"If you take 100 Sri Lankans, 95 of them are cricket lovers. This is one of the best grounds in Sri Lanka. But what to do now?" Fernando intoned.

SA bring England down

FROM PAGE 13
England's batsmen, however, effectively lost the game in the first innings when they were skittled for 163 on a blameless track.

"South Africa played the better cricket over the five days and put us under a lot of pressure," England skipper Michael Vaughan said.

"We were below par here but there are still two big games to go. Our batting is a concern but we go to Johannesburg looking to win the series."

"We bowled superbly in this Test match," delighted South Africa captain Graeme Smith responded.

The series now stands at 1-1. England won 11 of 13 Tests in 2004, drawing the other two. Their last defeat was against Sri Lanka in Colombo in December 2003.

They had resumed on 151 for five and soon lost their last specialist batsman when South Africa took the new ball in the fourth over.

Pollock drifted a delivery into the left-handed Graham Thorpe which left after pitching and was edged to wicketkeeper AB de Villiers. Thorpe made 26.

Wicketkeeper Geraint Jones and Ashley Giles kept South Africa at bay for almost an hour and a half with a stand of 62 but they were parted 15 balls before lunch when Boje had Giles caught by Jacques Kallis at first slip for 25 with a classic delivery.

Two balls before lunch Kallis dived to his left to take a brilliant one-handed catch in the same position to dismiss Jones for 38.

Hoggard and Simon Jones survived until the ninth over after lunch, when Jones, on 19, edged Pollock to Kallis at second slip.

Harmison, struggling to live up to his reputation as a bowler in the series, then produced his unlikely cameo over 12 overs, recording a career-best score.

When Pollock sought to rough up Harmison he responded with a cut and pull for four as 18 came off the over, leaving Pollock grinning broadly.

The match ended 20 overs after lunch when Harmison was caught by Boje in the gully off Makhaya Ntini. He hit seven fours and six.

The fourth Test starts in Johannesburg next Thursday.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the third Test between South Africa and England at Newlands on Thursday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 441 (Kallis 149, Boje 76, Smith 74; Flintoff 4-79)

ENGLAND: First innings 163 (Strauss 45; Langeveldt 5-46, Ntini 4-50)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings 222 for 8 declared (Kallis 66, Dippenaar 44; S Jones 2-15)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 151-5)

Trescothick c Amla b Pollock 0
Smith 2 0 11 0

Keyes c de Villiers b Boje 41
Vaughan c Rudolph b Ntini 20
Thorpe c de Villiers b Pollock 26

First Div. cricket

Fifth wins for Pegasus B, Azad

SPORTS REPORTER

Young Pegasus B registered their fifth victory in the First Division Cricket League when they beat Dhanmondi Club by two wickets at the City Club ground yesterday.

Dhanmondi scored 212 for 9 in their stipulated 50 overs and Pegasus, in reply, reached their target in 49.2 overs.

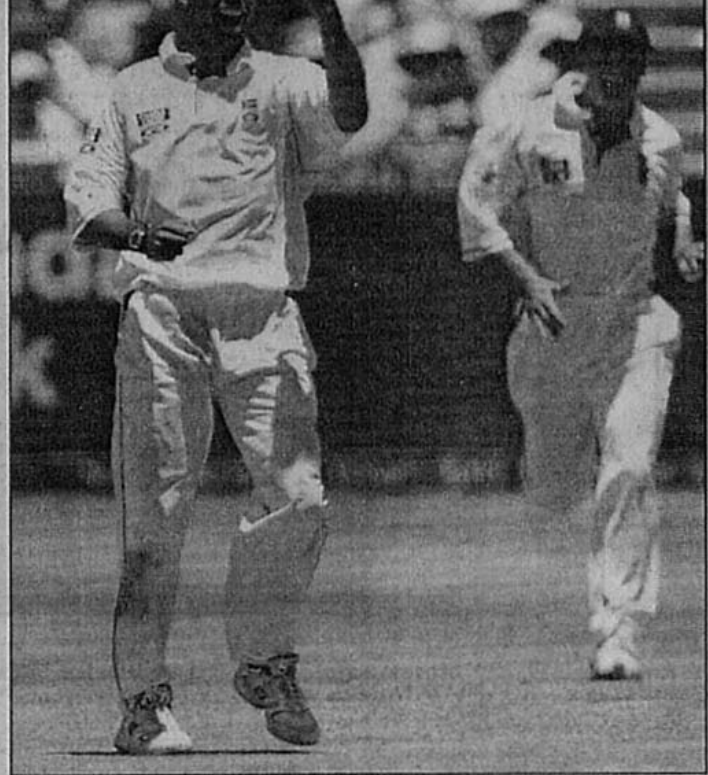
At the BKSJ, Azad Sporting Club also recorded their fifth victory after beating Bangladesh Boys by five wickets.

Azad made 188 for 5 in 46 overs in reply to Bangladesh Boy's 185 all out in 49.4 overs.

Fourth Test: Johannesburg, Jan 13-17.

Flintoff c de Villiers b Pollock 20
G Jones c Kallis b Boje 38
Giles c Kallis b Boje 25
Hoggard not out 7
S Jones c Kallis b Pollock 19
Harmison c Dippenaar b Ntini 42
Pollock 31 11 65 4
Ntini 24.4 6 49 2
Langeveldt 17 3 50 0
Boje 34 13 71 4
Kallis 15 4 49 0
Smith 2 0 11 0

Result: South Africa won by 196 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Jacques Kallis.
Fourth Test: Johannesburg, Jan 13-17.



South Africa spinner Nicky Boje celebrates taking the wicket of Geraint Jones of England on the fifth and final day of the third Test at Newlands in Cape Town yesterday.

Ranatunga in hospital

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's world cup winning cricket skipper Arjuna Ranatunga was hospitalised Wednesday with a heart ailment, a family friend said.

Ranatunga who led Sri Lanka to an epic triumph in the 1996 World Cup, was rushed to a private hospital, the friend said, adding that the former captain was under observation.

Ranatunga, 41, is also the acting minister of tourism.

Kiwis look to World series

AFP, Auckland

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) was Thursday attempting to organise a World XI series to salvage the first half of their summer international programme after India declined to fill in for Sri Lanka's cancelled tour following the Asian tsunami.

NZC chief executive Martin Snedden said a decision on a World XI would be finalised next week and he understood India's reluctance to tour at short notice.

"I was never hopeful but we didn't have many options open to us, and we couldn't afford to assume anything," he said.

The last-ditch World XI plan faces several obstacles, not least the need to quickly sell prospective television rights to make the series a financial reality.

A proposed three-match limited-over series would be an expensive exercise for NZC, which would have to fly players from all over the world, as well as pay match fees and bonuses for both teams.

Federer's 6-3, 6-4 success looked for a while as though it might be more one-sided, because he won the first seven points, broke serve at once, and raced to a 3-0 lead in less than ten minutes.

But having achieved such a comfortable cushion, the triple Grand Slam titleholder found it difficult to maintain his highest standards and had to be satisfied with only flashes of his brilliant best.

Federer in quarters

AFP, Doha

Roger Federer continued his unbeaten run since the Athens Olympics with another overwhelming performance and a win over former US Open finalist Greg Rusedski which carried him to the quarterfinals of the 1,000,000-dollar Qatar Open here on Wednesday.

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CITY V BROTHERS
Brothers Union experienced a

Inzamam, Bob to stay

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's cricket chief Thursday ruled out sacking English coach Bob Woolmer and captain Inzamam-ul-Haq after Australia whitewashed his team 3-0 in the just-ended Test series.

"We are as disappointed as the common cricket fan here but it's not a matter to panic over and we will not make any abrupt changes," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shaharyar Khan said.

"We are not changing the captain and the coach."

However he said the board would "review the series with a cool head" after Australia completed a clinical 3-0 whitewash over Pakistan with a comprehensive nine-wicket win with a day to spare in the third Test in Sydney on Wednesday.

Australia, the world champions in both forms of the game, registered their third clean sweep against Pakistan after routing them by the same margin in 1999 and 2002.

Pakistan lost the first Test at Perth by a whopping deficit of 491 runs, the

fourth biggest defeat in Test cricket history, and went down by nine wickets in the second Test in Melbourne.

Pakistani cricket fans reportedly burned effigies of Inzamam and Woolmer after the first Test. The foreign-born coach came under fire from his predecessor, former Pakistan great Javed Miandad.

Inzamam managed one and nought in the only Test he played at Perth and missed the last two Tests due to a recurring back trouble.

"We have to consider that this is a result against the world's best team, and although it's disappointing that seniors did not perform as per expectations, some exciting youngsters have done well," said the PCB chairman.

He described promising left-handed opener Salman Butt the "find of the tour", managing 225 runs with a maiden hundred and a fifty while leg-spinner Danish Kaneria grabbed 15 wickets to finish as the leading bowler for Pakistan.

Pakistan's woeful on-field performances were compounded by injuries to key players. In addition to Inzamam's back trouble, all-rounder

Abdul Razzaq had a breathing problem, Shoaib Malik suffered split webbing and pacer Mohammad Sami missed the Sydney Test with heel-and-back injuries.

The board retained Inzamam, Razzaq and Malik for the tri-series one-day tournament starting from next week with hosts Australia and the West Indies as their teams.

But Sami was ruled out of the one-day series and Shoaib Akhtar was doubtful with a hamstring injury.

Akhtar, who took 11 wickets in the first two Tests, failed to get a wicket when he bowled in the first innings of the Sydney Test.

Former players and national media slammed Inzamam's captaincy.

"We must look forward to the 2007 World Cup and appoint Yousuf Youhana as skipper because at 34 Inzamam cannot regain full fitness," former Pakistan pacer Sarfaraz Nawaz said, calling for Inzamam's sacking.

"The lesson to be learnt from the first half of the Australian tour is simple: Pakistan team will never fulfil its potential until it finds a decent captain," said a banner headline in local English daily The News.

'Gilly more destructive'

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Buccaneering Australian cricketer Adam Gilchrist is a more destructive batsman than the great Don Bradman, according to former Test wicketkeeper Rod Marsh.

Gilchrist still has Australian cricket fans talking about his astonishing 120-ball 113 which dramatically changed the course of this week's final cricket Test against Pakistan into a resounding nine-wicket win for Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The sweet-hitting left-hander has now scored 13 centuries, the most by a wicketkeeper in Test cricket.

Without Gilchrist, the Australian side had been superb. With him, it became high unbeatable, and indeed Australia won the first 15 Tests Gilchrist played in.

This week's Sydney Test provided Gilchrist with his 50th win in 65 Tests.

He has such tremendous bat speed... a great wrist cock which gives him such a free swing of the bat."

Marsh, who helped shape Gilchrist's career when he coached him at the Australian Cricket Academy in the early 1990s, believes the key is the freedom Gilchrist brings to his batting.

"I don't think he ever thinks about getting out. If he thinks of anything while he's out there, he thinks about hitting the ball."

Australian coach John Buchanan is another unabashed Gilchrist fan. "His game just happens to be one of rapid fire and he's got a huge range of shots he's got against spin or pace," Buchanan said.

Widened officially rates Gilchrist the fastest scorer in Test cricket history, with a sustained strike rate well over 80 runs per 100 balls faced, at an average of nearly 53.

"The thing about Gilchrist is he can change the course of a match in an hour. And he doesn't just do it once or twice, he does it regularly," Marsh said.

Rahman scored a defiant unbeaten half-century as Mohammedan managed the thrilling win.

Uttara had thrived on two half centuries by Moniruzzaman and Arman Hossain to pile up 258 for 5 after deciding to bat. Moniruzzaman scored 56 off 75 balls and Arman hit 82 off 109 balls.

In reply, Mohammedan recovered from early trouble to get home in 48.3 overs.

The Motijheel outfit lost two wickets for only five runs but Parvez Ahmed (34 off 53 balls) and Dhiman repaired the damage with a 71-run third-wicket stand.

The young stumper, who smashed 12 fours and two sixes in 102 balls then shared 104 runs with Bangladesh U-19 mate Shamsur who saw Mohammedan to victory with 69 off 82 balls.

MSC V UTTARA
Wicketkeeper Dhiman Gosh missed a century for just two runs and another young batter Shamsur

Brothers Union experienced a

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--an unprecedented success rate for a Test cricketer.

Marsh, who broke the keepers' duck by making an unbeaten 110 in the Centenary Test against England in Melbourne in 1977, is in awe of Gilchrist's ability with both gloves and bat, and rates him as probably the best cricketer in the world.

"It's a difficult thing to judge, obviously, with players like Tendulkar, Lara, Kallis, Warne... but if you sat down to pick a world XI he'd have to be your first choice," Marsh told Australian Associated Press on Thursday.

Former Test skipper and prominent commentator Richie Benaud describes Gilchrist as the cleanest striker he has ever seen, and fellow commentator Bill Lawry compares him with Bradman as a destructive force.

"I never saw Bradman bat, but it's hard to imagine he could have been any more destructive than Gilchrist," said Marsh, now director of England's national academy.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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