



Winners of the American Cup Golf Tournament pose with Chief of Army Staff and president of Kurmitola Golf Club Lt. General Moeen U Ahmed during a prize giving ceremony at Radison Hotel in the city on Friday. American community in Bangladesh sponsored the two-day meet .

Scyllars capture U-19 handball title

SPORTS REPORTER

Valkyries Scyllars, a team from Scholastica, clinched the title of the Beximco Pharma Under-19 Girls Handball Tournament with a thumping 17-4 win over Viquarunnissa Noon School & College in the final at Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Valkyries Skyliners, also from Scholastica, finished third beating Sunnysdale by 9-8 goals in thrilling third-place decider at the same venue.

Anuse Mahmud of Valkyries Scyllars was adjudged player of the tournament after finishing as the highest scorer.

Cultural and Education secretary of the German Embassy Katrin Weiss was the chief guest on the occasion and distributed the prizes amongst the winners.

Earlier, on way to the final, Valkyries Scyllars crushed Valkyries Skyliners by 21-2 goals in the first semifinal while Viquarunnissa Noon School & College outplayed Sunnysdale by 17-5 goals in the second semis.

Indo-Bangla

FROM PAGE 17
Minister for Youth, Sports and Transport of West Bengal Subhas Chakraborty, president of Indian Olympic Association Suresh Kalmadi, secretary general of Kutubuddin Ahmed and general secretary of Bengal Olympic Association Kamalash Chatterjee were also present at the gala event.

The opening ceremony comprised cultural programmes, callisthenics, fireworks, speeches of distinguished guests and marchpast of the participating teams.

Mahfuzur Rahman Mithu, who won gold in 110-metre hurdles in the 10th South Asian Games last year, carried the Bangladesh flag in the march past.

Chef-de-mission Mizanur Rahman Manu led the Bangladesh contingent in the marchpast.

The Indo-Bangla Games got the go-ahead with an agreement signed between Bangladesh Olympic Association and Bengal Olympic Association of India on December 16 last year in Dhaka.

As per the agreement, the Games will be held every alternate year in West Bengal and Bangladesh with a view to fostering brotherhood and friendship among the people of the two neighbouring countries.

The main competition starts today. The 228-member Bangladesh contingent arrived here on Friday.

Bangladesh play

FROM PAGE 17
Rajin and Rasel are not playing. Mashrafe (Mortaza) and Rajib (Shahadat Hossain) have slight niggles, one in the foot and the other in his toes but they are not serious and both had trained yesterday. Still, we'll see them in today's practice before selecting the team. Rasel had fever yesterday and did not train," said Bashar.

Bangladesh take on Bermuda at the Antigua Recreation Ground, famous for Brian Lara's record-breaking 400 not out and 375.

"We trained at the Recreation Ground for the first time yesterday," said Bashar

The match against Bangladesh will be Bermuda's first-ever official ODI against a Test team. The Caribbean Island nation have already played a practice match against Antigua at the Recreation Ground and lost by 24 runs chasing 140 for victory. The pitch there reportedly favours spinners.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

The annual sports competition of Shaheed Police Smriti College was held with much festivities at the Mirpur Police Complex yesterday.

Inspector general Nur Mohammad witnessed the events along with a cultural programme that took place after the prize-giving ceremony.

NATIONAL JUNIOR JUDO

Marufa Khatun of Rajshahi was adjudged the best judoka as her division became champions of the AB Bank 2nd National junior Judo competition at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium.

Language Martyr Abdul Jabbar Ansar-VDP High School became runner-up in the meet.

ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

Nurul Amin and Ishrat became champions in the Mohammadpur Preparatory School Annual Sports competition at the school premises.

Teachers, parents and other students were present during the colourful programme.

MOBIL CUP GOLF

The two-day Mobil Cup Golf tournament concluded at the Bogra Golf Club yesterday.

A total of 75 golfers from all over the country participated in the tournament. A good number of lady

and junior golfers also participated in the meet.

Brigadier General Mohammed Shamim Chowdhury, nwc psc inaugurated the tournament as the Chief Guest and distributed prizes among the winners.

GAIBANDHA SCHOOL CRICKET

South Kamarjani High School beat Piyarpara High School by 78 runs in the School Cricket competition at the Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

Having scored 148 in 22.2 overs, Kamarjani bowled out Piyarpara for only 70 in 20.1 overs.

28TH NATIONAL WOMEN CHESS

Sharmin Sultana took solo lead after defeating Evana in the second round of the Basic Bank 28th National Women Chess competition at the federation hall room.

She now has two points while Farzana Hossain, Mimi Arjuman and Mehnaz Ahmed are at second position with 1.5 points.

SURJO SENA HALL SPORTS

Political Science student Mohammad Habibur Rahman was crowned champion in the Dhaka University Surjo Sena Hall annual sports competition at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

300 students took part in twenty events of the competition.

KOLKATA OPEN CHESS

Grand Masters Ziaur Rahman and Niaz Murshed will take part in the Kolkata Open chess tournament at Gorkey Sadan at Kolkata which begins today.

International masters Enamul Hossain, Abdullah Al Rakib are also participating in the competition.

NATIONAL TABLE

TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

Palolic 28th National Table Tennis Championship will begin at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium today.

As many as 39 teams are taking part in the seven-day meet when ten events will take place.

SHAHEED SMRITI HOCKEY

Crystal Co-operative Alliance beat Mukto Bihango 2-1 in the Holybest Energy Bulb Shaheed Smriti Hockey tournament at the Moulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Samad put Crystal Co-operative ahead converting a penalty corner in the 34th minute (1-0) while Ashiq increased the winners' margin after converting another penalty corner in the 40th minute.

Aanensen new CEO of WICB

BBC ONLINE, undated

Retired banker Bruce Aanensen is to become the new chief executive officer of the West Indies Cricket Board after Roland Toppin withdrew from the post.

Toppin was announced as the successor to Roger Brathwaite in November, and due to start earlier this year.

But he tried to move his office from Antigua to his native Bahamas, a request which was refused by the WICB.

Aanensen has previous commercial experience with the Trinidad and Tobago football team at the 2006 World Cup.

Zoheb makes Motijheel proud

SPORTS REPORTER

Sourav Smrity High School posted a massive 191-run victory over Mirpur Bangla High School in the Standard Chartered Young School Cricket tournament at the East End Club ground yesterday.

Farhan (70*) and Ariful (69) propelled Sourav to a massive 333-8 in 50 overs to which Mirpur Bangla replied with 142 all out in 28.1 overs.

Matuail Multilateral High School promptly beat Dhaka Modern Pre-Cadet & High School by nine wickets after they bowled out the latter for only 88 runs in 26.1 overs. Sajib picked up three wickets for Matuail.

Zoheb's all-round performance (55* and 3-6) gave Motijheel Government Boys High School a 121-run win over Island Pre-Cadet School at the Uttara Friends Club ground.

Away at the Dhanmondi Club ground, Islami Adarsha High School crushed Monipur High School by 161 runs after they scored 362-8 in 50 overs with Zahed (73) and Nuruddin (72*) batting effectively.

Amin then wrapped up the Monipur tail with 3-33 as Monipur were bowled out for 201 in 36.4 overs.

Kalshi Islamia High School and Bangladesh Indian International School also won their respective matches.

James propel Surjo Torun

SPORTS REPORTER

Habib Moballik James made the difference with an unbeaten 94 to lead Surjo Torun to an 18-run win over Kathalbagan at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Surjo Torun scored 241-7 in 50 overs but Kathalbagan made a game of it before being bowled out in the final over for 223 runs.

All-rounder James batted patiently but then accelerated in the latter overs. He finished with 94 off 108 balls with four boundaries and three big sixes. James built little partnerships, one of which was with opener Shakil Haider (56), who struck his second half-century in as many matches. Mahmud and Kabir took two wickets while Rashed and Jahid took one each.

Kathalbagan replied solidly with Monjur Morshed scoring 77 off 115 balls. But his fall in the 40th over to left-arm spinner Al Amin (4-50), sparked a collapse. Jahid stroked a run-a-ball 47.

Bangladesh

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Loudon (71 off 126 balls) plumb lbw with a full-length delivery to complete the job.

Mohammad Sharif and part-time bowler Marshal Ayub captured the remaining scalps.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESHA: First innings 209 and second innings 137-1 in 63 overs (Jahurul 87, Mehrab 41 not out, Mosharraf 1 not out, extras 8; Loudon 1-39).

ENGLAND A: First innings 359 all out in 117.2 overs (overnight 268-6 in 91 overs) (Jefferson 38, Compton 23, Yardy 34, Carberry 70, Davies 37, Prior 3, Loudon 71, Bresnan 32, Broad 9, Smith 12, Onions 10 not out, extras 20; Dollar 3-82, Sharif 1-68, Enamul 2-90, Mosharraf 2-73, Marshal 1-10).

the semis. At Nottingham on June 16 the World Cup holders did not have matters all their own way as they lost the toss. However, the batting of their stars, Greenidge and the captain, Clive Lloyd, turned the scales. Greenidge stayed through the first 33 overs and Lloyd the remaining 27, with the result that New Zealand were never really free. In his first spell, Hadlee proved erratic, but later, to the delight of his local Trent Bridge admirers, became quite hostile. Although only three batsmen failed to reach double figures New Zealand never looked like making the 245 runs they required for victory.

At Birmingham Australia won by seven wickets against Canada, who could manage only 106 runs on the board.

At Leeds England won by 14 runs. This was an extraordinary match during which the bowlers held the upper hand for most of the time. That England, who set Pakistan to make only 166 to win, finally succeeded was due to a wonderful performance by Hendrick, who took four wickets in a spell of eight balls for only 3 runs. Finally, he held a tremendous leapfrog catch at mid-off from Sikander to seal England's victory.

Winning matters

ADAM PARORE



The Black Caps magnificent Chappell-Hadlee performance against Australia shows there is a very simple sporting equation in this country: win and everyone loves you but if you don't, people have other things to do.

It also reinforced our love of beating Australia. It's almost a national pastime.

The Black Caps showed themselves and the public what they are capable of. Their killer instinct was the outstanding aspect of the win in Hamilton. After a difficult start to the massive run chase and having already won the series, some sides would have settled for 250 then hopped happily on the plane for the West Indies.

Remember that last year they had to mount two world record run chases in the series. They achieved one and just missed the other. So the difference between this year and last is a handful of

runs, yet it is a huge step forward. A star was Craig McMillan, who has brought his international career back from the dead. I'm really pleased for Macca as he's done a lot of hard work but I also feel he has gained confidence in an environment where he now feels comfortable.

It is hard to single out individuals as so many are now putting their hands up but McCullum continues to prove his class and versatility. I confess to the odd tingle up the spine when he is at the crease.

The only disappointing aspect is that there is a break of a few weeks before the World Cup so momentum may be lost. It is vital that they start well in the West Indies.

If the tournament was starting next week you would have to give them a really big chance of winning it. As it stands, Australia will remain the favourites, and they will be a much tougher side to beat with Ricky Ponting, Adam Gilchrist and the other big guns back -- but they are very beatable.

Australia are most vulnerable when they are complacent, and unfortunately that will certainly not

be the case now.

Australia had no one to rally the troops when things got off track in the Chappell-Hadlee series -- their bowlers didn't know what to do and failed to change the pace of the game when under pressure. That won't happen with Ponting and Gilchrist guiding the ship.

You need to win eight or nine games on the trot to win the World Cup and it means this New Zealand team will have to produce a performance the likes of which we have never seen before.

But this is the most exciting group of talent I've seen for some time, and already among our better one-day outfits. The challenge is to move ahead, to reach a 60 to 70 per cent win ratio instead of settling for 45 per cent.

The signs are good. The quality we have just seen is superior to anything from the 1980s or my era -- they are playing at a completely different level. Keep it up, and they will be hard for anyone to beat.

(Former New Zealand wicketkeeper Adam Parore wrote this article for New Zealand Herald)

Surgery looms for Lee

AFP, Sydney



Injured Australian strike bowler Brett Lee faces an uncertain future as he considers a fourth operation on his troubled left ankle, which has ruled him out of the World Cup, reports said Saturday.

Lee bowed to the inevitable Friday and conceded defeat after failing medical tests on damaged ankle ligaments and was replaced in Australia's World Cup squad by Stuart Clark.

"The surgeon hasn't ruled out an operation after tests showed there were also bits of loose bone floating about," Lee was quoted as saying in The Australian newspaper Saturday.

Lee has been the enforcer in Ricky Ponting's one-day team, the paceman called on to take wickets even if he can be expensive at times.

Lee's strike rate of a wicket every 28.94 balls is second only to New Zealand speedster Shane Bond (27.04) in limited-overs cricket and is better than both Australian modern-day bowling greats Glenn McGrath (35.17) and Shane Warne (36.32).

The pace ace was told he had no chance of recovery from serious ankle ligament damage in time for the World Cup after failing the simple test of standing on tiptoes.

"I couldn't undergo those exercises, there's too much pain there. There was absolutely no chance of me playing in the World Cup," he said.

He was initially given a deadline to prove his fitness right up until the day before the team's first Cup game.

"The specialist asked me to go up on my tippy-toes and try and get my weight bearing on my left ankle.... I just couldn't do it," Lee told The Daily Telegraph.

"And with me being a fast bowler, landing on my left foot and putting so much pressure through my left ankle... to try and rush that and almost put (my recovery) into a four-week period, it just wasn't going to happen."

With no guarantees that Lee, 30, will return to his fearsome best, the Australian team's bowling stocks are now looking thin with Warne retired and McGrath to follow after the World Cup.

Clark ready

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won't happen in the next 24 hours," Clark told The Australian newspaper.

"I'll be doing the best I can over the next couple of weeks to try to come up with a plan that may work (in the West Indies)."

"I'm looking forward (to) going over there to do everything I can and it would be nice to do well. But we all know just how tough the one-day game is."

"Everything that happens in one-day cricket is designed for the batters, and that's fine. The bowlers expect that."

"The World Cup is going to be hard work for all the bowlers. The grounds are smaller and the wickets are flat and designed for batsmen."

Clark has taken 35 wickets in 24 one-day internationals at 31.86.

Zidane hails

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professional footballer, I want to be like him," said Ton.

Among the Asian players joining the match were Thai legend Piyapong Pue-On and his compatriot Kiatsak "Zico" Senamuang. Other players were from Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Tens of thousands turned out to see Zidane play in an exhibition match in Bangladesh last November, while a December trip to Algeria -- his parents' homeland -- triggered a scum at the airport, with some visiting dignitaries nearly squashed in the stampede.

His hero's welcome across the globe contrasts with last year's controversy over his career-ending headbutt on Italy's Marco Materazzi after a verbal exchange, which divided French opinion.

Although Southeast Asian football teams are not among the best in the world, the region is passionate about the game. International competitions spark widespread betting, which is illegal in Thailand.

Mourinho

FROM PAGE 20
"What I did in Portugal was unique. I'm the best in the history of my country. I came to England... I won the first championship in 50 years for Chelsea. I won twice in a row... and I have a few records in the Premiership," he said.

Chelsea are still competing on four fronts: Champions League, Premier League -- chasing Manchester United, FA Cup and League Cup, with Sunday's final the least prestigious.

But Mourinho said he did not have to motivate himself for the trophy they beat Liverpool to win in 2005.

"It was the first competition I won in England... It's a great day, for us and for the fans. The stadium is half and half, the atmosphere is great," he said.