

## Inter-club tennis gets underway

SPORTS REPORTER

The 2nd Dhaka Bank Independence Day Inter-club tennis tournament began at the Dhaka Club tennis complex yesterday.

Ten clubs including hosts and organisers Dhaka Club are taking part in the event, sponsored by Dhaka Bank. The other teams are: Officers Club, Customs Club, Gulshan Club, Uttara Club, Narayanganj Club, Engineers Club, Cadet College Club, Gulshan Youth Club and BDR Officers' Mess.

Dhaka Club president Selim Bhuiyan and Dhaka Bank chairman Abdul Hai Sarkar jointly inaugurated the weeklong meet.

## Shooter Mobarak dies in Singapore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Former national shooter Mobarak Hossain Ratna, also a member of the National Shooting Federation executive committee, died of cancer at a Singapore hospital yesterday. He was 50.

Ratna, a skeet shooter who won a team gold in the SAF Shooting Championships in New Delhi in 1997, took part in many international events.

Chairman of Universal Group of Pabna, Ratna who hailed from Dilalpur village of Pabna Sadar upazila, left behind his wife, five daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His dead body is expected to be flown in from Singapore today.

## Sri Lanka A in

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left-hander Warnapura sent the rival attack for a leather hunt hitting 21 boundaries in 291 balls.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SRI LANKA A:** 335-2 in 90 overs (Vandort 10, Udwatte 51, Warnapura 177 not out, Samaraweera 129 not out, extras 14, Nazmul 2-57).

## Hannan leads

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Mabud 22, Kapali 141, Maola 22, Saif 90, Rezaul 0, Ijaz 13, Hasibul 61 n.o., Nabil 0, Rashedur 4, extras 22, Ariful 2-65, Arafat 2-64, Tariqul 1-120, Monir 2-76, Arman 1-46).

**BARISAL:** First innings 184-4 in 52 overs (Imran 8, Hannan 95, Faruque 6, Raquib 47 n.o., Humayun 0, Shahin 21 n.o., extras 7, Rashedur 1-17, Kapali 2-48, Nabil 1-43).

## SA focused

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coach Peter Drinnen said his team relishes the challenge of playing the number one team in the world.

"We are excited by the challenge and both Australia and South Africa in our group provide us with two real challenges," said Drinnen, a former Queensland wicketkeeper who took over as coach last year.

"South Africa have been playing tough cricket for the last year. But we have to think about what we are doing and we need to pose a stronger challenge than we did against Australia," said Drinnen, whose team lost to Australia by 202 runs.

### TEAMS

**SOUTH AFRICA** (from): Graeme Smith (capt), Jacques Kallis (vice-capt), Loots Bosman, Mark Boucher, AB de Villiers, Herschelle Gibbs, Andrew Hall, Justin Kemp, Charl Langeveldt, Andre Nel, Makhaya Ntini, Robin Peterson, Shaun Pollock, Ashwell Prince, Roger Telemachus.

**SCOTLAND** (from): Ryan Watson (captain), John Blair, Dougie Brown, Gavin Hamilton, Majid Haq, Paul Hoffmann, Douglas Lockhart, Ross Lyons, Neil McCallum, Derald Nel, Navdeep Poonia, Glenn Rogers, Colin Smith, Fraser Watts.

**Umpires:** Asoka de Silva and Mark Benson.

## Death silences

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on Monday, saying it was "very sad that he died after a very poor performance by the team, and his life didn't end on a happy note."

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Nasim Ashraf said Woolmer had "always termed Pakistan as his home."

Former captain Javed Miandad, whom Woolmer replaced as coach in 2004, said he believed "Pakistan's shocking defeat against Ireland has a lot to do with his death." Another ex-skippers, Asif Iqbal, agreed.

In the city of Lahore, Humaira Waheed, a cricket fan and a teacher for handicapped children, said Woolmer's death "confirms he was committed to the Pakistani cricket team."

"Being a true coach, he could not bear the shameful defeat of his team at the hands of Ireland and, as such, collapsed in his room. However, his death has made everyone sad in death."

Arsalan Rafiq, a medical doctor in Lahore, said that "nobody in Pakistan will be happy at his death."

"His services for the Pakistani cricket team will be remembered for a long time," Rafiq said.



## Imran blames his protégé

PTI, Karachi

Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan today squarely blamed skipper Inzamamul Haq for the team's shock defeat to Ireland and its early exit from the World Cup, saying he failed to provide an inspirational leadership.

"I think this was one of the worst performances of the team I have ever seen in my career. It is unthinkable we should lose to Ireland," Imran said.

"A person makes his own luck. To say that luck didn't favour us is rubbish. Everyone knows that Inzamam as captain had all the authority to do what he wanted. The coach was just there to support him. So, Inzamam is in the spotlight after this defeat," he added.

Imran minced no words in demanding that Pakistan needed to appoint a new captain and coach who had vision, were aggressive and innovative in the way they played their cricket.

The cricketer-turned-politician, who led Pakistan to title win in the 1992 World Cup, said the way Inzamam, Woolmer and the selectors had approached the preparations for the tournament was a recipe for disaster.

"I am surprised at their shortsightedness. At the way they went about preparing for this tournament. The selectors were shocking.

"I couldn't comprehend them not playing Danish Kaneria against Ireland when everyone is aware that inexperienced teams face the most problems against quality leg-spin," he said.

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

### CHESS QUALIFIERS

The B. League will resume today after a couple of days' break when second-from-bottom Arambagh will host Chittagong Abahani in a third-round clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Arambagh -- who have yet to score -- are on one point following a draw in the second round against fellow Dhaka side Rahmatganj. The visitors, who lost their opener in Dhaka, have three points with one win -- against Khulna Abahani at home in the second round.

### DIV I CRICKET

Enamul and Murad each hit 65 to steer Azad Sporting Club to a comprehensive 86-run victory against Dhaka Mariners in yesterday's Kai-Altech First Division Cricket League. In reply to Azad's 237-9, mariners skittled out for 151 at the BKSP ground.

### AUSTRALIA V NETHERLANDS SCOREBOARD

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	10	0	76	2	7.60
Adeel Raja	7.5	0	61	0	7.78
Borren	10	0	89	1	8.90
Netherlands	R	M	B	4s	6s
Zuidenrun run out	9	53	29	1	0
Reekers c Clarke b Bracken	25	28	19	5	0
Kervezee lbw b Bracken	0	2	2	0	0
Van Doeschel lbw b Tait	1	4	6	0	0
Van Troost lbw b McGrath	0	6	4	0	0
Van Bunge lbw b McGrath	33	49	33	4	1
De Leede c Hayden b Hogg	14	35	22	2	0
Borren c Hussey b Hogg	24	30	18	4	1
Smits lbw b Hogg	3	8	12	0	0
Adeel Raja not out	8	16	14	1	0
Jonkman st Gilchrist b Hogg	0	2	2	0	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, w-5)	12				
Total: (All out in 26.5 overs)	129				
Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-36, 3-38, 4-40, 5-46, 6-87, 7-97, 8-106, 9-129, 10-129.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	Econ
Bracken	7	1	33	2	4.71
Tait	7	0	29	1	4.14
McGrath	8	0	33	2	4.12
Hogg	4.5	0	27	4	5.58

Result: Australia won by 229 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Brad Hodge.

Toss: Australia

Umpires: SA Bucknor and AL Hill (New Zealand)

Match referee: J Srinath (India)

## Tributes flow in

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England sweater.

"But perhaps Bob will be best remembered as one of the world's leading coaches."

"He embraced innovation and was at the forefront of many new developments in the game."

"Everyone at ECB extends our deepest sympathy to Bob's family -- we have lost a great friend."

The International Cricket Council chief executive Malcolm Speed also expressed his condolences.

"We are greatly saddened by Bob Woolmer's passing," said Speed.

"He was a great cricket man. His life was devoted to cricket. He played, coached and commented on the game all of his life."

Woolmer took over as coach of Pakistan in June 2004 and, until recently, had masterminded an upturn in the country's cricket results.

His contribution for Pakistan has been praised by the country's president Pervez Musharraf and prime minister Shaukat Aziz.

"President Pervez Musharraf and prime minister Shaukat Aziz have expressed heartfelt condolences over the tragic death of Pakistan cricket team coach Bob Woolmer," read a statement.

"In their separate messages, they said that Bob Woolmer had promoted the cause and game of cricket in Pakistan with dedication and single-mindedness."

"In their messages to his family they said Bob Woolmer's services to the game will be long remembered by cricket fans."

"He was a very focused man with a great love for the game but what shone through was the great love he had for players under his charge. Everyone meant something to him."

Former South Africa fast bowler Allan Donald also played under Woolmer at Warwickshire and also for him.

"He was a great coach and a really great coach."

Former Pakistan spinner Mushtaq Ahmed added: "He was a great leader and it's an unbelievable tragedy."

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