



THAT WAS EASY: Humayun Kabir of Bangladesh Navy clears the pole quite comfortably in his gold-medal winning jump in the pole-vault event of the 32nd National Athletics Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Army take command

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army dominated the 32nd National Athletics Championship securing nine gold, six silver and seven bronze medals on the second day of the three-day meet at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) closely followed the leaders with nine gold, six silver and two bronze medals while Bangladesh Navy a distant third with two gold, one silver and two bronze.

Bangladesh Air Force are in fourth place securing a single gold and three silver while BKSP in the fifth position with one gold, one silver and two bronzes.

Masudul Karim of Bangladesh Army won two gold medals on the second day clinching the top slot in the men's 200-meter sprint (21.7 sec) and men's 110-meter hurdles (14.46 sec).

Other gold winners of the day were Nazmunnahar Beauty of BJMC in the women's 200m sprint, Sathi Parveen of BJMC in the women's high jump, Hanifur Rahman of Army in the men's marathon, Kabirul Islam of BJMC in the men's javelin throw, Jyotsna Afrose of BJMC in the women's discuss throw, Humayun Kabir of Navy in the pole vault, Chaina Khatun of BJMC in the women's 800m run, Salim Miah of Army in the men's 800m run, Anisur Rahman of Army in the 10,000m run, Bangladesh Army in the men's 4x100m relay and BJMC in the women's 4x100m relay.

A total of thirteen events were decided on the second day.

Kumar smells

FROM PAGE 17

"We do care deeply, though, about making sure we are completely ready and properly prepared when each crunch game comes along. The Australia game was not a crunch game."

"The semifinal against New Zealand on April 24 is."

"We rested Muralidaran, Chaminda Vaas and Lasith Malinga in the best interests of the individuals and the team. We had to make sure they were at peak fitness and completely rested when we start on the morning of the 24th in Jamaica."

"All three have minor niggles that benefited from not playing. We are now confident that they will be in the best possible physical shape they could be for the semifinals. It was a decision we're entirely comfortable with."

"Murali and Vaas are the lynchpins of our attack. They have been for years and they remain so in this tournament -- albeit with good support from Malinga, Dilhara Fernando and Farveez Maharoof."

"True, Vaas and Murali may have played many games against Australia during their long careers, but Sri Lanka have not played Australia in the last 14 months and only six members of Australia's current team played in that match in Brisbane."

"Giving Australia's batsmen a free look-in was not to our advantage if we meet again."

Ponting chalks

FROM PAGE 20

Ponting explained.

"Our batting has been excellent and it's getting better at the crucial part of this tour. It's a really exciting time and one all the guys in the Australian dressing room are looking forward to."

New Zealand, yet to win the World Cup, play 1996 champions Sri Lanka in Tuesday's first semifinal in Jamaica.

Paul questions resignation

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

England batsman Paul Collingwood has questioned whether coach Duncan Fletcher was right to stand down.

Fletcher will end his eight-year reign after Saturday's World Cup match against the West Indies in Barbados.

"I am not sure whether the time was right for him to go," Collingwood told BBC Sport.

"Fletcher has continued to change his techniques. He is constantly looking at new ideas. He is a very good coach, who put his heart and soul into the job."

England captain Michael Vaughan said on Friday the time was right for a new voice.

But Collingwood, who has been tipped as a possible future one-day captain of the national side, believes the players have let Fletcher down during the Ashes whitewash and the World Cup.

"Obviously results have not gone our way this winter but our individual performances have been poor," he wrote in his website column.

"Fletch has done everything in his powers for us to perform at a high level. To go out on the note he has is very disappointing -- after so much success he didn't deserve it."

Moores, who has coached the England A side since 2001, takes over from Fletcher on 1 May, with a Test series against West Indies beginning 16 days later.

"I have not worked with Peter Moores before but people who have spent time with him at the National Academy say he is very good so I am looking forward to it," said Collingwood.

"There will probably be a lot more change in store for the team, with a new coach bringing in different ideas. I think the (backroom) personnel will change as well."

"It is up to the experienced players in the squad to make sure we move on in a positive way and help the new coach implement his vision."

McGrath plans his end

FROM PAGE 20

McGrath's mind games, and he is still playing with his opponents, picking his targets and using the media to plant in their minds that inkling of doubt. Atherton was dismissed by McGrath 19 times in Tests and Brian Lara, the batsman he regards slightly ahead of Indian Sachin Tendulkar as the greatest he bowled to, 15 times.

"It definitely worked in my favour. I think it started with Brian Lara. I knocked him over, and all the talk was, McGrath had his bunny. I was always happy to go along with it. After a while it had nothing to do with technique or ability. It was a mental thing. The last time I knocked Athers over I nearly felt sorry for him. The

boys give me a hard time for making big statements. They think it's outrageous and say, 'How can you set yourself up for that?'. I never thought I was setting myself up. I worked better when there was more pressure on me. It was a way of getting more out of myself. When I said we could win 5-0 I meant it."

While he toyed with his rivals in the papers, he tried to keep his distance from them in real life.

"Sometimes you can get too friendly, and I don't think it helps when you are out in the middle. As a fast bowler, to be successful you've got to have that unknown quality."

McGrath says he has never experienced the kind of self-doubt he provoked in his opponents. And

he has felt nervous on a cricket field only once, when he was preparing to bowl at Lance Klusener in the tense last stages of the 1999 World Cup semifinal against South Africa.

Still he recalls feeling in control, and knowing exactly where he wanted the ball to land. As the two countries prepare for another semifinal eight years later, McGrath's reputation for handling such pressure is legendary: South Africa's is not.

There is only one more thing to achieve, and no better place to do it than in Barbados, scene of next Saturday's final where McGrath came of age as a cricketer in 1995.

McGrath's mind games, and he is still playing with his opponents, picking his targets and using the media to plant in their minds that inkling of doubt. Atherton was dismissed by McGrath 19 times in Tests and Brian Lara, the batsman he regards slightly ahead of Indian Sachin Tendulkar as the greatest he bowled to, 15 times.

"It definitely worked in my favour. I think it started with Brian Lara. I knocked him over, and all the talk was, McGrath had his bunny. I was always happy to go along with it. After a while it had nothing to do with technique or ability. It was a mental thing. The last time I knocked Athers over I nearly felt sorry for him. The

boys give me a hard time for making big statements. They think it's outrageous and say, 'How can you set yourself up for that?'. I never thought I was setting myself up. I worked better when there was more pressure on me. It was a way of getting more out of myself. When I said we could win 5-0 I meant it."

While he toyed with his rivals in the papers, he tried to keep his distance from them in real life.

"Sometimes you can get too friendly, and I don't think it helps when you are out in the middle. As a fast bowler, to be successful you've got to have that unknown quality."

McGrath says he has never experienced the kind of self-doubt he provoked in his opponents. And

he has felt nervous on a cricket field only once, when he was preparing to bowl at Lance Klusener in the tense last stages of the 1999 World Cup semifinal against South Africa.

Still he recalls feeling in control, and knowing exactly where he wanted the ball to land. As the two countries prepare for another semifinal eight years later, McGrath's reputation for handling such pressure is legendary: South Africa's is not.

There is only one more thing to achieve, and no better place to do it than in Barbados, scene of next Saturday's final where McGrath came of age as a cricketer in 1995.

McGrath's mind games, and he is still playing with his opponents, picking his targets and using the media to plant in their minds that inkling of doubt. Atherton was dismissed by McGrath 19 times in Tests and Brian Lara, the batsman he regards slightly ahead of Indian Sachin Tendulkar as the greatest he bowled to, 15 times.

"It definitely worked in my favour. I think it started with Brian Lara. I knocked him over, and all the talk was, McGrath had his bunny. I was always happy to go along with it. After a while it had nothing to do with technique or ability. It was a mental thing. The last time I knocked Athers over I nearly felt sorry for him. The

boys give me a hard time for making big statements. They think it's outrageous and say, 'How can you set yourself up for that?'. I never thought I was setting myself up. I worked better when there was more pressure on me. It was a way of getting more out of myself. When I said we could win 5-0 I meant it."

While he toyed with his rivals in the papers, he tried to keep his distance from them in real life.

"Sometimes you can get too friendly, and I don't think it helps when you are out in the middle. As a fast bowler, to be successful you've got to have that unknown quality."

McGrath says he has never experienced the kind of self-doubt he provoked in his opponents. And

he has felt nervous on a cricket field only once, when he was preparing to bowl at Lance Klusener in the tense last stages of the 1999 World Cup semifinal against South Africa.

Still he recalls feeling in control, and knowing exactly where he wanted the ball to land. As the two countries prepare for another semifinal eight years later, McGrath's reputation for handling such pressure is legendary: South Africa's is not.

There is only one more thing to achieve, and no better place to do it than in Barbados, scene of next Saturday's final where McGrath came of age as a cricketer in 1995.

McGrath's mind games, and he is still playing with his opponents, picking his targets and using the media to plant in their minds that inkling of doubt. Atherton was dismissed by McGrath 19 times in Tests and Brian Lara, the batsman he regards slightly ahead of Indian Sachin Tendulkar as the greatest he bowled to, 15 times.

"It definitely worked in my favour. I think it started with Brian Lara. I knocked him over, and all the talk was, McGrath had his bunny. I was always happy to go along with it. After a while it had nothing to do with technique or ability. It was a mental thing. The last time I knocked Athers over I nearly felt sorry for him. The

boys give me a hard time for making big statements. They think it's outrageous and say, 'How can you set yourself up for that?'. I never thought I was setting myself up. I worked better when there was more pressure on me. It was a way of getting more out of myself. When I said we could win 5-0 I meant it."

While he toyed with his rivals in the papers, he tried to keep his distance from them in real life.

"Sometimes you can get too friendly, and I don't think it helps when you are out in the middle. As a fast bowler, to be successful you've got to have that unknown quality."

McGrath says he has never experienced the kind of self-doubt he provoked in his opponents. And

he has felt nervous on a cricket field only once, when he was preparing to bowl at Lance Klusener in the tense last stages of the 1999 World Cup semifinal against South Africa.

Still he recalls feeling in control, and knowing exactly where he wanted the ball to land. As the two countries prepare for another semifinal eight years later, McGrath's reputation for handling such pressure is legendary: South Africa's is not.

There is only one more thing to achieve, and no better place to do it than in Barbados, scene of next Saturday's final where McGrath came of age as a cricketer in 1995.

McGrath's mind games, and he is still playing with his opponents, picking his targets and using the media to plant in their minds that inkling of doubt. Atherton was dismissed by McGrath 19 times in Tests and Brian Lara, the batsman he regards slightly ahead of Indian Sachin Tendulkar as the greatest he bowled to, 15 times.

"It definitely worked in my favour. I think it started with Brian Lara. I knocked him over, and all the talk was, McGrath had his bunny. I was always happy to go along with it. After a while it had nothing to do with technique or ability. It was a mental thing. The last time I knocked Athers over I nearly felt sorry for him. The

boys give me a hard time for making big statements. They think it's outrageous and say, 'How can you set yourself up for that?'. I never thought I was setting myself up. I worked better when there was more pressure on me. It was a way of getting more out of myself. When I said we could win 5-0 I meant it."

While he toyed with his rivals in the papers, he tried to keep his distance from them in real life.

"Sometimes you can get too friendly, and I don't think it helps when you are out in the middle. As a fast bowler, to be successful you've got to have that unknown quality."

McGrath says he has never experienced the kind of self-doubt he provoked in his opponents. And

he has felt nervous on a cricket field only once, when he was preparing to bowl at Lance Klusener in the tense last stages of the 1999 World Cup semifinal against South Africa.

Still he recalls feeling in control, and knowing exactly where he wanted the ball to land. As the two countries prepare for another semifinal eight years later, McGrath's reputation for handling such pressure is legendary: South Africa's is not.

There is only one more thing to achieve, and no better place to do it than in Barbados, scene of next Saturday's final where McGrath came of age as a cricketer in 1995.

McGrath's mind games, and he is still playing with his opponents, picking his targets and using the media to plant in their minds that inkling of doubt. Atherton was dismissed by McGrath 19 times in Tests and Brian Lara, the batsman he regards slightly ahead of Indian Sachin Tendulkar as the greatest he bowled to, 15 times.

"It definitely worked in my favour. I think it started with Brian Lara. I knocked him over, and all the talk was, McGrath had his bunny. I was always happy to go along with it. After a while it had nothing to do with technique or ability. It was a mental thing. The last time I knocked Athers over I nearly felt sorry for him. The

boys give me a hard time for making big statements. They think it's outrageous and say, 'How can you set yourself up for that?'. I never thought I was setting myself up. I worked better when there was more pressure on me. It was a way of getting more out of myself. When I said we could win 5-0 I meant it."

While he toyed with his rivals in the papers, he tried to keep his distance from them in real life.

"Sometimes you can get too friendly, and I don't think it helps when you are out in the middle. As a fast bowler, to be successful you've got to have that unknown quality."

McGrath says he has never experienced the kind of self-doubt he provoked in his opponents. And

he has felt nervous on a cricket field only once, when he was preparing to bowl at Lance Klusener in the tense last stages of the 1999 World Cup semifinal against South Africa.

Still he recalls feeling in control, and knowing exactly where he wanted the ball to land. As the two countries prepare for another semifinal eight years later, McGrath's reputation for handling such pressure is legendary: South Africa's is not.

There is only one more thing to achieve, and no better place to do it than in Barbados, scene of next Saturday's final where McGrath came of age as a cricketer in 1995.

McGrath's mind games, and he is still playing with his opponents, picking his targets and using the media to plant in their minds that inkling of doubt. Atherton was dismissed by McGrath 19 times in Tests and Brian Lara, the batsman he regards slightly ahead of Indian Sachin Tendulkar as the greatest he bowled to, 15 times.

"It definitely worked in my favour. I think it started with Brian Lara. I knocked him over, and all the talk was, McGrath had his bunny. I was always happy to go along with it. After a while it had nothing to do with technique or ability. It was a mental thing. The last time I knocked Athers over I nearly felt sorry for him. The

boys give me a hard time for making big statements. They think it's outrageous and say, 'How can you set yourself up for that?'. I never thought I was setting myself up. I worked better when there was more pressure on me. It was a way of getting more out of myself. When I said we could win 5-0 I meant it."

While he toyed with his rivals in the papers, he tried to keep his distance from them in real life.

"Sometimes you can get too friendly, and I don't think it helps when you are out in the middle. As a fast bowler, to be successful you've got to have that unknown quality."

McGrath says he has never experienced the kind of self-doubt he provoked in his opponents. And