

## BKSP clinch Jr meet

UNB, Dhaka

BKSP took top position in the 23rd National Junior Athletics Championship as they secured 22 gold, 12 silver and six bronze medals at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Hosts Dhaka finished a distant second having secured 3 gold medals while Rajshahi was in third position with a gold and a silver medal each in the meet that concluded at the newly-laid athletics track at the big bowl.

Shabnam Nahar of BKSP emerged as the fastest woman of the meet after she won the gold in 100m of the under-18 girls' event.

LGRD Secretary Nazrul Islam was the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the two-day meet and distributed the prizes.

A total of 305 athletes from 41 teams competed in the two-day meet for the 40 gold medals that were at stake.

## Puma powers Farashganj

UNB, Chittagong

Farashganj edged past Chittagong Mohammadian by a single goal in the day's only B. League match at the MAAziz Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian recruit Opara Luxon Puma scored the winning goal for Farashganj in the 24th minute of the match on a cloudy afternoon.

With this result, Farashganj have secured 20 points from 17 matches while Chittagong Mohammadian remained at 19 points, having played 16 matches.

## BCB wait on

FROM PAGE 17

first Test captain, later coached the national side as well as Worcestershire.

He was sounded out by the Bangladesh board this June to be their national coach but at that time Houghton was reluctant to take up the job as he had relocated his family to England from Zimbabwe.

## Superstar trio

FROM PAGE 17

Sharma, Piyush Chawla, Harbhajan Singh, Ramesh Powar, Rajesh Pawar, Niranjan Behara, Aniruddh Srikanth, Praveen Kumar.

## SRI LANKA

Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara, Dilruwan Perera, Upul Tharanga, Sanath Jayasuriya, Avishka Gunawardene, Mahela Udawatte, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Chamara Kapugedera, Michael Vandort, Jehan Mubarak, Thilina Kandamby, Chamara Silva, Farveez Maharoof, Chaminda Vaas, Ranga Dias, Dilhara Fernando, Ishara Aramasringhe, Lasith Malinga, Nuwan Kulasekera, Nuwan Zoysa, Akalaanka Ganegama, Dilhara Lokuhettige, Mutthi Muralitharan, Hasantha Fernando, Malinga Bandara, Kaushal Lokurachchi, Gayan Wijekoon, Upul Chandana, Dammika Prasad.

## Lured by Anfield

FROM PAGE 20

reached an agreement to sign French striker Djibril Cisse.

The 25-year-old spent last season on loan with Marseille, but remained a Liverpool player.

West Ham were rumoured to have made an approach but he now looks likely to sign a four-year deal with the Mediterranean giants, who have also signed out-of-contract Anfield colleague Boudewijn Zenden.

## The inevitable

FROM PAGE 20

He was quickly two sets in front with another love service game as the tie began to slip away from Gasquet whose problems were compounded by requiring treatment on his left ankle during the changeover.

Federer broke to lead 4-3 in the third set with a screaming down-the-line backhand and then moved to 5-3 on serve.

Gasquet clung on to trail 4-5 but the Swiss master wrapped up the tie with a pinpoint forehand in the 10th game after 1hr 44min of one-sided action.

## Chelsea unity

FROM PAGE 20

Was here then I'm sure he'd be saying 'I'm happy at where I am,' Kenyon said.

Kenyon also insisted that Arjen Robben, Frank Lampard and John Terry - the trio who have still not signed new contracts - will not be sold. 'We've had no offers for any of our players and if we did we would reject them,' Kenyon said. In the case of Robben, at least, that resolve will be tested.

Kenyon was speaking at the opening of Chelsea's new 30m, 140-acre training complex in Cobham, Surrey, and said the construction confirmed Abramovich's commitment to the club. One of the more hi-tech features of the facility is finger-print recognition that allows players access into the changing areas.



PHOTO: STAR

Papia Rani of BKSP flies to the girls' long-jump gold in the 23rd National Junior Athletics Championships at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Venus back to glory

FROM PAGE 17

the end and play my match but the world number one on grass is definitely Venus, so congratulations to her."

Williams, 27, picked up where she had left off against Sharapova and Kuznetsova with an immaculate start to the final played in bright sunny conditions at the end of a fortnight blighted by grey skies and rain.

After holding her own serve to love, she capitalised on a nervous opening service game by Bartoli to claim a break and soon had moved smoothly into a 3-0 lead.

But the one-sided contest many in the Centre Court must have feared at that stage did not materialise.

The nervousness that had afflicted Bartoli in the opening games dissipated and she rallied to level things up at 3-3 with the help of an overcooked Williams' forehand which handed her

a fifth game break of serve.

From then there was little in it until Bartoli double faulted at 4-5 and 15-30 to hand her opponent two set points.

She managed to save the first one but there was nothing she could do on the next one when Williams rifled a forehand down the line, followed it in and clinched the set with a swinging backhand volley from mid-court.

Williams pressed home her advantage with a break in an exhilarating second game of the second set, claiming it at the third attempt with a fine backhand down the line after Bartoli had saved an earlier break point by coming out on top at the end of a 21-stroke rally.

With the match slipping away from her at 0-3 down in the second, Bartoli opted for a medical break to have a foot-re strapped.

That prompted Williams to seek treatment on her left thigh and the

result was an interruption of play that lasted 11 minutes.

If Bartoli's goal had been to upset her opponent's rhythm, she appeared to have succeeded as the French player won the first game after the return to love.

But normal service was resumed on Williams's next service game and, at 1-4 down, Bartoli's resistance evaporated. Another break gave Williams the chance to serve for the match.

A stinging cross-court backhand clipped the outside of the line and gave her two match points. Bartoli saved the first but there was nothing she could do about the unstoppable serve that Williams hammered down on the second to end the contest after one hour and 30 minutes.

## Gayle, Morton lead WI

FROM PAGE 17

full, 10-over allocation.

Liam Plunkett (three for 59) and James Anderson (two for 51) shared the wickets between them.

West Indies total was made without a major contribution from left-hander Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

A thor in England's side, having averaged over 148 and batted for more than 24 hours during the hosts' 3-0 Test series win, Chanderpaul made 116 not out in West Indies 61-run victory in the second one-day international at Edgbaston where he sustained an ankle.

By then Gayle had completed an unusually patient 85-ball fifty.

But in sight of a hundred he popped a return catch to Plunkett.

Bravo though maintained the momentum with a dashing 24-ball innings.

Morton went to fifty by pulling Broad for four. He followed that up in the same over by driving Broad, off the backfoot, for a superb straight six.

Marlon Samuels, who'd made 77 during a stand of 175 with Chanderpaul at Edgbaston, then exited for nine when, trying to run

Plunkett to third man, he flatfooted guided the ball to wicketkeeper Matt Prior and West Indies were 108 for three.

Prior, though, missed a tougher chance when, standing up, he dropped Morton, on four, off a thin outside edge against medium-pacer Mascalheras.

By then Gayle had completed an unusually patient 85-ball fifty.

But in sight of a hundred he popped a return catch to Plunkett.

Bravo though maintained the momentum with a dashing 24-ball innings.

Morton went to fifty by pulling Broad for four. He followed that up in the same over by driving Broad, off the backfoot, for a superb straight six.

Marlon Samuels, who'd made 77 during a stand of 175 with Chanderpaul at Edgbaston, then exited for nine when, trying to run

Plunkett to third man, he flatfooted guided the ball to wicketkeeper Matt Prior and West Indies were 108 for three.

Prior, though, missed a tougher chance when, standing up, he dropped Morton, on four, off a thin outside edge against medium-pacer Mascalheras.

By then Gayle had completed an unusually patient 85-ball fifty.

But in sight of a hundred he popped a return catch to Plunkett.

Bravo though maintained the momentum with a dashing 24-ball innings.

Morton went to fifty by pulling Broad for four. He followed that up in the same over by driving Broad, off the backfoot, for a superb straight six.

Marlon Samuels, who'd made 77 during a stand of 175 with Chanderpaul at Edgbaston, then exited for nine when, trying to run

Plunkett to third man, he flatfooted guided the ball to wicketkeeper Matt Prior and West Indies were 108 for three.

Prior, though, missed a tougher chance when, standing up, he dropped Morton, on four, off a thin outside edge against medium-pacer Mascalheras.

By then Gayle had completed an unusually patient 85-ball fifty.

But in sight of a hundred he popped a return catch to Plunkett.

Bravo though maintained the momentum with a dashing 24-ball innings.

Morton went to fifty by pulling Broad for four. He followed that up in the same over by driving Broad, off the backfoot, for a superb straight six.

Marlon Samuels, who'd made 77 during a stand of 175 with Chanderpaul at Edgbaston, then exited for nine when, trying to run

Plunkett to third man, he flatfooted guided the ball to wicketkeeper Matt Prior and West Indies were 108 for three.

Prior, though, missed a tougher chance when, standing up, he dropped Morton, on four, off a thin outside edge against medium-pacer Mascalheras.

By then Gayle had completed an unusually patient 85-ball fifty.

But in sight of a hundred he popped a return catch to Plunkett.

Bravo though maintained the momentum with a dashing 24-ball innings.

Morton went to fifty by pulling Broad for four. He followed that up in the same over by driving Broad, off the backfoot, for a superb straight six.

Marlon Samuels, who'd made 77 during a stand of 175 with Chanderpaul at Edgbaston, then exited for nine when, trying to run

Plunkett to third man, he flatfooted guided the ball to wicketkeeper Matt Prior and West Indies were 108 for three.

Prior, though, missed a tougher chance when, standing up, he dropped Morton, on four, off a thin outside edge against medium-pacer Mascalheras.

By then Gayle had completed an unusually patient 85-ball fifty.

But in sight of a hundred he popped a return catch to Plunkett.

Bravo though maintained the momentum with a dashing 24-ball innings.

Morton went to fifty by pulling Broad for four. He followed that up in the same over by driving Broad, off the backfoot, for a superb straight six.

Marlon Samuels, who'd made 77 during a stand of 175 with Chanderpaul at Edgbaston, then exited for nine when, trying to run

Plunkett to third man, he flatfooted guided the ball to wicketkeeper Matt Prior and West Indies were 108 for three.

Prior, though, missed a tougher chance when, standing up, he dropped Morton, on four, off a thin outside edge against medium-pacer Mascalheras.

By then Gayle had completed an unusually patient 85-ball fifty.

But in sight of a hundred he popped a return catch to Plunkett.

Bravo though maintained the momentum with a dashing 24-ball innings.

Morton went to fifty by pulling Broad for four. He followed that up in the same over by driving Broad, off the backfoot, for a superb straight six.

Marlon Samuels, who'd made 77 during a stand of 175 with Chanderpaul at Edgbaston, then exited for nine when, trying to run

Plunkett to third man, he flatfooted guided the ball to wicketkeeper Matt Prior and West Indies were 108 for three.

Prior, though, missed a tougher chance when, standing up, he dropped Morton, on four, off a thin outside edge against medium-pacer Mascalheras.

By then Gayle had completed an unusually patient 85-ball fifty.

But in sight of a hundred he popped a return catch to Plunkett.

Bravo though maintained the momentum with a dashing 24-ball innings.

Morton went to fifty by pulling Broad for four. He followed that up in the same over by driving Broad, off the backfoot, for a superb straight six.

Marlon Samuels, who'd made 77 during a stand of 175 with Chanderpaul at Edgbaston, then exited for nine when, trying to run

Plunkett to third man, he flatfooted guided the ball to wicketkeeper Matt Prior and West Indies were 108 for three.

Prior, though, missed a tougher chance when, standing up, he dropped Morton, on four, off a thin outside edge against medium-pacer Mascalheras.

By then Gayle had completed an unusually patient 85-ball fifty.

But in sight of a hundred he popped a return catch to Plunkett.

Bravo though maintained the momentum with a dashing 24-ball innings.

Morton went to fifty by pulling Broad for four. He followed that up in the same over by driving Broad, off the backfoot, for a superb straight six.

Marlon Samuels, who'd made 77 during a stand of 175 with Chanderpaul at Edgbaston, then exited for nine when, trying to run

Plunkett to third man, he flatfooted guided the ball to wicketkeeper Matt Prior and West Indies were 108 for three.

Prior, though, missed a tougher chance when, standing up, he dropped Morton, on four, off a thin outside edge against medium-pacer Mascalheras.

By then Gayle had completed an unusually patient 85-ball fifty.

But in sight of a hundred he popped