

Gen Moeen visits sport complex in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Chief of Army Staff Gen Moeen U Ahmed visited two sport venues in Rajshahi yesterday as part of his two-day tour to the north-western city.

Moeen was accorded a warm reception at Zafar Imam Tennis Complex.

Speaking at the view exchange meeting with Rajshahi Sports Association at the Rajshahi Stadium, Moeen stressed the need for taking sports to the village level while he was talking to local sportsmen.

"Many of the promising national players are going astray for early appreciation," he added.

"If they [players] are chosen from village, upazila, district and divisional levels and are finally picked from the national level, they would be firm at their positions," he said.

He further said that around 28 percent of the national allocation for sports is now being spent for providing sporting equipment, instead of only two percent before his tenure.

Moeen, also the president of Bangladesh Olympic Association, said National Sports Council managed Tk 10 crore extra income renting existing facilities, beyond the national budget for sports.

The army chief also met Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Lito.

Australia stay

FROM PAGE 17
Martin Gupitll and Ross Taylor departed with only 16 on the board and although Elliott and Fulton (40) shared an 80-run partnership before Fulton fell to James Hopes, a collapse followed which reduced from 149-3 to 183-7.

Tim Southee made 17, but it was McCullum, who finally came in at number nine, who finally helped Elliott put the pressure back on Australia.

McCullum hammered Hopes over the outside field for six and also collected two boundaries off the normally reliable Nathan Bracken.

Elliott, meanwhile, responded to being dropped by a diving Adam Voges on 79 with three fours in one over from Bracken, and went to his hundred with a steer to third man for two.

He celebrated by driving Hopes through the covers for his eight four, but the bowler got his revenge four overs later when Hussey took a straight-forward catch at backward square leg.

With Elliott gone, it was up to McCullum to try and clinch the series for New Zealand but he was caught by Ponting off Ben Hilfenhaus and although tail-ender Jeetan Patel lofted a six, he was bowled by Bracken half-way through the 48th over as Australia wrapped up the match.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between Australia and New Zealand at Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA
Haddin run out 109
M Clarke c Gupitll b Elliott 64
Ponting c Mills b Elliott 16
Hussey c McCullum b O'Brien 7
White c Vettori b O'Brien 10
M Hussey c Taylor b Mills 51
Ferguson lbw b Vettori 28
Hopes b O'Brien 8
Johnson c Patel b Mills 1
Bracken not out 3
Hilfenhaus not out 0
Extras: (b-1, w-3) 4
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs) 301
Fall of wickets: 1-135, 2-169, 3-187, 4-200, 5-212, 6-274, 7-297, 8-297, 9-299.

NEW ZEALAND
Gupitll c Ferguson b Bracken 6
Fulton c White b Hopes 40
Taylor lbw b Hilfenhaus 4
Elliott c M Hussey b Hopes 115
Broom c Hilfenhaus b White 15
Mills c Bracken b DJ Hussey 2
Vettori c Clarke b White 2
Southee c Haddin b Johnson 17
McCullum c Ponting b Hilfenhaus 36
Patel b Bracken 9
O'Brien not out 0
Extras: (b-4, lb-11, w-8) 23
Total: (All out in 47.3 overs) 269
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-16, 3-96, 4-149, 5-152, 6-157, 7-183, 8-252, 9-262, 10-269.

Bowling O M R W
Mills 9 0 59 2
Southee 10 0 52 0
Vettori 10 0 52 1
O'Brien 10 1 68 3
Elliott 8 0 44 2
Patel 3 0 25 0

NEW ZEALAND
Gupitll c Ferguson b Bracken 6
Fulton c White b Hopes 40
Taylor lbw b Hilfenhaus 4
Elliott c M Hussey b Hopes 115
Broom c Hilfenhaus b White 15
Mills c Bracken b DJ Hussey 2
Vettori c Clarke b White 2
Southee c Haddin b Johnson 17
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Total: (All out in 47.3 overs) 269
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-16, 3-96, 4-149, 5-152, 6-157, 7-183, 8-252, 9-262, 10-269.

Bowling O M R W
Bracken 8.3 1 65 2
Hilfenhaus 9 1 44 2
Johnson 10 2 36 1
Hopes 10 0 49 2
Clarke 5 0 41 0
Hussey 3 0 9 1
White 2 0 10 2
Result: Australia won by 32 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Brad Haddin.



An action from yesterday's Women's National Football Championship match between Satkhira and Khulna at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Taylor-made victory

FROM PAGE 17

England had made a shaky start to their second innings, when they lost vice-captain Alastair Cook and Ian Bell, and were 11 for two at lunch.

But nothing could have prepared them for what transpired in the first hour after the interval.

Taylor produced the perfect out-swinging yorker and Kevin Pietersen was sensationally bowled off-stump for one in the second over after lunch.

Paul Collingwood joined Strauss, and for close to half-hour, they took some of the tension out of the air before Taylor struck again.

Strauss nibbled at a delivery outside the off-stump and was caught behind for nine.

Taylor then struck twice in his next over. Collingwood was bowled off an inside-edge for one off the first delivery, and Matt Prior played right across a

well-pitched leg-cutter and was bowled for a four-ball duck.

England slid further into the mire, when left-hander Stuart Broad turned a delivery to forward short leg and was caught for a two-ball duck off Benn that sunk England to 26 for seven.

Ryan Sidebottom came to the wicket and succeeded with Flintoff to get England past their lowest ever total of 45 against Australia at Sydney 122 years ago, and their second lowest total ever, against the West Indies of 46 at Port of Spain 15 years.

Sidebottom fell next, when he was adjudged lbw to Benn playing back and across a delivery that spun from outside the off-stump. His challenge of the verdict to the video umpire proved futile.

Flintoff tried to slog Fidel Edwards over mid-wicket, missed, and was bowled when

the ball ricocheted off the pad.

The drama followed crack best bowling from Broad, as the West Indies were dismissed for 392, replying to England's first innings total of 318.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of the first Test between West Indies and England at Sabina Park on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings 318 (Pietersen 97; Benn 4-77)
WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 160 for one)

Gayle b Broad 104
Smith lbw b Flintoff 6
Sarwan b Flintoff 107
Marshall lbw b Broad 0
Chanderpaul lbw b Broad 20
Nash not out 47
Ramdin c Collingwood b Panesar 35
Taylor lbw b Harmison 8
Benn c Cook b Broad 23
Powell c Prior b Harmison 9
Edwards not out 10
Extras: (b-5, lb-9, w-1) 15
Total: (All out in 157.4 overs) 392
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-220, 3-220, 4-235, 5-254, 6-320, 7-341, 8-371, 9-376.

Bowler O M R W
Sidebottom 24 5 35 0
Flintoff 33 11 72 2
Harmison 20.4 4 49 2
Broad 29 7 85 5
Panesar 47 14 122 1
Pietersen 4 1 15 0

ENGLAND: Second innings Strauss c Ramdin b Taylor 9
Cook c Smith b Taylor 0
Bell c Ramdin b Benn 4
Pietersen b Taylor 1
Collingwood b Taylor 1
Flintoff b Edwards 24
Prior b Taylor 0
Broad c Marshall b Benn 0
Sidebottom lbw b Benn 6
Harmison b Benn 0
Panesar not out 0
Extras: (b-2, nb-4) 6
Total: (All out in 33.1 overs) 51
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-11, 3-12, 4-20, 5-23, 6-23, 7-26, 8-50, 9-51.

Bowler O M R W
Taylor 9 4 11 5
Powell 7 3 5 0
Benn 14.2 2 31 4
Gayle 2 1 1 0
Edwards 1 0 1 1
Result: West Indies won by an innings and 23 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Jerome Taylor.
Umpires: R. Koertzen, T. Hill
Match Referee: A. Hurst

A blast from the past

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propel Usain Bolt, watching yesterday. It is an uncomplicated method too, involving a straight, rapidly urgent, run to the crease, a high action and a straight follow-through. The simple things really are the best. Then you have to add into it the adrenaline of the occasion, the knowledge that on the back of the stirring work of the West Indies batsmen his side were in with a sniff of a chance. With each successive wicket, a little more pumped into him and a little more energy conveyed itself to the other end, so that the batsmen seemed transfixed.

In this most dramatic of spells in which a game that had been bogged down by the constraints placed by the pitch and outfield on rapid scoring was transformed in a manner impossible into the blingy newcomer Twenty20 the most sensational moment was the dismissal of Kevin Pietersen. In the first innings he had held the team together with 97 runs, ended by a top-edged heave that prompted the Sun to caption him Dumb Slog Millionaire. Once again he held the key. His second ball was Taylor's first after lunch. Time

was when a batsman could expect something gentle, an easy post-prandial loosener to get things moving once more. Not this time. Taylor pitched full, not quite yorker but up there, allowing the ball time to grab the air and swing away. But it went too late for Pietersen, deceiving even his gimlet eye. Pietersen saw only a leg-side scoring opportunity, but the ball swerved beyond his bat.

Then, as Pietersen's body obliterated the wicket from view, we, perched in the press box eyrie high up in the massive Blue Mountain Stand, saw his off stump appear from behind his back and cartwheel gymnastically back towards the keeper. For a split second, before the implication had taken hold, there was silence in the crowd. Then, as the realisation set in and Taylor began his celebratory sprint towards the Red Stripe stand pursued by a phalanx of team-mates, a cacophony erupted.

It was, Holding has said, thus when he capped the most famous fast over in history by uprooting the off-stump of Geoffrey Boycott one day in Barbados. Fleeting maybe, but for an afternoon, the glory days returned.

Premier League sees

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chase such a mammoth total was never there.

All the top order batsmen got starts with Uttam (58) and Shuvogito (63) making half-centuries but no real fireworks saw CSS end 50 overs on 263-7.

BIMAN-GAZI

Gazi Tank thrived on half-centuries by opener Imrul Kayes and Indian batsman Pravanjan Mullick to score 235-9 after deciding to bat first.

Left-handed national opener Imrul continued his good form with a 72-ball 51 that featured nine boundaries while Pravanjan contributed 50 off 53 balls. Captain Mohammad Ashraf failed to carry on his a start after being trapped lbw by Shahadat Hossain for 18.

Shahadat and Mahbubul Alam took two wickets each.

In reply, Biman recovered from an early hiccup to reach 237-5 in 46.5 overs.

Shakib joined Jahurul to repair the early damage during a 60-run stand for the fourth wicket before veterans Sanwar and Mushfiqur Rahman (25 not out) cantered them home.

MOHAMMEDAN-PEGASUS
Shuvo followed up his 3-39 with a 58-ball 40 but the all-

round effort went in vain as Mohammedan lost one point in the first game.

Despite a 63-run opening stand between Arif Reza (31) and Rahat Sadek (63), Pegasus managed only 192 before being bowled out in 47.3 overs. Mohammedan spinner Murad Khan caused the damage by claiming four wickets for 37.

In reply, Mohammedan lost two wickets for 17 but Shamsur Rahman (46) and Marshal Ayub (31) consolidate their position adding 67 for the third wicket.

Mohammedan, however, stumbled in the middle before Shuvo took charge. But having done the hard work by taking the side within sight of victory, the Mohammedan skipper lost his patience.

Pegasus could have also won but for dropping as many as five chances.

BRIEF SCORES

ABAHANI: 320-4 in 50 overs (Tamim 98, Rony 116, Imran 27, Sahagiri 45 not out, Mashrafe 11, extras 22; Ashraf 1-57, Sunny 1-69, Nazmul 1-61).
CSS: 263-7 in 50 overs (Uttam 58, Sunny 18, Shabbuz 36, Shuvogito 63, Nizamuddin 28, Nazmul 22, Monowar 14, Asadullah 3 not out, Halder 13 not out, extras 8; Rezaul 3-47,

Zia 1-46, Nasir 1-33, Nadif 1-42).
Result: Abahani won by 57 runs.
PEGASUS: 192 all out in 47.3 overs (Reza 31, Rahat 63, Ruhul 23, Nuvin 7, Bashar 4, Maruf 1, Nayeem 1, Jubair 34, Rubayet 3, Zakaria 0, Mobashsher 5 not out, extras 19; Shuvo 3-39, Murad 4-37, Marshal 2-28).

MOHAMMEDAN: 192 all out in 49.2 overs (Shamsur 46, Nasiruddin 1, Rokibul 7, Marshal 31, Faisal 36, Shahin 1, Shuvo 40, Dollar 7, Sajedul 3, Tareq 5, Murad 0 not out, extras 15; Rubayet 1-19, Zakaria 2-33, Bashar 1-41, Nuvin 2-29, Ruhul 2-38).
Result: Match Tied.
GAZI TANK: 235-9 in 50 overs (Imrul 51, Mithun 19, Nafis 39, Ashraf 18, Pravanjan 50, Nayeem 16, Wasel 11, Qumrul 6, Saju 2, Rubel 3 not out, Younus 6 not out, extras 14; Shahadat 2-56, Mahbubul 2-43, Shakib 1-43, Sanwar 1-25, Nabil 1-30).

BIMAN: 237-5 in 46.5 overs (Javed 0, Sadat 8, Jahurul 58, Rahul 8, Shakib 44, Sanwar 73 not out, Mushfiqur 25 not out, extras 21; Qumrul 1-34, Rubel 1-41, Saju 1-37, Nayeem 1-30, Ashraf 1-20).
Result: Biman won by five wickets.

Satkhira zonal champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Satkhira emerged zonal champions in the Citycell Women's National Football Championship when they crushed neighbours Khulna 4-0 in the Buriganga (Dhaka) zone final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sabina put Satkhira ahead after 17 minutes while Mukta, Salma and Rikta added second half goals in the one-sided match.

Both the teams join six others -- Jessore, Rajshahi, VDP, Narayanganj, Ansars and Rangamati -- in the final round which kicks off in Dhaka on February 18.

Bangladesh Olympic Association vice-president Mizanur Rahman Manu distributed trophies after the final. Bangladesh Football Federation vice-president Manzoor Hossain Malu, women's football committee chairman Sirajul Islam Bachchu and other officials were also present.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

GAIBANDHA CRICKET

Madhapara Krija Sangstha defeated Subo Sangsad by 119 runs in the Gaibandha Second Division Cricket league at Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

Madhapara batted first and accumulated 116 runs losing all their wickets in their stipulated twenty overs and later wrapped up Subo Sangsad's innings for a meagre 47 runs in 15.1 overs.

DU ANNUAL SPORTS

Dhaka University Begum Fazilatunnessa Mujib Hall celebrated their annual sports competition yesterday at the DU central playground. An estimated 100 students participated in 15 events, where Marzan Binte Azad, a fourth year student in Peace and Conflict Studies, became the champion. Selina Begum, a master's student from the Social Welfare Institute, finished runner-up.

DU Pro-Vice Chancellor Haroon-ur-Rashid attended the event as the chief guest and distributed the prizes among winners.

NAT'L BRIDGE

Khandokar Fazle Sobhan Trophy, the national pair bridge championship will start on Friday, February 13th at 9.00 am in the National Sports Council (NSC) auditorium.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker will inaugurate the event.

Telly calling

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The report quoting Sourav said, "Yes I have agreed to this proposal. So far I know I have to conduct a quiz show." Though the exact format of the show, likely to be named "Dadagiri" is yet to be finalised, a source said it would include a quiz.

To start with there would be 72 episodes likely to be increased if the show becomes popular, the report added.

Torres does it

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Fortune struck again in the 73rd minute to ensure a tense finale but Newcastle held out.

Wigan's meeting with Fulham ended in a dour goalless stalemate while Sunderland took a big step towards survival with a 2-0 win over ten-man Stoke City.

Beckham

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Hammers' eight-match unbeaten run.

Milner is one of six Villa players in the 23-man party heading for Spain with Emile Heskey and Gabriel Agbonlahor set to be partnered in attack.

With Theo Walcott, Steven Gerrard and Joe Cole injured, Capello was lacking some of his first-choice side although Wayne Rooney is likely to be on the United bench on Sunday.

Ashley Cole is also back for the first time since the World Cup qualifying win over Kazakhstan in October, while Joe Hart retains his place among a three-man group of goalkeepers despite losing his Manchester City spot to Shay Given.

Milan held

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Figo settled the affair in a most unusual fashion 19 minutes from time, ghosting between Lecce's centre-backs to glance home a header from teenage left-back Davide Santon's cross.

Things started turning into a rout eight minutes from time when Stankovic timed his run perfectly to head home a free-kick from Malcon.

Strauss couldn't ask for worse

Cricket

AFP, London

The British press was scathing Sunday about England's performance in their heavy defeat by the West Indies, labelling it the "worst possible start to Andrew Strauss's captaincy".

Strauss earlier rejected suggestions that there is lingering tension in the side following the removal of Peter Moores as coach and the resignation of Kevin Pietersen as captain last month.

The innings and 23 run defeat by the West Indies in Kingston saw England bowled out for 51, their third-lowest total in history and the West Indies' first win against England since 2000.

"Blown to bits" read the headline in the Sunday Times, which said that England had succumbed to "one of their most humiliating defeats" but

praised the "inventive bowling" of Jerome Taylor, who took five wickets.

"Taylor proved West Indian pace bowling is alive and well," was the Sunday Mirror's verdict.

The Sunday Telegraph said that England's performance was a "disgrace" but praised West Indies captain Chris Gayle, saying he was proof that "young rascals can sometimes mature into decent leaders".

The Independent described the defeat as "dramatic, painful and utterly unexpected".

"It was the worst possible start to Andrew Strauss's captaincy, not least because England were overwhelming favourites to beat a team whose shortcomings have so often been exposed," the paper added.

"As Taylor ran through England, it was as if the last decade had never happened: the West Indian pace production line was up and running again."

SL snap India streak

FROM PAGE 17

Sri Lanka were strongly placed at 255-2 in the 42nd over before India struck back with four wickets for just one run, with paceman Ishant Sharma taking two in one over.

Sharma bowled Thilina Kandamby (26) and had Chamara Kapugedera caught behind for no score to peg the hosts back. Dilshan was run out in the same over following a mix-up with Jayawardene.

Maharoor hit a 23-ball 32 with one six and three fours in the closing overs to help his team cross the 300 mark.

Indian captain Dhoni used nine bowlers, including four part-timers, but failed to stem the runs as Dilshan, Sangakkara and Jayasuriya batted comfortably against pace and spin.

Jayasuriya exploded with a flurry of boundaries, pulling Sharma for three fours in an over. His cameo saw the hosts race to 66 off just 10 overs.

Sangakkara looked in good form from the beginning, firmly driving and cutting to find various parts of the boundary. He outscored

Dilshan during their big stand with his exciting stroke-making.

The wicketkeeper-batsman fell immediately after hoisting part-time spinner Yuvraj for a six over long-on, caught by Rohit Sharma in the deep while attempting another big shot.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fifth and final one-day international between Sri Lanka and India at R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Sunday:

SRI LANKA
Dilshan run out 97
Jayasuriya c Raina b Pathan 37
Sangakkara c R Sharma b Yuvraj 84
Kandamby b I Sharma 26
Jayawardene c Raina b Yuvraj 1
Kapugedera c Dhoni b I Sharma 0
Maharoor run out 32
Thushara c & b I Sharma 11
Kulasekara not out 10
Muralidaran not out 3
Extras: (b-3, lb-8, nb-1, w-7) 19
Total: (For eight wickets in 50 overs) 320
Did not bat: Ajantha Mendis

Fall of wickets: 1-66, 2-209, 3-255, 4-255, 5-256, 6-256, 7-277, 8-315.

Bowler O M R W
I Pathan 9 0 55 1
I Sharma 10 0 60 3

Balaji 5 0 32 0
Sehwag 3 0 26 0
Yadeja 6 0 40 0
Y Pathan 3 0 20 0
Raina 6 0 24 0
Yuvraj 6 0 39 2
R Sharma 2 0 13 0

INDIA
Gambhir c Sangakkara b Kulasekara 13
Sehwag c Jayasuriya b Thushara 6
Raina c Sangakkara b Kulasekara 0
Yuvraj c & b Muralidaran 73
R Sharma c Kulasekara b Maharoor 15
Dhoni c Kulasekara b Jayasuriya 53
Y Pathan lbw b Muralidaran 3
Jadeja not out 60
I Pathan c Kapugedera b Mendis 8
Balaji c Kulasekara b Mendis 7
I Sharma b Maharoor 4
Extras: (lb-2, w-8) 10
Total: (All out in 48.5 overs) 252
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-9, 3-52, 4-85, 5-121, 6-138, 7-193, 8-217, 9-243, 10-252.

Bowler O M R W
Kulasekara 9 0 42 2
Thushara 6 0 34 1
Maharoor 5.5 0 46 2
Muralidaran 10 0 41 2
Mendis 10 0 44 2
Jayasuriya 6 7 71 28 1
Dilshan 2 0 15 0
Result: Sri Lanka won by 68 runs and India clinched 5-match series 4-1.
Man-of-the-match: Kumar Sangakkara.
Man-of-the-series: Yuvraj Singh.
Toss: Sri Lanka
Umpires: Brian Jerling (RSA) and Tyrone Wijewardene (SRI)
Match Referee: Chris Broad (ENG)

Hosts take
FROM PAGE 17
were skittled out for 109, thanks to some hearty bowling by the Pakistanis with off spinner Javeria Khan picking up three wickets. Lata Mondol top scored for the hosts scoring 26 and will be looking to build up on her last innings to bring a much-needed victory for the home team today.

Sri Lanka is clearly on a high after clinching a low scoring game against Pakistan by three wickets. Opening bowler Chamani Seneviratna scalped 3 for 26 in eight overs as the Pakistanis struggled to get into any form of rhythm after being put into bat first.

Today's match will be the last in Bogra, after which the teams travel to Khulna to play three more matches. The final will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on February 17.