

U-14 tennis starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Anlene ATF Under-14 Series Tennis Tournament starts at the Nayonal Tennis Complex in Ramna today. The four-day tournament will feature sixteen boys and sixteen girls from five countries including hosts Bangladesh.

The five thousand dollar event will have competitions in boys' and girls' singles and doubles. These were disclosed at the press conference at the tennis Complex yesterday where members of the Tennis Federation and representatives of sponsors new Zealand Dairy Products Bangladesh Limited were present.

Win soothes

FROM PAGE 17 team overcame the hurdle despite missing one full-time bowler in himself.

"The most important thing is that we won the game. Without any doubt, it would have been better if I could celebrate the victory in the field and contribute positively for my team. All credit must go to the boys who played brilliantly as a unit to win the game, especially Shakib (Al Hasan) who was great. One bowler was short but it was made up brilliantly," said a smiling Mashrafe.

"We had the confidence after scoring 228 despite the fact that we were 15 to 20 runs short of our target. We required a good fielding and bowling effort to win the match and we did exactly that. New Zealand got off to a good start but we bounced back brilliantly. We knew that it would not be easy for New Zealand to chase down the total if we took two or three early wickets. Riyad (Mahmudullah) and Naem (Islam) both gave good support," he added.

The Bangladesh captain however believes that his side must show much better performance if they want to earn more success in the series.

"It's always important in a series to win the first match. We are now in an advantageous position but we must show much better performance in the next game as our fielding was not up to the mark and the middle order batting was also a concern for us. Most of the top order batsman got starts but could not carry it on," he opined.

But the biggest concern for the injury-hit Bangladesh team is that they have to struggle with their pace attack as Nazmul Hossain, who came into the team in the last moment following minor injuries to Shafiqul Islam and Rubel Hossain and bowled brilliantly in the match, is also going to miss the next two games.

The right-arm paceman sustained a deep cut on the ring finger of his right hand in the last ball of the innings.

"He needed three stitches on the cut. The bandage will come off in a week's time and then we'll be able to assess the condition," said Henry.

Mashrafe was however still confident about further success in the series.

"I hope Shafiqul and Rubel will be fit for the next games," he said.

Vettori let

FROM PAGE 17 the man-of-the-match award.

"Shakib played very well. His batting late in the innings gave them the

impetus and his bowling posed a danger," he said.

Despite going down 1-0, Vettori said that he is looking forward to the next game and not thinking of anything else," he said.

Hosts, Australia shine

AFP, New Delhi



Commonwealth Games organisers defended the Delhi showpiece and insisted Tuesday that empty stadiums would fill up as Australia and India took a stranglehold on the medals table.

Glitches continue to haunt the event for nations and territories of the former British Empire, with row after row of empty seats a major concern.

Embattled organising committee chief Suresh Kalmadi blamed the lack of spectators on ticket booths not being set up outside stadiums, and said the blunder had been fixed.

"We have set up in every stadium now ticket box offices," said Kalmadi, who was booed at the opening ceremony after a shambolic lead-up to the Games.

"There were problems, some of the ticket stalls were not put up, but all the stalls are up now at all the stadiums. The situation has been rectified."

Commonwealth Games Federation boss Michael Fennell said problems were inevitable.

"During the course of any Games, even if you have perfect organisation, there are issues," he said, denying organisers were attempting to gloss over Delhi's drawbacks.

"No-one is sweeping anything under the carpet. We are dealing with the issues now."

The heavily fortified Games have been dogged by worries over threats of terror attacks, corruption, construction delays, and outbreaks of dengue fever.

Australia, meanwhile, continued to dominate, adding another five gold medals to the four it won on Monday.

They swept the board on the opening day of cycling at the Indra Gandhi Sports

Complex, taking three gold and breaking three Games records.

Anna Meares defended her 500m time trial title, before Scott Sunderland clinched the 1000m and Jack Bobridge made it three in the 4000m individual pursuit.

It completed an astonishing comeback for Meares, who broke her neck in a cycling accident at the World Cup in January 2008.

Meares shaved more than half a second off her own best to cross the line in 33.758sec, beating compatriot Kaarle McCulloch with Becky James of Wales claiming bronze.

More successes came in the pool where Leiston Pickett won the women's 50m breaststroke.

Other swimming gold went to England's Fran Halsall in the women's 50m butterfly, compatriot Liam Tancock in the men's 50m backstroke and Scotland's Robbie Renwick who upset the odds to take the 200m freestyle title.

Australia completed a stellar day by winning the gymnastics women's team gold, with England second and Canada third.

Indians were also celebrating after matching Australia's five gold medal haul with Abhinav Bindra and Gagan Narang opening their account by winning the men's 10m air rifle pairs.

Their success was quickly followed by Anisa Syeed and Rahi Sarmobat overcoming a strong challenge from Australia to win the women's 25m Pistol Pairs.

The hosts then completed a clean sweep on the first day of the Greco Roman wrestling contest, with Anil Kumar (96kg), Sanjay (74kg), and Ravinder Singh (60kg) all proving too good for the rest of the field.



Olympic gold-medalist Abhinav Bindra (L) and double world record holder Gagan Narang of India pose with their medals after winning pair's 10m air rifle shooting gold at the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi yesterday. India won gold, England silver and Bangladesh bronze.

PHOTO: AFP

DELHI DIARY

FROM PAGE 17

BATTLE OF BROTHERS

It was a neck-to-neck battle between two brothers and the younger brother emerged winner in the shoot-off after the three-set 1/32 elimination round of archery's individual recurve event ended in a tie.

The brothers are none other than Bangladeshi archers Milon and Zia, who introduced his younger brother to archery in 2008.

Milon beat Zia 56-46 in the first set in the individual recurve and drew the second set at 50-50. Zia then defeated Milon 55-54 to take the match to shoot-off where Milon won the game 8-6.

"My younger brother is more capable than me as most of the time he wins against me and he is always the best," said Zia.

BYE BOXING

Bangladeshi boxer Abdur Rahim was eliminated from the Commonwealth Games when the South Asian Games gold medalist lost to Canadian Yves Ulysse in the knockout

64kg category at the Talkatora Indoor Stadium here yesterday.

Rahim faced a tough challenge from his counterpart going down 3-0 in the first round before putting up some resistance in the second round where he finally lost 3-1.

SABRINA-SHILPA LAST

Sabrina Sultana and Sharmin Shilpa finished bottom in the 50m air rifles three position event at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in Tuglukabad yesterday.

The Sabrina-Shilpa duo could score 1,114 together to finish eighth out of eight pairs while the gold went to Singaporean pair of Xiang Wei Jasmine and Aqilah Sudhir, who together made 1,149. India and Scotland won silver and bronze medals respectively.

FREE TICKETS

Following poor attendances at all venues of the Commonwealth Games, the organisers are thinking of distributing free tickets

among children and the underprivileged.

"We are working on the children from schools. Steps have already been taken in that direction," local organising committee chairman Suresh Kalmadi said at a news conference yesterday adding that they were also working on how to bring crowds from the lower level of society.

Empty stands that marred the first day of the competition at the crisis-hit Games may be filled up by children and the underprivileged if attendance doesn't improve.

TRACK & FIELD

Athletics, the most attractive part of the Games, gets underway today at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium with two gold-deciding events slated for the opening day.

The events are 5,000m men's run and women's shot put. Besides, heats of the 100m sprint of both men's and women's events will also be held on the day. Bangladesh's fastest woman Shamsun Nahar Chumki will compete.

**NAT'L WOMEN'S CRICKET
Khulna take on Rajshahi in final**

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna booked a final showdown against Rajshahi in the final of the Women's National Cricket Twenty20 League at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium today after they thrashed Barisal to a 100-run defeat at the same venue today.

An all-round performance from Khulna skipper Salma Khatun turned it into a cakewalk for the women from south-western division.

Batting first, Khulna set up 145 in their allotted 20 overs losing only two wickets, both in form of run-outs. Salma was the top-scorer with unbeaten 36 while Tahera scored 30. The Barisal never got going and limped to 45 in their twenty overs losing all the wickets. Salma took three wickets conceding only four runs in four overs.

Few words

FROM PAGE 17 was a great performance but the 23-year-old typically had little to say on the topic.

His sly smile was enough to suggest, however, that he was pleased.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between Bangladesh and New Zealand at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday:

BANGLADESH

Imrul c B McCullum b Mills	16
Nafees b Vettori	35
Zunaed b N McCullum	30
Rokibul lbw b Vettori	21
Shakib b Mills	58
Mushfiq c Southee b Ryder	22
Mahmudullah c Taylor b Ryder	3
Nayeem b McKay	9
Mashrafe c Watling b Mills	15
Razzak c Ryder b McKay	1
Nazmul not out	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-8, w-9)	18
Total: (All out in 49.3 overs) 228	
Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-61, 3-100, 4-132, 5-170, 6-174, 7-198, 8-212, 9-221, 10-228.	

Bowler O M R W

Mills	9.3	1	44	3
Southee	7	0	37	0
McKay	9	0	51	2
N McCullum	10	0	42	1
Vettori	10	1	29	2
Ryder	4	0	16	2

NEW ZEALAND

B McCullum b Shakib	61
Ryder c Rokibul b Shakib	21
Watling b Razzak	0
Taylor lbw b Nayeem	42
Elliott lbw b Shakib	0
Vettori c Zunaed b Nayeem	24
Stewart run out	2
N McCullum b Shakib	16
Mills not out	22
Southee not out	1
Extras: (lb-6, w-4, nb-1)	11
Total: (For eight wickets in 37 overs) 200	
Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-72, 3-85, 4-85, 5-135, 6-148, 7-161, 8-192.	

Bowler O M R W

Mashrafe	1	0	7	0
Nazmul	7	0	46	0
Razzak	8	1	28	1
Nayeem	7	0	30	2
Shakib	8	0	41	4
Mahmudullah	6	0	42	0

Result: Bangladesh won by nine runs (D/L method).
 Man-of-the-match: Shakib Al Hasan
Toss: Bangladesh.
Umpires: Enamul Haque and Shavir Tarapore.
TV umpire: Shahid Sharfuddoula.
Match referee: Javagal Srinath.

Dhaka drive home advantage



SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka bowlers drove home the advantage set up by their batsman to stifle Khulna at the end of day two in their opening 4-day match of the 12th National Cricket League at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi yesterday.

The other two matches involving Sylhet versus Rajshahi and Barisal versus Chittagong were evenly poised after rain-interrupted second day's play.

Having started day two on 337 for 5, the two overnight Dhaka batsmen took the score past 400-run mark before being separated. Shuvagata Chowdhury scored 105 before being removed by Murad Khan. Youngster Anamul Haque lingered the innings with a scintillating knock of 133 off just 181 balls that featured 16 boundaries and two sixes. He was undone by occasional spin of Tushar Imran. Murad and Nazmul Sadat took two wickets each to end the Dhaka innings for 496.

Replying to this mammoth total, Khulna got themselves in deep trouble having lost 6 wickets for 191 runs before the end of days' play. Opener Sadat scored 43 while Tushar top-scored with 54, both accounted for by Dhaka centurion Mohammad Ashraf. The other spinner Ilias Sunny also took two wickets as

Khulna were looking down the barrel. Over at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Barisal were reduced to 119 for six in their reply to Chittagong's first innings total of 202, thanks to three-wicket hauls from Chittagong pacemen Nazmul Islam Apu and Kazi Kamrul Islam. Nasiruddin's 36 was the only mentionable score in that innings so far.

Defending champions Rajshahi were bundled out for 160 within 72, thanks to a four-wicket haul from left-arm spinner Enamul Haque. Farhad Hossain's 36 and Anisur Rahman's 33 gave the champions something to work with when they bowl.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Dhaka v Khulna
DHAKA: First innings 496 all out (Shamsur 48, Ashraf 113, Shuvogata 105, Anamul 133; Murad 2-69, Sadat 2-91)
KHULNA: Dhaka drive home advantage First innings 191 for 6 (Sadat 43, Tushar 54, Soumya 24; Ashraf 2-30)
Chittagong v Barisal
CHITTAGONG: First innings 202 all out (Nazimuddin 91, Aftab 31; Shafaq 4-49, Arafaat 3-43)
BARISAL: First innings 119 for 6 (Rabbi 27, Nasiruddin 36; Nazmul 3-15, Kamrul 3-26)
Rajshahi v Sylhet
RAJSHAH: First innings 160 all out (Farhad 36, Sabbir 33; Enamul 4-43, Shaker 2-39)

No Ponting in ODIs



CRICINFO

Australia have rested the senior trio of Ricky Ponting, Shane Watson and Mitchell Johnson for the one-dayers against India later this month. In Ponting's absence, Michael Clarke will lead a side that includes South Australia batsman Callum Ferguson, who has made a comeback after a year on the sidelines due to a knee injury.

Injuries to Shaun Tait and Ryan Harris mean Doug Bollinger will spearhead an inexperienced fast bowling unit that includes Clint McKay (12 matches), and the uncapped pair of Mitchell Starc and James Pattinson.

Queensland's James Hopes and New South Wales' Steve Smith will vie for the allrounder's spot, and big-hitting opening batsman David Warner makes a return to the one-day squad. There

was no place for either wicketkeeper Brad Haddin or fast bowler Peter Siddle, both of whom are recovering from injuries and the selectors felt it was too premature to risk them in international cricket.

"Ricky faces a very demanding domestic summer on his return to Australia," Andrew Hilditch, Australia's chief selector, said, "and will have no other opportunity for a break from the start of the domestic season until after the much-awaited World Cup."

Hilditch gave similar explanations for leaving out Watson and Johnson. "It is essential to the balance of our side that Shane can open the batting and play the all-round role. We have decided the best way of ensuring he can play this role is for him to miss the one-day component of this series," he said. "Mitchell is now the leader of our bowling attack, and with numerous injuries to our fast bowling stocks at present, it is essential we manage his workload so he can get through the

domestic summer and the ICC Cricket World Cup."

The three-ODI series is from October 17-24.

SQUAD
Michael Clarke (captain), Cameron White, Doug Bollinger, Callum Ferguson, Nathan Hauritz, James Hopes, Mike Hussey, Shaun Marsh, Clint McKay, Tim Paine (wk), James Pattinson, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, David Warner.

Empty seats

FROM PAGE 17 half the gallery is empty but the ticket outlets are closed and they're saying that there are no tickets left," said Rajib, who had travelled all the way from old Dhaka.

This obviously meant that the ticket blazers had a field day, selling tickets at 4-5 times the actual prices.

"I am looking for a blacker because I am hearing a lot of cheers from inside and I want to get in," said Rajib.



Europe Ryder Cup players pose with the trophy after beating the US by 14 1/2 points to 13 1/2 points on the final day of the competition at Celtic Manor Golf Course in Newport on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

Magical Laxman

FROM PAGE 17

Ojha survived a confident appeal for leg-before and then an overthrow for four runs by substitute fielder Steven Smith considerably eased the pressure on India. The match ended with two leg-byes.

"Our batting collapsed, but Laxman and Ishant played well," said India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"Laxman is a remarkable batsman and whatever field you set, he keeps scoring. He did a very good job for us. For me, it was a very special innings. This game was full of emotions.

"When the game started no one expected we will have a result in four-and-a-half days. The bowlers from both sides have done well to get a result in this game."

Laxman, who averages more than 50 in Tests against Australia, continued to flourish against them and reached his half-century in style off just 48 balls, pulling paceman Hilfenhaus for a four. His 79-ball knock contained eight fours.

India were under tremendous pressure after losing their eighth wicket at 124, but Laxman and Sharma held their nerve to sink Australia's hopes.

Sharma grew in confidence as the match progressed, hitting five fours in his 92-ball knock.

winning the match.

Bollinger dismissed Sachin Tendulkar (38), the world's leading run-getter in both Tests and one-day internationals, in his second over.

"It was one of the exciting Test matches I have played. Full credit to India. We tried our best and it was a satisfying effort from the boys," said Australia captain Ricky Ponting.

"The partnership between Ishant and Laxman was great and it made the difference, I guess. Bollinger's injury probably didn't help us.

"He (Laxman) has been a thorn in our side. I told the boys that his would be the key wicket and that was how it turned out. In some ways, it was more disappointing than our defeat in Kolkata in 2001."

Ponting was referring to India's famous victory after the hosts had been forced to follow-on against Steve Waugh's Australians.

Australia started the day with spin from one end and pace from the other, enjoying success in the seventh over when spinner Nathan Hauritz had nightwatchman Zaheer Khan (10) caught by Michael Clarke at first slip.

Hilfenhaus, who rattled India with three big wickets in the final session on Monday, beat the bat on a few occasions in his opening spell on a wearing track but failed to find the edge.

Tendulkar took no risks and waited patiently for loose deliveries to punish, driving and flicking off-spinner

Hauritz for two fours. He later steered Hilfenhaus past gully for another boundary.

Australia celebrated when Tendulkar cut Bollinger to gully, where Michael Hussey took a good catch. The Indian hit five fours in his 64-ball knock, completing 1,000 Test runs this year in the process.

Pressure became the name of the game when Dhoni walked in to bat, with his team needing 97 to win with only four wickets in hand.

Dhoni did not last long, making only two runs before being caught short of the crease by a direct-hit at the striker's end from Hilfenhaus who ran in from mid-off to throw down the stumps.

The second and final Test starts in Bangalore on October 9.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 428 (Watson 126, Ponting 71, Paine 92; Zaheer 5-94, Harbhajan 3-114)

INDIA: First innings 405 (Gambhir 25, Sehwaq 59, David 77, Tendulkar 98, Raina 86; Bollinger 2-49, Johnson 5-64)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 192 (Watson 56, Katich 37, Hussey 28, North 10; Zaheer 3-43, Sharma 3-34, Harbhajan 2-40, Ojha 2-59)

INDIA: Second innings 216 for 9 (Sehwaq 17, David 13, Tendulkar 38, Laxman 73 not out 73, Sharma 31, Hilfenhaus 4-57, Bollinger 3-32)

Result: India won by one wicket.
Man-of-the-match: Zaheer Khan.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Venomous vipers
- Schedule abbr.
- Jeans-maker Strauss
- Vegetarian's no-no
- Navigational aid
- Way out
- Publicity
- Church area
- Striped antelope
- Cash in
- Ova
- 1960s hallucinogen
- Carriage
- Aquatic plant
- Charged bit
- Plague
- "The rain in —"
- Pair
- Drill sergeant's syllable

DOWN

- "So be it" omelet stat
- Alluring
- One of the Three Bears
- Hot
- Ostrich's kin
- Pitch
- Mimic
- Starring roles
- Speed up
- Workbench attachment
- Detail
- Droop
- Verve
- Stare
- Open-mouthed
- Dispatches
- Speedometer
- Debtor's letters
- Atoned
- Heart of the matter
- Pussycat's partner
- "To be or —"
- Terrier type
- News-writer's credit
- Despots
- Every last bit
- Vessel's team
- Split violently
- Ms. Moore
- Passed, and then some
- Actress Sorvino
- Teeny particle
- "Sun King" Louis
- Snoop

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	L	A	W	D	E	C	B	A	B	E
B	O	L	A	I	T	O	I	R	I	S
S	U	L	L	I	V	A	N	G	A	L
		D	N	A	N	I	B	B	L	E
S	L	E	E	K	F	I	R	E		
L	A	W	N	S	A	V	A	N	N	A
A	V	A	R	V	E	N	E	G	O	