Jewel lights up the end off to SL

Swimming

Jewel Ahmed lit up the last day of the Championships with another national record at the Syed Nazrul Islam National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday, which took his tally for the to six gold and

had set a national record in the 400m individual medley on the opening day, broke one more 10-year old record in the 1500m freestyle event yesterday by clocking 17:25.60 minutes which eclipsed Rubel Rana's record of 18:03.29 minutes

Silver medallist Mahfizur Rahman Sagor finished far behind Jewel clocking 18.31.76 minutes while Sujan Ali of Army bagged bronze with a time of 18:42.80 minutes.

medals in junior national meets from backstroke with a time of 1:03.83 minutes. gold haul from Sonia Akhter Tumpa.

Australian captain Michael Clarke Friday

said Ricky Ponting calling it quits had left

him "numb" as the press paid tribute to a

batsman they described as the best since

Ponting, who turns 38 next month,

called time on his 17-year Test career on

Thursday, with Friday's clash with South

In a column for News Limited

newspapers, Clarke said Ponting was one

of the greatest players to ever represent

with all the players and support staff and

listen to Ricky Ponting say this will be his

began before me. He has been such a huge

presence in Australian cricket it's going to

feel strange walking out to play Sri Lanka

Clarke added that there was far more to

Ponting than being the second greatest

Test run scorer ever, behind Sachin

Tendulkar, with 13,366 ahead of his last

"He did so much the world never saw,"

"The time he gives his teammates, the

advice he offers, the help he gives you at

training, he picks you up when you are

down, he gives you a kick up the backside

coach Shane Jurgensen,

whose specialty lies as a

bowling coach, discussed

the intricacies of the new

restrictions, it becomes a

challenging situation for the

bowlers but at the same time

it can create wicket-taking

opportunities," said

Jurgensen. "You've seen

examples in the past with

the batting Powerplay. The

extra pressure in the circle

creates opportunities where

the batter will look to hit over

the top. It's an interesting

one. It probably limits

manipulating the field for

the captain who will have to

sometimes bring fielders in

"It's still a challenge

to send other fielders out.

"With the new fielding

next month without him in the team."

last Test made me feel numb," he wrote.

"To stand in a room at the team hotel

"Ricky is the last player in the team who

SA Games gold medallist Rubel, who beat Jewel in the 50m backstroke on Thursday, clocked 1:06.96 minutes to be content with a silver medal.

Jewel has made these championships Citycell 26th National Swimming his own by winning gold in the 200m individual medley, 400m individual medley, 200m butterfly, 1500m freestyle, 200m backstroke and 100m backstroke while finishing second in the 50m backstroke and 400m freestyle.

Jewel's outstanding performance helped him to be adjudged the best swimmer of the championships and led his team, Bangladesh Army regain the title after 25 years. Army bagged a total of 12 gold, 15 silver and 8 bronze medals while Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) finished second with 10 gold, 12 silver and 16 bronze medals. Roman Akhter and Khadiza bagged three gold each for BKSP.

Bangladesh Navy finished third with 10 gold, six silver and three bronze medals, riding on four-gold haul from Mahfizur Rahman Sagor while Bangladesh Ansar 2004 to 2011, beat his idol Rubel Rana to became fourth with eight gold, nine silver win gold medal in his favourite 100m and three bronze medals, thanks to a three

'The best since Don' one thing that sticks in the front of my

"He made it clear that was the easiest way

The announcement of his retirement

"His career was epic in scale and scope as well as in achievement," the

his career as a kind of era."

The Sydney Morning Herald said: "He's given all, and Ponting knows it's time" and called him "Australia's supreme batsman in a supreme era, with Neil Harvey and Greg Chappell, one of the best three since Bradman".

The Sydney Daily Telegraph also used 'The Don' as a comparison, declaring on its back page that he was "Best Since Don

Australian greats, including Steve Waugh, with Ponting on Friday equalling his former captain's record of 168 Test appearances.

himself as a cricketer and he was always pretty much the first to training and the last

to leave," Waugh recalled in The Australian. "He never let his intensity slip, especially with his fielding drills. His stats speak for themselves, but it's his attitude

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh U-23 football team flew off to Sri Lanka yesterday to take part in the Mahindra Rajapaksha International Football Tournament, scheduled for December 3 to 9 in Nawalapitiya.

Bangladesh have their sights on the title of the tournament which also involves hosts Sri Lanka, Maldives and Pakistan. The top two sides from the round-robin league will play in the final on December 9.

"India are a strong opponent in this region, but they are not playing in Sri Lanka which is why Bangladesh have a good chance of winning the tournament" said Bangladesh coach Saiful Bari Titu on the verge of departure yesterday.

Titu was however aware of the strength of the opponents. "It is an agelevel tournament and all the teams are almost equal. So the players must play to their full potential."

Bangladesh will play their first match against Pakistan on December 3, their second against Sri Lanka on December 5 and the last league match against Maldives on December 7.

Men's handball

SPORTS REPORTER

Gaibandha registered a hard-fought 13-12 win over Bandarban in the opening match of the Exim Bank 22nd National Men's Handball Championship at the Shaheed (captain) M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

In the day's other matches, Kushtia beat Sunamganj 14-11, Faridpur thrashed Barisal 24-2, Gaibandha beat Patuakhali 25-10, Jessore defeated Manikganj 18-17, Kushtia beat Chittagong 19-17 and Faridpur beat Bagerhat 13-12 at the Handball Stadium.

At the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium, Madaripur beat Mymensigh 27-17, Tangail beat Panchagarh 24-17, Rajshahi beat Comilla 27-16, Chuadanga outplayed Jhalakathi 18-11, Mymensigh defeated Dinajpur 17-15, Tangail thrashed Gopalganj 24-13 and Jhalakathi routed Joypurhat 23-8.

Weightlifting C'ship starts

SPORTS REPORTER

Six events were decided on the opening day of the National Weightlifting Championships at the National Sports Council Gymnasium yesterday.

Shariful Hasan won gold in the 56kg category, lifting a total of 184 kilos, Mostain Billa cleared 223 kilos to win gold in the 62kg category, Baki Billah bagged gold in the 69kg category clearing a total of 212 kilos, Subrato Roy clinched gold in the 77kg category lifting a total of 210 kilos, Aminul Haque won gold in the 85kg category clearing a total of 185 kilos and

Akhteruzzaman became first in the 94kg category lifting a total of 175 kilos.

Manzarul

FROM PAGE 16

unanimous applause. Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur Rahim later dedicated Bangladesh's seven-wicket victory to Manzarul Islam and the victims of the Ashulia garments factory fire.



South Africa's Faf Du Plessis plays a pull shot on the first day of the third Test against Australia at the WACA ground in Perth yesterday.

Wickets tumble at WACA

Cricket

AFP, Perth

South Africa hit back with two wickets after Australia's second-string pace attack dismissed the Proteas on a dramatic opening day of the third and final Test at the WACA Ground on Friday.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, the Proteas were bundled out for 225 despite more heroics from Adelaide Test hero Faf du Plessis in a match that will decide the top-ranked nation in Test cricket. However, the Proteas

quickly struck back with a vengeance, claiming two Australian wickets in the hour before stumps.

Opener Ed Cowan was caught in slips by Jacques Kallis off pace spearhead Dale Steyn for a first-ball duck, before Shane Watson (10) was given out lbw to Vernon Philander on a decision review, after umpire Asad Rauf had man for the first two SCOREBOARD turned down the initial matches in the series, and SOUTHAFRICA: First innings

At the close, the home

team was 33 for two, with David Warner on 12 and night watchman Nathan Lyon surviving a torrid examination from Steyn in the final over of the day to be seven not out. Batting at number

seven, second Test hero du Plessis again played a lone hand in the South African first innings with an unbeaten 78 off 142 balls that helped add vital late runs after they had slumped to 75 for six when they lost five wickets for 14 runs either side of lunch. Australia were forced to

completely revamp their fast bowling line-up for the match, with their three pacemen from the drawn Adelaide Test -- Peter Siddle, Ben Hilfenhaus and James Pattinson -- all ruled out.

Left-armer Mitchell Johnson was recalled for his first Test in 12 months, Mitchell Starc was promoted after being 12th his Test debut. All were in the wickets as

John Hastings was handed

they decimated the South African top order. It was the returning

Watson (1-22) who claimed the initial breakthrough, having Graeme Smith caught at first slip by rival skipper Michael Clarke for 16. Watson made a welcome return from a calf

problem, having missed Australia's last eight home Tests with various injuries, by finding a thick outside edge from Smith to remove the Proteas skipper. Just before lunch, Starc

(2-55) struck two telling Starc removed opener

Alviro Petersen (30) when he bowled the righthander with a full delivery and then found a way through the defence of Kallis (2), who overcame a hamstring injury to take his place in the match, with a similar ball.

Kallis b Starc De Villers c Clarke b Hastings Elgar c Wade b Johnson Du Plessis not out Peterson cWade b Lyon Philander c Hussey b Lyon Steyn b Johnson Morkel c Hastings b Lyon Extras: (lb-2, w-2) Total: (All out in 74 overs) 225 Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-61, 3-63, 4-67, 5-67,6-75,7-132,8-196,9-206. Bowler

Smith c Clarke b Watson

Amlarun out (Warner)

Petersen b Starc

Johnson AUSTRALIA: First innings Warner not out Cowan c Kallis b Steyn Watson Ibw Philander Lyon not out Extras (lb4) Total (2 wickets, 11 overs) To bat: Ponting, Clarke, Hussey, Wade, Hastings, Johnson, Starc.

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-18. Bowler

Philander Morkel Toss: South Africa

Division II football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Soukhin XI became champions in the Mahbubur Rashid Khan Mithu Smriti Second Division Football League after they defeated Jobhat Sangha by 4-3 goals in the tiebreaker after the match ended goalless at the Shahid Miraz-Tapan stadium in Manikganj yesterday.

Deputy Commissioner Md. Masud Karim distributed prizes among the winners. Manikganj district sports association secretary Jamilur Rashid Khan, district football federation president Sudev Kumer Saha were present at the prize giving ceremony.

A total of 26 teams took part in the second division football league.

Ctg club swimming from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A day-long swimming competition, organised by Chittagong Jela Krira Sangstha, will be held at the swimming pool of Chittagong Club today.

Some 60 swimmers including women from eight clubs will be taking part in nine events. CJKS general secretary AJM Nasir will declare the competition open.

Tigers ride on old & new

stoic response. "I don't think about what rule the ICC has changed. If you bowl badly then even if there are six or seven fielders on the boundary you will leak runs. If you bowl in good areas then you will not be expensive even if there are only three fielders outside."

The man accompanying him, Razzak, had a look of satisfaction as he basked in the glow of a job well done. "It was a performance consistent with the level we had set in the Asia Cup where we did well. I was a little worried whether we'd be able to keep the consistency, but we have started off well. It Razzak's worry) was mainly because of the long gap between one-dayers (their last ODI was in March). I think it will be better in the next match."

About the glut of debutants -- Gazi, Abul Hasan, Anamul Haque and Mominul Islam -- in the match Razzak thought that they were fortunate with the type of debutants they had, saying there is one type that feel pressure and the other who play like there is nothing to lose in their first match. "It is normally difficult to have so many debuts together. There may be mistakes. It is their first match, you can't blame them," he said. "But the thing is some players don't feel pressure on debut. The ones who made the debut today were like that. They were strong, so we didn't feel it as a problem."

On what the plans are for the rest of the series and what this victory means, Razzak said, "We have finished this game and its over for us, whatever the result is. We will play the next match as the first and last. We will try to take it a match at a time."

Pollard laments 'bad day' FROM PAGE 16

played rash shots, and at times when we did build up

partnerships, we gave it away," Pollard added. Bangladesh chased the total without any hiccups, appearing to be the dominant side, a role West Indies were supposed to play. The second match of the fivematch ODI series is tomorrow, and Pollard outlined the areas that West Indies have to improve upon before they take the field, "We have to be more patient, bat deeper and bowlers should not be giving one bad ball each over We have to do the basics right, be sharp on the field. It is a matter of everything. We have one day to do it and then we come back and see if we have learned anything from this. There are four more games to go, so it is a matter of us regrouping as international cricketers. We have done it before and no doubt we can do it again."

More to follow after Ponting?

AFP, New Delhi

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting's decision to retire could be the start of an exodus of other batting greats, including Indian maestro Sachin Tendulkar and South Africa's Jacques Kallis.

With all the leading run-getters in Test cricket in the 35-plus age bracket, the next few years seem set to witness a host of retirements that will leave the game short of batting

class and experience. Ponting, who turns 38 next month, starts his 168th and last Test against South Africa Friday and Tendulkar, who is without a Test century since early last year and will be 40 in April, appears to be next in line to call it quits.

The five veterans make up half the all-time list of just 10 players to have amassed 10,000 runs or more, along with the already retired Rahul Dravid, Brian Lara, Allan Border, Steve Waugh and Sunil Gavaskar.

Tendulkar, the world's leading scorer in both Test and one-day cricket and the maker of an unprecedented 100 international centuries, has already said he has been contemplating ending his iconic 23-year career.

"I am 39 and I don't think I have plenty of cricket left in me," he said.

because when you have the power of guys like (Chris) Gayle and (Kieron) Pollard and the quality of cricket bats these days (laughs), you don't have to hit it too hard for it to reach the fence," he added. Five fielders inside the fence, while increasing boundary opportunities also means that there will not be as many easy singles

chance to build pressure. force bowlers to bowl fewer

on offer for new batsmen to settle in, which in turn gives skilful bowlers the Jurgensen feels that it will bad balls. Bangladesh's bowling yesterday sup-

SPORTS REPORTER

two silver medals. The 18-year old boy from Kushtia, who

set in 2002.

Jewel, who had won numerous gold

Cricket

Donald Bradman.

Africa to be his last.

Australia.

Test Friday.

he said.

AFP, Perth

mind is that Punter always said to me you've got to make sure you're leading from the front and scoring plenty of runs.

to earn the respect of your teammates."

was splashed on the front pages o newspapers Friday with The Australian hailing Ponting as "A master of cricket, also a great servant."

newspaper's Gideon Haigh wrote.

"So much so that it is tempting to treat

Bradman".

Tributes also flowed from fellow

"He was utterly dedicated to improving

that always sticks in my mind."

when you need a kick up the backside. "As a leader I learnt a lot from him. The

> ports that theory. "It puts more onus on bowlers to bowl good areas," the coach explained. "You no longer have five fielders and you cannot just bowl the last ball of the over, and hope that it gets hit to deep mid off and get out of

the over easily, you still have

to bowl a good ball." Following Gayle's departure, 14 deliveries produced only two runs at a stage when everyone was expecting West Indies to dominate. Marlon Samuels, the major threat apart from Gayle, reached out to play the cover drive to a Gazi delivery in an attempt to find the vacant cover boundary but succeeded only in edging to

Mahmudullah Riyad at slip. In the 25 non-Powerplay overs between overs 10 and 35, West Indies lost eight wickets for 92 runs, decisively swinging the match in Bangladesh's favour, setting up their sevenwicket win.

"I think we bowled well, we adapted to what we needed to do quickly with the ball. We started well with the ball and we started well with the bat," Jurgensen said about the victory. "That laid the foundation for the guys to express themselves. In terms of the rest of the series we just have to make sure we can use this momentum.

It goes both ways This is a big plus for the team -- very positive for the boys and will give them a lot of

> confidence." Was the performance unexpected?

> "No, not for me. Because I believe we have a very talented cricket team, and believe in them. In terms of the series all I can say is we will tackle this one game at a time. Tomorrow, we'l have a light day and we get ready for the next game,

Jurgensen said. On a day that Bangladesh, especially the spinners, were expected to suffer the game showed that disciplined execution will still get the job done. Regardless of the newness of the rules, the basic tenets remain con stant -- good bowling reaps rewards and restless, over ambitious batting like West Indies' will be punished.

Pain was FROM PAGE 16

have had to go through so much pain to get hold of

them. But I am happy that Bangladesh played well, and I want them to keep up this performance, which they haven't done in the past. Also, I am happy that the International stand has been renamed the Manzarul Islam Rana stand, but I feel it should have happened earlier."