

Jewel lights up the end

Swimming

SPORTS REPORTER

Jewel Ahmed lit up the last day of the Citycell 26th National Swimming 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 two silver medals.

The 18-year old boy from Kushtia, who 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 set in 2002.

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

Jewel, who had won numerous gold medals in junior national meets from 2004 to 2011, beat his idol Rubel Rana to win gold medal in his favourite 100m backstroke with a time of 1:03.83 minutes.

'The best since Don'

Cricket

AFP, Perth

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 Donald Bradman.

Ponting, who turns 38 next month, called time on his 17-year Test career on Thursday, with Friday's clash with South Africa to be his last.

In a column for News Limited newspapers, Clarke said Ponting was one of the greatest players to ever represent Australia.

"To stand in a room at the team hotel with all the players and support staff and listen to Ricky Ponting say this will be his last Test made me feel numb," he wrote.

"Ricky is the last player in the team who 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 next month without him in the team."

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 Test Friday.

"He did so much the world never saw," he said.

"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 when you need a kick up the backside."

"As a leader I learnt a lot from him. The

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 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 became fourth with eight gold, nine silver and three bronze medals, thanks to a three-gold haul from Sonia Akhter Tumpa.

U-23 booters off to SL

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 age-level 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 Mymensingh 27-17, Tangail beat Panchagarh 24-17, Rajshahi beat Comilla 27-16, Chuadanga outplayed Jhalakathi 18-11, Mymensingh 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

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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. O 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 turned down the initial appeal.

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-arm Mitchell Johnson was recalled for his first Test in 12 months, Mitchell Starc was promoted after being 12th man for the first two matches in the series, and

John Hastings was handed his Test debut. All were in the wickets as 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 blows. Starc removed opener Alviro Petersen (30) when he bowled the right-hander 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.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Starc	16	3	55	2
Hastings	20	2	51	1
Watson	9	2	22	1
Johnson	17	3	54	2
Lyon	12	1	41	3

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.

Warner not out 12 Cowan c Kallis b Steyn 10 Watson lbw Philander 0 Lyon not out 7 Extras (lb4) 4 Total (2 wickets, 11 overs) 33

To bat: Ponting, Clarke, Hussey, Wade, Hastings, Johnson, Starc.

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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 Kumar 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

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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'

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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 five-match 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