

Sport



Munira Rahman of BTMC swims to the 200m individual medley gold and yet another record in the 15-17-yrs age group on the last day of the four-day national swimming championships at the Dhanmandi Women's Sports Complex pool yesterday. Munira won four gold medals --- all record-breaking efforts.

# Ansars top medal table

Sports Reporter

The four-day national swimming championships concluded at the Dhanmandi Women's Sports Complex pool yesterday afternoon with two dozen new records being set in the 37-event competition.

Swimmers young and old of the formidable Bangladesh Ansars stamped their overwhelming superiority by bagging 42 of the total 111 medals at stake. They topped the gold chase with a haul of 14 glittering medals to the 12 won by defending team champions Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC).

BTMC, whose long reign in women's swimming came to an end yesterday, collected a total of 25 medals to place second, just ahead of the fast-improving Rajbari DSA who finished in third spot with a tally of 21 medals, eight of them golden.

Bandarban with two golds and Munshiganj with one placed fourth and fifth in the final standings among the 13 teams and more than a hundred competitors taking part. Narayanganj and Pabna were the only other sides to score any success.

Mahmuda Sharif of Bangladesh Ansars, whose performance on the very opening day of the meet must have inspired her teammates no end, emerged the champion swimmer among the women with a bag of four gold medals. Three of her four winning efforts also erased the former national marks -- 100m and 200m breaststroke and the 200m backstroke. The versatile veteran, who made her debut in the nationals and age-group meets way back in 1975, and who has collected a staggering 110 gold medals in various meets since, also won the 100m backstroke.

Talking to this correspondent, Mahmuda said she was feeling confident about her prospects in the fifth SAF Games, to be held in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo later in December.

Laila Noor Milu of BTMC, the best woman swimmer of last year's nationals, also had a fairly rewarding meet this time around, winning three gold medals with record-shattering efforts -- in the 100, 200 and 400m freestyles, her pet event. Laila's sorrow knew no bounds when she was pipped for the 50m freestyle gold by Rehana Zaman of Ansars despite a timing of 33.39 sec which was inside her own former mark of 34.47 secs set last year.

The lean, lithe girl from Faridpur who made such a great splash in her age-group swimming debut in 1983, couldn't hold back her tears after being dethroned by Rehana Sunday as the country's fastest woman.

The silver medal was no consolation for the determined Laila Noor.

Munira Rahman of BTMC annexed the individual championship among girls between 15-17 years with a superlative four record-breaking feats.

A student of Class Ten from Tangail, Munira showed all-round brilliance by rewriting the national marks for the 50m and 200m freestyle, the 200m individual medley and the 100m butterfly. She, too, feels more confident about a respectable showing at the coming SAF Games.

Munira's BTMC teammate, the more fancied Mahfuza Rahman finished second with three golds (all new records)

37.07 secs, .77 seconds quicker than the previous record. Ting Ting also won a silver, accounting for all three medals for her team.

Sumona Akhter of Ansars finished runners-up among girls in the 11-12 age bracket behind Ting Ting with two golds, one bronze and a record to boot.

Rahima Khatoun of BTMC emerged as the find of the meet by topping the girls under-10 years with one gold and one silver. Rokeya Begum of Munshiganj DSA was the runners-up.

Shahar Banu of Ansars led the bronze.

In the same age group, Mahfuza Rahman of BTMC shattered the 100m backstroke mark by clocking 1:26.50 secs against the old time of 1:35.43 secs. Reshma Parveen of Ansars and Putul Rani Ghosh of Rajbari also swam home inside the old mark to make it a most keen contest that enthralled everyone at poolside.

Ten events were decided on the final day but space doesn't permit us to detail all the results.

| Team        | G  | S  | B  | Total |
|-------------|----|----|----|-------|
| B. Ansars   | 14 | 18 | 15 | 47    |
| BTMC        | 12 | 7  | 6  | 25    |
| Rajbari DSA | 8  | 7  | 6  | 21    |
| Bandarban   | 2  | 1  | 0  | 3     |
| Munshiganj  | 1  | 2  | 2  | 5     |
| Narayanganj | 0  | 2  | 6  | 8     |
| Pabna       | 0  | 0  | 2  | 2     |

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## LAST DAY HIGHLIGHTS

Laila Noor Milu set a new record in the 100m freestyle yesterday with a time of 1 min 13.16 secs against the old mark of 1:17.25 secs while silver medalist Rehana Zaman of Ansars, too, came home inside the old mark by timing 1:13.85 secs. It was sweet revenge for Laila who lost the mantle of

## FINAL MEDAL TABLE

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## Cricket camp concludes

The five-week training camp for young cricket fast bowlers and wicket-keepers concluded at the National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

In all, 100 cricketers from Dhaka and some other districts took part in the camp, organised by Dhaka Cricket Players' Association.

Raisuddin Ahmed, vice president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, attended the concluding function as the chief guest and distributed the certificates among the participants.

President of the Cricket Players' Association Roqibul Hasan, general secretary Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu and BCCB general secretary Aminul Huq Moni were present.

## Japanese double

PORTLAND, Oregon, Sept 30: Japan's Tsuguo Sadakata, a winner two years ago, dominated the 20th Portland marathon on Sunday when he raced to victory in 19 mins 30 secs, reports AFP.

And to complete a Japanese double, Hiromi Yokoyama set a course record in the women's event by striding home ahead of the field in 2:26:40.

Sadakata, who was slowed by a gusty headwind, admitted: "I was getting so tired after 20 kilometers."

John Lodwick, one of the world's fastest marathon runners in the late 1970s, finished in second place in 2:23:26.

## Hlasek denies McEnroe

BASEL, Sept 30: Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek defeated John McEnroe of the United States 7-6 (7-4), 6-0, 6-3 in the final Sunday of the dhrs 750,000 Swiss Indoors tennis tournament, reports AP.

Hlasek, the No. 6 seed, took just under 2 1/2 hours for the straight-set victory over his eighth-seeded opponent.

McEnroe, the defending title holder, started well. He broke Hlasek's service in the first game and used his blistering serve to maximum effect.

But after a closely fought tiebreak, the 32-year-old McEnroe faltered. Hlasek, 26, ranked 18th worldwide, improved his returns and delighted the partisan crowd with brilliant slices and lobs.

He broke McEnroe's service three times in the second set.

Hlasek served 12 aces

## Bedi sacked as Indian manager

NEW DELHI, Sept 30: Former Test batsman Abbas Ali Baig was on Sunday named India's manager for the tour of Australia in November and next year's World Cup, reports Reuter.

Baig replaces Bishen Bedi, who was involved in controversy during last year's tour of England.

Bedi criticised his captain Mohammed Azharuddin for putting England in at the Lord's Test and also hit out at Sunil Gavaskar for refusing honorary life membership of the MCC.

Bedi has been replaced by another former Test cricketer, Ashok Mankad, for next month's Sharjah Cup and one-day series against Pakistan.

Itinerary for the one-day series Against Pakistan: Bombay Oct 28, Madras Oct 30, Calcutta Nov 1, New Delhi Nov 3 day-night match Jalandhar Nov 6.

## Lillee in Delhi

MEANWHILE A PTI report from New Delhi said: Former Australian pace bowler Dennis Lillee made a rare appearance in Delhi today to take stock of his wards undergoing training in the MRF-Pace Foundation.

Lillee came here last night on his periodic visit to India to check for himself the progress of the dozen trainees and is holding a five-day camp for them at the Karnail Singh Stadium here.

A spokesman for the foundation said today, the camp was shifted to Delhi from Madras as most of the trainees were here after playing the Wills Trophy and for the Irani Trophy which begins at Faridabad on Wednesday.

"Since most of the boys were here we thought it would be better to have the camp in Delhi when Lillee came on his visit this time instead of moving all the boys to Madras," he said.

As many as 11 medium pacers of MRF-Foundation were playing the Wills Trophy limited-overs competition.

Young new-ball bowlers including J Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Prashant Vaidya, Subroto Banerjee, Ashish Winston Zaidi, Shakti Singh, Sukhwinder Singh, Dewang Kapadia, Harvinder Sodhi bowled under the watchful eyes of Lillee, and MRF-coaches T A Sekhar and Vasu Pranjape.

## Richardson new Windies skipper

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Sept 30: Hard-hitting 29-year-old batsman Richie Richardson of Antigua has been named captain of the West Indies cricket team which will play in the World Series Cricket competition, a West Indies cricket official said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

A vice captain for the team is expected to be named later this week.

Richardson, captain of the Leewards Islands in the regional Red Stripe competition, replaces compatriot Viv Richards who has led the Caribbean team since 1985.

Richards had announced his pending retirement from Test cricket, but last week he announced his availability for the World Cup.

The West Indies Cricket Board of Control is expected to decide at its current meetings whether it will support South Africa's request to play in the World Cup competition in Australia and New Zealand early next year.

## Suleymanoglu's golden return

DONAUESCHINGEN, Germany, Sept 30: Naim Suleymanoglu, Turkey's pocket-sized weightlifting hero, marked his comeback after two years of injury with a gold medal at the World Championships on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The Olympic champion lifted a total of 310.0 kgs to seal his fourth world title in the featherweight division (60 kgs).

Yurik Sarkissain of the Soviet Union took the silver, with a total of 302.5 kgs. China's He Yingqunang came third on 292.5.

Suleymanoglu, nicknamed as the "Pocket Hercules" retired from top-class competition two years ago because of persistent hip problems.

But after recent treatment in Ankara, Suleymanoglu, who

## Cuban-Mexican deal

HAVANA, Sept 30: Cuba will send 150 sports coaches to Mexico and the two countries will send teams to compete in 80 bilateral competitions in 1992 under a major sports co-operation agreement signed in Havana at the weekend, reports Reuter.

The accord, valued at more than a million dollars and the biggest of its kind between the two nations, was initiated on Saturday by the president of Mexico's National Sports Commission, Raul Gonzalez,

## Agassi looks to late season form

SYDNEY, Australia, Sept 30: As autumn falls on Andre Agassi's fifth season of professional tennis, the 21-year-old American is looking to Australia's southern hemisphere spring for a few morsels of consistency, reports AP.

The good news for 1991 is that he's earned nearly a half-million U.S. dollars, own two tournaments, and achieved his goal of "letting everyone get to know me a bit better."

Two victories last week — over Wimbledon champion Michael Stich and Carl-Uwe Steeb — to lead the United States over Germany in a Davis Cup semifinal also helped erase memories of what he considers a "horrible" season.

On the downside of his roller-coaster ride: still no Grand Slam title, despite reaching three finals, including this year's French Open.



Laila Noor Milu of BTMC, who lost her mantle of the best woman swimmer of the country in the 1991 nationals, stretches her arms in preparation for the 100m freestyle on the concluding day yesterday. Laila went on to set her third record of the meet in the event.

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Mahfuza Rahman of BTMC is all smiles after shattering the 100m backstroke record for girls in the 15-17 years group on the concluding day of the nationals at the Dhanmandi Women's Complex pool yesterday.



MITA RANI SHOME — The brilliant Rajbari girl displayed her tremendous versatility by adding yesterday 50m freestyle gold for girls between 13-14 years to her 200m individual medley record set the previous day and earlier triumphs in 100m freestyle and butterfly.