

# Bangladesh closer to title

**RAJSHAHI, May 9:** Hosts Bangladesh virtually annexed the title of the fifth Asian youth under-16 football group Three qualifying championship by registering a solitary goal victory over Pakistan at the local stadium this afternoon. The match was marred by poor supervision of the Shri Lankan referee Md Arif and cynically boisterous football by the Pakistani boys.

Bangladesh, for whom it was their third straight win of the tournament following their victories against the Maldives and Nepal, dominated most of the proceedings and with a little bit of sangfroid from their marksmen could have recorded victory by a bigger margin.

Pakistan, who have so far collected only one point, put up a much improved performance but failed to impress the spill-over crowd because of their penchant for physical football and the match was, in fact, held up for 18 minutes as the spectators resorted to brick-battling in protest of the naked aggression by the Pakistanis and the referee's reluctance to take notice of the flagrant violations of the rules on the field.

Abid Htru, the effervescent Bangladesh left-winger, drew the first blood in the sixth minute when his daisy cutter grazed past the post with Pakistani goalie Abu Bakr lying prostrate on the ground. Few minutes later Asif Khan, the Pakistani defender, pulled the chestnuts out of the fire when he cleared the ball near a scramble was caused near the goalmouth from a flag-kick. Mozammel's side-volley fell on to the lap of Abu Bakr in the 12th minute.

A foul by a Pakistani player was overlooked in the 20th minute of the match and the crowd started pelting stones to show their resentment, causing a ten-minute hold up in the proceedings. After the resumption, Arman sprinted down the right flank to float a cross across the Pak goalmouth but it went abegging as none of his team mates were there to tap home the ball.

A Correspondent

Pakistan carried out one of their rare raids in the 25th minute when Laiq Shah bulldozed his way into the Bangladesh territory but his fierce shot went wide off the mark as the nearly 20,000 strong crowd hissed a sigh of relief. Earlier Asgar Khan of Pakistan penetrated deep into the heart of the Bangladesh defence but goalkeeper Nasir rose to the occasion to avert the danger.

Paritosh, the Bangladeshi midfielder who along with teammates Biplab, Ruhul, Arman and Jahangir stood out among the others, cut in from the right to unleash a shot at the goal but Abu Bakr, the Pakistani goalie, once again made a brilliant save to keep his side in with a chance of snatching a point.

Minutes later it was the turn of the Bangladeshi custodian to prove his worth as he felled an Asgar Khan effort after Laiq Shah had done the spade work for the few and far between Pakistani raids.

Jahangir, the Bangladeshi medlo, perhaps fed up with the painful tackles of the opponents, attempted a pile driver from about 40 yards but Abu Bakr was in position to intercept the shot which could have split doom for his team.

In the 36th minute just a minute later, Bangladesh got a fine chance to go ahead but Htru badly bungled as a long throw by left-back Ruhul came straight to him. Nayan, however, mined the best chance of the day when failed to beat a lone Pakistani goalkeeper, much to the frustration of his teammates and the partisan crowd only a minute before the shot whistle.

Paritosh let fly a spectacular 40-yard shot, a la Jahangir early in the second half but Abu Bakr steered the ball out for a corner.

The match was interrupted for the second time as Khalid Khan of Pakistan punched Jahangir of Bangladesh midway through the second half but referee Arif failed to show the red card to the offender for this off-the-ball incident. Angry supporters threw missiles and only an impassioned plea by the Bangladesh coach and the players pacified them after the

members of the law enforcing agency had failed to tranquillise the agitated crowd.

Bangladesh survived a menacing counter-attack in the 35th minute when Aqil Ahmed raced down the middle to take a powerful shot which was saved at the cost of a corner by Nasir. The attack served as a shot in the arm for the Bangladeshi boys who went all out in the last five minutes of the match and the all-important goal came in the 74th minute.

Biplab Marma, the stopper-back of the Bangladesh team, clad in all-orange, set on a tearing run down the left and came up with a curling cross which found Jahangir in a perfect position and the versatile player made no mistake in tapping the ball home (1-0).

Bangladesh, clearly unwilling to live dangerously on the slender lead, devastated their opponents in green and white for the last five minutes or so but nothing tangible happened and the final victory made up for the missed chances and the poor refereeing and all that was unpleasant on the day.

Hassanuzzaman Bablu, the Bangladeshi coach, was very critical of the supervision and called for the appointment of more competent and strict referees. He also felt that the Bangladeshi players failed to show their normal skills because of the awesome physical aggression of the Pak players. The Pak coach, however, expressed happiness over the performance of his side.

**TEAMS**

**BANGLADESH:** Nasir, Emadul, Biplab Marma, Ujjal, Ruhul, Nayan (Alauddin), Arman, Paritosh, Jahangir, Mozammel (Munir) and Htru.

**PAKISTAN:** Abu Bakr, Khalid Khan, Khashif Naseer, Md Ayub, Obada Tariq, S Anjum, Asif Khan, Ijaz Ahmed, Asgar Khan (Golam Mustaf), Aqueel (Mateen) and Laiq Shah.

Referee: M Arif (Shri Lanka)

Linesmen: Yappa (Shri Lanka), Boonchart (Thailand)

**TODAY'S MATCH**

India vs Maldives (4-30 pm)

**Liverpool win FA Cup**

**Sports Reporter**

Liverpool won the English FA Cup yesterday, beating Second Division side Sunderland by two goals to nil at a packed Wembley final in London, according to BBC monitored in Dhaka last night.

Mike Thomas, the former Arsenal player whose goal had denied Liverpool the coveted trophy a few years ago, yesterday earned forgiveness of the Liverpool fans by scoring the Merseyside team's first goal from a Steve McManaman pass.

Liverpool's star striker Ian Rush scored the 38th FA Cup goal of his career when he made it 2-0 in the 67th minute off a Mike Thomas pass.

**India may bid for World Cup**

**KARACHI, May 9:** Officials of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) at their meeting on May 19 are likely to push for India to hold the 1996 cricket World Cup independently, the English-language daily The News reported here Friday, reports AFP.

BCCI president Madhav Rao Scindia had informed officials of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) of the prospect, it said.

Pakistan and India jointly hosted the 1987 World Cup in the sub-continent.

The ICC has yet to decide on the venue for the next World Cup.

**India beat Pakistan**

**CALCUTTA, May 9:** Hosts India beat Pakistan 2-0 in their opening match of the Group III Asia Cup football championship at the Salt Lake Stadium here today, reports AFP.

Lanky striker I M Vijayan scored in both halves for India in the three-nation championship to decide one qualifier for the final round of the 10th Asian football championship to be held in Hiroshima, Japan, later this year.

**Football coaching camp from May 12**

**Sports Reporter**

A month-long football coaching camp under the aegis of National Football Training Club will begin from May 12 at the Tejjano Textile Engineering College ground in the city, says a press release.

Interested booters under-18 have been asked to contact the coach Altaf on May 11 at 7 am at the ground or the club adjacent to the Govt Printing Press with sports-kit.

**Federation Cup basketball**

**Sports Reporter**

Gregs Club and Eagles Club won their respective matches of the Rahim Afrooz fifth Federation Cup basketball competition at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday, the second day of the nine-day meet.

Coming from behind, Eagles Club recorded an exciting 54-52 victory against Dhumketu Club in the keenly-contested second match of the day.

The winners trailed 23-32 at the breather.

Imon and Julian scored 15 and 12 points respectively for Eagles while Titas with 14 and Tipu with 10 were the principal scorers for Dhumketu.

In the one-sided first encounter of the afternoon, Gregs Club outplayed Stars Club of Golapganj, Sylhet by 94 points to 56.

The winners led 43-25 at half time.

Anup with 19 was the highest scorer for Gregs while Shahed Ali followed him with 15. Altaf and Azad scored 21 and 11 points respectively for Stars Club.

Organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation, ten teams including three outstation clubs are taking part in the tourney.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

Five Stars vs Altaf SS (4.30 pm)

Angels Club vs Eagles (6 pm)

**Costs rule out SA-Cameroon soccer series**

**YAOUNDE, May 9:** South Africa have cancelled a tour by Cameroon's national soccer team, which was to mark Pretoria's return to African competition, because of a dispute about costs, officials in Yaounde said Friday, reports AP.

Under an agreement signed with visiting South African sporting officials last week, the South Africans were to pay 50 million African francs (dfrs 180,000) in air fares for the team and its entourage, as well as hotel and meal costs.

**China in Thomas Cup semis**

**KUALA LUMPUR, May 9:** Zhao Jianhua and Wu Wenkai posted easy victories and Liu Jun needed an extra game to beat Richard Magnusson on Friday, leading defending champion China to a 5-0 victory over Sweden and virtually assuring itself of a semifinal berth at the Thomas Cup badminton championship, reports AP.

Zhao routed Jens Olsson, 15-6, 15-7 while Wu beat Patrik Andreasson 15-8, 15-10 to give China a 2-0 lead. Liu the outlasted Magnusson 15-3, 15-18, 15-13 to clinch the match.

In another match Friday, Nick Ponting and Dave Wright defeated Henrik Svarrer and Jan Paulsen in doubles 15-10, 12-15, 15-6 to clinch England's 3-2 victory over Denmark.

It was China's second win in the round-robin first-round with one match remaining.

Eight nations are participating in the world's premier men's badminton tournament with China, Indonesia, Sweden and Thailand in Group A. In Group B are Malaysia, Denmark, South Korea and England.

The group winners and runners-up qualify for the semifinals on May 12-13.

Punchacharam Gunalan, team manager for the 1-1 host Malaysian squad, said he will take full responsibility if his team fails to qualify for the semifinals.

"I am disappointed with the players but nobody plays to lose. I will take full responsibility because, as a team manager, I cannot pass the buck," he said.

Malaysia plays Denmark in their last Group B encounter on Sunday. Malaysia finished runners-up to China in 1988 and 1990.

England, keen to redeem themselves after being white-washed 5-0 by Malaysia on the opening day, shocked the Danes and the crowd when they won the first two matches through Darren Hall and the doubles pair of Nick Ponting and Dave Wright.

Hall easily beat Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen 15-12, 15-5 before Ponting and Wright scored a big upset over Henrik Svarrer and Jan Paulsen, the All-England doubles runners-up winning 15-10, 12-15, 15-6.

Denmark won the next two matches to level the tie at 2-2 but Smith, cheered on by Malaysian fans who wanted an English victory to help their own team, outlasted Espersen.

"We wanted to win very badly," said Hall. "We were upset by newspaper reports that England would be the whipping boys. We showed tonight we are not here just to make up the numbers."

Denmark's manager Peter Hansen said: "It is a bad result for us. We were let down by Poul-Erik and the first doubles pair who should have won."

The Danes' defeat threw Group B wide open. England now meet South Korea today while Denmark take on hosts Malaysia on Sunday to decide the semifinal berths.

**China's Zhao Jianhua takes a strike against Jens Olsson of Sweden at the Thomas Cup finals in Kuala Lumpur on May 8. He won 15-6, 15-7 in a men's first single.**

— AFP photo

**Army spikers stay national champs**

**Sports Reporter**

It was, to a certain degree, as they say, history repeating itself. Of course, time was different but the venue, the teams and the result were almost the same. Defending champions Bangladesh Army won yet another crown beating old rivals Bangladesh Navy 3-2 sets in the keen final of the BGIC 15th national men's volleyball championship at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday.

It was the second consecutive and fifth title overall for Army, a record in the national championship.

Bangladesh Army, who have national spikers like Sohrab, Afzal, Zakir and Jahangir, looked a fairly coordinated side in the beginning, a side with a mission. Both their short and high attacks were well manipulated against which the sailors appeared helpless in the first set.

But the navy spikers, after losing the first two sets, fought back valiantly to win the third and fourth sets, much to the dismay of the soldiers. But when the last hour came, Army did not fall behind and responded quite positively to win the deciding set, which for them was doubly satisfying.

Army won the first set without much fuss, the score reading 15-6. The winners experienced a more serious challenge in the next set, winning the deuce 16-14.

Navy, far from losing heart, gave heroic fight to come back into the game, beating their rivals 13-15 and 12-15 in the third and fourth sets, enthralling the big crowd.

Unfortunately though Navy failed to maintain the tempo in the final set and their players looked fatigued for the fitter and more experienced army men the slightest weakness in their opponents was enough and they won the decider 15-12 amidst the jubilation of their fans.

Army coach Harun-ur-Rashid, who has been training his men since 1985, was proud at the performance of his team.

"We were the best team in the tournament; we did not need any miracle to become the champions for the second time in a row" Harun said.

"Besides, Navy played well in the third and fourth sets," Harun conceded.

The army captain Nazrul Islam also echoed his coach's views.

"We knew what we were supposed to do," he said.

"Yes, I am delighted at our success but we didn't expect such a close fight," Nazrul added.

However, the army captain was critical about ASM Mofazzal Hossain, the match referee.

"He was not always fair," he regretted.

Navy coach Monirul Huq, who was also the coach of the national volleyball squad for the fifth South Asian Federation (SAF) games held in the Shri Lankan capital Colombo last December, praised the Army spikers.

"They are obviously the best team of the country."

"But the way we fought back was equally praiseworthy," he added.

The Navy coach missed the absence of star national spiker Yasad Ali.

"With him in the side the whole complexion of the game would have been different," the coach sighed.

Monirul Huq nevertheless praised his spikers, saying, "They have given me cent percent."

Navy captain Akramuzzaman also seemed happy with the result.

"We had nothing to lose. We always tried to make the final and we did."

Organised by the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation (BVF) ten teams took part in the championship that got under way on May 3.

Commerce Minister MK Anwar witnessed the final as chief guest and distributed the trophies.

BVF president Major General Mahbubur Rahman, psc, and M A Samad, Chairman of the Bangladesh General Insurance Co Ltd, the sponsors of the meet, attended as special guests.

**TEAMS**

Army: Zakir, Afzal, Suruj-jamal, Nazrul, Chitta, Enaz-uddin, Samsu, Sohrab, Noor Ahmed, Kabir, Jahangir and Elazul Islam.

Navy: Akram, Farhad, Alam, Shahidullah, Mullick, Biswas, Salam, Jane Alam, Nazmul, Halim, Mustafaiz and Amzad.

Referee: Mofazzal Hossain  
Umpire: Golam Mostafa

**DU cricket**

**Sports Reporter**

Star-studded Department of Finance registered a massive 123-run victory over the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket competition at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Batting first, Finance made 199 for the loss of four wickets in the 28 overs sent down by the harassed IBA bowlers.

Rawnakul Islam Tutul, who played for Bangladesh Public Works Department in the last Navana Premier Division league, topscored with 65 while the Gulshan Youth skipper Rupam made an unbeaten 33.

Roby with 30 and Brothers Union player Shovon with 29 were the other notable scorers for Finance.

Hasib and Asif took a wicket apiece for IBA.

IBA, in their turn, were bundled out for a paltry 76 in 17.1 overs.

Shahabuddin and Hasib made 18 and 14 respectively.

Tutul went one better with the leather taking three IBA wickets for only five runs.

Babu with three for 27 and Hero with two for 19 lent him able support.

**Rani maintains her lead**

**Sports Reporter**

In an important match of the day, FIDE Master and former champion Ziaur Rahman of Biman defeated another former champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman to retain his second position with nine points.

Tahmid, playing with black pieces, adopted a Dutch defence opening against an aggressive Zia who played with the white pieces and the former surrendered after 28 moves.

Reefat moved neck and neck with Zia as he got his ninth point beating Syed Iqbal Rakib of Metropolis.

Playing with white, Reefat adopted a French defence opening and defeated his opponents in 20 moves.

Jamilur Rahman of Ansars defeated Kalmullah Khan Kalam of Metropolis in their round to capture the third spot with eight and half points. Tahmid, who remains at eight after his loss to Zia, follows Jamil in the fourth slot.

In the other matches of the day Khandaker Kayes Hassan of Ansars beat MR Hafiz of Metropolis. Ansur Rahman got the better of Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu of BTMC and Niamul Huq Niru of Ansars outwitted Abdul Khaleq of Jamalpur.

At the end of the twelfth round, Rani Hamid stays ahead of the pack with nine and half followed by Zia and Reefat with nine, Jamil eight and half, Tahmid with eight, Kayes seven, Anis six and a half, Shiplu six, Niru and Nahid

**Narayanganj chess prize-giving**

**Sports Reporter**

The prize-giving ceremony of the second Comfort Socks chess tournament will be held on May 15 at 3 pm at the Baburail Cricket Club premises, Narayanganj.

International Woman Master and national women's champion Rani Hamid will attend the occasion as chief guest.

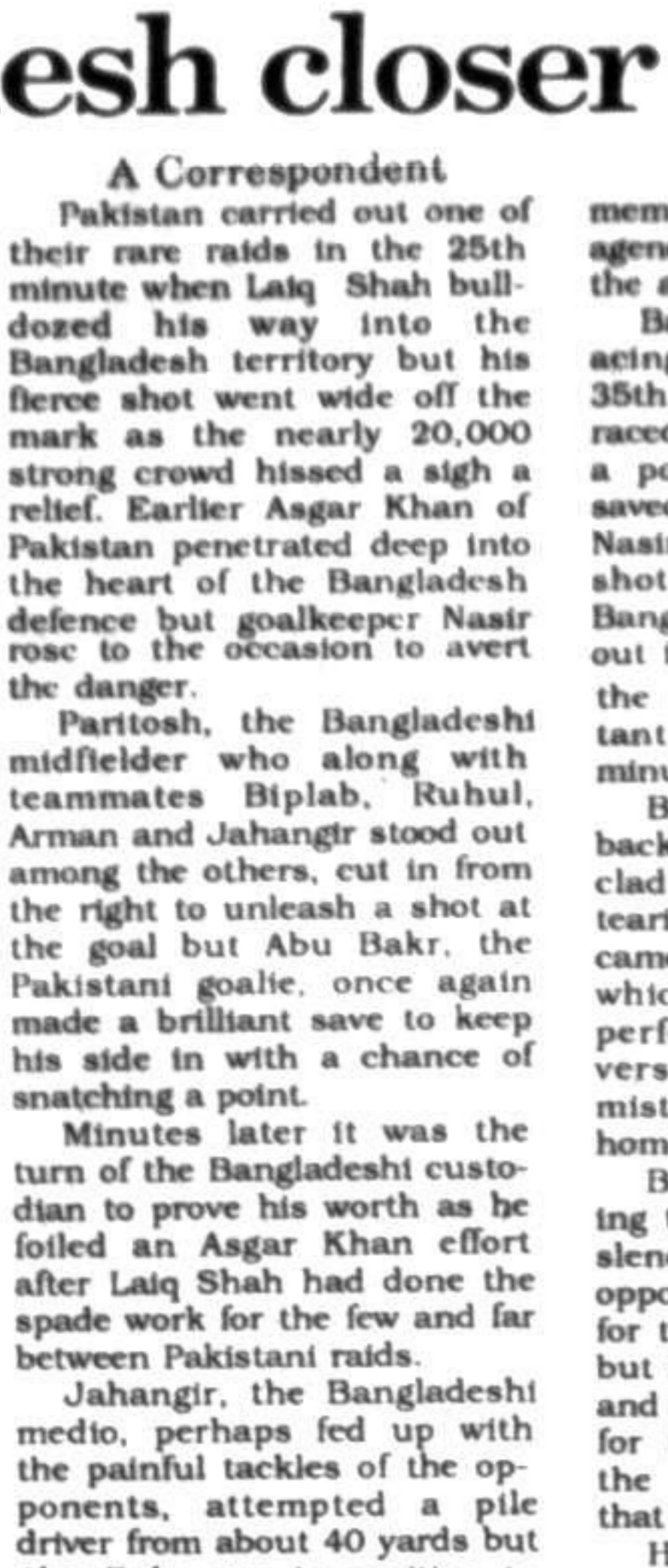
Organised by the Narayanganj Baburail Cricket Club, 54 players including a girl took part in the seven-round Swiss league competition held from February 7 to 13.

Anwar Hossain of Goalbandh Samaj Unnayan Sangsad with six and a half points and Syed Monirul Huq of Mohakhali Pradip Sangha with six points finished as unbeaten champion and runner-up respectively.

The prize-giving ceremony will be followed by a cultural show.

**Clash of the ex-champions: Ziaur Rahman yesterday beat his Biman team mate Syed Tahmidur Rahman(R) in the twelfth round of the 18th national championship at the NSC.**

—Star photo



Bangladesh Army team, winners of the 15th national volleyball championship. They beat B.Navy by 3-2 sets in yesterday's final at the Outer Stadium volleyball court.

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