

### Nat'l table tennis at semi stage

**Sports Reporter**  
Defending women's team champion Bangladesh Biman and title aspirants Bangladesh Ansars have made the semifinals of the 17th national table tennis championships.

Biman beat Jessore DSA while Ansars beat Patuakhali in their respective quarterfinal encounters.

Both the semifinalists produced straight set victories. Biman will play Narail while Ansars will take on Gaibandha in the two semifinals today at 10 am and 11:30 am respectively.

The final will be held today at 7 pm.

In the men's team event, reigning champions Biman and last year's runners-up Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation made the quarterfinals.

Both Biman and BTMC recorded straight set victories over Noakhali and Bogra respectively.

Earlier, Biman beat Satkhira and BTMC outplayed Panchagarh in the first round encounters.

Defending boys' team champions Bangladesh Ansars and fancied BTMC qualified for the quarterfinals by beating Barguna and Comilla DSAs respectively.

Apart from the women's team finals, boys' team and men's team semifinals will also be held today.

### Zia shares point with Reefat

**Sports Reporter**  
Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh Biman found his friend team-mate, and rival national champion Reefat-bin-Sattar hard to beat and finally settled for a draw in his seventh-round match of the first Foundation Open chess tournament at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

However, Zia still remained at the top of the points table with six and a half points.

Reefat now shares the second place with Khandaker Kayes Hassan and Kalam with six points.

Kayes and Kalam won their respective seventh-round matches yesterday.

### Ma-o-Moni results

**Sports Reporter**  
Satkhira and Natore DSAs registered easy victories in the eight-team final round of the Ma-o-Moni Gold Cup national under-14 soccer tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Satkhira outplayed Munshiganj by four goals to nil in the day's first match.

Sheikh Azadul Haq, Rafiqul Islam, Faruk Hossain and Md Humayun were the scorers.

Natore recorded an emphatic 3-0 victory over Feni in the other match of the day.

Organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation the final round began on Wednesday last.

### TODAY'S MATCHES

Tangail vs Gaibandha (6 pm: Dhaka Stadium)

Sylhet vs Jhenidah (7:30 pm: Dhaka Stadium)

### BSWA discusses country's sports

Speakers at a discussion meeting held in the city yesterday urged for pragmatic approach in developing sports in the country, reports UNB.

Organised by the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA), the discussion titled "Olympics and Bangladesh", was presided by the association president Abdul Towhid.

It was participated by the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) Bashir Ahmed, Dy Secretary General Zafar Imam, Member Abdul Hamid, athletics coach of the Bangladesh Olympic Squad Abdul Mannan and General Secretary of BSWA Mahmood Hossain Khan Dulal.

They listed a series of suggestions for upgrading sports in the country. Among the suggestions are selection of particular games and sportsmen for long term training, arrangement of round-the-year games, induction of sports in the school curricula and creation of a national feeling among the sportsmen by providing them with adequate facilities.

Participating in the meeting, members of the Bangladesh squad in the Barcelona Olympic Games explained their experiences and performances at the Games.

Earlier, in his speech, the BSWA President expressed dissatisfaction at the absence of the main speakers in the meeting. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain, Olympic Association President Gias Kamal Chowdhury, the NSC Secretary and Director Sports of the NSC were scheduled to address the meeting.

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Neela of Gaibandha DSA is about to make a forehand drive while her partner Iti looks on in the quarterfinals of the women's doubles of the 17th national TT championship at the NSC gymnasium yesterday. Gaibandha made it to the semi beating Rajshahi DSA in straight sets. — Star photo

## BCCB calls up 27

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) announced a 27-member preliminary squad for the forthcoming Asia Cup to be held in Pakistan in October next year.

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## Pakistan 253 for 6

SCARBOROUGH, England, Aug 27: Pakistan were 253 for six declared (Shoaib Mohammad 105 not out) at the close of play on the second day of their three-day cricket match against a World XI today, reports Reuter.

## Cowdrey's wish fulfilled

BANGALORE, India, Aug 27: Former England cricket player Sir Colin Cowdrey fulfilled a dream when he visited Bangalore and took time off for a nostalgic tour of the hospital where he was born almost 60 years ago, reports AFP.

"My 90-year-old mother will be delighted to see this one," he said after posing for a photograph at the gate of the Lady Curzon and Bowling Hospital.

Sir Colin also drove to St Mark's cathedral, took a look at his birth and baptism records, prayed briefly and amused onlookers with an imitation of a bawling baby.

The legendary former cricketer, who later left for Colombo, said he had always dreamed of revisiting the southern Indian city but never had the chance. He finally came here as a special invitee to the Board of Control for Cricket in India's working committee meeting.

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### Border confident of winning series

COLOMBO, Aug 27: Australian skipper Allan Border said Thursday he was confident of winning the Test series against Sri Lanka, reports AP.

"Sri Lanka will find it hard to make a comeback in the series having come perilously close to winning the first game," Border told reporters on the eve of the second cricket Test.

Australia won the first Test by 16 runs last Saturday, after losing a one-day international on Aug 15. The tour consist of three Test matches and three one-day internationals in addition to two three-day games.

Australia have a poor record on the Indian subcontinent and their victory over a fledgling Sri Lanka team at Kandy in 1983 remains their only Test victory in India, Pakistan or Sri Lanka prior to this series, since Bill Lawry's 1969 team beat India 3-1.

According to Border, all-rounder Tony Dodemaide will replace the injured leg-spinner Shane Warne, the only change for the second Test. Warne nursed an inflamed arch on his right foot during the three-day, tourist game in Matara and was rested during the tourists' net session on Thursday.

Dodemaide bowled impressively against Southern Districts XI in Matara making a strong Test claim picking up five wickets.

Meanwhile the Sri Lankan selectors named uncapped off spinner Muttiah Muralidharan and recalled veteran leg spinner Asoka de Silva in the 15-member squad announced for the second Test.

Dropped from the first Test squad are batsman Marvan Atapattu and off spinner Ranjith Madurasinghe.

## Jayasuriya replaces Atapattu

COLOMBO, Aug 27: Sri Lanka have recalled Sanath Jayasuriya to their squad in an effort to bolster the batting for the second cricket Test against Australia starting tomorrow, reports Reuter.

Sri Lanka controlled most of the first Test but lost a gripping match by just 16 runs when their batting crumbled in the final session.

Jayasuriya, who replaces Marvan Atapattu, was Sri Lanka's most successful batsman in their last series in Pakistan, averaging 79.33 against the world's best pace attack.

He is named in a 15-man squad which includes Pramodya Wickremasinghe although the fast bowler will be lucky to play.

## Crowe to sign 5-yr contract

WELLINGTON, Aug 27: New Zealand cricket captain Martin Crowe is to sign next week a 300,000 New Zealand dollar (161,520 US) five-year contract with New Zealand Cricket, the Evening Post reported here today, reports AFP.

The deal marks a major turnaround for Crowe.

After an appalling Test series against England, on selector asked the player to quit at the beginning of the year.

India undecided on jt. W Cup bid

BANGALORE, India, Aug 27: The Indian Cricket Board on Wednesday said it had yet to decide whether to make a joint bid with Pakistan to stage the next World Cup, reports Reuter.

Chandappa Nagaraj, the Board's secretary, said a committee had been set up to consider various aspects involved in bidding for the tournament.

India and Pakistan jointly hosted the World Cup in 1987 — the first time it had been staged outside England.

## Pakistanis infuriated by charge

LONDON, Aug 27: Pakistanis reacted angrily Thursday to English accusations of ball tampering, accusing the British media of prejudice and indicating they may take legal action over the claims, reports AP.

England batsman Allan Lamb, who made the latest allegations Wednesday in London's Daily Mirror newspaper, was awaiting disciplinary action Thursday from English cricket's governing Test and County Cricket Board. He may never play for England again.

The International Cricket Council, the sport's world governing body, was expected to issue a statement on the controversy late Thursday after maintaining a strict but damaging silence for almost a week.

Lamb accused Pakistan pace bowlers Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis of doctoring the ball during the fourth one-day match at the Lord's ground in London last Sunday. Pakistan won the game but lost the one-day series 4-1.

Similar allegations were made against Akram and Waqar after Pakistan victories during the Test series, won by Pakistan 2-1.

In Karachi, Pakistan's victorious World Cup captain Imran Khan dismissed the charges as absurd, and said the only way to silence the British press was to lose.

In London, Akram and Waqar issued a statement through their lawyers, warning the "damage which has been caused to us by these articles is an extremely serious matter."

"We are taking details, legal advice and our rights to sue for damages are fully reserved," the statement said. "We categorically deny that we have ever cheated or tampered illegally with any match ball in any game during our careers."

The statement said that at no time during their international, domestic or English county careers, had "any umpire, official or administrator had cause to allege we have done anything illegal."

"These people are specifically given a job of making sure that the rules are obeyed and they have never accused us of doing anything wrong," the bowlers' statement said. "It is significant that these allegations are only now being made after we have beaten England in a Test series. When we have been on the losing side in county or Test cricket nothing has been said."

"It is very convenient to blame the failure of the English players' batting techniques on us. The simple truth is that we have both bowled extremely professionally throughout the last series against England."