

Sport

**BSF beat Abahani 3-0 in final**

**NOWGONG, Sept 7:** Indian Border Security Force, Julundhri, lifted the Independence Day Cup football trophy thrashing Abahani Krira Chakra of Bangladesh 3-0 at the Nurul Amin Stadium here today, reports PFI.

BSF led by a brace at half time. It was a vastly improved display by BSF who completely dominated the match while the Bangladesh players were sluggish on the field.

Striker Darbara Singh for BSF scored two goals, while the third was netted by Avtar Singh.

Abahani got a walkover in the semi-final play-off against Nagaland Police when the latter refused to play on Sunday. The semi-final match between them had ended in a goalless draw on Saturday last.

Abahani will now proceed to Guahati, Assam, today (Tuesday) to participate in the Lokapriya Bordoloi Memorial tournament.

**Hockey squad off to KL**

**Sports Reporter**  
A 19-member Bangladesh national junior hockey team left for Kuala Lumpur yesterday to participate in the Junior Asia Cup hockey championship, to be held in the Malaysian capital September 11-23.

Twelve teams, in two groups, will take part in the competition.

Bangladesh is placed in Group B along with India, South Korea, Sri Lanka, China, and Singapore, while Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Oman, and Macao comprise Group A.

Bangladesh will play their first group league fixture against China on September 11, the opening day of the meet. They will take on South Korea on September 13, Sri Lanka Sept 15, Singapore Sept 17 and India on Sept 18.

The Bangladesh squad is: Manager-Ibrahim Suber; Assistant Manager-M Monwar Hossain; Coach-Ehesham Sultan; Players: Rahmat Ali Astr (Captain), Jahangir Alam, Rabiuddin Ahmed, Khwaja Irteza Quader Guddu, Mamunur Rashid, Zahur Islam Mitul, Khurshid Alam, Mahfuzul Alam Nixon, Kazi Abu Zafar Tapan, Mahboob Haroon, Haider Alam, Mohammed Saadek, Alamgir Alam, Abdur Rashid, Akhter Hossain and Zahid Biswas.

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) chief Alamgir Mohammed Adel also left for Kuala Lumpur yesterday. He's been made an assistant technical delegate of the tournament. Mirza Farid Ahmed and Mir Monwar Ali have also accompanied the team as umpire and judge respectively.

Bangladesh reached the semi-finals of the inaugural Junior Asia Cup held in New Delhi in 1988 and finished fourth after a 1-2 defeat to South Korea.

**Reefat, Pallab suffer reversals in Asian chess**

**Sports Reporter**  
The fifth has so far been the cruelest round for Bangladesh in the Asian Junior chess championship now being held in Doha, Qatar.

Two Bangladeshis, national champion Reefat-bin-Sattar and Shawkat Hossain Pallab, the junior national champion, suffered defeats on Sunday. Reefat lost to his Mongolian opponent in the under-20 category while Shawkat Hossain Pallab, who is taking part in the under-16 category, lost to Abu Bakar Nuruddin of Indonesia, also in the fifth round.

Pallab has so far collected two points after having played five matches. Amanatov of Kazakhstan is leading the points table with four and half points from five matches. Pallab was playing Abdullah Abdul Rahman of the United Arab Emirates in the sixth round when reports last came in.

The defeat forced Reefat to stay put at three points, his tally at the end of the fifth round.

V Katchev of Kazakhstan was in the leading position with four and half points.

The sixth round match between Reefat and Kau Sang of Vietnam was in progress, according to the faxed message received here in Dhaka.

**DIV II LEAGUE**

Meanwhile, in the Second Division chess league, Narayan-ganj Chess Club retained their lead with eighteen and half points.

In the sixth round they were enjoying a two-nil lead against Kamalapur Samajkalyan Gangatha till the writing of this report.

Champion defeated Arbachin by 2.5-1.5 while Banianpur outplayed Mohammadpur College 3.5-5.

Anirban Sangha had a comfortable 3-1 victory against Anirban Samaj Unnayan while Choukash Disposed of Chaitali Club by an identical margin.

**Bahrain blank Bangladesh 6-2**

**Sports Reporter**  
Bangladesh lost to Bahrain 2-6 in their second group match of the fifth Asian youth under-16 football tournament, now being held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Sunday night, according to a faxed message sent by the team leader Shah Abul Kasem, a joint secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation, yesterday.

With this victory, Bahrain jointly led the Group A points table along with DPR Korea.

Both teams have collected three points from two matches each.

Hosts Saudi Arabia, who drew with Korea on Sunday following their earlier drawn affair against Bahrain on the inaugural day, now have two points.

The UAE and China, who won their matches against Qatar and Thailand on September 5, were jointly leading the Group B table till the filing of this report late last night.

Thailand were to meet UAE and China were to play Qatar last night.

Although Bahrain enjoyed absolute supremacy over Bangladesh in the match, the Bangladesh boys tried hard to come back into the game. At one stage, both teams were level 2-2.

Bahrain shot into the lead in the 22nd minute (0-1). A couple of minutes later Hiru drew level for Bangladesh (1-1).

Bangladesh were deprived of two sure goals when their forwards failed to find the end towards the end of the first session.

Bahrain once again went ahead in the fourth minute of the second half (1-2).

Defender Biplab Marma was sent off in the 10th minute of the second session when he intercepted the ball with his hands inside the box. However, Bahrain failed to score from the ensuing penalty.

The Bangladesh boys pulled up their socks and restored parity in the 20th minute when Nayan scored from close (2-2).

But Bahrain got their third goal in the 25th minute (2-3).

Bangladesh soon ran out of gas and Bahrain scored their fourth, fifth and sixth goals in the last ten minutes of play.

One of these three goals came from a penalty.

Bangladesh will play hosts Saudi Arabia in their last group match today.

Meanwhile, Shah Abul Kasem reportedly had "satisfactory talks" with the representatives Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait regarding the President Cup football tournament, scheduled to be held in Dhaka next January.

The representatives reportedly showed interest to participate in the meet.

Two lakh taka has been earmarked for the holding of the meet. The sponsor Bata Shoe Co Bangladesh Ltd will provide seventy-five thousand taka. In addition, Bata will bear the expenditure for decoration and medals.

Except for the athletes of the services teams, each competitor will receive actual travel expenses and a per diem of Tk 50.

The male athletes will put up at the National Sports Council rest house while the women will be staying at the Dhanmudi Women's Complex. One hundred and twenty judges will be paid Tk 100 daily.

Eight events — five in the morning and three in the afternoon session — will be finalised on the opening day today.

The men's 1500 m run, women's long jump, women's shot put, women's 800 m run, and the hammer throw will be finalised in the morning session.

The afternoon session will see the finals of men's 110 m hurdles, shot put and 10,000 m run.

Heads of the Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Air Force, BJMC, Bangladesh Ansars, Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), Dhaka Division, Bangladesh Customs and Rajshahi Division.

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But Papin, a close season signing from Marseille, looked out of sorts and was replaced by Massaro.

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They had captain Giuseppe Bergomi sent off early in the second half for a professional foul and went a goal behind when Argentine striker Abel Balbo netted in the 69th minute.

Former Italy striker Salvatore Schillaci slotted home his first goal for Inter with a penalty in the 76th minute but veteran Udinese defender Renzo Contratto scored the winner just four minutes from time.

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**Summer athletics from today**

**Sports Reporter**  
The three-day inaugural Power summer athletic meet under the aegis of the Bangladesh Amateur Athletic Federation (BAAF) begins this morning at the Army Stadium, Barani.

Minister for Communications Col (Retd) Dli Ahmed will formally inaugurate the meet as chief guest.

Former fastest man and woman of the country — Sadur Rahman Don and Mahmuda Begum respectively — will ignite the Olympic torch at 9:00 am.

Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh Army and Lovely Begum of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) will take the oath on behalf of the participants.

Two hundred athletes representing nine teams will take part in 34 disciplines — 22 for men and 12 for the women.

The teams are: Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Air Force, BJMC, Bangladesh Ansars, Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), Dhaka Division, Bangladesh Customs and Rajshahi Division.

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Svelte Gabriela Sabatini in action against Belgium's Sabine Appelmans. The Argentine star won the fourth round match of the US open at National Tennis Centre, New York on Sunday. — Star TV photo

**Sabatini is better than ever**

**NEW YORK, Sept 7:** Over and over, Gabriela Sabatini says she's a better tennis player today than she was two years ago when she won the US Open. And she was pretty good then, reports AP.

It's almost as if she's trying to convince herself. "I have improved very much," she said. "Especially mentally. I am more mature on the court. That makes a difference."

Self-confidence has never been a problem for Sabatini, who advanced to the quarterfinals of the Open on Sunday with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Sabine Appelmans.

With four tournament championships this year — accomplished with final-round victories over Martina Navratilova in Tokyo, Conchita Martinez at Hilton Head, Steffi Graf at Amelia Island and Monica Seles in the Italian Open — there was no reason for her to doubt herself.

Still, Sabatini said, she was worried before this tournament. "I did not play too many tournaments before coming into the Open," she said. "I only played one (after Wimbledon). It was in San Diego and I lost in the second round, so I didn't get to play too many matches. I was playing good tennis. I wasn't worried about that. But mentally, I wasn't sure about that."

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serve in and make sure that it was," she said. "Just try to put it in."

She was successful in that department, making 93 per cent of her first serves compared to 63 per cent for Appelmans. She also won 59 per cent of her first serve points.

Still, though, Sabatini did not rush the net as much as she once did. When she got there, it was profitable. She won points on 19 of her 24 approaches.

"In the second set, I started to come to the net a little bit more," she said. In the second thought she had problems making passing shots. "Probably, I am going to have to do that a little bit more in the next matches."

"I am playing very good tennis. I am hitting the ball very well and mentally I feel very good. It is good that I had some tough matches, especially the one before this one. I am ready to have big matches."

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