

## Bangladesh turn tables on India

**Hockey**

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh celebrated winning its first-ever international tournament after the Under-21 team pulled off a thrilling 4-2 victory in the tie-breaker against India in the Challenge Cup hockey final at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Hero of the piece was young BKSP goalkeeper Zahid Hossain who held his nerve in the lottery after both sides finished goalless in 90 minutes of absorbing hockey.

The inspired performance by the Bangladesh keeper helped to avenge the hosts' 3-1 loss in their final preliminary game on Wednesday.

In front of a good holiday crowd Zahid, the old-town lad, produced a string of amazing chances in the contest. His best moment being the penalty-stroke save off Jagdeep Kumar seconds before the final whistle in extra time.

The busy 20-year-old dived smartly to his right to deny the Indian stick-wielder.

Zahid set the tone in the nerve-wrecking five-hit drama blocking the first hit of Mayur Subbaia, which was

followed by a Rupinder Singh wide shot. The energetic Bangladeshi keeper later saved the last hit from Jagdeep to script a maiden success for the country's hockey, which has been going through the doldrums recently.

Earlier, the Bangladesh U-16 side finished runners-up in Singapore in 2003 and on home soil earlier this year.

Mostafizur Rahman Dinar, Mamunur Rahman, Russel Mahmud and Jimmy converted from the spot after captain Zahidul Islam Rajan was thwarted by Indian custodian Suraj Kanta.

Though Bangladesh coach Qamar Ibrahim was delighted on his first success, the former Pakistani international admitted, was not getting carried away by the achievement in a five-nation tournament that also featured substandard teams like Afghanistan.

"Yes, I'm happy with the success but we still need to do a lot of work to improve the game's standard. I think more organising better tournaments and tours abroad will help Bangladesh raise its profile in the region," said Qamar, who took charge a month ago.

He however expressed his satisfaction over his charges' performance.

"I used a different strategy this time against the Indians and the boys responded brilliantly. Victory today was the result of teamwork and goalkeeper Zahid who stood out," he added.

Indian coach Mukesh blamed Bangladesh's excessive defensive tactics in the final that was shifted from Thursday to Friday after heavy rains waterlogged the turf.

"Asian teams like to play an attacking style but today Bangladesh was totally defensive. Besides, playing the game in the morning affected my boys," said Mukesh, who questioned some umpiring decisions.

Perhaps the most relived person was none other than Shamsul Bari, who came in for criticism from different quarters over arranging low-grade meet that in the long run will not help promote the domestic game.

"I think beating India at any level always a good achievement," said the long-serving Bangladesh Hockey Federation general secretary gloating on the glory.



THE HOCKEY HERO: Bangladesh goalkeeper Zahid Hossain, the star of the home side's victory, enjoys a ride on his teammates' shoulders after the final of the Challenge Cup under-21 invitational hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

## Gazi Tank get Aftab

SPORTS REPORTER

Talented national batsman Aftab Ahmed signed for Gazi Tank yesterday to play in the Twentys Corporate Cricket League that begins from October 15.

This is going to be Aftab's first season in the event after he skipped the first version last year while his Chittagong mate Nafees Iqbal joined newly-included side Epyllion Group on the second day of the players' registration.

Nafees last year played for runners-up Bashundhara Group, who decided not to take part in the meet this time around protesting the new 20-overs-a-side format.

A total of 72 players came to register their names on the day with most of them just renewing the old contracts with their respective houses.

## Mini school volleyball

UNB, Dhaka

Sunnydale registered a straight 2-0 victory over IFD School in the opening match of the Sunnydale mini school volleyball tournament at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium yesterday.

In the day's other match, Muktijodha School recorded a 2-1 win over Islami Bidyalaya at the same venue.

## Court bars BCCI from operating

AFP, Madras

An Indian court has named an administrator to the national cricket board after barring its newly-elected office bearers from taking charge of the multi-million-dollar sports body.

The court Friday named a retired judge to head the cash-flush Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after accepting an appeal of a private club to put on ice the results of last month's widely controversial elections.

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## ERRATA

In our yesterday's lead story on the national swimming championships, the heading should have been 'Sparkling Jewel sets new SAF mark' and not 'Sparkling ...'. Also in 'What to watch' it was written that Ten Sports would telecast the Brazil-Venezuela World Cup qualifier on Saturday at 6.45 am. In fact it should be on Sunday at the same time. We regret the errors.

-Sports Editor

## What to WATCH

### DD Sports

India vs Australia  
First Test, Day Four  
Live at 10:00 am

### STAR Sports

2006 WC Football Qualifier  
England vs Wales  
Preview

Live at 7:00 pm

Match

Live at 8:00 pm

### TEN Sports

Triangular Cricket Series  
Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe



## Michael Clarke

(Australian batsman)  
"It was a dream come true. It was a great day for Australia and me personally."  
After scoring century against India in the first Test.

## More marks as c'ships end

**Swimming**

SPORTS REPORTER

The 20th National Swimming Championships ended with yet another bang as five more new national records stumbled on the fourth and final day at the Bangladesh Army Swimming Complex yesterday.

These feats saw an overall 22 national records rewritten during the course of the meet totalling 41 events.

However, Bangladesh Navy's

Jewel Ahmed was the real hero in this competition after his SAF Games record-breaking feat in the 50-metre butterfly on Thursday.

Jewel along with SAF Games gold medalist Rubel Rana emerged as the best individual performers in men's group by clinching four gold medals each. And together they helped Bangladesh Navy secure the top spot with 17 gold medals. The sailors also grabbed 6 silver and 5 bronze medals.

While Navy ruled the pool in the men's section, it was BJMC whose swimmers were the stars in the women's division. Their two natants -- Sabura Khatun and Dolly Akhter --

themselves seized 11 golds out of the team's total of 12 which placed them in second place. BJMC also claimed 6 silvers and as many bronzes.

Sabura, who returned to the national circuit after a troubled last year, was the most successful swimmer in the competition winning eight gold medals. She was well supported by teammate Dolly, who secured three golds.

Back to the day's action, Sabura broke the first record in the 100m backstroke when she clocked 1 minute 20.70 seconds to better the previous mark of 1 minute 21.97

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PHOTO: STAR

GOLDEN GIRLS: (L-R) Sabura Khatun, Laboni Akhtar and Dolly Akhtar, all of whom had rich medal hauls in the National Swimming Championships, are seen in the Bangladesh Army Swimming Complex pool on the concluding day of the meet yesterday.

## Zim aim to bounce back

**Cricket**

AFP, Rawalpindi

Zimbabwe captain Tatenda Taibu was hoping his makeshift side would draw inspiration from a strong recent showing against Sri Lanka when they take on the Asian champions here on Saturday.

Zimbabwe, looking to bounce back after two defeats to Pakistan in the ongoing tri-series, would take heart from their performance against Sri Lanka at the ICC Champions Trophy in England last month, he said.

"We must improve on our perfor-

mance from the last match against Sri Lanka when we came close to upsetting them, and the fact that we are fighting to stay in this tri-series may help us lift our game," said Taibu.

Zimbabwe gave Sri Lanka a scare in the ICC (International Cricket Council) Champions Trophy when, after scoring 191, Taibu's men restricted Sri Lanka to 195-6 to lose by four wickets.

"That last match can be a motivation that we can do well against Sri Lanka," said Taibu, who at 20 became international cricket's youngest captain in April following a strike by 15 white players.

The strike weakened the

Zimbabwe team and since then they have lost 12 matches, including a 144-run drubbing and three-wicket loss against Pakistan in this tournament.

Sri Lanka lost their first match on Wednesday by eight wickets to hosts Pakistan, who have already qualified for October 16 final in Lahore, and captain Marvan Atapattu said his side would not be taking Zimbabwe lightly.

"We were the first to play a new-look Zimbabwe in April this year and since then they have improved, showed what they are capable of doing, so we must not take them lightly," said Atapattu, who saw his

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## JFA Cup football Four move into final round

UNB, Dhaka

Hosts Feni, Meherpur, Barguna and outstation team Narsingdi emerged zonal champions to move into the eight-team final round of the JFA Cup Under-16 Football tournament beating their rivals in the respective zonal finals yesterday.

At Feni Stadium, a hat-trick by Ronny enabled Feni to beat Chittagong 3-1.

Imtiaz Sultan netted the consolation goal for the losers. Meherpur managed a 1-0 victory over Jessore Education Board with Liton scoring the all-important goal at Meherpur Stadium while Barguna also recorded a solitary goal victory over Khulna with Shakil scoring the match-winner at Barguna Stadium.

Although three host teams reached the final round of the meet but Laxmipur who were beaten 2-1 by Narsingdi at the Laxmipur Stadium.

Rabul and Arif scored for the winners while Palash netted for the losers.

## Abahani out of King's Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani failed to reach the King's Cup final as the Dhaka giants lost to Tago of Thailand 3-0 in the semi-final match yesterday in Bhutan.

The Dhanmondi-based club went down 2-0 in the first half as striker Saiful Islam Khokon spoiled few good chances, according to a message received here yesterday.

The popular Sky Blues confirmed their semifinal berth beating a university team of South Korea 4-1 and Indian Army 3-0 while they conceded 1-2 defeat against Nepal national team in the last group match.

The team is scheduled to return home on Monday.

## Akram keen on coaching

CRICINFO, undated

Wasim Akram has said that he is keen to get into coaching -- but probably not in Pakistan.

"There are too many failings in cricket systems in the subcontinent," he told the PPI news agency. "We cricketers feel more comfortable with foreign coaches. We feel they don't have any personal agendas against us and will be neutral. We feel we can trust them. That's what I felt as a cricketer."

Anyway, he said, the Pakistan Cricket Board has not approached him. "Coaching is a very organised thing, and I am not. I do commentary and leave; that's better. But I would like to help children, under-16 and under-17."

"In Pakistan," he added, "if you have to become a cricketer you have to be a politician first."

## Aussies dictate terms

AFP, Bangalore



AUSTRALIA INDIA 2004-05

AFP, Bangalore

Hosts India braced themselves for a harrowing chase on a wea-ring wicket in the first Test after Australia declined to enforce the follow-on here on Friday.

The tourists, leading India by 228 runs on the first innings, ended the third day's play at 127-4 in their second knock, an overall lead of 355 with six wickets in hand.

Australia, looking for their first series win on Indian soil since 1969, hope to tighten the noose around India over the remaining two days to win and take a 1-0 lead in the four-match rubber.

Earlier, India, replying to Australia's first innings score of 474, recovered from a precarious 136-6 on the second day to post 246.

Australian captain Adam Gilchrist, however, opted to bat a second time to ensure the nightmare of the Kolkata Test on their previous visit in 2001 was not repeated.

On that occasion, India conjured up a stunning victory after being made to follow-on 274 runs behind by the then Australian captain Steve Waugh.

"Follow-on was not in my vocabulary over here," said Gilchrist, deputising for the injured captain Ricky Ponting for the first two Tests.

"With due respect to Steve Waugh, we are all wiser by the experience."

"It was a lesson learned, particularly in regard to the conditions and the unique place that the sub-continent is."

"The team has been in this position before and I've been in this position before and we've seen some amazing turnarounds before."

Indian captain Sourav Ganguly was unfazed by the challenge

ahead. "The wicket is not as bad as everyone expected," he said. "It is going to be a tough ask, but if we can get them out quickly tomorrow and then bat well, anything can happen."

The tourists lost an early wicket in their second innings when Justin Langer was trapped leg-before by Irfan Pathan with the fourth delivery.

Harbhajan Singh ran out Matthew Hayden for 30 with a direct throw from point and Simon Katich was caught in the slips off Anil Kumble to make Australia 86-3.

Harbhajan also removed Darren Lehmann before Damien Martyn and first-innings centurion Michael Clarke played out the rest of the day.

India prospered through their tailenders, led by young wicket-keeper Parthiv Patel, to put on 110 valuable runs for the last four wickets.

The 19-year-old Patel, who came to the crease on Thursday with India struggling at 124-5, defied the world

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## Pakistan clinch series Record-breaking Abbas

**Hockey**

AFP, Amritsar

Penalty-corner specialist Sohail Abbas became the highest international goal-scorer in field hockey history on Friday as Pakistan beat India 2-1 to clinch the eight-match series.

Abbas, who was tied with Dutch legend Paul Litjens on 267 goals before the match, converted Pakistan's first penalty corner in the 10th minute to set the new mark as Pakistan took a decisive 4-1 lead in the seventh game.

His rasping strike hit a defender's stick and seemed to go over the post but the umpires awarded a goal after an appeal from the Pakistan players, who showed them a hole in the goal netting.

Rehan Butt was the other marksman for Pakistan while Arjun Halappa converted a penalty stroke for India to reduce the margin.

"It is a very proud moment for our team as well as his friends and relatives back home," captain Waseem Ahmed said after Abbas took his tally to 268.

"He has served Pakistan very well over the years." Pakistan increased the lead in the 50th minute when an unmarked Butt came up with a superb reverse-flick from the top of the circle.

The forward, who takes the push during penalty-corners, had come close to scoring a little earlier when he hit the post in an indirect variation of a penalty-corner.

For the home side, Halappa, who converted a 'stroke' in the 53rd minute, played well up front to



PHOTO: AFP

WELL DONE: Pakistan hockey player Sohail Abbas © is being congratulated by his teammates after he scored the world-record breaking goal during the seventh game against India in a friendship series in Amritsar yesterday.

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