

# Five-A-Side

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WORLD Cup 2006 in Germany is coming close to its conclusion and the world watches in intense anticipation as the team of their liking inch closer to glory, or to their eminent elimination. During this action packed month, a 5-a-side indoor soccer tournament was recently held at International School Dhaka (ISD), Baridhara, sponsored by BRAC Bank. Termed as the first of its kind, this 5-A Side BRAC Bank Cup Football Tournament kicked off on June 16 and lasted for a week. The 32 participants of the tournament were all people from the corporate world, all eager and edgy to display their soccer skills on ISD's indoor pitch. Indoor soccer or Futsal, as it is so passionately called, is mostly about ball control, fast thinking, shielding and shooting like no other game of soccer. That was supposed to be the prime attraction of the lovely game but I suppose most of the participants were more interested to flush out their irritation, anger and frustrations on the soccer ball from their humdrum work life.

Futsal is an international form of indoor soccer, played under the banner of FIFA throughout the world. This sort of tournament is normally played on a wooden basketball court, although it can be played on a variety of surfaces. I suppose anyone would



The organisers and the sponsors giving speech on the closing day.



choose wood over a concrete surface when it comes to playing soccer; wood is so much more agreeable with the skin when they make contact after a person has been tackled. The scratches and heel-marks on the basketball court's wooden floor is a mute testimony of numerous such tackles. The interesting thing about indoor soccer is the ball, a special, heavy, low-bounce ball, necessitating players to use their skills, rather than the ball's bounce, to play it. The BRAC Bank Cup Football Tournament's pitch and accessories were no different and each game was to last for 20 minutes. The competition had two phases, the first of which was a league stage with four teams in eight groups. The top two teams would move on to the main plate and the bottom teams would move on to the losers plate. The next round would all be the knockout stages, each team getting eliminated after losing their respective matches, until there were only two teams left for the finals on their respective plates. Another rule for this tournament was that no team