

**U-17 cricket**

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-17 thrived on two half centuries from Zahed Zayed and Musaddek Hossain to secure a 28-run victory in the one-day match against visiting CAB Under-17 at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Zahed hit 55 and Musaddek added 50 as Bangladesh Under-17 posted 239 all out in 50 overs.

In reply, CAB Under-17 were restricted to 211 for five in their share of 50 overs.

Sreyansh Ghosh was the top scorer with an unbeaten 61.

Salehin took two wickets for 38 runs.

**Inter-private university football**

SPORTS REPORTER

United International University (UIU) reached the semifinals of the Mentors' Inter-Private University Football Tournament beating East West University 2-0 at the Bir Shreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Shafiqul scored the opening goal for the winners in the 14th minute before Bakkar netted the second four minutes later.

In the other match of the day, BRAC University rode on a hat-trick from Maruf to beat London College of Legal Studies 3-1.

International University of Business Agriculture & Technology (IUBAT) and Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) had already confirmed their semifinal berths on Sunday.

**Nat'l b'ball**

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army reached the final of the Citycell 24th National Basketball Championship with a thumping 125-51 point victory over Khulna DSA in the first semifinal at the Dhanmondi Basketball Stadium yesterday.

Army lead the first half by 49-23 points. Rafiq scored highest 27 points while Mithun netted 23 points for the winners.

The other semifinal between Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Rifles was in progress when this report was filed.

**Div I cricket**

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, Young Pegasus and Azad Sporting Club won their respective matches of the First Division Cricket League yesterday. Sheikh Jamal (77/6) beat Agrani Bank (76/10) by 4 wickets at the Dhaka University Ground. Salahuddin Ahmed was the architect of Sheikh Jamal victory as he took 4 wickets for 25 runs.

At BKSP, Azad Sporting (206/10) rode on a 105-run knock from Jahangir Alam to beat Uttara Sporting Club (171/10) by 35 runs.

Young Pegasus (277/7) defeated Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Samity (235/10) by 42 runs at the City Club Ground.

**Bhaji hits**

FROM PAGE 17

Harbhajan and Laxman denied a depleted New Zealand attack any success in the morning session after Martin ripped through the Indian top-order Sunday with his ninth five-wicket haul in Tests.

Laxman, whose unbeaten 73 helped India defeat Australia in the Mohali Test last month, swept off-spinner Jeetan Patel for a four to complete his 47th half-century.

The Kiwis, laid low by injuries to pacemen Hamish Bennett and Jesse Ryder, had made 459 in their first knock in reply to India's 487.

The second Test will be played in Hyderabad from November 12-16 and the third in Nagpur from November 20-24.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**INDIA:** First innings 487 (Gambhir 21, Sehwaq 173, Dravid 104, Tendulkar 40, Laxman 40, Harbhajan 69; Vettori 4-118, Patel 3-135)  
**NEW ZEALAND:** 459 (McCullum 65, Taylor 56, Ryder 103, Williamson 131, Vettori 41, Hopkins 14, Patel 14; Zaheer 2-70, Sreesanth 2-88, Ojha 4-107)

**INDIA:** Second innings 266 (Tendulkar 12, Laxman 91, Dhoni 22, Harbhajan 115; Martin 5-63, Vettori 2-81, Taylor 2-4)  
**NEW ZEALAND:** Second innings 22 for 1 (McCullum 11 not out; Zaheer 1-7)  
**Result:** Match drawn.

**Man-of-the-match:** Harbhajan Singh.



Italian Fed Cup team members (L-R) Flavia Pennetta, Roberta Vinci, Sara Errani and Francesca Schiavone hold up the trophy after beating the US (3-1) at the San Diego Sports Arena on Sunday.

**Italy Fed Cup champs**

**Tennis**

AFP, San Diego

Italian tennis star Flavia Pennetta trounced American teenager Coco Vandeweghe 6-1, 6-2 to hand Italy their second straight win over the US and third Fed Cup title in five years.

The win gave Italy an unassailable 3-1 lead in the match following victories for Pennetta and reigning French Open champion Francesca Schiavone in Saturday's opening day of the best-of-five, two-day tournament.

Melanie Oudin kept the United States alive with a 6-3, 6-1 singles victory earlier Sunday over Schiavone but it was the second consecutive year the Italians have routed the Americans who were once again without the Williams sisters, Serena and Venus.

"I was nervous but there was no panic," said Pennetta, who has won eight consecutive Fed Cup matches. "I really enjoy to play for my country and this team."

Pennetta won two matches during the weekend while Vandeweghe lost twice.

"A team like that in five years to win three Fed Cups and one final is a great team, a fantastic team," said Italian captain Corrado Barazzutti. "They are great players in the individual tournament, too."

With Williams sisters skipping the event with injuries, the US was forced to send an inexperienced team to try to avenge their loss to Italy in last year's final. The Americans haven't won the title since 2000.

Pennetta won six straight games in the first set after Vandeweghe broke serve in the first game.

"She was just too nervous after like the second game, when I won in 14 or 15 minutes, a really long game," Pennetta said of her oppo-

nent. "But since then I starting to play really aggressive. I was really consistent. I didn't make a lot of mistakes, I was moving her a lot."

In the first set, Vandeweghe made 27 unforced errors compared to just 11 for Pennetta, who ran away with the match in the second set, silencing the pro American crowd at the San Diego Sports Arena.

"I'm very disappointed in myself and the way that it turned out," said Vandeweghe, who is ranked 114th in the world about 100 places lower than her two opponents. "But I tried my best out there, fought as hard as I could."

"It's a tough situation I'm going into."

Oudin was originally selected only for doubles in the tie on indoor courts.

World No. 60 Bethanie Mattek-Sands battled cramps and illness in her singles loss to Pennetta on Saturday, and US captain Mary Joe Fernandez called in Oudin as her replacement.

Oudin, 19, had never taken a set off Schiavone, ranked seventh in the world, in two prior meetings.

Oudin finished off the match with an ace, although she had to wait an agonizing moment as Schiavone challenged the call.

She had broken Schiavone to love in the second game of the set to seize control, held for a 3-0 lead and never looked back. She broke Schiavone again in the sixth game for the opportunity to serve for the match.

The first set saw a streak of five service breaks -- but Oudin had three of them to lead 4-3, then held for a 5-3 lead before breaking Schiavone again to pocket the set when the Italian sent a forehand wide.

Schiavone struggled on her serve and committed 34 unforced errors.

"I struggled with her before in the past, but I was really ready today," Oudin said. "I knew exactly what to expect after watching Coco play her yesterday."

**Gebrselassie calls it a day**

AFP, New York

Ethiopian legend Haile Gebrselassie announced his retirement on Sunday, after dropping out of the New York City Marathon with a knee injury.

The 37-year-old - a two-time Olympic champion at 10,000 metres - said that he would devote himself to other matters.

"I never think about to retire. But for the first time, this is the day," he said. "Let me stop and do other work after this."

Gebrselassie, nursing an inflamed right knee, pulled out of the race at the 16-mile mark.

The marathon world record-holder, who is involved in numerous business ventures in his homeland, had treatment on his knee before the race and pulled up with a wince of pain on the downhill of the Queensboro Bridge.

He had run 16 miles in 1hr 19min 40sec.

Gebrselassie, the 1996 and 2000 Olympic 10,000m champion, has won the Berlin Marathon four times and triumphed at Dubai the past three years.

He set the world marathon record of 2hr 3min 59sec in 2008 at Berlin.

While he had voiced pleasure at a chance to compete in New York for the first time, he acknowledged via Twitter before the start of the race and in a pre-race television interview that he had some inflammation in his knee.

**Where's**

FROM PAGE 17

Police and to the ICC's [International Cricket Council] Anti-Corruption Unit," Sarwar told reporters.

In Pakistan, Senior Superintendent of Police Rana Faisal said security was provided for Haider's family in Lahore.

"We have deployed a dozen police officials at Haider's residence, so that they can be guarded properly if there is any threat," Faisal told local media.

**Fed regains home title**

**Tennis**

AFP, Basel

Roger Federer won the Swiss Indoors title on Sunday, defeating Novak Djokovic 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 and earning revenge for last year's trophy match loss against his Serbian rival.

The victory in just under two hours provided relief after Djokovic stole the Swiss honours in 2009, interrupting Federer's reign over the three previous editions.

"It is even more special to win again at home," said Federer, holder of four titles in 2010 including his last event in Stockholm. "I had a super week and a tough final to play."

"It's always tough to play Novak," he said of the Serb he has beaten 12 times in their 16 meetings. "We've met so many times and he knows my game and how to beat me. He had a great week here."

Federer now heads to next week's Paris Masters as top seed in the injury absence of Rafael Nadal with four titles this season -- the last two won back-to-back in Stockholm and in his hometown. Djokovic will be seeded second.

Federer has won three of four meetings this season against Djokovic, with only a loss in the US Open semi-finals to spoil that mark.

The win was his 57th of the season and his

65th career title putting him alone on fourth in the all-time list, one better than Pete Sampras.

The 16-time grand slam winner was competing in his fifth straight Basel final and his seventh from 11 at the St Jakobshalle.

"I had a good week overall -- if a bit of a poor third set," said Djokovic, who is mentally preparing along with his Serbian teammates for the historic Davis Cup final in Belgrade against France December 3-5.

"I lost a bit of focus and there was suddenly no way back from 5-1 down. You don't get many chances against Roger when he's on top of you."

"I was disappointed with that set but it was otherwise a good week. I got to the final without losing a set. I feel well and didn't lose too much energy. I'll just go to Paris and try to do as well as I can."

The whole of Federer's immediate family was in the stands, including his parents, sister, wife Mirka and the couple's twin daughters dressed in matching outfits.

Federer won the opening set in 45 minutes thanks to one break of serve but lost his own in the second game of the second as Djokovic eventually pulled through to level.

But in the third, the Swiss broke on a Djokovic double-fault for 3-1 and broke again on his third opportunity of the sixth game before serving out the win. He claimed victory with a backhand winner to the empty court.

**National stars shine**

FROM PAGE 17

ten fours and one six during his 122-ball 108 while Mithun contributed 59 off 76 balls that featured three boundaries and as many sixes. Both the batsmen fell victim to Nur Hossain.

Khulna was in a good position at 192 for three in 36.5 overs when Imrul walked back to the pavilion and it was Ziaur Rahman who played a cameo knock by clobbering three sixes and a boundary during his unbeaten 41-ball 42 innings to script the victory.

Shakib Al Hasan added 18 off 17 balls.

Earlier Uttam Sarker (66) and Shamsur Rahman (17) gave Dhaka a slow start associating 51 runs in 13.3 overs but Dhaka could manage a fighting total of 272-6 in their share of 50 overs thanks to a dazzling hundred from Ashrafal and the fireworks from skipper Mohammad Sharif, who clobbered five fours and a six during his unbeaten 27-ball 45.

Ashrafal smashed twelve

boundaries in his 103-ball 111. Shakib claimed two wickets for 33 runs and Nizamuddin took two for 39 runs.

**BARISAL-RAJSHAHI**

A 172-run opening stand between Rabbi and Nasiruddin Faruque helped Barisal put up 272 for three wickets in their stipulated 50 overs after being put into bat first.

Rabbi continued his good form with an unbeaten 147-ball 148 that contained 16 fours and two sixes while Faruque added 68 off 106 balls that saw six boundaries and two over boundaries.

In reply, Rajshahi tottered to 52 for three but Mushfiqur revived their hope by making 114 off 120 balls that included nine fours and three sixes but his effort was not good enough as the wickets fell at regular intervals before being bundled out for 264 runs with ten balls to spare.

National all-rounder Sohrawardi Shuvo threatened Barisal the most batting at

number nine as the left-hander smashed two sixes and a four during his 25-ball 32 but Monir Hossain, who took three wickets conceding 48 runs, dismissed him to confirm Barisal's narrow victory.

Sohag Gazi was the other successful bowler with three for 53.

**BRIEFScores**

**DHAKA:** 272-6 in 50 overs (Uttam 66, Ashrafal 111 not out, Sharif 45 not out, Shakib 2-33, Nizamuddin 2-39).  
**KHULNA:** 273-6 in 49.2 overs (Imrul 108, Mithun 59, Ziaur 42 not out, Nur 3-63).  
**Result:** Khulna won by four wickets.

**BARISAL:** 272-3 in 50 overs (Rabbi 148 not out, Faruque 68, Nafees 24, Shuvo 2-49).  
**RAJSHAHI:** 264 all out in 48.2 overs (Junaed 30, Mushfiqur 114, Naeem 32, Shuvo 32, Monir 3-48, Sohag 3-53, Asif 2-49).  
**Result:** Barisal won by eight runs.

**Strauss confident**

**Cricket**

AFP, Perth

Having opened their Ashes tour with a remarkable win over Western Australia, England's captain Andrew Strauss is confident his side will continue improving.

The English recovered from a seemingly hopeless position against WA to win by six wickets on Sunday, with Strauss making a fine century, and next head to Adelaide to face South Australia in another three-day match starting Thursday.

The tourists then have a final warm-up clash against Australia in a four-day game in Hobart before the first Test in Brisbane on November 25 as they attempt not only to retain the Ashes but to win their first series in Australia since 1986-87.

Strauss said he believed his top-order batsmen struggled to adapt to the conditions in the first innings here, when they slumped to 117-7, but showed immediate improvement in the second innings and he expects the trend to continue.

"None of us have played any cricket for a few weeks," he noted.

"It is about getting used to these conditions out here. They are different to England.

"Our shot selection has to be slightly different. Balls you score off are slightly different and at times you've got to be patient, probably more patient than in England.

"I learnt a few lessons here at the WACA. We are hopeful we'll take that into Adelaide and hit

the ground running there as well."

Strauss dismissed any concerns over his form of his deputy after Alastair Cook, who has a modest record against Australia with an average of 26.21 in 10 Tests, missed out twice against WA, making only nine and five.

"It is still early days, none of us have played cricket for a while," he said. "On this wicket in particular it was a big new ball wicket."

"No problems from our perspective. "It is clearly important the batsmen spend as much time in the middle as possible before the first Test, but we have still got two games to go before that."

Strauss praised young pacemen Steven Finn as crucial to England's last-day fightback against WA and said spinner Graeme Swann was already shaping as a key player in the Ashes.

"This wicket wasn't conducive to spinners at all and he was still causing troubles," Strauss said of Swann.

"He has got great control now and he can bowl in a number of different ways."

"The great thing about Swanny is he is always a threat and that is useful to have."

England took what many consider their full-strength side into the opening tour match, but Strauss said it was too early to predict a starting XI for the first Test.

"I think you can read into that what you will," he said of their line-up against WA.

"We are trying to give the majority of the people that we think are going to be playing in that first Test as much cricket as possible, but I wouldn't be nailing this down as our Test 11 at this stage."

**Athletes to leave Progress**

FROM PAGE 17

people in the contingent has raised questions of the Bangladesh Olympic Association's decision, since there is little chance of winning a gold medal.

"I think the participation should be highlighted rather thinking of winning medals. However, participating in Asian Games in large will encourage the athletes to do well in the South Asian Games," said BOA vice president and training committee chairman Mizanur Rahman Manu.

"We are hoping to win medals in kabaddi (men's and women's), cricket (men's and women's) and golf though there is a little chance of winning any gold in the Games," said Manu adding that the fund crisis caused them a problem to continue the training for the athletes.

Winning medals in women's kabaddi may be possible for Bangladesh but they will nevertheless face tough challenges from India, Pakistan, Japan and Iran in men's kabaddi. With the absence of India in Twenty20 cricket, a medal is expected to come from the men's cricket while the women's team is also expected to bring a medal in cricket.

Before the Commonwealth Games in India in October, the BOA apparently gave hopes of winning gold in shooting and archery but Bangladesh returned home with only a bronze in shooting.

"There are strong opponents like China, India, Korea, Japan and Iran in both shooting and archery in the Asian Games and Bangladesh have almost no chance in those events," said Manu.

Instead of shooting and archery, the BOA this time has shifted their focus to the events of martial arts like karate, taekwondo and wushu, which are usually dominated by Japan, Korea, China where these games have originated.

"If the players can put their usual performance in their respective taekwondo, karate and wushu disciplines, they can win medals," hoped Manu.

**Bangladesh take**

FROM PAGE 17

UAE which came back in 1993 may work as an inspiration for Bangladesh. The last time these two sides met though in 1999, ended 3-0 in favour of UAE.

Bangladesh's performance against Uzbekistan in the first match was not inspiring, but the availability of speedy winger Zahid Hossain and defender Atiqur Rahman for selection of the second match gives coach Robert Rubcic an option of playing a counter-attacking game.

To have an idea about their opponents, Bangladesh coaching staff watched the match between UAE and Hong Kong on Sunday and observed that UAE resort to attacking football posting three marksmen upfront. Keeping that in mind, Bangladesh are expected to adopt defensive strategy similar to one they adopted against Uzbekistan.

"In the first match, the players failed to follow the instructions and they also did not run too well which found them caught on quick counter attacks. But coach Rubcic has asked the players to run more in the next two matches and attack after protect the backline first," said assistant coach Saiful Bari Titu over the phone.

Titu hinted that Rubcic might bring three to four changes in the starting eleven from the match against Uzbekistan.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>37 "Mayday!"</b>	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>20 Book-</b>
<b>1</b> 50 percent	<b>38 "Danaë"</b> painter	<b>1</b> Medal keeper (Abbr.)	<b>21</b> Typical
<b>5</b> Old airline letters	<b>41</b> Urban transport	<b>2</b> On	<b>22</b> Gender
<b>8</b> Church section	<b>42</b> Tackle the slopes	<b>3</b> A deadly sin	<b>23</b> — and don'ts
<b>12</b> Needle case	<b>45</b> Houston acronym	<b>4</b> "Curse you!"	<b>24</b> Blackbird
<b>13</b> Charged particle	<b>46</b> Its motto is "Manly deeds, womanly words"	<b>5</b> Pageant winner's crown	<b>25</b> "Monkey suit"
<b>14</b> Manhandle	<b>48</b> Eastern potentate	<b>6</b> Apple dweller?	<b>26</b> Buddhist sect
<b>15</b> Thyme partner	<b>49</b> Work unit	<b>7</b> Whatever number	<b>27</b> LummoX
<b>17</b> Tarzan's clique	<b>50</b> Actor Jannings	<b>8</b> Autumn bloom	<b>28</b> Stick with a kick
<b>18</b> Make a choice	<b>51</b> Simple org.	<b>9</b> Autumn bloom	<b>29</b> Put into words
<b>19</b> Branch	<b>52</b> Tiny	<b>10</b> One of the Three Bears	<b>31</b> That woman
<b>20</b> Fad	<b>53</b> Apportion (out)	<b>11</b> Other-wise	<b>34</b> Dine
<b>21</b> Secretive	<b>Solution time: 21 mins.</b>	<b>16</b> Cripple	<b>35</b> Inquisitive
<b>22</b> 21-Across employee	W A S E L F B A B A A C T S A I R I C O N T H O U T E A R E A D T E P I D U N I T T U B C O H E R E P R A Y E R S U D D E R L O B O A I M A G A R U S E U P P L A Y E R S S A T R A P B U S S T U N K U D O S A L O E L O G I O T A S O U L S E E T U T U S U R F E L M P O L	<b>37</b> Power glitch	<b>40</b> Wife of Osiris
<b>23</b> Piece of information		<b>38</b> Elbow counter-part	<b>41</b> Undraped
<b>26</b> Big fans		<b>39</b> Dalai —	<b>42</b> Unaltered
<b>30</b> Responsibility		<b>40</b> Wife of Osiris	<b>43</b> Wield needles
<b>31</b> Whammy		<b>41</b> Undraped	<b>44</b> Between jobs
<b>32</b> Actress Turner		<b>42</b> Unaltered	<b>46</b> Kitten's call
<b>33</b> A power of two		<b>43</b> Wield needles	<b>47</b> Moon vehicle
<b>35</b> Swell		<b>44</b> Between jobs	
<b>36</b> Rowing prop		<b>46</b> Kitten's call	

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