

# Bangladesh close to qualification

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh went one step closer to qualification for Round 2 in the World Hockey League when they overcame hosts Singapore 4-2 in a close encounter in Singapore yesterday. Although Bangladesh had beaten the same opposition 4-1 in the AHF Cup in April, this was always going to be a tough hurdle as Singapore were playing in their own backyard. But Mahbub Harun's charges played positively from the beginning to take the lead in the 10th minute when skipper Mamunur Rahman Chayan converted a penalty corner. Singapore, though, hit back with two goals in the 26th and 28th minutes to grab the lead, both goals coming from penalty strokes. However, Imran Hasan Pintu managed to equalise from another penalty corner right at the stroke of halftime. Bangladesh stepped up the attack in the second half, but had to wait till the 59th minute to regain the lead. This time Moinul Islam Koushik scored a field goal. Star forward Russel Mahmud Jimmy then ensured victory with another field goal in the 66th minute. Bangladesh now sit atop the table with six points from two games while Singapore are in second position with three points. Thailand and Hong Kong have one point each from the same number of matches. Bangladesh only need a draw against Thailand in their last match today to confirm their passage to Round 2.

## Chess Olympiad Men keep winning

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh men's chess continued their winning spree in the World Chess Olympiad in Istanbul when they defeated 94th ranked Iraq in the fifth round yesterday. GM Ziaur Rahman and GM Enamul Hossain Razeed won their respective boards easily while GM Niaz Murshed drew his board. The other board between GM Abdullah Al Rakib and his opponent was in progress when this report was filed. Earlier, the men's team completed a clean sweep over Mozambique (4-0) in the fourth round on Friday. Meanwhile the women's team, who had defeated Tajikistan by 2.5-1.5 points in the fourth round, were trailing 47th ranked Indonesia by 0.5-1.5 points in the fifth round yesterday. WFM Zakia Sultana drew her board while Sultana Sharmin Shirin lost her board against her Indonesian counterpart. The other games were in progress when this report



India batsman Virat Kohli plays the ball away on the leg side during his unbeaten 93 on the 2nd day of the 2nd Test against New Zealand at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday. Kohli's innings helped India fight back from a precarious 80 for four to end the day in the relative safety of 283 for five.

PHOTO: AFP

## Titu takes charge of booters

SPORTS REPORTER

Saiful Bari Titu will take charge of the national football squad from today as the first practice matches between four national teams take place today. Titu, a former assistant coach of the national team during the Robert Rubcic era, will be appointed as an interim coach for the national team's tour to Nepal later this month, confirmed National Teams Committee chairman Kazi Nabil Ahmed yesterday. "Titu will oversee the national teams' practice and he will lead the side to their Nepal tour. However, since our long term target is to appoint a foreign coach, Titu will work as an interim coach," said Nabil. Titu, who has recently been appointed as coach of Mohammedan Sporting Club, worked as the assistant coach of the Bangladesh national side under Croat coach Robert Rubcic.



PHOTO: AFP  
Pakistan batsman Nasir Jamshed swivels to pull on way to a match-winning 97 against Australia in the 2nd ODI at the Abu Dhabi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

# Jamshed stars in thumping win

## Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Opener Nasir Jamshed hit an aggressive 97 to guide Pakistan to a seven-wicket win over Australia in the second one-day, levelling the three-match series at 1-1 here on Friday. The 22-year-old left-hander took the attack to the Australian bowlers during his 98-ball innings, hitting 11 boundaries and two well-timed sixes to help his team successfully chase a challenging 249-run target in the 43.4 overs at Abu Dhabi Stadium. Australia owed their recovery to another left-hander Michael Hussey (61) to post a challenging total despite an impressive performance by Pakistan's ace spinner Saeed Ajmal (4-32). Australia had won the first match by four wickets in Sharjah on Tuesday. The third and final match will be played in Sharjah on Monday. Pakistan's batting, which folded in the first one-day for 198, showed a remarkable improvement as Jamshed and Mohammad Hafeez (23) raced to 66 by the 12th over to set their team on course for a win. Even when Hafeez pulled Dan Christian straight into the hands of Hussey, Jamshed remained unperturbed, treating the

Australian bowlers with contempt as he pulled Christian for two exquisite sixes over mid-wicket. He brought up his sixth one-day fifty off 58 balls. As he looked set for his second hundred, Jamshed miscued a drive off Mitchell Johnson straight into the hands of Starc at mid-off. He added 101 for the second wicket with Azhar Ali who made 59 not out. Pakistan also lost Asad Shafiq (nine) but Ali and Misbah-ul Haq (35) saw off the target. Australian paceman Starc and James Pattinson who shared eight wickets between them in the first match failed in the excessive dew as they found the ball hard to grip, dismissing just one batsman. Earlier Hussey came good with his 38th one-day fifty to lead Australian recovery from a precarious 87-4 after they won the toss and batted. Australia scored 73 runs in the last ten overs foiling Ajmal who at one point looked capable of keeping Australia down to 220. Hussey added an invaluable 66 for the fifth wicket with George Bailey (39) and then a rapid 58 for the sixth with Glenn Maxwell who made 28 in 27 balls to propel the Australian total. Hussey hit two sixes and a boundary off

# Kohli leads fightback

## Cricket

AFP, Bangalore

Virat Kohli cracked an impressive 93 not out to lead an Indian recovery on the second day of the second and final Test against New Zealand in Bangalore on Saturday. The 23-year-old hit one six and 12 fours in his second successive Test half-century as the hosts, struggling at 80-4 at one stage, reached 283-5 in their first innings at stumps in reply to New Zealand's 365. Kohli, who made 58 in the last Test, added 99 for the fifth wicket with Suresh Raina (55) and 104 for the unfinished sixth-wicket stand with Mahendra Singh Dhoni (46 not out) to keep alive his team's hopes of

gaining the lead. India trail by 82 runs with five wickets in hand. Dhoni, who scored 73 in the opening Test, hit off-spinner Jeetan Patel for two successive sixes in his 70-ball knock which also contained five fives. "Virat and I had a good partnership and now he and Dhoni are batting. Hopefully we can put a lot of runs on the board and the match is going to be interesting in the next three days," said Raina. "Whenever I got the ball in my area I made sure of batting positively. I have done well in one-day internationals, so hopefully I will do better in Test cricket too. When I get a chance again I would look to score a big one." India, who won the opening Test by an innings

# Salma happy with results

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's cricket team captain Salma Khatun said yesterday that the Ireland trip greatly aided towards the improvement of their performance. The women's team returned home on Friday after the Ireland tour where they won only one T20 game against the hosts but Salma was little bothered with the result of the tri-nation series, instead stressing the importance of playing matches in different conditions. "Our performance was not at all bad. The weather was totally different from ours that is why we needed time to adjust to the conditions. I think we played impressive cricket on the tour," said Salma. Bangladesh lost both one-day practice matches against Pakistan and Ireland before losing the ODI against Pakistan while the match against Ireland was abandoned. They lost the first T20I against Pakistan but won the second match against the hosts. There was however a misunderstanding about the number of international matches as the team learned late that the first two games were not international but only warm-up matches. "The newcomers were initially a little nervous but later on they adjusted to the conditions. Actually, it was a great experience for us to make our first trip to Europe and it will

## Cockroft sets Paralympic record

AFP, London

The British athlete who set the first world record at the Olympic Stadium during a test event earlier this year on Friday won the country's debut track gold, this time beating the Paralympic record. Wheelchair racer Hannah Cockroft took the women's T34 100m in 18.06secs, 0.50secs faster than the then world best she set at the east London venue during competition back in May. The 20-year-old, who won the T34 100m and 200m double at the world championships last year, has since lowered her own world record to 17.60secs at the Swiss National Championships. After the race, she said: "I didn't know whether to cry or laugh or what to do."



Czech Republic's Tereza Diepoldova competes in the women's individual C1-2-3 500m time trial during the London 2012 Paralympic Games at the Olympic Park in East London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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