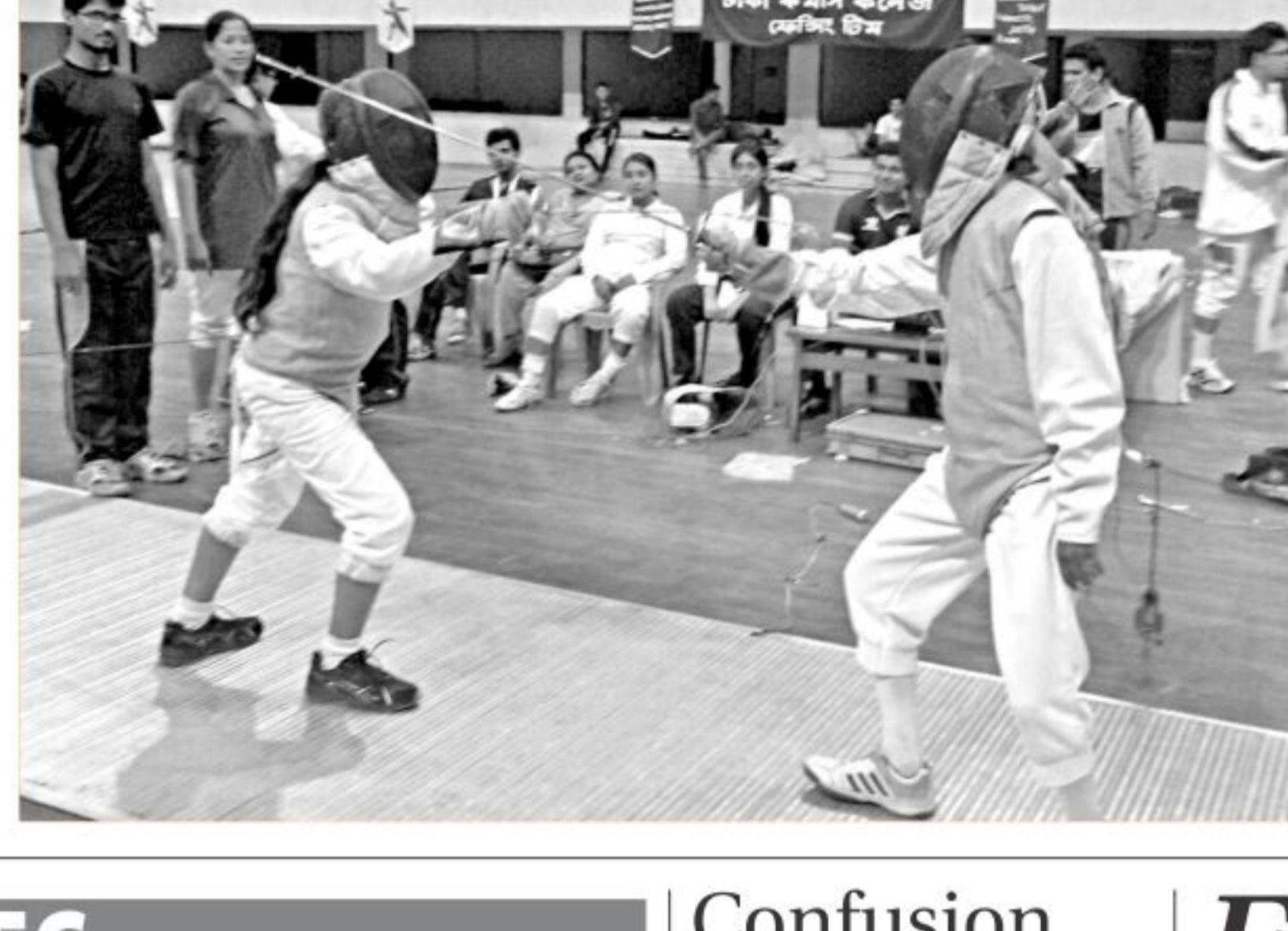




GAMES IMAGES

(Clockwise, from top left) Ratna Islam clears the bar on her way to winning the women's high jump gold. GM Enamul Hossain Rajib (L) and Sharmin Akter Liza display their gold they won in individual rapid chess event. Sonia Akter Tupma is all smiles after a satisfying day in the pool at Mirpur where she took three gold and created a new national record. Sanjida Akter made the best use of her 10m air pistol to win the gold in the event with a score of 202.9. Fencing is not a popular sport in Bangladesh, but it is slowly making its mark at Mirpur Indoor Stadium. Soma (R) and Mahbub quite comfortably won the mixed doubles final for Bangladesh Ansars who swept all the three table tennis gold decided on Monday.

PHOTOS: STAR



Super Kings trump Royals

CRICINFO, Undated

Chennai Super Kings have more match-turning batsmen than any other side in the tournament, and that was on display yet again as they hunted down 186 against Rajasthan Royals.

Michael Hussey showed off his versatility with a boundary-filled 88, the out-of-form Suresh Raina powered his way to a half-century, MS Dhoni narrowed the gap to the target though he couldn't close out the game this time. It was left to Dwayne Bravo to pound a final-over six and deliver victory, before breaking out into a joyous chukka chukka dance.

The endless depth in Super Kings' batting meant that Shane Watson's typically power-packed century, the first hundred of the season, and James Faulkner's pinpoint death bowling was not enough for the perennial underdogs Rajasthan Royals to pull off another upset.

SCORES IN BRIEF
RR: 185/4 in 20 overs (Watson 101; Ashwin 2/20, Bravo 2/36)

CSK: 186/5 in 19.5 overs (Hussey 88, Raina 51; Faulkner 3/20)

Result: Chennai Super Kings won by 5 wickets

U-17s seal series

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh U-17s beat the Cricket Association of Bengal U-17s by five runs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, in a game that was reduced to 36 overs a side due to the rain.

Batting first, the hosts were bowled out for 157 in 33.5 overs. Mohammad Ashif top-scored for Bangladesh with a 50-ball 47.

In reply, CAB witnessed their batting order collapse at the hands of bowler Nahid Hasan, as they were bundled out for 152 in 34.3 overs.

Nahid finished with figures of five for 30. With the victory the hosts have won the three-match series by two games to one.



GAMES CORNER

SPORTS REPORTER

Following are the results of different Bangladesh Games events that took place at different venues yesterday:

CRICKET

The T20 cricket of the 8th Bangladesh Games got off to an exciting start at Bogra yesterday as with two very high scoring encounters.

The first game of the tournament saw Khulna beat Barisal by 36 runs. Batting first, Khulna scored 174-2 from their 20 overs. Nazmus Sadat scored a 64-ball 90 and was the mainstay of the innings. He was ably supported by Tushar Imran's 45. In reply, Barisal were restricted to 138 for 9. Khulna's Murad Khan picked three wickets.

In the second match Rangpur beat Dhaka in a super-over thriller after both teams were restricted to 169 at the end of 20 overs. Batting first, Dhaka lost two wickets for eight runs in the super over. Rangpur reached their target with two balls and a wicket to spare.

TABLE TENNIS

In the mixed doubles final, Ansar pair Mahbub and Soma beat Mostofa and Saleha by 3-2 sets while in the women's doubles final Ansar duo Saleha and Sinty grabbed gold beating Soma and Rumy. In the men's doubles, Ansar's Hasib and Rocky beat Manosh and Hamlet of Chittagong by 3-0 sets.

TAEKWONDO

The taekwondo discipline came to an end as Bangladesh Ansar and Bangladesh Army won two gold medals each at the National Sports Council Gymnasium.

Moslem Mia and Mizanur Rahman of Bangladesh Army and Shahnaz Parvin and Susmita of Bangladesh Ansar clinched the gold medals in their respective events.

FENCING

Bangladesh Ansar won both gold medals in doubles at the Hossain Shaheed Sohrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur.

In the men's team final, Ansar's Gopal, Faruk, Shariful and Imtiaz beat Mirpur Club's Jahangir Alam, Al Amin, Shabib and Foyez.

In the women's final, Ansar's Tanya, Sanzida, Shaki and Happy thrashed Die Hard club's Anannya, Ivy and Mou in the final.

CHESS

Grandmaster Enamul Hossain Rajib won the gold medal in the men's individual rapid chess. Rajib finished first in tie-breaker after, he and GM Ziaur Rahman both ended on 8 points each. WIM Sharmin Akter Liza won the women's gold while the silver went to WIM Rani Hamid.

SHOOTING

Army Shooting Association dominated the first day of shooting events as they grabbed two gold medals at the National Shooting Complex in Gulshan.

Sanjida Akter of Army put behind Arinda Ferdous of Kushta Rifles Club to win 10m Air Pistol gold with a score of 202.9. Arinda scored 200.1. Miti Dewan

Fancying

FROM PAGE 16

While the sport has gradually progressed over the years in Bangladesh, it did however, face its share of obstacles as well.

Apart from battling cricket, it also struggles to receive funding.

"It's an expensive game. The mat on which the players play cost around 27 lakh taka. The swords and the protective gear come at a price of at least Tk 20,000. We import them from China, France and other countries," said Faiez.

The lack of funding affects the coaching process as well. "The coaches we get are of the basic level. We need coaches from advanced category for us to progress," said Monir Hossain, this year's gold medalist in the sport's Foil category.

"In a tournament in the Philippines, I reached the last 16 by beating fencers from Australia and France. I can definitely do better with advanced coaching," added Monir, who is a second year student of BUBT.

Fencing may still be taking its baby steps in Bangladesh. The association at best can only organise three to four competitions every year. However, having managed to attract a good number of young fencers so early there's no doubt that the sport's following the right path.

Hartal affect

FROM PAGE 16

Sohrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur

from Dhaka University and Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan due to strikes.

Confusion

FROM PAGE 16

convince the media people, which only revealed their unprofessionalism and lack of preparation for staging the meet.

The electronic scoreboard, which was said to have been repaired on the eve of the Games, was in use in the first few events yesterday morning. But there was confusion with the photo finish in the men's 5000m event and the event was later left undecided. The remaining events of the day were seen recorded on hand timing and reciprocally the earlier events were also shown under hand timing.

This created wide confusion over the validity of the timings and the records set on the day. The electronic board recorded 200m sprint winner Zakia Sultana's timing as 25.12 seconds while the information provided by BAF later showed the timing was 25.00 seconds. The men's 200m sprint winner Abu Raihan, who won gold in 21.98 seconds, thought he missed his best mark by 0.23 seconds. But later the official version proved him wrong as it showed he had completed his run in 21.50 seconds.

The federation officials, when asked about the fiasco, came up with different theories about the timing, least to say none of them being too convincing.

Sagar

FROM PAGE 16

Sonia Akter Tupma, who had to be content with two silvers after finishing behind record-breaker Romana Akter on Sunday, also showed her character on the second day after winning the 100m butterfly with a time of 1:12.08.

Her previous best was 1:12.93. Sonia also won the 200m individual medley and the 4X100 freestyle relay.

NOTICE

Due to unavoidable circumstances, we could not print the CROSSWORD today. We regret any inconvenience.

Sports Editor

Few rain drops and they are indoors

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER from Harare

The last two days have been spent in introspection by the Bangladesh cricket team in Harare. The magnitude of the defeat they suffered will obviously be hard to swallow, and the effects showed.

The Bangladesh team generally look a happy outfit, drawing pleasure from simple excursions such as going out en masse to dinner, or sharing jokes by the hotel swimming pool in the evenings. But as early as the evening of the third day, when Bangladesh lost nine wickets for 32 runs and Zimbabwe took a lead of 442, spirits were visibly dampened. After the loss, they were seen together, but a gloom had taken over as they sat and discussed what happened and what could have been. Even the joker of the pack, Nasir Hossain, was subdued.

The jokes were still there -- there must at least be an effort to keep spirits high even in

the aftermath of a 335-run loss to Zimbabwe -- but their effect was not as it was before the match started.

Yesterday was a rest day for the team, with the recovering Tamim Iqbal and second Test hopeful Mominul Haque making their way to the optional practice session with coach Shane Jurgensen. Before that, Jurgensen had a one-on-one talk with all members of the team around noon.

A lot of the players were supposed to make a 35-kilometre trip to the Lion and Cheetah Park. But it may be indicative of the general mood of the team that many including Mohammad Ashraful and Robiul Islam had made it to the hotel car park, but upon seeing a few drops of rain decided against the trip and spent the day indoors. The two players to opt for the visit to the animal sanctuary were Shahadat Hossain -- who will fly back to Dhaka soon because of a knee injury -- and Sajidul Islam, who has a strong chance of making it to the starting eleven for the second Test starting at the Harare Sports Club on April 25.

Youth snatch sprint crowns

FROM PAGE 16

25.10 sec while sprint queen and defending champion Beauty finished third in 25.50 seconds.

Beauty, having congratulated the new champion, vowed to get her crown back as she said she had lack of practice and other reasons for not doing well. "This is a good thing that someone new has come to the scene, but I will be back again."

Meanwhile, Subarna's teammate and fellow HSC examinee Abu Raihan had earlier snatched the gold in the men's 200m sprint from defending champion Azharul Islam. The bubbly young man from BKSP finished the run in 21.50 seconds, while Azhar of BJMC had to be content with silver as he finished in 25.60 seconds and Maruful Islam of Bangladesh Army finished third in 21.80 seconds.

The 5 ft 6 inch man from Mymensingh

dedicated this win to his father who passed away in 2009. "My father would have been very happy if he saw me win this gold. I only became an athlete due to his inspiration," said Raihan.

Raihan, who has to attend the HSC exams as well as the Games, said even a silver medal would have been dearer to him than a GPA 5 in the exams.

"It would have been better if this event was held at another time. We are having to practice in the morning and then attend exams in the afternoon and then again back to practice. Things could have been better managed," believed the young boy.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Army won the gold in the men's 4X100m relay while BJMC won the women's 4X100m relay.

Afzal Hossain Surjo of Bangladesh Air Force retained his crown in the men's 400m hurdles.

No good batting news

FROM PAGE 16

But I think if they concentrated a bit more they could have played better.

"Other than [Brendan] Taylor, no one else was successful in these conditions. Even [Hamilton] Masakadza and [Vusi] Sibanda could not score runs. Maybe even they are not used to such seaming conditions."

Changes may have been forced on the bowling front with injuries to two of the touring party, but the batting side will understandably be a bigger cause for worry. While star opener Tamim Iqbal's fractured thumb will recover in time for the second Test remains a question, vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad's place is under the scanner. Since scoring 76 in the

first innings of the second Test against West Indies at home in November 2012, Riyad has scored 34 runs in six innings, including two scores of zero.

Young Mominul Haque, on the other hand, scored two fifties in his first two Tests in Sri Lanka, and it seems increasingly likely that he will take the vice-captain's place come Thursday.

"I do not know yet [whether I will play the second Test]," said the shy left-hander. "I will try to play well if I am selected. I have tried to learn how to play in these conditions from observation, and have thought about some things. I will try to implement those if I get to play."