

BKSP's young athlete Mezbah Ahmed (2nd from L) crosses the finish line ahead of the pack to win the blue riband men's 100m sprint gold at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR



Sprint queen Nazmun Nahar Beauty poses in front of the electronic scoreboard after retaining her 100m crown at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

# New king, old queen

SPORTS REPORTER



BKSP's young athlete Mezbah Ahmed became the BANGLADESH GAMES new sprint king while sprint Sports in Our Hourt queen Nazmun Nahar Beauty retained her crown

in the 100m sprint on the concluding day of track and field events at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mezbah, the 17-year old boy from Bagerhat, clocked the fastest time (10.75 sec) in recent years to beat his teammate and 200m winner Abu Raihan (11.00) by 0.25 seconds. Two-time defending champion and Olympian Mohan Khan (11.12 sec) had to be content with the bronze medal.

Mezbah said his gold was a reward for his perseverance and hard work. "I have been there or thereabout in the last two years as I finished third two years ago and second in the last summer meet," said the boy from Bagerhat. "My mother (Shahina Begum), a former junior champion, was my inspiration."

Mezbah gave most of the credit to the BKSP coach Abdullahel Baki for his success and that of his teammates. Baki said he had belief that this boy and his other students would make a difference.

"This boy (Mezbah) never gives up which is what made him the champion. I worked SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

## **TEAMS** Dhaka RC Engineers RC Chittagong Rajshahi Ctg Metro Air Force

# SECOND TEST STARTS TODAY

# Tigers' chance to come back

Cricket

SAKEB SUBHAN from Harare

It is hard not to think of Bangladesh's previous tour when talking about their current tour of Zimbabwe. In 2011, they were faced with a team coming back to Test cricket after a five-year exile, and lost the one-off Test by 130 runs at Harare. On this tour, they faced a team that lost all their five Tests since that victory against Bangladesh. They lost the first Test, also at Harare, by 335 runs. And today they are facing a team who are winning only against them. Then too, there were issues with the practice facilities.

It was gloom for the Tigers back home too. They will go into the match wearing black armbands to mark a national mourning day after the catastrophe in Savar where a nine-storey building collapsed yesterday morning. At least 80 people were killed till last night, and the death toll was still counting.

But Bangladesh will be looking at one crucial difference -- they have had a chance to absorb the lessons of the first Test and apply those in the second and last Test against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club ground from today.

If the lessons were learnt can only be known over the next five days, but it will not be easy to turn the tide from a combined team total of 281 stretched over two innings. But Mushfiqur was counting on the chance to set things right in a venue where they will get a second chance. "When we came last time, we played only one Test, so we did not have a chance to come back. This time, it is good that we are playing the second Test so we have a chance to come back strong. If you think about it, we have played only one bad match in the last one and a half year. I have faith in the group and they are really working hard," said skipper Mushfiqur Rahim on the eve of the match.

"We bowled really well in the first Test, but our batting let us down. None of our batsmen could score runs but we have worked on some areas, so we are hoping bats **SEE PAGE 17 COL 2** 

## Controversy till the end

SPORTS REPORTER

Controversies dogged the athletics event to the last day of the track and field events following on electronic timing fiasco on the first two days.

The women's 100m sprint event saw a new controversy yesterday. The medal giving ceremony took place shortly after the event where Zakia Sultana was given silver medal and Shirin Akter the bronze. But later the BAF reversed their decision, declaring Shirin as second and Zakia as third.

In the men's 800m race, there was visible obstruction from Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

PHOTO: STAR

Jewel Ahmed won highest

six gold medals in the

Bangladesh Games.



After an unprecedented incident in Kabaddi on Tuesday, judo experienced another unexpected anarchy that left chairs vandalised following a decision from a judge in the men's 100kg weight category at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi yesterday.

It has been learnt that BGB players protested a decision against the judge that went in favour of Bangladesh Army, who then expressed dissatisfaction over the protest and vandalised three to four chairs. The Army player finally emerged champion.

"It was a tense moment for both sides as anyone could win the gold but it was nothing like the kabaddi incident. We along with police interfered to clam the scene though some chairs were vandalised," said Judo Federation member Saidur Rahman yesterday.

#### SWIMMING

Bangladesh Olympian swimmer Mahfizur Rahman Sagar finished his campaign in style after producing two more national records. However, the 23-year old was outshined by Jewel Ahmed in term of gold tally.

Sagar, who rewrote his records in 50m freestyle and 200m freestyle, yesterday set new records in 100m freestyle and 400m freestyle.

Sagar's teammate Nazma bagged highest four gold and three silver to become best swimmer in women's section while Sonia Akter finished behind her teammate Nazma with three gold and four silver.

The feat of Sagar, Nazma, Sonia helped Bangladesh Navy regain their championship with 22 gold, 17 silver and 10 bronze.

#### SHOOTING

Veteran shooter Subrina Sultana grabbed gold medal in the 50m Rifle prone event despite having tied with Umme Jakia Sultana at the National Shooting Complex in Gulshan yesterday.

Subrina of Dhaka Rifles Club and Jakia of BKSP finished on equal 570 out of 600 and Subrina was declared the gold winner by virtue of her better 'center ten' shot than Jakia. Sharmin Akter of Army Shooting Association won bronze scoring 562.

Mahendra Kumar Singha of Army SA won gold medal in 10m Air Pistol after scoring 193.6 in shoot-off. Kaniz Chowdhury Sweety of Army SA bagged the 25m pistol SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Ishita Afroz makes a forehand return on her way to winning the women's singles gold at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# 'It'll be tit for tat for them'

Cricket

Gulshan SA

National TC

Muscle FC

Chittagong RC

SPORTS REPORTER from Harare

Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur Rahim has fired the lates salvo in their ongoing discontent with practice facilities in Zimbabwe, saying that the Zimbabwe team will receive the same hardships when they visit Bangladesh.

"Obviously a visiting team hopes for better when they tour a country," said Mushfiqur when asked about the issue during the pre-match press conference yesterday. "If not fabulous facilities, you expect at least the basic facilities. I don't think they have provided us with that. They should remember that they will come to our country to play, so they will get the treatment they meted out to us.

"But the second Test is now on our mind, and we are thinking only of that. If we can play well and win in the second Test, then that will be the best possible answer."

The team have been facing problems with issues ranging from practice timings -- they have only practised in the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

## Tamim fit to play

SPORTS REPORTER from Harare

The national team's phys-

iotherapist Vibhav Singh yesterday cleared opener Tamim Iqbal to play the second Test against Zimbabwe starting today at the Harare Sports Club.

"I have cleared him to play, but there are still some concerns about his fielding," said the Vibhav. "But the focus has been on getting him ready to bat, and he can do that. He did some catching practice with a soft ball today [Wednesday], and he will be wearing a splint on his finger when fielding. I think we also have to

**SEE PAGE 17 COL 5** 

## **Butt ready** for rehab

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's former captain Salman Butt said Wednesday he had offered to take part in anticorruption rehab a week after an international court threw out his appeal against a spot-fixing ban.

The 28-year-old, along with teammates Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer, was banned for contriving deliberate no-balls for cash during the 2010 Lord's Test against England.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) in 2011 banned Butt for 10 years, with five suspended on the condition that he commits no further

offences and takes part in

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

# Taylor under pressure



SPORTS REPORTER from Harare The Zimbabwe team, after winning the first Test against Bangladesh by 335 runs, will be under a different sort of pressure when they take on the Tigers today.

Since their return from a five-year self-imposed exile in 2011 against the same opponents in a match they won by 130 runs, Zimbabwe have only played one other two-Test series and have not been in this positive position as they have lost all their five Tests since their comeback win.

"There is a lot of expectation on us, we haven't been in a position like this before, playing in only our second two-match series," said skipper Brendan Taylor on the eve of the match. "We do not want to get too far ahead of ourselves. Just take it day by day, session by session, and if we can win those small situations I can't see

why we won't come out on top

He was cautious when appraising Bangladesh's chances after embarrassing the tourists in the first match. "They have always come back stronger. We never take Bangladesh lightly. We know what quality players they have and they can make it very difficult for you. It's important that they don't get on top because when they get on top they are very tough to beat. Tomorrow [Thursday] is a new day for come out and win this Test match.

"If you win a Test match fairly convincingly you carry some momentum into the next Test match. But there is no complacency. They have got bowlers and batters that can knock over any side and score big hundreds against any team, so we are definitely expecting a bigger fight from

Bangladesh," said the home skipper. Taylor became the first captain of the decade to hit two hundreds in the

same innings in the first Test, and he knows that his batting will be a big

factor over the next five days. "I don't try and dominate the bowlers. I just try and take one ball at a time. I have been fortunate to have played a lot of cricket against Bangladesh, in the international circuit and the BPL. I have an understanding of their players and they have an understanding of me, it's all about preparing well, training hard," said Taylor. But he added that the rest all of us and we are very determined to of the batsmen, especially Vusi Sibanda and Hamilton Masakadza, were due for big scores after a disappointing tour of West Indies.

The reason that the specialist batsmen could not score in the first Test was the excellent performance by Bangladesh's pace-bowling spearhead Robiul Islam. "We have to give him credit, he was exceptional. But technically if we tighten up a little bit and get through the new ball, it will SEE PAGE 17 COL 5