

Sport

Firoza is the fastest woman

Ambia sets tracks on fire

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Army's Golam Ambia emerged as the hero of the 19th national athletics championships by providing fitting finale to the four-day meet at the Army Stadium with an electrifying dash in the men's 100 metres which at once erased both the national and the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games records.

Golam Ambia's amazing timing of 10.4 seconds, a feat that gave him his fourth gold medal for the championships, shattered the 14-year-old national mark of Mosharraf Hossain Shamim who had clocked 10.5 seconds — a dicey, hand-timed statistic — way back in 1977. It also beat the SAF record of 10.68 set by India's Anand Shetty in Islamabad, Pakistan two years ago.

Bangladesh Army retained

try, a distinction that earned him the glittering Shah Alam memorial trophy, introduced from this year in memory of the Army Havildar, the former fastest man of South Asia, who was tragically killed in a road accident last year. As soon as the result was announced over the PA system Ambia's teammates gave him a joy ride, carrying him aloft their shoulders for a well deserved victory lap.

Until yesterday Shamim's 1977 record had withstood several challenges over the years, being equalled by Sakur Rahman Don in 1985, Shah Jalal Mobin in 1986, and Sha-hanuddin Chowdhury and the late Shah Alam in 1988.

Ambia thus completed a fine sprint double, having earlier won the 200m with ease Tuesday. His two other gold medals came in the relays, anchoring the Army quartet in the 4x100 and 4x400 metres.

tional record of 12.10 secs in 1988.

Firoza's other gold medals came in the 200m Tuesday and the two 4x100 and 4x400 relays. She had picked up a fifth medal, a bronze, in the long jump, on the inaugural day last Monday.

Her BTMC teammate Najam Haider Rafeza secured the 100m silver by clocking 12.7 secs to add to her 4x100m relay gold, while Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) girl Nilufa Yasmin, who set the first of the eight new records of the meet Monday by shattering the long jump mark, picked up the bronze with a time of 12.9 seconds.

Sumita Goswami of BTMC finished with three gold medals, in the 400m, the 4x100 and 4x400 relays. In addition, she picked up a silver medal in the 800m, finishing closely behind Bangladesh

with a throw of 37.94 metres. Nilufa Yasmin eclipsed the long jump mark with 5.56 metres and Mehdi Hasan rewrote the 400m record clocking 47.2 seconds.

Rokeya Begum of Bangladesh Customs created a new record in the 100m hurdles clocking 15.3 seconds on Tuesday.

Three hundred fifty-five athletes, including 138 women, from 17 teams took part in the meet, organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation.

Chairman of the National Sports Council Major General Mahbubur Rahman attended the closing ceremony as chief guest and declared the meet closed.

He presented the Shah Alam trophy to Golam Ambia.

President of the athletics federation, Brigadier Ahsanullah, national anti NSC sports award winners and sports organisers were present.

MEDAL TABLE

The final medals table of the 19th national athletics competition which concluded at the Army Stadium yesterday:

	G	S	B
Army	15	14	6
BTMC	11	5	5
BJMC	5	12	11
B Customs	2	3	7
B Ansars	1	0	2
B Navy	0	1	0
B Air Force	0	0	1
B Rifles	0	0	1
B Railway	0	0	1

Burrell sets world mark

MADRID, Feb 14 : Leroy Burrell of the United States set a 60 metres world indoor record of 6.48 seconds on Wednesday after earlier having a record-shattering time of 6.40 annulled because of a false start, reports Reuter.

Burrell's performance, in the last event of an international athletics meeting in Madrid, followed confusion and controversy over the original running of the 60 metres final.

In the first race, Burrell flashed off the blocks with an immediate one-metre advantage, over his rivals and powered home in 6.40 seconds, well clear of compatriots Mark Witherspoon and Denis Mitchell.

As Burrell celebrated, television replays of the start indicated clearly that the burly American had beaten the gun and 15 minutes later the appeal judge ruled a false start and ordered the race to be rerun.

With Mitchell and fellow American Mike Marsh choosing not to run again, Burrell made a clean start in the second race and put his name firmly in the record books with 6.48 seconds.

NSC announce 8 names for '90

The National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday announced the names of the eight sports personalities for the year 1990.

Major General Mahbubur Rahman, NSC Chairman, disclosed to journalists in a press briefing at his office room that the selection was unanimously decided at an early morning meeting by the NSC award selection board.

The names of the recipients were sent to NSC by different federations and DSA's. The eight personalities — six sportsmen and two sports organisers — were selected for the award on the basis of their performances in 1990 in their respective disciplines.

The award winners are: Kaiser Hamid (football), Neaz Moshed (chess), Atahar Ali (cricket), Shah Alam (kabaddi), Ibrahim Mandol (boxing), Shahanuddin Chowdhury (athletics), Dr Sultanul Aziz (organiser) and Mahbubul Haque Peyara (organiser).

Abdus Sattar Nini and Atiqur Rahman earlier received NSC's award for striking gold in the 14th Commonwealth Games shooting in New Zealand in early 1990.

Gregs beat Stars

Sports Reporter

Gregs Club scored a convincing 77-45 points victory over Five Stars Club in the Partex First Division basketball league match yesterday at the wooden floor basketball gymnasium.

Gregs led 34-16 at halftime. Khalid with 30 and Mizan with 12 points were the leading Gregs scorers while Talibur 18 and Lincon with 12 were the top scorers for the losers.



The obsolete straddle still proved good enough for BTMC's Shamima Sattar Mimu to earn the high jump gold medal on the concluding day of the 19th national athletics championships at the Army Stadium yesterday. — Photo Mohsin

GMCC win at last

Sports Reporter

The Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) lasted their first win by 48 runs despite a gallant fight by Gulshan Youth in the Navana Premier cricket league match yesterday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Gulshan Youth chasing a mammoth winning target of 355 runs for victory were finally bowled out for 306 runs in 71-5 overs.

Earlier, on Wednesday, GMCC batting first, inspired by Lipu's 114 and Sri Lankan Duminda's 112 runs piled up 354 for the loss of seven wickets in their allotted 75 overs.

Gulshan Youth, resuming at 31 for the loss of one wicket, started the day cautiously.

Tito led the run chase with a fine 61, followed by a well compiled 54 by Indian ex-Test player Arun Lal.

Ashoke Malhotra with a super 87 runs off 96 balls kept the tempo but after his departure, GMCC's other batsmen tamely gave up the match.

Rome also scored 34 important runs.

Duminda was undoubtedly the man of the match when he took three wickets for 42 runs. His scalps were Arun Lal, Malhotra and Subrata. Goals also spun his web with four wickets for 68 runs.

Milnars cricket

Sports Reporter

Quamrul's devastating spell enabled Wari Club to post a handsome 91-run victory over Bangladesh PWD in the Milnars First Division cricket super league match yesterday at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Wari, electing to bat first, were restricted to 143 runs for the loss of nine wickets in their stipulated 45 overs.

Ripon 25, Jangi 22, Qamrul 22 not out, Zia 18, Rafiq (sr) 17 and Yousef with 16 runs were the main contributors for Wari.

Shamim with three wickets for 28 runs, Balul two for 22 and Anwar two for 24 were the most successful bowlers for PWD.

In reply, PWD, were shot out for total of 52 runs in only 22.2 overs. Happy with 12 was the only PWD batsman to reach double figures.

Quamrul was the wrecker-in-chief with seven PWD scalps for 18 runs. Rafiq assisted him with two wickets for three runs.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Azad Boys Club, Victoria Sporting Club and City Club registered easy victories in their respective matches of the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league yesterday.

Star-studded Azad Boys beat Lalbagh Union by five wickets at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Lalbagh Union scored 137 runs in 34.4 overs. Azad 25, Towhid 18, Motiur and Tutul with 14 each were the notable Lalbagh scorers. Ashraf claimed three wickets for 23 runs.

Azad Boys, in reply, scored 138 for the loss of five wickets in 22 overs.

Victoria crushed United Heroes by a massive margin of 139 runs at the Moakhali T and T ground.

In another match at the Dhanmondi ground, City Club beat Azad SC by 116 runs. City Club scored 159 in 32.5 overs and in reply, Azad SC shot out for poor 43 runs.

Cricket in crisis

Sports Reporter



The ad hoc and league committees of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) — formed

hardly a month ago — yesterday precipitated a crisis by resigning en masse in protest against the National Sports Council's decision to allow the Dhaka Stadium ground to be used for the Vita-Rich football tournament, which commenced yesterday.

At a hurriedly called press conference, the committee members told newsmen that the NSC decision, which they termed arbitrary, had seriously jeopardised the cricket programme, especially the Navana Premier Division league. They alleged that some "autocratic" NSC officials had allotted the

ground — reserved especially for the BCCB's use — for football matches which cause irreparable damage to the ground and pitch. They maintained the holding of the current Vita-Rich tourney, a meet organised by the Bangladesh Football Players' Association without proper authorisation of the Bangladesh Football Federation, would badly damage the pitch.

The country's cricket administration said having failed to prevent the NSC from allocating the ground for the soccer tourney yesterday, they were left little choice but to register their protest by resigning collectively.

The decision of the two committees, taken jointly, means that the entire cricket programme — the Navana

league, the Milnars First Division league, and the Rank-Xerox Second Division — has been automatically suspended.

One BCCB member, preferring anonymity, told the Daily Star, "The ball is in the NSC's court. They must realise the situation and come up with an immediate solution if this year's cricket calendar is to be completed."

An immediate victim of the controversy was the Mohammedan Sporting Versus Brothers Union match, which could not be resumed yesterday. The game, which was poised evenly with Brothers being 28 for two wickets in reply to Mohammedans' 193 all out Wednesday, had to be suspended with one of the umpires failing to turn up in the morning.

Maradona involved in drugs and sex

NAPLES (Italy), Feb 14 : Italian police said Wednesday that football star Diego Maradona had been linked to a drugs and sex ring uncovered through a telephone tapping operation, reports AFP.

The Naples prosecutor Vittorio Sbordone said in a statement that "telephone calls intercepted as part of inquiries to find those behind drugs trafficking" had implicated Maradona.

The Napoli and Argentina football captain asked for "the goods which were not clearly specified, and women, from persons known to the police," the statement said.

Police are working on the assumption that "the goods" was a code name for drugs.

A police inquiry is underway and is being handled by the drug squad and several magistrates specialising in narcotics, the statement said. One press report has said the Naples Mafia, the Camorra, could be the suppliers.

Detectives were attempting to verify the information in police possession before a decision is made about charging the controversial football star.

"Cameroon were robbed," Milla

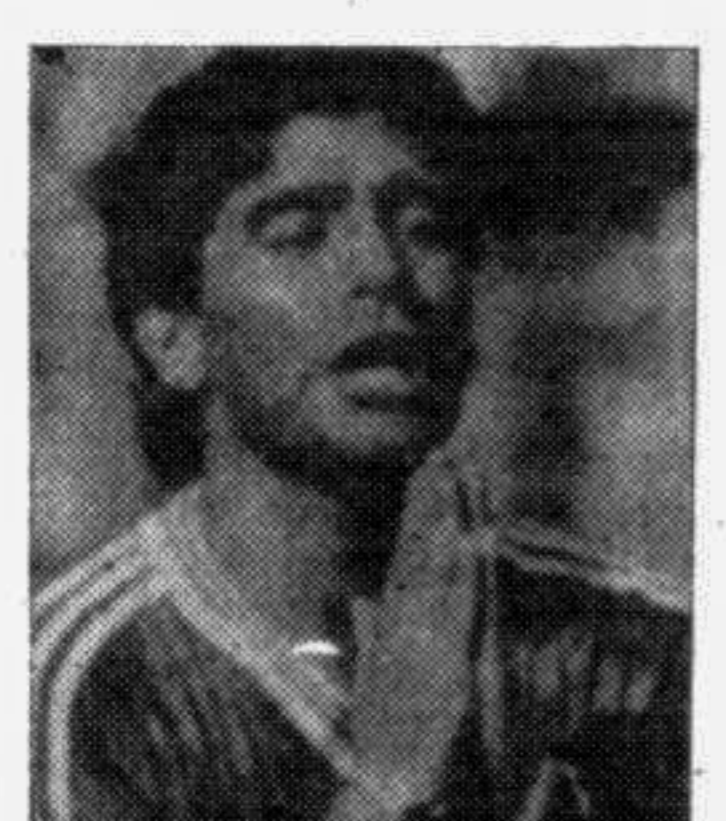
YAOUNDE, Feb 14 : Cameroon's World Cup hero Roger Milla denies he refused to play against England last week because the English Football Association declined to pay a 30,000 pound appearance fee, reports AFP.

"Cameroon were robbed," he said on television here.

"Cameroon should have been paid at least 300 million francs (about 150,000 pounds) and I told the Football Federation president to cancel the match but he felt that would have harmed our image," Milla said.

The English FA paid Cameroon 70,000 pounds for the friendly but a 60,000 Wembley crowd was bitterly disappointed by the poor showing put up by Cameroon and Milla's refusal to play.

Two goals from England captain Gary Lineker won the match.



police said.

Maradona refused to answer questions about the allegations when approached at the end of Napoli's training. He said his lawyers were dealing with the affair.

The Epoca magazine said in its latest edition that the Naples police had uncovered the drug ring and sent a 100 page report to the prosecution department.

The report is to contain transcripts of the telephone conversations, photos and other evidence concerning a group of drug traffickers linked to the Naples underworld.

The Naples Mafia, the Camorra, is the most heavily involved in drug trading in the southern city.

Maradona has been in dispute with his club for much of the season and been injured for many matches. He has said many times that he wants to quit football, but appeared to have made it up with his club again after scoring two goals at the weekend.

Eight people linked to several Camorra clans were arrested in Naples on Tuesday night, police said.

The eight were known drugs dealers and were involved in a network in which narcotics were brought in from Marseille, Toulouse and Nice in the south of France, an investigator said.

The group were led by a 46-year-old woman, Carmela Cinquegrani, who had been abroad several times in recent months, he added.

Sources said Maradona had been recorded in five telephone conversations, the last of which was recorded on the night of January 6.

One detective said it had been confirmed that Maradona had been in contact with members of the group who had set up the drug trade.

But no search has been made of the Argentinian's house and prosecution department said no other Napoli player was involved in the inquiry.

Admira Wacker win Merdeka trophy

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 14 : Austria's Admira Wacker scored a 3-0 win over China in the final of the Merdeka soccer tournament here Wednesday, reports AFP.

The Austrians scored all three goals in the first half.

The game was delayed for 30 minutes as the pitch was waterlogged because of a heavy late evening downpour.

The wet and slippery pitch did not affect the Austrians who needed only five minutes to open accounts.

The Chinese squad, who

came here after winning the King's Cup in Bangkok, had difficulty passing because of the water on the pitch.

Austria increased its lead in the 23rd minute when Ernst Ogris scored from a penalty after China's Gao Yuyong was penalised for bringing down Olaf Marshall.

The closest the Chinese came to scoring was in the 32nd minute but keeper Wolfgang Knaller was in his element and pushed away a free-kick attempt by fan Zhiyi.

Ogris scored Austria's third and his second in the 36th minute when he ran in and blasted the ball into the roof of the net off a cross from Marshall.



Golam Ambia's Army teammates give him a joy ride after he did them proud by becoming the fastest man of the country with a time of 10.4 seconds for the 100m sprint. Ambia, who won four gold medals in the four-day meet, also bettered the South Asian Games mark of 10.68 secs.

their top position with a haul of 15 golds, 14 silvers and six bronzes. BTMC came second with 11 golds, five silvers and five bronzes followed by BJMC with five golds, 12 silvers and 11 bronzes.

Eight new records were set in the meet-in the men's 100m sprint, the hammer throw, the triple jump, 400m sprint and pole vault and the women's 100m hurdles, javelin and long jump.

Havildar Jahangir Alam of Bangladesh Army rewrote the national pole vault mark by soaring over a height of 4.10 metres, 20 metres better than the previous mark of 3.90 metres.

Mofazzal Hossain of Bangladesh Navy claimed the silver by clearing 3.65m, followed by Quamrul Hassan of BJMC who got the bronze for 3.55m.

Shamima Sattar Mimu won the women's high jump clearing 1.50m with Shirin Akhter of BJMC taking the silver with a jump of 1.37m, and Rokeya Begum and Masum Shamia Shila sharing the bronze with efforts of 1.32 metres.

Emdadul Haq Ranju of BTMC won the men's long jump by leaping 7.32 metres, while Hani Amin of Army got the silver and Manzur Mursheed of BJMC the bronze.

Golam Ambia's superlative effort established him as the now fastest man of the coun-

The defending 100m champion Shah Jalal Mobin, who was also beaten by Ambia in the 200m, got the silver with a timing of 10.7 secs, followed by Armyman Farid Khan Chowdhury who timed 10.9 secs for the bronze.

If Ambia stood out among the men, Firoza Begum of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) was the overwhelming women's champion, not only emerging as the fastest woman of the meet but also bagging four gold medals to boot.

Yesterday Firoza, starting as the favourite, took the gold with a time of 12.5 seconds, by no means her best effort, having earlier equalled the na-

Ansars girl Shefall Rani Dey who got her side's only gold medal on the very first day.

Of the eight new marks, four were set by Army athletes.

Momimul Huq made his mark in the hammer throw by hurling a distance of 55.12 metres. ABM Afzal Hossain bested the triple jump mark with a leap of 15.55 metres. Golam Ambia erased the 100m timing while Jahangir Alam's record came in the pole vault yesterday with a clearance of 4.10 metres.

Three BJMC athletes Joytsna Akhter, Nilufa Yasmin and Mehdi Hasan — also established new records.

Joytsna Akhter shattered the previous best in the Javelin



Quadruple gold medallist Firoza Begum of BTMC yesterday regained the mantle of the country's fastest woman by clocking 12.5 seconds in the 100m at the Army stadium. — Star photo