

Defending champions Pakistan win by a goal

# Shattering of a golden dream

COLOMBO, Dec 24: Bangladesh suffered a shock 0-1 defeat against defending champions Pakistan in an exciting match of the fifth SAF Games football tournament at the Sugathadasa Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Substitute Qazi Mohammad Ashfaq scored the all-important goal for Pakistan in the 81st minute.

Bangladesh needed to win against India on December 26 at 4-30 pm to fight for the bronze medal.

Pakistan has placed itself on the top of its group with three points from one win and one draw. India had one point from one match.

Bangladesh, despite failing to score, played splendid football, particularly in the first half, and their forwards mounted tremendous pressure

on the Pakistanis in a bid to take revenge for their defeat in the Islamabad Games final in 1989.

The sturdier Pakistani players put physical pressure on the Bangladesh boys and their strong defence gave the Bangladesh forwards — Rumi and Naqib — little space. Defender Kaiser and midfielder Shabbir also rushed to the aid of their forwards but failed to slide past the rock-solid Pakistan citadel.

The Bangladesh mid-field, led by Manik and Rupu, completely disappointed the large number of spectators and Bangladeshis as well. Their planning errors in the mid-field gave the Pakistanis frequent opportunities to enter into the Bangladesh defence zone. Defender Kaiser and Jewel Rana and Masud Rana sometimes came forward in aid of the forwards instead of the medios.

The Pakistan forwards and medios fully utilised the lapses of the Bangladeshis and countered in the best possible way.

Bangladesh got four chances in the first half but the forwards failed to beat the well-organised Pakistan defence line even on a single occasion.

Kaiser, Aslam, Rumi and Naqib each wasted scoring chances.

Pakistan lost a chance in the 43rd minute first when Jewel Rana and Masud Rana saved the team from a certain score from a goal-mouth melee.

The second half was full of attacks and counter attacks by both the sides. The large crowd that gathered at the stadium enjoyed the brisk pace of play between the champions and the runners-up.

Pakistan, playing defensively at the start, got its long-awaited chance when the

Bangladesh boys while planning an attack, carelessly gave room to the Pakistani forward Mohammad Ashfaq on the leftwing. The unmarked Ashfaq, receiving a pass from the mid-field in the 81st minute, gave no chance to keeper Mohsin netted the ball easily (1-0).

Masud Rana of Bangladesh was shown the yellow card.

**TEAMS**  
PAKISTAN: Malik Mateen Akhtar, Aamir Mehmood, Zafar Iqbal, Mohammad Riaz, Mohammad Tariq, Abdul Majid, Ghulam Sarwar, Tarveer-ul-Hasain, Shamsat Ali, Mohammad Nauman and Fidaur Rehman (Mohammad Ashfaq).

BAGLADESH: Mohsin, Pijush, Kaiser, Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Shabbir, Rupu, Manik (Mamun Joarder), Naqib, Aslam (Tito) and Rumi.

## Bangla shooters hit a bronze

COLOMBO, Dec 24: Bangladesh got a bronze in the team event in the prone English match three-position in the shooting competition of the fifth SAF Games at the Wisara shooting range here today, reports BSS.

Bangladesh rifle shooters — Kamrul Islam, Mohammad Nasruddin and Emran Chowdhury — scored 1712 in the team event to bag the bronze.

Sri Lanka and India won the gold and silver in the team event scoring 1763 and 1747 respectively.

Sri Lanka's L Rajasinghe collected the gold in the individual event of the prone English match three-position scoring 592. The silver and bronze went to India's T R Kaikadi and Lanka's D Chandrasiri.

In the individual event, Bangladesh's Kamrul Islam, M Nasruddin and Emran Chowdhury scored 578, 578 and 556 respectively.



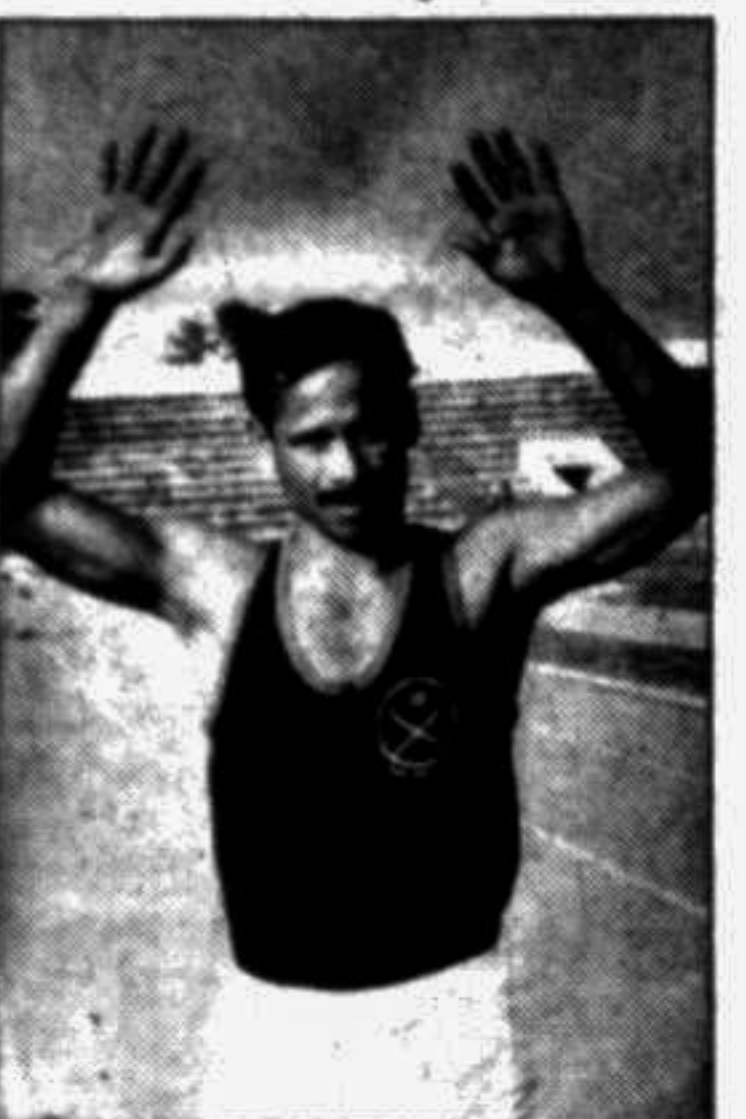
India's Razia Shaikh grimaces after releasing her javelin on the second day of the fifth SAF Games in Colombo on Dec 23. Shaikh took the silver. —AFP photo

## Bangladeshi men manage 2 silvers

# Indians dominate track events

COLOMBO, Dec 24: India won five of the seven track and field gold medals Tuesday, the third day of the South Asian Federation Games, reports AP.

Reeth Abraham earned India's first gold of the day by leaping 5.89 meters in the women's long jump followed by two golds reaped in by S Saramma in the women's 200 meters and Amandeep Kaur in the women's shot put.



Golam Ambia... 200m silver

Discus thrower Shakhti Singh's 52.38 meters hurl won him a gold while Jossey Mathew clocked 1.49.91 to win the men's 800 meters.

Sri Lanka claimed one gold. Pakistan's Ghulam Abbas created a meet record with 50.14 seconds to win the men's 400 meters hurdles.

With Tuesday's haul, hosts Sri Lanka top the medal tally with nine golds, India has seven and Pakistan two.

Bangladesh had the consolation of winning silver medals Tuesday through Rahim Nayeem (men's 400 meters hurdles) and Golam Ambia (200 meter men).

A BSS report adds: Bangladesh won two silvers in the athletics competition Tuesday.

Bangladesh Navy-man Abdur Rahim Nayeem got the silver in the 400m hurdles clocking 52.98 seconds. Nayeem, who had his best timing of 52.70 (hand-timing), expressed his satisfaction on winning his first international medal abroad and said "It was possible due to the blessings of the Almighty Allah."

The 23-year-old from Munshiganj said he was disqualified in the national meet and was dropped from the preliminary selection for the SAF Games and only got himself included in the team through the open selection competition.

Pakistan's Ghulam Abbas who had won the gold medal in the event in the Beijing Asian Games last year, improved his SAF timing with 50.14 seconds. His previous record in the Islamabad Games was 50.68 seconds.

The bronze went to Sri Lanka's Chahdratilleka who crossed the distance in 53.22 seconds.

Bangladesh's second silver on the tracks was won by sprinter Golam Ambia in the 200m sprint. He took 21.54 seconds to cover the distance to the cheers of the Bangladeshis who gathered here. Shahannuddin Chowdhury was fourth with 21.70 seconds.

Sri Lankan S S A Dissanayake, the Asian Games silver medalist, and S Roberts of India took the gold and bronze respectively. Dissanayake clocked 21.34 seconds and Roberts 21.68 seconds.

The second record of the day was set up by India's Amandeep in the men's shot put covering a distance of 13.96 metres.

India dominated the second day's competition bagging five golds out of seven. Sri Lanka, who collected four golds yesterday, earned only one gold today and the other went to Pakistan.



SSA Dissanayake... gold

In the women's 200m sprint, Bangladesh's fastest woman Firoza Khatun finished sixth and Najma Haider Rafeza seventh with times of 25.57 and 26.15 seconds respectively.

India's S Saramma got the gold clocking 23.93 seconds. Sri Lanka and Pakistan collected the silver and bronze respectively.

India's Jossey Mathew earned the gold in the men's 800m. He took one minute 49.94 seconds to complete the



Nayeem... hurdles silver

run. Pakistan's Nadir Khan and Raman Ali got the silver and bronze medals.

In the women's long jump, Reeth Abraham of India who set a record in the Islamabad Games in 1989 with a leap of 5.99 metres, got the gold with a jump of 5.89 metres. Two Sri Lankan girls — Anusha Kariyawasam and Delima Peterson — took the silver and bronze medals with 5.86 and 5.84 metres. Bangladesh's Nilufar Yasmin finished fifth with a leap of 5.43 metres.

India's Shakti Singh collected the gold in the men's discus with a throw of 52.38 metres. Pakistan claimed both the silver and bronze medals.

In the men's 800-metre run Milzar Hossain of Bangladesh was placed 8th among the ten participants. Bangladeshi athletes did not participate in two of the day's five events — the men's discus and the women's shot put.

**ATHLETICS TABLE**  
The athletics medals table at the end of the second day's competition in the SAF Games here today: (Tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):

	G	S	B
India	5	4	3
Sri Lanka	5	3	4
Pakistan	2	3	4
Bangladesh	0	2	0

Note: there is no bronze in the women's 400 m hurdles.

## Indians bag both tennis team golds

COLOMBO, Dec 24: Indian tennis players contributed two golds to India's not-so-impressive medal tally, winning both the finals in the team competitions of the fifth SAF Games here today, reports BSS.

In both finals, hosts Lanka provided India many anxious moments, snatching one singles win both the men's and women's sections.

Asif Ismail started on a faulty note, struggling against Sri Lanka's Davis Cup player Arjun Fernando. However, Ismail managed to win the first set 7-6 and with increasing confidence wrapped up his match by winning the second set 6-4.

In the second singles, Gaurav Natekar could do nothing against the well-built, powerfully smashing Sri Lankan national champion U Walloppillai who won 6-2, 6-4.

In the deciding doubles, Enrico Piperno and Ismail combined well to find chinks in their rivals — De Silva and J Wijeyasekera — game. Though the Lankan duo played well, inconsistency cost them the match 4-6, 3-6.

## Milners marred

The Milners First Division cricket league match between Bangladesh Railway and Ajax Club at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday fell through due to inclement weather.

The match will now be played today at the same venue following a bodily shift in the fixture, says a BCCB press release.

## Heavy snows threaten Winter Olympics

ALBERTVILLE (France), Dec 24: Organisers of the 1992 Winter Olympics said on Monday the Games would go ahead as planned in February even if there was a repeat of the heavy snowfall which paralysed the French Alps this weekend, reports Reuter.

A statement by COJO 92, the committee organising the Albertville Olympics, said the weekend snowfall was exceptional and the heaviest experienced by the area since 1945.

Meeting to discuss what lessons could be learned from the weekend snow which blocked roads to many resorts, the committee, said twice as many men would be assigned to clear roads during the Games as were on duty this weekend.

The police presence would be increased from 300 to 1,000.

Events most likely to be affected by weather, such as Alpine skiing, would be

## MEDALS TABLE

COLOMBO, Dec 24: medals table on the second day of competition in the seven-nation South Asian Federation Games in Colombo today (tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):

	G	S	B
Sri Lanka	15	8	8
India	11	11	6
Pakistan	2	6	6
Bangladesh	0	3	7
Bhutan	0	0	0
Nepal	0	0	0
Maldives	0	0	0

## Cagers, paddlers suffer routs

COLOMBO, Dec 24: Bangladesh lost to India 54-127 in the basketball competition of the fifth SAF Games at the Sugathadasa indoor stadium here today, reports BSS.

India led the first half 55-35.

Four teams — Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka — are taking part in the competition on a round robin basis.

In another match Pakistan beat Sri Lanka 93-52.

## TABLE TENNIS

Pakistan beat Bangladesh by 3-1 sets in the men's team event of the table tennis competition held at the St Thomas College Court today.

In another men's team event match, India beat Sri Lanka by 3-0 sets.

In the women's team event, Pakistan defeated the Maldives by straight 3-0 sets while Sri Lanka beat Bhutan, also by the same margin, at the same venue.

## Swimmers sink deeper

COLOMBO, Dec 24: Bangladesh got two bronzes in the swimming competition on the second day of the fifth SAF Games here today, reports BSS.

Bangladesh has so far collected one silver and four bronzes in the competition.

Mahbubur Rahman got the bronze in the 400m individual medley clocking five minutes 10.87 seconds.

Sri Lanka's ace swimmer Julian Bolling, who won the men's 400m freestyle gold yesterday, earned another gold in the event with a time of four minutes 51.37 seconds.

India's Sasendran got the silver clocking five minutes 08.71 seconds.

Bangladesh collected its

second bronze in swimming when Laifa Noor Milu, Richana Zaman, Mahfuza Rahman Tania



Julian Bolling... 2nd gold

and Monira Rahman Datta finished third in the women's 4x100m freestyle relay with a time of four minutes 50.53 seconds.

The gold and silver of the event went to India and Sri Lanka respectively. The Indian quartet took four minutes 22.30 seconds while the Sri Lankans clocked four minutes 27.76 seconds.

Hosts Sri Lanka are leading the medals table in swimming with eight golds, three silvers and three bronzes, including four golds, two silvers and one bronze won today.

India are in the second position with four golds, five silvers and five bronzes along with two golds, three silvers and three bronzes collected today, followed by Pakistan with three silvers, including one today's.

## Abahani-Ajax semi today

Mohammedan Sporting Club and Bangladesh Army will clash in the second semifinal of the 1991 Victory Day Shah Sports hockey tournament tomorrow, December 26.

Mohammedans beat Usha Krira Chakra and Army outplayed Mariners Youngs Club respectively at the Dhaka Hockey Stadium yesterday to set up their semifinal date.

In the first match of the day Army clinched the Group-D championships by beating Mariners by four goals to three in the tie-breaker after the match had ended in a goalless draw.

Army enjoyed a slight edge over their opponents in the match. They forced four corners and three penalty corners to only two penalty corners for Mariners.

Alfaz, Rameez, Swapan and Riaz scored for the winners

and Biaka Lushai, Panna and Jasimuddin netted for the losers in the tie-breaker.

Abu Tarek and Arshadul Haq Munnaf of Mariners were shown the green card.

Mohammedans won the Group-B title in the other match of the day when they edged past Usha Krira Chakra by a solitary goal.

It was one of the most unconvincing displays by the title-aspirants with their opponents dominating the proceedings after Jamal had given Mohammedans the lead from a penalty corner in the 31st minute.

Usha forced five corners and eleven penalty corners as against Mohammedans' two

## Higuita hits the depths

VALLADOLID, Spain, Dec 24: Colombia's colourful World Cup goalkeeper Rene Higuita, famous for his forays into mid-field, said on Sunday he was leaving Real Valladolid because he had not adjusted to Spanish soccer, reports Reuter.

"I'm going because I haven't performed as well as many people were expecting, myself included," the long-haired Higuita told reporters after Sunday's 2-2 home draw with Tenerife in the Spanish First Division.

Valladolid's poor season — they are two from bottom with only three wins in 15 matches — has led to speculation over the future of all four of their Colombian including mid-fielders Carlos Valderrama and Leonel Alvarez and coach Pacho Maturana.

All three players are going to Colombia for the Christmas holidays but Higuita, who has one of the worst records with 25 goals conceded this season, will not be coming back.

corners and two penalty corners.

Usha's dominance was clearly reflected in the large number of penalty corners they earned.

The poor showing by the Mohammedan players disappointed their supporters who thronged, at the Hockey Stadium to gauge the chances of their side against a strong Bangladesh Army in the semifinal.

Zahid of the winners and Khwaja Musa Azhar of the losers were shown the yellow card. Besides, Ejaz and Sadeque of Usha were shown the green card.

Mohammedans had beaten Bachelors Sports Club 3-0 in the league match while Usha got a walk-over against Cantonian Club to move into the Group-B final of the 19-team meet organised by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation.

On the other hand, Army beat Police Athletic Club 3-1 in the tie-breaker and Mariners outplayed Sonali Bank 1-0 in the Group-D league engagements.

Meanwhile, the first semifinal of the Victory Day hockey tourney between Abahani Krira Chakra and Ajax Sports Club will be held this afternoon.

Abahani beat Victoria Sporting Club 1-0 in the league encounter and Bangladesh Air Force 2-0 in the Group-A final respectively.

Ajax went on a rampage when they outplayed Azad Sporting Club by seven goals to one in the first league encounter. They also recorded an impressive 2-0 victory over Bangladesh Ansars in the Group-B final.

Today's first semifinal between the two titans of the Dhaka hockey league should be an absorbing contest.

**TODAY'S MATCH**  
Abahani KC vs Ajax SC (semifinal) (3 pm)

## Successful debut for World Championship

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica, Dec 24: Fred Couples had three quick questions immediately after his runaway victory in the World Championship, reports AP.

Even before he signed his card for a 66 or collected his \$25,000 prize, Couples asked: "Does this qualify me for the tournament next year? And where and when is it going to be played?"

The answers he received were "yes," to the first and "nobody knows," to the other two.

"Well," Couples said, "wherever it is and whenever it is, I'll find a plane to get me there."

The tournament organizers, International Management Group, and the sponsor, Johnnie Walker, said it will be at least a month before negotiations are complete concerning the site and date of the 1992 edition of the new event.

There was no question, however, about the continuation of the tournament, which is not part of any major tour.

IMG's Mark McCormack said the tournament, which was televised to more than 30 countries, "was better than we might have hoped. It was an astonishing success for a first-year tournament."

And more such events could be in the making, he suggested.

"I think the 72-hole, stroke play, 154-man field events that are played around the world on the major tours are boring," he said.

"I think the public enjoys and appreciates and supports the specialty events like this."

As examples, he suggested "alternate shot competition, best-ball competition, match play competition. This is all very appealing to the public."

But McCormack, whose group serves as agent for many leading players and organizes tournaments around the world, stopped short of suggesting the World Championship may be the forerunner of a new world tour.

Such a tour—with events in Europe, the United States, Australia and Japan and composed only of the world's leading players—has been sug-

gested and promoted by Sevc Ballestaros, Greg Norman and Ian Woosnam.

"I don't think so," McCormack said.



Mohammedan Sporting skipper Barkatullah Chapal takes evasive action during yesterday's Victory Day match against Usha KC at the Hockey Stadium —Star photo