

Four new national marks

Sports Reporter

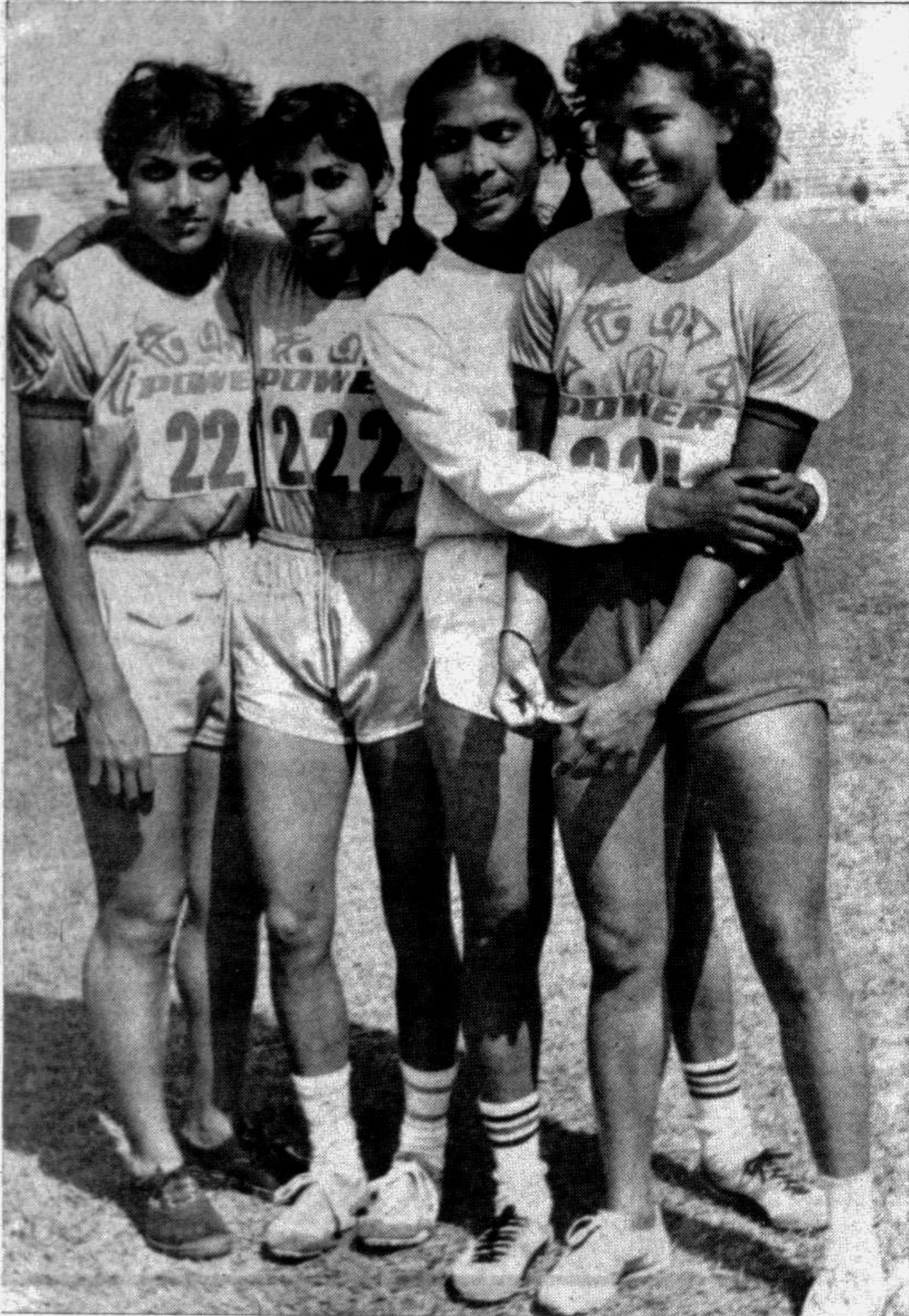
Bangladesh Army athletes dominated the third-day of the four-day 19th national athletics championships setting two of the four new records at the Army Stadium yesterday.

Hammer-thrower Mominul Haq and triple jumper Havildar ABM Afzal Hossain rewrote the record books while Rokeya Begum of Customs club bettered the only women's record to fall on the day by clocking 15.3 seconds for the 100m hurdles. The other new mark was set by Mehdi Hassan of BJMC who pipped his more fancied teammate Olympian Milzar Hossain for the 400m gold with a time of 47.20 seconds, an improvement of .35 seconds over the previous mark set five years ago.

At the end of day three, Bangladesh topped the medal table with nine golds, as many silvers and four bronzes. Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) had six golds, three silvers and four bronzes, followed by Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) with four golds, eight silvers and seven bronzes.

With a dozen events scheduled for the concluding day today, nine in the men's section and three in the women's, including both the 100m sprints, Bangladesh Army look set to remain the country's best athletic power, albeit only among the men, while BTMC and BJMC will be trying their best to claim the second spot.

With yesterday's feats, six new records have been bettered so far, three each in the men's and women's sections.



THE WINNING QUARTET: BTMC girls (from left) Sumita Goswami, Nujma Hader Rafuza, Mahub Ara Guinea and Firoza Khatun won the 4x100m relay gold on the third day of the national athletics championships at the Army Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

dar also beat the old mark by throwing 54.36 while former strongman Momtaz Mollah of BJMC managed 53.84m for the bronze, an improvement over the standing record nevertheless.

The day's best individual showing came from Army's Havildar ABM Afzal Hossain whose leap of 15.55m shattered the nine-year-old national mark of 15.33 metres set in 1981 by Nazrul Islam Rumi. Afzal's teammate L/Nk Md Nazrul Islam got the silver with an effort of 15.50m, .17m metres better than Rumi's old mark, while Md Israil of BTMC took the bronze with 14.14m.

The day's last record came to the men's 400m race with BJMC's Mehdi Hassan stealing the show with an all-time best

of 47.20 seconds. Milzar Hossain, also of BJMC, who has much more experience having represented the country at several international meets including the Seoul Olympiad in 1988, clocked 47.90, .35 seconds slower than his won 1986 record of 47.55 seconds. The bronze went to L/Nk Ghyasuddin of Army who ran time in 48.40 secs.

In other events decided yesterday, L/Nk Md Abdul Ailm won the 20-km walk gold with a time of 1hr 49min 3.1 secs, more than 11 seconds slower than the existing mark. Armyman Mahubul Alam got the silver while the bronze went to Abdul Bari of Bangladesh Rifles.

Sumita Goswami of BTMC won the women's 400m gold in a time of 58.9 secs while Nasima Akhter of BJMC came in a slow second in 1 min 1.2 secs, followed by Shefall Rani Dey of Ansars and VDP who lost all her steam in the last few strides of the home straight after leading all the way to settle for the bronze.

AKM Ariful Haq of BTMC won the javelin gold with a throw of 59.30 metres, followed by Dulal Chandra Sarkar of Army who got the silver and Mahiuddin of Customs who took the bronze.

L/Nk Md Mujibur Rahman gave Army their last gold of the day by winning the 3000m steeplechase in a time of 9min 12.6 secs. Teammate Havildar

Md. Abul Kalam Azad came in second while BJMC's Mahiuddin Ahmed Mushtaq finished third. The standing record for this event is 9min 04.61 seconds, set in 1981.

Sharafat Hossain of Bangladesh Customs made it a most fruitful day for his team by bagging their second medal in the men's high jump. Sharafat cleared a height of 1.90 metres, four centimetres below the mark set three years ago. L/Nk Md Mustafa Talukdar got the silver for Army while Shamsul Alam Kislul of BTMC got the bronze.

In the relay events, the Army quartet clinched the 4x100m gold, followed by BJMC and BTMC while in the women's 4x100m, Sumita Goswami powered the BTMC girls to the gold in a time of 49.2 secs, followed by BJMC and Bangladesh Customs.

Chairman of the National Sports Council Maj General Mahubul Rahman will be the chief guest at today's concluding ceremony, scheduled for four in the afternoon.

MEDALS TABLE

	G	S	B
B Army	9	9	4
BTMC	6	3	4
BJMC	4	8	7
Customs	2	2	3
B Ansars	1	0	1
B Air Force	0	0	1
B Rifles	0	0	1
B Railway	0	0	1

Kiwis draw level

WELLINGTON, Feb 13: An amazing but familiar England batting collapse allowed New Zealand to snatch

an improbable win in the second one-day cricket match today, reports Reuter.

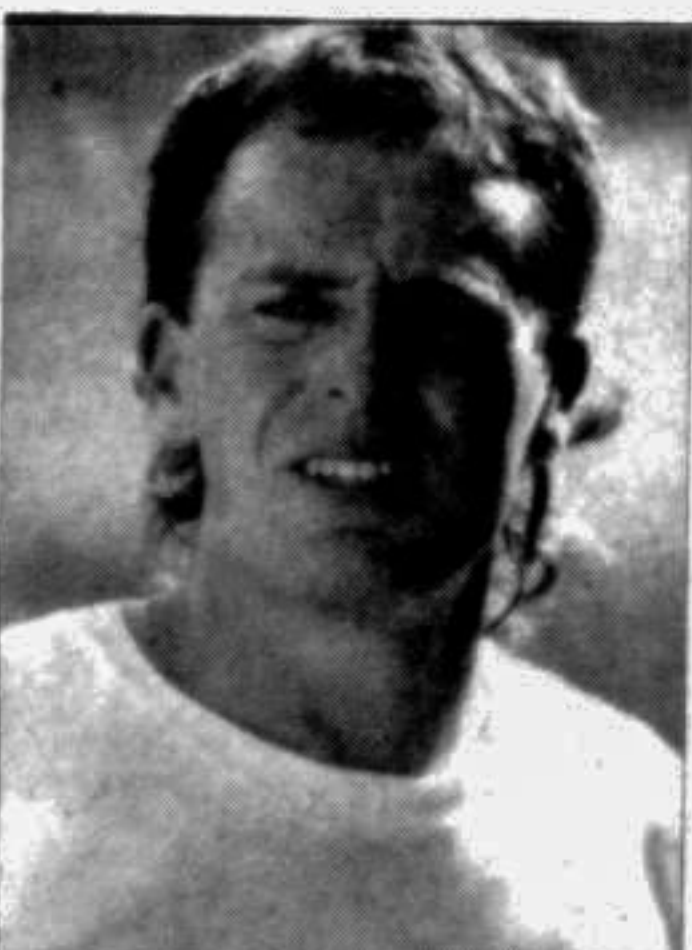
England lost its last six wickets for just 27 runs, falling nine short of the modest 196 runs posted by New Zealand.

The poor England batting and tenacious bowling by the local team late in the game saw the three-match series levelled, with the final match to be played on Saturday in Auckland.

The collapse, similar to several by England on their recent Australian tour, left captain Graham Gooch extremely disappointed.

"It shows how a game can be turned around in just a few overs," he told reporters. "The situation today has happened many times in my career. A bit of pressure and a bit of panic and suddenly a winning position is turned into a very dicey position."

England seemed to be coasting to victory, after Gooch (41) and Mike Atherton (26)



ANDREW JONES provided a bright 73-run opening stand in 18 overs. It was in sharp contrast to New Zealand's unconvincing early batting on a green wicket offering assistance to English pacemen Angus Fraser and Phillip DeFreitas. Gooch had no hesitation in sending New Zealand in after he won the Toss, and his good fortune soon paid off. New Zealand were 43 for three in the 13th over. Only Andrew Jones, with 64 off 91 balls in 140 minutes, made a substantial score in the dif-

Ruddock to floor Tyson in 5th round

TORONTO, Feb 13: Donovan "Razor" Ruddock said on Tuesday his upcoming fight with Mike Tyson is turning personal and he will knock out the former heavyweight champion in five rounds, reports Reuter.

"He's been knocked out before by less experienced opponents and he's going to sleep again," Ruddock said.

Ruddock, born in Jamaica and now living in Canada, said Tyson's recent comment to television that he would "kill" Ruddock in their scheduled 12-round fight in Las Vegas on March 18 was unprofessional.

"For him to come out and say I'm going to kill Razor Ruddock, I'm definitely getting the idea he's scared," Ruddock said.

Ruddock, ranked as the number two heavyweight contender in the world, said Tyson was too scared to fight him in Edmonton, Alberta, in November, 1989.

Aouita ordered to rest for winter

RABAT, Feb 13: Laid low by a heavy cold that returns and gets worse each winter Morocco's multiple world record holding runner said Aouita has been ordered to sit out the rest of the indoor season, reports AFP.

He said here Tuesday that he would not be at the indoor meetings at Stockholm and Paris next week and that if he did appear before the summer it would only be a special occasion.

Aouita was forced to break off training in Mexico last week to visit a specialist in Belgium who told him to rest for the winter.

Aouita is the reigning world 5,000 metres champion and won a gold medal at the 1984 Olympic Games over the same distance. But he has spent much of the past two years on the injured list.

Vita-Rich soccer begins today

The Vita-Rich Victory Cup football tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Football Player Association will begin today at the Dhaka Stadium.

Two matches will be held on the inaugural day. Orange team will play against the Green team at 5:30 pm while in the other encounter at 7:10 pm, white will meet yellow.

Six teams divided into two groups are taking part in the nine-day tourney. Group 'A' of Blue, Orange and Green while in the Group 'B' team are: White Red and Yellow.

A purse of Taka fifty thousand will be at stake for the champions and runners-up.

Vita-Rich food products are the main sponsor of the tournament. Coca-cola, ICL, Elite Paints, and PWD will provide gears and jersey for the players.

National bridge from today

The eight-day national duplicate bridge championship, 1990 for teams and pairs, begins today at the Officers' Club at Baily Road.

A press release of the Bangladesh Bridge Federation Wednesday said 17 leading teams and 42 pairs have entered the Championships. The team event will conclude on February 20 while the pairs championship will be held on February 22.

Lipu, Duminda put Gulshan to sword

Sports Reporter

Two swashbuckling centuries, by former Bangladesh skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu and Sri Lankan all rounder Duminda, took the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club to a mammoth 354 for the loss of seven wickets in their Navana Premier Division cricket league match against Gulshan Youth at the Dhanmandi Cricket Stadium.

The star-studded but luckless GMCC, who lost their last match to Brothers Union for having lost a wicket more after the scores were tied, can be assured of registering their first win in four games when the match resumes today.

By close of play, on the first day, Gulshan Youth, tired after a non-stop leather chase, had made 33 for the loss of opener Saiful who was caught and bowled by Sanwar for 12. Gulshan face the unenviable and perhaps highly improbable

task of having to score another 322 runs in their remaining 62 overs to win the match.

For Gulshan Youth yesterday was a day they would all like to forget. GMCC, who lost the toss, added insult to Gulshan's injury by piling up their record total the highest in the league.

But when GMCC started their innings there were hardly any signs of the things to come. Both openers Liton and Tutul left cheaply, for 14 and 18 respectively, by the time the score reached 59. Lipu, who came in at one drop, added 78 runs for the third wicket with Selim who made 37 before falling lbw to former Indian Test opener Arun Lal.

And that's when Gulshan's luck ran out. Duminda joined Lipu, and the pair put on a massive 195 runs for the fourth wicket, both making their maiden centuries of the season before both falling at the same total of 332. Lipu made 114 off 175 balls

with five fours and a six while Duminda was the more attacking partner, making his 112 runs off just 110 deliveries. Duminda's knock was laced with seven sweetly-timed boundaries and four towering sixes. And somewhat ironically, both Lipu and Duminda fell to the Arun Lal-Ashok Malhotra combination, Malhotra getting Lipu's wicket while Lal had Duminda caught by his fellow former Indian Test player Malhotra.

With the overs running out fast, Rodrigo, ten not out, and Shabbir, seven run out, tried their best to push their side's total to the realms of impossibility.

Arun Lal and Malhotra were Gulshan's most successful bowlers, each claiming three wickets apiece but at the highly expensive cost of 70 and 60 runs respectively. Shabbir proved the most expensive among the eight Gulshan bowlers used, giving away 59 runs in his 11 overs.

MSC, Brothers set for a close finish

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club, whose title hopes took a stumble in their last outing against Bangladesh Biman, had another close fight on their hands at the end of the first day of their two-day Navana Premier Division cricket league match against fellow-contenders Brothers Union at the Dhaka Stadium.

Put in to bat, Mohammedans managed a modest 193 before being all out in 63.4 of their stipulated 75 overs. Brothers had replied with 28 for two after just seven overs when a dispute over an umpiring decision forced an early draw of stumps.

The dismissal of night-watchman Salahuddin for nought, given out after some hesitation by umpire Babul who needed to consult leg umpire Ataul Haq Mullick, caused discontent in the Brothers camp and play had to be held up for about seven minutes before the umpires chose to call it a day. Prior to that, Babul's rejection of the appeal against Shlahuddin for a catch at gully by Rubel off skipper Nannoo's bowling had invited loud protests from the Mohammedan players and fans, urging Babul to consult leg umpire Mullick, who ruled Salahuddin cleanly caught.

At close, Zahed Razzak Masoom, who has been struggling this season with the bat, was batting on 21.

Although Brothers Union assess a formidable batting lineup yet they will need to bat with all their luck and pluck if they are to surge ahead of Mohammedans in the league; win from four games each.

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Angels maintain clean slate

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Angels Club kept their unbeaten run after posting a comfortable 78-59 points victory over Josephite Club in the Partex First Division basketball league yesterday at the wooden floor basketball gymnasium.

Angels led 40-27 at the breather. James 25, Eml 18 and Bhulu 17 were the leading Angels players. Eddie Smith, Josephite's American recruit proved his worth with 35 points.

In the after match Dhaka Wanderers caused an upset beating Dhaka Winners 53-48 after leading 35-25 in the first half.

Nahaz 19 and Saidur with 15 points were the prominent Wanderers' scorers while Asif Zafor tops scored with 15 points for winners.

TT open trials from Feb 17

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) have invited table tennis players in an open trial on February 17 to select players for the forthcoming 8th Asian table tennis championship.

The four-day championship will begin at Dhaka's BKSP gymnasium from March 6.

The Federation has asked the players to register by February 16 at the BTTF office.

HSC Open badminton

Sports Reporter

Shakil, Sarwar, Rono and Rana moved into the finals of the men's singles on the fifth day of the fourth Hatkhola Sporting Club Open badminton championship at the Hatkhola ground.

In the mixed doubles quarter-final match, Momo and Nasir beat Penu and Lipi while in the other quarter-final match Rana and Dana beat Bhulu and Liza pair.

Sarwar and Zaman, Bhulu and Nasir also won their quarter-final match in the men's doubles.

Milnars cricket

Utdy Club made a bright start in the inaugural match of the Milnars First Division cricket super league after registering a comfortable seven-wicket win over Bangladesh Railway yesterday, at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Utdy with this win have now collected 12 points from ten matches while Railway with the same number of matches also remained at 12 points.

Losing their first wicket on 13, Mohammedans were soon struggling at 61 for five, and later, on 101 for six, before Halim Shah, 21, Ruble, 37, and Sri Lankan paceman Gamage, 36, put up stiff resistance lower down the order to take the score along to 193 all out. Brothers also did their best to boost the Mohammedan total by giving away 41 runs by way of sundries.

Besides the last named three Mohammedan batsmen, only three others made it into double figures—Nobel with 14 and Nannoo and Shujon with 11 each.

Fernando rocked the early Mohammedan batting and finished with four wickets for 33 runs off his 15 overs while skipper Atahar Ali Khan's medium-pace brought him three scalps for just 17 runs off 3.4 overs, the tall Brothers captain mopping up the Mohammedan tail. Prince and Masoom picked up a wicket each.

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Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Mirpur XI helped by Pradip Kumar's fine hat-trick thrashed Lalbagh Krira Chakra 8-0 in the Group 'B' super league match of the Pioneer Football yesterday, at the Outer stadium.

Biplob two, Al-Amin, Monir and Liton with one goal each were the other scorers for Mirpur XI.



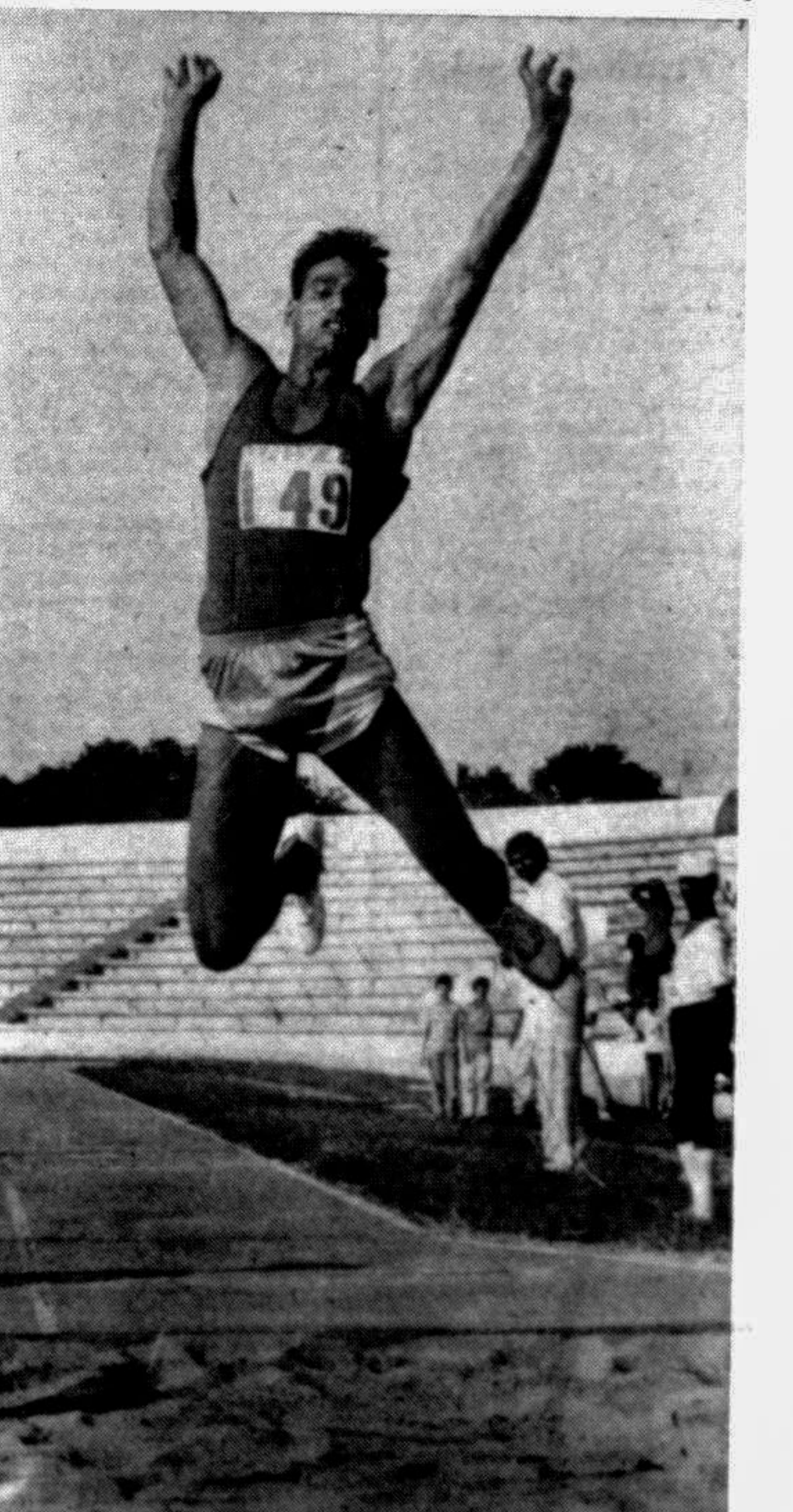
ROKEYA: new record

The day's first record-breaking performance came from Customs girl Rokeya Begum who clipped 2 seconds from the six-year-old mark of 15.5 seconds for the 100m hurdles. Mahubul Ara Guinea of BTMC came in a slow second at 16.5 for the silver while Shahana Sultana Panna of BJMC collected the bronze with a time of 16.8 seconds.

Mominul Haq of Army threw the hammer a distance of 55.12 metres to erase the old mark of 53.24 metres. Fellow-soldier Mostafa Taluk-



Havildar ABM Afzal Hossain of Army claimed the triple jump gold medal with a new national record of 15.55 metres. —Star photo



Mominul Haq of Bangladesh Army rewrote the national hammer throw mark of 53.24 metres with a distance of 55.12m yesterday at the Army Stadium to easily bag the gold medal. —Star photo