

# SAF Games begin today

COLOMBO, Dec 21: All is set for the 5th SAF Games, the first international sporting meet in Sri Lankan history, here tomorrow (Sunday) at the Sugathadasa Stadium, reports UNB/DSB.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa will open the 10-day meet at the 25,000 capacity stadium at 9 am Bangladesh time.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister D B Wijetunge and heads of state and governments of the SAARC countries, now in Colombo, for the SAARC summit, are also expected to be at the opening ceremony.

A total of 944 participants, including 258 women, will compete in 132 events of ten disciplines.

Meanwhile, a 225-member team from India, a 205-member from Pakistan, a 190-member squad from Bangladesh, an 85-member team from the Maldives and a 12-member Bhutanese team are already in the Sri Lankan capital. The Nepalese team had not arrived till this evening, but is expected any time tonight.

Hosts Sri Lanka have the largest contingent of 254, including 97 women.

Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will participate in all the ten disciplines — athletics, swimming, shooting, football, volleyball, basketball, boxing, weightlifting, tennis and table tennis while Bhutan will only take part in the table tennis competitions.

Bangladesh is taking part

in the women's sections of swimming, volleyball, tennis



and shooting — a new event in the Games — for the first time.

The Sri Lankan contingent's captain and ace swimmer Julian Bolling and president of the Sri Lankan Amateur Swimming Federation Dharmasiri Weerakoon will take oaths on behalf of the competitors and officials respectively.

Wimaladasa and K G Badru will light the Games flame.

The 196-member Bangladesh contingent led by Major (retd) Qamrul Islam, MP, arrived here yesterday evening to take part in the Games, the brain-child of Sharad Chandra Shaha, the former president of the national Olympic committee of Nepal.

Air Commodore D B Stirwardane, chairman of the protocol and liaison committee of the fifth SAF Games organising committee, and other officials received the Bangladesh team at the Katunayake international airport.

He first SAF Games were held in Kathmandu, Nepal in 1984, the second Games in Dhaka in 1985, the third in Calcutta in 1987, while the last

Games took place in Pakistan capital Islamabad in 1989.

## SOCCER

Meanwhile, Bangladesh will play the defending champions Pakistan in their opening match of the football competition at the Sugathadasa Stadium on December 24.

Bangladesh have been placed in Group A along with Pakistan and India while hosts Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives are in Group B.

The group champions will fight for the gold and the group runners-up teams will vie for the bronze.

On the opening day of the competition tomorrow, hosts Sri Lanka will take on Nepal at 5 pm (Bangladesh time) while India will meet Pakistan at 7 pm.

## VOLLEYBALL

Bangladesh volleyballers will play their first matches of both the men's and women's sections at the 7,000-capacity Sugathadasa indoor stadium on Monday.

The men will face the Maldives and the women play the hosts Sri Lanka in the morning of December 23.

On the opening day of the competition tomorrow, two matches of the men's section will take place. Sri Lanka will play the Maldives and India will meet Nepal.

In the men's group six countries — Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, the Maldives and Sri Lanka — are taking part while only three countries — Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka are competing in the women's section.

Chris Gorringe, chief executive of the All England Club, said: This decision is in keeping with the committee's policy of ensuring corporate hospitality at Wimbledon has only a small proportion of tickets and that ordinary tennis fans have access to their favourite event."

## Manikganj soccer

MANIKGANJ, Dec 21: Bangladesh Air Force today defeated Dhaka side Kalabagan 4-0 in the second round of the Kulfa Gold Cup football tournament played at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

Huda scored the first goal in the 10th minute of the first half while Akher netted the second in the 33 minute.

The two other goals were scored by Arif and Ilibab in the 12th and 38th minutes of the second half.

The next match will be played between Dhaka Dhanmandi Club and Wanderers Club at the same venue on Monday.

## Suhrawardy Cup finals from Dec 28

### Sports Reporter

The final round of the under-19 national youth football championships for the eighth Suhrawardy Cup begins on December 28 at the Naogaon Stadium.

On the opening day Khulna DSA will take on Nilphamari DSA.

The other qualifiers for the final round include the seventh Suhrawardy Cup champions Feni DSA, hosts Naogaon and the zonal champions Chittagong, Tangail, Netrakona, Comilla, Pabna and Jhenaidah DSA's.

Sadeque Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports, will inaugurate the final round proceedings.

The final match of the Suhrawardy Cup tournament is scheduled to be held on January 6, 1992.

## Wimbledon puts fans first

LONDON, Dec 21: Wimbledon are slashing corporate hospitality and overseas packages by 70 per cent to provide more tickets for the public at their 1992 tennis Championships, reports Reuter.

Organisers said on Friday they were cutting the allocation to corporate hospitality agents and overseas packages by more than 1,000 tickets per day.

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## Mirzapur Cadet College sports

TANGAIL, Dec 21: The annual sports competition of the Mirzapur Cadet College concluded at the college sports ground here this afternoon, says an ISPR release.

Fazil Haq House with a haul of 247 points emerged champions while Nazrul House with 240 points became the runners-up.

Cadet Arif and Cadet Naimur were jointly declared the best athletes in the junior group while Cadet Jamil and Cadet Sohrab shared the honours in the senior group.

The Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Muhammad Mohamadul Islam saw the concluding day's events as chief guest and gave away the prizes.

Major General Muhammad Azizur Rahman, Adjutant General of the Bangladesh Army, was also present on the occasion.

## Indonesians crowd Asian badminton semifinals

JAKARTA, Dec 21: Indonesia will dominate the Asian badminton men's singles semifinals, following the end of the round robin stage of the championships here Friday, reports AFP.

Indonesia's new star, Bambang Suprianto, had already made sure of his berth by beating China's Wu Wen Kai and Malaysia's Foo Kok Keong in Group-B.

He was joined Friday by compatriot Joko Suprianto, silver medallist at last month's South East Asian Games, who needed three sets to beat China's Liu Jun 15-2, 15-7, 15-6 in Group-D.

Indonesia's third semi-finalist, Fung Permadi, went through to the last four after a straight sets win over South Korean Lee Kwan-Jin, which left him top of Group-A.

Rashid Sidek of Malaysia will be the only player left to prevent a clean sweep of the medals by the host nation.

Sidek overcame China's Wan Zhangwen 15-2, 6-15, 15-3 to reach the semifinals from Group-C.

In the women's singles, Thailand's Somaratna Jaroenstri beat China's Ye Zhaoying in two sets. She goes through to the semifinals as runner-up in Group-B and will meet China's world champion, Tan Jui Hong, the winner of Group-C.

Jones has made a remarkable start to the Shield season, and now has 839 runs at an average of 279.66 in five innings in the competition.

With the score at 43, Wallace snicked a Reiffel delivery to Healy, his total of 21 in-



Mohammedan Sporting all-rounder Aminul Islam Bulbul jubilates after bowling Abahani skipper Farooque through the gate on the second day of their two-day Victory Day cricket final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Abahani won by six wickets to clinch the trophy.

Star photo

# Lamba lambasts Mohammedans

### Sports Reporter



Finally it happened, exactly the way cricket enthusiasts had predicted at the end of the first day of the final of the Victory Day cricket tournament Friday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Raman Lamba, the former Indian Test batsman now playing for Abahani Kira Chakra, would be the deciding factor, the pundits had said.

and he was as the Dhan Summer champions added another feather to their cap by beating arch-rivals Dhaka Mohammedans Sporting Club by a staggering margin of six wickets to lift the Victory Day trophy yesterday.

Lamba's unheralded, chanceless hundred smothered all the possibilities of the nerve-wracking melodrama that is associated with a Mohammedan-Abahani clash.

Lamba, the macho right-hander, made his intentions clear pretty early.

The other opener, Zahid Razzak Masoom, had a few anxious moments, particularly clear against Gamage.

But both the openers got their eyes in to play some delightful strokes.

Masoom, with his keen eyesight and powerful fore-arms, punched, pulled and flicked to score 47 before becoming the first casualty of the morning.

Earlier, Masoom enjoyed a slice of luck with the team total at 56. While trying to flick Suru off his pads he gave Didar at cover a dally catch from the leading edge but the young player, perhaps a little overawed by the occasion, floored



Lamba and Bulbul (R) and ... men-of-the-match

Bulbul and was bowled through the gate.

With the help of three fours.

Lamba, meanwhile, reached a well-deserved hundred off 169 balls with a single off Waheed. He was finally out for 111 when he tried to play Gamage across the line.

The batsmen, who looked unhappy over the leg before decision, hit seven fours and one six.

Lamba entertained the crowd with the only six of the match when he leaned back to despatch stand-in skipper Waheed between long on and midwicket with a cross-batted swat.

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