

V Bangladesh Games on



President Abdur Rahman Biswas taking salute from the competitors at the opening ceremony of the fifth Bangladesh Games at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain (extreme right), Mayor Mirza Abbas (2nd from left) and BOA chief Gias Kamal Chowdhury are also seen. — Star photo

Only about 2000 spectators were around in the 'free' stands to witness the belated inauguration of the quadrennial sporting bonanza, *ala* Olympics by President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

Although the proto-type for the local organisers never ceases to interest numerous people all over the world with the master-minds always conjuring up new combinations from a set of immutable things, yesterday the local organisers dished out rejune refreshings in the name of ceremony at the Dhaka Stadium.

It was the same old pegeon-balloon-hotch-potch with a chorus — led by noted singers Sabina Yasmin and Andrew Kishore coming like butter on soaked toast.

The ceremonial part of the inauguration began immediately after the opening declaration by the President at 4.04 pm. The chorus, written by Dr Moniruzzaman and set to tune by music director Samar Das, was rendered from a mobile vehicle.

Former national footballer Zakaria Pintu showed that he still has some sense of anticipation left in him as the star stopper of yesteryears was found kindling the torch along with Sufia Khatun, another renowned sports personality and once upon a time 'fastest women' of the country.

Athlete Shamima Sattar Mim and the medal winning shooter of Commonwealth and SAF games Ateequr Rahman then took oath on behalf of the 3214 actors and actresses of the show, scheduled to be held at 18 venues across the city.

Mirza Farid Milu, vice president of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) followed Mim and Ateequr in oath-taking, doing it for the officials and judges of the labyrinthine sports meet, tipped as the dress rehearsal for the sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, programmed to be held in Dhaka next year.

Although number of participants soared to an unprecedented 3214, Khagrachhari was represented by its lone member in the march past of 53 teams. Ansars emerged as the biggest contingent when 16 BOA flag-bearers, dressed in immaculate white, paraded the ground with Khulna following.

Games squash gets underway

Sports Reporter

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First Games gold goes to Ansars

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars clinched the first gold medal of the fifth Bangladesh Games in a cycling event.

The hour-member Ansar team won the men's 100 kilometre road trial clocking 2 hours 36 mins and 8 seconds.

Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) took the silver with a time of 2:37:02.89 seconds while Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) quartet, who clocked 2:40:51.70 seconds, won the bronze.

Twenty cyclists representing five teams participated in the event held under the aegis of the Bangladesh Cycling Federation.

Ninety-three cyclists including 19 women of 12 teams are taking part in the fifth Bangladesh Games cycling championships.

Elina, Juthi to fight for women's badminton gold

Sports Reporter

Elina Begum of Bangladesh Biman will play her senior teammate Mazia Akhter Juthi in the women's singles final of the 17th national badminton championships, now being held as a part of the fifth Bangladesh Games at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium.

Elina eliminated Konika Adhikari of Biman 11-0, 11-1 while Juthi defeated Sharmin Ahmed Momo 11-6, 12-9 in their respective semifinal encounters yesterday.

The men's singles event reached the quarterfinal stage.

In yesterday's men's pre-quarter finals, Hamid of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC): Suman of Ansars defeated Bhulu of Biman; Amir Ali of Ansars outclassed his teammate Kochi; Rana of Ansars outlasted Nasir of Biman; Shakil of Biman outplayed his teammate Sarwar; Mahbub of Biman got the better of Shiru of Ansars while Khurshid, another Biman player, beat Tinku of Rangpur DSA to move into the quarter finals.

The other match between Hashem (Ansars) and Chhoton (Biman) were in progress when reports last came in.

Army crash out of Games soccer

Sports Reporter

The fourth Bangladesh Games football runners-up Bangladesh Army crashed at the first hurdle when they lost to fabled Khulna Division 0-1 in the second match of this year's Games soccer at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Khulna Division will take on the victors of tomorrow's match between Bangladesh Customs and Chittagong Division in the semifinals on December 22.

After a barren first half, Jamal Hossain scored the all important goal in the 70th minute.

Earlier in the evening, Bangladesh Customs edged Bangladesh Navy out 3-2 in the inaugural match at the same venue.

Favourites Customs led 2-0 at the breather.

Aksad put Customs in the lead in the 10th minute (1-0).

Salahuddin made it 2-0 in the 30th minute. Sujit got the third one for Customs in the 51st minute (3-0).

Having conceded three goals in a row the sailors pulled up their socks, albeit belatedly, which proved in vain. Their first goal came when Mozammel scored from close in the 55th minute (3-1).

Mahmood netted the second goal for Navy eight minutes from time (3-2).

Customs will take on Chittagong Division in their next match tomorrow at 3 pm.

Nine teams — five services and four divisional sides — are participating in the six-day meet.

Fifth Bangladesh Games '92:

TODAY'S EVENTS

Athletics : AM-PM: Army Stadium

Badminton : AM-PM: Wooden-floor gym

Football : 3 pm and 5 pm: Mirpur Stadium

Handball : AM-PM: Dhaka Stadium & Outer Stadium

Basketball : AM-PM: Wooden-floor gym

Volleyball : AM-PM: Outer Stadium

Tennis : AM-PM: Ramna Tennis Complex

Table Tennis : AM-PM: Dhanmondi Women's Complex

Squash : AM-PM: Dhaka Club

Hockey : AM-PM: Hockey Stadium

Body-building : AM-PM: Muhammad Ali Boxing Stadium

Swimming (Women's) : AM-PM: Dhanmondi Women's Complex

Kabaddi : AM-PM: Outer Stadium

Shooting : AM-PM: Banani Shooting Range

Note: AM-PM indicates competition will be held both in the morning and afternoon sessions.

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1992: Being last seemed to be the fashion

NEW YORK, Dec 18: Being first always has been in style in sports. In 1992, being 'the last' also seemed to be the fashion, writes AP.

It was the last year when both the Winter and Summer Olympics would be held in the same year. It would be the last time the country that dominated both, the Soviet Union, would roar as a mighty sports power and the last time Magic Johnson and Larry Bird would take to the floor.

The year provided dramatic contrasts, from the Dances remarkable joy after winning the European Football Championship to the tragedy at Bastia, Corsica, where 15 people died before the kickoff of a French Cup game when the temporary stands collapsed.

An Olympic year, 1992 provided more memorable moments than most. Sixteen-year-old Finn Toni Niemanen won two ski jumping golds and a bronze with his unorthodox 'V-style' and became the youngest Winter Olympic champion in history.

Cross-country skiers Lyubov Egorova and Elena Valbe led the Unified Team, the old Soviets marching under the Olympic flag and hymn, with five medals each. But the new unified German team immediately showed its strength, topping all nations with 10 gold and 26 total medals.

The Summer Games were the crowning achievement of international Olympic Committee president and Barcelona native Juan Antonio Samaranch, who despite the success of the Games was hounded by allegations from a book about a fascist past and charges he has turned the Olympics into a corrupt cash machine.

Spain had their best performance ever with 13 gold and 22 total medals, including a last-minute, 3-2 victory over Poland in the soccer final before 95,000 flag-waving fans.

Unified gymnast Vitaly Scherbo was the biggest individual winner with six golds.

The Barcelona Games also provided other dramatic moments Antonio Rebollo's flaming arrow into the Olympic cauldron to begin the Olympic, and Briton Derek Redmond's limping, father-aided attempt to reach the finish line after pulling a hamstring in the 400 meters.

Throughout the year, Courier mused about 'the great mystery of tennis,' why he could be unbeatable one week and so vulnerable another, as he was on his favourite surface, clay, at the Olympics against Switzerland's are Rosset. Rosset, one of the game's most powerful servers, went on to

win the gold and upset Courier again on the 'first day of the Davis Cup final.

Courier never solved the mystery, despite winning dlr 2.3 million this year. But then not many players figured out how to beat him. He wound up with two Grand Slam titles, three other tournament wins and a Davis Cup trophy after his clinching victory over Jakob Hlasek that he cherishes as much as anything he owns.

In one ludicrously lucrative non-tour event, Michael Stich won almost as much as Courier did all year, dlr 2 million for beating Michael Chang in the Grand Slam Cup final Dec. 13 in Germany. Money aside, it was still a disappointing year for Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon champion who slid from No. 4 to No. 15 with only one tour victory.

Mc Enroe won no impressive singles titles. But he took his ninth Grand Slam doubles title at Wimbledon, this time with Stich, in an epic final that finished on Monday because of darkness Sunday night. Mc Enroe and Stich finally prevailed, 5-7, 7-6, 3-6, 7-6, 19-17, over Jim Grabb and Richey Reneberg.

He showed moments of greatness at the Australian, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, but in the end just proved to himself and everyone else that he no longer can sustain the championship level throughout a two-week tournament. He had one last, flag-waving moment of glory at the Davis Cup, yet even that pleasure was offset by the pain of his separa-

tion from his wife Tatum O'Neal, just before the matches.

Jennifer Capriati seemed on the verge of making her great leap in the women's tennis rankings after she won the gold in Barcelona with a three-set victory in the finals over Steffi Graf. It had been a tearful year for Capriati, a bittersweet

French and U.S. Opens again and just missing a sweep of the Grand Slam when she lost to Graf in the Wimbledon final.

Yielding to the harassment of the British tabloids with their court-side 'Gruntometers,' and bothered by the complaints of a few players about the noises she makes hitting the ball, Seles chose the final to prove she could win quietly. It was an ill-advised time to experiment with something as basic as breathing.

Seles acknowledged afterward she would have been better off ignoring the critics and concentrating on Graf's game on the grass, where the German recorded her second straight Wimbledon title and fourth in five years.

Seles went back to grunting at the U.S. Open and closed out the year by winning her third straight Virginia Slims Championship. She broke her won money record for a year with dlr 2.6 million in official prizes and pushed her career total to nearly dlr 7 million before she turned 19 this month. Of the 15 tournaments she played, she won 10 reached the finals in four and the quarter finals in one, compiling a 70-5 match record.

Funny thing is, Seles still hasn't convinced everyone she's for real.

'I'm different, I know,' Seles said at the Virginia Slims. 'I don't look like a No. 1 player. People say to me, "You don't look like an athlete. You look like a person."

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Barcelona also had its downside: charges of steroids use among medalists in the women's 100-metre finals by fourth-place finisher and 200-metre champion Gwen Torrence, and an argument on the gold medal-winning US basketball 'Dream Team' about what commercial logos to wear at the awards ceremony — while competition was still under way.

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