



Feroza Khatoun (No 315) breaks the tape in the women's 200m of the fifth Bangladesh Games at the Army Stadium. Feroza won the gold with a time of 25.6 seconds. Rehana Parveen of Customs (L) finished second. — Star photo

TT team finals today

Sports Reporter

Narail girls won the bronze while Bangladesh Biman and Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) positioned themselves dead-set for the gold of today's men's team event in the table tennis championships of the fifth Bangladesh Games at the Dhanmondi Women's Complex yesterday.

Prior to the final of the women's championship, the Narail paddlers won the third-place decider against Rajshahi by the odd set in five.

In the men's semifinals, Biman blanked Dhaka three sets to nil to land in the final where they will face BTMC who recorded a hard-fought 3-2 win against Ansars.

Things did not look very promising at the outset for the Narail girls when Tumpa of Rajshahi comfortably defeated Jyotsna of Dhaka 15-2, 15-2.

Trishna of Narail answered with a timely retaliation, beating Rajshahi's Shaheen two sets to nil, the score there being 21-14, 21-11.

In the doubles, Tumpa and Shaheen of Rajshahi recorded a two-nil victory to help their side regain the lead. The scoreline was 21-18 and 22-20.

In a dramatic turnaround involving the reverse singles Trishna of Narail fought off Tumpa of Rajshahi in an exciting three-set encounter. Trishna lost the first set 11-21, won the second at 21-15 to restore parity and finally tamed her opponent in the third set at 24-22.

Trishna's teammate Jyotsna had few problems in brushing aside Shaheen's challenge at 21-15, 21-15.

In the first semi-final of the men's championship, Biman romped home 3-0 with Musaddequl Huq Rochi, the reigning national champion, downing Pappu of Dhaka 21-17, 21-18.

Sohel then saw off Maruf 21-13, 21-13.

In the last match Saidul Huq Saadi of the Airline team destroyed Ripon 21-18, 21-14 to pick up a clean three-love victory for Biman.

The second semifinal was a real stirrer with BTMC winning a passage to the final in a see-saw encounter.

Happy of Ansars won the first singles tie beating Akhi of BTMC 2-1. The winner lost the first set 19-21, won the next two at 23-21 and 21-17.

Mustafa of Ansars brought in an air finality when he beat Akhi by two sets to one.

Mustafa lost the first set at 21-23, then girded up his loins to take the next two at 21-18 and 21-17.

Stung by the defeat of his would-be brother-in-law Akhi, Kishu of BTMC beat Ansars' Munna 21-16, 21-18 to revive the Corporation's hopes.

Akhi then beat Happy in one of the reverse singles 21-15, 21-18.

Akhi then turned into an impressive show to snatch a 2-1 victory against Mustafa. The scoreline there was 21-8, 18-21 and 21-14.

In the other matches of the day the star-studded Ansars women's team entered the final beating Rajshahi DSA 3-0 in one of the semi-finals.

National champion Zulekha beat Rajshahi's Tumpa 21-8 and 21-7.

Eleven-time national champion Zobera Rahman Linu, who left Biman for Ansars, had a cakewalk against her opponents from Rajshahi. The graceful paddler won the match 21-5, 21-7.

The fancied Zulekha-Linu air then blasted Tumpa and Shaheen 21-6, 21-0.

Ansars will meet Gaibandha in the final today.

Gaibandha entered the final by registering a 3-0 victory against Narail.

Earlier in the morning Biman beat Jessore 3-0. Ansars defeated Narail 3-0.

BTMC blanked Patuakhali 3-0 while Dhaka got past Tangail at 3-1.

The finals of the men's and women's team championships will start at 3-30 this afternoon at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

Nayeem betters own mark

Sports Reporter



Hurdler Abdul Rahim Nayeem of Bangladesh Navy bettered his own 400m mark as just one record was created on Day One of athletic competition of the fifth Bangladesh Games at the Army Stadium, Banani yesterday.

Nayeem took 52 seconds, 24 seconds better than his previous feat, achieved earlier this year in the Power Athletic championship.

Lnk Solesman Majumder got the silver and the veteran Wazir Rahman of BTMC the bronze.

Nk Golam Ambia and Firoza Khatoun fastest man and woman of the country, gave an indication of their form when they both won the 200m sprints for men and women respectively.

Army's Ambia clocked 21.3 seconds to finish ahead of his peer Azhar Ali who settled for the silver, timing 22 sec.

Shahanuddin Chowdhury showed clear signs of decline managing the third slot, a bronze, for his team BTMC, taking 22.2 seconds.

Firoza Khatoun raced clear of Customs' Rehana Parveen to snatch the gold in the women's 200m sprint. The BTMC runner required 25.6 seconds. Rehana took 25.9 seconds.

Nilufar Yasmin of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation

(BJMC) managed the bronze for her timing of 26.1 sec. Havildar Abdul Jabbar of Army won the gold in the men's 1000m run. The long-legged soldier took 31m:34.2 seconds, followed by teammate Nk Layek Shetkh who needed 31m: 34.7 sec to cover the distance.



A R NAYEEM

Alam Khan of Ansars and VDP finished third with a timing of 31m:37.7 sec.

Lnk Zakir Hossain deposited the day's third and last gold gong in Army's account when he took 3 minutes 54 seconds to snatch the gold in the men's 1500m.

Wahab Khan of Bangladesh Air Force trailed him for the second spot and the silver medal with a timing of 3 minutes 55.7 seconds.

Lnk Ansar Ali of Army came

third when he reached the mark in 3 min 56.7 seconds to take the bronze.

BJMC's Lubna Mahmud collected the gold in the women's 800m. Lubna, who clocked 2 min 20 sec, was followed by Monira Khatoun of Ansars and VDP who took 2 min 22.6 seconds. Nasima Akhtar underlined BJMC's dominance in this event by notching the bronze consuming 2 min 23 seconds.

The men's shot put gold went to Roqibul Alam of Navy who hurled the solid metallic ball across a distance of 13.48 metres.

Army's Nk Saleh Ahmed registered a distance of 13.28 metres.

Sheikh Rownakul Islam of Customs was left with the bronze for his distance of 13.08m.

MEDAL TABLE

Medals table at the end of the first day of the competition:

(Tabulate under G for gold, S for silver, B for bronze and T for total):

About 100 competitors from 18 teams are taking part in this competition.

	G	S	B	T
Army	3	4	1	8
Navy	2	0	0	2
BJMC	1	0	2	3
BTMC	1	0	2	3
Ansars & VDP	0	1	1	2
Customs	0	1	1	2
Air Force	0	1	0	1



Olympian Golam Ambia of Bangladesh Army won the men's 200m gold of the fifth Bangladesh Games at the army stadium yesterday. Ambia, the fastest man of the country, clocked 21.3 seconds. — Star photo

Dhaka first into semis

Sports Reporter



Defending champions Dhaka DSA became the first team to qualify for the semifinals of the 17th national hockey championship edging past the fourth Bangladesh Games runners-up Dhaka University by a solitary goal at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Eight teams in two groups are participating in the final round of this year's national championship, this year being held as part of the quadrennial Bangladesh Games.

The last of the day's three fixtures, between Dhaka DSA and Dhaka University, the two formidable powers of the country's hockey apart from Bangladesh Army, was a keenly contested affair.

Although veteran left-winger Barkatullah Chapal could not play for Dhaka in yesterday's match because of an injury, veterans Abdullah Piru, Kismat, Jamil Parvez Lulu and Sadek performed excep-

tionally well. Incidentally, it was Sadek who scored the decider for Dhaka two minutes from time with a fine field goal.

Khawaja Irtiza Kader Guddu of Dhaka received the yellow card while Tapan of Dhaka and Akhter of Dhaka University were shown the green cards for rough play.

Dhaka DSA now have four points while Dhaka University have two points from two matches each.

Dhaka University may yet make the semifinals provided they win their remaining league match against Jessore tomorrow.

In the day's first match, fancied Faridpur DSA beat Dhaka Education Board by two goals to one.

Although Faridpur dominated the entire proceeding it was Dhaka Board who drew the first blood when Haider Alam scored from close in the 23rd minute.

Mahbub Haroon drew level for Faridpur five minutes after

the interval from a penalty stroke (1-1).

Md Issa Mian got the winner for Faridpur in the 53rd minute by converting a penalty corner (2-1).

Faridpur forced six penalty corners and as many corners while Dhaka Education Board managed two penalty corners and as many long corners.

The other group league encounter of the day, between Jessore and Potuakhali, ended in a goalless draw.

Jessore earned four penalty corners against two managed by Potuakhali.

Pintu of Jessore received the green-card caution for the umpire.

Both Jessore and Potuakhali now have one point from two matches each.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka vs Potuakhali (10:00 am)

B Army vs Faridpur (1:30 pm)

D. E. Board vs Rajshahi (3:00 pm)

BTMC gymnasts dominate

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) dominated the first day of the gymnastics competition of the fifth Bangladesh Games when they bagged two of the three golds at stake at the NSC gym yesterday.

In the men's floor exercise Aslam gave BTMC their first gold. The silver went to BKSP's Dulal Gomez while Sohel and Rana both won bronze.

Sharif Marzina Hossain made it two for BTMC when she won the women's balance beam with 14.90 points. Suraiya of Bangladesh Ansars bagged the silver with a score of 14.50, ahead of Sharif Rokeya Hossain who managed 12.60.

Bangladesh Ansars made a clean sweep in the men's Roman rings winning all the medals on offer.

AKM Saiful Islam won the gold with a score of 15.55 followed by Delwar Hossain and Nazrul Islam who bagged the silver and bronze respectively.

Navy cagers win

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Bangladesh Navy trounced Sylhet DSA by 116 points to 36 in one of the three matches of the 16th national basketball championship, being held as part of the fifth Bangladesh Games, at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

The sailors led the first session 57-19.

Bangladesh Army, who finished third in the last national, swept aside Khulna DSA by 123 points to 37 while Chandpur DSA beat Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in the other matches of the day.

Volleyball results

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Bangladesh Army registered a straight-sets victory over Bangladesh Police in the Bangladesh Games men's volleyball championship at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday.

Bangladesh Rifles beat Rangpur BSA in the other men's volleyball encounter of the day.

In the women's event, national champions Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) beat Dinajpur, Bangladesh Ansars beat Narayanjan and Khulna beat Rangpur yesterday.

Kabaddi results

Sports Reporter

Tangail DSA brightened their chances of reaching the semifinals of the fifth Bangladesh Games kabaddi when they won both their matches at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court yesterday.

In their first encounter of the day, Tangail outplayed Dinajpur DSA 18-13 and edged Comilla DSA 14-13 in the second engagement.

Police also kept their semi-final hopes alive winning their second match of the day over Bangladesh Rifles by a narrow 13-11 margin. In their first match in the morning they drew with Ansars 12-12.

Bangladesh Rifles had a hard-fought victory over Fire Service while Comilla tasted their second consecutive defeat of the day, going down miserably 10-29 to Khulna DSA.

Six matches are scheduled for today. The semifinals and the final will be held on Monday.

Body-building

Bangladesh Ansars bagged two body-building golds of the fifth Bangladesh Games at the Muhammad Ali Boxing Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Fatik Dutta of Ansars won the gold in the 70kg lightweight division. Pintu Kanti Das of Chittagong Metropolitan Club took the silver and Mohammad Rahmatullah of Dhaka City Corporation won the bronze.

Another Ansars body-builder, Musa Chowdhury, won the 65-kg bantamweight gold while Parichoy Barman (Dhaka City Corporation) and Bayzid Hossain (Bogra) took silver and bronze respectively.

In the 60-kg flyweight category, Abul Kalam Azad of Dinajpur took the gold, Haji Lehajuddin of Ansars bagged the silver and Mamunur Rahman of Panchagarh claimed the bronze.

Squash results

Sports Reporter

Nine matches of the fifth Bangladesh Games squash championship were decided at the Dhaka Club squash court yesterday.

Hazrat Ali eliminated Hira 9-1, 9-1; Ali Murad outlasted A Mannan 9-1, 9-0; Ram Jagadis outplayed Alam 9-1, 9-6; Asif Anwar defeated Tanveer 9-1, 9-1; Nazrul Islam got the better of Abdullah Parvez 9-1, 9-0; Jagadish Chauhan beat Abu Hasan 9-3, 9-4; Badal outlasted Lt Col 9-3, 9-2; Mohit Lal beat Rashed Chowdhury 9-4, 9-5 while Bhola Lal beat Bishu 9-5, 9-4, in yesterday's matches.



Monira Rahman of BTMC on her way to setting a new mark in the women's 200m butterfly of the fifth Bangladesh Games at the Dhanmondi Women's Complex yesterday. She took 3 minutes and 27.48 secs to shave 25.92 seconds off the previous mark. — Star photo

Girls set pool afire

Sports Reporter

Records were rewritten in seven of the eight events in the women's swimming competition as the hot favourites Ansars collected 11 medals including four golds on the second day of the fifth Bangladesh Games at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

The female natants of BTMC also bagged four golds but had to be content with the second slot in the medal's table as their tally showed a lowly six at day's end.

Defying the elemental chill of late December BTMC's Monira Rahman emerged as the star of the first day pocketing three golds—in the 50m breast-stroke, 200m butterfly and 200m free-style.

The day's first event—400m freestyle saw an upheaval as Rehana Zaman of the Ansars clocked 6:05.47 secs to pick up the gold.

China Akhtar, Rehana's teammate, finished second with a timing of 6:37.19 secs.

The record-breaking spree started with the 50m free-style—the day's second event. Monira Rahman of BTMC crased Rehana Zaman's 33.10 secs mark achieved in 1991 with a new timing of 32.21 sec.

Zarina Akhtar of Ansars notched the silver finishing second in 36.50 seconds.

Veteran Mahmuda Sharif of

Ansars went one better in the 200m breast-stroke, shattering her previous record of 3:23.45 seconds, created in 1991.

Mahmuda clocked 3:23.12 seconds yesterday.

Sufia Akhtar of Ansars secured the second slot taking 3:29.53 seconds. Dilruba Akhtar of Jessore district picked up the bronze consuming 3:45.58 seconds.

Rehana Zaman of Ansars, who won two golds yesterday, opened her account by winning the gold in the 400m individual medley. Her 6:59.50 seconds timing—a new record—eclipsed Sitara Begum's timing of 7:58.40 seconds achieved way back in 1981.

Monira Begum timed 3:27.48 seconds in the 200m butterfly rubbing off an eleven-year record, held till yesterday by Sitara Begum. Monira crased Sitara's feat 3:53.40 secs, achieved way back in 1979 for Dhaka Education Board.

Putul Rani Ghosh of Ansars settled, for the second position with a timing of 3:50.54 seconds.

Rajbari's Mita Rani Some was the bronze winner, clocking 3:59.90 seconds.

A gold medal and a new record belonged to Mahfuza Rahman of BTMC in the 100m back-stroke event. Mahfuza who finished first in the supine mode of swimming, took 1:24.85 seconds, almost

1:24.85 seconds, almost five seconds less than Reshma Parveen's timing of 1:32.17 seconds attained earlier this year.

Monira surged ahead of Rehana Zaman as the highest individual medal collector of Day One when she took the 200m free-style gold. The BTMC swimmer took 2:44.91 sec to obscure the previous record of 2:45.03 sec set by Laila Noor of BTMC way back in 1991.

The Ansars quartet of Zarina, Rina, China and Rehana Zaman lifted the gold in the 4X100m free-style relay clocking 5:18.06 seconds.

Their timing erased the previous second of 6:21.22, also held by Ansars swimmers—Sitara, Mahmuda Sharif, Sulikha and Rehana in 1987.

The BTMC team, comprising Mahfuza, Shab-e-Noor Lalana, Shamsun Nahar and Monira Rahman, took the silver while the Narayanjan quartet of Tania, Hasina, Sheher and Hosna managed the bronze.

Forty-one female swimmers representing seven teams are participating in the Bangladesh Games.

MEDALS TABLE

	G	S	B	T
Ansars	4	7	0	11
BTMC	4	1	1	6
Jessore	0	0	2	2
Rajbari	0	0	2	2
Narayanjan	0	0	2	2
Munshiganj	0	0	0	1

Munna hattrick revives Ansars

Sports Reporter

Coming from behind Bangladesh Ansars beat Rajshahi Division by four goals to three in the fifth Bangladesh Games football competition at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The high light of the match was a brilliant hattrick by Munna of Ansars.

Ansars will take on fancied Dhaka Division in the first semifinal tomorrow at 3 pm.

Ansars led 3-2 at half-time. Rajshahi Division initially stunned Ansars by scoring twice within the first eight minutes of the game.

However, the superior and more determined Ansars players absorbed the early shocks and soon found their rhythm, taking the game to their opponents.

Shafiqur Rahman Samrat had put Rajshahi in the lead in the veryfourth minute while Emdadul Huq doubled the margin in the eighth minute.

Ansars reduced the margin when Munna scored from in the 21st minute.

Fourteen minutes later Munna levelled the score for Ansars 2-2.

A couple of minutes later Shah Alam scored the third goal for Ansars while Munna completed his hattrick by getting the fourth goal for the winners in the 54th minute.

DHAKA DRUB BAF

Earlier in the afternoon, Dhaka Division trounced Bangladesh Air Force by five goals to two at the same venue.

Nizamuddin opened the floodgates for Dhaka in the 27th minute while Munir made it 2-0 in the 30th minute.

Sudhir got the third for Dhaka in the 38th minute. Munir got his second goal of the match in the 70th minute while Milon completed the tally for the winners in the 71st minute (5-0).

Having scored five goals in a row, Dhaka Division players relaxed and let their opponents do some scoring. Akhter reduced the margin in the 73rd minute while Habib scored the second goal for Air Force a minute from time (5-2).

Chittagong Division take on Bangladesh Customs in today's match at 3 pm at the same venue.

Barcelona in all sorts of trouble

MADRID, Dec 18: European champions Barcelona, beaten in the Inter-continental Cup by Sao Paulo last weekend, now face a battle to keep their brilliant young team together, reports AFP.

Midfielder Josep Guardiola, a member of Spain's gold medal winning Olympic side in August and now established in the national squad, is the latest target for Barcelona's European rivals.

Guardiola, 21 goes into Sunday's game at Ray Vallecano with a two million dollar a season offer from AS Roma weighing heavily on his mind.

The player's agent said the Italian club had tripled the offer made by Barcelona to stay on when his contract runs out at the end of the season. On top of the money would come the usual house and sports car given to all Italian league stars.

Other members of the team are also wanted. Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov and Danish international Michael Laudrup are also constantly being made offers from Italy, according to Spanish press reports.

Coach John Cruyff is expected to counter any attempt to take away leading scorer Stoichkov. But now AC Milan

seem to want to keep French striker Jean-pierre Papin among their permitted foreigners. Cruyff could get a clear run for Ajax striker Dennis Bergkamp.

His immediate task is making sure Barcelona do not slip up against the newly promoted Madrid side, who have already beaten their illustrious neighbours Real and Atletico this season.

Real Madrid, with warnings of no more defeats made by president Raul Mendoza, go to Sevilla where Diego Maradona will again ignore a knee injury to play. Atletico entertain lowly Logrones while joint-leaders La Coruna go to Real Zaragoza.

The Italian league gets a weekend off while the national teams goes to Malta for a World Cup qualifier. But Lazio look like losing German international Karl-Heinz Riedle who does not like