

Soccer final today

Sports Reporter

Khulna Division earned the bronze of the fifth Bangladesh Games soccer championship by edging past Dhaka Division by two goals to one at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The final between Bangladesh Customs and Bangladesh Ansars will be held this afternoon at the same venue.

However, the highlight of yesterday's third-place deciding play-off was the showing of the red card by referee Nazir Hossain to Dhaka Division defender Amir who dangerously fouled an opponent in the 49th minute of play.

Towhid put Khulna ahead in the 38th minute (1-0) while Sajedur Rahman Tushar doubled the margins in the 42nd minute (2-0).

Milon pulled one back for Dhaka in the 61st minute (2-1).

Khulna lost to Bangladesh Customs while Dhaka suffered defeat at the hands of Ansars in their respective semifinal matches.

Nine teams—five Services and Four Divisional teams are competing in the Games soccer.

President of the Bangladesh Football Federation Siddique Rahman will witness today's final as chief guest.

Tennis finals today

Sports Reporter

Faisal and Ruman won the men's doubles tennis title of the fifth Bangladesh Games at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

They beat Maruf and Hiralal in straight sets.

The winners took the first set at 7-6, following a tie-break. A six-love swamp in the second set was followed by another deadlock in the third which the victors clinched 7-6.

The losers seemed to have run out of gas and conceded the fourth and last set at 2-6.

Earlier in the morning, Faisal and Ruman showed remarkable resilience in coming back from behind to win a marathon five set semifinal. Their opponents Shibulal and Jhilan ran away with the first two sets at 6-3, 6-3 to set the stage for a sterling fightback.

Faisal and Ruman then displayed fine attacking tennis to take three sets in a row—6-1, 6-3 and 6-2 which assured them a place in the final and eventually the gold medal in men's doubles category.

In the women's singles semifinals Rina dumped Monika 6-0, 6-1 and Shima outscored Saathi by the identical margin of 7-5, 7-5.

Rina and Sima, the two singles finalists, paired in the doubles to enter the final where they will face Monika and Saathi, who will no doubt be looking forward to avenging their individual losses.

The women's doubles final starts this morning at 9 am while the two singles finals—men's and women's—will be 2 pm onwards at the Ramna Tennis Complex.

Wrestling

The three day Bangladesh Games wrestling championships conclude today at the National Sports Council gymnasium.

All the ten finals will be held today.

Khulna spikers retain title

Sports Reporter

Eight-times national champions Khulna retained the Bangladesh Games women's volleyball title by finishing top in the six-team league at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday.

Khulna—always favourites in women's volleyball—became the unbeaten champions with full 15 points from five outings.

Reigning two-times national champions Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) got the silver with 13 points from five matches while Bangladesh Ansars secured the bronze with 11 points, also from five encounters.

Dinajpur, the last Games runners up in 1988, moved down to the fourth position with nine points while Rangpur and Narayanganj managed seven and five points respectively.

In yesterday's fixtures, the Khulna girls beat Ansars 15-7, 15-11, 15-4; BJMC beat Rangpur 15-3, 15-12, 15-11, while Dinajpur defeated Narayanganj 15-6, 2-15, 15-10 and 15-12.

In the men's event, Bangladesh Rifles got the bronze beating Bangladesh Air Force 15-17, 15-13, 15-7 and 15-4 in the third place decider.

The final, between the arch-rivals Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Navy, the national champions and runners-up respectively will be held today at 3 pm at the same venue.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury will witness the match as the chief guest and give away prizes.

Navy nudge further ahead

Sports Reporter



Navy nautants nudged further ahead in the medals table with four more golds as two new records

were established on the third and penultimate day of the men's swimming championships at the Navy swimming pool at Banani yesterday.

Mahbubur Rahman was first among the sailors to strike gold when he finished the 400m individual medley in 5:12.18 sec, a record timing that disposed of the previous feat of 5:13.85 sec.

Yasin Ali of Army, one of the stars of this meet, finished second to take the silver. He needed 5:16.94 sec.

Yasin's fellow-soldier Yunus Ali Sikdar came third and picked up the bronze for his 5:16.94 sec.

The Army quartet comprising the redoubtable Shamsul Islam, Harun-ur-Rashid, Yasin

Ali and Md Tagbeer Hossain signalled the end of the day by stealing Navy's thunder. The soldiers set a new Bangladesh Games record in the 4X100m free-style relay clocking 3:51.19 sec, discernibly better than the previous mark of 3:55.81 sec.

The Navy and Air Force quartets added variety to the break up of the three medals for the event by winning the silver and bronze respectively.

Incidentally, the sailors—Mizanur Rahman, Golam Kibria, Mahbubur Rahman and Ilyas Hossain—also shattered the old record, having bettered the timing despite coming home second.

Yesterday they took 3:55.08 sec, 73 hundredths of a second better than the old mark.

Mizanur Rahman deposited the second gold in Navy's account when he crossed the pool in 25.58 sec to snatch the gold in the 50m free-style.

thus earning for himself the epithet of the fastest swimmer of the country.

The silver and bronze were shared by Army swimmers. Tagbeer Hossain came second having taken 25.63 sec while Harunur Rashid finished third needing 25.69 sec.

Navy's Kawsar Ahmed was the gold winner in the 200m backstroke. His timing was 2:30.91 sec.

He was followed by his peer, Din Islam who got the silver for his effort of 2:33.73 sec while the bronze went to Masudur Rahman of Army who clocked 2:36.96 sec with four events to be decided.

The meet concludes today.

MEDALS TABLE

	G	S	B	T
B Navy	8	8	3	19
B Army	4	3	6	13
BKSP	0	1	1	2
B Air Force	0	0	2	2

Basketball Fed Secretary sacked

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Bangladesh Navy, last year's runners-up Dhaka University, title-aspirants Bangladesh Army and Chandpur DSA have moved into the semifinals of the BGIC 16th national basketball championship.

But the more important fact is that the President of the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation, Prof Rashiduddin Ahmed yesterday asked the National Sports Council, the governing body of the country's sports, to sack the incumbent secretary Dastagir Nawaz and the NSC reportedly promptly obliged.

Nawaz allegedly was trying to sabotage the ongoing championship.

Earlier on Tuesday, Nawaz issued a letter to all the participating teams postponing the tournament until January 3.

Although the jury of appeal of the federation withdrew the

suspension of Syed Shafiq Kabir Junaid late Monday night following a stay order of the High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court, Dastagir Nawaz in his letter said that the meet had been postponed in keeping with the order of the court.

Yesterday's four matches were held under tight security with the main gate remaining closed to the journalists on duty had to show their identity cards to enter the gymnasium.

Bangladesh Navy emerged as the Group A champions by trouncing Rajshahi DSA by 150 points to 54.

Goswami with 26 points and Serajul with 24 were the leading scorers for Navy while Sohan of Rajshahi with 29 points was the highest scorer of the match.

In the day's second match, Bangladesh Police beat Narayanganj by 70 points to 63.

In the day's third match, Dhaka University trounced Brahmanbaria 115-25.

Imon and Baby caged 26 and 22 points respectively for the students while Tinku and Ashraf scored six points each for Brahmanbaria.

In the day's last match, Bangladesh Army beat Bangladesh Air Force.

No sooner had the match ended all the lights of the gymnasium were suddenly put off which created panic among the players and officials. The badminton players who were there, preparing for their matches later in the evening ran helter skelter in dark for fear.

Two semifinals are scheduled to be held today. Navy play Army at 8:30 am while Dhaka University take on Chandpur at 10 am.

2 more cycling records

Two more new national marks were created in the fifth Bangladesh Games cycling competition at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Mustafa Kamal of BJMC and Mohammad Shahidur Rahman of BTMC jointly clinched the gold in the men's 4,000 metre point race in a record time of 06:47.58 seconds, eclipsing the old mark of 06:53.20 seconds.

BJMC women's team established a new national record in the 2,000-metre team pursuit clocking 03:59.58 seconds. The old timing was 04:04.25 seconds.

Following are the results of the seven events held yesterday.

4,000-metre individual pursuit (men's): Gold—M

Ansars girls win handball gold

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars clinched the fifth Bangladesh Games women's handball title yesterday.

Ansars swept aside Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) by 18 goals to four in the one-sided final at the Dhaka Stadium last evening.

The winners led 9-2 at half time.

Jahanara scored eight goals for Ansars while Akherunnisa of BJMC netted four goals.

The scheduled third-place deciding match between Dhaka and Khulna came to a premature end when the Khulna players walked off in protest of the referee's decision after only 14:12 minutes of play.

Earlier in the evening a clash between on duty policemen and spectators created panic around the stadium. However no damage or injury was reported.

Shahidur Rahman (BTMC): Silver—Saheb Ali (BDR); Bronze—Muzaffar Hossain (BJMC).

2,000-metre individual pursuit (women's): Gold—Pipul Rekha (Ansars); Silver—Rahima Khatun (BTMC); Bronze—Naznin Sultana (BJMC).

2,000-metre point race (women's): Gold—Runa Laila (BTMC); Silver—Saleha Parveen (Ansars); Bronze—Tanzina Chowdhury (BTMC).

4,000-metre point race (men's): Gold Mustafa Kamal (BJMC) and Shahidur Rahman (BTMC) (joint first); Silver—Halim Fakir (BJMC); Bronze—A Quddus Babul (BTMC).

2,000-metre team pursuit (women's): Gold—BJMC; Silver—BTMC; Bronze—Ansars.

4,000-metre team pursuit (men's): Gold—BTMC; Silver—BJMC; Bronze—Ansars.

1,000-metre sprint (men's): Gold—Rafiqul Islam Molla (BJMC); Silver—M Zahurul Huq (BTMC); Bronze M Akter Hossain (Ansars).

Wari win again

Sports Reporter

Wari Club seemed to have learnt the winning formula pretty well when they handed a crushing six-wicket defeat to newcomers Eskaton Sabuj Sangha at the Mirpur, Pallabi cricket ground yesterday.

Sent in to bat by Wari skipper Didar, Eskaton were all out for a paltry 112 in 37.2 overs. All the Wari bowlers bowled well with Ashim returning the best figures of three for 17. Arif also took three wickets for 28. Ripon, however, wheeled his arm over for an economical stint of two wickets for 16 from nine overs.

Wari needed 30.5 overs to reach the target of 113 for victory, losing four wickets in the process.



Navyman Mahbubur in action during the butterfly leg of the men's 400m individual medley in the fifth Bangladesh Games at the Navy pool yesterday. Mahbub set a new mark with a time of 5 minutes 16.94 seconds. —Star photo

Army face Dhaka in today's final

Sports Reporter



Defending champions Dhaka DSA take on last year's runners-up Bangladesh Army in a repeat final of the national hockey championship at the Hockey Stadium today.

The match starts at 2:45 pm. Holders Dhaka edged past Faridpur by a solitary goal while Army, the fourth Bangladesh Games champion, also registered a lone goal victory against Dhaka University in their respective semifinal encounters yesterday to set up a repeat of last year's final.

The two losing semifinalists—Dhaka University and Faridpur—contest for the third place at nine this morning.

Yesterday's second semifinal between Dhaka and former champions Faridpur was an absorbing one producing a lot of excitement. Dhaka, who process a galaxy of prominent players of the country like custodian Rahmatullah Asir, Irtaza Kader Guddu, veterans Abdullah Piru, Jamil Parvez Lulu, Barkatullah Chapal and Kismet, found in Faridpur a stubborn opponent. Faridpur also have talented players like Mahbub Harun and Anwarul Haq Ziyad. Harun travelled with the Dhaka

'Xi to Jalandhar to participate in the All India Surjeet Singh memorial hockey tournament last month.

In fact the result would have been different had umpire Aslam Belim not ruled out a goal by Faridpur's Musa towards the end of the first session.

Musa apparently received the ball on the top of the box and placed it home giving Dhaka goalie Asir no chance at all. But umpire Belim remained unmoved as he thought Musa had hit the ball from outside the box. The Faridpur players in a body protested but the umpire stuck to his decision.

Sadek eventually scored the all-important goal for Dhaka by dodging past two Faridpur defenders in the 50th minute (1-0).

Dhaka forced four penalty corners while Faridpur managed three.

A group of spectators, reportedly Dhaka fans, chased the opposing supporters and beat some of them up after the match, leaving the Faridpur players and officials scared.

Faridpur team officials informed the Bangladesh Hockey Federation of the incident, demanding the culprits be

brought to book.

ARMY BEAT DU

Earlier in the afternoon, strong Bangladesh Army beat Dhaka University by a solitary goal.

Havtlder Akram scored the decider with a nice placing hit two minutes from time after he had brilliantly received an Amin chip (1-0).

Dhaka University forced as many as five penalty corners but failed to convert any. Akhter Hossain, who otherwise played wells wasted a fine chance of taking the students ahead in the 54th minute when he took too much time to convert a penalty corner.

Abdus Sadek and Alamgir Alam performed well for the students while the Army custodian Havtlder Osman and forward Havtlder Jahangir earned praise from the crowd.

Minister for Health and Family Planning Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yousuf will witness today's final as chief guest and give away the prizes.

The final round of this year's 15th national championship is being held as part of the fifth quadrennial Games.

The qualifying round, participated by 20 teams in four groups, were held from

December 10 to 16 at the same venue.

CHUNNU TO RETIRE

Meanwhile, the veteran hockey player of the country Abdul Malek Chunnu will retire from the national championship after today's final.

Chunnu—a Dhaka DSA player—will, however, play in the First Division league for some more seasons. The Daily Star learnt yesterday.

Chunnu, 35, who played for Sadharan Bina last season, had donned the national colour for long ten years from 1977 to 86.

He received the player-of-the-tournament trophy in the last national championship.

Chunnu, who played for Abahani Krira Chakra from 1976 to '82, also received the best player award of the Bangladesh Sports Writers Association in 1984.

Hats off to Chunnu for making room for newcomers after having served the national team with distinction for a decade.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka University vs Faridpur (9 am)

Dhaka DSA vs Army—final (2:45 pm)

Elina's double

Sports Reporter

Elina Begum of Bangladesh Biman clinched the women's singles title in the badminton championships of the fifth Bangladesh Games at the woodenfloor gymnasium yesterday.

The title came as an icing on the cake for Elina who had won the women's doubles crown in tandem with Nazia Akhter Juthi on Sunday.

Yesterday Elina beat her doubles partner in straight sets to complete a successful campaign.

Konica Adhikary of Biman won the bronze by beating her teammate Sharmila Sultana Mono 5-11, 11-3, 11-9.

In the men's singles semifinals Suman of Bangladesh Ansars beat his teammate Hamid 15-9, 15-11 while the other match between Rana and Mahbub was in progress when reports last came in.

The men's singles final will be held today at 4:30 pm while the third-place deciding play-off is scheduled for 3:30 pm.

State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman will witness the men's singles final as chief guest and distribute the prizes.

Ansars, Police split judo golds

Sports Reporter

Ansars and Bangladesh Police judokas won two golds each while the other gold at stake on the day went to Bangladesh Rifles on the third day of the 16th national judo championships, now being held as a part of the fifth Bangladesh Games at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

Muhammad of Bangladesh Rifles beat Kala Mian of Bangladesh police to win the men's under-50kg gold.

Policeman Md Ali defeated BDR's Osman Ghani to bag the men's under-55kg gold while his teammate Nagendranath Roy clinched the under-60kg gold.

In the women's events, Bibha Rani Sangma and Mithila Sangma of Ansars won their respective weight category titles to give Ansars two gold medals.

Bibha Rani beat teammate Noor Nahar in the under-44 kg class while Mithila took care of Pushpa, another Ansars judoka, in the under-48kg class.

Boxing finals

Sports Reporter

All finals of the fifth Bangladesh Games boxing championships will be held today at the Muhammad Ali Boxing Stadium.

Sixteen semifinal bouts of nine different weight categories were held at the same venue yesterday.

Dragons Asia's saving grace

TOKYO, Dec 23: Chinese wonders in swimming and a duel between Japanese and South Korean marathon men up Barcelona's Montjuic hill lighted Asian inroads onto the world sports scene in the Olympic year, reports AFP.

Japanese money also swayed the European-dominated circuit of Formula One racing with Honda's shock withdrawal and lured European and Latin American talent to a projected professional football league.

But the rest of Asia was mostly left blushing and angry with nothing much to show and with limited resources to spare for sports in a year of global economic stagnation.

Laden with increased cash and material incentives, Chinese, South Korean and Japanese Olympians marched home after their more-than-expected successes at both the Winter and Summer Games.

In the Summer heat of Barcelona, China glittered with a record haul of 16 golds, compared with 15 they earned when returning to the Olympics at the boycotted Los Angeles Games in 1984.

It was also a convincing comeback from a miserable five at the last Games in Seoul and a big boost to their bid to host the Summer Olympics in 2000.

Taiwan took home one silver medal while one bronze each went to Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan.

In contrast to the wave of jubilation elsewhere in the far-flung region, Indian athletes, including the favoured hockey squad, returned home empty

handed, prompting a nationwide call for a thorough overhaul of the country's sporting management.

In Dhaka, a leftwing politician called for an indefinite ban on competitive sport not only in Bangladesh but also in the other South Asian nations, India and Pakistan.

Moinuddin Khan Badal said it as a shame that the sub-continent, region of more than one billion people, could only take home a bronze.

The fierce Philippine press demanded the country's top sports officials resign after one boxing bronze was all they could afford.

The Globe newspaper suggested the Philippines should either sack their national Olympic Committee or tell the world: 'We will not enter the Olympics until 12 years from now.'

On ice and snow at the French resort of Albertville, the three East Asian dragons also left their marks with China and South Korea winning Winter Olympic medals for the first time.

South Korean Kim Ki-hoon won two golds in the new Olympic sport of short-track speedskating.

He also set a world record in the men's 10,000m and powered his team to another in the 5,000m relay beating Canada by a four hundredths of a second on the tiny oval.

Japan won the Nordic combined event for their first Winter Olympic gold in 20 years. Japan's former world champion Midori Ito, landing a triple akle for the women's Olympic competition, settled for a silver medal in the women's figure skating behind

Japanese-American Kristi Yamaguchi.

On the big oval of speed skating, China's Ye Qiaobo narrowly lost to American Bonnie Blair in the women's 500 and 1,000m.

In the men's 500m, Japan's Toshiyuki Kurosawa and Junichi Inoue won the silver and bronze medals behind defending champion Uwe-Jens Mey of Germany. South Korean Kim Yoon-man and Yukitori Miyabe finished behind German Olaf Zinke in the 1,000.

All told, Asians bagged 15 medals and have continued to win as another winter of competition gets underway.

Japan's soccer team upset defending champions Saudi Arabia 1-0 at Hiroshima in November for their first-ever Asian Cup victory.

It was the first time the trophy had moved to East Asia since South Korea triumphed in the second competition in 1960.

At Seoul in September, Japan also defeated Hong Kong 37-9 in the Asian rugby championships for their ninth victory.

The football feat may boost Japan's bid to host the 2002 World Cup although the East Asian nation have been in the shadows since they took the bronze at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.

Japan's plan to start a professional league in May has already led to the import of such foreign stars as Zico of Brazil and England's Gary Lineker.

And more recently Brazilian international Wilson Carlos joined Yamaha FC while Jean-Paul Vonderburg of Malmo went to Hiroshima Sanfrece coached by Briton Stuart Baxter.



The spikers, from Khulna who won the women's gold in the fifth Bangladesh Games yesterday at the volleyball Stadium. —Star photo



A goalmouth melee during yesterday's fifth Bangladesh Games hockey semifinal between defending National champions Dhaka DSA and Faridpur DSA at the Hockey Stadium. Dhaka fired up for a showdown with the Games hockey champions Bangladesh Army with a solitary goal victory. —Star photo