

Ansars top fifth Bangladesh Games standings

The curtain comes down

Sports Reporter

Almost unnoticed on the lighted background of a late December afternoon, the perched flame at the northern end of Dhaka Stadium made a futile attempt to emulate the spirit of its mythical precursor on earth before finally vanishing at exactly 4.37pm to mark the end of the fifth Bangladesh Games yesterday.

The eight-day long quadrennial sports extravaganza featuring more than three thousand participants — a record in the annals of deshi olympics — and 21 disciplines had the curtain fallen over it when president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association Gias Kamal Chowdhury announced the end of the meet, following the speech of Sheikh Razzak Ali, Speaker of Parliament who graced the function as chief guest.

It all began with 32 members of the BNCC, robed in white, parading with the Olympic flag. Girls clad in flame coloured saris represented the different teams that took part in this meet, deemed by many as the dress rehearsal for the forth coming sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, scheduled to be held in Dhaka next December.

Bangladesh Ansars who emerged as the major sporting force in the country (if, of course, the Games is any yardstick of measuring ability)

(ties) with the highest haul of 135 medals, including 50 golds, entered the fray in bottle green track suits. The frolic and fun of the winners was limited to hoo-hah of the marchers as very few people felt lured by the free entrance and the promise of a grand closing of the biggest sporting event off the country.



The semblance of order shown at the beginning of the ceremony diluted into an unwieldy freedom, often seen in the movement of a herd when the country's leading singer, Sabina Yasmin rode on a tawdry automobile, bedecked with five white water lilies — designer Mustafa Monowar's nature-numerical symbol of the fifth version of the Games—to play-sing the chorus: 'Khehar mela sheshe, elo bidayer din'

(With the play over, it is time to go), another number for big occasions by Dr Moniruzzaman with noted musician Samar Das setting tune to it. With the reverberating rumble of the cannon fire serving as a prelude the recorded song aired through the giant speakers ensured auditory exercise for quite some time.

Soon after it, Monira Rahman Dalia of BTMC and Mukhlisur Rahman of Bangladesh Navy were declared the best sportsman and woman of the meet.

Dalia, the young mermaid, claimed six golds in this meet while Mukhlisur Rahman, also a swimmer, set a record timing that unofficially eclipsed the best mark in the 100m breast-stroke in South Asia.

The first part of the programme ended with the handing of the Olympic flag to Mirza Abbas, the Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation. It was followed by a session of folk songs and, later, pop songs by Azam Khan. Ironically for the organisers, young people who studiously avoided the various sports activities of the extravaganza including the opening and closing ceremonies, poured in to watch the pop star. With the Games confirming another lease for the old order in sports, it looks like any such sprawling event may prove a mere wastage of money.



Monira Rahman Dalia of BTMC who won six golds in the fifth Bangladesh Games shows the victory sign shortly after being named sports woman of the meet yesterday.

— Star photo

Personal glory beckons Gooch



LONDON, Dec 25: Graham Gooch leads England into India on Monday with personal glory beckoning and yet with nothing further from his mind, reports AFP.

The 39-year-old iron man captain has played 99 Tests and hit 99 first-class hundreds, leaving him with two great landmarks to hopefully celebrate this winter.

But Gooch dismisses such thoughts from conversation. In his eyes, it simply irrelevant to the task ahead.

The Essex opener has become as unrivalled an England captain as any in history. He is even giving himself an early flight home from the tour on March 6, leaving Alec Stewart in charge for the final Sri Lanka fortnight, to prepare himself physically and mentally for the coming summer Ashes battle against Australia.

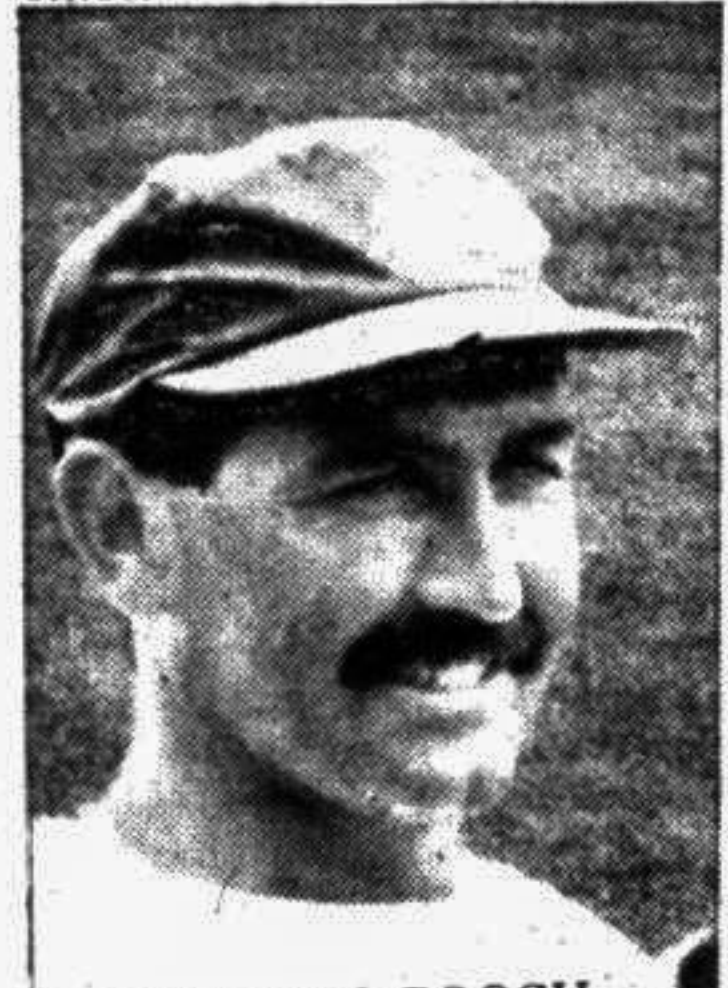
That in itself is the remarkable Gooch's only recent concession to his advancing years but his form and fitness are as formidable as ever.

In his last 26 Tests, since taking over the captaincy full-time in September 1989, he has enjoyed the most prolific years of an England career which began with a pair against Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson in 1975.

In 47 innings, Gooch has hit 2849 runs at a staggering average of 63.31 — including nine hundreds and 12 fifties. His overall Test average has been lifted from 36.90 to 43.77. And the stock of English cricket has risen with him.

Last year England won 16 and drew four of their 26 international matches, thumping New Zealand, reaching the World Cup final but then finally losing an exciting Test series against Pakistan 2-1.

Defeat is a dirty word to Gooch and he still hurts inside at the way England were trounced by Australia in early 1991. It was the one real low point in his three-year term of office.



GRAHAM GOOCH

The regaining of the Ashes England lost in 1989 is Gooch's real target this year and the main reason why he changed his mind about going to India as preparation for perhaps his last great challenge.

England chairman Ted Dexter makes no secret of the fact that he wants Gooch to carry on for some time yet, saying: "We have to be patient with him, like we were with persuading him to go to India. But so far, so good."

Gooch confirms: "I have got no plans to pack up from cricket and I get a lot of satisfaction from playing well at my age. It's motivation enough for me to keep proving I can do as well as the younger guys — leading England and scoring as many runs as possible is all the incentive I need."

"As for the personal milestones, if they come along then that's great. But I will only start thinking about the 100th

hundred if I'm lucky enough to get to 90-odd in the first place."

Gooch and the eligible-again Mike Gatting will provide the experienced backbone of the batting. Stewart is likely to bat at six, leaving Mike Atherton to open and Robin Smith at four. That will mean Neil Fairbrother and Graeme Hick scrapping it out for the last batting place.

In the Tests, which start in Calcutta on January 29, England's use of Stewart as wicketkeeper could well make room for five specialist bowlers.

Left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell is the likeliest match-winner as he has already been in three of his 10 Tests — while seamers Paul Jarvis, Devon Malcolm, Chris Lewis and new boy Paul Taylor have it all still to prove in support of the steady Phil DeFreitas.

Leg-spinner Ian Salisbury, one of the country's most exciting young talents, is accompanying the party for the first month. He is then due to link up with the England A tour of Australia, but it is not inconceivable that he could yet come into the picture for the Test series against India.

THE SQUAD

England's 16-man senior squad:

GA Gooch (Essex, captain), AJ Stewart (Surrey, vice-captain), MA Atherton (Lancashire), RA Smith (Hampshire), MW Gatting (Middlesex), GH Hick (Worcestershire), NJ Fairbrother (Lancashire), RJ Blakey (Yorkshire), JE Emburey (Middlesex), PAJ DeFreitas (Lancashire), CC Lewis (Nottinghamshire), DA Reeve (Warwickshire), PCR Tufnell (Middlesex), PW Jarvis (Yorkshire), DE Malcolm (Derbyshire), JP Taylor (Northamptonshire).

BTMC top cycling

Sports Reporter

Saheb Ali of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) won the gold in the 100km road race as Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) riders romped home as the top outfit in the cycling championships of the fifth Bangladesh Games that concluded yesterday.

Starting from Joarsahara road, Banani the BDR cyclist pedalled for two hours 56 minutes, 50.6 seconds to take the gold medal. Shahjahan of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), second position holder in the medal's table, took the silver while Golam Mostafa of BTMC bagged the bronze.

BTMC bagged six golds, as many silvers and four bronzes in the meet to clinch the top position followed by BJMC who got six golds, five silvers and as many bronzes. Ansars & VDP managed the third slot with two golds, three silvers and six bronzes.

BDR claimed two golds and a silver as 16 golds, 15 silvers and as many bronzes were thrown up for grabs.

Gulshan shooters bag most medals

Sports Reporter

Gulshan Shooting Club with two golds, six silvers and two bronzes emerged as the champions in the seven-day Bangladesh Games shooting championships as Altamas Kabir of Rajdhani Shooting Club clinched the only gold at stake on the concluding day yesterday.

Altamas won the clay-pigeon (skeet) gold scoring 143 points out of a possible 200.

Altamas' teammate Anwar Karim, who scored 140, got the silver while Iftekhar Hossain of Gulshan Shooting Club secured the silver with a score of 125 points.

The team which followed the champions was Narayan-ganj Rifle Club. They collected two golds, as many silvers and three bronzes while Chittagong Metropolitan Shooting Club with two golds, one silver and two bronzes finished third.

FINAL MEDAL TABLE

Following is the final medal table:

	G	S	B	T
Gulshan Shooting C	2	6	2	10
N'ganj Rifle Club	2	2	3	7
Ctg Shooting Club	2	1	2	5
Ansars	2	1	1	4
Rajdhani S Club	2	1	1	4
Ctg Rifle Club	1	0	1	2
Dhaka Rifle Club	0	0	1	1

Zinjira Shahid Smriti cricket

KERANIGANJ, Dec 25: The eighth Zinjira Shahid Smriti cricket tournament began here today, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman inaugurated the tournament this morning as chief guest. Amanullah Aman, MP, was also present.

Eleven teams are taking part in the meet on round robin league basis.

Clubs Assoc meet

Sports Reporter

An emergency meeting of the Dhaka Metropolitan Clubs Association will be held today at 6 pm at the Arambagh Krira Sangha premises in Motijheel, says a press release.

Secretaries of the First Division clubs and association members have been asked to attend on time.

Navy cagers clinch title

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Navy proved their supremacy in the country's basketball by retaining the national title at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

Navy beat Dhaka University, last year's runners-up, by 70 points to 52 in the final of the 16th national basketball championship for the BOIC held as part of the fifth Bangladesh Games which concluded yesterday.

The sailors, possessing a galaxy of national players like Abhijit Kumar Sarker, Sohel Faruki, PK Goswami, Serajul Islam and Ayub Ali, quite expectedly started as the favourites and dominated the first session 35-16.

But a good fight-back by the students in the second half made the encounter a keen one. In fact, Dhaka University scored 36 points, one more than their formidable opponents, after the interval.

Both the ex-national cagers of the Dhaka University — Asif Zafar and Asghar Hossain — along with Waheed Saeed Baby and Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury Moby played well for the students while Sohel Faruki, Goswami, Abhijit and Serajul Islam lived up to their reputations for Navy. Seraj, the highest scorer of the match with 24 points, was the best player who earned praise from the capacity crowd inside the stuffy gymnasium.

Goswami notched up another 13 points for Navy while

Asif Zafar with 16 points and Saeed with 14 points were the main scorers for Dhaka University.

Champions Navy beat Bangladesh Army while Dhaka University defeated Chandpur DSA in their respective semi-finals last Thursday.

In the third-place deciding play-off which started at 8:30 in the morning yesterday, Army eliminated Chandpur by 99 points to 57.

Army also finished third in the last national championship. Unsporting attitude by some Army players and officials marred the game.

One Army cager went too far when he tucked the ball into his own net and tried to damage the board. The team officials and supporters appeared to encourage the delinquent to repeat this ugly show of protest once again later on in the game.

President of the Bangladesh Olympic Association Gias Kamal Chowdhury, who witnessed the match, termed the incident 'shameful' and said that the sports-lovers of the country did not expect such behaviour from Army, who have produced a great number of outstanding sportsmen.

Observers felt that all these incidents were designed to sabotage the final match of the championship scheduled for later in the day.

Even the Army coach Major (ret'd) Ateeq entered the playing arena violating the order of

the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation (BBAF), organisers of the meet.

The federation earlier had declared Ateeq persona non grata for one match.

Abdur Rahim netted 29 points and Kamran 16 for Army while Akhlaas and Siddique got 20 and 16 points respectively for Chandpur.

Both matches of yesterday were held under tight security with only the invited guests and card-holders getting permission to sit at the court-side.

Fourteen teams, in four groups, competed in this year's championship with the four group champions playing in the semifinals.

The fate of the tournament at one stage became uncertain following the postponement order by the now-sacked Secretary Maj (ret'd) Dastagir Nawaz last week but a bold attempt by the federation executives headed by Professor Rashiduddin Ahmed, president of the BBAF, saved the meet from a premature death.

BOA president Gias Kamal Chowdhury later distributed the prizes as chief guest.

TEAMS

NAVY: Abhijit, Sohel, Goswami, Seraj, Ayub, Nurul Huda, Islam, Shafiq, Rowshan Alam, Nazrul, Faruk and Sulip Barua.

DHAKA UNIVERSITY: Asif, Moby, Asghar, Michael, Baby, Toufique, Nabuat Ali, Rafik, Zafar, Ahmedul Kabir, Fazlur Rahman and Nazmul Hossain.

Kiwis, beware of Waqar



WELLINGTON, Dec 25: Pace bowler Waqar Younis is poised to pose the biggest threat to New Zealand in the upcoming cricket series, Pakistan vice-captain Rameez Raja predicted Friday, reports AP.

Waqar, 21, is making his first visit to New Zealand after missing the World Cup earlier this year through injury.

Opening batsman Rameez, one of the veterans of the Pakistan side, said he believed conditions in New Zealand will suit Waqar more than those in Australia.

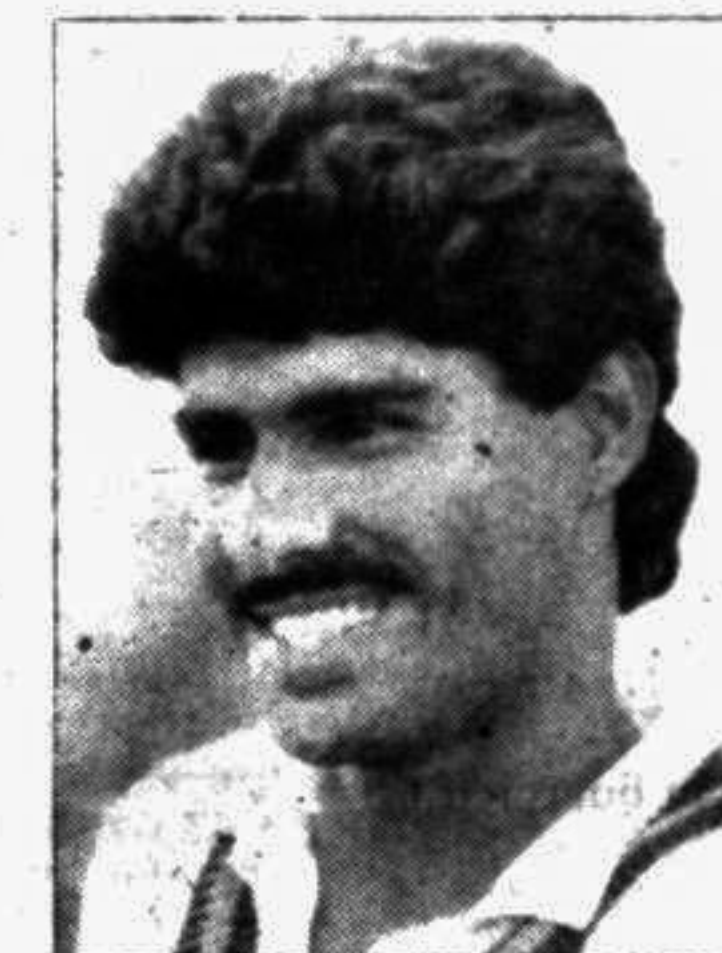
"New Zealand wickets will suit him a lot, because there is not as much bounce here as Australia," Rameez said.

"They are ideal wickets for Waqar because he basically likes to bowl a fuller length ball and he gets a lot of low decisions."

"He wasn't getting them in Australia because they were

hitting a little bit higher."

Rameez, among Pakistan's most experienced players with 44 Tests, is in New Zealand for the fourth time, having toured



WAQAR YOUNIS previously in 1985, 1989 and for the World Cup.

He believes New Zealand crowds will appreciate Waqar's

ability. The young paceman forms world cricket's most lethal new ball attack with left-arm Wasim Akram.

"Waqar is a fierce competitor and I think New Zealanders will find it great watching him," Rameez said.

The opening one-day international of the series will be played Saturday in Wellington. It will be followed by games in Napier on Dec. 28 and Auckland on Dec. 30.

The only Test of the series will be at Hamilton from Jan. 2-6.

Pakistan captain Javed Miandad said his team had respect for New Zealand.

"They have a good team," he said. "They proved their strength during the World Cup when they were the only team through to the semifinals after five or six games."

Saturday's match will be the 26th one-day between the countries. Pakistan has won 13 and New Zealand 11 with one abandoned.

WI may pick only 3 quickies



MELBOURNE, Dec 25: The West Indies may gamble by playing only three pace bowlers when the second cricket Test against Australia begins Saturday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, reports AP.

Captain Richie Richardson said Friday that he would make a decision only minutes before the start of play.

"We'll wait because I'm sure

they still have some work to do on the pitch," Richardson said.

Richardson is considering playing only Ian Bishop, Curtly Ambrose and either Patrick Patterson or Courtney Walsh. He would rely on medium-pacer Phil Simmons and spinner Carl Hooper for extra penetration.

The West Indies go into the match suffering from a lack of match-practice after a four-day match against Victoria state in Bendigo was washed-out.

Bradman's cap found at last!

ADELAIDE, Dec 25: Found, at last. One of the baggy green caps worn by Australian cricket's greatest hero, Sir Don Bradman, reports AP.

The cap was located after an international appeal by organisers of an exhibition of Bradman memorabilia.

The exhibition was opened by 84-year-old Bradman at the Mortlock Library in Adelaide in late November, but had to go ahead without any of the many caps he wore during his magnificent 52-Test career.

At the opening, Sir Donald told reporters he received a cap for each Test series he played and would have had 12 to 15 during his career, all of which he had given away to

offering use of a baggy green cap worn by Sir Donald during the 1934 Australia-England series.

Exhibition organiser Elizabeth Ho said the cap went on display for the first time Wednesday.

She said it now graced the head of a mannequin dressed up in Sir Donald's cricketer gear.

The exhibition has been extended until Jan. 29 to coincide with the fourth Test friends.

Several days ago exhibition organisers had a telephone call from a Melbourne family between the West Indies and Australia in Adelaide from Jan. 23-27.

"We outplayed them on the last day and we were the only team who could win it from about lunchtime onwards."

"Every Test match in Melbourne, though, is a toss of the coin."

"You very rarely get two wickets the same and it's always a bit of a guessing game as to what to do." Border hinted Friday that leg-spinner Shane Warne was likely to be included in the Australian starting lineup.

"If Shane bowls well, he can cause some problems," Border said.

"If you're in a position like the last day in Brisbane, it would be nice to have that leg-spinning option."

Border said his team was not intimidated by the reputation of the West Indies team.

FINAL GAMES MEDALS TABLE

Following is the unofficial final medals table of the fifth Bangladesh Games:

	G	S	B	T
Ansars	50	49	36	135
Army	33	32	17	82
BTMC	28	21	21	70
Navy	16	10	9	35
BJMC	14	14	14	42
BDR	12	13	11	36
Bitman	8	3	2	13
Police	7	8	14	29
Gulshan SC	2	6	2	10
N'ganj RC	2	2	3	7
Ctg Metro Shoot	2	1	2	5
Rajdhani SC	2	1	1	4
BKSP	1	3	2	6
Dhaka DSA	1	1	4	6
RU	1	0	1	2
Ctg Rifle	1	0	1	2
Fire Service	1	0	1	2
Dinajpur DSA	1	0	1	2
Khulna DSA	1	0	0	1
Customs	0	5	6	11
Jessore	0	1	15	16
Air Force	0	1	5	6
Kushtia	0	1	11	5
Rajbari	0	4	3	4
Dhaka City C	0	1	3	4
Chittagong DSA	0	1	1	2
Dhaka Div	0	1	0	1
Golbandra	0	1	0	1
Dhaka Rowing	0	1	0	1
Kalliganj Rowing	0	1	0	1
Shahenbagh Rowing	0	1	0	1
Ctg Metropolis	0	1	0	1
DU	0	1	0	1
Bogra	0	0	7	7
Munshiganj	0	0	6	6
N'ganj	0	0	2	2
Narail	0	0	2	2
Cox's Bazar	0	0	1	1
Chunakuta School	0	0	1	1
Panchagarh	0	0	1	1
Dhaka Metro JKS	0	0	1	1
Dhaka Rifle	0	0	1	1
Cornilla	0	0	1	1
Khulna Div	0	0	1	1
Tangail	0	0	1	1
Faridpur	0	0	1	1
Jhalakathi	0	0	1	1
Chuadanga	0	0	1	1
Rajshahi	0	0	1	1
Total	183	181	208	572

(Squash and tennis events medals are not counted).

Khulna cricket on

KHULNA, Dec 25: Young Pigeon Club beat Agradoot Club by five wickets in the opening match of the Khulna First Division cricket league at the Khulna Stadium today, reports UNB.

Agradoot Club batted first after losing the toss and were bowled for 113 runs in 37.2 overs.

In reply, Young Pigeon Club reached the target hitting 116 for the loss of five wickets in 32.3 overs.

Sixteen teams, divided in four groups, are taking part in the league.

Wanderers Club will take on Shapla Krira Chakra Saturday.

Dundee aim doing a double



GLASGOW, Scotland, Dec 25: Dundee, the only team to have beaten Rangers this season, set out Saturday with the aim of completing a double and ending the Scottish champions' 27-game run without defeat, reports AFP.

Leeds United, Olympique Marseille and Celtic have all failed to do what Dundee managed with a 4-3 triumph at

Dens Park in August.

Rangers form since then has seen Dundee's achievement written off as a fluke but the weather could deny them a chance to prove the pundits wrong.

Dens Park was under a light cover of snow with frost underneath on Thursday.

A postponement would not be ideal for Rangers following the loss of games against Dundee United and Aberdeen.

They already face a sched-