Bangladeshi

punchers

miss out

Shri Lanka qualified for the

semifinals in different categories

of the sixth SAF Games boxing

at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday

Fly-weight Dharminder Sin-

gh Yadav of India beat Vishnu

Bahadur Singh of Nepal, on

points, in the bantam-weight

India's Gurneet Singh defeated

Mohammed Aslam Hossain of

Bangladesh also on points.

Welterweight Tuk Bahadur

Thapa of India was declared the

winner against Prakash Thapa

Magar of Nepal when referee

stopped the competition for Ma-

gar's head injury in the 3rd

Pakistan beat his opponent Ra-

jender Prasad of India in the

light flyweight event on points

while his teammate Arshad

Hossain put his name in the

semifinals outplaying Mo-

Abdur Rashid Quambrani of

round.

evening, reports BSS.

India, Pakistan, Nepal and



The members of the Shri Lankan women's team - (from left) Anoushka Boralessa, Lihini Weerasurya, Upeeka Wijeratne and Saranga Sangakara -who won the SAF Games team tennis gold beating the Indians at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday. - Star photo

Indians, Lankans take team golds

Mir Ashfaquz Zaman

time. The Indian conceded only The crowd at the four games - three in the first Ramna National set and one in the second. Tennis Complex Saathi Sarkar was treated had a rather un-

eventful afternoon

yesterday - no

upset results, no familiar face

Shri Lanka won golds in the

men's and women's team events

of the Sixth South Asian Feder-

ation (SAF) Games respectively.

wrapped up the best-of-three fi-

nal with Vasudev Reddy and P

Srinath recording contrasting

victories in their respective sin-

nis, had a tough time against

Lankan Rohan de Silva and was

stretched to tie-break in both

Reddy breaking the left-handed

De Silva on his first service

game to go one up and he main-

tained the lead until the tenth

games when the tall Lankan

broke back to draw level. But

Reddy, who unleashed a num-

ber of aces and fierce backhand

winners, was not to be denied

and immediately won the next

game on De Silva's serve. He

then held his serve in the 11th

The second set was an an-

tithesis of the first with De Silva

dominating most of the time.

Reddy, seemingly disturbed by

a number dubious line calls,

rather allowed the left-hander

to take an apparently unassail-

errors in the eight game by De

Silva helped Reddy get back his

rhythm and for the rest of the

match the Lankan was kept

constantly under pressure. The

svelte Indian won the next five

games to polish off the set and

the match to take India one up.

Reddy's compatriot Srinath,

however, faced very little resis-

tance from Jayendra Wijesek-

era. The slightly obese Lankan

seemed more keen on getting

things over with than going for

a win. Srinath, on the other

hand, displayed a professional

attitude, getting on top of each

and every loose shot from his

opponent and wasted little time

in clinching the second tie to

ensure the gold for his country.

bles - became redundant and

crowd could not help the hosts

with all their cries and claps as

Bangladesh were beaten quite

comprehensively by the Indians.

predictable, the sparse in the

heart of their hearts, must have

wished some kind of miracle to

happen. But Nirupama Vaidy-

anathan brooked no nonsense

and blew Sharmin Sirin

Siddique off the court in no

Although the outcome was

The third match - the dou-

In the morning, the partisan

Srinath won 6-3, 6-3.

was not played.

.At the adjacent court,

Nevertheless, a few unforced

came to wrap up the set.

able 5-2 lead

The first set began with

Reddy, with his power ten-

Quite expectedly, India and

The Indian men's squad

to cheer.

even more disdainfully by Ponnappa. The hapless Bangladeshi could not manage a single game in the match.

Bangladesh won seven games over all in the three ties. and the last three came in the doubles in which the pair of Vaidyanathan and Ponnappa outplayed Sharmin and Hosne Ara Rina 6-0, 6-3.

In the women's team final, the Indian players did not quite fare as well as their male counterparts, losing comprehensively to the tournament top seeds Shri Lanka two-nil.

Messy BTF

Sports Reporter

Any tennis lover, after spending a day at the Ramna National Tennis Complex - the venue of the Sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games tennis tournament — might really wonder whether Bangladesh deserved the right to host such a big event.

With a clustre of officials running to and fro, apparently oblivious of their responsibilities, the complex represented a picture of sheer mis-management. There were a host of volunteers wearing well-pressed blazers, but what the place really lacked was some sort of a plan that might have put the bits and pieces together into an acceptable whole.

From the schedules to the selection of line judges, there was pronounced want of neat planning, resulting in chaos on and off the court.

Faulty line calls disturbed the proceedings throughout the day and the reason may well be attributed to the organisers' indiscretion on plain incompetence. They have appointed a number of line judges, who were quite overawed by the very feeling of being part of the whole thing. Some of them were just kids, not more than twelve years of age.

Manik Goswami, the Indian manager, when asked about the standard of umpiring, expressed his dissatisfaction over the performance of the line

During the singles match between Shri Lankan Saranga Sangakara and Indian Arati Ponnappa, one of Sangakara's serves, which landed well inside the line, was ruled out by one of the line judges, who could not have been more than ten years

The decision was so outrageous that one irritated speciator went as far as saying the line judge was favouring Ponnappa for her looks.

Things were that bad yesterday. One hopes the BTF takes

The first singles between Lihini Werasuriya and Indian Nirupama Vaidyanathan scatured a lengthy first set that was carried over to the tiebreaker after both players finished level at 6-6. In the tiebreak Weerasuriya broke Vaidyanathan on the 17th point and held her serve to wrap up the

The grueling first set seemed to wear Vaidyanathan down a little and she virtually came up with no resistance at all in the second, which she lost 3-6.

The second singles, between Saranga Sangakara and Arati Ponnappa, was quite a hardfought tie although the scoreline might suggest otherwise. Sangakara, the tall, slender Shri Lankan, however, played better on the crucial points to prevail.

This match was also marred by some outrageous line calls. On one occasion, the line judge, a boy not more than ten years of age, ruled a Sangakara service, that landed at least four inches inside the line, out.

Eventually, Sangakara, who was quite perturbed by some of the decisions, wrapped up the match for her country with a 6-3, 6-4 win.

The Lankans were directly placed in the final for being the top seeds.

The Indians, on the other hand, had to play against hosts Bangladesh for their place in the championship round.

Earlier, in the morning, the Indian men swept hosts Bangladesh off their feet with a facile 3-0 triumph in the semifinals.

Reddy routed national number four Nawaz Amin 6-4, 6-2 in the first singles while Bangladesh national champion Ilira Lal played with determinamon in the first set against Srinath

before bowing out 6-7 (7-5), 6-3. The pair of N Kirtane and Enrico Piperno - an old hand here - made it a clean sweep for India when they beat Faisal Sved Hag and Nawaz Amin 7-5. 6-2.in the doubles.

Shri Lanka, however, had to fight from one-down to beat Pakistan in their semifinal match. Pakistani number one Mohammed Khaliq defeated Rohan de Silva 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 to put his country one up.

But Wijesekera ensured that Shri Lanka booked their due place in the final. He won his singles against Rashid Malik 6-1, 6-2 and then teamed up with Senaka Kumara to edge past Mushaf Zia and Khaliq 6-4, 3-6. 6-2.

Later in the evening, Minister for Planning and Industries A K M Zahiruddin Khan, who is also the chairman of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation, gave away the medals among the winners.

The individual events begin today, starting at eight in the morning.

hammed Rafiqul Islam of Bangladesh in the lightweight on points. Another Pakistani boxer Muhammad Nasim qualified for the semifinals beating Tej Bahadur Chand of Nepal in light welterweight on points. Nima Tamag of Nepal fired Mohammed Rafiqui Islam Swapan of Bangladesh through

points in the featherweight. Tilasiri Bandara of Shri

Lanka entered light middleweight semifinals when he was declared the winner against his opponent Kiran Bahadur Shrestha of Nepal. Tilasiri was declared the winner when the referee stopped the match in the 3rd round due to a head injury to Kiran.

Sixty boxers Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Shri Lanka are participating in the SAF boxing.

Too risky!

LONDON, Dec 21. Germany's soccer friendly against England in Hamburg next April is likely to be called off because it clashes with the anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birthday, reports Reuter.

Officials fear the game could become a magnet for Neo-Nazis and prove a huge security

English FA chief executive Graham Kelly said on Monday: "There is a doubt about the game after we realised it fell on Hitler's birthday."

He said he would discuss with FA chairman Bert Millichip whether the fixture against the world champions on April 20 should be scrapped when Millichip returned from the World Cup draw in Las Vegas.

Clashes between rival fans have been a feature of Germany-England matches in recent years.

Rufer to move

WELLINGTON, Dec 21 Werder Bremen's New Zealand striker Wynton Rufer is considering joining a Japanese soccer club, his parents said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

South Africans in command

BRISBANE, Dec 21: South Africa put themselves in a strong position to defeat Queensland in their final tour match before the first Test against Australia, despite the indifferent form of their top bowler Allan Donald on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

At stumps on the second day of the four-day match at the Gabba, the tourists were one without loss in their second innings, a lead of 153 runs with two days remaining.

South African captain Kepler Wessels refused to enforce the follow-on, giving his top order more batting practice before the Test showdown in Melbourne which starts on December 26.

In reply to the tourists' 335 for seven declared, the home side were dismissed for 183 but fast bowler Donald was not among the wicket takers.

Donald, who was dropped for the one-day international against New Zealand on Saturday following a loss of form struggled for rhythm, giving away 43 runs from his 11 overs. It was left to Dave Rundle

and Fanie de Villiers to rout Queensland's batting line-up. Their mix of spin and pace removed Queensland's top six batsman with only 111 runs on the board.

Off-spinner Rundle took three for 51, including the prized wicket of Australian captain Allan Border for six.

Paceman De Villiers, boosted his selection hopes by snaring the wickets of Trevor Barsby, Martin Love and Sturat Law in a 15-over spell which cost 34

All-rounder Gary Kirsten and pace bowler Craig Mathews then combined to mop up the Queensland tail by taking two wickets apiece.

Earlier, batsman Daryll Cullianan added just four runs to his overnight score of 109 before falling to fast bowler Mike Kasprowicz, who took five wickets in the innings.

an overnight score of 37 for no loss and lost the only wicket, Cullinan and Hansie Cronje, that of Aamir Sohail, after a who made 145, dominated the further delayed start of 45 South African innings.

Prasad on Bahadur's plate? | Williams

By A Special Correspondent



Indian women, traditionally responsible for earning most of the country's track and field medals

in Asian meets, take a back seat this time as middledistance runner Bahadur Prasad finally emerges from the shadows.

It is Bahadur who led the contingent and carried the country's flag at the opening ceremony of the Sixth South Asian Federation Games here Monday. Fresh from his gold medal effort at the recent Asian Track and Field championships in Manila, Bahadur has inspired awe among athletes of neighbouring countries.

In peak form, the Indian runner will leave no chance for anybody else in the three events he will compete in - the 1,500, the 5,000m and the gruelling 10,000m. Bahadur, who lives in Delhi, has been in the national camp at Patiala where the Indian hopefuls train before major tournaments.

He holds the national records in his events. Two of these were set last year while he was competing in the European circuit in the summer. The lifebest performances came in the meet at Birmingham. Fairly experienced, this year Bahadur has beaten some promising Kenyan juniors who were invited to India to compete in an international meet.

The Pakistan athletics coach, Hassan Ali Aamer, ruled out any chance for his athletes in the men's 1,500m with Bahadur running in the race. "We would be happy if we could give him a tough fight," he said, paying his tribute to the Indian.

Shiny Wilson, who has been shouldering India's hopes after the exit of Asia's track queen PT

Once they were

the undaunted

soccer kings of

the largest cont-

inent of the world.

But how those

golden days had gone. Now

India struggle to manage a

bronze medal in the weakest

football tournament of the

With this background, and

to bring back the bygone glory,

VP Satyen and his compariots

are taking on Shri Lanka at the

inexperienced intrnationally

compared to their 'big brother',

but they are sitting pretty high

on morale after beating two-

times gold winners Pakistan in

their opening encounter Mon-

day. If they can maage a draw

today they will have taken a

good step towards Sunday's

task for them. India, with a

blend of youth and experience,

is a formidable force in the

South Asian football scene. In

the last Nehru Cup they forcded

African giants Cameroon to a 2-

2 draw and held Finland goal-

less. In the pre-Wrold Cup, the

Arun Ghosh-Jiri Pesek combi-

naton beat Hongkong hand-

somely. And then to prove that

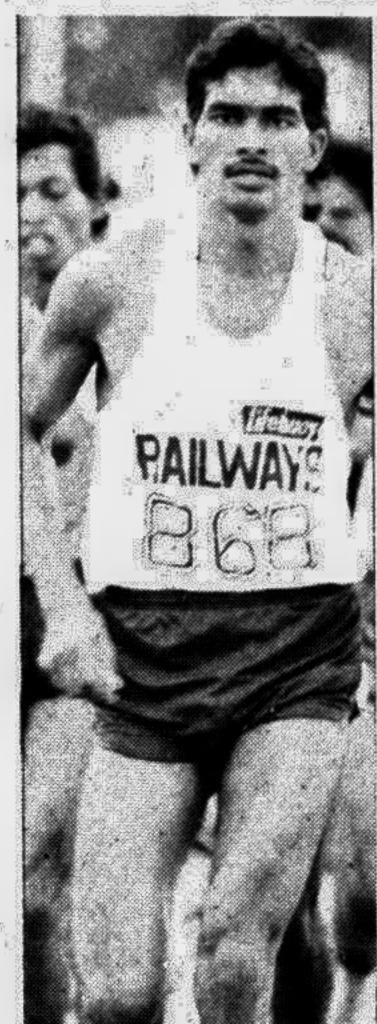
was not a fluke, India won the

SAARC championship in

But that will not be an easy

The Lankans are relatively

Dhaka Stadium today.



BAHADUR PRASAD

Usha, appears to be on the wane. Though she has a good record at the SAF Games, at this year's ATF championship, Shiny had to go without a gold medal, an unfamiliar happening for the determined Indian ath-Shiny will most likely com-

pete in both the 400nr and 800m as well as the longer relay. She herself feels she is good

Indian booters will look to

change dubious history

By A Special Correspondent

Lahore, superseding Pakistan,

Nepal and Shri Lanka. As a

matter of fact, India are yet to

counters. A treat that Indian

football did not achieve for

many a day. FIFA, the apex

this feat by promoting India

from 143 to 99 in their

India's strength is their mid-

field, in which the Akil Ansari,

Tajindar Kumar and Gunabir

Singh combination is deadly.

with 'Punjabi' Tajindar and

'hilly' Gunabir. These three

musketeers supply the ball to

striker, is hailed as the 'black

deer' for his continuous supply-

ing in front of the penalty box,

and vast unpredictability in the

six-yards area. This 5 feet 11

inch tall, highest paid Indian

footballer set a unique record

by scoring five goals in five con-

secutive matches. Will it be a

sixth today ? Vijayan laughs.

The laugh of confidence, and

says, "Dekhega(I will see);

Apart from Vijayan, winger

Bhupindar is also very fast and

penetrative. His wing play

usually catches many a de-

fender on the wrong foot. This

Haryana lad is a relative new-

Koshish Karega(l will try)."

Vijayan, the ace Malayali

Vijayan and Bhupindar.

'Marathi' Akil combines well

November ratings.

body of football, has recognised

lose a match in the last five en-

for some more years and that her blue patch is only a temporary phase. At this meet, Shiny will be challenged by Shri Lanka's Dhamika Menike, who won the 800m and 1,500m at Colombo, and Jayamani Illeperuma, who beat the Indian over the 400m at the last SAF Games.

The athlete to watch out for is Kerala's K. Saramma, who has for long stayed in Shiny's shadow. The diminutive athlete has emerged as a dominant force on the Indian scene over the past year, and recently beat Shiny, her more illustrious compatriot, in the 400m at the trials conducted for the team before it was selected for the SAF Games.

Saramma is a gutsy runner and thrives on competition. She may well be the dark horse of the tournament. Another junior considered promising back home is KM Beenamol, being groomed to take over from the starts of the past. Beenamol won the gold medal in the 800 at the junior Asian Track and Field meet held in New Delhi last year. She has little international exposure and this competition will provide her with much-needed experience.

The women's 4X400m relay quartet is sure to figure among the medals and the Indian camp hopes the sprint relay team also improves upon its past performance. The foursome rounded off the Delhi trials with an excellent performance that sent hopes soaring.

Also prominent are discus thrower Aitt Bhadauria, who won the gold in the event at Manila, junior Asian javelin champion Satvir Singh, miler Jatashankar, and the little Molly Chacko, the long distance runner, who has pulled off most surprising victories for India.

comer on the national scene.

But in little time he has proved

his selection. Thanks to Czeck

coach Jiri Pesek's efforts, the

Indians are very good in dead-

ball situations. Akil: Gunabir.

Tajindar and Vijayan can score

and have scored a number of

goals from free-kicks or corner

kicks. That leaves the strikers

in a free mind. They kow that

the team can score goals from

ern approach, and most of the

European and Latin American

The Indian defence is solid

and experienced. With skipper

Satyen, who will play his con-

secutive fourth SAF Games

match today, India is capable of

holding th Lankan onslaughts

in which winger Ranaveera is

Brazilian George Ferreira, are

very speedy and love to play

one-touch football. Therefore

favourites and confident India

cannot afford to take things

easy. More so after seeing the

fate of Bangladesh who were

stopped by dark horses the

Madives, Monday. India, too,

are in a hudoo, as they failed to

win their first match of the SAF

football tournaments on last

three occasions. Today they will

be keen to change the course of

that history.

The Lankans, trained by

teams score through midfield-

behind. This is the most mod-

SCHEDULE FOR **TODAY**

Following is the schedule for today's events in the sixth South Asian Federation (SAF)

Athletics: 2 pm to 4 pm at

Mirpur National Stadium - Men's high jump

- Men's 1500 metres

- Women's shot put - Men's heat 200 m

- Women's 200 m - Men's 200 m and

- Men's 10,000 m Boxing: 7 pm to 10 pm, semifinals at the Dhaka Sta-

dium. Football: Shri Lanka vs In-

dia 2-45 pm Dhaka Stadium. - Bangladesh vs Nepal 4-45

pm Dhaka Stadium. Kabaddi: 2-45 pm at the

Hockey Stadium. Table Tennis: 9-30 am at

Dhanmondi Indoor Gymnasium. Tennis: 8 am to 5 pm men's singles and doubles, women's

singles and doubles, mixed doubles. National Tennis Complex, Ramna. Shooting: 12 noon at the

Gulshan Shooting Range - Men's free rifle English match 60 shots.

- Women's standard rifle prone.

Swimming: 11 am to 1 pm swimming pool

- 100 m freestyle

- 200 m butter-fly

-100m back-stroke -400 freestyle

- 200 m individual medley Volleyball: 4 pm to 9 pm. Mirpur Indoor Stadium.

British trio face US

LONDON, Dec 21: British wold champions Linford Christic, Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell will head a powerful British team in an indoor match against the United States in Glasgow's Kelvin Hall on February 12 next year, reports Reuter.

Christic added the world 100 metres title to his Olympic crown at the Stuttgart World Championships this year while Jackson and Gunnell Broke the world records in the 110 hurdles and women's 400 metres hurdles respectively.

Wilander gets a wildcard

MELBOURNE, Dec 21: Three time winner mats Wilander was granted a wildcard Tuesday into the Australian Tennis Open here next month, reports AFP.

Wilander, who holds the distinction of winning the Australian Open on the grass of Kobyong and Flinders Park's hardcourt surface, has been in semi-retirement, but reached the third round of this year's US

Warnapura retained for tour to India

COLOMBO, Dec 21: Former Shri Lankan Test captain Bandula Warnapura, has been retained as Shri Lanka's cricket manager for the tour of India which starts January 10. cricket officials said Tuesday, reports AFP.

Warnapura, brought in to manage the national squad during the recent tour by the West Indies, was asked to continue by the Shri Lankan Cricket Board, who have appointed him only for the Indian

However, Warnapura, Shri Lanka's first Test captain, said he had asked the board for a long-term appointment.

"I have asked the board for a longer appointment, you need to have some sort of a commitment. It is not good for anyone, including the team, if there is uncertainty," said Warnapura.

The cricket manager's role on tour is mainly related to the coaching and physical training of the team while the manager is entrusted with administrative duties.

Current chairman of selectors, Anurudha Poponowita has been named manager for the Indian tour.

A stylish opening bat, Warnapura led Shri Lanka briefly after the country achieved Test status in 1981, before being banned for leading a 'rebel' squad to South Africa in 1982.

He was banned for 25 years. The ban was lifted in 1990. Shri Lanka will tour India from January 10 to February 22 and will play three Tests and

five one-day internationals. Test diseards for the West Indies tour, batsmen Asanka Gurusinha and Chandika

Hathurusinghe, have been included in a 26-member squad Also included in the squad are up-and-coming left-arm fast bowler Chaminda Vaas, who bowled impressively against the West Indies in a three-day game

Veteran fast bowler Rumesh Ratnayake, who is attempting a comeback after injury, was ig-

Expected end to Lahore Test



LAHORE, Dec 21: Shoaib Mohammad and Asif Mujtaba scored painstaking half

centuries as the third and final cricket Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe ended in a draw today, reports Reuter.

Mohammad reached his 12th half century in his 42nd Test in 315 minutes, one of the slowest scoring rates in Test history. When the game ended Mo-

hammad, who began the day at eight, had batted for 325 minutes, faced 236 balls and struck four fours. Mujtaba was more enterprising and made his third half century of the series and

seventh overall in 151 minutes

and struck 10 fours. He occu-

pied the crease for 205 minutes and faced 162 deliveries. Pakistan had already clinched the series by winning the opening two Tests and were 174 for one when play was called off after the eighth mandatory over with Mohammad on 53 and Asif on 65 in their unbroken

second-wicket stand. An outright win became almost impossible after 120 overs were lost over the five days due to poor light but Pakistan had already wrapped up the series by virtue of their wins in Karachi and Rawalpindi.

Pakistan added 137 runs to

Sohail, 19 overnight, was dismissed for 32 when he edged a catch to Wayne James off David Brain, Zimbabwe's manof-the-match. The visitors achieved no fur-

ther success after Mohammad was joined by the left-handed Mujtaba, promoted in the batting order.

The pair erased the deficit of 83 runs after Zimbabwe made 230 in reply to Pakistan's first



WAQAR.... man-of-series

innings total of 230. Pakistan captain Wasim Akram praised the performance of the tourists and said they had proved tough opponents. We underestimated them

expectations especially in fielding and bowling," he said. Akram praised the bowling of his vice-captain Waqar Younis who finished with 27 wickets

but they performed beyond our

and was declared, Pakistan's man-of-the-series. "I never saw such wonderful

bowling in my career and Wagar was the main difference between the two sides," Wasim Zimbabwe manager Rob

Whilley said: "The tour was extremely useful in gaining us necessary experience." "We could have won the sec-

ond Test but it was our lack of experience and the bowling of Wagar and Wasim which frustrated our hopes of victory*

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the third Test between Pak istan and Zimbabwe: PAKISTAN: First innings

ZIMBABWE: First innings PAKISTAN: Second innings (37 without loss overnight)

Aamir Sohail c James b Brain Shoaib Mohammad not out Asif Mujtaba not out Extras:

Total: 174 for 1 in 82 overs

Bowling:	0	M	R	4 4
Brandes	16	5	31	9
Brain	14	6	28	1
Streak	16	4	25	g ()
Rennie	14	6	35	- 3
G. Flower	10	2	15	
Whittal	10.5	4	17	9
Campbell	1	0	3	0.00
A. Flower	.5	0	0	9
(43) PH (13)		Section 1985		

Result: Match drawn 1st Test: Pakistan won by 131 runs.

2nd Test: Pakistan won by 52 runs.

nored by the selectors.

in Galle.

Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

(From left) E Piperno, V Reddy, N Kirtane and P Srinath waves to the spectators from the winners' podium after India won the SAF Games team tennis gold beating Shri Lanka at the - Star photo