

Bimal — a hero in less than 11 secs

Sports Reporter

It is rarely more than once that life, fraught with those little ironies, presents us go to Shakespeare for emotion framed in poetry. Shimmering in a seance of sensation and a trance of

Shikhyia Pratisthan (BKSP), Bimal got star marks in the school secondary examinations (SSC). But he managed to give time to his avocation, which has catapulted him in eleven seconds to the height



Bimal Chandra Tarafdar of Bangladesh celebrates after becoming the fastest man of South Asia by winning the 100m sprint in a new Sixth SAF Games record time of 10.61 seconds at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

transformation, Bimal Chandra Tarafdar perhaps tried to say, 'If it were now to die'... but he could not, as fans, admirers, journalists symbolised the storm in him. He has just rode out a storm, a storm of dynamics that is involved in the 100m dash. The heart of all sporting contests a la Olympics. The 100m sprint of the Sixth SAF Games, held yesterday at the Mirpur Stadium, saw the dark darling zoom to the status of being the fastest man of South Asia. Bimal clocked 10.61 seconds to shatter the existing record of 10.68 seconds, extant till 2.40 pm yesterday. Son of Nripendra Chandra Tarafdar, a school-master of Jafarpur B M College at Dhamrai, Bimal, the only brother among three sisters, is not really the all-play Jack. Now a second year student at the Bangladesh Krira

of a national hero. After the experienced Golan Ambia fell out of reckoning with an injury in the heats Thursday, the onus fell on this young man to keep up Bangladesh's challenge. His experience and exposure, or the lack of it, at international level was depressing, to say the least. The only senior track and field meet he competed was the ATF in Manila, the Philippines late last month and there he did not even qualify! Out of almost nowhere he came to take his fancied rival and gold winner of the last meet — Shri Lankan SSA Disanayake. Bimal feels he owes his success to his coaches, particularly to the late Shah Alam — two-times SAF sprint champion — but the inspiration he attributes to his parents.

Darsha — the Dark gazelle of South Asia

Sports Reporter

Shri Lanka's Damayanthi Darsha, the dark, graceful confirmed her status as the sprint queen of South Asia. She took the gold in the women's 100m event with a timing of 11.78 yesterday.

In fact, it was a double crown for the girl from Ampara, Shri Lanka. Earlier on Thursday she took the 200m gold with the nonchalant grace of a gazelle. A Buddhist who studies at the 'O' levels, Darsha is a fairly good student, too.

Speed is probably in Darsha's genes. Her father, who now does business, used to drive a car. A look-alike of Florence Joyner-Griffith, Darsha has a queer notion of an idol. She admires Carl Lewis. Doesn't matter, really, because what Darsha is winning are essentially the women's events.

Yesterday's SAF athletics results

Men: 100m: 1. Bimal Chandra Tarafdar (Bangladesh) 10.61 (NMR); 2. S S A Disanayake (SL) 10.70; 3. G C De Zoysa (SL) 10.71.

110m hurdles: 1. W Chaminda Fonseka (SL) 14.34; 2. Mahesh Perera (SL) 14.36; 3. Abdur Razaq (Pak) 14.43.

5,000 m: 1. Bahadur Prasad (Ind) 14:12.25 (NMR); 2. Gulab Chand (Ind) 14:38.99; 3. Muhammad Siddique (Pak) 14:46.12.

Triple Jump: 1. Chandimal Niroshan (SL) 15.30; 2. R M N Thushara Ratnayake (SL) 15.18; 3. Prem Chand Singh (Ind) 15.13.

Javelin: 1. Daljit Singh (Ind) 66.80; 2. Satvir Singh (Ind) 64.26; 3. Khurshed Ahmed Khan (Nepal) 62.49.

Women: 100m: 1. Damiyanthi Darsha (SL) 11.78; 2. E B Shyla (Ind) 11.92; 3. Rachita Panda (Ind) 12.04.

800m: 1. Shiny Wilson (Ind) 2:04.63 (NMR); 2. MD Sriyani Dhammika Menike (SL) 2:07.60; 3. Rosa Kutty (Ind) 2:08.58.

Indian shooters bag golds

Hosts Bangladesh won one silver and one bronze in the SAF games shooting at the Gulshan range on the fourth day of the event yesterday, reports UNB.

In the men's 25metre rapid fire pistol 60 shots event, carried over from Thursday, India won the gold while Bangladesh and Shri Lanka took the silver and bronze respectively.

Indian shooters Bhanwerlal Deka, Dhayan Singh and Surender Kumar took the team gold securing 1642 points, (556, 544 and 542 each).

Bangladeshis Nazrul Islam Rubel, Abdus Sattar Nini and Asif Hossain secured 1596 points (537, 532 and 527 each) and Shri Lankan K W Edema, G M Chandana and K D S P Prematilake scored 1593 (538, 530 and 525 each) to take the silver and bronze respectively.

Indian B Deka, scoring 556 points, won the individual gold while his compatriots D Singh and S Kumar took the silver and bronze.

In the women's standard rifle 3X20 shots, 3 position event, Shri Lankan shooters Ramanayake, D Ranasinghe and M Wickeremasinghe securing 1641 points (551, 549 and 541 each) won the gold.

India's R Unnikrishnan, K Gangulee and U Panicker scoring 1638 (565, 548 and 525 each) to take the silver while Bangladeshis Kazi Shahana Parveen, Farzana Hossain Shoma and Razia Nawshad Jewel, totalling 1598 points (547, 526 and 525) took the bronze.

Indian Roopa Unnikrishnan (565 out of 600 points) bagged the gold individually while Shri Lankan P Ramanayake (551) and her compatriot D Ranasinghe (549) took the silver and bronze for the Lankans.



FASTEST WOMAN IN SOUTH ASIA: Shri Lanka's KV Damayanthi Darsha clinched the coveted Sixth SAF Games women's 100 metres title clocking 11.78 seconds at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. She thus completed an expected sprint double, having earlier won the 200m gold on Thursday. — Star photo

Indian paddlers to the fore

Sports Reporter

Indian paddlers completed another double in the Sixth SAF Games table tennis competition when they bagged both the men's and women's doubles golds at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

Yesterday's results mean that Indians have taken all the four gold medals settled so far. Earlier, they won the men's and women's team events beating Pakistan and Shri Lanka respectively.

In the men's doubles final yesterday evening, Sujay Ghorpade and Chetan Baboor stifled the Pakistani aspirations of winning a gold with a 21-9, 21-9, 23-21 victory over Asim Qureshi and Shahzad Wasim.

Wasim and Qureshi heightened the Pakistani hopes when they gallantly clawed their way out of a desperate situation to beat Raman Subrenium and Kamlesh Mehta of India in five sets and dispel the expectations of an all-Indian final.

Subrenium and Mehta started with a bang and appeared headed for a straight-sets win when the two, with two sets already under their belts, raced to a 19-16 lead. But the Pakistani pair turned back when their supporters were on the verge of giving up on them.

Qureshi and Wasim nullified the deficit and stretched the set to deuce and after staving off a match point snatched the third set 23-21.

That completely changed the scenario with the Indian pairing, who looked nearly invincible, suddenly seeming vulnerable and short of ideas in the face of a rejuvenated Pakistan attack.

On the other end, Wasim and Qureshi had everything going their way and dominated for the remainder of the match to etch out an enthralling 18-

For Dissanayake, Bimal proves a bolt from blue

By N K Bharati, Guest Writer

An electrifying day on the tracks yesterday! One of those days when some mischievous imp decides to play tricks with the formbook.

The first Games track gold for Bangladesh, Shiny Wilson's answer to her detractors, a promise kept by Indian star Bahadur Prasad, and personal best runs by India's women sprinters marked a session that has been unparalleled so far in the five-day old games.

It was a dream come true for Bangladesh's Bimal Chandra Tarafdar, who prevented a Shri Lankan sweep of the 100m dash and displaced SSA Disanayake as the fastest man of South Asia on the new Mirpur Stadium track.

Hitherto unknown even in Bangladesh, the 18-year-old student thrived on home support and couldn't believe the result himself.

Mobbed by jubilant fans, the winner took a victory lap, tears streaming down his face. His time of 10.61 seconds was a new meet record. His previous best was the 10.75 he had clocked in the heats Thursday.

There was stunned disbelief also on the faces of the Shri Lankan contingent in the stands, who were up on their feet to cheer Dissanayake. They had been banking on both the sprint golds. Just a few minutes ago, Damiyanthi Darsha had flown through the women's dash to remain the region's fastest women athlete. It was Darsha's second gold of the meet. The earlier one had come in the 200m.

The women's 800m was Shiny Wilson's return to all those who had begun to lose confidence in her. The win, achieved in a time of 2:04.63, in her usual convincing manner, also proved a point to herself.

Her indifferent show at the Asian Track and field meet at Manila and the two consecutive defeats in the 400m at the hands of team-mate K Saramma, the last on Wednesday, had sent her self-esteem plummeting.

Yesterday's win proved it isn't yet time to rule her out. She had a rather slow start, reacting late to the gun and looked heavy at the beginning. But she soon attained her normal rhythm.

Rounding the final curve she overtook Shri Lanka's Dhammika Menike, bronze medalist at Manila, and just took off. Menike struggled for a while to keep up but knew she was beaten. About 15 metres from the finish, she looked back to check how far India's Rosa Kutty was from her. Satisfied she would get the silver, she made no effort to accelerate and ambled past the finish.

Shiny's time was nowhere near the two minutes and two seconds she clocked at the Barcelona Olympics but she would have been nearer that had she been pushed harder.

Sprinters EB Shyla and Rachita Panda posted their personal best times in the women's 100m. Shyla thundered down the track, just behind winner Damiyanthi Darsha, to finish in 11.92 seconds. Rachita Panda's determined dip made all the difference to her time. She claimed bronze in 12.04.

Bahadur Prasad kept his word to this reporter. He had promised to erase the old record in the 5,000m and so he did. A blistering 56-second last lap helped him clip over 11 seconds off the old mark of 14 minutes 23.7 seconds. His winning time was 14:12.25.

He was a frontrunner from the start yesterday, only briefly conceding the lead to Pakistan's Muhammad Siddique. So confident was he that twice he looked towards the Indian team who were chanting his name and waved to them reassuringly.

India had a 1-2 in the men's javelin where Daljit Singh stole a march over junior Asian champion compatriot Satvir Singh. Daljit took the gold with a distance of 66.80 metres, while Satvir's best was 64.26m, good enough for the silver. Nepal's Khurshed Ahmed Khan was third with 62.49.

Pakistan saw their medal hopes evaporate in the triple jump and the 110m hurdles, two events in which they were hoping to get the gold.

Their hop, skip and jump national champion Banaras Khan could do only 14.85m, much under his personal best of 15.93. The gold medalist of the Colombo Games could only take the sixth spot. The event was won by Shri Lanka's Chandimal Niroshan in 15.30m.

The silver went to another Lankan, RMN Thushara Ratnayake who jumped 15.18m. India's Prem Chand Singh took the bronze with a leap of 15.13. The other Indian entry in the triple jump, Navreet Singh, was fourth with 14.98.

It was a Shri Lankan 1-2 again that put paid to Pakistan's hopes in the high hurdles. W Chaminda Fonseka was the first to clear the finish, in a time of 14.34s, and his team-mate did it ahead of Pakistan's Abdur Razaq in 14.36. Razaq finished in 14.43 for the bronze.

In the morning, the Shri Lankans had also taken the top two spots in the marathon after two runners, a Bangladeshi and a Nepalese, who reached first, were disqualified for digressing for the given route. India had no entry in the marathon. Competition starts at 10:30 this morning.

Lankan lasses lap up another

Sports Reporter

Pakistani national champion gave away only seven games overall to prevail 6-3, 6-4.

India were assured of a gold in the men's doubles when both their pairs made it to the final in an anticipated style.

Gaurav Natekar and Nitin Kirtane didn't let Pakistan's Khaliq and Malik get into their stride as they cantered to a 6-3, 6-4 triumph.

Reddy and P Srinath, meanwhile, in their semifinal against Praveen Waas and Rohan de Silva of Shri Lanka, went through a few scary moments before finding the passage to the final.

Waas and De Silva came out gunning in the first set and broke the Indian pair twice to clinch the first set 6-3. The Lankan duo kept up the momentum in the second set till the set reached tie-break but failed to deliver when it counted most, losing the tie-breaker 7-4.

Once level, the two Indians had everything under control and with the disheartened Lankans playing listlessly, they polished off the match with a 6-3 third set victory.

The all-Indian affair is scheduled for an eight o'clock start this morning.

In the women's singles, Lihini Weerasurya will have a familiar face in Vaidyanathan of India on the other side of the set, a player whom she beat in the team event on December 21. In their previous match-up in this meet, Vaidyanathan lost 6-7 (10-8), 3-6 to the agile

Lankan. Weerasurya, who already has caught the imagination of the local fans with nimble net play, virtually blew Arati Ponnappa off the court in her semifinal, winning 6-1, 6-1.

Vaidyanathan conceded three more games than her final opponent in getting rid of Sangakara 6-2, 6-3.

Both the men's and women's singles finals will be played tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the line judges continued to be incredibly messy, consistently coming up with faulty rulings. So frequent were their errors (or ignorance) that the players seemed to have taken them for granted.

During the second men's doubles semifinal, the match was held up for several minutes over a confusing call. From the stands, it seemed the chair umpire and the net umpire didn't quite agree on a point given to the Indian pairing.

On another occasion, V Reddy, utterly confounded over a line call, could not help himself from squatting on the court.

Similarly, the Lankan duo of Lihini Weerasurya and Sangakara was seemingly irritated by a dubious decision that went against them.

Although, the decisions didn't eventually have much significance in the end, the incidents would, indeed, compel any tennis lover to call into question the ability of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) to host such a big event.

First loss for hosts

Sports Reporter

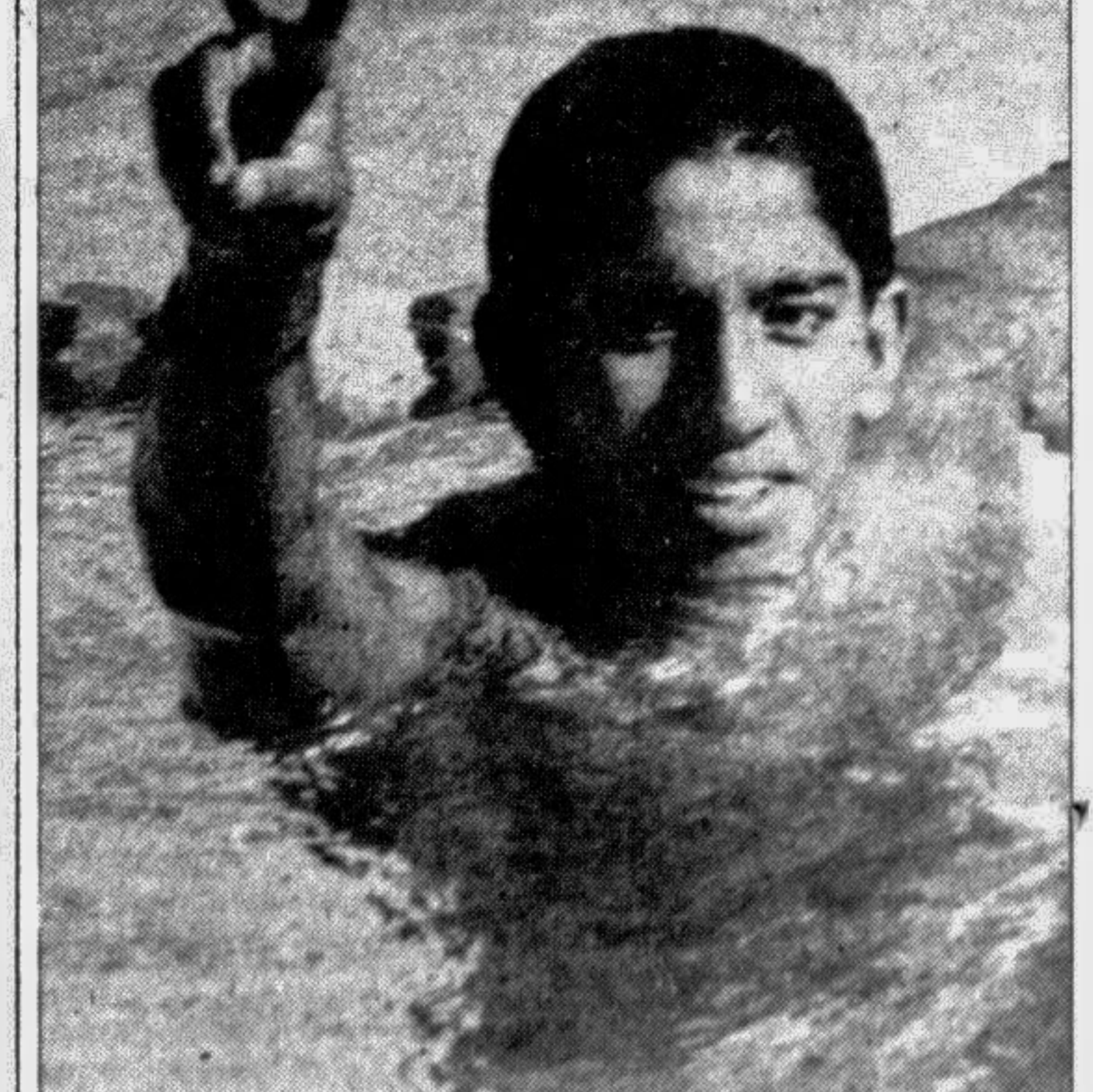
Bangladesh suffered their first loss in the round robin section of the Sixth SAF Games kabaddi competition when they went down 14-16 to Pakistan at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In a keenly contested first half both teams were engaged in attack and counter attack right from the start but the physically built Pakistanis managed to gain a slender 7-6 lead.

The physical exertions clearly had an effect on hosts game in the second session and they were unable to contain



KA Karunaratne of Shri Lanka coming into the Mirpur Stadium to win the gold in the Sixth SAF Games marathon clocking 2:21.38 yesterday morning. — Star photo



Pakistan's Kamal Salman Masud has something to be proud of after clinching gold in the Sixth SAF Games 400m freestyle at the Mirpur pool. — Star photo