

# Shooters on target for two more golds

Sports Reporter



Shooters kept shooting golds for the hosts as two more glittering medals came Bangladesh's way yesterday.

G M Hyder, the 25-year-old businessman from Dhaka, won the individual gold in the men's Free Rifle 3-position 3X40 shots.

He collected 1125 points to help Bangladesh win the gold in the team event as well.

India's TC Palangappa took the silver for his score of 1120. Nasiruddin Johnny of Bangladesh bagged the bronze with a score of 1118 points.

The gold in the team event was won by Bangladesh as the total score of Hyder, Nasiruddin and Kamrul Islam outnumbered that of the Indians and Pakistanis.

Kamrul Islam, the deaf-and-mute youngster who could not feature in the medal winning position in the individual event, chipped in very usefully in the team event with a score of 1045.

Hyder's 1125, Nasir's 1118 and Kamrul's 1045 gave Bangladesh a combined total of

3338, enough to secure the gold medal.

India won the silver in the team event, too.

Bhagirath Samai, a medal prospect who failed to clinch a medal in the individual event, weighed in the Indian team total with a score of 1111.

Ashok Kumar contributed 1092 points, and with Palangappa's silver-winning effort totalling up 1120, India's grand total stood at 3323.

The Pakistani trio comprising Zafarul Haq, Wasim Sajjad and Abdul Hamid won the bronze medal.

Zafarul Haq had a score of 1101. Wasim Sajjad scored 1093 while Abdul Hamid chipped in with 1060 in a Pakistani total of 3254.

With yesterday's two golds, the hosts have so far reaped seven golds from shooting alone. On December 21 four golds were deposited into Bangladesh's account as shooting ace Ateequr Rahman and Saiful Alam Chowdhury won golds in two individual events.

With their compatriots rustling up good scores also, the team golds of the two respective events too went to

Bangladesh, making it an hurray quartet in one single day.

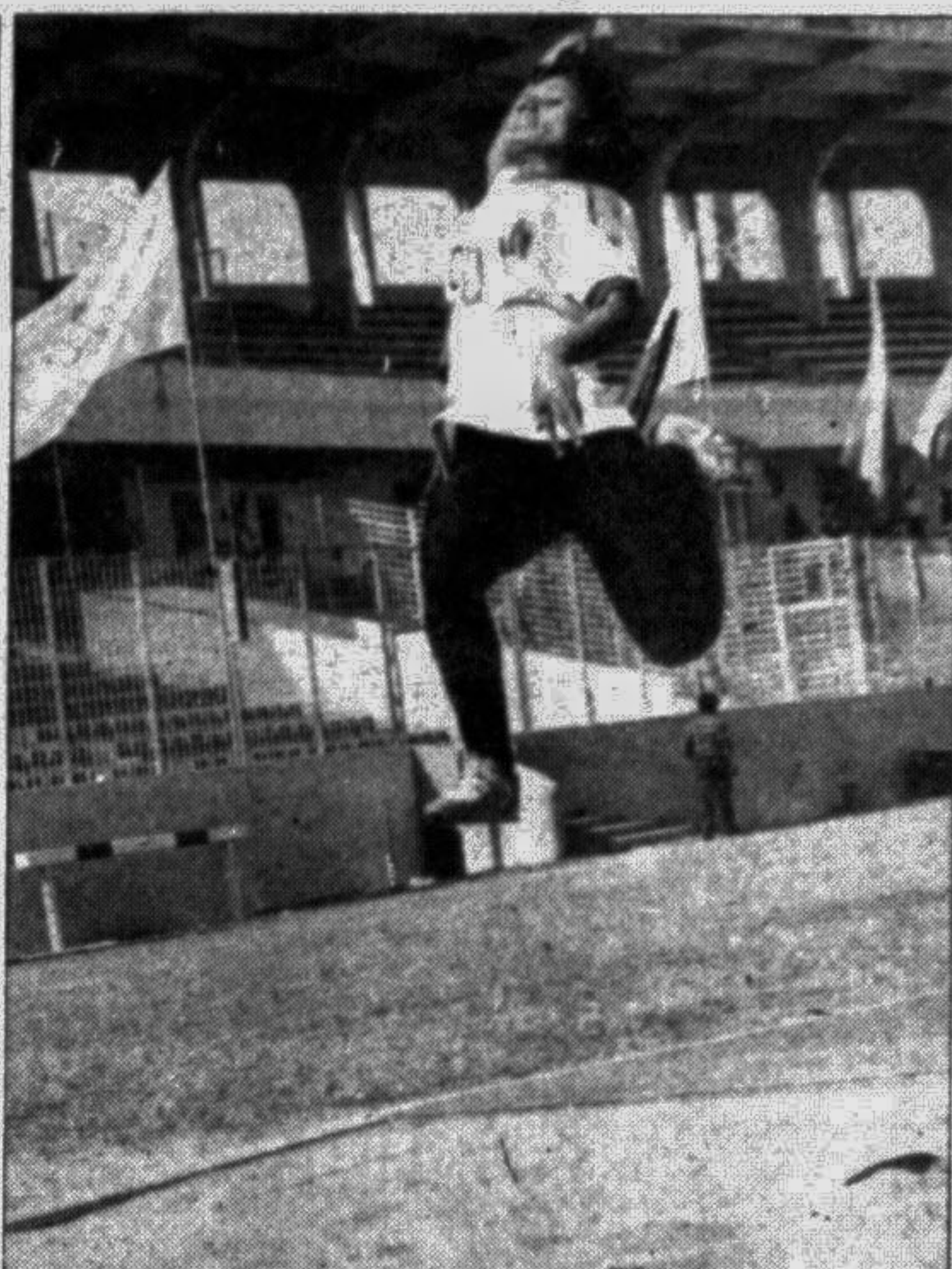
The fancied female shooters of the country, however, performed poorly by their own standards. Kazi Shahana Parveen, the first gold-winner for Bangladesh in the previous Games, failed to win an individual gold this time. However, the combination of Sahana, Shoma and Sabrina salvaged some pride by winning the gold in a team event — the standard rifle.

With a couple of more events awaiting settlement today, Bangladesh are leading the shooting medals table with seven golds, followed Shri Lanka and India who have garnered five and four golds so far.

Two more events — the clay target skeet — 125 birds for men, and the Free Pistol shots — also for men, will be held today.

**SHOOTING TABLE**  
Following is the final medals table of the shooting events of the SAF Games till yesterday: (Tabulate under gold, silver, bronze and total).

	G	S	B	T
Bangladesh	7	5	3	15
Shri Lanka	5	5	3	13
India	4	5	8	17
Pakistan	0	1	2	3



Shabana Akhtar of Pakistan claimed the women's long jump gold with a leap of 5.95 metres at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

# India start as favourites

By Manash Chakraborty

From Manipur.

In front of a half a lakh home crowd they almost held mighty India and only surrendered the gold one minute away from the final whistle. But that is a six-year-old story. And today Nepal, boosted by their win over Bangladesh, will take on India at the Mirpur Stadium for a SAF football gold which they last won nine years ago.

On paper, India are firm favourites and should not face much difficulty in clinching the issue in their favour. But on form there is little difference between the two.

India's upfront is quite weak with the out-of-form Vijayan and an inconsistent Bhupinder Thakur making a mess of everything. So the Indian attack lacks penetration and thrust. It will not be very difficult for Rajesh Manandhar and co. to hold them at bay.

But still India holds the key, as their midfield is playing good.

The little Gunabir Singh, combining well with Tajinder Kumar, is capable of doing damage to the Nepalese defence. It is to be seen how the Nepalese midfielders, in which Umesh Pradhan, Raju Sakya and Mani Shah are reasonably good, hold this nippy midfielder

For India, this gold is very vital. In the beginning of this year the national federation drove away not less than eight Bengal players from the Nehru Football camp. The players joined the camp late and were asked not to join.

Among the accused were goalkeeper Atanu Bhattacharya, Tarun Dey, Alok Mukherjee, Iliyas Pasha, Achintya Beel, Tushar Rakshit and Satyajit Chatterjee. They came back from the Bangalore camp and held a press conference in Calcutta where Tarun and others called Mr Priyaranjan Dasgupta 'shri a liar' and called Arun Ghosh, the technical director, 'a cheat'. Then they were asked to show cause for their statements.

Pasha was not present in the press conference and gave a statement that he had nothing to do with it. Achintya Beel felt sorry for his statement and was included in the pre-World Cup camp. But he had to be dropped for poor performance. But the other five were excluded from the national team for ever.

Hence, Proloy Saha, Subir Ghosh, Gunabir Singh, Tajinder Kumar and Hemant Dora got their chances to represent the country and have justified their inclusion till now. They won the SAARC football title in Lahore.

And if they can win today it is a good thing for Indian football. They will march a step towards betterment.

But that is not as easy as it looks. Though Nepal, like Pakistan, have never beaten India, and in the last meeting of the two national teams it was the country of 85 crore people which reigned supreme over the country of two crore. Moreover, an Indian team — East Bengal Club — took part in the Wai Wai Cup held in Kathmandu this year and become champions by beating five home teams.

However, here in Dhaka, things are different and not everything has been running in India's favour. There are some big gaps in their defence and Hemant Dora, who is usually dependable, is very much vulnerable in the air. He missed the flights of the ball and because of him India had to concede goals twice against Pakistan.

In Basant Gurung, Nepal have a very good striker. Tall, lanky, and hard working, Basant may bring spring a surprise by scoring goals and it could be a merry Christmas for them. But that is not easy though. And Nepal, knowing their limitations, may go for a tie-breaker, by holding the Indian attackers, which they are quite capable of.

## Pak punchers grab the honours

# Mozammel boxes into history

By Md Salim Sadikh



Mozammel Haq, a 22-year-old police constable, won the first gold medal for Bangladesh in the Sixth SAF Games boxing yesterday.

"I am thrilled" said an overjoyed Mozammel after beating Ali Mohammad (Pakistan) on points in the fly-weight (54 kg) weight class.

Son of late Ismail Khan-daker, from Bararia, Netrakona, this pugilist had won the bronze medal in the same event in the previous Games in the Shri Lankan capital Colombo, two years ago.

Absolutely ecstatic quite deservedly so, Mozammel was, however, critical of the diet

VI SAF GAMES SCHEDULE FOR TODAY

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

**Football:** 3rd-4th decider between Shri Lanka and Maldives at 3:30 pm and the final between India and Nepal at 5:30 pm at the Mirpur Stadium.

**Kabaddi:** 2:30 pm at the Hockey Stadium.

**Table Tennis:** 9:30 am to 5:00 pm at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium.

**Tennis:** Women's singles and men's singles final from 1:00 pm at the Ramna Tennis Complex.

**Shooting:** Men's clay target skeet 125 birds at 10:00 am at the BKSP shooting range and men's free pistol 60 shots at 11:30 am at the Gulshan Range.

**Swimming:** 11:00 am at the Mirpur Pool.

— 1500m freestyle  
— 400m individual medley  
— 4x100m medley relay — all finals.

**Volleyball:** Shri Lanka vs India (women's final) and Pakistan vs India (men's), at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium.

served by the authorities during the training camp.

"The food provided by them was not adequate for a tough discipline like boxing. On the whole we were not looked after in the manner we should have been," griped a sweating Mozammel.

While Mozammel won the one and only gold medal for his country — and rather unexpectedly so — three other local punchers managed silver medals. They are Ruhul Amin Howladar, Moniruzzaman, and Ibrahim Mondal.

Ruhul Amin Howladar waged a valiant battle in the light fly-weight in the 48-kg weight class. But his Pakistani opponent Abdur Rahman Qumbrani won the match on points.

Mohammad Moniruzzaman of Bangladesh was the silver medal winner in the 67-kg welter-weight category. He lost to Abdul Rashid, one of the nine gold winners in boxing for Pakistan.

Ibrahim Mondal was our other silver winner, going down on points to Pakistan's Abqar Ali.

But Pakistan overwhelmingly dominated the boxing arena as a team. They took nine of the dozen golds on offer yesterday, also the last day of the discipline.

Their campaign started with Ali Mohammad Qumbrani winning the gold in the light fly-weight class.

Abdul Khaleq of Pakistan won the gold in the 54-kg bantam-weight beating Nepal's Umesh Katuawal.

Zaigham Massel was declared the winner in the 57 kg feather-weight when his Nepalese counterpart failed to stand up to the assault of the well-built Pakistani.

Arshad Hossain won the gold in the light-weight 60 kg division beating India's Devanand Venkateshu.

Arshad's compatriot Abdul Rashid beat Moniruzzaman of Bangladesh for the gold in the 67 kg welter weight class.

Khyber Shah was the win-

ner in the 71-kg light middle-weight class. The Pakistani puncher beat Shabir Thapa of India on points.

Tanveer Butt was the seventh Pakistani to win the gold at the Dhaka Stadium boxing ring. He downed India's Sanjay Kumar in the middle weight 75 kgs class.

Abqar Ali beat Bangladesh's Ibrahim Mondal in the light heavy-weight (81-kg) category.

Taufeeq Tariq became the ninth and last Pakistani to win a gold on a cold, flood-lit night. He beat Laksh Singh of India in the super-heavy weight (91-kg) class.

Shri Lanka's R K Sumith Prasanna was one of the lone gold medal winners from three countries — India, Bangladesh and Shri Lanka.

He beat Z V Jollyson of India in the light welter-weight (63.5-kg) class.

India's Raj Kumar Sangwan won the gold in the super heavy-weight (over 91-kg) class beating Pakistan's Sarfarish Khan.

**MEDALS TABLE**  
The final medals table of boxing is as follows:

	G	S	B	T
Pakistan	9	2	1	12
India	1	5	5	11
Bangladesh	1	3	5	9
Shri Lanka	1	0	7	8
Nepal	0	2	6	8

## India's reign ends

Sports Reporter

In the battle of the giants Pakistan pulled off a shock 21-13 win over two-time defending champions India in the Sixth SAF Games kabaddi competition at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The winners took a 8-7 lead at the breather.

Barring the unthinkable against minnows Shri Lanka in their last match today, Pakistan are virtually assured of bagging the gold which has eluded their grasp so often in the past.

India now face hosts Bangladesh for the silver. Nepal recorded their first win in the competition when they beat Shri Lanka 31-14 in the other match.

The first session went Nepal's way 8-6.



Indian Harjeet Kaul took the gold in the women's discus with a throw of 46.58 metres in the Sixth SAF Games at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

## Volleyball finals today

Sports Reporter

Unbeaten India and Pakistan will meet in the final of the Sixth SAF Games men's volleyball competition today at the Mirpur indoor stadium.

Both teams qualified collecting the maximum eight points from four matches in their groups.

In their final games yesterday, India trounced Nepal in three straight sets 15-2, 15-3, 15-4 while Pakistan, after losing the first set 14-16, came back strongly to take the next three 15-8, 15-2, 15-10 over a stubborn Shri Lankan side.

In the women's section, India became unbeaten champions in the group matches securing six points from three games. They will face Shri Lanka in the final in the morning.

Hosts Bangladesh were awarded the bronze automatically, since the group was only a three-team cluster.

## Yesterday's T & F winners

Sports Reporter

Men: 400 m H: 1. Muham-

amad Amin (Pak) 51:29.

800 m: 1. Ranjit Subasinghe (SL) 1:47.56 (NMR).

Shot Put: 1. Ghufan Hus-

sain (Pak) 17.46 (NMR).

4x100m: 1. Shri Lanka (G C

de Zoysa, T Benlidus Fernando,

J A Dhammika Jayasekera, S S

A Dissanayake) 40.55.

4x400m: 1. Shri Lanka (H P

K Gunawardena, K P Susantha,

S K Demaratipitiya, R S Sugath

Tillekeratne) 3:08.83.

Women:

1,500 m: 1. Molly Chacko

(Ind) 4:21.20 (NMR).

Discus: 1. Harjeet Kaur (Ind)

46.58.

Long Jump: 1. Shabana

Akhtar (Pak) 5.95 metres.

4x100m: 1. India (Beena Au-

gustine, K Saramma, Rachita

Panda, E B Shyla) 45.10 (NMR).

4x1000m: 1. India (H G Ap-

sara, K M Beenamol, K Sara-

mma, Shiny Wilson) 3:37.04

(NMR).

Indians had quite a Christmas celebration at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday with two more

golds coming their way in the Sixth SAF Games tennis tournament.

The two golds — in the men's and mixed doubles — raise the Indian haul to three out of the five events settled so far. The other two were won by Shri Lanka in the women's team and doubles.

The first of the two all-Indian finals scheduled for the day, Gaurav Natekar and Nitin Kirtane needed one break in each set to outlast compatriots Vasudev Reddy and P Srinath 6-4, 6-4.

The result came as quite a shock to the spectators present in the stands since most of them had put their bets on Raddy and Srinath, who played superbly on their way to the final.

However, it was a deserving win for Kirtane and Natekar for

they produced a better blend of tennis at the crucial moments, scoring winners when needed.

Earlier, the finalists had contrasting passages to the final. Natekar and Kirtane had their works cut out by the often erratic Pakistani pairing of Muhammed Khalif and Rashid Malik and waltzed away with a comfortable 6-0, 6-3 triumph.

But Reddy and Srinath clawed their way back from the verge of elimination in their semifinal outing with Shri Lankan Praveen Waas and Rohan de Silva. Already one set down and stretched to a tiebreaker in the second, the two Indians throttled their game a gear up and after prevailing 7-5 in the tiebreaker, raced to a comfortable 6-3 win in the decider.

Kirtane was later deprived of a double crown when he, along with Jahnavi Parekh, lost to Ramesh and Nirupama Vaidyanathan in the mixed doubles final. Kirtane and Parekh had only themselves to blame for playing inconsistently for most of the two-set work-out.

In the round of last four, Ramesh and Vaidyanathan overpowered Shri Lanka's Seneka Kumara and Saranga Sangakara while Kirtane and Jahnavi squeezed past another Lankan pair of Lihini Weerasurya and Rohan de Silva.

The tournament ends today with two singles finals — men's and women's — scheduled for the day.

For the men's singles gold Reddy takes on Pakistan national number one Muhammed Khalif while Vaidyanathan will surely want to settle the score with Weerasurya in the other gold medal decider.

# Xavier's treble treat

Sports Reporter



Sebastian Xavier completed a golden treble as India maintained their position at the top of the medals table winning all three golds on the penultimate day of the sixth SAF Games swimming at the Mirpur pool yesterday.

The 23-year-old calities-affected swimmer from Kerala reconfirmed his status as the fastest swimmer of South Asia by winning the 50m free-style with a timing of 24.37 seconds.

He, however, failed to better his own mark of 23.95 set in the previous Games in Colombo.

An employee of Indian Railways, Sebastian Xavier yesterday toted up another gold with consummate ease to his previous two golds. Earlier he had 100m free-style and the 200m individual medley. With another three events — the 1500 free-style, 400m IM and the 4x100 medley relay — scheduled for today, the concluding day of the discipline in the Games Xavier may touch his haul of five gold medals in the last Games.

While Xavier got the gold medal, Shri Lanka's Intukhab Sikander took the silver clocking 24.52.

Harun-ur-Rashid of Bangladesh bagged the bronze with a timing of 24:75 seconds.

Earlier in the day, Rajeev Nagpal bagged his second individual gold of the meet by winning the 200m free-style.

The 20-year-old BSF man had earlier won the 200m butterfly.

Nagpal clocked 2:03.31 seconds, followed by Pakistan's Maruf who took 2:03.69 seconds for the silver while his compatriot Billal Bux bagged the bronze with a timing of 2:05.09 seconds.

Xavier's fellow Keralaite Suresh Kumar took the gold in the 100m butterfly to make it a

day of clean sweep for India. He clocked 51.62 seconds.

Shri Lanka's Nishantha De Costa took the silver with a timing of 1:00.55 seconds.

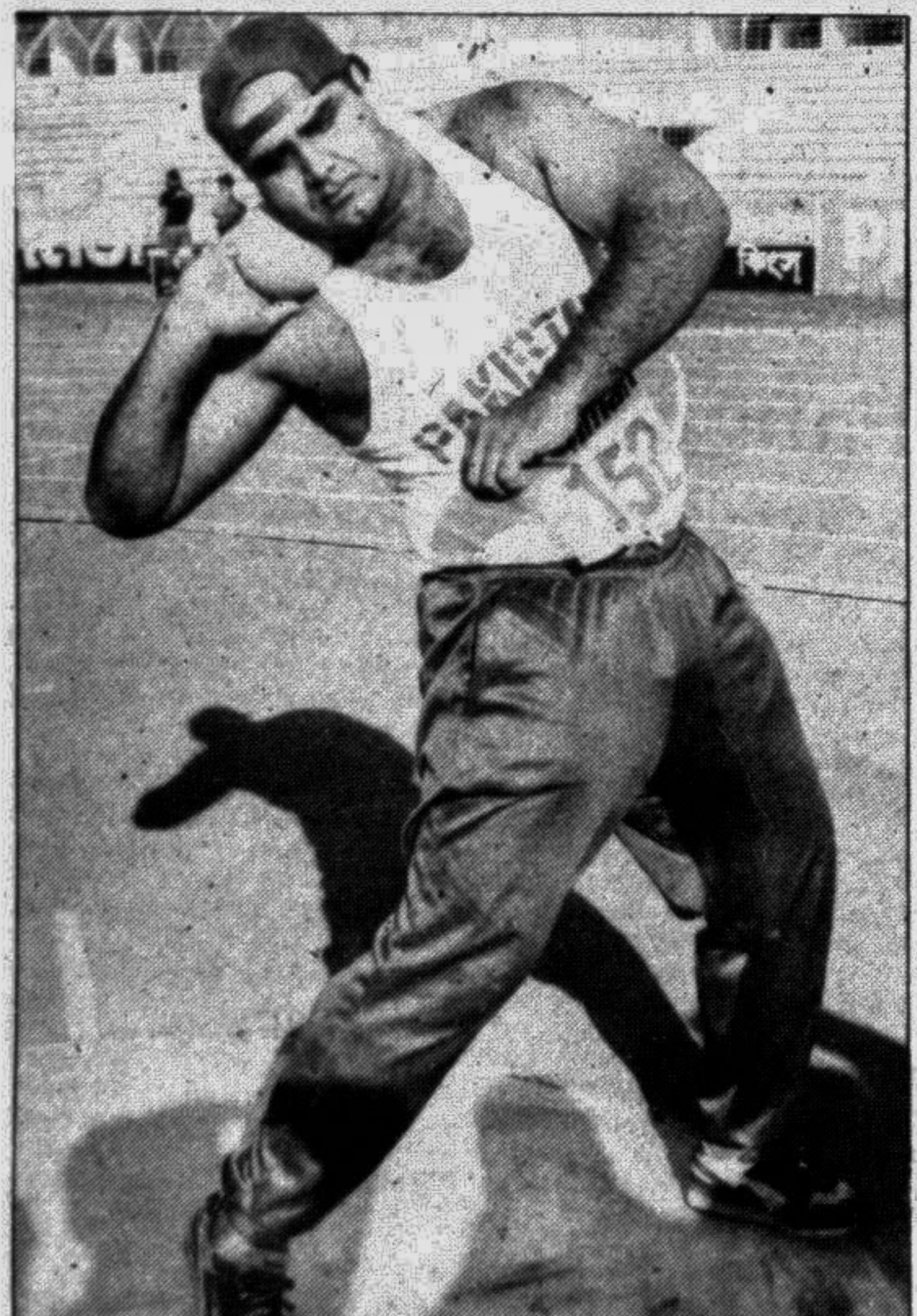
Bangladesh's Selim Miah took the bronze with a timing of 1:01.11 seconds.

Competition resumes at eleven this morning with three events remaining to be finalised.

## SWIMMING TABLE

The medals table after Saturday's competitions in the SAF Games swimming events: (Tabulate under gold, silver, bronze and total)

	G	S	B	T
India	9	5	2	16
Pakistan	2	3	6	11
Bangladesh	2	3	3	8
Shri Lanka	1	3	3	7



Pakistani Ghufan Hossain created a new Games record of 17.46 metres in the men's shot put at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.



Runners starting their final lap in the men's 800 metres of the Sixth SAF Games at Mirpur stadium. Ronjit Subasinghe of Shri Lanka won the gold with a new Games record time of one minute 47.38 seconds yesterday.



FAB JLOUS FOUR ... (from left) Veena Augustine, Saramma Kutty, Rachita Panda and EB Shyla rejoice after winning the women's 4X100m relay gold in the Sixth SAF Games at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.