

Memory, MSC's nightmare

Sports Reporter

Et Arambagh. Drowned in depression the fans of reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club must have felt like the moribund Roman emperor after seeing their team thrown in the towel in its bid to collect at least one trophy this year, following a 0-1 defeat to neighbours Arambagh Krira Sangstha in the Star premier league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

For knowers, it would be naive to indulge in such proverbial musing. Arambagh have a commendable and commanding history of spoiling Mohammedan's broth.

Yesterday they made Mohammedan fans travel through time to another floodlit night



Ximbagh defender Faisal rises to the occasion to quash the predatory intentions of Mohammedan's Asad during yesterday's Star Premier football league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium. Arambagh virtually buried reigning champions' title retaining hopes with a thoroughly deserving one nil victory.

— Star photo

at the same venue nine years ago. The black and whites had the championship almost under thack and rape in 1985 before two second half goals by Ramzan and Salauddin nullified Nepalese Ganesh Thapa's goal and Mohammedan's apple cart was well and truly upset.

Last night, there was no big stake for the popular giants of local soccer for their title pretensions had already been put in the cold storage following the loss of eight points including two defeats and a memorable night in fledgling career of an unheralded Babu Das made sure Mohammedan's premature withdrawal from the title race with their third loss.

Plagued with persistent bad luck and injury problems and an awful want of far-sight on the part of their officials, Mohammedans had not much to complain about last night.

Playing with astonishing positiveness marked with unabated penchant for aggression, Arambagh simply swept their fancied but beleaguered opponents off their feet.

So well organised coach Wazed Gazi's (former Mohammedan winger), boys in a makeshift green were that they successfully defended a lead as early as of the eighth minute.

Sacrificing their colours to avoid chromatic confusion, since Mohammedans stuck to their traditional combination of black and white, Arambagh drew their inspiration from Alfaz and Tushar in the midfield.

While Alfaz set up move after move, the pacy Jahangir Farashganj Sporting Club entered the race for the two berths in Premier league when they edged past East End 3-2 in an entertaining Star First Division encounter at the Mirpur Stadium.

Zahir scored twice while Arif got another to ensure Farashganj's win.

East End pulled back twice through Suman and Dulal who found the net in the 17th and 87th minutes respectively.

Farashganj along with Sadharan Bima trial leaders Rahmatganj with 18 points from 13 matches while East End remained on 13 from 14 matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Esaton Sabuj Sangha vs Muslim Institute 6 pm (Mirpur Stadium)

Agrani Bank vs Bangladesh Boys 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Abahani vs PWD 6:30 (Dhaka Stadium)

in between the matches at the league stage to recoup their energy. Zafar said.

India and Korea were expected to make it to the semi-final from Pool-B, while Pakistan who have had some outstanding results in international meets this year, start as the overwhelming favourites to top Pool-A.

Zafar said Mohammed Arif and Anil Arif have been entrusted with the job of getting goals though penalty corner hits.

Captain Judge Felix, recalled to the team to bolster the midfield, is also optimistic of a much improved display. "Ranjit Singh who was not a regular left winger is shaping up well and providing excellent openings," the skipper said.

India, who last won the Asian title for the only time in 1966 at Bangkok, lost it four years later at the same venue when they lost to Pakistan 0-2 in the replayed final after their first clash ended 1-1 draw.

Zafar rated the Koreans as the speediest team in the world, possessing a very effective set of wingers and it would need all the guiles and skills of the two Indian wing-halves Shakeel Ahmed and Harpreet Singh to block the Korean flankmen.

India have enough rest days

ASIAN GAMES MEDALS TABLE

HIROSHIMA, Oct 3: Following is the first day medal tally at the 12th Asian Games here on Monday (tabulated under gold, silver, bronze and total):

	G	S	B	T
China	8	3	1	12
Japan	6	2	4	12
Indonesia	0	3	3	6
South Korea	0	2	2	4
Chinese Taipei	0	1	3	4
India	0	1	1	2
Thailand	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	1	0	1
Brunei	0	0	2	2
Nepal	0	0	1	1
Total	14	14	17	45

(Note: Two bronze medals were awarded in karate competition)

Qarar out of his depths

Sports Reporter

Qarar Mizanur Rahman found the international qualification mark far beyond his reach when the SAF Games 100-metre breaststroke bronze winner clocked the 11th best time in the heat of his specialised event at the Hiroshima Games yesterday.

Garar, the lone Bangladeshi representative in August's Rome World Championships, finished seventh in the Preliminary Heat 1 with a time of 1 min 10.13 seconds.

Meanwhile, the hockey squad braces for a wretched time when it opens the campaign against eight-time Olympic winners India while boxers are expected to fare no better against Korea and India in the 51 and 91 kilograms categories.

Damal Summer cricket begins this month

Sports Reporter

The 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament is expected to commence from the last week of this month.

Organisers the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) have requested the Premier and the First Division outfits of Dhaka to complete the entry formalities by October 10.

Aussies beset with injuries

KARACHI, Oct 3: Injury problems have struck the Australian tourists after they lost the first Test by one wicket here Sunday, reports AFP.

New South Wales fast bowler Glenn McGrath, who retired to the pavilion suffering from a thigh muscle injury to his right leg may not be fit for the second Test while off-spinner Tim May has a stiff neck.

McGrath's injury will take some time and we don't know how long it is going to take before it heals," said coach Bobby Simpson, indicating that May will be fit.

McGrath's injury left the tourists short of a key bowler in the second innings.

H'ball results

Sports Reporter

Brothers Union and Shahid Nabi High School won their respective first round matches of the Rear Admiral M A Khan memorial handball tournament at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the second match of the day, Brothers posted a facile 26-11 goal victory over Bangladesh Air Force with Rafique notching highest nine goals in a one-sided affair.

Shahid Nabi beat Progoti Boys' Club 16-12 in the first match of the day.

Priyosh with seven goals was the top marksman for the winners, who led 10-7 at the breather.

Uzbekistan got two goals each from powerful striker Igor Shkryin and midfielder

First gold Japan's, Sino eyes set 3 world marks in lifting Chinese juggernaut on the roll

HIROSHIMA, Oct 3: China's three smallest women weightlifters started their nation on its way to another big gold haul by smashing world records Monday, and its swimmers followed up by winning three of four races, reports AFP.

Host Japan swept the first four gold medals in its native sport of karate and won one swimming race and the equestrian team dressage event.

But the Japanese still ended the first full day of competition trailing China eight to six in gold medals. The Chinese won the men's gymnastic team event — ahead of South Korea and Japan. And China's Dong Zhaoxian tipped the balance by defeating Japan's Yoshihide Nagano in the men's foil fence



THE 12th ASIAN GAMES

HIROSHIMA 1994

ing final.

In total medals, China and Japan were tied with 12 each.

Indonesia had six — three silvers and three bronzes.

Over the two weeks of competition among nearly 5,000 athletes, China was expected to win the overall medals race for the fourth consecutive Games, and the big battle was between Japan and South Korea for second.

The South Koreans had just two silvers and two bronzes on Monday, however.

Attention focused on the swimming pool after China's women won 12 of 16 events last month in the World Championships in Rome.

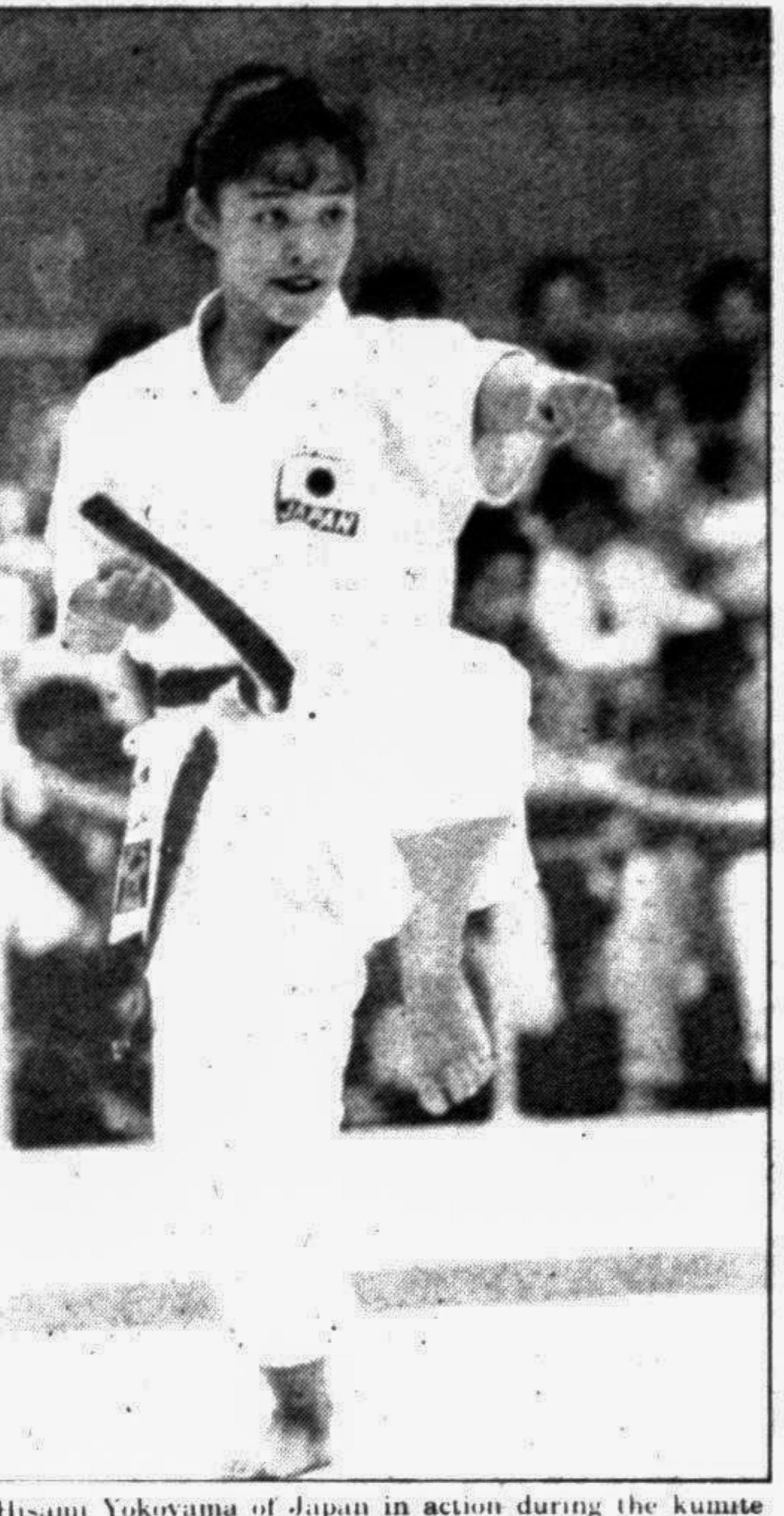
But it was newcomer Shan Ying who stole the spotlight, winning the women's 100-metre freestyle in the third best time ever and edging Chinese teammate Lu Bin, the silver medalist in Rome.

China's other winners were veteran Lin Li, ahead of world champion teammate Dai Guohong, in the women's 400-metre individual medley, and Xiong Guoming, who beat two Japanese in the men's 200 freestyle.

For Japan, Akira Hayashi beat two Chinese in the men's 100 breaststroke.

Hayashi also set Games record, 1:02.04, with China's Wang Yiwu second in 1:03.42.

World champion Liu Xiuhua



Hisami Yokoyama of Japan in action during the kumite

event of the 12th Asian yesterday. Yokoyama won the first gold of the Games.

— AFP photo

China's Chen Jianhong who held the old record of 1:02.60, broke her own record of 187.5 (412.5 pounds) with a total of 197.5 (434.5 pounds).

Indonesia's Binti Wasiqin Supriyati followed with 180 (396 pounds) and South Korea's Choi Myung-shik was third with 177.5 (390.5 pounds).

Zhang Jujuai lifted a total of 202.5 (445.5 pounds) in the 54-kilogram competition, beating the record of 200 (440 pounds) set by teammate Chen Xiaoming, who has moved up to a higher weight division.

Karnam Malleswari of India was the silver medalist with 195 (435.6 pounds). Indonesia's Fatmawati took the bronze

with 182.5 (401.5 pounds).

Chinese were favoured to sweep all nine women's weightlifting golds in these Games.

Japan, meanwhile, was expected to take all 11 golds in karate, fighting art making its debut in the Games, where it joins Korea's taekwondo, China's wushu and the Olympic sport of judo, also a Japanese creation.

Japan's Hisami Yokoyama shadow-boxed her way to these Games' very first gold medal, winning in the kata competition, in which the athletes perform against an imaginary opponent. Five judges rate them on their technique in attacking, defending and counterattacking.

"I'm overwhelmed to have won the first medal of the Games," said the 23-year-old high school teacher, who began learning karate at age 9.

She was awarded 48.1 points, to 46.5 for Omita Olga Ompiti of Indonesia and 46.1 for Chen Shu-Chen of Taiwan.

In the kumite division, involving actual bouts but with punches pulled, Hiromi Hasama defeated Pham Hong Ha of Vietnam for the 53-kilogram division gold medal. Hisako Yoshimi beat Su Chen of Taiwan at 60 kilograms, and Hiromi Hirose downed Mity Johana Kaseger of Indonesia in the over 60-kilogram class.

A total of 337 golds are at stake in competition among athletes from 42 nations and territories.

With the addition of karate and other changes to the sports lineup since the last Games in Beijing in 1990, and the debut of five former Soviet republics, the Chinese are saying their gold total is likely to fall from the 183 four years ago. South Korea had 54 golds and Japan 38 four years ago.

This time, the Chinese still are expecting more than 100 — enough to claim the overall championship.

In the equestrian event, Japan scored 2,886 points to 2,759 for South Korea and 2,501 for Taiwan.

China's men gymnasts won the team event with 286,600 points. South Korea took the silver with 283,575 and Japan won the bronze with 281,550.

China also started impressively in the diving, taking the top two qualifying places Monday in both the men's springboard and the women's platform events. Finals in both events are scheduled Tuesday.

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: Chittagong Mohammadan Sporting Club beat Bakalia Krira Sangstha 2-1 in the CJKP First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Mohammedans dominated play but they failed to break the deadlock.

In the 16th minute Bakalia took the lead through Anwar. Five minutes later Mohammedans levelled the score through an Ajit equaliser.

Murad grabbed the winner seven minutes from time.

Brothers Union beat PDB Club by a solitary goal in a another encounter.

Natore football

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Oct 3: Jamnagar Uttron Club blanked Samata Sangha 4-0 in the Natore football league '94 at the local stadium today.

All the goals came in the second half. Assaduzzaman, Mohadev, Shajada and Hassan were on target for the winners.

Shati Club will face Rajanigandha Sporting Club in tomorrow's encounter.

AB Bank TT

Sports Reporter

It was an old tale retold in the AB Bank metropolitan table tennis league when Brothers Union, Armanitola Juniors and Wari Juniors recorded their eight successive win at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

Title-contenders Brothers and Armanitola Juniors had little difficulties in taking care of Cynthia Sports Club and Purbachal Parishad respectively by straight sets while Wari, who lost the second match, wrapped up their engagement against Mariners 3-1.

In the other match of the day, Swamibagh TTS thrashed Bangladesh Bank 3-0.

Div II hockey

Combined Sporting Club beat Dilkusha Sporting Club by a solitary goal in the metropolitan Green Delta Second Division Hockey League at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Mahmood Ahmed scored the match winner in the 44th minute by a nice field goal.

The other match between Shishu Kishore Sangha and Tejaon Agragami ended in a goalless draw at the same venue.

