

India reign on Day One

Mizan sets pool afire

Sports Reporter



Karar Mizanur Rahman of Bangladesh set the pattern on the inaugural day of the South Asian Swimming championship.

Swimming championship winning the first gold in style at the Mirpur National Complex yesterday.

Mizan, who is unparalleled in the 200-metre breaststroke in the region, took the gold in his favourite event with a record timing of two minutes 33.52 seconds eclipsing the previous mark by 06.73 seconds to earn the feat of setting the first of the five new games records featured on the opening day of the three-day meet.

Incidentally it was a hat-trick for the former BKSP student, who has monopolised this particular event winning it for the first time at the Calcutta Games in 1992 before successfully defending the title in the SAF Games held in Dhaka in the following year.

Mizan, who is also expected to win the gold in the 400 breaststroke, however, made a fine start and never allowed his Indian rival Harinder Singh to have an edge, who had to be content with the silver clocking two minutes 38.39 seconds.

Rezaul Islam, another Bangladeshi swimmer in the event, took the bronze with a timing of two minutes 40.75 seconds.

Meanwhile, the eternal favourites India, who suffered quite a jolt, had to satisfy with three golds while Pakistan took the other gold decided on the day.

BSS adds: Suresh Kumar of India earned the gold in 100m butterfly with a record time of 59.32 seconds against the previous time of one minute 01.23 seconds. Pakistan's Kamal Salman Masud and Bangladesh's Selim Mia bagged the silver and bronze medals with one minute 0.74 and one minute 01.79 seconds respectively.

India's Bhanu Sachdeva collected his country's second gold with also a record time of two minutes 16.57 seconds in 200m backstroke. The previous timing in the event was two minutes 17.19 seconds.

The silver and bronze medals went to Bangladesh when Nazmul Kabir and Kawser Ahmed finished the distance in two minutes 23.82 seconds and two minutes 24.01 seconds respectively.

India won their last gold of the day in the 4X100m freestyle relay as their quartet completed the event in record time of three minutes 45.78 seconds. The previous record in the event was three minutes 47.40 secs. Pakistan and Bangladesh got the silver and bronze medals.

Pakistan's Kamal Salman Masud won the country's only gold in 200m freestyle clocking two minutes 0.62 seconds. India got the silver and bronze.

A lukewarm reaction

SALT LAKE CITY, May 3: A request for mountain snow to be hauled to a downtown celebration this summer for the announcement of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games host has run a foul of Salt Lake County's public works director, reports AP.

Lonnie Johnson made his displeasure known on Monday, indicating his workers had better things to do that help create a winter wonderland for the party June 15-17 at the City-County Building.

"I'm going to come back with a recommendation not to do it," Johnson told county commissioners, adding that he is "not real pro-Olympics."

He also said the Salt Lake Bid Committee had pledged it was not going to spend public money for the Games. Johnson figures it would cost about 6,000 dollars to haul snow to the site.

Mike Korologos, a spokesman for the Salt Lake Olympic Bid Committee, says the Olympic Announcement Party is being staged by the Chamber of Commerce, not the bid committee.

"We're going to be part of the show. We're not staging it," he said.

In a letter to commission chairman Brent Overson, Deborah S Bayle, chairwoman of the Olympic Announcement Party, made the request that the county haul 10 dump truck loads of snow to the party site.

The snow would be used to build a cross-country track, one of several interactive sports activities planned for the announcement festivities, which boosters hope will be capped by word that Salt Lake City will be the host for the 2002 Winter Games.

Salt Lake City, Quebec, Sion, Switzerland and Osterund, Sweden are vying for the bid. The International Olympic Committee will make the announcement during its meeting at Budapest, Hungary on June 16.

medals when Abhijit and Sebastian Xavier finished the distance with a time of two minutes 0.80 seconds and two minutes 6.23 seconds respectively.

Indian coach Kashinat Roy said, "We won three golds today and we hope the rest of the golds will go to India."

Earlier, Food Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan inaugurated the meet as the chief guest.

Secretary general of South Asian Swimming Federation Latif Butt witnessed the events.

All the South Asian countries except Bhutan are taking part in the meet. Sri Lanka, who is also a major force in South Asian swimming, did not send their natants to the meet. They are taking part in the two diving events only.

MEDALS TABLE

Medals table at the end of the opening day (tabulated as countries, gold, silver and bronze)

| | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|
| India | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Pakistan | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Bangladesh | 1 | 1 | 4 |



Bangladeshi ace natant Karar Mizanur Rahman poses on the winners' podium after capturing the 200-metre breaststroke gold in the South Asian Swimming Championship at the Mirpur National Complex yesterday.

— Star photo

Hyderabad boys humbled once more

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, May 3: The visiting Hyderabad under-16 team suffered their third consecutive defeat this time at the hands of the South Zone Schools Eleven at the local stadium here today.

In a thrilling match, the Barisal outfit grabbed a two-wicket victory to further demoralise the visitors.

Earlier, the Hyderabad team lost in Dhaka and Chittagong respectively.

Sent in to bat first, the touring side piled up a fighting score of 165 all out in 39.5 overs. Their innings featured five run outs.

Rashid top scored with 36 for the visitors. But their total owed a lot to extras amounting to 41.

In reply, the Barisal boys reached 166 utilising all their 40 overs.

Siddique of the local side, contributed the highest 67 hitting seven fours while Manju hammered a polished 54 featuring five hits to the fence to guide their team to a breath-taking victory.

Later, Siddique was adjudged man-of-the-match.

IOC waiting to hear from Ethiopia

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, May 3: The president of the International Olympic Committee has sent a letter to Ethiopian sports officials requesting information on detained 1968 gold medalist Mamo Wolde, reports AP.

Wolde, who won the marathon and 10,000-metre silver at the Mexico City Games, has been detained without charge in Addis Ababa for nearly three years, according to Amnesty International.

"President Juan Antonio Samaranch sent a letter to the National Olympic Committee asking them to send him a report," IOC spokeswoman Laura Davis said Wednesday. "We have actually only learned of (Wolde's detainment) today."

Amnesty International said Wolde, who also won the marathon bronze at the 1972 Games at age 40, was arrested in mid-1992, but his case only came to light after a delegation met him in Addis Ababa's central prison in July 1993.

"He was ill and very upset. He was personally and emotionally distressed," Dr Martin Hill of Amnesty's East Africa section said. "He has not been charged with any offense, and it could be quite some time before charges are brought."

Hill said Wolde was detained as part of a general roundup of officials of the former government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam on suspicion of involvement in human rights abuses in the late 1970s. Mengistu was ousted in 1991.

Kosgei's advice for KAAA

BEIJING, May 3: Kenyan cross country coach Mike Kosgei held that a revolt by leading athletes against the country's athletics association will endanger Kenya's supremacy at future championships, a report from Nairobi said, reports Xinhua.

"We won seven gold medals, (out of eight) in last year's world cross country event in Budapest, Hungary. We won only five in Durham, England this year."

Several Kenyan athletes have criticised the Kenyan Amateur Athletic Association as being autocratic and out of touch with modern athletics.

Kosgei said Kenya's athletic chiefs should listen to the athletes instead of dismissing them.

Kosgei said 1994 senior men's champion William Siegem, junior men's champion Philip Mosima and senior women's champion Helen Chepenger had not successfully defended their titles this year.

Becker bids Munich adieu

MUNICH, May 3: A weary Boris Becker stumbled out of the Munich Grand Prix in the first round on Tuesday, beaten by 20-year-old compatriot Hendrik Dreckmann, reports Reuter.

Top seed Becker, went down 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, two days after being defeated by Austrian Thomas Muster in the final of the Monte Carlo Open.

Becker, ranked third in the world, said his legs felt heavy and his head empty following the Monaco tournament.

"I didn't feel fresh mentally," Becker said after the match which last 107 minutes. Dreckmann, ranked 87th in the world, was euphoric after beating Becker for the first time.

"This was the greatest win in my career," he said. "It's tremendous to beat Becker, but also to beat him in Germany."



Players and officials of BJMC, who became the BGIC national volleyball women's champs, beating Rangpur DSA in the final match at the court yesterday. BJMC won 11-15, 15-4, 11-14, 15-2, 16-14 (3-2) sets.

— Star photo

Navy spikers nat'l champs

Bangladesh Navy clinched the BGIC national volleyball title dethroning five-time champions Bangladesh Army in the final at the court yesterday, reports UNB.

In the final, the sailors beat the soldiers 16-14, 15-1, 15-7 to regain the crown after twelve years.

Incidentally, Navy have finished runners-up on seven occasions.

In the women's group, BJMC won the national crown for the third time beating Rangpur DSA 11-15, 15-4, 11-15, 15-2 and 16-14 in the final.

Sohrab Hossain of Bangladesh Army and Shahidullah of Bangladesh Navy were adjudged as the best players in the men's group while Lima of Rangpur was the best woman spiker of the meet.

Earlier in the morning, Bangladesh Rifles finished third in the men's group beating Bangladesh Air Force 3-0.

Last year's champions Bangladesh Ansars managed the third slot in the women's group defeating Rajbari DSA also by the same margin.

Chief of the Army Staff Lt.

Gen. Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim witnessed the final match of the men's group and later distributed the trophies.

ROLL OF HONOUR

| Men's | Champions | Runners-up |
|-------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1973 | Dhaka DSA | Comilla DSA |
| 1974 | Dhaka DSA | Kushtia DSA |
| 1975 | Dhaka DSA | Tangail DSA |
| 1976 | Tangail DSA | Air Force |
| 1977 | Dhaka DSA | Air Force |
| 1978 | Dhaka University | Dhaka Division (Tangail) |
| 1981 | WAPDA | BDR |
| 1982 | Bangladesh Army | BDR |
| 1983 | Bangladesh Navy | Bangladesh Army |
| 1984 | Not held | — |
| 1985 | Bangladesh Army | BDR |
| 1986 | Bangladesh Army | Bangladesh Navy |
| 1987 | BDR | Bangladesh Navy |
| 1988 | Bangladesh Army | Bangladesh Navy |
| 1989 | Bangladesh Army | Bangladesh Navy |
| 1990 | Bangladesh Army | Bangladesh Navy |
| 1991 | Bangladesh Army | Bangladesh Navy |
| 1992 | BJMC | Bangladesh Navy |
| 1993 | Ansars | Bangladesh Navy |
| 1994 | Ansars | Bangladesh Navy |
| 1995 | BJMC | Bangladesh Army |



Action from yesterday's BGIC national volleyball men's final match between Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Navy at the court yesterday. Navy won 16-14, 15-1, 15-7 (3-0) sets.

— Star photo

NSW trounce Argentina

ORANGE, Australia, May 3: The New South Wales state B team beat Argentina 42-16 Wednesday in the visitors' final tuneup for Saturday's second Rugby Union Test against Australia, reports AP.

New South Wales B led 17-6 at half time, but opened up in the second half at Wade Park when the backs, led by Mark Catchpole and centers Jason Madz and Adam Magro, picked up their games.

New South Wales scored six tries to a penalty try to Argentina with Richard Harry crossing for two. Andrew Morsen kicked three conversions and two penalties.

The deadlock was broken in the 20th minute when from a scrum in the Argentina 22, flanker Brad Harrison split the defence and strolled over under the posts. Morsen kicked the conversion and New South Wales B led 7-0.

Argentina hit back to 7-3 ten minutes later when the New South Wales backs were caught offside in front and Jose Cilley kicked a penalty.

But Harry finished off some strong forward work when he crossed over beside the posts for Morsen to convert and New South Wales eight led 14-3.

Simpson trial still in the dark

LOS ANGELES, May 3: Three months after a sock was seized from O J Simpson's house, a technician discovered blood on it that matched the blood type of Simpson's slain ex-wife, the technician testified Tuesday, reports AP.

Gregory Matheson, assistant director of the police crime lab, offered the first scientific evidence directly linking Simpson to the June 12 stabbing deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Simpson, a former football star who stayed in the celebrity spotlight as an actor and TV sports commentator, is charged in the deaths.

Meanwhile, an ambulance rushed to the home of former juror Tracy Hampton, the woman dismissed from the panel Monday after having told Superior Court Judge Lance Ito last month that "I can't take it anymore."

A Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedic confirmed that the patient brought out on a stretcher was Hampton. She lay still and her head was covered to hide her identity.

The paramedic, who would not give a name, said it was not a life-threatening condition, and appeared to be a psychological nature.

attendant, told the judge she could no longer take the stress of juror service. Hampton's complaints were partly responsible for the dismissal of three deputies guarding the sequestered jurors.

She told reporters that she was "fine" when she arrived home Monday, but several hours later, she was whisked away in a Corvette by her father, Sterling Hampton, who told reporters: "She's a young girl and she doesn't feel good right now."

In court Tuesday, Matheson pointed to a chart that outlined for the jury the results of standard blood tests on the numerous blood samples collected in the case.

"Well, of the three parties that are on this chart, (the sock blood) is ... consistent with the type that we found on item No. 59, Nicole Brown, and is inconsistent with or definitely could not have come from the item No. 17, Mr. Simpson, or No. 60, Mr. Goldman," said Matheson.

Police said they found the sock lying next to another sock at the foot of Simpson's bed during a search the day after the murders. A police evidence technician said he didn't see any blood on the sock at the time.

Matheson said when he looked at the sock on June 29,

he didn't notice any blood, either. But he said he saw a dark stain on the sock when he inspected it on Sept. 18. The stain, he said, turned out to be consistent with Ms. Simpson's blood.

Matheson also testified that technicians never thought to keep accurate records of how much of Simpson's blood was used for testing and that measurements of blood samples from living persons were often just rough guesses.

Matheson addressed suggestions from Simpson's attorneys that a small amount of unaccounted-for blood taken from Simpson was sprinkled at the crime scene by police to frame Simpson for murder.

Matheson said that he only estimated the amount of blood taken from a vial when he tested it last June. Matheson said technicians never kept detailed records on the use of blood from a living person, since more blood could always be taken if the technicians ran out.

The defence has suggested the vial of Simpson's blood wasn't given to a criminalist later by a detective — as both the criminalist and the detective have said — but held overnight to possibly be used to frame Simpson. Prosecutors say Simpson's blood was found at the crime scene.

Waqar ruled out

LONDON, May 3: Injured Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis will definitely not play for English country Surrey this season, reports Reuter.

After Waqar and Surrey officials had met on Tuesday to clear up recent confusion over his fitness, the country's chief executive Glyn Woodman said the bowler needed rest to sort out the two stress fractures of his back.

"But we want him back with us in 1997 and 1998 because we believe he is still the best quick bowler in the world," said Goodman.

Waqar's initial five-year contract with Surrey ends in September.

The confusion about his fitness arose over conflicting reports.

Surrey's orthopaedic specialist had diagnosed two stress fractures of his back and a slipped disc — enough to keep him out of action for at least half the season.

But Waqar and his advisers consulted another specialist who said he would be fit within weeks.

Surrey have lined up Australian paceman Carl Rackemann as a replacement.

Morrison meets Ruddock on June 10

KANSAS CITY, Missouri, May 3: Tommy Morrison returning to the city where he once trained and lived, will meet Razor Ruddock in a heavyweight bout June 10, reports AP.

The pay-per-view bout at Municipal Auditorium will be for the lightly regarded International Boxing Conference title.

"I'm happy to be back in Kansas City and I'm excited about the fact we're able to put on a quality fight," Morrison said Tuesday.

On Monday he knocked out Terry Anderson in the seventh round in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to run his record to 44-2-1 with 38 knockouts.

Morrison, who lives in his native Oklahoma, last fought in Kansas City on Aug 30, 1993, a four-round knockout victory over Mike Tomashek. Tomashek replaced Mike Williams at the last minute when Williams refused to fight and left Kemper Arena. The Morrison-Williams bout was to have been a World Boxing Organization title fight.

Ruddock (28-4-1 with 20 knockouts) lost to Mike Tyson in 10 rounds in 1991. Tyson's last fight before being sentenced to prison for rape.

Also on the four-bout card is a match between former middleweight champion Roberto Duran (94-12) and Roni Martinez (17-0) in an IBC super middleweight title bout. Heavyweight Derrick Roddy (15-4), who won a split decision over Sherman Griffin on Monday night, will face Alex Garcia.

ACOG impressed

ATLANTA, May 3: Olympic organisers were buoyed Tuesday by what they said was an overwhelming number of initial requests for ticket order forms, reports AP.

Now the hard part: How to sustain the enthusiasm?

Brochures containing the schedule and ticket order form for the 1996 Olympics were distributed in most parts of the country Monday. Atlanta area residents grabbed 894,000 booklets on the first day, officials said. Figures for outside Atlanta were not available, they said.

Laurie Olsen, a spokeswoman at the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, said ACOG had picked up about 3,000 orders at the post office early Tuesday but would not disclose the total first-day delivery.

"It's very exciting but it's what we expected in terms of a dramatic response in the beginning," she said.

Scott Anderson, ACOG's chief ticket official, said organisers were delighted with the initial demand for the brochures.

The response was overwhelming. I've been accused on occasion of being relatively optimistic but yesterday exceeded even my optimistic hopes," Anderson said. "What we hoped for is coming true."

Anderson expects interest to taper off after the first few days of distributing booklets. He expects demand to pick up again in late June, near the end of a 60-day period in which applications for high-demand events will be put in a pool for random selection.

ACOG is devising marketing and advertising programmes targeted at people who pick up an order form but neglect to place an order, Anderson said.

"As we get closer to the end, we'll do lots of reminders and promotions to let everyone know that June 30 is coming and why it is so important," he said.