Medal

## WERD

Year

### ATHLETICS

## Prospective but most ignored event

By Al-Amin with Rabeed

If the proof of the pudding is in the eating, than six gold from the last six South Asian Federation (SAF) Games reveals that our athletes are a bit consistent. Painfully consistent

Since the regional sort of Olympic involving the seven SAARC member countries - India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives and Bhutan — began in this part of the world in 1984, this densely populated country earned a fabulous distinction of producing the fastest man in the regional event on most of the occasions.

But that was all we have achieved and the remaining is a script of failures. Our athletes on the distaff side had never won a single gold in the last six SAF Games. And apart from the track and field events our overall performance is listless.

Bangladesh earned two golds in the first SAF Games held in Kathmandu, Nepal. Among the eighteen events featured in athletics we took the gold in the 4x100 metre Relay and in the Triple Jump.

But the only purple patch of Bangladesh athletics was launched with ace sprinter Shah Alam, who took the first individual gold medal in the 100-metre Sprint in the Dhaka SAF Games on the following year.

He also helped the 4x100 metre relay team win the gold for the second successive time.

In the next version of the biennial sporting carnival, Shah Alam, the most talented athlete this soil has produced ever, earned a rare feat of becoming once again the fastest man in the 1987 Calcutta SAF Games.

But after the tragic death of this mercurial sprinter, there was no one to carry the candle until the appearance of Bimal Chandra Tarafder in the horizon.

In the next two SAF Games. Bangladesh terribly felt the vacuum of Shah Alam as they had to return home without a single gold in athlet-

With Bangladesh almost destined to experience the same fate in the sixth SAF Games, held in Dhaka in 1993. Bimal came from nowhere to uphold the host's heritage when the 'wonder boy' won the 100-metre dash with a record timing bringing and unprecedented joy in a disastrous local

Now another big occasion is knocking at the door when the seventh edition of the regional extravaganza begins in the Indian port city of Madras on December 20.

The Bangladesh Amateur Athletic

Federation (BAAF), in this regard, has started the preliminary training camp involving 42 athletes including 17 women from April 1 at the Mirpur sports village. While talking to this correspon-

dent, the camp commander Mohammed Yahia revealed that eight coaches were engaged to train up the athletes in the camp.

They are - Shah Alam (sprint); A C Chakma (hurdles); Yousuf Chowdhury, Shamima Sattar Mimu and Nazrul Islam Rumi (umps); Kitab Ali (middle distant running) and Yahia himself grooming the athletes for the long distance runs.

Yahia, however, said that they have not yet decided the events for the Madras Games. "The events will be finalised after the Summer athlet-

ics meet ", Yahia added. The meet is scheduled to be held

in August. But over the years our standard is confined to a certain level. Apart

from a few flashes in the pan we could never make any remarkable improvement in this event dubbed as the queen of all sports'.

While asked about the reasons behind the dwindling performance of our athletes Yahia attributed numer-

the BKSP ground

ous draw-backs for the cause.

out the new kids in the block.

"First of all, the BAAF's annual cal-

endar concentrates only on a few na-

tional events and there are hardly any

meet taking place across the country.

So we virtually get no chance to sort

Federation didn't undertake any long-

term coaching programme to groom

latent talents from the grass root

Besides, the Athletics

a must.

"But you can't soley blame the

However, it is true that the

BAAF for their short-comings as they

National Sports Council (NSC), the

country's highest sports authority,

has never taken the pain of chalking

up any master plan for the betterment

For the umpteenth time the NSC

are not the financier," said Yahia.

"Furthermore the BAAF had not under taken any plans to organise healthy competitions in the educational institutions. But you know to improve the standard mass introduction of athletics at the school level is

have completed their duties by only providing a bulk of the development budget for taking part in interna-

tional meets with a huge contingent. Early this year, despite being aware of the fact, Bangladesh took part in the Canada Commonwealth

lame excuse that we could not skip out those international meets, but sports thinkers fell that we could get away with a nominal representation.

As we know our limitations the best way to prove ourselves is to excel in the SAF Games first. So we

tives athletics simply can't flourish." Yahia pointed out.

'In the developed countries advertising firms use successful sprinters for the promotion of different goods," Yahia further added. "We can also implement this noble example in our country."

Meanwhile, among the other coaches, Shamima Sattar Mimu predicts bright prospects for a couple of

However, barring miracles, our records of six golds, 13 silvers and 30 bronzes from the last six meets indicates that in the Seventh SAF Games we are perhaps heading for yet another disastrous showing.

Albeit the existing heart-sinking situations there are some hopes still beaming. There are some possibilities to take care of.

We have enough laten talent in our sleeves. What we need is to sort

them out and sharpening their skills. An intelligent master plan and concerted enthusiastic efforts both from the government and private bodies could help build a bunch of wunderkinders.

So, if we really want to serve our national flag, we should start an extensive mission before it's too late.

#### Matsuoka: An emerging hero

TOKYO, July13 (AFP): Shuzo Matsuoka's venture to the Wimbledon quarterfinals has revived his appetite for tennis.

The first Japanese to get so far at Wimbledon for more than 60 years, the 27-year-old son of a Tokyo movie mogul had been toying with the idea of giving up the game.

But he came out of his defeat to eventual champion Pete Sampras in the quarterfinals a new national sporting hero.

"I regained my confidence," said Matsuoka, "It encourages me to continue my career as a tennis player. I'm still young and I still have a future in my hands."

The Japanese heart-throb headed straight to a training camp in Florida for a rest and treatment to a stomach muscle injury incurred in the first round at Wimbledon. He is missing this week's

Newport tournament in Rhode Island

so he will be ready to play in Washington next week. Matsuoka knows what it is like to have to bounce back injury and illness. "I was so disappointed, because I had a chance to win against Sampras, I wanted to stay a few more

days on the grass courts. But I'm really glad that I'm back again," said Matsuoka who still managed to outhit Sampras 21 aces to five. Matsuoka said he did not consider himself a hero, but he and

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Year

Kimiko Date— who made the quarterfinals in the women's singles made many front pages of the Japanese newspapers. \ Mizuno spokesman said the

model of Matsuoka's racket had sold out at several shops. Japan Broadcasting Corp was forced to broadcast his quarter final match live after receiving hundreds of complaints from fans.

Matsuoka upset his first top world 10 players in 1988 when he shocked 1986 US Open finalist Miloslav Mecir and climbed to 82nd in the rankings.

Knee injuries then pulled him down again. But he became the first Japanese male to win a tour title at the 1992 Korean Open and upset then world number one Stefan Edberg of Sweden and Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia on his way to the Queen's final to move up to his career highest at

#### ANNALS OF ATHLETES' **ACHIEVEMENT**

**Medal winning** 

1984	3000	ix100 meters relay (men)	-	Gold
Kathmandu,	. 8	Triple jump (men)		Gold
Nepal)				DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF
brief exect		ex 100 metres relay (women)	-	Bronze
		4x400 meters relay (men)		Bronze
		tx400 meters relay (women)	200	Bronze
		[[[마다 - 1] [[[마다 - 1] [[[마다 - 1] [[[[마다 - 1] [[[[[[[h - 1] [[[h - 1] [[[h - 1] [[h		
		100 metres sprint (Men)		Bronze
925	SAN PENG	200 metres sprint (Women)	-	Bronze
F	inal me	dals tally in athleti	cs:	
Gold	Silver	Bronze		Total
2	0	5		7
Total number of	events	-		-18
Men's events				-13
Women's events	E			- 4
Year		Medal winning	2000	Medal
		events		Machina
1985		100 meters sprint (men)	20	Gold
Dhaka,		4x100 meters relay (men)	100	Gold
Bangladesh)		area managemy dialog		
		400 meters sprint (men)	200	Silver
		400 meters sprint (Women)	Pro 12	Silver
		4x400 meters relay (Women)	_	Silver
		Long jump (men)	1000	Silver
		100 meters sprint (Women)	-	Bronze
		110 Meters hurdles (men)	-	Bronze
		200 meters sprint (men)	-	Bronze
		200 meters sprint (women)	-	Bronze
		4x100 meters relay (Women)	-	Bronze
		800 meters (men)	-	Bronze
		1500 meters (men)	-	Bronze
		Long Jump (men)	1	Bronze
		Triple jump (Men)	-	Bronze
F	inal me	dals tally in athleti	cs:	
Gold	Silver	Bronze		Total
,	4	9		15
Total number of	f events			-25
Men's events	i evenus			
Unitilities the state of the st	1			-16
Women's events	•	M 4 1		
Year		Medal winning	_	Medal
25732		events		98
1987	- 10	00 meters sprint (men)	-	Gold
(Calcutta,	- 10	00 meters sprint (men)		Silver
India)		5T4 0 52		
-02538	2	00 meters sprint (men)		Silver
	711/5/23	x100 meters relay (men)	-	Silver
		00 meters hurdles (men)	190000	Silver
		10 meters hurdles (men)	970275AY	Bronze

4x100 meters relay (women) Bronze 4x400 meters relay (men) Bronze 4x400 meters relay (women) Bronze 800 meters (women) Bronze 3000 meters steeplechase Bronze Final medals tally in athletics: Gold Total Total number of events Men's events

Women's Events Medal Medal winning Year events 4x100 meters (men) (Islamabad, Short put (men) Pakistan)

Silver

Total

Bronze

Silver

Silver

Silver

Bronze

Total

Medal

Gold

Bronze

Bronze

Bronze

Total

Final Medals tally in athletics: Bronze Total number of events —21 Men's events —16 Women's Events — 9 Medal Year Medal winning

100 meters sprint (men) Colombo, Sri 200 meters sprint (men) 400 hurdles (men) 4x100 relay (men) 4x400 " (men)

4x400 " (women) Final medals tally in athletics: Bronze

Total number of events -21

Men's Events - 14 Women's Events-7 Medal winning

events 100 meters sprint (men) (Dhaka, 100 meters hurdles (men) Bangladesh) 4x100 meters relay (men) Bronze 4x100 meters relay (women) Bronze

4x400 meters relay (men) 4x400 meters relay (women) Discus throw (women) Final medals tally in Athletics:

Bronze Total number of events -32

Men's events -21 Women's events-11

### Soweto cricketers set out on a mission

LONDON, July 13: For decades, the people of Soweto have battled for peace, justice and harmony. Now Peace, Justice and Harmony are battling for Soweto, reports AP.

And doing pretty well to. Peace Nkutha took six for 33, his twin brother Justice was unlucky to be out for eight and wicketkeeper Harmony Ntshinga took a catch and a stumping in the Soweto Cricket Club's opening match of their four-week tour of England on Monday.

The first black cricket club from South Africa to tour England has come from hurling old cork balls down dusty dirt tracks while wearing torn shorts and bare feet only three years ago, to a lush green in the centre of London, a lofted on-drive away from the House of Lords, and a world

away from home. They won the match against an invitational side by two wickets, but on-field results are not the most important part of the tour.

The result that the tour, and cricket in general, is really after is a positive impact on Soweto's black send off.

townships. "It's a big step we've just taken," said Harmony, "Cricket has been great for the townships. There's a real buzz from cricket in the townships and its getting stronger and stronger.

This tour will only help." The poverty and oppression in Soweto during South Africa's apartheid regime took an incredible toll on its people's pride. Something

simple like cricket can improve that. "No matter how well we go, the boys will be able to go back and, after all the exposure they get, say T may have black skin, but I'm a person and somebody out there thinks I'm worth something', " said Soweto

coach Gordon Templeton.

"It's the first time a lot of the kids have been away from home, and their eyes have opened. It's given a lot of pride, confidence, individuality and a lot of self respect. Our self esteem has really gone up."

Pride was bursting in Johannesburg last Thursday, and not just along the route of the rugby World Cup victor's parade.

"You could see it in the parents, seeing the opportunity that should have come a long time ago. There was excitement and pride galore," Templeton said.

A Soweto choir came to Johannesburg airport to sing the cricketers off with Sho Soloza, the old workers' freedom struggle song which became the unofficial anthem, for blacks and whites, of the rugby World Cup which South Africa won at

home last week. "The whole airport came to a standstill, blacks and whites all came over and the whole airport joined in singing - it was a very emotional

There was so much pride in these boys being the first from Soweto to go to England to play cricket. The parents were dancing and singing in the airport with the choir."

Sixteen of the 17 tourists came up through the Cricket Development Programme which was introduced into an anarchic and riot riddled Soweto in 1986.

The only exception is 42-year-old captain Khaya Majola, a veteran of Eastern Cape cricket. The squad has an average age of 20, with 15-year-old Noel Makhanya the youngest, and

most promising. Peace, Justice and their close friend Harmony all took up cricket

as 12-year-old when it was introduced

Kaniz Fatima in action at the pre-SAF Games camp at BKSP.

to the townships nine years ago. Peace and Justice have lived all their lives in a neighbourhood where eight families share one tap for all their ablution and cooking needs. Harmony, a full-time administra-

> Cricket Board, grew up nearby in a similar environment, which is responsible for the plaintive call that is his "I come from a very big family,

> tion assistant with the Transvaal

and we all lived together with cousins and uncles and aunties and our grandmother," Harmony said.

"She was always turned to give the names. There was a lot of fighting and people drinking and causing trouble in the house at the time I was born. So she gave me my name. It's a good name. I also have cousins Charity and Comfort."

Living conditions in the townships have hardly improved since apartheid was lifted in 1992, but atti-

"The important thing is that mentality has changed - people are more open minded, and cricket has played a big role in that," said

"It helps a lot more with family unity, there's so much pride in the kids, who can communicate better with their parents.

"Family values have been brought to the fore. Through cricket the kids have a new lease on life and so have their parents. "It gives the community something to look at, too. The players are

role models, they are recognized

identities." improving fast-medium suing bowling Templeton is a full-time coach troubling the home team, and ripping for the Transvaal Cricket Board at out Simmons' middle stump. Soweto's brand new Elkah stadium,

— Star photo

the first cricket ground in the town-

ships. Every day, 120 children, aged

10 to 18, come to the stadium to be

tive, with 100 cricketers now playing

in black townships compared to the

19 team currently touring England

came through the programme, two of

whom are from the Soweto Club.

Another Sowetan, Geoffrey Toyana,

heads the averages in England's pres-

tigious Marylebone Cricket Club

they'll be in the South African na-

tional team in a couple of years," said

Chris Day from South African

cricket's ruling body, the United

black players into the Test team, the

role model thing will work on a much

complex into black people. The pro-

gramme, and this tour, is not so much

about imparting skills, they're already

there, it's about getting them over

-year-old fast bowler Piet Lephoi

bowling at the Invitation XI's start

attraction, former West Indian Test

player Phill Simmons, "He's positive,

he's confident, he's competing. And

side which was athletic and aggres-

sive in the field, with Peace's ever

Lephoi epitomized the young

Solomon Ndima, 18, led the run

"Look at him," Day pointed to 20

that confidence hurdle.

that's great."

"The moment we start getting

"Apartheid built an inferiority

"Take that down the line, and

500 who started in 1986.

youth programme.

Cricket Board.

The programme has been produc-

Six players in South Africa's Under

coached by the articulate 23-year-

expectedly returned home emptyhanded. The exercise once again proved to be a honeymoon sojourn for most of the local campaigners. Sports buffs believe that the huge

Games and the Hiroshima Asiad and

Athletes, who will compete in the forthcoming seventh SAF Games in Madras, India, undergo a practice session at

expenses amounting to nearly Taka three crore wasted in both the meets could be utilised for productive pur-

Qur swankey official may offer a

"Sponsorship is almost extinct in athletics in our country because it doesn't provide the glamour of football or cricket. But without incen-

#### Virus scares of Hungarian swimmers

- Star photo by SK Enamul Haq

of our athletics.

should give our best effort in this par-

ticular meet before we think any fur-

Meanwhile, it is also a moral re-

sponsibility for the private sectors to

come forward for the improvement

BUDAPEST, July 13: Hungary's elite swimmers have missed a week's training for next month's European Championships because of a viral disease, Jozsef Ruza, general secretary of the Hungarian Swimming Federation said today, reports Reuter. Last week nearly half the Hungar-

ian swimming team went down with the virus which caused high fever and diarrhoea, Ruza said. The sick list included Olympic

champion Krisztina Egerszegi, world champion Norbert Rozsa, World Championship bronze medalist Atila Czene and Tamas Deutsch. He said they were expected to

recover sufficiently to perform well at the European Championships in Vienna between August 17 and 27, provided there was no further disruption to their preparations.

But Egerszegi's trainer Laszlo Kiss

sounded more concerned.

wickets down and one over to spare.

ing, the players didn't have to worry

about a complex about wearing tatty

shoes or ripped trousers and odd

coloured caps as they used to when

they played immaculately presented

middle class white teams in Transvaal.

matches with not only all the right

clothes and equipment, but with a

greater confidence and belief in

Swap-shop

Park Rangers in a 1.1 million pound

deal (about 1.8 million dollars) on

Monday, with talented winger

Michael Meaker set to go in the op-

posite direction for 500,000 pounds

vision Reading who could soon be in-

volved in another big-money deal as

they are prepared to listen to offers

for two million-pound-rated goal

Northern Ireland's leading interna-

tional scorer, Jimmy Quinn said the

swap was good business and admit

"We were reluctant to lose a

player of Simon's calibre, but he

wanted Premiership football and we

had to let him know of QPR's inter-

from Crystal Palace a year ago.

Midfield playmaker Osborn, 23,

keeper Shaka Hislop.

Both fees are records for First Di

LONDON, July 13: Reading mid

themselves.

reports AFP.

ambitions.

est," said Quinn.

They can go home after their 14

Thanks to exhaustive fund rais-

chase with 66 as the Sowetans reached the target of 172 with eight

# fielder Simon Osborn joined Queens spent just one season at Reading after being signed for 90,000 pounds Reading joint player-manager, ted the First Division club did not want to stand in the way of a player's

Australian Melinda Gainsford (R) and Nigerian Mary Onyali (L) are going neck and neck in the 200-metre event at the Nice Grand Prix in France on July 12. Gainsford won the race in 22.63 secs - AFP/UNB photo

#### slates Sydney Games site SYDNEY, July 13: Pollution at the site of the Olympic Village was

Greenpeace

"swept under the carpet" during the campaign to snare the 2000 Games. the woman responsible for drafting environmental guidelines for the bid has said, reports AP. Dr Kate Short of the National

Toxics Network said the plan to transform the site from a contaminated military and industrial zone into an environmental showpiece was "fantasy". New South Wales Premier Bob

Carr on Tuesday promised that the site of the Sydney Olympic village would be rid of any contamination. "Let me just stress this point the site where the Olympics are being

held and where the village will be, either have been cleaned up or (are) in the process of being cleaned up." "We've got three other sites in that region that will have to be tack-

led but they don't impinge on the Olympics," Carr said. The environmental group Greenpeace said Tuesday that it doubted that all the nearby contami-

"I think the site itself, that is the precinct where the sports events will

nation could be removed in five

take place, will be largely free of toxic material by the year 2000," said Greenpeace spokesman Michael