

Bangladeshis at the Asiad

BANGKOK, Dec 9: Bangladesh was ousted from the 13th Asian Games Boxing competition with the elimination of Asadur Rahman in the 54 kg bantamweight group at the Muang Thong Thani sports complex here today, reports UNB.

Asad, who earned a second round berth after getting by in the first round, made his exit from the high ranking meet in 1.45 minutes in the 4th round. The Thai referee declared Asad technical knock out.

SWIMMING

Swimmer Kazi Monirul Islam made his early exit from men's 100 metre freestyle as he finished 26th among 32 in the heats at the Thammasat University Aquatic Centre today.

Monirul, the national champion in 50-metre and 100-metre freestyle, clocked 57.59 seconds, worse than his previous timing of 56.20 seconds.

Two other Bangladeshis - Niaz Ali and Abdul Hamid - finished 20th (among 24) and 23rd (among 25) in the 100m breaststroke and butterfly respectively, also worsening their previous timings.

Europa Cup b'ball

Holders Bangladesh Navy maintained their winning spree with a massive 142-57 victory over Rajshahi DSA in the Europa Cup 21st national basketball championship at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

Title aspirant Bangladesh Army crushed BUET by 154-42 points after dominating the first session 75-17.

Best overall bronze medalist Khulna DSA kept their semifinal hope with a cakewalk 63-40 victory over Pabna DSA after leading the first half 39-29.

In the day's fourth and last match, Bangladesh Rifles beat Bangladesh Air Force 103-69 with Ayub scoring 38 and Kamran 22 points.

NBL v'ball

Bangladesh Rifles registered their seventh win in the National Bank Premier Division volleyball league defeating Wari Club by 15-8, 15-2, 15-7 at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday, reports UNB.

For Wari Club, it was the fifth defeat in the league. They played seven matches.

In the day's First Division league match, Nabajatak Majlis overpowered Jiban Bima Corporation 15-12, 15-11, 15-4 at the same venue.

Perhaps the crowd has gone even further, after the tourists were unable to put away what was virtually Victoria's reserve side with eight senior players missing.

Stewart has the unenviable job of trying to inject some adrenaline into an outfit which, apart from a few flashes of form, has looked outclassed by Mark Taylor's unofficial world test champions.

UEFA Cup's final eight



LONDON, Dec 9 (Reuters): The quarterfinals of the UEFA Cup have a distinctly Latin flavour with France, Spain and Italy providing all eight teams of the competition.

AS Roma, Bologna and Parma of Italy will go into next Wednesday's draw in Geneva along with Olympique Marseille, Bordeaux and Olympique Lyon of France.

Celta Vigo of Spain are also through, joined by Atletico Madrid who beat fellow Spaniards Real Sociedad 5-3 on aggregate after extra time.

It is the first time in the history of the competition that all clubs from northern Europe have been eliminated by this stage.

Parma set the tone for the day when they came from behind to beat Rangers of Scotland 3-1 in an afternoon kick off for a 4-2 aggregate win.

Parma's Serie A rivals Bologna and Roma also reached the last eight even though neither team won their second leg matches.

Bologna lost 1-0 at Real Betis in Spain but came through 4-2 on aggregate while Roma drew 2-2 at FC Zurich to advance 3-2 on aggregate.

No French team has ever won the UEFA Cup but Lyon, Marseille and Bordeaux will all try to put that right next spring.

Alain Cavaglia scored a hat-trick as Olympique Lyon reached the quarterfinals of a European competition for the first time since the 1967-68 season when they won an outstanding match 4-3 at Club Brugge.

The game produced an astonishing blitz of six goals in 21 minutes midway through the second half.

Cavaglia had put Lyon ahead after 16 minutes and his second after 55 minutes sparked the scoring spree.

Torven de Brul pulled one back for Bruges after 63 minutes, before Olivier de Cock made it 2-2 after 69 minutes.

Three minutes later Cavaglia completed his hat-trick to make it 3-2 to Lyon, but a minute later Carco Anic scored for Bruges to make it 3-3. The final goal came three minutes later when Vikash Dhorasoo made it 4-3 to Lyon after 76 minutes.

Bordeaux came through after a 0-0 draw with Grasshoppers saw them qualify on the away goals rule after drawing 3-3 in the first leg two weeks ago.

Grasshoppers had Mihai Tararache sent off after 78 minutes.

QUARTERFINALISTS

Table with 2 columns: Club, Country. AS Roma, Parma, Bologna, Celta Vigo, Atletico Madrid, Olympique Marseille, Olympique Lyon, Bordeaux.

There was plenty of drama in Spain where Atletico Madrid beat Real Sociedad 5-3 on aggregate thanks to two goals in two minutes midway through the first period of extra time.

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Asiad Hockey Bangladesh massacred

South Korea humiliated Bangladesh 14-0 in their second Group B match of the 13th Asian Games hockey in Bangkok yesterday.

According to a telephone message received here last night, South Korea led the first half 8-0.

This was the second biggest defeat for Bangladesh since independence. Bangladesh were thrashed by Pakistan 17-0 in the 1978 Asian Games which was also held in Bangkok.

In their next matches, Bangladesh will meet India tomorrow and Singapore on December 13.

South Korea reach qtrs

BANGKOK, Dec 9: South Korea clinched a quarter-final berth in the Asian Games with a tight 2-1 victory over United Arab Emirates on Wednesday, although star striker Choi Young-soo was held scoreless, reports AP.

With two victories in Group 2, South Korea is already in the final eight. The UAE is winless in two matches in the second round.

In the day's second match of the group, Japan, South Korea's co-hosts for the 2002 World Cup, was under intense pressure not to lose to Kuwait, a favourite to win the Asian Games gold. Japan lost to South Korea on Monday.

A second defeat would finish Japan's chances of advancing to the quarterfinals.

But the young Japanese side brought to Bangkok by French coach Philippe Troussier to prepare for the 2000 Olympics was bound to have its hands full with the top two scorers of the Games - Jasem Al-Huwaidi with eight and Farj Haleeb with seven.

In a Group 1 match, Turkmenistan and North Korea battled to a 1-1 draw. Turkmenistan has a victory and a draw. North Korea is hanging on with a loss and a draw.

South Korea found a tougher opponent than it expected in the United Arab Emirates. Both sides played tight defence, with the Koreans looking to clinch a quarterfinal berth and the UAE struggling to survive after a 5-0 loss in the group opener Monday to Kuwait.

Korean attacker Choi, trailing the Kuwaiti duo in the Games goals chart with six, was held to a pair of hopeless long shots.

But sustained pressure on the UAE opened up a quick drive in the 38th minute. Park Jin-sup's feints allowed a deep penetration before he lofted a long pass back to midfield.

The Turkmenistan-North Korea encounter was scoreless for the first half.

Ri Chang Gyu opened the scoring in the 70th minute. Turkmenistan's Roman Bondarenko evened it with a minute left in regulation time.

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England have to climb a mountain

ADELAIDE, Dec 9 (AFP/Internet): England face a task of Everest proportions as they attempt to level the Ashes series in the third cricket Test against Australia, starting at Adelaide Oval Friday.

Trailing 0-1 after being spanked by seven wickets in the second Test in Perth 10 days ago, Alec Stewart's men have to cope with the loss of arguably their best batsman, Graham Thorpe, and the morale-sapping failure to beat Victoria in the four-day game which ended in Melbourne Tuesday.

Thorpe has been sent home after having further problems with his injured back.

Former England captain Bob Willis, who has known the dejection of being a losing leader down under, has suggested an Australian second eleven could beget Stewart's confidence.

Perhaps the crowd has gone even further, after the tourists were unable to put away what was virtually Victoria's reserve side with eight senior players missing.

Stewart has the unenviable job of trying to inject some adrenaline into an outfit which, apart from a few flashes of form, has looked outclassed by Mark Taylor's unofficial world test champions.

If there is a crumb of comfort for Stewart, it is that he has at last rediscovered his own form with knocks of 126 and 36 against Victoria which boosted his tour average from 12.62 to 26.30.

The side's other senior batsmen have hardly been in irrepensible touch.

Most reliable by far is Mark Ramprakash, who has fashioned 557 runs at an average of better than 61. That includes an unbeaten 140 off the South Australia attack in Adelaide.

Vice-captain Nasser Hussain, with 430 runs, is averaging 35.8, though he has failed in his past four knocks. Former skipper Mike Atherton has topped 50 only once in 10 innings, totalling 182 at an average of 18.2.

Mark Butcher's first innings 116 in the opening Test in Brisbane dramatically hoisted him out of the doldrums, but he has since hit another bad patch and from nine knocks on tour has just 166 at an average of 18.4.

John Crawley, virtually certain to play in Adelaide in place of the unfortunate Thorpe, hardly inspires confidence with his tour record: 216 runs, average 27.0, in eight hits.

Graeme Hick, a late addition to the squad, has recovered from a duck in the first innings of the second Test to make 68, 67 and 15 not out for an impressive, if misleading, average of 75 over two games.

England's attack, the most encouraging factor of their Perth effort, lost their venom against Victoria, but with Darren Gough and Alan Mullally and probably Alex Tudor returning for Adelaide, there will be rather more firepower.

Australia's attack will have more variety, with Stuart MacGill back to test the Englishmen with his leg-spin after he has overcooked for the pace attractive Perth wicket.

Speedsters Glenn McGrath, Damien Fleming and Jason Gillespie, all seem likely to play, giving the England batsmen little respite, even though the South Australian pitch should be more charitable than the spiteful WACA ground wicket.

But wicketkeeper Ian Healy is doubtful because of injury. Healy, the world record holder for the most dismissals in Test cricket history, is struggling with a thigh injury.

A team spokesman said Adam Gilchrist had been flown to Adelaide on standby in case Healy fails a fitness test on Thursday.

If Australia win here, they will establish a 2-0 lead, ensuring they cannot lose the series.

JU cricket

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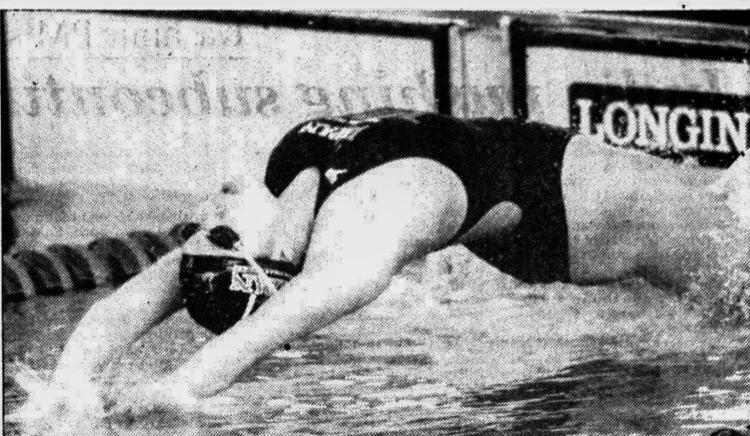
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Mai Nakamura of Japan dives into the pool to start the 100-metre backstroke heats at the Asian Games yesterday. She finished first. — AFP photo

China captures more gold

BANGKOK, Dec 9 (AP): Asian Games officials were investigating Wednesday whether some of North Korea's female gymnasts were underage, while the Chinese gymnasts just kept collecting gold medals.

In earlier canoe and kayak racing, three or four minutes of furious paddling at a Thai resort earned three gold medals for Kazakhstan and one for Uzbekistan.

China's victories were tempered by more bad news for its swim team.

After being shut out of the golds in Tuesday night's swimming session, the Chinese learned that world champion Chen Yan was too sick to compete in the 400-metre freestyle Wednesday. Chen also had missed the dismal Tuesday session because of stomach problems.

Illness also hit Sri Lanka sprinter Susantika Jayasinghe, who has been counting on these games to resume her career after questions about whether she took a banned drug. A team official said she was running a fever and feeling weak.

The investigation of the North Korean gymnasts came after coaches from rival teams, as well as doctors and officials, had raised questions about whether the tiny girls met the minimum age requirement of 16.

North Korea's gymnasts have not won any medals, but China's so far have swept the men's and women's team events and the competition to decide the top male all-around gymnast.

In the all-around Wednesday, Huang Xu, 19, a veteran of China's 1997 World Championship team, won gold with 57,825 points, 0.225 ahead of teammate Yang Wei and 0.450 ahead of Japan's Naoya Tsukahara, the son of five-time Olympic gold medalist Mitsuo Tsukahara.

The Chinese also had three shooting golds and one in canoeing in Wednesday's early events, giving them 18 far in the 3-day-old Games. Japan added one shooting gold and had 13, South Korea had eight and Kazakhstan six.

Uzbekistan's gold was its first of these Games for the former Soviet republic. In the four-man kayak race over 1,000 metres, Uzbekistan pulled ahead of Kazakhstan in the second 250 metres and won in 3 minutes, 10.44 seconds to 3:11.78 for Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan won the one and two-man kayak races and the two-man canoe competition, while China took the one-man canoe race in a reservoir at the seaside resort of Pattaya.

In the day's closest race, Kazakhstan's Sergey Sergin took an early lead but had to spurt over the last 250 metres to hold off China's Jiang Yuguo by less than a second in the one-man kayak.

China won three of the day's four golds in shooting, while Japan beat China for the women's rifle team gold based on a tie-break formula.

The Japanese and Chinese teams both scored 1,754 points, and the scores for the sixth and final round also were tied, but Japan won the gold based on a better fifth round. Thailand won the bronze with 1,745.

China's Wang Xian won the individual rifle gold with 589 points, ahead of two Japanese — Yoko Minamoto, who had 586, and Noriko Ojima, who had 585.

China placed 1-2 in the men's air pistol shooting. Xu Dan's 686-0 won the gold and Tan Zongliang's 683-6 the silver. Kazakhstan's Vladimir Gucheba took the bronze with 682-6.

In the team event, China won with 1,742 to 1,723 for Japan and 1,721 for South Korea.

Thailand's Saran Suwansa was hurt in the competition to decide the best all-around gymnast. He failed to complete a final twist on a somersault off the vault and appeared to wrench his knee as he landed awkwardly. He lay on the mat for a while before he was taken away on a stretcher, holding his head in pain. His condition was not immediately known.



13th ASIAN GAMES BANGKOK 1998 © 1995 BAGOC (SAT)

MEDALS TABLE

BANGKOK, Dec 9 (BSS) : Medals table at the end of the third day's events in the Asian Games on Tuesday:

Table with 4 columns: Country, Gold, Silver, Bronze. China 13, 11, 35; Japan 8, 9, 10; S Korea 7, 4, 15; Thailand 3, 5, 8; Kazakhstan 3, 3, 5; C Taipei 2, 3, 3; N Korea 2, 2, 1; Mongolia 2, 0, 1; Vietnam 1, 2, 1; Kuwait 1, 0, 2; Turkmenistan 1, 0, 1; Indonesia 0, 1, 2; Myanmar 0, 1, 0; Jordan 0, 1, 0; Kyrgyzstan 0, 1, 0; Iran 0, 0, 3; Philippines 0, 0, 2; Hong Kong 0, 0, 1; Malaysia 0, 0, 1; Nepal 0, 0, 1; Uzbekistan 0, 0, 1; Total 43, 44, 56, 143.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Thursday 10th December (All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

BTV

3:00 Opening announcement, Al Quran 3:12 Recitation from the Quran 3:15 Fatmeh song 3:20 Ujjal Uchchal 3:40 Cartoon: Kimb the White Lion 4:00 Khabar 4:25 Open University 5:10 TV School Debate 6:00 Kington & Life 6:30 Khabar 6:40 Programme from Chittagong Centre 7:05 Ahaban 7:25 Aama Tomader Bhubonca 8:00 News in Bangla 8:30 Chira Jag 9:00 Ushab 10:00 News at Ten 10:30 Humo Rights Day 10:50 Mini Series: Sinfeld 11:30 Khabar/The News 11:45 Close down.

BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:30 World Living: Travel Show Holiday with Jill Dando 7:00 BBC News Inc: World Business Report/USA Direct 9:30 BBC News Inc: World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 10:00 BBC World News 11:30 World Focus: The Money Programme 12:00 World News: The World Today 1:30 Hard Talk 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Focus: The Money Programme 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk