

Sport

Asiad kabadi starts Dec 13

BANGKOK, Dec 11: Kabadi Bangladesh's lone medal prospect-event in the 13th Asian Games starts on December 13 at Srinakharinwirot University ground of Nakhon Nayok province — about 75 kilometres from here, reports BSS.

The 12-member kabadi team and six-member athletics team arrived here late last night. Bangladesh chef-de-mission Col (Retd) Faruq Khan, MP, received them at the airport.

In all seven teams are taking part in the competition on round-robin league basis. The countries are Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Japan and hosts Thailand.

In the inaugural match, defending champions India will take on Pakistan.

Silver medalists in the last two Games, Bangladesh will play two matches on the first day — the first against Japan at 9 am and the second against India at 12 noon Bangladesh standard time (BST).

Bangladesh will face Pakistan at 8 am on December 14, and Nepal and Thailand the following day.

Taiwanese duo lifts doubles title

BANGKOK, Dec 11: Wang Shi-Ting and Janet Lee of Taiwan clinched the first Asian Games tennis title today when they beat their mainland china rivals 2-1 in the women's team final, reports AFP.

Wang and Lee sealed the decisive doubles with a tough 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, victory over Li Fang and Chen Li in 110 minutes.

Earlier, Lee beat Yi Jing-Qian 6-3, 6-4, but China's number one Li beat Taiwan's top women's player Wang 6-1, 6-2.

Sino shuttlers clinch gold

BANGKOK, Dec 11: China's women beat defending champions South Korea for the Asian Games badminton team gold Friday, avenging a humiliating defeat four years ago, reports AP.

China's world No 3, Gong Zhichao, secured the gold with an 11-4, 11-1 trouncing of Lee Joo-hyun in the third match of the best-of-five team final.

The final score was 3-1. With the outcome already certain, the fifth match was scrapped.

Chinese coach Li Yongbo said the team, expected to remain unchanged for the 2000 Olympics, has matured and improved since South Korea's 5-0 semifinal whitewash of China on its way to gold at the last Asian Games in 1994.

"We've gotten from losing to winning," he said. "Our team members have played pretty well. What makes me happy is that they've shown maturity."



The Taiwanese pair of Shi-Ting (R) and Lee Janet-Whids jubilate after securing the gold in the ladies' doubles of Asiad tennis yesterday. —AFP photo

Focus shifts to league duties

PARIS, Dec 11: Championship rivals Bayern Munich and Bayer Leverkusen clash in a crucial Bundesliga match on Sunday, while Italian league leaders Fiorentina face a test of their mettle when they host Juventus, reports AFP.

The Bayern-Leverkusen clash is spiced-up by the bitter rivalry between Bayern manager Uli Hoeneß and Leverkusen coach Christophe Daum.

Hoeneß has openly taunted Daum and Leverkusen ahead of Sunday's showdown between the Bundesliga's top two teams.

"We always said we wanted to be at the top of Europe and now we are," Hoeneß crowed after Bayern's 1-1 draw against Manchester United which gave them top spot in Europe's so-called 'group of death'.

"Now all we need to do is beat (Leverkusen trainer) Herr Daum — which is very important to me. I won't have a merry Christmas if we don't beat him."

The rivalry between the pair stretches back 10 years but Daum, whose fiery temper and loose mouth in the past saw him dubbed as the Bundesliga's "megaphone," has since learned to control himself.

His side are level with Bayern on 35 points and unbeaten in their last 13 games and this time Daum has refused to take the bait — instead congratulating Bayern for their strong Champions League performance.

In another key German match-up, Eintracht Frankfurt, who fired a tearful coach Horst Ehrmanntraut on Tuesday, will go into their match against Kaiserslautern — impressive 5-2 winners against HJK Helsinki midweek — as rank outsiders.

ITALY The contest between Fiorentina and Juventus, two clubs with a bitter rivalry, looms as a potential thriller.

As if the match needing spicing up further, Fiorentina are looking down on a struggling Juventus side who are seven points adrift in sixth place.

Fiorentina are coached by the man who spent 13 years in Turin and guided Juventus to six league titles and the European Cup — Giovanni Trapattoni.

Juventus, morale battered by three defeats a draw in their last four Serie A matches received a major boost by beating Rosenborg and reaching the European Champions League quarter finals.

Each team will be hoping for a Fiorentina defeat, that could pave the way for a change at the top of the table with Roma looking to skipper and striker Francesco Totti while Parma will rely on in form Enrico Chiesa.

AC Milan are at home to Vicenza while Inter Milan, who like Juventus have reached the Champions League quarters are away to Udinese.

SPAIN The top of the Spanish league continues to have an unfamiliar look and the pressure

continues to mount on Barcelona coach Louis Van Gaal.

The two surprise leaders, Real Mallorca and Deportivo La Coruna both face tricky away matches this weekend.

Mallorca on 25 points travel to face sixth placed Real Zaragoza, while Deportivo visit the Basque country to play Athletic Bilbao, who eliminated Turkey's Galatasaray from the European Champions League in midweek.

Real Sociedad who were horrified when one of their supporters was killed in a clash with Atletico Madrid supporters in midweek return to the capital on Sunday for a meeting with European Champions Real Madrid, who must be uncomfortable to find themselves down in seventh place.

FRANCE In France halfway leaders and UEFA Cup quarter finalists Bordeaux are at home to perennial strugglers Le Havre, while their nearest challengers Marseille host another ailing side in Metz, who have a doubt about Yugoslav attacker Vladan Lukic who is suffering from flu.

Marseille will welcome back Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli — possibly as a replacement for the injured Christophe Dugarry.

Paris St Germain's hopes of climbing the table with a victory away to Bastia have been hit by injuries.

German defender Christian Worns and Nigerian midfielder Jay Jay Okocha could make comebacks.

Asian Games roundup

BANGKOK, Dec 11 (AP/AFP): Chinese swimmers Wu Yanyan and Chen Yan repeated their world championship 1-2 finish in the final of the 200-metre medley at the Asian Games on Friday.

Wu, also the world record holder in the event, set up her victory with a stunning third 50 metres breaststroke after lagging in fourth turning into the second half of the race.

Chen was returning to the pool after being struck by a severe case of diarrhoea, which kept her out of two events following her bronze medal in the 400 medley earlier in the meet.

Wu was second in the 400 behind Japan's Yasuki Tajima, who was fourth in the 200. South Korean Cho Hee-yeon made the early pace, getting away with strong butterfly and maintaining her lead after the backstroke.

But Wu, who holds the world record at 2:09.72, stormed to the lead and finished in 2:15.12, with Chen close behind in 2:15.54.

Chinese supremacy in women's weightlifting touched a new high when Sun Tianni of China broke all three world records in the 69kg category to win the gold medal here.

Sun lifted record weights of 111kg in the snatch and 135 kg in the clean and jerk, before ensuring a third world record with an overall score of 245kg.

Her tally surpassed the previous record of 242.5kg by teammate Tang Weifang set earlier this year.

Eleven weightlifting world records have fallen at the Games so far, nine of them by the unstoppable Chinese.

Amjad, Zarak reach final

BANGKOK, Dec 11: Amjad Khan, the 18-year-old surprise winner of the Pakistan Open last month, trounced Hong Kong's Abdul-Fahim Khan 9-0, 9-3, 9-3 Friday and advanced to the gold medal match of the Asian Games squash tournament, reports AP.

It will be an all-Pakistani final on Saturday. Zarak Jahan overcame Malaysia's Low Ewe-long 10-8, 9-7, 9-0 in the other semifinal.

Hong Kong Malaysia still had gold medal chances in the women's competition.

In Friday's semifinals, Hong Kong's Chiu Wing-yin defeated Singapore's Lee Li-ling 9-0, 9-1, 9-3, and Malaysia's Nicol-An David beat Singapore's Mah Lian 9-5, 9-1, 9-7.

Amjad Khan is the nephew of former world No 1 Jansher Khan, who elected not to defend his Pakistan Open title this year. Local fans feared the title might fall into foreign hands for the first time, but Amjad Khan was the unlikely hero, rising from obscurity and beating sixth-seed Grasham Ryding of Canada 15-8, 11-15, 15-9, 13-15, 15-8 in the final.

Japan stoop to UAE

BANGKOK, Dec 11: United Arab Emirates edged Japan 1-0 Friday for their first victory in the second round of Asian Games soccer, a result that sent South Korea into the quarterfinals, reports AP.

Japan and the UAE ended the second round with a victory and two defeats each. Both still had a slight chance of gaining the quarterfinals if Kuwait lost to South Korea later Friday.

South Korea had two victories already, making them certain of being one of Group 2's two teams in the quarterfinals. Because of their superior goal differential, Kuwait also were likely to advance even without winning.

In Group 1, North Korea kept alive a slight chance of making the quarterfinals with a 2-0 victory over wireless India. That gave them one victory, one draw and one loss in the round.

Uzbekistan, already in the quarterfinals, played Turkmenistan later Friday.

After defeats of Kuwait and South Korea, the Emirates found their form again against Japan.

Though the first half ended scoreless, the Gulf team, paced by Hassan Saeed Rashid and Ali Saeed Rashid, showed flair and pierced the Japanese defense.

Japan looked tired and sluggish after their upset of Kuwait Thursday, which kept alive Japanese dreams of a quarter-

final for two more days. Japan brought a young team to the Asian Games but was hoping for a good showing as preparation for the 2000 Olympics and the 2002 World Cup, for which they are co-host with South Korea.

Both sides fought for their goal but Hassan got there first, in the 59th minute, scoring UAE's fourth goal in four matches.

A long free kick in the goal area dived into a jumble of heads and feet before substitute Kazi Ali Abdulla gained control and shipped a short cross to Hassan, who pushed the ball in from point-blank range.

Falling behind lifted Japan's energy but they were unable to mount a consistent attack.

Shinsuke Nakamura, Kazuyuki Toda, Toshiya Ishii and Kenji Fukuda pressed the attack dangerously close but either shot wild or crashed into a swarm of red shirts.

The first half was notable for six minutes of injury time, mostly taken up by the bandaging of Japan goalkeeper Yuta Minami's head after he was chopped down by a flying elbow from Mohammad Ibrahim Alboloshi.

The rest came from a bizarre kick from behind by Japanese captain Tsuneyasu Miyamoto that connected with Alboloshi's face and brought him down.

Miyamoto drew his second yellow card of the game.

Carlos de Queiroz of Portugal, who took over the UAE

team three months ago, complained that his team was fatigued after playing four matches in nine days.

"The players become tired and their reaction time is not the same," de Queiroz said.

Like his counterpart for Japan, Frenchman Philippe Troussier, de Queiroz brought a young team in preparation for the Olympics.

The intense pace of the Asian Games tournament, de Queiroz said, was too much for young players to cope with.

"From a physiological point of view, they can't recover," de Queiroz said.

Troussier agreed.

"In this weather and in this schedule, the players cannot concentrate their efforts. With one more day, the players can change their efforts 100 per cent," Troussier said.

Revenge on their mind

BANGKOK, Dec 11: The Chinese soccer squad, still smarting from their crushing defeats to Iran in the World Cup qualifiers, vowed to take their revenge in Saturday's clash with the western Asian soccer power at the Asian Games, reports Xinhua.

"It will be a game of revenge," said British head coach Boughn, who took the helm of a demoralised Chinese team after their former coach Qi Wusheng resigned in disgrace.

In the World Cup final qualification tournament earlier last year, China lost 2-4 and then 1-4 to Iran and didn't make the French World Cup finals.

"The Chinese players feel hurt about World Cup losses to Iran," said Boughn. "Their form has been improving and they can't wait to square off with Iran."

On Thursday, China handed a 6-1 defeat to Oman who had upset Iran in the Games.

"Oman's victory over Iran boosted our morale," said Chinese assistant coach Jin Zhiyang. "We have no pressure and are determined to slug out with Iran. I really want to know — is China better than Iran, or just the opposite?"

Chinese team captain Fan Zhiyi who plays for English Division One club Crystal Palace said China now held an edge over Iran.

"They are not the same team with the one in the World Cup," he said. "I think we have an advantage."

Oman head coach Burridge Viera whose team can qualify for the quarter finals if China either draws or defeats Iran, told Chinese coaches that Iran's defenders on wings were weaknesses.

"Chinese can use their speed to slice open Iran's defence from both sides, Viera said.



Li Wei of China acknowledges the applause from the crowd after winning the gold in the 100 metres breaststroke at the Asian Games in Bangkok on December 10 with a Games' record time of 1:08.95 sec. —AP/UNB photo

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Saturday 12th December (All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.)

BTV

Morning session 9:00 Opening announcement, Al-Curan, programme summary 9:10 Patriotic song 9:15 Neejer 9:30 Children's programme 10:00 Nogar Jibon 10:45 Movie of the Week 12:30 Close down

Evening session 3:00 Opening announcement, Al-Curan, programme summary 3:12 Recitation from Holy Tripitak 3:15 Patriotic song 3:20 Itady (reply) 4:00 Khabor 4:05 Film show 4:45 Open University 5:25 Kishor Mancho 6:00 Nibon 6:30 Khabor 6:35 Programme from Chittagong centre 7:05 Geetimallo 7:25 Amra Tomader Vulbona 8:00 News in Bengla 8:40 Drama of this Week 10:00 News At Ten 10:30 Film show: Hurcules 11:30 Khabor/ The News 11:45 Close down

BBC

6:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 6:30 World Living: Earth Report Indigenous People: Video diaries by various indigenous peoples groups which provide powerful footage indicating that their land rights are being abused. 7:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 7:30 Asia Today: The latest news, analysis and features from the BBC. Correspondents who live and work in the region. 7:45 World Business Report 8:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 8:30 Asia Today 8:45 World Business Report 9:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 9:30 The 1998 Nobel Peace Prize: A portrait of this year's Nobel Peace Prize Laureate — looking at their work and its impact on both the present and future. 10:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 10:30 USA Direct: The Entertainment Show From New York, Tom Brook with the latest movie releases, a run-down of the American music charts and the website of the week. Plus today's American Business News from Wall Street with Patrick O'Connell. 11:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 11:30 World Focus: Kings of the Jungle: In the first of two programmes Matt Frei probes ind-onesia's 'streamlined' design and skyscrapers. 8:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 8:30 World Living: Future Fancists: Immortals 9:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 9:05 Weekend World: The Nobel Forum: Following the presentation of the Nobel Prizes, this year's laureates meet in Stockholm to debate the issues of the day. 10:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 10:30 World Focus: Kings of the Jungle: In the first of two programmes Matt Frei probes ind-onesia's 'streamlined' design and skyscrapers. 8:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 8:30 World Living: Future Fancists: Immortals 9:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 9:05 Weekend World: The Nobel Forum: Following the presentation of the Nobel Prizes, this year's laureates meet in Stockholm to debate the issues of the 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