

## Afghanistan topple Bangladesh



AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

Bangladeshi sports authority and organisers might have felt content after winning three gold at the 10th South Asian Games which concluded here yesterday but the performance will go into the record books as the worst in the country's 22-year history in the regional sports.

Bangladesh finished with a haul of 52 medals, three gold, 15 silver and 34 bronze, after Shammim Osman and Mohammed Hossain Khan claimed bronze medals in 50kg male kata and 80kg male kumite out of three karate events on the final day.

Bangladesh won less gold medals on three occasions -- in the inaugural and the seventh editions in Kathmandu and had hit the low at Islamabad 1989 when they bagged just one gold.

However, the country's position in the medals table is worst after finishing sixth. What hurts most is their place behind Afghanistan, the war ravaged nation participating only for the second time.

Afghanistan won one gold

medal to Bangladesh's three in the previous version in Pakistan but the Afghans' skill in martial art and wrestling have put them above Bangladesh, whose best finish was back in 1985 at home when they toppled Sri Lanka in the table to end third, thanks to the heroics of five-gold swimmer Mosharrif Hossain.

Seven years later, Bangladesh hosted the Games for the second time and grabbed 11 gold medals, reaching the double figure for the only time so far.

In the first seven Games, Bangladesh finished five times ahead of Nepal but the introduction of taekwondo in 1999 has given edge to the men from the Himalayan Kingdom, who seemed to have cemented their place above of Bangladesh.

The surprise gold for Mizanur

Rahman in taekwondo middle-weight should be considered as a one-off incident as none of his teammates passed the test of the first round. It also gave Bangladesh their first gold outside athletics, boxing, swimming, shooting and football.

Although they recovered their honours in athletics -- once dominated by Bangladeshi sprinters -- after 11 years in the shape of hurdler Mahfuzur Rahman Mithu, the shooting team were on their lowest ebb, having failed to deliver a gold for the first time since the discipline's inception at the Games in 1991 here in Colombo.

With success in long distance swimming fading out gradually due to lack of the swimmers' endurance, caused by dearth of original equipment and other facilities, Bangladesh seemed

good only in the short distance events, Shahjahan Ali Rony winning the 50m breaststroke to deliver the nation its first gold medal in Colombo 2006.

India retained their supremacy, topping the medal table for the tenth time with the biggest gold rush, winning 118 out of 216 gold medals at stake. It was the fifth time they have got past the century mark, having set the standard for the first time at Madras 1995 with 103 gold medals.

With events increasing in total 20 disciplines, the top five -- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Afghanistan -- bettered their gold hauls from the last Games. Bangladesh remained on three gold medals while Bhutan lost the one won in Islamabad. Maldives, for the sixth time, returned without a single medal.

ANGLADESH AT SAF/SAF GAME							
Games	Venue	Year	Position	G	B	S	Total
1st SAF Games	Kathmandu	1984	5th	2	8	13	23
2nd SAF Games	Dhaka	1985	3rd	9	17	38	64
3rd SAF Games	Calcutta	1987	4th	3	20	31	54
4th SAF Games	Islamabad	1989	5th	1	12	24	37
5th SAF Games	Colombo	1991	4th	4	8	28	40
6th SAF Games	Dhaka	1993	4th	11	19	32	62
7th SAF Games	Madras	1995	4th	7	17	34	58
8th SAF Games	Kathmandu	1999	5th	2	10	35	47
9th SA Games	Islamabad	2004	5th	3	13	24	40
10th SA Games	Colombo	2006	6th	3	15	34	52

FINAL STANDING			
Country	G	S	B
India	118	69	47
Pakistan	43	44	71
Sri Lanka	37	63	78
Nepal	9	15	31
Afghanistan	6	7	29
Bangladesh	3	15	34
Bhutan	0	3	10
Maldives	0	0	0



PHOTO: FOCUSBANGLA

BRONZE PAIR: Karatekas Mohamad Hossain Khan (L) and Shamim Osman pose with the national flag at the St. Joseph's College Indoor Complex in Colombo on Monday.

## BCB gears up for TV deal



**SPORTS REPORTER**

ing the scapegoats for its failure. Asghar will now lead a team that comprises marketing committee chairman Aziz Al Kaiser Titoo, BCB treasurer Afzalur Rahman Sinha, Qayum Chowdhury, Khondokar Jamiluddin, Mirza Salman Ispahani, general secretary Mahbubul Anam and CEO Mahmudur Rahman.

"There was a long discussion about the TV deal in the EC meeting. The previous committee actually was not formalised that why we formed a new one and we are hopeful that it will work hard to settle the issue as soon as possible, as we have only two months time," said Mahbubul Anam at a press conference yesterday.

"We can assure everybody that the new deal will be a transparent one because we will award the right in open tender. The committee will first appoint a law consultancy firm to negotiate the deal and it will also be appointed in open tender. We don't want to disclose anything about the deal at the moment," he informed.

While Mahbub said that they were yet to find a consultancy firm, a close source however disclosed that the board has already nominated an internationally recognised audit firm (KPMG) to broker the TV deal for the board.

"We have already signed a deal two months back with KPMG to help us about the matter and it was approved in the EC meeting today. The new committee will meet with them within a couple of days," said a BCB high official without disclosing his name.

Regarding the absence of Reazuddin Al Mamun in the new committee, Mahbub said that he was not in a position to provide exact reasons.

"I can only say that it was a decision of the EC meeting."

It may be mentioned that Mamun had developed a bitter relationship with president Asghar after he had resigned from the board following a disposer in the media in November last year that Asghar had struck a secret deal with a little known consultancy firm (Aston Moore) to negotiate the TV deal.

Now everybody is looking forward to see whether the present board under the leadership of Asghar will be able to sign a transparent deal or make a shabby one like the previous one.

The Board had formed a committee headed by its president Ali Asghar four months back to complete the formalities of signing a new deal after the previous five-year contract with ESPN-STAR Sport expired last April following the home series against world champions Australia.

But after the no show of the previous body for the last couple of months the board in Monday's executive committee meeting formed a fresh committee with media chief Reazuddin Al Mamun and joint-secretary Rafiqul Islam Babu becoming

the new committee.

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"We have also prepared a proposed itinerary but it will only be confirmed after Zimbabwe Cricket agree with it," he added.

The committee comprises BCB vice-president Shah Nurul Kabir Shaheen, general secretary Mahbubul Anam, Shamim Kabir, ASM Faruque and Khondokar Jamiluddin.

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