



Jubilant Bangladesh swimmers Shahjahan Ali (C), Niaz Ali (R) and Karar Samedul Islam show their medals after completing a clean sweep in the 50-metre breaststroke event of the Indo-Bangla Games at the Subhas Sarobar swimming pool in Kolkata on Sunday.

Nat'l Bangla win by 452 runs

SPORTS REPORTER

National Bangla High School massacred Monikano High School by 452 runs in the Standard Chartered School Cricket competition at the East End club ground yesterday.

Inexplicably put into bat first, National Bangla raised the bar of scoring for this season by scaling 491 runs in 48.4 overs. Monikano only managed 39 runs before being bowled out just 17.1 overs.

National Bangla batsman Imran struck a 74-ball 128 while Shumon missed a century by just two runs, finishing with 98.

When they bowled, Ashiquzzaman took six wickets for just 10 runs.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Scholastica beat Armanitola High School by 114 runs with Rakin hitting 78 and Sufwan picking up three wickets.

In the other matches, Islambagh High School, National Bank Public School and Mirpur Sidhanta High School won their respective matches.

AFC secretary

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each matchday to the BFF according to agreement. It was learnt that the 11 clubs have already started printing tickets.

The home teams will also provide only practice facilities for touring teams.

The BFF has given one Nike Aero 90 football -- the official matchball for the tournament -- for practice to each club, who would be able to buy more footballs from the BFF if needed.

The home teams would also get four advertisement billboards on the ground on matchday for their own sponsors.

The eight Dhaka clubs, in the end, could consider themselves fortunate as the BFF has decided to take care of the Bangabandhu Stadium, the lone venue for all the capital sides.

With less than five days to go, preparation looked hectic and the pro-league officials were still reminding the clubs of their duties. The clubs will take part in the last seminar on event management organised by the federation today.

Players' or NSC

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It was learnt that the renovation works were handled by the younger brother of the PS of ex-sports minister M Fazlur Rahman.

"Also, we have places for advertising billboards inside our complex, which brought us about 5.6 lakh Taka per year. He (Pradhan) took it under the jurisdiction of the NSC and rented for a mere Tk 1.5 lakh. We have informed the NSC of this," added Sanaiul.

The controversial NSC director, during his tenure as BTF secretary, also spent Tk 16 lakh for painting four tennis courts but sources said that the actual expenditure was less than Tk 50,000.

NSC secretary Aminul Islam Khan informed that the billboard rights have already been handed over back to the BTF.

"Yes, the tennis federation has informed us about this and we are looking at it. The sports adviser has also come to know about the incidents," Aminul told The Daily Star yesterday.

NSC's construction-happy director Pradhan, who has allegedly made a fortune misusing his post and as the right hand of M Fazlur Rahman, was not available for comments but he told a local news agency yesterday that he found no reasons for NSC employees living in the players' hostel.

"A few ball boys live there as far as I know but a few NSC employees might have moved there later," Pradhan was quoted by the news agency.

INDO-BANGLA GAMES

Swimmers grab four golds

BSS, Kolkata

Jewel Ahmed brought the first gold for Bangladesh in the First Indo-Bangla Games, winning the 50m butterfly at Subhas Sarobar swimming pool here yesterday.

Jewel took 26.85s to win his first international gold ahead of Sumantha Nath, who grabbed silver in 27.32s while the other Bangladeshi swimmer Rafiqul Islam finished in 27.63s for bronze.

Shahjahan Ali Rony awarded his country with the second gold when he easily beat his two senior compatriots in his pet event 50m breaststroke.

A BKSP student and 10th South Asian Games gold medallist last year, Rony took 30.46s, Niaz Ali finished in 32.82s while Karar Samedul Islam clocked 32.91s to

win silver and bronze respectively.

"I am happy to win gold but I should have timed better. I failed because I did not have a good start," Rony told reporters after his achievement.

Mahfuz Khatun also lifted gold in women's 50m breaststroke in 36.94s. Her teammate Doli Akther, who completed in 37.70s, won bronze.

Rubel Rana won gold in 50m backstroke, Rana, who won gold in this event in the 9th South Asian Games in 2004 in Pakistani capital Islamabad, finished in 29.40 seconds.

Earlier, Akbar Ali Mir of West Bengal won the first gold of the Games when he won the men's 400m freestyle in 4.30.67s, ahead of Bangladeshi contestant Mahfuzur Rahman. Saibal Banerjee

(WB) bagged bronze.

Akbar earned another gold for West Bengal in 200m individual medley, finishing in 2.21.12s, followed by Bangladeshi's Rubel Rana and Kamal Hossain.

Triparna Paul of West Bengal became the first woman to capture gold in the Games, winning the 400m freestyle.

Bangladesh men's football team, an under-19 squad playing under the banner of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) XI, lost 3-0 to their West Bengal counterparts at the Salt Lake Stadium.

After a barren first half Joel Raja found the net in the 63rd minute while Thomba Singh doubled the margin nine minutes later. Lal Ren Deka sealed the victory in the first of the best-of-three matches in the 87th minute.

"Khondoker Jamil Uddin has submitted his resignation as chairman of CCDM, chairman of BCB game development committee and as members of Mirpur Project Steering Group and the BCB performance evaluation committee. BCB president has accepted his resignation," said a board press release issued yesterday.

right-hander, who was ultimately outfoxed by a Loudon delivery, scored 62 off 103 balls with the help of ten boundaries. Sharif contributed an 82-ball 26 but his efforts were not enough to bat England A out of the game.

"We fulfilled our first target by batting two sessions on the final day but I think we were few runs short because of slow batting. I don't want to blame my boys because it was not easy to bat on a rough pitch with Loudon exploiting with his wrong ones. You all know how good the English cricketers are in Twenty20 cricket," said Tushar after their loss.

Yardy said that they never lost their confidence to chase down the total.

"The wicket was slow but we were very much optimistic about winning. We went for a win. But I must say Bangladesh batted well and it was a good match," said Yardy.

The second match starts on March 1 at Bogra.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESHA: 209 and 279 all out in 130.5 overs (overnight 137-1 in 63 overs) (Jahurul 87, Mehrab 41, Mosharraf 8, Faruque 17, Tushar 62, Marshal 0, Nadir 7, Sahaj 0, Sharif 26, Dollar 10, Enamul 0 not out, extras 21; Onions 2-65, Bresnan 2-23, Loudon 5-76).

ENGLAND A: 359 and 130-5 in 19.4 overs (Jefferson 2, Prior 50, Compton 25, Yardy 27, Carberry 7, Davies 2 not out, Loudon 8 not out, extras 9; Enamul 2-39, Mosharraf 2-36, Sharif 1-24).

Result: England A won by five wickets.

Inzy being positive



BBC ONLINE, undated

Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq says he is "not thinking negatively" as doubts about Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif's involvement in the World Cup remain.

"They have been winning for the last 10 years or so and they are a very consistent side but their recent defeats have given more chances to other teams."

Pathan cleared to play

REUTERS, Ahmedabad

The premier pace pair have not yet taken a drugs test -- which the Pakistan Cricket Board says they must pass before flying to the Caribbean.

Shoaib (knee and hamstring) and Asif (elbow) are also nursing injuries.

Inzamam said: "I hope they overcome their injuries and that reports of their tests also come in our favour."

Shahid Afridi and the skipper himself are both awaiting the results of their own drugs tests.

All 11 results of the 15-man squad that have been returned have come back negative, Afridi and Inzamam's being conducted at a later date.

Shoaib and Asif had doping bans controversially lifted in December and face life bans if they test positive again.

They have until the end of February to submit themselves for a further test. Some experts have warned they could still have banned substances in their system.

The two fast bowlers produced positive tests for nandrolone in September, but their bans were lifted on appeal when it was accepted they had taken the drug unwittingly.

The World Anti-Doping Agency is in turn contesting that appeal.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

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were crowned joint champions in the annual sports competition of the Fazlul Haq Hall at the Jagnath Hall ground.

Zoology student Mohammad Gausul Kabir became runner-up.

CHALLENGE CLUB CUP KKSP crushed NWA by ten wickets in the inaugural match of the Khulna leg of BCB Challenge Club Cup competition at the Shaheed Bishreshtha Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman Stadium.

NWA were bowled out for 45 runs in 15.1 overs. KKSP went past the total in only 10 overs.

BIS ATHLETIC MEET

Faria Ahmed was adjudged the best athlete in the senior group while Zerin Khan won the junior group in the annual athletics meet of Bangladesh International School (BIS) at the school premises.

A host of teachers, parents and other officials were present during the competition.

Ind at SAVAR GOLF CLUB



Participants of the Square Golf Tournament pose with Sports Adviser to the caretaker government Tapan Chowdhury and senior vice president of Savar Golf Club Major General Masud Uddin Chowdhury during the opening ceremony of the two-day meet that concluded on Saturday.

Sanjay blitz sinks CCS

SPORTS REPORTER

A marauding 123 by opener Sanjay Chakraborty gave Gazi Tank a massive 110-run win over CCS in the Kait-Altech First Division League at the City Club yesterday.

Sanjay struck 14 boundaries and a six as Gazi Tank posted 283-8 in 50 overs. CCS were bowled out for 173 in 41.4 overs.

Zahidul Islam (62) supported Sanjay during a 146-run third wicket stand that took the game away from CCS but occasional off-spinner Shahid Adnan bowled a superb little spell to take five wickets. He followed that up with a stylish 74 off 93 balls. Shamsi took four for 25.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Lalmatia beat Sadharan Bima by two wickets.

Batting first, Bima were bowled out for 187 runs in 49.1 overs with Abul Hasan scoring a slow 51. Lalmatia captain Adil Ahmed stroked 55 to make sure his side won with 29 balls to spare.

Dastagir new CCDM boss

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Sunday confirmed the appointment of its vice-president Gazi Golam Dastagir as chairman of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM).

On the other hand, vice chairman of game development committee Shaheen Aftabur Reza Chowdhury will look after the game development committee activities temporarily.

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Mijatovic wants

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gested otherwise.

"It was about time refereeing decisions started going our way because in recent games everything they have done has gone against us, and we have lost quite a few points as a result. The referee was very good," said Salgado.

However, Atletico's players vented their frustrations after an opportunity missed for their first win at home over Real since the 1998-99 season.

"Ending up with a draw is a tough blow. The team put in a huge effort and were better than Real," said Atletico winger Luciano Galletti.

"We were frustrated with the refereeing. No one understands why Perea's goal was disallowed."

Can't win

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beat Mark Taylor's Australians in the day-night final at Lahore.

England's worst as hosts came in 1999 when they were eliminated after the group matches. The same fate was in store for hosts South Africa in 2003 when they failed to qualify for the Super Six stage.

It was not a gem of a knock, but