

Double-up Dulal

SPORTS REPORTER



When Bangladesh won the team event gold of the 11th South Asian Games three days back, it was in the air that one of our golfers was heading to create a small piece of history by also lifting the individual gold.

The question was who would it be? Jamal Hossain Mollah or Dulal Hossain?

And after an absorbing battle of Hossains at the Kurmitola Golf Course yesterday, it was Dulal who pipped Jamal to claim the ultimate glory.

Dulal scored eleven under par 277 to win the gold in the 72-hole competition while Jamal claimed the silver scoring eight under par 280 and Zakiruzzaman took the bronze with five under par 283.

The success of the trio in golf, introduced for the

first time in the regional sporting extravaganza, not only completed a sweeping success for Bangladesh but also meant that they grabbed all three medals -- gold, silver and bronze -- in an event for the first time.

Dulal, who came to Kurmitola Golf Club at the tender age of 12 and worked there for two years as a ball boy before becoming a caddie of an Italian golfer, started the day with three under par against Jamal's impressive eight under par.

But the 19-year-old from Comilla did an excellent job to take six under par 66 to finish the fourth and final round ending Jamal's dream of a double. It was Dulal's first international title. He had earlier won two domestic events.

Jamal, who was a clear favourite for the gold after three rounds, finished the final day at par 72 to be content with silver.

"I knew it very well that I will have to prove myself

on the field if I'm to do something special. I did it putting in the best ever performance of my life. I am really happy to make the nation proud," said Dulal in his immediate reaction.

Dulal is now looking forward to playing in the next Asian Games and sought cooperation from the government.

"I want to represent my country for another three to four years before entering the professional circuit. But for that I need assistance from the government," said Dulal, adding that the sport that is bringing so much glory to the country should be taken more care of.

World's best golfer Tiger Woods and Bangladesh's best Siddiqur Rahman are the favourite golfers of Dulal who dreams of playing in the USPGA tour one day.

The employees of the Golf Course at the Dhaka Cantonment were given a sudden break till 3:00pm

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Dulal Hossain is about to put in the final hole on way to winning the individual gold of the 11th South Asian Games at the Kurmitola Golf Course yesterday.

India, Nepal in women's football final

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Bangladesh's hopes of making it to the final in women's football of the 11th South Asian Games evaporated when they were handed a 7-0 drubbing by favourites India in their last group match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Laishram Naobi Chanu scored a hat-trick for India.

Bangladesh trailed the first half 2-0. They made a couple attacks in the first half but the strikers failed to convert those chances. The second half was completely dominated by India who put five more in the back of the net to complete a rout of the hosts.

This defeat, coupled with the 1-0 loss in their first match against Nepal, meant the hosts ended the competition behind India and Nepal. Nepal earlier handed Pakistan a same 7-0 reverse in the match at the same venue to confirm their final berth.

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MEDALS TABLE				
Country	G	S	B	Ttl
India	57	29	13	99
Pakistan	11	19	19	49
Bangladesh	8	11	35	54
Sri Lanka	7	20	27	54
Afghanistan	3	5	8	16
Nepal	0	3	13	16
Bhutan	0	0	1	1



Sharmin Farjana Rumi is all smiles as she proudly holds the Bangladesh flag after winning the women's under-46kg taekwondo gold of the 11th South Asian Games at the National Sports Council Gymnasium yesterday.

Rumi brings taekwondo gold

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Sharmin Farjana Rumi made the nation proud when she clinched the gold medal in women's under-46kg event in taekwondo of the 11th South Asian Games at the National Sports Council Gymnasium yesterday.

Rumi defeated Afghanistan's Laila Hussain in the final after seeing off Nepalese Yan Kumari in semifinals. It was the hosts' first gold in taekwondo and overall seventh in the Games after gold

came from golf, shooting, weightlifting.

"I really feel proud after doing something for the nation and it is a special moment for me," said the 20-year-old girl from Panchagarh.

In the three-round game, Rumi won the first round 1-0 and then dominated the second round 7-2 before posting an identical 7-2 win in the third and final round. She aggregated 15-4.

Rumi had no specific target before the meet but was determined to put up her best.

"I started to believe that I could win the gold after defeating [Yan] Kumari in the

semis, because that game was really a tough one and I kept faith in myself," said Rumi, an employee of Bangladesh Ansar and VDP.

Kumari and Pakistani Kiran Bano won bronze medals.

In the men's categories, Shah Alam and Anwar Hossain disappointed the hosts after being eliminated from the first round as Alam and Anwar were defeated by Nepalese Kumar Manandhar and Afghanistan's Syed Hasan Reza in the 63kg and 68kg categories respectively.

Rezaiz on to grab the gold medal

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Hosts fight for gold today

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Bangladesh face off with Sri Lanka for the cricket gold of the 11th South Asian Games today.

The final will be a day-night contest starting at 5:30pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur with satellite channel ATN Bangla beaming the live coverage.

The Twenty20 version of cricket has been included in the regional Games for the first time and the hosts will desperately try to avenge their defeat against the Lankans in the league match to achieve the first gold.

The bronze medal deciding match between Pakistan and Nepal will also take place at the same venue at 1pm today.

Spectators will be given free entry to gallery and special enclosures for the final and for their entertainment the organisers have taken some steps as a concert by prominent band artists will precede the match. The concert will commence at 3:30pm.

Meanwhile, in the last league match Nepal posted a 10-wicket victory over Maldives yesterday.

Maldives were all out for 55 runs in 16.4 overs and Nepal achieved the target with 58 for no loss in 7 overs.



Eti Islam shows off her gold medal after winning the women's under-52kg event of the 11th South Asian Games at Sylhet BKSP yesterday.

Eti's tears of joy

IQBAL SIDDIQUI from Sylhet



When the national anthem of Bangladesh blared from the sound system, Eti Islam, standing tall above everybody on the winners' podium at the Sylhet BKSP, could not hold back her emotions. She was virtually crying and singing to the tune of "Amar Sonar Bangla".

Her emotions touched everybody present and when she walked down from the podium with her gold medal that she won in the under-52kg event of women's wushu competition of the 11th South Asian Games, she said: "It was tears of pride and joy."

"I'm happy because I could do something for my country," added an excited Eti.

Her success came as a relief to the locals as giants India and Pakistan were winning gold one after another in the competition although the hosts started with high hopes.

Eti performed brilliantly against her challenger Sri Lankan Wasanthi Lakmal, who finished with silver, to snatch the gold. She won the first round quite comfortably, but Lakmal bounced back in the second but it was not good enough to cover Eti's first round advantage.

Nazia Pervaiz of Pakistan and Mary Danishyar of Afghanistan bagged the bronze medals.

In other events, India clinched three gold -- Ravindra Ballara won men's 70kg, Sanathaoi Devi took women's 48kg and Sandya Rani grabbed women's 60kg. Pakistan won two gold with Syed Maratid Ali Shaha taking the men's 60kg while Mazz Khan the men's 65 kg.

GAMES GALLERY

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Bangladesh's hopes of winning silver in the men's team event of table tennis was dashed when they went down 3-0 to Sri Lanka in the semifinals of the 11th South Asian Games at the newly-build Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

Mahub Billah of Bangladesh made a promising start to win the first two sets against Chalitha Ranjana 11-4 and 11-8 before going down in the last three sets by 4-11, 8-11 and 6-11.

Hanif Hamlet also made a good start and was leading in the first set against Rohan Sirisena but he got hurt and walked out of the game. Hamlet has been ruled out of the ongoing games and he may be out of action for three

to four months, informed Mahub Billah.

Manash Chowdhury lost the first set 4-11 before bouncing back to level it with 11-6 win against Sajith Priyadarshana who however defeated Chowdhury 8-11 and 6-11 in the last two sets.

Bangladesh women's team also had to be content with a bronze medal as they went 3-0 down to Sri Lanka in the semis.

India won the women's team gold medal beating Sri Lanka 3-0.

WRESTLING

Bangladesh won the bronze medal in 66kg wrestling category of the 11th South Asian Games while India and Pakistan grabbed gold and silver respectively at the Outer Stadium Kabaddi Court yesterday.

Indian Pradeep Kumar beat

Pakistani Muhammed Salman to win gold medal. Bangladesh's Sorat Chandra Ray and Sri Lankan Roshan won bronze medals.

SQUASH

Pakistan retained the squash team's gold when they handed a 2-0 defeat to India at Dhaka Club Squash Court yesterday.

Pakistani Mansoor Zaman beat Ravi Dixit 11-1, 11-2 and 11-3 while Aamir Atlas beat Gaurav 11-9, 11-3 and 11-8 to win gold medal.

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka won bronze medals in the event. Meanwhile, Pakistan had earlier won the gold in singles event.

SHOOTING

There were hopes for the hosts at the National Shooting Range in the women's 50m rifle 3x20 events on Saturday

but the local shooters led by experienced Sabrina Sultana could manage only the team's silver as India's domination continued in the 11th South Asian Games yesterday.

TM Muley cropped up with double delight on the day to help India clinch gold in both individual and team events of the 50m rifle 3x20 and her brilliant effort helped India increase their gold collection to 17 out of 20 in the shooting competition of the regional sporting extravaganza on the fifth day of the discipline.

Bangladesh clinched the team gold in this event in the SAF Shooting Championship last year here in Dhaka, but Sabrina (564) along with Tripti Datta (556) and Sharmila Shilpa (549) aggregated 1,669 points, 18 points less than Indian total.

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India-SA 2nd ODI shifted to Gwalior

CRICINFO, undated

The second one-day international of South Africa's India tour, on February 24, has been shifted to Gwalior.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed the shift via a media release but did not specify the reason. However, it is reportedly believed that a section of the Green Park stadium, allotted for students, was not in good condition and thus the officials did not want to risk hosting an international match. The Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association has apparently decided to rebuild the stand in question.

The Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association was quick to offer its support to the BCCI by hosting the match.

India, SL dominate Hosts take 2 bronze in between

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Two bronze medals were all to show for Bangladeshi athletes on the opening day of the 11th South Asian (SA) Games' showpiece track and field event. The two medals came in men's long jump and men's discus throw as the successful athletes were Al Amin and Azharul Islam.

Sri Lanka asserted some early dominance winning the first two gold medals before India clawed back to stamp their authority with three gold medals. Pakistan bagged the other gold on the day.

Al Amin jumped a distance of 7.19 metres to finish third behind Indian Mohammed Ibrar who covered 7.44 metres to win the gold and Nayana Prasad Hewage of Sri Lanka who jumped 7.25 metres for the silver. However, Al Amin's jump was a far below par effort than his national record of 7.61 metres which would have ensured him a gold with ease.

Al Amin, who was considered as an outside

chance for a gold by the athletics officials, was very disappointed with the result and said he could have won the top prize had he not been ill. The bronze medalist was suffering from fever for five days. And to make matters worse he was hit by a stomach ache in the morning of the race.

The other bronze came in men's discus throw where Azharul Islam managed to throw it a distance of 44.98 metres. Gold went to Basharat Ali of Pakistan with a throw of 52.43 metres while silver went to India's Simranjeet Singh who covered a distance of 49.18 metres.

In men's 1,500 metres, the day's first event, Sri Lanka bagged gold and bronze medals with India getting the silver. Gold medalist Chaminda Indika Wijekoon clocked 4 min 10.01 sec, 0.056 sec ahead of India's Sunil Kumar and 0.096 sec ahead of his compatriot PH Chamel. Bangladesh's Salim Mia came distant sixth with a timing of 4 min 17.9 sec.

Sri Lanka grabbed a one-two in the women's 200m sprint with Chandrika Subashini (24.49 sec) beating her compatriot Pramila Priyadarshini

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