



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

GOLDEN GIRLS OF INDIA: India's 4x100m women's medley relay team cool off at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur after winning the gold in the 11th South Asian Games yesterday.

# Sweet 16 for India in pool

SPORTS REPORTER



India left the pool in style by sweeping all four gold medals on the final day of swimming competition of the 11th South Asian Games at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

The Indian natants made it sure that no other national anthem would be played on the podium yesterday as they won the women's 50m freestyle, men's 50m breaststroke, women's 4x100m medley relay and men's 4x100m medley relay events. India clinched 16 gold out of a total of 19. Besides, they grabbed seven silver and two bronze. Sri Lanka was the only other nation to win gold in the competition. Six different silver medals were to show off as far as Bangladesh is concerned. Sri Lanka also took four silver and six bronze medals.

In the end it was a frustrating journey for the hosts with the fact that the Bangladeshi swimmers this time had trained for a long period of time under the guidance of South Korean coach Park Taegun, and most importantly they practised in their own pool.

It was heartbreaking to see the near misses by Mahfuza Khatun who had to finally be content with silver medals in the women's 50m and 100m breaststrokes. Bangladesh finished with 10 more bronze apart from the six silver medals.

Three Indian natants Sandeep Sejwal, Virbhawal Vikram Khade and Shubha Chittaranjan came up with double delights by winning two gold medals while Sri Lankan Minekasashmini Natasha Karunaratne, who mainly denied India of making a clean sweep, was the other swimmer to have clinched two gold.

A total of eleven new Games records were set over four days in the eleventh version of the competition.

On the final day only one record was set in the men's 50m breaststroke when Indian Arjun Jaya Prakash clocked 00:30:04sec to leapfrog previous best timing of 00:30:43sec made by Bangladesh's Shajahan Ali Rony in the 2006 Colombo Games.

Rony failed to even match his previous record as he finished on 00:31:04sec to secure the silver and Bangladesh's Kamal Hossain bagged the bronze at 00:31:05sec.

In the women's 50m freestyle, India's Shubha Chittaranjan clinched gold by clocking 00:27:98sec while her compatriot Sheha Thirugnana Sambandam bagged the silver (00:28:67sec) and Sri Lankan Madhawe Kaushalya Kalurachchilage finished with 00:29:78sec to confirm the bronze.

Fariha Zaman, Gauri Desai, Richa Mishra and Talasha Satish Prabhu combined to clock 04:41:55sec to clinch the gold in the women's 4x100m medley relay while Gihara Sachini Amarasinghe, Mineka Karunaratne, Mimuruwani, Madhawe Weerathunga of Sri Lanka finished with 04:52:24sec and Bangladesh earned the bronze by clocking 04:55:94sec with Sobura Khatun, Doli Akhter, Mahfuza Khatun and Sonia Akter Tumpa.

In the men's 4x100m medley relay, India's Rehan Poncha Jehangir, Arjun Jaya Prakash, Agnel Aaron D'Souza and Virbhawal Vikram Khade clocked 03:58:76sec for gold while Bangladesh's Kamal Hossain, Rubel Rana, Jewel Ahmed and Mahfizur Rahman finished with 04:00:39sec for silver and Heshan Bandara Unamboowe, Diluka Thibbtumunuwe, Conrad Anthony Francis and Chanuka Bandara Wickramasinghe of Sri Lanka clocked 04:07:04sec for bronze.

# Hail the golden girls

ANISUR RAHMAN



With an ambition of eclipsing their previous medal-hunt record, hosts Bangladesh had virtually pinned all their hopes on the male athletes when the 11th South Asian Games got underway 12 days ago. However, it all came as a surprise as the female athletes grabbed gold to eventually take Bangladesh close to their target.

Except for athletics, swimming and shooting, female athletes got very little opportunity to compete in the regional sporting extravaganza in previous meetings. But this time the hosts have created good opportunity for the female athletes in badminton, table tennis, archery, kabaddi, karate,

taekwondo and wushu, all these disciplines are less popular in Bangladesh compared to cricket, football and hockey.

Prior to these Games, Bangladesh's golden girls - Kazi Shahana Parvin and Sabrina Sultana -- had only been confined to shooting, but the scenario has changed drastically this time around with girls bringing gold in diverse disciplines such as karate, taekwondo and wushu, apart from the goldmine of shooting.

Bangladesh's female athletes, most of whom come from low-income families, did an excellent job to win medals in the Games and made the nation proud even though they are less than half (101) in numbers compared to the male contingent (231).

The hosts had pinned high expectations on shooter Sharmin Akhter Ratna, karatekas Jaw U Pru, swimmer Dolly Akhter, hurdler Sumita Rani along

with male athletes -- shooter Asif Hossain Khan, swimmer Rubel Rana, weightlifter Hamidul Islam, golfer Jamal Hossain Mollah, high jumper Sajib Hossain, judokas Habibur Rahman, Sushil Chandra Mohanta, boxers Nadim Hossain, Abdur Rahim and wrestler Billal Hossain.

The gold spree started with shooter Ratna and ended with katareka Moreom Khatun Bipasha.

Ratna and karateka Jaw U Pru kept their pledges but some female athletes, who were out of the focus even at the official press briefing before the start of the Games, pulled off unexpected results to hog the limelight from the word go and put their male counterparts behind.

Of the 18 gold medals Bangladesh so far have grabbed, eight came through the female athletes, who grabbed the opportunity with both hands to

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# Clean sweep for India in table tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

India continued their supremacy in the table tennis competition of the 11th South Asian Games at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

India won both gold and silver medals in the mixed doubles, men's doubles and women's doubles events. India so far clinched all five gold medals.

It was an all India final in the men's doubles and Amalraj and Sanil clinched the gold with an 11-9, 11-2, 11-7

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PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN

FARTHER AND HIGHER: Sri Lanka's Chamali Dilrukshi (L) completes a superb landing on her way to winning the women's long jump gold with a distance of 6.2 metres while India's Harishankar Singh (R) clears 2.16 metres to win the men's high jump gold in the 11th South Asian Games at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

# Duo fires Khulna

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna rode on twin tons from Tushar Imran and Habibul Bashar to dominate the first day against Chittagong when the fifth round of the National Cricket League got underway at different venues across the country yesterday.

Recovering from 49 from 3, Khulna finished the day's play on 323 for five thanks to a 186-run fourth wicket partnership between former national batsmen Tushar and Bashar at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium.

Tushar hit 109 off 233 balls that saw 19 boundaries and a six while former national skipper Bashar scored 103 off 129 balls that contained 19 fours.

Kazi Kamrul, who initiated the early collapse, claimed three wickets for 81 runs.

At the Khulna Divisional Stadium, Sohrawordi Shuvo stole the show with a scintillating unbeaten 142 as Rajshahi posted 299 for six against Barisal before stumps were drawn for the day.

Shuvo opened the innings with Zahurul Islam, who made 31 before being trapped in front by Arafat Salahuddin, and remained not out on 142 off 254 balls that contained 20 fours and a six.

Wicketkeeper Dhiman Ghosh was the other notable scorer with 53 off 96 balls that saw nine boundaries. Arafat Salahuddin took

three wickets for 66 runs.

The bowlers however dictated the terms at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra as 19 wickets stumbled on the first day.

Left-arm spinner Mosharrar Hossain was the most successful Dhaka bowler with four for 35 and three pace bowlers Talha Jubair, Mohammad Sharif and Mahbubul Alam also did their part by taking two wickets each as Sylhet slumped to 172 all out.

In reply, Dhaka were reduced to 90 for nine at stumps as Nasir Hossain claimed five wickets and Maishakur Rahman picked up four wickets.

SCORES IN BRIEF

**KHULNA V CHITTAGONG**  
KHULNA: First innings- 323 for 5 in 90 overs (Sadat 37, Tushar 109, Bashar 103, Nizamuddin 33 not out, Sahagir 14 not out; Kamrul 3-81).

**RAJSHAHI V BARISAL**  
RAJSHAHI: First innings- 299 for six in 90 overs (Zahurul 31, Shuvo 142 not out, Forhad Reza 24, Forhad Hossain 21, Dhiman 53, Sabbir 7 not out; Salahuddin 3-66).

**DHAKA V SYLHET**  
SYLHET: First innings- 172 all out in 50.1 overs (Rajin 32, Mabud 23, Sadiqur 23; Talha 2-69, Sharif 2-38, Mahbubul 2-22, Mosharrar 4-35).

**DHAKA:** First innings- 90 for nine in 37 overs (Shuvagoto 17, Nadif 16; Nasir 5-28, Maishakur 4-18)



PHOTO: STAR

Indian women football players celebrate after winning the final of the 11th South Asian Games against Nepal 3-1 at the Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

# India take gold in women's football

SPORTS REPORTER

India won the gold in the women's football of the 11th South Asian Games when they came from behind to hand a 3-1 defeat to Nepal in the trouble-hit final at Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Nepal, who went down to a massive 8-0 thrashing to India in the group match, stunned their mighty opponents to take a lead in the 25th minute through Jamuna and ended the first half with a 1-0 lead.

After the resumption, India pressed hard for the equaliser and Devi leveled the margin converting a penalty in the 68th minute when the Malaysian referee awarded the 12-yard spot kick, but not before a scuffle between the referee and the Nepalese girls, who protested the decision and refrained from playing for 10 minutes.

However, when play resumed Indian Chanu struck twice in the 75th and 82nd minutes to seal the match.



BTB

SOUTH ASIAN GAMES

Closing Ceremony

Live from 4:00pm

Neo Cricket & SuperSport2

India v South Africa

First Test, Day Four

Live from 10:00am

STAR Cricket

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Second ODI

Live from 9:30am

ESPN

Sportscentre India

Sports News

Live at 8:30pm

English Premier League

Man City v Bolton

Live from 1:40am (Wednesday)

SuperSport7

English Premier League

Wigan v Stoke City

Live from 1:40am (Wednesday)