

MEDAL TABLE			
TEAMS	G	S	B
Ansars	14	10	15
Army	12	7	5
Navy	10	10	5
BJMC	8	12	5
BKSP	6	3	7
BGB	3	2	5
ArmySA	2	1	2
EngineersRC	2	0	0
Rajshahi	1	2	6
Chittagong	1	2	6
Air Force	1	1	1
Police	1	0	0
GulshanSC	1	0	0

Confusion over timing

SPORTS REPORTER

The opening day of the athletics events at the Bangabandhu National Stadium created wide confusion as the electronic scoreboard and hand-timing gave diverging results. The Bangladesh Athletics Federation provided the official timings late in the night which diverged widely from the timings recorded earlier in the day, throwing the whole affair and the achievements of the runners into question. The federation officials lamely tried to

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Jakia Islam Suborna (L) and Abu Raihan enjoying their glory moments after winning the 200m women's and men's sprint respectively at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Youth snatch sprint crowns

ATIQUE ANAM

BKSP's HSC examinees Jakia Subarna and Abu Raihan announced their presence in the national sprint scene as they made a clean sweep of the 200m sprint event, dethroning their more illustrious opponents on the opening day of the athletics event of the 8th Bangladesh Games at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Subarna set a new national record finishing in 25.00 seconds (timing provided by BAF according to hand timing), breaking the seven-year old record (25.57 sec) set by Nazmun

Nahar Beauty in the 2006 national meet. She also broke the domination of BJMC's Beauty and Shamsunnahar Chumki who shared the national meet titles for the last 11 years.

Subarna was doubly ecstatic as this was a revenge mission for her after she lost against Beauty in photo-finish in the last national meet in 2012. She had also finished second in the 400m run and 4X100m relay in that meet.

"Since the last year's second-place, I was more resolute that I would win this title. There was pressure, I was nervous in the morning, but I ran according to my practice and managed to win it comfortably in the end," said the 18-year old girl from Natore. Compared to the tall and sturdy

Beauty, Subarna is only 5 feet 1 inch in height and hardly looks like a sprinter. And she could not hide her elation as she ran straight to her coaches after leaving her competitors in her wake. In fact it was her who pointed out to the coaches that she had not only won the gold, but also won it in record time.

"But it was not easy for us you know, having to practice and attend the exams at the same time. It was not easy for me in the beginning, personally as my father did not want me to go into sports while my mother sort of backed me," said the eldest of three siblings.

Subarna's teammate Shirin Akter of BKSP finished second at a time of

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Sagar dominant

SPORTS REPORTER

The unstoppable Mahfuzur Rahman Sagar continued to show his superb form in the pool as the 23-year old Olympian created another national record on the second day of swimming events at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

Sagar, who Saturday rewrote his national record in 50m freestyle for the fourth time, set up another record in 200m freestyle with a time of 2:00.56 that put behind his previous best of 2:00.58, which was produced in 2008.

"I am the champion in 200m freestyle

since 2007 when I broke an 18-year old record made by Shamsur Rahman of Bangladesh Army and till today (Monday) I am unbeaten in 200m freestyle after rewriting the record for three times in a row," said an ecstatic Sagar, who raised his gold tally to three after winning the 4X100m freestyle relay yesterday.

"It is right that I am not facing much challenge in the pool as no quality swimmers can emerge due to lack of tournaments but one thing is that I always try to improve my performance without thinking of whom I am competing against," said Sagar adding that he has also kept his sights on the 100m freestyle, record or otherwise.

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Mahfuzur Rahman Sagar set the pool afire for a second successive day at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

No good batting news

Cricket

SAKEB SUBHAN from Harare

The embarrassment in the first Test has taken the Tigers back to the drawing board. Team scores of 134 and 147 in the first Test at Harare have forced a rethink of strategy, and team personnel. With Rubel Hossain set to sit out the second Test at the same venue with a shoulder niggle, at least one change will take place for the match beginning on April 25.

Shahadat Hossain will travel back home after suffering a knee injury while bowling in the nets on Saturday. Shafiqul Islam and Ziaur Rahman arrived yesterday as replacements for the two injured

pace bowlers. Skipper Mushfiqur Rahim, after the defeat on Saturday, admitted that it might have been a mistake not to have played three pacers on a seaming wicket, and indicated that if the wicket stayed the same for the second Test, three pacers were a definite possibility.

That should open the door for Sajidul Islam, who last played a match for Bangladesh on the tour of New Zealand in 2007-08. The left-handed seamer talked about his chances of playing while sitting pool-side at the Holiday Inn Harare.

"I think I might play, though it is not certain. If I do play, I hope that I do well, since it is a wicket with movement and I am a seamer," said the 25-year-old.

Robiul Islam, who with career-

best figures of nine for 155, was the only Bangladeshi to escape the first Test with any credit, provided a template of how to bowl on the seaming Harare Sports Club wicket. Robiul and Sajidul go a way back, having spent time together in their Academy days, and the latter thought that they would form a good partnership if given a chance.

"Robiul was successful because he kept the ball up to the bat. That is what the opposition pacers did too. The pitch has late movement, which deceives batsmen," said Sajidul.

Asked for the reason his batting colleagues failed so spectacularly, Sajidul said: "The batsmen can better answer that, I was not playing.

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Hartal affect

SPORTS REPORTER

The 36-hour countrywide strike on Tuesday and Wednesday called by the 18-party alliance has forced the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) to reshuffle the venues of the ongoing Bangladesh Games as well as bring the athletes from outside the capital two days before the start of eight disciplines.

Ashikur Rahman Miku, co-chairman of Games Organising Committee and BOA's joint secretary general, informed that events of karate and judo have been shifted to

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Fancying fencing

SPORTS REPORTER

For a sport that began its journey in Bangladesh in only 2008 and is making its first venture in the Bangladesh Games, one can't expect fencing to rival the likes of shooting, archery or the other more popular individual events.

However, a mere glance at the Shaheed Sohrwardi Indoor Stadium at Mirpur, which hosted the event for the last two days, best described the extent of penetration that the sport has made in various pockets of the city. The seriousness with which the participants, majority of whom were in their late teens, prepared before every game -- working on the calf muscles, methodically wearing their jackets and straightening their swords -- belied their young age.

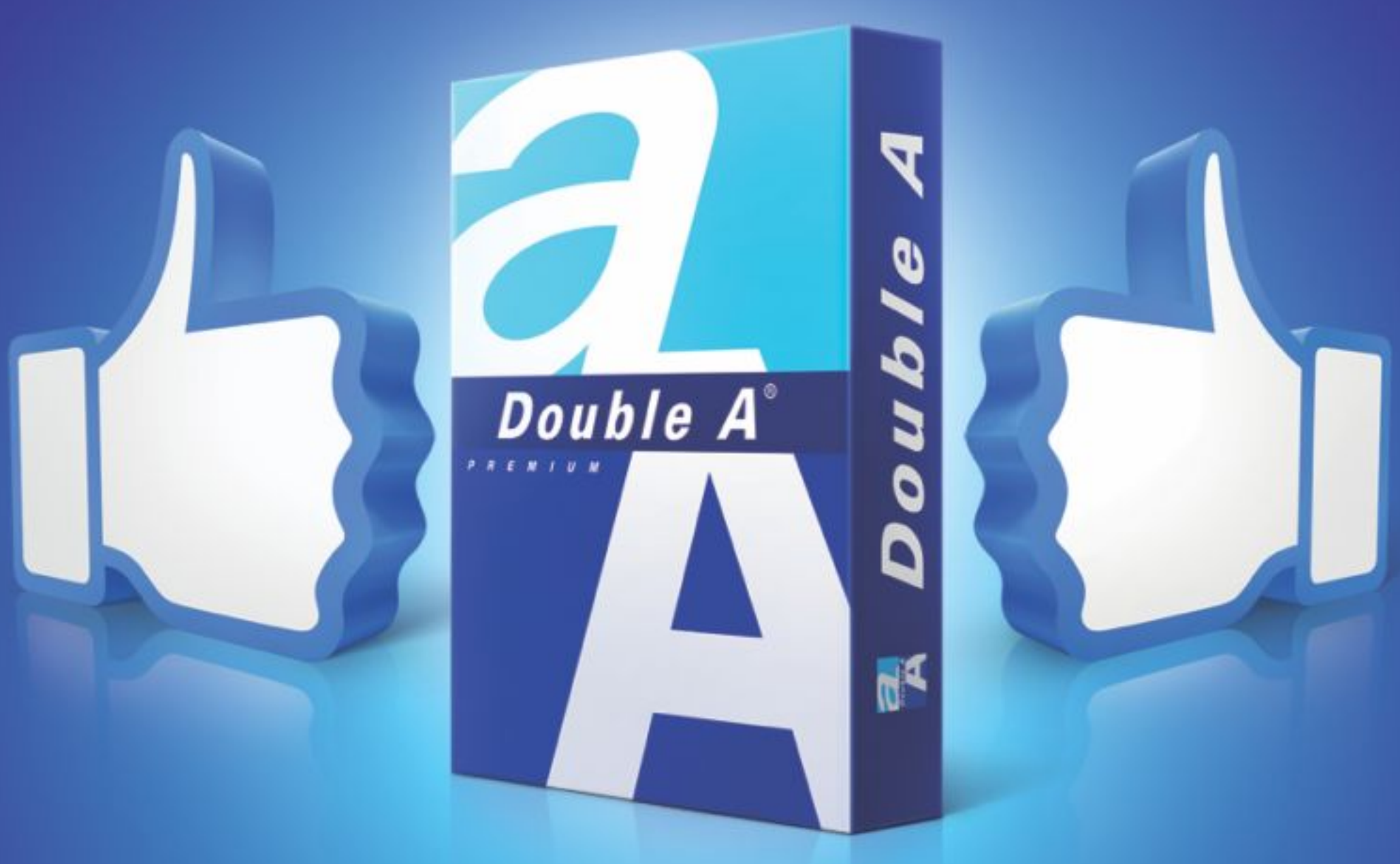
The roofed playing arena has been the home of fencing in the country ever since its inception. As a result the sport gradually gained in popularity among educational institutions of the region.

"In 2008, the physical education teachers of various institutions in Mirpur were briefed about the sport by the Bangladesh Fencing Association," said Faiez Ahmed, member of the Games. The BFA was formed by the Ansar and Village Defence Party Club with a group of 40 fencers.


The short journey has witnessed a series of accolades. Bangladesh won the bronze and silver in the 2010 and 2012 South Asian Fencing Championships respectively. They also won the bronze medal in the Epee category of Fencing in Hyderabad. Bangladeshi fencers also participated in the World Cup in Italy last year.


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