

## History of other Asian Games Organisations

Though the first steps to form the Asian Games Federation, were taken in 1947, yet the Games Organisations of smaller groups of Asian countries, have a considerably longer history behind them.

### 1. THE FAR EASTERN GAMES

The Far Eastern Games Organisation came into existence in the twenties of this century. This Organisation was meant to hold periodic Championships, in several games and sports, between the countries of the Far East — China, Japan and the Philippines. Some very successful Championship Meets were held at periodic intervals, and in 1927 India too, was invited and took part in them.

Political disturbance between Japan and China, some years later, however, led to a discontinuance of these Championships.

### WESTERN ASIATIC GAMES

As the Far East was too far for the rest of Asian countries, and in too disturbed a condition, in October 1932, Mr. G. D. Sondhi, the then Honorary Secretary of the Indian Olympic Association, laid before the Executive Committee of his Association, the idea of organising a Western Asiatic Games Federation and of holding periodic Championships between the countries East of Suez and West of Singapore. The idea was approved of and given full support by His

Highness the late Shri Bhupindra Singh, Maharaja of Patiala and President of the Indian Olympic Association.

After two years of unremitting correspondence and personal effort the idea came to fruition in March 1934, when the First Western Asiatic Games were held in the newly constructed Irwin Amphitheatre, in New Delhi, and the Western Asiatic Games Federation was formed. For the first time in the history of India an international Sports Meet of four countries — Palestine, Afghanistan, Ceylon and India — took place on Indian soil, and five countries — Palestine, Afghanistan, Ceylon, Iran and India — joined in a Western Asiatic Games Federation. Later on, as the result of a good deal of correspondence, the then Dutch East Indies also agreed to come in.

It was hoped to celebrate the Western Asiatic Games, every four years, by rotation among the member countries, but Palestine, to which the next Games had been assigned was in the throes of political trouble and the 1938 Games could not be held and the second World War came soon after. Thus the Western Asiatic Games came to an end, and the Federation ceased to function.

In the absence of both the Far Eastern and Western Asiatic Games Organisations, it was time that another organisation should come into existence which should stimulate physical fitness and promote friendship between the youth of Asian countries.

The growing feeling of unity in Asian countries, further demanded that there should be one Federation only now to carry on this work.