
Regional Games

SOUTH ASIA FEDERATION GAMES

The South Asia Federation Games were held in Calcutta from 20th to 27th November 1987. Mr. Chittarnjan Biswas, a sports journalist in Calcutta (IND) has sent the following report :

The idea of a sports organization to help the cultural integration of South Asian countries was put forward at the 11th IOC Congress in Baden-Baden (FRG) and the South Asia Sports Federation came into being the same year, in November 1981. It was decided that the federation would organize games annually for the first five years, with the member nations of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka taking turns alphabetically to be host. After this period, the South Asia Federation (SAF) Games are to be held biennially. The first were in Kathmandu (NEP) in 1984 and the second in Dhaka (BAN) in 1985.

The third games were opened by the President of India, Mr. Ramaswamy Venkataraman. Miss P.T. Usha (IND), the Asian sprint champion, took the oath on behalf of the thousand sportsmen and women, who were accompanied into

the arena by "Babu", the Bengal tiger mascot. The games torch had arrived by road from Bangladesh at the Indian border on 19th November and been relayed 95 km to Calcutta by athletes.

The 1987 programme comprised the original five disciplines, track and field, boxing, football, swimming and weightlifting, together with kabaddi and wrestling which were added in 1986 and three new disciplines, basketball, volleyball and table tennis. Demonstrations of kho-kho took place daily.

Amongst the results : Miss Usha won five gold medals in track and field, running the 200 m in 24"14 and the 400 m in 53"42 ; the fastest man of the games was Mr. Shah Alam (BAN), who ran the 100 m in 10"78, and the fastest woman, Miss Sainy Joseph (IND), who ran the same distance in 12"20.

The closing ceremony took place in the presence of the Indian Minister of Human Resources Development, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mr. Jyoti Basu, the President of the Indian NOC and of the SASF, Mr. B.S. Adityan and the Mayor of Bengal.

Opening ceremony of the 3rd South Asian Federation Games in Calcutta.

