



'Disparity persists between Tigers and Tigresses'

Undoubtedly, cricket is the most loved and followed sport in Bangladesh. People across the country get excited and pumped up to see the likes of Tamim Iqbal and Mushfiqur Rahim in action and to know their stories as it is the men's team that garners most attention. However, in the midst of the nationwide lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, The Daily Star has tried to contact women cricketers and bring to light stories of their struggles, hardships or their motivation behind choosing the profession. In today's instalment, we unveil the story of all-rounder Rumana Ahmed, who played 38 ODIs and 65 T20Is since making her debut against Ireland in November 2011.

RUMANA TALUKDER

Rumana Ahmed started her cricketering journey playing in the courtyard at home. Before that she fell in love with the game while watching matches on TV.

"I loved to watch cricket matches on TV and I have actually grown up as a cricketer by watching all those matches. I would watch religiously whenever there was a cricket match on," Rumana reminisced.

She then asserted that passion was not good enough to become a professional; she instead had to overcome many hurdles because there were very few who looked kindly on girls playing cricket or any other sport in our society.

"Initially it was a very difficult journey. I think everyone loves cricket in our country but when it comes to women's cricket, not many are there to speak in favour of it. I don't think the scenario has

changed much, though women's cricket has been gradually taking shape in the country.

"I entered cricket in 2008 and I didn't get support from home as my mother didn't like it. But my brother and sisters told me that there was nothing wrong in a girl playing cricket and slowly my mother also changed her mind. Then I got a lot of encouragement from my sir [mentor Imtiaz Hossain], Salma apu [Salma Khatun] and others.

"But I faced a lot of problems from outside that circle. When I went out in jerseys people looked at me as if I was a strange being. Many even chanted slogans against me. People came to our home to convince my mother to stop me from playing. Many teased me on my way to the stadium from my house and that was the reason I started venturing out in casual dresses," Rumana recalled.

Rumana however said that



Khulna's rich cricket culture and her beloved 'Pilu' sir helped her immensely in realising her dreams.

The all-rounder said that the struggle has not ended yet for women's cricket in the country.

"I think things have changed a little after the women's team clinched the Asia Cup [in 2018].

Many people now know about women's cricket but there is a big disparity between men's and women's cricket in the country in terms of financial security and facilities. There are hardly any training facilities for women cricketers," she added.

Rumana was desperately looking for cricket to resume. "It's so frustrating as we have a lot of matches this year but due to the current situation, everything is uncertain."

She was however happy that the ICC had postponed the Women's World Cup Qualifier 2021, which Sri Lanka were scheduled to host from July 3 to July 19.

"At this moment we are not in cricket, so it would not be good for us to play without any preparation. Now, we will get time to prepare ourselves before going into the competition," Rumana concluded.

Booters, BFF discuss concerns in meeting

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF's) national teams committee is considering arranging a training camp for national players while ensuring proper isolation of the booters in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

The committee discussed the issue during an online conversation, which was attended by 26 footballers, the national team's committee chairman Kazi Nabil Ahmed, deputy chairman Tabith M Awal, manager Satyajit Das Rupu, head coach Jamie Day and assistant coach Stuart Watkiss.

During the hour-long meeting, officials talked about possible plans and coaches expressed satisfaction over the mental and physical health of the players, but the players again expressed concerns over the cancellation of the season and their future.

"We haven't seen each other for many days, although we all have been connected via WhatsApp. We discussed whether we can hold an isolation training camp for the players as soon as the situation improves," Nabil told The Daily Star.

"The response of the players to our first online initiative was really good. They were concerned about the new season and their contracts. We will definitely convey their concerns to the BFF president," he added.

Right-back Raihan Hasan added: "I said that footballers have been going through a financial crisis and a good decision regarding the players' contracts from the

federation can save both players and clubs."

Day and Watkiss have been following up on the home fitness regimens of the players via WhatsApp and striker Nabib Newaj Jibon said that they have been trying to follow the drills to maintain fitness.

"It is very important for every player to be fit. I know everyone has been in regular fitness training. Personally, I am looking forward to your positive attitude and I hope we can organise this training camp because we have to be an example for others," said captain Jamal Bhuiyan.

"The boys are good. It [the meeting] was to check the players' mental and physical welfare and possible plan of the national team going forward," said Jamie.



Liverpool and Egypt superstar Mohamed Salah gives the thumbs up after returning to training as the Reds were back at their West Derby complex on Wednesday for staggered sessions in small groups while social distancing was maintained.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Sadder than dancing with your sister, says Enrique

REUTERS

Spain coach Luis Enrique is no fan of playing matches sans spectators as leagues begin to return after being disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Playing matches without supporters is sadder than dancing with your sister," Luis Enrique said. Last weekend the Bundesliga became the first major European league to resume action.

"It's very ugly. I watched the German football and it's lamentable. You can hear the insults and you lose the intimacy of the great moments," added the former Barcelona midfielder and coach.

We would never endanger players, says Klopp

AFP, London

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said he will not put his players at risk or force them back into action against their will as the Premier League leaders returned to training in small groups on Wednesday.

Klopp's side were two wins away from ending a 30-year wait to win the title when the top-flight was shut down more than two months ago. Six positive cases of COVID-19 were detected in the PL's first round of 748 tests of players and staff ahead of a return to socially distanced training.

Klopp reiterated his priority is health, but believes it is now safe for players to phase one of training.

"We would never put anybody in danger to do what we want to do. Yes, we love football, yes, it's our job, but it's not more important than our lives or the lives of other people," Klopp told Sky Sports. "In this case if you don't feel safe, you don't have to be here."

Germany's Bundesliga resumed its season behind closed doors last weekend, becoming the first major league to do so, but the Premier League's target of restarting on June 12 has been called into question by players' concerns. However, Klopp would welcome a start date.

"None of us know when we will start. The earlier they can tell us, the better it is, of course," he added. "We can't start today and then start playing tomorrow. That doesn't work. We need time to get match fit and that's what we are doing at the moment."

However, some players remain unconvinced. Newcastle and England defender Danny Rose argued players are being treated like "guinea pigs or lab rats."

Watford captain Troy Deeney has said he will not return to training this week over fears he could pass the virus onto his five-month-old son, with three of the six positive cases in the Premier League registered at the club.

Deeney's teammate Adrian Mariappa confirmed he had tested positive, the bemused defender saying: "It was a big surprise because I haven't really left the house, apart from some exercise and the odd walk with the kids."

Nevertheless, the British government's Culture, Media and Sport Secretary Oliver Dowden was optimistic players could move to the next stage of training.

India to tour South Africa in August

AGENCIES

There is a strong chance that India and South Africa may indulge in a three-match T20I series in August, subject to government clearance from both countries.

A report in ESPNcricinfo claims the series, not officially part of the FTP, was discussed by BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and CSA director of cricket Graeme Smith in February and was finalised Wednesday.

The news was confirmed by CSA acting chief executive Jacques Faul, who revealed

the development Thursday. However, final approval will only be given near August, since it cannot go ahead if the government of both countries do not give approval.

India last toured South Africa in early 2018. After losing the Test series 1-2, India roared back, registering a resounding 5-1 win in ODIs and a 2-1 win in T20Is.

The return leg took place last year when South Africa toured India for three T20Is in October, a series they lost 1-2. The three ODIs were to be held in February but after the first match was washed out, the series was called off due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Club president Florentino Perez visited the football and basketball teams at Real Madrid City, where he spoke to coaches and players, including a smiling Marcelo, prior to the teams' training sessions at Valdebebas.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব) এর কার্যালয়
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে
সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম-৪০০০

ই-জিপি টেন্ডার নোটিশ

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প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব), বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম কর্তৃক National Electronic Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) এ নিম্নে বর্ণিত তরফিক নং-১, ৩, ৪ ও ৬ দরপত্র এবং তরফিক নং-১ ও ৫ পুনঃ দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়েছে।

ক্রমিক নং	টেন্ডার রেফারেন্স নং	টেন্ডার আইডি নং	ক্রয়ের ধরন ও কাজ/সেবাসহ ক্রয়ের নাম	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়
১	RE-CE/E/Rev/TS/46/E-Tender/2019-20 (Re-Tender)	458444	Goods: Supply of 1,00,000 Nos. MG 75 lbs 'A' dog Spike as per approved Drawing	OTM, NCT	11-Jun-2020 12:00 Hrs
২	CE/E/Rev/TS/43/E-Tender/2019-20	446506	Works: At SSAE/Way/ICGD Section: Complete Track Renewal of down receiving Loco line No. 5 (0.62km) at CGPY Yard by 75 A S/H rail and PSC sleeper with other related works	OTM, NCT	11-Jun-2020 12:00 Hrs
৩	CE/E/Deposit/TS/04/E-Tender/2019-20	452815	Works: At Jamuna siding under SSAE/Way/SYT Jurisdiction: Complete Track (500 ft) renewal by 75 'A' rail (S/H) and PC sleeper (new) of wooden sleepers MG Track having 60 lbs rail with other ancillary works	OTM, NCT	11-Jun-2020 12:00 Hrs
৪	CE/E/Rev/TS/50/E-Tender/2019-20	452820	Works: Making anchoring system of elastic rail clip with insert of existing concrete sleeper in AKA-SYT Section under DEN-2/DA Jurisdiction with other related works.	OTM, NCT	11-Jun-2020 12:00 Hrs
৫	RE-CE/E/Rev/TS/45/E-Tender/19-20 (Re-Tender)	459445	Works: At SSAE/Way/SSJ Section: Maintenance of MG track including shallow screening, mechanical tamping, casual renewal of rail, PSC sleeper, special wooden sleeper, providing sub base in place of pumping area, recoupment of short ballast, fittings and fastenings including other related works from km 214/0 to 264/4 in between MCR-SSJ station.	OTM, NCT	15-Jun-2020 12:00 Hrs
৬	CE/E/Rev/TS/40/E-Tender/2019-20	452491	Works: At Pahartoli Loco shed under SSAE/Way/CTG'S Jurisdiction: Complete track (Length 6.5 Km) renewal by 75A Rail and PC sleeper of wooden sleepers MG Track at PHT Loco Shed, GER shop, CCS Office Line and Store Depo Main line with other ancillary works	OTM, NCT	23-Jun-2020 12:00 Hrs

বিঃদ্রঃ
১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত eligibility শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরদাতাদের সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।
২. দরপত্রের অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরপত্র দাখিল করা ও দরপত্র জামানত বাবদ প্রাপ্য অর্থ নির্ধারিত ব্যাংকে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।

মোঃ রফিকুল ইসলাম
ট্র্যাক সাপ্লাই অফিসার (পূর্ব)
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম

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