

COMMONWEALTH SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS-NEW DELHI

Golden-fingered duo

SPORTS REPORTER

South Asian Games gold medalists Sharmin Akhter Ratna and Syeda Sadia Sultana checked India's gold spree in the Commonwealth Shooting Championships to bring laurels for Bangladesh when they jointly shot gold in the women's 10m air rifle pair event at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi in India yesterday.

Ratna (396) and Sadia (394) together fired 790 and won gold ahead of Indian pair Priya Agarwal (393) and Neha Sapta (389) who together made 782, to ensure the Bangladesh national anthem is played for the first time in the tournament.

It was double delight for Ratna as she was awarded a batch competition gold after having finished top with individual score of 396 while Sadia was awarded silver for the second best individual score in the competition.

It was also Bangladesh's second medal in the meet as Asif Hossain Khan, teaming up with Shovon Chowdhury, won the bronze medal in the men's 10m air rifle pair event on the opening day on Friday.

"It is a great pleasure for me because it was another international gold medal for me," Ratna told The Daily Star by phone from Delhi. "We knew it quite well that the Indian world-class shooters would dominate the range in the event and we were not concerned about the fact. Rather we concentrated on our game and in the end we emerged champions and it was an unexpected result for us," said the 21-year-old girl from Magura, who rated her success in the Commonwealth Shooting ahead of the SA Games.

Ratna and Sadia brought only the second gold from the Commonwealth Shooting Championships after Sabrina Sultana, who won the 50m rifle prone gold in the second Commonwealth Shooting

Championships held in Kuala Lumpur in 1997.

Ratna got off to an impressive start scoring 99 in her first shot and then made exact 100 before shooting 99 and 98 in the last two shots to end up with 396, two less than her best score of 398 set in the just concluded 11th South Asian Games at home.

Sadia was also not far behind as she

also made 99 in her first shot. She managed only a 96 in the next shot but bounced back in the last two shots scoring 100 and 99 to end up with 394 which helped Bangladesh end the jinx as well as put behind the Indian world-class shooters.

Keeping the October's Commonwealth Games at the same place in mind, Ratna and Sadia wanted

to assess their performance and concentrated on keeping their SA Games performance intact rather than thinking of clinching a medal though they were confident that they might win any medal if they could transfer their performance into the Commonwealth Shooting.

Except the opening day's bronze medal, it was a frustrating performance for the Bangladeshi shooters, especially male, who have been showing dismal performances and Ratna said that they were not worried over their male partners, saying that they were more or less maintaining their average.

The golden girl scored two less than her SA Games performance and said she was not worried over his performance.

"I am overall very happy with the performance," Ratna said. "I will try to keep the momentum in the individual 10m air rifle event tomorrow (Wednesday) and hopefully I will do well."

Ratna was also hopeful about her teammate Sadia, who just finished behind him making 394 and said they both would be able to keep the momentum in the individual event.

English pair Sheree Cox (390) and Sharon Lee (390) together scored 780 to win the bronze medal in the event.

In the 50m rifle 3 position event, Bangladeshi Toufique Shahriar Chandan and Abdullah Hel Baki finished fifth and six scoring a total of 1239.6 and 1235.3 respectively.

Both Chandan and Baki also bettered their performance as well as eclipsed Bangladesh's national record in the 50m 3 position event scoring 1143 and 1140 respectively in the qualification. Ramjan Ali holds the national record with 1133 in the event.

Meanwhile, Indian Sanjeev Rajput (1272.5), Gagan Narang (1269.3) and Imran Hasan Khan (1259.6) won the gold, silver and bronze medals respectively.



Shooters Sharmin Akhter Ratna (R) and Syeda Sadia Sultana. Ratna and Sadia brought smiles to Bangladesh once again as they won the women's 10m air rifle pair event of the Commonwealth Shooting Championships in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

BCB to get a CEO soon

Hira, Kalpage set to leave

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has decided to complete the procedure of appointing a new chief executive officer (CEO) by next month.

BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus informed after a marathon board meeting yesterday that the board was in the process of short-listing candidates for the positions of CEO and CFO (chief financial officer).

"Appointing a CEO is the most urgent issue for us. So far we have received thirty-five CVs and we will make the short-list very soon. We hope everything would be completed by next month," said Yunus.

The meeting has also taken some other important decisions. The board has decided that the contracts of team operations manager Shafiqul Haque Hira and GP-BCB National Cricket Academy Head coach Ruwan Kalpage will not be renewed. The contracts expire on March 31.

"We want to bring changes to the national

team management and that's why we have decided not to renew the contract of Hira. The board however will seriously consider using the vast experience and knowledge of the former national captain in some other suitable capacity within the BCB," said Yunus.

A decision regarding the contract of Bangladesh bowling coach Champaka Ramanayake, which is set to expire on March 31 as well, will be taken after discussions with head coach Jamie Siddons once he returns from Australia.

"We will also talk with head coach regarding national team's fielding coach," Yunus informed.

Former fielding coach Mohammad Salahuddin will be involved as a coach with the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy although most of the national players and head coach himself was yearning for a return of Salahuddin to the national team.

The board has decided to appoint a sports psychologist who will work with all national selections.

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India-SA 2nd ODI today

PTI, Gwalior

Faced with a do-or-die situation after the heartbreaking one-run loss in Jaipur, South Africa coach Corrie van Zyl Tuesday hinted that the visitors may make some changes in their side for the second one-day against India on Wednesday.

Asked if Test series' batting star Hashim Amla could find a place in the XI, Van Zyl said the rotation of players would continue as the Proteas have one eye on the 2011 World Cup in the sub-continent.

"Each of the 16 players in the squad is capable. Winning or losing, we will try to get the best combination. Quicker we get the combination the better. Rotation will go much longer than this tour," Van Zyl said.

"This is the place where the

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ORDER OF THE DAY: Dropping catches was the main feature of BCB XI's fielding in the practice match against England at Fatullah yesterday. Here (L-R) Nayeem Islam, Shafaq Al Jabir and captain Shahriar Nafees are seen spilling chances.



PHOTOS: STAR



Australia fast bowler Brett Lee.

PHOTO: FILE

Lee quits Tests

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Brett Lee, Australia's fourth-highest wicket-taker, has retired from Test cricket after admitting his body could no longer handle the demands of the five-day game. Lee has decided to focus on ODIs and Twenty20s as he aims to rejoin Australia's team and collect a second World Cup Trophy in 2011.

"I'm not 21, I'm 33," Lee told Seven. "Trying to bowl at 150kph for five days is very hard on the body."

Lee, who took 310 wickets in 76 Tests, said his most special achievement was playing for more than a decade in Australia's top team. His final game in a baggy green was in Melbourne in 2008 and he limped off towards the end of the match with a fractured left foot, which required an operation and another long lay-off.

An untimely side strain kept him out of the first three 2009 Ashes Tests and he was angry to miss the final two matches when the series was at stake. The selectors doubted he could last five days and were quickly proved right. Lee was approaching peak form again during the Champions Trophy, but was forced home from the one-day tour of India with an elbow problem.

When the injury required surgery he took time out to decide whether he wanted to go through another extended recovery. Cutting his workload became the only option and the decision also keeps him closer to his young son Preston.

During his time at the top Lee suffered career-threatening elbow and foot injuries, but was able to return to the Test team each time and regain his high speeds. While he spent much of his career behind Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie as a high-voltage weapon, he also proved he could lead the attack after

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BATTING AND FIELDING										
Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	4s	6s	Ct St
76	90	18	1451	64	20.15	0	5	182	18	23 0

BOWLING										
Mat	Inns	Balls	Runs	Wkts	Ave	Econ	SR	4w	5w	10
76	150	16531	9554	310	30.81	3.46	53.3	17	10	0

London Tigers meet BFF

SPORTS REPORTER

The officials of London Tigers, a semi-professional UK-based club, expressed their desire to extend their helping hand to Bangladesh football in a courtesy meeting at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) House yesterday.

Mesba Ahmed, chief executive of London Tigers, along with two officials met with BFF vice-president Kazi Nabil Ahmed, member Anwarul Haq Helal and general secretary Al Musabbir Sadi after

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Neo Cricket & SuperSport2
India v South Africa
Second ODI
Live from 3:00pm

SuperSport7
UEFA Champions League
CSKA Moscow v Sevilla
Live from 11:00pm

Inter Milan v Chelsea
Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

ESPN
SportsCenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

'Eng are beatable'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board XI skipper Shahriar Nafees thinks that England are very much a beatable side claiming that they have shortage of wicket-taking bowlers and Bangladesh can eke out an odd win against them if they can utilise home conditions to good effect.

"What I can tell you is that England are very much a beatable side. They have a shortage of wicket-taking bowlers. The strategy that they follow may help us at home given that we can utilise our own conditions."

The left-handed opening batsman also said, after his side lost to the tourists by huge 112 runs, that they might have given a better fight

had they fielded better.

"The result may give a wrong indication, but we should have restricted them to 270 instead of 370 had we fielded better. Another thing to notice was that we only had two spinners in the side and both of them are off-break bowlers. That was probably a decision by the selectors not to expose our main weapon (leg-spin) early in the series."

Shahriar blamed poor fielding for the big margin of defeat but defended his decision to take bowling after winning the toss as a tactical one made in unison.

"It was decided in consultation with the coach. The wicket remains damp in the morning, so we wanted to take advantage of the condition which should have been the case had we not dropped so many chances."

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NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE

Ashraful's woes on

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Ashraful continued his poor run of form but Dhaka rode on Mehrab Hossain's hundred to recover from early hiccups against Chittagong on the second day of the second round match of the second phase of 11th National Cricket League at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Away at BKSP in Savar, pacer Mohammad Shahjada hogged the spotlight with a six-wicket haul to give Rajshahi an advantage against Khulna.

Right-hander Ashraful, who joined his divisional team soon after returning from New Zealand in an attempt to get back among runs before the England series, faced five balls

before falling victim of a run out as Dhaka were reduced to 37 for four.

Our-of-favour Mehrab Hossain however then went to the rescue as the left-hander hit 101 off 196 balls with 13 boundaries while Mohammad Sharif contributed 50 off 72 balls that contained four boundaries and a six, but still Dhaka fell 73 runs short of Chittagong's first innings total of 312.

Kazi Kamrul caused the main damage by taking four wickets for 31 runs as Dhaka were bundled out for 239 runs.

Earlier Chittagong could add 18 more runs on the day after resuming their innings on 294 for eight.

In the match at the BKSP, Shahjada

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