



The Bangladesh cricketers stand somberly on the podium with the silver medals after losing the final of the Women's Twenty20 event of the Asian Games at the Yeonhui Cricket Ground in Incheon yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Tigresses settle for silver

ANISUR RAHMAN from Incheon



Bangladesh women's cricket team let slip a gold medal from their grasp as they lost the final of the Twenty20 event of the Asian Games against Pakistan by four runs in a tense final at the Yeonhui Cricket ground yesterday.

The result was a repeat of last edition's final where Bangladesh had lost against the same opponents by 10 wickets. But the way the Tigresses lost the match despite being in a winning position will surely haunt them for a long time. However, the team can return home with the consolation of giving Bangladesh the only medal of the 17th Asian Games so far.

With a very simple equation of 43 runs for victory from 42 deliveries in the revised target following a heavy downpour after the Pakistan innings (97/6 in 20 overs), the Bangladesh batters showed their utmost impatience and gave away the wickets. In the end, they fell five runs short of the target which gave Pakistan back-to-back gold medals in cricket's short history in the Games.

After being put in to bowl first, Bangladesh managed to restrict Pakistan to below hundred-mark, thanks to two wickets each from Salma Khatun and Sharmin Shaila.

But the sudden downpour delayed the match for almost two hours and Bangladesh were given a revised target of 43 runs in Duckworth Lewis method. Bangladesh got off to a flying start by scoring 10 runs in the first over with opener Ayesha Rahman Shuktara hammering a four over the midwicket. But Ayesha and her opening partner Rumana Ahmed got run out needlessly in the third over to leave Bangladesh 20 for two in three overs.

Still the match was in Bangladesh favour, but when skipper Salam Khatun and Farjana Haque got out irresponsibly in the fifth over, things started to look bleak for the Tigresses.

Bangladesh needed just 10 runs in the last 12 deliveries but could manage only five runs, losing three more wickets as their dream of winning the gold medal was extinguished. "It is really disappointing when you lose a match from such a winning position. It is an agony which will take a lot of time to heal," said a dejected Salma after the medal-distribution ceremony.

"Every batter was asked to focus on singles but no one did that in the middle. I can't understand why they batted in such an aggressive way," said Salma.

"I think the girls were a bit tensed and excited at the same time as sensed that they were going to make it," said Salma. "But we should have kept our heads cool to reach the easy target."

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 97 for 6 in 20 overs (Marina 14, Bismah 24, Nain 18, Sana 10, Nida 10 not out; Rumana 2-13)

BANGLADESH: 38 for 9 in 7 overs (Ayasha 7, Rumana 10, Farzana 10; Sana 2-11, Sadia 2-2, Nida 2-2)

Result: Pakistan won by 4 runs (D/L method)

KOOL-BSJA MEDIA CUP Daily Star in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

The Daily Star set up a semifinal clash against My TV in the Kool-BSJA Media Cup Football Tournament after coming out with a 4-2 win in tiebreakers over Bdnews24.com in a tense quarterfinal at the BFF artificial turf in Motijheel yesterday.

Chances were all around, but neither team were willing to take those, rather preferring to take things to the shoot-out where the leading English daily prevailed 4-2, with goalkeeper Fahd Mannan saving one effort from the opponents before showing his shooting skills, which earned him the man-of-the-match honours.

In the day's other quarterfinals, Dhaka Tribune defeated reigning champions RTV 2-0, Somoy TV triumphed over Jamuna TV by a score of 1-0 and My TV routed Banglavisian 4-0.

The Daily Star v My TV semifinal will be held at 10.30am after Dhaka Tribune will square up against Somoy TV. The fans are looking forward to a Daily Star and Tribune face-off in the finals, a rivalry which eclipses that of even Brazil and Argentina, although they both face stern tests to make the finals.

Zia maintains sole lead

SPORTS REPORTER

The games of the Berger Paints National A Chess sponsored by Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited and Organised by Bangladesh Chess Federation started again from yesterday (Friday) after one rest day at the Media Centre of Bangladesh Olympic Association.

GM Ziaur Rahman maintained his sole lead after the sixth round of Berger Paints National A Chess with 5.5 points. Zia beat Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar in the sixth round at the Bangladesh Olympic Association media centre yesterday.

GM Enamul Hossain, who beat FM Rezaul Haque, was in second position with 5 points while GM Niaz Murshed grabbed the third position with 4.5 points after beating Uten. Reigning champion CM Abdullah Al Rakib beat CM Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin.

Archers fall early

SPORTS REPORTER from incheon



With experienced archer Emadul Haque Milon already eliminated from ranking round, the responsibility of performing well in the Asian Games fell on Asian Grand Prix gold medallist Ruman Shana. But the teenage archer followed the footsteps of his senior teammates as he failed to make it past the 1/16 round in the Individual recurve bow event at the Gyeongang Asiad Archery Field yesterday.

Not only Ruman but the other Bangladeshi archers too, except for Mathui Prue Marma, were also eliminated from their respective first matches of the elimination round.

Though Ruman put some sort of fight against Uzbekistan's Denis

Gankin before going down by 1-7 set points, Sheikh Sojib failed to produce any resistance against North Korea's Pak Youngwon as he lost his 1/16 elimination round match by 0-6 set points (30-28, 27-21, 27-26).

Ruman lost narrowly to Gankin in the first two sets (26-27, 28-29) before drawing the third set (27-27) but lost the fourth set by 26-29 points amid strong wind and chilly weather.

"It was tough to compete amid strong wind and I lost to wind," said Ruman, adding that he had beaten better archers than Gankin in Thailand.

"If I had the experience of practising in such windy conditions back in home, I could have beaten him easily. You know I have hit the highest 10.9 and then hit lowest 7 only because of lack of experience to throw arrows in wind," said the 19-year-old archer.

Blaming the wind for his 60 per cent

of defeats, Ruman urged the authorities back home to keep this in mind in future when they arrange training for the archers.

Mathui Pru Marma, however, was a bit better than the others as the 27-year-old archer advanced into the 1/8 elimination round of the women's Individual recurve bow event. She beat Mongolia's Enkhtuya Altangerel by 6-4 set points before losing to Ming Cheng of China by 2-6 (28-29, 25-28, 28-27, 25-28) points.

Mathui's teammate Shamoly Roy suffered a 2-6 set point defeat to Indonesia's Diananda Choirunisa in the 1/16 elimination round. In the team event, the men's recurve team produced a good fight against Mongolia before going down by 4-5 set points in tiebreaker. The women's team suffered 0-6 set-points defeat against Indonesia in the 1/8 elimination round.

Mohammedan qualify, Abahani out

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan SC beat arch-rivals Abahani 2-0 to qualify for the semifinal of the Airtel U-18 Football Tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Black and Whites, who were the champions of the first edition of this youth tournament held among U-16 teams of premier league clubs, emerged champions of Group B with eight points from four matches, followed by other qualifiers Brothers Union, who finished with six points. Abahani were eliminated after collecting only five points.

In the day's second match on a soggy pitch at the BNS, Mohammedan took the lead in the 28th minute through a

penalty by Badrul Hauque Tutul. Shomridha Nokrek confirmed all three points for the Black and Whites by scoring in the 68th minute.

In the second semifinal on Monday, Mohammedan will face Group A runners-up Team BJMC, who qualified on the luck of coin toss, after having equal points and goal-difference with Muktiyoddha Sangsad. Group A champions Sheikh Russel will play against Brothers Union in the first semifinal on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Uttar Baridhara Club and Feni Soccer Club finished fourth and fifth respectively in the group after playing out a 1-1 draw in the first match of the day at the same venue.

Mohammad Kamrul gave Baridhara the lead in the 27th minute before Mohammad Tasin equalised for Feni in the 72nd minute.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Mohammedan SC youngsters celebrate a goal against Abahani in their group's last match of the Airtel U-18 Football Tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Cairns charged with perjury

AFP, London



British prosecutors on Thursday charged former New Zealand great Chris Cairns with perjury.

The charge relates to a 2012 libel action that Cairns successfully brought against former Indian Premier League chairman Lalit Modi over a tweet accusing the all-rounder of match-fixing during his time in the now-defunct Indian Cricket League (ICL).

While Cairns, 44, has been charged with one count of perjury, a friend who appeared as a witness at the libel trial, lawyer Andrew Fitch-Holland, has been charged with perverting the court of justice.

The two men were formally charged on Thursday after attending a central London police station and are due to appear before a court in London on October 2. Cairns could face seven years in prison if found guilty.

Marvan targets WC glory

AFP, Colombo



New Sri Lanka coach Marvan Atapattu targeted more success for cricket's reigning T20 champions in next year's 50 over World Cup, saying morale was on a high.

In his first press conference since landing the job full-time, Atapattu said there was no danger of complacency among his players and even star

batsman Kumar Sangakkara recognised there was room for improvement ahead of the tournament in New Zealand and Australia.

"It is the World Cup that is our focus. Our morale is high. We have had a good run in the past six months and obviously the challenge for me is to sustain the success and build on it," Atapattu told reporters.

"I have a team of players who are willing to listen and learn. Even the world's number one batsman

(Sangakkara) always wants to learn something new to add to his game."

Sri Lankan cricket has been buoyed by its T20 World Cup triumph in April followed by Test series victories against England and Pakistan when Atapattu was interim coach.

Although world number one team South Africa did snatch a 1-0 victory in a two-Test series in July, the 43-year-old Atapattu did enough to impress cricket chiefs who handed him a two-year contract earlier this week.

Younis offers to step aside

AFP, Karachi

Disgruntled Pakistan batsman Younis Khan said Friday he was disappointed at being dropped from the one-day side and said he would step aside from all cricket for five months to allow the team to rebuild.

Next year's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand is due to be held in February -- five months from now -- and the 36-year-old is unlikely to be picked given his poor form in limited overs in recent years.

But he remains Pakistan's best middle-order batsman in Tests, where his absence could seriously hurt the team's chances against Australia and New Zealand.

"Don't select me, not even in Tests. I sacrifice my future," Younis told reporters in Karachi.

"Why are we rebuilding this (team) in the last three, four months?"

The stylish right-hander, who averages over 51 in Tests with 24 centuries to his name, has seen turmoil in the past and has a reputation for his outspoken comments.

In 2006 he refused to stand in for then-injured skipper, Inzamam-ul-Haq, saying he did not want to be a "dummy captain".