

# SPORT



The Bangladesh archers rejoice at their success at the end of the 1st ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championship at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. The hosts won six gold medals out of nine on offer on the concluding day of the event.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Rabbi dreaming of Kohli's weakness

SPORTS REPORTER



Pacer Kamrul Islam Rabbi has a very simple method: read batsmen accurately, especially their weaknesses, to earn success in international cricket. Getting the prized scalp of New Zealand captain Kane Williamson's wicket was a dream held by the right-arm paceman before the tour and he fulfilled it by exploiting Williamson's weakness to the out-swing.

Now, he has a dream to get the wicket of India skipper Virat Kohli when the Tigers play the one-off Test starting in Hyderabad from February 9.

"Williamson wanted to know what kind of weakness I see in his game. I replied that he has a weakness to the away-swinging ball on the off stump. He then told me that finding his weakness will help me be successful against other batsmen in the future. It is very important in international cricket to read the opponents," said Rabbi while talking to reporters in Mirpur yesterday.

"Everybody dreams of scalping the big one. When I started playing cricket I dreamt

of getting the scalp of Sachin Tendulkar which would have been a big achievement, but he already retired from cricket. But I am able to get the wicket of Virat Kohli in the coming series, it will be one of the biggest achievements in my life because the Indian captain is now one of the world's best batsmen," he said.

The 25-year old pacer toured India with the Bangladesh A team earlier, so he has knowledge of the conditions, which are altogether different from New Zealand and similar to home conditions. But Rabbi believes that it will be a tough tour, especially for the pace bowlers.



"When we played against them [India], nothing seemed different. Their weather, culture and many other things are similar to us. But India is a much tougher Test side and they have a lot of performers. It will not be easy to play against them," he opined.

He was however also optimistic about Bangladesh. "All our important players have been playing international cricket for long, they are performers and they have the ability to play big innings. We will be able to return from India with a good result if we can play to our potential."

## Hosts win targetted six

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Bangladesh ended the inaugural ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championship campaign on a high after grabbing six gold medals out of nine on the concluding day at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Before the start of the championship, sanctioned by Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF), the Bangladesh Archery Federation set a target of winning at least six gold medals. Although most hopes were placed on individual events to realise that target, they managed only one gold from four individual events after gold hopefuls Ruman Sana, Tamimul Islam, Beauty Roy, Shyamoli Roy and Abul Kashem Mamun failed to excel in the recurve and compound individual events.

Bangladesh achieved their declared target by winning five gold medals in team events -- compound men's team, compound mixed team, recurve men's team, recurve women's team, recurve mixed team and one from recurve women's individual event in which the unheralded Hira Moni bagged gold. The three other golds up for grabs -- the recurve men's individual, compound women's individual and compound men's individual -- went to Saudi

Arabia, Iraq and Malaysia respectively.

Hira set the tone for the day after beating Azerbaijan's Ramozamova Yaylagul. The 18-year-old student from BKSP faced a stiff challenge from Ramozamova, who won the first set before Hira bounced back to win the next two. Ramozamova again levelled the margin by winning the fourth set. The deciding fifth set was a hard-fought one which Hira clinched after scoring 27 against Ramozamova's 25 points.

"My preparation was not good due to the [college] examinations but I tried to keep scoring what I scored in the training. When I reached the final, I was confident of winning the gold," said Hira, who won her maiden international medal in her fifth international competition.

Like Hira, Bonna Akter could have had the last laugh in the compound women's individual event but she lost 133-135 to Iraqi Fatimah Al Mashhadani due to a lack of international experience.

Participating in her first international event, Bonna provided tough competition for her illustrious opponent, who has two international golds. The girl from Faridpur could have taken the final into a tiebreak had her two points not been deducted because she took more time than allotted.

"I am happy with what I have

achieved in my debut international tournament because I have an idea about international competition. I think this experience will help me do better in the future," said Bonna, who enrolled in archery three years ago and started participating in competitive tournaments last year.

The recurve men's team comprising Ruman Sana, Sanwar Hossain and Tamimul Islam beat their Nepalese counterparts by 6-2; the recurve women's team comprising Shyamoli Roy, Beauty Roy and Radia Akter beat their Nepalese counterparts by 6-2; the compound men's team comprising Mamun, Najmul Huda and Milon Molla beat their Malaysian opponents 214-207; the compound mixed team comprising Mamun and Sushmita Bonik beat their Iraqi counterparts 149-141 and the recurve mixed team comprising Ruman and Beauty beat their Bhutanese counterparts 6-2 to win gold medals.

"I think the archers could not perform well in individual events because of a lack of international experience and temperament. The foreign archers are regularly taking part in international tournaments but our archers can only take part in one or two international meets," said Bangladesh's Indian coach Nishith Das.

## East romp with a day to spare

SPORTS REPORTER



Islami Bank East Zone completed a comprehensive victory over Walton Central Zone at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra on the third day of the first round of the Bangladesh Cricket League, the premier four-day cricket competition of the country.

It was a team effort that helped East Zone beat Central by nine wickets. In the first innings, Abu Jayed's five-wicket haul and Liton Das's staggering 219 helped them take a lead. In the second innings, almost all the strike bowlers came to the party to bundle Central out for just 198 in 77.5 overs. Saqlain Sajib and Abul Hasan took three each, while Jayed and Ebadat Hossain finished with two scalps to their names. Shamsur Rahman was the only one who showed some fight for Central, scoring 51 off 104 balls at the top. However, Central's middle order just could not survive the disciplined bowling attack from East Zone.

As a result, East Zone needed just 56 to win the game. Liton, the hero of the first innings, was dismissed by Shamsur for just six. However, Mehedi Maruf and Zakir Hossain put on a 50-run stand for the second wicket to calmly take East

Zone home.

The day's other game at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium is headed for a draw. BCB North Zone batted out the first two days against Prime Bank South Zone. With Naeem Islam's overnight score of 176, captain Jahurul Islam decided against declaring.

Naeem, however, was trapped by his former national colleague Abdur Razzak for 185 in the 190th over, which is when North decided to declare.

After the exchange, South Zone's batsmen showed just how good a wicket the match was being played on when the openers raced off the blocks. Shahriar Nafees and Fazole Mahmud put on 80 runs in the first 19 overs. While they did lose two quick wickets to get reduced to 108 for two, Fazole stuck around and built partnerships with Tushar Imran, Mohammad Mithun and Mosaddek Hossain.

He put on 84 runs with Tushar, 55 with Mithun and an unbeaten 47 with Mosaddek. In the process he ended up scoring 121 with 14 fours and two sixes. For the sake of his team, he will want to carry on with his bat on the final day.

Tajjul Islam, who recently returned from New Zealand and finished with figures of three for 81, was the pick of the bowlers for BCB North Zone.



Liton Das: Player-of-the-match

### SCORES IN BRIEF

<b>WALTON CENTRAL ZONE VS ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE</b>
<b>WALTON CENTRAL ZONE:</b> 224 and 198 all out in 77.5 overs (Shamsur 51, Marshall 35; Saqlain 3-39, Abul 3-42, Ebadat 2-40, Jayed 2-48)
<b>ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE:</b> 367 and 57 for 1 (Zakir 33 not out, Mehedi 14 not out; Shamsur 1-16)
<b>RESULT:</b> East Zone won by nine wickets.
<b>BCB NORTH ZONE V PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE</b>
<b>BCB NORTH ZONE:</b> 492 for 9 declared (Naeem 185, Jahurul 65; Razzak 5-185)
<b>PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE:</b> 294 for 4 (Fazole 121 not out, Tushar 47; Tajjul 3-81)

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