

SPORT



Bangladesh's Beauty Roy takes a selfie with teammates during the qualification rounds of the 2nd ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championships at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Hosts far from best

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Though none of the Bangladesh archers were able to score their individual bests on the opening day of the ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championships, the host nation's top archers -- Roman Sana and Roksana Akter -- finished on top of the qualification rounds for the recurve and compound events at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Roman scored 666 out of 720, just one point shy of his best score which came at the South Asian Archery Championships in March, in the qualification round for the men's recurve event. In the same event Ibrahim Sheikh frustrated with a score of 620, 30 less than his exploits at the SA Archery Championship which earned him gold, to finish 10th out of 26 competitors.

Timimul Islam scored 647, three short of his highest tally which was produced at the Asian Archery Championships in Dhaka last November, to finish third while Sheikh Sajib scored 619 to claim 11th place. Saudi Arabia's Binali Abdalehah was second with 652 points.

"Actually our archers faced some difficulties to find the target due to

heavy winds at the venue but the coach inspired me from the back to do well," said Roman. "I had a consistent performance because of I have international experience but my teammates faced problems due to the strong wind. The scores could have been better had we got a few days to practice here."

SA Archery Championships gold-medallist Ibrahim seemed upset with his scores and blamed a pain in his wrist as well as tension over his SSC examination results as the culprits behind the result.

"Apart from strong winds during the shot, I also felt pain in my wrist. Besides, I was a bit worried over my SSC result but I am now looking forward to doing better in the elimination round and have set a target to reach the semifinals," said Ibrahim, who passed the SCC exam with 3.32 GPA.

In the women's compound qualification round, Roksana Akter scored 676, 20 more than her result at the SA Archery Championship but 8 less than her score at the Asian Archery Championship in Dhaka, which was her overall best. Roksana secured the top position while Bonna Akter (659), Ritu Akter (652) and Soma Biswas (635), finished fourth, fifth and sixth respectively. Estonia's Hoiem Emily and Iraq's Almash Hadani Fatmah scored

672 and 666 to claim the second and third positions respectively to put some pressure on Roksana, who won a gold medal in the women's compound event at the SA Archery Championships in March at the BKSP.

Bangladesh's German coach Martin Fredrick had no explanation for the poor show from the host team but the 50-year-old was still looking forward to the elimination round.

"It was a little complicated today [Sunday] and the first spell of shooting was not good but they did well in the second part of the game. Especially, Roksana in compound event did well to finish on top. Roman also finished top in the men's recurve event. We are looking forward to how the boys and girls will perform in head-to-head competition [Elimination round]," said Fredrick, who has been training local archers since late February.

"I don't count medals, rather I will count how many arrows the archers shoot flawlessly. I try to fight, try to do my best, I try to motivate the team and see what happens," Fredrick continued.

The qualification round for the women's recurve and men's compound events will be held today alongside the men's recurve and women's compound elimination rounds.

Feeble Tigresses blown away

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Batting was once again the biggest weakness for the touring Bangladesh women's cricket team as Rumana Ahmed and her troops crumbled to their second defeat in the five-match ODI series against their South African counterparts, this time by a crushing nine-wicket margin in the second ODI at Senwes Park in Potchefstroom yesterday.

After suffering their biggest 50-over defeat, by 106 runs in Friday's first ODI during which the Tigresses were bundled out for 164 runs in chase of 271, the Bangladesh batters were shot out for just 89 in 39.5 overs after electing to bat yesterday.

The visitors were reeling on 45 for eight inside 23 overs, but Jahanara Alam and Panna Ghosh added 37 runs for the ninth wicket and helped Bangladesh avoid their lowest ever ODI total of 60 all out against the same opposition at home in 2012.

Panna remained unbeaten on 20 and Jahanara added 18 while Nigar Sultana scored 17. Those were the only double-digit scores in a sordid innings.

Player-of-the-match medium pacer Ayabonga Khaka and off-spinner Raisibe Ntozakhe bagged three wickets each for the bowling side.

In reply, South Africa reached the target in 17.1 overs for the solitary loss of opener Lizelle Lee, who was caught off Salma Khatun for 32. Her opening partner Laura Wolvaardt remained unbeaten on 37 runs.

Bangladesh will take on the hosts in the third ODI on May 9 at the Diamond Oval in Kimberley.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh: 89 all out in 39.5 overs (Nigar 17, Panna 20 not out, Jahanara 18; Khaka 3-13, Ntozakhe 3-16)
South Africa: 90 for 1 in 17.1 overs (Lee 32, Wolvaardt 37 not out; Salma 1-19)
Result: South Africa women won by 9 wickets.

AFC WOMEN'S FUTSAL

Disappointment for Bangladesh

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The Bangladesh women's team completed their AFC Women's Futsal Championship campaign with a third consecutive defeat, losing 6-1 to Chinese Taipei in the final Group B match in Bangkok yesterday.

Chinese Taipei dominated throughout the 40-minute indoor game, where Bangladesh trailed by four goals in the first half before captain Sabina Khatun struck a consolation goal a minute into the second half. However, Chinese Taipei added two more goals within two minutes to confirm their semifinal berth.

Bangladesh had earlier suffered heavy 7-1 and 7-0 defeats to Malaysia and Vietnam respectively.

Coach Golam Rabbani Choton, however, was satisfied with the overall performance of his charges in their debut appearance in this format of the game.

"Today I think our girls showed what they learned from the first two matches. We have a lot of talented players here, but they're new to futsal. I think they're becoming a good futsal team. They are becoming more confident and today we had four or five great chances. I think they did very well," Choton was quoted as saying on the AFC's official website.

Mumbai keep playoff hopes alive

PTI, Mumbai

Suryakumar Yadav's successive half-century and an all-round performance from Hardik Pandya powered Mumbai Indians to a 13-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders on Sunday, keeping them in play-offs contention in the Indian Premier League.

Yadav continued his rich run with a fourth fifty of the tournament before Pandya plundered 35 off 20 to nudge the hosts to 181 for four. Yadav's opening partner Evin Lewis (45 off 28) too made a valuable contribution in the 91-run stand.

KKR skipper Dinesh Karthik tried his best to get his team over the line but was unable and by the final over, KKR needed 23 runs and Krunal Pandya defended them comfortably with the innings ending at 168 for six.

In the day's second match, Lokesh Rahul smashed an unbeaten half-century after young off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman's exploits with the ball to guide Kings XI Punjab to a comfortable six wicket win over Rajasthan Royals.

Chasing a modest 153, Rahul anchored Punjab's innings, scoring 84 off 54 balls with the help of seven boundaries and three sixes to guide his side home with eight balls to spare.

Jubair looking within

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With high expectations on his shoulders when he was picked straight from a net session and thrust into the national team by then head coach Chandika Hathurusingha in October 2014, leg-spinner Jubair Hossain has somehow lost his way since.

Since making his Test debut at the age of 18, Jubair impressed with his ability to bowl in a particular area consistently and picked up his maiden five wicket haul in his third Test against Zimbabwe in November 2014.

The cricketer from Jamalpur however was unable to utilise his talent for a prolonged spell and his national career stalled after just seven Tests, three ODIs and a solitary T20I. Much of the blame for that was Jubair's own as he lacked fitness, but there was also a lack of guidance from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

More than three years later, the 22-year-old is now hard at work on his fitness and is bowling regularly at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. He said yesterday that he had lost weight and was also gaining confidence in his bowling.

"I have been working individually on my fitness and bowling for the past one month. I was not that fit before but now I have lost some weight and also gotten fitter. I am bowling at least 20 overs each day under [Human Kabir] Shahin bhai, who is helping me with my bowling. Normally the board does not offer facilities to everyone, but luckily I am getting it and I was also included in the High Performance side, so I am thankful to the BCB," Jubair told reporters in Mirpur.

Interestingly, Jubair did not feature in any of the domestic games this season. He however said that such things are not in his hands and that he is only waiting for the opportunity.

At a time when leg-spinners like Rashid Khan, Imran Tahir and Yuzvendra Chahal are among the top 10 T20I bowlers, for someone with Jubair's strong start it may seem a misfortune to not be in the limelight. To his credit, he is not looking for excuses but instead said that his downfall was because of his young age and lack of hard work.

"To be honest I have nothing to do about it [not being picked in domestic cricket] and maybe there is some problem in me, which is the reason that the clubs are not interested. Maybe it's because of the team combination too but I won't blame anyone; maybe it's my fault," he added.



Academy Cup from May 20

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The BCB Academy Cup, a tournament organised by the Bangladesh Cricket Board [BCB] game development committee that will feature 32 cricket academy coaching schools of the Dhaka Metropolitan zone, is set to start from May 20.

The intention of the 40-over tournament is to provide more opportunities to cricketers of various cricket academies across Dhaka aged between 15 and 18. The BCB is also planning to select 15-20 talented players from the event and include them in the High Performance camp for further training.

A total of 16 knockout matches will be played in the first round with the winners of each match progressing to the quarterfinals. The champions will receive Tk 1 lakh, while the runners-up will get Tk 50,000.

This is the first time that there will be a formal tournament with the participation of the cricket academies of Dhaka. The BCB also plans to stage this tournament every year from now on to enrich the pipeline of cricketers coming into the High Performance and A teams.

Like father, like son

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It is quite the rare sight to see a father and son represent their nation together, especially in the world of sport, but there was such an instance in the 2nd ISSF Islamic International Archery Championships, where Mohamed Albooshi and his son Saud from the United Arab Emirates were taking part in the men's recurve event.

Saud took up the bow in 2017, only a year after his father's international debut, and Mohamed, a policeman by day, has not only inspired his eldest son to take up archery but also both his daughters and another son.

Mohamed and his son have travelled to Morocco and Thailand before finding themselves in Bangladesh, where Saud, a ninth-grade student, outshone his father by finishing 16th out of 24 competitors with a score of 585 while 43-year-old Mohamed scored 500 to finish second-last.

The father-son duo also admitted they enjoyed the travelling aspect of taking part in national competitions. Mohamed has played in France, Denmark and Kuwait while Saud has been to Russia and Spain.

However, Saud has experienced something in Bangladesh which he had not seen elsewhere.

"It takes us only five minutes to reach the venue from the hotel but it takes more than half-an-hour to reach the hotel from the venue," said a smiling Saud.

The youngster is accompanied by three teammates, including his father, and coach Osama Elgemezy, who believed such archery championships are the right platform for Saud to improve.



UAE's Mohamed Albooshi (R) was outscored by his son Saud Albooshi in the 2nd ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championships yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

"I have yet to win an international medal but I believe I can do it one day," Saud said.

Mohamed, who always inspires his son, was visibly happy to see his son outdo him in the competition and is keen to see him develop further.