



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.

No word on coach yet

Booters left idle with SAFF C'ship nearing

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) held its ninth meeting of the new executive committee yesterday, without two of the three members of the National Teams Committee (NTC) present. The meeting took quite a few decisions, especially regarding professional football league and other domestic leagues, but did not come to a decision regarding the vacant position of the national team's head coach.

The national team have been without a coach for almost 40 days since last coach Andrew Ord left his job following the team's friendly in Laos against the hosts on March 27.

When asked about the issue of the coach, BFF's senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshed said these things would be decided on NTC meeting while BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said a final decision regarding the appointment of a new coach would be made public in seven days' time.

It may be mentioned here that NTC chairman Kazi Nabil Ahmed, who is currently outside the country, had told media on April 18 that: 'A coach will be appointed within ten days'.

There has been no interim coach and no training camp either for the booters since Ord's departure and all the clubs, except for

Abahani, have had no domestic or international engagements in the meantime.

With the crucial SAFF Championship only four months away -- to be held in Dhaka from September 4 to 15 -- the players are sitting absolutely idle, as the new football season will start at least a month after that South Asian event.

Murshed, who is also chairman of Professional Football League Committee, said that the meeting decided on principle to hold the preseason transfers from the last week of July to August 30.

The meeting also decided that the Bangladesh Premier League would be held between a minimum of five and a maximum of eight venues from the upcoming season, which will start with the Federation Cup in the middle of October.

The last edition of the league was held in a single venue despite demand from sponsors and against the guidelines of Asian Football Confederation.

The number of foreign participants in the league will also be increased -- four foreigners will be eligible for registration including one in Asian quota with three of them eligible to be fielded in a single match -- in line with AFC competitions format.

Meanwhile, BFF higher-ups informed that they would sign an agreement today with Prime Sports for all the rights regarding Bangladesh's national-level teams' competitions and matches.

AFC WOMEN'S FUTSAL

Disappointment for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

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.

Feeble Tigresses blown away

SPORTS REPORTER

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.

Hosts far from best

SPORTS REPORTER


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 ninth 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.

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 Hoim Emily and Iraq's Almash Hadani Fatmeh 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.

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