

# SPORT



Bangladesh's Tamimul Islam and Nasrin Akter aim for the targets during their mixed recurve event of the 2nd ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championships at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Hosts in nine finals

SPORTS REPORTER



Hosts Bangladesh will compete for nine gold medals in 10 events of the 2nd ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championships as the local archers continued their dominance on the third day at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Out of the nine finals, the local archers had to overcome semifinal hurdles in five events -- men's recurve individual, men's recurve team and recurve mixed team, men's compound individual and women's compound individual -- while the hosts directly entered four other finals -- women's recurve team, men's compound team, women's compound team and mixed compound -- after finishing top in the qualification rounds.

It was pleasing to see that the hosts had ensured their spot in the finals in men's recurve and mixed recurve events, which they failed to do in the last edition, but disappointingly Bangladesh failed to make it to the final of the women's recurve event where they had bagged a gold medal during the inaugural edition last year.

Some Bangladeshi archers easily overcame their semifinal hurdles while others fought neck-and-neck before going down, especially in individual events.

The country's number one archer Roman

Sana handed a 6-2 sets defeat to Estonia's Mart Oona to set up the men's recurve final clash against Iraq's Abdalelah Binali, who had to sweat it out to beat Bangladesh's Tamimul Islam in 6-4 sets in the other semifinal. Tamimul later lost in 6-4 sets to Oona in the bronze-medal deciding match.

Nasrin Akter suffered a 6-0 sets defeat against Turkey's Begunhan Unsal, who will play the women's recurve final against Reena Parvanti. Nasrin later lost against Tajikistan's Tagaeva Zulkhore in 6-2 sets in the bronze-medal deciding match.

Bangladesh men's recurve team, comprising Roman, Tamimul and Ibrahim Sheikh, beat Iraq in 5-1 sets to set up the final against Nepal while Bangladesh's mixed recurve team beat Kyrgyzstan in 6-2 sets to set up the final against Turkey.

In the men's compound event, Ashim Kumar Das beat compatriot Milon Mollah by 141-138 points to set up an all-Bangladeshi final against Abul Kashem Mamun, who outplayed Iraq's Waleed Hameed by 140-133 points. Milon, who had won a bronze medal in the SA Archery Championships in March, had to be content with a fourth-place finish after losing by 136-132 points to Waleed in the bronze-medal deciding match.

Roksana Aktar beat last edition's silver medalist Bonna Akter by 143-138 points in the

women's compound to set up the final against last edition's gold medalist, Iraq's Fatimah Al Mashhadani, who beat Emily Hoim of Estonia. Bonna later beat Hoim by 139-137 points to win the bronze medal.

Bangladesh coach Martin Frederick was not thinking about the number of gold medals, rather he was happy to see his charges move into nine finals.

"If the boys and girls can keep their nerve in the final, they have a good chance of winning gold medals," Frederick said. "Roman is performing marvellously without any pressure but Tamimul took a lot of pressure to lose both the semifinal and bronze medal matches."

The archers themselves are optimistic about delivering the maximum number of gold medals on the final day.

"Making it to the finals is big achievement for the archers. I am happy with the way I am performing and my target will be fulfilled if I can win the gold medal. My target is to win three gold medals -- individual, team and mixed compound events," said Abul Kashem Mamun.

"Following the failure in the last edition, I was determined to produce a good performance and this time I have reached the finals in three events -- individual, team and mixed compound. Fatimah is a strong opponent, but my focus will be on winning the on the individual final," said Roksana.

## Yeasin the lone newcomer

No place for Saifuddin in preliminary squad

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday announced a 31-man preliminary squad that will take part in the national training camp from May 13 to prepare for the full tour of West Indies in July-August. 19-year-old pacer Yeasin Arafat, who impressed in the Dhaka Premier League (DPL) for Gazi Group and in the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) for North Zone, was the only first-time entrant into the national picture.

Interestingly, there is supposed to be a three-T20I away series against Afghanistan before the Caribbean tour, but the BCB in its press release announcing the squad mentioned only the tour of West Indies.

BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury had said on May 3 that the dates for the Afghanistan series, tentatively scheduled to be held in the Indian city of Dehradun, would be finalised in the 'next two-three days'. Till now it has widely been thought that the series is likely to take place in the first week of June, but the Afghanistan Cricket Board is yet to officially announce dates for what will count as their home series.

Although the preliminary list rarely causes controversy because of the large number of cricketers named, yesterday's release had one notable omission in young pace-bowling all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin, who was part of the squad for the recent T20I triangular in Sri Lanka. It is a surprising decision because his most recent cricketing statement was a maiden first-class hundred in the last round of the BCL for East Zone.

"It's not as if he is not part of our thinking; we will include him in the High Performance team, which is part of BCB's programme," said



To be honest I never expected to get a call-up to the national team this early. Actually I was expecting a call for the High Performance squad and when someone gave me the news on Facebook I was totally surprised. After getting the call from you I am now sure about it. Obviously I am excited and looking forward to it.

....Yeasin Arafat

### PRELIMINARY SQUAD

Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Soumya Sarkar, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Sabbir Rahman, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mahmudullah Riyad, Liton Das, Mominul Haque, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Tajul Islam, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Naeem Hasan, Abu Hider, Kamrul Islam Rabbi, Rubel Hossain, Nurul Hasan, Mosaddek Hossain, Anamul Haque Bijoy, Abu Jayed, Nazmul Hossain Shanto, Nazmul Islam, Mohammad Mithun, Ariful Haque, Shafiqul Islam, Shadman Islam, Yeasin Arafat, Abul Hasan Raju, Abdur Razzak.

chief selector Minhajul Abedin over phone yesterday. "If needed, we can call him up to the squad like we did with [Mehedi Hasan] Miraz when we included him in the England series."

Mehedi was called up from the HP squad for the two-Test series against England in 2016 but he was a debutant. Saifuddin has already played six T20Is and three ODIs for the national team. Minhajul had said last month that two kinds of players would be considered for the HP and A teams -- those who can make the step up to the top flight in a couple of years and those who can be immediate replacements.

In the current scenario, Saifuddin seems to be in neither camp -- he is already a national player and so is not in the first group, while having been dropped from the preliminary squad he can hardly be considered an immediate replacement option.

The picture was altogether much brighter for Yeasin, a bowler full of promise who took eight wickets against Abahani in a DPL match this season and also bagged seven wickets against East Zone in the fifth round of the BCL.

"Yeasin Arafat is a bright prospect; he is a tall bowler and has good pace," Minhajul said. "He has impressed in the DPL against Abahani and has been included keeping his longer-version potential in mind."

## Tigresses seek to keep series alive

SPORTS REPORTER



With the onus on them to overcome poor batting displays during comprehensive losses in the two international matches on tour so far, the Bangladesh women's national team will look to bounce back and keep the five-match ODI against hosts South Africa series alive by winning the third ODI at the Diamond Oval in Kimberly today.

Despite a brilliant start to the tour in the warm-up game against North West Women in Potchefstroom last week, Rumana Ahmed and her troops failed to cope with the rise in standards in the first ODI and were defeated by 106 runs as they were bundled out on 164 runs in chase of 270.

The Tigress's batting department emerged as the weakest link and the biggest concern for coach David Capel when the visitors were shot out on for a paltry 89 in their nine-wicket defeat in the second ODI.

Top-order batter Fargana Hoque, who smashed a hundred in the practice match, struck a fifty in the first ODI and has been the only positive for the visitors who will desperately be looking to improve in this department today.

## Rain & toss break hearts once more

SPORTS REPORTER



"Feeling extremely disheartened," were the few words with which Abu Taiyan -- captain of Glory School and College -- expressed his feelings after his school were eliminated from the Prime Bank National School Cricket

Championship. They would not have minded as much if they lost the quarterfinal battle against Chittagong's Sunshine Grammar School on the field but it was once again the luck of the coin that played the decisive role in a rain-ruined encounter at the Moulvibazar District Stadium.

"Our school registered for the tournament for the first time and we entered the national round as unbeaten Dhaka Metro champions, but we didn't even get a chance to play the match in the quarterfinal due to rain. It's really painful. I cannot understand the logic of deciding a match through a toss. And I also cannot understand the logic behind arranging matches in this season and especially in the Sylhet region," said Nazmul Huda, coach of Glory School and College, over the phone yesterday. Manikganj Model High School, the Dhaka Division champions were condemned to the same fate at the same venue on Monday.



Players of Chehel Gazi Shishu Niketon (L) celebrate the winning run in their National School Championship quarterfinal against Pirojpur Govt High School at the Tangail District Stadium yesterday. There was however no winning run or wicket in the rain-ruined quarterfinal at the Moulvibazar District Stadium between Glory School and College and Chittagong's Sunshine Grammar School (R), with the latter celebrating the luck of the coin toss that decided the semifinalists for the second successive day.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

The organisers have however decided to arrange the semifinal between Sunshine Grammar School and Sunamganj's Govt. Jubilee High School today instead of Thursday, which is now a reserve day.

Meanwhile, a curtailed-overs match took place at the Tangail District Stadium because of rain and Chehel Gazi Shishu Niketon School & College of



Dinajpur moved to the semifinals with a one-wicket victory over Pirojpur Govt. High School. Pirojpur Govt. High School were bundled out for 98 runs in 28 overs in the 30-overs-a-side affair. Chehel reached the target in 29.4 overs with one wicket in hand.

The winners will meet Police Line School and College of Bogra in the semifinal on Thursday.

## Nadal, Murray head Queen's line-up

AFP, London

Spain's world number one Rafael Nadal heads what organisers say is the most formidable line-up for Queen's, the historic grass tournament in London that is a key warm-up event for Wimbledon.

Aside from Nadal and five others from the present top 10 the tournament is likely to see Britain's two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray -- a five-time winner of the Queen's title -- play as he makes a comeback after hip surgery.

Australian firebrand Nick Kyrgios and Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka -- who needs the Wimbledon title to complete a sweep of Grand Slam titles -- have also confirmed they will play as will last year's champion Feliciano Lopez.



Players and officials of Tangail pose with the trophy after beating Thakurgaon in the JFA U-14 Women's National Football Championship final at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

## JFA U-14 WOMEN'S FOOTBALL Tangail lift title

SPORTS REPORTER



Tangail were crowned champions of the JFA U-14 Women's National Football Championship with an emphatic 3-0 win over last edition's runners-up Thakurgaon in the final at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Shaheda struck a brace in the 25th and 35th minutes before she set up Unnoti to wrap up the victory in the 46th minute to deliver the first trophy to Tangail, who lost to Mymensingh in the final of the 2015 edition.

Shaheda was adjudged player of the championship while she also became highest goal-scorer with eight goals.

Thakurgaon, featuring players mostly from Rangtungi village, had to be content with a consecutive second-place finish as they had lost 3-0 against Mymensingh in the previous final.

## 'Have to cop tampering taunts'

REUTERS, Melbourne



Australia's cricketers will just have to bear English taunts over the ball-tampering affair on tour next month for the one-day international series, spinner Nathan Lyon has said.

Australia will bring a new-look squad led by Test captain Tim Paine for the five-match series, with former skipper Steve Smith and vice-captain David Warner suspended for their parts in the scandal in South Africa.

Off-spinner Lyon, who was recalled to the ODI squad for the first time since 2016, said he expected England fans to take full advantage of recent events.

"I've never played in England where they haven't given it to us," Lyon told reporters on Tuesday.

"There's no point taking some tissues out with us, we've just got to stand out there and cop it."

The series will be Australia's first since the ill-fated tour of South Africa, where the scandal-plagued visitors slumped to a 3-1 loss.

The damage to Australia's reputation was far-reaching, with local fans disgusted and a major sponsor abruptly ending its support of the team.

Cricknet Australia has launched reviews into the players' behaviour and its own operations, and Lyon said he hoped the England tour could be a fresh start.

"It's a good chance for Australian cricket to move on and a good chance for Australian players to rebuild the trust and faith of the Australian public and earn back their respect," added Lyon, echoing comments from Langer's first media conference as coach last week.