

Zahir completes double

Shohagi beats Shirin as Navy edge Army in medal's tally

SPORTS REPORTER

Shohagi Akter of Bangladesh Navy stunned four-time champion and teammate Shirin Akter in the women's 200m sprint as the Dhaka City FC 14th National Summer Athletics Championship came to an end at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Shohagi, who was beaten to the top position in the 100m sprint by Shirin on the previous day, exacted revenge by clocked 25.10 seconds to win the gold medal. Shirin was 0.10 seconds slower while Sharifa Khatun of Bangladesh Army finished third with a timing of 25.40 seconds.

Shohagi had won the same event in last year's summer meet even though Shirin had won the gold in the National Athletics Championship later in the year.

Even though Shohagi was happy with beating the national champion, she was not satisfied with her overall effort as she felt she got tired towards the end of her dash.

"Even though I was leading considerably in the beginning, I eased up later, probably due to fatigue. I had to run 400m and 100m yesterday, so that probably had an impact on my performance. I would have been happier if my timing was a bit better," said the Navy sprinter.

"I will try to do well in the South Asian Games. It will be hard to compete against the best, but I want to improve on my timing," added Shohagi.

Meanwhile, promising athlete Zahir Raihan, who missed last year's national championship due to injury after making it to the semifinals of the World U-18 Championships, beat Shariful Islam by a distance to cruise to the title.

The 18-year-old BKSP student clocked 21.70 seconds while Shariful of Bangladesh Army took 0.50 seconds more to settle for the silver medal. Last year's national meet champion Abdur Rouf of Bangladesh Navy had to be content with a third-place finish after clocking 22.60 seconds.

Zahir, who won the 400m gold on the previous day, said he was confident after putting in a lot of effort in training.

"I was a bit worried after having been out of practice for a long time due to injury. But I trained hard and had the belief that I could do well," Zahir said.

"400m and 200m are my favourite events. I believe I can do well in next year's SA Games if I am provided the facilities and good training," said the boy from Sherpur.

Shohagi's gold in the 100m and her team's gold medal haul in the 4x100m relay in both men's and women's events helped Navy edge Bangladesh Army in the final tally of medals. Navy ended with 13 gold, 15 silver and 11 bronze for a total of 39 medals. Army, despite a four-gold haul by the meet's best athlete Sumi Akter, finished second with 11 gold, 14 silver and 13 bronze for a total of 38 medals. BKSP finished third with only three gold medals.



Umme Hafsa Rumki of Bangladesh Jail clears the bar to clinch the gold medal in the women's high jump event of the Dhaka City FC 14th National Summer Athletics Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

City stars cut short WC break

AFP, Miami Beach



Manchester City's World Cup players have decided to return to training early and help aid manager Pep Guardiola's attempt to defend the Premier League title.

The English champions had 16 players playing in Russia with the likes of Kevin De Bruyne, Vincent Kompany, John Stones, Kyle Walker, Fabian Delph and Raheem Sterling not due back until next weekend.

All players were given three weeks off from the moment their involvement in the tournament ended.

But Guardiola revealed Friday that only two of his squad will not be available for the Community Shield season opener against Chelsea on August 5.

Guardiola, speaking ahead of City's final match of the US tour against Bayern Munich in Miami on Saturday, said: "Most of them are coming back. We have just four or five days to prepare for the first final (Community Shield) so we have to adapt."

"Some of them are coming back before, some are coming back after the final."

"We need players for the final but if they are not coming back we'll play with the guys who are here."

"It is not an ideal situation, we prefer to be together but it is the same for Niko Kovac (Bayern manager) or for the other managers - the calendar is the calendar so we have to adapt."

Guardiola stressed there will no major moves to improve his squad before the transfer window closes with the summer arrival of Riyad Mahrez from Leicester his only piece of business so far.

"If we do, we sign one more but in this

moment we stay with what we've got," said the City manager.

"It's so expensive and we spent a lot last year because we had an old squad. Maybe one (will come in), maybe not."

Guardiola spent three years in Munich and insisted his spell in Germany was like a "dream" - even if he failed to win the Champions League.

"I have a better perspective now that I am looking back at my time there and it's always positive," he said.

"In three years there are good and bad moments. The dream is to win the Champions League. We were close. I still have friends and an apartment there."

"I will never have a bad word to say about Bayern."

"It was a dream, an important part of my life and I have no regrets about what happened there."

MU to step up chase of Maguire

AFP, London

England central defender Harry Maguire's impressive performances at the World Cup has made him a prime target for Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho, according to British media reports on Saturday.

The 25-year-old is believed to want to secure the move although Leicester's Thai owners are reluctant to sell after another of their stars Algerian forward Riyad Mahrez moved to champions Manchester City last month for a club record fee of £60million (\$79million).

Maguire, who impressed alongside John Stones in England's run to the World Cup semi-finals, will cost £65million with part of the outlay being offset by selling Argentinian defender Marcos Rojo -- United value him at £30million -- and Italian full-back Matteo Darmian, the Daily Mirror claims.

Rojo is attracting interest from Premier League newcomers Wolverhampton Wanderers whilst Darmian is coveted by both the Milan clubs.

According to the Daily Mail the injury-prone 28-year-old Rojo -- who cost United £16million when he signed from Sporting Lisbon in 2014 -- has been removed from the club's branding by the marketing department for the upcoming season.

The Sun reports that Maguire's chances of moving to United could depend on whether Leicester are successful in buying Newcastle skipper Jamaal Lascelles, they are preparing a £35million bid for the player voted by the fans The Magpies player of last season.



Didier Drogba (L) caught up with Liberia president George Weah in the capital of Monrovia, where the two African legends enjoyed a game of football yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

Osorio bows out as Mexico coach

Juan Carlos Osorio, the Colombian coach who led Mexico to the last 16 of the World Cup, is set to leave his post. Osorio, who took over El Tri in October 2015, was expected to depart after the finals in Russia.



Klopp shrugs off Mourinho jibe

Jurgen Klopp has laughed off suggestions by Jose Mourinho that Liverpool's transfer spending spree meant the club faced greater pressure to win the Premier League title.



Barca likely to make more signings: Valverde

Barcelona's summer transfer business is far from over as the Blaugrana are likely to make more signings before the close of the window, according to their coach Ernesto Valverde.



Guardiola's love helped me get through crisis: Silva

Pep Guardiola and Manchester City showed their human side in the sympathetic manner with which they treated David Silva over the premature birth of his son Mateo, the Spanish star told The Daily Mirror.



'Malcolm must play his way onto team'

Barcelona will face Tottenham Hotspur in the International Champions Cup without many of their key players and while the stage is set for their new signing Malcolm to make his mark, manager Ernesto Valverde is keen to downplay expectations.



Ozil shines on return

REUTERS, Singapore



Mesut Ozil enjoyed a successful return to action at the end of a tumultuous week as the German midfielder scored the opening goal for Arsenal in a 5-1 victory over a makeshift Paris St Germain side in a pre-season friendly in Singapore on Saturday.

Ozil sensationally quit the national side on Sunday citing "racism and disrespect" for his Turkish roots as he bore the brunt of criticism following Germany's disastrous World Cup, but he looked relaxed and focused against the French champions.

Arsenal fielded a strong team with Ozil installed as captain and the Premier League side soon took control against weakened opposition, given the time and space they will not be afforded when the domestic campaign kicks off in August.

The German did not need long to stamp his authority on the contest, side-footing past a stranded Gianluigi Buffon in the 13th minute after Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang had raced clear down the right and sent a

pinpoint low cross into Ozil's path.

The Gunners were utterly dominant and should have added to their tally, but Buffon showed the brilliance that earned him 176 caps for Italy, saving well to deny Alex Iwobi, Aubameyang and Henrikh Mkhitaryan when they were all clean through on goal.

The French champions offered little in a tepid first-half display, midfielder Azzedine Toufik twice curling shots wide of Bernd Leno's right-hand post before the German keeper stood firm to block Timothy Weah's powerful shot in the 34th minute.

Christopher Nkunku produced Paris St Germain's best moment of the half shortly before the break when the French midfielder jinked past three Arsenal defenders before sending a rising shot just over the Arsenal crossbar.

Paris St Germain made a much stronger start to the second half and Nkunku soon tested replacement goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez with a stinging free kick from the edge of the penalty area that the Argentine parried clear with a diving punch.

Nkunku was not to be denied from

the penalty spot, however, sending Martinez the wrong way with a spot-kick awarded on the advice of the assistant referee after Weah had tumbled spectacularly following a clumsy Sead Kolasinac challenge.

The 60th-minute strike was reward for Paris St Germain's endeavour but they were only level for seven minutes as substitute Alexandre Lacazette scooped a sublime finish over Buffon from close range to re-establish Arsenal's advantage.

The Frenchman needed just three more minutes to double his personal tally when Buffon missed a punch as Paris St Germain scrambled to clear leaving an unmarked Lacazette to make it 3-1 with a free header that bounced in off the post.

Defender Rob Holding and striker Eddie Nketiah rounded out the scoring in the dying minutes as a rampant Arsenal more than made up for a disappointing penalty shootout defeat to Atletico Madrid in the tournament opener on Thursday.

Paris St Germain, who will welcome back a raft of World Cup players next week, take on the Spanish Europa League winners in the final match of the event on Monday.



Arsenal star Mesut Ozil celebrates his opening goal against Paris St Germain during their International Champions Cup match in Singapore yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

'CR7 euphoria not good'

AGENCIES, Turin



Juventus manager Massimiliano Allegri is wary of the hype surrounding the club since Cristiano Ronaldo moved to the club.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner completed a €100 million transfer from Real Madrid to Juventus earlier this month with many excited by his arrival.

The Portuguese star won four Champions League titles at the La Liga club and joins the Turin giants hoping to win a European title in a third major league, following previous success at Manchester United and with Real Madrid.

But Allegri refused to be carried away by the signing of Ronaldo and warned it may be even harder for Juventus to defend their

league title.

"Cristiano has lots of international experience and he will help us a lot, but we have to be careful," he told reporters. "There is too much euphoria around us and it's not good. This year will be more difficult than others."

"Opponents will be more aggressive because we have won many games and now we have an excellent player like him."

"They will accept it and also, they will have more motivation. With Ronaldo, I spoke about how happy and enthusiastic I am about him coming here, there will be time to speak about football."

Ronaldo will not feature in the International Champions Cup for Juventus, but it is thought he will be available for their Serie A opener against Chievo.



MASSIMILIANO ALLEGRI