



Hakim outdraws Ruman

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's top archer Ruman Sana improved on his Tokyo Olympic Games performance but could not overcome up-and-coming archer Hakim Ahmed Rubel in the qualification round of the recurve individual event in the 22nd Asian Archery Championships, which began yesterday at the Army Stadium in Banani.

Ruman, who scored 662 in the qualification round of the Tokyo Olympics, scored 665 to finish ninth among 39 archers while Rubel scored 666.

Ruman will face Nguyen Hoang of Vietnam in the round of 16 today while Rubel will compete against Kirjol Karorov of Uzbekistan. Ram Krishna Saha finished 10th with a score of 665 and will square off against Sri Lanka's Ahangama Vidanalage.

Meanwhile, the South Korean quartet of Seungyun Lee, Pil-Joong Kim, Woo Tack Han and Woo Seok Lee claimed the first four positions of the event by scoring 680, 680, 679, and 677 respectively while Indian archers Kapil, Paravin Ramesh Jadhav and Parth Sushant Salunkhe



finished fifth, sixth and seventh with scores of 675, 670 and 670 respectively.

In the women's recurve individual event, Bangladesh Olympian Diya Siddique bettered her Olympic performance by two points to score 637 to finish 12th among 26 archers. Nasrin Akter and Beauty Roy finished 15th and 17th by scoring 629 and 621 respectively.

South Korea's Su Jung Ryoo created an Asian Championships' record in the qualification round as she finished with a score of 687, eclipsing the previous record by three points.

Ryoo's compatriots Yejin Oh, Haejin Lim and Dasomi Jung grabbed the second, third and fourth positions by making 681, 677 and 675 respectively.

Indian archers Ankita Bhakat, Madhu Vedwan and Ridhi finished behind the South Koreans to finish fifth, sixth and seventh respectively.

'Will consider Sri Lanka match as a semifinal'

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It took Maldives 15 years to finally beat Bangladesh ever since the 5-0 drubbing in their debut match against the Men in Red and Green in 1984, whereas the Islanders had flipped the script to initiate a decade-long winning streak of their own since the 2011 edition of SAFF Championships. However, it all ended with a 2-1 defeat to Bangladesh in the ongoing Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa Trophy in Sri Lanka on Saturday.

And on the back of the 2-0 surrender to Maldives in last month's SAFF Championship, Bangladesh bounced back to break Maldives' jinx by implementing the game plan accordingly despite fielding a depleted side.

"We knew the strong sides of Maldives and the boys neutralized those aspects successfully according to the game plan, so they couldn't create any open chances," Bangladesh team manager Satyajit Das Rupu told The Daily Star over the phone from Colombo yesterday.

"The boys also interfered with their



build-up and stopped the supply to the forward lineup to bring the match to their favour.

"Apart from defending, the boys also countered perfectly and left the field with

heads held high," said Rupu, adding that the players were extremely eager to register a victory over Maldives after a long gap.

Bangladesh will play their third and final group match against Sri Lanka on

November 16 and a result other than a defeat will place them into the final of the four-nation tournament.

"Everything will go in vain if we can't progress to the final. The boys have been asked not to be over-excited after beating Maldives and asked to remain focused on the next match. We will consider the Sri Lanka match as a semifinal instead of thinking of a draw," said Rupu while adding they also have a plan in store for the next two days keeping the time of the third match in mind.

"As the match against Sri Lanka will take place at night, we have designed to perform the next two days' training sessions at night and time of lunch and dinner will also be changed to adjust the timing with the match-day time," said Rupu.

Midfielder Mohammad Ridoy mentioned that the latest victory was due to collective effort while defender Rahmat Mia informed that they were demoralised after a disappointing 1-1 draw against Seychelles, after which the coaching staff and team officials played a key role to motivate them against Maldives.



Nayeem continues to bag wickets

SPORTS REPORTER

The fifth round of the 23rd National Cricket League got underway with a five-wicket-haul from Chattogram's Nayeem Hasan against Rajshahi Division at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday. Nayeem, the national Test team off-spinner, has been consistent throughout the edition of the tournament as he had 24 wickets to his name ahead of yesterday's encounter. Furthermore, his fifer led his side to restrict their opponents for 194 in 54.4 overs.

Hasan Murad and Shahin Alam scalped a couple of wickets each for Chattogram while Rajshahi's Farhad Reza scored 54 runs. In reply, Chattogram reached 56 for four, ending the day 138 runs behind.

In the other match in Sylhet, Dhaka Metropolis' batting lineup collapsed against Barishal Division as they were bundled out for 87. Dhaka opener Zahiduzzaman was the only one to reach double figures as he scored 40 featuring seven fours before being dismissed by Islamul Ahsan Abir, who scalped three more further down the innings. Barishal's veteran left-arm spinner Monir Hossain picked up three wickets for 15 runs while Ruyel Miah bagged two.

Coming in to bat, Barishal lost both their openers within 19 runs. Afterwards, skipper Fazle Mahmud Rabbi and Salman Hossain Emon stitched together a 117-run partnership as Barishal scored 136 for two to take a 49-run lead ahead of the second day.

Mahmud, a consistent run-getter for Barishal, scored 65 runs while Salman Hossain remained unbeaten on 47. The Tier-1 matches of Round 5, which were supposed to take place at BKSP, didn't get underway due to bad weather.

Belgium expect Hazard to have more playing time

REUTERS, Brussels

Belgium coach Roberto Martinez says he hopes Eden Hazard is able to stay fit and play more regularly for his club as he outlined his plans ahead of next



World Cup finals.

Hazard captained the side as Belgium, who were beaten by France in the semi-finals of the 2018 tournament, qualified for Qatar 2022 with a 3-1 victory over Estonia in their penultimate qualifier in Brussels on Saturday.

But the 30-year-old Hazard has struggled to get game time at Real Madrid, even after recovering from a series of long-standing injuries, and this has been a source of concern in Belgium. "I especially hope that Eden Hazard remains fully fit. And that every player at his club can show the best of himself, because the competition for places in the squad is huge," said Martinez.

Hazard is one of the golden generation who have kept Belgium top of the FIFA rankings since 2018 but been unable to deliver a major trophy.

'The match ball is already in my locker'

AFP, Paris



Kylian Mbappe said holders France were going to next year's World Cup finals to win it after he hit four goals in an 8-0 thrashing of Kazakhstan that secured qualification.

Paris Saint-Germain star Mbappe grabbed a first-half hat-trick on Saturday, making him the first

France player to achieve that feat in a competitive international since Dominique Rocheteau in 1985.

He added a late fourth to complete the rout as France booked their ticket to Qatar at a Parc des Princes awash with red, white and blue flags.

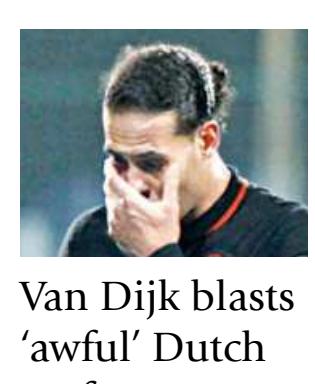
"The match ball is already in my locker," Mbappe said. "The most important thing was qualification because we wanted to give ourselves the opportunity to defend our title."

"A World Cup is a dream, an aim, it's everything and

it's a unique chance to play in a team that can win it. We are going over there to win it."

Didier Deschamps' side outclassed the Kazakhs at the Parc des Princes in Paris to top Group D with Karim Benzema also scoring twice and Adrien Rabiot and Antoine Griezmann on the scoresheet as well.

Benzema told M6 television: "We got the goals, we didn't concede any and we played some good football."



Van Dijk blasts 'awful' Dutch performance

AFP, THE HAGUE

Netherlands captain Virgil van Dijk blasted his team's second-half performance in Saturday's 2-2 draw at Montenegro as "awful" and "outrageous" as their World Cup hopes were left in the balance.

The Dutch were well set for Qatar 2022 qualification after a

Memphis Depay double gave them a 2-0 lead. However, Ilija Vukotic marked his international debut with a goal in the

82nd minute to give the home side hope and four minutes later Nikola Vujnovic looped in a header to grab the draw.

"The way we played in the second half was just outrageous," Liverpool star Van Dijk told Dutch broadcaster NOS.

"We always want to have the ball, we all want to play football, attack and score. But football is also knowing how to defend."

"That's what we haven't done tonight. Our organisation was just awful. We should have qualified here."

