

Recurve archers leaving for France

SPORTS REPORTER

A 10-member Bangladesh archery team will leave for France today to take part in the Archery World Cup – Stage 3.

The Bangladesh team will participate in five events in the meet, which will be held from June 21 to 26. The five events are: men's recurve individual, men's recurve team, women's recurve individual, women's recurve team and mixed recurve team.

The Bangladesh contingent will feature seven archers and four officials. The archers are: Ruman Sana, Hakim Ahmed Rubel, Abdur Rahman Alif, Sagor Islam, Diya Siddique, Nasrin Akter and Fahmida Sultan Nishi.

Head coach Martin Frederick will travel with the team alongside team manager Rashiduzzaman Serniabat and Rubaiyat Ahmed, representative of sponsors City Group.

India, South Africa eye series victory

AGENCIES

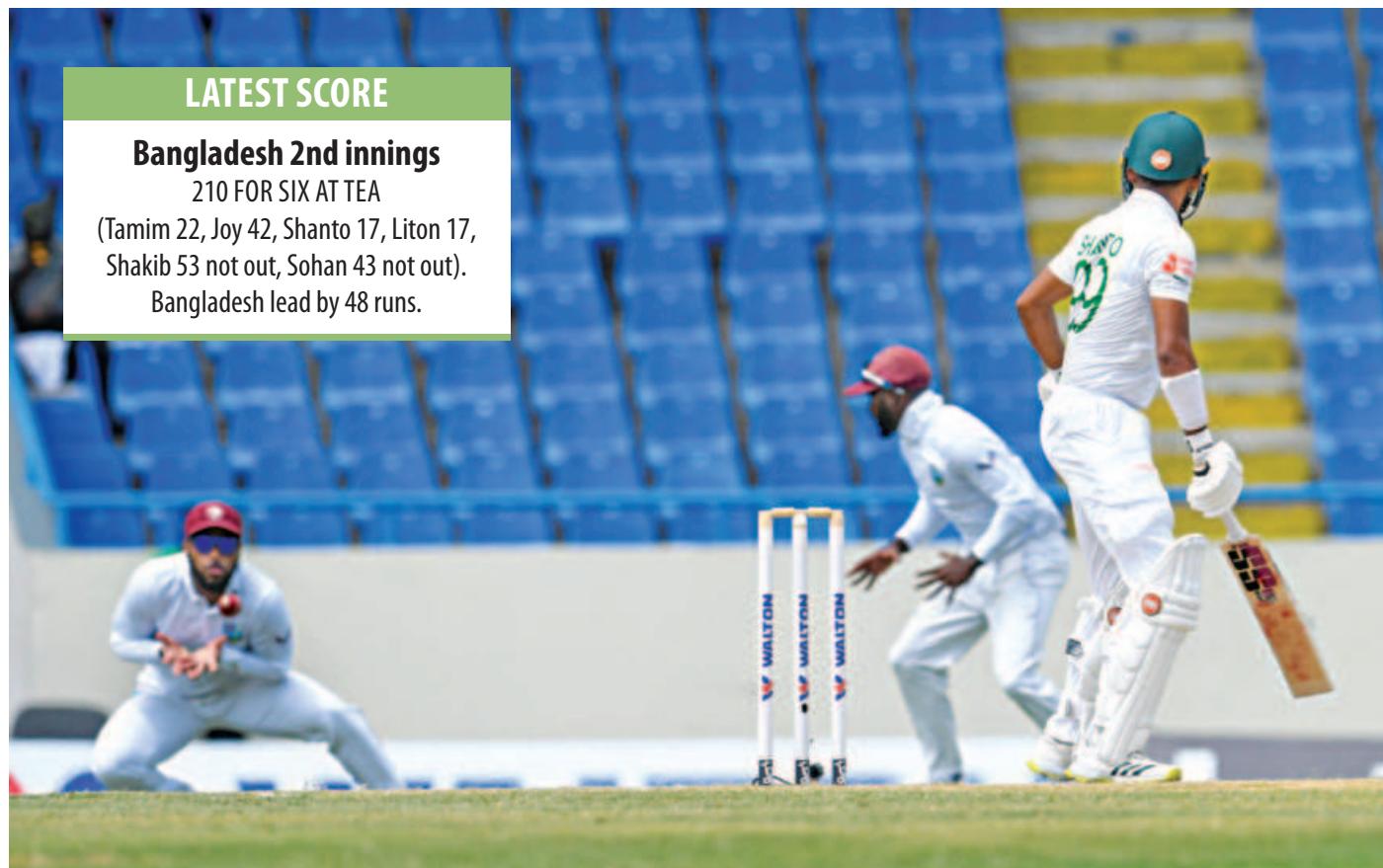
After making an emphatic comeback in the series, India will take on South Africa in the fifth and final T20I match at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru today.

India won the fourth T20I by 82 runs to take the series to the decider.

Both teams are chasing history heading into the fifth T20I. India have never lost a bilateral T20I series at home since 2019, while the South Africans have never lost a series in India since 2011 across formats.

The series hasn't been one of India's best but somehow, just like top teams do, the 'Men In Blue' have found their way out to win matches under pressure.

If Temba Bavuma is unable to recover, South Africa will miss a leader more than the batter. And suddenly in the last two games, the batting has looked iffy on tracks that have variable bounce, which has made this Indian attack look way more lethal.



Bangladesh batter Najmul Hossain Shanto cut a sorry figure again as the left-hander became the first casualty on the third morning of the first Test against the West Indies at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

SHAKIB, SOHAN bring some respectability

SPORTS REPORTER

What is going wrong with Bangladesh's top order batters? There is no simple answer to this question.

Following one debacle after another in Test cricket, the Bangladesh team management and players recently echoed the same sentiment: 'mentality' was the main culprit behind the failures.

But one could also question exactly how good Bangladesh's batters are in terms of proper preparation and sound technique after yet another purposeless top-order batting display in the second innings of the first Test against the West Indies in Antigua yesterday.

The dismissals of the top-order batters offered no clues as to whether they had any idea about the pace bowling they were going to face in West Indies.

Captain Shakib Al Hasan and wicketkeeper-batter Nurul Hasan Sohan staged a fightback after Bangladesh were reduced to 115 for six at lunch during the third day's play and the two batters finally built the handsome partnership that their team had desperately needed.

Bangladesh started the second session trailing the West Indies' total by 47 runs and the pair's efforts enabled the visitors to avoid an innings defeat and take a slender lead.

Shakib completed his second fifty of the match and was batting with an attacking approach while Sohan was providing good support, dismissing the notion that the match would finish inside three days.

Bangladesh were staring at the prospect



of defeat inside three days after closing the second day on Friday at 50 for two in their second innings, needing 112 more runs to make the West Indies bat again. West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite said that the first hour of Day Three would be crucial.

Left-handed batter Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mahmudul Hasan Joy looked to turn the tide in the first hour of the third day but Shanto was the first to depart, falling to a Kyle Mayers delivery

which came in and kicked a bit off the surface, taking an outside edge to the slip cordon. Shanto's departure reduced the visitors to 64 for three.

Joy was joined in the middle by former captain Mominul Haque, who was looking for some runs after opting to leave his captaincy. But he did not last long. Having survived an in-swinger from Mayers, which went for four streaky runs, the left-hander eventually succumbed to another in-swinger from Mayers soon.

The 29-year-old has scored a grand total of 28 runs in his last nine innings and his average, close to 60 not long ago, is now hovering around 37.

It looked as if Liton Das would provide some resistance in company of a patient Joy. However, after stroking a few gorgeous boundaries, Liton chased one way outside off stump against Kemar Roach, causing his downfall for just 17.

Bangladesh were 100 for four at that stage, precariously close to an innings defeat.

Joy's long vigil, featuring 42 runs off 153 deliveries, came to an end when he poked at a Roach delivery away from his body, with wicketkeeper Joshua da Silva taking a diving catch.

All those dismissals exemplified the poor technique of the Bangladeshi batters against quality deliveries.

Shakib and Sohan were in the middle when lunch was taken and they continued to frustrate the West Indies bowlers to bring some sort of respectability to what has been a generally ordinary effort by the tourists with the bat so far in this match.

Salma's Mohammedan claim seventh title

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan regained the Dhaka Premier Division Women's Cricket League title yesterday, ending an imperious campaign unbeaten. The last round of matches – featuring Mohammedan versus Indira Road and Rupali Bank vs Khelaghara SKS – was washed out at the BKSP yesterday, meaning both Mohammedan and Rupali finished with 18 points.

However, Mohammedan clinched a seventh league title under the captaincy of experienced campaigner Salma Khatun due to a superior run-rate. The league returned after almost a three-year gap brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic and Salma expressed satisfaction over the standards of the league this season.

"Mohammedan earlier won six league titles under my captaincy and now, after a three-season gap, we regained the title. From personal experience, I must say the overall standards have been improving. We missed a few matches due to rain but we enjoyed the league very much. It would have been much better if there were no rain interruptions," Salma told The Daily Star yesterday. "The number of teams increased this season



and what impressed me most was that number of newcomers that showed potential this season. A regular league would ultimately benefit our national team. This league also provides financial support to many players. I believe the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will make it more competitive in future," she added.

Groundhog day at Canadian GP

AFP, Montreal

Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz had to take evasive action at the Canadian Grand Prix on Friday when a groundhog ran out onto the circuit.

Sainz was travelling at high speed during opening practice for Sunday's race when the animal appeared between turns two and three.

"Whether you want to call it a marmot, a groundhog or a beaver, a cute little brown furry animal was very lucky not to be squashed by a Ferrari during F1," said the Sky Sports F1 Twitter feed.

Esteban Ocon had slowed down to avoid a collision but Sainz, just behind the Frenchman, only spotted the groundhog at the last second. It came close to the Ferrari's right wheel before Sainz managed to avoid a messy encounter. Alex Albon in a Williams also had to swerve to avoid the groundhog.

Appearances by groundhogs at the Gilles Villeneuve Circuit on Montreal's Isle Notre Dame, where they are indigenous and protected, have become common on race weekends.



'This camp is about taking yourself TO THE NEXT LEVEL'

MAZHAR UDDIN

With the intent to prepare cricketers for the next step, the Bangladesh Tigers have been specifically polishing the skills of cricketers that are in contention for a place in the national side.

The likes of Soumya Sarkar, Nayem Hasan, Nazmul Islam Apu and a batch of promising cricketers – none of whom can be part of the Under-19 or High Performance (Under-23) set-ups – have been engaged in an intense training camp in recent times.

Members of the Bangladesh Tigers unit may also be selected for the Bangladesh A team's tour to the West Indies in August this year for one four-day game and three one-dayers.

For players such as Soumya, who has been out of the national set-up for nearly a year, it presents an opportunity to



showcase their ability.

"The main idea is to work specifically on the skills of batters. Since I am working in the batting department, I can only talk about that. But there are other coaches guiding other departments," Mizanur Rahman Babul, the batting coach of the Bangladesh Tigers, said.

"These guys have been playing

in August." Another highly-rated local coach, Sohel Islam, is working as the spin bowling coach. He also shared his methods.

"This camp is about trying to take yourself to the next level. We even made them fill out a form describing what areas they feel the need to work on. For spinners, it is very important to be able to spin the ball and get turn. We are trying to work on how we can turn the ball using the body."

We have Nayem Hasan, Aminul Islam Biplob and others in the camp and we tried to improve on that aspect," said Sohel.

According to the mentor of Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Taijul Islam, it is important to work with a goal instead of focusing on conventional methods of training.

"It is easy to work with a few cones and bowl at them but, if you want to improve, it is important to get the best of the resources available to you by enhancing the skill level. We will also play a four-day game against the High-Performance team and will see improvement," he added.