

Ruman fails to make the cut

SPORTS REPORTER from Hangzhou

Archer Ruman Sana failed to make the cut on his return to the international scene, failing in the to secure a place in the men's individual recurve event as only top two archers from each country were allowed into the elimination round.

Ruman, with a score of 648 points, however, made it to the recurve team (1963) event in which Sagar Islam (662) and Ramkrishna Saha (653) will also participate. Hakim Ahmed Rubel (648) was eliminated from all events after finishing bottom among the four Bangladeshi archers. Bangladesh men's team will play in the elimination round of individual and team events today.

"I was a bit nervous after coming into the international scene following an 11-month break but I am happy to have bounced back in the second spell as the coach helped me a lot to concentrate on my game," said Ruman.

Sagor Islam said, "Expectation was a bit higher than what we scored. There is high expectation to win medals and I will try to do my best in the elimination round."

Siddikur finishes 14th

Golfer Siddikur Rahman finished 14th in the men's individual golf event after settling for 13-under-par (275) at the close of the fourth and final round at the West Lake International Golf Course yesterday.

Chaichi Kho of Hong Kong grabbed the gold medal with 27-under-par while Sungjae of Korea and Chien Yao Hug of Chinese Taipei won silver and bronze medals respectively after playing 26-under-par and 24-under-par respectively.

"My expectation was to play my own game. I wanted to



Bangladesh cricketers Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, and Towhid Hridoy pose for a photo following a gym session on the eve of their second World Cup warm-up match against England in Guwahati today.

N Korean players clash with referee

REUTERS, Hangzhou

North Korea coach Sin Yong Nam defended his players after several clashed with match officials after losing 2-1 in their Asian Games soccer quarterfinal against Japan in Hangzhou on Sunday.

North Korea captain Jang Kuk Chol and teammate Kim Kyong Sok remonstrated heatedly with the match referees after the final whistle, prompting ground staff to run on to the pitch at Xiaoshan Sports Centre Stadium to intervene.

The North Koreans were earlier furious when Uzbek referee Rustam Lutfullin awarded a penalty to Japan after their goalkeeper Kang Juh Yok charged out and clipped the feet of Japan's Jun Nishikawa with an outstretched arm.

Yuta Matsumura slotted home the winning penalty from the spot to see Japan through to the semifinals.

"I admit that our players were a little bit over-excited in the match but it is football. I think our behaviour is acceptable," Jang said after the game.



do a bit better as I thought playing 20-under-par would be good enough to become champion, but the gold winner played 27-under-par which was my beyond imagination," Siddikur said.

Siddikur first played in the Asian Games in 2006 as an amateur golfer, finishing ninth. This time the local organising committee made the golf event strictly for professionals.

Kabaddi team start campaign today

Bangladesh men's Kabaddi team are all set to begin their campaign in Hangzhou Asian Games by taking on Japan in one of two matches of Group A where India, Thailand and Chinese Taipei have also been placed.

Group B comprises Iran, South Korea, Pakistan and Malaysia.

Bangladesh failed to qualify through the group stages in the last three editions following their bronze-medal feat in 2006, but the men in red and green now have a good opportunity to play in the semifinals.

"The other team may seem apparently easier, but we have strong teams like India, Japan, Chinese Taipei and Thailand. However, we are determined to progress to the semifinals," said captain Tuhin Taralder.

Chess team taste first victory

After losing to Iran and Kyrgyzstan in the first two rounds, Bangladesh chess team tasted their first victory by beating Hong Kong yesterday. GM Enamul Hossain beat FM KWD Lam, Fahad Rahman beat WK Kwong and GM Ziaur Rahman beat CM NM Nissinen. GM Niaz Murshed, however, drew against Y Li in the third round match.

Tigers seek rhythm and consistency

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will cap off the warm-up phase of their World Cup campaign with an encounter against defending champions England at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati today.

The Tigers won their first warm-up match comprehensively by seven wickets against Sri Lanka on Friday.

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan, who was forced out of the first match against Sri Lanka due to an ankle sprain in training, is likely to give



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Renowned local coach Nazmul Abedin Faheem.

opposition like England. Regardless of the result, we just want to tick all the boxes in the match, especially in the top-order. If the top three can find their rhythm, then they can take that rhythm into the main stage," Bashar told The Daily Star yesterday.

In the first warm-up game on Saturday, Bangladesh bundled out the Lankans for 263 and chased the target in 42 overs, courtesy of their openers -- Liton Das and Tanzid Tamim -- who provided a 131-run stand.

Liton seemed to have come out of his slump with a 56-ball 61, while Tanzid missed out on a century after giving the Tigers a solid foundation having scored an 88-ball 84.

"We aren't really concerned about bowling at this moment. We want our top order batting to come

good," Bashar added.

Bangladesh, who begin their World Cup campaign with an encounter against a familiar foe in Afghanistan on October 7, will play their second match against England in Dharamsala on October 10.

The warm-up match hence gives the Tigers an opportunity to assess the defending champions while gauging their strengths and weaknesses in Indian conditions.

The Tigers got off to a solid start in their preparation phase with the Sri Lanka win but renowned coach Nazmul Abedin Fahim asked for 'repetition' in terms of performances from Shakib's side.

"I want repetition from the performers. If the top order -- Liton, Tanzid, and Shanto -- get to bat, I want them to show consistency," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Shanto is coming on the back of an injury and it would be good for him if he can keep up his rich form and take it to the main stage."

Mehedi Hasan Miraz is the other contender in the top-order for Bangladesh as the team's backup opener. The all-rounder already had some batting practice in the first warm-up game when batted at number three against Sri Lanka in a match he captained the side in the absence of Shakib.

He scored an impressive 64-ball 67 laced with five fours and two sixes and took his side home.

VAR officials replaced after Liverpool error

AFP, London

The match officials at fault for a botched VAR call that cost Liverpool a goal in their 2-1 defeat at Tottenham on Saturday have been removed from duty for the rest of the Premier League weekend.

Referees' body the PGMOL admitted a "significant human error" had meant Luis Diaz's strike, when the game was level at 0-0, was not awarded by a VAR review after being flagged offside.

VAR official Darren England was due to be fourth official at Sunday's Premier League match between Nottingham Forest and Brentford.

And his assistant VAR Dan Cook was to be assistant referee for Monday's west London derby between Fulham and Chelsea.

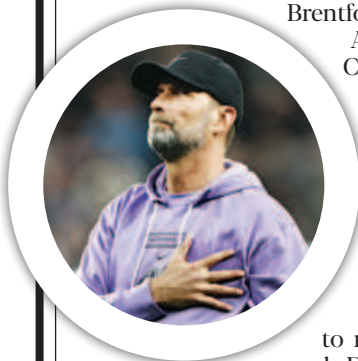
Spurs struck in the 96th minute through Joel Matip's own goal to edge a highly controversial encounter.

Liverpool were reduced to nine men as Curtis Jones and Diogo Jota were sent off either side of half-time.

"I never saw a game like this with the most unfair circumstances, crazy decisions," said Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp.

PGMOL chief Howard Webb apologised to the Reds after the match.

"This was a clear and obvious factual error and should have resulted in the goal being awarded through VAR intervention, however, the VAR failed to intervene," the PGMOL said in a statement.



Having come off the bench in the second half, Lautaro Martinez turned things around all by himself as he bagged four goals in just 27 minutes to see Inter Milan secure a 4-0 victory at Salernitana on Saturday. The win propelled Inter back to the top of Serie A.

‘Do-or-die’ for Kings and Odisha

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings would look to get their AFC Cup campaign back on track when they host Odisha FC of India in their first-ever international club match at the home venue.

The match will get underway at the Bashundhara Kings Arena at 6:00pm.

Having lost their opening match 3-1 away to Maziya S&RC -- the first-ever defeat against a Maldivian club for the Bangladeshi giants, Kings know a defeat would diminish their hope of qualifying for the knockout stage for the first time great deal.

Coach Oscar Bruzon, at the pre-match press conference, said the team has studied the opposition hard to get the best result in this crucial fixture.

"We have never lost two matches (in AFC Cup). We have never lost at home (in domestic football). So this will be a great opportunity for us to show our reaction," the Spaniard said.

"We had lot of expectations ahead of the Maziya game, but

our preparation was not great. Now we are back and we have to give our best. We don't have any excuses now," Bruzon said,

Like Kings, Odisha FC are also coming into the match on the back of a big defeat. They lost their opening match at home against Mohun Bagan 4-0,



however, they have since some form following that defeat, with a 2-0 win against Chennaiyin FC in their opening fixture of the Indian Super League before drawing 2-2 against Mumbai City FC last week.

Showing utmost respect to the opposition, Bruzon said that this match would be a do-or-die affair for both teams.

"Odisha are a new club like

us. They won the Super Cup last season and made a good start this season. They have a top coach and important players in key positions. I think small aspects can make the difference tomorrow.

"This is a do-or-die affair for both teams because whoever loses this match will have their chances diminished," added Bruzon.

Captain Robson Robinho echoed the coach's sentiment, saying: "It's good that we will be playing at home, in front of our own crowd. We will do everything that we need to do to win this match and stay alive in this competition."

Odisha FC coach Sergio Lobera was excited about the challenge of facing Bashundhara Kings.

"We are excited about this game and are ready for this challenge. We are going to play against a good team. Most of all, we are excited to play in this competition as it means a lot for us as a club to represent not only our club but India as well. Hopefully, we can get a good result," the Spaniard said.