

KOREAN OLYMPIANS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Nam Su-hyeon is in full focus as she trains at the Outer Stadium in Paltan on Friday alongside her South Korean teammates. Nam won a team gold and an individual silver medal in women's archery events in Paris Olympics in 2024. She will be looking to spearhead the 16-member Korean team, regarded as the best in the sport and featuring a number of Olympic medallists, as the 24th Asian Archery Championships kick off at the National Stadium in Dhaka today. A total of 209 archers from 30 countries will take part in 10 medal events across recurve and compound categories in this apex continental competition.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'There may be 30 Jahanaras who haven't spoken up'

SPORTS REPORTER

Allegations of sexual harassment and misconduct recently made by former Bangladesh women's team captain Jahanara Alam against team management and support staff has sparked a countrywide uproar. The issue has once again put the spotlight on women's safety in sports -- something often overlooked in this country in spite similar allegations surfacing across disciplines in the past. Former champion shuttler and ex-general secretary of the Women's Sports Association Quamrun Nahar Dana, who is also a vocal advocate for female athlete rights, spoke with **The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman** on the issue. Excerpts are as follows:

The Daily Star: How do you view the allegations made by Jahanara Alam as a former athlete and current organizer?

Quamrun Nahar Dana: It is very painful. I can't find the words to condemn it. I am sure the accused will deny the allegations thinking that girls are weaker, but we are not.

DS: Similar allegations have come out earlier in other disciplines too, why is this happening time and again?

QND: I think it is happening because of poor management of the respective federations. The top officials of those federations likely have the same mindset as the culprits. If not, then why don't they properly investigate the incidents and give punitive punishment? Their indifference to such allegations encourages the culprits to repeat their action, as there is no fear of being punished.

DS: How difficult is it for a player to perform under such circumstances?

QND: For a player, it's really tough to perform

after receiving such a disgusting proposal. Will she perform or protect herself? It also puts a female player under mental pressure because as she can't reveal it, fearing it would turn into a scandal. Jahanara dared to reveal it but not everyone can. In cricket, you may find 30 Jahanaras who haven't spoken up.

DS: Do you think such incidents discourage girls from taking up sports?

QND: Of course, the guardians will be hesitant before letting their daughters enter sports. Do you see any renowned organiser sending their sons or daughters into sports, no. Because they know that this path has no future, no environment and no security. We should be thankful to the families who allow their children, especially girls, to enter sports. If we can't honour and protect these girls, then we will stop getting female athletes in the future.

DS: Some are trying to discredit Jahanara's allegations, questioning why she did it after getting excluded from the side. Is there any justification for such an argument?

QND: She might have not revealed it then out of fear of getting dropped from the national team. But she was clearly mentally disturbed which led to poor performances. I feel that female athletes try to solve a matter like this by herself at first, before disclosing it. I think when an allegation like this arises, there is always some basis to it.



DS: Do you think male-dominated coaching staff and team management is a major cause for such incidents?

QND: It is one of the major reasons. If there were women in both the coaching panel and team management, there will be no scope for such things. I also want to know why federations don't appoint former female players in different roles with the team and don't send female officials with the team during overseas tours?

DS: How can women's sports in the country get rid of this menace?

QND: In line with Olympic charter, every national federation should have 30 percent women representation. But we are not following it. We should strictly follow it to ensure maximum female organisers in national sports bodies. Female coaches and officials have to be included to run the women's wings. The federations also should groom former female athletes as coaches, umpires and officials to ensure all-women staff in women's teams.

We had once convinced former sports minister Biren Sikder to send a circular from the ministry saying only female managers and officials are allowed to travel with the women's team. But it became ineffective after his tenure ended. Now we have to fight for it again.

However, the most important thing is to take firm action as soon as such allegations emerge and hand those people a life-time ban from sports.

Women's NCL T20 starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Women's National Cricket League T20 gets underway today with four opening round fixtures scheduled at the BKSP.

The tournament, which runs until November 17, is expected to serve as crucial preparation for the Bangladesh women's national team ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifiers in Nepal next January. Each team will play the others once -- seven in total after which the league leaders will be adjudged the winners.

However, concerns have emerged among players regarding the tight scheduling and organisation of the event. Speaking to **The Daily Star**, one of the participating cricketers expressed frustration over what they described as an unnecessarily compressed fixture list.

"If you're going to squeeze so many games into nine days, there is no point in arranging tournaments in such a rushed manner," the player said. "Even the DPL was organised like that, and it couldn't provide proper playing conditions or adequate preparation for us."

Cafu to come to Dhaka on Dec 11

SPORTS REPORTER

Brazilian football legend Cafu is set to visit Bangladesh in December as part of promotions for a football tournament.

The visit is tied to the AFB Latin-Bangla Super Cup 2025, a friendly international football tournament jointly organised by AF Boxing Promotion International Limited and partners from Latin America and Bangladesh. The tournament will be held at the National Stadium in Dhaka from December 5 to 11.

Cafu, a two-time World Cup-winning captain with the Selecao, remains the only player in football history to have featured in three consecutive FIFA World Cup finals. He is expected to be joined by another iconic star from Argentina, with organizers currently in discussions with Gabriel Batistuta, Juan Sebastian Veron, and Claudio Caniggia.

According to event insiders, negotiations with Caniggia are at an advanced stage, and an official announcement is likely within the next few days.

Cafu, meanwhile, is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on December 11 at 8:00 am, confirmed M.D. Asaduzzaman, Managing Director of AF Boxing Promotion International Limited.

The organisers have already released a video message from Cafu, where the Brazilian icon said, "Hello Bangladesh, I am Cafu. I hope to see you in Dhaka next month."

He also confirmed the names under consideration: Veron, Batistuta, and Caniggia, adding that at least one of them will definitely come.

SHORT CORNER

Emon six-for in vain as Afghanistan U-19s go 2-1 up

Afghanistan under-19s went up 2-1 in the five-match series against their Bangladesh counterparts with a match left to go, following a 47-run win at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium on Friday. After batting first, the visitors posted 218 all out before restricting the hosts to 211 in 50 overs. The series-deciding fifth and final one-dayer will be played on November 9.

Bellingham and Foden back for World Cup qualifiers

England head coach Thomas Tuchel recalled Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham and Manchester City's Phil Foden when naming his squad on Friday for next week's World Cup qualifiers at home to Serbia and away against Albania. Both players missed out last time as England sealed their passage to next year's finals in North America with two games to spare following a 5-0 victory over Latvia.

Bangladesh-India tickets release Saturday afternoon

The tickets for Bangladesh's upcoming home match against India will be available online from Saturday at 2:00 pm via Quicket. The penultimate fixture for Bangladesh and India in the 2027 AFC Asian Cup qualifiers will be held at the 22,400-capacity National Stadium in Dhaka on November 18, with an 8:00 pm kick-off.

Mosaddek, Akbar help Bangladesh beat SL in Hong Kong Sixes

Bangladesh ended the group stage of the Hong Kong International Sixes with a 14-run win over Sri Lanka at Mong Kok on Friday. Earlier in the day, their match against hosts Hong Kong was abandoned due to rain.

*Read the full reports on **The Daily Star** website

United look to end winless run at Tottenham

STAR SPORTS DESK

After being booted off the pitch following their dismal 1-0 defeat to London rivals Chelsea in the Premier League last weekend, Tottenham Hotspur issued an emphatic response in midweek, sweeping aside Copenhagen 4-0 at home in the Champions League.

Thomas Frank's side sit sixth in the league table, just a point behind Liverpool in third, and head into Saturday's home fixture against Manchester United with an opportunity to win three consecutive league games against the Red Devils for the first time since the 1959-60 season. After completing the double over United last campaign.

Yet Tottenham's form at home in 2025 remains a concern. They have lost nine Premier League home matches this calendar year -- more than any other side. Only in 1994 and 2003 (10 defeats in each year) have Spurs recorded double figures for home league losses.

Manchester United, meanwhile, have shown resilience after a

turbulent start to their season. A humbling 3-1 loss at Brentford in late September was followed by three straight league wins and a 2-2 draw with Nottingham Forest last weekend.



up the Player of the Month award. However, recent meetings offer little encouragement for the visitors. United are winless in their last seven matches against Spurs in all competitions (D2 L5), losing each of the last four, including last season's Europa League final. The last side to beat United five times in a row was Liverpool between 2000 and 2002.

Spurs beat United 1-0 in last season's Europa League final, denying the Red Devils a Champions League berth. For 19-year-old defender Leny Yoro, the match represents a chance to "rewrite the narrative."

"Everyone knows what happened in the final," Yoro said. "This game can be a good game for us to prove that maybe the final could have had another result." Despite the disappointment of missing out on Europe, Yoro believes the lighter schedule has helped United refine their approach. "We have more time to work now... We're still in good momentum," he said. "This game will be important for us to stay near the top."

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STAR SPORTS 1

Australia vs India
5th T20I
Live from 2:15 pm
T SPORTS
Pakistan vs South Africa

3rd ODI
Live from 4:00 pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1
Premier League
Tottenham vs Man Utd

Live from 6:30 pm
Sunderland vs Arsenal
Live from 11:30 pm
Chelsea vs Wolves
Live from 2:00 am (Sunday)



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