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For Immediate Release

Asian Junior and Cadet Fencing Championships 2017
February 24 – March 5
Korat, Thailand

Day 4 – Girls Epee Team narrowly miss gold medal match

KORAT – Day 4 at the Asian Junior and Cadet Fencing Championships (AJCFC) 2017 saw the commencement of Team competition for Boys’ Sabre and Foil, and Girls’ Epee.

And for a fourth day running, victory in the semi-finals eluded Team Singapore, this time for the Girls’ Epee team of Kiria Tikanah Abdul Rahman, Esther Lai, Rebecca Ong and Thhivya Ashti Siva Kumar.

Given a bye into the Quarter-finals by virtue of ranking, the quartet easily brushed aside Uzbekistan 45-27 to enter the final four against Japan.

In the semi-final, Singapore trailed 16-19 into the penultimate bout as Thhivya handed over to Esther, the individual bronze medallist three days ago. Despite narrowing the score to 20-21 midway through the three-minute period, Esther conceded late points against her resurgent opponent.

Anchor Kiria took over at 20-23, with national coach Fu Hao giving her free rein to express herself in the final bout. The 16-year-old responded to the challenge valiantly, wiping out the three-point deficit and even led 30-29 as the clock ran down.

But regulation time expired with the score tied at 31-apiece. During the allotted minute for the priority match, both fencers shared nine double touches before the Japanese fencer broke through for the winning point, securing victory for her team with a 32-31 scoreline.

Bronze in the bag, Singapore went on to beat Chinese Taipei 45-33 in the classification match for third/fourth placing.

A disappointed Kiria lamented yet again coming so close, having also won the team bronze on her previous two outings at this competition.

“I tried whatever came to my mind and it worked, so I kept at it until she changed her tactics,” she said. “That final point was lost because I didn’t control my distance well, and it’s frustrating to come this close and not be able to complete the job.

“I didn’t fence my normal self during the individual competition and wanted to do better, and it was really motivating to have the team cheering for me. It made me fight harder.”

Singapore’s Boys’ Foil Team suffered the heartbreak of losing by the narrowest of margins to South Korea in the quarter-finals. Having despatched Chinese Taipei in the Round of 16, the quartet of

Jonathan Au-Eong, Kieren Lock, Darren Tan and Yeo Jing Zhe lead South Korea 25-17 at one point before frittering away the advantage.

Still, anchor Jonathan maintained his composure, getting the final touch in regulation time to tie the score at 33-33. But he was unable to repel the Korean attack in the priority bout, and conceded the point in the 33-34 defeat.

Relegated to the classification matches, the team duly beat Malaysia and India to secure a final placing of fifth.

The Boys' Sabre team of Sean Koh, Danial Haqim Mohd Sophian, Ahmad Huzaifah Saharudin and Jorelle See beat Chinese Taipei 45-32 before losing to favourites Hong Kong 45-33. Defeat against Kazakhstan, and victory over Thailand saw the team finish in seventh position.

The Cadet competition wraps up tomorrow (Tuesday 28 Feb) with Boys' Epee Team and Girls' Sabre and Foil events.

The AJCFC 2017 features more than 700 fencers from 27 Asian countries in both juniors and cadets events.

At the last edition of the AJCFC in Bahrain/Saudi Arabia, Singapore's Junior fencers returned with 1 silver and 4 bronzes, while the Cadets brought home 3 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze medals for one of Singapore's best historical showing.

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Fencing Singapore (formerly known as "Amateur Fencing Association of Singapore") was established in 1955 and is the national governing body for the sport of fencing. Currently, there are 5000 fencers in the fencing community. By actively participating in international competitions, organising international events and promoting the sport to more youths, Fencing Singapore aims to raise the profile of the sport and to achieve medals at the highest levels of global competition. More information about the sport can be found at <http://fencingsingapore.org.sg>