

England's SL tour could begin early

AFP, Colombo

The first of England's two winter tours to Sri Lanka will start earlier than planned if they fail to reach the World Twenty20 semi-finals, a senior Sri Lanka Cricket official said Thursday.

"They have asked if we have any objections to their coming early. We have said no objections," the official said.

England were originally scheduled to arrive on September 25 but are now looking at the 22nd.

"This will depend on whether or not England reached the semi-final stage of the World Twenty20," in South Africa, the official said.

The Twenty20 semi-finals take place on the 22nd and the final two days later.

In Sri Lanka, England will play their first three matches of the five-match tour in the central town of Dambulla starting on October 1.

The last two games are scheduled for the capital Colombo ahead of an October 15 departure.

England return to the island in mid-November for a three-match Test series.

KP sets up

FROM PAGE 21

cover boundary.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard in the ICC World Twenty20 Championship match between England and Zimbabwe at Newlands in Cape Town on Thursday:

ENGLAND

Maddy c Matsikenyeri b Chigumbura	14
Prior c Chibhabha b Mupariwa	20
Wright c Taylor b Chigumbura	0
Pietersen c Masakadza b Utseywa?	79
Collingwood run out (Sibanda)	37
Flintoff b Chibhabha	13
Shah c Chibhabha b Chigumbura	11
Mascrenhas c Masakadza b Chigumbura	0
Total: (For 8 wkts in 20 overs)	188
Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-20, 3-51, 4-151, 5-154, 6-172, 7-178, 8-178, 9-185	

Bowler O M R W

Chigumbura 4 0 31 4

Brent 3 0 34 0

Mupariwa 2 0 22 1

Utseywa 4 0 27 1

Taibu 2 0 20 0

Dabengwa 2 0 29 0

Chibhabha 3 0 24 1

ZIMBABWE

Sibanda c Maddy b Mascrenhas?

Taylor b Mascrenhas

Chibhabha c and b Schofield

Matsikenyeri c Flintoff b Schofield?

Chigumbura c Wright

b Collingwood

Masakadza c Wright b Broad

Utseywa not out

Dabengwa not out

Extras: (lb-1, w-3)

Total: (For 7 wkts in 20 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-74, 2-81, 3-84, 4-87, 5-89, 6-104, 7-137

Did not bat: Brent, Mupariwa

Bowler O M R W

Broad 4 0 29 1

Anderson 3 0 31 0

Flintoff 3 0 18 0

Mascrenhas 4 0 18 3

Schofield 4 0 15 2

Collingwood 2 0 23 1

Result: England won by 50 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Kevin Pietersen.

Toss: England.

Umpires: Tony Hill and Asad Rauf.

Long-awaited

FROM PAGE 21

disciplinary grounds.

However, despite the fact that both teams will have some new faces, that will definitely not dilute any of the heat that an India-Pakistan match usually generates.

Both teams may have new captains but the importance of this high-voltage clash is definitely not lost on any of them.

"For us, any game against India is very special. My team is working hard and they are keen to go out and give their best against India," said Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik.

Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was confident that young Indian guns were capable of handling the high pressure match.

Zimbabwe hails

FROM PAGE 21

countries have become increasingly strained and hit a new low in May when Zimbabwe, furious at the cancellation of a cricket tour, accused Canberra of funding "terrorist activities".

The defeat has left the men from Down Under needing to win their remaining group game against England at Newlands on Friday if they are not to go home early.

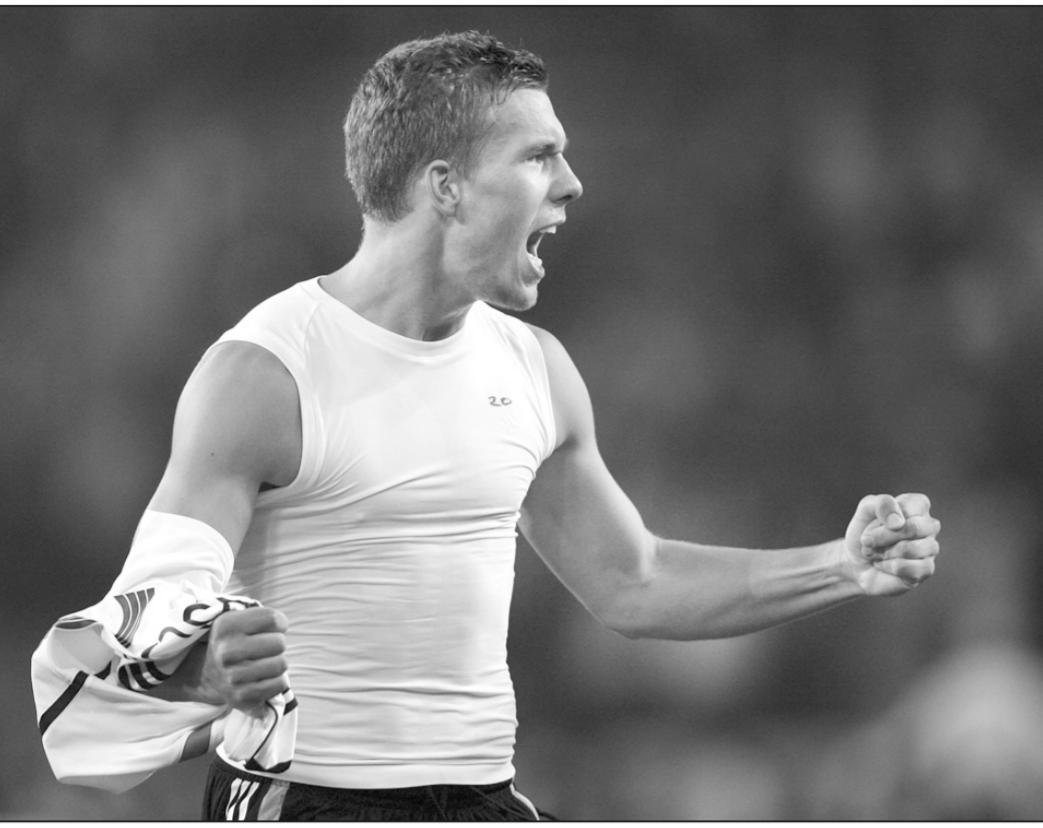


PHOTO: AFP

Germany forward Lukas Podolski exults after scoring during their friendly win over Romania at the Rhein-Energie Stadium in Cologne on Wednesday. Germany won 3-1.

A win is always a win

FROM PAGE 21

frustrated us but they have got the ability to win international matches. I am excited although it's a Twenty20 match, but remember it's a World Cup match," said Faruque.

"It was fantastic to see that Ashraful led the side from the front and Afتاب finished the game. You all know both the guys are very talented and they can change any game on their day. Our bowling was also fantastic, especially the way Syed Rasel bowled in the match set the tone for the team," explained the former national skipper.

"I think there is hardly any scope to question Ashraful's ability because he has repeatedly proved it to us through some memorable victories," said Faruque.

Faruque, whose last team selection even earned praises from Australian great Ian Chappell, said that he was also optimistic about the second round matches.

"Now there is no pressure on the team, that's why we can freely play the next group match and the second round games," he added.

His successor Rafiqul Alam also said that he was not surprised by the outcome.

"You see even Ian Chappell considered Bangladesh as a dangerous team in the tournament, so it was not unexpected. It's a very good team," said the new chief of the selection committee.

Interestingly, he had special praise for the Bangladesh captain.

"Some of his shots, at times, are as good as those of Sachin Tendulkar," said Rafiq.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the ICC World

TEST FIFTIES IN TWENTY20 INTERNATIONAL

Balls faced	Player	Opposition	Venue	Year
20	M Ashraful (BD)	West Indies	Johannesburg	2007
23	S Jayasuriya (SL)	New Zealand	Wellington	2006
25	A Symonds (Aus)	South Africa	Brisbane	2006
25	M Samuels (WI)	England	London	2007
25	Nazimuddin (BD)	Pakistan	Nairobi	2007
26	C Gayle (WI)	South Africa	Johannesburg	2007
27	L Bosman (SA)	Pakistan	Johannesburg	2007
29	P Collingwood (Eng)	West Indies	London	2007
29	C Gayle (WI)	England	London	2007
30	D Smith (WI)	England	London	2007

Nazimuddin c Sarwan b Rampaul1

Aftab not out 62

Ashraful c Gayle b Sarwan 61

Shakib c Powell b Sarwan 13

Kapali not out 5

Extras: (lb-4, w-8, nb-1) 13

Total: (For 8 wkts in 18 overs) 165

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-28, 3-137, 4-159

Did not bat: Reza, Rahim, Mashrafe, Rasel, Razzaq

Bowler O M R W

Powell 3 0 28 0

Rampaul 4 0 35 2

Gayle 4 0 21 0

Edwards 3 0 33 0

Bravo 2 0 34 0

Sarwan 2 0 10 2

Result: Bangladesh won by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Ashraful.

Toss: Bangladesh.

Umpires: Mark Benson and Nigel Llong.

BALLS FACED

Iqbal c Chanderpaul b Rampaul 10

Opposition

West Indies

New Zealand

South Africa

England

Pakistan

South Africa

England

England</