

Change in Tigers' SA schedule

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket South Africa (CSA) have made changes to the itinerary for the home series against Bangladesh in November.

The warm-up match between Bangladesh and South Africa A will now be a two-day fixture with the two Tests starting on November 19, a couple of days earlier.

REVISED ITINERARY

November 5: Twenty20 International, Johannesburg (D/N)
November 7: 1st ODI, Potchefstroom (D/N)

November 9: 2nd ODI, Bloemfontein
November 12: 3rd ODI, East London (D/N)

November 15-16: Against South Africa A, Kimberley

November 19: 1st Test, Bloemfontein
November 26: 2nd Test, Centurion

Fourth ODI re-scheduled

AFP, Colombo

The fourth one-day international between India and Sri Lanka at the Premadasa Stadium was called off without a ball being bowled due to rain here on Tuesday.

The match will now be played on Wednesday -- the reserve day.

India lead 2-1 in the five-match series, winning the second one-day by three wickets in Dambulla and the third game here by 33 runs. The hosts posted an eight-wicket win in the opening match in Dambulla.



Did U Know?

American Pete Sampras pocketed a phenomenal \$1,994,440 dollars during his career when he turned professional in 1988 to August 2001. This is the highest earnings ever as a tennis player.



TEN Sports

Sri Lanka v India
Fourth ODI (D/N)
Live from 3:00pm
US Open Tennis
Day Three
Live from 9:00pm

ESPN

Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live from 8:30pm



Abdul Qadir

(Pakistan cricket legend)

"Let's be honest. When our own people are not safe in the country, then how can we guarantee the safety of foreigners?" While supporting the postponement of the Champions Trophy.



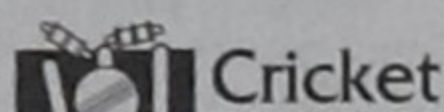
Federation Cup 2008
QUARTERFINALS
Abdullah v Sheikh Russel
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



Mohammedan's two-goal Nigerian striker Alamu Bukola (C) races past a sliding tackle by a Muktijoddha defender during their Federation Cup quarterfinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Jamie remains confident



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will get their last chance to get back some confidence ahead of three-match one-day international series against Australia when they meet Northern Territory Chief Minister's XI in a one-day match at the Gardens Oval in Darwin today.

The Tigers have had a forgettable show in the four practice matches against the Australian Institute of Sports (AIS) as they lost three games and won only one.

The bowling of the visitors had no answers against the Academy boys and the batting also gradually lost its way that resulted in a humiliating nine-wicket defeat in the last game.

"It is a worry as you have to take wickets early on and also keep the runs down. If the opposition is 120 in 20 overs then it is almost impossible to get back in the game. We have not hit the right areas and

have some work to do before the internationals," said coach Jamie Siddons while speaking to local reporters during the Tigers' training at the Marrara Oval yesterday. Siddons nevertheless believes his bowlers will be back especially after watching pacers Shahadat Hossain and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza hold their own in adverse situations, according to TigerCricket.com.

"Shahadat delivered rockets according to the AIS batsmen and he has been world class. We have a world-class bowler in (Mashrafe Bin) Mortaza and some good spinners. I think they'll be up for it when the ODIs start. After all we are here to play international games and not practice matches," Siddons said.

Vice-captain Mortaza felt everything was not lost in the practice games.

"We had some very good practice against a strong team," said Mortaza adding: "All of our main batsmen got runs at some point. Apart from the last match we made 270, 288 and 316 and that's very encouraging."

Mortaza, one of the three survivors

in the present squad from the team that defeated Australia at Cardiff in 2005 was also asked whether another fairytale was possible for the Tigers. "I have to say yes because we have done it before. Whatever the results may be I can say this much that if every player is able to give his hundred percent then we will compete against Australia. We are all keyed up for the big games."

Siddons also thought the Cardiff win would act as a fillip.

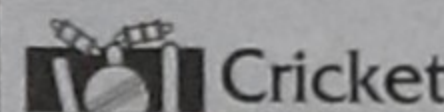
"Every now and then the boys who were there pull my leg by reminding me of that win as I was a coach of the Australian team at that time. I am sure they all are eagerly waiting for the series to start."

In a bid to keep him fresh for the ODI series Bangladesh might rest Shahadat who has created quite an impression in Darwin through his pace and hostility.

The Chief Minister's XI, coached by former Bangladesh and GP-BCB National Cricket Academy trainer Shane McDermott and who have in their ranks Western

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PCB looks for matches



CRICKINFO, undated

Pakistan are confident that they will be able to confirm a tri-series in either South Africa or Australia in order to fill the gap created by the postponement of the Champions Trophy which was scheduled to be held in September.

Shafiqat Naghmi, Pakistan board's chief operating officer, told the News that they would contact Australia and South Africa to fix matches for September.

"We are hoping to play a tri-series in South Africa with India. The Indian board president during the teleconference gave us 50 per cent assurance that this might be possible," Naghmi told PTI. "We have also spoken to Australia so if the South African plan does not

materialise we can involve them. We first have to see how the Indian board responds because their participation will help boost broadcasters and sponsors interest in such a series."

Pakistan could also invite either India or Sri Lanka for a home series but they've already played against them this year. Pakistan are also hosting India for a full Test and one-day series early next year.

"We don't want to take any gloss away from what is our most important home assignment (against India) by playing against them so close to the series," Naghmi said.

"Sri Lanka is also an option."

"The postponement of the Champions Trophy means that all the teams are free next month and I think they can help us out. Obviously the postponement has been a setback for us in many ways and we need to play cricket."

Australia are set to tour Pakistan next April for a five-match one-day series and a Twenty20 and Naghmi was optimistic they would honour their commitment. However, he admitted his disappointment at the non-Asian teams for pulling out of the Champions Trophy.

"We are definitely disappointed by Australia because they have not toured us for 10 years," Naghmi told AFP. "Australia have a commitment of playing five one-day internationals in April next year so we hope by then their fears are removed and they play in our country."

The ICC postponed the Champions Trophy, which was due to begin in Pakistan in 19 days' time, to October 2009, after five of the eight participating nations confirmed during a teleconference on Sunday that they would not send their teams for the event due

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CTG Football League Quality, Regency split points

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Quality Sports Club and Regency Sports Club shared points in a goalless draw in the ANZ Properties Premier Division Football League here yesterday at the MA Aziz Stadium.

The other match of the day between Agrabad Naujoan Club and Shatadal Club was abandoned ten minutes from time due to insufficient light. The match will be played afresh later on.

Quality and Regency put on a lacklustre show throughout the proceedings, failing to create any effective attack.

Only an attempt by Regency's Babu at the far end came close to

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East End win

SPORTS REPORTER

Ismail struck the all important goal on the hour to help East End Club beat Matuail Udayan Sangsad by a solitary goal in yesterday's Second Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

The day's other match between Police AC and Gazirchot SC ended in a goalless draw at the same venue.

Broad 5-for wrecks SA

STAR SPORT MONITOR

A five-wicket haul from England paceman Stuart Broad shot out South Africa for just 83 at Trent Bridge in Birmingham yesterday.

The lanky Nottingham fast bowler, who took the new ball, removed Graeme Smith, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Jean-Paul Duminy and Johan Botha in a fantastic 10-over spell, conceding only 23 runs.

The other wickets were shared by Andrew Flintoff (3-29) and Steve Harmison (2-4).

In reply, England were 20 for no loss after four overs.

Mohammedan ride on Bukola brace



SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan were on full throttle on way to the semifinals of the Citycell Federation Cup when the black and whites dumped 2005 runners-up Muktijoddha Sangsad out of the competition with a 2-0 victory in yesterday's second quarterfinal.

Alamu Bukola's early strikes -- the Nigerian forward's seventh goal in three appearances -- settled the issue for Mohammedan, whose opponents of the last four will be the winners of tomorrow's quarterfinal between BKSP and Chittagong Mohammedan.

Like the previous match, Mohammedan came close to take lead with their first attack but Robin sidevolleyed wide after meeting a cross by overlapping right fullback Nasir in the fourth minute before a 5,000-strong crowd at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Robin then set Bukola's first goal four minutes later with a precise low cross from the right and Nigerian needed a simple tap to put the ball beyond Nizam at the

Muktijoddha goal.

Struggling giants Muktijoddha were understrength without injured skipper Titu and his absence told in the defence as the black and whites got their second goal with their next foray in the 21st minute.

This time, Egyptian midfielder Hazem Khaled showed his nimble footwork at the left to dodge his marker Rony and cut the ball back to Bukola on the edge of the penalty area. The Mohammedan No. 10, who slotted a hattrick in the previous match against Arambagh, coolly placed the ball into Nizam's near post.

Nizam made a fine save on the brink of the breather when he tipped out Rajani's long range drive but Mohammedan seemed to enjoy the two-goal cushion so much that they simply did not turn up after the resumption. Even three changes by coach Maruful Haque were not enough to inspire them play like the first half.

After Arman Aziz fired the ball wide of Nizam's upright in the 51st minute, it were all Reds. But Kanchan twice failed to get to the right position to waste Nigerian striker Ikedinachi's hard work.

A couple of changes in the midfield -- Tajul for Asif and Sentu in place of Jalaluddin -- gave Muktijoddha an edge and they created a series of shooting oppor-

tunities.

With Mohammedan's three veteran centre-backs -- captain Jewel Rana, Hassan Al Mamun and Rajani who were part of Bangladesh's gold winning team in the 1999 SAF Games -- looking rather slow, Sentu, Tajul and Ikedinachi took five attempts on Aminul's goal but all the efforts went astray.

Before being replaced, Kanchan fluffed the easiest chance to bring Muktijoddha back when the former national striker nodded a centre by Tajul over the open net barely from eight yards.

Mohammedan's only real chance of the half went to Komol but the substitute's first-time shot on a pass by Bukola gave Nizam no trouble at all.

Tajul should have reduced the arrears two minutes from time when the shaven-headed midfielder dribbled past three defenders but he wasted valuable seconds as his placing shot was palmed away by an advancing Aminul.

National custodian Aminul was almost embarrassed in the 90th minute when he lost an angled drive by Ikedinachi off his chest but harmlessly, the ball missed the mark by inches.

On a rather quiet night, Kanchan was the only player to be booked by referee Azad Rahman.

Nadal off and running

AFP, New York



Reigning Olympic champions Rafael Nadal and Elena

Dementieva got their US Opens off and running Monday, facing stiff challenges from a pair of unseeded players.

Nadal, who goes into a Grand Slam ranked No. 1 in the world for the first time, outlasted Bjorn Phau 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) on day one of the 20.6 million dollar tournament.

"When you win in three sets it is a good result," Nadal said. "I had some difficult moments in the match so that is going to help me be prepared for the pressure moments later on."

Like Nadal, Dementieva came out shaky but finished on a winning note by brushing aside Agkul

Amanmuradova in straight sets.

The fifth seed Dementieva hopes her 6-4, 7-5 victory is a stepping stone to better things.

"The first round is never easy," said Dementieva, who stopped Serena Williams and Vera Zvonareva before beating Russian compatriot Dinara Safina in the gold medal match at the Olympics.

The 22-year-old Nadal, of Spain, fired seven aces and hammered 37 winners but it wasn't the opening statement he had hoped for as he needed almost three hours to beat 146th ranked journeyman Phau.

"I tried to keep my level up. I tried to hurry him," said Phau who plays mainly on the lower level Challenger circuit.

Nadal moves through to the second round where he will face Rylor De Heart who surprised Belgium's Olivier Rochus in a five setter 7-6 (7/4), 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

Nadal has his gold medal to go with his victories at the French

Open and Wimbledon this year.

Last week he surpassed Roger Federer as the world's top ranked player after spending a record 160 weeks as No. 2.

The sky is the limit for Nadal who has eight titles this season but has never made it to a hardcourt Grand Slam final.

Scottish sixth seed Andy Murray, who is looking to improve on his fourth-round finish last year, rolled to a 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 win over Sergio Roitman in his opening match in the final Grand Slam of the season.

"I didn't lose a serve the whole match," Murray said. "He was hitting his forehand really hard and making me do a bit of running."

"It was a decent test and I came through it pretty well."

On the women's side of the draw, Dementieva, second seed Jelena Jankovic, third seed Svetlana Kuznetsova, China's Li Na and 23rd

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Russian Elena Dementieva plays a forehand against Agkul Amanmuradova of Uzbekistan on the second day of the US Open at the Flushing Meadows on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

The semifinal line-up of the Premier Bank 23rd National Basketball Championship was completed at the Rajshahi Divisional Sports Complex and District Gymnasium yesterday.

Bangladesh Rifles, Navy, Army and Khulna won their respective quarterfinal matches to reach the last four.

Navy eliminated hosts Rajshahi 109-58, BDR defeated Chandpur 83-55, Army beat BKSP 91-47 and Khulna defeated Police 96-81.

NATIONAL KABADDI
Satkhira ensured their hundred per cent success in the 28th National Kabaddi competition at the Comilla Stadium.

They thrashed Jhenidah 77-18 and then beat Dinajpur 23-17.

In the day's other matches,

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