

## 2011 WORLD CUP Challenge with venues

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sought the government's all-out support after it was awarded eight matches of the 2011 ICC World Cup.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN  
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) senior vice-president Mahbubul Anam (R) speaks at a press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"It is not BCB's event rather it's a nation's event. For the first time in our sports history we are going to host such a big event. We took the challenge and we have to arrange an event of international standard," said BCB's senior vice-president Mahbubul Anam yesterday.

Anam and BCB's director Shafiqur Rahman Munna, who attended a meeting on Tuesday with the World Cup's central organising committee in Mumbai along with BCB president Lt Gen Sina Ibn Jamali, disclosed the detailed outcomes at a press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The number of matches has been improved for Bangladesh from the original five as the tournament's central organising committee relocated Pakistan's fourteen matches in the meeting.

After the additional matches the main challenge lies in preparing the venues and with less than two years now to be prepared for the opening ceremony as well as the matches, Bangladesh have yet to decide on the venues.

"We need the government's support immediately as we have no time to waste. After the additional matches now we have to prepare two original and as many alternative venues for the showcase tournament," said BCB director Shafiqur Rahman Munna,

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PHOTO: AFP  
NO FUN FOR KNIGHT RIDERS: A grim-faced Sourav Ganguly of Kolkata Knight Riders walks off the field after his dismissal during an IPL Twenty20 match against Royal Challengers Bangalore at Kingsmead, Durban yesterday.

## BCB cool on amnesty issue

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will deliberate on the amnesty issue of the Indian Cricket League (ICL) rebels in next month's board meeting.

According to BCB senior vice-president Mahbubul Anam, the Indian cricket board are just following the ICC's directive in regards to the players of the unauthorised tournament.

"BCCI just endorsed the ICC ruling about the players who play in the unapproved league. The ruling will come into effect in June and we will discuss the new ICC guideline in our next board meeting to be held next month," said Mahbubul Anam.

The Indian players who choose to return to the official fold will be eligible to play international cricket after a one-year 'cooling period' but can play domestic cricket from June 1, when the ICC's new rules on official and unofficial cricket come into force.

BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Younus reminded that the board would sit with the fifteen players, who severed ties with Bangladesh cricket to join the rebel league, if they fulfill BCB's prior given conditions.

"The board may sit with them when they withdraw their retirement and scrap their contracts with the ICL," said Yunus.

"We said this when these players first retired and joined the ICL last year and our stance will remain the same now," added the former national cricketer.

Yunus added that the ICL rebels would be taken into consideration following the decision taken by the neighbouring board. BCCI offered an 'amnesty' for all Indian players in the ICL, provided they cut all ties with the unofficial league by May 31.

But Dhaka Warriors captain Habibul Bashar was unenthusiastic about the turn of events, terming it 'almost impossible'.

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## Win big, stay alive

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh must score more than five goals in today's match against Macau to reach the final round of the AFC Challenge Cup next year.

The hosts have a great chance to qualify as the best runners-up among the four qualifying groups if they can topple Maldives's goal difference that stands at four. Bangladesh must win and then make sure they win pretty big to make it to the competition with Myanmar, all set to become the group champions.

According to the AFC website, Maldives have six points from three games in the Group B qualifiers which ended on April 18. Bangladesh are on three points from two matches and a goal difference of zero but they have advantage of playing the last qualification match with the knowledge of exactly what they have to do.

Another advantage for Bangladesh is the quality of their opponents. Macau are the world's 195th ranked football team and have already lost 4-0 to Myanmar in Sunday's opening Group A game.

According to the AFC Challenge Cup by-

laws, champions of each of the four group, the best runners-up of all four groups, North Korea, Tajikistan and defending champions India will play in the eight-team competition.

Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Sri Lanka have already qualified from the other three groups as champions and Myanmar are the strong contenders to claim the spot from Group A.

Bangladesh coach Shafiqul Islam Manik has said that his side will go for a win by a big margin, but did not want to take their opponents lightly.

"There is no question of taking Macau lightly since they are a good team and they will be playing under lights so I expect them to come out strong. Our team is well prepared and we are hungry for a win. We played well in our first match against Cambodia and quite the opposite against Myanmar. But, we can have a bad day and there is no use looking back at bygone we will come out fresh and play for a win," said Manik.

Myanmar has won both their encounters in this week's qualifiers and a victory today against small fries Cambodia will make them group champions.

Speaking about whether any changes have been made to the side Manik responded "One change is imperative from the last game as Nasir was red carded but we still have not decided the final eleven."

## UNDER-19 CRICKET Perera's ton in drawn game

SPORTS REPORTER

Sri Lanka Under-19s' Kusal Perera slammed an unbeaten century in the drawn second four-day game against Bangladesh Under-19 at the Birshreshtha Shahid Matiur Rahman Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Bangladesh had scored 257 in 98.1 overs, giving away a lead of 23 runs in their first innings before the visitors scored 260-6 from 74 overs as the game petered out. The first four-day between the two sides was also drawn.

The Sri Lankan left-hander cracked a dozen boundaries in his 177-ball knock of 114 as he

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## Bangalore win a thriller

AFP, Durban



Mark Boucher hit an unbeaten 25 off 13 balls as Bangalore Royal Challengers posted an exciting five-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League here on Wednesday.

Riders in the Indian Premier League here on Wednesday.

Kevin Pietersen's Bangalore needed 10 in the last over to achieve a 140-run target before Boucher smashed spinner Chris Gayle's penultimate delivery for a winning four to help his team register the second victory in six matches.

Kolkata have so far won only one of their six games. Teenager Shreevats Goswami also played a big role in Bangalore's victory, top-scoring with 43. The 19-year-old opener hit six fours in his 46-ball knock.

Australian spinner Brad Hodge put pressure on Bangalore with three wickets, but South African wicket-keeper Boucher batted sensibly in the crucial last over to steer his team home. He was named man of the match.

Pietersen earlier used his spinners intelligently to restrict Kolkata to a modest total.

Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble was the most successful bowler with 2-16 off four overs.

South African Morne van Wyk top-scored for Kolkata with 43 not out.

Part-time off-spinner Pietersen himself bowled the opening over and struck with his first delivery, having hard-hitting New Zealand batsman Brendon McCullum caught by Virat Kohli at point.

Kumble was pressed into the attack early in the innings and got a wicket in his opening over when he trapped Hodge (17) leg-before before accounting for Wriddhiman Saha (21).

Left-arm spinner Prabhu Ananna claimed a big wicket when he had well-set West Indies skipper Gayle caught in the deep. Gayle, batting with a runner due to leg cramps in the later part of his innings, hit a 37-ball 40.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 139-6 in 20 overs (Van Wyk 43 not out, Gayle 40, Saha 21; Kumble 2-16).

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 143-5 in 19.5 overs (Goswami 43, Boucher 25 not out, Kallis 23; Hodge 3-29).

Result: Bangalore won by five wickets. Man-of-the-match: Mark Boucher.

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Three centuries capped off a remarkable opening day of Bangladesh Under-19's two-day match against CAB Combined XI at the hallowed Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

Didar Hossain, Soumya Sarker and Nurul Hasan made merry as the visitors piled 522 for six in their share of 90 overs.

Hasan was the aggressor of the trio, taking only 75 balls to reach his century that had twelve boundaries and three sixes.

He followed Didar's 102 off 121 balls made with 15 fours and a century from Soumya, who made 123 off 98 balls with a 13 fours and as many as five sixes. Soumya and Didar added 287 for the third wicket before two more century

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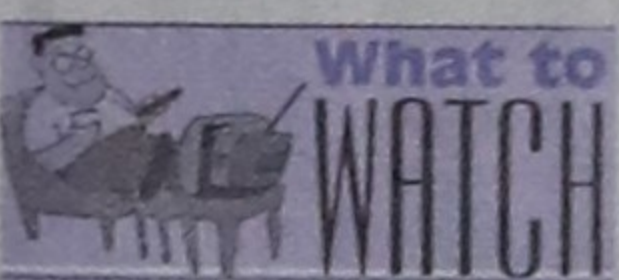
## PCB fines Ajmal for outburst

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Pakistani off-spinner Saeed Ajmal has been fined an undisclosed sum of his match fee and warned after his comments about Australian all-rounder Shane Watson, officials said Wednesday.

The 33-year-old, whose bowling action was reported as illegal during the second one-dayer against Australia on

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BTV

AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers

Cambodia v Myanmar

Live from 3:30pm

Bangladesh v Macau

Live from 6:00pm

SET Max

Indian Premier League

Deccan Chargers v Delhi Daredevils

Live from 4:30pm

Chennai Super Kings v Rajasthan Royals

Live from 8:30pm

ZEE Sports

UEFA Cup

(Semifinal, First-Leg)

Dynamo Kiev v Shakhtar Donetsk

Live from 11:30pm



AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers

Cambodia v Myanmar

Time: 3:30pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Bangladesh v Macau

Time: 6:00pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

## Teams ready to roll

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong



Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club official Ali Abbas.

Abbas made this remark at a pre-tournament briefing yesterday afternoon. His sentiment was also echoed by rival officials of Brothers Union in a separate briefing.

This statement speaks of how seriously the teams have taken the country's first-ever Twenty20 cricket tournament styled "Habib Group PCL 2009".

Such desperate feeling among the teams to remain in the title battle have left a clear message that none of them were taking the championship 'lightly' and won't leave the battleground unchallenged.

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REVISED FIXTURE		
Date	Team	Time
May 2	Mohammedan v Top Sports	2:30 pm
May 3	Dada Warriors v Dhaka Tigers	10:00 am
	Abahani Ltd v Brothers Union	2:00 pm
May 4	Pirates of Ctg v Ispahani	10:00 am
	Mohammedan v Brothers Union	2:00 pm
May 5	Abahani Ltd v Top Sports	10:00 am
	Dada Warriors v Ispahani	2:00 pm
May 6	Brothers Union v Top Sports	10:00 am
	Pirates of Ctg v Dhaka Tigers	2:00 pm
May 7	Ispahani v Dhaka Tigers	10:00 am
	Mohammedan v Abahani Ltd	2:00 pm
May 8	Dada Warriors v Pirates of Ctg	2:00 pm
Semifinal		
May 9	A Group Champion (X) v B Group Runners-up (X)	
	B Group Champion (Y) v A Group Runners-up (Y)	
Final		
May 10	Winning Team of "X" v Winning Team of "Y"	
* Note: Semifinal & Final time will be declared later.		

## Blues block Barca

AFP, Barcelona



leaving the hosts goalless for the first time at home this season in the competition.

As expected Barca took the game to Chelsea and enjoyed the vast majority of the possession but they were unable to find a way through to goal.

Petr Cech made a couple of important blocks from Samuel Eto'o and substitute Alexandr Hleb but too often they were restricted to strikes from distance.

In the pre-match build-up Xavi Hernandez predicted a battle between Barca's passing game and Chelsea's more physical approach and this proved to be the case after a predictably tense opening in which both teams felt each other out.

To deal with the aerial challenge Gerard Pique was preferred at the heart of the Barca defence alongside Rafa Marquez with club captain Carles Puyol surprisingly left on the bench.

For Chelsea coach Guus Hiddink decided to pack the midfield playing John Mikel Obi and

dropping striker Nicolas Anelka despite claiming his team would go out and attack.

Barca began probing the visitors defence and their quick movement left the Chelsea backline at full stretch.

An interchange between Eto'o and Xavi saw the Cameroon international shoot wide from the edge of the area while Xavi himself and Lionel Messi also tested the Chelsea goal.

Chelsea looked to contain Barca with strong challenges but at times they went over the top and both Alex and Michael Ballack were booked mid-way through the first-half.

Before the interval in a rare foray forward Drogba could have given Chelsea the lead when an error from Marquez put him through on goal but he fired straight at the keeper. Barca too went close with Thierry Henry forcing a save from Cech at his near post. Chelsea continued to defend deeply and while they battled hard it is an ominous task to last out a full 90 minutes against the quality of the Barca attack but that is just what they did.

Marquez was carried off for Barcelona in what turned out to be a season ending injury.

In the final stages Barca desperate for a lead to take to Stamford Bridge brought on Bojan Krkic and Hleb but they too could not conjure a goal although the ex-Arsenal player Hleb saw a shot saved well by Cech in injury time.

## India cancel Zim tour

CRICINFO, undated

The BCCI has decided to cancel India's planned tour of Zimbabwe scheduled for later in the year, giving the Indian cricketers a break ahead of September's ICC Champions Trophy in South Africa. The tour of Zimbabwe was scheduled to take place after India's short ODI series in West Indies following the ICC World Twenty20 in June.

"The visit to Zimbabwe was planned but has been dropped now as it was to involve three teams. They will have to find the third team for the series to be held," BCCI secretary N Srinivasan said. South Africa were announced

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## Close win for Punjab

AFP, Durban



Mumbai Indians' Jean-Paul Duminy smashed a solid half-century but failed to stop Kings XI Punjab from posting a tense three-run win in the Indian Premier League here on Wednesday.

Punjab, defending a modest 120-run target, restricted Mumbai to 116-7 despite South African Duminy's 59 under pressure. Punjab now have three wins and Mumbai two from five matches.

Mumbai needed 12 runs to win off the last over but Punjab seamer Yusuf Abdulla conceded only eight, also claiming the prize wicket of Duminy who was caught in the deep while trying a big shot.

Mumbai were tottering at 45-4 in the 10th over before Duminy raised hopes of victory with a responsible 63-ball knock containing four boundaries. He put on 49 for the fifth wicket with Abhishek Nayar (15).

Punjab owed their early advantage to pacemen Irfan Pathan, Vikramjeet Malik and

Abdulla, who grabbed three of the first four wickets, including those of hard-hitting openers Sachin Tendulkar and Sanath Jayasuriya.

Jayasuriya fell for a duck in the opening over, caught by skipper Yuvraj Singh in the slips off Pathan. Skipper Tendulkar contributed just one before cutting Malik to Mahela Jayawardene at point.

Punjab earlier failed to build a partnership against a disciplined Mumbai attack, with Sri Lankan wicket-keeper Kumar Sangakkara alone offering stiff resistance with an unbeaten 45 off 44 balls.

Sri Lankan paceman Lasith Malinga was the most successful Mumbai bowler, finishing with 2-12 off four overs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

KINGS XI PUNJAB: 119-8 in 20 overs (Goel 12, Sangakkara 45 not out, Yuvraj 10, Powar 10, extras 17; Malinga 2-12)

MUMBAI INDIANS: 116-7 in 20 overs (Duminy 59, Bravo 15, Nayar 15, extras 11; Pathan 2-20, Abdulla 2-19)

RESULT: Kings XI Punjab won by three runs.



PHOTO: AFP  
NO SPACE ALLOWED: Barcelona's Argentine star Lionel Messi (C) is surrounded by three Chelsea players John Terry (L), Michael Essien (behind Messi) and Michael Ballack (R) during their Champions League semifinal first-leg match at Nou Camp on Tuesday.