



GIVE ME A HUG! Deccan Chargers captain Adam Gilchrist (C) is overjoyed after beating Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League Twenty20 final at the Wanderers in Johannesburg last night.

## BCB wants WC games at BNS

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) added a new twist to the 2011 World Cup venue selection saga when the sport's governing body yesterday expressed its desire to hold matches at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS).

BCB called an emergency meeting yesterday only to discuss the preparation for the event where board of directors decided that they would request the authorities concerned to take necessary steps for arranging World Cup matches at the BNS, the country's premier sports venue.

"It was an unanimous decision. We will request the state minister for youth and sports to hold two or three matches besides the opening ceremony at the BNS," informed Jalal Yunus, BCB's media committee chairman, after the meeting.

"You know, there are emotional attachment with this stadium [BNS] as all of our previous major international events took place at this venue. How can one accept the fact that this traditional venue will not have its share? It was the common sentiment [in the meeting]," he explained.

Jalal also informed that they discussed about the demand of Chittagong sports lovers for holding matches in the port city. The meeting decided to take the issue to the International Cricket Council (ICC).

"You know we have only two venues in line with the ICC guidelines. We are very much concerned about the demand of the Chittagong sports lovers, so we have decided to request the ICC to allow us arrange matches there," he said.

Bangladesh has been awarded eight matches including two quarterfinals of the showcase event.

"The meeting also decided that one board director will hold the chief's post of the local organising committee [LOC]. We will soon appoint host event director as well as managers for the five committees - cricket operations, finance, commercial, logistics and media. We have also decided to form a national organising committee," he informed.

He said that they would propose a 10-million-dollar budget to the central organising committee [COC] during its May 27 meeting in Mumbai.

## Deccan charge to glory

CRICINFO, undated

Deccan Chargers took the bull in their emblem too seriously, as they came out charging to defend a modest total. They bowled with fire, they fielded aggressively, they sledged with a vengeance, and literally, almost by physical force, hustled Royal Challengers Bangalore out in a thrilling final that lived up to the occasion at the Wanderers in Johannesburg last night.

The Hyderabad side defended a modest score of 143-6, keeping Bangalore down to 137-9 in 20 overs.

The final turning point of the night was the 15th over of the chase, bowled by Andrew Symonds when he matched his verbal skills with the wickets of Ross Taylor and Virat Kohli in back-to-back deliveries.

Bangalore were 99 for 6, and Taylor had looked dangerous in his 20-ball 27.

In defence of an ordinary total, Deccan came out pumped with the way they bowled.

Jacques Kallis looked to take the pressure off the 19-year-old Manish Pandey. But RP Singh removed Kallis, who tried to go for consecutive boundaries. Out came Roelof van der Merwe, who used the adrenalin to push Bangalore further towards the target.

Van der Merwe got a mouthful from Symonds and Ryan Harris, but he responded by taking two sixes off one Harris over. Even after Pragyan Ojha got Pandey with the first ball he bowled, van der Merwe's pyrotechnics kept Deccan at a distance.

One six later adrenalin got the better of van der Merwe as he jumped out to Ojha and was stumped. Bangalore went to target Harmeet Singh, Dravid looked for a

scoop shot even when the fine leg was back, and was bowled. A high-risk shot for just one run.

Taylor looked like taking Bangalore home coolly, hitting three fours and a six, until Symonds got him on the pull, with a touch of extra bounce. Adam Gilchrist pulled off a smart stumping down the leg side next ball, and it was all down to Boucher now.

Gilchrist tried to get through Harmeet's last over, during which the youngster claimed Boucher on the cut. The bowling allocation was planned perfectly: RP had two left, and Ojha and Harris one each. Bangalore, two wickets in hand, needed 27 from the last two overs, and 14 from the last, but RP and Harris kept their cool despite a six from Robin Uthappa. A possible turning point was avoided by Harmeet, who ran in from fine leg and took a diving catch to send

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

## BCB calls up 24 for U-19 World Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Twenty-four players have been called up for next year's ICC Under-19 World Cup.

The squad includes four members of the previous campaign including batsmen Amit Mazumder, Mahmudul Hasan, Saikat Ali and Nasir Hossain while the rest are newcomers.

The players have been asked to report to team operations manager Tanjeb Ahsan Saad and project operation & logistic officer Shahidul Islam at the Academy House in

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Imran back after 11 yrs

Cricket

MOHAMMAD ISAM

After eleven long years, Imran Ahmed made it back into a national selection when he was called up in the Bangladesh A side yesterday. Imran was chosen in the 15-man squad that will take on Maharashtra Cricket Association in two four-day matches, first of which begins on May 28 at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

The gritty right-hander has always performed in the domestic front but remained in the wilderness. This season, Imran was the third highest-

scorer in the Premier League with 564 and made 450 runs in the first-class competition.

Imran, who hails from Mymensingh, burst on to the scene twelve seasons ago and was swiftly picked for a national set-up.

"In 1998-99, I was called up

in the World Cup preliminary side but of course I didn't play. Then I played for the A team in the Wills Cup in Pakistan that year," informed Imran.

In the past five seasons Imran has excelled with the bat, frequently staying among the top five scorers of the season. Imran has scored five centuries in 78 first-class matches for Barisal in the National Cricket League.

Mehrab Hossain will lead the A team and can expect good support from senior batsmen Nafis Iqbal, Hannan Sarker, Faisal Hossain and Rajin Saleh. Mahbulul Alam and Nazmul Hossain have been picked although it's not

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



### Did U Know?

Americans Nancy Hogshead and Carrie Steinseifer registered the first official tie in Olympic history in the 100-metre freestyle at the 1984 Olympics. They each recorded a time of 55.92.



### Gerard Pique

(Barcelona defender)  
"They are players who are difficult to stop, you can try lots of ways to do it but they always seem to have something different."  
On Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.



### What to Watch

ESPN  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm

## BFF training camp in June

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has decided to start the national team's preparation camp from the first week of June at BKSP.

BFF's team management committee took the decision yesterday to prepare the team ahead of the SAFF Championship in December this year, SA Games in January-February next, AFC Challenge Cup in February or May as well as for an invitational tournament in Myanmar.

The committee members discussed about the fitness issues of the players as the national team trainer has sought at least three months to gain fitness of the players ahead of the international events.

Hasanuzzaman Bablu will

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraf (L) and his deputy Mashrafe Bin Mortaza are all smiles before their departure for England at the Zia International Airport yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Tigers fly into England safe and sound

### Captain & his deputy also leave

TIGERCRICKET.COM, Oxford

The Bangladesh contingent has landed in England to start their World Twenty20 mission and it has been a pleasant arrival. The Tigers are the first among the top 10 teams to kick off their preparation for the tournament on English soil. The West Indies are of course currently on tour in England and are involved in the ODI series against the hosts which followed the Tests but Bangladesh's purpose of coming in nine days before the launching of the tournament proper is solely T20 preparation oriented.

The journey from Dhaka took 16 hours including a two and a half hours' transit in Dubai. On the way aircraft crew and fellow passengers flooded the team with good wishes. There were no delays or other hassles and the arrival formalities at the Heathrow were over in a flash. It actually took more time for the squad to sign autographs from the immigration officers than the process itself. Allama Siddiki, Acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the UK, High Commission staff and about 20 representatives of the formidable Bangladeshi community here welcomed the team at the Heathrow. In the absence of captain Mohammad Ashraf and his deputy Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who left Dhaka on Sunday, the focus was on world's number one ranked all-rounder

Shakib Al Hasan who was interviewed by local Bangladeshi channels Bangla TV and Channel 5.

Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak also responded to queries regarding his remodelled action and how he plans to redeem himself in England.

It was just past 8pm local time (2:00am Bangladesh Standard Time) when the team

arrived London but there was daylight still. The weather has been around a refreshing 20 degrees lately and the sunsets around 9pm. With England being six hours behind Bangladesh time the Tigers have a bit of adjusting to do over the next couple of days.

There is a very definite feel-good factor about England in the team.

"This is a lovely country. Look at all the green around and everything is so neat. Even the sheep on the valleys look unreal, as if this was a postcard," said left-arm pacer Syed Rasel, who has played club cricket in Croydon and has toured twice with the A Team. "Playing cricket here is also a pleasure and things are very

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## England thrash WI

Cricket

AFP, Bristol

Paul Collingwood enjoyed himself with both bat and ball as England cruised to a six-wicket win over the West Indies in the second one-day international here on Sunday. Victory, achieved with 14 overs left, gave England an unbeatable 1-0 lead in the three-match series following Thursday's washout at Headingley.

A win was all but assured for England when, after captain Andrew Strauss, won the toss, they bowled out the West Indies for just 160 inside 39 overs.

Fast bowler Stuart Broad

led the way with four wickets for 46 runs, including the first two and the last two, while medium-pacer Collingwood took three for 16.

Collingwood's haul included top scorer and fellow all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, out for 50 following his stint in the Indian Premier League.

England lost opener Strauss cheaply before a stand of 76 between Owais Shah (38) and man-of-the-match Collingwood (47 not out) saw them to the brink of victory.

Ex-Ireland international Eoin Morgan was two not out on his England debut.

Broad removed both opener Lendl Simmons and Ramnaresh Sarwan for ducks. Simmons was lbw on the backfoot and Sarwan caught

behind off an uncertain push. West Indies captain Chris Gayle, who'd seen his side thrashed twice during their preceding 2-0 Test series loss in England, tried to counter-attack and lofted Graeme Swann's first ball for six.

But the off-spinner had the last laugh, bowling Gayle for 31 with his next.

Bravo and the experienced Shivnarine Chanderpaul took the score from 44 for three to 107 for four when the latter was out to a top-edged pull off seamer Tim Bresnan.

Collingwood was not the worst bowler to be operating on a green-tinged pitch and he started his wicket-taking burst by ending Bravo's brisk innings with a delivery which

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan speaking to London-based Bangla channels Bangla TV and Channel 5 on arrival at London's Heathrow Airport on Saturday.

PHOTO: TIGERCRICKET.COM