

T20 or Test makes a cricketer

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Things look more complicated for up-and-coming cricket nations like Bangladesh with the advent of the game's shortest version, Twenty20, on the horizon.

A conundrum indeed since it is time for the youngest Test nation to learn the craft of the oldest format of the game, as often the pundits are poring over the Tigers' every move.

If the Tigers even lift the Twenty20 World Cup (one may deem it a daydream) they will not be able to calm the critics who never miss the chance to put their pens on paper about the existence of the Tigers in the elite competition.

And in this juncture, when they have been desperately looking to develop their technique and temperament in their batting to go well with the longer-version, the freshest genre of the game demands attempted slogs so early in an innings that it is not an easy task to adjust.

So for the organisers, players and experts it was not good enough to rely on one mantra: to stay at the crease as much as possible in order to make a habit out of it. Twenty20 thus offers a big challenge for the new generation of cricketers in the country.

In these days one can't deny the fascination of the Twenty20 cricket game because it's not all about the big sixes but it also puts money in

the pocket. One mediocre cricketer (someone like Indian Yusuf Pathan) can even earn more from playing this version of the game than the longer types. As a result, a growing cricketer may concentrate on developing to become a useful player to shorten his chances of developing himself into a complete cricketer.

With the existence of tournaments like IPL, ICL and of course the World Cup, the format already got its footing in the game though our authority, means the governing body of the game, is still in disorientation and lagging behind to catch the flavour of the competitions and there were evidence the way they arranged the domestic Twenty20 competitions.

The initiatives from Chittagong, after the successful holding of PCL, however made sure that more is coming for the cricketers in the country.

Then the vital question is that whether we can balance the three versions --Test, one-day and Twenty20 -- or put our improvement in the longer version at risk.

The popular suggestion is that it's all about adjustment. One may bring the example of some players like Mathew Hayden and Adam Gilchrist to say that the format is not at all a barrier if you have the class after the way they embraced Twenty20.

But here lies the big problem for the players

in the country as they even have a lack of prudence to adjust Test cricket with the one-day format of the game.

Bangladesh are carrying a relatively young and inexperienced team to the second version of the ICC Twenty20 World Cup in England.

But still one can't write them off. It is not only because no team is favourites in this shortest version of the game but also their strength as a team.

And of course any success in the tournament uplifts the reputation of the Tigers in the international arena and encourages the upcoming cricketers. Their second round berth in the inaugural tournament of the showcase event in South Africa in 2007 evidenced that they embraced the latest version of the format for certain.

One may point out the lack of genuine batters in the team though there is Tamim Iqbal and to some extent Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and players like Shakib Al Hasan and captain Mohammad Ashraful who have the ability to improvise, but still they can pull off a surprise or two.

Even after that, the question remains as to how we could embrace all three formats because it would be unwise to forget that we are spending our childhood in Test cricket, the time when someone learns all his basics.



PHOTO: STAR
BEST FOOT FORWARD: Young Bangladeshi cricketers now find themselves at crossroads struggling to decide between catering their game to either of Test or T20 cricket.

About ICC World Twenty20 Cup

The ICC World Twenty20 Cup 2009 will be the second time a world event for Twenty20 cricket is being held.

The event, which features 12 teams, starts today at Lord's.

The inaugural ICC World Twenty20 competition took place in South Africa in September 2007.

The competition, which lasted for just two weeks, was a thrilling event which culminated in India's dramatic five-run defeat of Pakistan at Johannesburg.

There were many memorable matches, not least the tie between India-Pakistan in Durban in the group stages which saw the first ever bowl out at an ICC World Twenty20 event, Bangladesh's victory over the West Indies and Zimbabwe's shock defeat of Australia at Cape Town.

Next hosts

The International Cricket Council's executive committee voted for the hosts of the tournament after examining the bids which was made by the nations keen to hold a Twenty20 World Championship. After South Africa, England is hosting in 2009 followed by West Indies in 2010, Sri Lanka in 2012 and Bangladesh in 2014. The ICC decided that South Africa and England should host the first two tournaments because they were the earliest adopters of the format.

WORLD TWENTY20 CUP FIXTURE

Match schedule for the 2009 ICC World Twenty20 Cup starting in England on Friday:

	DATE	TIME	GROUP	GAME	VENUE
	June 5	22:30BST	Group B	England v Netherlands	Lord's
	June 6	15:00BST	Group D	New Zealand v Scotland	The Oval
		19:00BST	Group C	Australia v West Indies	The Oval
	June 7	23:00BST	Group A	Bangladesh v India	Trend Bridge
		18:30BST	Group D	Scotland v South Africa	The Oval
	June 8	22:30BST	Group B	England v Pakistan	The Oval
		18:30BST	Group A	Bangladesh v Ireland	Trend Bridge
	June 9	22:30BST	Group C	Australia v Sri Lanka	Trend Bridge
		18:30BST	Group B	Netherlands v Pakistan	Lord's
	June 10	22:30BST	Group D	New Zealand v South Africa	Lord's
		18:30BST	Group C	Sri Lanka v West Indies	Trend Bridge
		22:30BST	Group A	India v Ireland	Trend Bridge
SUPER EIGHTS					
	June 11	18:30BST	Group F	D1 v A2	Trend Bridge
		22:30BST	Group E	B2 v D2	Trend Bridge
	June 12	18:30BST	Group F	B1 v C2	Lord's
		22:30BST	Group E	A1 v C1	Lord's
	June 13	18:30BST	Group E	C1 v D2	The Oval
		22:30BST	Group F	D1 v B1	The Oval
	June 14	18:30BST	Group F	A2 v C2	Lord's
		22:30BST	Group E	A1 v B2	Lord's
	June 15	18:30BST	Group E	B2 v C2	The Oval
		22:30BST	Group F	B1 v A2	The Oval
	June 16	18:30BST	Group F	D1 v C2	Trend Bridge
		22:30BST	Group E	D2 v A1	Trend Bridge
SEMIFINALS					
	June 18			First Semifinal	Trend Bridge
	June 19			Second Semifinal	The Oval
	June 21			Final	Lord's

* All times are converted to Bangladesh Standard Time (BST).

SQUADS

PAKISTAN

Younis Khan (capt), Salman Butt, Ahmed Shehzad, Shoaib Malik, Misbah-ul-Haq, Shahid Afridi, Kamran Akmal (wk), Fawad Alam, Sohail Tanvir, Umar Gul, Mohammad Aamer, Yasir Arafat, Saeed Ajmal, Shahzaib Hasan, Rao Iftikhar Anjum.

SRI LANKA

Kumar Sangakkara (capt), Muttiah Muralitharan, Sanath Jayasuriya, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Mahela Jayawardene, Chamara Silva, Angelo Mathews, Ajantha Mendis, Nuwan Kulasekara, Thilan Thushara, Lasith Malinga, Isuru Udana, Farveez Maharoof, Jehan Mubarak, Indika de Saram.

BANGLADESH

Mohammad Ashraful (capt), Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Tamim Iqbal, Zunaed Siddiqui, Rokibul Hasan, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Nayeem Islam, Abdur Razzak, Shahadat Hossain, Syed Russel, Mahmudullah Riyad, Rubel Hossain, Shamsur Rahman, Mithun Ali.

South Africa

Graeme Smith (captain), Johan Botha, Yusuf Abdulla, Mark Boucher, AB de Villiers, Jean-Paul Duminy, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Albie Morkel, Morne Morkel, Justin Ontong, Robin Peterson, Dale Steyn, Roelof van der Merwe.

ENGLAND

Paul Collingwood (capt), James Anderson, Ravi Bopara, Stuart Broad, Adil Rashid, James Foster, Robert Key, Dimitri Mascarenhas, Eoin Morgan, Graham Napier, Kevin Pietersen, Owais Shah, Ryan Sidebottom, Graeme Swann, Luke Wright

WEST INDIES

Chris Gayle (capt), Denesh Ramdin (wk), Lionel Baker, Sulieman Benn, David Bernard jnr, Dwayne Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Fidel Edwards, Andre Fletcher, Xavier Marshall, Kieron Pollard,

Darren Sammy, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Lendl Simmons, Jerome Taylor

NEW ZEALAND

Brendon McCullum, Martin Guptill, Jesse Ryder, Ross Taylor, Scott Styris, Neil Broom, Jacob Oram, James Franklin, Nathan McCullum, Daniel Vettori (capt), Ian Butler, Peter McGlashan, Kyle Mills, Brendon Diamanti, Iain O'Brien.

AUSTRALIA

Ricky Ponting (capt), Michael Clarke, Nathan Bracken, Brad Haddin, Nathan Hauritz, Ben Hilfenhaus, James Hopes, David Hussey, Michael Hussey, Mitchell Johnson, Peter Siddie, Brett Lee, Andrew Symonds, David Warner, Shane Watson.

SCOTLAND

Gavin Hamilton (capt), Richie Berrington, John Blain, Kyle Coetzer, Gordon Drummond, Majid Haq, Neil McCullum, Dewald Nel, Navdeep Poonia, Glen Rogers, Colin Smith, Jan Stander, Ryan Watson, Fraser Watts, Craig Wright.

IRELAND

William Porterfield (capt), Andre Botha, Jeremy Bray, Peter Connell, Alex Cusack, Trent Johnston, Kyle McCallan, John Mooney, Kevin O'Brien, Niall O'Brien (wk), Boyd Rankin, Paul Stirling, Regan West, Andrew White, Gary Wilson.

THE NETHERLANDS

Jeroen Smits (capt & wk), Peter Borren, Mudassar Bhukari, Tom De Grooth, Maurits Jonkman, Alexei Kervezee, Dirk Nannes, Ruud Nijman, Darren Reekers, Edgar Schiferli, Pieter Seelaar, Eric Swarczynski, Ryan ten Doeschate, Dan van Bunge, Bas Zuiderent.

INDIA

MS Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh, Yusuf Pathan, Rohit Sharma, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Praveen Kumar, RP Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Pragyan Ojha, Irfan Pathan.

Team profiles

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Smith, AB de Villiers and J-P Duminy would be influential with the bat but surprisingly it could be the Protean spin attack--Johan Botha and Roelof van der Merwe that would bring them closer to the title.

But that is more because of a thin pace attack with only rookie Yusuf Abdulla as the man in form.

Look out for: AB de Villiers

ENGLAND

If England are to make any noise in this tournament, the likes of Ravi Bopara and Kevin Pietersen must score big and there has to be a big contribution from Andrew Flintoff and their Twenty20 specialists. The hosts have nothing to lose since not much is expected from them.

But Paul Collingwood's leadership would be tested if the seniors fail to inspire the likes of newcomers Eoin Morgan and Graham Napier, recognised as Twenty20's first superstar.

Graeme Swann's off-spin and the leg-break of Adil Rashid could come in handy in the slow English wickets but again, runs will dictate terms for England.

Look out for: Graeme Swann

WEST INDIES

Skipper Chris Gayle is playing his favourite format so it wouldn't be hard for the Jamaican to rally the West Indies to a better performance this time. Having crashed out of the last edition in the first round, the Caribbean would heavily depend on IPL stars Dwayne Bravo and Fidel Edwards but it could be little-known Darren Sammy who makes a big statement.

Shiv Chanderpaul and Ronnie Sarwan would shepherd the young batting line-up that includes Lendl Simmons, Andre Fletcher, Xavier Marshall and Kieron Pollard. But their proclivity to self-destruct could come back to haunt them.

Look out for: Fidel Edwards

NEW ZEALAND

The Black Caps could blow hot and cold in this tournament. The perennial semifinalists would look to the steady leadership of Daniel Vettori as there would be abundant flamboyance.

Jesse Ryder, Martin Guptill and Brendon McCullum will provide the fire at the top but it would be down to Scott Styris and Ross Taylor to give impetus in the last ten overs.

The bowling looks thin apart from the wily Vettori, but the thing that can hurt them would be the indifferent form of some of their IPL stars.

Look out for: Ross Taylor

AUSTRALIA

Ricky Ponting would lead a side that is

heavy on experience and but has never really done that well in Twenty20 cricket.

Michael Clarke and the Hussey brothers are key with the bat in hand but it would be the big-hitting David Warner and Andrew Symonds who would make the big difference.

The return of Brett Lee and availability of Shane Watson could give Australia a definite edge but a lack of adaptability could hurt the one-day champions.

Look out for: David Warner

THE NETHERLANDS

The inclusion of Dirk Nannes, the son of Dutch migrant parents, adds Twenty20 experience to the Netherlands.

Nannes made a name for himself with his IPL exploits for Delhi Daredevils.

Jeroen Smits will once again be leading the squad, after captaining them to a third-place finish at the ICC World Cup Qualifiers. Another two to look out for could be all-rounder Ryan ten Doeschate and veteran Bas Zuiderent.

Look out for: Ryan ten Doeschate

SCOTLAND

The Scots were given a facelift after a lacklustre ICC Trophy campaign a few months ago and under new captain Gavin Hamilton, things are reportedly on the mend.

Hamilton, a one-cap wonder for England, would need good support from Neil McCullum, Ryan Watson and Craig Wright.

Their initial group games are against formidable New Zealand and South Africa.

Look out for: Gavin Hamilton

IRELAND

The return of Jeremy Bray and Paul Stirling would definitely boost an Ireland side that lost Eoin Morgan to big brother England.

The World Cup Qualifiers champions have again opted for experience that served coach Phil Simmons well in the South Africa tournament.

Ireland have been drawn in Group A and will face Bangladesh on June 8, and India on June 10, with both fixtures taking place at Trent Bridge, Nottingham.

The green-brigade would hope their captain William Porterfield score the runs at the top of the order.

Look out for: William Porterfield

INDIA

The defending champions has to be the most experienced team in the competition after a long IPL season as well as being the most impressive.

MS Dhoni has the luxury of a brilliant opening pair in Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir and a middle-order that could shape their success in the tournament. Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh, Rohit Sharma and Yusuf Pathan have all made their name in this form of the game but someone like Ravindra Jadeja can keep these four on their toes.

Ishant Sharma and RP Singh would be supported by Harbhajan Singh and Pragyan Ojha as the Indians would look to fight fatigue in an already busy schedule.

Look out for: Yusuf Pathan