

INDIA V BANGLADESH

Tigers sniff a chance

TIGERCRIKET.COM, Nottingham

Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons is expecting the Tigers to arrive at the party from the very first match of the ICC World T20 against India at Trent Bridge today.

"I think everyone knows that we are dangerous at any time. We have some potential match-winners and one of them is sitting here (Mohammad Ashraf), at any form of the game but our consistency has not been there. We don't want to lose this game, we want to win it but we are the underdogs and we are very relaxed about the game. We want to put our best foot forward and put them under some pressure," said Siddons while speaking to the media at Trent Bridge yesterday.

The Group A match starts at 6pm local time (11pm Bangladesh Standard Time). The Bangladesh side had a

three-hour training session at Lady Bay just across the road from Trent Bridge in the morning after which Siddons and

skipper Ashraf attended the media session at Trent Bridge. The captain then headed for London to attend the opening

ceremony of the World T20.

Siddons said that expectations back home would spur the side on and the team's total focus was on the India match because winning it would mean a place in the Super Eight.

"We have 140-150 million people back home who wish us well and want us to do well. Every time we lose they feel pain and every time we win they are happy. The public mean a lot to us and we want to impress them. We'll have a crack at India and we don't want to wait for the next game against Ireland to qualify for the Super Eights. We also know that we have to bat, bowl and field well to do that."

"If we lose tomorrow then we have just one more chance. As you have said we have nothing to lose against India and in the second game Ireland have got nothing to lose against us. We don't want to think about that game. We are thinking about the India game like you know win the toss, make some runs and put



Bangladesh skipper Mohammad Ashraf is practising the pull shot during the net session at Lady Bay in Nottingham yesterday.

PHOTO: TIGERCRIKET.COM

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England's Luke Wright (R) plays a shot through off-side as Netherlands wicketkeeper Jeroen Smits looks on during their ICC World Twenty20 Cup opening match at Lord's in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Rain spoils T20 opening ceremony

AFP, London

Leadens skies and rain, which delayed the scheduled toss, were not conducive to the kind of theatrics associated with Twenty20 and eventually led to the cancellation of the opening ceremony of the second edition of the ICC World Twenty20 at Lord's yesterday.

Indeed conditions were reminiscent of those which accompanied the limp opening ceremony at Lord's for the 1999 fifty over World Cup - the last time that tournament was

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BTV & STAR Cricket

ICC World T20 Cup
New Zealand v Scotland
Live from 3:00pm
Australia v West Indies
Live from 7:00pm
India v Bangladesh
Live from 11:00pm

STAR Sports

French Open
Live from 7:00pm

ESPN

Asian WC Qualifiers
Uzbekistan v Japan
Live from 7:55pm
Qatar v Australia
Live from 10:00pm



Joan Laporta

(Barcelona president)
"The football market is very dynamic and maybe there could be a surprise because he is a player who is very much in demand."
On the future of Samuel Eto'o.



Bangladesh v MCA XI
Four-Day Match, Day Four
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur

Federer-Soderling final

AFP, Paris



Roger Federer moved to within one match of finally winning the French Open when he came from behind to defeat giant Argentinian Juan Martin del Potro in Friday's semifinal.

The second seed, who has lost the last three finals here to Rafael Nadal, took everything Del Potro could fling at him and then pounced when the South American wilted to win a cliff-hanger 3-6, 7-6 (7/2), 2-6, 6-1, 6-4.

In Sunday's final he will take on Swedish surprise Robin Soderling who sent top seed Nadal crashing out in a fourth round shocker.

Soderling, seeded 23, had earlier reached the championship match with a battling 6-3, 7-5, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 semifinal win over Fernando Gonzalez of Chile.

It was the second five-setter for Federer in the tournament having battled back from two sets to love down against Tommy Haas in the fourth round.

"That's one more step and I am so happy to

have comeback like that," he said.

"For a moment there Juan Martin was playing so well, but I had some luck on my side and I fought hard."

"Soderling played a great match against Gonzalez to be in the final. He deserves to be there because he also beat Nadal and he was the man to beat in this tournament."

Del Potro had dropped just the one set en route to the last four while Federer had dropped four, but with the world No. 2 having won all five of their previous matches in straight sets he was the big favourite.

Federer had the first break point to go 3-1 up, but failed to take it and quickly fell 0-40 down on his following serve.

He staved off two of the break points against him, but Del Potro converted the third to lead 3-2.

Del Potro easily held his next two serves hitting his first serves at well over 200 kilometres per hour and there was a stunned silence as he then broke Federer to love in the following game taking the set in 38 minutes.

Federer steadied the ship as they moved on

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Swedish Robin Soderling plays a forehand against Chile's Fernando Gonzalez (not in picture) during their French Open semifinal at Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Roy runs out of credit

AFP, Sydney



Media and fans on Friday called for the end of troubled all-rounder Andrew Symonds' international cricket career after his latest disgrace in

being ordered home from Australia's tour to England on disciplinary grounds.

Symonds' top-level career appeared over after Cricket Australia pulled him out of the World Twenty20 tournament on Thursday for breaking team rules.

Australian media agreed that the 33-year-old bad boy of Australian cricket had been given enough chances after a turbulent career beset by persistent off-field misdemeanours.

The groundswell of public opinion on talkback radio and newspaper on-line polls was largely in step with the media condemnation of Symonds.

The Daily Telegraph said Symonds would never play for Australia again, while The Australian newspaper said he had been given every chance and had blown it.

The Sydney Morning Herald said the

patience of all in Australian cricket had been exhausted.

Former Test wicketkeeper and commentator Ian Healy said he believed that Symonds was "tired of cricket" and "wanted to be dropped."

"I'm not sure whether Symmo wants to play cricket or be bound by contracts or be bound by the Cricket Australia structure," Healy said on radio.

"I sense that he might be seeking the freedom that IPL (Indian Premier League) and maybe a (English) county stint might offer him."

Healy said Symonds plainly had not overcome his problems with alcohol despite numerous counselling sessions demanded by Cricket Australia.

CA chief executive James Sutherland said the disciplinary breaches, some related to alcohol use, were the "final straw."

His central contract, which he retained only last month, was also under review, Sutherland said.

While Symonds' behavioural problems may have proved his ultimate undoing, Cricket Australia also came under attack for their

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Netherlands shock Eng

STAR SPORT DESK

Netherlands shocked hosts England in the inaugural match of the ICC World Twenty20 Cup at Lord's in London yesterday beating the giants by four wickets in the last ball of the match.

The minnows staged a gutsy fightback as England made 162 for five.

England had been on a course for a huge total during a century first-wicket stand between Ravi Bopara (46) and Luke Wright, who top scored with 71.

But from 102 for none in the 12th over, England lost five wickets for 51 runs as their innings petered out.

Essex all-rounder Ryan ten Doeschate took two for 35 in his four overs as England,

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Bangladesh A take first innings lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Enamul Haque and Sohrawordi Shuvo spun Bangladesh A to a first innings lead against the visiting Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) on the third day of the four-day match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The left-arm spinners shared eight wickets to wrap-up MCA for 299 runs in 116.2 overs.

The second string Bangladesh side, which made 357 runs in their first innings, took an overall 76 runs lead after the third day's play when they scored 18 for no loss in their second innings.

Resuming the day on 60 for 2, the visitors lost wickets at regular interval and it was number ten batsman Kiran Adhav who frustrated the local bowlers the most. Kiran top scored 65 off 116 balls that featured eight fours and a six while Sangram Attikar scored 52 runs off 124 balls with seven fours.

Enamul picked up four wickets for 87 runs in 37 overs while Shuvo claimed four for 89 runs.

BRIEF SCORES

BANGLADESH A: First innings 357 all out in 134 overs and second innings 18-0 in 7 overs (Kayes 13 not out, Nafis 3 not out, extras 2).

MCA: First innings 299 all out in 116.2 overs (Sangram 52, Kedar 40, Ankit 36, Rohit 26, Shrikant 21, Kiran 65, extras 22; Nazmul 1-15, Dollar 1-34, Shuvo 4-89, Enamul 4-87).

TODAY'S T20 MATCHES

New Zealand v Scotland
Venue: The Oval
Time: 3:00pm
Australia v West Indies
Venue: The Oval
Time: 7:00pm
Bangladesh v India
Venue: Trent Bridge
Time: 11:00pm

AUSTRALIA V WEST INDIES

Aus look to reshuffle

AFP, London



Australia will be forced into a late change of plan when they begin their quest for the ICC World Twenty20 title against the West Indies at the Oval on Saturday now that Andrew Symonds has been sent home.

The controversial all-rounder was given his marching orders following an alcohol related incident that may well have brought down the curtain on the Queensland star's international career.

This is not the first time Symonds has been undone in this way - he was dropped for two matches during Australia's 2005 tour of England after turning up on the morning of their shock one-day loss to Bangladesh in Cardiff the worse for wear.

Symonds's absence robs Australia of one of the world's leading Twenty20 players. A hard hitting batsman, brilliant fielder and a bowler capable of both medium pace and spin, Symonds ought to be a captain's dream in this

format.

That was certainly the view of the Deccan Chargers, winners a few weeks ago of the Indian Premier League, who paid 1.35 million dollars for the services of the Birmingham-born Symonds.

However, Australia know what it is like to be rocked by a late withdrawal - leg-spin great Shane Warne sustained a drugs ban on the eve of their unbeaten run to the 2003 World Cup title in South Africa - and still do well.

And experienced fast bowler Brett Lee said of Symonds: "He's a world-class player and to leave a gap like that is not great for the Australian team but we always find a way to fill a void."

Much now will depend on Australia captain Ricky Ponting to get the side back on track.

The Tasmanian remains one of the world's best batsmen in all forms of the game and Ponting looked in superb touch while making 56 during a warm-up win over New Zealand this week.

"He has let himself down, let all his teammates down and Cricket Australia down," was

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NEW ZEALAND V SCOTLAND

Kiwis staying under radar

AFP, London



New Zealand's World Twenty20 opener against Scotland at the Oval on Saturday promises to be a low key affair - and that is, you suspect, just the way the Black Caps want it.

For years now in one-day cricket New Zealand have punched above their weight and their quality was on show this week when they beat defending World Twenty20 champions India by nine runs in a warm-up match at Lord's.

India's subsequent nine-wicket thrashing of Pakistan in another warm-up at the Oval meant the impact of the New Zealand loss was not felt for too long back home in the sub-continent.

But it was a reminder of the heights the Black Caps can reach.

In wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum they

have one of the most dynamic batsmen in world cricket and a worthy successor to the likes of Craig McMillan and Nathan Astle.

Jesse Ryder is also a batsman that can make bowlers look stupid and while the absence of Shane Bond robs them of a genuine quick, New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori remains arguably world cricket's pre-eminent left-arm spinner in all forms of the game.

He took three for 24 in the recent victory over India and Vettori relishes a Twenty20 format which, on paper at least, looks to be tilted heavily in favour of batsmen.

"In Twenty20, you are not going to second-guess yourself," said Vettori.

"The batsman is going to attack you, most spin bowlers realise that, and if they attack too much you create chances and you find even part-time spinners in the Indian Premier League being highly successful."

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Bangladesh A spinner Sohrawordi Shuvo celebrates the fall of a Maharashtra Cricket Association wicket with his teammates on the third day of the second four-day match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR