

Bangladesh in tough group

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh have been placed in a challenging group with India, South Africa, England and the West Indies as the groupings for the ICC World Cup 2011 was approved at an ICC meeting in Johannesburg yesterday.

In a break from tradition, the tournament to be held in the sub-continent sees the 14 competing teams divided into two groups of seven with the Tigers finding themselves in Group B alongside the four giants. Bogey team Ireland are also pencilled in the same group with the Netherlands expected to be the minnows in the pot.

The Tigers will however be thankful to have avoided champions Australia, who lead Group A along with Pakistan, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Canada and Kenya.

The groupings also mean that India and Pakistan will avoid a potentially fiery early clash as the bitter rivals find themselves placed in different groups.

The groups of seven was finalised on the second day of the ICC Board meeting in Johannesburg.

At the meeting, the ICC also lauded the success of the World Cup's miniature version, the ICC Champions Trophy, which had earlier won the endorsement of Ricky Ponting and Daniel Vettori. "I think most experts of the game and the opinion-makers are now convinced the ICC Champions Trophy definitely has a place in the cricket calendar," David Morgan, the ICC President, said. "It also gives

me immense pleasure to say the quality of cricket we have seen in the last 14 days proves that 50-over format can comfortably co-exist with the traditional five-day Test and the short 20-over formats."

In the last edition of the World Cup in West Indies in 2007, Bangladesh had been placed in Group B along with India, Sri Lanka and Bermuda. They managed to make it to the Super 8's on the back of a shocking win over India. The Tigers then went on to beat South Africa in the Super 8's but failed to make the semifinals.

Interest in the World Cup is high in Bangladesh, as the cricket-crazy nation gears up to host cricket's showpiece event for the first time. Bangladesh will host eight matches including two quarterfinals. The opening ceremony is scheduled to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka on February 17, 2011.

2011 WORLD CUP GROUPINGS

GROUP A	GROUP B
Australia	India
Pakistan	South Africa
New Zealand	England
Sri Lanka	West Indies
Zimbabwe	Bangladesh
Canada	Ireland
Kenya	Netherlands

Note:
- The top four teams from each group will qualify for the Super 8s
- The top four teams from the Super 8s will qualify for the semifinals

Nat'l cricketers warm up well

SPORTS REPORTER

Left-arm spinner Enamul Haq shone in the Twenty20 practice matches to guide the Bangladesh national cricket team win against Gazi Tank and Kalabagan KC yesterday ahead of Zimbabwe's tour of Bangladesh later this month.

Enamul claimed three scalps for 28 to bowl out Gazi Tank for 95 in the allotted 20 overs after the national side made a modest 117 for seven, riding on 80-run partnership between Mehrab Hossain and

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Eng U-19 cricketers due today

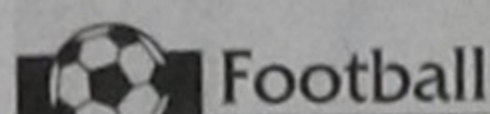
SPORTS REPORTER

The England under-19 cricket team arrive in Dhaka today on a month-long tour to play one four-day Test and seven one-dayers against Bangladesh under-19 team.

The English start their tour with a two-day match against BCB Selection XI at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah on the 12th and 13th of October. They then travel to Chittagong where the Test will be held over 16-19 October at

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BFF mulls new academy



Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Kazi Salahuddin, the president of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), is contemplating building a Football Academy elsewhere after having scrapped the plan of running a soccer academy in Sylhet. Salahuddin expressed his views after failing to get exclusive rights on the newly-built Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) in the north-east region of the country.

"We politely turned down the government's decision a couple of days earlier because the section they (the sports regulatory body) wanted to lease us could only meet half our demands. And, we are now thinking of establishing a private football academy elsewhere in the country with 250 budding footballers," Salahuddin told reporters at the BFF House yesterday.

The National Sports Council in early September had agreed to lease a part of

the Sylhet sports institution to the Bangladesh Football Federation on conditions after the football's governing body appealed to allocate the Sylhet

BKSP to run a 100-player football academy.

"It was not possible to get a fruitful outcome, if we started an academy at the Sylhet BKSP

with only 50 to 55 footballers. Because, the number of players would have been reduced to 30-35 due to the different problems of the players. But we want to get the hundred percent outcome from the academy and are planning for a private football academy that might be a profitable organisation," said Salahuddin, also the president of the South Asian Football Federation.

The BFF boss said that they would generate Tk 30 crore for the football academy through floating shares if needed.

"To generate the amount, we may float shares with each share worth Tk 10 lakh and later the profit will be distributed amongst the shareholders in a certain period after selling the footballers."

Salahuddin informed that half of the amount would be spent to build the academy with modern facilities and the rest of money would be set as a fixed deposit to run the academy around the year.

He also informed the academy would also give general lessons on English, Mathematics and Bangla.



KAZI SALAHUDDIN

BD A lose in T20 opener

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A lost to Maharashtra Cricket Association by 12 runs on Duckworth-Lewis method in the first Twenty20 match at the Poona Cricket Club in Pune yesterday.

Put in to bat, Bangladesh A made 149 runs for the loss of six wickets in their allotted

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Shaun Pollock

(Former South Africa star all-rounder)

"It's difficult to find reasons why things went wrong. There are always two teams and sometimes the other team just play better on the night."

Who is not ready to accept that the Proteas are chokers.



ESPN

Sportscenter India

Sports News

Live from 9:30pm

STAR Sports

Champions League T20

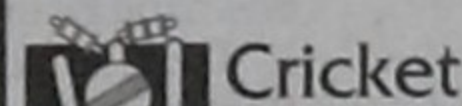
Opening Ceremony

Live from 8:30pm

Royal Challengers v Cape Cobras

Live from 9:15pm

'50-overs will stay'



Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The ICC Champions Trophy has gone a long way to ensuring the continuance of ODIs, the captains of Australia and New Zealand, the two finalists, have said. Since the advent of the Twenty20 game, which has drawn huge crowds around the world, there has been increasing talk of the 50-over format falling away.

But Ricky Ponting and Brendon McCullum, standing in for injured Blacks Caps captain Daniel Vettori, gave their thumbs-up for the 50-over format and the tournament after Australia beat New Zealand by six wickets in Monday's final in Centurion.

"There's been a lot of talk about that since the 20-over game has become as popular as it has," Ponting said. "There's plenty of space for both 20-over cricket and 50-over cricket to fit in alongside the Test game. The Test game is the form of the game I enjoy the most, but 50-over cricket, with tournaments like this, will certainly hold its own."

"I was worried at the time when 20-over cricket became as popular as it did that we might start playing a few less 50-over games, but I think tournaments like this can only help the game."

"I've really enjoyed the tournament and I think the fans around South Africa have enjoyed the tournament, so it's got some endorsement from me, and even a low-scoring game like today can probably be one of the more entertaining games that you can watch and be involved in as a player."

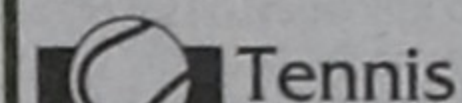
Ponting, who also picked up the Player-of-the-Series and Golden bat awards after his side defended their title, has played in all six editions of the Champions Trophy. But he said the latest edition, which was reduced to only eight teams for the first time, had been the best organised.

"We've only been here a couple of weeks and the tournament's over," Ponting said. "You've got the best eight teams in the world playing for it and you've got a great place to play here in South Africa with two very good grounds to play on."

McCullum endorsed Ponting's views on the tournament, which was postponed by a year after it was moved from Pakistan for security reasons. "I thought this tournament was good," he said. "The top eight teams in the world coming together and playing over a short period of time; I thought it worked well. I guess there weren't too many nail-biting games, but I still think the quality of cricket was fantastic."

"If 50-over cricket is to remain in the calendar, it's a great way to certainly push it with tournaments like the Champions Trophy."

Amol sails into semifinals



Tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

Top seed Amol Roy of Engineers' Club reached the semifinals of the Anlene National Tennis Tournament without any hiccup as he disposed of Lakshman Lal of the American Club 6-2, 6-2 at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

He will face Nordic Club's Alamgir Hossain who got better of BKSP's Oamir Faruk 6-2, 6-0, in the semis. In the other semifinal Ranjan Ram of Dhaka DSA will face Dipu Lal of Nordic Club. Ranjan had an easy game against Biplob Ram of NTC as he dropped only two games in the match. Dipu Lal though faced stiff opposition from Mofazzel Hossain of NTC, but ultimately won the match in straight sets, 6-2, 6-4.

Women's top-seed Sathi Sarkar of NTC was pushed hard by her club-mate Sarda in the first game, but eventually got across the line with an easier second set. The game was decided 7-5, 6-1. She will be facing Ma Hai Ching of Bandarban in the semifinals. Ching beat Narshingdi's Nipa 6-1, 6-1.

NTC's Disha Islam dropped just one game in the second set against Moumitu of BKSP to book herself a semifinal berth. She will be facing Ripa of Narshingdi who produced a comeback after dropping the first set 4-6 against NTC's Barsha Islam to take the next two sets 6-3, 6-4 and complete the semifinal line-up.

All the semifinal matches of the men's and women's groups will start today at 9 am at the National Tennis Complex.



Barsha Islam in action during her women's singles quarterfinal of the Anlene National Tennis Tournament against Ripa at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH.COM

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14th TRANSCOM CUP Golf Tournament

8th and 9th October, 2009
Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka