

BCB unveils revised itinerary

SPORTS REPORTER Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced a revised itinerary on Tuesday for England's tour of Bangladesh in February-March.

England will arrive in Dhaka on February 21 to play three ODIs and two Test matches against the Tigers apart from some practice matches.

The visitors will play two limited-over practice games at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium before the One Day series and a three-day warm-up match at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong before the two-match Test series.

The first two One Day internationals would be day-night affairs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Both teams will then travel to Chittagong to play the third and final ODI and the first Test.

The second Test will take place at Mirpur.

The England Cricket Board (ECB) has already announced two separate squads for the series with Alastair Cook named as captain.

ITINERARY

February 23: Warm-up one-dayer against BCB XI at Fatullah.

February 25: Warm-up one-dayer against BCB XI at Fatullah.

February 28: 1st ODI at Mirpur.

March 2: 2nd ODI at Mirpur.

March 5: 3rd ODI at Chittagong.

March 7-9: 3-dayer against Bangladesh A at Chittagong.

March 12-16: 1st Test at Chittagong.

March 20-24: 2nd Test at Mirpur.

Warne's desire

AFP, London

Shane Warne said he wished he was "20 years younger" as he helped unveil plans for a new global Twenty20 alliance.

India's Rajasthan Royals, where Warne is both captain and coach, are the driving force behind a scheme to create a worldwide Twenty20 brand.

The other teams involved include English county Hampshire, a team Warne once captained, South Africa's Cape Cobras and West Indies' Trinidad and Tobago.

Talks are also in progress to bring on board Victoria, Australia's domestic Twenty20 champions and the side where leg-spin great Warne initially made his name as a professional cricketer.

All of the teams taking part will now carry the "Royals" suffix in their domestic Twenty20 competitions and play each other in a series of matches, with the first edition planned for England in July.

Organisers hope to stage a second "Royals Twenty20" in either Australia or South Africa in December, with a third edition pencilled in for either Jaipur or the Middle East in early 2011.

It is expected players from each member of the "Royals family" could be shared between the teams in an exchange system.

That could offer the chance of year-round cricket for those yet to reach full international standard and allow talented youngsters to gain experience of different conditions.

There are also proposals for teams from New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to join the Royals 2020 once the event was established.

"I'm so excited by this," said Warne.

"It would be nice to be 20 years younger," added the 40-year-old. "I am delighted to be part of this new innovation, and I am excited by what we can achieve, given what we have already achieved."

"Yet again, the Royals are leading the way," added Warne who led the franchise co-owned by Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty to victory in the inaugural IPL in 2008. "It is a bonus that clubs with which I have such deep affection are so involved."

DAV'S EVENT National Cricket League (Four-Day Match, Day Three) Dhaka v Sylhet Venue: Shaik Chandra Stadium, Bogra Rajshahi v Barisal Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium Khulna v Chittagong Venue: BKSP



South Africa fast bowler Dale Steyn (2nd from R) is congratulated by teammates as India batsman Amit Mishra walks past them on the fourth day of the first Test in Nagpur yesterday.

SA outplay India

Cricket AFP, Nagpur

South Africa thumped India by innings and six runs despite a fighting century by Sachin Tendulkar on the fourth day of the first Test on Tuesday to go 1-0 up in the two-match series.

Fast bowler Dale Steyn (3-57) and left-arm spinner Paul Harris (3-76) shared six wickets to bowl out India for 319 in their follow-on at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur.

Harris picked the key wickets of Tendulkar (100) and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who suffered his first Test defeat as captain since taking charge in 2008.

It was India's third defeat by an innings margin at home, all of those coming against South Africa.

The South Africans now need to just draw the second and final Test beginning in Kolkata on February 14 to

reclaim their top ranking from India.

The emphatic win was set up by Hashim Amla (253) and Jacques Kallis (173) who helped South Africa post an imposing 558-6 declared before Steyn picked a career-best 7-51 to bowl out India for 233 in their first knock.

Steyn finished with a match haul of 10 wickets for 108 runs. India's lone resistance in the second innings came from Tendulkar, who smashed 13 fours in his 179-ball knock on the way to his 46th Test century.

Tendulkar, who hit two successive centuries during India's 2-0 away Test win against Bangladesh, defied the South African attack for close to four and a half hours before being dismissed in a bizarre fashion.

Tendulkar tried to sweep Harris but the ball bounced off his body, hit the elbow and fell on to the stumps. He watched the ball in disbelief before trudging back to the pavilion.

The batting ace shared 72 runs for the third wicket with

Murali Vijay (32) and another 70 runs with Dhoni, who was caught at silly point after staying for 144 minutes at the wicket.

Resuming at 66-2 after being made to follow on, the hosts lost overnight batsman Vijay inside the first hour of play.

Debutant Anurag Badrinath (six) edged Parnell to Mark Boucher, who returned to keep wickets after missing the final session on Monday with a back strain.

After the dismissal of Dhoni for 25 in the post-lunch session, Harbhajan Singh hit a run-a-ball 39 with six fours and a six to provide some cheer to Indian fans before curtains were drawn on the innings.

SCOREBOARD

Complete scoreboard on the fourth day of the first Test between India and South Africa at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur on Tuesday: SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 558-6 decl (Amla 253 not out,

JKallis 173, De Villiers 53; Zaheer 3-96)

INDIA: First innings 233 (Sehwag 109, Badrinath 56; Steyn 7-51)

INDIA: Second innings Gambhir b Morkel 1 Sehwag c Smith b Steyn 16 Vijay c Morkel b Harris 32 Tendulkar b Harris 100

Badrinath c Boucher b Parnell 6 Dhoni c De Villiers b Harris 25 Sahal b w b Steyn 36 Harbhajan lbw b Parnell 39 Zaheer c Harris b Ballis 33 Mishra b Steyn 0 Sharma not out 0 Extras: (b-15, lb-8, w-6, nb-2) 31 Total: (All out in 107.1 overs) 319

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-24, 3-96, 4-122, 5-192, 6-209, 7-259, 8-318, 9-318.

Bowler O M R R Steyn 18.1 1 57 3 Morkel 21 6 65 1 Parnell 13 2 58 2 Harris 38 17 76 3 Kallis 12 3 19 1 Duminy 5 0 21 0

Result: South Africa won by an innings and six runs. Man-of-the-match: Hashim Amla.

India name squad for 2nd Test

AFP, Nagpur

Batsmen Suresh Raina and Dinesh Karthik were on Tuesday named in India's squad for the crucial second and final Test against South Africa beginning in Kolkata on February 14.

Paceman Shanthakumar Sreesanth was also included in the 15-man squad announced in a press release issued by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

India lost the first Test in Nagpur by an innings and six runs on Tuesday to go down 1-0 in the series.

The Indians will have to win the Kolkata Test if they are to retain their status as the number one side in the world.

SQUAD

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Murali Vijay, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesai Laxman, Subramaniam Badrinath, Harbhajan Singh, Amit Mishra, Zaheer Khan, Shanthakumar Sreesanth, Ishant Sharma, Pragyan Ojha, Dinesh Karthik, Suresh Raina.

Aussies take 2-0 lead

Cricket CRICINFO, undated

After the match was effectively sealed from the first ball when Chris Gayle fell, Australia ran over a disappointing West Indies for an eight-wicket victory to earn a 2-0 lead. The tourists were out-classed by Doug Bollinger in the early stages and slumped to 4 for 16 before scrambling to 170, a total which was never going to be large enough.

Australia were not intimidated and Shane Watson and Ricky Ponting skipped to half-centuries as the win came in the 27th over. West Indies actually did well to last as long as 39.4 overs in their innings in a poorly timed performance given the current debate over the relevance of the 50-over game.

The format is attracting small crowds in Australia and delivered a record low ODI attendance of 8378 in Adelaide. The sprinkling that turned up at the Oval's building site did get an outstanding performance from Bollinger on a surface with a touch more grass than usual, although it wasn't responsible for the sad procession.

The Australians showed how few problems the pitch held when Watson took control from the opening over. Nine came from Kumar Roach's effort, including a four down the ground from a free hit and a slice through point. As usual, Watson was strong driving and pulling, heaving a six to midwicket off Dwayne Smith, but he was surprised into an edge behind off Roach and went with 53 off 50.

Shaun Marsh had already gone, once again leaving after a useful start, this time playing on

to Smith on 26 to end a 51-run opening with Watson. It was not a dismissal which concerned the hosts and Watson was the only other blemish.

Ponting came in and took some revenge on Roach, the man who tendered his left elbow in December, with a hook and a drive for boundaries. He also lifted Nikita Miller for six over cover in an over costing 15 and pulled Kieron Pollard for six as he eased to 57 off 55 balls. Ponting and Michael Clarke (27) secured the win following some handy batting practice. It had been that easy for Australia throughout the day.

Bollinger knocked over West Indies' top order during a horror start for the tourists after Gayle won the toss in temperatures in the high 30s. The visitors were four-down in the seventh over and it was only a few moderate contributions from the lower half, which was led by Smith's 43, that stopped a complete disaster.

Bollinger had 3 for 9 in his first five overs and returned in his second spell to grab the dangerous Pollard on the way to 4 for 28. He began by picking up Gayle for the fourth time this season - from the opening ball with a full delivery that hit his back leg. Gayle was slow to leave, thinking he was outside off stump, but he was in line in what was a heavy blow for the tourists and they never recovered.

Life without their captain contributing isn't much fun for West Indies and they were soon flapping about as Bollinger and Clint McKay stepped in. Travis Dowlin (2) tried to leave but pulled away too late to McKay and in the next over the tourists were 3 for 11 when Runako Morton was Bollinger's second lbw. Instead of consolidating there

was more crumbling and Bollinger got his third victim with Lendl Simmons' prod at one going away.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Australia and West Indies at Adelaide Oval on Tuesday:

WEST INDIES

Gayle lbw b Bollinger 0 Morton lbw b Bollinger 4 Dowlin c Haddin b McKay 2 Simmons c Haddin b Bollinger 1 Deonarine lbw b Johnson 23 Ramdin c Haddin b Watson 30 Pollard c Johnson b Bollinger 32 Smith c Hussey b McKay 43 Miller c Marsh b Hauritz 6 Rampaul run out 18 Roach not out 0 Extras: (lb-4, w-4, nb-3) 11 Total: (All out in 39.4 overs) 170 Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-11, 3-10, 4-16, 5-62, 6-77, 7-114, 8-125, 9-170.

Bowler O M R W Bollinger 8 2 28 4 Johnson 8 0 36 1 McKay 7.4 1 33 2 Watson 6 1 24 1 Hauritz 10 0 45 1

AUSTRALIA

Watson c Ramdin b Roach 53 Marsh b Smith 27 Ponting not out 57 Clarke not out 27 Extras: (w-6, nb-1) 7 Total: (For 2 wks in 26.3 overs) 171 Did not bat: Hussey, White, Haddin, Johnson, Hauritz, Bollinger, McKay Fall of wickets: 1-51, 2-99.

Bowler O M R W Roach 6 0 44 1 Rampaul 6 0 36 0 Smith 4 0 24 0 Miller 5 0 28 0 Pollard 4 0 28 0 Deonarine 1.3 0 11 0

Result: Australia won by 8 wickets and led the 5-match series 2-0. Man-of-the-match: Doug Bollinger.

Booters rejoice

FROM PAGE 17 Defender Wali Faisal, who was very disappointed after going down to India in the SAFF Championship, was very happy and went to bed late in the night after celebrating the victory with his teammates.

Wali was the man, who fed the ball to Bangladesh's first scorer Atiqur Rahman Mishu as the Mohammedan defender was seen in a new role of taking free kicks in the final.

"I was very confident to put the ball in the right place and I did it a few times yesterday and even went close to scoring goals from free kicks, but luck was not with me. Anyway I am now very happy to be a member of the winning team," said a beaming Wali.

"It is a totally different feeling when you win a gold medal and it is beyond expression," said defender Mishu, who put Bangladesh ahead in the 18th minute.

"We were waiting for this moment and were mentally prepared to celebrate it. Besides, we are very happy that we did not disappoint the spectators like in the SAFF Championship," said Enamul Haq, who had scored three goals in the tournament.

Star striker Zahid Hasan Emily, who could not hit the back of the opponent's net, was a bit disappointed with his own performance.

"I am not satisfied with my performance because as a striker I should find the back of the net, but I did not. However, I am now happy with the team success as we emerged champions after 11 years," said Emily, whose first appearance in the SA Games was back in 2004 in Islamabad.

New striker Tawhidul Alam Sabuz, who played as a substitute in the semifinal and the final, had many reasons to be a happy man as the boy from Cox's Bazar scored on both occasions.

"I have heard a lot about the 1999 conquest. But to be a part of the triumphant team this time around is a great feeling and it was also pleasing for me because I had contributed to bring the team to the final where I also found the back of the net," said Sabuz.

MU face Villa test

AFP, Birmingham



Edwin van der Sar believes that Manchester United have done well to stay in touch with Chelsea despite the injury problems that have dogged the season at Old Trafford.

United go into their meeting with Aston Villa on Wednesday two points off Carlo Ancelotti's side, who are in action at Everton on the same evening.

Sir Alex Ferguson's options at the back have been limited throughout the campaign, with Dutch goalkeeper van der Sar and defenders Rio Ferdinand, Nemanja Vidic, John O'Shea, Rafael and Gary Neville all enduring stints on the sidelines.

Ferdinand is still suspended and O'Shea is likely to miss the rest of the campaign with a thigh problem.

But even if Vidic does not return from a calf injury at Villa Park, United have finally been able to benefit from having increased options at the back.

Key to that has been the return of van der Sar, who has missed months of the campaign as a result of his own finger and knee injuries and the ill-health of his wife, who suffered a brain haemorrhage in December.

The 39-year-old has played a central role in United's recent upturn in form and Ferguson's side travel to Villa Park looking for a fifth straight Premier League win for just the second time this

season.

Van der Sar, whose current contract expires in the summer, said: "We're right up there with Chelsea, just a couple of points behind so the last three months of the season are shaping up to be very interesting."

"It's all to play for. There are a lot of big games in a short period, with the Champions League also starting up again soon."

"Luckily we have most of our players back. We're still missing three or four but it's better than the 11 or 12 that were missing earlier in the season and over Christmas."

"It feels really good to be back. It's been a stop-start season for me which has been frustrating. It was disappointing because I'm not used to being out of action and not being able to play."

"It feels great to be back in the swing of things and playing for United again."

Although Martin O'Neill's side are chasing a place in the Champions League and won 1-0 at Old Trafford in December, United will be boosted by their impressive record at Villa Park.

Ferguson's team were held to a goalless draw there last season but are unbeaten there in the league since losing 3-1 on the opening day of the season in 1995.

Villa, who will be without Stephen Warnock and Nigel Reo-Coker through injury, go into the game on the back of an eight-match unbeaten run and they have kept three consecutive clean sheets.

Kutumb leaves

FROM PAGE 17 songs by Tagore, Nazrul, Dwijendra Lal and others.

As President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Zillur Rahman officially declared the Games closed, Kutumb, the mascot for the Games, took a ballooned flight up in the sky with the background playing a melancholy tune.

The lights extinguished, started the concurrent display of aquatics, synchronised dances, laser show and fireworks.

Balls of fire were spit high up above while down below

flowed the fountains of water.

A Royal Bengal Tiger trudged proudly on the hydro-screen to the huge cheer of a full-house. The songs and dances being over, started the seemingly endless fireworks. It gripped the whole audience for more than half an hour. The blitzkrieg came in all colours and sounds. The kaleidoscope of fireworks lit the gloomy night sky ever so bright and left a lasting impression on everyone present.

A marathon

FROM PAGE 17 the standard distance of 42.195km. It resulted from a mistake from the technical committee of the event.

The member secretary of technical committee of 11th SA Games Sirajul Islam Bachhu said that they the results will stay as it is, however the timing will be later declared after ascertaining the distance of the route.

The marathon had started at the Bangabandhu National Stadium and ended in Sena Kunja (cantonment) with Rajendra finishing first with Sri Lanka's Ajith Bandara Adikari coming second.

Media committee of the Games did not disclose timing of any athlete and only a press release declared Rajendra the winner.

Of 23 gold events in athletics, India dominated track and field claiming 10 gold, followed by Sri Lanka, who won eight gold, Pakistan four and Nepal winning one gold. Hosts Bangladesh had to be content with two silver medals.

What to WATCH ESPN Sportscentre India Sports News Live at 8:30pm English Premier League Arsenal v Liverpool Live from 1:30am (Thursday) STAR Sports English Premier League Aston Villa v Man United Live from 1:40am (Thursday)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 44 Oldies player 46 Status in a hierarchy 50 Press hard, as brakes 52 Fan, and then some 54 Majestic size 55 Show hosts 56 "Allakazam!" 57 Fists, slangly 19 Dancer 20 Partner 22 Keatsian piece 24 - de deux 27 Siamese 29 On the rocks 32 Rare 35 Lowly laborer 36 Corner 37 Opposite of "post-" 38 Kvetch 40 Took to the skies 42 Copper head? 4 Goose egg 5 Fund-raising show 6 Advantage 7 Left-hand page 8 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty" 9 Mortar-board's opposite? 10 Vortex 11 Start a garden 12 Cadence-call syllable 18 Gradually disappear 21 - standstill 23 Noise 24 Vim and vigor 25 Chopper 26 Old time? 28 Put on a pedestal 30 Screw up 31 Coloring agent 33 Geneticist's abbr. 34 Mamie's hubby 39 Common Hallween costume 41 Destruction 42 Now, initially 43 Vision problem 45 Grooving on 47 Sheltered 48 Yeses' undoers 49 Gold units (Abbr.) 51 Greek consonants 53 Flightless bird

Solution time: 27 mins. T S P F L O W C H O P A N I A I D E R E A R C O L D F E E T O N T O O B L O N G S O W P I E U N D U L Y E T H E R D I E N E E W H E Y L O T S T O W E R A G E M M O O N S R U L I N G S O U C U P M U S C A T M A G I U P I N A R M S A G I N L O R D A B A Y E G G L E K S M I R

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57

CRYPTOQUIP Y F W P Z D P E R P L A Z J E J V U J E R A W Q O H Q W Y L Z X H T Q R A A J P P J T V F R J K J , R F Q W K X D R O J E " O D Q U O H T W Q E V ! " Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THEY'RE BEING FORCED TO FIRE AN UNLUCKY FELLOW AT THE LEGUME FARM. THE GUY DOESN'T KNOW BEANS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals M