

Sweeping changes in A squad

SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors made wholesale changes when they announced a 14-member Bangladesh A squad for the first three one-day matches of the triangular series also involving second string sides from South Africa and West Indies.

Shamsur Rahman was named captain while Alok Kapali was made his deputy.

Besides opener Shamsur Rahman, three more players in Nazimuddin, Rokibul Hasan and Faisal Hossain survived from the four-day squad which is playing against the visiting South Africa A team.

Injured opener Junaed Siddiqui, Shahriar Nafees, Mehrab Hossain and Shahadat Hossain were the notable omissions from the four-day team.

The tri-nation tournament will kick off on May 4 with the match between Bangladesh A and South Africa A at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and the final will be held at the same venue on May 13.

The selected players have been asked to report to Mirpur at 3pm today.

SQUAD

Samsur Rahman (captain), Uttam Sarker, Nazimuddin, Rokibul Hasan, Marshal Ayub, Faisal Hossain, Nazmul Hossain Milon, Dhiman Ghosh (wicketkeeper), Alok Kapali (vice-captain), Dollar Mahmud, Nazmul Hossain, Talha Zubaer, Nabil Samad, Saqlain Sajib



BTV, Star Cricket & SuperSport2

ICC World Twenty20
Afghanistan v India
Live from 7:30pm
Bangladesh v Pakistan
Live from 11:30pm

SUNDAY
India v South Africa
Live from 7:30pm
Australia v Pakistan
Live from 11:30pm

ESPN

English Premier League
Liverpool v Chelsea
Live from 6:25pm
Sunderland v Man United
Live from 8:55pm

SUNDAY

English Premier League
Wigan v Hull City
Live from 7:25pm
Blackburn v Arsenal
Live from 9:55pm

STAR Sports

English Premier League
Fulham v West Ham
Live from 7:55pm

SuperSport3

Serie A
Parma v Roma
Live from 10:00pm

Primera Liga

Espanyol v Valencia
Live from 12:00am (Sunday)
Villarreal v Barcelona
Live from 2:00am (Sunday)

SUNDAY

Primera Liga
Real Madrid v Osasuna
Live from 11:00pm
Athletic v Mallorca
Live from 1:00am (Monday)

SuperSport4

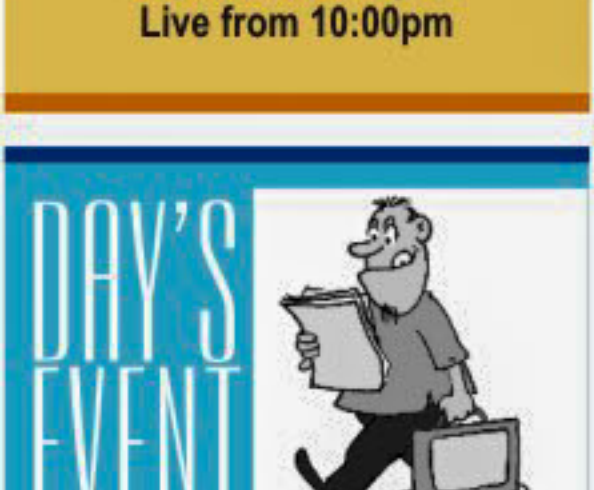
Bundesliga
Bayern Munich v VfL Bochum
Live from 7:30pm

SuperSport7

Bundesliga
Leverkusen v Hertha Berlin
Live from 7:30pm

Primera Liga

Deportivo v Zaragoza
Live from 10:00pm



Bangladesh A v South Africa A

2nd Unofficial Test, Day 3
Time: 9:30am
Venue: BKSP

BCB NCA v SA Academy

2nd 4-day Match, Day 4
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra

Afridi wary of Tigers

AFP, Gros Islet



Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi has told his reigning champions to take Bangladesh as seriously as if they were Australia when they begin the defence of their World Twenty20 title.

Pakistan face their Asian rivals at the Beausejour ground here on Saturday before returning to the same venue 24 hours later to wrap up their Group A campaign against Australia.

With the top two in each of the four groups going through to the second round, both Pakistan and Australia are expected to brush aside Bangladesh on their way into the Super Eights.

However, Afridi told the International Cricket Council (ICC) podcast on Thursday: "Playing in this cricket, anything can happen. It's about what happens on the day."

"I want to see the same body language whether we are playing Bangladesh or Australia."

All-rounder Afridi, a hard-hitting batsman and leg-spinner, is also Pakistan's leading player at this tournament.

He was thrust into the leadership after a series of suspensions imposed following a winless tour of Australia that have cost Pakistan the services of former captains Mohammad Yousuf, Younus Khan, as well as Shoaib Malik and Rana Naved.

And it was in Australia where Afridi, after extraordinarily chewing on a white cricket ball during a one-day international in Perth, received a two-match Twenty20 ban for ball tampering.

However, the discipline of captaincy may be having an effect.

"I think as the defending champion, there is some pressure on me," Afridi said. "There is extra responsibility on me as captain to set me an example."

"But we've got a good team and I'm, quite happy. This is the right time for us to play some good cricket. That's what I am expecting from the guys."

As if the loss of so many players through suspension was not bad enough, Pakistan will be without Umar Gul at the World Twenty20 after the fast bowler suffered a shoulder injury at a training camp in Lahore earlier this month.

Gul is the most successful bowler in Twenty20 internationals with 43 wickets in 26 matches and also returned record match figures at this level with an astonishing five wickets for six runs against New Zealand in the World Twenty20 in England last year.

"Umar Gul, over the last two years, has been playing very well in Twenty20," Afridi said, having previously explained: "He is an expert of reverse swing."

"He could have been lethal on the slow pitches in the West Indies but all the other available players are also equally good and eager to perform in the mega event."

INDIA V AFGHANISTAN

Dhoni warns teammates

AFP, Gros Islet



India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has warned his collection of highly-regarded teammates not to underestimate Afghanistan's ability to sensationally sabotage their World Twenty20 hopes.

India are amongst the favourites to add the 2010 title to their 2007 crown, but first they must find a way past Afghanistan, the team which learnt their trade in refugee camps and have, against all the odds, made it through to a debut world championship appearance.

"If you ask me, I would not consider our opening match against Afghanistan as a practice game," said Dhoni ahead of Saturday's clash.

"I don't know much about them. It is good in a way because if we know too much about a side then you are thinking too much about them. However, our preparation will remain the same as if you are playing the best opponent in world cricket."

India come into the tournament with their sport embroiled in a damaging financial IPL scandal.

They are also returning to the Caribbean where, having lost to Bangladesh, they were eliminated in the first round of the 50-over World Cup in 2007.

By contrast, Afghanistan, whose players make around 300 dollars a month compared to Dhoni's multi-million-dollar A-list lifestyle, have become everyone's sentimental favourites.

In two years they have risen from Division Five of the World Cricket League to the elite 12-nation World Twenty20.

In between, they just missed out on qualifying for the 2011 World Cup but did earn the consolation of clinching full one-day international status.

They pulled off an impressive five-wicket

win over Ireland in a World Twenty20 warm-up on Wednesday with debutant seamer Dawlat Ahmadzai grabbing 4-15.

"We met our president, Hamid Karzai, a month ago and he just asked us to win the World Cup," Afghanistan coach Kabir Khan told www.cricinfo.com.

"Even when it's a friendly game the scores are live on the internet and the TV shows them at the bottom."

"So now we've beaten Ireland in a friendly game they will be celebrating, that's how big it



PHOTO: INTERNET

India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh speaks to reporters during a press briefing in St Lucia on Thursday.

has gone. It's a lot of pressure on us. They don't want us to lose. The demands are very high, they expect a lot from us and it can go both ways, but so far the boys have given them a lot of trophies."

Kabir, a former Pakistan international, knows that his team face a huge task to qualify for the second round here with South Africa also drawn in their group.

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BCB ACADEMY V SOUTH AFRICA ACADEMY

Hosts seek to consolidate



SPORTS REPORTER

Shamsur Rahman and Nazimuddin slammed half centuries as Bangladesh A showed some resistance on the second day of the second and final unofficial Test against South Africa A at BKSP yesterday.

In reply to the visitor's mammoth first innings total of 482, the home side lost their first wicket in the second over when right-arm pacer Quinton Friend removed left-handed Shahriar Nafees for one.

But Nazimuddin joined Shamsur to spark a recovery act by associating in a 106-run partnership for the second wicket.

Shamsur, who struck six boundaries and two sixes, was batting on 59 while Nazimuddin was dismissed for 53. Nazimuddin hit eight boundaries during his 104-ball innings.

Out-of-favour South African left-arm spinner Paul Harris however finished the day for the visitors in style taking two wickets, that of Nazimuddin and Rokibul Hasan in one over as Bangladesh A posted 128 for three before stumps were drawn for the day.

Earlier, South Africa A skip-

per Thami Tsolekile, who started the day on 90, completed his hundred while Philander and Harris played two useful innings as South Africa A made 482 all out after resuming the day on 360 for five.

Nur Hossain took one more wicket to finish with figures of 4-146 while Faisal Hossain claimed three for 111 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SOUTH AFRICA A: First



PHOTO: STAR

South Africa Academy batsman Cobus Pienaar drives cover on the third day of their four-day match against GP-BCB Academy at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

Muktijodhha move up

SPORTS REPORTER

A second half strike from Shahajuddin Tipu gave struggling Muktijodhha Sangsad a lone goal away win over hosts Narayanganj Shuktara Jubo Sangsad at the Narayanganj Stadium yesterday.

The former Abahani striker, Tipu, struck the decisive goal in the 59th minute to take the All Reds almost out of the red zone. The freedom fighters' team played out a 1-1 draw against Shuktara in their first meeting.

With six wins and two draws in 18 matches, Muktijodhha leapfrogged from ninth to sixth place along with Chittagong Mohammedan with 20 points each.

Newcomers Shuktara with 12 defeats in 18 matches remained glued at the bottom of the 13-team point table with 10 points.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Arambagh KS held visitors Feni Soccer Club to a goalless draw to improve their points tally to 16 from 18 outings.

Feni Soccer with their seventh draw in 18 matches maintained their fourth place with 25 points.

SA Academy in control

SPORTS REPORTER

Dominic Hendricks scored a century as South Africa Academy team seized control on the rain-interrupted third day of the second four-day of the GP-BCB Academy Cup against their South African counterparts at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

The match resumed after the lunch break due to wet conditions following overnight rain and only 50.2 overs were possible on the third day. But it was good enough for the visitors to ensure a 333-run lead with two wickets in hand.

Resuming the day on 198 for two, South Africa Academy team scored 371 for eight before rain stopped the match.

Hendricks, who started the day on 62, hit 109 off 207 balls that contained 13 fours and two sixes while Cobus Pienaar was the other notable scorer

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PHOTO: STAR

Arambagh's veteran striker Alfaz Ahmed (C) shrugs off Feni Soccer Club captain Jahangir Alam (R) during their Citycell Bangladesh League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

MSC seek late revival

SPORTS REPORTER



After playing out a shock 2-2 draw against Farashganj SC that all but took Mohammedan SC out of the title race in the Bangladesh League, the Black and Whites are now looking for a consolation through a victory over bitter rivals Abahani in their last match.

Two-time champions Abahani are six points clear of Mohammedan with five matches remaining and the progress of the Abahani juggernaut means that it is all but certain that the Sky Blues have no need to look behind on way to a hat-trick of professional league triumphs.

Mohammedan however remain optimistic, retaining a faint hope of coming back into the title race expecting that Abahani can also drop points in their next matches.

Coach Maruful Haque, however, ran contrary to this view as he seems to have given up his hopes of clinching the title after a draw in the previous match.

Mohammedan's players, who skipped the training for three days before the match against Farashganj following the unpaid wages, yesterday returned to business and vowed to win the five remaining matches during a team meeting in a bid to boost up the players' morale.

"What happened is past and it can happen. We are now looking forward to winning all five matches," said captain Arman Aziz adding that the spirit of the players broke following the

draw against Farashganj.

It is widely believed that the leadership crisis in Mohammedan has led to such failures despite the formation of a big-budget team. The high-ups of the Mohammedan ad-hoc committee, whose tenure reportedly expired in December last year, have rarely come to the training camp to encourage the players before a big match.

"The club may have a financial crisis, but it would have been better if the high-ups of the club had come to training regularly to encourage the players, similar to what the Abahani officials do regularly," said defender Wali Faisal, who is playing for the Black and Whites for the first time.

Arman defended the club officials saying, "I have been in Mohammedan for the last five years and it is common that the officials only come to visit the players before the big matches."

A member of the ad-hoc committee, seeking anonymity, admitted that there was conflict among the committee members and only a few members came to the club regularly.

Hinting at rumors of 'fixed matches', he said that the Bangladesh League could not run in such a way because one team is already been considered as champions even though their nearest rivals are only six points behind with five matches to play.

Goalkeeper Aminul Haque said that the players are determined to revive the club's image through winning all the remaining five matches as well as keeping their eyes on the Super Cup.

AB Bank Limited

Best Wishes for the World Cup T20 West Indies 2010

We wish the Bangladesh National Cricket Team all success in the Bangladesh versus Pakistan Match.

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