

Opening ceremony tickets from Feb 10

SPORTS REPORTER

Tickets for the opening ceremony of the World Cup will be sold from February 10 in ten booths of Dhaka Bank in the capital, confirmed the Bangladesh Cricket Board chief.

"It will be sold from February 10," AHM Mustafa Kamal, the BCB president, told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The opening ceremony, to be staged at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on February 17, will be one of the major attractions of the World Cup as it will be entertained by several performers from different countries.

Dhaka Bank will be operating the sale as there will be tickets but not vouchers like the match tickets and it was known that only around 7,500 tickets will be up for sale.

The price of the tickets of the opening ceremony will be Tk 1,000 for Gallery, Tk 10,000 for International Gallery, and Tk 20,000 for Grand Stand tickets. Each chair of the Hospitality Box will cost Tk 35,000.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BCB PAYING TRIBUTE TO TANVIR & PROCTOR? This sculpture is placed at the entrance of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, but the model is very different from the usual bowler. It looks like a bowler who is about to deliver the ball off the wrong foot, a style used famously by Mike Proctor and Sohail Tanvir.

BATTLE PLAN

Tamim down a diverse track

REAZUR RAHMAN ROHAN



When he bashed India in the 2007 World Cup, commentators were all over the shop with his daredevil shot-making and the phrase 'dancing down the track' was synonymous with Tamim Iqbal's batting. But these days, while the bravado has stayed, the left-hander has added the full arc of shots to his game.

As he prepares with the Tigers for his second World Cup, Tamim has graduated into the vice-captain's role and would be one of two big names that will make the opposition sweat.

The younger brother of Nafees Iqbal and nephew of former national captain Akram Khan, Tamim made his debut just before the World Cup held in West Indies. Despite playing only four one-dayers, Tamim was picked in the squad. Habibul Bashar, the captain then, knew little of the tyro.

"I didn't play against or with him before the World Cup, neither had I even watched him play. It was in the practise matches when I first witnessed him," said the former national captain.

Tamim announced his arrival scor-

ing a quickfire 51 in that innings at the Queen's Park Oval, hitting Zaheer Khan and Munaf Patel out of the ground. That innings of his would probably be remembered by many for his aggressive batting, more than the Tigers' surprise win.

Tamim was always an aggressive batsman but there were not too many shots in his artillery. "He was an attacking player at that time and his best shot was going down the wicket. A fearless player I would say," said Bashar. He worked hard, spent hours in the nets to improve his batting and he practiced shots which he usually was weak in, especially on the leg-side. In the space of three years, Tamim has stood out as the most improved batsman among the Tigers' rank.

"Since the 2007 World Cup, Tamim made huge improvements, be it his attitude, workload or his batting sense. He is a totally balanced cricketer now," opined Bashar.

Sometimes it is felt that he is rushing too much, which has cost him dearly but that is how he bats. He takes down his opponents right from the word go.

In a match where Bangladesh had to chase 312 runs to win, Tamim scored a

tantalising 154, winning the Tigers a near-impossible game quite easily. Last year, he missed the New Zealand white-wash due to a wrist injury but he came back strongly against Zimbabwe in December, slamming 95 in the last game, throwing away a potential chance to reach three figures.

By the time of his 21st birthday, he was undoubtedly the hardest hitter in the country and a proven batsman which was always missing from the Tigers top-order. Though the Chittagonian was named Wisden's Test Player of the Year award for 2010, he is yet to win anything for his exploits in the 50-over format.

His ODI average is just below the 30-mark but the start which he gives to the team is very important. Whoever the opponent is, Tamim hardly backs down but has struggled to convert those starts (he has four centuries and 15 half-centuries).

After a fruitful 2010 where he made hundreds against England and India, all eyes will be on Tamim. With the World Cup matches being played at home and the India game being once again the first one, Tamim too must be eyeing a big one.

We need something special: Jamie

SPORTS REPORTER



Jamie Siddons feels that Bangladesh need to do something extraordinary to get out of the group stages of the World Cup.

The Tigers are placed in Group B alongside India, England, South Africa, West Indies, Netherlands and Ireland and will play all six games at home.

"We need to do something special. Most of the teams that are in our group are above us. They are so-called better teams than us so we have to play well," said Siddons during training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The head coach of the Tigers suggested that beating the Test-playing nations in the group would be the tough part. "It is going to be very difficult, so we need to do something special," he added.

Apart from the 15-member squad, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza too turned up in Mirpur yesterday, a day after his encouraging comeback in the Super League game between Abahani and Mohammedan Sporting Club. But Siddons said he was more focused on the pacers in the squad. "I have got three fast bowlers in my squad and I'm

not worried about anyone who's outside the squad. I am worried about Nazmul [Hossain], Rubel [Hossain] and Shafiq [Islam]," he said.

Siddons also played down Mashrafe's return to cricket after the knee injury he suffered in mid-December. "Club cricket is very different, far better batsman and far better wicket. It's a very different game this international cricket," he said.

"If he has injuries and if he will get fit by the World Cup, it is fantastic. At the moment he is still in recovery and I am only worried about the fifteen players that are in the squad," said Siddons.

The Australian also ruled out any chance of Mashrafe making a return without any of the squad members getting injured.

"I have got fifteen fit players and he will only come in if anyone is injured.

"Mashrafe needs to keep doing his recovery, and it is going really well. I hope he's fit by the World Cup, then he has to put his hands up to be a replacement, otherwise there's no chance," added Siddons.

The Tigers returned to Dhaka on Friday and will be training in the capital till Wednesday before they are off to Chittagong on the same evening to play the first practice

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Rahmatganj, Brothers win away

SPORTS REPORTER

Rahmatganj MFS and Brothers Union won their away matches of the Grameenphone Bangladesh League beating respective rivals at different venues yesterday.

A first-half goal from Idris Kasirye helped Rahmatganj edge past neighbouring Farashganj SC to maintain their third position with 13 points from seven matches, one point less than joint second-place Abahani, Sheikh Russel and Sheikh Jamal as Mukti Joddha Sangsad lead the table with 16 points.

At the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur, Ugandan striker Idris headed a Pranotosh cross from the left home to give Rahmatganj a lead in the 34th minute before a second-half equaliser was ruled out by the referee Jashimuddin due to handling the ball, though it seemed that scorer

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Shakib champions Think Wise

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket captain and Think Wise Champion Shakib Al Hasan said it becomes his duty to inform the youth about the horrors of HIV and AIDS and to make others informed about the human rights the afflicted people are entitled to.

"I have recently joined Think Wise Campaign as a part of my social responsibility. Using the power of cricket, it is now my duty to deliver the correct information about HIV and AIDS to the youth and vulnerable groups," Shakib said while speaking at a press conference at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel yesterday.

"It has also become my duty to establish human rights of the HIV-affected people and inspire others to gather information and take treatment from government and private health centres," added Shakib.

The Think Wise initiative builds on a long-term partnership between the ICC, the joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNICEF and the Global Media AIDS Initiative (GMAI) that for more than seven years has reached out to the cricketing community to work together in

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan speaks at a press conference of the Think Wise Campaign at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

ICC Cricket World Cup 2011

CHANGE THE GAME™

PEPSI

BE A GAME CHANGER WITH PEPSI!!

Catch the final match of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 LIVE IN MUMBAI!

Win World Cup match tickets and a chance to get on the field during the drinks break.

SMS the code under Pepsi pet bottle cap to 6969 to collect runs. MORE SMS. MORE RUNS.

you could also win

LCD TVs

Laptops

Backpacks

Digital Cameras

Autographed Bats

Jerseys

A Player Card along with each purchase

Terms and Conditions:

• Regular Pepsi will also be available in the market without the offer • This offer is only applicable for Pepsi PET bottles (Pepsi 250ml Go pack, 500ml, 1 liter and 2 liter) • Promotional offer not applicable for Diet Pepsi • Each code can only be sent once through SMS • Consumers will have to submit the cap as a proof while receiving the prizes • SMS charges applicable • All decisions taken by Pepsi will be regarded as final at any stage of the program • Winners will have to arrange passport and visa on their own • Persons associated with Transcom Beverages, Asiatic MCL and Asiatic Events are not eligible to take part in this promotion • Participation in this promotion is completely voluntary • Conditions apply

To know more call 01823-072590, 01823-072591, 01823-072592, 01823-072593 or just visit www.pepsichangethegamebd.com