

Star SPORT

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Fabiano out for 6 weeks

Sevilla's Brazilian striker Luis Fabiano will be out of action for at least six weeks after seriously injuring his right knee during a 2-0 loss to Athletic Bilbao in the Spanish league at the weekend, his club said Monday. A scan however confirmed that the Brazilian did not rupture a ligament as first feared when he was stretchered off after 71 minutes of play. Fabiano already injured the same knee last November and missed a Europa League game and two Primera Liga matches.

- AFP



Tickets sale from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The wait for the much-desired World Cup match tickets is over for Chittagong's cricket lovers.

Ticket distribution for the Bangladesh-England match on March 11 will start today and continue till tomorrow at the A K Khan premises adjacent to Alif Hotel at Alankar near the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Cricket fans who collected their confirmation letters from banks can collect their tickets from the eight ticket counters set to give away around twelve thousand tickets.

Around eleven to twelve thousand tickets will be distributed to the masses who will enjoy Bangladesh's must-win tie against England.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Director Sirajuddin Mohhammad Alamgir, also Chairman of the local venue, told The Daily Star that there are sufficient men working on the distribution of tickets.

He urged the fans not to hurry during ticket collection.

"My only suggestions to the cricket fans... 'please, do

Saad runs into trouble

SPORTS REPORTER from Ctg

As if all the controversy was not enough, another problem sprang up when the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) came down hard on team manager Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad, saying he had "negligence towards his duty".

Following the board's instruction to the 15-member World Cup squad as well as the team management to restrain from speaking to the media, they had refrained themselves from doing so. But coach Jamie Siddons was seen giving an interview to a private television channel which surprised many, including BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus.

"We have given a letter to everybody. We asked the team operations manager [Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad] to distribute the letter so that the players and officials stay away from controversy. But the manager, frustratingly, failed to deliver the letter on time," said Jalal.

"It was a negligence towards his duty. We will take necessary action against him," he added.



GET A GRIP: Swashbuckling Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal (R) is being given a few pointers at the Bhatiari Golf Course in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

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'It's a massive game'

MOHAMMAD ISAM from Chittagong



ICC Cricket World Cup 2011

A close win like England's over South Africa only a few days ago is hard to let go off, even though another crucial game is only a couple of days away. You tend to go on and on about the game and how the twists and turns took place and how the winning team actually crossed the finish line.

Stuart Broad's match-winning performance and the manner in which England fought back twice in the game on Sunday will be remembered for a long time, and though it wasn't as much an adda as we like to call it, the tall paceman had to field questions mainly on what happened in Chennai rather than what happened to him after the game or what might happen in Chittagong in the coming days.

The 24-year-old suffered a strain on his left side during the 6-run win over the Proteas, potentially a blow to his prospects of playing against the Tigers and also delaying the press conference by an hour as he had to undergo scans in the port city.

But Broad remained upbeat on England's prospects against the Tigers, despite being the most enigmatic team in the tournament.

"It's a massive game for England. After a disappointing

performance against Ireland, we came back strongly against South Africa. It's important that we click with both bat and ball in this game. Our aim is to get a bit of a run going, get some momentum in this World Cup and that starts on Friday," said Broad.

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TODAY'S MATCH

Match	Time	Venue
India v Netherlands	3:00pm	New Delhi

Away from troubles

Shakib's comments hurt me: Bashar

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong



ICC Cricket World Cup 2011

The Bhatiari Golf and Country Club in the northern reaches of this city is a small paradise for anyone willing to escape the daily grind.

With hills and lakes and a fine view of the Bay of Bengal from the hilltops around the course, it became the perfect getaway for the Tigers, a group that badly needs to get away from the storm clouds of controversy that seem to be piling up over its head.

With the team management deciding to take a break from training, Shakib Al Hasan's men ventured out on their team bus to the country club rather than staying in their hotel rooms, the players taking part in a game of golf as well as fly-fishing and a bit of larking around.

But the refreshing change seemed hardly good enough for all the pressure to be taken off the Tigers' back that began with the soul-crushing loss to West Indies last Friday and is now spinning out of control off the field.

With two days to go to the big challenge of taking up England in their fourth Group B match of the World Cup, Bangladesh desperately need to be focusing on their game as they are in a dire state for making the desired quarterfinal berth. The nine-wicket defeat left them in a situation where they have to win all three of their remaining games against England, the Netherlands and South Africa. But the atmosphere doesn't seem healthy for the home team with the difficult task at their hands.

The deterioration has occurred through skipper Shakib's position at the centre of controversy after his hard-hitting reaction

over the criticism of the former national players.

After such a meek surrender, it's obvious that people from different quarters would come up with different opinions and it's wise for any team to keep tight-lipped and concentrate more on planning for the next game to overcome the adversity. But unfortunately the Bangladesh team, particularly its captain, added more fuel to the criticism by making some harsh comments and inviting more off-field debates.

Apparently controversy hogged the spotlight yesterday too following the disclosure of a photograph of the Bangladesh captain. The players have been restrained from making any comments yesterday following the Bangladesh Cricket Board's very late initiative of asking the cricketers and team management not to speak with the media and writing any columns without prior permission of the board. But the damage has already been done before the board action, although a glimmer of hope took shape as the players took the proposal positively.

The players, including the coach, refused to speak to the media yesterday.

Two former Bangladesh skippers, Faruque Ahmed and Habibul Bashar, also suggested that it would be better for the team if they only concentrated on their next game.

"It's totally unacceptable what Shakib said against the former cricketers in his reaction over the criticism. But I think it's wise not to speak more on this issue right at the moment for the greater interest. There was no need to invite this kind of problem for the team," said Faruque, a former chief selector.

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Broad's WC over

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong



ICC Cricket World Cup 2011

In a second major blow in successive days, England lost its fast bowler Stuart Broad who was ruled out of the World Cup last evening due to a side strain suffered during England's six-run win over South Africa on Sunday.

Broad suffered the injury while bowling during the second innings and subsequent tests in Chittagong yesterday afternoon have confirmed the 24-year-old has a side strain that will require him to return to the United Kingdom for treatment, said an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) statement on its website.

Batsman Kevin Pietersen has already returned home to undergo hernia surgery in the next week. Pietersen has been replaced by Eoin Morgan, who joined the England squad today in Chittagong ahead of Friday's match.

Broad will depart the England squad, currently based in Chittagong ahead of Friday's Group B match against Bangladesh, in the next 48 hours for further assessment in the UK that will determine his recovery and rehabilitation timescale.

ECB chief medical officer Dr Nick Peirce said: "Stuart (Broad) felt some discomfort following the South Africa match and our initial assessment indicated a strain to his left side.

"Subsequent scans have confirmed a significant side strain injury - where the muscle attaches the rib - that will rule him

out of the remainder of the World Cup.

"This is a new injury, separate from the abdominal tear suffered during the Ashes, that requires a period of recuperation and rehabilitation and the duration of this recovery period will be determined following further assessment in the UK," said Peirce.

Earlier during the day, Broad spoke to the media an hour later than the scheduled time after he had to undergo the scans on the injured area. Though not thought to be serious at the time, Broad said he would be devastated if he were to miss the World Cup.

"If I only miss Friday, and am back in for the West Indies game, it is not the end of the world. Hopefully I'll be better within a week.

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STUART BROAD

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by: Divum

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India - Netherlands

India would be looking to make up for the tied match against England, with a comprehensive win over Netherlands and strengthen their chances of a quarterfinal berth as group Champaing. Indian batting has been revolving around their openers. If it was Virender Sehwag against Bangladesh, it was Sachin Tendulkar against England who ensured that India had enough on the board with superb centuries. Gautam Gambhir too has chipped in with half centuries in both the matches. Netherlands will depend on Ryan ten Doeschate. The good news from their perspective was the fact that he was supported well by the likes of Tom de Grooth and Peter Borren - something that will be crucial in the rest of the games.

Md. Shaju Kazi

Send your opinion in 100 words on Sri Lanka - Zimbabawe match to analysis11@ovi.com. The best analysis will be published.

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