

Drogba defends Toure

Didier Drogba on Thursday spoke out in defence of his Ivory Coast international teammate Kolo Toure and said his failed drug test was a "stupid mistake". Manchester City centre-back Toure, 29, was revealed to have tested positive for a banned substance last week and was subsequently suspended.

"It would be a difficult situation for us (Ivory Coast) if it is banned because he is one of the most important players, one of the oldest, most experienced players," said Drogba, who was in Barcelona to promote his humanitarian foundation at the Global Sports Forum.

--AFP



THE WALL REMOVED: Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan (L) is relieved as he dismisses England's 'Mr. Dependable' Jonathan Trott (R) for 67 during their crucial World Cup clash at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

To get
this picture
email to
pics11@ovi.com



Support beyond borders

MUHAMMAD ISAM from Chittagong



You can fathom the sound that a 25,000-strong crowd would make at a ground like the beautifully decked Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium. It sounds like waves crashing on the Patenga shores nearby and it's unending when the Tigers are on a roll both with bat and ball. But what we, at the ground, don't hear is the roar from thousands of miles away. An estimated six million Bangladeshis live across the world starting from Saudi Arabia to Malaysia to the Western countries like the United States and Canada.

While the audience here in Chittagong had to be content with a ground that is not spectator-friendly by any means (no shades, poor signposting and location to name a few), the people living outside Bangladesh have to deal with their own problems. The time difference is the major problem with telecast availability and pesky neighbors being some of the other troubles

that these folks face, just to watch a game of Bangladesh.

Ardina Rahman lives in Toronto with her family and the whole family woke up as early as 3.30am to catch the live coverage on pay-per-view. "There are four of us watching, my dad, sister and an uncle who lives upstairs. He gets up at 3:00 am to come down," she said.

"So far, thankfully, none of the neighbours have complained, but then they are Indians and Sri Lankans so they're up too I'm sure," she added.

Across Toronto, numerous other Bangladeshi expats are watching,

groups gathering there from as far as New York and Vancouver to watch the game with friends and family. Most keep track of the atmosphere at the ground with acquaintances, tweeting or sending messages on Facebook.

Here in Chittagong however, it is slightly different as the port city crowd had to wait in long queues after snaking around the stadium, located in the far end of an industrial area. Some of the people who have come here before know that there is only one entry but this time, they had to build a few more to let in paying viewers who had tickets that had to be checked.

Housewife Sabera Ferdous was carrying her three-year-old child as she tried to find her way to the Eastern Gallery. "I had to walk a long way, almost two kilometers," she said.

Another group from Comilla also came to Chittagong with tickets in hand but found out that they would be sitting separately rather than together. But they all came to cheer the Bangladesh cricket team, a passion that is shared across the globe.



NEMESIS ON THE ACT: Eoin Morgan, England's ace batsman shapes up for a reverse sweep during his 63-run knock against Bangladesh at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.



Cricket Free Hit
by: Divum
"Free Hit" is a unique and addictive cricket game for all you cricket enthusiasts! Test your cricket skills with precise Power and perfectly Timed Hits!

Download Cricket Free Hit from <http://store.ovi.com>



NOKIA
Connecting People

Be The Nokia Match Analyzer

India Vs South Africa

The match that is most likely to decide who tops Group B is a tough one to call even though India has the advantage of playing at home. While India have wobbled but maintained their unbeaten run in the competition, South Africa looked the strongest until they collapsed to a shock defeat against England. Both teams have in-form batsmen with India edging out the Proteas because they bat deeper but Graeme Smith's team is clearly more balanced in the bowling department and there's no comparison when it comes to fielding standards. For India to win, they will hope Virender Sehwag fires while South Africa will be looking to open with Robin Peterson and hope that he can have as much success as the other left-arm spinners have had against India and in particular.

Moinul Hossain

ovi

Send your opinion in 100 words on
Australia Vs Kenya match to
analysis11@ovi.com.
The best analysis will be published.