16 teams, not 12, in World T20 2014

REUTERS, *Mumbai*

The International Cricket Council (ICC) Executive Board has decided to expand the number of teams in the 2014 Twenty20 World Cup in Bangladesh from 12 to 16 to give more opportunities to the non-Test playing nations.

"What excites me is the decision to extend the World Twenty20 event, which takes place in 2014 in Bangladesh," ICC Chief Executive Haroon Lorgat told reporters in Dubai on Monday.

"From then onwards the board has decided to expand the event to 16 teams. I'm sure that is very comforting to all associates and affiliates...it provides them with a greater chance of competing on the global stage."

The Twenty20 World Cup will be played this year in Sri Lanka from Sept 18-Oct 7 between 12 teams. The current 10 full members will be joined by six qualifiers in the next version from 2014.

The ICC has also agreed to undergo an administrative realignment that will lead to the creation of a powerful chairman's post and transform the president's role in the governing body into a purely ceremonial one.

The board-appointed chairman, rather than the president, would lead the organisation in the future while the vice-president's post will be disbanded.

Following the move, the joint vice-president nomination from Bangladesh and Pakistan for the 2012-14 has been deferred until the president's role has been ratified, the ICC said.

The ICC added that the nominations committee has shortlisted four candidates to replace Lorgat, who leaves his position at the end of the annual conference in June.

AHF CUP

Bangladesh's campaign starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Bangladesh will start their AHF (Asian Hockey Federation) Cup campaign today, taking on Chinese Taipei in Bangkok, Thailand.

Before leaving here for Thailand, Bangladesh vowed to defend the title they clinched in the 2008 edition but it seemed that the scorching heat might be the main rival for Bangladesh though Bangladesh went down 7-5 against Chinese Taipei in their last meeting of the Asian Games qualifiers at home back in 2010.

According to the Bangladesh manager Alamgir Kabir, the players were toiling hard to cope with the weather. Besides, Bangladesh have been taking the practice facilities after paying approximately Tk 4,000, he added.

However, Alamgir said everyone is determined to make a winning start against Chinese Taipei.

Melzer, Mathieu advance

AP, *Monaco*

Jurgen Melzer of Austria and Paul-Henri Mathieu of France both won in straight sets to reach the second round of the Monte Carlo Masters on Monday.

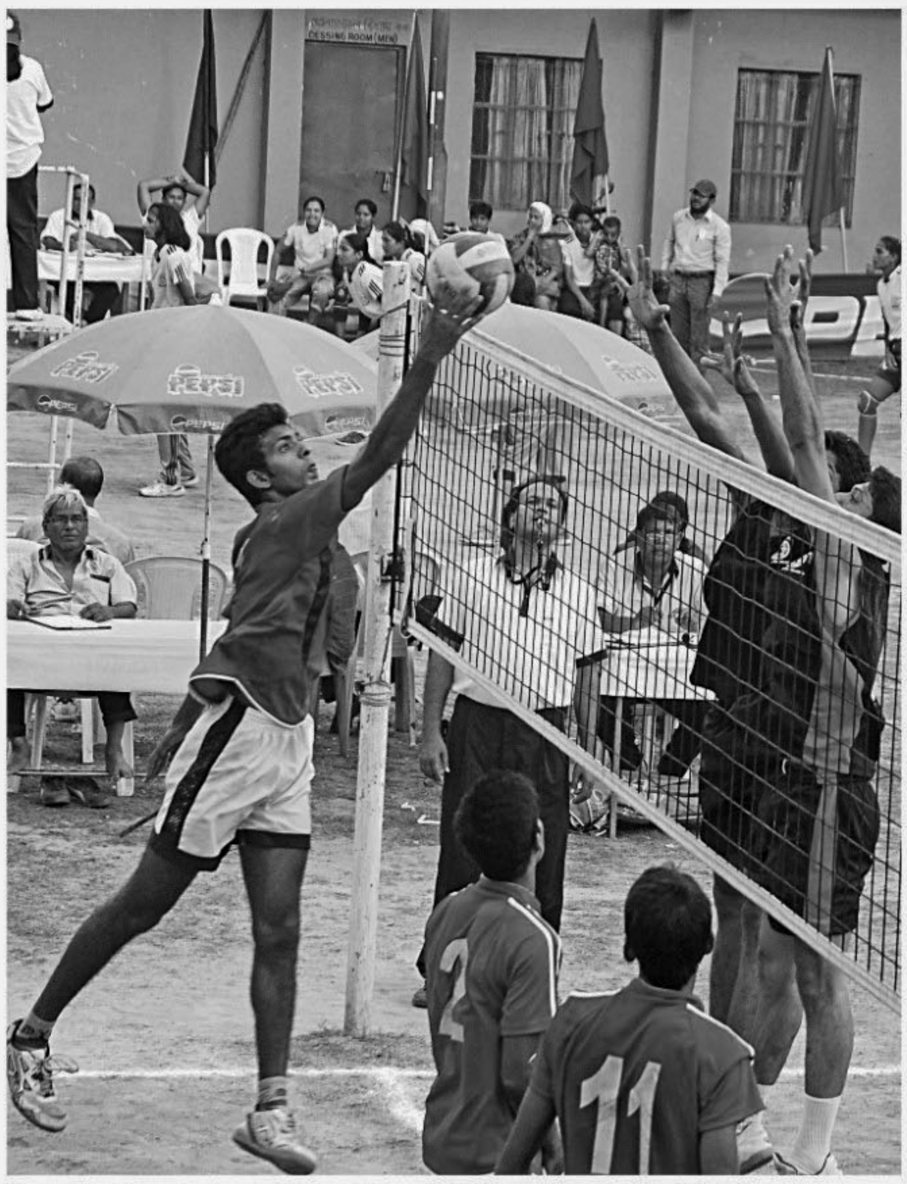
The fifteenth-seeded Melzer broke Polish player Lukasz Kubot's serve five times en route to a 6-2, 7-5 win, while Mathieu took a little over an hour to thrash Donald Young 6-0, 6-1.

Mathieu did save four break points of his own, but he broke Young's serve six times and clinched victory when the American sent a heavy forehand long.

Jones keen

FROM PAGE 16

The BCB is also looking elsewhere and they would like a coach of similar standing in world cricket if not better than Law, whose contract expires on June 30 this year.



An action from the Inter-District Volleyball Championship semifinal between Narail and Chittagong at the Volleyball Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. Narail won the match in 3-1 sets. PHOTO: STAR

ICC on Woolf path

Cricket

CRICINFO, *Dubai*

The International Cricket Council's (ICC's) Executive Board confirmed a constitutional amendment that will alter the role of its president and create a new post of a non-voting Board Chairman. If the amendment is approved by the ICC's general body in June, the presidency of cricket's governing body will become a rotational one-year term, starting 2014, at which time the post of vice-president will cease to exist. The chairman, who will now head the Executive Board, will serve three-year terms, with a maximum of two terms.

The nomination of Bangladesh Cricket Board president Mustafa Kamal as the joint candidate from Bangladesh and Pakistan for the vice-president's post, to succeed Sir Alan Isaac in 2014, has been deferred until the ICC's annual conference, to be held in Kuala Lumpur at the end of June.

This will be the fourth time the ICC has made a change in its presidential format since reworking its constitution in 1996. The move to do away with a rotational presidency follows the controversial rejection in June 2010 of the nomination of John Howard as the ICC's vice-presidential candidate to succeed president Sharad Pawar. The constitutional amendment may have retained a rotational presidency, but the actual post has been altered in two different ways. From 2014 onward, the president's term has been cut down from two to one year and the position completely detached from administrative decision-making with the creation of the post of a chairman of the Board.

When the post of president was first created at the ICC, each Full Member appointed one man for the post on a rotational basis: Jagmohan Dalmiya from India, Malcolm Gray from Australia, Ehsan Mani from Pakistan and Percy Sonn from South Africa were the men appointed under this system. In 2007, the system was tweaked and the post of vice-president was also created. Though rotation stayed as a policy, nominations now came from pairs of countries: Australia-New Zealand, West Indies-England, India-Sri Lanka, Pakistan-Bangladesh and South Africa-Zimbabwe.

Kamal's vice-presidential nomination has now been further delayed. The re-defined president's role and the constitutional amendments would first needed to be confirmed before the Board can turn their attention to what is to be done with the vice-president's post over the next two years. Within the next two months, Kamal's ambitions of becoming the ICC vice-president and from there, the president, will rest primarily on the support from the PCB. On Sunday, Bangladesh formally confirmed to the PCB that they will play one ODI and one Twenty20 International there later this month, in what will be the first international series in Pakistan since the attack on the Sri Lanka team in March 2009.

While the ICC Board announced that the post of the new Chairman would be instituted from 2014 onwards, it was not yet established whether the chairman would be appointed or elected. It is also not clear what the new 'ceremonial' post of president would actually involve as well as whether he would have the power to play any part in executive board functioning at all. At the moment the president chairs Board meetings, but has no vote. From 2014, the chairman would become the head of the Board.

The Board also stated that recommendations made by the Woolf independent governance review needed "further discussion" to build a greater consensus. The directors of the Board -- the chiefs of all the Full Member boards and three associate representatives -- would "begin discussion among themselves" in order to develop, "a clearer understanding of the role of the ICC." The directors, it was said, would hold "more informal discussions" among themselves and member boards in order to prepare their ground for the Kuala Lumpur meeting.

Aussies fight on sluggish pitch

Cricket

AFP, *Port of Spain*

Australia reached 267 for six at lunch on the second day of the second Test against West Indies at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad yesterday.

The visitors resumed the day on 208 for five with Michael Hussey and Matthew Wade the overnight batsman, having put on a useful 30-run partnership after both men had survived dropped catches the previous evening. West Indies fast bowler Kemar Roach made sure that the partnership did not add any runs on the second morning as he had Wade caught at first slip off the eighth ball of the day.

Thereafter Hussey, who resumed on 26, batted with his usual composure, building a 59-run seventh wicket stand with fast bowler James Pattinson. Hussey was unbeaten on 54 at lunch and Pattinson was batting on 21.

On the first day, Shane Watson hit a patient half-century on a slow Queen's Park Oval pitch.

Watson was Australia's top scorer, making a solid 56 in 219 minutes.

The day was also a mini-triumph for Windies' off-spinner Shane Shillingford who came in for Devendra Bishoo to play his first Test for 18 months after having to undergo remedial work on his action.

He bowled 32 overs, taking two for 56, including opener David Warner in his first over.

Australia, who won the first Test in Barbados by three wickets, decided to play two spinners for the first time in nearly four years, with Michael Beer coming in to partner Nathan Lyon.

Warner (29) and Ed Cowan (28) put on 53 for the first wicket to provide the foundation for Australia, while seamer Kemar Roach was the pick of the West Indies seam attack.

He removed Cowan and later Ricky Ponting (seven) before the tea interval.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings

Warner c Sammy b Shillingford	29
Cowan lbw b Roach	28
Watson c Barath b Shillingford	56
Ponting c Sammy b Roach	7
Clarke c Shillingford b Deonarine	45
Hussey not out	54
Wade c Bravo b Roach	11
Pattinson not out	21
Extras: (b-5, lb-5, w-1, nb-5)	16
Total: (For 6 wkts in 112 overs)	267

To bat: Beer, Hilfenhaus, Lyon.

Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-65, 3-83, 4-167, 5-178, 6-208.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Edwards	18	10	36	0
Roach	25	5	96	3
Sammy	16	6	27	0
Shillingford	38	12	70	2
Deonarine	15	3	28	1

WEST INDIES: Barath, Brathwaite, Powell, Bravo, Chanderpaul, Deonarine, Baugh, Sammy, Shillingford, Roach, Edwards.

Delhi outclass Mumbai

INTERNET, *Mumbai*

Delhi Daredevils beat Mumbai Indians by seven wickets in the Indian Premier League (IPL) at the Wankhede Stadium yesterday.

Delhi Daredevils chased down the target of 93 runs with 5.1 overs to spare after skipper Virender Sehwag top scored with 32.

The battle of the heavyweights degenerated into a one-sided contest as the Mumbai Indians' top and middle orders imploded against some attacking bowling from Delhi Daredevils. The implosion was partly forced, partly self-inflicted, and left the visitors chasing the lowest target this IPL season, one they achieved with ease. The Daredevils are on top of the table now with three wins from four games.

Man of the match Shahbaz Nadeem, the left-arm spinner, has proved effective this season with economical figures and he continued the good work against the Mumbai openers, bowling flat and sticking to a tight line.

BRIEF SCORES

MUMBAI INDIANS: 92 all out (Harbhajan 33, Sharma 29; Umesh 2-11, Nadeem 2-16, Morkel 2-22)

DELHI DAREDEVILS: (Sehwag 32, Jayawardene 17 not out; RP Singh 2-24)

Result: Delhi Daredevils won by 7 wickets

Uncertainty the norm

FROM PAGE 16

cricket, these are two separate matters."

BCB's cricket operations committee chairman Enayet Hossain Siraj however said that the decision regarding tour of Pakistan is yet to be finalised as they were waiting for the green signal from ICC.

"The Pakistan tour is an ICC decision that is yet to be made. Our board president and the Pakistan board president had a press briefing after the meeting where they announced a date for the tour. You can say that the date has been set as a target, but our going or not going will be dictated by whether the ICC is satisfied with the security plan in place [in Pakistan]. We are hoping that we will hear something positive from the ICC. They will send their team to Pakistan to scrutinise the situation there and see whether the matches between Pakistan and Bangladesh can be held or not. Until we get the word from the ICC, I do not think the cricket board can take a decision," explained Siraj.

The BCB officials could not clear whether they got the green signal from the government regarding the tour or whether the security assessment by the team which visited Pakistan recently led by BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal gave a positive report.

The question of whether the president or board will be responsible for any failure in cricket diplomacy was raised and Yunus said that the board will take the responsibility.

BCB has yet to talk with the players to know their opinion about the tour where security is the main concern. Siraj however said that everybody has the freedom to take his own decision.

"It happened yesterday (Sunday), 24 hours have not yet elapsed. We will go to the meeting tomorrow (Tuesday). We will discuss it in the meeting, make recommendations to the board, and then the board will take the decision. We have contracted players and also those who are outside the contract. I do not think the BCB will take a decision that will make the players uncomfortable about travelling," said Siraj when asked about player willingness.

BCB's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury informed that they have decided to resume the National Cricket League as the deadlock with the Premier Division Cricket League continued and they were talking with legal experts regarding the issue.

Yunus however kept mum when asked whether BCB were culpable with regards to the failure to resume the league.

Family first for Law

FROM PAGE 16

"That is going to be a fantastic learning curve for them, not only cricket-wise but see what the world has to offer. We have put some things in place but unfortunately I won't be there. Sometimes these things can't be helped," said Law.

More than just the on-field performance, Law's effect on this group of cricketers would be how they carry themselves henceforth. The bringing together of all the players as a single unit would be more significant than the Asia Cup wins.

"I am a firm believer that you do have your outstanding performers in the team but that can't be the one's you rely on all the time. At some stage they're going to come up short so that's when the other players should be ready to take the bull by the horns.

"As great a player Shakib is, I didn't want him to be the only player making all the contributions. Shakib and Tamim are the marquee players but the other players have stuck their hand up so that's what you want to see. I believe there's a great depth in fast bowling here, nobody believes that," he said.

"The way that superstars are treated in this part of the world, I've never seen it before outside this part of the world. To their credit, Shakib and Tamim have gone out of their zone to be part of the team. We saw the rewards of that in the Asia Cup," said Law.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 16

Championship beating their respective rivals at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

Rajshahi defeated Pabna 3-1 while Rajbari beat Chittagong 3-0 to set up a final clash between them.

In the men's section, Satkhira and Narail moved into the semifinals as Satkhira defeated Khulna by straight 3-0 sets while Narail beat Chittagong by 3-1 sets.

Nat'l Tennis

Twelve players including top-seed Amol Roy moved into the next round of men's singles in the Samsung National Tennis Championship beating their respective rivals at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Amol defeated Jamil Bhuiyan 6-1,6-2, Sajib Pashi beat Selim 6-1, 6-0, Henri Prithul Mandal beat Selim Sadman 6-1, 6-1, Arif Hossain beat Enamul Kabir 6-3, 6-1, Anwar Hossain beat Channu Lal 6-1, 6-1, Mamun Bepari beat Abdul Latif 6-0, 6-1, Biplob Ram beat Jahangir Alam 6-3, 6-4, Rustom Ali beat Hamidul Islam 6-1, 6-1.

Nat'l School Football

Bogura Zilla School emerged Sadar Upazila champions in the National School Football Islami Bank Tournament with a 2-0 win over Faizullah High School in the final in Bogura yesterday.

Shaheed Zia High School and Shalikha High School also emerged their respective Gabtali and Sonatola Upazilla champions beating their respective rivals in the finals.

Pakistan hails Tigers' tour

FROM PAGE 16

Sri Lankan team bus during the Lahore Test in March 2009, leaving eight people dead and seven visiting players and an assistant coach injured.

Foreign teams shunned Pakistan as a cricket venue after the attacks, forcing them to play their home series on neutral venues, mostly in the United Arab Emirates.

Pakistan's foreign minister Hina Rabbani Khar praised the efforts of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Zaka Ashraf to revive internationals.

"PCB's efforts have finally borne fruit and Bangladesh team's visit will help bring international cricket back to Pakistan and will motivate more teams to come to our country," Khar said.

Intikhab Alam, the PCB's director of international cricket and a former national coach and player, said the Bangladesh tour could open the way for other teams to follow.

"PCB in the leadership of (Zaka) Ashraf was endeavouring to bring cricket back in the country and the Bangladesh tour will be the beginning of a bigger thing in the future," Alam told AFP.

But former Pakistan captain Rashid Latif sounded a note of caution.

"We must not leave any loopholes in security because we cannot afford a minor mistake or any lapse in arrangements," said Latif. "Other teams will also be motivated after Bangladesh tour but we have to make the best arrangements."

Interior minister Rehman Malik reiterated a promise to put in place stringent security measures for the Bangladesh team.

"We will leave no stone unturned and put in place the best possible security for the Bangladesh team as per our promise and make this tour an exemplary one so that other teams also tour us," said Malik.

Despite Malik's assurances, former International Cricket Council (ICC) chief Ehsan Mani said greater efforts would be needed to convince bigger teams such as Australia, who have not visited since 1998, that Pakistan was safe to tour.

"Bangladesh tour is a small step but in the right direction. I think the PCB will have to do more efforts to bring teams like Australia and India," he said.

But after three years without home matches at the highest level, Pakistan's fans were ecstatic at the news.

"It will be great to watch international matches on our home ground," said Hameed Ali, a student in Lahore.

"I cannot forget the dreadful attacks on the Sri Lankan team bus and was due to watch that day's play.

"It's too early to say that Bangladesh's visit will help bring bigger teams, but let's keep our fingers crossed. I am waiting to get a ticket for the April 30 game."

Salahuddin

FROM PAGE 16

nomination papers were sold as nearly all members of the existing BFF executive committee including senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshedy, vice presidents Badal Roy, Kazi Nabil Ahmed and Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir, members Sattyajit Das Rupu, Fazlur Rahman Babul, Amirul Islam Babu, Anwarul Haq Helal, Mohammad Aslam and Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu.

Apart from them, former footballers Ashraf Uddin Ahmed Chunnu, Rummon Bin Wali Sabbir, Sayed Hasan Kanon, Riaz Uddin, Jakaria Pintu, organisers Abdur Rahim, Mohiuddin Mohi, Mozzamel Haq Mukta and Mahfuza Akther Kiron bought the nomination papers.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS

1 Fabric
6 Bird-related
11 Singer Twain
12 Surgical implement
14 Man's address
15 Pioneer of antiseptic surgery
16 Tape speed abbr.
17 Slobber
19 Idolater's poem
20 Willingly
22 Evergreen type
23 Whine
24 Follow
26 Akin
28 Genetic letters
30 Rotation duration
31 Sports jackets
35 Make diet-friendly
39 Four-star review
40 Silent
42 Otherwise
43 Tramcar contents
44 Made on a loom
46 "— Today"
47 "The Virginian" author
49 One of the family
51 Indigenous
52 Villainous looks
53 Not live
54 You'll get a rise out of it

DOWN

1 Contribute
2 Girls
3 Can. prov.
4 Dead even
5 Houdini or Potter
6 Permitted
7 Colorado ski town
8 — and outs
9 Convey via charades
10 Tease
11 Grin
13 Caught, in a way
18 "— the ramparts ..."
21 Spiny shrub
23 Check recipient
25 Compass dir.
27 Young bloke
29 Dressed for a joust
31 Toast
32 Lasso
33 Zoroastrian scripture
34 Ford Explorer, e.g.
36 Piccolos' larger kin
37 State with conviction
38 Weeper's outflow
41 Unkempt
44 "— Only Just Begun"
45 Baseball team
48 Gratuity
50 Red or Black

Solution time: 27 mins.

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A	H	O	O	T		O	D	E		B	O	A
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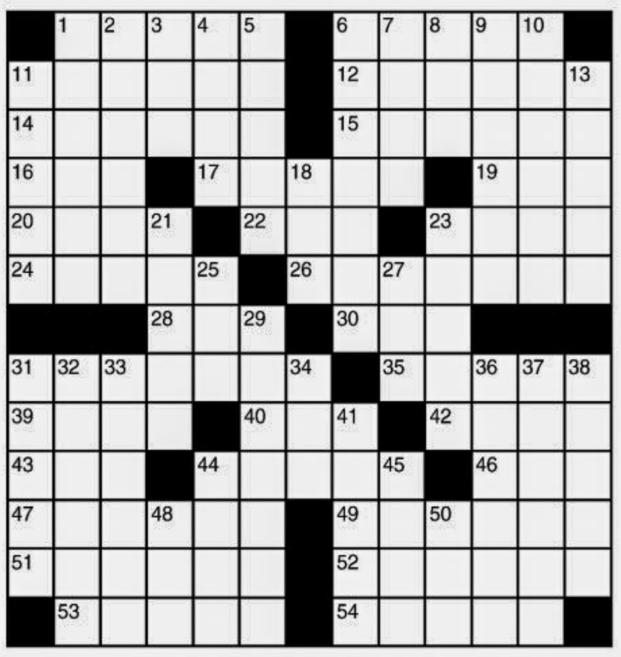

CRYPTOQUIP

H U B E I X I T X H C I G A C I P J B W Y I E V G E B G X T J B S X I Y W , Q A V F H M J X W B Q X J B X ' W F Q W X I Y Q Y I S I B X H G M H X W I P U .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MIGHT A GROUP OF RASCALLY BOYS BE TELLING DETAILS OF THEIR ANTICS AROUND A ROARING SCAMP-FIRE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals T