

**Cadet colleges' team to play in Subroto Cup**

SPORTS REPORTER

A combined football team of Bangladesh's cadet colleges will participate in the 53rd Subroto Cup football tournament in New Delhi.

The 17-year age-group team, selected from nine boys' cadet colleges, will leave Dhaka tomorrow to compete in the invitational meet, organised by the Indian Air Force, said an email from the Army Head Quarter's AG's Branch, Cadet College Section.

The under-17 competition, one of three age-group events that involve schools and colleges of India and neighbouring countries, will commence on September 18 and will conclude on October 1.

Bangladesh also took part in the tournament last year. The team underwent a month's training at the Faujdarhat Cadet College in Chittagong for a better result this year.

**School Hockey League**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Municipal Model High School emerged champions in the School Hockey League with a 2-1 win over Chittagong University School and College in a tiebreaker at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

The match rolled into shootouts after the regulation time produced a 1-1 draw as Iskandar gave the Municipal School a lead in the sixth minute only for it to be cancelled out by Atikur in the 22nd minute.

Goalkeeper Akram of Municipal School was adjudged man of the match as the School Hockey League started with the participation of six schools in the port city.

Mohammad Ali Chowdhury, chairman of Chittagong Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, distributed prizes among the winners while AJM Nasiruddin, general secretary of Chattagram Zila Kriya Sangstha (CJKS) and Mainul Kabir, managing director of the sponsor Lia Properties, were also present on the occasion.

**Anything**

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"If we grab the momentum, anything is possible. It is not impossible in this format for any team to be beaten. We are very confident about our chances. The two warm-up matches are therefore important for us to take some momentum into the tournament," said Mushfiqur.

Bangladesh will play their first warm-up game against Zimbabwe tomorrow and the second and final one against Ireland on September 17 in Colombo.

Bangladesh are in Group D along with New Zealand and Pakistan and are scheduled to play at Pallekele, a venue reputed to assist seamers. Hence Bangladesh's band of left-arm spinners may not have the assistance that they are looking for from those pitches.

"We have couple of good left-arm spinners and a couple of very good all-rounders including Shakib (Al Hasan). We are even prepared for the Pallekele track as our pace attack is also very balanced," added a confident Mushfiqur.

He however was very much aware of the fact that they are going to face tough challenges from their two group opponents.

"They (New Zealand and Pakistan) are a really good, balanced teams. Pakistan were champions in this tournament in 2009. New Zealand are quite strong in T20s, so if we do well with our skills, probably with some luck anything is possible," explained Mushfiqur.

An area of concern could be that star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is still recovering from an injury, but Mushfiqur is not too worried and believed that he will be fit. "He has a bit of a niggle but he will rest enough and be ready to go when the tournament starts," informed Mushfiqur.



**TAKING AIM:** Big-hitting West Indies batsman Chris Gayle, shown here throwing a ball during the team's fielding drill in Colombo yesterday, will be taking aim at the world's bowlers when the World T20 gets underway in Sri Lanka from September 18.

PHOTO: INTERNET

**See what's coming up**

AFP, Colombo



Arch-rivals India and Pakistan will get an early chance to size up each other ahead of the World Twenty20 when they clash in a high-profile practice match in Colombo next Monday.

The match, part of the warm-up schedule drawn up by the International Cricket Council, is the only one of 12 practice games that will be beamed live by the host broadcasters. Pakistan captain Mohammad Hafeez welcomed the chance to play against India before the tournament starts on Tuesday.

"It is usually a high-pressure game and good for us to experience it early," Hafeez told reporters in Colombo on Wednesday night. India coach Duncan Fletcher said his team's two warm-up matches -- the other is against host Sri Lanka on Saturday -- will be important preparations for the main event.

"We have come here with the belief that we can win the World Twenty20 and it is crucial we get attuned to the conditions,"

Fletcher said. "We have obviously got a good build-up.

"We look forward to the two warm-up games which will give us the preparation we require for the tournament."

India and Pakistan have been drawn in separate groups for the preliminary league, but will meet in the Super Eights round in Colombo on September 30 if the seedings go to plan.

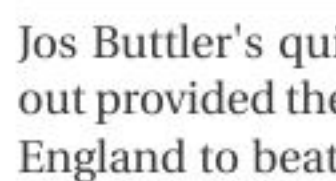
The two nations have played just two official Twenty20 internationals against each other, both during the inaugural world event in South Africa in 2007.

The league match in Durban ended in a tie with India winning the bowl-out, before the two sides met again in the final in Johannesburg, which Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Indians won by five runs.

Bilateral cricket ties between the two nations, which had been suspended since the Mumbai attacks in 2008, are set to resume later this year when Pakistan tour India for three one-dayers and two Twenty20 games.

**England square series**

AFP, Birmingham



Jos Buttler's quickfire 32 not out provided the platform for England to beat South Africa by 28 runs in the third and final Twenty20 international at Edgbaston on Wednesday.

Victory saw World Twenty20 champions England, who head to Sri Lanka on Thursday to defend the title they won in the Caribbean two years ago, square this three-match series at 1-1 with one no result.

Most of Buttler's runs, in a match reduced by rain to 11 overs per side, came in a costly ninth over worth 32 from left-arm quick Wayne Parnell.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

ENGLAND: 118 for 5 (Kieswetter 50, Buttler 32 not out; Morkel 2-28, Botha 2-19) SOUTH AFRICA: 90 for 5 (Amla 36, A Morkel 17 not out, Ontong 10; Bresnan 2-14, Swann 2-24) **Result:** England won by 28 runs and three-match series level at 1-1. **Player-of-the-match:** Jos Buttler. **Player-of-the-series:** Craig Kieswetter.

**Hockey back**

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Club and Dhaka Wanderers while Group B includes Bangladesh Railway, Shishu Kishor Sangha, Combined SC, Mukto Bihango and Victoria SC.

**Gayle can't wait to play in SL**

AFP, Colombo



Explosive West Indies opener Chris Gayle says his Test triple-century in Sri Lanka two years ago will spur him on in the World Twenty20. The left-hander, who smashed a career-best 333 in the opening Test at Galle in 2010, said he was eagerly looking forward to the tournament starting in Sri Lanka next Tuesday.

"To get that triple-century was great for me. I have some happy memories here in Sri Lanka," Gayle, 32, was quoted as saying in a West Indies Cricket Board press release on Thursday.

"I am hoping to use that as a booster to bigger and better things during the tournament. We know what we're about. We know what we are here for."

The West Indies are drawn with Australia and Ireland in Group B of the preliminary league, with the top two teams advancing to the Super Eights round.

They play their first game against Australia in Colombo on September 22.

The West Indies have not progressed through to the final in the previous three editions of the World T20, but Gayle said they had the players to deliver this time.

"When you look at our team you can say we are well balanced," the opener said. "We want to get it together this time around. Once we stick to what we know, I don't see any reason why we can't go all the way."

Gayle, the only West Indian to hammer a century in the World T20 when he hit 117 off 57 balls against South Africa in 2007, said his team needed to make a solid start.

"We have to adapt to the conditions as quickly as possible," he said. "We want to make a solid start and look to put other teams under some pressure."

"There are a lot of competitive teams here. Every team has a chance to win and we have to be at our best at all times. The World T20 is gonna be a cracker."

**Jimmy stays with Lancs**

AFP, London

England pace bowler James Anderson signed a new two-year contract with Lancashire on Thursday despite his English county's relegation to the Second Division.

Anderson, who made his Lancashire debut in 2002, has played only a limited role for Lancashire in recent years after becoming a key member of England's bowling attack.

He has taken 276 wickets in 73 Tests for England and also has 222 wickets in 164 one-day international appearances.

But the 30-year-old remains keen to help Lancashire's cause and even the team's surprise relegation from the top division of the two-tier County Championship, just a year after they won the English title, couldn't shake that commitment.

"I always love coming back to play for the club when my England duties permit me to and I'm delighted to sign for another two years," Anderson said.

**AB banks on brief ties**

AFP, Birmingham



South Africa captain AB de Villiers hopes his side's experience of playing in rain-reduced matches in England will prove useful during the upcoming World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka.

The Proteas ended a largely successful tour of England with a 28-run defeat by the reigning World Twenty20 champions in a floodlit fixture at Edgbaston on Wednesday where rain shortened the match to 11 overs per side.

That meant the three-match series was shared at 1-1, with only the Proteas' seven-wicket win at Chester-le-Street on Saturday, where the teams bowled 39 of a possible 40 overs, going close to the distance.

Set 119 to win on Wednesday, South Africa could only manage 90 for five as a tour which featured a commanding 2-0 Test series win over England and a shared one-day campaign finished on a losing note.

"It certainly wasn't our best performance... We were pretty much outplayed tonight," said de Villiers after a defeat that saw England replace South Africa at number one in the international Twenty20 rankings.

"It was disappointing but there are a lot of positives to hang onto throughout this summer. We've played some good cricket and it's not all doom and gloom going to Sri Lanka."

In Manchester on Monday, South Africa made 77 for five in nine overs in another rain-marred clash before a fresh downpour during England's reply led to a wash-out with the game five balls short of the five-over mark in the second innings needed to declare a result.

De Villiers, asked what South Africa learnt from the brief encounters, replied: "Quite a lot actually. At this level you have to adapt no matter what situation you find yourself in."

"I hear there is quite a bit of rain around in Sri Lanka at the moment and we might get a few rain delayed games and it might cost you the World Cup [World Twenty20] if you are

not prepared for it.

"We have played a couple now, one good, one not so good. We've had a taste for it and will be better prepared now."

He added: "It will probably be quite a lot different in Sri Lanka, but we can probably expect something a bit like tonight's [Wednesday's] pitch."

"There was a quite a bit of turn and it was slowish, we could get quite a few like that in Sri Lanka."

Off-spinner Johan Botha, a key member of South Africa's attack, will head to Sri Lanka on the back of an impressive two wickets for 19 runs on Wednesday, having returned the same figures at Chester-le-Street.

"He's an experienced campaigner," said de Villiers. "He's in good form, and has been for a long time, so it's nice."

De Villiers added England, who won the 2010 World Twenty20 in the Caribbean, would be a threat in Sri Lanka but did not discount South Africa's chances.

"For sure, their bowling line-up has been one of the best in the world for quite a few years now," de Villiers said.

"I thought they did really well in the Caribbean, it was probably down to the bowlers that they won there."

"They certainly have a lot of talent, but so do a lot of other teams. I would like to think it will be a great battle and the top four get through to the end. May the best team win."

**Nat'l B chess**

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Universities and other affiliated organisations are expected to vie in the 11-round Swiss League and the top nine finishers will qualify for the National Chess Championship.

The country's five Grandmasters Niaz Mursheed, Ziaur Rahman, Refeet Bin Sattar, Abdullah Al Rakib and Enamul Hossain Rajib will play directly in the 14-player National Chess Championship.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

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**CRYPTOQUIP**

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**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** MILITARY UNIT SPECIALLY EQUIPPED TO PROTECT AN OLD SITCOM TITLE CHARACTER: THE MAUDE SQUAD. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals I