



PHOTO: AFP
Explosive West Indies batsman Chris Gayle practises one of the big hits he is famous for at the Pallekele International Stadium yesterday.

IT'S NOW MEN

Super Eights from today | versus men

AFP, Colombo
The World Twenty20 shifts to a higher gear in Sri Lanka on Thursday when the hot favourites begin an intriguing race for the semifinals in the Super Eights round.

The preliminary league, which ended on Tuesday, separated the men from the boys as lesser teams like Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan and Ireland exited the competition. All eight seeded teams will contest the second round, divided into two groups with the top two from each half advancing to the semifinals. The road to the Super Eights was bumpy for some and a smooth ride for others, and with monsoon rains set to add to the uncertainty, the next round promises another roller coaster ride. Australia, South Africa, India and Pakistan, clubbed together for the Super Eights in the 'group of death', all came through unscathed by

winning both their preliminary matches. But in the other half, defending champions England, New Zealand and hosts Sri Lanka moved up with just one win each, with the West Indies going through without even winning a game. Darren Sammy's Caribbean stars lost to Australia and then had their match against Ireland abandoned due to rain, allowing them to scrape through with a superior run-rate over the Irish. England won the last edition in 2010 after a similar winless start in the preliminary round, but Sammy refused to derive any consolation from that. "I am aware of what happened back in 2010, but the most important thing is that we have got to do well in the Super Eights," the West Indies captain said. "We have to keep improving our

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ENGLAND		WEST INDIES	
Played: 47	Won: 26	Played: 39	Won: 17

In 2012	Played: 8	In 2012	Played: 6
Won: 5	Won: 3	Won: 5	Won: 3

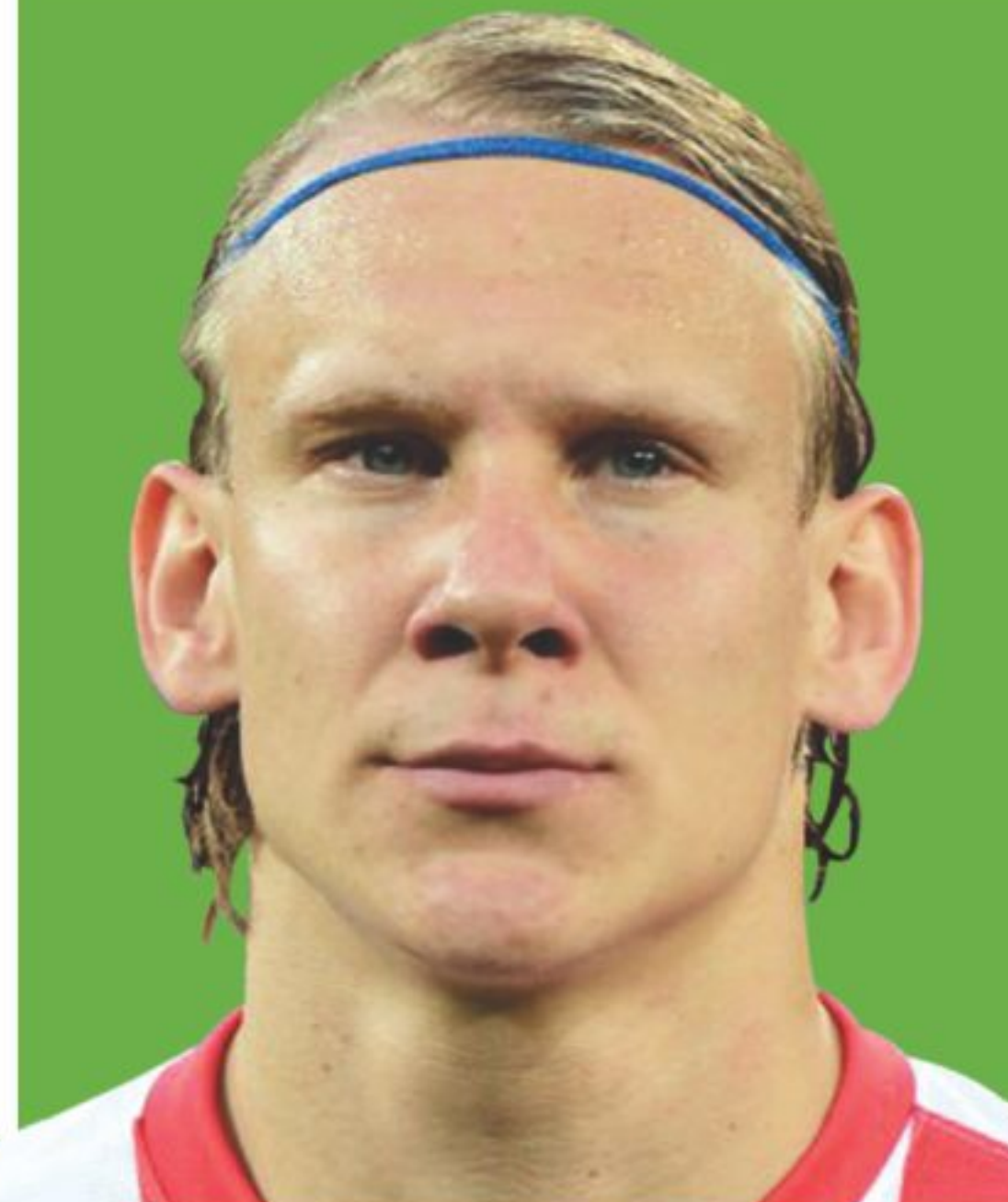
HEAD TO HEAD 3: 5

GRAEME SWANN		CHRIS GAYLE	
Matches: 36	Runs: 25	Matches: 25	Runs: 811
Wickets: 47	Average: 36.86	Bowling	Average: 36.86
Average: 16.61	Highest: 117	Economy: 6.29	Strike Rate: 145.08

game and hopefully we can go out there and express what we have with us." The West Indies take on England in the second match of Thursday's double-header in Pallekele, following the opener between Sri Lanka and New Zealand. Stuart Broad's England will look to put their campaign back on track after suffering an embarrassing 90-run loss to India in Colombo on Sunday when they were bowled out for their lowest T20 total of 80. The action will hot up with the group two double-header in Colombo on Friday when power-packed South Africa meet Pakistan, before India take on Australia later at night. "The pressure and tension are only going to rise as we get closer to

Beer proves dear for Vida

Domagoj Vida's decision to have a beer on the Dinamo Zagreb team bus on the way to a Croatian Cup match proved an expensive one as the defender was fined 100,000 euros (\$130,000) on Tuesday by the Croatian champions. "Domagoj Vida was punished over his unsportsmanlike behaviour," the club said in a statement on its internet site. The amount represents a quarter of the 23-year old's annual salary and could have bought him 50,000 bottles of local beer in any Zagreb bar, local media reported. - AFP



'Need to improve home standards'

Talismanic Tigers all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was happy with his stellar performance with the bat in Bangladesh's final ICC World Twenty20 group match against Pakistan, but was disappointed with the way his team lost the do-or-die encounter. In an interview with The Daily Star Sport's BISHWAJIT ROY, the world's No 1 all-rounder speaks of his disappointment, philosophy and expectations. The following is an excerpt from the free-wheeling encounter with Bangladesh's biggest sports personality at the poolside of the Mahaweli Reach Hotel in Kandy an hour before the Bangladesh team's departure for Dhaka on Wednesday:



Daily Star Sport (DSS): How would you evaluate Bangladesh's performance against Pakistan?

Shakib Al Hasan (SAH): It is good if I think of it as a personal achievement. Yes, we failed to qualify for the Super Eights, but I'm more disappointed with the way we lost the match. We scored 175 runs but still the match was not close, which was disappointing. If we had saved 10 to 15 runs in the field and held on to the catch of Imran Nazir as early as the second over, then you never know, things could have been different. At times some failed to apply their common sense -- there was also a lack of intensity in our approach. I always want intensity on the field and I wanted it when I was captain also.

DSS: Why did the pace bowlers bowl so many short balls. Was it a plan?

SAH: We had a plan and you saw Imran Nazir trapped by a short ball but we could not capitalise on that chance. But that doesn't mean you bowl short balls the whole day, which was really surprising.

DSS: How would you compare the frustration of this defeat with earlier ones?

SAH: I'm frustrated because of the manner we lost the game. I will give it six out of ten points in terms of frustration (laughs).

DSS: Was it your best T20 innings?

SAH: It was my best innings by far. I had a plan. What I wanted to do was not to force my batting initially but maintain a 110 to 120 strike rate and play my natural game. I didn't want to force anything.

DSS: Why did you decide to rest rather than practise before the match day? Was there a special plan?

SAH: Not at all. Actually I felt tired, which is why I decided to stay away from practice and I thought it would be good for me. I wanted to preserve my energy before a crucial match. It's not like I

would become Don Bradman if I practised on that particular day. And usually I bat for only 10 minutes in practice before match day, but on that day what I felt was that it would be good for me to skip it, that's all. And for the first time in my career I skipped training for no particular reason.

DSS: What was your feeling after the disappointing performance in the first match?

SAH: I was really disappointed with my performance in the first match. You know some of our performances directly affect the team. On the other hand, I also had my own expectations which I failed to fulfil, so it would be unfair to say that I was not thinking about my performance in the first match before the second game. What I felt was that I was more focused on the second game than the first one.

DSS: Did you ever think about a hundred during your magnificent innings?

SAH: Not before the last over. I told Nasir (Hossain) that nobody could stop me from getting the first hundred for Bangladesh if I could manage a boundary in the second ball.

DSS: Why do you think that we failed to perform as per our expectations?

SAH: We are okay in our understanding but the problem is that we could not execute it on the field. We know everything but the problem is we can't apply it in the middle.

DSS: If you had the freedom to add players to the team, what kind of players would you prefer in the side?

SAH: I would love to see bowlers like Morne Morkel and Dale Steyn in my team. I want some brilliant fielder like Jhony Rhodes, Michael Clark and Ricky Ponting. We have some good spinners but not world-class spinners. It will not be possible for me to become a bowler like Saeed Ajmal. I may try to become a spinner like Graeme Swann but in that

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SRI LANKA NEW ZEALAND

Played: 44	Played: 55
Won: 25	Won: 26

In 2012	Played: 5	In 2012	Played: 10
Won: 2	Won: 6	Won: 2	Won: 6

HEAD TO HEAD 4: 5

KUMAR SANGAKKARA		BRENDON MCCULLUM	
Matches: 37	Runs: 967	Matches: 50	Runs: 1598
Average: 30.21	50s: 6	Average: 38.04	50s: 9
4s: 95	6s: 16	4s: 154	6s: 65
Highest: 78	Highest: 123		



PHOTO: AFP
Sri Lanka's Ajantha Mendis bowls during a practice session at the Pallekele International Stadium yesterday, ahead of their first ICC World Twenty20 Super Eights match against New Zealand here today.

Dual challenge for Siddikur

Sports Reporter
Siddikur Rahman is expected to be tested again this week as he will have to deal with a dip in form as well as windy conditions at the Mercuries Taiwan Masters starting today. Strong winds will put Siddikur to the test as gusts of over 30 kilometres per hour are expected to sweep the Taiwan Golf and Country Club. Siddikur's vulnerability in mastering windy and chilly conditions has been exposed of late as he has missed two cuts in this month alone. The 27-year

Pacers worry Hafeez

AFP, Pallekele
Pakistan captain Mohammad Hafeez admitted his faltering pace bowlers were a concern ahead of the Super Eights round where big teams can capitalise on their weakness. Pakistan thumped Bangladesh by eight wickets in Pallekele on Tuesday, with Imran Nazir hitting a career best 72 as Pakistan comfortably chased down a 176-run target with eight balls to spare in the Group D match. But they head into the next round with a question mark on their pace bowlers, with experienced Umar Gul con-

ceding 43 off his three overs and Sohail Tanveer going for 25 in his three.

Pakistan faces explosive matches against formidable South Africa (Friday), arch-rivals India (Sunday) and Australia (Tuesday) in

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CLEAR MEN
BREAKTHROUGH IN MEN'S SCALP CARE

ICC WORLD T20 TODAY'S MATCHES

MATCH	TIME	VENUE
Sri Lanka v New Zealand	4:00pm	Pallekele
England v West Indies	8:00pm	Pallekele

Hockey camp for Nehru Cup

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) has called up 30 players for a month-long training camp ahead of two tournaments in India in November. The 30-member squad has been asked to report at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium on October 1. The two tournaments that the Bangladesh team will be taking part in are Beighton Cup in Calcutta (Nov 1-12) and Nehru Cup in Delhi (Nov 14-25). BHF sees these tournaments as preparation for the World Hockey

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BD A spin a web around the Caribbean

Sports Reporter
A ten wicket haul by Enamul Haque Jr led Bangladesh to a 52-run victory over the West Indies High Performance team, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday. The low-scoring four-day game, where the highest innings-score failed to cross the 200 mark, was mostly dominated by the Bangladeshi spinners as they picked up 19 of the 20 West Indian wickets. Starting the fourth day on 120 for 6, the West Indian batsmen, who were chasing a target of 239, launched a counter-attack of sorts, as wicketkeeper-batsman Jahmar

Hamilton and Yannic Cariah shared a brisk 46-run partnership.

The partnership was broken in the 48th over when Cariah, was caught by Naeem Islam and became Enamul's eighth victim of the match. Hamilton's attempt to accelerate the innings, following Cariah's departure, went in vain, as the visitors constantly lost wickets at the other end.

Slow-left armers Enamul and Saqlain Sajib, cleared the West Indian tail in a span of three overs, as the visitors were bundled out in the 58th over for 186 runs.

In the process, Saqlain picked up a five-for in the second innings and Enamul was declared man of the match for his figures of 10 for 118.

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