

ICC WORLD T20 100 days countdown starts tonight

SPORTS REPORTER

The 100 days countdown to the ICC World Twenty20 Bangladesh 2014 will begin tomorrow with the unveiling of countdown clocks in three host cities of Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet simultaneously at midnight tonight.

Entertainment shows will include an exclusive performance by Bangladeshi pop-rock band Shunno that will begin at 10 pm tonight at the South Plaza Gate of Jatiyo Sangsad Bhaban and go on till Friday morning.

Representatives of Bangladesh men's and women's teams and officials of the ICC and BCB will join fans at selected locations for the programme.

The first match of the ICC World Twenty20 will be played between the hosts and Afghanistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka on March 16.

Gazi powers Pirates to final

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An emphatic all-round performance by Shohag Gazi, who smacked a 55-ball 70 with the bat and finished with figures of 2 for 19, led Pirates of Chittagong to the final of the CJKS Corporate T20 Cricket Tournament with a 7-run win over Kwaliti at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Shohag, who came in to bat at number five, following the failure of his side's top-order including Nazimuddin (19) and Nasir Hossain (0), hammered two sixes and six fours on a slow and low track. He single-handedly led the Pirates to a par-score of 127. For Kwaliti, Elias Sunny (3-19) and Mohammad Sharif (3-16) were the key performers with the ball.

While chasing, Kwaliti were on par with the required run-rate for most parts of their innings, courtesy of a 73-run stand for the second wicket between Mahbulul Karim (56) and Taiabur Parvez (30). However, once the pair was dismissed, the middle-order crumbled and they were restricted to 120 for 7.

The Pirates will now meet Shakib Al Hasan's FMC Fighters in the final today.

WI U-19s impress in warm-up

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The visiting West Indies Under-19s warmed up well as they thrashed a second-choice Bangladesh under-19 side by 114 runs at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

The local team's think-tank gave some key players like captain Mehedy Hassan, vice-captain Jasim Uddin and Musaddek Hossain rest for the match, but their second choice players were nowhere near being impressive.

The Caribbean boys, who will play the first two games of a seven-match one-day series against their Bangladesh counterparts at the same venue, posted 263-5 in 50 overs, thanks to Jeremy Solozano (72) and Brandon King (52).

In reply, stand-by Prosenjit Das did hit 73, but it was not enough for the hosts to avoid the massive defeat as they got bundled out for 149 runs in 38.2 overs.



Mohammad Raisuddin (R) of Bangladesh plays a backhand return against Subhankar Dey of India during their third round singles match of the Bangladesh Open International Badminton Challenge at the Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Cricketer journeyman

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's first Test centurion Aminul Islam Bulbul today leads a life that resembles a modern day journeyman. You might catch a glimpse of him in China, discussing the finer details of the game's development and then by the end of the week he would have travelled thousands of miles away to Kuwait to organise an educational programme as a cricket development officer of Asian Cricket Council. And by the time his first 'work-cycle' gets over and he returns to his base Malaysia a new project is always on the cards.

And it therefore is no surprise that Aminul, who is now in Dhaka on a short break, wants to make the most of his vacation.

"I worked continuously for a while this time so that I could take a



AMINUL ISLAM BULBUL

longer break and come here. But even then I still have to handle a few responsibilities that I have from here," Aminul said with a smile.

"As a cricket development officer, I work on designing the game's development in countries like Malaysia, Singapore, China, Kuwait, and also help my team to design their development system," explains Aminul, a technically sound batsman.

"The good news for us this time is

that off the six qualifiers in the T20 World Cup four are from Asia, so that's a good sign," he added.

One of the more interesting aspects of his job, which began in 2007, is to popularise the sport in these countries. It's something that Aminul does on a slightly biased note.

"You can't watch cricket on TV in many of these countries, and they have to depend on videos. For instance in China, the videos I showed in school were that of Bangladesh defeating Australia and some of their other wins," he chuckled.

Despite being so occupied, Aminul almost always finds a way to keep in touch with Bangladesh cricket.

"I have a Chinese dongle (internet) with me which I carry around, through which I watch most

of the cricket matches," he said.

An avid follower of the current national team, Aminul is especially impressed by the likes of Mominul Haque, Shohag Gazi and Nasir Hossain.

"There are a number of match-winners in the side and that's good. This current Bangladesh team is not established as yet but it's moving in the right direction. I think we need to give this team another five years," he added.

The former Bangladesh captain is on the verge of extending his contract with the ACC in the coming days. Despite the busy schedule he wants to dedicate his free time by working for Bangladesh cricket. "I have never been offered a job officially. But I'll have free times and I would love to contribute in any way I can for the national team," said the dapper right-hand batsman

Ross puts NZ in charge

AFP, Dunedin



Ross Taylor smashed a maiden double century against the West Indies on Wednesday as New Zealand racked up an imposing 609-9 declared, taking a vice-like grip on the first Test in Dunedin.

The tourists made a shaky start to their reply, reduced to 24-2 before recovering to reach 67 without further loss by the close but they face a monumental task to avoid defeat.

Taylor, who a year ago was in the doldrums when dumped as New Zealand captain, proved that disappointment was well behind him as became only the 13th New Zealander to reach 200 in a Test innings.

Along the way he shared in a 195-run partnership with replacement skipper Brendon McCullum -- a record fourth-wicket stand for New Zealand against the West Indies.



New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor celebrates his double century on the second day of the first Test against West Indies in Dunedin yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

SCOREBOARD				
NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 367-3)				
Fulton c Edwards b Sammy				61
Rutherford c Deonarine b Shillingford				62
Redmond c Samuels b Best				20
Taylor not out				217
McCullum b Sammy				113
Anderson c Ramdin b Best				0
Watling c Edwards b Best				41
Southee c Bravo b Deonarine				2
Sodhi c & b Deonarine				35
Wagner run out				37
Extras: (lb-10, lb-10, nb-1)				21
Total: (For 9 wickets in 153.1 overs)				609
Did not bat: Boult				
Fall of wickets: 1-95, 2-117, 3-185, 4-380, 5-385, 6-469, 7-472, 8-548, 9-609				
Bowler				
	O	M	R	W
Best	34.1	5	148	3
Gabriel	27.5	4	148	0
Sammy	23.1	4	79	2
Shillingford	46	7	138	1
Deonarine	22	0	76	2
WEST INDIES: First innings				
Edwards c Fulton b Boult				0
Powell c Watling b Southee				7
Bravo not out				37
Samuels not out				14
Extras: (lb-8, nb-1)				9
Total: (For 2 wickets in 24 overs)				67
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-24				
To bat: Chanderpaul, Deonarine, Ramdin, Sammy, Shillingford, Best, Gabriel				
Bowler				
	O	M	R	W
Boult	8	5	7	1
Southee	7	1	15	1

Jamalpur schools breed success

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Jamalpur

Out of the seven gold medals won by the Bangladeshi athletes on the second day of the Asia Pacific Games of Special Olympics in Newcastle, Australia, three were won by the students of two schools of Jamalpur.

Chaitee Aktar and Humayun Kabir, both from the Speech and Hearing Impairment School of Kacharipara in Jamalpur, won gold medals in long jump while Munni Aktar, Mishti Aktar and Ratan Miah – students of Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled (SWID) Sarishabari Branch – won a gold, a silver and a bronze medal in the event of badminton and long jump respectively.

There were no events on Wednesday for the Bangladeshi participants, but there will be a number of individual events decided today while the Bangladeshi football and cricket teams will also be fighting for the gold medal today.

It may be mentioned here that a 117-member team including 75 competitors, headed by Jowaherul Islam, vice-president of Special Olympics, Bangladesh are taking part take part in the Games.

Of the 75 participants, eleven are from the two schools of Jamalpur among 75, informed Nurul Islam, Director SWID, Bangladesh.

As many as 2500 intellectually disabled competitors from 29 countries of the Asia Pacific region are taking part in the sporting extravaganza.

Siddikur eyeing Hong Kong title

SPORTS REPORTER



Siddikur Rahman will be looking to add further glory to a spectacular season with a good showing at the 1.3-million-dollar Hong Kong Open which starts at the spectacular Hong Kong Golf Club today.

The 29-year old golfer finished fourth at the Indonesian Open last week with constant performance throughout the four rounds and will be looking to do even better in Hong Kong. Siddikur, who is currently third in the order of merit, closely followed by Gaganjeet Bhullar and Anirban Lahiri of India, will be looking to ensure a top four finish which will ensure an automatic place in the inaugural EurAsia Cup next year.

"After winning two Asian Tour tournaments, it would be good if I can go on to win a co-sanctioned tournament with the European Tour. My target is always to win golf tournaments and I'm hoping I can do it in Hong Kong," Siddikur told Asiantour.com in an interview a few days ago.

"I've been talking to my caddie about trying to win a couple more tournaments and he's told me to putt better," said Siddikur.

Siddikur will be up against defending champion Miguel Angel Jimenez, as well as China's Liang Wen-chong, Guan Tian-lang and India's heavyweights Lahiri and Bhullar.

1st SA-Ind ODI today

INTERNET, Johannesburg

India kick off their tour of South Africa with three ODIs, the first of which will be played at the Bull Ring here, on Thursday.

The scene is set for an enthralling contest, what with India's supremacy in the format providing a nice counter to their traditional inability in seaming conditions.

Captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, having led his team through a grueling practice session at the Wanderers ahead of the first match, admitted that he was expecting a cracker of a contest.

India arrived in South Africa on Monday with one of their least experienced squads for an overseas assignment.

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- H. Banna, Indira road
- Kathie Ahmed, Malibagh
- Shahriar Rizwan, Kafrul

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