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 Shere-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 55ball 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 Kwality at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Shohag, who came in to bat at number five, following the failure of his side's toporder 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 Kwality, Elias Sunny (3-19) and Mohammad Sharif (3-16) were the key performers with the ball.

While chasing, Kwality 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 Mahbubul Karim (56) and Taiabur Parvez (30). However, once the pair was dismissed, the middleorder 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

SPORTS REPORTER

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

The local team's thinktank 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.



PHOTO: STAR

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.

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 sound batsman. 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,

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

"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 matchwinners 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

Most of the locals bid bye

SPORTS REPORTER



Imperfection, poor footwork, faulty service, lack of fitness and incapability to read the opponents' moves were among the reasons for defeats of Bangladeshi shuttlers on the second day of the Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh Open International Badminton Challenge at

the Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. In contrast, perfection, quick movement and footwork,

adequate stamina, high fitness level and reading the opponents easily were the strengths of tournament's top seed in men's and women's section Hsu Jen Hao and Pai Hsiao Ma respectively. Both Jen Hao, who is ranked 31st among men in Asia and

Hsiao Ma, who is ranked 24th among women in Asia, hardy faced any challenge against their respective Indian counterparts yesterday on their way to the quarterfinal berths, even though they believe the main challenge would come from the Indonesian and Malaysian shuttlers. "The perfection, footwork, movement and understand-

ing of the opponents depend on training and the number of international engagements in a year for a shuttler," said Hsiao Ma, whose latest participation was at the Polish Open where he finished second. Hsiao Ma informed that that the shuttlers of Chinese

Taipei train five days a week under coaches from China and Indonesia.

"We have a good foundation in badminton as a child takes up the game at the age of 8 to 10 and there are some schools, which are famous for producing good shuttlers," said Hsiao Ma, who is a masters student in Sports Education. She plays from 13 to 15 international tournaments every year with the backing of individual sponsors.

Jen Hao, who participated in the 2012 Olympics in London and was eliminated from the group stages, said that every good shuttler in Chinese Taipei has individual sponsors while the top shuttlers have permanent jobs at private and government organisations.

"There is no short-cut to improvement. Good training facilities must be ensured from the federation/government from childhood and there should be international engagements for shuttlers," said Jen Hao, who once was ranked 24th in

From the Bangladesh perspective, the attention was on

Mohammad Raisuddin, who faced 2nd seed Subhankar Dey of India in the clash for a place in the quarterfinals as rest of the Bangladeshi shuttlers suffered defeats in all events of men's singles, doubles, women's singles and mixed doubles. However, there is still representation of the hosts in the mixed doubles event after their Nepalese counterparts handed them walkover. Rais lost his game by 6-21, 15-21 points to Subhankar

Dey, who is 1122 places ahead in the Asian ranking. Rais gave away at least sixty percent of his points due to his imperfect returns while his faulty serves gave away three to four games to Subhankar. "I knew I would lose to him but I never thought I would

be defeated in such a way," said Rais. "I just gave away points

Ross puts NZ in charge | Jamalpur schools

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.

SCOREBOARD

Fall of wickets: 1-95, 2-117, 3-185, 4-380, 5-385, 6-469, 7-472, 8-

148

148

79

138

76

15

34.1

27.5

23.1

To bat: Chanderpaul, Deonarine, Ramdin, Sammy, Shillingford, Best,

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 367-3)

Fulton c Edwards b Sammy

Redmond c Samuels b Best

Anderson c Ramdin b Best

Watling c Edwards b Best

Sodhic&b Deonarine

Extras: (b-10, lb-10, nb-1)

Total: (For 9 wkts decl in 153.1 overs)

Wagner run out

Did not bat: Boult

548, 9-609

Bowler

Best

Gabriel

Shillingford

Deonarine

Bravo not out

Gabriel

Bowler

Southee

Samuels not out

Extras: (lb-8, nb-1)

WEST INDIES: First innings

Powell cWatling b Southee

Total: (For 2 wkts in 24 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-24

Edwards c Fulton b Boult

Southee c Bravo b Deonarine

Taylor not out

McCullum b Sammy

Rutherford c Deonarine b Shillingford

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

Taylor was at the crease for more than eight hours, faced 319 balls and hit 23 boundaries without risking a lofted shot. Four of those boundaries came in one over

from Shannon Gabriel as the workload told on the West Indies quicks after a leg muscle strain forced Darren Sammy out of the attack. Throughout his marathon innings,

Taylor offered only one sharp chance when

he was dropped on 131 by Kieran Powell at

short leg off spinner Shane Shillingford. After New Zealand resumed the day at 367-3, the West Indies made early inroads with the removal of McCullum for 113 and

Corey Anderson without scoring. BJ Watling (41) restored order with Taylor in an 84-run stand for the sixth wicket before the West Indies engineered a second mini breakthrough.

Tino Best claimed the scalp of Watling and Narsingh Deonarine removed Tim Southee for two to have New Zealand at 472-7 before Ish Sodhi (35) and Neil Wagner (37) helped Taylor to get New Zealand past the 600-run milestone.

New Zealand declared at their fourthhighest Test score following the dismissal of Wagner after the tailender and Taylor had

breed success OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

schools

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.

ODI today

1st SA-Ind

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.

FIFA WORLD CUP" QUIZ

WIN TICKETS TO SEE THE REAL FIFA WORLD CUP TROPHY During the FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour in Bangladesh from December 17-19

1. Which country will host the 2014 FIFA World Cup? 2. How many teams will participate in the 2014

FIFA World Cup finals? 3. Which team is the defending World Champions?

Winners of Quiz 02

Kaniz Marzia, Mirpur

Zobayer Hossain Emon, Narayanganj 3. H. Banna, Indira road

4. Kathie Ahmed, Malibagh Shahriar Rizwan, Kafrul

To participate for your chance to win **FREE TICKET**, email your answers to trophytour.wc@gmail.com by 4pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced tomorrow on the newspaper and through email.

