

Teams selected for T20 tourney

Tamim set to return as captain

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced four teams yesterday for the hastily arranged tournament named the Victory Day T20 competition.

According to the board's press release the four-team tournament is expected to commence from December 22 despite the opposition alliance's fresh four-day nationwide blockade from Saturday morning. Matches will be held in Sylhet and Dhaka.

"The tournament is officially on. But we will discuss the issue (fresh blockade)

SQUADS

YELLOW TEAM: Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (captain), Junaed Siddiqui, Jahurul Islam, Mizanur Rahman, Mominul Haque, Shahriar Nafees, Rokibul Hasan, Taibur Rahman, Elias Sunny, Saqlain Sajib, Dewan Sabir, Sajedul Islam, Alauddin Babu and Nurul Hasan.

BLUE TEAM: Shakib Al Hasan (captain), Anamul Haque, Saikat Ali, Liton Das, Sabbir Rahman, Mehrob Hossain, Alok Kapali, Shohag Gazi, Taizul Islam, Rubel, Hossain, Shahadat Hossain, Taposh Baishya, Robiul Islam and Mohammad Sharif.

GREEN TEAM: Tamim Iqbal (captain), Imrul Kayes, Abdul Majid, Naeem Islam, Marshal Ayub, Rony Talukder, Jubair Ahmed, Arifat Sunny, Enamul Haque, Al Amin Hossain, Mohammad Shahid, Delwar Hossain, Muktar Ali and Mohammad Mithun.

RED TEAM: Mushfiqur Rahim (captain), Shamsur Rahman, Soumya Sarker, Nafis Iqbal, Mahmudullah Riyad, Aftab Ahmed, Abdur Razzak, Nazmul Hossain Milon, Forhad Reza, Shuvashis Roy, Nabil Samad, Ziaur

tomorrow (Friday)," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus. The national selectors however disclosed the teams earlier so that the players can reach Sylhet before the start of the blockade.

Three Premier League clubs -- Abahani, Mohammedan, Prime Bank -- have already confirmed their participation but a fourth was yet to be confirmed. In case none show their interest, then the BCB itself will run the fourth team. The clubs will receive the teams -- which have been named Yellow, Blue, Green and Red -- through a lottery today.

National opener Tamim Iqbal is all set to return to competitive cricket as the left-hander fully recovered from the pain in his abdomen which caused him to miss the third ODI and a T20 against New Zealand in November. The Chittagonian has been named captain for one of the teams.

A total of 56 players were chosen for the competition which is why the selectors had no option but to cast a wide net for the selections. Therefore they had to pick a longer-version specialist like pacer Robiul Islam.

"It's impossible to select a huge number of players with only T20 credentials. Actually our main aim is to create an opportunity for the players to play competitive cricket," said chief



Players and officials of the Bangladesh national football team paid a visit to the World Cup trophy at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. The trophy is leaving for Bhutan this morning.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Proteas collapse suddenly

AFP, Johannesburg



South Africa's top-order batsmen collapsed against India's fast bowlers on a dramatic second day of the first Test at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Thursday.

South Africa were 213 for six at the close, 67 runs behind India's 280 all out on a day when 11 wickets fell for 228 runs.

Ishant Sharma led an impressive three-pronged Indian pace attack, taking three for 64.

It was Sharma who sparked a South African collapse in which five wickets fell for 16 runs after tea. The hosts had progressed to 130 for one when Hashim Amla

padding up to a ball which swung back in and clipped the top of his off stump.

Five wickets had fallen in the space of 38 balls as India's bowlers, maintaining a full length and bowling with discipline, did to South Africa's top batsmen what the highly-rated South African fast bowlers had failed to do against the Indian top order.

Faf du Plessis (17) and Vernon Philander (48) steadied the South African innings with an unbroken seventh wicket partnership of 67.

Earlier, resuming at 255 for five in heavily overcast conditions after overnight and early morning rain, India could add only 25 runs to the score in 13 overs before being bowled out for 280.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First innings (overnight 255-5)					Philander	27	6	61	4
Vijay c de Villiers b Morkel	6	Kallis	23	12	34	3			
Dhawan c Tahir b Steyn	13	Tahir	8	0	47	0			
Pujara run out	25	Duminy	5	0	30	0			
Kohli c Duminy b Kallis	119	SOUTH AFRICA: First innings							
Rohit c de Villiers b Philander	14	Smith lbw b Zaheer				68			
Rahane c de Villiers b Philander	47	Petersen lbw b Ishant				21			
Dhoni c de Villiers b Morkel	19	Amla b Ishant				36			
Ashwin not out	11	Kallis lbw b Ishant				0			
Zaheer lbw b Philander	0	de Villiers lbw b Shami				13			
Ishant b Philander	0	Duminy c Vijay b Shami				2			
Shami b Morkel	0	Du Plessis not out				17			
Extras: (lb-4, lb-6, nb-2, w-14)	26	Philander not out				48			
Total: (All out in 103 overs)	280	Extras: (lb-4, nb-3, w-1)				8			
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-24, 3-113, 4-151, 5-219, 6-264, 7-264, 8-264, 9-278		Total: (For 6 wks in 66 overs)				213			
		Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-130, 3-130, 4-130, 5-145, 6-146							
Bowler	O	M	R	W	To bat: Steyn, Morkel, Tahir				
Steyn	26	7	61	1	Bowler	O			
						M			
						R			
						W			



India paceman Ishant Sharma (C) celebrates taking the wicket of South Africa's Jacques Kallis on the second day of the first Test at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Ramdin rescues WI

AFP, Hamilton



A gutsy 200-run partnership between Denesh Ramdin and Shivnarine Chanderpaul rescued the West Indies from a perilous position on Thursday as the tourists battled to 289 for six on the first day of the third Test against New Zealand.

Ramdin was dismissed just before the close for 107 to end a sixth-wicket stand that lifted the score to respectability after another Calypso collapse had seen the team slump to 86-5 soon after lunch.

Chanderpaul was not out 94 at the close, with Darren Sammy yet to score as the West Indies fight to win the Test in a bid to level the three-match series.

The tourists' cause was helped by a wicket that offered the bowlers little in the morn-

ing before becoming totally unresponsive midway through the day, allowing the batsmen more time to place the ball, and the run rate lifted noticeably.

After just 142 runs were scored in the first two sessions, the post-tea session of play yielded a further 147 runs.

New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum won the toss and with hindsight he may regret his decision to bowl first as rewards were hard to come by except for a brief period after lunch.

After the West Indies had progressed cautiously to 77-1, they collapsed to 86-5 in the space of 34 deliveries before Ramdin joined Chanderpaul to put them back on track.

Kraigg Brathwaite and Kieran Powell put on 41 for the first wicket before Powell, on 26, edged Neil Wagner to wicketkeeper BJ Watling.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First innings					45
Brathwaite c Williamson b Southee					26
Powell c Watling b Wagner					6
Edwards c Watling b Southee					0
Samuels c Williamson b Anderson					94
Chanderpaul not out					2
Deonarine lbw Anderson					107
Ramdin c Watling b Anderson					0
Sammy not out					9
Extras: (lb-6, b-2, w-1)					289
Total: (For 6 wks in 90 overs)					
To bat: Narine, Best, Permaul					
Fall of wickets: 1-41, 2-77, 3-78, 4-82, 5-86, 6-286					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Boult	19	1	67	0	
Southee	20	1	56	2	
Wagner	20	4	66	1	
Anderson	14	3	25	3	
Williamson	4	0	14	0	
Sodhi	13	0	53	0	
NEW ZEALAND: McCullum, Anderson, Boult, Fulton, Rutherford, Sodhi, Southee, Taylor, Wagner, Watling, Williamson.					

Mixed emotions as trophy fiesta ends

SPORTS REPORTER



The enthusiasm and excitement surrounding the coveted FIFA World Cup trophy wound down yesterday afternoon with the spectators returning home with mixed emotions after the second and final day of the trophy's

display.

Thousands gathered at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel -- after the venue was shifted at the last moment from the originally scheduled Bangabandhu National Stadium -- for a glimpse and to take photographs with the gilded trophy but not all were able to take pictures with the trophy.

The famous trophy is supposed to leave the country in the morning today for Bhutan as part of the trophy's global tour to 89 countries ahead of the 2014 World Cup to be held in Brazil.

Things were running smoothly till 12:00pm after which ticket-holders, all invited guests, were forced to stand still for nearly an hour before normal service resumed. It was learnt that the hold-up resulted from meeting the demands of the stakeholders' -- Coca Cola, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) officials -- relatives and those of defence personnel. The long wait eventually resulted in a gate rush by those waiting in the queues.

Once allowed in, they however were only allowed a quick look at the trophy without taking the photographs that were earlier arranged by Coca-Cola.

"Looking at the FIFA World Cup trophy from close quarters was the only bit of satisfaction, although my big dream was to

take a photograph with it. They did not even give me a chance to capture it with my mobile camera," said Samoy from Mohammadpur. Shamima Akter, public relations officer of Coca Cola Bangladesh, said that they stopped providing the photograph service due to the server being down but a representative of FIFA, seeking anonymity, informed that they stopped providing the photographs because they thought providing an opportunity to the maximum number of spectators in the allotted time to at least view the trophy was better than nothing as time was running out.

However, the mentally challenged athletes who recently took part in the Asia Pacific Region Games of Special Olympics, the underprivileged children of Jaago Bangladesh and the children from Shishu Academy faced no such trouble. Instead, they were taken inside the room specially and each child was given the opportunity to have a photograph taken with the trophy as well as a Coca Cola gift box.

Earlier in the day, the BFF did finally arrange for the national players to visit the trophy but an untoward incident transpired when national striker Toklish Ahmed and security personnel were involved in a scuffle. Later however, security apologised for the incident and let Toklish along with his two relatives view the trophy.

"Watching the original trophy from up close is a rare opportunity and I believe it will inspire us to do well in future," said striker Zahid Hasan Emily. "If our football is going in the right direction, one day a future generation will play the FIFA World Cup."

Time can only tell whether Bangladesh will play the World Cup, but it will be interesting to see how the game's governing body capitalises on the passion and enthusi-

V-DAY HOCKEY

Azad to meet Abahani in semifinal

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani set up their Victory Day Hockey Tournament semifinal clash with Azad SC as the Sky Blues emerged Group A champions beating Bangladesh Army 4-1 in their last group match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Ashraful put Abahani ahead in the 15th minute before Pushkor Khisha struck in the 34th and 40th minutes. Army pulled one goal back through Abdul Malek, but Hasan Jubair settled the match with Abahani's fourth goal in the 58th minute. Army will play the second semifinal against Group B champions Usha KC.

SL down but not out

AFP, Dubai

Despite a narrow defeat, Sri Lanka will remain positive and high on confidence for Friday's second one-day international against Pakistan, vowed skipper Angelo Mathews.

Pakistan clinched a hard-fought 11-run win in the first day-night international in Sharjah on Wednesday after Sri Lankan tail-enders gave them a serious scare in chasing a daunting 323-run target.

Sri Lanka had nearly lost the match at 221-7 but Seekugge Prasanna (42) and Sachitra Senanayake (42) put on a brave 87-run stand for the eighth wicket -- a record for all Pakistan-Sri Lanka one-days -- before Pakistan averted an upset.

Mathews said his team put up a good fight.

"It is about being positive and keeping our heads high. We know we have performed well, even though we lost but the confidence is pretty high in the camp and we just want to continue with the same approach," said Mathews after the match.

Pakistan were lifted by a return-to-form 122 by Mohammad Hafeez and 73 by Sohaib Maqsood as well as debutant opener Sharjeel Khan's 61.

Sri Lanka were given a solid start by Kusal Perera (64) and Tillakaratne Dilshan (30) before the middle-order faltered.

Ryder back in NZ fold

AFP, Hamilton

Big-hitting New Zealand cricketer Jesse Ryder is poised for a return to the international stage, completing a remarkable comeback after a turbulent period on the sidelines.

The 29-year-old was named Thursday in the New Zealand team to play the West Indies in a series of five one-day internationals starting in Auckland on December 26.

Ryder, a self-confessed "bad boy" who is regarded by many in New Zealand as a cult hero, went into a self-imposed exile 22 months ago to sort out personal issues following several alcohol-related incidents.

SQUAD

Brendon McCullum, Corey Anderson, Martin Gupthill, Mitchell McClenaghan, Nathan McCullum, Kyle Mills, Adam Milne, Colin Munro, James Neesham, Luke Ronchi, Jesse Ryder, Ross Taylor, Kane Williamson.

Test C'ship in doubt

Financial aspects the worry

CRICINFO, Dubai



The future of the World Test Championship has been thrown into doubt after it emerged that broadcasters and sponsors still hold grave reservations over the value of the event and the various parties organising it have failed to reach any agreement over the format.

The inaugural Test Championship, which the ICC hopes will become the showpiece event in the Test schedule, is due to be staged in the UK in 2017. But, with only four teams due to compete -- the top four in the Test rankings as of December 31, 2016 -- doubts remain over its global appeal.

The key concern of the sponsors and broadcasters is the identities of the competing teams. If any of the major draws cards -- especially India or England -- should fail to qualify, the attraction and value of the event would fall markedly. England's rapid descent in the world rankings has rendered this a real danger and could also result in some of the games being played in less-than-full stadiums.

The ICC's current broadcast deal ends in 2015. The last deal, agreed with ESPN Star Sports network in 2006, was worth around 1.1 billion dollars and helped fund a huge increase in funding for Associate and Affiliate nations.

Any decrease in the value of the next deal, a genuine possibility bearing in mind broadcasters' lukewarm response to the World Test Championship, will have serious consequences for the game at every level in most parts of the world.