

Proteas touch down in the afternoon

SPORTS REPORTER



A 25-member South Africa contingent landed at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 5:30 pm yesterday afternoon. The group included a 14-member T20 squad and eleven staff members.

The arrival however took place amidst a slight confusion. The BCB had earlier been informed that the team would land in the morning. It was later learnt that the South Africans had in fact booked a different flight. The confusion was a result of a miscommunication between the two boards.

The visitors will face Bangladesh in two T20Is, three ODIs and two Tests. The tour will kick start with two T20Is scheduled to take place on July 5 and 7.

The Proteas will attend their first practice session tomorrow afternoon at the National Cricket Academy Ground in Mirpur. After two days of practice, the visitors will take on a BCB XI in a 20-over practice match at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah on July 3.

This is South Africa's first series ever since their painful semifinal exit in the World Cup in March this year. Prior to their arrival in Dhaka, T20 captain Faf du Plessis hoped that the youngsters who joined the squad after the mega event, would prove their point on this tour.

"This is exciting; it's nice to have young guys coming in. It's almost like the younger the guys

are, the more energy they bring to the squad," du Plessis said.

The two teams have never played a T20I in Bangladesh. They did face off twice in this format in 2007 and 2008 in South Africa, and the Proteas won on both occasions.

The three ODIs will take place on July 10, 12 and 15. While the first two are scheduled to take place in Mirpur, the final ODI will be played at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong.

The two-match Test series will begin after Eid, with Hashim Amla and Mushfiqur Rahim taking over their respective sides. The first Test will take place in Chittagong while the second and final Test will be played in Mirpur.

Bangladesh's T20I team will be submitted to the board today evening. It was learnt that the selection committee had pondered quite a bit with regards to their spin options.

The names of Shohag Gazi and Jubair Hossain, who played yesterday's practice match, were reportedly discussed.

Having beaten Pakistan and India already this year, the Tigers are on a roll. They have the fourth best winning percentage in 2015 and will hope to continue their good run. However, they will have to battle hard since World Cup semifinalists South Africa have a dominant record against the Tigers.

In the ODIs, South Africa have won 13 out of the 14 encounters between the two sides. In Tests, the Proteas have won all eight encounters -- seven of which were innings victories.

ROSH ALO'S DIG Indian media find no fun

STAR SPORT DESK

After Bangladeshi newspaper Prothom Alo's weekly publication 'Rosh Alo' published a picture of Mustafizur Rahman and some members of the Indian cricket team, the Press Trust of India reacted furiously with an article on the Bangla daily's attempt at humour. The report, which was carried by different Indian newspapers, is as follows:

Showing utter disrespect towards the Indian cricket team, a Bangladeshi newspaper has produced a fake 'cutter' advertisement, in which seven Indian cricketers are seen standing with their heads half-shaven.

Young Bangladeshi paceman Mustafizur Rahman, who tormented the Indian players in the ODI series, is shown endorsing a cutter -- symbolising his 'off-cutters' -- and the Indian players are holding a banner which reads, 'We have used it. You can use it too'.

Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Ajinkya Rahane, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja, Shikhar Dhawan and Ravi Ashwin are shown in the picture.

India lost the three-match series 1-2 to give the hosts a historic bilateral series victory.

'I feel very happy for Rahane'

PRI, New Delhi

Legendary Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar on Tuesday, extended his greetings to new captain Ajinkya Rahane as Rahane became the first cricketer from Mumbai in 15 years to be handed the reins of the team since Tendulkar.

The selectors announced a second-string team for the tour, resting most of the senior players such as Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Virat Kohli.

"I feel very happy for Ajinkya. He is a sincere and hard working cricketer. I have always been impressed with his commitment and dedication. I am sure he will give his best and give us a reason to be proud of him. I wish him all the best," Tendulkar told PTI.

Tigers receive ICC plaudits

SPORTS REPORTER

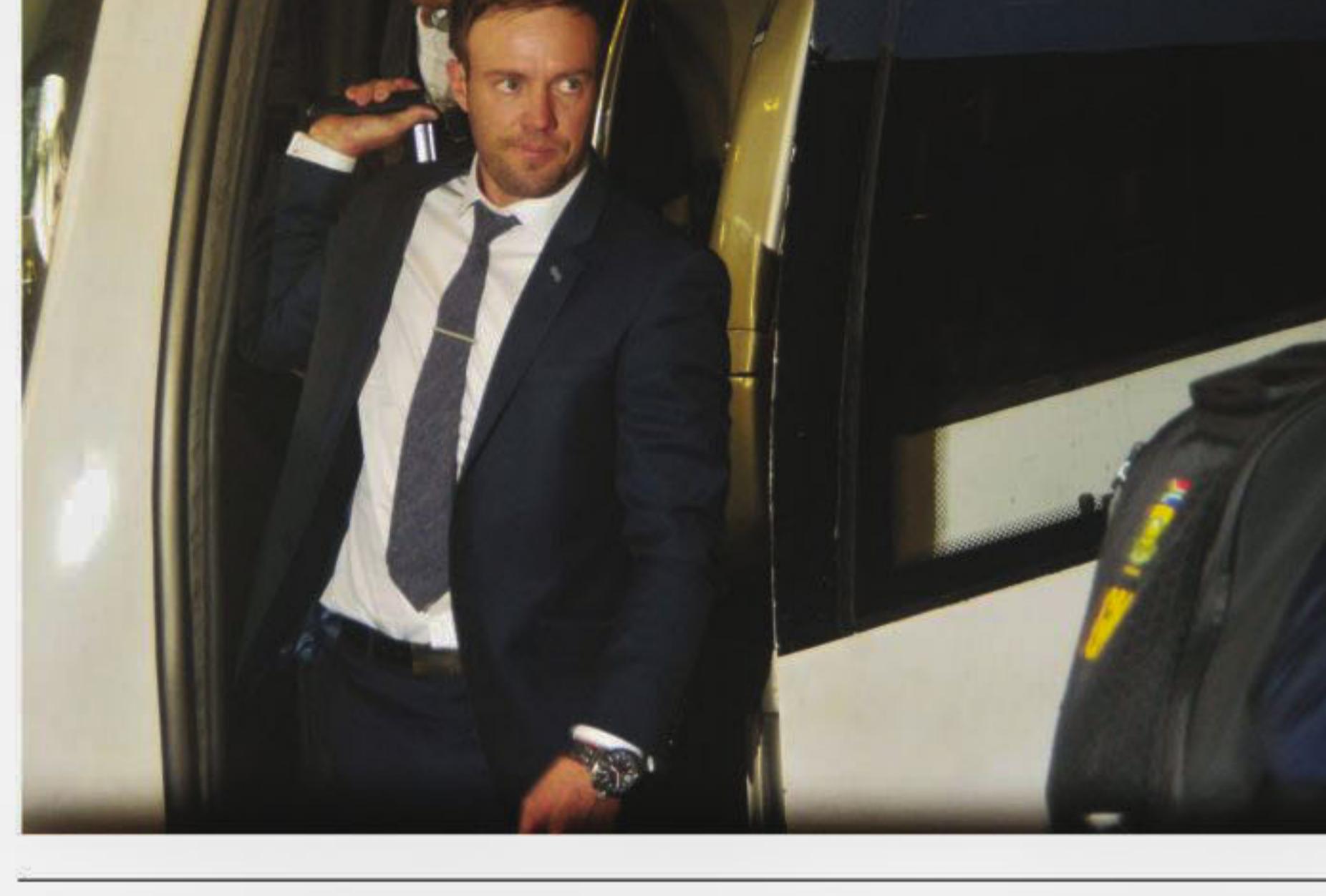
The impressive performances from the Tigers recently have earned them praise from the game's governing body, revealed BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury, while adding that the BCB was hopeful of the positive impact it would have on Bangladesh's cricket.

"They [ICC] are really happy. The ICC has congratulated us and you will see a future effect as well. We are also discussing with some member countries regarding other levels of cricket," said Chowdhury, who returned home yesterday after attending the International Cricket Council's (ICC's) annual conference in Barbados.

Since the last World Cup, the Bangladesh team under the leadership of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has been playing a good brand of cricket in the ODI format and their success against Pakistan and India took them to new heights.

The 2-1 series win against India had confirmed Bangladesh's qualification for the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy to be held in England, but a proposed tri-series involving Pakistan, West Indies and Zimbabwe put their berth at risk. But Chowdhury found no reason to be scared of the Tigers' qualification prospects.

"I think that according to the current scenario, the chances for any other team to climb up [the rankings] are very slim. Because we are ranked seven, we are hopeful of playing the trophy unless something big happens. Pakistan and West Indies are ranked below us at the moment so matches between those sides will have an effect on our ranking, but as the difference between ranks 7 and 8 is around five points, we think that their chances are very slim," explained Chowdhury.



South Africa's one-day international captain AB de Villiers disembarks from the team bus at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. The Proteas are now here to play 2 T20Is, 3 ODIs and 2 Tests. The series starts with a T20 match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on July 5.

PHOTO: STAR

Big windfall for hosts

AFP, Sydney

The cricket World Cup co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand this year was the most popular ever and generated 1.1 billion Australian dollars in economic benefits, an official analysis showed Tuesday.

Fourteen teams played in the hugely successful tournament in February and March, with Australia winning a fifth world crown after beating New Zealand by seven wickets in front of a record crowd of 93,013 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

An economic impact and benefits analysis by PricewaterhouseCoopers showed the event generated more than

1.1 billion dollars in direct spending and created 8,320 full-time jobs.

More than one million fans attended games, with 145,000 international visitors, mostly from Asia, with wide media coverage around the world.

Cricket World Cup 2015 chief executive John Harnden said the direct spending converted into an increase in gross domestic product of 460 million dollars across the two countries.

"This was the biggest event in Australia since the Sydney Olympics in 2000 and it has changed cricket in New Zealand forever," he said, adding that hotels in the two countries benefited from two million bed nights -- a measure of occupancy representing one bed for one night.

Harnden said saturation coverage

on television and other digital platforms from the 14 host cities "not only showcased the best of Australia and New Zealand but has enhanced the tournament's reputation as a major global driver for economic and community benefit".

International Cricket Council chief David Richardson hailed the tournament as an outstanding success that "proved that cricket was not only popular across both countries but a significant contributor to the local economies".

"The ICC cricket World Cup 2015 was the most popular ever played," he said.

The tournament saw 49 matches, of which 20 were sold out, played over 44 days.



Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal scored 52 runs off 30 balls in the T20 practice match at Mirpur yesterday, but the Shakib Al Hasan-led team fell short of their revised target.

Mash shuts Facebook account

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Bangladesh's limited-overs skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has deactivated his Facebook account in the aftermath of his teammate Nasir Hossain's fallout with the community.

Nasir was attacked on Facebook by vulgar and reprehensible comments after he posted a picture with his sister, and this irked Mashrafe to the point of protesting by closing his account.

"I closed my fan page only for Nasir," said Mashrafe.

"I wanted to stand by Nasir and protest against the incident, so this is my way of protesting."

"If this is the kind of response we get from our followers, then I don't need an account," continued Mashrafe. "I don't want this kind of experience."

SL fined

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka have been fined for maintaining a slow over-rate during the second Test against Pakistan in Colombo, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Tuesday.

ICC match referee Chris Broad of England imposed the fines after the hosts were found to be one over short of the target during the Test which they won by seven wickets on Monday.

Skipper Angelo Mathews was fined 20 percent of his undisclosed match fees and the rest of the team 10 percent according to regulations governing Test cricket, the ICC said in a statement.

"Mathews pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing," Broad was quoted as saying in the statement.

Sri Lanka won the match at the P. Sara Oval by seven wickets to level the three-match series after Pakistan had won the first Test in Galle by 10 wickets.

The third and decisive Test starts in Pallekele on Friday.

IN A NUTSHELL

First D/N Test in Nov down under

Australia will host the first day-night Test match under lights in November when they meet neighbours New Zealand at the Adelaide Oval.

"The historic event will be the third of a three-Test series against the Black Caps will be the first to be played with a pink Kookaburra ball," Cricket Australia wrote on its website.

The Test under lights will start on November 27 and Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland said the move would allow more people to watch the match at the ground and on television.

The start time for the day-night match has not yet been decided but the Test could start at 1430 local time.

Sinka sets new chess mark

After decades spent playing simultaneous chess, an 87-year-old Hungarian pensioner clinched a world record Sunday by finally overtaking a total set by 1920s Cuban Grand Master Jose Raul Capablanca, before calling it a day.



Almost 60 years since her first simultaneous games at a Chess Olympiad in 1957, Brigitte Sinka overtook the magic 13,545 number attributed to Capablanca, one of the world's best-ever players.

"I wanted to stop for a moment so everyone could reflect in memory of Capablanca," Sinka told AFP.

"There were so many people waiting for me to move my pieces however, so I simply carried on," she added.

Compiled By Star Sport Desk