

Bangladesh's Jordan test today



The Bangladesh footballers (L), seen here jogging at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, will need a disciplined and collective effort if they are to eke out a result against Jordan (R) in their World Cup-Asian Cup qualifying fixture today.



PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED

BFF's windfall from FIFA fixtures

SPORTS REPORTER
The selling of media rights for Bangladesh's football matches is not something that many would generally describe as a very frequent activity. But it's something that's been happening regularly of late, as the Bangladesh Football Federation sold the rights of the Bangladesh-Jordan World Cup and Asian Cup qualifier to a Singapore-based sports marketing company, Infront Pan-Asia Pte. Ltd.

A source within the football federation informed that they are getting approximately 30,000 dollars from the company, which has already sold their product to a channel based in the Middle East.

The game's governing body had first sold the TV rights of the Bangladesh-Afghanistan friendly match to two Afghanistan media houses for 7500 dollars in June. They are expecting a lucrative two lakh dollars from the home match against Australia in

Baz knows what it'll feel like

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

The captain reputed to be the best in international cricket, New Zealand's Brendon McCullum, says new Australia captain Steve Smith "missed a great opportunity to strike a blow for the spirit of cricket" by not withdrawing an obstructing-the-field appeal against Ben Stokes last weekend -- as he reckoned Michael Clarke would have done.

McCullum said he was not taking a holier-than-thou approach to Smith, and confirmed this by explaining how he has since regretted running out Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralidaran as he left his crease to celebrate when his partner, Kumar Sangakkara, reached a Test century. He predicted Smith, similarly, would regret proceeding with the appeal against Stokes.

"Don't get me wrong: winning is important. But the longer you play this game the more you realise that some things are too valuable to spoil. By not withdrawing the appeal, Smith showed his immaturity. He may live to regret it."

BANGLADESH (173) V JORDAN (91)

KICK-OFF 5:00pm

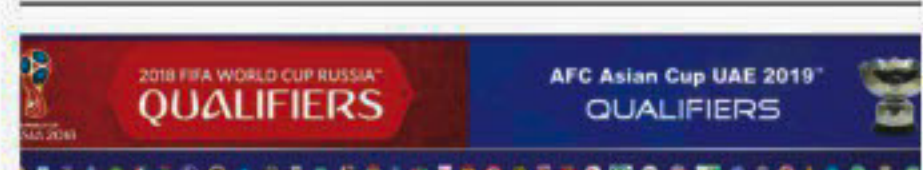
VENUE Bangabandhu National Stadium

TICKET PRICE Gallery - Tk 50 & VIP - Tk 100

LIVE TELECAST on Channel 9

*These two teams have never met before at senior level.

SPORTS REPORTER



While keeping the Socceroos to a five-goal winning margin on their home turf was a 'positive result', as trumpeted by the Bangladesh coaching staff and team management, today's home match against Jordan should see the hosts make more of an impression and eke out a more respectable result.

Needless to say that Jordan are not as strong as Australia, with only one player in the squad plying his trade outside the gulf region and, despite sitting 82 places above the hosts in FIFA rankings, Jordan might find it difficult to play their natural game on the wet and sluggish pitch of the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The play-off losers of last edition's World Cup haven't quite hit the ground running yet, stuttering to a goalless draw at home against Kyrgyzstan last week after a 3-1 win against Tajikistan in their opening fixture.

However, Jordan coach Paul Put has vowed to bounce back from the draw against Kyrgyzstan and get their qualification campaign back on track with a win in today's match.

"We will face a team which will be much motivated in front of their own crowd, especially after their match against Australia. It will be a difficult match for us but we are ready to win the match," said the Belgian at the pre-match press conference yesterday.

Jordan are currently in second position with four points from two matches, two points behind Australia, while Bangladesh are bottom of the five-team group with only a point from three matches, thanks to a 1-1

draw against Tajikistan back in June. A win or even a draw might take Bangladesh to second place temporarily, provided Australia beat Tajikistan in the other fixture today. However, Bangladesh think-tank is not quite sounding as positive, with head coach Lodewijk de

POINTS TABLE (GROUP B)

Team	M	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Australia	2	2	0	0	+6	6
Jordan	2	1	1	0	+2	4
Kyrgyzstan	3	1	1	1	+1	4
Tajikistan	2	0	1	1	-2	1
Bangladesh	3	0	1	2	-7	1

Kruif already stating that 'he doesn't want to commit suicide by trying to play only attacking football' against Jordan.

The Dutch coach is rather emphasising on 'keeping up the good work from the

Australia match', especially in defensive organisation which looked resolute for most of the time after conceding four early goals. With that aim, the team took to the final practice session at the match venue yesterday, with Atiqur Rahman Meshu and Moneem Khan Raju in focus. Meshu might replace winger Enamul Haque, but might just play in front of four-man defence in a 4-1-4-1 formation with Raju replacing Hemanta Vincent Biswas, who limped out during the Australia game.

"There was no attacking organisation (against Australia); hopefully we can do it tomorrow (against Jordan) and if we have some angle, surely we will be trying to attack. But first we have to take care of our defensive organisation," said de Kruif.

BANGLADESH (PROBABLE XI)
Sohel (GK); Yeasin, Tapu, Nasirul, Yeamin / Linkon; Meshu; Mamunul, Jamal, Raju, Jewel; Emily.

Afghanistan defeat BD

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan posted the highest innings score of the tournament yesterday to notch a 43-run win over India and qualified for the finals of the ICRC International T20 Cricket Tournament for the disabled yesterday. In the day's other game, hosts Bangladesh went down to Afghanistan, with the latter achieving their first ever victory of the team.

Bangladesh's poor run with the bat continued as they managed to score just a 119 runs at the end of 20 overs. At one point they were struggling at 18 for 3 and had it not been for a timely 56 off 47 balls from Shariar Shamim it could have been worse for the hosts.

In reply, the Afghans got off to a flying start, courtesy of their opener Mahamudullah, who smacked 32 runs. The good start, coupled with some important knocks down the order, helped them record their first win in the tournament.

Batting first at ground No. 4 at BKSP, Pakistan raced to 174 for 6 in 20 overs. There were quite a few good contributions from the batters. Opener and skipper Hasnain Alam smacked a 25-ball 39 and was ably supported by Rehan Ghani's 28-ball 34. Danish and Nehar Alam hit 26 and 20 respectively down the order to catapult them to the strong score.

In reply, the Indians were bundled out for just 131. Pakistan's Fayaz Ahmed, with figures of 4 for 14, was the pick of the bowlers. Nihar and Rao Javed chipped in with two wickets each. Opener Yash

Cricket embarrassed Shahadat, his wife go into hiding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the last few weeks, the home of cricket in Mirpur has been vibrant with the presence of the national cricketers preparing for their upcoming international commitments.

Players and fans have been buzzing with excitement with regards to the upcoming series against Australia. All that excitement, however, took a back seat as the allegation against pacer Shahadat Hossain of torturing his house-help upset the atmosphere.

People, who saw the bruises on the 11-year-old Mahfuza Akhtar Happy on TV, were left shell-shocked. People have been blasting the cricketer on the social media; reports have also emerged that this was not the first time Shahadat and his wife got involved in such a shameful act.

It also embarrassed the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

"It was unexpected from a senior cricketer like him. It's really an embarrassing issue. We are embarrassed," said BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury while he was talking to reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"We have to talk with him to know his version regarding this issue. It's not related only with his image but also with the other cricketers because it can send a bad message. The cricketers must know that they are representing the country so they must be careful about their personal and social affairs," he continued.

Meanwhile, police were busy trying to arrest the cricketer and his wife Nrittya Shahadat yesterday.

"Three teams today [Monday] raided all possible locations in search of

Shahadat and his wife; including his home and residences of a number of Shahadat's relatives, but failed to trace them," said Bhuiyan Mahub Hasan, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, where a case was filed against the couple under the Women and Children Repression and Prevention Act.

Pallabi police rescued Happy with numerous marks of wounds on her body from Kalsi area on Sunday night; several hours after she fled Shahadat's residence in Mirpur-2, adjacent to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Pallabi police later handed her over to Mirpur police who admitted her to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for treatment.

As doctors screened Happy's body, they found that her left foot was fractured; there were blood clots around both the eyes; numerous marks of bruises on her hands and back.

Dr Bilkis Begum, coordinator of the one-stop crisis centre (OCC) at DMCH where the girl is being treated, told The Daily Star yesterday that they had already plastered her fractured leg and provided her all other necessary treatment.

Quoting the victim, Bilkis said, "For the last one year the couple, particularly Nrittya, used to beat her up with whatever they found at their disposal if she failed to carry out her duties and also in case of delays."

Hailing from Jamalpur, the victim also said that she was brought here to take care of Shahadat's baby. But later she was forced to do household works, Bilkis added.

As the couple assaulted the victim on Sunday morning she fled the cricketer's house around 10am and wandered around different roads in Mirpur area. She was finally spotted by some locals who later informed Pallabi police.



Coach mum on SLC issue

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national cricket coach Chandika Hathurusingha was the most sought after man at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

He just returned from a long break and found more than a dozen reporters chasing him; quite an intensifying first day at work.

The reason behind all the excitement of course was a news piece that broke out earlier this week in Sri Lanka that the island nation's authorities, the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), were interested in appointing him as their head coach following the resignation of Marvan Atapattu.

Hathurusingha, who spent a busy day yesterday analysing the training numbers of the players and having various meetings with them, didn't comment on the issue despite repeated attempts by the journalists.

"The BCB [Bangladesh Cricket Board] is going to hold a press conference in two days' time and I can only speak to the media

then," the Sri Lankan politely said.

BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury though dismissed the media reports published in Sri Lanka.

"I spoke to the coach regarding the issue and he told us that he wasn't approached formally. He is with Bangladesh and he is very happy here. We have long plans for him," Nizamuddin told reporters at Mirpur yesterday.

The issue came into being earlier this week when a Sri Lankan paper stated that the SLC was interested in Hathurusingha following Bangladesh's brilliant performance in the 2015.

Hathurusingha, who joined Bangladesh in June 2014, is currently on a two-year contract with the Tigers.

He succeeded Shane Jurgensen, who left after the Tigers went through a dismal run in 2014, losing to Afghanistan and Hong Kong that year.

The arrival of the Sri Lankan also brought a huge change in the team management. Under Hathurusingha Bangladesh have won 15 out of 26 ODIs and have won three and drawn four out of ten Tests.

IN A NUTSHELL

Don blazer earns \$91k

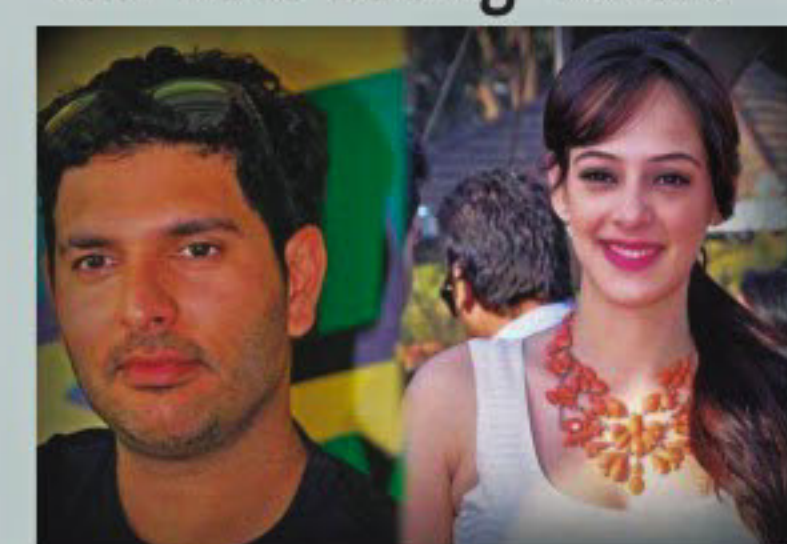
Australian cricketer legend Don Bradman's green blazer, which he had worn during his first series as Test captain, has garnered a whopping 91,410 dollars at an auction in Melbourne on Monday.

Bradman wore the Australia crest-embroidered woolen jacket when he led his side against the English tourists in the 1936-37 Ashes series, which the home side won 3-2.

Auctioneer Max Williamson described the auction as 'beyond expectations', saying that this was the first Bradman blazer they have had up for auction, which is possibly why it sold so well, Sport24 reported.

Bradman retired from the international cricket with a Test batting average of 99.94.

Yuvi now dating Hazel?



Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh is reportedly dating British model-actress Hazel Keech, NDTV Sports reports. The pair was seen holidaying together in London and also travelled together back to India.

Movie buffs will be familiar with Hazel, 28, who was seen in Bollywood blockbuster 'Bodyguard' and 'Billa'. She also featured in an advertisement for car manufacturer Suzuki.

Yuvraj has been linked with a number of Bollywood celebrities in the past as well, including Deepika Padukone, Preity Zinta, Kim Sharma, Neha Dhupia and many others.

Waqar for regular Indo-Pak cricket

Former Pakistan pace bowler and current head coach Waqar Younis believes that regular bilateral cricket series with India can help ease the escalating tensions between the two sub-continental archrivals.

Waqar said that he was optimistic about the proposed series in December despite knowing the fact that the present situation between both countries has put the series in jeopardy, the Express Tribune reported.

Compiled by Star Sport Desk