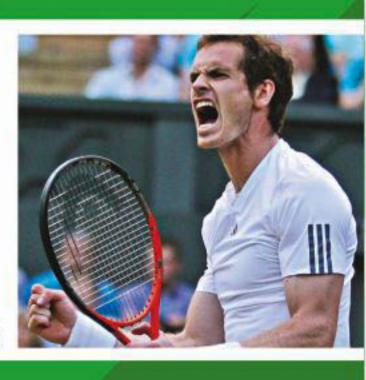
Bangladesh Cricket League Four-day Match, Day 2, Time: 9:30am Central Zone v North Zone Venue: SBNS

South Zone v East Zone Venue: Fatullah

## DJOKOVIC SR. WANTS **MURRAY** BETTER

Novak Djokovic's father, Srdjan, believes that Andy Murray is at risk of wasting his "great, great talent" because of his struggles in containing his emotions on court. Srdjan, who was speaking to the European edition of Newsweek magazine, says that "once he starts losing, his mind turns around and he looks lost", adding that he needs to improve to 'take more out of Novak'. "If he learns to calm down," he says in a rare interview, "he will have a far bigger career than he has by now. I would love for Murray to achieve his poten-



# Ind-NZ kicks off Super 10 today

AFP, Nagpur



Tournament favourites India face an awkward first assignment in their World T20 campaign in

Nagpur Tuesday against a big-hitting New Zealand team who are determined to show there is life after Brendon McCullum.

After 10 victories in their last official T20 internationals, the hosts are on such a roll that skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni is struggling to dampen expectations that the team are sure-fire winners.

But India have a woeful track record against the Black Caps in World T20 tournaments, losing four out of their five previous encounters while the other match was rained off.



KANE WILLIAMSON

And although New Zealand have been undermined by inspirational skipper McCullum's retirement on the eve of the tournament, their performance in warm-up matches shows they are not lacking for firepower.

They thrashed the holders Sri Lanka last Thursday when Colin Munro, Corey Anderson and Grant Elliott all posted half-centuries in high-scoring match.



rapid time. Skipper Kane Williamson then smashed an entertaining 63 when New Zealand narrowly lost to England in their final warm-up match on Saturday.

India also suffered a rare defeat in what was an unofficial T20 international on Saturday when they lost by four runs to South Africa in another

**AFGHANISTAN** 

**TEAM STRIKE RATE** 

TEAM ECON. RATE

123.71

6.81

**INDIA** 

119.92

7.14

**TEAM STRIKE RATE** 

**TEAM ECON. RATE** 

With their powerful openers Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma hitting a purple patch, and the veteran Yuvraj Singh also in good nick, India will expect to post a big total on a batsman-friendly pitch in Nagpur.

Like many of his fellow skippers, Williamson believes that India are the team to beat but says his side -which is still to win a world cup -- do not lack in belief. "No doubt India will be possibly the

favourites for this tournament but I think all the teams will come here thinking they can win it," he said last week. Dhoni, known as 'Captain Cool',

has been downplaying expectations, joking that the team can still step up a gear or two. "We are running on the sixth gear

(although) I know the technology has gone into the eighth gear," he quippea.

# City, Atletico eye last 8



Manchester City are well set to make Champions League history and alleviate the misery engulfing English

football's heavyweights as they take on Dynamo Kiev on Tuesday.

City have never yet made it beyond the last 16 in Europe's premier club competition but hold a 3-1 lead from the first leg in the Ukraine.

Barring a near-miracle at the Camp Nou, Barcelona

will complete victory over an Arsenal side they defeated 2-0 in London in the first leg. With Chelsea crashing out to French

champions Paris Saint-Germain last week and Manchester United crumbling in the group stages, City will almost certainly be Calderon home on Tuesday.

England's only remaining participants in the Champions League when the draw for the quarterfinals is made -- providing they see off Kiev.

England's struggles are in stark contrast to Spain's success as Atletico Madrid aim to

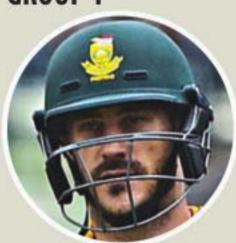


Brought to you by

join Real Madrid and probably Barca in the last eight. Atletico drew 0-0 at PSV Eindhoven three

weeks ago and are favourites to progress when hosting the Dutch side at their Vicente

### **GROUP 1**



FAF DU PLESSIS

Selecting a key player for the South Africans is a

difficult task. From Hashim Amla to AB de Villiers,

the list just goes on. However, Faf du Plessis is the

Proteas in the last two years. He has scored 542

runs at an average of 41.69 in the last two years,

far better than de Villiers's 26. A mentally strong

batsman, Faf could prove to be the difference to

the Proteas during crunch moments.

one who has consistently performed for the

**SOUTH AFRICA TEAM STRIKE RATE** 116.75 TEAM ECON. RATE 7.60

#### MOHAMMAD NABI

The most calm, easy-going cricketer in the side, Nabi is an extremely enjoyable player to speak to off the field. On the field, he has the ability to change the momentum of the game almost single-handedly. In their crunch encounter against Zimbabwe in the first round, he smacked half-century that tilted the game toward their favour and then bowled a brilliant spell to peg them back.



**SRI LANKA TEAM STRIKE RATE** 108.55 **TEAM ECON. RATE** 7.59

#### **ANGELO MATHEWS**

The reigning champions seem desperate at the moment. They finished second-last in the Asia Cup and also lost their warm-up game against Sri Lanka yesterday.

For them, a lot will depend on Angelo Mathews, who knows what it feels like to be a champion and is also their most consistent batsman. For Sri Lanka to shine, Mathews will need to be at his best.



ENGLAND **TEAM STRIKE RATE** 113.46 **TEAM ECON. RATE** 8.56

**PAKISTAN** 

**TEAM STRIKE RATE** 

**TEAM ECON. RATE** 

109.95

#### **JOE ROOT**

The 25-year-old has been in phenomenal touch. He scored two back-to-back centuries against South Africa in the ODI series in February and also scored a stroke-filled 48 against Mumbai in the warm-up game yesterday. England may not be an extremely strong T20 outfit but if Root, along with the likes Eoin Morgan, and a couple of others get going, that notion could be torn apart.



**WEST INDIES TEAM STRIKE RATE** 107.52 TEAM ECON. RATE 8.02

## **CHRIS GAYLE**

He might have undergone a surgery a few months ago, but that hasn't skimmed off any power at all from the tall, strong left-hander. He recently smacked the fastest half-century in T20 cricket in the Big Bash League and in addition is also the team's highest run-getter in the last two years.

If Gayle's in the mood, all the pre-match predictions could go for a toss.

### **GROUP 2**



**GLENN MAXWELL** 

**AUSTRALIA TEAM STRIKE RATE** 126.39 TEAM ECON. RATE

### 8.03

One of the fastest scorers in the world, Maxwell can be a nightmare for any bowling side once he gets going. With his freakish ability of playing switch-hits almost at will, it's difficult to set a field for him. He has batted at a strike-rate of 171 in the last two years and has been Australia's second highest run-getter during the period. In short, the game isn't over until Maxwell is sent back to the pavilion.



# **VIRAT KOHLI**

That you need to possess mere hitting abilities to be successful in T20 cricket is a notion that has been proven wrong a number of times and the biggest proof of that is Virat Kohli's progress. The batsman who thrives on low-risk shots has averaged 86.77 for India in the last two years. His will be the wicket that India's opponents will target as he has the ability single-handedly carry his team to victory on any given day.



# **MARTIN GUPTILL**

The Black Caps may be playing without Brendon McCullum, but that doesn't mean they lack firepower. Their second-highest T20I run-getter Martin Guptill, possesses a similarly destructive ability. He has the experience and he is also in form. He played a superb knock in the warm-up game against Sri Lanka and has been their second-highest run-scorer, with 472 runs at an average of 36.30 in the last two years.



## 7.53

**MOHAMMAD AMIR** Shahid Afridi's men haven't been at their best lately. They struggled in the Asia Cup and will be nervous when they take on Bangladesh in their first game of the Super 10s. Mohammad Amir though has been the one

bowler who has outshined the rest of the team. He was Afridi's go-to pacer in the Asia Cup and he will be as important in the World Cup as well.



BANGLADESH **TEAM STRIKE RATE** 108.49 **TEAM ECON. RATE** 7.38

Sri Lanka

India

### TAMIM IQBAL

The equation is quite simple for the Tigers. If Tamim Igbal fires, they have a much better chance of putting up a defendble total on the board. His average in the last eleven T20s is a staggering 74.2 with four half-centuries and a century.

He has already created history for Bangladesh and will hope he can carry on with his form in



### **GROUP FIXTURES**

DATE MATCH Mar 15-India v New Zealand Mar 16-Pakistan v Bangladesh

Mar 16-England v West Indies Mar 17-Sri Lanka v Afghanistan Mar 18-Australia v New Zealand

Mar 18-England v South Africa Mar 19-India v Pakistan

### DATE MATCH

Mar 20-South Africa v Afghanistan Mar 20-Sri Lanka v West Indies

Mar 21-Australia v Bangladesh Mar 22-New Zealand v Pakistan Mar 23-England v Afghanistan

Mar 23-India v Bangladesh Mar 25-Australia v Pakistan

### DATE MATCH

Mar 25-South Africa v West Indies Mar 26-New Zealand v Bangladesh

Mar 26-England v Sri Lanka Mar 27-West Indies v Afghanistan Mar 27-India v Australia

Mar 28-South Africa v Sri Lanka

1st SEMIFINAL Mar 30 TBC v TBC Delhi 7:30pm 2nd SEMIFINAL Mar 31 TBC v TBC Mumbai 7:30pm

TBC v TBC (Reserve Day)

FINAL April 3

Kolkata 7:30pm

CHAMPIONS YEAR 2007 India **Pakistan** 2009 Pakistan Sri Lanka England | Australia 2016 2010

### the Super 10. **ROLL OF HONOUR RUNNERS-UP** CHAMPIONS **RUNNERS-UP** YEAR

Sri Lanka

FOR SOLID FOUNDATION

2012 | West Indies

2014

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