



T20
ICC **WORLD**
TWENTY20
WEST INDIES 2010

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Editorial

Positive Media essential tonic For Cricket.

First half of year 2010 witnessed dramas and controversies in IPL 2010 and emergence of England as a strong force in disco version of world cricket. Lalit Modi, the Indian Cricket Mogul who revolutionised T20 cricket creating sensation found himself in deep trouble with Indian Cricket Authority BCCI. Indian Tax authority smelt wrong doing in monetary transactions. State Minister of External affairs Shashi Tharoor resigned from cabinet following allegations of misuse of power associated with drafting of two new franchise. Range of allegations from match fixing, silent stakes in some franchise is alleged against Modi. Mr Modi has been suspended from BCCI and as Chairperson of IPL. The matters are under probe.

World T20 Championship saw the oldest member of ICC England Crowned for the first time with championship in any form after two oldest rivals England and Australia fought out an epic battle in the final of third version of T20 world cup. England was rank outsiders and was not at all the bookies favourites. Apart from strongest favourites Australia all other top contenders reigning champion Pakistan, favourites South Africa and strong India stumbled. England for a change played steadily and deservedly won the championship playing quality cricket. Australia was by far the strongest side in the tournament. Strong fast bowling quartet,

destructive batting unit and aggressive fielding kept them head and shoulder above the rest as they stormed into semi final virtually bull dodging all oppositions. However cornered tigers Pakistan which always play well when back to the wall were pipped to the post in the semis by determined kangaroos in semi final only just. Possibly all steams of Australia ran out in the finals as they fell well short of what required to win the only top honour in world cricket that continues to elude them.

It is a significant event for Australia as they lost an important duel with traditional foes whom they face for Ashes this summer down under. Congratulations England for a well deserved T20 World Crown. Teams like South Africa against proved chokers. Indians looked battle fatigued. Pakistan made late rallies. Bangladesh played well in both matches giving stronger opponents Pakistan and Australia some scare. West Indies failed to capitalise on home Advantage. But all together a very successful T20 World Cup which created massive crowd interest. **CT**

KhAsaleque

Saleque Sufi

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Dark Side of Cricket

Cricket Betting and Gambling: A Menace

Ferdousi Anis

Cricket is fast catching up with soccer as the most popular game. The game has gained popularity enormously especially over the last few decades. The introduction of the Twenty/20 in 2007 has been an icing on the cake. But on the other hand, cricket betting and gambling have marred the game of the "gentlemen". Betting on Cricket has become increasingly popular in recent years, particularly with the advent of spread betting companies making it easy for punters to sell runs on a weak batting side, or buy runs from a strong batting side.

Cricket betting has been around for ages. No one knows for sure just how far cricket betting dates back, but with an over 500 years of history, cricket betting has gone through all kinds of transitions and changes. Cricket betting fans with some knowledge of the sport before cricket betting online came, understand the great tradition involved in cricket betting. It is a unique sport in many ways but especially so considering that no popular global sport enjoys such a long and storied past, and it's a pity that more cricket betting fans are more familiar with the rich history of cricket betting. Cricket betting online fans may or may not be aware, but the first definite mention of the game dates back to a court case in 1550. In fact, as far back as late 1600s there were professional players and high stakes cricket betting which is referenced in historical records.

Cricket enjoys a new profile nowadays with betting on the boom as cricket is not just confined to the domestic arena, it is now round the year sport. There is almost always a test match series or a One Day International (ODI) tournament taking place in some part of the world. Modern technology has added new spices to cricket. Cricket now can be seen live on television, internet and even on cell phones. Cricket superstars are treated like movie or rock stars. Cricketers are now even auctioned as stalks in cricket franchise in IPL. These give one the opportunity to profit by trading cricket on the betting exchanges throughout the year. It is the ideal



sport for betting exchange trading. The cricket market is unique and has many key advantages compared to trading on other sports such as football or horse racing. It is a paradise for the sports trader. Millions of dollars are matched on the betting exchanges and spread betting firms on every cricket match.

On the other hand, the culture of gambling and match fixing has infected the cricket world with illegal money transactions, buying players and spot betting. Mobile phone-based contest through SMS amounts to gambling as participants have to predict the sequence of runs that will be scored in the subsequent over. Players are being auctioned for money as auctioning of cricketers is becoming a gambling game for the industrialists and the game of cricket is becoming corrupt. Testimony to this is the very recent auction of 60 players including those from other Test playing countries that took place in Mumbai, India. Money flows into the game from purveyors of cigarettes and razor blades and advertising agencies.

Rumors of match fixing have floated for years. The most



serious allegations of corruption in modern cricket history started 20 years ago when Asif Iqbal was captain of the Pakistan team. Arif Ali Abbasi, a former Pakistan Cricket Board official told a commission investigating match fixing in cricket in Pakistan in 2000 that the Pakistan captain Asif Iqbal had told his Indian counterpart GR Viswanath at Eden Gardens, Calcutta, that the Indian captain had won the toss even before the coin fell to the ground. Iqbal has always maintained his innocence and pointed out that nothing was proven.

Based on taped phone conversations, former South African captain Cronje and his teammates Herschelle Gibbs, Henry Williams, Nicky Boje and Pieter Strydom were charged with fraud, conspiracy and deceiving and defrauding spectators. Hansie Cronje is the only player to have publicly accepted having fixed at least a match. Names like Hensy Cronje, Asif Iqbal, Azharuddin, Jadeja and Saleem Malik etc. were also heard on the issue. Both Gibbs and Williams were banned for six months each and fined as well. Pakistan captain Salim Malik's attempt to bribe Australians Warne and Tim May in Pakistan in 1996 is also well documented. Australian cricketers Mark Waugh and Shane Warne were the first known players to be fined by their national cricket board for having accepted financial consideration in return for inside information. The Indian police say they have phone recordings to prove that West Indies all-rounder Marlon Samuels gave out team information to bookmakers, though Samuels denies this.

A player can also under-perform or influence others to under-perform in a given match. Wherever the one-day cricket is being played, one may suspect that something is going on. One-day cricket is important simply because more bets are placed in one-day cricket and it is easy to manipulate. Since the murder of Pakistan Coach Bob Woolmer, there has been much speculation, still unsubstantiated,

that the motive for his killing was to prevent him disclosing match-fixing in cricket. In Test matches due to the length of time, match fixing becomes difficult because a single incident may not give the desired result and there is a good chance that officials may figure out something that is obviously fishy. Since facts of match fixing is well established on many occasions, the recent Sydney match may raise eye brows and provide cricket lovers with a suspicion of a foul play of infiltration.

One may wonder why people bet and well paid players would think of indulging in any form of activity called match-fixing. Of course, the lure of easy money, greed and stupidity can combine to make a player go against the tenets of fair play that cricket embody? But let not this be the case. Let us hope that the spirit of fair play prevails to give the cricket world and the cricket lovers a pure sense of joy and entertainment from the great game of Cricket. **CT**





T20 Title Goes to Mother Country

Saleque Sufi



It is England which taught cricket in its colonies. But it took several years for England to win any world tournament. Starting as rank outsiders England stunned the cricket world lifting the third version of the T20 World Championship over whelming the favourite's traditional rival Australia in the final. When the tournament got underway none in wildest imagination thought England would win the newest version of the championship. Reigning Champion Pakistan, Strong Australia, India, South Africa and even New Zealand, Sri Lanka and host West Indies were rated above ordinary looking England. But Collingwood's England proved very consistent and grew with every match and finally knocked down the firm favourites Australia in the final to win the championship. For Andy Flower and his men it was a Job well done.

England was desperate to win One day world Cup or ICC Champions trophy since long. They managed to reach finals of World cup on a couple of occasions. But championship always eluded them. This time they launched their campaign with several players who learned their cricket basics elsewhere. Michael Lumb, Craig Keiswetter, Eoin Morgan and Kevin Pieterman are not original Englishmen. The way English team conducted themselves in the championship it was no surprise that they won the championship. Considering the very busy English season and Ashes defence coming up this championship will serve as a big tonic for England. Some will argue that it is England team but not English

team but that will make very little difference. Wonder how things turn around so quickly. Bangladesh in the recent home series made England struggle in all formats of the game. England's success was a just reward of playing positive cricket under cool Collingwood. England really had correct measure of other teams and perhaps had right blokes for the right job. English attack had required balance and English batting had professional specialists at all positions.

Why did Australia Fail to Drive Home the Advantage?

We are sure that there will be lot of soul searching why Australia failed to drive home their initiatives. Aussies were in sizzling hot form. The team packed with several match winners did everything correct till knock out round. No team but minnow Bangladesh could give them any scare. Shane Watson and David Warner blasted in tandem. But when they failed excepting some occasions Australians panicked. If Bangladesh could some-



how survive the Aussie opening attack there could be a major upset. Australians also almost lost to Pakistan in the semi final. Only a super human effort by Mr Cricket Michael Hussey edged out Pakistan. Poor Saeed Aajmal, who bowled so well in earlier matches and in the first three overs on the day, got shell shocked by Hussey avalanche.

Michael Clarke was out of touch. White and David Hussey did not fire regularly. Bowling and superb fielding carried Australia to final stage. But Australian bowling and batting were a bit predictable. Bowling had little variety. English think tank did their home work correct. They realised that very tight semi final took lot of steam out of Aussie sails. They capitalised and won. We felt Australia should have played genuine spinner rather than less experienced Smith in the final. Tait, Nannes and Johnson could not create impact early on the final to defend not to large score.

Once their early spells were seen off England with formidable middle order were always favourite to win against friendly Aussie fires from Hussey, Clarke and Smith. Australia possibly lost in the battle of wits and match planning. England earned momentum at the right moment. Collingwood, Pieterman, Morgan, Keiswetter, Swann, Broad, Sidebottom were heroes. Australia will need serious soul searching to turn around in Ashes recovery crusade.

What happened to India?

Is it too much cricket? Is it absence of key players like Tendulkar, Shewag or it is poor bowling and fielding which cost India not to even qualify for Semi finals? We think it is combination of all. Tendulkar was in red hot form in IPL. He is all time great. His mere presence makes opponents spent time in setting strategy against him. He opted out all right. But there may be reasons other than cricket for that. When Shewag got injured and India erroneously do not consider Dravid appropriate for T20 BCCI must have tried to persuade Sachin for T20. Indian team definitely lacked experience. Yuvaraj and Gambhir were struggling for form. Other than Raina and Dhoni Indian batsmen were well below par. Indian attack is never the best against leading batsmen. Zaheer, Nehra and Harabhajan failed to deliver. Indian fielding cannot win any match. So India got what it deserved.

Why Pakistan Failed to Defend Title?

Pakistan under new Captain was regrouping. Two of their established star batsmen Yunis and Yusuf were under ban; leading Bowlers Rana Naveed and Umar Gul were unavailable. Batsmen were not firing in early matches. But Pakistan keeping up their tradition of cornered tigers turned around. Akmal brothers, Salman Butt dazzled with bat. Teenager Aamer was excel-



Steyn and at least two solid middle order batsmen with De veiliers and Kallis to get them any major trophy.

Why Sri Lankans Could Not Progress?

Dazzling Dilshan failed to fire, Jayasuriya past his prime, Murali got injured. Yet Lankans made Semi-final and lost to ultimate winner England. Jayawardene and Sangakara played superbly. But their efforts were just not enough. Except Lasith Malinga Lankan pace attack lacked penetration. Suraj Randiv could not do what Murali could do. Sri Lankans were just not championship material this time.

Hosts West Indies Failed to Shine:

West Indies was tipped by many to cause surprise. They had players for it. But apart from couple of matches Gayle did not fire, Sarwan and Chandrapaul also did not make contribution, Keiron Pollard and Dwayne Bravo looked good, Sammy played well with bat and ball. But West Indies did not gel as a team to win key matches and signed off at crucial stages. Bowling and fielding let them down.

Bangladesh Did Reasonably Well:

Despite being grouped with defending champions Pakistan and very Strong Australia Bangladesh played reasonably well. Bangladesh created opportunity to win even both matches. But lack of experience of winning consistently against strong opposition and absence of good pinch hitters at the last stage deprived Bangladesh to get through. Of all teams Bangladesh first exposed the weakness of Australian batting against quality spin bowling. If dashing Tamim was fit to play against Australia who knows Bangladesh could make a major upset. But overall Bangladesh played well within themselves and definitely proved that they are team in ascendency.

Great First Time for Afghanistan:

It was great for war ravaged Afghanistan to qualify for T20 World Cup. In a tense country where facilities for playing cricket are very limited Afghans did well to qualify. They played reasonably well against India and South Africa. Continued exposure against quality opposition will soon make Afghanistan a strong team to reckon with.

Three teams India, Pakistan and England have won the three T20 title. Given the increasing popularity of T20 world over the future tournaments will see greater contests. This championship evidenced that even in T20 batsmen need solid technique apart from striking ability, bowlers need great skills of bowling at the wicket and varying line and length. Raw sloggers cannot win matches all the time. T20 in West Indies is a major success.

England deserves great credit in winning it. **CT**



Cricket Jokes Collection

Umpiring Rules

The village teams were ready to begin their match but discovered that they were without an umpire. They decided that they would use a member of the crowd even though he knew nothing of the rules. When he was dressed in his white coat and hat, he went up to the captain of the home side. "What do I do?" he asked. "It's very simple," said the home captain. "When I shout "HOWZAT!" you simply put up your finger and say "OUT". When it's our turn to bat, I'll tell you a little bit more!"

Boring Game

The cricket fan had dragged his wife and child along to the ground to watch the local side.

He watched with interest, but they were plainly bored and shifted uncomfortably in their seats.

The child brightened and turned to the mother. 'They just shouted 'Over', she said.

'I know,' replied her mother, wearily, 'but don't take any notice. It goes on and on and on.'

English Cricket and Rain

There was a long drought in Central Africa. The witch doctor had tried all his rainmaking dances, imprecations, but to no avail.

One of the elders observed that rain was never a problem in England, so why not send the witch doctor to London to learn the secret. Off he went to England, learned the secret, and returned to the tribe. He informed the leaders that these crazy white men had a big paddock of grass enclosed by a white picket fence. In the middle were two lots of sticks driven into the ground. Two men, each with a club, stood next to these sticks and waited for a lot of other men to spread themselves all over the paddock. Then two more men, wearing black trousers, four sweaters and six hats, came out to keep a close watch on the men with the clubs. Then one man got a red rock and threw it at one of the fellers with a club.

AND DOWN CAME THE RAIN!

Woman batter

The despairing umpire was trying to control a ladies' cricket match. Preparing to give a guard to the opening bat, he asked, 'What would you like?';

'I'll have two legs . . . by the way, that sight screen is filthy and is my hair OK?' **CT**

BCB Approaching Cash Crunch

Saleque Sufi

Some stunning achievements of Roaring Tigers and crowd support Bangladesh cricket achieved attraction of many sponsors local and foreign. Good management and professional administration could make Cricket financially much better off by this time. Bangladeshi expatriate communities living in different countries of the world could also support Bangladesh cricket in fund generation in many different ways. But unfortunately very unprofessional approach and lack of administrative far sight failed Bangladesh to market its cricket properly. BCB is slowly and surely approaching cash crisis.

If we compare side by side Bangladesh Soccer does not even have strong position among SAARC region not to speak about South Asian level or world stage. But administrative finesse, far sighted leadership has taken BFF from almost nowhere to much better position in very short time.

One of the major sources of the earning of Cricket boards is from trading TV rights to major companies. In the past we heard about some irregularities, some scams in dealing with TV rights. BCB had struck the much-talked-about Long Form Agreement (LFA) with Nimbus Sports International Ltd for its Worldwide Marketing Agency Rights in July last year for a groundbreaking deal of 56.88 million-dollar heads of agreement which was signed on November 21, 2006. BCB took so much of pride after signing this agreement. But judging from latest situation it appears that BCB is struggling to recover its substantial outstanding dues from Nimbus.

With Tri-Nation ODI series involving India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh round the corner the disputes with Nimbus has reached critical stage. BCB President Mr. A.N. H Mostafa Kamal (Lotus Kamal) MP with his vice President Engineer Mahub Anam and CEO in Charge Nizamuddin in a mission to Singapore to deal this matter with Vice President of Nimbus Yan-



nick Colaco. BCB team will have to negotiate to achieve maximum benefit from the deal till its tenure expires on 31st March 2012. BCB is thinking of taking assistance of BCCI to overcome the situation. For obvious reasons much affluent BCCI has greater control over Nimbus as Indian Cricket is the much valuable commodity to global market.

We wonder why the 56.88 million dollar deal which when signed was told to make BCB float with milk and honey has run into cold water within three years of its

signing. Media reports indicate that BCB is not even aware how much they were supposed get from Nimbus and how much is outstanding. BCB does not have a full time CEO for almost two years after Mahmudur Rahman left. It is silly that high sounding BCB directors cared least about it. Managing contract with an international media management company requires professional skills of a full time paid manager.

It has been learnt that Nimbus has a pending arrears of nearly 5.3 million dollars to be paid to the BCB, which is reportedly struggling to meet the lofty expenses for the smooth functioning of the most affluent federation of the country. Under the deal, BCB and Nimbus will share 80 and 20 percent of the earnings, respectively, when returns exceed the tendered (agreed) amount.

Nimbus has disputed Bangladeshi claim to pay the outstanding dues. It has raised the issue as they believe that BCB broke the 'material breach of contract' clause by arranging the tri-nation and England series ahead of their earlier schedules. They also cited the Indian board's initiatives of deducting the money as a reference.

But the BCB got surprised because they informed Nimbus about the tours three months back and provided them with all the schedules and in the last three months they met Nimbus officials several times, but at that time they didn't raise this question. "We can't understand why they raised the question now with just two weeks to go," a surprised BCB official said. It was learnt that BCB officials have been in discomfort as the clause of 'material breach of contract' was not well defined in the long-term agreement which was signed long twenty months after the initial agreement.

We hope that BCB team will successfully negotiate the resolution of the dispute. If BCB informed Nimbus well before the advancement of England series and if it is through recorded correspondence and if Nimbus did not raise any issue earlier then it can not talk of material breach now.



Nimbus is raising another issue about allowing Doordarshan free right to telecast the matches which caused financial loss to them. Bangladesh is not a party to where Nimbus trade with its TV rights. This can not be any excuse for not paying BCB the contractual dues. In the past some links ran BCB to serve the business interest of few opportunists. Some of them may still be active in BCB.

We suggest the entire issues leading to awarding TV rights to BCB must be revisited. It must be seen whether we checked with possible and probable companies which could give us a better deal. We must also check whether any individual benefitted from this deal. BCB must find out who was responsible for managing the contract with Nimbus and whether all correspondence with Nimbus was professionally made.

There is no reason for BCB not marketing Bangladesh Cricket in a professional way when most of the other boards are doing it professionally. Bangladesh can take lesson from Cricket Australia. BCB may check how they are dealing TV rights with Channel 9 and FOX sports. Any cash crunch at BCB at this stage when Bangladesh cricket needs intensive care to perform consistently will be unfortunate. **CT**



DEAR SHAKIB,
SORRY ABOUT THE
LACK OF REFERRAL
SYSTEM. BUDGET
IS TIGHT AT THE
MOMENT. PLEASE
ACCEPT THESE
FLOWERS BY WAY
OF APOLOGY.



Learn Cricket

Rafiqul Sharif

There are only 11 players in a team, one of whom is the bowler, and usually another as the wicket-keeper, which leaves at most nine other fielding positions to be used at any given time. Which positions are filled by players and which remain vacant is a tactical decision made by the captain of the fielding team. The captain may move players between fielding positions at any time except when a bowler is in the act of bowling to a batsman.

There are a number of named basic fielding positions, some of which are occupied very commonly and others that are used less often. However, fielding positions are not fixed, and fielders can be placed in positions that differ from the basic positions. Most of the positions are named roughly according to a system of polar coordinates - one word (leg, cover, mid-wicket) specifies the angle from the batsman, and is optionally preceded by an adjective describing the distance from the batsman (silly, short, deep or long). Words such as "backward", "forward", or "square" can further indicate the angle.

The image shows the location of the commonly used fielding positions. This image assumes the batsman is right-handed. The area to the left of a right-handed batsman (from the batsman's point of view) is called the leg side or on side, while that to the right is the off side. If the batsman is left-handed, the leg and off sides are reversed and the fielding positions are a mirror image of those shown.

Position Index (General)

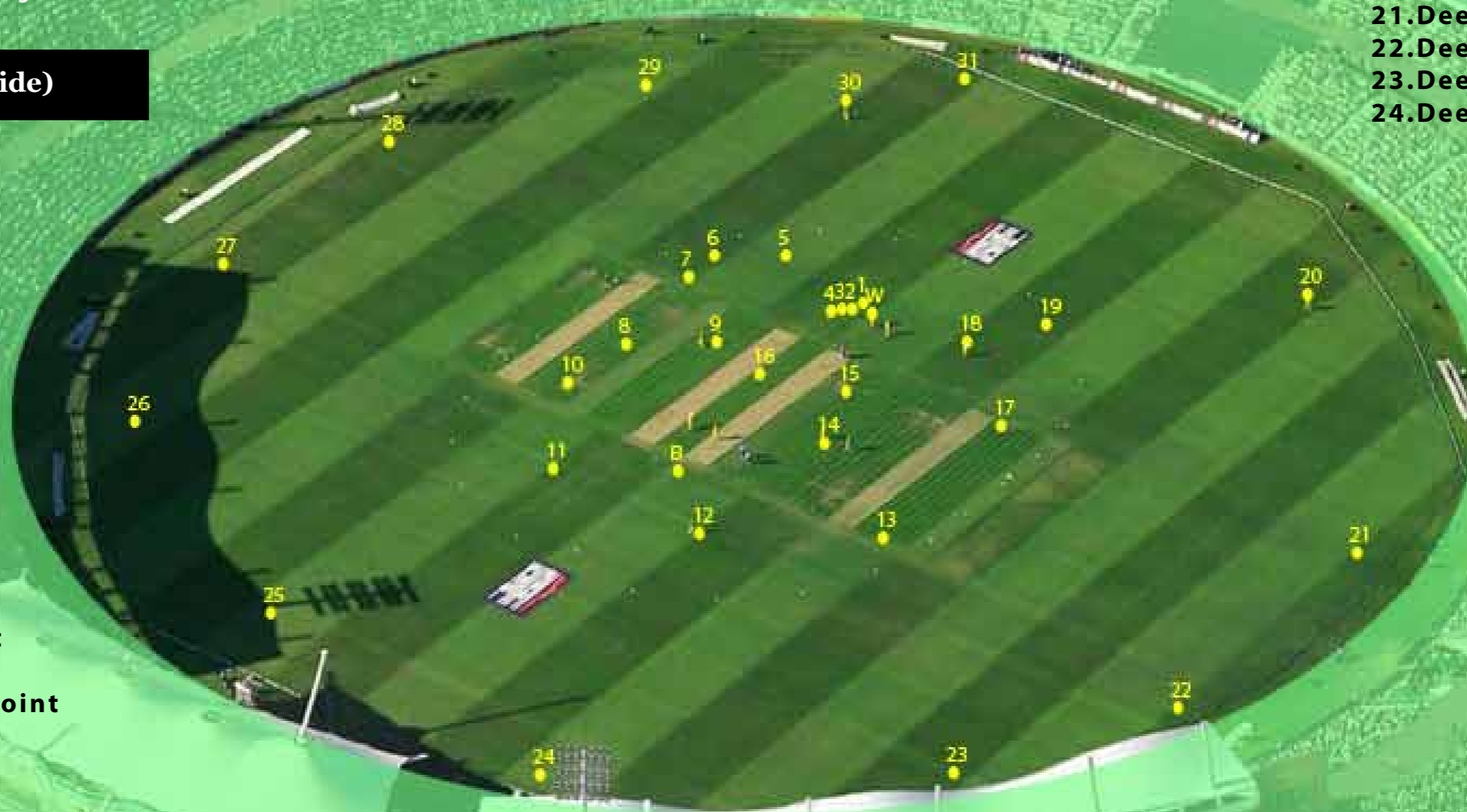
B. Bowler
W. Wicket Keeper

Position Index (On Side)

12. Mid On
13. Mid Wicket
14. Short Mid Wicket
15. Short Leg
17. Square Leg
18. Leg Slip
19. Fine Leg
20. Deep Fine Leg
21. Deep Square Leg
22. Deep Mid Wicket
23. Deep Sweeper Cover
24. Deep Mid On

Position Index (Off Side)

1. First Slip
2. Second Slip
3. Third Slip
4. Fourth Slip
5. Gully
6. Backward Point
7. Point
8. Cover
9. Short Cover
10. Extra Cover
11. Mid Off
16. Silly Point
25. Deep Mid Off
26. Deep Extra Cover
27. Deep Cover Point
28. Deep Point
29. Deep Backward Point
30. Thirdman
31. Deep Thirdman



How to lose Test matches

Rafiqul Sharif

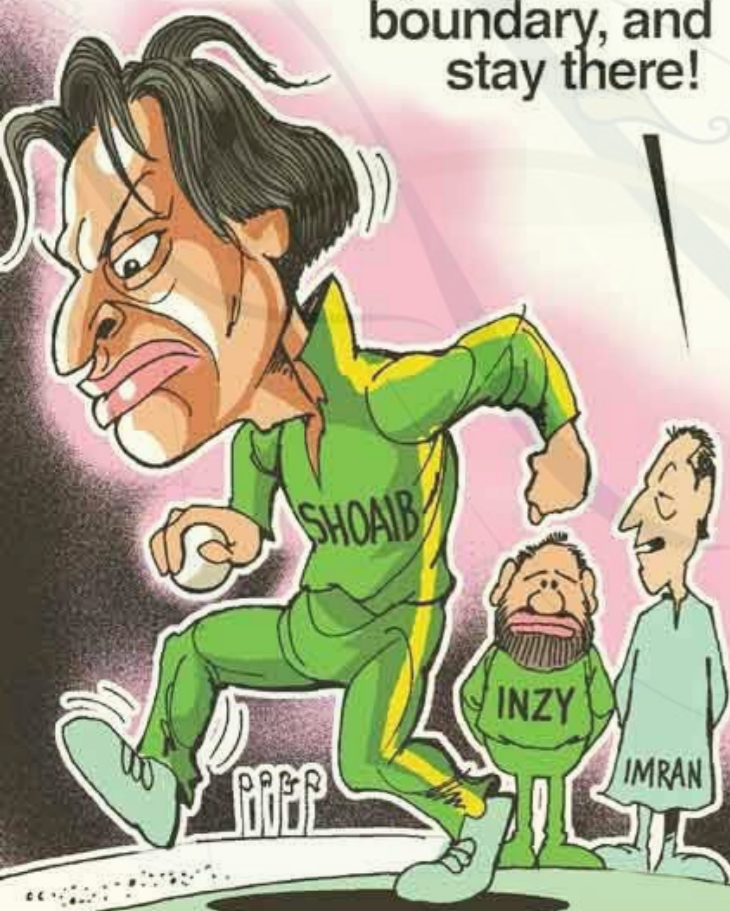
Are you playing a test match and have the opposition by the throat? No worries, I can tell you how to let them come back into the match!

Do you have the opposition struggling for 62/7? Or, lead the opposition by 150 runs with 6 wickets in hand? Can't see the opposition in these dire states? No problems, there are solutions to this.

Do you have 8 opposition batsmen out already with a mere 51 runs lead with more than two days to go? You think, it's nearly impossible to lose? Well, nothing is impossible! With a bit of hard work and dedication you can still loose from here! Don't believe it? Well trust me, I can show you good ways to loose from here. Ok, here it is:

1. Rub butter in your fingers while fielding, (in the case of the wicket-keeper, rub butter in the gloves).
2. While opposition is batting, try not to catch their main batsmen out, people come to see them play well, not to

He should extend his run-up beyond the boundary, and stay there!



see you catching them out (specially, if the test match is being played in their backyard).

3. While you are batting, and if you get a decent lead, you should not accumulate more runs. The opposition might find it hard to overcome huge deficit, after all it's not fair to bat all day long and make them field in the sun, especially when the stadium belongs to them.

4. When the opposition is in a bit of bother with no. 10 batsman in and only has 50-odd runs lead, try to set defensive fields, give single to the better batsman so that the no. 10 has a fair bit of chance to play. You know, they sometimes have desire to bat for long time but don't get the chance too often. If given the opportunity, they could someday become good batsman, who knows?

5. When you have a tricky total of 170-odd to chase to win the match, by all means panic. You should not really chase it down comfortably because that will kill the excitement of the game. Try to lose a wicket or two every now and then to keep the opposition interested. If you are the one who has dropped 4/5 catches, make sure you do not score many runs, otherwise your effort with the missed catches might be overlooked which you obviously wouldn't want, would you?

However, if this seems too much hard work for you, and seems too much theory, do not despair! I have got easier ways – Practical method:

Just watch Pakistan cricket team play! CT

Fixture | June 2010

Date & Time	Venue	No	Match	Series
Jun-03 07:00 GMT	Harare Sports Club, Harare	4th ODI	Zimbabwe v India	(Tri-Series in Zimbabwe, 2010)
Jun-03 13:30 GMT	Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain - Trinidad	5th ODI	West Indies v South Africa	(South Africa in West Indies, 5 ODI Series, 2010)
Jun 4-8 10:00 GMT	Old Trafford, Manchester	2nd Test	England v Bangladesh	(Bangladesh in England, 2 Test Series, 2010)
Jun-05 07:00 GMT	Harare Sports Club, Harare	5th ODI	India v Sri Lanka	(Tri-Series in Zimbabwe, 2010)
Jun-07 07:00 GMT	Harare Sports Club, Harare	6th ODI	Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka	(Tri-Series in Zimbabwe, 2010)
Jun-09 07:00 GMT	Harare Sports Club, Harare	Final	T.B.C. v T.B.C.	(Tri-Series in Zimbabwe, 2010)
Jun 10-14 14:00 GMT	Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain - Trinidad	1st Test	West Indies v South Africa	(South Africa in West Indies, 3 Test Series, 2010)
Jun-12 11:00 GMT	Harare Sports Club, Harare	1st T20 Int.	Zimbabwe v India	(India in Zimbabwe, 2 T20 International Series, 2010)
Jun-13 11:00 GMT	Harare Sports Club, Harare	2nd T20 Int.	Zimbabwe v India	(India in Zimbabwe, 2 T20 International Series, 2010)
Jun-15 09:00 GMT	Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, Rangiri	1st ODI	Sri Lanka v Pakistan	(Asia Cup, 2010)
Jun-16 09:00 GMT	Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, Rangiri	2nd ODI	India v Bangladesh	(Asia Cup, 2010)
Jun-18 09:00 GMT	Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, Rangiri	3rd ODI	Sri Lanka v Bangladesh	(Asia Cup, 2010)
Jun-18-22 14:00 GMT	Warner Park, Basseterre St Kitts	2nd Test	West Indies v South Africa	(South Africa in West Indies, 3 Test Series, 2010)
Jun-19 09:00 GMT	Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, Rangiri	4th ODI	Pakistan v India	(Asia Cup, 2010)
Jun-21 09:00 GMT	Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, Rangiri	5th ODI	Pakistan v Bangladesh	(Asia Cup, 2010)
Jun-22 09:00 GMT	Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, Rangiri	6th ODI	India v Sri Lanka	(Asia Cup, 2010)
Jun-22 13:30 GMT	The Rose Bowl, Southampton	1st ODI	England v Australia	(Australia in England, 5 ODI Series, 2010)
Jun-24 09:00 GMT	Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, Rangiri	Final	T.B.C. v T.B.C.	(Asia Cup, 2010)
Jun-24 13:30 GMT	Sophia Gardens, Cardiff - Wales	2nd ODI	England v Australia	(Australia in England, 5 ODI Series, 2010)
Jun 26-30 14:00 GMT	Kensington Oval, Bridgetown - Barbados	3rd Test	West Indies v South Africa	(South Africa in West Indies, 3 Test Series, 2010)
Jun-27 09:45 GMT	Old Trafford, Manchester	3rd ODI	England v Australia	(Australia in England, 5 ODI Series, 2010)
Jun-30 12:00 GMT	Kennington Oval, London	4th ODI	England v Australia	(Australia in England, 5 ODI Series, 2010)

Rise and Fall of Lalit Modi

Saleque Sufi

Cricket's controversial ringmaster Indian tycoon Lalit Kumar Modi was suspended from his position as commissioner of iconic cricket event Indian Premier League amidst tension and controversy immediately after completion of the final of the third version of IPL. For weeks before and after that incident this remained the hot topic of gossip in the cricket world. IPL really stirred the cricket bringing revolutionary changes in the modern version of cricket format.

Mr Modi, the head of India's \$4 billion cricket premier league was removed from his post after a scandal that had ensnared top politicians and strained the ruling coalition. The controversy also caused resignation of Minister of States for external affairs Mr Shashi Tharoor following allegations of improper influence. Indian tax authorities are probing the IPL transactions smelling rat in the whole affairs.

Although it is too immature to draw final conclusion in matters under probe yet the Board of Cricket Control in India [BCCI] considered that Modi had "brought a bad name to the administration of cricket and the game itself".

Modi has not been formally charged and denies any wrongdoing. Media reported that authorities were investigating reports of improprieties in bidding for teams and in negotiating television broadcast rights for the matches.

The board looked into the allegations and took a decision to issue a show-cause notice to Mr Lalit Modi and pending inquiry, decided to suspend him," BCCI president Shashank Manohar told a news conference in Mumbai

BCCI Chief also mentioned,

" I can assure all decisions have been jointly taken



by the governing council and approved by the general body in both year one and two of the IPL."

Modi was replaced by a BCCI vice president, Chirayu Amin, a businessman who is also on the IPL governing council.

The IPL helped revolutionise cricket with its short, television-friendly format combined with lucrative advertising and cheerleaders in packed arenas, but it upset many of the sport's traditionalists.

Mukesh Ambani, India's richest man and head of Reliance Industries, Vijay Mallya, who controls United Spirits, the world's second largest maker of alcohol, and Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan all control teams who play in the league. They have paid astronomical sums for franchises and players.

Who is Lalit Modi?

Lalit Kumar Modi was the Chairman and Commissioner



of the popular Indian Premier League IPL] and the Chairman of the Champions League from 2008 to 2010. He was also Vice President of BCCI since 2005 and Vice President of Punjab Cricket Association. Modi is also the President and Managing Director of Modi Enterprises and Executive Director of Godfrey Phillips India.

Lalit was born in a wealthy family of successful business tradition. His father Krishna Kumar Modi is the Chairman of Modi Enterprises, a Rs 40 billion business empire which was founded by his Grandfather Raj Bahadur Gujarmal Modi [founder of Modi Nagar.] He studied boarding schools like Bishop Cotton School in Simla and others in Nainital. He also studied at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, USA. Modi was the highest Tax Payer in India in 2009-2010. He paid Rs 10 crore in the first half of the current fiscal.

Lalit is married to Minal whom he met when he was student in the US and she was already married and a friend of his mother. Minal got a divorce and she and Lalit got married at Mumbai. Modi has two children Ruchir and Aliya. Ruchir studies in American School of Bombay. Aliya studies in Switzerland.

Criminal Conviction
Criminal convictions

On March 1, 1985, while a sophomore at Duke University, Modi was arrested on charges of conspiracy to traffic cocaine and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. On April 2, 1985, Modi and another student were indicted on second-degree kidnapping, a misdemeanor charge of assault inflicting serious injury and conspiracy to kidnap. Modi pleaded guilty to the crime when the case was heard in the Durham County court, North Carolina and later entered a plea bargain, which resulted in a suspended two year prison sentence. Modi moved the court again in 1986 after he graduated

from Duke University, he sought permission to move to India on health grounds. The court ordered: "As a fact the defendant has been hospitalized. His doctors indicate that a return to his home in India would facilitate his recovery... The said probation is modified to unsupervised probation. As a condition, the defendant is to perform 200 hours of community service by 1990. He may return to his home. article in Tehelka magazine alleges that Modi was involved in a court case for cocaine abuse as recently as 2006 in the UAE. Cricket Administration Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association

He joined the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association in 1999 (when it had no cricket stadiums) after promising to build a cricket stadium that would be used to play cricket in the Indian summer. In 2000, he started raising concerns with the way things were run in Himachal, and was booted out when Mr. Dhumber became the Chief Minister of HP and installed his son as the President of the HP Cricket Association. Rajasthan Cricket Association and BCCI

He then tried to join the Rajasthan Cricket Association. He became a member of the Nagore district. He allegedly submitted his name to the RCA as Lalit Kumar, because he did not want to be "cut-off" like he was with the HPCA.

He raised concerns with the way RCA was run by the Rungta family for 40 years. There were 32 district associations in Rajasthan and 57 members, of which all 57 were related to the Rungta family. There were no elections in the RCA for 40 years.

He eventually became president of the Rajasthan Cricket Association, with the help of then CM of Rajasthan, Vasundhara Raje. They changed the law in Rajasthan, effective 18 Aug 2004, so that the RCA becomes a more democratic organization with elections. He then ran for president of RCA and won. This gave him a seat on the BCCI.



CANBERRA CARFAIR



In 2005, Modi figured in a power struggle that resulted in Sharad Pawar, an influential politician and national cabinet minister, ousting former Indian cricket supremo and International Cricket Council chief Jagmohan Dalmiya in BCCI elections. Modi was then appointed Vice-President of the BCCI. Heavily involved in the commercial side of the Board's activities, he is reported to have increased their revenues sevenfold between 2005 and 2008, with the BCCI then reporting annual revenues of over 1 billion USD. Modi was defeated by Union Minister C. P. Joshi in the Rajasthan Cricket Association elections.
Punjab Cricket Association

Currently he is the vice-president of the Punjab Cricket Association under the patronage of former Board of Control for Cricket in India President I.S. Bindra.
Indian Premier League

In 2008, he was instrumental in launching the Indian Premier League (IPL), a league based around Twenty20 cricket, where each team is limited to batting for a maximum of 20 overs. Modi was instrumental in moving the 2009 Indian Premier League competition to South Africa after the dates of the tournament clashed with the Indian general election, 2009 and the Union Minister of Home Affairs P. Chidambaram could not commit to the security of the tournament.

The IPL has grown into one of the world's biggest sports, worth over US\$4 billion. The commercial success of the IPL and Modi's control of the league has led to him being compared to Don King and Bernie Ecclestone..

In 2010, Modi oversaw the bidding process and creation of two new teams in the Indian Premier League. Pune and Kochi were declared the new

franchises. A twitter entry by Modi declaring the stakeholders of the Kochi IPL Team allegedly breaching confidentiality agreements[24] set in motion highly controversial set of events which led to the resignation of the then Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor..

Modi was then suspended as Chairman and Commissioner of the IPL.[2] A suspension notice and a 34-page letter stating 22 charges of impropriety were served via email, to Modi. Modi was accused of, among other things, accepting a multi-million dollar kickback while assigning the telecast rights for IPL matches, and attempting to rig the bids for the two new IPL teams that were auctioned the previous month. Modi had publicly protested his innocence moments after the 2010 Indian Premier League Final had been played. Allegations of corruption

A confidential income tax department report into Modi has revealed that he holds a silent stake in 3 IPL teams - the Rajasthan Royals, Kolkata Knight Riders and Kings XI Punjab. Furthermore, there are controversies as to whether Modi was involved in match fixing and betting in IPL games.. He is also under fire for helping his family and friends buy stakes in IPL teams.

It is not fair to comment and draw conclusion on matter under investigations .But the allegations against Modi are serious in nature .If these are fairly proved and if he is found clean it will be huge relief for IPL as some considers these may have emanated from rivalry among Indian cricket lords .If proved otherwise IPL will be in hot waters. But whatever happens Lalit Modi will be remembered for revolutionizing cricket, bringing new dimensions to it. World Cricket awaits to find the end of the journey into controversy. **CT**

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Melbourne Cricket Ground

The MCG

Rasel Khan

Lord's, Wembley, Old Trafford, Eden Gardens and Yankee Stadium are considered among the greatest sporting arenas in the world, but for history, pure drama and emotion, it's hard to look past the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The ground was built way back in 1853 when the then 15-year-old Melbourne Cricket Club was forced by the government to move from its former site because the route of Australia's first steam train was to pass through the oval.

Since then the MCG has established a marvellous history that compares favourably with any other in the world, hosting plenty of international cricket including the first-ever Test and the 1992 World Cup final.

The Melbourne Cricket Ground is one of the most famous cricket grounds in the world. There have been countless memorable cricket moments at the MCG since the first Test in 1877.

Many records have been created at cricket matches at the MCG.

Total Capacity

The total capacity of the MCG is approximately 100,000.

Take a look through a history of cricket at the MCG

The world record first-class score (1107 - Victoria v NSW, 1926);

The First Test match (Australia v England, 1877);

First century in Test cricket (Charles Bannerman);

World's first cricket scoreboard showing batsman's name and method of dismissal;

First full-colour cricket scoreboard with instant replays,

The first major stadium to use "Super Sopper" to dry surface; and

The world's first one-day international cricket match (January 5, 1971)

This comprises 95,000 seats and 5000 standing room spaces, which are sold at the discretion of the event promoter.

However, the realistic capacity for most events is usually between 98,000 and 99,000 as often not all standing room tickets are placed on sale.



Portable Cricket Pitches

The volume and variety of events played at the MCG requires a versatile surface that enables the stadium to switch from one sport to another in a short period of time.

The MCG has developed perhaps one of the finest turf maintenance systems in the world. It has led the field in a range of turf management techniques designed to develop a playing surface which can be used efficiently and meets competition demands. The 1992 reconstruction of the oval utilising a revolutionary sand-based profile boosted drainage capacity and introduced a more durable turf cover so that more events could be scheduled at the MCG. More recently, however, the MCG pioneered the world's first successful portable cricket pitch technology.

The revolutionary system, which involves growing and nurturing cricket pitches off-site and "dropping" them into the centre of the arena at the start of the cricket season, enabled the MCG to produce a FIFA-standard soccer pitch for Olympic football at the ground just 10 days after the 2000 AFL Grand Final. The absence of cricket pitches from the centre in the winter months provides a safer playing surface for AFL players and allows events such as international soccer and Bledisloe Cup rugby to be played on a world-class surface.

An example of this flexibility came in December 1999 when an AFL exhibition match between Carlton and Collingwood was staged just 24 hours after the conclusion of the Boxing Day Test.

Records on the ground

Highest Team Totals in Test cricket 604 runs by Australia against England in the 1st innings of the 5th test in 1937

Lowest Team Totals in Test cricket 36 runs by South

Africa against Australia in the 1st innings of the 5th Test in 1932

Highest Team Totals in ODI cricket 338 runs by Australia against West Indies in Carlton Series 2000/01 (2nd Final)

Lowest Team Totals in ODI cricket 94 runs by England against Australia in the England in Australia 1978/79 (5th ODI)

Centuries in Test cricket 307 runs by RM Cowper of Australia in the 1st innings of the 5th Test against England in 1966

Centuries in ODI cricket 173 runs by ME Waugh of Australia in the Carlton Series 2000/01 (2nd Final) against West Indies


Highest Wickets in an Innings in Test cricket 9/86 by Sarfraz Nawaz of Pakistan in the 2nd innings of the 1st Test

Highest Wickets in an Innings in ODI cricket 6/42 by AB Agarkar of India in the VB Series 2003/04

102 Test Matches, 130 ODI and 638 First-Class Matches played on this ground.

Widely recognised as the home of Australian sport, the MCG has outstanding heritage value to Australia and in December, 2005 was included in the National Heritage List so that these values may be protected for generations to come.

In March 2008, the MCG added a new dimension to its significance with the opening of the National Sports Museum (NSM), Australia's only truly dedicated multi-sports museum.

The National Sports Museum celebrates the contribution that sport has made within the development of our uniquely Australian culture. 





Tamim Iqbal - At a glance

Full name	Tamim Iqbal Khan
Born	Mar 20, 1989, Chittagong
Current age	21 years
Major teams	Bangladesh, Asia XI, Bangladesh A, Bangladesh Under-19s, Chittagong Division
Batting style	Left-hand bat
International Debut	2007
Test Debut	Bangladesh v New Zealand, 04-Jan-2008
ODI Debut	Bangladesh v Zimbabwe, Feb 09, 2007
Twenty20 Debut	Bangladesh v Kenya, Sep 01, 2007

Player Profile Tamim Iqbal

Roysul Khan

Tamim Iqbal Khan is a Bangladeshi cricketer who played in the 2006 U-19 Cricket World Cup in Sri Lanka. He plays his First-class cricket for Chittagong Division cricket team. He also played for Old DOHS as an opener in the Corporate League. Tamim Iqbal is the brother of Test player Nafees Iqbal and the nephew of Akram, another famous cricketer from Bangladesh. He was picked for the 2007 Cricket World Cup and played against India scoring 51 runs from 53 deliveries, helping his team beat India. He was called in the main squad for the first time for the Zimbabwe tour. He then scored his maiden ODI half-century in Bangladesh's victory against India in the World Cup.

On Bangladesh's tour of the West Indies in July and August 2009, Iqbal scored his maiden Test century. Against a West Indies team weakened by disputes between players and administrators which resulted in seven players making their Test debut in the match, Iqbal's effort with the bat helped Bangladesh

to a historic victory. It was Bangladesh's first against the West Indies in Tests, their first overseas Test victory, and only their second Test win. Tamim scored his first Test century against the West Indies on the fourth day. He ended up with 128, and was named Man of the Match for his performance (he also scored 33 in the 1st innings). Speaking of his innings, Iqbal said "It was a flat wicket, and if you concentrate hard and look to bat straight, it's a good track to score on. I'm just 20 and have played only 11 Tests, I think there are a lot more [innings like these] to come".

Bangladesh's coach, Jamie Siddons, opined in January 2010, before the Tri-Series in Bangladesh in 2009-10 with Sri Lanka and India, that Iqbal had "the makings of a world-class opener". On January 25th Tamim Iqbal scored 151 in a record partnership with Junaid Siddique against India. On 13 March 2010, in the course of an innings of 86 in his first Test against England, he became the second youngest player in Test history (behind Sachin Tendulkar) to reach 1000 runs.

Tamim Iqbal was eight years old when he learnt what it means to be a national hero. The occasion was the final of the ICC Trophy in Malaysia, in April 1997, and Tamim's

Table - 01 (Tamim Iqbal)
Batting and fielding records

	M	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	BF	SR	100	50	4s	6s	Ct	St
Test	17	32	0	1177	151	36.78	2074	56.75	2	7	166	7	8	0
ODI	76	76	0	2230	154	29.34	2896	77.00	3	13	261	29	22	0
T20I	15	15	0	215	32	14.33	234	91.88	0	0	31	0	2	0



uncle, Akram Khan, was leading Bangladesh in a tournament that would reshape the country's sporting history.

With a berth at the 1999 World Cup already secured, Bangladesh were playing Kenya for the right to be considered the best non-Test nation in the world - a member of the world's top 10, no less. A six from the wicketkeeper, Khaled Mashud, brought a fraught, rain-affected contest down to the very last ball, but a scampered leg-bye sealed a groundbreaking victory, and young Tamim's eyes were opened to the possibilities his future could hold.

"I believe that if Bangladesh ever won the World Cup, the scenes we saw that night could never be repeated," he said. "At the moment we won, thousands of people came flocking to my uncle's house and threw colours at our walls, mixed with water, like something you'd see at our Holi festival. If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I wouldn't have believed it had happened. But I wanted to be Akram Khan that day. I wanted people to shout my name."

It was one thing to have such a role model to look up to (and in terms of pure stature, few men in

Table - 01 (Tamim Iqbal)
Bowling records

	M	Inns	Balls	Runs	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Ave	Eco	SR	4W	5W	10W
Test	17	4	24	10	0	0	0	0	2.50	0	0	0	0
ODI	76	2	6	13	0	0	0	0	13.00	0	0	0	0
T20I	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Bangladesh stack up quite so physically as the imposing Akram). But the real drive to succeed emanated from Tamim's father, Iqbal Khan, who died in 2000, before either Tamim or his elder brother and fellow Test centurion, Nafees, had come close to fulfilling their destinies.

"It was my father's dream that I'd become a cricket player," said Tamim. "He was an amputee - he lost a leg in an accident when I was young, but he always used to stand in the 40-degree heat and do the umpiring with his fake leg, and urged me to bat for as long as I possibly could. When I was really small, I'd play with the big boys and get out cheaply all the time. But he believed in me, and it was he who really wanted me to play for Bangladesh."

"I'm that kind of guy - if I hit a good shot early on and it goes for four, after that I don't care who's bowling at me and who is not," he said. "That's what happened in that match. From my fourth ball I played a cover drive and it went for four and I got my momentum. After that I felt very strong, because I was believing in myself and playing my shots, and the ball seemed to land where I wanted. Everything happened exactly how I wanted it"

Tamim's onslaught tore the World Cup wide open. India were eliminated and Bangladesh marched through to the Super Eights, where they spun through South Africa and ran England close. A defeat against Ireland in their private World Cup final tarnished the overall experience just a fraction, but when he returned home, Tamim had



moved on from being the nephew of Akram Khan and was now a star in his own right.

“When my uncle played his innings it was only on the radio, so there were millions of people listening but none of them could see. But for me, they all saw it, and so everyone was talking about that Zaheer six. Even at practice today [before the second Test] they were talking about the same thing. It is never going to go from my life, which is good, but I need some more innings like it but bigger. I don’t want fifties, I want hundreds.”

He’s getting seriously close to that ambition now. In his first six innings of the current England tour, Tamim responded with three outstanding performances - a brilliant 125 in the first ODI that deserved better support; a defiant 86 in the first Test in Chittagong that was ended by the ball of the series from Tim Bresnan, and then Saturday’s agenda-setting 85 from 71 balls in Dhaka, an innings that could and should have secured him a century in the first session of a Test match, a feat achieved by only five players in history.

It is a common refrain in Bangladesh cricket - give us time and watch us develop. In Tamim, however, the country appears to have hit upon a frontline batsman with the talent and temperament to live up to that promise. Others have been called upon, but have found the burden of expectation too great, not least Mohammad Ashraful, whose prodigious debut as a 16-year-old in 2001 has stalked him for nine years and counting. Tamim, on the other hand, casts himself as an attention-seeker of the most positive type imaginable.

“Ash is one of the best cricketers Bangladesh has ever produced and I’m sure he’ll come back strongly,” he said. “But in that team, and at that point of time, he was the one everyone was looking for, and mentally he found it unsettling. But he and I are different guys, and I like to think I’d have loved the attention. If someone is clapping or saying some-

thing while I’m in the field, I’m like: ‘Okay, I need to do something now!’

“In the Asian culture, if you don’t perform, you’re a dead man, but international cricket is all about guts. If you don’t fear anyone, you will perform well, and you can see that this Bangladesh team is gutsy and confident. We’ve been saying we are improving for a long time now, but what we are thinking and what we are predicting will be achieved very soon.

Tamim speaks as confidently as he bats, with a fluency in English that hints at the sort of privilege that an uncle of Akram’s stature would doubtless have bestowed. But, crucially, he also possesses the work ethic to build on his natural gifts, and the intelligence to incorporate new methods into his modus operandi.

“When I first came into the international arena, I had one or two shots that I always played, such as that down-the-wicket shot, but I was weak in other areas, and with all the computer analysts that the top teams have these days, bowlers got to know this in a click. I struggled a lot after the World Cup, with three fifties in my next 22 matches, which wasn’t good enough. The selectors had faith and kept playing me, but I realised I needed to put in some seriously hard work.”

Under the tutelage of Mohammad Salauddin, the national academy coach, Tamim spent hours and hours in the nets, working on his weaknesses and converting them into strengths, such as his flick through the leg side, which has now become one of his bread-and-butter boundary shots. And at the suggestion of the head coach, Jamie Siddons, Tamim widened his stance to improve his balance against quick bowling, a tip that has sent him soaring towards the top.

“Jamie didn’t try to change me, he just suggested things that he believed would make me a better cricketer,” said Tamim. “He said if I took a wide stance, like Graeme Smith for instance, I would be halfway to the ball already and I’d save myself time when getting on the front foot.

If you see him at practice, he’s a fantastic batting coach and a brilliant fielding coach as well, the best I’ve ever seen.”

Although Siddons is not everyone’s cup of tea within the Bangladesh Cricket Board, Tamim’s endorsement is a testament to the success that his elite-focused methods have had since he took over as head coach at the end of 2007. In Tamim’s opinion, most of the problems lie in the age-old issue of communication, but he believes it’s a situation that cuts both ways.

“Bangladeshi guys are a little bit shy,” he says. “But we need to understand that if you want to learn something, you have to go to the teacher, and ask them. You can’t just sit on the back bench and do nothing, because if you want to improve, play well and do good for your country, you have to put in the effort yourself.

“Jamie, like many Australians, speaks a little bit fast, and when he first came in, some guys had a problem with that. But now he speaks to us very slowly, and though there are some guys who understand English very well, there are also some who don’t, so I might translate, or Shakib, or Mushy. We have all been working well with him, and the results of what he’s done are clear within the team.”

One of the chief aspects of Siddons’ reign - and that of his predecessor, Dav Whatmore, for that matter - has been an Australianisation of the dressing-room culture, a process that sits uneasily with those who believe that an alien environment merely makes it tougher for young players to assimilate to the requirements of international cricket. But while Tamim believes that the “work hard, play hard” ethic is a positive development, he admits that the team’s emotions remain Bangladeshi at heart.

“It’s really tough to suffer defeat after defeat after defeat,” he said. “In the second ODI [against England], we should have won, but the luck wasn’t with us, and after the game, six or seven of us came to the dressing room and cried. We felt so bad, because we love the game so much and we wanted to do well for the country, but we couldn’t control our emotions. We just cried like babies.

“It’s a big pressure in a country like Bangladesh, where the crowd don’t care who you’re playing against, they just want you to win. But then again, sometimes when we do win, like against Sri Lanka [in January 2009], when Shakib got 90 and we made it through to the finals, that day we also cried through happiness. It’s funny, but if you’re in the Bangladesh dressing room, you get to understand it.”

Tamim knows he’s one of the lucky ones. Through a combination of talent, drive and good fortune, he has bubbled to the surface of a cricket-crazy

country whose limited infrastructure denies millions of young players a similar chance to show what they can do. Now that he’s there, however, he’s determined not to let up on any front. Last year he completed an A-level in accounting, and he’s currently looking to enrol in university.

“Being educated is very important, especially in a country like Bangladesh, and I’m working hard to be an educated person, but it’s not been easy,” he said. “When I was at school in Chittagong, most of the best cricket facilities were in Dhaka, so I took three years longer than I should have done to do my A-levels because I’ve been on the road non-stop. But ask me today, which will it be, studies or cricket, and I’ll pick cricket. Everyone in the country would pick cricket!”

“I really don’t follow others. I have no idols,” he said. “I like the batting of Sehwag and Yuvraj, but I’m not going to try and play like them because everyone’s a different person, with different techniques and different shots. I need to play like me, the way I know, and whatever the game, I want to attack the ball. Sometimes it looks odd to get out for 30 playing a stupid shot, but that is my way. If I’m going to be a hero, I’ll be a hero the way I am. “At the end of my career, I want to be remembered firstly as a good person. And secondly, I want people to remember that there was a guy who played cricket for Bangladesh. And his name was Tamim Iqbal.” **CT**



