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The Island Sports

Tuesday 10th November, 2009

Sri Lanka begin campaign in Hambantota against Canada

World Cup Schedule Announced



ICC Cricket World Cup
2011

by Rex Clementine

The International Cricket Council yesterday announced the schedule for the 2011 Cricket World Cup to be co-hosted by Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh.

Of the 12 games that Sri Lanka are to host, new venues Hambantota and Pallekelle will host two and three games respectively while R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo will host as many as seven games including one quarter-final and a semi-final.

Sri Lanka, the finalists of the 2007 edition of the tournament are pooled in Group 'A' alongside defending champions Australia, Pakistan, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Canada and Kenya. In Group 'B' are India, South Africa, England, West Indies, Bangladesh, Ireland and Netherlands.

The 1996 World Champions will begin their campaign against Canada on the 20th

Saturday 19 Feb - Bangladesh v India, Dhaka
Sunday 20 Feb - New Zealand v Kenya, Chennai
Monday 21 Feb - Sri Lanka v Canada, Hambantota
Tuesday 22 Feb - Australia v Zimbabwe, Ahmedabad
Wednesday 23 Feb - Pakistan v Kenya, Hambantota
Thursday 24 Feb - South Africa v West Indies, New Delhi
Friday 25 Feb - Australia v New Zealand, Nagpur
Saturday 26 Feb - Sri Lanka v Pakistan, Colombo
Sunday 27 Feb - India v England, Kolkata
Monday 28 Feb - West Indies v Netherlands, New Delhi
Tuesday 1 Mar - Sri Lanka v Kenya, Colombo
Wednesday 2 Mar - England v Ireland, Bangalore
Thursday 3 Mar - South Africa v Netherlands, Mohali
Friday 4 Mar - Pakistan v Canada, Colombo
Saturday 5 Mar - Bangladesh v West Indies, Dhaka
Sunday 6 Mar - Sri Lanka v Australia, Colombo
Monday 7 Mar - India v Ireland, Bangalore
Tuesday 8 Mar - Kenya v South Africa, Chennai
Wednesday 9 Mar - Sri Lanka v New Zealand, Pallekelle
Thursday 10 Mar - India v Netherlands, New Delhi
Friday 11 Mar - Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe, Pallekelle
Saturday 12 Mar - West Indies v Ireland, Mohali
Sunday 13 Mar - Bangladesh v England, Chittagong
Monday 14 Mar - India v South Africa, Nagpur
Tuesday 15 Mar - New Zealand v Canada, Mumbai
Wednesday 16 Mar - Australia v Kenya, Bangalore
Thursday 17 Mar - Pakistan v Zimbabwe, Pallekelle
Friday 18 Mar - Bangladesh v Netherlands, Chittagong
Saturday 19 Mar - Australia v Pakistan, Colombo
Sunday 20 Mar - Sri Lanka v South Africa, Dhaka
Monday 21 Mar - Zimbabwe v Kenya, Kolkata
Tuesday 22 Mar - India v West Indies, Chennai
Wednesday 23 Mar - First quarter-final, Dhaka
Thursday 24 Mar - Second quarter-final, Colombo
Friday 25 Mar - Third quarter-final, Dhaka
Saturday 26 Mar - Fourth quarter-final, Ahmedabad
Sunday 27 Mar - First semi-final, Colombo
Monday 28 Mar - Second semi-final, Mohali
Tuesday 29 Mar - Final, Mumbai

of February 2011 in Hambantota. They will play Pakistan on the 26th of February at R. Premadasa Stadium.

Hambantota will also host the game between Pakistan and Kenya. Pallekelle, meanwhile will host Sri Lanka's game against Zimbabwe on the 10th of March.

The Sri Lankans will play only one of their first round games away from home - the match against New Zealand, which Mumbai will host on the 18th of March. Three more first round games, against Australia, Pakistan and Kenya will be played at R. Premadasa Stadium with the thriller against the Aussies scheduled for the 5th of March.

The 2011 edition of the tournament will be similar to the competition that took place in the sub-continent in 1996 where straight after the first round, teams played quarter-finals. Subsequent tournaments in 1999, 2003 and 2007 contained Super Six or Super Eight rounds which meant that the tournament dragged on.

The 2011 tournament will last exactly for six weeks where 49 matches will be worked off. The tournament will get underway on the 19th of February with India taking on co-hosts Bangladesh in Dhaka. Sri Lanka will play Canada the very next day. The final will be played in Mumbai on the 2nd of April.

While Sri Lanka will host 12 games, India has got a large share of the games



hosting 29 matches with Bangladesh staging eight games. The three countries will utilize 13 venues during the high profile event.

The amount of teams participating in 2011 has been reduced to 14 from the 16 teams that took part in 2007 in the West Indies.

Tindill reaches new milestone

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) - New Zealander Eric Tindill added a new item to an unparalleled list of sporting achievements over the weekend when he became the world's longest-living Test cricketer, as well as the oldest living All Blacks Rugby player.

Tindill, who lives with his daughter Molly in suburban Wellington, achieved the milestone when he turned 98 years, 325 days, surpassing the record of England's Francis MacKinnon who died in 1947.

The former wicketkeeper-batsman played five cricket Tests for New Zealand between 1937 and 1947. He also played test rugby for New Zealand, making a single test appearance against England in 1936. He is the only New Zealander to play test matches in both sports.

But Tindill didn't stop there. He was also a referee in test rugby and an umpire in Test cricket, achieving a distinction which is unlikely ever to be matched.

He has a little more to do to become the longest-living test rugby player. That honor belongs to Scotland's Mac Henderson, who died earlier this year aged 101.



Eric Tindill, who at 95 is the oldest living All Blacks Rugby player, as well as the oldest living All Blacks Rugby player. He has a little more to do to become the longest-living test rugby player. That honor belongs to Scotland's Mac Henderson, who died earlier this year aged 101.

Funeral of Mecci Macan Markar today

The funeral of Mecci Macan Markar, the Patron of Saracens Sports Club will be held today Mr. Markar, a stalwart of Saracens Sports Club held various positions at the club and was the Patron when he passed away. He was also the Managing Director of Macan Markar Limited.

His remains lie at 26, Galle Face Courts, Colombo-3 and funeral will take place at Kopyawatta Burial Grounds at 8:30 am today.

Sri Lanka look to break India jinx

India would be under pressure to maintain their home record of not losing a single Test to Sri Lanka in their previous 14 encounters, reckons Sri Lankan captain Kumar Sangakkara.

Sangakkara said he and his team-mates would do everything to break the jinx but the hosts would not be without any pressure either.

"We have to wait and see how India comes out of this loss (against Australia), especially at home. We are under no pressure. We have not won a Test here before and we are here to change things. The pressure is on India to keep their home series record intact," Sangakkara said.

Sangakkara said the Lankan new ball attack may be an inexperienced one, but that may turn out to be an advantage.

"Sometimes inexperience is good. Maybe the Indian batsmen have not really played our fast bowlers regularly in the longer format of the game.

"It's good to have some experience when you come to a country like India. But sometimes a fresh perspective, enthusiasm and right attitude will also be an added bonus," said the Lanka captain.

Sangakkara said that the presence of a performing all-rounder like Angelo Mathews

has given his team a lot of options in both batting and bowling and they can even think of including all three spinners in the eleven if needed.

"It's a great option to have three spinners with someone like Angelo Mathews who is bowling so well. He gives us that flexibility as a frontline fast bowler and batsman. It frees us one spot if the wicket shows us that three spinners are a possibility," Sangakkara said.

However, he added, that on a regular basis his team went in with three fast bowlers and two spin bowlers.

"Most often we like to play



Sri Lankan cricket captain Kumar Sangakkara reacts during a press conference in Mumbai, India, Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009. Sangakkara is hoping to become the first Sri Lankan captain to lead his country to a Test win on Indian soil during the three-match series which starts later this month. (AP)

that there was no mystery left in world cricket with the video analysis that's available today.

"Words like mystery are exaggerated. You are a mystery only in your first series

with the sort of video analysis available. You have to work harder later on," he said.

Lankan mystery bowler Ajantha Mendis had troubled most of the top Indian batsmen when the last series between the two outfits was held in Sri Lanka.

Sangakkara praised left-arm spinner Rangana Herath for the progress he has made recently, especially in the series at home against New Zealand and Pakistan where he outshone not only Mendis but also world record-setting wicket-taker Muttiah Muralitharan.

"Herath is a great player. He's a positive guy who tries his heart out. Such a good spinner had to play third fiddle to Murali and Mithu which has made him hungrier. Against New Zealand and Pakistan he out-bowled Murali and Mendis by a long

way. He's a very important player and we hope he can replicate that performance," the Lanka captain said.

Sangakkara said his team had two wicket-keeping options in number one Prasanna Jayawardene and Kaushal Silva and hoped his squad would settle down very soon ahead of the first Test in Ahmedabad commencing on November 16.

"Kaushal Silva, who is understudy to Prasanna Jayawardene, has scored a huge amount of runs in domestic cricket. He gives us an extra option. But we have to settle down very soon into a winning combination before the Ahmedabad Test," he said.

They are scheduled to play the second and third Tests at Kanpur and Mumbai before clashing with the hosts in two T20 Internationals and a best-of-five ODI series.

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