

Dhaka, Aug 15: AFC has announced the format and schedules of the 2012 London Olympics preliminary and 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian qualifiers.

Thirty-five teams have entered the fray for three-and-a-half slots in the men's Olympics football tournament. Bangladesh will play two matches on 23rd February and 9th march next year in home and away basis in the first round of this competition which is knockout.

The process of qualification for the 2014 FIFA World Cup will begin on June 29, 2011, and will conclude with the second leg of the inter-continental playoff on November 19, 2013. The format of the qualifiers remains the same like 2010 FIFA World Cup Asian qualifiers. Bangladesh will appear in two home and away matches in the opening round of the tournament on 29th June and 3rd July.

The opponents of both the contests are yet to be decided.