

BCB waiting on Wright

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

The dilemma of the next coach of the Bangladesh cricket team is the most demanding question in the arena at the moment.

There has been a lot of speculations about the successor of Dav Whatmore, who will quit the job after the ongoing home series against India, but Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was not ready to say anything as a precautionary measure.

However, it was learnt that the BCB high-ups have already made up their minds about the possible candidates for the hot seat. According to sources, Jamie Siddons, a Cricket Australia assistant coach and performance analyst, is almost certain to get the nod.

But BCB are waiting for a reply from former India coach John Wright as well. It was learnt that the New Zealander has asked for time to give his decision. BCB will take the final decision only after getting response from the former New Zealand captain.

Richard McInnes is also in the list as an assistant coach but it will only be decided after finalising the head coach. The sources said that the board will take the decision about the Australian after consulting with the head coach.

BCB is even ready to appoint a local coach for the upcoming Sri Lanka tour next month if Wright wants to take more time.

First win for Tangail

SPORTS REPORTER

Tangail bounced back from a humiliating 8-0 opening round defeat to BKSP when they blanked Gaibandha 3-0 in the final round of the Western Union National Youth Football Championship here yesterday.

Mehdi put Tangail ahead after

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Did U Know?

The first Test match was played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground between England and Australia from March 1519 in 1877.



Brian Lara

(Former West Indies captain)

"I still believe West Indies has the best under-15, under-19 talent. It's just the infrastructure doesn't go hand in hand with that and international cricket. That's where the



BTv & NEO Sports

Bangladesh v India
First Test, Day Two
Live at 10:00 am
ESPN
England v West Indies
First Test, Day Three
Live at 4:00 pm
Primera Liga

Mallorca v Valencia
Live at 11:55 pm
Zaragoza v Bilbao
Live at 2:00 am (Sunday)
STAR Sports

FA Cup Final
Chelsea v Man United
Live at 7:55 pm

Mashrafe shines bright

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong



cricket after thirteen months has been at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

"Toughest day' was the common feeling at the home tent as the star-studded Indian batting line-up expectedly capitalised on their coin luck to put the Tigers to the test under the hot and humid conditions on a tailor-made batting wicket.

On the way back to the dressing room, young all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan faced a question about how he enjoyed his debut in Test cricket and the answer was deadpan: Nothing.

The reason was simple. India have already amassed 295-3 at stumps with two of their prolific batsmen -- Sachin Tendulkar (80) and Sourav Ganguly (82) -- at the crease.

Undoubtedly the local bowlers were at the receiving end as there was hardly anything for them on the surface and it was hard to bowl in such a difficult condition as well against the superb batting line-up.

"It was really a hard day for us and at a very crucial stage we missed Rajib (Shahadat Hossain) because he was complaining with a knee injury. We didn't want to take any risk but it was difficult to continue attack with a bowler short in such a tough condition," said Bangladesh captain Habibul

Ishant in for Munaf

CRICINFO, undated

Ishant Sharma, the young Delhi fast bowler, will replace the injured Munaf Patel in the Indian Test squad in Bangladesh. Munaf, who missed the first Test in Chittagong with pain in his lower back, will fly back to India, and it is expected that Ishant will leave Delhi for Chittagong on Saturday.

On Friday morning Ravi Shastri, the cricket manager of the Indian team for this tour, spoke to a senior Indian board official to convey the news of Munaf's unavailability. Following this Dilip Vengsarkar, the chairman of the national selection committee, spoke to his colleagues over the telephone and it was decided that Munaf would return to India immediately and be replaced by Ishant. It is understood that the team management specifically requested the selection committee to send Ishant to Bangladesh.

Sharma, who has enjoyed a good first-class season for Delhi, was first in the news when it was suggested that he would be sent to South Africa as cover for the injury-hit Indian squad late last year. The Indian team in South Africa then thought it would be a good idea for the 18-year-old Sharma to be a part of the Indian dressing-room and get a feel for cricket at the highest level. However, after some confusion in the board it was decided

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Bashar, who took complete rest in the second session due to illness.

But there was also glimpses of bright moments on the first day of the first Test for the Tigers and the man who produced them was none other than pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza who along with his new-ball partner Shahadat Hossain threatened the Indian batsmen for a while.

The 'Narail Express' once again showed that he can ignite his side even under a difficult condition as the right-arm paceman stunned his opponents by removing opener Wasim Jaffer in the first ball of the day and by also dismissing the other opener Dinesh Karthik after lunch when Bangladesh tightened their grip on the game.

So, he was the right man to tell how difficult the situation was.

"My first target was to surprise the batsmen," was his reaction when he was asked about his first-ball success.

"It was not easy to bowl in such difficult conditions and under the immense heat but I tried my best to be successful. You should understand that we bowled against one

of the best batting line-ups in the world. There was nothing in the pitch for us but still I tried to bowl with my normal pace," he said.

In the post-lunch session, Bangladesh got two wickets almost back-to-back to bounce back in the match but Tendulkar and Ganguly snatched the initiative as they peeled off an unbeaten 163-run for the third wicket.

"The two batsmen gave no chance and it was not easy to bowl against them on a batsmen-friendly wicket.

"In this kind of wicket you should bowl in the right area and try to stop the batsmen from scoring runs. I think we still have the chance to do something in the second day," said Mashrafe.

Another thing which impressed many was the way Bangladesh vice-captain Mohammad Ashraful handled his bowlers during the absence of Bashar in the entirety of the second session when Bangladesh looked well-placed by taking two

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BANGLADESH-INDIA 1ST TEST SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first cricket Test between India and Bangladesh at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Friday:

INDIA: First innings	R	B	4s	6s
Wasim Jaffer b Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	0	1	0	0
Dinesh Karthik c Mohammad Ashraful b Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	56	102	8	0
Rahul Dravid c Khaled Mashud b Shahadat Hossain	61	99	11	0
Sachin Tendulkar not out	80	137	7	0
Sourav Ganguly not out	82	132	10	2
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-1, nb-9)	16			
Total: (For 3 wickets in 77 overs)	295			
To bat: Mahendra Dhoni, Ramesh Powar, Zaheer Khan, Anil Kumble, VRV Singh, Rudra Pratap Singh.				

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PHOTO: AFP

Indian opener Wasim Jaffer looks back after being castled by Bangladesh fast-bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza in the first ball of the innings during the first Test at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

'Results don't matter'



BBC ONLINE, undated

Amid the retirements of some of the finest cricketers Australia has ever produced, the departure of coach John Buchanan was almost lost in the moment.

With Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath and others leaving the scene - and Australia winning an unprecedented third consecutive World Cup - the significant exit of the mastermind of Australia's modern-day success was largely overlooked.

Buchanan, who now plans to transfer his skills to the business world, is statistically the best coach Australia has ever had.

But the 2005 Ashes loss to England threatened to undermine his legacy.

Then came Australia's whirlwind run of success which yielded the Champions Trophy, the Ashes whitewash and a third consecutive World Cup all in the space of seven months.

"There was some heat on us but I've never been a person driven by results," he told BBC Sport.

"It's fantastic to get them and ultimately they keep you in a job, but for me it is about dealing with the process.

"If I can get that right, and if I can instil that mentality into my team, then we are in the best position to achieve our goals.

"Before my first Test as coach, I talked with Steve Waugh about scaling Everest one day, whatever that may have been, and all of us making that journey together."

Leaked memos, vocabulary lessons and the teachings of Chinese warlord Sun Tzu were all part of his repertoire, but Buchanan never saw his methods as radical.

"Life experience, inside and outside of sport, has shaped me the most," he said.

"My life as a sportsman, my life with my parents and other people in my life - how I was coached, and continue to be coached, is very much a part of how I coach.

"I guess there has been no singular influence, but I have always drawn on my own experiences and tried to be open to new ideas to develop my own philosophies and principles."

Buchanan said he learnt a lot from his brief and unsuccessful stint as Middlesex coach, both about English cricket and about himself.

"I made a few mistakes and learnt a lot about dealing with different organisations, and they re-emphasized the differences in sporting cultures," he said.

"But it opened my eyes to the English system and made me see why England find it difficult to field competitive sides consistently.

"The talent and the numbers are there, but the county system is a real anchor on the players. There's no

doubt that they play too much cricket, and that promotes mediocrity."

Buchanan looks back at the 2005 Ashes loss as a kick in the pants for Australia, and one that motivated them to great heights.

"We were playing an England side that wasn't typically English: they wanted to be in our face, they wanted to be like Australia, they wanted to be aggressive. They took it to us and in the end we just didn't respond," he said.

"But the bottom line is, we came away from that series looking at ourselves and asking what was happening. We set about addressing what was wrong as quickly as we could."

Now, with cricket conquered, Buchanan feels happy handing over the reins to new coach Tim Nielsen, and taking on a new and different challenge.

"I hope I've created an environment that will facilitate the ongoing development of the national team. I'm proud of the fact that I have left behind a solid foundation for Tim to build on," he said.

"I want to take the lessons I've learned in life and in sport and transfer them across into business.

"Seeing whether I can assist businesses and CEOs with the knowledge I've picked up in cricket is something I'm keen on doing."

The corporate world's gain is Australian cricket's loss.



PHOTO: AFP

Indian batsmen Sachin Tendulkar (L) and Sourav Ganguly cross each other while taking a run on the first day of the first Test against Bangladesh at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Friday.

Sachin new deputy

CRICINFO, undated

The uncertainty over who will take over leadership of the Indian team if Rahul Dravid leaves the field has been answered for the moment with Sachin Tendulkar being appointed vice-captain for the two-Test series against Bangladesh.

"Tendulkar has been made the vice-captain," said Surendra Bhawe, India's administrative manager.

India did not appoint a vice-captain for the one-day series against Bangladesh but Virender Sehwag took over when Dravid left the field for a brief while during the second ODI. The one-day squad did not include Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly or VVS Laxman and, with Sehwag dropped from the Test squad, the question cropped up once again.

Laxman had been appointed vice-captain for the Test series in South Africa in December 2006, after which Sachin Tendulkar took over the role for the home one-day series against West Indies and the World Cup in the Caribbean.

Maharoor lifts SL

STAR SPORT MONITOR

Sri Lanka recovered well to post 235-9 at the end of their 50 overs in their first ODI against Pakistan at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

Both sides were playing their first match after their wildly contrasting World Cup experiences.

Shoaib Malik enjoyed a fruitful first outing as captain of Pakistan, relying on the traditional Pakistani ingredients of fast bowling to reduce Sri Lanka to 103 for 5 in the first 25 overs, after he had lost the toss.

The World Cup finalists were pegged back initially by the nagging accuracy of Mohammed Asif and the pace of Mohammed Sami, both players bowling with venom.

However, the islanders recovered late in the innings through the efforts of first, Chamara Silva (47) and later fast bowler Farveez Maharoor who smashed an unbeaten 54-ball 69 with 9 fours and a six to propel his side to a respectable total.

Umar Gul was the pick of the Pakistani bowlers as he took 3-61 off his ten overs.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Southern districts Khulna and Kushtia won their respective matches on the opening day of the 12th NCC Bank Inter-district volleyball tournament at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium.

Khulna shrugged off a challenging Jessore 25-22, 25-10 and 29-27 while Kushtia came from behind to beat Gazipur 20-25, 25-16, 25-12 and 25-10 yesterday.

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Sonargaon closer to top

Abahani, Mohammedan both lose

SPORTS REPORTER



Sonargaon Cricketers took a giant step towards the top of the Kai-Altech Premier Cricket Super League table when they thrashed contenders Mohammedan Sporting Club by six wickets yesterday to move within two points of leaders Abahani, who crashed to Bangladesh Biman by seven wickets.

Victoria also gained momentum as they handed a three-wicket defeat to bottom-table and defending two-time champions Old DOHS in the other second-round match.

ABAHANI-BIMAN

A depleted Abahani, who have three key players on national duty and a few more injured, failed to defend 248-9 at the BKSP ground as Farhad Reza's 127 off 106 balls drove Biman to 250-3 with near four overs to spare.

Farhad, who was recalled to the national one-day side but could not play as the third and final match against India was washed

out, recovered from seasonal fever to guide Biman with an explosive innings featuring five fours and 11 sixes.

Rokibul Hasan was dismissed for eight but opener Nafis Iqbal (85 off 119) and man-of-the-match Farhad put on 172 runs for the second wicket to ease the pressure. Both the batsmen were dismissed by Abahani spinner Nazmus Sadat.

With only three specialist batsmen available, Abahani had to include an unfamiliar face Istiak Jamil to make their eleven. New ball bowler Ziaur Rahman opened the innings and smashed 20 off 18 overs but that was not enough to avoid their only second defeat in 12 games.

One-down Nazimuddin topscored with 97 from 125 balls before being run out while Sri Lankan international all-rounder

POINTS TABLE						
Teams	M	W	L	T	A	Pts
Abahani	13	10	2	-	1	21
Sonargaon	13	9	3	1	-	19
Mohammedan	13	8	3	1	1	18
Victoria	13	9	4	-	-	18
Biman	13	8	4	-	1	17
Old DOHS	13	5	7	-	1	11

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Collingwood seizes chance



AFP, London

Paul Collingwood made West Indies pay for dropping him twice by scoring 111 as England advanced to 372 for five at tea on the second day of the first Test against West Indies at Lord's here Friday.

Collingwood, missed in the 30s and lucky to survive an lbw appeal, received good support from Ian Bell, 59 not out, in a fifth-wicket stand of 144.

Wicketkeeper Matt Prior, making his Test debut, was unbeaten on five.

Opener Alastair Cook had already scored 105 in the first match of this four-Test series.

England had found runs hard to come by during Friday's morning session and resumed on 280 for four.

Bell, who'd taken 37 minutes to score his first run, such was the improved accuracy of the West Indies attack, found his touch with a superb cover-drive off Daren Powell.

A similar shot from Collingwood off Powell brought up the duo's century stand in 174 balls.

Bell then completed an 82-ball fifty with his eighth boundary, an edged drive off Jerome Taylor that

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PHOTO: AFP

England batsman Paul Collingwood raises his bat to acknowledge the applause after reaching his century on the second day of the first Test against West Indies at Lord's in London on Friday.