



'Anamul's spill shocked team'

BISHWAJIT ROY from Nelson

From excluding the older players from the side to hiring a new fielding coach, the team management followed a number of strategies in a bid to maintain a strong fielding unit in this World Cup. However, when the chips were down, that was the very aspect that the Tigers failed in.

Bangladesh dropped a series of sitters against Sri Lanka. From dropping Lahiru Thirimanne in the first over to spilling Kumar Sangakkara twice, they had put up the worst possible fielding performance in one of the most crucial matches of the competition.

Bangladesh's new fielding coach, Richard Halsall, described the performances as 'very disappointing' and reckoned that the players were 'shocked'.

"[I am] very disappointed. We created opportunities but we didn't take them. But that does happen in every single game. However, it's how you conduct yourself after missing the opportunities. It's how you respond to the adverse situation..."

"People drop catches, people miss run outs, but it was how we responded that was disappointing, our body language was poor and the players admit that. It was a big stage and a big opportunity," said Halsall.

Halsall further believed that it was the first time that the Tigers had an off day in the field since the Zimbabwe series last year.

"They didn't produce the standard of performance they were used to in recent times. So, I think it was more of a shock. They couldn't believe that [Anamul Haque] Bijoy dropped that because he catches fliers most of the time. So partly shock and partly disappointed, which is a natural disappointment," he explained.

After having gone through a rough time against Sri Lanka, the coach had a chat with the players and emphasised on sticking to the basics. He believed that the Tigers would be able to recover from their disappointment against Scotland this Thursday.

"It's just that maybe some players aren't aware of what we have to do when we haven't got the momentum. And that's where I can help. It's all about sticking to the basics really," explained Halsall.



Fielding is an aspect that the Tigers focused heavily on during yesterday's training session at Saxon Oval in Nelson, ahead of their next World Cup fixture against Scotland on Thursday.

PHOTO: BCB

Dilshan topples Shakib

SPORTS REPORTER

Sri Lanka's Tillakaratne Dilshan has become the number-one ranked all-rounder in the world following his 229 runs with the bat and three wickets with the ball to date. His form has helped him gain three places in the latest Reliance ICC Player Rankings for All-rounders and he now leads Bangladesh's second-ranked Shakib Al Hasan by 10 ratings points.

Shakib has had an ordinary run in the World Cup thus far. He will have a chance to improve his ranking yet again when Bangladesh take on Scotland this Thursday. After the game against Scotland, Bangladesh will face New Zealand and England in the group stages.

Rank	Name	Pts
1	T. Dilshan	409
2	Shakib Al Hasan	399
3	Angelo Mathews	394
4	M. Hafeez	384
5	Shahid Afridi	328

WHEN IT'S JUST ABOUT US All GP-GP calls (including FNF and Super FNF) now @ 25 paisa per minute (10 second pause) Get 40 minutes for 10 taka (from 12am to 4pm) See inner for details. Dial *111*29# go bevand grameenphone

CLEAR MEN NOTHING TO HIDE
TODAY'S MATCH
Ireland v South Africa
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Canberra
WEDNESDAY'S MATCHES
Pakistan v UAE
Time: 7:00am
Venue: Napier
Australia v Afghanistan
Time: 12:30pm
Venue: Perth

Mahmud defends casino stint Jurgensen against Tigers in new role

SPORTS REPORTER from Nelson

Bangladesh team manager Khaled Mahmud yesterday defended himself from the wave of criticism after an online website uploaded a photo of him in a casino where he went at around 11:30 on the night of February 26 in Melbourne.

The incident sparked a debate in Bangladesh as it has taken place at a time when pacer Al-Amin Hossain was sent back home for staying out of the team hotel late at night in Brisbane without any permission from the team management.

"It is very unfortunate. I can assure everybody that I didn't do anything wrong because I am very much aware of my duty. And one thing what I want to clear that there is no deadline for me as a manager of the team but of course I have to maintain the discipline," said Mahmud, who is also a BCB director and chairman of the BCB's games



development committee.

"I didn't have my dinner as I was upset after the defeat against Sri Lanka. But suddenly I felt hungry at night and went outside with Mahbub bhai (Mahbub Anam) and Obaid bhai (Obaid Nizam). On the way back to the hotel someone called me and asked about the reason behind the defeat in front of that Casino. I guess someone then took the picture which came in different online

websites and the social media. If you look at the picture you can understand that I was just standing there with some other people," Mahmud claimed.

Earlier, Bangladesh pacer Al-Amin was sent back as he had arrived in the team hotel after the 10pm curfew set by the management. While a number of players in the team were in support of a milder punishment against the bowler, BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon decided to take the hard-line and withdrew him from the World Cup squad. Back home, Al-Amin is now playing for Khulna in the National Cricket League.

Pakistan chief selector Moin Khan was also asked by his country's cricket board to return home after the former national cricketer was spotted at a casino. It created a stir among the Pakistani media and Khan was expected to explain his conduct to the PCB chairman yesterday.

BISHWAJIT ROY from Nelson

A man, who has a very good knowledge about this Bangladesh team, has been sharing his experience with the Scots ahead of the March 5 clash in the ICC World Cup at the Saxon Oval. While he did stay in the same hotel as the Tigers, the last few days none of his former charges noticed him.

It was interesting to find him in Nelson,



Bangladesh next year to take part in the U-19 World Cup, something that he seemed excited about.

At the moment though, the Australian is looking forward to his very short stint with the Scots. "Yeah, the Scotland coach and manager are very good friends of mine and they have asked for some consultancy ahead of their match against Bangladesh. They just want to know about what kind of team Bangladesh is and the impact of some individual players. How Bangladesh prepare is also a question but you know it's a long-term work," said Jurgensen.

"I am here to help the Scottish boys but you can't do much in two-three days and I believe there has been plenty of improvement with the Bangladesh players in the last few months," he added with a smile.

The former Bangladesh coach said that some current team players are still communicating with him. He however, didn't meet anybody neither did he inform any one that he was working with the Scots ahead of the match against Bangladesh.

Jurgensen was not ready to say anything more about his resignation from the Bangladesh national side rather he recalled the exuberant life he led in Dhaka and the hospitality of the Bangladeshi people.

He observed the Tigers in the two matches of the World Cup and was excited to see some new faces in the side.



especially because if everything had gone according to plan for the Tigers then it would have been Jurgensen, not Chandika Hathurusingha, who would have been coaching the Tigers in the ongoing ICC World Cup.

The Australian, who was contracted with the board till 2015, had tendered his resignation on April 28 last year citing a combination of reasons. The former Bangladesh coach however said that he had no regrets for not being there with the Tigers; rather he was enjoying his job with Fiji cricket.

Jurgensen is here with the Fiji under-19 team. He has already taken cricket to a new grade in the country as Fiji have qualified for their first World Cup at any level after finishing unbeaten during the group stage of the East Asia-Pacific U-19 Trophy in Blenheim, New Zealand.

Jurgensen and his side will be coming to

While he is playing a role against the Tigers, his long talks on his former charges suggest that the affection and love for Bangladesh's cricket however will always remain.

"It will be a good game," Jurgensen concluded with a smile when asked about his prediction regarding the match on Thursday.

THIRD EYE

An erratic World Cup

NAIMUL KARIM

With all the new rules floating around the game, the ICC should probably think about punching in a few norms that can help matches become a bit more competitive in international events.

Maybe they can provide the option of switching-on the 'catch-up' mode, akin to multiplayer racing games and give the second player an opportunity to cover some ground; because in this World Cup, matches have been lasting just for an innings.

In the 23 fixtures so far, six of them have already witnessed result-margins exceeding which have exceeded a hundred runs. We have also had the opportunity of witnessing teams cruise to wins with more than eight wickets in hand thrice.

The figures become a lot more relevant when compared to the previous events of the flagship tour-

nament.

In the last World Cup for instance a total of eleven matches were won by more than a 100 runs, while six of them were aced by eight wickets or more. The mega event in the Caribbean in 2007 was not that different altogether. There were 12 100-plus defeats and seven matches won by eight wickets or more.

The rate at which the thrashings have been coming by this year, it will be a huge surprise if the numbers don't overtake those of the last two events; for it has been a heavily one-sided competition thus far.

Sure enough, the Australia-New Zealand encounter drove us to the edge of our seats; however, the over all picture isn't that rosy. There were a lot more expectations from some of the more high-profiled clashes.

The India-South Africa clash or the opener between England and Australia for instance were matches

which everyone hoped would go down the wire.

On the flipside though, the numbers have shown a huge improvement in the performances of the non-full member nations of the ICC.

Of the 11 100-plus defeats in 2011, seven of them witnessed full-member nations thumping their younger and more inexperienced colleagues. In 2007 that figure was eight out of 12. This time though, it's been the more seniors getting whipped.

Only three of the nine thumping defeats came against the non-full member nations of the tournament. England beat Scotland by a 119 runs, Bangladesh put the breaks on Afghanistan and downed them by a 105 runs, while India recently thrashed the UAE by nine wickets.

However, these wins were nothing compared to South Africa's 257-run win over the West Indies', or the

latter's 150-run triumph over Pakistan.

These numbers not only display the growing competition from the weaker sides but, once again, question the ICC's decision to vouch for a 10-team tournament in 2019. Imagine an Irish side that is just a win away from the quarter finals, remaining unsure for the next World Cup.

Or better still, imagine this World Cup being played with only the full-member nations; we would have missed out on a number of intense moments. From Hamid Hassan knocking Kumar Sangakkara's stumps to the Irish chasing down Pakistan without breaking a sweat.

So far it's been the moments created by the so called 'minnows' that have provided most of the entertainment. And with the event resuming after a day's break they will be expected to continue with their fearless onslaught.

Watch cricket on your mobile phone with fastest **banglalink 3G** in 64 districts. To activate the internet pack of your choice dial *5000#. Watch today's match on **Gtv** GAZI TELEVISION. To activate, dial *7055*1# or visit www.banglalinkmobiletv.com. Subscription fee: daily pack Tk.10+VAT; weekly pack Tk.30+VAT; monthly pack Tk.50+VAT. start something new