



MR CONSISTENT: Mushfiqur Rahim is the meat in Bangladesh's batting. The little right-hander struck a fluent 89, his third half-century in this World Cup, against England in Adelaide yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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Morgan does not know what's next

REUTERS, Adelaide

England captain Eoin Morgan was "gutted" after his team's premature exit from the World Cup on Monday and confessed he was clueless about what the future holds for the team.

England's woeful form on 50-over cricket's biggest stage appeared intertwined with the miserable form of their captain who fell for his fifth duck in 11 innings against Bangladesh on Monday.

England handed the one-day captaincy to Morgan in December in place of Alastair Cook and England's only World Cup win came against Scotland while they lost to hosts Australia and New Zealand and former champions Sri Lanka.

Asked what went wrong, the solemn-looking 28-year-old struggled to offer any explanation.

"I can't at the moment," he said at the presentation ceremony after his team's 15-run defeat.

"I'm gutted at the moment. We struggled and fought our way since we arrived here.

"With short boundaries and the way the wicket played, it was certainly well within our reach," he said.

"Our expectations are a lot higher than we performed, so that's extremely disappointing, to be knocked out this early," said Morgan.

Asked where does the team go from here, Morgan said: "To be honest, I have no idea what happens from here. I'm still surprised that we are knocked out so early."

He insisted there was no problem with squad composition.

"We picked guys who can play a brand of cricket that, if we perform, we could win this World Cup. Again ultimately we have not performed."

WHO'S SAYING WHAT

Who's saying what on Twitter about Bangladesh's 15-run win over England at the World Cup on Monday:

"Well done Bangladesh! England pathetic! When are we going to pick the selectors to pick a team for the one-day format? Time for change."

Ex-England all-rounder Ian Botham

"Eng had the wrong team, the wrong style of play & everyone could see it tonight's result not a shock, I feel for Morgan, coach is in trouble."

Former Australia great Shane Warne

"DO NOT SAY WE HAVEN'T PRIORITISED ODI CRICKET! We played a back-to-back Ashes to make sure England played 6 months of ODI's before this WC!"

Exiled England batsman Kevin Pietersen

"I CANNOT BELIEVE THIS! I JUST CANNOT! But, well done Bangladesh! You deserved it! #ENGvBAN."

Pietersen again

"Congratulations @BCBTigers showed great fight & composure under immense pressure. #CWC15."

Ex-Australia all-rounder Tom Moody

"Well done Bangladesh. That was some very mature cricket. Rubel showed how to bowl at the death; full & straight & 19yr old Taskin Congrats."

Former West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop on Twitter

"Dear @ECB_cricket, this might not be a great time, but as there's room in your schedule, fancy a game in Japan on the way home? #challenge."

Japan Cricket Association

No autographs to fight corruption!

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricketers have been asked not to give autographs to fans during matches because of fears they will pass on illegal information to bookmakers, a newspaper report said Monday.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is under pressure to crack down on corruption following a series of betting and fixing scandals that rocked its Indian Premier League (IPL) tournament.

"We have asked cricketers not to give autographs" while the cricket body considers introducing an outright ban, BCCI official KS Madhavan told the Times of India.

The time-honoured tradition could be stopped at all matches organised by the BCCI including the highly popular IPL and the Champions League Twenty20, he said.

As the World Cup moves towards quar-

ter-final showdowns in Australia and New Zealand, Madhavan said the BCCI was also trying to ban autograph signing during matches held overseas.

"It is a dangerous exercise and we are trying to push for a worldwide ban on this," Madhavan, the BCCI's senior investigating officer, told the newspaper.

Madhavan said a fan seeking an autograph could in fact be a ruse for a player scribbling match information to a bookie. "This [autographs] could be a method through which bookies may connect with cricketers."

"Through an autograph book, a bookie can exchange vital information with a player. For example, he can be asked to score a particular number of runs while batting."

BCCI general manager Ratnakar Shetty declined to comment on the report when contacted by AFP.

AFP, Hamilton

Ireland face defending champions India on Tuesday where a shock victory would put them into the World Cup quarterfinals and leave either Pakistan or West Indies facing elimination.

Non-Test playing Ireland have already hunted down two Full Members -- the West Indies and Zimbabwe -- in Pool B so far on their way to six points from four matches but know they will expect no mercy against India who have won all four matches so far to comfortably reach the last-eight.

"I don't think their guard will ever be down and they're not going to look to lose any momentum from their point of view.

Whatever they decide to do is out of our control," said Ireland captain William Porterfield.

Ireland are no strangers to upsetting big teams.

They famously ousted Pakistan

then defeated England in the 2011 tournament.

In contrast, India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni is pleased with his bowling which was considered a weakness before the tournament.

"I feel the contribution of all the bowlers is superb," said Dhoni of his attack who bowled the West Indies out for just 182 in their last game and South Africa for 177.

"Umesh [Yadav] is bowling well, he is bowling quick. [Mohammad] Shami has taken the extra responsibility of bowling with the new ball, and it gives Mohit

[Sharma] a bit more time in the middle order with a bit more feel, and he has been very consistent."

INDIA V IRELAND

Upset will see Irish thru'

The Export Leader

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from the 2007 World Cup held in the West Indies on their way to the Super Eights where they beat Bangladesh and

then defeated England in the 2011 tournament.



WORLD CUP COCKTAIL

India seamer Mohit Sharma warned on Monday that the defending World Cup champions' razor-sharp attack will only be judged fully once they are exposed to a desperate, late innings assault.

India have already qualified for the quarter-finals after seeing off Pakistan, South Africa, the UAE and West Indies and a win over Ireland at Seddon Park on Tuesday will guarantee top spot in Pool B.

The pace trio of Mohammad Shami (nine wickets), Umesh Yadav (six) and Sharma (six) have been instrumental in their team's success, but Sharma is still braced for potential run gluts in the closing overs of matches.

"We have performed well as a unit," said the 26-year-old right-arm fast bowler.

"But there is no limit to doing well, I feel that we have not faced the pressure of the slog overs and there is a lot to do," said Sharma.

Comedian in hot water with ICC

An incident involving a member of a cricket commentary team during World Cup match in Napier is under investigation by the International Cricket Council.

At a drinks break during an innings in New Zealand's win over Afghanistan, Leigh Hart accompanied the drinks trolley out to the middle of McLean Park.

Whether Hart spoke to either players or the umpires on the park during the second drinks break of Afghanistan's innings, or recorded any conversations, is part of an ICC check on the incident.

Hart confirmed to the Herald that he entered the ground during the drinks break and that it was part of a promotion for Gatorade.

The ICC carefully guards who is permitted to enter the playing arena during a match, partly on security grounds and partly as a protocol.

An ICC spokesman told the Herald: "An individual went outside the agreed boundaries of an activation and appropriate action has been taken."

The ACC has provided a distinctly dif-

ferent style of commentary on the New Zealand international summer from the more formal Radio Sport.

Unhappy with 'associate' tag

Ireland captain William Porterfield insisted on Monday his side belonged among the world's elite and said he despised the tag of "associate" which virtually brands a host of teams as second-class citizens.



Non-Test playing Ireland are on course for a World Cup quarter-final place and can ensure a spot in the last eight if they shock defending champions India on Tuesday.

They already have six points from three wins and a defeat in Pool B, seeing off Test sides West Indies and Zimbabwe as well as the amateurs of the United Arab Emirates.

Victory over either India or Pakistan, in their final group game in Adelaide on Sunday, will put them in the quarter-finals with Pakistan or West Indies heading home.

"I don't like that tag of associates," said Porterfield, whose team qualified for the tournament as one of four non-Test sides alongside Afghanistan, UAE and Scotland.

"I don't think teams should be associated any differently, and putting those tags on us.

"As far as I'm concerned, there is a ranking system in place and that's where we're at." Ireland is ranked 11 in the world.

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RUBEL HOSSAIN

You can call it a performance right of the top drawer in the history of World Cup. Four wickets for 53 and such crucial wickets at pivotal moments of such a crucial game; Rubel Hossain's exploits could be considered one of the finest pieces of pace bowling performances in recent history. The man with a slinging action removed dangerous looking Ian Bell, batting at 63, feeding with a delivery that got the outside edge for a keeper's catch. Two balls later, Rubel removed Eoin Morgan, forcing the England skipper to an attempted hook, only to be caught brilliantly by Shakib Al Hasan at deep fine-leg boundary. But there was more to come from Rubel just when Bangladesh needed him. Rubel produced two searing reverse-swinging deliveries in the 49th over, accounting for Stuart Broad and James Anderson to hand Bangladesh a victory from the jaws of defeat.