

SPORT

Conway to continue upward trend

SPORTS REPORTER

Dean Conway, the former England Cricket team physiotherapist, became the Bangladesh cricket team's new physio yesterday after local Bayjedul Islam Khan's successful two-year tenure with the Tigers.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) appointed Conway to complete their full-fledged coaching and support staff for the ICC World Cup to be held in England in 2019.

"Bayjedul is one of the best home-grown sports physio and there is no doubt about it. He is not demoted; rather we were looking for someone like Dean Conway who has wealth of experience. With this appointment we have got the whole setup till the World Cup," said BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury.

"Bayjedul will now join as a HP [High Performance Unit] physio and we believe Bayjedul and some of our other core group physiotherapists will be immensely benefited by the wealth of Conway's huge experience and Conway will act as head of all the physiotherapists under the board," he added.

If keeping Mashrafe Bin Mortaza fit for such a long period of time was Bayjedul's most notable and satisfying achievement, then for Dean Conway the immediate challenge will be to make pacer Mustafizur Rahman fit again and get him ready for the New Zealand tour as well as maintaining the current good health of the team.

Bayjedul also saw the positive impact of

Conway's appointment. "I think it's a good decision because I will also be benefited by his appointment. I will be able to learn many things that I have been looking to learn for long."

"I tried my best during my two years and two months' tenure with the national team. I enjoyed every challenge and it feels great when I think that during my period Mashrafe was fully fit for such a long period of time. I also enjoyed Taskin [Ahmed] and Shafiq's [Islam] improvement. I believe this break will give me an opportunity to improve my skills further so that I can come back to the national team with better knowledge and ability," said Bayjedul.

Conway met with Bangladesh pace sensation Mustafizur, who is going through a rehabilitation programme after shoulder surgery, and worked with the left-arm pacer along with a couple of other injured bowlers at Mirpur yesterday.

"I have only spent a brief couple of minutes with each of the guys but they are all progressing really well. They have a bowling plan to get back to full fitness; everything looks good," said the new physio.

"I think if he [Mustafizur] is bowling at full tilt before we leave for Australia and New Zealand, he is still going to need three to four weeks out there to get up to full cricket fitness," he added.

The bowler Mustafizur himself was optimistic about his chances to make the comeback during the New Zealand series. "Yes, I am doing everything with the hope of playing there [New Zealand]."



Tigers' new physiotherapist Dean Conway (C) joined the team in Mirpur yesterday and his main challenge will be to keep the Tigers' biggest asset, Mustafizur Rahman, primed in terms of fitness. (INSET) The young pacer was in full flight during training, but his injury still remains a concern ahead of the New Zealand tour.



PHOTOS: STAR

Rumana eyes Asia Cup final I did nothing wrong: Faf



Bangladesh women's cricket team coach Dave Capel and captain Rumana Ahmed share a laugh during training in Mirpur yesterday.

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national women's cricket team's new captain Rumana Ahmed expects Bangladesh to reach the final of the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup, which is scheduled to begin in Bangkok, Thailand from November 26. The Women in Green will depart for Bangkok today.

"We have improved a lot. The crucial game for us will be the one against India. If we can do well against them then we can reach the finals. Who knows? Maybe there can be a miracle too. Our team can do well," Rumana told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"I am very happy to be leading the Bangladesh team for the first time. This is a big event, the Asia Cup. I am not at all concerned but confident about my team. We have practised very well this time and hopefully we can do well."

"We have focused a lot on our batting this time. We have six to seven batters who are in good form. If they can hold on to their form then I am confident that even our batters can do well. We have always been confident about our bowling department and after these training sessions I am confident about our batting department as well," she added.

The Asia Cup will be played at the Terdthai Cricket Ground in Bangkok between six teams. Aside from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Thailand, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will be taking part in the event.

The tournament will start on November 26 with Bangladesh taking on favourites India. Bangladesh will then play Thailand on November 28, followed by Nepal and Pakistan on November 29 and 30 respectively.

They will play their last group stage game against Sri Lanka on December 3. The final will take place on December 4 at the same stadium.

AGENCIES, Adelaide

South Africa captain Faf du Plessis insisted he wasn't a cheat and warned cricket authorities had opened a "can of worms" on Wednesday after he was found guilty of ball-tampering in controversial circumstances.

Du Plessis was fined his entire match fee on Tuesday after being caught on camera sucking a mint and rubbing saliva into the ball during last week's second Test in Hobart, but will be able to play the third Test starting on Thursday.

"I still completely disagree with that [decision]," du Plessis said. "I feel like I've done nothing wrong... it's not like I was trying to cheat or anything."

"For me [ball-tampering] is picking the ball, scratching the ball. Shining the ball, I think all cricketers would say, is not in the same place," du Plessis.

Cricket South Africa chief executive Haroon Lorgat said he would raise the subject with the International Cricket Council after several leading figures questioned the case against du Plessis.

"I just think it's opened up a can of worms with what's going to happen now going forward," du Plessis said. "Something like this needed to happen to create a bit more awareness around it."

Australia skipper Steven Smith also said that his side "shine the ball the same way".

BPL IN NUMBERS

- 0 The number of matches that the Barisal Bulls have won in Chittagong.
- 1 The number of games the reigning champions, Comilla Victorians, have won so far.
- 1 The number of times Taskin Ahmed has taken a five-wicket haul in T20s.
- 2 The number of ducks Thisara Perera has scored in Chittagong.
- 3 The number of times Mohammad Nabi has won the player of the match award in the league.
- 3 The number of times the Rangpur Riders have won games by nine wickets in this season.
- 3 The most number of 50-plus scores posted in the BPL. Mominul Haque and Shahriar Nafees have scored three each.
- 3 The number of Rangpur bowlers—Shahid Afridi, Shohag Gazi, Arafat Sunny—who have an economy rate below 6.
- 9 The number of players who have scored more than 200 runs this season, already equalling last year's record.
- 9 The number of wides Ryan ten Doeschate bowled in an over against Rajshahi in Chittagong.
- 9.6 Shohag Gazi's bowling average after six games. The least among players who have played at least four matches.
- 16 The number of balls it took Seekkuge Prasanna to hit seven sixes against the Khulna Titans in Chittagong. He scored his half-century off 18 balls, the second fastest ever in the BPL.

Ashrafur leads Macau rout

SPORTS REPORTER

Penalty-corner specialist Ashrafur Islam slammed five goals including a hat-trick as Bangladesh notched a massive 13-0 win over minnows Macau to finish top of Pool A in the Men's 5th AHF Cup at King's Park hockey ground in Hong Kong yesterday.

Having won all three of their pool matches, defending champions Bangladesh will meet Pool B runners-up - to be decided between Sri Lanka and Singapore - in Saturday's semifinal.

While there was hardly any doubt regarding Bangladesh's win, it was a question of how many goals Bangladesh would post against winless Macau, who had come into the third match conceding 7 goals.

Ashrafur, recently elevated to the national team following his brilliant show with the under-18s, began the goal fest by converting a penalty corner in the second minute and completed his first international hat-trick converting another penalty corner on the 10th and a penalty stroke on the 11th minute. Then Roman Sarker, Sarwar Hossain and Hasan Jubair Niloy joined scored one goal apiece as Bangladesh took a 6-0 lead going into the break.

The men in red and green resumed the second half from where they had left off in the first half as Ashrafur added two more goals from penalty corners in the 40th and 58th minutes respectively before Sarwar struck a brace in between Roman's second goal to take the tally to 11-0 by the 63rd minute.

Moinul Islam Koushik made it 12-0 in the 69th minute before Khorsedur Rahman wrapped up the victory in the final minute of the game.

"It is really a good feeling to have struck five goals including a hat-trick as I am playing with the senior players for the first time and availed the opportunities that came my way," Ashrafur said after the match. "I have gained a lot of confidence playing in the U-18 Asia Cup where I was the top-scorer. Besides, the recent practice matches in Europe helped a lot."

Intelligent Inverter Compressor

10 Years Guarantee

Intelligent INVERTER Technology

- Save huge electricity
- Increase compressor lifetime
- Reduce noise

NANO HEALTH CARE

উন্নত প্রযুক্তির ব্যবহার ও

দাম আনো কমায়

মার্সেল ফ্রিজের **চাটিনা বেড়টে চলছে**

দীর্ঘস্থায়িত্বের নিশ্চয়তায় আমরা দিচ্ছি

বহুরের

রিফ্রিজমেন্ট

গ্যারান্টি

সর্বকর : ১ বছর ১০ মাস

eCozen

Non-Frost Refrigerator Technology

Refrigerator & Freezer

All models are tested by:

NUSDAT-UTS

ISO/IEC 17025 (BAB Accredited)

Capable to test as per Bangladesh, India, Saudi Arabia & UAE Standard

Accepted in ILAC & APLAC Member Countries

ISO 9001 : 2008, ISO 14001 : 2004 & OHSAS 18001 : 2007 Certified Company

Helpline : 16267

Contact: 01678-028010, 01678-028016, 01678-028139

01678-028337, 01678-028039

www.marcelbd.com