

A home-made crisis

SAKEB SURHAN

Although contracted till the 2019 World Cup in England, Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha decided midway through the debate that he would not continue in the post. He initiated this intention through a letter to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan before the ODI series in South Africa began on October 15. While the BCB boss did say that the reason for his resignation was not yet certain, he heavily hinted that it was negativity in the media that may have influenced the Sri Lankan's decision. However, if one looks at developments over Hathurusingha's tenure, it will seem that the current situation was a consequence of some choices taken by the coach and the board.

Hassan however indicated that the BCB will be flexible to seek a solution. Historically, the end of Bangladesh coach's tenure has left a bad taste in the mouth more often than not, but while in the past it has been callous management from the BCB, this time it was a dereliction of duty from Hathurusingha in deserting a leaky ship. That Hassan is still hopeful of reconciliation and has not even started looking for a possible replacement

ment at least 20 days after receipt of the letter reveals much about the power balance between the BCB and the coach, which in turn poisoned the chance for Bangladesh's most successful coach.

"We cannot keep someone who does not want to stay," said Hassan yesterday evening at his Beximco office in a press conference organised after news had broken earlier in the day about Hathurusingha's resignation. "Yes, we will talk to him by November 15 and see what his problem is, and if we can do something about it we will."

The decision on whether or not to follow his contract has, therefore, essentially been left up to the coach. Hassan said on numerous occasions that Hathurusingha is a professional, and then in turn Hassan fashion also went on to say that this decision was one taken emotionally, before then going on to say that nothing can be known for certain till he talks further with the emotional professional.

Although he was not clear about the reason for Hathurusingha's decision, Hassan tried to shift the blame for it on the treatment meted out to the Sri Lankan by the media and even on the players.

"Maybe I would have done the same thing if I was in his place," said Hassan. "Whether the team is winning or losing, he is being criticised. I think all of you will be happy if he goes -- and perhaps some players too -- but it would have been good if he stayed longer."



CHANDIKA'S RECORD AS BANGLADESH COACH

OVERALL			
TESTS	ODIS	T20IS	
Mts	19	46	28
W	6	25	10
L	9	18	17
D	4	0	0
N/R	0	2	1
SINCE 2016			
TESTS	ODIS	T20IS	
Mts	9	17	7
W	2	4	1
L	7	10	6
D	0	0	0
N/R	0	3	0

Siddikur in 25th

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman got off to a fine start at the Manila Masters yesterday, finishing the first round in joint 25th place with a score of three-under-par (69).

The 33-year-old was in fine fettle at the Southwoods Golf and Country Club and played no false shots till the 16th hole, when he carded his first bogey.

However, he was already at three-under before then, and regained that score on the 17th hole by putting another birdie in the US \$1,000,000 event.

However, Siddikur was well behind joint-leaders Scott Barr of Australia and USA's Mizuki Lane, who both carded eighth-under-par (64) on the opening day. Barr had a remarkable outing which looked like falling away when he carded a double-bogey on the 11th, but he made up for it in dramatic fashion by carding an eagle on the final hole.

SL plan 'four-bowler' strategy

PTI, Kolkata



that unlike five-pronged bowling attack, which yielded results against Pakistan in the humid conditions in the UAE, he may revert to four-bowler theory against India.

"Against Pakistan, we played six batters and five bowlers that worked really well especially in the heat (in UAE). It was never easy to play four bowlers and win a game. But India has got some really good bowlers, so we need to think about that all-rounder position. We will see the pitch and come up with our plans," Chandimal said during media interaction.

It was a clean sweep for India (9-0 across formats) when they travelled to Sri Lanka but since then the island nation beat Pakistan 2-0 in an 'away' Test series but lost 0-5 in the ODIs.

"We all know India are No 1 team

at the moment. They have played some really good cricket in the last two years. We have done really well against Pakistan. We did well as a team. I am sure guys are looking forward to take this challenge," Chandimal added.

Chandimal accepted that playing India in India is a big challenge but he does not want to dwell on past results and would rather look forward.

"This will be a challenging series for us. It's nice to be here with the spectators, we love to play here. I don't want to look back but look forward. We have done well versus Pakistan. The boys are in a good shape and we look forward to take the challenge against India," said the stylish right-hander.

Chandimal said that he has some plans in place to tackle Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja but he will not disclose them.

"As a team, we have something up our sleeves, we need to execute that on the field then we can compete

with the Indian team," he said as the visitors had their first net session on the day.

Sri Lanka has been touring India for official Test matches since 1982 but till date have not been able to win a single Test match, let alone a series. Chandimal wants to change that knowing how big a task that is.

"We have never won a Test in India, it's a dream for everyone. This is a first game we are playing in Kolkata. It's always a pleasure playing in front of Kolkata spectators. We need to start well as a team and looking forward."

"This is my first Test tour to India. Apart from Angelo (Mathews) and Rangana (Herath), others having a first tour here in India. It's really good challenge for each and everyone."

Asked how they will tackle spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja he said: "They are Nos 1 and 2 in the world. They bowled really well last couple of years. I don't want to tell our plans in front of you."

"But we have something up our sleeves. You will see our plans in one week's time and what are we going to do against them."

AFP, Sydney



England paceman Stuart Broad has pinpointed David Warner as Australia's danger man in the Ashes series, while admitting a begrudging respect for his aggressive mentality.

The pugacious opener fired up the tourists last month by comparing playing against England to "war" and said he planned to take "some sort of hatred" into the Tests, which start in Brisbane on November 23.

Broad said Warner, known for his fiery nature on the field, was a perennial danger.

"I think someone like Warner you've got to try bowl a lot of balls at him with the new ball, because it's your best chance of getting him out,"

he told the Sydney Morning Herald Thursday.

"(But) you have to have a plan B, and with someone like Warner you have to go to plan B quicker than a lot of other batters."

While captain Joe Root said before leaving England that Warner's comparison to war was "extreme", veteran Broad acknowledged teams needed characters like him to make them great.

"He's someone that drives teams forward," Broad said of Warner.

"He's one of those blokes who is not that enjoyable to play against, but if he's in your team you love him."

"You have characters like that in most successful sports teams, don't you?"



Former Pakistan captain and hard-hitting batsman Shahid Afridi (R) shares a light moment with his Dhaka Dynamites teammate Kumar Sangakkara during a training session at the BCB Academy yesterday. Afridi missed the first leg of the BPL in Sylhet but will be part of the holders when the second-leg of the Bangladesh Premier League starts in Dhaka tomorrow.

Foreigners can spark our hunger: Shakib

SPORTS REPORTER



Premier Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan admitted that foreign players have outshone the locals in the first-leg of the on-going Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). But the Dhaka Dynamites captain hoped that it would only spark the hunger of the local players to come to the party in the second leg starting in Dhaka tomorrow.

"Yes it is true that the foreigners have been performing better than the locals but one can only hope that this will push the others to find the drive and improve themselves accordingly so that they may pose the same kind of threat," Shakib told reporters after a promotional event at a hotel yesterday.

The most sought-after cricketer has become the Bangladesh brand ambassador of OXY, a popular men's cosmetic brand and a wing of Rohto-Mentholum Limited.

After being ushered in by a guard of honour with signature bats in a colourful ceremony that solidified him as the captain's special icon, the focus soon shifted to more demanding issues normally associated with the professional cricketer and Shakib happily complied with the media's bombardment of questions ranging from the BPL to the upcoming home series against Sri Lanka.

The barrage of questions began with the spectacular start of Sylhet Sixers and their equally impressive home ground.

"The Sixers are enjoying a great start and they will surely look to continue that. The stadium is

just great, it is a wonderful place to play and I hope to see international fixtures take place there soon," the Tigers' T20 captain said.

He also faced the obvious question regarding an ugly spat between Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Subashis Roy during a BPL game in Sylhet, which eventually went viral on social media. Although Mashrafe made every effort to pass the episode with the young pace bowler, the question of respect for the seniors, or the lack of it, seems to keep on circulating.

But Shakib played a flat batted shot when asked if the respect, which has been a hallmark in the past, has diminished now.

"No, not at all. But as a cricketer I have only one concern and that is their [the players'] performances on the field. All other personal matters are theirs to deal with personally," he said.

Regarding the upcoming home series against Sri Lanka, he seemingly implied that it could be a sort of redemption for the Tigers after their dismal outing in South Africa last month.

"Well I want and expect the best from us and that's what the nation expects as well so it is a crucial test for us and we look forward to giving it our best. Even Barcelona and Real Madrid have slumps but they recover and so can we," he explained.

He also informed that he will be flying for the UAE on November 12, and will subsequently miss a few BPL fixtures, to practice with his T10 franchise ahead of the tournament on December 8.

Asked where he would be heading from the hotel he said 'practice' with an inquisitive smile on his face.



All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has become the Bangladesh brand ambassador of OXY, a popular Japanese men's facewash brand. He signed a commercial deal with Rohto-Mentholum (Bangladesh) Limited at a city hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Windies postpone T20I series in Lahore

PTI, Karachi

West Indies have postponed their visit to Pakistan for a three-match Twenty20 with the leading Caribbean players expressing concerns about their security in the country, the sources have claimed.

The PCB sources said the tour will now be planned next year when a window is available to both the teams even as the Pakistan Cricket Board has made no official comment on the fate of the tour.

"Some of the players were reluctant to tour when the West Indies Board spoke to them. Seniors like Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard and Dawyne Bravo made it clear they would not be available for the series if it went ahead," one source said.

"Even the West Indies Players Association (WIPA) has concerns despite being sent the

report of the security company hired by the ICC to inspect security situation and arrangements in Pakistan," the source added.

After inspection visits and positive reports of the security experts, World Eleven had come to play three T20 matches in Lahore in September and Sri Lanka Board also sent its team, albeit, a depleted one to Lahore for a lone T20 on October 29.

"But apparently even the World Eleven and Sri Lanka team tours were not enough to lay to rest the concerns of some West Indies players," the source said.

Another source said since West Indies had to go to New Zealand from November 25th and the smog and foggy conditions in Lahore led to the postponement of the tour.

"But it will take place eventually as the West Indies cricket board have not backed out and are committed to making the tour, the source said.

'Warner is the danger man'

AFP, Sydney



England paceman Stuart Broad has pinpointed David Warner as Australia's danger man in the Ashes series, while admitting a begrudging respect for his aggressive mentality.

The pugacious opener fired up the tourists last month by comparing playing against England to "war" and said he planned to take "some sort of hatred" into the Tests, which start in Brisbane on November 23.

Broad said Warner, known for his fiery nature on the field, was a perennial danger.

"I think someone like Warner you've got to try bowl a lot of balls at him with the new ball, because it's your best chance of getting him out,"

he told the Sydney Morning Herald Thursday.

"(But) you have to have a plan B, and with someone like Warner you have to go to plan B quicker than a lot of other batters."

While captain Joe Root said before leaving England that Warner's comparison to war was "extreme", veteran Broad acknowledged teams needed characters like him to make them great.

"He's someone that drives teams forward," Broad said of Warner.

"He's one of those blokes who is not that enjoyable to play against, but if he's in your team you love him."

"You have characters like that in most successful sports teams, don't you?"

Ball collapses after four balls

REUTERS, Melbourne

England pace bowler Jake Ball has sent an injury scare through his team as their Ashes run-up after injuring his ankle during their game against a Cricket Australia XI in Adelaide on Thursday.

Ball bowled just four balls of his fourth over before he limped off Adelaide Oval, where the tourists are playing a pink ball match in preparation for the five-Test series, which begins at the Gabba in Brisbane on Nov. 23.

The 26-year-old Ball collapsed in his delivery stride after he twisted his right ankle during the game and was able to walk off the field unassisted, but was limping