



Jofra Archer (R) enjoyed himself with some cheerful playfighting in training yesterday, but England's pace spearhead will be counted on to KO the Afghanistan batting line-up in their World Cup encounter today.

PHOTO: AFP

Roy to miss next two games

AFP, Manchester

England opener Jason Roy will miss the hosts' next two World Cup matches with a torn left hamstring, the England and Wales Cricket Board said on Monday.

Roy, who suffered the injury while fielding during England's win over the West Indies on Friday, has been ruled out of Tuesday's group fixture against Afghanistan at Old Trafford and Friday's match against Sri Lanka at Headingley.

Meanwhile, England captain Eoin Morgan, who suffered a back spasm in the field against the West Indies and did not bat in that match, will be assessed ahead of the Afghanistan clash but expects to play against the tournament minnows.

"England batsman Jason Roy, who left the field during West Indies' innings in the ICC Cricket World Cup fixture on Friday due to left hamstring tightness, underwent an MRI scan on Saturday in London," a team spokesman said.

"The MRI confirmed that Roy has suffered a hamstring tear.

"He is set to miss England's next two

matches in the ICC Cricket World Cup against Afghanistan (18 June) and Sri Lanka (21 June)."

As for Morgan's condition, the spokesman said: "The spasm has settled down and will be monitored over the next 24 hours ahead of England's next match against Afghanistan tomorrow (Tuesday) at Old Trafford, Manchester."

Morgan, speaking at a pre-match press conference at Old Trafford on Monday, said he intended to play against Afghanistan after coming through an indoor net session at Lancashire's headquarters ground.

"It's drastically improved," he said of his back. "I've had a hit in the nets and I'm aiming to play tomorrow."

"I've had extra treatment and medication in the last two days which has helped me no end."

"I had a small hit in the nets and hopefully I'm fit to play," the middle-order batsman added. "If the game was today I think I could play. It all depends on how I pull up in the morning."

MR EFFICIENT

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Morgan wary of an upset as England face Afghanistan

ICC

Afghanistan will still win games at this World Cup, according to Eoin Morgan, and that belief has made the England captain hyper-aware of avoiding a slip-up at Old Trafford.

Afghanistan have four defeats from four matches so far but have shown plenty of glimpses of the talent they possess - especially in a narrow loss to Sri Lanka.

Conversely, the host already have three victories to their name and also beat the Afghans by nine wickets in a warm-up match ahead of the World Cup 2019.

Yet Morgan is adamant his side won't take anything for granted despite being favourites and believes Gulbadin Naib's troops have plenty of weapons that could cause problems.

"I'd like to think we've been red-hot favourites in a couple of games already and underlining our preparation is the humility and gratitude with which we go about things," he said.

"That's an important part of trying to beat teams like Afghanistan. We went through the same process for the warm-up game."

"They are a strong side and I've said before that they will beat teams at this World Cup. They haven't done it yet, so that makes the game a tougher challenge."

"Their three spinners are their strongest



AFGHANISTAN CAPTAIN GULBADIN NAIB

"The warm-up match doesn't mean a great deal. This week has been very important for us - we've had a lot of space between games, which has allowed us to come in extremely fresh."

England beat West Indies by eight wickets last time out but suffered injury scares to both Morgan and Jason Roy.

The skipper is confident he will be fit enough to face Afghanistan, having recovered from the back spasms that sidelined him, while Roy - who made a brilliant 153 against Bangladesh - has torn a hamstring and will miss at least the next two matches.

James Vince will come into the side and

open the batting alongside Jonny Bairstow in Roy's absence but Morgan insists the 28-year-old is still a key part of England's plans.

"I certainly believe Jason will play again in this tournament," he added. "He's out of the next two games but we'll see after that."

"He might be back against Australia or maybe for the following game. It depends how he responds to treatment and medication."

"We'll go on a game-by-game basis with him depending on where we are in the tournament and how crucial it is to win the games."

"He's a huge part of what we've been doing and is in the best form of his life. He's very important to us."

INFO ZONE

HEAD TO HEAD IN WORLD CUP

ENGLAND		AFGHANISTAN
1	WIN	0
0	LOSS	1
0	TIE	0
0	NR	0

HEAD TO HEAD IN ODIS

ENGLAND		AFGHANISTAN
1	WIN	0
0	LOSS	1
0	TIE	0
0	NR	0

LAST MEETING

March 13 2015 at Sydney Cricket Ground
England won by 9 wickets (with 41 balls remaining) (D/L method).

KEY PLAYERS



ENGLAND		AFGHANISTAN
Ben Stokes	Bat/Bowl Ave	Rashid Khan
37.66/40.83		22.10/15.86
94.68/40.0	Bat/Bowl Strike Rate	103.60/24.0
16	50s	4
3	100s	0
102*	HS	60*
6.11	Econ	3.95
5/61	BBM	7/18
2335/68	Runs/Wickets	862/128
0/25, 10*	Last Match	35, 0/45

West Indies wicketkeeper-batsman Shai Hope continued his phenomenal form against Bangladesh in ODIs as the right-hander was dismissed just four runs shy of a century in a World Cup match yesterday. The 25-year-old top scored for the Windies with a 96, about one-and-a-half runs above his career average against the Tigers. In 121 balls, he hit four fours and a six. He was sent back by Mustafizur Rahman, being denied his third hundred against the Tigers, but it was riding on Hope's knock that West Indies managed to post a huge 321-run total.

component. It's a challenge we'll have to overcome. Pretty much every time we play against an Asian team, that's the case.

"Look over to their nets and they are practising against quicks, while in our net we're practising against spin. It's a challenge for both.

Bloop ICE CREAM

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GOLDEN HARVEST

Pakistan were scared of India's teamwork, says Younis

AGENCIES, Manchester

Former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis believes the only way Sarfraz Ahmed and Co can stay alive in the World Cup is by adding sheer pace to their bowling arsenal.

Waqar, a former Pakistan captain and head coach, has watched helplessly as the national team has slumped to ninth place on the World Cup points table.

He was also clearly unhappy to see Pakistan putting up a timid show in their key World Cup clash against India at Old Trafford on Sunday. India comfortably won the rain-affected game by 89 runs.

"In the last few years, there's been a massive difference India and Pakistan - and again it showed at Old Trafford on Sunday," Waqar wrote in his column for the ICC.

"Pakistan are still trying to rely on talent alone, while with India it's all about teamwork. They all know their roles, and they execute them superbly."

"We had good sides in the 1990s, but now I think this India team intimidates Pakistan."

"When Pakistan teams head into these games, they are always under pressure and feel like they're the weaker team."

"That culture needs to change first, and then the fitness level needs to match the Indian players."

"Of course, Sarfraz got it wrong at the toss; especially when you're playing two spinners and you decide to bowl first."

"More than that though, I feel that they got it wrong with the ball in hand. They struggled to put the ball in good areas on a regular basis, and it was easy pickings for the Indian batsmen."

"India have very classy batsmen, let's not forget. They wait for the bad ball, and didn't have to do much against the Pakistan attack given the inconsistency in the length."

"Mohammad Amir was the only one who created a bit of pressure by bowling a good length."

"I feel English conditions actually suit him the most because there's always something there for him. He knows how to bowl on these pitches."

"Amir has come back with a bang and he's now bowling really well,

finding a nice rhythm.

"But elsewhere, that venom is not really there and the pace is down."

"I would now try and bring one of the youngsters back into the team. In this Pakistan bowling attack, there's no real pace apart from Wahab."

"When you look around at the other teams, they have guys that can bowl 140kph, so maybe Hasnain is the way to go up front with the new ball."

"The good thing is Pakistan now have one week off before the next game against South Africa."

"They'll have time to go back and reflect on the mistakes that have been made, and what needs to change."

"The South Africans are also down, so it's a match between two teams that have not really justified their potential yet."

"All is not lost, despite the blow of this latest defeat. I feel that if Pakistan win all four games, there's still a chance they go through."

"The chances of that happening are low now, but it's simply a case of starting to win games first and then see where you are later in the tournament."

FACTS

This is only the second time that the two sides -- Afghanistan and England -- will meet. The last time they met was during the 2015 World Cup, where England won comfortably by nine wickets.

Afghanistan's Hamid Hassan is the only bowler to take a wicket against England. The right-arter returned with figures of one for 17 in five overs when the two sides last met.



England's Joe Root has scored two centuries at this World Cup and will be hoping he has the chance to add a third in today's match against Afghanistan. PHOTO: AFP