



Perhaps the reason why India skipper Virat Kohli looks so downcast is because a downpour halted their World Cup semifinal match against New Zealand at Old Trafford in Manchester yesterday. With the Kiwis struggling on a sub-par 211 for five in 46 overs before rain stopped play, Kohli's disappointment could be well justified. (Inset) As expected though, India fans turned up in numbers to support the side but were also eventually left out in the rain.

PHOTO: REUTERS/AFP

DIARY

No table without Tigers

SAKEB SUBHAN from Manchester

Fans may still be reeling from Bangladesh's group-stage exit from the World Cup, but the real impact is borne by the touring journalists who are reduced to being nomads when the object we are chasing, the Bangladesh cricket team, is no longer setting the pace.

During Bangladesh's matches, we did not even think about whether we would get prime position inside the press box. The overflow -- a space created with makeshift benches installed in the gallery -- had not really entered our consciousness as we were from the country being represented by the team on the field.

Yesterday, covering the semifinal between India and New Zealand, most Bangladeshi journalists were shunted to the overflow. Yours truly had gotten special treatment. Lining up at the Old Trafford press box to see the seat allocations, beside this reporter's name was written 'no table'. The lady behind the desk smiled apologetically and said, 'Looks like you have no table.'

The man sitting beside her was a little less sympathetic. 'Looks like you will have to sit on his [my fellow Bangladeshi reporter who had gotten a table] lap.'

Soon we were guided from the comforts of the press box out into the gallery. I sat desk-less among the spectators, who had started loudly cheering New Zealand wickets when the match started. A pair of headphones had rarely been appreciated with as much sincerity.

The only upside was that Jasprit Bumrah's bowling looked even more impressive closer to the ground level. The downsides: the noise, the threat of sixes crashing through laptop screens and the rain that, besides stopping the match, may also stop my laptop.

The rest of this was written under the cover of the media centre lobby and the last 10 overs of New Zealand's innings watched on a flat-screen television. Even if there is no rain in the England-Australia semifinal in Birmingham tomorrow, there is the threat of overflowing beverages of enthusiastic Aussie spectators.

The Tigers have never been more sorely missed.

The Export Leader

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Walsh, BCB part ways

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have officially announced that they will not renew the contract with Courtney Walsh for the Bangladesh team bowling coach position.

The four-year contract with the West Indies legend will expire after the conclusion of the ICC World Cup 2019. The former Jamaican fast bowler was appointed as the Tigers' bowling coach back in August 2016.

"Our contract with Courtney Walsh, which was until the World Cup, has expired and we are not going to continue with him," BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury told reporters yesterday.

A lot of expectations were placed on Walsh ever since he signed a deal with the BCB to replace Heath Streak with hopes of taking Bangladesh's fast bowling department to new heights.

However, there did not seem to be any significant improvements during Walsh's tenure and it should also be noted that it was the Tigers' fast bowling which was one of the weakest departments of the game for Bangladesh in their just concluded World Cup campaign.

There were expectations that Bangladesh's fast bowling department would get a big boost with Walsh's presence. Walsh had retired from cricket in 2001 as the leading wicket taker in Tests of the time.

Disappointingly though, it was under Walsh that Bangladesh began to play with even just one fast bowler in the line-up in the longest format of the game at home, which was frustrating sight for any team, despite having one of the all-time best fast bowlers in the dressing room as a mentor.

In addition, there have not been any visible improvements to the Tigers' bowling display even away from home and so, questions started to rise over Walsh's inability to bring out new fast bowlers.

With the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka slated for later this month, the BCB informed that they have already begun the process to find new coaching staff with the Walsh era with Bangladesh crickets ending on a disappointing note.

The illusion of taking action

SAKEB SUBHAN from London

In the aftermath of an ultimately disappointing World Cup campaign which saw Bangladesh finish eighth in the 10-team table, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced on Monday that they would be parting ways with coach Steve Rhodes even though the Englishman's contract was till the 2020 World Twenty20. No official reason was offered, reviving old questions about the board's processes when selecting and ejecting coaches. That, and the treatment meted out to legendary bowling coach Courtney Walsh, who learned of his contract not being renewed through media leaks before BCB made the decision official yesterday, may well mean that high-profile names will not be lining up to fill the vacancy.

By the time Rhodes came on as coach at the start of the tour of West Indies in June last year, the presence of the five senior cricketers and the experience accrued over the Chandika Hathurusingha years had seen an evolution in the Bangladesh head coach's role.

The decision to informally institute Bangladesh's Big Five -- skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, vice-captain Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad -- as team leaders was taken when, after the premature resignation of Hathurusingha in October 2017, BCB president Nazmul Hassan had said that the seniors could look after the team while they were looking for Hathurusingha's replacement. In the interim -- seven months passed between Hathurusingha's premature exit and Rhodes's appointment -- the coach's role was filled in a stopgap

capacity by Walsh and BCB director and former captain Khaled Mahmud.

Even after Rhodes's appointment, the hybrid management style persisted, and it was evident in press conferences where the coach often said that there was not much he had to do to manage the seniors -- hinting that it was more of a partnership than a coach-player relationship. Yet, it was Rhodes who paid the price for Bangladesh's poor World Cup.

Having taken the job on June 7, 2018, the highlight of Rhodes's tenure was Bangladesh's maiden multi-team ODI trophy win in Ireland in May this year and the nadir was his first assignment -- when Bangladesh were bundled out for 43 on way to being whitewashed in the Test series in West Indies. On balance, in 13 months, there has not been sufficient evidence

for his appointment nor has there been iron-clad reasons for discontinuation.

Not long after his appointment, murmurs did the rounds that some in the team were not happy with his management style, which was in stark contrast to the officious style of Hathurusingha, which also displeased some in the team. If the players' growing displeasure played a role in the decision, it has to be asked whether players -- temporary representatives of a permanent team -- have been paid too much heed in deciding on personnel who may well outlast them.

Reports had also emerged that the decision to tell Mohammad Mithun to hit out in the World Cup match against New Zealand, which Bangladesh lost narrowly by two wickets, was taken by Rhodes -- a decision that proved misguided in light of how the pitch played at The Oval. That one



Steve Rhodes (L) saw his contract as Bangladesh head coach cut short on mutual grounds following the Tigers' disappointing World Cup campaign in England while fast bowling coach Courtney Walsh's contract will not be renewed.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

I am always prepared [to take up coaching] but I don't know yet.

Coaching is my profession where the board has given me the responsibility once but I am yet to decide whether I will work as an interim again or not.

At the same time it also depends on the board's decision whether they will appoint me or not.

KHALED MAHMUD
BCB DIRECTOR

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INDIA-NEW ZEALAND SCOREBOARD

New Zealand	R/B 4s/6s
Guptill c Kohli b Umrah	1/14 0/0
Nicholls b Jadeja	28/51 6/0
Williamson c Jadeja	
b Chahal	67/95 6/0
Taylor not out	67/85 3/1
Neesham c Karthik	
b Pandya	12/18 1/0
De Grandhomme	
c Dhoni b Kumar	16/10 2/0
Latham not out	3/4 0/0
Extras: (lb-4, w-13)	17
Total: (For 5 wkt in 46.1 overs)	211
Did not bat: Santner, Ferguson, Henry, Boulton.	
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-69, 3-134, 4-162, 5-200.	

Bowler O M R W

Kumar	8.1	1	30	1
Umrah	8	1	25	1
Pandya	10	0	55	1
Jadeja	10	0	34	1
Chahal	10	0	63	1

India: Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Virat Kohli (capt), Rishabh Pant, MS Dhoni (wkt), Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah (ENG), Richard Kettleborough (ENG)

TV umpire: Rod Tucker (AUS)

Match referee: David Boon (AUS)

There has been a major shake-up in Bangladesh's coaching staff following the Tigers' ICC World Cup campaign, where they eventually finished eighth, as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is desperately looking for a change in the dressing room.

The BCB had already announced that they will not continue with head coach Steve Rhodes, whose contract was till the 2020 World T20. In addition, the board will not renew their contract with bowling coach Courtney Walsh either.

There were talks over whether the board would continue with fielding coach Ryan Cook, physio Thibian Chandamohan and spin bowling coach Sunil Joshi with Bangladesh scheduled to take part in a three-match ODI



series in Sri Lanka later this month.

Meanwhile news arrived that former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud is going to take up the role of interim coach for Bangladesh for the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka.

Mahmud, who has worked as the Tigers' interim coach before, was previously the team manager in the just concluded World Cup campaign. However, according to Mahmud, he does not want to take on the responsibility of an interim coach repeatedly.

"Even I also have to think about it [becoming the interim coach]. I don't want to

take up the job as the interim coach for one series repeatedly. I think it won't be good for me," Mahmud told reporters yesterday.

According to sources, Mahmud has been looking for a long term role for at least one year.

"I am always prepared [to take up coaching] but I don't know yet. Coaching is my profession where the board has given me the responsibility once but I am yet to decide whether I will work as an interim again or not. At the same time it also depends on the board's decision whether they will appoint me or not," he said.

The BCB have already given the go-ahead to Mahmud to take charge during the upcoming series in Sri Lanka, which is set to take place from July 27 to 31.

It was also learnt that Shakib Al Hasan and a few other players have requested a break from the Sri Lanka tour. However, according to chief selector Minhajul Abedin, they are yet to receive any official requests from the players and informed that the selectors are going to form the best possible team for the series.

For someone playing just his second game in this edition of World Cup, India's Ravindra Jadeja never looked to be lacking in confidence as the all-rounder remained economical till rain halted their semifinal match against New Zealand at the Old Trafford in Manchester yesterday. Jadeja had put an end to a 68-run -- the highest of the day -- second-wicket stand between Kiwi batsmen Henry Nicholls and Kane Williamson when he breached through the defences of the former with a length ball at middle

and leg that turned sharply to knock Nicholls' stumps out. Although that was the only wicket he scalped on the day, the 30-year-old was only hit for two boundaries and gave just 34 runs in his 10-over spell.

RAHIM STEEL

RAHIM STEEL
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