



SPORT



6s	4s
353	1847
MOST 6s : HIT BY A PLAYER	MOST 4s : HIT BY A PLAYER
EOIN MORGAN	ENGLAND
022	022
MOST 4s : HIT BY A PLAYER	MOST 4s : HIT BY A PLAYER
ROHIT SHARMA	INDIA
067	067

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RHODES goes silently

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Bangladesh national cricket team head coach Steve Rhodes yesterday visited the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) headquarters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur to complete the remaining formalities before leaving for England yesterday.

Rhodes was generally amiable with the media during his 13-month stint but he was not ready to say anything regarding his departure yesterday. In a surprise move the BCB parted ways with the Englishman just after Bangladesh's World Cup campaign ended.

The BCB have not explained the exact reason behind their decision, saying only that they had a mutual understanding about Rhodes' early exit. BCB president Nazmul Hassan however told reporters in London on Wednesday that: 'Each individual has different styles; I am not saying that his style was bad. But there are problems when mentalities don't match with us. Which is why we were thinking.'

Hassan also expressed joy over the way Bangladesh grabbed the attention of the world's cricket fraternity through impressive performances in the World Cup.

"We had some internal issues which we completed today [Thursday]," BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury told reporters yesterday. When asked to evaluate Rhodes' contribution, Chowdhury said they had some good results during his tenure.



The Export Leader

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From cynicism to enjoyment

SAKEB SUBHAN from Birmingham

Before the World Cup began, West Indies legend Viv Richards said during a pre-tournament function that somewhere along the line, favourites England would mess it up. That was the general consensus; no matter how good they look, the three-time runners-up would find a way out of the tournament. When they lost successive matches to Sri Lanka and Australia in the league phase, it seemed that the time to exit had arrived. When it emerged that Australia would be their semifinal opponents, it was widely assumed that that would be it.

But the England who have often failed in crunch moments in the World Cup never showed up. In a ruthlessly aggressive display, they brushed aside the Aussies -- who had never been beaten in a semifinal

before -- with plenty of time and effort to spare. As the Edgbaston crowd sang popular songs in unison and cheered every run that reduced the gap between England and a first World Cup final since 1992, it seemed that the long-held cynicism surrounding the team was also dissipating.

"Everybody out there on the field and even in the changing room loved every ball that was bowled," Morgan said after the eight-wicket win. "There was no lack of commitment, application and we had a bit of a day out."

The Irish-born Morgan was not around when the side were routine also-rans in World Cups in the 1990s and 2000s, but said that he understood the cynicism and saw it as a national trait.

"I think we're quite cynical people, who never quite give people credit when it's due," said Morgan with a smile. "There's always a different side to it. We grow up around it. It is the way we are and we sometimes enjoy it too much."

"I think us, as a team, we have learnt to enjoy ourselves, particularly days like this, even if they don't go well. If you had offered us the position to play in a final

the day after we were knocked out of the 2015 World Cup, I would have laughed at you."

England were knocked out of the group stage of the 2015 World Cup after a defeat to Bangladesh in Adelaide. Morgan, who started his captaincy stint in 2015, had said earlier in the tournament that the early exit had caused a rethink of their ODI cricket and created the fearless team that regularly scores over 300.

The media hype surrounding English teams is always high, and yesterday being exactly a year after England were booted out of the 2018 FIFA World Cup, a journalist asked Morgan whether the Cup 'was coming home'.

"I wouldn't get too carried away yet. It is obviously a very exciting time for everybody and ourselves included. I think giving ourselves the opportunity for Sunday's final is brilliant. I think Sunday's not a day to shy away from, it's a day to look forward to, much like today. We have created the opportunity to play in a World Cup final. It will be a matter of the same again trying to produce everything that we can performance-wise, but enjoy the day."

RAHIM STEEL



Sharp, precise and on target -- that's how England right-arm quick Chris Woakes was during their World Cup semifinal match against Australia at Edgbaston in Birmingham yesterday. Woakes started by removing the dangerous David Warner for just nine when he squared up the left-hander with a back-of-a-length delivery that forced an edge off Warner's bat before being taken at slip. Woakes then compounded Australia's trouble at the top as he went through the defences of Peter Handscomb in the seventh over to leave Australia reeling on three for 14. Later on, Woakes also dismissed Mitchell Starc to finish with the impressive figures of three for 20 in eight overs.

We were totally outplayed: Finch

SPORTS REPORTER from Birmingham

Australia had come into the semifinal having beaten England in the group stage and with a record of never losing a World Cup semifinal in six prior appearances. Less than seven hours later, the five-time champions were played off the park by their old foes, who overhauled a sub-par target of 224 with a whopping 17.5 overs to spare.

It was the opening exchanges of each innings after Australia chose to bat at the toss that proved decisive. Player-of-the-match Chris Woakes and Jofra Archer reduced Australia to 14 for three inside seven overs, and that proved too much for the reigning champions to recover from. Then, in chase, Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow raced to a 124-run opening partnership in just 17.2 overs.

Aussie skipper Aaron Finch admitted that they had ceded too much ground in the early exchanges. "Definitely, in the first 10 overs of the game," he said when asked where the match was lost. "We know they were going to come really aggressive at us with the bat, so we had to be aggressive with the ball, we had to take or create 10 chances and take them as well, so it wasn't going to be a game, especially against England, that peters out into the 47th, 48th over. It was going to be ultra-aggressive and they got on top of us early with the bat."

Even when Australia were recovering through a 103-run fourth-wicket stand between Steve Smith and Alex Carey, England found a way back when leg-spinner Adil Rashid took two quick wickets to nip the recovery in the bud.

"But the damage was really done with the ball. That forced us to rebuild for such a long time and start to drag some momentum back and then, like I said, you lose a couple of quick wickets again, new batters starting, it is always tough against really good leg-spin and good quicks as well. So, all in all, we were totally outplayed all throughout the day."



England captain Eoin Morgan wasted no time setting off in celebration after scoring a boundary to complete their chase of a sub-par 224-run target set by Australia in the second semifinal of the World Cup at Edgbaston yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

"Today was close to a perfect performance. Chris Woakes and Jofra Archer bowled a hell of a spell. This final is a huge opportunity for us. Making the most of it would be brilliant but getting to the final alone is awesome"

Eoin Morgan
England Captain

SINGER

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AUSTRALIA-ENGLAND SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA	R/B	4s/6s		
Warner c Bairstow b Woakes	9/11	2/0		
Finch lbw b Archer	0/1	0/0		
Smith run out (Buttler)	85/119	6/0		
Handscomb b Woakes	4/12	0/0		
Carey c sub (Vince) b Rashid	46/70	4/0		
Stoinis lbw b Rashid	0/2	0/0		
Maxwell c Morgan b Archer	22/23	2/1		
Cummins c Root b Rashid	6/10	0/0		
Starc c Buttler b Woakes	29/36	1/1		
Behrendorff b Wood	1/4	0/0		
Lyon not out	5/6	0/0		
Extras: (lb-6, w-10)	16			
Total: (All out in 49 overs)	223			
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-10, 3-14, 4-117, 5-118, 6-157, 7-166, 8-217, 9-217, 10-223.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Woakes	8	0	20	3
Archer	10	0	32	2
Stokes	4	0	22	0
Wood	9	0	45	1
Plunkett	8	0	44	0
Rashid	10	0	54	3
ENGLAND	R/B	4s/6s		
Roy c Carey b Cummins	85/65	9/5		
Bairstow lbw b Starc	34/43	5/0		
Root not out	49/46	8/0		
Morgan not out	45/39	8/0		
Extras: (lb-1, w-12)	13			
Total: (For 2 wks in 32.1 overs)	226			
Did not bat: Stokes, Buttler, Woakes, Plunkett, Rashid, Archer, Wood.				
Fall of wickets: 1-124, 2-147.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Behrendorff	8.1	2	38	0
Starc	9	0	70	1
Cummins	7	0	34	1
Lyon	5	0	49	0
Smith	1	0	21	0
Stoinis	2	0	13	0

Result: England won by 8 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Chris Woakes.