



Mahmudullah Riyad, who recovered from a Grade 1 tear on his right calf muscle which he sustained during the World Cup, had a good practice with the bat during Tigers' first day of the training ahead of their Sri Lanka tour in Mirpur yesterday. Skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (inset) was in a jolly mood as he was seen having fun with former player Javed Omar during practice session.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Roy set to make England Test debut

AFP, London



England have given Jason Roy his first Test call-up to face Ireland after the Surrey opener played a key role in his country's historic World Cup triumph, but pace bowler Mark Wood will be sidelined for between four and six weeks.

Roy was a crucial part of England's first World Cup-winning campaign, with his return after missing three matches with a torn hamstring coinciding with the winning streak that carried them to the title.

South Africa-born Roy scored 443 runs in the World Cup, but England's selectors were keen to get him red-ball practice ahead of the Ashes series against old rivals Australia, which starts on August 1 at Edgbaston.

However, Durham's Wood, who has a left side strain, and Sussex pacer Jofra Archer, suffering from the same injury, were not selected for the Ireland clash.

Wood is expected to be out of action for four to six weeks following the injury he sustained in Sunday's final, leaving him certain to miss the start of the five-Test Ashes.

Roy's aggressive approach set the tone for England's World Cup run, which culminated in Sunday's thrilling final victory over New Zealand.

With England meeting Ireland at Lord's in a Test match next week -- scheduled for four days instead of the standard five -- Roy will be handed the chance to underline his ability to thrive in the longer form of the sport as well as in limited overs.

Assuming the 28-year-old is fit to start, it will be Roy's first first-class match since last November when he batted at number three for the England Lions against Pakistan A in Abu Dhabi, making 59 off 73 balls.

Uncertain Mahmud oversees Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER



At first glance, one might think that there is a club team training at the home of cricket in Mirpur with an apparent lack of intensity, as the cricketers were partaking in a casual outing.

Interestingly, it was the first day of the Tigers' three-day training camp which resumed yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National stadium in Mirpur before their departure for Sri Lanka on July 20 to take part in the three match ODI series.

Only half of the 14-member squad were present as skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mosaddek Hossain, Soumya Sarkar, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Mustafizur Rahman attended the training session.

Several members of the upcoming ODI tour in Mohammad Mithun, Mohammad Saifuddin, Sabbir Rahman, Anamul Haque Bijoy and Rubel Hossain are with Bangladesh A to play the first ODI against touring Afghanistan A. Taijul Islam is playing for BCB XI in India while Tamim Iqbal who is in Thailand for personal reason was also absent. Taijul will join the team directly from India, while Rubel, Sabbir, Mithun and Anamul, who are in Chattogram to play against Afghanistan A, will depart for Sri Lanka July 22.

The players participated in a fielding session before having a net session at the centre wicket as the batting consultant Wasim Jaffer worked on Soumya Sarkar's batting while Khaled Mahmud conducted the training session.

Meanwhile even Mahmud is still not sure of his role as he once again expressed his desire to become part of the team for a longer period.

"Yes, I did want to be in charge for a longer period but there haven't been any discussions with the board yet. Akram [Khan] bhai told me that

'now you look after the team as there is no coach of the team at the moment.' But still I haven't been notified officially by the board. But I have been a part of Bangladesh cricket for a long time and I always love to do anything for the team.

"So, as the team needs me, I am here. But definitely I will talk about this. I am actually not sure about my role in the team. Then again, we might even find a new coach in the meantime and that would be a really good news. But at the moment, I will be there in the upcoming 2-3 days practice sessions. I would have been with

the team as a manager if not as a coach so let's see," Mahmud told the reporters yesterday.

Despite the absence of Shakib Al Hasan and Liton Das for personal reasons, Mahmud however said that the setup is good enough and the Tigers will be looking to clinch the series.

The hangover of the ICC World Cup and the absence of a few players might be the reason for a rather laid-back approach in the training session but the intensity is expected to rise once all the players re-group again for the mission in Sri Lanka.



Khaled Mahmud -- still uncertain about his role in team -- was seen discussing with Wasim Jaffer (L), Bangladesh's batting consultant for the Sri Lanka tour, in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Stokes plays down redemption talk

AFP, London



Ben Stokes admitted memories of the off-field incident that threatened his career triggered his tears after England's historic World Cup triumph.

Stokes was found not guilty of affray following a street brawl during a night out in Bristol in 2017.

The all-rounder was banned and fined by the England and Wales Cricket Board after accepting a charge of bringing the game into disrepute.

Stokes was also stripped of the Test vice-captaincy and missed the Ashes tour, but he worked his way back from that chastening incident to enjoy a key role in England's first ever World Cup title.

After some impressive displays on the road to the final, Stokes cemented his place as an English cricket icon by scoring 84 not out and then starring in the Super Over that sealed Sunday's thrilling final win over New Zealand at Lord's.

"I won't look back and say I redeemed myself or anything like that - I'm an athlete

and a cricketer and it's what we are paid to do, to win trophies," Stokes told ITV's Good Morning Britain on Wednesday.

"It was coming back from all of that, it was tough. Getting back into cricket obviously massively helped straight after that."

"It was a stressful time for me, my wife, my family back home. I had amazing people around me, my teammates, friends, family. They have to take a lot of credit for helping me to get through that."

Stokes wept tears of joy on the Lord's pitch immediately after England won the World Cup and he revealed thoughts of his past had come flooding back.

"I got emotional there, at the end, and that was probably a culmination of lots of things, happiness that we won it and subconsciously thinking and remembering back to what I went through," he said.

Despite the team's euphoric celebrations following England's World Cup victory, Stokes insisted the team must start preparing for the Ashes Test series against old rivals Australia in August.



Inzy quits as chief selector

REUTERS, Karachi

Inzamamul Haq on Wednesday announced his decision to step down as Pakistan's chief selector when his contract expires on July 31.

Former Pakistan captain Inzamam, who was appointed to the role in April 2016, oversaw a period which included Pakistan's victory in the Champions Trophy two years ago. Inzamam's final assignment was to select the Pakistan squad for the World Cup, where the Sarfaraz Ahmed-led team finished fifth in the group stage and failed to qualify for the semifinals.

"After more than three years as chair of the Pakistan men's selection committee, I have decided not to seek a renewal of my contract," the 49-year-old Inzamam said in a statement.

"With the ICC World Test Championship, due to get underway in September, the ICC T20 World Cup in 2020 and the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023, I believe it is the right time for the Pakistan Cricket Board to appoint a new chief selector."

ICC could allow concussion substitutes

AGENCIES, London



The push for the use of concussion substitutes gained momentum after the unfortunate death of Australian cricketer Phil Hughes, who was struck on the head by a ball during a Sheffield Shield match in November 2014.

In a bid to make the sport safer for players, ICC is likely to introduce concussion substitutes for the first time in international cricket. The rule, if approved by the governing body, will be implemented in the upcoming Ashes Test series that starts from August 1.

An ESPNcricinfo report says that the issue will be discussed at the ICC annual conference, which is currently being held in London. The ICC annual conference will conclude on July 19.

The push for the use of concussion substitutes gained momentum after the unfortunate death of Australian cricketer Phil Hughes, who was struck on the head by a ball during a Sheffield Shield match in November 2014. The move comes as other sporting bodies are raising awareness about the short and long-term effects of a concussion.

Cricket Australia is among the cricket boards that already mandates teams to

keep concussion substitutes in domestic ODI tournaments and T20 leagues.

What the Cricket Australia policy says: Each team can have a concussion substitute.

- The policy says that if a medical practitioner at the match diagnoses a player with a concussion, the match referee needs to be informed and then the substitution can be made.

- A player cannot participate in the game after being substituted until cleared to play by a medical practitioner.

- A player cannot return to play on the same day he/she was diagnosed with having a concussion.

What ICC did in the World Cup During the recently-concluded Men's World Cup, the ICC had taken certain measures to ensure players didn't play with a concussion. Unlike earlier editions, every team had nominated a Team Medical Representative, while the cricket body provided both sides with one match-day doctor at every game.

Earlier this year during Sri Lanka's Test tour of Australia, Kusal Perera, and Dimuth Karunaratne were struck on the head and were taken to hospital midway during the match. However, due to the lack of a doctor in the Sri Lankan unit both the players were treated by members of the Australian medical staff.

Another Super Over should decide winner: Tendulkar

PTI, New Delhi



Sachin Tendulkar endorsed a second super over to decide the winner instead of considering the boundary count if such an extraordinary situation arises like it did in the World Cup final.

In a gut-wrenching final at Lord's on Sunday, England were adjudged the World Cup winners on the basis of their superior boundary count - 22 fours and two sixes to New Zealand's 16 - after both the regulation match and the ensuing Super Over ended in a tie.

"I feel there should be another Super Over to decide the winner, instead of considering the number of boundaries scored by both teams. Not just in a World Cup final. Every game is important. Like in football, when teams go into extra time, nothing else matters," Tendulkar told 100mb.

Current and former cricketers including Rohit Sharma, Gautam Gambhir and Yuvraj Singh, have questioned ICC's "ridiculous" rule on boundary count that decided the World Cup title.

After table-toppers India were knocked out of the World Cup after



New Zealand captain Kane Williamson (R) shakes hands with Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar as he receives his Player of the Tournament award after the World Cup final against England at Lord's on July 14.

PHOTO: AFP FILE

losing the semi-final to New Zealand, skipper Virat Kohli had suggested IPL-like playoffs instead of knockouts in the World Cup going forward.

Asked if the World Cup format needs to be changed in the knock out stages, Tendulkar said: "I think the two teams that finish at the top should

definitely have something going for them for having played consistently through the tournament."

During India's semifinal, former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni was sent at No. 7 with Hardik Pandya and Dinesh Karthik being promoted in the batting order.