



Having arrived in Sri Lanka the day before, the Bangladesh team went straight back business yesterday as they underwent a training session at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, where the Tigers will face the hosts in a three-match ODI series.

PHOTO: BCB

BD A continue dismal showing

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh A team, featuring a number of players selected for the Tigers' three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka, succumbed to a four-wicket defeat against their Afghan counterparts in the second of five one-dayers at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday.

This is their second consecutive loss against the same opposition, who registered a 10-wicket win in the previous match.

The presence of veteran cricketers like Imrul Kayes, Anamul Haque, Sabbir Rahman, Mohammad Mithun, Forhad Reza and juniors such as Afif Hossain, Abu Hider and Abu Jayed almost gave the side a national B team vibe. However, Afghanistan A hammered them yet again.

After being asked to bat, Imrul (40) and Anamul (26) provided a bright start before Mithun, who scored a team-high 94-ball 85, and Mohammad Naim strung together a 97-run third-wicket stand. Naim (49) fell

short of a fifty while Mithun departed soon after. Sabbir struck 35 runs off 38 balls as Bangladesh A posted 278 for nine.

Afghan opener Ibrahim Zadran struck a magnificent 149-ball 127, laced with seven fours and seven sixes, to see his side coast to a four-wicket win. Aside from 24-year-old spinner Mahedi Hasan, who conceded 34 runs in his 10 overs, all the other Bangladesh A bowlers went taken for runs. Shafiu Islam took two wickets while Abu Jayed and Hider bagged one each.

Forhad, Shabbir, Mithun and Anamul will depart for Sri Lanka today to join the rest of the Tigers' squad while Taijul Islam and speedsters Rubel Hossain and Taskin Ahmed rendezvoused with the squad yesterday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh A: 278 for 9 in 50 overs (Imrul 40, Anamul 26, Mithun 85, Naim 49, Sabbir 35; Janat 3-43, Niazai 3-48)

Afghanistan A: 281 for 6 in 49.1 overs (Gurbaz 21, Zadran 127, Ghani 26, Janat 24, Ashraf 36 not out; Shafiu 2-59)

Result: Afghanistan A won by 4 wickets.

Zimbabwe not coming

STAR SPORT DESK



Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC), which has been suspended by the International Cricket Council (ICC), has announced that the national team will not travel to Bangladesh for the triangular series that also included Afghanistan.

Zimbabwe were set to tour Bangladesh in September this year to play a T20 tri-series but their suspension will now see them miss out on their first international tour in the shape of the tri-nation tournament.

"Following the ICC meeting, we talked to their CEO and board president. Since the media release arrived on the 19th, we will make our decision in light of the current scenario. We will try to communicate with them to find out how things will turn out now.

"We took Zimbabwe onboard due to their request. We had identified that the series will be more competitive if it's a tri-nation series. Our commitment with Afghanistan will continue. Our sponsors are aware of the current situation," said Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury.

At the ICC annual conference which

concluded on Thursday in London, a unanimous decision was taken after they felt that Zimbabwe Cricket had not been able to provide a process for conducting free and democratic elections.

The ZC, in a statement on Saturday, notified its inability to stage domestic competitions or fulfil the obligations of the Future Tours Programme after ICC's suspension which also saw the freezing of funds for the cricket board.

"In all this, players and staff are bearing the brunt of the standoff and they might be forced to go for months or forever without their salaries and match fees," the ZC said in a statement.

Malinga to quit ODI cricket on July 26

AGENCIES, Colombo

Veteran seamer Lasith Malinga will end his ODI career on July 26 when Sri Lanka play Bangladesh in the first game of a three-match ODI series. He will continue to be available for T20 cricket.

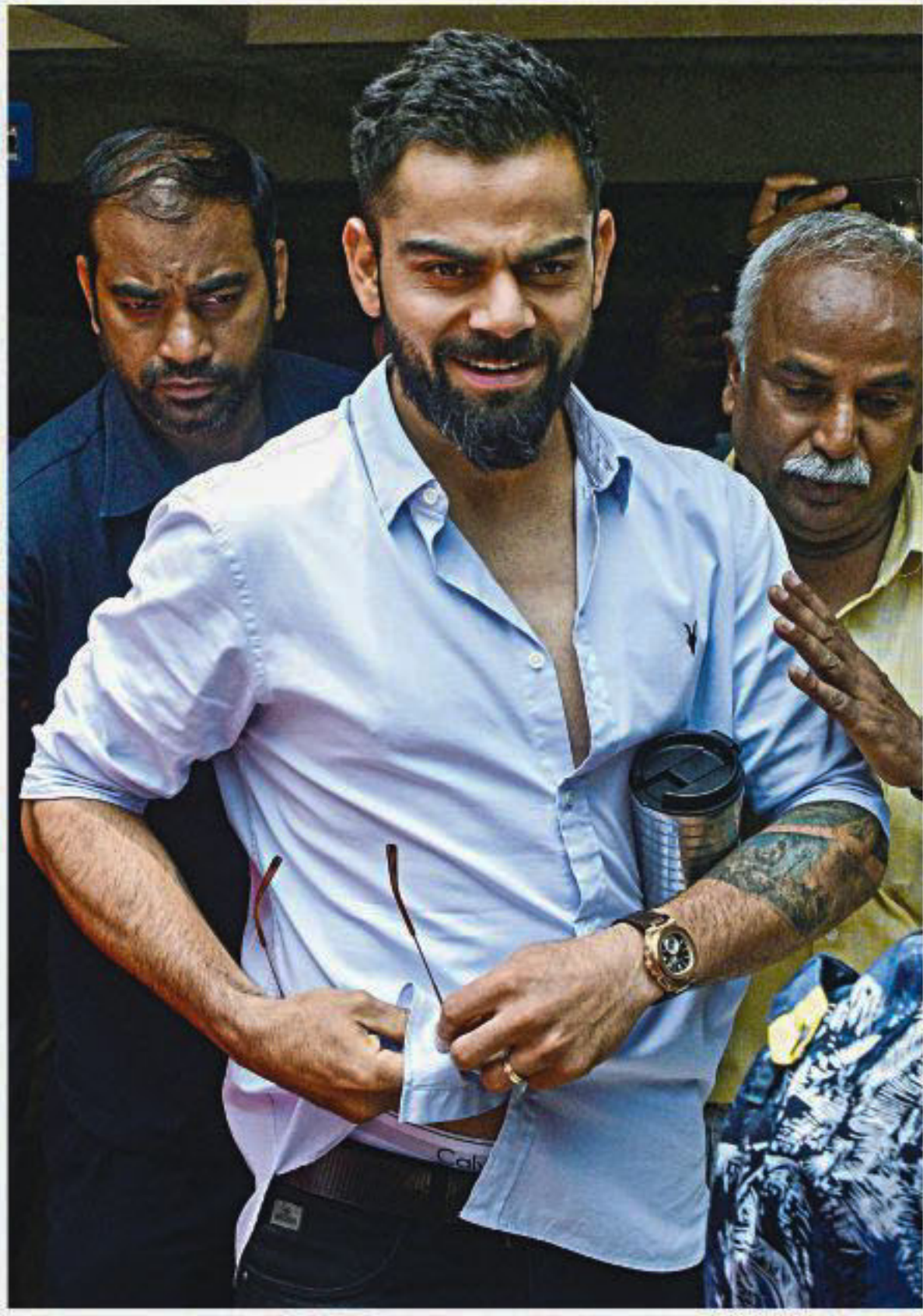
Sri Lanka will have three matches against Bangladesh on July 26, 28 and 31 at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo but Malinga will only appear in the first one, a decision he reached during the World Cup in England.

Even though selectors have asked him to play the entire series, Malinga confirmed that he will step out after the first game as feels tired.

He leaves as Sri Lanka's third highest wicket-taker in ODI cricket with a current tally of 335 wickets in 219 innings, but more significantly he will be remembered as a mercurial talent who captivated the cricketing world with his unique bowling action. Only Muttiah Muralidaran (523) and Chaminda Vaas (399) have taken more wickets than Malinga.

At 36, Malinga was Sri Lanka's top wicket-taker at the World Cup, claiming 13 scalps in seven innings and could have continued for a few more years in the format. But he believes it is the right time to leave, giving selectors space to nurture fresh talent leading up to the next World Cup.

One of just seven Sri Lankan bowlers to capture 100 or more wickets in Test cricket, Malinga battled a chronic knee injury for a prolonged period during his career and was forced to retire from the longer format in 2011 at the age of 27 to extend his presence in white-ball cricket.



India captain Virat Kohli exits the press conference where India's squad, sans Mahendra Singh Dhoni, was announced yesterday for their upcoming tour of West Indies, which will feature two Tests, three T20Is and three ODIs.

PHOTO: AFP

India inject fresh blood for WI tour

AFP, New Delhi



Indian selectors on Sunday announced fresh, young faces for the upcoming West Indies tour following the shock semifinal exit in the recent World Cup, and amid speculation about the future of veteran MS Dhoni.

India start a tour of the West Indies on August 3 that includes two Tests, three T20 internationals and three one-day internationals.

Chief selector MSK Prasad said Virat Kohli would continue to lead in all three formats against the West Indies.

The tour is seen as the start of India's rebuilding process after the World Cup disappointment.

Rishabh Pant, a young and flamboyant wicketkeeper batsman who was also a part of India's recent World Cup campaign, was named in all three squads for the upcoming tour.

The other youngsters are Shreyas Iyer,

Manish Pandey and the yet uncapped fast bowler Navdeep Saini, who were included in the white ball T20 and ODI squads.

The selectors also included uncapped leg-spinner Rahul Chahar for the T20s.

Prasad brushed aside speculation about the future of former skipper and wicketkeeper batsman Dhoni after his form dipped during the World Cup.

"Retirement is purely individual. Legendary cricketer like MS Dhoni, he knows when to retire," Prasad said.

"We don't need to discuss anything on it, because first of all he is not available. Second, we have already started grooming some youngsters."

Reports on Saturday said Dhoni was skipping the West Indies tour to spend two months in the army, but is not planning to walk away from the game.

There have been calls from some quarters for Dhoni, 38, to retire. He remains very popular across India for leading the side to 2011 World Cup triumph.



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Carey hopes to carry World Cup success

ICC



Having earned his praise for his performance at the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019, Australia wicketkeeper batsman Alex Carey welcomed the opportunity to work with Steve Waugh.

Carey was one of the standout performers in Australia's World Cup campaign, which he finished with 375 runs in nine innings, at an average of 62.50. But more than the numbers, it was his composure under pressure and range of strokes with which he impressed. It prompted Waugh to compare the youngster to Michael Hussey.

With the former Australia captain now mentoring the team in the early part of their Ashes campaign, Carey is making use of his availability to transition effectively into red-ball cricket. "If I'm half as good as him [Hussey], I'll be happy, he's an incredible player," Carey said. "Having Steve is amazing for the group. I think he's won nine [eight] Ashes [series as player] and been over here [England] and played a lot. To have the knowledge of Steve Waugh, one of the greatest Australian cricketers, be a part of this group is something we're really lucky to have."

"Personally, I just had a quick chat just getting to know Steve. It's quite early and he'll mentor us and have his spin on things. It's just great knowledge to have. Steve's been watching the one-day stuff and commenting a bit there. I've had a few little chats with him, but more moving now into the red ball and getting that focus of a longer format."

"The patience of the game, staying focused for longer, little things that will come out over the next few days. The more we train, the more you start talking, you start asking questions."

Some of Carey's best performances at the World Cup came in crunch situations. Against West Indies, he made 45 and partnered Steve Smith in a 68-run stand to put up the first signs of recovery, after Australia had sunk to 79/5. They ended up making 288.

Then, in Australia's next match, against India, he slammed an unbeaten 35-ball 55 against one of the tournament's best attacks. Australia were still comprehensively beaten, by 36 runs, but the ease with which Carey stroked the ball while the rest had struggled in a tall chase of 353, was eye-catching.

His 71 against New Zealand from No.7 was integral to lifting Australia from 92/5 to 243/9, which they eventually defended by 86 runs. Even in Australia's last game in the round-robin, against South Africa, he nearly helped them chase down 326 with a superb 85 off 69 balls.

All through, Carey kept a cool head and absorbed pressure while enticing with his strokeplay. "I guess different circumstances throughout the World Cup were really good learning experiences for me," Carey said. "Having Smith and Warner back in the side, and the experienced guys I got to bat with, you learn a lot out in the middle."

"Obviously, batting [at] seven, you hope to come in during the last 10, and if you don't, then you do your best through the middle to be busy, occupy the crease. At times, it felt just like play good cricket, and play a bit of Test cricket - absorb some pressure and rebuild at times. It was good to go through different circumstances and have some success."

'There was an error of judgement'

AFP, Colombo



The umpire who awarded England six runs from a freak overthrow in the last over of the World Cup final has admitted he made an "error" and should have given one run fewer, a report said Sunday.

A throw to the stumps deflected off the bat of a diving Ben Stokes as he tried to complete a second run and raced to the boundary, with Sri Lankan umpire Kumar Dharmasena awarding six.

Three balls later the scores at 50 overs were tied as England reached 241 all out replying to New Zealand's 241-8.

It took the nail-biting final to a Super Over which again was tied but England lifted the trophy by virtue of having scored more boundaries.

Critics, including former leading umpire Simon Taufel, said England should have been awarded five

runs, not six, as the batsmen had not crossed for the second run at the moment the ball was thrown.

Former Sri Lankan Test player Dharmasena told the Sunday Times he did not have the benefit of television replays which showed the batsmen had not crossed.

"I agree that there was an error of judgement when I see it on TV replays now," Dharmasena, who was umpiring the final with South Africa's Marais Erasmus, told the local Sunday Times.

"But we did not have the luxury of TV replays at the ground and I do not regret the decision I made."

Dharmasena said he signalled six after consulting the other match officials. "So, I did consult the leg umpire (Erasmus) through the communication system which is heard by all other umpires and the match referee," he told the newspaper.

"While they cannot check TV replays, they all confirmed that the batsmen have completed the second run. This is when I made



KUMAR DHARMASENA

my decision."

Taufel had told Fox Sports Australia the umpires made a "clear mistake" as the batsmen had not crossed for their second run.

But the Australian also defended the match umpires, who he

said had to make a complicated judgement, and said it would be "unfair" to say the decision altered the outcome of the tournament as it was impossible to now what would have happened in the final balls had five been awarded.