

## SPORT



Simon Helmot, who will be managing the Bangladesh High Performance team against their visiting Sri Lankan counterparts in a three-match one-day and two-match four-day series starting August 16th, imparts wisdom to his young troops in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: BCB

## BCB looks to future prospects

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh returned last Thursday after an abysmal Sri Lanka tour, where the Tigers were whitewashed in a three-match ODI series. Now there remains a gap of about three months -- if the planned tri-series against Afghanistan and Zimbabwe in September does not pan out -- until the Tigers return to international action with a tour of India, where a three-match T20I and a two-match Test series will begin on November 3.

However, in the meantime, the Bangladesh players will not be far away from cricket or cricketing activities as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) plan on conducting a conditioning camp with the Tigers' upcoming series in mind.

Chief selector Minhajul Abedin told The Daily Star yesterday that the

BCB will have a detailed discussion regarding the conditioning camp in a meeting today.

"We hope to start a conditioning camp after Eid. The likely date for the conditioning camp is August 18. There is a series with Afghanistan and Zimbabwe in September. We also have a number of T20s and Test matches ahead of us and so we will be doing a conditioning camp on a large scale featuring both the Test and T20 players. We will have a detailed discussion regarding this matter in a meeting tomorrow [today]," said Minhajul.

The Tigers need to regroup after a string of undesirable performances which began with a defeat to Pakistan in the last match of the World Cup -- where the Tigers finished eighth -- to the three-nil thumping by Sri Lanka in Colombo. According to Bangladesh's ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, one way to turn things around is to give the

players an appropriate amount of rest when needed and also grant opportunities to new faces to strengthen the squad.

However, according to Minhajul, Bangladesh is still a long way from being able to afford the luxury of rotating 3-4 key players at one go.

"In reality such a rotation is not possible. What we can afford is to rotate a maximum of 1-2 players. But the way players are involved in the high performance and A team matches, I think we can afford such luxury in the future when we have a number of prospects. But at this time, we cannot afford the luxury of such massive rotation," he explained.

Simon Helmot, head coach of Bangladesh's High Performance programme, agreed with Shakib's ideology. Simon, who will be managing Bangladesh's HP team in their upcoming series against a visiting Sri Lanka high performance

team which begins on August 16, said that it is high time for Bangladesh to give opportunities to new prospects.

"I 100 per cent concur with Shakib's comments that we might need ways and strategies to give players who deserve it opportunities, sooner rather than later. And that can be through a number of ways. Some players are out of form so we need to change those players or we can rest them also. So, we need to discuss this as coaches, selectors and cricket board. We could even fast track some of the talents you are watching here today."

Simon also mentioned how the nurturing process has led to the discovery of a few talents like Shadman Islam, Abu Jayed Rahi, Yasir Ali and Mohammad Saifuddin, who emerged through the system while adding that this needs to be done more vigorously.

## England take charge

AFP, Birmingham



Australia were left hoping for another major innings from Steve Smith as England took charge of the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston on Saturday.

When bad light cut short the third day's play, Australia were 124-3 in their second innings -- a lead of just 34 runs.

Former captain Smith, who had made a superb 144 in the first innings of the first Test since completing a 12-month ban for his role in last year's ball-tampering scandal in South Africa, was 46 not out.

Travis Head was 21 not out, with the pair's stand worth 49 runs.

Ashes-holders Australia, looking to win their first series away to England in 18 years, were struggling at 27-2 after openers David Warner and Cameron Bancroft -- also returning to Test duty after the ball-tampering scandal -- both fell in single figures.

In a match full of overturned decisions, England had to review umpire Joel Wilson's original not out verdict when Warner feathered a catch behind to wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow on eight to give Stuart Broad his 450th Test wicket.

Warner walked off to raucous chants of "Same old Aussies, always cheating" from England fans.

Birmingham-born off-spinner Moeen

Ali then had Bancroft lob a simple bat and pad catch to Jos Buttler at short leg.

Smith's arrival at the crease prompted a huge chorus of boos from England fans who earlier in the day had taunted him with chants of "Crying on the telly, we saw you crying on the telly" in a reference to the star batsman's emotional press conference in Sydney after he was sent home from South Africa.

Earlier, England opener Rory Burns batted for nearly eight hours for 133 -- his maiden Test hundred -- in an innings of 374 featuring half-centuries from captain Joe Root (57) and vice-captain Stokes (50).

England lost three wickets for four runs to slump to 300-8 -- a lead of just 16 runs.

But a ninth-wicket partnership of 65 between Chris Woakes, who made 37 not out on his Warwickshire home ground, and Broad (29) boosted their total.

Australia fast bowler Pat Cummins took 3-84 in 33 overs on a placid but wearing pitch and off-spinner Nathan Lyon 3-112 in 43.5 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 284

ENGLAND: First innings 374 (Burns 133, Root 57, Stokes 50, Woakes 37 not out, Broad 29; Cummins 3-84, Pattinson 2-82, Lyon 3-112, Siddler 2-52)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 124 for 3 (Khawaja 40, Smith 46 not out, Head 21 not out; Broad 1-26, Stokes 1-18)



Australia pacer Peter Siddle celebrates after dismissing England's Jonny Bairstow on the third day of the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

## India outplay Windies in T20 opener

AFP, Lauderdale

India defeated the West Indies by four wickets in the opening fixture of their three-match T20 International series at the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium in Florida yesterday.

Navdeep Saini starred on his senior international debut with three important wickets as India limited the West Indies to 95 for nine batting first.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: 95-9 in 20

INDIA: 98-6 in 17.2 overs

(Sharma 24; Narine 2-14)

Result: India won by 4 wickets.



India pacer Navdeep Saini had a dream start to his national team debut as he scalped three wickets to restrict West Indies to only 95 runs in the first T20I in Florida yesterday. India won the match by 4 wickets. PHOTO: BCCI

## Ottis Gibson linked to England job

AGENCIES, Cape Town

A couple of former Proteas coaches, as well as the incumbent -- Ottis Gibson -- are reportedly in the running to succeed England coach Trevor Bayliss when he vacates his position at the end of the Ashes after a four-year stint with the world champions.

According to the BBC, the list of candidates includes Gibson, as well as two of his predecessors -- Gary Kirsten and Pakistan mentor Mickey Arthur.

Like Bayliss, Gibson is on the back end of his contract with Cricket South Africa, and it is unclear if he will continue.

The Barbadian has experience with England, having had two stints as their bowling coach.

Speaking about the England job in July, Gibson denied being approached.

## 'Interested, but not now'

Ganguly says about coaching India

ICC



Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has said he will be unable to apply for India's coaching job at present, but revealed hopes of taking the role sometime in the future.

The Cricket Advisory Committee is in the process of deciding India's next head coach and are considering a number of applicants, including Ravi Shastri, the incumbent. Ganguly was part of the committee that hired Shastri in 2017 and when asked if he would consider being the coach himself, he did not hesitate.

"Definitely I'm interested, but not at this point of time," he told Press Trust of India. "Let one more phase go, then I will throw my name into the fray. Currently, I'm associated with too many things -- IPL, CAB [Cricket Association of Bengal], TV commentary. Let me complete this. But I will definitely put my [name in the] hat at some stage, provided I get selected. But definitely I'm interested. Not now, but in the future."

Ganguly was unsure who the next coach should be and suggested the team was better off concentrating on their tour

of the West Indies, given how strong the opposition can be on their day.

"West Indies in West Indies will be a lot stronger," he said. "T20 is their preferred format. They enjoy playing T20s, and they are the current world champions. The two matches in Florida will be tough games."

"Test matches will also be tough as they played very well against England. It won't be an easy West Indies tour as it was five years ago. India will be challenged. There are a lot of young players in the team."

India have a lot of youngsters in the squad for the Caribbean tour, especially in the limited-overs leg of the series, and Ganguly, who captained India in 195 international matches, said it was important the youngsters be bedded in by the time the 2020 T20 World Cup in Australia comes around next year.

"As I've said before, you want to see these young players get consistent opportunities," he said. "You keep saying horses for courses, but I feel don't judge a horse if you want to keep them on the course. Consistency is important for rhythm and confidence."

## 'Time is a bit of a healer'

Taylor says about World Cup loss

AGENCIES, Galle



New Zealand's senior batsman Ross Taylor believes that the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka where they will play two Tests and three T20s will give Black Caps an opportunity to recover from the 2019 World Cup final heartbreak.

New Zealand will play a three-day practice match against Sri Lanka Board Presidents XI before the first Test gets underway in Galle from August 14. The two-match series will also give them their first taste of the inaugural World Test Championship.

"Time's a bit of a healer and we've got new personnel who didn't play in the final," Taylor said.

"The Test Championship is exciting and just going over to Sri Lanka and playing test cricket ... it's a pretty hard place to play but we've had success in

the past and hopefully we can have success in the coming weeks.

"I'm excited. The Test Championship is a new concept. Names and numbers on your backs but Tests need something different and I believe this can give it a bit of a kickstart and live it up."

New Zealand are currently ranked second in the longest format of the game and have won their last five series. Taylor said his team won't take anything for granted against Sri Lanka.

"Rankings are nice but it's not something we go out to try and live up to or to maintain," he said.

"We're going out there to win first and foremost. Every game has something on it with the Test Championship. If you are good enough to be in the top two and make that final then we've done our job."

The Kiwis have included four spinners -- Mitchell Santner, Todd Astle, Will Somerville and Ajaz Patel

in their 15-man squad but Taylor expects pacers to play a key role as well.

"Obviously spin is going to play a bit part," he said. "We've played in the subcontinent a lot in the last little while and hopefully our experiences and the success we've had can translate into some wins over there as well."

"You've just got to take it series by series. We've picked four spinners but it's a very settled lineup. But don't underestimate how pace plays a part."

"We won there in 2012 and it was pace that did the majority of the damage. We've just got to assess the conditions once we get over there."

New Zealand will have to do well against Sri Lanka spinners if they want to end up on the right side of the result and Taylor said everyone will work hard on this aspect with the newly-appointed batting coach Peter Fulton.



New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, who finished as the player of the tournament at the 2019 World Cup, received a warm welcome upon arrival in Sri Lanka yesterday. PHOTO: ICC