

SPORT



Chandika return not on the cards

MAZHAR UDDIN

Speculation surrounding the identity of Bangladesh's new head coach has reached a peak after former South Africa coach Russel Domingo sat for an interview with the Bangladesh Cricket Board on Wednesday for the vacant post. A few other names have been doing the rounds with former New Zealand coach Mike Hesson one of the top candidates as it was learned that securing the services of the 44-year-old was a top priority for the BCB.

Some other names include Paul Farbrace, Dale Benkenstein and even the Tigers' former coach Chandika Hathurusingha.

It was thought for a while that the former Sri Lankan cricketer was a strong candidate, even though the 50-year-old left the position in 2017 to coach Sri Lanka with time still left in his contract with the BCB.

There was talk that the BCB would conduct a telephone interview with Hathurusingha, but The Daily Star understands that the Sri Lankan is not even in consideration for the post.

It was learned that during the last board meeting on July 27, almost all the directors present were against the rehiring of Hathurusingha.

Since then, there have been no further



discussions about the Sri Lankan potentially becoming Bangladesh's coach, although the BCB has tried to keep an option open by not officially ruling him out.

The reason behind the BCB's unwillingness to go back to Hathurusingha was because of his ongoing issues with Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), which has already affected his image. It is understood that the BCB does not want

to be engaged with someone who may well be embroiled in a legal battle with his current employer.

SLC had suspended Hathurusingha and appointed former fast bowler Rumesh Ratnayake as a temporary replacement for the upcoming New Zealand series.

SLC refused, however, to clarify whether Hathurusingha had been sacked.

There have been reports that Hesson is all set to become Bangladesh's new head coach. However, Hesson is also the frontrunner for the post of India's head coach along with Mahela Jayawardene and Tom Moody, and all will depend on whether the New Zealander lands that coveted post.

It has also been reported that Domingo was more interested in coaching the developmental squads in Bangladesh, but a source close to developments said that that is not the case and that the South African is in fact eager to take on the main role.

According to sources, the BCB is also not interested in former Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur, who was recently axed by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

So, it is all but certain that the Hathurusingha era is over for Bangladesh cricket and chances are high that the new person to take charge of the Tigers will be either one of Hesson or Domingo.

WHAT THEY SAID

'The Peaceful Warrior'

Teammates and opponents' tributes to Amla after retirement

Unreal career Hashim Amla! So many doubted you early on, but your fighting spirit, humility and incredible one of a kind talent took you to the top of the mountain and ultimately to one of the best players in the world and certainly I've ever seen. Congrats on an amazing career.
-- AB de Villiers

The great Hashim Amla has surprised the world with his announcement to retire from all forms of cricket, what a legend and what a great human being and great brand ambassador of the game respect to you wish you best of luck.
-- Shoaib Akhtar

The Peaceful Warrior!!! Congratulations on serving our country with distinction and humility young man. An absolute giant of the game and more importantly a fantastic role model for generations to come. Enjoy.
-- Ashwell Prince

Respect! No words to describe. Legend.
Mark Boucher

I see Hash has decided to declare for good. Mentally strong and great all-round batsman. Congrats on a wonderful career
-- Herschelle Gibbs

You have served your country with great distinction and been a source of inspiration for many youngsters @ amlahash! Wishing you a wonderful retired life. Good luck my friend.
-- Sachin Tendulkar

The Father figure of our team. So much wisdom, so much humility, always a smile on your face and has been the rock of the batting line up for as long as I can remember. Well done on your legendary career bud. THANK YOU !!! We definitely gonna miss you
-- Faf du Plessis

Being humble means recognizing that we are not on earth to see how important we can become, but to see how much difference we can make in the lives of others" You certainly have...One of the greats of the game has retired @amlahash We salute you.
-- Paul Adams

First time I played against @amlahash was in U-19s World Cup in New Zealand. showed the glimpse of his class by playing an outstanding inning against us, surely he finished his international career by being one of the greats of South African cricket. Happy #retirement brother #amlahash
-- Irfan Pathan

BCCI to comply with NADA

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket board has agreed to have their players tested by the country's anti-doping agency, a top government official said Friday, ending years of defiance.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had long voiced concerns about the quality of testing by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and relied on an independent service provider for sample collection.

But the recent back-dated suspension of teenage batsman Prithvi Shaw for a doping violation further pressure on the BCCI to come under NADA's ambit.

Sports secretary Radheshyam Jhulaniya said BCCI officials had told the government that they would abide by the rules which apply to all other sporting disciplines.

"We also said if (testing) kit (of NADA) is a concern, anything which is accredited by WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) we have no issue," Jhulaniya said.

"The second issue they raised was regarding the quality of dope testing -- dope control officers who collect samples. We told them that our dope control officers are well trained."

BCCI chief executive Rahul Johri, who met Jhulaniya to discuss the issue in New Delhi, said the board will "follow the law

of the land".
"We have raised quite a few issues which the sports secretary said will be addressed by them. We have agreed to bear the differential cost of high quality testing," Johri told reporters.

The move brings BCCI directly under the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) which could help International Cricket Council push the inclusion of cricket in the Olympics.

Indian cricket stars had resisted falling under NADA's purview due to a contentious 'whereabouts clause' regarding out-of-competition testing.

The clause requires every athlete to be available for testing on three specific dates in a year when they are not competing, inviting sanctions from WADA if they fail to comply.

"NADA will carry out the tests whenever and wherever they want," said Jhulaniya.

"World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) clause 5.2 gives the authority to the national anti-doping agency to carry all testing in its territory irrespective of the athletes' country."

West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell was banned for one year by the Jamaican Anti-Doping Agency for a whereabouts clause violation in January 2017.

Chandimal recalled for NZ Tests

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka on Friday recalled former skipper Dinesh Chandimal to the 15-member squad for the first Test against New Zealand, ending a six-month exile for the wicketkeeper-batsman.

The 29-year-old was dropped after a poor series against Australia and missed the South African tour of Sri Lanka which the home side won 2-0.

Sri Lanka also recalled Akila Dananjaya who had been suspended from international cricket over a suspect bowling action. He returns after remodelling his action.

The first Test against New Zealand starts Wednesday at Galle. No squad has been named yet for the second Test starting August 22 in Colombo.

New Zealand will also play T20s on August 31, September 2 and September 6 during their tour.

SQUAD: Dimuth Karunaratne (capt), Angelo Mathews, Dinesh Chandimal, Lahiru Thirimanne, Kusal Mendis, Kusal Perera, Niroshan Dikwella, Dhananjaya de Silva, Akila Dananjaya, Lasith Embuldeniya, Suranga Lakmal, Lahiru Kumara, Oshada Fernando, Lakshana Sandakan, Vishwa Fernando.



HASHIM AMLA



JOFRA ARCHER

Archer in, Moeen dropped

AFP, London

World Cup-winner Jofra Archer is in line to make his eagerly-awaited Test debut after being included in England's 12-man squad for next week's second Ashes Test against Australia at Lord's, while Moeen Ali was left out on Friday.

Fast bowler Archer could replace James Anderson after England's all-time leading wicket-taker was ruled out with a calf injury that restricted him to sending down just four overs in a 251-run first-Test defeat by Ashes holders Australia at Edgbaston.

Archer missed that match because of a side problem but has since proved his fitness in a second-team fixture for county side Sussex against Gloucestershire, taking 6-27 and hitting a quick-fire century.

England also have another seam-bowling option in Surrey left-armed Sam Curran.

Fast bowler Olly Stone, who was in the squad for the first Test but did not play, has been ruled out with a back injury.

Meanwhile, off-spinner Moeen has been dropped, with left-armed Jack Leach recalled into the squad ahead of Wednesday's start at Lord's.

Moeen was omitted after a miserable

match at Edgbaston. The 32-year-old all-rounder only managed returns of 1-42 and 2-130 with the ball, while scoring just four runs in the match -- including a first-innings duck.

Somerset's Leach played his last Test against Ireland at Lord's a fortnight ago when the nightwatchman made a career-best 92 -- an innings that helped set up an England victory and won him the man-of-the-match award.

SQUAD

Rory Burns, Jason Roy, Joe Root (capt), Joe Denly, Jos Buttler, Jonny Bairstow (wkt), Ben Stokes, Chris Woakes, Jofra Archer, Stuart Broad, Jack Leach, Sam Curran.

England's middle-order trio of Joe Denly, Jos Buttler and Jonny Bairstow all had poor returns with the bat at Edgbaston, with wicketkeeper Bairstow also untidy behind the stumps.

But all three have retained their places in the squad, although Denly's position at number four had been called into question following scores of 18 and 11 in Birmingham.

Australia are bidding to win their first away Ashes series in 18 years.

Nkwe to take on revamped SA role

REUTERS, Cape Town

South Africa have appointed Enoch Nkwe as interim team director for next month's tour of India, a role which replaces that of head coach after the Proteas opted not to renew Ottis Gibson's contract in the wake of their dismal Cricket World Cup.

South Africa won only three of their nine matches in England and were never in the hunt for the semi-finals, a performance that prompted the governing body to radically overhaul their management team.

Nkwe enjoyed great success with the Johannesburg-based Lions provincial side in the 2018-19 season, claiming the domestic first-class four-day and Twenty20 competitions.

He also led the Jozi Stars to the inaugural Mzansi Super League title, another 20-overs tournament.

The new role of team director will be similar to that at top European football clubs where a technical director takes charge of the coaching staff and players.

Nkwe will now start a rebuilding of the Test side, which saw fast bowler Dale Steyn and batsman Hashim Amla announce their retirements in the last week.

The India tour, which includes three Tests and three Twenty20 Internationals, will be South Africa's opening series in the new ICC Test Championship.

There'll be more in Lord's track: Josh

ICC

Australia quick Josh Hazlewood feels that a pace-heavy squad lends variety to the visiting Ashes team in different conditions.

In a bold move, Australia sat out Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc from the opening game in Edgbaston, choosing to ally Pat Cummins with James Pattinson and Peter Siddle instead.

Hazlewood, who has been a regular in the Australia Test XI until not too long ago, isn't disheartened over missing out as he feels all bowlers are likely to have a role to play over the course of the next four matches, especially since those fixtures are scheduled close to each other.

Furthermore, the 28-year old who had bagged 21 wickets during Australia's 4-0 Ashes triumph at home in 2017-18, did admit that the fast bowlers were exerting pressure on each other, but it only served as a healthy competition.

"I think they [the selectors] have definitely gone a different way to 2015 and I think that's purely because of how tight the Tests are [scheduled]," said Hazlewood, who picked up 3/34 against Worcestershire in a practice game for Australia.

"That's why we've got six [quicks] here and any one can do a job on any given day. We've got three guys with proper air speed and three guys who seam and swing a little bit. I think that's what they [selectors] have got six quicks for, to have all bases covered."

"I guess it's just who's bowling best at

that particular time leading into the Test, and who gets the nod. I think every quick really feels the pressure of the other five and vice versa, and it's great competition to have in the squad."

Hazlewood suspects that England might be tempted to serve up a more seam-friendly surface -- conditions suited to his own style of bowling -- for the second game at Lord's to counter Steve Smith, whose twin tons at Edgbaston were instrumental in delivering victory for the visitors.

"I think there'll be a little bit more in it [at Lord's], but in saying that, probably their best exponent Jimmy's not going to play. So that might weigh up different options, but I think there'll be more in it, maybe just to try to get Smithy out."

"But him batting on those sort of tracks is very hard work. I think it suits us as much as them if there is more in the wicket, so we'll weigh it up."

"If it's a dry wicket where reverse swing might come into play, or it's a very flat, then someone like Mitch Starc can come into play. If it's nice and green and seaming around, then it's myself and Sidds."

When Hazlewood last played at Lord's, in 2015, he picked up 5/88 in the match as Australia wrapped up a mammoth 405-run victory, and he'd love to another chance at the venue.

"I've just played the one Test there, but I thought I got used to the slope pretty quickly and felt pretty comfortable there. The conditions there have been quite bowler friendly the last few Test matches, so I'd love another opportunity."



Australia's Josh Hazlewood speaks to a few reporters during a practice session ahead of the second Ashes Test, which will begin on Wednesday at Lord's, yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Aus PM joins transgender backlash

REUTERS, Sydney

Cricket Australia (CA) have come under fire for a new policy aimed at making the sport inclusive for transgender and gender diverse players, with Prime Minister Scott Morrison describing it as "heavy-handed" and "mystifying" on Friday.

CA issued two policies on Thursday, one setting out the rules for "Elite" cricket, which they said was closely aligned with the 2017 International Cricket Council guidelines, and the other for "Community Cricket".

While the "Elite" policy demands that trans women must reduce their testosterone levels over a 12-month period to compete in women's cricket, the "Community" policy requires only a nomination of a gender identity.

There was an immediate backlash on social media with some critics lambasting the governing body for progressive posturing but the majority accusing CA of fundamentally undermining women's sport.

Morrison waded into the debate in a radio interview with conservative pundit Alan Jones on Friday and suggested the mandatory policies were unnecessary, at grassroots level at least.

"I think it's pretty heavy-handed to put it pretty mildly," the prime minister told Sydney radio station 2GB.

"I think it's a very sensitive issue. I would need to have Cricket Australia understand that this is a very heavy-handed approach they're taking with local sport, and I think there are far more practical ways to handle these issues than these sort of heavy mandatory ways of doing it."