



South Africans reach Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's newly-appointed head coach Russell Domingo and bowling coach Charl Langeveldt arrived in Dhaka yesterday.

Domingo, whose appointment as Tigers' head coach -- the position which had remained vacant for over a month after the board parted ways with Steve Rhodes following an abysmal World Cup -- was announced by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Saturday.

He reached Dhaka in the evening while Langeveldt arrived earlier in the morning. Domingo has already spoken about his vision for the Tigers previously, stating that he wanted to take the team to the top four in the ICC's ODI rankings.

Bangladesh could see the new faces in the team's coaching staff today as both Domingo and Langeveldt are expected to join the team at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. The Tigers will be in the third day of their ongoing four-day conditioning camp ahead of their one-off Test against Afghanistan on September 5, which will be followed by a T20I tri-series involving Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan.

The team's batting consultant, Neil McKenzie, another South African whose contract with the BCB was extended till the end of the 2020 T20 World Cup, will arrive a few days later. He was expected to arrive today, but it has been learnt he has informed the BCB of a delay.

Former New Zealand spinner Daniel Vettori will also be joining the team in a few days as the Tigers' spin consultant. The BCB had announced last month that Vettori would be acting as Bangladesh's spin consultant for 100 working days -- from the India series in November this year till the T20 World Cup in 2020.



The Bangladesh national cricket team's new head coach, Russell Domingo, arrived in Dhaka yesterday. With a number of matches to come, the South African will be looking to get down to business as soon as possible.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman (R) and others are seen riding stationary bikes during the second day of a conditioning camp being conducted by the Tigers' strength and conditioning coach Mario Villavarayan in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Which way will they rotate?

SPORTS REPORTER



With Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan insisting on a rotation policy to inject fresh blood into the national side, the selectors are keeping a close eye on the High Performance (HP) squad to identify promising youngsters for the upcoming home series.

"We have to provide them [youngsters] proper chances. And the team might rest some players. But that does not mean we are dropping them permanently. We have discussed a lot about a rotation policy with these coaches [Bangladesh's new coaching staff headed by Russell Domingo]. We will work on a rotation policy and introduce some new faces. We had decided to introduce them in Tests but now we prefer T20s to blood new players. So I hope we will see new players very soon," Nazmul told reporters on August 17.

'New' seems to be the operative word here.

Youngsters like Afif Hossain, Yeasir Ali and Nazmul Hossain Shanto are some of the more prominent youngsters, but the presence of experienced campaigners like Forhad Reza and Jahurul Islam in Bangladesh's 35-member preliminary squad begs the question of the kind of rotation the selectors will opt for.

Forhad made his international debut in 2006 alongside Shakib Al Hasan, but played his last T20I in 2014. The all-rounder has been a regular performer in the domestic circuit, including notable performances in the last Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), which has kept him around national focus.

The 33-year-old was picked for the

tri-nation ODI series in Ireland ahead of the World Cup earlier this year and he was also included as a replacement ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza for the Sri Lanka tour last month.

However, Forhad could not make it into the playing eleven on either tour.

"I have been playing cricket since being dropped in 2014. I have been performing in the domestic league, BPL and everywhere. As you know, top foreign players always play in the BPL. So how can you judge me

if you don't give me the chance to play in the national team? You never know, something good can happen. In the last five years, I didn't get any chance. So how can you say that I can't do well? I didn't get any chances, so how can I



FORHAD REZA

prove myself?" Forhad asked.

Much like Forhad, Jahurul has also been a consistent domestic performer since playing his last international game six years ago and the top-order batsman is also eyeing a new beginning in the international circuit.

It can be said that players like Forhad and Jahurul were not given the number of opportunities enjoyed by the likes of Soumya Sarkar and Liton Das, who have been labelled future prospects despite prolonged lean patches.

Having repeatedly picked the likes of Forhad in the squad, the time -- at the beginning of a new World Cup cycle -- seems ripe to either see what fringe experienced players can do or forge ahead with a youth policy.

With rotation now the buzz word, it remains to be seen how faithfully the selectors stick to the policy and whether the view they take is a long-term or short-term one.

New-look Afghan squads for Bangladesh tour

STAR SPORT DESK



The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) yesterday announced squads for next month's only Test against Bangladesh and the T20I tri-series involving Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe, with leg-spinner Rashid Khan as captain in both formats.

The Test will be played at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram from September 5 to 9. The tri-series is scheduled to get underway from September 13, with the final to be played in Mirpur on September 24. Afghanistan opener Mohammad Shahzad is not part of any squad as he was suspended for 12 months after breaching the ACB's code of conduct during the World Cup.

Moreover, the selectors had a tough time picking the squad as only seven players passed the yo-yo fitness test, according to reports in ESPNcricinfo.

Shapoor Zadran has made it to the Test

team while Mujeeb Ur Rahman has been left out. Ikram Ali Khil has replaced Shahzad in the whites and Rahmanullah Gurbaz has been picked to do the job behind the stumps in the T20Is. The selectors have picked some format specialists as well who are not part of both the squads. Only Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi and Asghar Afghan feature in both Test and T20I squads.

SQUADS

TEST: Rashid Khan (capt), Asghar Afghan, Mohammad Nabi, Ihsanullah, Ibrahim Zadran, Rahmat Shah, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Ikram Alikhil (wk), Zahir Khan, Javed Ahmadi, Ahmad Shirzad, Yamin Ahmadzai, Afsar Zazai (wk), Shapoor Zadran, Qais Ahmad.

T20I: Rashid Khan (capt), Asghar Afghan, Mohammad Nabi, Hazratullah Zazai, Najeeb Tarakai, Mujeeb ur Rahman, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Najibullah Zadran, Shahidullah, Karim Janat, Gulbadin Naib, Fareed Ahmad, Shafiqullah, Fazal Niazi, Dawlat Zadran, Naveen-ul-Haq, Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk).

Mashrafe won't be an Icon if he retires, say Riders

SPORTS REPORTER



Rangpur Riders pressed for a direct local signing along with two overseas signings for the upcoming edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) during the ongoing meetings between the tournament's governing council (GC) and franchises yesterday.

The GC denied the franchises the opportunity to sign players from the A+ category, particularly the signing of Shakib Al Hasan, who moved from Dhaka Dynamites to Rangpur in July.

"Our suggestion was that the team needs to be in a code for the next four years, given that we had maintained some policies for the past years. We asked them to allow players' retention. As per the rule from the last season, we were allowed fresh signings but

now the board is thinking differently. We asked for a mandatory direct local signing since they are thinking of allowing two or three direct overseas signings," Rangpur's chief executive officer Ishtiaque Sadeque told reporters.

When queried about whether there was any discussion over the Shakib issue, Sadeque said: "I don't think Shakib is a big issue. The agreement between the franchise and the BCB is finished, so they [the GC] wanted to know if we want to remain for the next four years. There is no doubt Bashundhara Group wants to remain in the BPL through Rangpur Riders."

Rangpur had declared Shakib their direct local signing on July 31, which raised questions about whether the franchise would part ways with Mashrafe Bin Mortaza -- who had led the team for the past two seasons

-- as a team is not allowed two Icon or A+ category players. Both Shakib and Mashrafe have been leading A+ category players in past editions of the tournament.

"As far as I know, he [Mashrafe] will not be an Icon if he retires [from international cricket]. So he may remain one of our retained players, allowing both Mashrafe and Shakib to play for Rangpur. Mashrafe was wondering whether he should be an Icon because he doesn't play T20I [for Bangladesh]."

"So logically Mashrafe cannot be kept as an Icon. An Icon should be someone new or promising. The board admitted they did not have enough top cricketers to make Icons. What I know is he doesn't want to remain an Icon if he retires, but at the end of the day everything will depend on the regulations set by the board," Ishtiaque added.

Smith out of third Test

AFP, London



Australia's star batsman Steve Smith has been ruled out of the third Ashes Test beginning on Thursday after suffering concussion, Cricket Australia announced Tuesday.

The 30-year-old -- who has scored two centuries and 92 in his three innings in the first two Tests -- was felled by a Jofra Archer bouncer on Saturday in the first innings of the second Test at Lord's.

"Steve Smith has been ruled out of the third Ashes Test at Headingley, with coach Justin Langer confirming the news after the batsman sat out Australia's training session on Tuesday," Cricket Australia announced on their website.

The team doctor Richard Saw had the final say on whether Smith played or not and he was seen speaking with him during team training on Tuesday. According to the website vice-captain Pat Cummins patted Smith

It was really a no-brainer. He (Steve Smith) felt a bit better yesterday (Monday) but he's not going to have enough time to tick off everything he's got to do. It's not unlike England losing James Anderson. He's arguably their best bowler and we're going to lose arguably our best batsman for this Test match. It is always a blow. No doubt about that. When you take your best players out it always has an impact.

JUSTIN LANGER
AUSTRALIA COACH

on the shoulder and coach Justin Langer wrapped his arm round the former captain as the rest of the squad trained without him.

Smith, whose two centuries in the first Test were pivotal in Australia taking a 1-0 lead, returned to bat on Saturday despite the blow to the side of the head that felled him. He added 12 runs before being out.

However, he was unable to play on the

third and final day on Sunday as he awoke feeling "groggy". Australia held on to draw the Test with his concussion substitute Marnus Labuschagne playing a key innings.

The Ashes series is the first being played under the International Cricket Council's new concussion substitute regulations, as part of the inaugural World Test Championship.

The regulations allow players who have suffered head or neck injuries to be replaced fully by a substitute, who was previously restricted to fielding alone.

During Saturday's play Smith was wearing a helmet without the additional stem guard neck protection introduced following the death of his former Australia team-mate Phillip Hughes who was hit by a bouncer in a domestic Sheffield Shield match in Sydney in 2014.

Australia, bidding for their first Ashes campaign triumph on English soil in 18 years, lead the five-match series 1-0 after a 251-run win at Edgbaston last week.



Having suffered a concussion in the second Ashes Test, Australia batsman Steve Smith (R) was ruled out of the third Test, leaving captain Tim Paine with the worrisome task of finding a suitable replacement. PHOTO: REUTERS

U-23s to visit India in Sept

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-23 cricket team will face off against their Indian counterparts in a five-match one-day series in India next month.

The series is set to begin on September 19 with all five fixtures set to be played in Raipur.

Priyam Garg was named as captain for the India U-23 side when the 15-member squad for this series was announced yesterday.

AEM Kawsar, senior manager of the BCB's national game development, told The Daily Star yesterday that the Bangladesh Under-23 team would play the Emerging Team Asia Cup at home in November following the series. After that, the team is scheduled to play a T20 series in Nepal.

Kawsar also informed that the Bangladesh U-19 team, which recently returned home after reaching the final of a tri-series in England, are going to play a number of matches ahead of the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup, which is scheduled to be held from January 17 in South Africa next year.

The U-19 team will fly for Colombo on September 3 to participate in the Under-19 Asia Cup before travelling to New Zealand for a five-match one-day series against the hosts.

The team is also expected to play a home series against Sri Lanka in October-November this year.

INDIA U-23 TEAM: Priyam Garg (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Madhav Kaushik, B R Sharath (wk), Samarth Vyas, Aryan Juyal (wk), Ritwik Roy Choudhary, Kumar Suraj, Atit Seth, Shubhang Hegde, Hritik Shokeen, Dhrushant Soni, Arshdeep Singh, Kartik Tyagi, Harpreet Brar.