

SPORT

BCB begins overhaul after World Cup no-show

MAZHAR UDDIN FROM DUBAI

Following a series of meetings over the past few days among Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) higher-ups, including president Nazmul Hassan, after a disastrous performance in the ICC T20 World, Bangladesh cricket is shaping up to undergo a major overhaul ahead of the upcoming home series against Pakistan.

As part of a major overhaul to the coaching setup, the BCB has decided to appoint former national captain and current board director Khaled Mahmud as the team director for the upcoming Pakistan series.

It was also learned that the board has offered renowned local coach Mohammad Salauddin the role of assistant coach for the Tigers and also discussed the possibility of bringing back former chief selector Faruk Ahmed as the head of the national selection panel. However, it is still uncertain whether Salauddin and Faruk will decide to take up the jobs that they have been offered. "Faruk and Salauddin are being considered for chief of the selection panel and assistant coach of the national team respectively. There have been talks of including them in the national set-up for quite some time. The board is ready to appoint them. The ball is in their court," the BCB director added.

While the BCB seems desperate to change the fortune of the national team following intense criticism for their dreadful performance in the flagship event, they are determined to keep a hold of



Russell Domingo as head coach after handing him a two-year contract extension.

It also appears that there will be massive chops and changes to the current national set-up, with underperforming players like Liton Das and Soumya Sarkar expected to be dropped for the Pakistan series to make way for the injection of new faces from Bangladesh's Under-19 World Cup-winning squad.

Youngsters like Towhid Hridoy, Parvez Hossain Emon, Tanzid Hasan Tamim and left-arm spinner Tanvir Islam have already been told by the selectors to prepare for the national camp, which is set to begin from mid-November.

It was also learned that board president Hassan held a meeting with former ODI captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and ODI captain Tamim Iqbal right after Bangladesh's defeat to Australia in their last Super 12 game. It was also learnt that Tamim had been requested to participate the upcoming three-match T20I series against Pakistan. But it is unlikely that dashing left-hander will return to the shortest format again considering he had announced his retirement from T20Is to focus on ODIs and Tests.

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SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES

157 for 7 in 20 overs
(Pollard 44, Lewis 29; Hazlewood 4-39, Starc 1-33, Zampa 1-20)

AUSTRALIA

161 for 2 in 16.2 overs
(Warner 89 not out, Marsh 53; Gayle 1-7, Akeal 1-29)

RESULT

Australia won by 8 wickets.

Player-of-the-match:

David Warner.

"Felt satisfying to be there at the end. The key was to play my natural game. DJ [Bravo] has been a benchmark for all players coming through, and Chris (Gayle), he's someone I look up to."

DAVID WARNER

TODAY'S MATCHES

New Zealand Vs Afghanistan
4pm (BST)

Pakistan Vs Scotland
8pm (BST)



Chris Gayle and Dwayne Bravo wear broad smiles during their T20 World Cup fixture against Australia at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Even though West Indies lost the game badly to end the tournament on a low, it was a memorable occasion for the two stalwarts of the game. Although the self-styled Universe Boss Gayle did not announce his retirement unlike Bravo, it is believed both superstars have played their last international games.

PHOTO: TWITTER



'IT'S THE END OF A GENERATION'

AFP, ABU DHABI



David Warner smashed an unbeaten 89 as Australia hammered West Indies by eight wickets to edge closer to the semi-finals of the Twenty20 World Cup on Saturday with skipper Aaron Finch describing the opener as a "super player."

Chasing 158 for victory, Australia rode on a 124-run second-wicket stand between Warner and Mitchell Marsh to romp home in 16.2 overs in Abu Dhabi and go level with Group 1 leaders England on eight points.

Marsh, who hit 53 of 32 balls, got out to Chris Gayle who celebrated the wicket in what was his likely swansong in West Indies colours.

Warner scored his second half-century of this edition and hit the winning boundary as Australia finished with four wins from their five Super 12 matches.

"The way (David) managed his innings, got



off to a flyer and allowed Mitch Marsh to get into his innings," said skipper Aaron Finch.

"He's been a super player for a long time. Can't understand why people doubted him."

Finch added: "We have to wait for the South Africa-England game and keep our fingers

crossed. I'm sure someone will be streaming it. If it doesn't go our way we can hold our head high that we won four out of five."

Earlier Josh Hazlewood took four wickets to keep West Indies down to 157 for seven despite skipper Kieron Pollard's 44.

Reigning champions West Indies failed to give a winning farewell to Dwayne Bravo, who played his last international.

Australia gave Bravo and Gayle a guard of honour after Warner hit the winning runs.

"It's the end of a generation, we have some guys who have done good things for T20 cricket in our team and around the world," said Pollard.

"We as people are very proud...we have to look at the way we play T20 cricket." Warner unsettled the West Indian attack with boundaries all around the park despite losing opening partner inch for nine. Marsh was equally punishing of the bowlers as he hit five fours and two sixes in his fifth T20 fifty.

2022 T20 WC Tigers straight into Super 12s

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite enduring a disastrous T20I World Cup campaign where Bangladesh failed to win a single match in the Super 12 stage, the Tigers have been all but assured a direct entry into the Super 12 stage of next year's edition, thanks to West Indies' defeat to Australia in their last match on Saturday.

According to the ICC, all the teams who are playing in the Super 12 stage in the ongoing World Cup will play in the subsequent event. However, only the top eight teams in terms of ranking will directly take part in the Super 12 stage while the next four will have to play the qualifying round. The list will be declared on November 15 depending on the latest ranking of that day.

Bangladesh are currently in ninth position in the latest rankings with a rating point of 234, one position behind West Indies, who are fractionally ahead on rating points. However, West Indies' defeat to Australia means they will lose rating points and will drop down to ninth position when the new rankings are disclosed, with Bangladesh moving up to eighth position. As there is no other T20I matches for these two teams before the end of the World Cup, the new rankings on November 15 are certain to see Bangladesh move up to eighth position.

Pakistan look to continue INVINCIBLE RUN

AGENCIES



Former champion Pakistan will look to continue its invincible run when it plays Scotland in its last Super 12 Group 2 match of the T20 World Cup today. Veteran all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez says such is Pakistan's form at the Twenty20 World Cup they are brimming with confidence and have no preferences as to who they play in the semi-finals.

Pakistan have been unstoppable since their historic 10-wicket win over bitter rivals India at the beginning of the campaign. The 2009 champions have gone on to beat a strong New Zealand side, Afghanistan and Namibia.

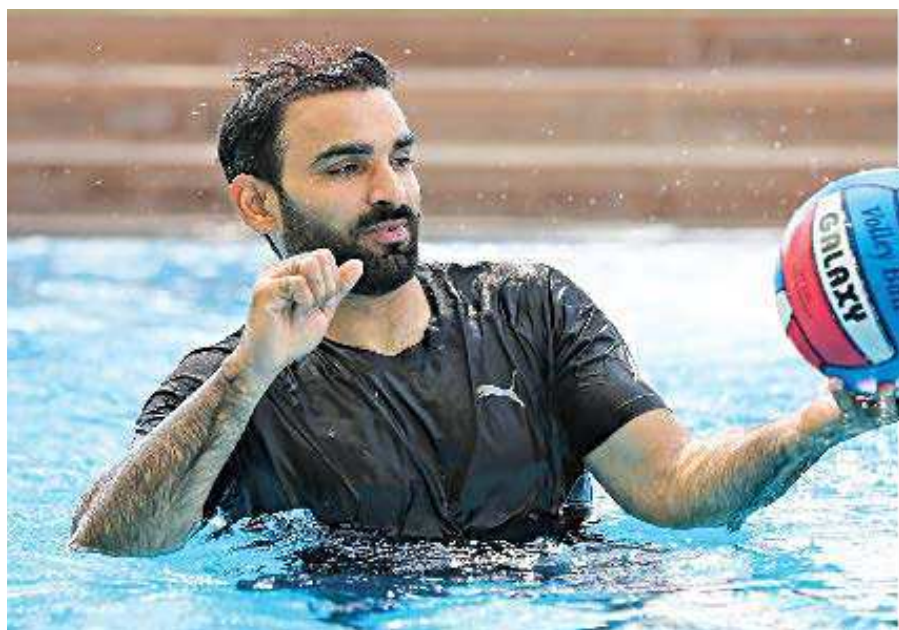
Pakistan will face the runners-up of Group 1, likely to be either Australia or South Africa who play their last group matches later on Saturday.

Hafeez -- a former captain of the

Twenty20 side -- said Pakistan were ready for any opponent. "To be honest, when it comes to a cricket match we don't think about who we want to play," said 41-year-old Hafeez on Saturday on the eve of their match with Scotland.

"Whoever comes we are ready for that as our confidence is high, we are shaping up well and we are performing well. But first we have a game against Scotland so we need to take them on with the same intensity and confidence. The goal is to win the Cup for the nation and we are close to that." Pakistan have won all its three T20Is against Scotland, once in the inaugural T20 World Cup in South Africa in 2007 and two in Scotland in 2018.

Hafeez singled out the first match against India as the confidence booster -- Pakistan's first win over them in 13 World Cup matches. "In any tournament when you win the first match, it gives you confidence so when we beat India it lifted our confidence hugely."



India keep fingers crossed as Kiwis face Afghanistan

AGENCIES

New Zealand are aware of the threat posed by Afghanistan's spin attack, but the Black Caps are confident of sealing a semi-final spot in the Twenty20 World Cup with a win in Abu Dhabi, leg-spinner Ish Sodhi said on Saturday.

A win in their final Super 12 match on Sunday will see New Zealand join Pakistan in the last four from Group Two, sending pre-tournament favourites India out of the competition.

Coming off a thrashing at the hands of India, Afghanistan's premier leg-spinner Rashid Khan has no doubt that game against New Zealand is a virtual quarterfinal for them.

Afghanistan, who have played four games in the Super 12 stage, are



sitting at the second spot, with four points and a net-run rate of +1.481.

"I don't think it's going to make a big difference to us as a team. We know India is one of the best teams, but still, the preparation remains the same, the mindset remains the same and we know the process."

"That (New Zealand match) could be a quarterfinal for us, as well. If we win, we know we have a good run

rate so we could be the team to be in the semi-finals. So just to go out there, enjoy your skills, enjoy your cricket."

"We see it as another game," Sodhi told reporters.

"We've approached almost every game like that so far and hopefully we can do the same tomorrow. Be really clear on what's been working really well for us."

Afghanistan's three-pronged spin attack of Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi and Mujeeb Ur Rahman have shown they have the ability to turn any game in their favour, and Sodhi said "that's definitely where their threat lies".

"I'm sure all the batsmen during the scouting meeting have taken it into consideration, as well as the threat they bring with the bat," Sodhi said.