

Sports

Injury-hit Bangladesh recall Mosaddek for World Cup

Uncapped Jayed gets World Cup spot for Bangladesh

DHAKA: Bangladesh called up batsman Mosaddek Hossain and uncapped fast bowler Abu Jayed for their World Cup squad yesterday as they wrestle with a series of injuries. Mosaddek was named to compensate for fellow batting all-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad, who has suffered a shoulder injury and looks unlikely to be able to bowl, said chief selector Minhajul Abedin.

Jayed also got the nod in the 15-man squad as potential cover for pace spearhead Mustafizur Rahman, who is recovering from an ankle sprain, and Rubel Hossain who has a side strain.

Mosaddek, a useful off-spinner, hasn't played for Bangladesh since last year's Asia Cup, but he forced his way into the reckoning with a series of big scores in domestic cricket. "We have injury worries over Mahmudullah. Most probably he will not be able to bowl," Minhajul told reporters in Dhaka.

"So we needed someone down the order who could also bowl a few overs. This is why we opted for Mosaddek." Mosaddek played a key role in Bangladesh's win over New Zealand at the 2017 Champions Trophy, when he picked up three vital wickets. His batting faded until the recent Dhaka Premier League where he scored 428 runs and picked up seven wickets in 12 one-day matches.

Jayed was the only uncapped player in what is an otherwise experienced squad for the tournament in England and Wales, starting on May 30. Jayed, 25,

made his Test debut last year and has played three T20s for Bangladesh, but is yet to take part in a 50-over international.

Four players have been to three World Cups: skipper Mashrafe Mortaza, Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim.

Jayed's inclusion meant there was no room for pace bowler Taskin Ahmed, who is also recovering from injury. "Taskin played his last ODI in October 2017 and it was a long break for him," said Minhajul.

"There are 17 players going to Ireland and if anyone gets injured or if he is fit by that time, we will keep him as a back-up player." Bangladesh also named a 17-man squad for a tri-series in Ireland in early May, where uncapped spinner Nayeem Hasan and batsman Yasir Ali will join the World Cup players.

The games against Ireland and West Indies will be held from May 5-17. Bangladesh open their World Cup against South Africa at the Oval on June 2.

"Since the World Cup will be held in difficult (unfamiliar) conditions in the UK we wanted to value the experience of our players," said chief selector Minhajul Abedin. Squad: Mashrafe Mortaza (Capt), Tamim Iqbal, Liton Das, Soumya Sarkar, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Shakib Al Hasan, Mohammad Mithun, Sabbir Rahman, Mosaddek Hossain, Mohammad Saifuddin, Mehidy Hasan, Rubel Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Abu Jayed. —AFP



Mosaddek Hossain

Woakes warns England over Archer's World Cup call-up

LONDON: Chris Woakes believes it would be unfair for England selectors to ask any player to make way for the uncapped all-rounder Jofra Archer in the World Cup squad. Barbados-born Archer, who shone for Sussex last season and in Australia's Big Bash Twenty20 league for Hobart Hurricanes, is eligible for national selection under new England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) residency rules.

Archer's ability to bowl at over 90 miles per hour and his lower-order power-hitting skills have earned him a number of high-profile admirers including England regulars Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler. Some are concerned about who would be left out if he were to join the England squad, however.

"If he was to come in and someone was to miss out, it would be extremely unfortunate," all-rounder Woakes told BBC Sport. "We've been a tight-knit group for the last two to three years, played some really strong cricket, won a lot of series.

"Apart from a personal level, I wouldn't want to see any of my mates and team-mates miss out. But it's the nature of international cricket that there is always someone knocking on the door."

England will name a provisional 15-man squad for



MOHALI: Rajasthan Royals bowler Jofra Archer (R) celebrates with his teammate Dhawal Kulkarni (L) after he dismissed Kings XI Punjab cricketer Chris Gayle during the 2019 Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 cricket match between Kings XI Punjab and Rajasthan Royals at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali yesterday. — AFP

the World Cup today, alongside an expanded group of 17 for limited-overs series against Ireland and Pakistan next month. Even if Archer is not included in the initial squad, England can make changes to it until May 23, seven days before their tournament opener against South Africa at The Oval.

Asked if there would be added pressure on Archer if called up, Woakes said: "He might thrive off it or it

might have the opposite effect. "But from what everyone is hearing he might be part of the Ireland and Pakistan matches so there will be pressure on everyone to perform.

"Everyone will be looking over their shoulder and that's a good place to be as a team because it constantly makes you want to improve and make sure you are a part of that 15." — Reuters

Australia to rotate openers after David Warner return

SYDNEY: Australian coach Justin Langer yesterday welcomed the top-order selection dilemma posed by the return of David Warner as offering "fantastic flexibility" to the team ahead of the World Cup.

The return of Steve Smith and Warner from their year-long bans for ball-tampering has left selectors in a quandary, with openers Aaron Finch and Usman Khawaja building a formidable partnership in recent one-day internationals.

Warner has been in blistering touch in the Indian Premier League and typically opens the batting. But Langer yesterday said it was a welcome problem to have all three potential openers firing.

"We have amazing flexibility now," he told Melbourne radio SEN. "Usman and Finchy have done an incredible job opening the batting. David and Finchy have done a great job in the past doing it," he added.

Langer said he would "mix and match" the top order in matches leading up to the World Cup. "I love the flexibility of it. (It's about) boys playing their roles for the team not just playing the roles that suit them," he said. Australia named their World Cup squad on Monday with middle order batsman Peter Handscomb "brutally unlucky" to have to make way for Smith. "Steve Smith we felt would probably be able to play that role that Pete has done so well for us," Langer said. The decision to drop Handscomb also means the team only has one wicketkeeper in Alex Carey. But Langer said Tim Paine, Matthew Wade and Handscomb, all named in one of Australia's two A squads which will play in England later this year, were on standby if Carey was injured.

"Usually wicketkeepers, they give up their spot for no-one. They have to do a pretty serious injury to move aside for someone else," he said. "And Alex Carey he is elite-fit and is as tough as they come. But if something does happen then we will have someone there to replace them." — AFP

Ex-cricketer Lewis on long walk back from disgrace to redemption

BASINGSTOKE: Chris Lewis's journey from opening the bowling for England in the 1992 World Cup final to contemplating suicide and being convicted of drugs smuggling has him feeling as ambitious as when he was a teenager, he has told AFP.

The 51-year-old-who represented England over 80 times in Tests and one-day internationals-said it was fear over being penniless that drove him to smuggle £140,000 (\$183,000) of cocaine in cans of fruit into England from St Lucia in 2008.

He stood to earn £50,000 from the deal-instead he ended up serving six and a half years of a 13-year prison term. The engaging and lithe former all-rounder is presently touring with the play written by Dougie Blaxland (the pen name of former cricketer James Graham-Brown) about his life called "The Long Walk Back". "Do you know, the funny thing is I would suggest I am more ambitious and more optimistic than I have ever been in my life," Lewis told AFP in an interview conducted at the Haymarket Theatre in Basingstoke. "This is a stage of my life I should have gone through in my 20s with a whole set of new experiences. "It is a place I have not been since I was a teenager... a place when that teenage boy was dreaming of being a cricketer."

The play, directed by Australian husband and wife Shane Morgan and Moira Hunt of the Bristol-based Roughhouse Theatre, has helped re-light the fire within him. "It (the play) all comes together from an idea of how we have reached here when less than a decade ago I was sat in a prison cell and my life was more than over," Lewis said. It is a far cry from when Lewis, whose long-term girlfriend Patricia stayed loyal despite him putting her 'through the wars', contemplated taking his own life on the first night he was incarcerated after his arrest.

"You cannot get over the prospect of facing a sentence of 15 years," he said. "If you have not been in jail it seems an unimaginable amount of time. "The question of 'if this goes the wrong way what will you do' and (suicide) was certainly something on the table.

"It is ironic that after being sentenced to 13 years that did not occur to me." Lewis, whose morale was greatly



LONDON: Former England cricketer Chris Lewis poses for a photograph at The Haymarket theatre in Basingstoke on April 10, 2019. — AFP

helped by former Surrey team-mate Jason Ratcliffe who offered him help from the start, largely kept himself to himself in prison.

"A strange thing that happened was sitting on my bed the night after the sentence had been passed and I cried and it got a lot of emotions out," he said.

"After I had done crying that night I had no need to cry again. "In terms of the cell... let us say if you like the fragrance of someone else - the toilet is right next to the bed - there are some people who may put up with that because they want company.

"I was more the other way I wanted to be on my own having some control of one's environment and keep your room a certain way." There were certain rules that Lewis imposed on himself from the start of his jail term-neither listening to music nor telling his adored grandmother Eunice Joseph back in Guyana about his fall from grace.

"I stopped listening to music immediately because a certain tune can take you back to a particular moment," he said. "My mum (Patricia) and aunts took the decision not to tell my grandmother who was very proud of me and I wholeheartedly agreed with it.

"I would ring her from prison and ensured every Christmas that one of my brothers would send her money from me so she would think everything was normal. "Sadly she was pretty sick at the time, bedridden, and died while I was inside," he says, his voice choking with emotion. In the play, Lewis takes part in a question and answer session with the audience, fielding sometimes awkward enquiries.

He says he is pleased by the play-which has included two prisons on its tour-because it explores the emotional side of his story and the battle he had to accept who was to blame for his predicament.—AFP

From Mankad row to umpire howlers: IPL hits and misses

NEW DELHI: The high-octane Twenty20 Indian Premier League has lived up to its reputation for rip-roaring action in 2019.

Entering the second half of the seven-week extravaganza, AFP Sport picks the eye-grabbing moments so far from this year's IPL:

ASHWIN'S MANKAD KICKS IT OFF

Controversy exploded on just the third day of the season after Ravichandran Ashwin's "Mankad" run-out of England batsman Jos Buttler triggered a worldwide debate on the spirit of cricket. Ashwin, captain of Kings XI Punjab, stopped in his delivery stride to whip off the bails while Buttler, for Rajasthan Royals, was backing up at the non-striker's end. While pundits and former players were busy squaring up on the rights and wrongs of Ashwin's actions, Sunil Gavaskar took strong offence to former Test bowler Vinoo Mankad's name being associated with the controversial mode of dismissal. "Lack of respect shown to an Indian legend is indeed sad," Gavaskar said of Mankad, who had warned Australia's Bill Brown before sending him packing in the 1940s.

CAPTAIN COOL' DHONI BOILS OVER

Mahendra Singh Dhoni is known as "Captain Cool" but he suffered a meltdown and stormed from his dugout to confront the umpires after a no-ball call for a high full toss was reversed against Rajasthan Royals. Dhoni, the Chennai Super Kings skipper, was docked 50 per cent of his match fee but many thought the wicketkeeper was treated with kid gloves. "Dhoni should have been banned for at least two to three games," said former India batsman Virender Sehwag on website Cricbuzz. "...tomorrow another captain can do the same, then what is the value of an umpire?"

CLUB LEVEL UMPIRES PANNED

India captain Virat Kohli also questioned the standard of umpiring in the star-studded Twenty20 league after his Royal Challengers Bangalore were denied a win when Mumbai Indians' Lasith Malinga clearly overstepped on the final delivery. "We are not playing club cricket," Kohli fumed after the blatant no ball was not spotted. Following on from Dhoni's one-man pitch invasion and Buttler's Mankad, which many thought should have been called a dead ball, the umpires will be under the microscope as the season heads for its climax.

KING KOHLI'S UNWANTED RECORD

Kohli could not blame the umpires, however, when Bangalore suffered their sixth straight defeat to equal the worst start to an IPL campaign. They did finally stop the rot with a first win on Saturday. While India top the Test rankings and "King Kohli" is the world's leading batsman, the worry is he seems unable to lead Bangalore to a maiden IPL title despite two half-centuries and a place in the league's top 10 batsmen. With a playoff place looking remote, former England captain Michael Vaughan reckons India should instead rest him ahead of the World Cup next month.

CHART-TOPPING WARNER HAS THE HITS

With four fifties and a century, David Warner has taken the IPL by storm in his comeback from a one-year ban for his part in Australia's ball-tampering scandal. The opener tops the batting chart with 400 runs for Sunrisers Hyderabad and insists he is "refreshed" after his enforced absence. Warner's disgraced former captain Steve Smith has been quieter, but has displayed occasional flashes of brilliance for Rajasthan Royals such as an unbeaten 73 against Kolkata. Both are back in the Australia squad for the World Cup with a big incentive to keep up their return to form by finishing the IPL with a flourish.—AFP