

Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY MARCH 10, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Dawson out for season

Tottenham Hotspur and England defender Michael Dawson will almost certainly miss the rest of the season after rupturing ankle ligaments in his side's FA Cup victory over Stevenage on Wednesday, the Premier League club said. Dawson, who was in the frame for England's squad for the European Championship, was carried off on a stretcher in the first half of the 3-1 victory at White Hart Lane after landing awkwardly. "Scans taken this morning have determined that Michael Dawson is likely to be absent for a period of 10-12 weeks," the Spurs website



Kamal can't let go

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The inclusion of Tamim Iqbal in Bangladesh's Asia Cup squad has apparently put an end to the drama created by Bangladesh Cricket Board president AHM Mustafa Kamal.

But there was a sting in the tail. It seems that the under pressure BCB boss suddenly brought the disciplinary issue to the fore to save his skin from the controversy surrounding the axing of Tamim from the selectors' squad. Everybody was curious to know whether Tamim will give an undertaking to the board as few national dailies ran a report that the dashing left-hander was included in the squad in condition of submitting it. But it ultimately did not happen yesterday.

"All players and coaches are bound by the contract and code of conduct, so

there is no need of an undertaking," said BCB director and cricket operations committee chairman Enayet Hossain Siraj while talking with reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Everybody got surprised by the latest twist in the drama because previously it was told by the board that it was Tamim's fitness that prompted the BCB boss to demote him as a stand-by; importantly though, there are some normal practices to take decision if there is any issue on disciplinary ground.

The BCB president ultimately took the U-turn on Thursday night and many believe that he changed his mind under pressure as his recent activities are not only widely criticized by a cross-section of people but also brought the former cricketers under one umbrella to begin a campaign against all the misdeeds.

And finally the highest office in the

country got involved with the issue as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina not only called Akram to change his mind about the resignation, but also asked him to arrange a meeting with the former cricketers to solve the crisis. According to Akram, the Prime Minister assured the former skipper that she will look into all the issues for the greater interest of the game.

The recent amendment in the BCB's constitution has created a chaos in the cricket arena as the deletion of some clauses made sure that there will be no councillorship from the former cricketers while the change of CEO to the COO will also make sure that professionalism will take a backseat in the board. Some former cricketers have also raised their voices against the corruption in the current board.

Now everybody will be looking forward to seeing how the BCB president responds in this situation when he returns home today from England.

Dravid calls time

Leaves with 'sadness and pride'

Cricket

AFP, Bangalore

Indian superstar Rahul Dravid announced his retirement from international cricket on Friday at the age of 39, ending a 16-year career that made him an idol at home and abroad.

"It is time to move on and let a new generation of players make their own history," Dravid told reporters at a crowded news conference in Bangalore alongside Indian cricket board president Narayanaswamy Srinivasan.

The stylish batsman is the second-highest scorer in Test cricket history behind compatriot Sachin Tendulkar, with 13,288 runs from 164 matches at an average of 52.31.

"When I started, I could never imagine that this long journey will take me so far," said Dravid, who scored 36 Test centuries. "In the Indian team I was fortunate to be part of a wonderful era."

"I leave the game with wonderful memories and great friendships," the once-time national skipper added, saying he looked forward to spending more time with his wife and children after years on the road.

The man known as "the Wall" for his immaculate technique, was also one of only 10 batsmen to score more than 10,000 runs in one-day cricket, which he quit last year to prolong his Test career.

His career-high of 270 came in India's third Test against Pakistan in April 2004.

Dravid's one-day tally stood at 10,889 runs from 344 matches at an average of 39.16, including 12 centuries.

Indian cricket boss Srinivasan called Dravid "one of the finest cricketers India has ever produced" and a "great role model".

"I would echo everyone's praise when we say 'Thank you Rahul.' Thank you for what you have given to Indian cricket and we wish you very, very



PHOTO: AFP

India's retiring cricketer Rahul Dravid looks on during a press conference in Bangalore yesterday where he announced his retirement from international cricket.

well," he told reporters.

Dravid's retirement puts the focus on India's other ageing stars, Sachin Tendulkar, 39 next month, and Venkatsai Laxman, 37, who are under pressure to consider their future after the team's just-concluded disastrous tour of Australia.

Captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men, who won the limited-overs World Cup in April last year, crashed to a 4-0 Test defeat against Australia after an identical whitewash in England last year where they also failed to win the one-day series.

Dravid was one of the few players to emerge with any credit after the tour of England where he defied the years to crack three centuries in four Tests.

FIVE OF HIS BEST

148 vs South Africa in Johannesburg, 1996
180 vs Australia in Kolkata, 2001
148 vs England in Leeds, 2002
233 vs Australia in Adelaide, 2003

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Boys Club posted a solitary goal victory over City Club in the Destiny Group 2nd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Rabbi struck the match-winning goal in the 70th minute.

Inter-club shooting

Asif Mahmud won gold medal in the 0.177 Air Rifle Open Sight event of the Sonali Bank 18th Inter-Club Shooting Championship at the National Shooting Complex in Gulshan yesterday.

Asif of Bangladesh Kriya Shiksha Protisthan shot 246 points to put Army Shooting Association's Mufizul Islam behind by 6 points.

Sheikh Sabbir Ahmed of Kustia Rifles Club finished third with a score of 236.

The championship will conclude today where State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker will be present as the chief guest.

School Football

Baligaon High School emerged champions of Feni district in the National School Football Islami Bank tournament when they defeated Fulgachi GM Hat High School 4-1 in tie-breaker at the Feni Stadium yesterday.

The regulation time ended 1-1 with Manik first scoring for Baligaon High School while Sabbir restored the margin for Fulgachi GM Hat High School.



Bangladesh's pace ace Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) shares a light moment with teammates Abdur Razzak (C) and Shafiul Islam during a practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Focus not only on Sachin'

India arrive today

SPORTS REPORTER



Ever since the announcement that Sachin Tendulkar will be participating in the Asia Cup, the talk of the much-awaited 100th hundred has cropped up in every other conversation at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

It was no different yesterday as Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was asked whether the Tigers are planning separately for the legend who is one century shy of an unprecedented feat.

"I don't think we should focus completely on [Sachin] Tendulkar. If he is to score a century, nobody can stop him," Mashrafe said yesterday after the Tigers' training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

"We should also focus on the other ten who are also important. We should also plan separately for players like Gautam Gambhir and Rohit Sharma," he added.

Apart from Tendulkar's wait though, there is a lot riding on the Asia Cup for

Mashrafe, who is returning to international cricket after eleven months. But the man known as the Narail Express won't look for the middle ground when it comes to contribution in the field.

"I have never compromised when it comes to commitment and effort. If I get hurt in the first match, it doesn't matter to me. I will give my all and play," he said.

All heart from an individual who is often called the braveheart for breaking the pain barrier; the attitude must be infectious as Mushfiqur Rahim has said that Mashrafe's presence is good enough. Jokingly Mashrafe laughed off the praise but said that he wants to help the team by performing well.

"I have returned to the team after a long time. I was waiting for this moment for eleven months," he said. "I want to do my job properly, perform and stay in the team. In the same vein, I want to help the team with whatever I can."

About the recent spate of controversies surrounding the Tigers, Mashrafe said that it

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Kuerten named to Hall of Fame

AFP, Newport

Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten, a three-time Grand Slam title champion and former World No. 1, has been elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame, officials announced on Thursday.

Kuerten and others will be inducted into the sports shrine on July 14 during the ATP Hall of Fame Championships after receiving at least 75 percent support in a vote from an international media panel.

Kuerten, nicknamed "Guga", becomes the second Brazilian in the Hall of Fame after Maria Bueno, who was inducted in 1978.

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Tributes pour in

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Teammates and rivals joined hands in paying glowing tributes to India's batting great Rahul Dravid, who quit international cricket on Friday after an illustrious 16-year career.

"There was and is only one Rahul Dravid," said record-breaking compatriot Sachin Tendulkar. "There can be no other. I will miss Rahul in the dressing room and out in the middle."

Dravid amassed 13,288 runs in 164 Tests, the world's second-highest scorer after Tendulkar, with the help of 36 centuries.

"Dravid is obviously one of India's greatest batsmen -- great in all conditions and one who scored runs everywhere," said John Wright, former New Zealand skipper who coached India from 2000 to 2005.

"From a personal perspective, Rahul is one of the best men I've ever worked with... he's not only a great cricketer, but a great man."

Dravid, who also scored 10,889 runs in 344 one-day internationals, was a reliable slip fielder with a world record 210 Test catches.

Former India skipper and Karnataka team-mate Anil Kumble described Dravid as "the perfect ambassador" for cricket and an "ideal team man".

"Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Rahul," Kumble, who sat alongside Dravid with Indian cricket chief Narayanaswamy Srinivasan as he announced his retirement at a press conference in Bangalore.

"I am really fortunate to have played alongside you. I've enjoyed every moment I've played with you. It's been an honour."

Former England captain Michael Vaughan and current batsman Kevin Pietersen described Dravid as a "legend" on their Twitter accounts.

"Rahul Dravid retires.. The world's most respected cricketer over the last 20 (years)," wrote Vaughan.

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Pakistan cricketers jog during a during a practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ADMISSION

ADMISSION TEST ON April 06, 2012

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