

Star SPORT

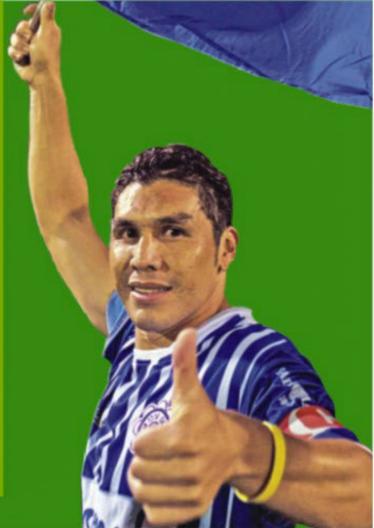
DHAKA TUESDAY APRIL 17, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Cabanas back in action

Salvador Cabanas, the Paraguayan international shot in the head two years ago in a Mexican nightclub, returned to action Saturday night with Itaugua, the second division Paraguayan outfit where he started out.

Cabanas, who still has the bullet lodged in his head, played most of the first half of a 2-0 win over Martin Ledesma which was secured with two goals after the break.

Cabanas was shot by a drugs baron in the toilets of a Mexico City bar on January 25, 2010 during an argument.



Family first for Law

The Tigers coach resigns after 9 months



SPORTS REPORTER

Stuart Law has resigned as the Bangladesh head coach after only nine months in the job, it was announced yesterday. The man who oversaw the national team's Asia Cup progress will however be part of plans till June 30 when his contract expires though his initial contract was till 2013.

After a press briefing where most of the attention went to matters pertaining the looming Pakistan tour and club cricket, Law said that he felt the national team was being treated poorly by cricket authorities. "We are being treated like an experiment," said Law, who will continue to train the Tigers in a few days when they get together.

With Pakistan "hosting" Australia in Sri Lanka in August, the relevance of a sudden two-match tour in Pakistan has been questioned by many within the national team and that includes the coaching staff. Law however has hinted that he would travel to Pakistan if the ICC was on track for the tour as well.

But more importantly and, since Law's future with Bangladesh has been scuttled prematurely, he has said that coaching will remain on his agenda.

"It's not a done deal for me by any stretch of the imagination. I get a buzz out of watching players replicate what



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh cricket team's Australian coach Stuart Law briefs the media about his decision to leave the coach's job at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium conference room yesterday.

we've been talking about," he said, "I'm moving back to Brisbane, my hometown. I have applied for a position there so I am just waiting to hear on the outcome of that."

Regarding his resignation, Law said he had to fight himself at times before arriving at the decision.

"It wasn't decided on the spot. It took a lot of consideration in my mind to come to the decision.

"I didn't want to go but once family matters start cropping up, family comes first and that's what I've done," he said, though Law feels he is leaving a job without fulfilling everything that he had set out to do.

After he took over in July last year, the Tigers haven't had too much success in Zimbabwe and at home where they lost to West Indies and Pakistan. But it all changed in the Asia Cup when they famously beat India and Sri Lanka and went as close as 2 runs to beating Pakistan in the final.

"We were just sitting in there with the cricket that is scheduled for next few months. It is an exciting times for Bangladesh. The boys will play tough games of cricket in different parts of the world where they probably haven't seen before.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Jones keen on Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

Within hours of Stuart Law's announcement that he will quit as Bangladesh coach, former Australia batsman Dean Jones has thrown his hat into the ring as a possible candidate.

"Yes the Bangladesh Cricket Board has asked me if I would (b)e interested to coach the national team.. Considering options," tweeted Jones last evening.

Jones was technical director for the Chittagong Kings during the inaugural edition of the Bangladesh Premier League T20s, but left midway due to other commitments though it was rumoured at the time that he had a falling out with the team owners after two bust-ups with the team's icon cricketer Tamim Iqbal.

He is not the only name that the BCB have contacted so far. It was also learned that former India captain Sourav Ganguly was approached by board president AHM Mustafa Kamal during his recent visit.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Uncertainty the norm



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) arranged a press conference yesterday mainly to disclose the head coach Stuart Law's resignation, but other pressing issues like Bangladesh's brief tour to Pakistan and the deadlock in domestic cricket enjoyed as much attention during the marathon briefing.

While Stuart Law made it clear that family commitments was the only reason behind his decision to quit the job the two BCB officials Jalal Yunus and Enayet Hossain Siraj could not clear the air regarding the tour of Pakistan and the board's failure to resume the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket Super League.

It seemed that the two top officials suffered from a lack of communication with their president AHM Mustafa Kamal regarding the much-talked about tour, with media committee chairman Yunus repeatedly requesting the media to wait for the BCB boss to return from the International Cricket Committee (ICC) executive committee meeting to know all the details.

Firstly, Yunus explained the reason behind calling this press conference by saying that: "We have called this press conference because over the past few days there have been some talk surrounding cricket -- the Pakistan tour and some other issues. Yesterday (Sunday) news ran that Bangladesh

will play matches in Pakistan on 29 and 30 April. Another reason for this press conference is, I say with deep regrets, that our head coach Stuart Law will not be with us anymore. His contract was for two years with us, till June 30, 2013. This June 30 will see the completion of his first year, but due to personal reasons he will not continue after that.

"We tried on behalf of the board to change his mind and keep him here because after the Asia Cup his departure is a huge loss. In his charge Bangladesh cricket reached new heights, so losing him will be a big blow. We also said that if he wanted to stay in Bangladesh with his family, we could arrange that. He said that he really wanted to but he cannot do that because of his family. He has been staying in England for eight years with his family, but now he will return to Australia and settle there with his family," Yunus continued.

He also said that this decision was in no way connected to the Pakistan.

"Let me make this clear, his decision can't possibly have anything to do with the Pakistan tour because he handed in his letter on March 30, when there were no definite plans about the tour," he dismissed the notion when asked the question.

But when it came to the issue of the Pakistan tour, Yunus said: "I think everything will be clear if we wait one day for the presidents' return and let him speak about this. I am not contradicting what the president said about the Pakistan tour or domestic

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

NCL resumes April 20

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board has rescheduled the remaining National Cricket League matches to begin from April 20.

The new date has been given as the impasse between the Dhaka Premier League clubs and the BCB hasn't ended. The two second phase matches and the final that hasn't happened since December 21 last year.

Sylhet will take on Rajshahi at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium while Khulna face Dhaka Metro at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

The five-dayer final of the competition will be played at the Mirpur venue from April 26.

Completely surprised, says Tamim



CRICINFO, New Delhi

Tamim Iqbal, one of Bangladesh's senior players, has said he had no idea that the national coach Stuart Law was going to resign. He was talking hours after Law announced his decision to quit as Bangladesh coach.

"I'm completely taken by surprise," Tamim told ESPNcricinfo. "But family comes first." Law was stepping down less than a month after guiding Bangladesh to the final of the Asia Cup.

Tamim said Law had added to the professionalism brought in by his predecessors as coach, the Australian pair of Dav Whatmore and Jamie Siddons. "Law gave us the belief that we can do it," Tamim said. "And that only pumped up the players. He used to give us tremendous amount of confidence. A team like us needs the confidence and he

always supported us.

"The relationship between a coach and the players takes time to develop usually and with Stuey, we were almost there. Everyone was enjoying his presence in the dressing room and he was enjoying being with us as well."

Tamim also gave a personal example of Law's influence. "When I was going through a rough patch during the Pakistan series [last December] he kept pushing me to work hard. There is one line I can never forget. He said: 'Someone is hurt now and someone will be hurt in the Asia Cup.'" Tamim made four half-centuries in four matches in the Asia Cup and finished as the second-highest run-maker in the tournament.

Tamim said he was also disappointed as he felt Law's departure was a bit of a backward step for Bangladesh cricket. "We will miss him definitely. This is the tragedy with Bangladesh cricket: whenever we do something good, something bad happens."

Salahuddin to run for re-election

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin yesterday bought the nomination paper for the upcoming BFF elections in a bid to retain the post of president for another four years.

Salahuddin said he needs another four years to complete his remaining job that he could not complete in the last four years.

"If I can win again, I will do three things to revive football at district level, to launch the football academy in Sylhet and form a strong national team," said Salahuddin after buying nomination papers.

On the second day of the nomination distribution, 45

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Cox's City FC were held to a goalless draw by Victoria SC in the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League at the Cox's Bazar Stadium yesterday.

It was the fourth draw for both teams and despite the draw Cox's City maintained their lead with 16 points from 10 matches while Victoria leapfrogged to fourth position from sixth with 13 points from 10 matches.

Div-II Football

Bangladesh Boys Club played a 1-1 draw against Bangladesh Police AC in the Destiny Group Metropolis 2nd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Selim gave Bangladesh Police a 25th minute lead before Sumon cancelled it through a 71st minute strike to share points.

Nat'l Volleyball

Rajshahi and Rajbari moved into the women's final of the Padma Crown & Pepsi Inter-District Volleyball

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

Pakistan hails Tigers' tour

AFP, Karachi

Delighted Pakistani cricket fans, players and politicians Monday welcomed Bangladesh's decision to tour the troubled country and end its three-year exile from hosting international matches.

Bangladesh on Sunday agreed to a short tour during which they will play one 50-over game and a Twenty20 international on April 29 and 30 in Lahore, a move hailed by former captain and current all-rounder Shahid Afridi.

"It's a major breakthrough and a very good news for the whole nation, for Pakistan team and millions of fans who have been deprived of international game for the last three years," he said.

No international matches have been played in Pakistan since militants attacked the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



who says hangouts have to be expensive?

Get smart with airtel postpaid. Enjoy great perks at great value.

Advantage for Tk. 450

24 hours @ 77 paisa with 5 sec. pulse

Classic for Tk. 450

15 FnF with 5 sec. pulse

Exclusive for Tk. 750

25 FnF with 1 sec. pulse

Now with better value!

Freebies on offer are

- 300 min free talktime
- 300 SMS
- 500 MB internet data
- Free subscription to My Tunes & Buy & Sell portal

To know more visit your nearest airtel Relationship Centre or call 1212 (free)

PHOTO: AFP