

SPORT



Normally I start from my home ten minutes before practice starts at Mirpur. I woke up early today [Thursday] and my wife told me to go to practice early. I usually take one of my two cars or my bike, but one of the cars and the bike were having some problems and my wife had taken the other one. So, I decided to take a rickshaw ride. And when the rickshaw was taking a turn I saw a bus heading towards us. The first thing that came to my mind at that moment was that I would have to protect my knees. So, I jumped from the rickshaw and landed on the concrete on my hands. I was staring death in the face. Thankfully, I've survived a big scare. I'm okay now but I'm really feeling bad for [Mahmudullah] Riyad.

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza
Bangladesh ODI captain



Riyad's injury is a big blow for us, especially after his World Cup performance he could have been the centre of attraction for us all against India.

Faruque Ahmed
Chief Selector

A suspected cyst on Tamim's knee has nothing to do with his sporting participation. We have sent the MRI to an expert panel and we are expecting the panel's review in the next few days.

Dr. Debashis Chowdhury
BCB Physician



Tigers' injury list lengthens

Cyst in Tamim's left knee?

SPORTS REPORTER



The academy ground, the main ground and the indoor facilities of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium normally draw the attention of the media as the Tigers practise ahead of the coming home series against India, but the medical room was the main attraction for them yesterday.

Over the last few months the injuries kept the medical staff on their toes, but yesterday it reached a pinnacle following the injuries to Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Mahmudullah Riyad. First the injury to Mashrafe following a road accident in Mirpur had spread like wildfire and many

had anticipated another disaster keeping in mind the dreadful history of one injury after another to the Narail Express, but when the Bangladesh ODI skipper came out from the medical room, his smiling face brought huge relief.

On the other hand the gloomy face of Riyad told the story about how much his finger injury saddened him because by then he had already learnt the pathetic news in the medical room that the India series was over for the right-hander, as he will be out of action for three to four weeks due to the left-hand index finger injury he had suffered during catching practice yesterday.

While these two incidents made headlines, the team has been spending uncomfortable moments with

Tamim Iqbal too. The left-handed opener was reportedly down with the development that cystic changes were present in his injured knee.

According to a source, the opener had an MRI done on his troubled left-knee while he was on vacation and sent it to Dr David Young, who had operated on Tamim's knee in December last year in Melbourne.

Famous surgeon Young suspected something in his knee which brought some anxiousness, but BCB's medical experts, who had detected it before the operation last December, were hardly bothered with it as they believe that it's not harmful to the player's sporting participation. Still they sent the report to the experts of Apollo Hospital for their review, which they expect to

receive within next two-three days.

The BCB physicians thought that it could only be confirmed whether there was anything like tumour after pathological examinations, which they want to do after the India and South Africa series and focus on the management of the meniscus for now.

The injury became a big issue for the Bangladesh cricket team in the last few months. Recently, pacer Rubel Hossain had to be left out of the second Test against Pakistan due to a side strain, and pacer Shahadat Hossain could bowl only two balls in the second Test before he was ruled out and the finger injury Mushfiqur Rahim had suffered during the first Test in Khulna is still a concern for the team management ahead of the India series.

Now Riyad has become the latest addition to the injury list.

"The X-ray results confirmed a fracture on his [Mahmudullah Riyad] left index finger which was sustained during fielding practice Thursday morning. Such injuries take around 3 to 4 weeks to heal. He will begin his rehab under the BCB's medical team in the next couple of days. Sometimes the recovery depends on how an individual responds to rehab," said BCB's senior physician Dr Debashis Chowdhury.

Regarding Mashrafe's status, Chowdhury said: "He has been given medication and requires dressing on a regular basis. We expect him to recover in 7 to 10 days but after two days he will have a knee scan and then we can only say that there is no serious damage."

'Dravid would be amazing'

AGENCIES, New Delhi

India's Test captain Virat Kohli on Thursday said it would have been "amazing" to have former captain Rahul Dravid in the BCCI's newly-constituted cricket advisory committee, which will be guiding the national team.

"It would have been amazing if all four would have been on board. [But] the [Dravid] must have had some obligation or commitment," Kohli said on the sidelines of a promotional event here.

The BCCI advisory committee comprises retired batting greats Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman.

Dravid's absence from the panel raised a few eyebrows but BCCI made it clear that it was looking to get the former captain's services in some other capacity, which has not yet been announced.

Now T20 meet for Masters

AGENCIES, Dubai

After Sachin Tendulkar and Shane Warne decided to start an ambitious Legends' T20 League in the United States in 2016, another similar league featuring retired legends like Brian Lara, Wasim Akram and Adam Gilchrist will begin in the UAE in February 2016.

The tournament named Masters Champions League (MCL) will be a franchise-based league and has also got the requisite permission from the Emirates Cricket Board.

The tournament will be made up of six teams in its first year, with a total of 90 players taking part. The players will all be former international cricketers, who are now retired from all forms of the professional sport.

IN A NUTSHELL

Pakistan paid Zimbabwe players

ESPNcricinfo has reported that the Zimbabwean players were paid 12,500 dollars each by the PCB to tour Pakistan for the recently concluded T20 and ODI series. It was the first time a team toured Pakistan since the 2009 terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team bus.

The initial offer by the PCB was 10,000 dollars each to the players, but they felt it was a little less considering the safety concerns. And hence, the tour was first suspended and then was confirmed again after the Pakistan board increased the amount by 2500 dollars for each player.

De Villiers sweeps CSA Awards

Star Proteas batsman AB de Villiers has won South Africa's Cricketer of the Year award for the second successive year, including four other awards at a gala Cricket South Africa banquet event in Midrand.

The 27-year-old batsman was named ODI Cricketer of the Year, Cricketers' Cricketer of the Year, SA Fan's Cricketer of the Year and also got the 'So Good Award' for scoring the fastest century in the history of ODI cricket.

NZ to scrap Aussie Test?

The Black Caps might have agitated for a three-Test series against England but New Zealand Cricket are reportedly in negotiations to drop one home Test against Australia this summer in favour of three Chappell-Hadlee one-day internationals.

Australia are due to play three Tests in New Zealand in February -- the Black Caps will also tour Australia in November -- but NZC is looking to trim it back to a two-Test series in order to carry on the momentum from this year's World Cup when Australia beat New Zealand in the final.

Rohit, Ritika exchange rings

Rohit Sharma hosted an engagement party on Wednesday where he officially exchanged rings with girlfriend Ritika Sajdeh. The two had previously announced their engagement through their Twitter accounts.



The two have been reportedly seeing each other for six years. Ritika is a sports manager and handles Rohit's work engagements. The ceremony was scheduled in such a way that it did not clash with Rohit's hectic cricketing schedule. An official date for the marriage is not yet known.

Compiled By Star Sport Desk

Play 2 spinners in Bangladesh Test: Murali

PTI, Kolkata

Hailing the return of Harbhajan Singh to team India after a two-year hiatus, cricket legend Muttiah Muralidaran has said the way forward for the Indian side in the one-off Test against Bangladesh is to play two off-spinners.

The biggest surprise in the Bangladesh-bound squad for the only Test over June 10-14 at Fatullah was the inclusion of the most successful Indian off-spinner, who had last played a Test in 2013.

Murali feels there's no harm in picking Ravichandran Ashwin and Harbhajan in the same XI.

"Ashwin has been keeping up with his consistency, and now you have Harbhajan back as well. I think he [Harbhajan] will have a good opportunity to play in Bangladesh because you can very well field two off-spinners in the playing XI.

"Harbhajan has been bowling really well, not just in IPL, but also otherwise. He has already proved himself by taking 400-plus [Test] wickets," the 43-year-old said on the sidelines of CAB Vision 2020 camp, at the Jadavpur University second campus ground in Salt Lake yesterday.

Citing the example of him bowling in tandem with Kumar Dharmasena, he said: "If two off-spinners fall among the best bowlers in your side, you have every reason to field them."

Muralidaran was also impressed with left-arm spin all-rounder Akshar Patel, who was part of India's World Cup squad in Australia and New Zealand.

"Akshar Patel has performed well in the last few series he played. He was impressive even in the IPL. I feel the Indian spinners have been doing a pretty decent job. They are not lagging behind in any aspect. Even in the IPL, where you have so many matches to play, you need to do well consistently."

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