

## Abahani play DOHS on May 14

### SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Abahani will resume their Premier League surge when they take on defending champions Old DOHS at the Fatullah Stadium on the opening day of the Kai-Altech Premier Cricket Super League on May 14.

On the same day, Mohammmed Sporting Club will take on Bangladesh Biman at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium while the last two sides Sonargaon Cricketers play Victoria Sporting Club at BKSP.

Abahani is on top of the table with 20 points as they won 10 out of 11 matches while their bitter rivals Mohammmed are in second place with 17 points. While it was quite easy sailing for Victoria (16 points) as they garnered a good young side, it was not all that easy for the reigning champions DOHS who had to wait on Brothers Union's win over Kalabagan on the final day of the first round back in February.

The relegation dogfight will take place between Indra (six points), City Club (four points) and Brothers Union (four points) from which two will go down to the First Division and one survive. But it was unclear when the relegation league will begin.

### Tevez beats

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Mikel Arteta kept Everton on course for a UEFA Cup place as his second-half penalty set up a 3-0 win against Portsmouth.

Arteaga struck from the spot in the 59th minute, then Joseph Yobo added a second and Gary Naysmith scored in the last minute to lift David Moyes' team into fifth place.

Benni McCarthy and Jason Roberts were the goalscorers as Blackburn won 2-0 at Newcastle.

Already-relegated Watford landed just their fifth league win this season as goals from Danny Shittu and Marlon King secured a 2-0 success at Reading.

### India turn

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BKS Iyengar, who has worked with Tendulkar too and also had a few sessions with the Indian team during Greg Chappell's tenure.

Giggs's and Langer's experiences suggest yoga is a special help with back injuries and hamstrings, and thus extending their careers into the mid-30s. S' Omkar, one of India's earlier yoga instructors, has said that apart from strengthening the quadriceps and hamstrings, yoga relaxes and helps players stay calm. Ancient practitioners believe yoga is close to meditation, an escape into oneself.

It's not a given that yoga extends careers but a look at some of the more regular practitioners -- Langer, Giggs, Matthew Hayden -- lends weight to that belief. Hayden, for example, is known to have amazing powers of concentration and his pre-match routine -- of studying the pitch for a considerable length of time -- suggests a yogic posture.

Considering the views of Dilip Vengsarkar, the chairman of selectors, on the talent pool outside the national team, extending careers is a matter of great urgency. Five thousand years of practice can't be wrong.

### EPL to probe

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Merseyside outfit that an "arrangement" had been made between the clubs to that effect.

According to reports in the Mail on Sunday and the News of the World Premier League bosses have indicated that if 'third party interference' is proven both clubs could be sanctioned, possibly with points deductions or fines.

Premier League spokesman Dan Johnson said: "We will be contacting both clubs as a matter of urgency to find out what has gone on."

"As Howard's is a permanent transfer there is no reason why he could not have played against Manchester United."

"Had such a clause been included in the transfer we would not have allowed it - it would have been a clear case of third party interference."

"We certainly have no record of an agreement between Everton and United that Howard could not play on April 28."

Earlier this week, Everton spokesman Ian Ross said that as a condition of making the loan deal permanent in February, United had demanded Howard did not play on April 28.

Ross said Everton had no choice, otherwise United would have kept the transfer as a loan deal until the end of the season, and manager David Moyes wanted to sign Howard up before he faced competition from rivals.



GrameenPhone chief marketing officer Stein Naevdal speaks during a press conference in connection with their title sponsorship for the India tour of Bangladesh at a local hotel yesterday.

## Sir Bobby Robson in fifth cancer fight

### Football

#### AFP, London

Former England manager Sir Bobby Robson said Sunday he had been diagnosed with cancer for the fifth time.

The 74-year-old started a six-week bout of chemotherapy last week after small cancerous nodules were discovered in his lungs.

The knight has battled cancer on and off for the last 15 years and has undergone cancer surgery four times.

"Of course, it's not the greatest news I've ever had but I have fought hard throughout my life and I will continue to fight. I will battle as I've always done," he told The Mail on Sunday weekly newspaper.

"My last operation in August was a success but this time the doctors have said they can't operate.

"The good news is that they are measuring the nodules in my lungs in millimetres rather than centimetres!"

"That is encouraging and we are hopeful the treatment will keep it under control."

"I've been advised to keep busy and active, and that's what I will be trying to do whenever possible."

Robson vowed to carry on with his life as normal and plans to attend his annual charity golf day in Portugal next week before celebrating his 52nd wedding anniversary next month with his wife Elsie, two sons and four grandchildren.

His last battle with cancer

came in August 2006 when he had a tumor the size of a grape removed from his brain.

He successfully fought cancer three times previously: he had a golf ball-sized tumor removed from his lung in May 2006, while in 1995, he was discovered to have a rare form of skin cancer behind his ear.

Treatment for that involved complex surgery which left him needing a rubber plug in his mouth. Three years before that he overcame bowel cancer.

Robson played for Fulham and West Bromwich Albion during a successful career. He won 20 England caps and played in the 1958 and 1962 World Cups.

He made his name as a manager with Ipswich in the 1970s, winning the FA Cup in 1978 and the UEFA Cup in 1981 during a 13-year spell with the club from 1969.

### Mashrafe

#### FROM PAGE 17

huge assistance from the pitch to put more pressure on the visiting batting.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

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**Bangladesh Green XI:** 196 all out in 49 overs (Shahriar 29, Zunaed 1, Sadat 23, Tushar 20, Mashfiqur 9, Rajin 25, Mashrafe 49, Rafique 10, Kapali 18, Razzak 2, Rasel 0 not out, extras 10; Shahadat 3-51, Farhad 1-29, Aftab 3-28, Shakib 1-28).

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