

Brian Laudrup battling cancer

Former Denmark and Chelsea striker Brian Laudrup has disclosed he is battling against lymphatic cancer, a fight the 41-year-old insisted Wednesday he would win. Laudrup revealed his plight in a statement, saying he had been "shocked by the doctor's diagnosis". "There's a hard battle in front of me, a battle that I am going to win," said Laudrup, who was part of Denmark's 1992 European championship winning team. He explained that he had decided to go public on his illness to put an end "all the rumours, half-truths and myths" about the state of his health.

- AFP



What to WATCH

Thursday, Sept 9

TEN Sports

US Open Tennis Men's Quarterfinals & Mixed Doubles Final Live from 9:00pm

Friday, Sept 10

ESPN

England v Pakistan First ODI Live from 3:15pm

STAR Cricket

Champions League T20 Mumbai Indians v Highveld Lions

Live from 9:00pm

Saturday, Sept 11

ESPN

English Premier League Everton v Man United

Live from 5:40pm

West Ham v Chelsea Live from 7:55pm

STAR Sports

English Premier League Arsenal v Bolton

Live from 7:55pm

STAR Cricket

Champions League T20 Warriors v Wayamba Elelevens

Live from 5:20pm

Chennai Super Kings v Central Stags

Live from 9:20pm

ZEE Sports

Primera Liga Barcelona v Hercules

Live from 10:25pm

ZEE Sports

Primera Liga Real Madrid v Osasuna

Live from 11:25pm

Villarreal v Espanyol Live from 11:25pm

ESPN

England v Pakistan Second ODI

Live from 3:15pm

English Premier League Birmingham City v Liverpool

Live from 9:00pm

STAR Cricket

Champions League T20 Highveld Lions v South Australian Redbacks

Live from 5:20pm

Royal Challengers Bangalore v Guyana

Live from 9:20pm

Monday, Sept 13

ZEE Sports

Primera Liga Sevilla v Deportivo

Live from 1:25am

STAR Cricket

Champions League T20 Warriors v Victoria Bushrangers

Live from 9:20pm

Royal Challengers Bangalore v Guyana

Live from 9:20pm

Tuesday, Sept 14

ZEE Sports

Primera Liga Almeira v Real Sociedad

Live from 1:25am



THE MIDAS TOUCH: Argentina talisman Lionel Messi (L) wriggles past Spain midfielder Xabi Alonso (R) during their friendly match at the Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

Argentina bring Spain down to earth

Football

AFP, Buenos Aires

A Lionel Messi-inspired Argentina rebounded from their World Cup flop to defeat world champions Spain 4-1 in a friendly here on Tuesday.

The Barcelona star opened the scoring after just nine minutes and further goals from Gonzalo Higuain three minutes later and Carlos Tevez after 34 minutes gave the South Americans a stunning 3-0 lead at half-time.

The second half was a quieter affair with Fernando Llorente pulling one back for the Spaniards after 83 minutes before Sergio Aguero produced the final margin in injury time.

The win was a huge boost for new coach Sergio Batista, who took over from the sacked Diego Maradona after Argentina crashed out of the World Cup losing 4-0 to Argentina in the quarter-finals in South Africa.

Batista has been given until the end of the year to prove himself. Spain, though, were without goalkeeper Iker Casillas and fielded only one of the back-four defenders who started against the Netherlands in the World Cup final.

That showed early on as Argentina's fast-attacking forwards exposed Spain's lack of cohesion at the back.

Messi struck the first blow with a superb goal in nine minutes after which he kissed his shirt in celebration to the delight of the home fans who have doubted his commitment to the national team.

Three minutes later, it was the turn of Real Madrid striker Higuain to make it 2-0 running on to a long through ball from Manchester City's Tevez.

Argentina's third goal after 34 minutes was gifted by Spanish goalkeeper Pepe Reina, who slipped when kicking clear allowing Tevez to pounce and score.

Spain, in turn, were unlucky with striker David Villa twice hitting the post, after 28 and 41 minutes.

Spanish coach Vicente del Bosque rang the changes at half-time and that worked well as Spain began to control the midfield.

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Manzur joins BCB

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) got its new CEO Manzur Ahmed yesterday after running with an interim for almost three years.

The former national cricketer has a massive job in hand as the World Cup is not only coming up in February 2011 but he has to ensure professionalism in the activities of the country's richest sporting body.

"I'm looking beyond the World Cup. We have to work together to enhance the image of the country's cricket," said the soft-spoken Manzur while talking with the reporters at his office at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The 54-year-old Manzur, who served as CEO of Brunei Darussalam Cricket

Association since 2005, however was not ready to reveal anything about his target he would love to achieve during his tenure.

Manzur, who will start his work at full swing from next month, has been offered a renewable one-year contract. He took over from Nizamuddin Chowdhury, who had been the acting CEO since Mahmudur Rahman's contract expired in February 2008.

"This is a very exciting time for me. I had always wanted to involve myself with cricket in Bangladesh and as a keen sports enthusiast and former player this is an ideal challenge for me," he said responding to a question about commencing his new assignment.

"I firmly believe that good governance is a key factor in enhancing the level of performance and my effort would be towards achieving that with the BCB," he added.

Manzur had represented Bangladesh as a wicketkeeper

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MANZUR AHMED

Rubcic sets lofty goal

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Newly appointed head coach of Bangladesh national football team Robert Rubcic announced his intention to take Bangladesh thirty places higher in the FIFA rankings within the next year.

The 47-year Croat, who arrived in the capital last morning after travelling 24 hours from Zagreb, stated his aim at a crowded press conference at the BFF House yesterday. The soft-spoken Croat was visibly tired but said that he felt exceptionally honoured to be appointed chief coach of a national side for the first time.

"Bangladesh is ranked 152nd in the FIFA rankings and I would like to see them thirty

places higher at the end of my term," said Rubcic who is set to lead Bangladesh in the Asian Games, AFC Challenge Cup, Olympic Qualifiers and the FIFA World Cup pre-qualifiers during his one-year stint.

Rubcic, who has spent most of his career in club coaching, admitted it was a challenge coaching a national side. But the former Croatia international is confident he can take Bangladesh forward,

but admitted he needs time to make a difference.

"It's not going to be an easy job because the weather and atmosphere is far different from where I come from. But I've been in this line all my life. I've had very good communication with players wherever I have coached. I will try to make these players' condition superb," said Rubcic.

When it comes to style of play, the former assistant coach of Croatia looks likely to be defensive minded, and marked out Real Madrid manager Jose Mourinho as his favourite and the best in the business.

"Mourinho is a serious coach. He prepares for a match for ten days. He thinks about the game for twenty-four hours. He is the best coach in the world."

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New Bangladesh football coach Robert Rubcic (C) is being presented with a jersey by BFF vice-president Badal Roy at the federation bhaban's conference room yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Tigers go on Eid holidays

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers went into the Eid vacation after completing practice yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Most of the national players will enjoy their holidays outside Dhaka and come back to business on September 15.

The final team, from the 26 members, for the five-match one-day series against New Zealand has supposed to

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BFF to invite eight teams

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation has decided to invite eight teams outside the professional football league in the season's curtain-raising tournament the Federation Cup, scheduled to start from October 8.

The decision was taken at the Bangladesh League committee meeting yesterday as Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Air Force,

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SO WHAT WILL YOU DO ON EID DAY? Shahriar Nafees (C) has a chat with head coach Jamie Siddons after the national team's preparation camp concluded at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday ahead of the Eid holidays. PHOTO: STAR

Americans annihilated

AFP, New York



Rafael Nadal kept his perfect record intact at the US Open Tuesday as he powered past Spanish compatriot Feliciano Lopez into the quarterfinals.

The top seed won 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 and in four outtings to date he has yet to drop a set or even his serve.

Next up in his sights is old foe Fernando Verdasco, another Spaniard against whom Nadal has a perfect 10-0 win-loss record.

"I was ready for the late start and the hardest thing was for the fans to be here," he said.

"This year I am healthy and hope to continue to play well and have my chances."

Verdasco took four hours 23 minutes to see off compatriot David Ferrer in a typically gruelling Iberian clash that involved merciless, end-to-end tennis.

"I hope that it is going to give me big confidence, this match," the eighth seed said.

"And also I hope to be 100 per cent physically after a tough match like today to play

against a player like Nadal that you need to be like 100 per cent to try to face him, to try to beat him."

Home hopes, meanwhile, were blown away by Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka when he outlasted Sam Querrey in a marathon fourth round tie.

The 7-6 (11/9), 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 defeat means that

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SPORTS POLL

Is dropping Asif, Aamer and Butt for the ODI series enough to punish them?

No 67.63%

Yes 32.37%

TOTAL VOTES: 356

TODAY'S QUESTION

Do you think the Tigers can win matches in the 5 ODIs against New Zealand?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

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