

Star SPORT

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'I write like a toddler'

Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp told police he writes like a toddler and paid his accountant handsomely "to look after me", the jury in his trial on allegations of tax evasion heard on Thursday. Redknapp told detectives three years ago that he struggles with basic literacy, saying: "I write like a two-year-old and I can't spell." The Spurs boss denies charges of cheating the public revenue during his time at Portsmouth. Redknapp, 64, said: "I couldn't even fill a team sheet in" and insisted he was the "most disorganised person in the world".



The Djokes on Murray

AP, Melbourne

Defending champion Novak Djokovic moved into an Australian Open final against Rafael Nadal after struggling past Andy Murray in a five-set, almost five-hour semifinal late Friday night.

Despite appearing tired and sore from the second set on, Djokovic rallied to beat Murray 6-3, 3-6, 6-7 (4), 6-1, 7-5 in a rematch of the 2011 final at Melbourne Park to reach his third consecutive Grand Slam final.

After wasting a chance to serve out the match at 5-3 in the fifth and letting Murray back into the contest, Djokovic cashed in his first match point when the Scottish player missed a forehand after four hours, 50 minutes.

Djokovic dropped onto his back, fully laid out on the court. He got up and shook hands with Murray, before jogging back out onto the court like a boxer, dropping to his knees and crossing himself.

It was already after 12:30 a.m. Saturday

when he got up again and pumped his arms triumphantly.

"Andy deserves the credit to come back from 2-5 down. He was fighting. I was fighting," Djokovic said. "Not many words that can describe the feeling of the match."

"Evidently it was a physical match ... it was one of the best matches I played. Emotionally and mentally it was equally hard."

It was a bitter setback for Murray, who lost the previous two Australian finals.

Djokovic finished last year at No. 1 after winning three of the four majors, including a straight-sets win over Murray in the Australian final. His only loss at a Grand Slam in 2011 was against Roger Federer in the French Open semifinals.

He is now aiming to be only the fifth man in the Open Era started in 1968 to win three straight majors. His 70-6 win-loss record in 2011 included six wins over Nadal in finals.

Nadal, the 2009 Australian Open winner, beat four-time champion Federer in Thursday's semifinal and has an extra day to prepare for Sunday night's final.



World number one Novak Djokovic celebrates his semifinal victory against Andy Murray at the Australian Open in Melbourne on Friday. PHOTO: REUTERS

No pool in hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Hockey players have finally got out of the pool system after two seasons as the governing body of Bangladesh Hockey Federation yesterday decided not to insert the pool system in the upcoming players' transfer window for the Premier Hockey League.

"The meeting decided to stick to its previous decision of not incorporating the pool system and I believe all participating clubs will take part in the players transfer as the representatives of the clubs in the governing body did not oppose the decision," said BHF general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah after the meeting.

Last season, a total of 11 pool players failed to find any

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Prime takes Old DOHS naming rights

SPORTS REPORTER

The Old DOHS Sports Club, the Premier Division team, will be named after Prime Bank Cricket Club from the season 2012-2013.

Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) took the decision in its meeting on Thursday.

Examining all the relevant documents the CCDM has decided that the club will be running in this season with the name of Old DOHS Sports Club (Prime Bank Cricket Club) and from next season it will only named after its new owner, Prime Bank.

Nabil puts DOHS further ahead



Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Nabil Samad's five-for in the Old DOHS's 49-run win over Mohammedan Sporting Club kept them ahead of the chasing pack in the Dhaka Premier League yesterday.

Old DOHS are now on 14 points, two ahead of Abahani, which kept up the pressure through a clinical 67-run win over Bangladesh Biman at the BKSP in Savar, and Mohammedan. However, Victoria Sporting Club are expected to catch up with DOHS as they face winless Surjo Tarun today.

Elsewhere, Gazi Tank beat Brothers Union by 49 runs at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

DOHS-MOHAMMEDAN

Old DOHS's 262-run target was always going to be daunting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium and when Mohammedan lost their form batsman Imrul Kayes for 18 in the tenth over, the chase became slightly harder.

Imtiaz Hossain Tanna kept up the pressure though, hammering three boundaries and two sixes in his 65-ball 52 but once Mohammad Ashraf removed him through a caught-behind dismissal, the task got tougher.

Nabil Samad then got to work, removing Rameez Raja Jr for 40 and Rajin Saleh (18) before clearing out the tail to pick up five wickets. He missed out on a hat-trick when, after getting rid of Delwar Hossain and Syed Rahman dropped Amitav Noyon on slip.

Earlier, Rameez Pinzara and Adnan Raza's half-centuries put Old DOHS in command as they made 262-7 in 50 overs.

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India face wipeout

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

India were lurching towards defeat and a 4-0 series humiliation against Australia after another batting collapse in the fourth Test in Adelaide on Friday.

The beleaguered tourists, chasing a record 500 runs for an unlikely win, took the Test into a fifth day for the first time in their ill-fated tour but only after losing their top six batsmen, including Sachin Tendulkar.

VVS Laxman and first innings century-maker Virat Kohli stalled Australia's charge for almost 90 minutes before Laxman fell to a poor shot two overs from stumps.

Laxman, struggling for form in Australia, played spinner Nathan Lyon off the back foot straight to short mid-wicket for 35 leaving nightwatchman Ishant Sharma surrounded by nine close infielders.

But in the day's penultimate over Kohli was run out on a chancy single by a brilliant

side-on throw by Ben Hilfenhaus for 22 to leave the tourists in tatters.

Australia will expect to mop up India's tail on Saturday with only forecasted storms likely to save the visitors from another embarrassing capitulation.

At the close on the fourth day, India were 166 for six, trailing by 333 runs with Sharma on two and Wriddhiman Saha yet to score. Lyon ended the day with three for 57 off 19 overs.

"We are extremely disappointed but there is no need for the word 'embarrassment'," India spinner Ravi Ashwin said.

"It's a sport and at the end of the day we have all competed hard at the ground, it's not like we've chucked it away."

"We've given it everything we had. Yes, we've come up short on occasions. We have not seized the initiatives and we've not enough reserves in the bank to do it."

The tourists were left with 146 overs to reach their improbable target after Australia declared their second innings at 167 for five shortly after lunch.

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WOMEN'S CORPORATE FOOTBALL BJMC clinch title

SPORTS REPORTER

Team BJMC clinched the title of the inaugural Walton Women's Corporate Football League with a 2-0 win over Sheltech in tiebreaker at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The regulation 90-minute ended 1-1 and the match rolled into the direct shootout where BJMC's national goalkeeper Sabina Akhter saved three shots to take her side to the coveted title. The keenly contested final was witnessed by a few hundred enthusiastic spectators.

It was Sheltech though who took the lead in the 44th minute when Sabina Akhter failed to stop a curling free-kick from defender Farhana Khatun. But BJMC striker Sabina Khatun levelled the margin one minute before the final whistle to take the match to tie-beaker. Sabina Akhter then saved three consecutive shots after Sheltech's Trisna Chakma sent the first one wide.

Eti put BJMC ahead converting the first shot before Sheltech goalkeeper also thwarted two shots but Bithi converted the fourth shot to ensure a 2-0 tiebreaker win over Sheltech, who earlier defeated BRAC, Sun Beam and Team BJMC but could not repeat the same feat against BJMC

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Team BJMC players celebrate with the Walton Women's Corporate Football League trophy after a 2-0 victory in tiebreaker over Sheltech at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Two more schools moved into the district-level competition of the National School Football Islami Bank tournament after emerging champions in their respective Upazilas yesterday.

Charkharikha High School defeated Govt Laboratory High School 1-0 in the final of Mymensingh Sadar Upazila while Khamarer Bazar High School defeated Gantali High School 2-0 in tiebreaker in the Muktaghacha Upazila final to emerge champions.

Aga Khan Gold Cup golf

The Aga Khan Gold Cup Golf Tournament started at the Kurmitola Golf Course yesterday. Lieutenant general Abdul Wadud, principal staff officer of Armed Forces Division, Dhaka Cantonment teed off to inaugurate the three-day pro-amateur event. Brigadier general Abidur Reza Khan (Retd), chairman of the tournament committee, Habib Hirji, president of Aga Khan Shia Imami Ismaili Council for Bangladesh and other members of the Aga Khan Community and golf club were present at the occasion.

The prize distribution ceremony will be held tomorrow where major general Tarique Ahmed Siddique (retd), advisor to the Prime Minister will be present as chief guest.

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BPL 13 days to go... Starts from 10 February 2012