

# Pybus quits

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that Pybus, through his agent, had informed the board that he would not continue with the Bangladesh cricket team late Tuesday night. Bangladesh bowling coach Shane John Jurgensen will take over as head coach for the upcoming series against the West Indies in November-December.

Pybus, Bangladesh's 11th foreign coach came on board with the Bangladesh cricket team on May 30 when he agreed to a two-year deal. He replaced former Australian cricketer Stuart Law, who cut short his stint as head coach after nine months in the job in April citing family reasons.

He had been in charge of the Tigers for their T20 tours to Zimbabwe, Ireland, Netherlands, Trinidad & Tobago, and the recently concluded ICC World Twenty20.

Speaking to popular cricket website ESPNCricinfo Pybus, currently on vacation in South Africa after the completion of Bangladesh's ICC World Twenty20 assignment, claimed that there was a discrepancy between his initial agreement with the BCB, and the contractual terms he had been offered when he had accepted the job.

It recently emerged that Pybus, an Englishman living in South Africa, had never actually signed a contract with the BCB and had accepted the position under a Memorandum of Understanding. The main bone of contention that has led to his resignation now and for which he was hesitant to accept the position initially was his vacation terms.

"(Pybus) had to leave because of family reasons," said new BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon after a board meeting, his first in charge, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. "He wanted to go home between tours, which was not possible from our point of view. He cannot stay as a part-time coach."

According to his ESPNCricinfo interview, Pybus was initially resistant to BCB's offers of head coach because he would have had to spend too much time away from family as the board wanted Pybus to be with the team and in Bangladesh 320 days a year. He said that he only accepted at the third time of asking because the BCB agreed to his condition to go home between tours, but that their agreement was not made explicit in the contract presented to him when he came to Dhaka, which is why he refused to sign it.

The bad blood between the board and Pybus recently increased when terms of his contract were leaked to the local media, which he said "fundamentally undermined the principles of confidentiality".

Pybus further alleged that during his tenure as coach, he was undermined by board officials, some of whom were 'not only obstructive, but seemed to be completely ignorant of cricket' after having been assured by then BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal that there will be no interference.

## YAKUZA SCANDAL

## Japan names new justice minister

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda yesterday named a new justice minister after the last one resigned in the wake of an uproar over past links to organised crime.

Makoto Taki, who was shuffled out of the post on October 1 to make way for the now scandal-tainted Keishu Tanaka, has been put back in his old job, the government announced.

Taki, 74, a career civil servant, had a low profile while previously in office, but won plaudits for beefing up Japan's laws on reckless driving.

Tanaka stepped down on Tuesday, citing health reasons after spending several days in hospital.

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# city

# Gang held for cheating

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Branch (DB) arrested the four from Lakeshore Hotel in the capital's Gulshan.

The foreigners could not produce their travel documents and any proof of ownership of the seized money.

Briefing the press at the Media Centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Deputy Commissioner Mollah Nazrul Islam of the

jobseekers of the money. The foreigners have siphoned money off the country.

Talking to this correspondent, arrested Samir claimed that they have been working here as representatives of a manpower recruitment agency in Libya. Four local agencies help them attract jobseekers.

"People here contact the local agencies to complete visa formalities at the Libyan embassy. We work as mediators between the embassy and the agency in Libya," he added.

He claimed that the Libyans in connivance with a local gang swindled

gave passports to them to submit those to the embassy for visa processing.

Another arrestee Priyanka claimed that she first got acquainted with Samir in a party seven months ago. Though she was in a romantic relationship with Samir, she had no idea about the occupation of the Libyans.

Police were yet to contact with the Libyan embassy to verify the claims of the arrestees.

Process was underway for lodging a case with Gulshan Police Station in this connection.

# Durga Puja ends

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of fanfare and festivity, Hindus all over the country took out colourful processions to commemorate the return of the Goddess and her four children to Kailash, her husband's abode. Hundreds of devotees, young and old, men and women, joined hands to lower the idols into rivers amid the beating of drums, prayers and chanting of hymns.

A tinge of sadness filled the air but the devotees consoled themselves that Durga would return again next year.

In the morning, devotees offered their final prayers at different puja mandaps (pavilions) across the capital. The participation of youths in the festivities was particularly noticeable as they partook in celebratory dances and rong khela, a play with colours.

"We try to observe traditional rituals of puja, but for

the younger generations, I think puja is more a time to meet friends and family and have fun," said Shreya Baral, a young professional.

"It has taken on a secular atmosphere as people of different faiths join in the celebrations," she noted.

In recent times, the grounds of Banani-Gulshan, Kalabagan and Uttara in the capital have become popular destinations for youths. In addition to traditional puja merriments, organisers at these venues arranged cultural events that drew large crowds. The revelry in Old Dhaka, especially in Shankhari Bazar and Tanti Bazar, continued to attract Hindu devotees and a diverse assortment of visitors.

Durga puja was celebrated with great fervour this year at 28,000 mandaps across the country, including 201 in the capital.

ities, presenting a wonderful example of communal harmony.

"Muslims have always participated in puja celebrations, but in these troubled times, it is still nice to see people of different faiths actively joining each other's festivities," said Khushi Kabir, prominent women's rights activist, while visiting Dhakeshwari Temple.

A group of youngsters, clad in red and white, the traditional colours of Dashami, introduced themselves as Muslims but saw no reason as to why they could not express their solidarity with the Hindu community.

"It is an inclusive festival," they said.

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# Hajj today

FROM PAGE 1

night in government provided tents and buildings, passing the time in prayer and reflection.

The passage to Mina marks the official launch of the hajj on the eighth day of the Muslim calendar month of Dhul Hijja.

The day is known as Tarwih (Watering) as pilgrims in the past stopped at Mina to feed their animals and stock up for the following day's trip to Mount Arafat.

Saudi Interior Ministry spokesman Mansur al-Turki said that around 85 percent of the pilgrims will head to Mina while the rest will head straight to Mount Arafat.

The women, dressed from

head to foot revealing only their faces and hands, echoed the religious chant.

Sweaty and exasperated, 55-year-old Indonesian pilgrim Laila Soharto told AFP: "We are thrilled to be heading towards God's most sacred spots on earth."

The pilgrims' stay in Makkah has so far been incident-free, with some 25,700 members of civil defence deployed throughout the kingdom's holy cities.

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Today, Arafat Day, is the climax of the hajj, when pil-

grims ascend Mount Arafat, some 10 kilometres southeast of Mina, to spend the day in prayer.

The hilltop and the surrounding plain is where the Prophet Mohammed is believed to have delivered his final hajj sermon before his death.

After sunset, the pilgrims head to Muzdalifah, between Mina and Arafat, where they collect stones to throw at the devil, one of the last rituals which will take place tomorrow and mark the first day of Eid al-Azha, the annual feast of sacrifice.

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