

## Ardeshir finally Abahani's

SPORTS REPORTER

Iranian coach Ardeshir Pournemat Vodehi arrived here yesterday night to coach traditional powerhouse Abahani for the season as the AFC coaches instructor is expected to stay with Abahani till the AFC President's Cup.

Ardeshir will get little time to prepare professional football league champions Abahani as the sixth edition of the Bangla-desh Premier League is scheduled to get underway from November 13.

Ardeshir is Abahani's second Iranian coach after Ali Akbar, who guided Abahani to win the professional football league last season but the Sky Blues this time kept their sights to rope in Ardeshir, who had desired to coach a Bangladeshi club during his 13-day stay in Bangladesh earlier this month.

## Mia bags gold in taekwondo

SPORTS REPORTER

Muslim Mia of Bangladesh Army bagged gold in 87kg category in the Korean International Taekwondo Tournament, said a Bangladesh Olympic Association press release yesterday.

Imtiaz won a silver medal in the same event.

## Ton-up Tendulkar

AFP, Mumbai

Indian batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar looked in good form ahead of a home Test series against England as he smashed a solid 137 in domestic first-class cricket on Friday.

The 39-year-old, the world's leading scorer in both Test and one-day cricket, cracked three sixes and 21 fours in his 136-ball knock for Mumbai on the opening day of a four-day Ranji Trophy match against Railways.

Tendulkar, whose last Ranji appearance was in 2009, put on 200 runs for the fourth wicket with Test-hopeful Ajinkya Rahane (105 not out) to help his team post 344-4 in their first innings at stumps at the Wankhede Stadium.

The four-Test series against England starts in Ahmedabad on November 15.

Tendulkar struggled in the last home Test series against New Zealand in August-September when he scored just 63 runs in three innings.

Some observers suggested his reflexes were on the slide, and Tendulkar himself has hinted he may soon be on the brink of retirement.

He has been without a Test century since making 146 against South Africa in Cape Town in January 2011.

The "master blaster" has scored a world record Test (15,533) and one-day (18,426) runs and has also compiled an unprecedented 100 international centuries.

## Siddikur

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Championships records. Countryman Ernie Els, the reigning Open champion, matched Oosthuizen's sparkling round to move up to tied second place alongside Australian Adam Scott, who carded a 68 for a 133 total.



South Africa fast bowler Dale Steyn (L) delivers the ball during the first day's play of the three-day tour match against Australia 'A' at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Aus A recover from Steyn strike

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australia A recovered from an early setback to thwart South Africa's Test-strength bowling attack on the opening day of their three-day tour match at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday.

Australia A fought back from 44 for three in the 14th over to be 325 for seven off 90 overs at the close after winning the toss in the tour warm-up game before next week's opening Test in Brisbane.

Spearheaded by premier paceman Dale Steyn, the Proteas started strongly, capturing three wickets cheaply midway through the first session.

But a 122-run stand between opener Rob Quiney (85) and Steve Smith (67) lifted Australia A.

Upon the quick dismissals of Quiney and Smith Australia A slumped to 185 for six before another rebuilding partnership of 133 between Glenn Maxwell (64) and Alex Doolan (76 not out) saw the Australian selection through until the final few overs of the day.

What began as an encouraging day for South Africa's vaunted pace brigade fell away to a long day in the field.

Steyn remained the pick of the bowlers, finishing with 3-43, while Rory Kleinveldt snared 2-45.

Imran Tahir bowled better than his figures of 2-114 off 28 overs.

It was a forgettable day for third

paceman Vernon Philander, the No.2 ranked bowler in Test cricket, who failed to take a wicket and finished with 0-76 from 16 overs.

Maxwell was the aggressor after tea, hammering the spin trio of Tahir, JP Duminy and Faf du Plessis as he smashed eight fours before being caught behind off Steyn.

Quiney hit 13 boundaries to top-score on the opening day.

Steyn produced the pick of the wickets, clean bowling opener Liam Davis (10) with a gem of a delivery that pitched on middle and beat the bat before clipping off-stump.

Former Test opener Phil Hughes (5) and captain Andrew McDonald (0) went cheaply before Australia A regrouped.

Quiney looked sharp before he was brought undone by Steyn, who enticed an edge to Graeme Smith at first slip, while Steve Smith (67) lasted just three more overs before he became Tahir's second LBW victim of the day.

Jacques Kallis, recovering from a chest infection, and Morne Morkel were rested from an otherwise full-strength South African team, though Kallis came on as a replacement fielder late in the day.

The first of three Tests gets underway at the Gabba on November 9.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**AUSTRALIA A:** First innings 325 for 7 (Quiney 85, Smith 67, Doolan 76 not out, Maxwell 64; Steyn 3-43, Tahir 2-114, Kleinveldt 2-45)

## Club association on the cards?

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said Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan.

Lokman also believed that the club association would be putting a good role in stopping the prevalence of fixed matches.

Meanwhile, there had been a club association before the introduction of the professional football league in 2006-07 season but since then there is no activities of that club association, which was often blamed to deprive the

footballers during the players' transfer window through 'gentlemen agreements' among the clubs rather than solving other problems and improving the standard of play.

"There has been such instances in the past but I can promise that we don't have such bad intension to deprive the players but I think the federation should determine a ceiling on salary for the players," said Manjur Kader.

Kader also said that the clubs like Brothers Union, Arambagh struggled to form a squad in the face of high demand from the players and that they want to bring equity in this regard.

Meanwhile, the clubs sign up the players on the basis of monthly salary in line with the BFF instruction but in most of the case they paid 70 to 80 percent to all players before signing them during the players' transfer window.

## Tamim dominates

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tackled the two best left arm spinners of Bangladesh with ease. The left-arm bowlers took five wickets yesterday.

### RAJSHAHI v BARISAL

Rajshahi were boosted by a 267-run opening partnership between Junaid Siddiqui and Mizanur Rahman. With the national selectors still hunting for an opening partner for Tamim, Junaid's century might just give him the edge in that battle

### DHAKA v DHAKA METRO

Shahadat Hossain picked up a five-for as Dhaka booked Dhaka Metro for just 205 runs. Youngster Asif Ahmed was the only batsman who showed promise for Metro as his fluent 86 pivoted the team's innings. Unfortunately for Dhaka, they couldn't replicate their performance while batting as they lost 7 quick wickets. Elias Sunny of Dhaka Metro was the chief destroyer as he picked up three wickets in his first three overs.

## Rajib inches

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with 7 points each along with other 8 players. GM Abdullah Al Rakib, IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar and FM Debaraj Chatterjee earned 6 points each. IM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag, FM Taibur Rahman and WIM Shamima Akter Liza earned 5.5 points each.

In the 10th round matches, Zia beat IM Subrajit Saha of India, Niaz beat Abhishek Kelkar of India.

## PCB all for D/N Tests

Cricket

CRICINFO, Karachi

The PCB has welcomed the possibility of the day-night Tests, calling the change a "boost in the game's value for the host boards."

The ICC announced earlier this week that Tests can now be played under lights, allowing the boards of the two countries involved to decide on playing times and the brand, type and colour of the ball used. Pakistan have already experimented with day-night long-form cricket twice, by playing their first-class Quaid-e-Azam trophy final in January 2011 and December 2011 under lights with orange ball, instead of the pink ball that has been mainly used by various other boards.

The Executive Coordination Committee of PCB met at Gaddafi Stadium on Thursday and welcomed the ICC's decision. "Cricket has changed over time and this decision (of day-night Tests) would provide the cricket fans with an opportunity to watch the cricket matches played under this format during prime-time television," PCB said. "The Committee observed that the application of the concept would also increase the product value of these matches for the host boards."

Pakistan has been a no-go country for major international teams after the attack on Sri Lankan team in March 2009. Since then, Pakistan have played their 'home' series away from home, mostly in UAE - where Pakistan failed to draw too much of a crowd for the Test matches, partly due to play being during working hours. Pakistan's last home Test series was against England earlier this year in UAE and the next Test series is against South Africa in October next year.

Experiments over the past couple of years have shown that either pink or orange balls are easier to sight than the traditional red one under lights. West Indies, England and Bangladesh have experimented with pink balls. The PCB, however, was undecided over the colour of the ball to be used for day-night Tests, though it has preferred the orange ball to the pink one in domestic trials. The experiment proved successful with the captains, umpires, referee and broadcaster giving encouraging feedback over the visibility of the ball.

## Radicals oppose Pak tour of India

AFP, New Delhi

Radical Hindu groups on Friday demanded the cancellation of the first Pakistan cricket tour to India in five years and threatened to hold protests against the visiting side.

Pakistan will play five matches in India starting on December 25 in Bangalore, reviving cross-border cricket ties that were broken after the 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai by Pakistani militants.

The influential Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council) said India should refuse to host the tour until arch-rival Pakistan brought to justice the masterminds behind the Mumbai attacks that left 166 people dead.

"Why should we have sporting links with a country which is directing terrorism against us," VHP spokesman Prakash Sharma told AFP. "Pakistan is not even willing to accept evidence provided by India of its role."

Pakistan in 2009 charged seven men over planning the Mumbai attacks, but insists it needs to gather more evidence in India before proceeding further.

Sharma declined to give details of any proposed protests, but security will be high for the games in Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Kolkata and New Delhi.

## Talent hunt

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Mohammad Moslem, President of Special Olympic, Chittagong Chapter told The Daily Star that the selected talents will be prepared for competing in upcoming world Special Olympic competition where they have opportunity to show their skills and prove that "they are also the human being with different form of skills".

In the afternoon, a prize giving ceremony was held where Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian, National Special Olympics vice chairman Abu Taher Bhuyan, Jahurul Islam Mamun, Grameenphone Chittagong Division Chief Ashraf Kabir were present.

## Murray too exits Paris

Tennis

AFP, Paris

Andy Murray joined arch-rival Novak Djokovic in heading for the exit at the Paris Masters with an early-round loss on Thursday as the eight-man line up for next week's season finale in London was completed.

Third-seed Murray was spanked by towering Polish qualifier Jerzy Janowicz 5-7, 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 as the Scot followed Djokovic in losing early at the last event of the regular season.

World number one Roger Federer and injured number four Rafael Nadal did not play the event.

Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga thrilled the home crowd with his defeat of Spain's Nicolas Pietrangeli 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/3). That result put Serb Janko Tipsarevic into the eighth spot in the year-end field.

Tipsarevic made his own luck as he knocked rival Juan Monaco off with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 win.

London qualifier Tomas Berdych, the Czech fifth seed, came back to defeat South African Kevin Anderson 1-6, 6-3, 6-4. France's Michael Llodra ended an 11-match indoor win streak for Juan Martin del Potro 6-4, 6-3.

Murray had never been beyond the Bercy quarter-finals and looked like having the perfect chance to fix that blemish in his record.

But beanpole Janowicz upset the form book with his huge serve, which produced 22 aces and 51 winners in just under two and a half hours.

"He played aggressive. He moves pretty good, serves very well. He's unpredictable," said Murray, who was heading to London within hours.

"When you're on your serve (with a match point) you must close the match."

The 21-year-old winner scored the biggest success of his career on his second match point and fell to the ground with his hands over

## SL change ODI venue

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka on Friday changed the venue for the second and third one-day internationals of the ongoing five-match home series against New Zealand due to heavy rain ruining ground conditions.

Pallekele will replace Colombo as the venue for the matches on Sunday and Tuesday, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said in a statement.

"This decision was made considering the prevailing weather patterns and available ground conditions," it said. "SLC will be constantly monitoring weather conditions for further review."

Rain in Pallekele has already marred a one-off Twenty20 international and the opening one-dayer, which were abandoned. Only 16 overs were bowled in the T20 game while the one-day match was called off without a ball being bowled.

Hambantota is scheduled to host the last two one-day internationals on November 10 and 12.

Sri Lanka and New Zealand will also play two Tests after the one-day series.



PHOTO: AFP

Great Britain's Andy Murray reacts during his Paris Masters semifinal loss against Poland's Jerzy Janowicz in Paris on Thursday. Murray lost 7-5, 6-7, 2-6.

his eyes lying on the court in pure joy.

"This was the most unbelievable day in my life. I beat Olympic champion, US Open champion. I beat Andy Murray.

"It's an unbelievable feeling for me. I fell like in few minutes I'm going to wake up and it's gonna be everything gone.

"I don't know actually what I supposed to say because it's really hard to describe this feeling. It's not easy for me to believe what happened actually."

Murray did not want to predict how the exits of himself and Djokovic might affect their showings in London next week.

"Only time will tell really. A lot of the players will have had slightly different run-ins to the O2. Obviously me and Novak lost early this week; Roger didn't play, and then I think the rest of the guys are still in here," he said.

"You never know, maybe the guys that go deep here they'll have confidence from having a good tournament. But they may arrive a little bit later and might take a while to get used to the conditions.

## Discipline

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telephonic conversation with The Daily Star. While he did race his way to 183 in the last game, he, however, fell agonisingly short of scoring a double-century for the second time in two weeks.

The batsman, however, stated that it would only be a matter of time before he gets to the 200-mark.

"It feels good to be in such fine form. I have been enjoying my game. I hope I can carry on the momentum into the games against the West Indies," added the left-handed opener. The opener further stated that the national players could successfully 'shift' gears from Twenty20 cricket to the longer version of the game, if they had the right mindset.