

# Star SPORT

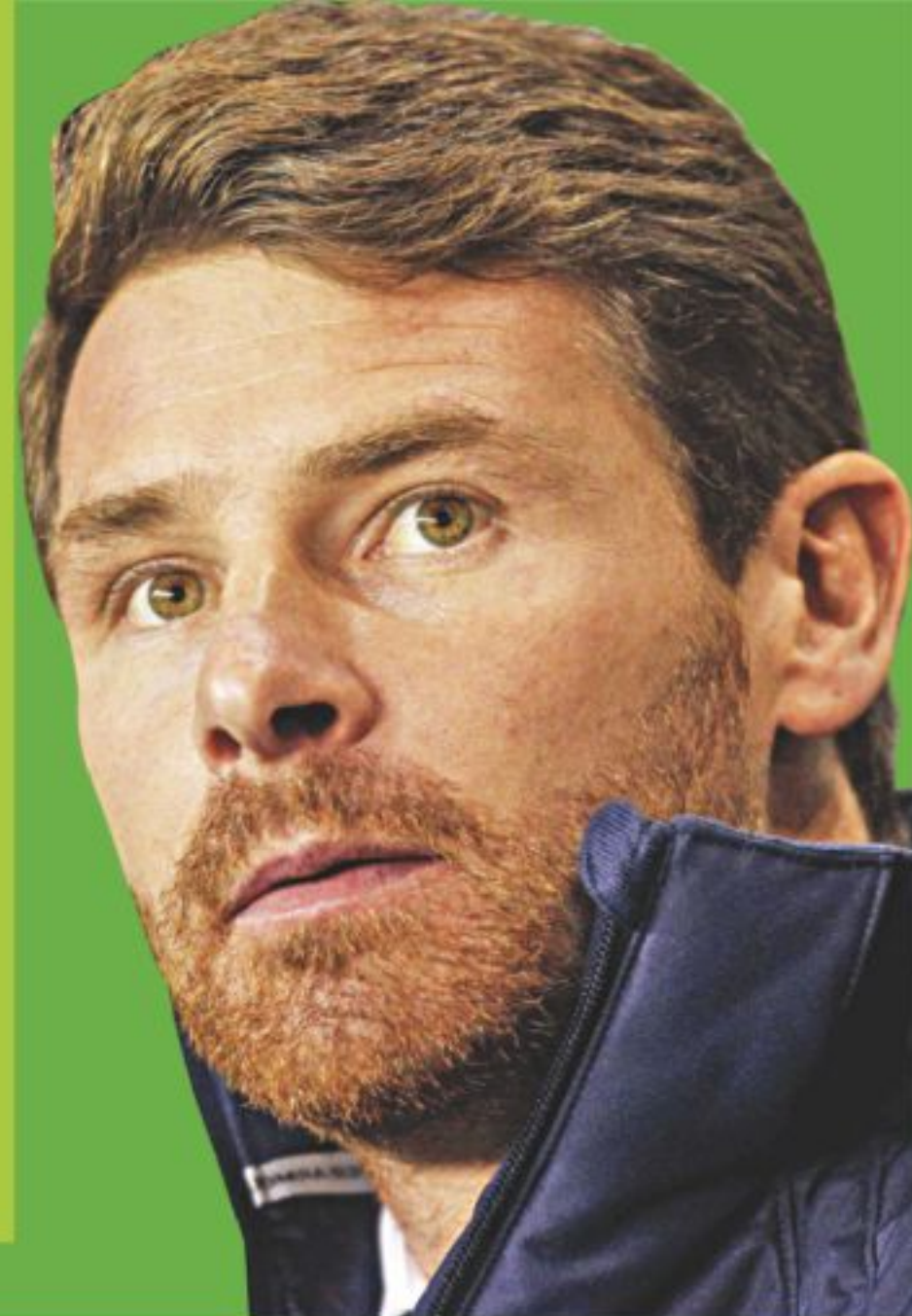
DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Andre shoves assistant

It's been a tough start to the season peppered with embarrassments and indignities for Andre Villas-Boas, but during Spurs' 3-1 Europa League win everything came up for Andre.

Jermain Defoe came through with a hat-trick and Villas-Boas was so enraptured by them that when first team coach Luis Martins stepped in front of him and tried to offer his hand as a means to share the pleasurable moment, Andre just pushed him aside.

"Take that, Roman Abramovich!" Villas-Boas later wished he had said in that moment.



## Calm before the 'GAYLE-STORM'

NAIMUL KARIM

Let's face it. There aren't many players in international cricket who'd want to open the bowling attack against the powerful blade of Chris Gayle. After all, no bowler would want to see the best of their length deliveries or yorkers fly away to the fence at a rate of knots. The 'enormous' task of bowling against the 'Gayle-storm' was displayed quite well in the last couple of days at Mirpur, as almost all the bowlers selected in the Bangladeshi Test squad, including that of the debutant Shohag Gazi, were asked the same question: how do you plan to bowl against Gayle? The replies were quite predictable.

Pacer Rubel Hossain claimed that he would try to be in a positive frame of mind before getting a go at the opener. Shohag Gazi on the other hand stated that he would have the advantage of turning the ball away from the left. However, judging by the kind of form that Gayle has been in, regardless of the format, a one-dimensional approach to get his wicket doesn't seem to be the best of

ideas. And he has repeatedly proved it. A fiery 150 against New Zealand at home this year, for instance, silenced those who reckoned that the big man was just a Twenty20 specialist. For Gayle, switching formats in cricket has never been a problem.

"I have done this before. I have made the necessary adjustments from one day cricket to Tests. I just need to fine-tune a few things. As of now, I just want to get in the middle and kick-start my batting," said the Jamaican-born cricketer. Contrary to popular belief, Gayle was of the opinion that the Twenty20 world cup victory would only help the West Indies perform better in the longer version. "Playing well in the longer format of the game has been a major challenge for us in the last couple of years. Hopefully we can build on the world cup win and take it forward in Test cricket."

The players from the Caribbean have so far played eight Test matches this year. They lost four and drew two against Australia and England and won the series at home against New Zealand, by two games to nothing, in

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## New coach by Dec?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation is working on appointing a foreign coach for the national side within December and the coach will be from Europe, revealed Kazi Salahuddin, president of BFF, to reporters yesterday.

The position of the national team coach is vacant for the last one year, and the BFF has employed Saiful Bari Titu as interim coach for the two FIFA friendly matches against Thailand and Malaysia this month.

However, keeping the Vision 2022 in sight, BFF wants to make sure a good foreign coach is in charge of the national side for a long term and whispers suggest that the coach might not be anyone new, but former coach Zoran Djordjevic, the Serbian who guided the national side to SA Games title in 2010.

Bangladesh played brilliant football in that tournament and became unbeaten champions. However, the coach left the job soon after the BFF failed to meet his hefty demand. But keeping his good work in mind, BFF might be having a second thought now and Kazi Salahuddin admitted about having contacted the coach.

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Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan Papon and captain of Bangladesh's first Test Naimur Rahman Durjoy cut a cake while the other members of the side rejoice on the twelfth anniversary of the historic event at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Can Tigers escape the rut?

SAKEB SUBHAN

While Bangladesh have made significant strides in one day international cricket -- a case in point being their fantastic performance in the Asia Cup in March -- when it comes to Tests, the experience for Tiger fans is much like Bill Murray's Groundhog Day, a movie in which the central character is condemned to live the same day over and over again. No matter how hard he tries to break the rut, it's always February 2 when he wakes up.

When Bangladesh take the field on Tuesday in the first Test against the West Indies, spectators will want to see something different. This month marks twelve years since the Tigers played their first Test as international cricket's newest Test nation, and the tale has been a sorry one: three wins,

seven draws and 63 losses.

The particularly damning aspect of Bangladesh's Test stats is not their low number of wins -- other teams like New Zealand and Zimbabwe have been as bad if not worse in that regard at a corresponding stage of development -- but the embarrassingly low number of draws.

The draw in Test cricket resembles a middle ground -- a ground two warring sides force each other to occupy because neither is willing to die. It is this very quality that Bangladesh lack and which makes them repeat mistakes over and over again -- amply demonstrated by the dearth of stalemates. It has to do with mental fortitude and discipline. A look back at their Test record will reveal that they have rarely had the reserves of ruthlessness to play well in both innings of a Test, nor have they exerted sustained pressure on

the field in the absence of bowlers who can run through sides.

These are problems that they have suffered from for a long time, but unfortunately they do not play Tests regularly enough -- Tuesday will be their first in 11 months -- to put in sustained remedial work.

Even as recently as their last four home Tests against West Indies and then Pakistan in late 2011, these were the very problems that dogged the Tigers' Test fortunes. In the first Test against Pakistan in December 2011, the team were bowled out for 135 before conceding 594 for five. The Tigers rallied somewhat to score 275 in the second dig, but even that was woefully below par. In the second Test Shakib Al Hasan's sublime 144 took the team to a first innings score of 338, but all the good work was undone when they surrendered for

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## Razzak rewrites record

SPORTS REPORTER



Out-of-favour national player

Abdur Razzak notched the best bowling figure in an innings in the National Cricket League (NCL) as Khulna managed a handsome first innings lead against Chittagong on the second day of the third-round matches at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

The veteran left-arm spinner, who was ignored for the first Test against the visiting West Indies, bagged nine wickets for 84 runs in 32.3 overs to eclipse the previous best figures of 9-105 by another left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain in the 2004-2005 season.

"It was my best bowling figure, so I'm really excited. I am happy that I achieved the feat on a solid batting

track and there was nothing on the pitch for the spinners. I always try to give my hundred percent no matter where I'm playing and that's the reason I'm also not thinking about



RAZZAK 9 for 84

the Test call," Razzak, whose earlier best was 8-123, told the Daily Star Sport over phone.

In Razzak's day, two batsmen in Rajin Saleh and Alok Kapali came up with hundreds to put Sylhet on the driving seat against Dhaka at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium.

At the Rangpur Cricket Garden, Rajshahi took a first innings lead against the home team while Barisal managed a one-run first innings lead against Dhaka Metro, who ended the day on a happy note by taking five Barisal wickets in the second innings for 28 runs at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong.

**KHULNAVS CHITTAGONG**  
In reply to Khulna's mammoth total of 416, Chittagong made a confident start through a 66-run opening partnership between Mahbubul Karim (41) and Nafis Iqbal (54). Aftab Ahmed (49) and Faisal Hossain (92) then

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## Siddikur fails again

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman failed to make the cut in the Barclays Singapore Open as he ended the second round on 118th position on Saturday, aggregating 5-over-par 147 over the two rounds. The 27-year old golfer, who racked up 4-over-par 75 on the opening day, managed a slightly better performance by scoring 1-over-par 72 on Saturday. He scored three birdies, two bogeys and a double bogey to score the 72 on Saturday. This was the third time this season that the Bangladeshi golfer has failed to make the cut.

Denmark's Thomas

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