




PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

**Australia's decision to postpone its tour of Bangladesh didn't influence Jack Andrzejczak, a die-hard cricket fan from the land down under. Sporting the Baggy Green, here Jack enjoys a National Cricket League match in Chittagong yesterday.**

## The rebel from Down Under

NAIMUL KARIM

Jack Andrzejczak is an Australian civil servant who is currently in Chittagong enjoying the National Cricket League. Considering the current context, the statement just goes on to show how much of a rebel he is.

One thing's for certain, Andrzejczak isn't the kind who likes to change his plans too much. He had heard about the alerts when he was in Australia but decided to travel anyway. He left a day before Australia postponed their tour due on security grounds. A Tier Two domestic match between Chittagong and Barisal -- which ideally should have been the third day's play of the first Test between Bangladesh and Australia -- may not be the best substitute for the Baggy Greens, but he doesn't mind.

He enjoyed Tamim Iqbal's mature 137 and that was after he spent a few relaxed days on the shores of the Cox's Bazar.

"I thought Tamim played a good century. I had turned up on the ground on Day One as well. There was a bit of delay due to rain but otherwise the cricket's been good. That's

a good sign, because Bangladesh needs a strong domestic system," Andrzejczak told The Daily Star while watching Chittagong's batsmen pound the runs.

"There are so many things to do here. It has been a great trip so far. I have enjoyed myself and I have a lot more travelling left. Obviously you have to be a bit aware, but so far there have been no problems," he added.

The trip to Bangladesh is a part of the Australian's dream to witness his side play cricket in every Test nation. "It's something I want to fulfill in this lifetime," he quipped.

"I have been travelling since 2001 and I am yet to visit Zimbabwe and Pakistan. I just think it's a great way to meet people. And it works out well for me since I love cricket and travelling," added the 43-year-old.

Seemingly disappointed at not being able to progress with his life's dream, Andrzejczak was a long way from quitting.

"I spent all my holidays for this tour," he complained. "But I am definitely going to come back in the future to watch a Test here."

For the sake of Andrzejczak and Bangladesh's cricket, one would hope the Australian's wish comes true as soon as possible.

## Two tons and two six-fors

SPORTS REPORTER



Day Two of the third round of the National Cricket League witnessed a series of players reach individual landmarks.

Tamim Iqbal, who had an overnight score of 90, scored his first century of the competition yesterday. His Chittagong teammate Tasamul Haque complimented his knock with 107.

The other centurion of the day was Shamsur Rahman, whose unbeaten 118 led Dhaka Metro's reply against Dhaka. The match also saw Arafat Sunny spring out of his limited overs-tag and scalp a six-wicket haul.

On the other hand, Khulna's Mehedi Hasan Miraz followed his half-century in the first innings with

### SCORES IN BRIEF

<b>Chittagong v Barisal</b> Chittagong: 444 for 7 (Tamim 137, Tasamul 107; Shohag 3-114)	<b>Dhaka v Dhaka Metro</b> Dhaka: 327 all out in 113.4 overs (Rakibul 99; Arafat 6-96) Dhaka Metro: 221 for 4 (Shamsur 118 not out, Saikat 48; Mosharraf 2-73)	<b>Khulna v Rangpur</b> Khulna: 211 and 30 for no loss (Mahedi 17 not out, Imrul 13) Rangpur: 220 all out in 98.2 overs (Nasir 96, Naeem 44; Mehedi 6-50, Razzak 4-77)	<b>Sylhet v Rajshahi</b> Sylhet: 328 all out in 128.5 overs (Imtiaz 154; Sanjamul 4-73) Rajshahi: 183 for 3 (Farhad 80 not out, Nazmul 62; Nazmul 1-30)
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his second consecutive six-wicket haul of the league.

Centuries from Tamim and Tasamul put Chittagong in a strong position at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium. The port city team reached stumps on a powerful 444 for 7 as the Barisal bowlers struggled to get wickets.

Opener Tamim finished with three sixes and 17 fours while Tasamul hit two sixes and nine fours. With two more days to go, Chittagong will be looking to

declare as soon as possible.

League leaders Dhaka were bowled out for 327 at Fatullah. Arafat Sunny's 6 for 96 proved to be the killer for the reigning champions. Dhaka's top-scorer was Rakibul Hasan, who painstakingly fell a run short of the three-figure mark. That was followed by Dhaka Metro racing to 221 for 4 by stumps yesterday. They were buoyed by Shamsur Rahman's unbeaten 118. The batsman smashed 13 fours and a six in his innings.

The game at Khulna between the

hosts and Rangpur is almost certain to witness a result with the match having entered its third inning already. In reply to Khulna's 211, Nasir Hossain's Rangpur were bowled out for 220. Nasir continued his good run, scoring a match-saving 96 for his side. He hit 12 fours and a six before he was dismissed by the young Mehedi. The Bangladesh under 19 skipper, who has scalped figures of 6 for 50 has already put in a fine all-round performance.

Imtiaz Hossain took his score past the 150-mark at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday as Sylhet posted 328. However, half that score was covered by Rajshahi in no time as they finished the day on 183 for 3. Opener Nazmul Hossain Shanto and Farhad Hossain scored half-centuries to drive Rajshahi.

## Siddikur's poor finish

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman finished tied for 42nd in the Yeangder Tour Players Championship after a disappointing third and final round yesterday. The two-time Asian Tour winner, who started the day in 17th position at four-under-par (140), hit four bogeys against zero birdies on the final day of the 500,000-dollar event, which was reduced to a 54-hole affair due to persistent rain on Friday.

Siddikur finished at even-par (216), 12 strokes behind eventual winner, Shaun Norris of South Africa. Next destination for the 30-year-old golfer is the 1-million-dollar Venetian Macau Open, which will tee off on Thursday.



Dhaka Metro batsman Shamsur Rahman creams one through covers past the diving fielder on his way to an unbeaten century on the second day of the National Cricket League's third round in Fatullah yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## Final BPL details due tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Premier League governing council is set to provide the final details of the league's third season, due to begin on November 19, tomorrow. The last few weeks have witnessed quite a few changes with regards to the main dates of the events, with the latest in line being the date of the players transfer.

As per the draft, the players transfer is scheduled to take place on October 31. However, it was learnt that the governing council could bring the date forward.

Nearly 200 foreign cricketers have expressed interest in the Bangladesh Premier League despite security threats that forced the Australian team to cancel its tour of the country, officials said Sunday.

Tainted Pakistani fast bowler Mohammad Amir and Chris Gayle from the West Indies are among the foreigners, along with 48 from England and four from Australia, a Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) official said.

"So far 182 foreign players including 52 from Pakistan and 48 from England have formally expressed their interest to play this year," said BPL technical committee member Khaled Mahmud.

"Among the top names are Misbah-ul-Haq, Shahid Afridi and Mohammad Amir whose ban has been lifted recently, Chris Gayle of the West Indies, Ravi Bopara of England and Kumar Sangakkara of Sri Lanka," Mahmud told AFP.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is staging the lucrative Twenty20 tournament from November 21, two years after it was halted in the wake of a match-fixing scandal.

## Rabada seals a thriller

SPORTS REPORTER

89 runs were required off the last 10 overs and India, with seven wickets in hand, looked to close out the game against South Africa yesterday. The Kanpur crowd roared once again as Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the best finisher in world cricket, walked in at four-down to accompany a marauding Rohit Sharma over the finish line. But what appeared to be an easy task turned a bit scary after Imran Tahir took two wickets in the 47th over that included the prized scalp of Rohit, who hit 13 fours and six sixes in a majestic 133-ball 150. It died down as Kagiso Rabada, the young pace bowler who was entrusted with the unenviable job of bowling the final over with India needing 11 runs and 'the finisher' on strike, stole the show and gave the visitors a thrilling five-run victory.

At the climax Rabada struck gold, conceding just five runs and claiming two wickets, including Dhoni's, to dash India's hopes.

The pressure actually mounted after Dhoni's arrival. From that moment on, in the last 10 overs, India hit just one boundary. Had that been South Africa batting, the world would use only one word to describe what had transpired.

India's skipper scored 31 off 30, but his slow pace caused Suresh Raina to play an ill-advised big shot, which was caught by JP Duminy. While India faltered at the death, the Proteas prospered with AB de

Villiers producing yet another clinical batting performance after the top-order had laid the foundation.

Quinton de Kock and Hashim Amla had a 45-run opening stand before de Kock walked back. From the demise of one, another partnership grew, Amla and Faf du Plessis putting on a further 59 runs for the second wicket.

With South Africa already 104 after 23 overs, player-of-the-match de Villiers waltzed onto the pitch amidst much fanfare.

The Proteas' skipper was in no mood to let the crowd cheer any louder by throwing away his wicket. However, their voices grew considerably in the final over of South Africa's innings.

Farhaan Behardien had managed to get off the strike with the fourth ball, leaving de Villiers with just two balls to score the two runs needed for his century. The stadium was filled with chants of 'AB, AB' but, uncharacteristically, de Villiers missed the fifth delivery.

With the last ball of the innings, de Villiers swiped and it, for the sixth time, found its way over the boundary. A less aggressive 73-ball 104.

The second of the five-match ODI series will take place at Indore on October 14.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**SOUTH AFRICA:** 303 for 5 in 50 overs (Du Plessis 62, De Villiers 104 not out, Behardien 35 not out; Yadav 2-71, Mishra 2-47)  
**INDIA:** 298 for 7 in 50 overs (R Sharma 150, Rahane 60; Rabada 2-58, Tahir 2-57)  
**Result:** South Africa won by five runs  
**Player-of-the-match:** AB de Villiers



South Africa batsman Hashim Amla jumps on top of pacer Kagiso Rabada after the latter conceded the first ODI at Kanpur in the final over taking two wickets and conceding only five runs yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Harun back from exile

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahbub Harun, the former national player-turned-coach, was brought back as coach of the national hockey team after being previously released from the national team following disappointing results in the 2013 Asia Cup.

Meanwhile, four senior players -- Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, Zahid Hossain, Kamruzzaman Rana and Imran Hasan Pinto -- also suspended for different terms for their poor performances, were exempted from their punishments and allowed into the national team last year.

"The working committee meeting has appointed Mahbub Harun as the head coach in the interest of the national team," said Bangladesh Hockey Federation general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah, adding that the coach would conduct the training camp for the South Asian Games from October 15 at the BKSP.

## Lopez keeps his hand concealed

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh football team's new Italian coach Fabio Lopez has kept the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Liza beat her Bangladesh Navy teammate WFM Nazrana Khan Eva in the penultimate round to take maximum 10 points from as many matches and confirmed her fourth national crown. She previously won in 2005, 2010 and 2014.

WFM Sharmin Sultana Shirin was in 2nd position with 7.5 points, said a press release from Bangladesh Chess Federation.

Azhar out of first Test

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Pakistan suffered a blow before the first Test against England when team officials Sunday ruled out key batsman Azhar Ali because of an infected foot.

Ali, 30, suffered the infection during the Hajj in Saudi Arabia last month. He played two of the three one-day internationals against Zimbabwe in discomfort before missing the final match.

Team manager Intikhab Alam said the management took the decision after seeing the extent of his infection before training on Sunday.

"Because of the injury Ali could not wear a shoe on his left foot so he couldn't train as well," Alam told AFP.

Since making his debut against Australia at Lord's in Pakistan's neutral-venue Test in 2010, Ali has featured in 44 Tests and scored 3,393 runs.

## SA Games deferred

SPORTS REPORTER

The 12th South Asian Games, which was scheduled to be held from January 10 to 20 in Guwahati and Shillong in India, has been deferred by at least a couple of weeks, according to reports by Press Trust of India (PTI).

The decision was taken unanimously by the member countries of the South Asian Olympic Council at a meeting chaired by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president N Ramachandran yesterday.

"This change was accepted in keeping with the request of some members and also taking into account the cold climatic conditions in the hosting states during that period," IOA president Ramachandran was quoted as saying by PTI in Chennai yesterday.

"The exact dates will be communicated to

the various national Olympic committees in the next 15 days after consultations with all stake holders, including the Government of India and the regional governments of Assam and Meghalaya," added the IOA president.

However, Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Shahed Reza is not aware of the deferment of the Games, as the three-member BOA delegation, which attended the meeting in Chennai, still did not inform the BOA about the latest development.

Tennis has been added to the existing 22 disciplines of the games at the meeting. The others are archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, cycling, football, handball, hockey, judo, kabaddi, kho kho, shooting, squash, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, triathlon, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling and wushu.