

'Hope I live to reach 100'

REUTERS

Four months after 97-year-old amateur Leonid Stanislavskyi's dreams came true when he played with 21-times Grand Slam champion Rafa Nadal, the Ukrainian is enduring his worst nightmare in Kharkiv as Russian forces bomb the city.

Stanislavskyi, who holds the Guinness World Record as the world's oldest tennis player, also had dreams of playing Swiss great Roger Federer but now he has only one simple wish – survival.

"I hope I live to reach 100. I have to survive this frightening situation," he told Reuters.

"The war started on (February) 24th. From the 24th till now I have practically not gone out. I've stayed at home... I have supplies, the fridge is full. I'm sitting at home, not going anywhere," he said.

"My daughter Tanya is in Poland, she wants to take me there. But I decided to stay here. I have bad hearing so I sleep at night and don't hear anything. Last night there were



Shakib Al Hasan unveils the jersey of Mohammedan Sporting Club for the upcoming Dhaka Premier League as his teammates Mahmudullah Riyad, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Taskin Ahmed alongside the directors of the club look on during a programme at a hotel in the capital yesterday. Mushfiqur was announced as the captain of the side.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Can new-look coaching staff make a difference?

SPORTS REPORTER

With the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup in Australia, slated for October this year, in mind, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) began the process of reviving the national coaching staff.

The board was forced into making a few changes to the coaching panel following a dismal campaign in the mega-event last year – where the Tigers lost to Scotland in the first round before losing all their games at the Super 12 stage.

Head coach Russell Domingo escaped the fallout unscathed as his contract had been renewed before last year's T20 World Cup but the BCB did not opt to renew fielding coach Ryan Cook's contract after the disappointing campaign.

Pace bowling coach Ottis Gibson and batting coach Ashwell Prince parted ways with the BCB soon after, uninterested in renewing their contracts after the tour of New Zealand earlier this year and leaving more posts to fill.

The board first roped in the former Bangladesh head coach Jamie Siddons in December last year and initially appointed him to work in different capacities with local cricketers. But the Australian was later asked to engage with the national team as batting consultant for a period of two years. His inclusion was appreciated by senior players and it is hoped that the 57-year-old can help the batting department, which has remained a major concern across formats.

On Saturday, former Bangladesh fielding coach Shane McDermott was appointed as the national team's fielding coach.

The Australian had worked with the Tigers as fielding coach between 2006 and 2008. He also had stints as the head coach of the national academy and as the High Performance team's fitness coordinator. He has been contracted till November 2023 and will join the Tigers this week ahead of their tour to South Africa.

However, it was the latest move this week, the appointment of South African

"We definitely need to have strong team management because it motivates players if you have someone like Donald in the dressing room. In the past we had some big names and if you talk about Walsh, he was more of a mentor. He didn't have coaching experience. But Donald has got a wealth of experience as a coach and has worked for teams like New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka," chairman of the BCB cricket



pace-bowling legend Allan Donald as pace bowling coach until the T20 World Cup, that was undoubtedly the biggest move.

But despite the revamp in the coaching staff, questions remain about whether the BCB can fully exploit the expertise of their new coaching panel.

The legendary West Indies pacer Courtney Walsh had worked as the Tigers' fast bowling coach for four years between 2016 and 2019, but despite his guiding hand the Bangladesh pace-bowling unit failed to make any strides.

operations committee Jalal Yunus said yesterday.

"We also appointed McDermott, who is a lot more mature as a coach than when he worked with us in the past. Overall it's not just about the T20 World Cup. We have long-term plans with our coaching staff and we will observe how things go in the coming days."

It will be interesting to see whether the changes in the coaching panel will help improve performances on the field or whether things will remain the same.

Siddikur showing form ahead of Chattogram Open

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman showed some sign of form with a 14-under-par score in the International Series Thailand, which concluded yesterday.

The 37-year-old golfer could only finish tied for 41st, but his scores of 67, 70, 65 and 72 gave some encouraging vibe ahead of the Mujib Borsho Chattogram Open, which will get underway at the Bhatiary Golf and Country Club on Wednesday.

In fact, Siddikur looked set to secure his first top-10 finish on the Asian Tour in three years after the third round, but a disappointing final round, where he went par for the course, pulled him back long way down the leaderboard.

The two-time Asian Tour winner eventually finished 12 shots behind winner Sihwan Kim of the USA with an aggregate score of 14-under-par (274) at the Black Mountain Golf Club on Sunday.

The effort saw Siddikur pocket 9045 dollars, which will improve his Order of Merit standing and give him encouragement ahead of the PGTI event in Chattogram where competition will come the PGTI players from India and Bangladesh. After the Chattogram Open, Siddikur will head to Delhi to play in the inaugural DGC Open, to be played at the Delhi Golf Club from March 24 to 27.



Rebooted hockey aspire glory

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national hockey team intend to emulate the fast-paced and high-intensity playing style of world's hockey giants with the title of the upcoming AHF Cup in sight, scheduled to get underway on March 11 in Jakarta.

The national team are scheduled to leave for Indonesia tonight to take part in the 10-team tournament from which top three teams advance to the Asia Cup while the top five qualify for the Asian Games.

"We want to become champions but go match by match. In last 15 days, we watched the matches of Belgium, India and other countries," captain Sarwar Hossain told the media yesterday.

"We also tried to implement that formation [of India's and Belgium's] in our lone practice match against BKSP. Now we are looking forward to implementing that in the AHF Cup," informed Sarwar.

After unveiling the jersey during a photo session event in Dhaka yesterday, Bangladesh Malaysian coach Iman Gobinathan Krishnamurthy told the media that he is satisfied with the overall preparation.

"The boys trained well in the last three weeks and we had three sessions including one video session every day," informed Krishnamurthy while adding that he is not too aware of his immediate opponents.

"Obviously, China and Oman are higher-ranked sides than Bangladesh but we don't know about China, Oman, Sri Lanka and Indonesia because all of participating teams were out of international engagement for a long time."

Abahani claim second, Sheikh Jamal go third

SPORTS REPORTER

A stoppage-time strike from Daniel Colindres helped title contenders Abahani come from a goal down to beat Saif SC 2-1 in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

A return to winning ways saw Abahani climb to second place with 16 points from seven matches, two behind leaders Bashundhara Kings and point more than third-placed Sheikh Jamal, who yesterday handed a 2-1 defeat to Chittagong Abahani in Munshiganj to remain the only unbeaten side.

At the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj, lightweights Uttar Baridhara Club came from two goals down to stun big-budget Sheikh Russel 3-2. The triumph saw them climb to eighth, leaving Sheikh Russel at ninth position with only five points from seven matches.

In Sylhet, Abahani looked a bit dejected on the back of a 3-2 defeat to Chittagong Abahani in their previous match and lacked urgency, with the visitors dominating from the beginning.

The Sky Blues play was strewn with passing errors, which cost possession and

ceded control to Saif SC, who looked much better in terms of launching attacks.

After a barren first half, Saif SC took a deserved lead through Emery Bayisenge, who headed home a Jamal Bhuiyan free-kick from the top of the six-year box in the 69th minute.

But they could keep the lead for only six minutes as Brazilian forward Dorielton Gomes, coming on after Abahani conceded the lead, levelled by nodding home a corner kick from Daniel Colindres.

Colindres himself converted a penalty from the spot in the final minute of the three minutes of added time to deliver a fifth victory in seven matches for Abahani.

In Munshiganj, Sheikh Jamal and Chittagong Abahani waged an intense battle before Sheikh Jamal emerged victorious after Ctg Abahani Afghan forward Omid Propalzay squandered a penalty. Gambian forward Solomon King

hit a brace in the 29th and 68th minutes to put Sheikh Jamal in an advantageous position before Nigerian forward Ebimobowei Thankgod reduced the margin in the 83rd minute but it was not enough to avert Chittagong Abahani's first defeat in seven matches.



All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja starred with bat and ball to lead India to a crushing innings-and-222-run victory over Sri Lanka inside three days of the first Test on Sunday. Jadeja hit an unbeaten 175 in India's 574-8 declared and then claimed a match tally of nine wickets with his left-arm spin in Mohali. One more wicket and the left-arm would've had himself in the elite club of scoring a century and taking 10 wickets – a club where only Imran Khan, Ian Botham and Shakib Al Hasan belong.

PHOTO: AFP