

# Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JULY 27, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Pardew warns Enrique

Newcastle manager Alan Pardew has warned Jose Enrique over his conduct after the Spanish defender criticised the club's transfer policy on Twitter, it was reported Tuesday.

Enrique hit out at the Magpies hierarchy following the sale of striker Andy Carroll and midfielder Kevin Nolan in recent months.

However Pardew, who is hoping to persuade Enrique to sign a new contract, took exception to the remarks.

"Jose was wrong to put those comments up and I told him," Pardew



## Rustom focuses on ending well

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite having one foot in the 20-team qualifying round courtesy of an emphatic 4-0 win over Bangladesh in the first leg of the World Cup pre-qualifier, visitors Lebanon are looking forward to taking the second leg match seriously in a bid to confirm their progress.

The Lebanese team arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning to play the second leg match, which will be held tomorrow at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

After a long rest, the Lebanese team went for a practice session at the BUET ground one hour later than scheduled and did some stretching and physical exercises but skipped heavy training with the ball to avoid risking injuries to the players.

"I thought the pitch may cause injuries to my players and that is why we skipped the training. I don't think it is a football ground," said a disgruntled Lebanon coach Emile Rustom after the training. However, the Bangladesh team later had a full practice session with the ball at the same ground.

Asked whether they were expecting another easy win over Bangladesh, the Lebanese coach said, "We have got the match in Beirut out of our mind and we have a new game here and we have to be careful about it."

The Lebanese squad has four foreign-based booters who ply their trade in China, Germany, Myanmar and Cyprus, although the China-based midfielder has been allowed to go back to China to keep his club commitments.

The Lebanon coach believes the hot and humid conditions in Dhaka would not have a detrimental impact on his team's performance as the temperature in Beirut is usually higher than that of Dhaka.

"The weather is quite suitable for us. We have similar conditions in Beirut, even the temperature in our country rises above 40 degrees Celsius," said the coach.

Rustom also said that he has respect for the Bangladesh team and believes this bunch of footballers can make a good team in the future.

"You have a very good team for the future as they are much organised and tactically disciplined."

However, Bangladesh's Macedonian coach Nikola Ilievski slammed his charges for their performance and said he was unhappy with the ability of a few players in the squad.

"Our players are very weak in one-on-one chases; and they even fear going on charge and also fear to go for attack. I don't know why they feel such panic," said Nikola, who arrived at the BUET ground long before the

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The Lebanon football team members jog during a practice session at the BUET ground yesterday. Lebanon will take on hosts Bangladesh tomorrow in the second leg of the World Cup pre-qualifier at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

PHOTO: STAR

## Illness laid Sachin low

Cricket

AFP, London

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said illness played a key role in Sachin Tendulkar's poor returns during the first Test against England here at Lord's.

Tendulkar was kept waiting for an unprecedented 100th international hundred after being dismissed for 34 and 12 as England won what was the 2,000th Test of all-time by 196 runs on Monday to go 1-0 up in the four-match series.

"The Little Master", whose 51 Test centuries and 48 in one-day internationals are both world records, was rested from India's recent tour of the West Indies.

Tendulkar, who owns a property near Lord's, had spent much of the past month practising at the 'home of cricket'.

But during the course of the first Test he was struck down by a viral infection which forced him to spend most of Sunday's fourth day off the field and that meant he had to bat out of position in India's second innings.

"He was much better [Monday] but I wouldn't say he was like 100 per cent fit," Dhoni said. "But in both innings he really felt it, especially after the first innings when he felt quite weak."

"That was one of the main reasons he didn't turn up on the field in the first half of the second innings. He's much better right now but of course not 100 per cent."

Tendulkar struck several impressive

boundaries during his first innings before edging a good length ball from Stuart Broad to second slip Graeme Swann.

But the 38-year-old's second innings was a far more muted affair, featuring just one four in 85 minutes at the crease.

Tendulkar spent 38 balls on 11 and was then dropped by England captain Andrew Strauss at first slip off James Anderson on 12.

But, two balls later, Anderson nipped one back to have Tendulkar lbw.

"You never want to drop Sachin, put it that way," said Strauss.

"Thankfully Jimmy Anderson spared my blushes."

Meanwhile Strauss defended Tendulkar's batting on Monday by saying: "I am never going to question the way he approaches his innings. He was obviously trying to salvage a draw out of the game for India."

"He tried his hardest to do that and thankfully Jimmy was good enough to get him out lbw."

Tendulkar's exit, in what could be his last Test at Lord's, left him with a modest record at the ground of 195 runs in nine innings, spanning five Tests, at an average of 21.66 with a best of 37 made four years ago.

Both Australia's Ricky Ponting and now retired West Indies star Brian Lara, the other two great batsmen of the last 20 years, have also failed to make a Test century at Lord's.

Tendulkar's next chance to become the first batsman to score 100 international centuries is set to come in the second Test at Trent Bridge in Nottingham, central England, starting on Friday.

## Tigers go to Zim today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers will depart for Zimbabwe this morning to play one Test and five one-day internationals.

Shakib Al Hasan's men will open their campaign with a three-day warm-up match at Harare starting from July 30.

Bangladesh is going to play Test cricket after a fourteen-month break while Zimbabwe will mark their return to Test cricket after a five-year hiatus with the match against Bangladesh starting from August 4 at Harare.

The African nation has not played a Test match since 2006.

The first three one-day internationals will also take place at Harare on August 12, 14 and 16 and after that the teams will travel to Bulawayo for the last two one-day internationals on August 19 and 21.

Bangladesh played eight Tests against Zimbabwe and their first Test victory came against the African nation in January 2005 in Chittagong. The Tigers, though, lost four of those eight matches.

But the Tigers have had a good record against Zimbabwe in recent times which has given them the upper hand in their limited-over head-to-head record, with 28 wins from 51 matches they have so far played against them.

### SQUAD

Shakib Al Hasan (captain), Tamim Iqbal (vice-captain), Imrul Kayes, Junaed Siddiqui, Mohammad Ashraful, Mushfiqur Rahim (wicket-keeper), Mahmudullah, Abdur Razzak, Shafiul Islam, Rubel Hossain, Nazmul Hossain, Shahriar Nafees, Robiul Islam, Shuvogata Hom Chowdhury and Nasir Hossain.

## 'England near perfect'

Cricket

AFP, London

England captain Andrew Strauss said his side had come close to producing the perfect bowling performance to take 20 India wickets during a crushing 196-run in the first Test here at Lord's.

However, Strauss warned England not to let their standards drop with the second Test of this four-match series starting at Trent Bridge on Friday.

Stuart Broad, reverting to a fuller length, led the way early on with four for 37 as India were bowled out for 286 in reply to England's first innings 474 for eight declared.

And on Monday it was the turn of fellow seamer James Anderson to take centre stage, with the Ashes star returning figures of five for 65 as India, chasing what would have been a Test record fourth innings victory total of 458, were dismissed for 261.

India may have been missing injured opener Virender Sehwag, out with a shoulder injury, at Lord's but they still boasted a strong batting order including Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Venkatesh Laxman.

But not even the celebrated trio could get India to a total of 300 in either innings, with first Broad and then Anderson denying Tendulkar, still stuck on 99 international hundreds, a maiden Test century at the ground.

"It was an outstanding bowling performance by the whole attack over five days," said Strauss.

"You do have to work hard for your wickets here and I think it showed the value of persistent lines and lengths."

"That's the only way of taking wickets here and I think we did that brilliantly," added Strauss who has spent all his professional career with Lord's-based county side Middlesex.

"I think over the two innings that was as close to the perfect bowling performance we've had in the last two years and that is saying a lot because we have had a lot of exceptional bowling performances."

Ashes-holders England will replace India at the top of the ICC's Test Championship table if they win this series by two Tests.

But Strauss added: "We are aware it's the opening salvo in the series. There's a lot of cricket still to be played, so we can't get too satisfied with ourselves. We have to be ready to go on Friday."

Broad, having struggled lately, looked back to somewhere near his best with the ball at Lord's.

He also made an unbeaten 74 as, with Matt Prior (103 not out), he helped rally England's second innings from the depths of 62 for five to a total of 269 for six declared.

"When your place in the side is called into question, it's a big test of character as much as anything," Strauss said of Broad.

"Stuart showed immense character over the five days. He bowled very well and his second innings 70-odd was crucial to the outcome of the game."

"It was a timely reminder to everyone of

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## BKSP shoots to top

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP Shooting Club stamped their dominance in the 25th National Shooting Championship with four gold, two silver and two bronze medals to finish ahead of Army Shooting Association which grabbed two gold, two silver and three bronze medals. Even though BKSP could only grab one silver from the three events on the last day, their haul over the previous three days was good enough to see them finish first.

In the Men's 10m Air Pistol event yesterday, Iqbal Hossain of Savar Sena Shooting Club snatched gold with a score of 656.8. Ershad Hossain of BKSP finished second shooting

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## Hosts comfortable in opener

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh made a flying start in the opening day of the Sheikh Kamal International Basketball Championship yesterday at the Dhanmondi Indoor Basketball Gymnasium.

In the only match of the day, Bangladesh made light work of Bhutan after thumping them 77-44. The hosts led the first half 39-24.

President of People's Republic of Bangladesh Zillur Rahman declared the five-day meet open as chief guest while state minister for youth and sports Ahad Ali Sarker, chairman of parliament standing committee on youth and sports Zahid Ahsan Russel and Bangladesh Basketball Federation president Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin MP were among others present on the occasion.

Nepal were supposed to take part in the tournament but they finally did not appear forcing the organisers to hold the tournament with five teams including Bangladesh.

"Nepal did not communicate with us though they promised to take part in the tournament and we were forced to hold the tournament on the basis system instead of the

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President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Zillur Rahman inaugurates the Sheikh Kamal International Basketball Championship at the Dhanmondi Indoor Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## SA-bound Academy team announced

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 15-member GP-BCB National Cricket Academy team for the tour of South Africa.

Mahamudul Hasan has been named captain with Alauddin Babu as his deputy for the series in which GP-BCB National Cricket Academy will play three one-dayers, two four-dayers and two Pro20 matches.

The team is scheduled to leave Dhaka for Johannesburg on August 2.

### SQUAD

Mahamudul Hasan (captain), Alauddin Babu (vice-captain), Soumya Sarkar, Anamul Haque (wicket-keeper), Mominul Haque,

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