

Star SPORT

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Ruddy ruled out of Euros

England's third choice goalkeeper John Ruddy has been ruled out of Euro 2012 after breaking a finger in training, the Football Association said on Friday.

The Norwich City keeper, who is yet to win a cap, had earned a call-up to Roy Hodgson's 23-man squad after an impressive season with the Premier League side.

"The FA can confirm that Norwich City goalkeeper John Ruddy broke his finger in training on Thursday and has been ruled out of UEFA Euro 2012," a statement said.

- REUTERS



Mohammedan forward Mobarra Hossain (C) takes the ball past Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee to open the scoring during their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Sahara keen on Tigers

Subrata also answers on Tamim snub



SPORTS REPORTER

Subrata Roy Sahara, the chairman of Sahara India Pariwar, said yesterday that he is interested in Bangladesh cricket, similar to how the company sponsors the Indian national team.

He was speaking at a press conference at a city hotel in connection with the launch of Sahara Matribhumi Unnayan Corporation Limited, a subsidiary of the group and its first venture in the country, which will develop the 'New Dhaka' project for which he signed a Memorandum of Understanding with local authorities, in his first visit to the ancestral country.

"The Sahara logo is seen on the jersey of Indian cricket team. Though I am not announcing it right now, but I can say it may be possible to see the same logo on the jersey of Bangladesh cricket team," he said.

Despite a recent hitch in its relationship with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Sahara is currently serving its third consecutive term as the official sponsor of



TAMIM IQBAL

Indian cricket team an association that began in 2001. In the last renewal of the contract in 2010, they outbid Bharti Airtel to bag the rights for Rs 3.3 crore per match.

Apart from the cricket team, Sahara also sponsors the country's women's cricket team, the men's and women's field hockey teams and was co-sponsor of the 2010 Commonwealth Games

held in Delhi.

The BCB however couldn't confirm any official approach from the company though it announced last month a request for quotation (RFQ) for the sponsorship rights of the national team.

Sahara is also the owner of Pune Warriors India, the Indian Premier League franchise that began playing in the world's most popular Twenty20 league from the 2011 season.

After finishing at the bottom of this season's IPL, there was much clamour about the franchise's decision not to pick Tigers opener Tamim Iqbal in any of the 16 matches.

When asked why the star left-hander was

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Momentum works well for Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER



A 2-0 win over Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra yesterday helped Mohammedan Sporting Club keep their winning run in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League.

Winger Mobarra Hossain gave the Black & Whites the lead in the first half with Beninese midfielder Oladikpiko W Okalawon sealing the match in the second half to take Mohammedan to fifth position from sixth with 20 points from 13 games.

Sheikh Russel remained at third place with 21 points from 14 outings.

Fresh from a 2-0 win over arch-rivals Abahani in the previous match,

Mohammedan came into the match with a hope to settle scores after the 3-0 reversal in the first-leg against Sheikh Russel; they left the Bangabandhu National Stadium with their fifth victory.

The performance was totally a shadow of how the Black & Whites put up against Abahani against whom they had spirit, confidence and good understanding. But none of this was present yesterday, but still they had the last laugh against opponents who dominated the game from the outset.

"I am not happy with the performance of the boys, but the most important thing is that they secured three full points. They did not play as well as we desired," said Mohammedan coach Emeka Ezeugo after the match.

"Our target is to win the next match, not thinking of the standings at the moment," said the Nigerian former World Cupper.

Without two suspended players Sohel Rana and Motiur Munna -- Mohammedan were on the backfoot from the beginning and came close to conceding in the eighth minute. But Sheikh Russel's Nigerian striker Alamu Bukola floated a Yeamin Munna cut-back over the cross-piece on the six-yard box, much to the relief of goalkeeper Titumir Chowdhury.

Mohammedan took the 1-0 lead against the run of play, availing a defensive lapse as Wahed Ahmed snatched a ball from a Sheikh Russel defender put

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Ireland happy to comply?

Tigers indulge only in T20s



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board's request to rearrange the fixture of the Tigers' tour of Europe in July has received positive feedback, it was learnt yesterday.

After its meeting on Thursday, the board said they have made the request to Cricket Ireland to play five Twenty20 internationals instead of five ODIs keeping in mind preparation for the ICC World T20s in Sri Lanka in September.

"Not only have the cricket authorities in Ireland welcoming the change, they could schedule seven Twenty20s against Ireland as well as convince the Netherlands and Scotland," said a BCB official requesting anonymity.

The original schedule was a ten-day trip

to Ireland to play three ODIs and a practice game and another four days in Scotland where two matches were to be held against the hosts and the Dutch.

But what is worth looking is how the Tigers' schedule will shape up ahead of the Sri Lanka event.

During the interim, they are likely to play four or five Twenty20s against Zimbabwe and South Africa during next month's tri-series, seven (if Ireland agrees with the request) in Europe and three against Trinidad & Tobago, which adds up to a minimum of 14 matches in cricket's shortest format.

It is designed to make the players stick to the format for four months running up to the World Cup, a strategy that didn't really pay off ahead of the 50-over World Cup last year.

Bangladesh will be one of two countries who will solely play Twenty20s from June to September, although other countries like

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Dinajpur retain Gold Cup title

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Dinajpur retained the ATN Bangla Gold Cup football tournament for the second time defeating Rajshahi 4-3 on tiebreakers in the final at the Dinajpur Stadium yesterday.

The regulation time of 80 minutes ended goalless although Rajshahi put the ball at the back of Dinajpur net, which was disallowed due to an off-side.

In the tiebreakers, Dinajpur converted four of the chances while Rajshahi netted only three.

ATN Bangla chairman Mahfuzur Rahman distributed prizes as the chief guest.

Fourteen districts from across the country participated in the tournament which started on April 14.

This was the second time the tournament was organised with Dinajpur beating Rajshahi in the final of the inaugural edition as well.

School football

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangpur Borobil High School emerged divisional champions in the National School Football Tournament beating Lalmonirhat Govt High School 8-1 in the final yesterday.

Qyuum scored a hatrick for the winning side.

In the Sylhet division, Habiganj Richi High School emerged champions defeating Mongolchandi Nishikanta High School, thanks to a lone goal scored by Faisal.

Kings crush Daredevils

SPORTS DESK



A superb century from Murali Vijay aided by some sensible batting saw Chennai Super Kings overcome Delhi Daredevils with a comprehensive 86 run victory in their second qualifying match of the Indian Premier League at Chennai yesterday.

Vijay struck a stunning 113 off just 58 balls to propel Chennai to the highest total of the tournament so far; a behemoth of a 222 made from their 20 overs for the loss of just 5 wickets.

The Delhi bowlers were understandably taken to the cleaners Virender Sehwag went for 21 off a single over, the hapless Varun Aron picked up 2 wickets but gave away 63 runs in his 4 over spell. The worst of the knives though will befall the hitherto unknown Sunny Gupta, an off-spinner who was drafted in for Delhi's most important game of the season in place of purple-cap holder Morne Morkel.

With Vijay motoring on from over one, the batsmen at the other end were content to just rotate the strike, but even then, by the time Hussey fell in the first ball of the ninth over, the score was already 68.

There was no stopping Vijay on this day and he just kept accelerating, with the help of first Dhoni and then Dwayne Bravo as they posted a mammoth total worthy of winning any game.

Vijay struck 15 boundaries and four glorious sixes in his eye-catching knock and more than made up for his patchy form over the last month or so.

Despite the score, the game was not yet won, because if there was any batting line-up capable of overhauling this total, it was Delhi's.

But with both David Warner and Sehwag back in the pavilion with the score on 22, it was always going to just be a matter of how close the Daredevils could come. The answer was not too close as sensible bowling from Ben Hilfenhaus and then Ravichandra Ashwin meant that Delhi was always staring at an improbable run to victory.

Ross Taylor and Mahela Jayawardene briefly threatened a comeback but when Ashwin castled the former, there was not much else but pride to play for, for the Daredevils.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 222 for 5 off 20 overs (Vijay 113, Bravo 33)

DELHI DAREDEVILS: 136 all out in 16.5 overs (Jayawardene 55; Ashwin 3-24)



Chennai Super Kings batsman Murali Vijay hits one on his way to scoring a century during their IPL 2nd Qualifier against Delhi Daredevils at the MA Chidambaram Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Mari remembered



SPORTS REPORTER

A commemorative meeting of the late Chinghla Mong Chowdhury Mari, the legendary footballer, was held yesterday at the Bangladesh Olympic Association auditorium with the urge to conserve his memoirs.

To keep his memory alive, the government will be asked to name a stadium in the hill-tracts after him, said secretary of Hill Tracts Affair Nabo Bikram Kishor Tripura.

Mari's wife Indu Lekha Mari, Prothom Alo editor Matiur Raham, Swadhin Bangla Football Team captain Zakaria Pintoo, vice-captain Protap Shankar Hazra, his teammate Monjur Hossain Mintu, veteran journalist Kamruzzaman, and Bashar Ahmed spoke on the occasion.

"We are about to forget Mari because he was born in Bangladesh. If he were born in Argentina or Hungary, he would have been treated like [Diego] Maradona or [Ferenc] Puskas," said Kamruzzaman adding that Mari was a not only a footballer but also an entertainer on the pitch.

"He had no assets and wealth but had a big heart which I can't express in words," said Indu Lekha Mari regretting that they could not get the response from National Sports Council (NSC) during his treatment.

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