

# Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY MAY 26, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thecitizenstar.net



Mohammedan forward Mobarak 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.

## Momentum works well for Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER



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

Winger Mobarak Hossain gave the Black & Whites the lead in the first half with Beninese midfielder Oladipikpo 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.

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"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 Yamin 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

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.

The original schedule was a ten-day trip

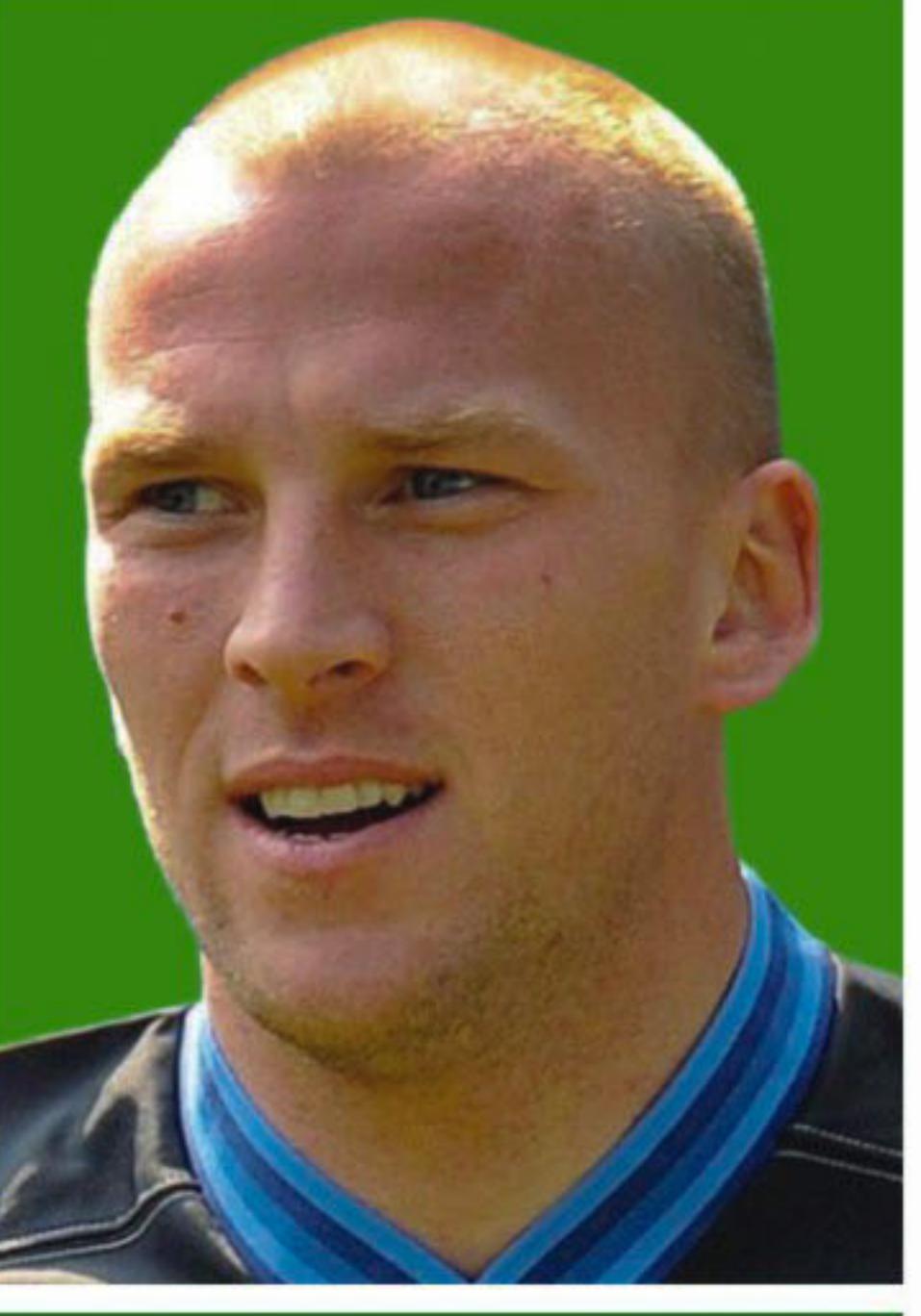
## Ruddy ruled out of Euros

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



## Sahara keen on Tigers

Subrata also answers on Tamim snub

### Cricket

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

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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## 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.

Qyym scored a hattrick 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.

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## Mari remembered

### Football

SPORTS REPORTER

A commemorative meeting of the late Chinglha 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 Affairs Nabo Bikhor 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 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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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

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