

Star SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 6, 2013, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Enrique faces lengthy lay-off

Liverpool defender Jose Enrique faces a six-week lay-off with a torn hamstring, the Premier League club's manager Brendan Rodgers said on Friday. The Spanish left back was injured during his side's 3-0 victory against Queens Park Rangers last week. "He has looked fantastic in the games but it looks like he'll probably be out for up to six weeks with his hamstring," Rodgers told the club's website (www.liverpoolfc.com). Enrique has made 61 appearances for Liverpool since joining from Newcastle United in 2011.



PHOTOS: BANGLARCHOKH

Prime Bank South Zone players (above) celebrate their 37-run Bangladesh Cricket League win over Islami Bank East Zone, a victory brought about by off-spinner Shohag Gazi's (far R) 11 wickets in the match, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. **INSET** BCB North Zone batsman Nasir Hossain raises his bat after scoring a fiery 131 in the drawn match against Walton Central Zone at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.



Delhi chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Niaz Murshed earned 1.5 points after two rounds in the 11th Delhi International Open Chess Festival which began in the Indian capital yesterday.

Niaz beat Chinmay Kulkarni of India in the first round and drew with Karthikeyan Murali of India in the second.

A total of 105 players from 11 countries including 17 Grand Masters, 4 women's Grand Masters and 27 International Masters are participating in the event.

Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A brilliant century by Jony Talukder led Eskaton Sabuj Sangha to an eight-wicket victory over Baridhara Dazzlers in their First Division League match at the Jagannath University Ground yesterday. Batting first the Dazzlers were bowled out for 205 in 49.2 overs. Shihah Ahmed top-scored with 60. In reply, Eskaton rode on Jony's 106 and raced to victory with eight wickets and 5.1 overs to spare.

In the day's other game, Azad Sporting Club beat Surjo Torun Club by 4 wickets. Surjo Torun scored 226 runs in the first innings. Azad Sporting reached the target with three overs and four wickets in hand, courtesy of an unbeaten 73 by Rana.

SCORES IN BRIEF
BARIDHARA DAZZLERS: 205 all out in 49.2 overs (Shihah 60, Arifuzzamman 38; Abu Bakar 3-28, Sarfaraj 3-48). **ESKATON SABUJ SANGHA:** 207 for 2 in 44.5 overs. (Jony 106 not out, Hasanuzzaman 55; Manosh Kumar 1-31). **SURJO TORUN CLUB:** 226 for 9 in 50 overs (Rakib 53; Rony 3-52). **AZAD SPORTING CLUB:** 227 for 6 in 47 overs (Rana 73 not out, Imtiaz 46; Arafat 2-36).

Red-hot Gazi seals South win

SPORTS REPORTER



Shohag Gazi continued his impressive form as the off-spinner claimed five wickets in the second innings to guide Prime Bank South Zone to a 37-run victory against Islami Bank East Zone on the final day of the second round Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The wicket was good on the final day and East Zone was in a position to secure an outright victory as they needed only 127 runs on the final day with eight wickets in hand but senseless batting saw them being bundled out just before the lunch break. Gazi was the hero with a match haul of eleven wickets but the young off-spinner found nothing wrong in the pitch, saying that the opposition batsmen succumbed to pressure.

"We got little turn from the pitch. The wicket was good for batting even on the final day. Our plan was to create pressure by ensuring maiden overs and their batsmen succumbed to that pressure," said man-of-the-match Gazi.

"I enjoyed my bowling. I worked with

Saqlain Mushtaq about how I can drift the ball more effectively and I did it in the match successfully to claim eleven wickets. Actually I'm hungry for success no matter whether it is in the domestic competition or in international cricket. I must remember that I got the call-up to the national team because of my success in the domestic competitions," he added.

Meanwhile, BCB North Zone's Nasir Hossain took maximum advantage of the batting-friendly surface of the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra on the final day. His hundred was the highlight of the day before the match against Walton Central Zone ended in a draw as expected.

Interestingly, the BCL organising committee was yet to solve the problem created with the points system.

SOUTH ZONE v EAST ZONE

Young Mominul Haque unnecessarily charged Gazi to become the first victim of the day and his dismissal set off a collapse as wickets fell like ninepins. East Zone were bundled out for 227 runs after resuming the day on 138 for two.

Alok Kapali, who was trapped in front by pacer Robiul Islam for a duck, Rajin Saleh, who was bowled by Razzak, and veteran Faisal

Hossain, who was the Gazi's second victim of the day, followed Mominul quickly to seemingly seal the fate of the match.

The match however suddenly sparked into life as Nabil Samad played brilliantly with Dhiman Ghosh, but their 43-run ninth wicket stand was broken when Gazi hit the stumps from cover to send Nabil back to the pavilion as the two batsmen unnecessarily went for a cheeky single.

NORTH ZONE v CENTRAL ZONE

Central Zone declared their first innings at 436-9 after the first ball of the second over when Saqlain Sajib trapped Mohammad Sharif leg before, only to help their opponents to some batting practice on the final day.

Nasir put the bowlers to the sword during his 112-ball 131 as the right-hander smashed nine fours and four sixes.

Forhad Reza hit an unbeaten 77 off 84 balls that featured 11 boundaries.

Mohammad Ashraful, who was adjudged man of the match for his scintillating hundred, picked up three wickets.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH ZONE: First innings 248 and Second

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Dhoni scare for India

Final ODI against Pakistan today

PTI, New Delhi



India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was on Saturday rendered a doubtful starter for Sunday's third and final one-day international against Pakistan due to a sore back, forcing the team management to call up Dinesh Karthik as the back up.

Dhoni said at the customary pre-match press conference that he developed soreness on his back during the morning practice session at the Feroze Shah Kotla ground in New Delhi.

He was actually asked about the absence of middle-order batsman Yuvraj Singh at the training session and the skipper said, "If at all somebody is doubtful, it's me. I have a sore back and we have called Dinesh Karthik as back up."

"Since it was an optional practice session, Yuvraj did not come," he said.

Asked, who will lead the side if he does not recover in time, Dhoni said, "Let's hope that I play. We'll see tomorrow."

The beleaguered Indian batting line-up could come under more pressure if Dhoni sits out on Saturday.

He has been India's top scorer in the series with a 113 not out in the first match in Chennai and an unbeaten 54 in the second in Kolkata.

Dhoni meanwhile refused to blame coach Duncan Fletcher, whose role may be the under the scanner

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Muktis maul Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER



Muktijoddha Sangsad notched up their second successive win in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League when they handed Mohammedan Sporting Club a 4-1 defeat at their home venue of Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj on Saturday.

Buoyed by their 2-1 away win against Feni Soccer Club last week, Muktijoddha took the game to their opponents right from the word go. However, Mohammedan showed character as they equalised after conceding early, but couldn't withstand the flurry of attacks from the home side in the second-half. Some ten thousand enthusiastic supporters enjoyed the Reds stroll to a convincing win in the end.

The win lifted Muktijoddha to joint second position with 13 points from 7 matches while Mohammedan stayed on 10 points from same number of matches.

Muktijoddha started the match sprightly and took the lead in the 11th minute through Brazilian

striker Thiago Tyson Silva, who netted his third goal of the campaign. However, the Black and Whites equalised in the stoppage time of the first-half through their Nigerian forward Augustine Chizoba, to go for the breather at 1-1.

Muktijoddha stepped up the attack in the second-half and reaped the rewards by scoring three more goals to take the match away from the visitors. The Reds regained the lead in the 66th minute, thanks to

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Muktijoddha Sangsad players celebrate one of the goals during their 4-1 win against Mohammedan SC in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY

Meeting With PCB Chief Zaka Papon goes to India today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon will leave for India today in a bid to settle various bilateral issues with his Pakistan counterpart Zaka Ashraf. Both the presidents have been invited by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to watch the third One Day International (ODI) between India and Pakistan in Delhi. BCB officials, in a press conference yesterday, stated that the president would take this opportunity to have a meeting with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) president.

"BCB president will meet Zaka Ashraf on Sunday to discuss several bilateral issues. We received an email from the PCB inviting our board president and CEO for a talk," said Jalal Yunus, BCB media committee chairman. "The PCB president had earlier mentioned various places in Pakistan and India to host the bilateral meeting. Since he'll be in India, the BCB president wanted to take this opportunity to sit with him," added Yunus. The postponement of the tour raised questions about the participation of the Pakistani players in this year's Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 as the PCB had reportedly wanted to use the league as a 'bargaining chip' for a home series against Bangladesh. Yunus claimed that the issue regarding the participation of the Pakistan players in this year's BPL would be an important agenda of the meeting.

"Naturally the issue of BPL will come up in the meeting as there is speculation regarding Pakistani players' participation in the tournament," said Jalal.

Dutchmen impress BFF president

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin has praised the probable coach of the national side Lodewijk de Kruij by saying that the Dutchman holds the same formula and planning about football that he does too.

Kruij, who will arrive in Dhaka on Monday on a week-long visit to finalise the negotiations with the BFF, will be accompanied by his countryman and the probable coach for the BFF Academy Rene Koster and their agents.

Salahuddin said he expects Kruij to take Bangladesh to the final of the SAFF Championship which will be held in September in Nepal. "Since the AFC Challenge Cup is in March, it will be an experimental one for the coach. However, I expect his side to deliver performance in the SAFF Championship as part of our long-term plans of Vision 2022," said Salahuddin at the BFF House yesterday.

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Pepsi Media Cricket Channel 24 champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Channel 24 emerged champions in the Pepsi Six-a-side Media Cricket Tournament beating Maasranga TV by one run in an entertaining final at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Channel 24 put up 69 for two in their stipulated six overs,

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Zakia holds solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

WFM Zakia Sultana maintained her sole lead with six points after the seventh round of the Sultana Kamal 33rd National Women's Chess Championship at the chess federation yesterday. Zakia drew against Tanzina Akter Tani in the

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