

Star SPORT

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Essien's 'daddy' Mourinho

When Michael Essien joined Real Madrid on loan from Chelsea just before the summer transfer window shut, he was very happy to be reunited with manager Jose Mourinho. So happy, in fact, that he repeatedly and gleefully called Mourinho "daddy" during his press conference upon arrival in Madrid. It was...unusual. And now, Essien has done it again during a press conference ahead of Real Madrid's Champions League tie against Manchester United. This time with Mourinho sitting right next to him. From Football Espana:

"I am enjoying every minute with my



Tamim to miss rest of BPL

SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal looks set to miss the rest of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) after suffering a 'hairline crack' on his left wrist. An MRI-scan yesterday revealed the extent of the damage and Duronto Rajshahi opener Tamim has been advised to stay out of sports for the next fourteen days ruling him out for the rest of the competition which will end on February 19. Tamim sustained the injury while fielding in their BPL match against the Sylhet Royals last week. An immediate X-ray ruled out broken bones, but the MRI yesterday revealed that there are some concerns.

It isn't a fracture, so it's not a matter of grave concern. However, he needs to keep his left-arm at rest for the next two weeks at least," said Dr Debasish Dutta the Bangladesh physio. He however allayed fears that Tamim might not be fit before Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka in March. Tamim himself was not unduly worried.

"It's a crack in the bone so it will obviously hurt a

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Goalless draw in c'ship league

SPORTS REPORTER

Uttar Baridhara Club played out a goalless draw against Agrani Bank SC in the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. It was the first draw in three matches of the second edition of second-tier professional football league as Farashganj SC and Victoria SC had won their respective first matches in previous two days.



Chittagong Kings' Jason Roy, who remained not out on 92 off 55 balls, follows the path of the ball after hoisting it over long-on during the BPL T20 match against Duronto Rajshahi at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Barisal bow out

SPORTS REPORTER



The Barisal Burners were eliminated from the Bangladesh Premier League after Sylhet Royals beat them by two wickets, in a tense finish at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. Batting first Barisal scored 144 which Sylhet managed to overtake with two balls and one wicket remaining. Sylhet's victory cuts the chase for the all important fourth spot between Duronto Rajshahi and the Rangpur Riders. Rangpur will go through only if they beat Barisal in today's game. If they fail, Rajshahi will make it through, based on head to head wins.

With 47 runs required of the last six overs and seven wickets in hand, Sylhet were eyeing a comfortable victory. However, things changed as Royals suddenly lost crucial wickets of Mushfiqur Rahim (34) and Nazmul Hossain Milon (1) in the 16th over and the pressure was back on. It would have been worse had Alaauddin Babu held on to a diving catch to

get rid of Elton Chigumbura in the same over.

The 'pressure-game' continued between the teams as Sylhet required another 39 of the last four overs. Seven runs of the 17th over was followed by a six and a four in the first two balls of the 18th. The balance however shifted just for a brief period as Sylhet lost both Chigumbura and Mominul Haque in consecutive deliveries.

With 19 runs required of the last two overs, the 'pressure-pendulum' stopped as Mohammad Nabi smacked three fours. Sylhet needed just four runs in the last over; a task they completed with ease. Sylhet's chase had earlier been boosted by Paul Stirling's 29-ball 42.

Earlier, the Barisal Burners slumped to 92 for 8 in 16 overs after being put into bat. A 30-run partnership between Elias Sunny (20) and Alok Kapali (34) for the ninth wicket, helped the Burners post 144. Skipper Brad Hodge top-scored with a 40-ball 46. Mominul Haque with his slow-left armers was the pick of the bowlers with two for 14 in three overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BARISAL BURNERS: 144 for 9 in 20 overs (Hodge 46, Kapali 34; Mominul 2-14).
SYLHET ROYALS: 145 for 9 in 19.4 overs (Stirling 42; Hamid Hasan 3-31).
Result: Sylhet won by one wicket.

Rubel finds his feet

SPORTS REPORTER

It has been a couple of months of mixed performances for Rubel Hossain ever since his return from a shoulder injury that caused him to miss most of the last year. The fast bowler did well in the Test series against West Indies but was punished severely in the lone T20 match.

Continuing the trend, the fast bowler has struggled to impose himself on the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League where despite bowling well in patches he has also struggled, most notably while giving away 16 in an over against the Rangpur Riders. But the Chittagong Kings fast bowler feels that he is steadily regaining his confidence.

"I was injured for a year and could not work on my slog over bowling. I want

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Abahani striker Shakhawat Hossain Rony celebrates his winning goal against Sheikh Jamal DC in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Abahani on top again

SPORTS REPORTER



Title contenders Sheikh Jamal DC's unbeaten run in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League came to an end yesterday when holders Abahai handed them a 1-0 defeat Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

A 20th-minute strike from in-form striker Shakhawat Hossain Rony gave Abahani all three points and ensured the four-time champions regained the lead in the league. Elsewhere, at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj, Rezaul Karim and Tareq El Janaby scored either side of the break to give visitors Sheikh Russel a much-needed victory over hosts Muktiyoddha Sangsad 2-0.

The two results meant Sheikh Jamal slipped to third position with 25 points from 12 matches and allowed holders Abahani to sit on top with 27 points from same number of matches. Sheikh Russel KC meanwhile leapfrogged to the second position with 25 points from 11 matches and forced Muktiyoddha Sangsad to sixth position with 15 points from 12 matches.

At the BNS, both Abahani and Sheikh Jamal started the match cautiously and in

the first 15 minutes, the ball remained firmly in the midfield before Abahani launched the first attack.

Shrugging off their disappointing 1-1 draw against Brothers Union in the previous match, Abahani looked like their usual self and dominated the last 30 minutes of the first half with three attacks inside four minutes, one of which snatched the decider. Capitalising on a through-pass from Awudu Ibrahim, Rony took an angular from shot inside the danger zone, that ended up at the back of the Sheikh Jamal net after getting the palms of goalkeeper Sultan Ahmed Shakil.

The next minute, midfielder Awudu Ibrahim, being set up by a well-judged cross from Pranotosh Kumar Das, mis-cued a shot that went straight into the hands of Shakil while right-back Atiqur Rahman Meshu saw his curling effort narrowly miss the target in the 23rd minute.

On 39 minutes, left-back Wali Faisal took a free-kick from 30 yards out that fell to an unmarked Rony, but the scorer headed the ball wide this time, to keep the scoreline 1-0.

After resumption, Abahani went on the backfoot in the face of constant pressure

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Cricket superstar Shakib Al Hasan keeps company with Mahir Sarowar Megh, the only son of murdered journalist couple Meherun Runi and Sagar Sarowar, at the Drik Gallery in Dhanmondi yesterday. Shakib only came to know on Monday that little Megh was a big fan of his, so the cricketer and his wife Umme Ahmed Shishir decided to spend some time with the kid. They went to the gallery where a photo exhibition on the couple was taking place.

PHOTO: MAASRANGA TV

National Pairs Bridge C'ship on Feb 15-16

SPORTS REPORTER

The Khondkar Fazle Sobhan National Pairs Bridge Championship 2013 will be held at the Engineers' Recreation Center, Institute of Engineers, in Ramna on February 15 and 16. Cellular phone giants Grameenphone will sponsor the event which is being organised by Bangladesh Bridge Federation. Interested pairs have been requested to complete their registration formalities at the venue by 9am on the opening day of the competition. Entry fee is waived for the participants coming from outside Dhaka.