

## Kaka back for Brazil

AFP, Paris

Injuries to Chelsea's Alex and Julio Baptista of Roma have forced Brazil coach Dunga into late call-ups ahead of two World Cup qualifiers that should herald the return of star midfielder Kaka.

Dunga has called up Hamburg defender Silva and Porto Alegre winger Alex as replacements for the injured pair.

Recently Dunga called up Inter Milan striker Adriano to replace Sevilla's Luis Fabiano, who is sidelined for at least a week with a muscle strain.

Brazil travel to Venezuela for Sunday's match and will host Colombia three days later, and will be hoping for Kaka to play a leading role.

The 2007 European footballer of the Year last played for Brazil in a World Cup qualifier, against Uruguay, in November 2007.

Kaka only returned to action in September following surgery on his knee in May.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Julio Cesar (Inter Milan/ITA), Doni (Roma/ITA)  
**Defenders:** Maicon (Inter Milan/ITA), Daniel Alves (Barcelona/ESP), Lucio (Bayern Munich/GER), Juan (Roma/ITA), Thiago Silva (Fluminense), Silva (Hamburg/GER), Kleber (Santos), Juan (Flamengo)  
**Midfielders:** Gilberto Silva (Panathinaikos/GRE), Josue (Wolfsburg/GER), Lucas (Liverpool/ENG), Anderson (Manchester United/ENG), Elano (Manchester City/ENG), Kaka (AC Milan/ITA), Mancini (Inter Milan/ITA), Alex (Porto Alegre/BRA)  
**Strikers:** Adriano (Inter Milan/ITA), Jo (Manchester City/ENG), Pato (AC Milan/ITA), Robinho (Manchester City/ENG).



A MISMATCH: Mohammedan's Egyptian midfielder Hazem Khaled, who scored one of his team's seven goals, is tackled by Muktiyodha defender Roni (R) during yesterday's Citycell B. League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

## 7-star Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan equalled the record of the biggest win in the B. League when they destroyed bottom-table Muktiyodha 7-0 yesterday on resumption of the professional league after the Eidul Fitri vacation.

In an embarrassingly one-sided affair at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Nigerian striker Alamu Bukola fired twice while Nasir Hossain, Egyptian midfielder Hajem Khaled, Enamul Haque Sharif, Faisal Mahmud and Hedaytullah Robin added one each to give the Black and Whites their second consecutive win after opening the league with a draw against Chittagong Abahani.

Mohammedan and defending champions Abahani both won by 7-0 in last year's inaugural B. League, against Chittagong Mohammedan and Rahmatganj respectively.

Muktiyodha's worst defeat since their emergence as a local powerhouse in 1993, they had also lost by the same margin to Abahani in 1987, came a day after the struggling club received Tk 10 lakh as sponsorship money.

With no camp during the Eid break and some key players not returning, the understrength Reds who have lost all four matches so far, managed to stop a barrage of goals in the first half under tremendous pressure. But lack of fitness showed clearly in the last 45 minutes when Mohammedan stole five goals.

Although coach Maruful Haque left captain Jewel Rana - still recovering from an early season damage -- out of the starting line-up while Hassan Al Mamun and Rajani -- the national team pair also nursing minor injuries -- were not even in

the squad, Mohammedan's rather young backline had no trouble negotiating the toothless rival attack built around former international Kanchan.

After cautious ten minutes, the solidity of the defence inspired the four-man midfield to go all out but Muktiyodha's young goalkeeper Mustaq stopped whatever came his way till the half-hour.

The pressure finally told in the 32nd minute when Nasir, the full-back turned right-side midfielder, controlled a pass by Hazem with his chest before outpacing Titu and the goalkeeper to put the ball into the empty net for his second league goal.

Skipper Titu, hoping a national recall for this month's Merdeka Cup, had made a spectacular goalline save minutes before but the seemingly unfit left fullback reacted late this time to let Nasir off the hook.

It took Mohammedan three more minutes to double the lead through Bukola, who was fortunate not to be judged offside by the out-of-position assistant referee when the Nigerian headed home a cross by Hazem.

Muktiyodha had a rare chance but Kanchan's effort from close went straight to Aminul at the Black and Whites goal.

The floodgate opened 44 seconds after resumption when Sharif, who replaced Nasir at the break, scored with his first touch. The midfielder, getting a square pass from Bukola at the right flank, saw his misdirected low cross from zero-angle beat Mustaq through his legs.

This year's Federation Cup winners had to wait for their fourth goal till the 66th minute. Robin missed Sharif's centre from the right but Hazem's drop-header from 12 yards went in off the underside of the crossbar.

Faisal then struck a thunderous right-footer into the roof of the net

from 25 yards in the 72nd minute while Bukola toe-poked a low cross by Sharif three minutes later for his second of the match.

Muktiyodha goalkeeper Mustaq received a head injury while trying to stop Bukola but as his side had already made three regulation changes, the BKSP custodian had to continue under great risk.

A more defensive minded holding midfielder Sharif shone in an unusual position at the right flank and also had a hand in the final goal of the match seven minutes from time when he released Robin who snatched the ball from last defender Aziz Arman and went round Mustaq to complete the misery.

The injured keeper was finally relieved off his duty and Kanchan stood under the bar for the last five minutes without any threat from the rivals, who joined Sheikh Russel and Brothers Union atop the table with seven points.

Muktiyodha coach Ali Asgar Nasir, who had to bring on strikers to replace two defenders, rued lack of practice and a proper camp for such a poor run but hoped the players would concentrate hard in the future after their recent financial aid.

"We knew it was going to be an easy win for us. But I never thought it would be this big," said Mohammedan's all-smiling coach Maruf who was also happy to see the strength of his bench on day he missed top stars.

**Yellow cards:** Wahid (Mohammedan) and Kanchan (Muktiyodha)

### TEAMS

**Mohammedan:** Aminul, Kamal (Munna), Wahid, Saikat, Ripon, Nasir (Sharif), Hazem, Arman Aziz, Faisal, Robin (Kamol) and Bukola.  
**Muktiyodha:** Mustaq, Roni, Azizi, Majemu, Bappi (Armin Rana), Titu (Milon), Biddyt, Tajul, Sentu, Jalal (Walid) and Kanchan.  
 Referee: Abdul Hannan.

## Ronaldo close to return

INTERNET, Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian forward Ronaldo will be set to return in one month after recovering from a career-threatening knee injury sooner than anticipated.

The three-time FIFA World Player of the Year, Ronaldo was injured while playing for AC Milan in Serie A in February.

The out-of-contract 32-year-old has been training with Flamengo and is on course to return soon, according to physio Bruno Mazzotti.

Ronaldo, whose illustrious career with PSV Eindhoven, Barcelona, Internazionale, Real Madrid and Milan has been punctuated by injuries, was expected to require more than a year to recover, and Mazzotti praised the striker for his hard work.

"Because of Ronaldo's dedication, the recovery period has been shortened," Mazzotti told SporTV. "He has been following a treatment for almost eight months and now he is the final stage of the recovery."

"Clinically, he has fully recovered since August 15. We remain optimistic about his return to football action as soon as possible. The prediction depends on a number of factors but we think that, within one month or maybe less, he will be able to play again."

Ronaldo is now poised to take a full part in training with Flamengo before deciding where his future lies.

"He is in the final stage of the recovery and, from this week, he will be able to train with the Flamengo team as if he were just another player," Mazzotti said.

## Mark banned after umpire outburst

AFP, London

Surrey batsman Mark Ramprakash will miss next season's first two County Championship matches for repeatedly swearing at an umpire.

Ramprakash pleaded guilty to a charge of using crude language during his side's championship match against Sussex at The Oval on August 20 after becoming involved in an altercation with Sussex batsman Murray Goodwin before being restrained by umpires.

An England and Wales Cricket Board disciplinary panel also fined the 39-year-old former English batsman 1,500 pounds and ordered him to pay costs of 1,000 pounds.

### Notice

Today's Star City page could not be brought out due to space constraints. We regret the inconvenience.

## Milan get easy draw



AFP, Paris

Former European champions AC Milan were among the big names looking with optimism towards possible UEFA Cup glory after landing in a comparatively manageable group following Tuesday's draw.

The top three teams from each of the eight groups, along with the third-place group finishers from the Champions League, progress to February's round of 32.

And Milan, Champions League winners twice in the past five years, should feel buoyed after joining Dutch side Heerenveen, Sporting Braga, Portsmouth and VfL Wolfsburg in group E.

Four English Premier League teams are involved in the competition, including former two-time winners Tottenham.

Currently propping up the Premier League, Juande Ramos's Spurs will hope to make amends in Europe in a group D containing Spartak Moscow, Udinese, Croatian side Dinamo Zagreb and Dutch outfit Nijmegen.

Manchester City were drawn in group A and will come face to face with the team of former England and Middlesbrough manager Steve McClaren, Dutch side FC Twente.

Completing group B is Paris Saint-Germain, Schalke 04 of Germany and Racing Santander of Spain.

With a May 20 final scheduled

for Istanbul, Turkish giants Galatasaray, the 2000 champions, will hope to perform well in a potentially tricky group B which contains Benfica, Olympiakos, Hertha Berlin and Ukrainian side Metalist Kharkiv.

Spanish specialists Sevilla, the winners in 2006 and 2007, will start as favourites against VfB Stuttgart, Sampdoria, Partizan Belgrade and Standard Liege in group C.

And in group F Ajax, who won their only UEFA Cup in 1992, face a test of their ambition against SV Hamburg, Slavia Prague, Aston Villa and Slovakian side MSK Zilina.

Another former Spanish winner, 2004 champions Valencia, should have top billing in a group G in which Club Brugge, Rosenborg, FC Copenhagen and Saint Etienne should, on paper, be fighting for the last two qualifying places.

CSKA Moscow, the last Russian side to lift the trophy, in 2005, before reigning champions Zenit St Petersburg, will be hoping their solid league form carries them through against Deportivo La Coruna, 2002 and 1974 winners Feyenoord, French minnows Nancy and Lech Poznan of Poland.

### GROUPS

<b>Group A</b> Schalke 04 (GER) Paris Saint-Germain (FRA) Manchester City (ENG) Racing Santander (ESP) FC Twente (NED)	<b>Group B</b> Benfica (POR) Olympiakos (GRE) Galatasaray (TUR) Hertha Berlin (GER) Metalist Kharkiv (UKR)	<b>Group C</b> Sevilla (ESP) VfB Stuttgart (GER) Sampdoria (ITA) Partizan Belgrade (SRB) Standard Liege (BEL)	<b>Group D</b> Tottenham Hotspur (ENG) Spartak Moscow (RUS) Udinese (ITA) Dinamo Zagreb (CRO) Nijmegen (NED)	<b>Group E</b> AC Milan (ITA) SC Heerenveen (NED) Sporting Braga (POR) Portsmouth (ENG) VfL Wolfsburg (GER)	<b>Group F</b> SV Hamburg (GER) Ajax (NED) Slavia Prague (CZE) Aston Villa (ENG) MSK Zilina (SVK)	<b>Group G</b> Valencia (ESP) Club Brugge (BEL) Rosenborg (NOR) FC Copenhagen (DEN) Saint-Etienne (FRA)	<b>Group H</b> CSKA Moscow (RUS) Deportivo La Coruna (ESP) Feyenoord (NED) Nancy (FRA) Lech Poznan (POL)
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## Tough times for trio

INTERNET, undated



It's hard to tell who is worst off from the prominent trio of AC Milan, Juventus and Roma in the early part of the Serie A season. Neutral observers note that after six games the league is "thrilling and crazy," but fans of the three powerhouses are already rather frustrated and fear a season of suffering and dismal showings.

Reigning champions Inter Milan are also not in top shape, but lead the way with 13 points ahead of Lazio and Udinese.

The president of Juventus, Giovanni Cobolli Gigli, pulled no punches as he analyzed the Turin club's situation after a 2-1 home defeat suffered against Palermo.

"Since I became president (in June 2006), this is the hardest moment from a technical point of view," he said.

"Now we take 10 days off (due to

international games) to rest and understand, but what is certain is that (coach Claudio) Ranieri won't be touched."

Ranieri had come under fire already after the two previous disappointing draws and rumours of dismissal intensified after the first defeat suffered at the weekend held Juve on nine points.

AC Milan appeared to have recovered from two embarrassing beatings at the start of the season, at home to promoted Bologna and away to Genoa, when they got a third straight win against Inter.

Their latest outing, though, was a meagre 0-0 at minnows Cagliari. The Brazilian striking trio of by Kaka, Pato and Ronaldinho did little against the Sardinia side and things did not improve when Carlo Ancelotti brought on veterans Andriy Shevchenko and Filippo Inzaghi.

Ancelotti denied that the result was a step backward, but the poor showing up front drew criticism on a transfer market campaign cen-

tered on Ronaldinho and Ukraine's Shevchenko, who returned to Milan after a glum stint at Chelsea.

But vice president Adriano Galliani said that Ronaldinho is doing well, "having played 90 minutes Thursday (in the UEFA Cup) and Sunday too. Now luckily he has two weeks to train, but we are very pleased with Ronaldinho."

## England sweat on Terry

AFP, London

England were left sweating over captain John Terry's availability for the World Cup qualifier against Kazakhstan on Saturday after the Chelsea centreback missed training on Tuesday with a sore back.

Terry was one of four players to miss Fabio Capello's first session in the build-up to a match England will be expected to win comfortably before embarking on a more complicated trip to Belarus next week.

The other absentees were Terry's Chelsea teammate Ashley Cole -- a certain starter if fit -- and back-up pair Wes Brown and Stewart Downing.

All four were confined to gym work but England's medical staff expect them to be back in full training on Wednesday.

Chelsea boss Luiz Felipe Scolari admitted at the weekend that Terry was unlikely to be 100 per cent but predicted that his captain would start for England regardless.

Joe Cole is England's most notable absentee having been ruled out of the two upcoming matches because of a foot injury.

FROM PAGE 19  
 We can take help from psychologist. Monetary benefits are already there. But it can be increased especially in the domestic cricket. The players joined the ICL for their own interest and for the financial benefits.

There is a communication gap between the board officials and the players. The problem is from both sides.

We need to educate the players so that they can handle responsibility.

There will always be criticism. Players should be able to take pressure. There are less pressure matches at the domestic level which must change. There should be more competitive games. Our international players don't dominate in the national league which is alarming. There is a lack of faith on the selectors by the board officials, by the players and the media.

The selection is often stats based. They have little scope to select players based on intuition.

**FARUQUE AHMED**  
 When we were the selectors we used to divide the workload. GM Nousher Prince was assigned for the under-15 age group, Athar Ali Khan the under-17 age-group and myself the under-19 age-group. Prince was the chairman of the committee. I used to do the roster on which selector would go to which venue both domestically and internationally. I went to Sri Lanka with the under-19 team and before that went to Visnkapatnam

as a preparation tour. I had to travel by bus, the DA was only 10 dollars but I still took the trouble of going there.

On that tour I selected the final under-19 team. I went as a manager. The selector should take this kind of responsibility. I suggest that the selection committee chairman should be more involved regarding selection matters like the roster and the foreign tours.

I hope that Rafique bhai go to India besides going to Australia and England.

## Domenech faces the chop

AFP, Paris



Raymond Domenech, whose stock has plunged since leading Les Bleus to the 2006 World Cup final, faces what could prove to be a determining week in his career as coach of France.

On Saturday France face Romania in their third 2010 qualifier with Domenech's bosses set to meet four days later to decide whether to keep him or sack him.

His employers, the French Football Federation, decided not to bow to calls from public and professionals alike and sack him after France's dismal showing at Euro 2008.

Instead they put him on probation, shook up the national team's management structure, preferring to wait and see how early 2010 World Cup qualifying results panned out.

France, drawn in Group 7, started woefully with a 3-1 loss to Austria, ranked a lowly 101 in

FIFA's rankings, in Vienna before throwing their under-fire coach a lifeline with a 2-1 win over Serbia in Paris.

That left the 1998 world champions on three points behind table toppers Lithuania on six points.

What criteria will the FFF use to pass judgment on the man former France number one goalkeeper Gregory Coupet has labelled "a dictator"?

Defeat or a draw against the Romanians in Bucharest could well spell the end of his turbulent tenure.

But he will also be judged on his management of the squad and his distinctly prickly relations with the media which reached a nadir at Euro 2008.

After the humiliating loss to Austria the French media predictably went to town, with one paper describing the result "a colossal catastrophe" and another suggesting the team had already met "its Waterloo."

Domenech, in comments that were not well received at the FFF, told a press conference before the Serbian game: "In the world today... it is the smell of blood that

interests you.

"Thankfully the guillotine doesn't exist anymore because there are some among you who would have the malicious pleasure of sending me for the chop."

He added: "But perhaps it would be better if I had killed someone."

He racked up some much needed credit points on the coaching side of affairs in the Serbia game by starting Gourcuff and replacing the ineffective Karim Benzema in the second half with goalscorer Nicolas Anelka.

Domenech's bid to hang on to his job has received a timely boost by the return to fitness of captain Patrick Vieira and star striker Franck Ribery.

Vieira was included in his Euro 2008 squad but never got the chance to kick a ball in anger. The midfield general, like Ribery, missed France's first two World Cup qualifiers.

While the noose may be tightening Domenech for one is playing it cool ahead of Saturday's game against a side that held them to a goalless draw at Euro 2008.

## Roundtable on Bangladesh Cricket

matches a year. Do we think that only 11 matches are enough? No. The reason is that there is a lack of grounds. In all these years no board has given us any new grounds. The duration of the League is 90 days. There is eleven match days. In fact 25 matches can be easily played in 90 days.

The National League is like a picnic. If there were more grounds then there would be more matches. We cannot maintain the wickets because we don't have our own grounds. In every ground like the Dhaka University, Abahani, City Club thousands of boys are playing football. If the cricket board had their own fields then the wickets could have been maintained. As long as the number of matches is not increased cricket won't improve. There is no need for cement wickets. It is unfortunate that we are practising on the cement wicket before playing on the turf wicket.

**MOSTAFA KABIR**  
 There is no consistent structure. Sometimes there are 20 teams and sometimes there are 22 teams. The matches have been increased this season. There will be 90 overs in the Premier League. There will be CCDDM Cup with the top six teams from the Premier Division.

**MAHBUBANAM**  
 In order to improve the domestic cricket it has to have structure, sponsorship, flow of money and TV media campaign. Without all these

things there won't be any interest. The problems in Dhaka League are created by the clubs. There are only 11 games but the grounds remain unused throughout the year.

The clubs don't want to play without the national players. We do not plan our calendar when our grounds are free. We cram everything into a very small space. The grounds will always become a factor in continuing the number of games we play. So that is an area that all of us have to support. The clubs from CCDDM will propose to BCB where they have practise facilities within their control. This was discussed very clearly but in two years we never got a proposal back from CCDDM. The BCB have development fund which must go into development. It is impossible to prove match fixing with camera unless you have Hansie Cronje. It is a big allegation which can only be proved if we have a witness.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfiz Anam ends the lively debate with a vote of thanks.

**MAHFUZANAM**  
 I thank everyone for coming here. I'm a novice about the game but let me take the opportunity to say that we are ready to support sport of the country in general and cricket in particular in any way possible. I'm making a plea to everyone to use this newspaper for the betterment of cricket. Thanks again.

**DOMESTIC CRICKET**  
**SYED ALI ASAF**  
 I am involved with domestic cricket. I have two clubs. We are only playing 11