

Spanish World Cup winner Xavi equalled Barcelona's all-time appearance record by making his 549th outing for the club in Sunday's league match against Levante at Camp Nou. Playmaker Xavi, one of the candidates shortlisted for the 2010 Ballon d'Or, equalled the appearance landmark of legendary centre-back Migueli and at 30, the midfielder is set to go on and better the benchmark. Local boy Xavi made his Barcelona debut in the 1998-99 season and has been a virtual ever-present in his 12 seasons at Camp Nou winning five Spanish league titles and two Champions League crowns.



SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY JANUARY 4, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Unlucky for a second day

REAZUR RAHMAN ROHAN

There was the usual mad rush for a second successive day on Monday with people braving the cold weather and waiting in line for hours to get hold of that precious World Cup ticket. Since the opening day of sales, the Dhanmondi branch of City Bank has been the most organised, yet there were many complaints. Golam Mehdi, a student of a private university, claimed that his two-day wait has been fruitless thus far. "I am standing here for the last two days and still couldn't buy a ticket. I think the mismanagement is to blame. Besides, the local police also played a dirty part," alleged Mehdi. According to him and a few others, police sub-inspector Mujibur took the names and numbers of around 65-70 people standing in the queue there on Sunday night and asked them to go home and come back on Monday morning, assuring them that the queue would start in the same order. "SI Mujibur assured us that we will be

the first ones to get the tickets and requested us to leave. When we came back this (Monday) morning, we saw a new line in place. "We asked him (SI Mujibur) about it and he said that this new line was formed by his senior and it has to be followed," he claimed. After a lot of fuss, they stood in a new line and went inside the bank one by one after every four persons from the new line. When the SI was asked about this incident over phone, he said that it isn't true. Mujibur said that he did not make any such lists. "The people standing here yesterday (Sunday) made a list within them and gave it to us. They themselves were confused about the list and wasn't sure about it," he responded. Yousuf, a residence from Kalyanpur, said, "I am a service holder, and it's hard for me to skip office and stand in these lines. Even after standing for two days, I have to face this problem because of poor management." Sheikh Monirul Islam, the bank's branch manager at Dhanmondi, said that

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NATIONAL PASTIME: (clockwise from top) Two ladies make the best of a bad situation and take a breather while hoping that their persistence bears fruit; a lady is downcast at being chased from the queue after the ticket-seekers alleged that she had already bought her tickets the day before; the yearning for tickets left fans weary as the queues moved at a snail's pace at Mirpur 1 yesterday. PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN



Mohammedan's striker Rony Islam (L) attempts to slip one past a desperate Farashganj defender during their Bangladesh League match at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

MSC scrape to victory

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone Bangladesh League 2011
Title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club survived another scare in their second match of the Bangladesh League before posting a single goal win over Farashganj Sporting Club at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. Away at Cox's Bazar Stadium, visiting Sheikh Russel KC recorded a convincing 3-0 win over hosts Chittagong Mohammedan to share the lead with Dhaka Mohammedan on equal six points after two successive games. Rony Islam struck the all-important goal in the 42nd minute for Dhaka Mohammedan, who also struggled to beat Chittagong Abahani in their league opener. The Back and Whites had started with good pace to keep on creating chances and yielded two good opportunities inside

the half-hour mark. But they gradually lost the midfield to a youthful Farashganj, whose striking duo Shohel Rana and Atiqul Islam penetrated the Mohammedan backline till the last minute. Mohammedan, however, went ahead three minutes from the breather from a counter attack when Nigerian recruit Emeka Christian sent a defence-splitting pass to Rony, who controlled the ball well to lash in a grounder at the far post past goalkeeper Sujon Chowdhury. After the resumption, Mohammedan, who lost their strength this season after failing to keep most of the players, were barely hanging on with Farashganj continually attacking the giants. The Old Dhaka outfit was unlucky not to find the equalizer and coach Kamal Babu blamed the poor refereeing. "We actually played

against the referee, who ignored a genuine penalty and overlooked many fouls made by Mohammedan mistakes. However, it is also right that our strikers could not finish well because of a lack of experience," said Kamal. Mohammedan coach Shafiqul Islam Manik also blamed the referee for giving some decisions against them. He was also not satisfied with the way his boys played in the second half. At Cox's Bazar, Moroccan Abbas gave Sheikh Russel an early lead scoring in the 11th minute before his compatriot Samir Omari doubled the margin in the 19th minute. Young striker Wahed sealed the fate of the game striking seven minutes into the second half while Chittagong Mohammedan were reduced to 10 men after Biplob Das was sent off in the 76th minute for his second bookable offense.

School football

SPORTS REPORTER

The second phase of the Ashiyan City Dhaka Metropolis School Football tournament gets underway today at the Abahani ground in Dhanmondi with eight schools fighting it out. Participating teams are BAF Shaheen School, St Joseph High School, Govt. Science College annex High School, Dolairpar High School, Dhaka Residential Model School, AK International School, Siddeshwari Boys High School and A Latif Charitable School.

SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION
Do you think Bangladesh will have a great 2011 in sports?
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ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP TALK

'Can't forget catch against Scots'

Faruque Ahmed, the Bangladesh captain, felt he went back a decade when he spoke to The Daily Star Sport about the 1999 World Cup in the United Kingdom.

Daily Star Sport (DSS): How did it feel when you heard that you would play the 1999 World Cup? How excited were you to play in your country's first World Cup?
Faruque Ahmed (FA): It was an unbelievable feeling. We had been dreaming to play the World Cup for a long time. We had missed the chance twice before by not qualifying through the ICC Trophy tournaments. When we qualified from the Associate level in 1997, all of us started to think about the World Cup, whether we'll be able to play or not.



FARUQUE AHMED

It is very tough to express, for any of us in our generation, what we felt during that time.
DSS: You played just two game...
FA: I can never forget that catch I took at gully. We know that Salmond was the grafter, and the best Scotland batsman after Gavin Hamilton. The biggest thing for us back then was to play one-day inter-

nationals since we played so few of them. Doing something small, like taking a catch, was always a great achievement for us in those days.
DSS: How different was the atmosphere compared to other matches or tours?
FA: People were emotionally so involved with the team in that tour. It was very different from usual matches or tours. The feeling among the players was also heightened, as it was the first World Cup. Everybody was tensed with appearing in the tournament, rather than the perfor-

mance.
DSS: Tell us your sweetest memory.
FA: It is an easy answer: beating Pakistan. Any player would say that. As well as the Pakistan win, beating Scotland was a huge thing for our cricket.
DSS: Was there a sad part in the World Cup for you?

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BCB wipes hands off ticketing farce

SPORTS REPORTER

The sufferings of thousands of fans continued in force on the second day of the selling of the World Cup tickets, and many frustrated people are now raising a finger of blame towards the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). Like in the first day, only a few fortunate ones returned home smiling as the majority spent another day pitched out in the cold without anything to show for it at the end of the day. And most of these people claimed a lack of transparency, acute mismanagement, unfair distribution and illogical rules and regulations for the farce that the process has descended into. The BCB however, were unwilling to accept any of the responsibility for a second consecutive day of clashes and sufferings. GS Hasan Tamim, the BCB's ticket and seating committee chairman, instead said that they were just facilitators in a process that was being taken care of by the International Cricket Council (ICC) and its ticketing partner KyaZoonga. Tamim also expressed the board's helplessness regarding the ticketing issue because the ticket management was totally controlled by KyaZoonga. "We also got the complaints from different quarters. There has been not only complaints against the lengthy process but there has been also whispering that many did not get all the match tickets. We learnt about these complaints from different people but we are helpless," said Tamim.

"ICC is involved here and you know, KyaZoonga are making all the arrangement. What we can do is



A replica of the World Cup is being hailed at the Charpuliari village in Mymensingh on Sunday night after the farmers staged their own version of Cricket World Cup 2011. The match was a symbolic World Cup final between Bangladesh and Australia, held between two groups of over 60-year-old farmers at the initiation of agriculture development and media personality Shykh Seraj (R). Bangladesh came on top by 47 runs with Nurul Amin becoming the farmer of the match for his unbeaten 80. PHOTO: COURTESY