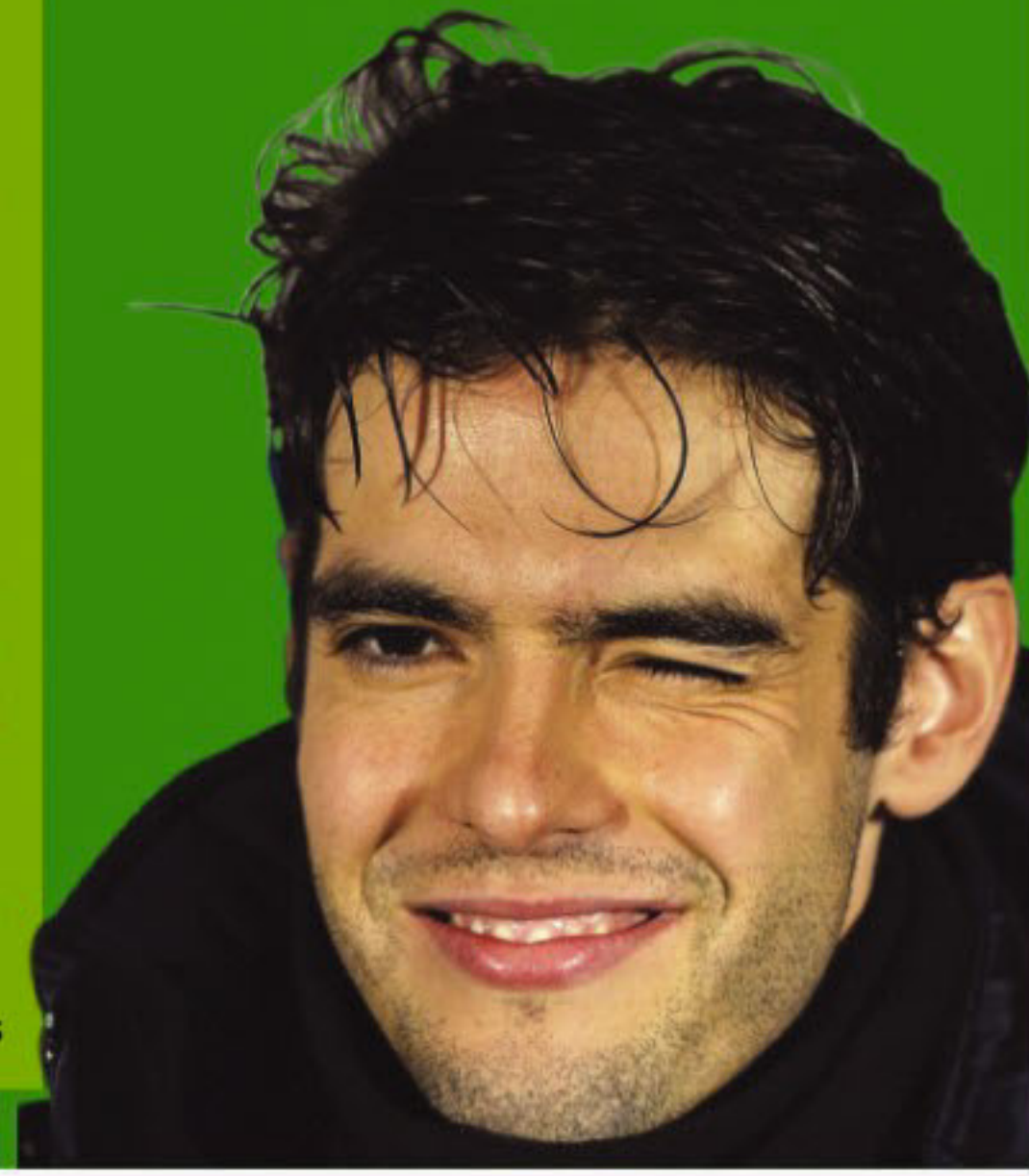


Real Madrid midfielder Kaka was delighted to return to action on Monday when he played the last quarter of an hour of the La Liga giants' 3-2 win at Getafe just under five months after a knee operation.

The Brazil playmaker and 2007 World Player of the Year looked fit and hungry, linked well with Mesut Ozil and Cristiano Ronaldo and managed one effort on goal that flew well wide.

"I am very happy to finally be back and return to the pitch with my team mates," he said in an interview with Spanish TV.

- REUTERS



SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JANUARY 5, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

BANGLADESH LEAGUE Feni, R'ganj share the spoils

SPORTS REPORTER

Feni Soccer Club and Rahmatganj MFS shared points in their Bangladesh League encounter after playing out a 1-1 draw at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Rahmatganj's Ugandan veteran Idris Kasirye struck in the stoppage time to deny visitors Feni Soccer Club a win, who had held on to an 11th minute lead given by Ugandan striker Kubey Dominic.

This draw lifts Rahmatganj to four points from two games, equaling them with second-placed Abahani. Muktijoddha Sangsad and Sheikh Russel KC topped the point table with six points each. It was first points for Feni as they had lost their first match against Chittagong Mohammedan on home soil.



TALENT CLUSTER: Mohammedan stalwarts Mohammad Yousuf (L), Khaled Masud (C sitting) and Shakib Al Hasan (R) are joined by injured star Mashrafe Mortaza (C standing) during their Premier League match against Old DOHS at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. **INSET:** Mohammedan's English import Moeen Ali cracks a sweep through midwicket during his 113 in the match.

PHOTOS: STAR

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP TALK

'Stand with Nannu bhai memorable'

Monjurul Islam, the left-arm paceman, reckons his best World Cup campaign was the 1999 edition in the United Kingdom, and not South Africa 2003. Coach of the Chinese national cricket team, he spoke to The Daily Star during his winter break.

Daily Star Sport (DSS): How did it feel when you heard that you would play the 1999 World Cup?

Monjurul Islam (MI): I was not selected for one match in the lead-up tri-series in Dhaka before the World Cup, but I was somehow confident that I would be picked in the squad. You know, it was a daze when I finally got the call-up.

DSS: How did you prepare ahead of the tournament?

MI: My own preparation was good. We worked under Robert Hunt, who was our trainer and physiotherapist. Gordon Greenidge was also there in our three-month camp in BKSP. But the biggest plus in that camp was that there was no senior-junior divide between me and (Minhajul Abedin) Nannu bhai, (Aminul Islam) Bulbul bhai, (Enamul Haque) Moni bhai or (Mohammad) Rafique bhai. We were all together in our effort.

DSS: You went almost a month ahead of the World Cup...

MI: Yes and it was a very good plan to do so. It was the unofficial tour and we beat the Mark Ramprakash-led Middlesex and also Essex. In one of those matches, (Khaled Mahmud)



MONJURUL ISLAM

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CCS clip Biman's wings

SPORTS REPORTER



Cricket Coaching School (CCS) stunned Bangladesh Biman by nine runs in a low-scoring thriller, although the big guns had easier outings during yesterday's Premier League games across the city.

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club beat Old DOHS by 66 runs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium with their English import Moeen Ali hitting his first ton, while table toppers Abahani won by almost a similar margin, 67 runs, against Victoria Sporting Club.

CCS-BIMAN

The game at the poorly maintained Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium solely belonged to the guiles of the left-arm spinners as 14 wickets fell to the type.

After Biman's Elias Sunny and Mosharrif Hossain took four wickets each to dismantle CCS for just 120 runs

in 31.3 overs, Bishwanath Halder stung Biman's top-order with three quick wickets after he was brought on in the third over.

Biman never recovered and though they closed in on the small 121-run target, Bishwanath returned to remove the dangerous Tushar Imran and Dollar Mahmud to finish with figures of 5-20 from nine overs.

CCS paceman Waqas Ahmed ended the game by taking the return catch to dismiss Bathaiya Perera for 22, ending Biman's innings at 111 runs in 37.1 overs.

The match also saw Mohammad Ashraf's form taking a dip as the World Cup hopeful fell for just two, playing a poor shot off Sunny in the 15th over.

MSC-OLD DOHS

Moeen Ali survived a dropped catch by Old DOHS captain Mehrab Hossain when he was on 99, but the elegant left-hander still managed to reach his first century of the campaign.

The Worcestershire player made 113 off 116 balls with the help of eight boundaries and three sixes as Mohammedan latched on his and Shakib's quickfire 59 to reach 279-8 from 50 overs, though the Motijheel outfit would have liked if their Pakistani star Mohammad Yousuf had made more than 12 off 18 balls.

Aftab Ahmed, though, gave Old DOHS a fine reply with his 73-ball 67 but his was a lone hand as Mukhtar Ali and Noor Hossain thwarted the rest.

Paceman Mukhtar took four wickets while leg-spinner Noor picked up three to help bowl out Old DOHS for 213 runs from 43.3 overs.

ABAHANI-VICTORIA

Abahani made a clumsy start through two run outs and were reduced to four for 70 after electing to bat first in a game that started 45 minutes late due to heavy fog at the BKSP in Savar.

But skipper Mahmudullah Riyad and Marshall Ayub rebuilt the

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School football

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Residential Model School and A Latif Charitable School posted victories on the opening day of the round-robin league of Ashiyon City Dhaka Metropolitan School Football Tournament at the Abahani ground in Dhanmondi yesterday.

Residential Model handed

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SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION

Do you think Bangladesh will have a great 2011 in sports?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

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Sachin ton lifts India



AFP, Cape Town

Sachin Tendulkar and Dale Steyn fought out a titanic battle before India took a two-run first innings lead on the third day of the third and final Test against South Africa at Newlands on Tuesday.

Tendulkar, Test cricket's all-time leading run-scorer, made 146 in an Indian total of 364, while Steyn, the world's number one fast bowler, took five for 75.

By the close, South Africa had reached 52 for two in their second innings to take a lead of 50 into the last two days.

South African captain Graeme Smith was trapped leg before wicket by off-spinner Harbhajan Singh for 29 shortly before the close and was quickly followed by night-watchman Paul Harris.

With the series between the world's two leading Test nations locked at one-all, it may take something special from one of the two sides to force a result.

But something special was what Tendulkar and Steyn produced for 16,000

enthralled spectators on Tuesday.

It was not one of Tendulkar's most fluent innings. Indeed, Steyn beat his bat several times during two blistering spells against the master batsman.

But Tendulkar never lost his composure as he battled to his 51st Test century on a pitch which always offered some assistance to the bowlers.

Only two other batsmen made scores of any significance. Opening batsman Gautam Gambhir struggled to 93 and shared a third wicket stand of 176 with Tendulkar, while Harbhajan Singh was typically unorthodox as he hit 40 and put on 76 for the seventh wicket with Tendulkar.

Steyn was magnificent, bowling at high pace and getting late away swing, although he had no luck in his first spell of the day.

He bowled five overs, all to Tendulkar, had an appeal for a catch behind turned down and conceded ten runs, six of which were off the edge of the bat while Tendulkar managed one sumptuous cover drive for four.

Steyn had an even better spell with the second new ball before and after lunch, taking two wickets for three runs in six

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Little change in ticket debacle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kamrul Islam, a student of the city's Tejgaon College, came out with a big smile on his face from the New Market branch of City Bank after getting the World Cup tickets yesterday.

He got 16 tickets of the eight matches to be held in Mirpur and Chittagong, after waiting 30 hours in a queue in front of the branch. "At last I got the tickets," he screamed when he was coming out of the bank drawing attention of hundreds of cricket fans, who were waiting in the queue.

Like Kamrul, hundreds of cricket fans of all ages continued waiting in the queues in front of designated branches of City Bank and Agrani Bank in the capital while sales of tickets were wrapped for the third consecutive days.

The scenarios of gathering of cricket fans in front of all designated branches of City Bank and Agrani Bank across the country were

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

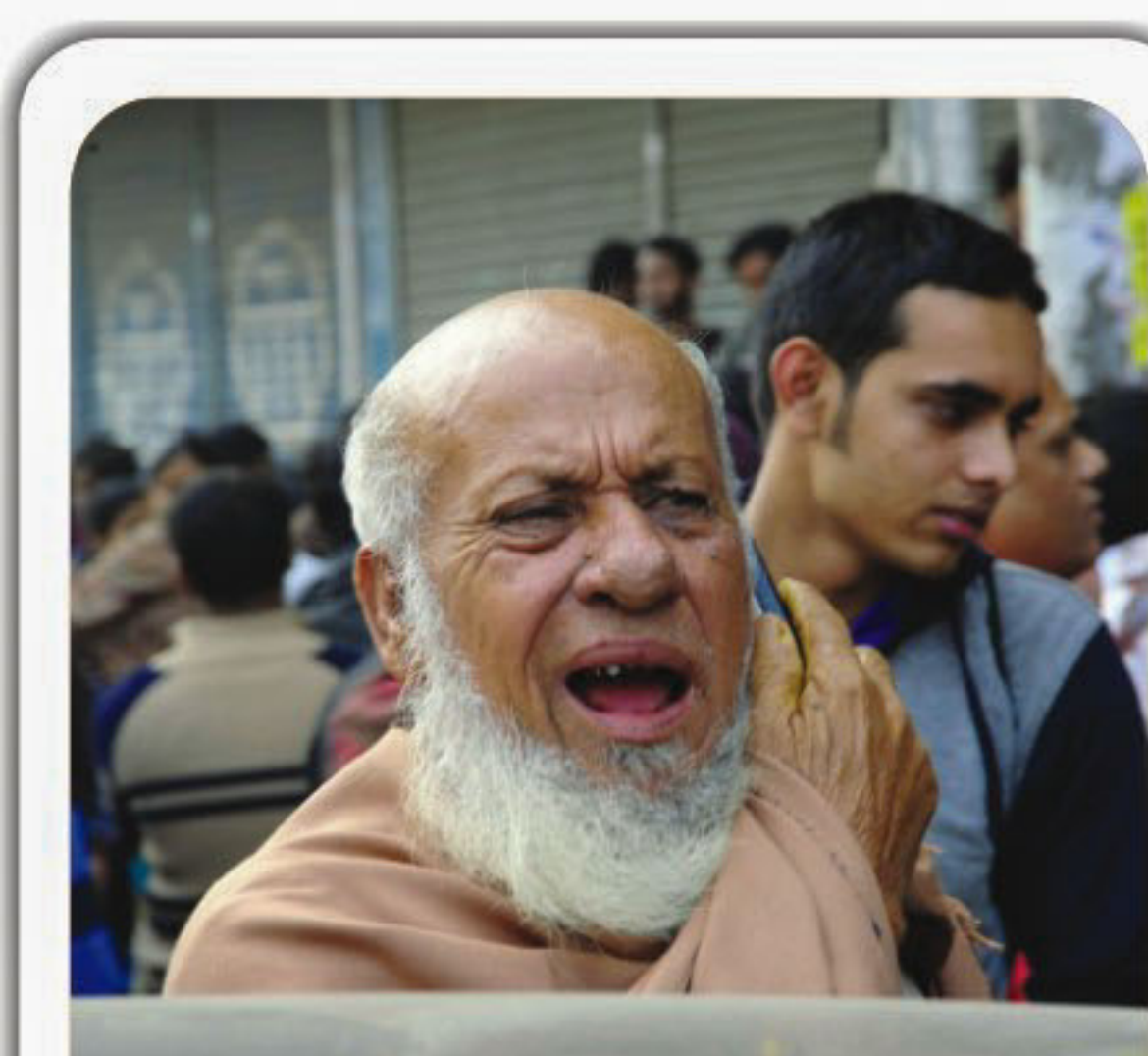


PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A LONG VIGIL IN VAIN: Abu Bakar from Bagerhat speaks to his son, a policeman, over the phone to inform him that he has admitted defeat in his quest for World Cup tickets. The 69-year-old made the journey all the way to Dhaka for the sole purpose of purchasing tickets to watch his beloved Tigers in the World Cup. Like countless others, the simple matter of purchasing a ticket became a tortuous affair, as the length of the queue and its snail-like progress left most empty-handed. Arriving at the city on Saturday, he waited in line for three full days in front of the City Bank in Mirpur-1, before finally giving up and saying goodbye to his dream of WC tickets yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

YET ANOTHER: Indian maestro Sachin Tendulkar (L) salutes the crowd after his 51st Test hundred, scored against South Africa on the third day of the third Test at Newlands yesterday.