

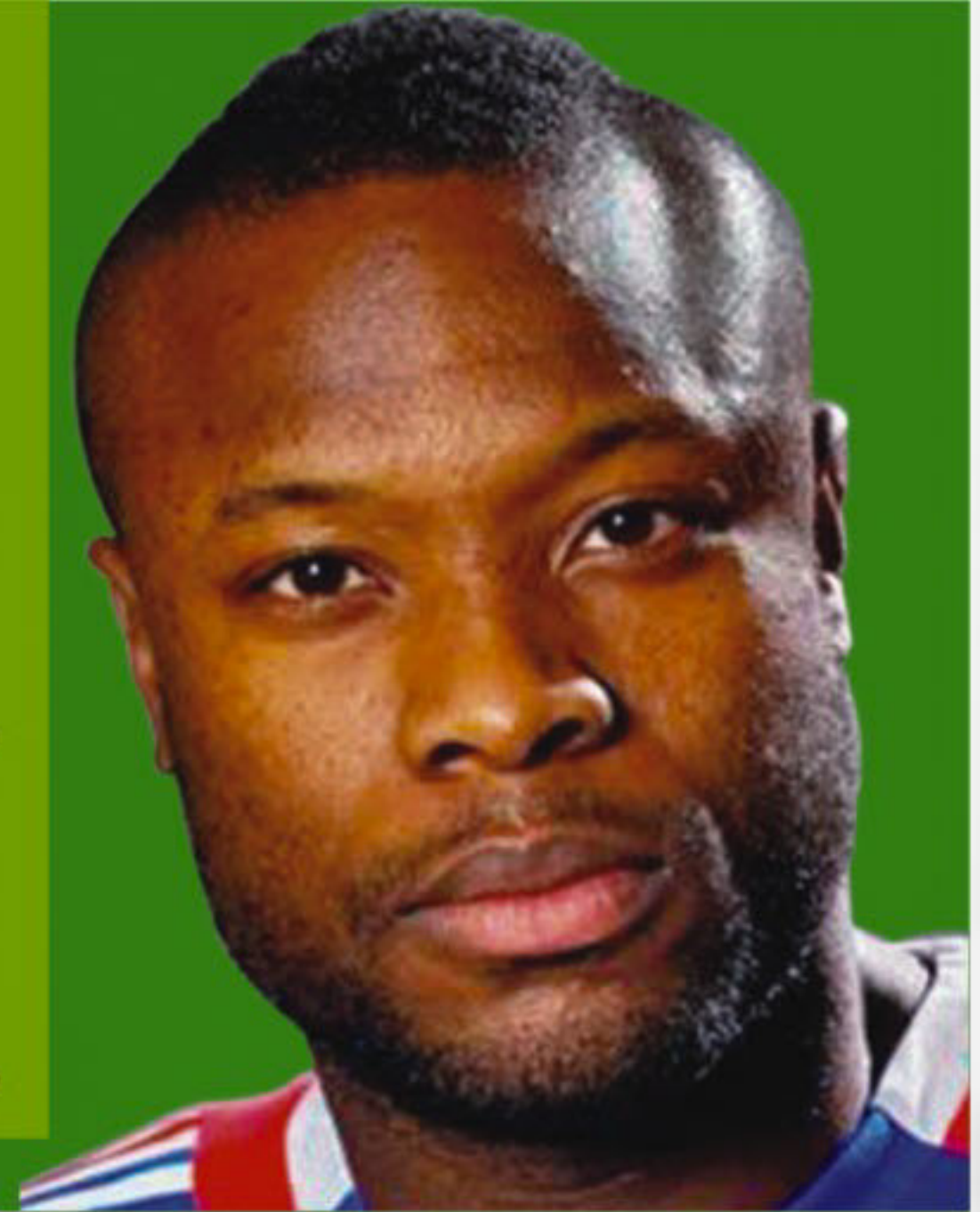
Star SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY MAY 15, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Gallas out for season

Tottenham defender William Gallas is likely to miss the remainder of the season after suffering a calf injury, Spurs boss Harry Redknapp said Friday. Gallas suffered the injury in Spurs' defeat at Manchester City earlier this week, a result that ended Tottenham's hopes of securing Champions League football next season. Redknapp said the injury would rule Gallas out of Tottenham's trip to Anfield to face Liverpool on Sunday and most probably the Londoners' final match of the season against Birmingham next weekend. "William Gallas isn't fit," Redknapp said. "He's probably out for the season."

-AFP



Rajshahi Pilot-ed to treble



SPORTS REPORTER

Naeem Islam's resolute half-century steered Rajshahi to a hat-trick of National Cricket League titles yesterday after their final against Dhaka ended in a draw at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

A five-day game going into the last session is quite rare in this country, but the spirited battle meant that after tea on Day 5, Dhaka needed five wickets to sneak away with the trophy.

Naeem however ensured Rajshahi suffer no more hiccups in the last first-class game of his mentor Khaled Mashud.

The former national captain was at his characteristic best, doggedly batting out maidens to give his beloved Rajshahi a smooth passage to their fourth overall title in the competition. As play ended half an hour before the scheduled close, the Rajshahi players began celebrations in their unique way -- a sideways jig they've patented.

Sadly for Rajshahi this was the last time they would be playing in the NCL together as several players of this squad will be playing for Rangpur, the new northern division to make debut, next season.

Naeem Islam, Dhiman Ghosh and Sohrawardi Shuvo will be



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

MAN WHO PUT RAJSHAHI ON THE MAP: Khaled Mashud gets a cricketers' guard of honour after he was dismissed for a typically dogged effort in his last first-class innings for Rajshahi in the NCL final against Dhaka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. Mashud is regarded as the figure who brought Rajshahi to the consciousness of Bangladesh cricket.

among seven players to be part of the Rangpur team, making the 2010-11 campaign a lot more important one for Rajshahi who pride themselves in team spirit. It was evident that the players will be missed more as teammates than on-field performers.

Naeem definitely wanted to end

his days with Rajshahi as a winner, his carefully crafted four-hour vigil was proof of this mindset. He came to the crease when his Tigers teammate Mushfiqur Rahim fell in the 51st over as the third wicket. The right-hander from Gaibandha played out 155 balls for his 52 that

had nine boundaries. His approach could not be faulted as he took no chance in making sure of the title for a team that already led the league phase by 16 points.

Before Naeem, it was Junaed Siddiqui who held fort with his

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

'We will miss our mentor'



SPORTS REPORTER

Khaled Mashud was a happy man indeed. The long-serving wicketkeeper batsman could sign off from first-class career with a hat-trick of titles for Rajshahi after they drew the five-day National Cricket League final against Dhaka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The Rajshahi divisional cricket team and Pilot became synonymous because the former national skipper had the vital role behind this team's success in the country's lone first-class competition. And that was the reason the seasoned campaigner was the centre of all attraction on the final day as he was greeted with crests and bouquets from different organisations while his teammates gave him a cricketers' guard of honour (raising their bats while he was walking back to the dressing room). He was coming back after he played a typically Mashud-like innings which helped his side confirm the draw and win on the basis of the first innings lead.

"It was a perfect ending for a great cricketer of our generation. It was Pilot who almost single-handedly guided Rajshahi in domestic cricket. Not only Rajshahi but also many cricketers will be grateful to him because of his tremendous contribution," said Anisur Rahman, who played with the stumper for more than a decade.

A younger teammate -- Dhiman Ghosh -- who became the best wicketkeeper in the competition said that they will miss a real mentor in the field.

"He (Mashud) was a complete sportsman. We learnt many things from him. His work ethics were simply fantastic. I can say that we will definitely miss a mentor on the field," said Dhiman, who impressed many with his batting performance.

All-rounder Naeem Islam said that Mashud helped them in many ways to become a frontline cricketer in the country.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

ROLL OF HONOUR

Season	Champion
2010-11	Rajshahi
2009-10	Rajshahi
2008-09	Rajshahi
2007-08	Khulna
2006-07	Dhaka
2005-06	Rajshahi
2004-05	Dhaka
2003-04	Dhaka
2002-03	Khulna
2001-02	Dhaka
2000-01	Biman
1999-00	Chittagong

AWARD WINNERS

Man-of-the-tournament (Tk 1 lakh)

Elias Sunny (Dhaka) -- 498 runs and 24 wickets

Highest run-scorer (Tk 50,000)

Nasiruddin Faruque (Barisal) -- 632 runs

Highest wicket-taker (Tk 50,000)

Sohag Gazi (Barisal) -- 41 wickets

Best wicketkeeper (Tk 30,000)

Dhiman Ghosh (Rajshahi) -- 593 runs and 20 dismissals



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