



Different sports organisation in Chittagong staged a human chain in front of the Chittagong Press Club yesterday to press home their demand for awarding a venue in the port city for the 2011 World Cup. Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury is seen among them. Bangladesh is a co-host of the next World Cup and will stage two quarterfinals, six first round games, and the opening ceremony.

India take Emerging Players title

CRICINFO, undated

India Emerging Players, aided by Virat Kohli's century and Sudeep Tyagi's four wickets, clinched the Emerging Players Tournament by defeating South Africa at the Allan Border Field in Brisbane. In South Africa's only loss of the tournament they went down to India in the final by 17 runs, losing their last five wickets for 30 runs.

Vaughan van Jaarsveld, the South African captain, chose to give his bowlers first use of the surface and Lornwabe Tsotsobe dealt the early advantage. Tsotsobe, the tall left-arm fast bowler, trapped Ajinkya Rahane lbw in the first over, the ball after the opener smacked him for six over extra cover. Next ball he had M Vijay lbw for a duck with a fuller ball and India were 2 for 0.

S Badrinath (20) and Kohli started a recovery but India were further rattled and found themselves half down for 109 in the 22nd over. Then Wriddhiman Saha, the wicketkeeper, added 78 with Kohli who raised his half-century from 59 balls. Kohli was particularly strong on the leg side, collecting sixes in consecutive overs with superb feet movement. Kohli brought up his century from 97 balls, a sterling effort under pressure, before he fell for 104 when driving straight to extra cover. Saha made a fine 74 and with Amit Mishra contributing 25 from 22 balls India finished on 9 for 283. Tsotsobe finished with 5 for 69.

South Africa's openers put on 52 with Rilee Rossouw particularly dismissive of India's new-ball pair. He slammed 35 from just 16 balls, including consecutive sixes off Tyagi, before the bowler had his number. Tyagi struck in successive overs and thereafter India's bowlers chipped away.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

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crore, said press release.

The president also gave a patient hearing about the problems the councillors addressed in the meeting and has assured them to improve the standard of shooting.

HERITAGE OFF TO MALAYSIA

Heritage Cricketers leave for Malaysia today to play two limited-overs matches and one Twenty20 against Kuala Lumpur and Perak State teams at Kinrara Oval in the Malaysian capital.

The team, which became unbeaten champions in Banaras, India, later will travel to Kuantan, the east coast city, to participate in the 40th International Cricket 6's Tournament, said a press release.

No show on

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The decision to relegate three teams this season was taken by the B. League Committee and the committee wants to start the second-tier B. League from next season. However, it would consider the matter if the majority want a change," said Anwarul Haq Helal, a member of the B. League committee.

Helal informed that the second-tier league would consist of 10 teams. Meanwhile, the first two editions saw as many as 11 clubs competing in the professional football league and this season three new teams have been drafted to promote the game in the other parts of the country.

Peirsol finds his rhythm

Swimming

AFP, Rome

Aaron Peirsol reclaimed the 200m backstroke world title here Friday, his world record-smashing swim easing the memory of his failure to reach the 100m backstroke final.

Peirsol's time of 1min 51.92sec obliterated his own world record of 1:53.08 that he set at the US championships in Indianapolis on July 11.

Japan's Ryosuke Irie was second in 1:52.51, and 2007 world champion Ryan Lochte of the United States was third in 1:53.82.

Although Peirsol came into the race as the world record-holder, Irie had actually notched the fastest time ever swum with a 1:52.86 in Canberra this year. It wasn't ratified as a record because he wore an unapproved suit.

Peirsol simply skipped over the entire 1:52s en route to reclaiming the world title he lost to Lochte in Melbourne in 2007.

He admitted that the time owed something to his polyurethane Arena X-Glide swimsuit, one of the breed that have wreaked havoc on the record book at these World Championships.

"My 200, I've been struggling to get faster for a few years now and kind of when it rains it pours," Peirsol said.

"You've got to put some of it up to the suits, I don't know how I can relate to what I wore tonight versus what I did 1:54 in last year."

"I've known I can go 1:51 for a long time, that's the way I've trained."

Gay storms to 100m win

Athletics

AFP, Stockholm

American sprinter Tyson Gay stormed to victory in the 100m at the Stockholm Super Grand Prix on Friday in a time of 9.79sec, two-hundredths of a second slower than his world-best this season.

World champion Gay finished ahead of Darvis Patton (9.95sec), former world record holder Asafa Powell (9.98sec) and Churandy Martina (10.01sec).

Gay set the best time of the season, 9.77sec, in Rome on July 10 to further boost his hopes of upsetting Olympic champion and world record holder Usain Bolt at the World Championships in Berlin which start in two weeks' time.

"We knew that the wind was very strong (+2.6 m/s). But this race proved that I am in form and was important in terms of the world championship," said Gay.

Elsewhere, America's Allyson Felix ran the fastest 200m of the season, winning in a time of 21.88sec ahead of the former season-leader Debbie Ferguson.

"I was worried by the conditions," said Felix, referring to the cold, blustery night. "I wanted to

The US veteran had also lost to gold medalist Lochte in the 200m backstroke at the Beijing Olympics, and his 2009 worlds got off to a dismal start when an inexplicable mistake saw him fail to qualify for the 100m backstroke final.

Not surprisingly, Peirsol looked like a man on a mission. He took an early lead that he relinquished by a narrow margin at the 100m mark to Lochte before pouring it on in the final 100 to seize the crown.

"I wanted to win this," Peirsol said. "I saw that I pulled out at the beginning, and when I saw that I was pulling away that was like an extra fire in the belly to keep going."

"That was a fast heat, I don't know if I would have done that if I didn't have to."

Peirsol said his failure in the 100m backstroke may have helped him, since it gave him some extra time off.

"That was not a piece of cake, but I think I was more rested than everyone else. That was kind of a blessing in disguise," he said.

"I didn't get the chance to do the 100, obviously, in the week and a lot of my focus has been on this -- all of it has."

Irie broke down in tears on the podium and later explained that he had his mind set on gold and a silver was not what he'd come here for.

"I wanted to win but I came second. I'm very disappointed but I got my PB and I won a medal so I'm relieved," he said.

"I wanted to see the Japanese flag in the middle on the medal rostrum and it was such a shame not to see it there, that and the end of the race made me cry."

work the bend and it went well."

Ferguson's time of 22.23sec, was slightly faster than her previous best for 2009.

America's Jeremy Wariner cruised to victory in the 400m, winning in 44.83sec ahead of Britain's Michael Bingham and American compatriot Kerron Clement.

Despite two false starts, Cuban Olympic champion Dayron Robles easily won the 110m hurdles in 13.11sec.

The testing conditions in the Swedish capital played havoc with the pole vault where the winning height was only 5.61m achieved by Ukraine's Maksym Mazuryk and Sweden's Jesper Fritz.

Australia's Olympic champion Steven Hooker, who only succeeded at this height at his third attempt, was third.

In the high jump, America's Jesse Williams took victory despite sharing the winning clearance of 2.30m with Russia's Yaroslav Rybakov.

Both men failed at 2.32m but Williams was declared the winner courtesy of his successful first clearance of 2.27m.

In the women's 100m hurdles, Canada's Priscilla Lopes-Jones improved her personal best by winning in 12.51sec just ahead of world champion Lolo Jones of the US.

Tigers take it all

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A poor finish was in contrast to the great start provided by Fletcher. What stood out in Fletcher's innings was a delightful tendency to drive straight. Mahbubul Alam was getting some outswinging and was looking pretty good but Fletcher countered him with his drives in the v. He started off with an off drive in the third over and upped the tempo in the fifth with two sixes: the first one was dispatched over long-off before he swung the long-on boundary. Neither shot had any touch of violence as he covered for the outswinging and drove cleanly and fluently through the line. Mahbubul lost his composure and in the seventh over, he pushed three deliveries on the legs of Fletcher, who put them away for boundaries.

With the seamers bleeding runs, the action swung to Fletcher versus the spinners. Again, Fletcher won the first round, reeling off several meaty blows. There was a back-foot punch through the covers, a customary swing over long-on and a heave to the midwicket boundary, which brought up his fifty, against Abdur Razzak but he fell soon, launching one straight to long-on. Almost immediately, the run-rate dropped as Bangladesh applied the squeeze. More

agony lay in store for the hosts as Travis Dowlin, who gave admirable support to Fletcher, was run out on the last ball of the 25th over.

It didn't help West Indies' cause that their captain Reifer's travails against spin continued. He couldn't rotate the strike and it perhaps, led to Dowlin's dismissal. He was allowed some breathing space by Sammy, who oozed intent from the start and kept unfurling the big hits. He swung Mahmudullah for two consecutive sixes and belted Naeyem for a couple of fours but he fell rather tamely, scooping a caught-and-bowled chance to Razzak. That was the final nail on the coffin as West Indies fell short of achieving a defendable target.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the third and final ODI between West Indies and Bangladesh at Warner Park on Friday:

WEST INDIES
Powell lbw b Mahbubul 0
Fletcher c Ashraf b Razzak 52
Smith b Nazmul 4
Dowlin run out 38
Reifer c Shakib b Mahbubul 40
Bernard c Ashraf b Mahmudullah 1
Sammy c & b Razzak 40
Thomas not out 29
Miller c Mahmudullah b Naeyem 13
Roach c Tamim b Mahmudullah 10
Tonge run out 1
Extras: (lb-2, w-18) 20
Total: (All out in 47.4 overs) 248
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-10, 3-86,

4-115, 5-124, 6-188, 7-190, 8-221, 9-244.

Bowler O M R W
Mahbubul 6 0 42 2
Nazmul 5 0 27 1
Razzak 10 0 63 2
Shakib 9.4 2 28 0
Naeyem 10 1 48 1
Mahmudullah 7 0 38 2

BANGLADESH

Tamim c Powell b Sammy 30
Zunaed b Roach 55
Ashraf c Thomas b Bernard 19
Rokibul c Reifer b Roach 5
Shakib c (sub) Richards b Roach 16
Mushfiq c Thomas b Sammy 31
Mahmudullah not out 51
Naeyem c Thomas b Roach 26
Razzak not out 6
Extras: (lb-2, w-8) 10
Total: (For 7 wts in 48.5 overs) 249
Did not bat: Mahbubul, Nazmul.
Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-83, 3-96, 4-128, 5-133, 6-183, 7-232.

Bowler O M R W
Roach 9.5 1 63 4
Tonge 10 2 59 0
Sammy 10 1 37 2
Bernard 10 0 47 1
Miller 9 0 41 0

Result: Bangladesh won by three wickets and clinched three-match series 3-0.

Man-of-the-match: Mahmudullah.

Man-of-the-series: Shakib Al Hasan.

Toss: West Indies.

Umpires: C. Duncan (WIS), A. Hill (NZL).

Match referee: R. Mahanama (SRI).

Sri Lanka go 2-0 up

Cricket

AFP, Dambulla

Chamara Kapugedera hit an unbeaten 67 as Sri Lanka overcame early shocks to defeat Pakistan by six wickets in the second one-day international here on Saturday.

Thilan Thushara and Muttiah Muralidaran shared five wickets as Sri Lanka bowled out Pakistan for 168 runs and then surpassed the modest target in the 44th over at the Rangiri International Stadium.

Sri Lanka were given a scare when they were reduced to 44-3 in the 11th over after losing captain Kumar Sangakkara and Sanath Jayasuriya in the space of three deliveries.

Mahela Jayawardene's dismissal in the 23rd over made it 74-4, but the fifth-wicket pair of Kapugedera and Thilan Samaraweera (38 not out) put on 95 runs to hand the hosts a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

The tourists paid for a shoddy batting display after being sent in to bat in overcast conditions and were bundled out in 47 overs.

The 26 extras sent down by

the Sri Lankan bowlers, including 18 wides, were the highest contributor in Pakistan's innings.

The tourists were reduced to 128-9 before the last pair of Mohammad Aamer (24) and Saeed Ajmal (16) gave the top order a batting lesson by adding 40 runs.

Pakistan captain Younus Khan, who made 23, was the only other batsman to pass 20 as left-arm seamer Thushara finished with 3-33 and off-spinner Muralidaran claimed 2-41.

Pakistan's gamble to play two 19-year-olds, Nasir Jamshed and Umar Akmal, in place of senior batsmen Mohammad Yousuf and Misbah-ul-Haq did not pay off.

Opener Jamshed was dismissed off the first ball of the match when he chased a wide from Nuwan Kulasekera into the safe hands of Jayawardene at second slip.

Debutant Umar, younger brother of the team's wicket-keeper Kamran Akmal, made a promising 18 during a fourth-wicket stand of 32 with Younus when he was caught behind off Angelo Mathews.

But even the experienced batsmen failed to negotiate the spot-on Sri Lankan attack.

Former captain Shoaib Malik was trapped leg-before by Thushara before he had scored and Shahid Afridi threw away his wicket with a wild slog off Muralidaran that was skied to deep mid-wicket.

Pakistan were struggling at 87-7 before Abdul Razzaq (17) and Umar Gul (14) put on 38 for the eighth wicket to lift the total past the 100-run mark.

The third match will be played at the same venue on Monday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Rangiri International Stadium in Dambulla on Saturday:

PAKISTAN

Jamshed c Jayawardene b Kulasekera 0
Akmal c Samaraweera b Thushara 13
Younus c Kapugedera b Muralidaran 23
Malik lbw b Thushara 0
Akmal c Sangakkara b Mathews 18
Fawad c Sangakkara b Thushara 10
Afridi c Jayasuriya b Muralidaran 7
Razzaq c Thushara b Jayasuriya 17
Gul run out 14
Aamer not out 26
Ajmal run out 14
Extras: (b-4, lb-4, w-18) 26
Total: (All out in 47 overs) 168
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-21, 3-21, 4-53, 5-67, 6-78, 7-87, 8-125, 9-128.

Bowler O M R W
Kulasekera 8 2 17 1
Malinga 10 0 37 0
Thushara 9 2 33 3
Mathews 7 1 15 1
Muralidaran 10 0 41 2
Jayasuriya 3 0 17 1

SRI LANKA

Tharanga c Jamshed b Aamer 10
Jayasuriya c Akmal b Razzaq 30
Sangakkara run out 2
Jayawardene c Younus b Afridi 12
Kapugedera not out 67
Samaraweera not out 38
Extras: (b-2, lb-4, w-2, nb-2) 10
Total: (For 4 wts in 43.4 overs) 169
Did not bat: Mathews, Kulasekera, Malinga, Muralidaran, Thushara.
Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-44, 3-44, 4-74.

Bowler

O M R W
Aamer 9.4 2 31 1
Razzaq 10 1 35 1
Gul 8 0 30 0
Afridi 8 0 39 1
Ajmal 6 0 21 0
Malik 2 0 7 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by six wickets and lead five-match series 2-0.

Match-of-the-match:

Chamara Kapugedera.

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Umpires: Steve Davis (AUS) and Kumar Sangakkara (SRI).

Match referee: Alan Hurst (AUS).

Day Three

FROM PAGE 17
local time (1338GMT).

England, 1-0 up in the five-match series after their 115-run second Test victory at Lord's, were 116 for two in reply to Australia's first innings 263 -- a deficit of 147.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the third Ashes Test between England and Australia at Edgbaston on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 263 (Watson 62; Anderson 5-80, Onions 4-58).

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 116-2; no play on Saturday due to rain)

Strauss not out 64
Cook c Manu b Siddle 0
Bopara b Hilfenhaus 23
Bell not out 26
Extras: (lb-1, nb-2) 3
Total: (For 2 wts in 36 overs) 116
To bat: Collingwood, Prior, Flintoff, Broad, Swann, Anderson, Onions.
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-60.

Bowler O M R W
Hilfenhaus 11 1 45 1
Siddle 8 0 22 1
Hauritz 11 2 25 0
Johnson 6 0 23 0

U-19s impress

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England, Zimbabwe at home and Sri Lanka. We have problems in our pace bowling and we have to give a long look at this department," observed Minhazul.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahsan Ali Sarker announced an award of Tk one lakh for the team at a reception party accorded by him at the National Sports Council Tower yesterday.

Windies duo

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was not lucky enough to make healthy his wicket tally and failed to put his name in the top-ten list with only two wickets in the three-match series.

Nayeem Islam, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mahbubul Alam and Syed Raseel were the other Bangladesh bowlers to make it to the top-ten bowler's list.

Stosur shocks Serena

Tennis

AFP, Stanford

Australian Samantha Stosur shocked top seed Serena Williams while second seed Venus Williams overpowered Maria Sharapova in WTA Bank of the West Classic quarterfinal matches Friday.

Stosur snapped Serena's nine-match win streak with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 victory to book a Saturday semifinal berth against French eighth seed Marion Bartoli, who upset Serbian fourth seed Jelena Jankovic 3-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-3.

"It's one of the biggest, if not the biggest win of my career," Stosur said. "I would like to take it one more step. I would love to make it to another final."

Venus Williams advanced after her sister faltered, defeating Russian star Sharapova 6-2, 6-2 to book a semifinal date with Russian third seed Elena Dementieva, who ousted Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova 6-2, 6-4.

"Maria is one of my favorite opponents. She's always a challenge," Venus Williams said. "I was better in the important points which is what I wanted."

Serena Williams, the 11-time Grand Slam champion who won Wimbledon and the

Australian Open this year, took both prior meetings against Stosur but was forced to save four match points in a three-set win in January at Sydney.

"She played well and didn't do anything bad," Williams said. "She went for broke and struck all her balls as hard as she could. She never lets you get into a rhythm."

"She had a lot of lucky shots. She's a good framer. But it's obviously all talent. She has mastered that."

Stosur denied Williams on 9-of-10 break-point chances and denied the 34-time WTA champion's comeback bid at the 700,000-dollar hardcourt tournament.

"We don't always play our best tennis every single day," Stosur said. "Maybe she didn't play her best and I played very well."

Sharapova, on the mend from right shoulder surgery, and Venus Williams exchanged early breaks but the American broke back for a 3-1 edge and again in the final game of the opening set.

Seven-time Grand Slam winner Venus broke three-time Slam winner Sharapova in the second game of the second set and denied the Russian on a break-point chance in the fifth game.

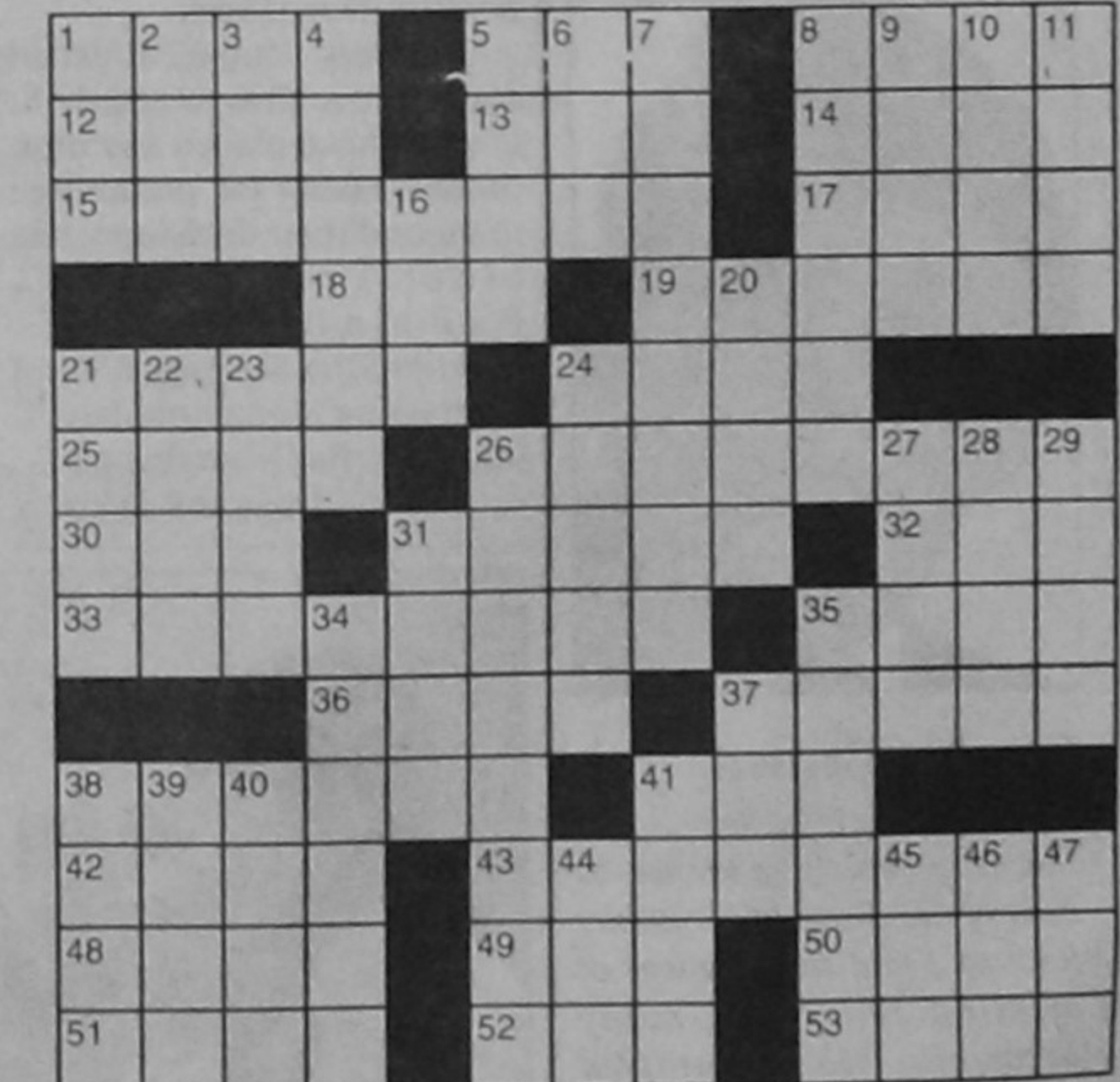
Venus finished with a break on her second match-point chance when Sharapova sent a backhand long, sending the former world number one into a semi-final against Dementieva.



New Bangladesh Badminton Federation president Rubaba Dowla (C), who is also the chief communications officer of Grameenphone, is being greeted by the federation officials at Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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