ACC yet to receive BCB-Nimbus docs

Cricket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Cricket Board is yet to provide the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) with the documents of its 56.88-million-dollar agreement with Nimbus regarding the television rights of Bangladesh Cricket team.

The ACC moved to investigate the agreement after a sports organiser had lodged a complaint on December 12 last year with the commission alleging irregularities amounting to 33.77 million dollars over the BCB-Nimbus deal. The six-year deal was penned in July 2008 after the Head of Agreement of the contract had been signed in November 2006.

A senior official of the ACC said they have sent a letter to the BCB asking for the necessary documents and information by February 6 about the agreement, however are yet to receive any information or document from the cricket board.

"We are waiting for the documents. We will decide the next course of actions on examining the documents," said the senior official while speaking to the Daily Star.

Earlier on November 24 last year, the parliamentary standing committee on youth and sports ministry asked BCB to take necessary steps to realise more than Tk.100 crore from Nimbus which the Indian company allegedly owes to BCB.

BCB's senior vice president Mahbub Anam, who was general secretary of the BCB at the time of signing the agreement, was present at the November 24 meeting but failed to give satisfactory explanation to the issue.

Later on December 30, the parliamentary committee blamed Hawa Bhaban and Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of Khaleda Zia, for arranging the controversial TV rights deal with Nimbus.

Farashganj, Feni draw

SPORTS REPORTER

Farashganj SC came from two goals down to hold visitors Feni Soccer Club to a 2-2 draw in the Grameenphone Bangladesh League at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Palash Mozumder's rightfooter in the 14th minute gave Feni the lead before Maqsudul Alam Habul doubled the margin in the 36th with a wonderful solo effort as he ran down the middle and drove low shot past goalkeeper Sujan Chowdhury.

Frashganj hit back two minutes later from through a spot-kick converted by captain Khokon Das. They were awarded the penalty after their midfielder Zakir was brought down inside the danger zone.

The parity was stored when Nigerian defender Amadi Moses with a firm header off a Khkon corner in the 68th minute.

The result did no neither Farashganj nor Feni much good as they both are in the drop zone with nine and six points respectively from 11 matches.

PHOTO: AFP

AC Milan forward Antonio Cassano (L) stretches for the ball challenged by Bari defender Kamil Glik during their Serie A encounter in San Siro on Sunday.

Sevilla stop Barca

AFP, *Madrid*

Barcelona dropped two vital points in the La Liga title race as they could only draw 1-1 with Sevilla in Sunday's late match.

Second-placed Real Madrid, who beat Hercules 2-0 on Saturday, are now just five points behind with the two sides going head-to-head next month at the Bernabeu.

Barcelona completely dominated the first half and took the lead on the half hour mark through Bojan Krkic who came on for the injured Pedro Rodriguez.

Andres Iniesta floated a pass to Diego Alves who found Bojan and he was able to walk the ball into the net.

After the break it was a different looking Sevilla who pressed forward and got their reward with Jesus Navas heading in an Alvaro Negredo cross.

Barcelona were on the back foot as Navas and Frederic Kanoute had good chances to score but late on the Catalan side rallied and could have won it when Iniesta hit the post.

Earlier, an injury time penalty from Diego Castro gave nine-man Sporting Gijon a surprise 1-1 draw against Villarreal.

The home side looked to have moved onto the shoulders of third-placed Valencia, who were beaten 4-0 by Zaragoza, but they conceded a goal following a controversial refereeing call.

Villarreal were far from their best and Sporting dominated possession for long spells but lacked the finesse in front of goal.

Sporting gifted the opening goal to Giuseppe Rossi with keeper Ivan Cuellar dropping a cross at the feet of the striker who just had to place the ball into an empty net.

Sporting were reduced to ten men when Jose Angel foolishly received a second yellow card for complaining to the referee and then Rafael Sastre was also given his marching order in the final minute for upending Rossi as last man.

It all looked to have gone against Sporting until deep in stoppage time when Gonzalo Rodriguez was adjudged to have fouled David Barral, and Castro coolly struck the ball home from 12 yards.

Espanyol boosted their European hopes with a 2-0 win over 10-man Deportivo la Coruna.

The home side had lost six of their previous seven games before the visit of the Galician side, but after a tight opening spell the match turned in Espanyol's favour with the dismissal of Pablo Alvarez shortly before half-time.

Ivan Alonso, who had been brought on to add ammunition to the attack, had a shot saved from point blank range but broke the deadlock minutes later.

Deportivo never looked like finding an equaliser and Joan Verdu added a touch of quality to the game with a fine strike into the top corner from 20 yards.

Bottom side Malaga pulled off a surprise 2-0 win away to Real Sociedad while struggling Osasuna followed up their defeat over Malaga last weekend with a commanding 3-1 victory over Racing Santander.

An Ivan Ramis goal earnt Mallorca a draw against Levante, who went ahead through Juanlu Gomez, and brought to an end their four match winning run at home.

RESULTS

Levante 1 (Juanlu G. 37) Real Mallorca 1 (Ramis 60)
Espanyol 2 (Ivan Alonso 61, Verdu 81) Deportivo La Coruna 0
Osasuna 3 (Echaide 19, Nekounam 24-pen, Soriano 49) Racing Santander 1 (Rosenberg 55)
Real Sociedad 0 **Malaga 2** (Duda 25, Rondón 57)
Villarreal 1 (Rossi 29) Sporting Gijon 1 (Castro 90+2-pen)
Sevilla 1 (Navas 49) Barcelona 1

Villa duo say sorry

AFP, *London*

Aston Villa defenders Richard Dunne and James Collins have apologised after clashing with the club's coaching staff.

The News of the World reported on Sunday that Ireland defender Dunne and Collins were critical of some of Villa manager Gerard Houllier's coaches during a team break at a health spa in Leicestershire.

Reports earlier this weeks claimed several players had to be pulled apart in the restaurant at the Champneys Springs resort following a row believed to be linked to the coaching criticism.

Houllier was at the resort on Wednesday before travelling to White Hart Lane with assistant Gary McAllister to watch the Champions League game between Tottenham and AC Milan.

"I apologise unreservedly for my behaviour on Wednesday night. It was not acceptable and I am genuinely sorry," Dunne told the newspaper.

Collins added: "We were wrong. This should not have happened and I apologise for the part I played."

Houllier's coaching staff includes McAllister, former Villa midfielder Gordon Cowans, ex-Liverpool player Kevin MacDonald and fitness coach Robert Duverne.

It is not the first time that Dunne has fallen foul of the Houllier regime.

The former Everton and Manchester City defender clashed with McAllister earlier in the season on the training ground and as a result was temporarily dropped and also stripped of the captaincy.

The club are now due to launch a review of the latest incident, with a spokesman adding: "We have launched an investigation in line with our internal disciplinary procedures."

Cassano rescues Milan

AFP, *Rome*

Zlatan Ibrahimovic was sent off as Serie A leaders AC Milan were held to a 1-1 draw at home to rock-bottom Bari on Sunday.

Antonio Cassano scored a late equaliser for the hosts when they were already down to 10 men to cancel out Gergely Rudolf's first-half opener.

It meant Milan failed to capitalise on second-placed Inter Milan's 1-1 draw at Brescia on Friday night, meaning they stay five points clear at the top.

That also allowed Napoli to drag themselves back into the title race with a 3-1 victory at Parma, leaving them a point behind Inter.

For Bari, who remain 12 points from safety, the draw with Milan was a welcome boost in an otherwise dire season.

Milan now face the prospect of losing Ibrahimovic for the top-of-the-table derby with Inter in three weeks, depending on the length of his ban.

In a lively opening Milan looked full of verve as Ignazio Abate burst down the right and crossed for Robinho at the near post but his seventh-minute header was well off target.

Kamil Glik then threw himself in front of a Robinho shot after determined work from Ibrahimovic down the right before Gennaro Gattuso dragged an effort wide.

Ibrahimovic stung Bari shot-stopper Francois Gillet's hands with a fierce 20-yard free-kick on 27 minutes.

But the basement sitters stunned their illustrious hosts six minutes before the break.

Sergio Almiron took a quick free-kick, playing the ball past Milan's defensive wall for Rudolf to run onto and shoot across goalkeeper Christian Abbiati.

Milan came out for the second period with extra determination and Robinho soon had the ball in the net, only for it to be chalked off as he had strayed beyond the last defender.

Ibrahimovic also found the target on the hour mark but that, too, was disallowed as he had controlled the ball with his arm.

He also dragged a shot wide as Milan upped the pressure but the big Swede then lost his head and was sent off for petulantly striking Marco Rossi in the ribs.

Bari wasted two gilt-edged opportunities to close out the game through Almiron and Erik Huseklepp.

And they were made to pay as their fragile defence crumbled when full-back Luca Antonini got to the byline and pulled the ball back into the area for Cassano to volley home eight minutes from time.

Napoli won for the first time in three games despite turning around at the break 1-0 down to a strike from Raffaele Palladino.

The returning Ezequiel Lavezzi then set up Marek Hamsik, who returned the favour for the second goal, before Danielle Galloppa was sent off for the hosts and Christian Maggio added a late third.

Udinese moved into the top four and a Champions League qualifying place for the first time this season as Serie A top scorer Antonio Di Natale scored a brace in a 4-0 thrashing of Cagliari.

Lazio dropped to fifth after Francesco Totti also scored a brace to give Roma derby honours and move the giallorossi to four points off the top four.

RESULTS

AC Milan 1 (Cassano 82) Bari 1 (Rudolf 39)
Cagliari 0 **Udinese 4** (Benatia 43, Sanchez 44, Di Natale 48, 54)
Catania 1 (Llama 75) Sampdoria 0
Chievo 0 **Fiorentina 1** (Vargas 48)
Genoa 1 (Floro Flores 77) Palermo 0
Lecce 0 **Bologna 1** (Ramirez 33)
Roma 2 (Totti 70, 90-pen) Lazio 0
Parma 1 (Palladino 29) **Napoli 3**

Must win for Man Utd

AFP, *Manchester*

Sir Alex Ferguson has warned his Manchester United stars that it won't be easy to kill off Marseille in the Champions League last 16 second leg on Tuesday.

There is no margin for error at Old Trafford on Tuesday as the Premier League leaders will be eliminated from Europe's elite club competition if Marseille can secure a score draw, following the goalless first leg in the south of France.

Ferguson knows Didier Deschamps' team possess a sharp enough attack to pierce United's occasionally careless defence and snatch a priceless away goal.

United crashed against Bayern Munich on away goals in the last eight last season and Ferguson, fearing a repeat, was sufficiently concerned to fly to France on Friday to watch Marseille's 2-0 win at Rennes.

He returned to tell his players not to under-estimate the size of the task facing them.

"The first leg was a terrible game, a shocking match," he said. "It will be a better game on Tuesday.

"Marseille will be planning on how they're going to score a goal and I think they'll try to start the game very quickly -- that's a certainty -- and we have to be prepared for that.

"It will be important to defend well. All the big games will be that way for us now."

Reports on Sunday that Ferguson will consider selling Wayne Rooney in the close-season as a result of his strained relationship with the striker will quickly be forgotten if he reproduces the kind of dynamic display that helped vanquish Arsenal.

Magath to learn fate

AFP, *Berlin*

Felix Magath, coach of Champions League quarterfinalists Schalke 04, will learn his fate in a meeting with the Bundesliga club's bosses on Wednesday.

Magath, 57, who has won the Bundesliga title with both Wolfsburg and Bayern Munich, has been under a cloud since reports appeared in the German media last Wednesday claiming he was set to be fired with his side 10th in the league.

The Royal Blues booked their place in the Champions League quarterfinals last week with a 3-1 win over Spain's Valencia.

Advantage Bayern

AFP, *Munich*

German giants Bayern Munich will carry a slender advantage into the home leg of their Champions League last 16 tie with holders Inter Milan on Tuesday.

A 90th-minute goal from Bayern striker Mario Gomez secured a 1-0 win in the first leg of the round of 16 clash a fortnight ago in Milan, in a tie that is a repeat of last season's final in Madrid.

Bayern slumped after their Italian success, losing three games in a row, but Saturday's 6-0 hammering of Hamburg in the Bundesliga gave a much needed boost to flagging confidence.

Dutch winger Arjen Robben, who missed the first half of the season through injury, notched a hattrick and was ably assisted by France winger Franck Ribery, who scored one goal and created another.

Bayern have a perfect home record in this season's Champions League, however, as Roma, FC Basel and Romanian side CFR Cluj have all been beaten in Munich during the campaign.

The Italians warmed up for their trip to Bavaria with a bad-tempered 1-1 draw at second-from-bottom Brescia on Friday night.

Goalkeeper Julio Cesar saved a last-minute penalty to rescue a point for 10-man Inter.

Samuel Eto'o scored his 31st goal of the season to give the champions a first-half lead before Andrea Caracciolo equalised six minutes from time.

Inter substitute Ivan Cordoba was then sent off for bringing down Eder in the box, only for Cesar to save Caracciolo's spot-kick.

In a bizarre finish to the game, Caracciolo then also received his marching orders for a second yellow card.

"We should have killed the game off before their goal," said Inter's Brazilian coach Leonardo.

"Sometimes you need to know when to accept a draw; there are still plenty of games left and lots of things will happen before the end.

"The team are playing well and we will carry that with us to Munich."

Inter's Brazilian defender Lucio could miss the game against his former club after being diagnosed with a muscle strain, but he was named in the squad for the match at the Allianz Arena.

Imrul's two

FROM PAGE 16

I never had previously received it," he said.

Apart from the award, he took one special souvenir. "Yes I took a stump this time, I couldn't get it after the England game though," said Imrul.

The roar

FROM PAGE 18

jibes from a small section. In truth, the riveting drama that characterised the last two Bangladeshi victories was patently absent on Monday, but at the end of the day, a win is a win, and if the beating drums were any evidence, no one left complaining.

Enamul, Wali

FROM PAGE 16

Challenge Cup finals under the guidance of Edson Silva Dido and later finished bottom of the group despite upsetting Tajikistan in one of the matches under the guidance of Titu.

Bangladesh will train for three days on home soil before leaving for Myanmar where Group A contenders hosts Myanmar, Palestine, Bangladesh and winners between Philippines and Mongolia will lock horns.

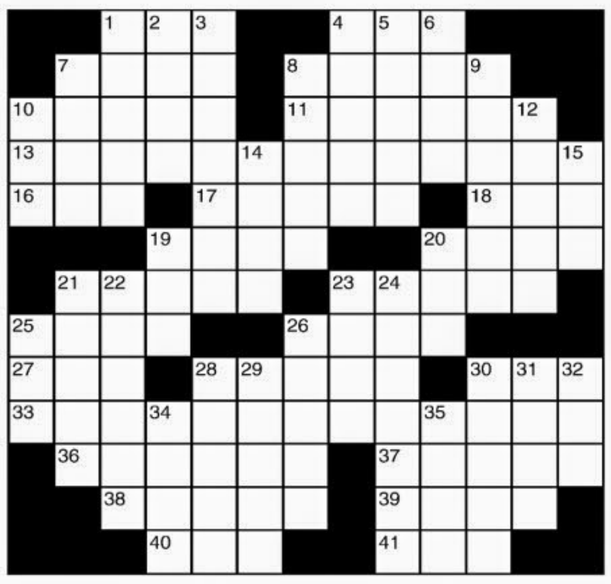
CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS
1 Cornfield cry
4 Exec's deg.
7 Sea eagle
8 First Lady before Michelle
10 Sports venue
11 Science of light
13 Body of water in Utah
16 Cleopatra's slayer
17 Detests
18 U.S. spy org.
19 — support
20 Filth
21 Sly smile
23 Halloween option
25 — and carrots
26 Subject, often
27 Early bird?
28 Shows signs of aging
30 Hot tub
33 Something insignificant
36 Midday rest
37 Quaff
38 Art support
39 On the rocks
40 Part of UCLA
41 Curvy character

DOWN
1 Hardly Mr. Right
2 Faris or Paquin
3 Newscast portion
4 Syrup choice
5 Ashtray fill
6 Seed cover
7 Makes a mistake
8 Averse
9 Gum arabic
10 Khan title
12 Blouse companion
14 Santa's load
15 Consume
19 "— the season ..."
20 Lair
21 Bell-shaped flowers
22 The youngest Simpson
23 14-Down's contents
24 "The Satanic Verses" author
25 Corral
26 Of birth
28 Painting surface
29 Hotel room posting
30 Heavens above
31 Be in abeyance
32 Request
34 Authentic
35 Curved paths

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	O	L	E		E	O	N		D	R	A	M
H	A	I	R		M	B	A		R	I	G	A
E	K	E	S		P	E	P	P	E	D	U	P
D	Y	N	A	S	T	Y		E	A	S	E	S
			T	H	Y		G	E	M			
A	M	A	Z	E		P	U	P	T	E	N	T
P	O	L			B	U	Y			R	O	E
P	O	P	C	O	R	N		C	U	R	S	E
			E	V	A		M	A	N			
S	W	A	M	I		S	O	P	H	I	S	T
P	I	P	E	D	O	W	N		O	L	E	O
O	P	E	N		V	A	T		L	I	L	T
T	E	X	T		A	Y	E		Y	A	L	E



CRYPTOQUIP

R V "K G W W M N V V N J S P F W" O N - G N B S K G R S W W U W J O G Y F I W Q G N D W B , R K N P M Q O N F B R Q W J G W J Y D N U R F I U Y F F Y .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I KEEP OVERCOOKING MY LARGE-LEAVED BEETS, I ALWAYS SEEM TO WIND UP WITH CHARRED CHARD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals F