

Prime Bank in for district football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Prime Bank Ltd came forward to boost the Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) 'Vision 2022' through sponsoring all leagues at district level as well as the national football league by signing a Tk 3 crore deal with the game's governing body yesterday.

"I would like to thank Prime Bank for coming forward to help the country's football as we need to reach some points such as youth development, nurture the grass-root as well as district football to achieve our vision," said BFF president Kazi Salahuddin during the contract signing ceremony at the BFF House yesterday.

"They are now our development partners and they will stay with us for the next one year for football development," said the BFF president adding that some districts have already completed their leagues, some are in the process of completion while some are preparing to start their leagues.

Dhaka Int'l Run deferred

SPORTS REPORTER

The Big Bangla Run, an organisation of Bangladeshi expatriates in United Kingdom will be collaborated by the Bangladesh Athletics Federation (BAF) during the Dhaka International 10km Run which has been deferred by one and half months. The run which was initially slated to be held on January 18, will now be held on March 1.

"Due to lack of visibility during the month of February due to dense fog, we have decided to defer the run by few days and hold it on March 1," said Abidur Rahman Shimu, chairman of Big Bangla Run, at a press conference at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Having expressed his pleasure with being involved with the international run, BAF vice president Tofazzal Hossain said that they would provide technical assistance during the International Run.

Dhoni blames

FROM PAGE 16

"It happens if you are playing on tracks that turn from the first day," he said. "You have to be at your best because if you make a few mistakes you will have to face a bit of extra pressure. It is sessions like those that really matter because in a four-Test series it can be those two sessions, or four hours, that really change the course of the Test match."

India made a good start to the final Test, reducing England to 139 for 5 on the first afternoon, but it was already clear that the pitch was dead. "As the game progressed we saw there wasn't much for fast bowlers or the spinners," Dhoni said. "It was difficult to score runs but if you kept your head down it was difficult to get batsmen out. By the fifth day the wicket got better, the ball was coming on to the bat and batsmen could play their strokes. You would have needed three or four more days to get a result."

Despite the series loss, and a host of questions hanging over the home side, Dhoni insisted there were things India could take heart from over the last few weeks.



PHOTO: STAR

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin (4th from L) poses alongside Prime Bank Ltd officials during the contract signing ceremony at the BFF House yesterday.

According to the contract, all district leagues will be named after Prime Bank and later the National Football Championship will be held with the participation of district champions.

"Football is a popular game in Bangladesh and if we can help football to go forward, then others will be inspired to come to football," Prime Bank chairman Sirajul Islam Mollah said. "We believe the revival of district football will unearth talented footballers, who are still unheard of and will take

the country's football ahead."

Prime Bank has a cricket team which currently plays in the Premier Division Cricket League and Sirajul Islam said that they would consider on whether to form a Prime Bank football team in future.

Meanwhile, BFF president Kazi Salahuddin had earlier announced to spend all of 2.5 lakh dollars of FIFA donation for district football and yesterday ensured that the allocation for the district football associations would be increased.

BKSP youth hockey champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) dethroned joint champions Rajshahi, beating them 4-0 in the final of the Agrani Bank 23rd National Youth Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. This was BKSP's 11th title overall and ninth in the last ten editions.

BKSP led the first half 2-0 with a brace from Khorshedur Rahman who converted two penalty corners. However, the sports institution survived three close calls, thanks to brave saves from goalkeeper Ashim Gope, before Khorshedur struck in the 30th and 34th minutes to give his side a 2-0 lead.

After resumption, BKSP widened the margin with Deen Mohammad scoring a field goal in the 63rd minute before Rummon Sarker sealed the deal with a fourth goal a minute later.

Finance minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith distributed prizes as the chief guest of the closing ceremony.

Women's h'ball team in IHF final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's handball team reached the final of the IHF Trophy Tournament beatings hosts Nepal by 40-13 goals in the semifinal in Kathmandu yesterday.

Bangladesh dominated the first half as they led by 18-7 goals. Shilpi, who scored the game's highest 12 goals, was adjudged player of the match. Bangladesh were scheduled to take on favourites India in the final yesterday.

In the men's group, Bangladesh finished 5th beating Nepal by 34-18 goals in a place-deciding match.

4-day

FROM PAGE 16

The tournament though will not categorised as 'first-class'. "We need to apply for the first-class recognition to the International Cricket Council (ICC). We'll do it after the competition ends," said Mahbub Anam, member of BCB's ad-hoc committee.

As for the selection of the team, Durjoy stated that the franchisees would select the players based on their performances in the recently concluded National Cricket League. "We'll provide the list of players and the rest will be done by them," he said. It was further stated that the cost of the players' management would also be taken care of by the buyers.

The winners and runners-up of the competition will receive Tk 35 lakh and Tk 15 lakh respectively. The matches will take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka and the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna.

The BCB in October tried to move away from tradition and organise the 14th National Cricket League along a franchisee-based format. Various internal complications however compelled the board to scrap its plans. It was then that the board had announced its intentions of organising a four-day franchisee-based tournament later in the year.

Australia sniff victory



Cricket

AFP, Hobart

Australia were eight wickets and Sri Lanka a more improbable 328 runs away from victory in the first Hobart Test after a seesawing fourth day on Monday.

Sri Lanka bowled out Australia for 278 with star spinner Rangana Herath taking five wickets, leaving them with 393 runs to win at tea. They went to stumps on 65 for two with a day to play.

Kumar Sangakkara and skipper Mahela Jayawardene dug in until close of play. Sangakkara's 18 came off 88 balls and Jayawardene (5) took 25 balls to get off the mark.

The tourists will have to improve on Australia's highest successful run chase at the Bellerive Oval of 369 against Pakistan in 1999.

Sri Lanka's most successful run chase was 352 to beat South Africa by one wicket in Colombo in 2006.

Captain Michael Clarke added to Australia's mounting injury woes when he tweaked his right hamstring and was forced to retire hurt on 57 after reeling off his fastest Test

half-century.

Clarke's setback followed paceman Ben Hilfenhaus's side strain which has prevented him from bowling again in the Test, even though he did bat in the second innings.

Australia began well, snaring the key wicket of first-innings centurion Tillakaratne Dilshan cheaply for 11 in the 10th over.

Dilshan, who turned around his team's faltering first innings with a knock of 147, was caught behind off Shane Watson's first delivery.

Clarke, fielding at slip with his movement limited by his sore hamstring, gave Sangakkara a life on three when he dropped him off spinner Nathan Lyon.

Mitchell Starc yorked opener Dimuth Karunaratne for 30, hitting off-stump in the 24th over to leave the tourists on 47 for two.

Australia had collapsed, losing the last eight wickets in their second innings for 146 after openers David Warner (68) and Ed Cowan (56) put on 132.

Left-arm spinner Herath captured five for 5 to lead the tourists' coun-

ter-attack and now has 60 wickets for the calendar year.

The home side had gone to lunch on a still-comfortable 146 for two before their innings unravelled in the middle session as they chased quick runs.

Shane Watson was out three overs after lunch, losing a stumping referral off Herath for five. He was soon followed by Phil Hughes, who chopped Shaminda Eranga onto his stumps for 16.

Matthew Wade, up the order, hit 11 before he holed out to Nuwan Kulasekara at long on off Herath.

Clarke went after the runs and reached his fastest Test half-century off 43 balls, but then called for the team physio and retired hurt.

The wickets kept tumbling and Peter Siddle was brilliantly snapped up by a diving Prasanna Jayawardene off Chanaka Welegedara for four.

Starc hit five before he was leg before wicket to Welegedara and the last able-bodied Australian player Nathan Lyon added 11.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings 450 for 5 declared (Hussey 115 not out, Hughes

86; Welegedara 3-130)

SRI LANKA: First innings 336 (Dilshan 147, Mathews 75; Siddle 5-54)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 27-0)

Cowan b Welegedara	56			
Warner c P Jayawardene b Herath	68			
Hughes b Eranga	16			
Watson st P Jayawardene b Herath	5			
Wade c Kulasekara b Herath	11			
Clarke retired hurt	57			
Hussey not out	31			
Siddle c P Jayawardene b Welegedara	4			
Starc lbw b Welegedara	5			
Lyon b Herath	11			
Hilfenhaus lbw b Herath	0			
Extras: (lb-10, nb-4)	14			
Total: (For 9 wks in 73.5 overs)	278			
Fall of wickets: 1-132, 2-140, 3-153, 4-165, 5-181, 6-250, 7-256, 8-271, 9-278.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kulasekara	12	3	24	0
Welegedara	22	3	89	3
Dilshan	2	0	2	0
Eranga	11	0	53	1
Mathews	5	2	5	0
Herath	21.5	2	95	5

SRI LANKA: Second innings

Karunaratne b Starc	30			
Dilshan c Wade b Watson	11			
Sangakkara not out	18			
M Jayawardene not out	5			
Extras: (b-1)	1			
Total: (For 2 wks in 37 overs)	65			
To bat: Samaraweera, Mathews, P Jayawardene, Kulasekara, Herath, Eranga, Welegedara.				
Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-47.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Starc	10	4	21	1
Siddle	7	3	12	0
Watson	9	4	10	1

BCB

FROM PAGE 16 (ICC) provide the match officials.

If the BCB does ultimately send the team for the short visit, Bangladesh will become the first team to play international cricket in Pakistan since an attack on the touring Sri Lanka team bus in March 2009, when gunmen shot dead eight people and wounded seven Sri Lankan players in a audacious attack near the stadium in Lahore.

Pakistan have since had to play their 'home' matches in venues ranging from Dubai to London.

According to a report published on popular cricket website ESPNcricinfo, the Pakistan board said that it will only give its cricketers clearance to play in the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) if Bangladesh go ahead with the tour but BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus said that they didn't receive such ultimatums from their Pakistan counterparts.

"We didn't receive any ultimatum from the Pakistan board regarding participation of their players in the BPL," said Yunus.

Coincidentally, or perhaps not, the BPL auction date has also been set for December 20.

Zahid makes the difference

FROM PAGE 16

second position with seven points from four outings, just three points behind joint leaders Abahani and Sheikh Jamal DC. Team BJMC are in sixth position with four points from as many matches.

Back to the first match, Zahid, who returned from a three-match ban for an off-the-ball during the Federation Cup, cashed in on a defensive fumble by forward-turned-wing-back Rokonzaman Kanchan to score the only goal of the match in the 33rd minute. Kanchan had tried to head back to his goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman, but Zahid sensed the opportunity and raced to lift the ball over the advancing keeper for the winner.

"It is always painful to stay outside the squad but I will be trying not to repeat such mistakes in future," said Zahid Hossain adding that he was happy that his

side won the match through his strike.

Federation Cup champions Sheikh Russel could have widened the margin in the stoppage time of the first half when Zahid ran down from the right to whip in a nice cross for hitman Zahid Hasan Emily but the national team striker failed to connect, with only goalkeeper Zia to beat.

The scenario changed in the second half as Muktiyoddha Sangsad enjoyed superior ball possession and yielded two good scoring chances but winger Mohammad Yousuf and striker Chigozie Darlington squandered both chances while goalkeeper Zia brilliantly thwarted an Emily effort from a one-on-one situation.

Both Sheikh Russel and Muktiyoddha Sangsad have six points each but the former played a match less than Muktiyoddha Sangsad's four.



PHOTO: STAR

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

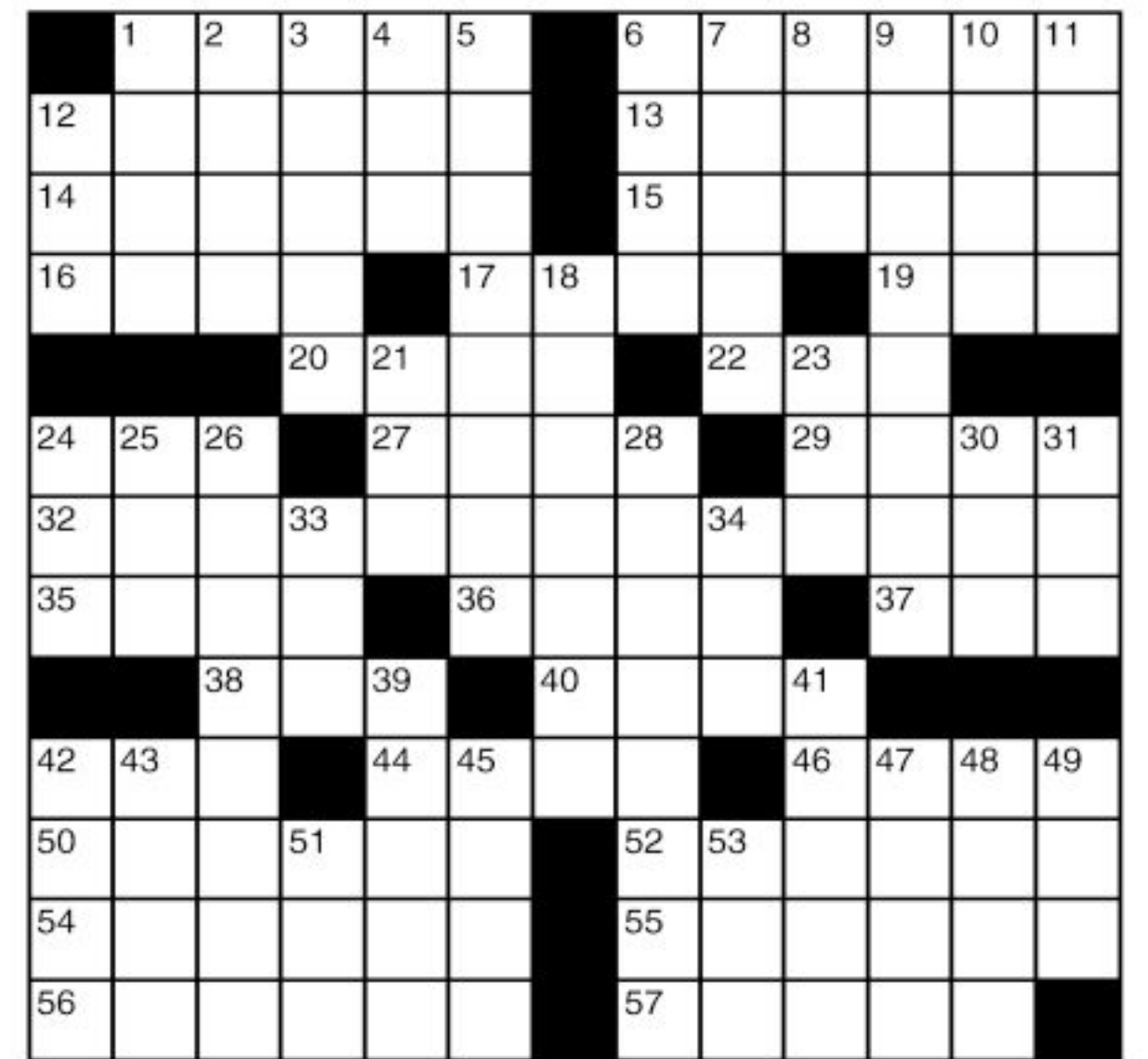
- 1 Religious
- 6 Twiches
- 12 Popular number-logic puzzle
- 13 Out of reach, maybe
- 14 Tarzan's ilk
- 15 Discomfort
- 16 Nasty stinger
- 17 Missile shelter
- 19 Fresh
- 20 Chemistry Nobel
- 22 Play-ground game
- 24 Part of HRH, at times
- 27 Gully
- 29 Citi Field predecessor
- 32 What "sesqui-" means
- 35 Squad
- 36 Billions of years

DOWN

- 2 Mid-month date
- 3 Sex appeal
- 4 Guitar's cousin
- 5 Parasol
- 6 Synagogue
- 7 Burgundy grape
- 8 Time period
- 9 Chinese city
- 10 Erato, for one
- 11 Jet forth
- 12 2004 horror movie
- 18 Not al fresco
- 21 Plant bristle
- 25 Chemical suffix
- 26 Beach
- 28 Sly slur
- 30 Golfer
- 31 Sternward
- 33 Pump up the volume
- 34 "Guinness Book" suffix
- 39 "— Irish Rose"
- 41 Concoct
- 42 Tempo
- 43 Line of rotation
- 45 Farm fraction
- 47 Winged goddess
- 48 Bleak, in Hollywood
- 49 Compass dir.
- 51 — for tat
- 53 Chic no more

Solution time: 27 mins.

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



CRYPTOQUIP

E E P W A Q C Y F C " C Y A W E J Y

F Q A P ' C Z E C E P U " F P M " E

O F P M A M F Z E U N P A " F Q A

L N L S O F Q D F C D Y L Y Q F J A J .

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: SAO PAULO'S COUNTRY IS CERTAINLY ENORMOUS. I SUPPOSE THERE MUST BE A BAZILLION BRAZILIANS.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: C equals T