Badda claim Div I title

SPORTS REPORTER

Badda Jagoroni Sangsad emerged champions in the Popular Life Insurance Senior Division Football League after winning their last match 2-1 against Dhaka Wanderers Club at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Badda needed a victory in this match to topple Jatrabari KC but had to come from behind before they registered the victory. The first half of the match ended goalless before Opu gave Jatrabari the lead in the 75th minute.

With clock ticking down, Badda drew level through Sabbir just a minute before the regulation 90 time to ensure they were still at the title race. But four minutes into the added time, Badda snatched the victory, courtesy of Sabbir's second goal four minutes into the stoppage time. The win gave Badda the championship as well as an opportunity to play in the Bangladesh Championship League, the second-tier profes-

With nine wins, one draw and two losses in 12 matches, Badda secured 28 points, two more than runners-up Jatrabari KC while Younmen's Club Farkirerpool finished third with 22 points.

sional football league.

Ansar, BJMC in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Ansar and

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) moved into the final of the Exim Bank 23rd National Women's Handball Championship beating their respective rivals at the Shaheed (capt) M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

Ansar handed a 21-8 defeat to Dhaka after dominating the first half 10-6 while BJMC thrashed Naogaon 34-5 after leading the first half 13-1. The final will take place on January 7.

Bridge C'ship from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER Ispahani 29th National

Team Bridge Championship gets underway tomorrow at the Engineers Institute Recreation Centre. 22 teams including

eight from outside of

Dhaka are expected to take part in the championship, informed Bangladesh Bridge Federation's general secretary Mezbahur Rahman Khan at a press conference at the NSC confer-

ence room yesterday.

"Bridge is still not a popular game among people outside of Dhaka which is why we want to arrange training and workshops on the game both in Dhaka and outside," said Khan adding that they also have a plan of holding a training programme at the Dhaka University.

Ismail Hossain, representative of sponsors Ispahani, also spoke on

the occasion.

Day of starts FROM PAGE 16

finished the day on 280 for 5. All the top five batsmen in the team got starts, but failed to continue. Apart from Junaid and Farhad, Maisukur Rahman lost his wicket on 49, whereas Naeem Islam fell for 37. Captain Mushfiqur Rahim remained not out on 33. There were only two sixes in the match and both of them came of Rahim's bat.



Belarus's Victoria Azarenka celebrates a point during her second round match of Brisbane International against Germany's Sabine Lisicki yesterday.

Azarenka reaches qtrs

Tennis

AFP, Brisbane

World number one Victoria Azarenka moved into the quarterfinals of the Brisbane International with a hard-fought 6-3, 6-3 win over German Sabine Lisicki on Wednesday.

Azarenka was made to work hard for her win by the hard-hitting Lisicki, who traded punishing ground strokes with the top seed but was let down by a high error rate -- 36 unforced errors compared with only nine from her opponent.

In a match much closer than the score suggests, Lisicki had her chances but was unable to take them.

She had eight break points on Azarenka's serve but was only able to convert three, whereas Azarenka -- who won her maiden WTA title in Brisbane in 2009 -- broke Lisicki six times to seize the advantage.

The German also served poorly, landing only 52 per cent of her first serves and sending down five double faults. But she stayed in the match thanks to the quality of her hitting from the baseline.

Azarenka now plays Kazakhstan qualifier Ksenia Pervak in the quarterfinals.

Earlier, Germany's Angelique Kerber, the only player to defeat Serena Williams since the French Open in May, came from behind to beat unheralded Puerto Rican Monica Puig in three sets.

The 24-year-old fourth-seed looked in huge trouble as she trailed 1-4 in the third set but fought back to force a tiebreak.

Puig then led 4-0 in the tiebreak only for Kerber to fight back again and take the match 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (9/7) in two and a half

She will next take on Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the quarterfinals.

Sloane Stephens set up a quarterfinal against fellow American Serena Williams when she beat Sweden's Sofia Arvidsson 6-3, 6-4. Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko, who only came into the tournament when Maria Sharapova pulled out, downed Australia's Jarmila Gajdosova 1-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Dominant SA take

FROM PAGE 16 stumps to a James Franklin delivery.

That brought Kallis to the wicket and the veteran all-rounder received a rousing reception from the home crowd needing just 20 runs to reach 13,000 runs in Test cricket.

Fast bowler Philander claimed five early wickets as South Africa made New Zealand skipper Brendon McCullum pay for choosing to bat first.

Dale Steyn came into the match needing just one wicket to reach the 300 mark in Tests and he returned after a barren first spell to reach the milestone by removing Doug Bracewell's off-stump with a fine out-swinger.

SCOREBOARD **NEW ZEALAND:** First innings Guptill c De Villiers b Philander McCullum b Philander Williamson Ibw b Philander

Brownlie c Smith b Philander Flynn cand b Steyn Watling c De Villiers b Philander Franklin c Smith b Morkel Bracewell b Steyn

Patel c Amla b Morkel Boult c De Villiers b Morkel Martin not out Extras: (lb-6, nb-1) Total: (All out in 19.2 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-14, 3-14, 4-27, 5-27,

6-28, 7-31, 8-38, 9-45. Bowler 18 Philander Morkel 14 **SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings

Smith Ibw b Bracewell Petersen not out Amla lbw b Franklin Kallis cWatling b Boult De Villiers not out Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-1) Total: (For 3 wkts in 64 overs) To bat: Du Plessis, Elgar, Peterson,

Philander, Steyn, Morkel. Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-108, 3-212. Bowler

53 23 Toss: New Zealand

Umpires: lan Gould (ENG), Rod Tucker wiv I cricket

FROM PAGE 16

Club defeated Agrani Bank Cricket Club by three wickets. At the Dhaka University Ground, Hasanuzzaman's 108 steered Eskaton Sabuj Sangha to a total of 274 against Azad Sporting Club, as the former won by 72 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Tasin Hasin Cricket Academy: 254 for 9 in 50 overs. (Rubel Mia 56, Arifeen Rahman 46; Shahidul 3-58) v Baridhara Dazzlers: 222 for 9 in 50 overs. (Shihab Ahmed 75, Mosharaf Hossain 50; Rubel Mia 2-42, Raihanuddin 2-39)

Magnum Cricketers: 212 all out in 47.3 overs. (Irfan Sukur 71, Ashrfaul Aziz 44; Omar Sharif 3-54) v

Surjo Tarun Club: 152 all out in 43.4 overs. (Rakib Ahmed 34; Afzarul Afroz 4-13)

Agrani Bank Cricket Club: 141 all out in 40.5 overs. (Saddam Hossain 25; Towhidur Rahman 3-24, Abu Haidar 3-30) v Orient Sporting Club: 143 for 7 in 48.4 overs. (Imrul Karim 40; Ataur Rahman 3-14)

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha: 274 all out in 49.5 overs. (Hasanuzzaman 108; Masud Parvez 3-40) v Azad Sportig Club: 202 all out in 41.4 overs. (Mehedi Hasan 56, Ishaq Sajal 52; Minhaj Reza 2-32)

PCB responds

FROM PAGE 16

cating with them as before," said Nizamuddin.

Following the formal reply from Pakistan, the BCB exuded confidence regarding the participation of the Pakistan players in the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20.

Earlier the BCB informed the PCB regarding the postponement of this month's tour through an official letter sent last Thursday.

Must win

FROM PAGE 16 Barring Yuvraj Singh who had set up India's serieslevelling T20 International win in Ahmedabad with his 36-ball 72, India's batting has been a picture of inconsistency.

But the skipper has backed his famed batting line-up despite the prolonged lean patch.

"All of Indian top-order were bowled which means that the deliveries were good. You can't really question the talent of our toporder," Dhoni said, giving credit to Pakistani pacers in Chennai.

"Honestly, there was plenty for the bowlers in the initial period. They bowled in the right areas and exploited the conditions."

Promising batsman Ajinkya Rahane has been warming the bench and may get a chance to play today in case Kohli does not recover from his injury.

Corruption report by mid-Jan

SPORTS REPORTER

The newly formed threemember investigation committee is likely to submit their report on the alleged corrupt conduct of umpires Nadir Shah and Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid Saikat by mid January.

The ad-hoc committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) recently formed a three-member committee with retired district judge Jamil Mustafa as its convener where Shakil Kasem and the board's security consultant Col (retd) Mesbahuddin Serniabat are the other members.

"Due to a change in the board we had to launch a new investigation but we have all the information and findings of the previous committee which definitely supplements the present committee. The new committee is working on it and we hope the final report will come to us by mid January," said BCB's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury yesterday.

Nadir and Sharfuddoula have been investigated for allegations of 'corrupt conduct' levied by an Indian news channel which conducted a sting operation and aired the footage last October.

Channel 24 in quarters

SPORTS REPORTER

Channel 24 moved into the quarterfinals of the Pepsi Media Six-a-Side Cricket tournament, organised by **Bangladesh Sports** Journalists Association, with a 15-run win over Banglavision at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Channel 24 restricted Banglavision to 64/4 in six overs after putting up a fighting total of 79/2 on the board. Sadman Shakib was adjudged man of the match for his dazzling batting display.

In the day's other matches, Diganta TV (165/1) overwhelmed the New Nation (46/0) by 119 runs, Channel 9 (129/1) routed Daily Naya Diganta by 90 runs, Daily Ittefaq (73/1) beat Daily Sangram (69/2) by five wickets and Channel i (79/2) beat Daily Janakantha (90/4) by 17 runs.

Sydney Test from today

Aussies plan fitting farewell to Hussey

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australia captain Michael Clarke vowed Wednesday to strive for a 3-0 clean sweep against Sri Lanka in the final Test starting Thursday to give retiring batsman Michael Hussey a fitting send-off.

Clarke has opted for a four-man pace attack after Australia's crushing innings victory against the tourists in last week's second Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Mitchell Starc returns after being rested, joining quicks Peter Siddle, Jackson Bird, and MCG man-of-thematch Mitchell Johnson on a green Sydney wicket. Clarke declared himself fit and will bat

at four in place of Shane Watson, ruled out with a calf injury. All-rounder Glenn Maxwell was named 12th man, meaning Usman Khawaja misses out. Although a dead rubber, Clarke said the

game had taken on special significance after veteran middle-order batsman Hussey declared it would be his final Test, with the squad determined to see him off with a flourish. "When guys retire it's extra special to

get a win in that last game for them and I'm certain this Test match will be no different in regards to Michael Hussey,"

Clarke said.

"I think a lot of guys will be emotional that Mr Cricket's finishing up in Test match cricket after this game... we want to make sure that we send him out on a

high," he added. "Our focus is to win this Test match and to have beaten Sri Lanka 3-0 in this series."

Clarke said his own hunger for success had increased with news of Hussey's retirement and he was confident of a big score after making 106 in Melbourne, adding his hamstring had improved. The skipper said he also hoped that

Hussey, 37, who has been in exceptional form, averaging 180.00 in the past two Tests, would make one final Test ton. Hussey is the second experienced hand to vacate Australia's middle-order this

summer, with Ricky Ponting recently calling time on his 17-year career. The departures come ahead of a critical 12 months for Australia, with a tour of

India starting in February followed by

Ashes series in England and Australia. Clarke denied there was new pressure on him with the loss of Ponting and Hussey. He predicted a new generation of leaders would emerge in the squad.

"I think over the next 12 months you'll see these young players stand up, because they're ready for it," he said.

"They look forward to this challenge, as I do, and I don't think my role [as captain] will change too much at all."

Italy overcome Germany Haas had given the Germans the lead in

Tennis

AFP, Perth

Former French Open champion Francesca Schiavone showed her fighting qualities as Italy beat Germany 2-1 at the Hopman Cup on Wednesday.

Needing to win her singles match to keep Italy alive in the tie and the mixedteams tournament, the world number 35 was a set and a break down while battling stomach pain against little-known German Tatjana Malek.

But she rallied determinedly to win in three sets.

Malek arrived from Miami to replace the injured Andrea Petkovic in the tournament less than 12 hours before her match.

But the German recovered from a shaky start to stun her more fancied opponent in the first set.

Things were going to script when Schiavone won the first three games of the match, but the 112th-ranked Malek won the next eight games in succession as the veteran made a string of uncharacteristic, and often inexplicable, errors.

Schiavone's woes were summed up by the simple forehand error that handed the German the first set.

Just when an upset loomed, the 32year-old Schiavone was able to claw her way back into the match as fatigue appeared to start affecting Malek.

Although she was well down on her best form, Schiavone was able to prevail 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. "It was not easy today," she acknowledged afterwards.

Schiavone and team-mate Andreas Seppi then clinched the tie with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Tommy Haas and Malek in the mixed doubles.

the tie with a hard-fought straight-sets win over Seppi, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (9/7). Seppi served for the first set and had

three set points in the second, but it was the German who won the crucial points to take the match. Haas's determined hustle paid off on

match point, when his dogged defensive work opened up the opportunity for the forehand winner that sealed the win.

Listless Brothers

FROM PAGE 16

Muktijoddha Sangsad (2-0), Abahani (2-0), Feni Soccer Club (2-1) and Sheikh Russel (2-1) to stay bottom of the nineteam table with zero points. However, the Gopibagh-based outfit,

under the supervision of Nigerian coach Ladi Babalola, are looking forward to coming out of the rubble as they face Team BJMC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

BJMC are a stronger side than Brothers Union, both on paper and performance, and are on sixth position. They narrowly lost against Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel but held Mohammedan and Muktijoddha Sangsad before posting a victory over Feni Soccer.

The sixth round of Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League, which resumes today, will see some important matches as Sheikh Russel will have a good chance to go top of the table if they beat Arambagh on Friday while Mohammedan will be trying to return to winning ways against Muktijoddha Sangsad on Saturday. Sheikh Jamal will also have an opportunity to go top if they overcome Feni Soccer on Saturday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BIT OF HEAVY FOOTWEAR YOU MIGHT USE TO TOSS INFORMAL BALLOTS IN AND DRAW FROM: A VOTING BOOT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals M