

CJKS cricket league begins April 4

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong Jela Krira Sangstha (CJKS) cricket league begins on April 4. Ispahani Mirzapore Tea is the sponsor.

A total of 12 teams divided into three groups, will take part in the Premier League.

Besides, the First Division cricket league will begin on April 12. A total of 32 clubs divided into eight groups will take part in the league.

The matches will be played at the MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong Divisional Stadium and Chittagong Medical College Hospital ground.

B'baria cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'Baria

Provati Cricket Club and Akta Sporting Club won their respective matches in Dana Mia Cup cricket tournament at Eidgah ground yesterday.

Provati defeated Three Star Krira Chakra by 10 runs.

Provati won the toss and batted first. They made 111 all out. Kayer to-scored with 51.

Three Star Krira were dismissed for 101

Akta Sporting defeated Kazipara Cricket Club by 20 runs.

Akta Sporting Club after winning the toss, scored 120-10. Rabin cracked 58 for Akota.

In reply Kazipara collected 100 runs in the stipulated 50 overs.

NZ won't be defensive



AFP, Wellington

New Zealand are pledging not to take the easy route of a defensive mindset as they face their final frontier here Friday with the opportunity to achieve a first series win over South Africa.

For South Africa, the biggest motivating factor going into the third and final Test is the fear of being the first Protea side to lose a series to New Zealand.

Having beaten all other Test-playing nations in a series, the New Zealand Black Caps put themselves in a strong position against South Africa with a comfortable nine-wicket win in the second Test after the first was drawn.

Sitting in an unbeatable position, the temptation is there to play defensively and sit on the 1-0 lead, but coach John Bracewell said that has been ruled out.

"We've discussed it and we're going in with an offensive not defensive attitude," he said.

Scott Styris, one of the heroes of the second Test victory in Auckland, said the challenge of making history was a big factor for the side.

"There is a motto among us at the moment that we don't want to win battles, we want to win wars," he said.

The groundsman at the Basin Reserve is promising a near-

perfect wicket for the Test, and fine weather is forecast for the foreseeable future, increasing the prospect of a result.

Much of New Zealand's hopes will rest with pace bowler Chris Martin, recalled after two years in wilderness for the second Test where he snared a career best 11-wicket bag, enough to earn him the man of the match award in a Test of records for New Zealand.

The backbone of New Zealand's mammoth first innings came from career best performances by Styris (170) and Chris Cairns (158), while Cairns became only the sixth player to score 3,000 Test runs and take 200 Test wickets.

Martin also entered the record books with his batting, as his duck in the first innings brought up a world record of nine consecutive scores of nought or nought not out.

South African all-rounder Shaun Pollock is on the brink of an even more substantial performance than Cairns, requiring 102 more runs to become the fifth player to score 3,000 Test runs and take 300 Test wickets.

But the Protea star said the prospect of making personal history came second to the aim of stopping New Zealand making national history.

"We've never lost to them before so it's important we do everything in our power to win this Test and even the series," he said.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (from): Stephen

Fleming (captain), Mark Richardson, Michael Papps, Scott Styris, Craig McMillan, Chris Cairns, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum, Daniel Vettori, Chris Martin, Michael Mason, Kyle Mills.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Rudolph, Jacques Kallis, Gary Kirsten, Neil McKenzie, Mark Boucher, Shaun Pollock, Paul Adams, Makhaya Ntini, Andre Nel, Nicky Boje, Albie Morkel, David Terbrugge.

Rafique called

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home series against England.

But once again the country's premier fast bowler Mashrafeebin-Mortuza is forced to sit out another series. The injury-prone Narail Express is now in India to assess the state of his operated right knee. Mashrafeeb collapsed in the home series against England and was subsequently ruled out.

The national camp will start on March 29.

The selected players are: Habibul Bashar, Hannan Sarker, Shahriar Hossain, Mohammad Ashraful, Nafees Iqbal, Alok Kapali, Javed Omar Balim, Mushfiquir Rahman, Khaled Mahmud, Rajin Saleh, Mohammad Rafique, Manjarul Islam, Elamul Haq, Faisal Hossain, Tapas Baishya, Alamgir Kabir, Tareq Aziz Khan, Monjurul Islam, Anwar Hossain Monir, Tushar Imran, Abdur Razzak, Khaled Mashud and Jamaluddin.

Satkhira cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Aryans Club defeated Jubo Ganamukhi Sangha by nine wickets in the Satkhira First Division Cricket League at the local Government College ground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Ganamukhi Sangha batted first and made 119-10 in 37.2 overs. Aryans replied with 121-1 in 12.5 overs.

Press praise

AFP, New Delhi

Indian newspapers Thursday headlined the news of the cricket team's one-day series win over long time rival Pakistan in a clinching game in the Pakistani city of Lahore.

"Lords at Lahore," blared the Economic Times in a banner headline, casting aside its usual financial fare to report India's 3-2 series win, their first title win in Pakistan after five failed attempts between 1978 and 1997.

"We did it," said leading daily Hindustan Times which, like some other newspapers, devoted its full front page to the cricket duel, the first between the two sides in Pakistan in 15 years.

Summing up the mood of the nation, The Statesman said "Feeling Great" over a picture of a joyous Indian team punching the air with their fists in celebration.

Rookies rule

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Extras: (b-5, lb-3, nb-10, w-7) 25

Total: (All out in 107.4 overs) 378

Fall of wkts: 1-11, 2-30, 3-45, 4-210, 5-222, 6-232, 7-351, 8-371, 9-372

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Panyangara	19	2	57	2
Nicolle	15	3	38	2
Gripper	21	5	87	2
Mwayenga	17	2	54	1
Sims	9	1	31	0
Ewing	10	0	49	0
Chigumbura	16.4	2	54	3

ZIMBABWE: Second innings

Sibanda c Dhimani b Tareq 18

Gripper not out 29

Chigumbura not out 36

Extras: (lb-1, nb-2) 3

Total: (For 1 wicket in 24 overs) 86

Fall of wicket: 1-21

Bowler	O	M	R	W
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Alamgir 2 0 16 0

Enamul 10 1 36 0

Tareq 5 1 29 1

Jamaluddin 5 3 2 0

Ashraful 2 1 2 0

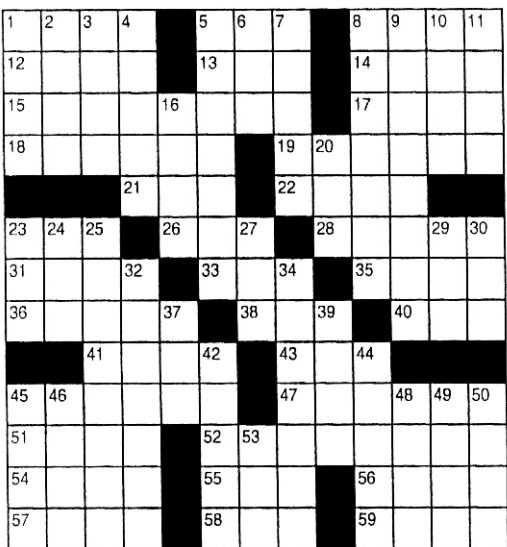
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Dream Along With Me" singer
5 Government agt.
8 Strike-breaker
12 October stone
13 Flightless bird
14 Adornment for Clarence
15 Rather's half-hour
17 Largest of the seven
18 Implant for Humanity proponent
21 Japanese theater
22 Kachina worshipper
23 Outer (Pref.)
26 According to
28 Painter
31 Caper
33 — U.S. Pat. Off.

DOWN
1 Traffic pylon
2 Tournament format
3 Bryn — Former stimulus
4 Rook
5 Settled down
6 Type units
7 Reagans' nickname
8 Hone
9 Able to withstand great strain
10 "I cannot tell —"
11 Piglet's papa
16 Hen-house
20 "You've Got Mail" abbr.
23 Wapiti
24 Standard
25 Burr role
27 Ump
29 Eggs
30 Chatter
32 Entangled
34 Elate
37 Have a bug
39 Farm fraction
42 Takes 10
44 Beachgoer's spread
45 A little lower?
46 Lotion add-in
48 Crooner
49 Right angles
50 Old card game
53 Jr.'s son, maybe

Solution time: 21 mins.

TIME **GAP** **GOPS**
IDEA **RHO** **ORAL**
FLAT **FOOT** **UCLA**
FED **LAY** **GRASP**
ION **VET**
NATIVE **KATY** **DIJO**
UGLY **PLIS** **AUTO**
BELL **HOP** **GREST**
BEEL **NOD**
STEAM **MAC** **NBC**
TANO **CAMOMILE**
URDU **ALE** **ONUS**
NOISE **RED** **WANT**



CRYPTOQUIP

K S B N U O G F K Q K Z Y D V .

K O O A S X Z Y F S A D X A S

S K I Y D K F V Q O K A A Y A G F

M X U O G Q A M N N I G F B .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF TWO VAMPIRES ARE FIGHTING A LOT, DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY HAVE BAD BLOOD BETWEEN THEM?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals S

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



PHOTO: AFP

Greek actress Thalia Prokopiou, acting as high priestess, lights the torch with the Olympic Flame using the rays of the sun concentrated in a concave mirror in Ancient Olympia yesterday.

Ivanisevic still a winner



AFP, Key Biscayne

Goran Ivanisevic won for only the second time in two years here at the WTA and ATP Masters Series, with the oft-injured 2001 Wimbledon champion vowing to still be a Grand Slam threat.

The 32-year-old Croatian wild card, a loser in nine of 10 prior starts since 2002 left rotator cuff surgery, saved a match point to defeat France's Nicolas Escude 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 at the 6.5 million-dollar hardcourt event.

"I needed this," Ivanisevic said.

"Sometimes I feel, 'What am I doing here. Go home.' Sometimes I hit a good shot and I feel like a little kid. Two years outside, it's tough to come back. You have to go to gym every day, work hard.

"I didn't expect to win to be honest. I thought I could have a good match."

Ivanisevic, the lowest-ranked player in the field at 592, faces Spain's Rafael Nadal in the second round and could meet Swiss world number one Roger Federer in the third.

Federer's first match after an opening-round bye will be Russia's

Nikolay Davydenko, who ousted Sweden's Thomas Johansson 6-2, 2-6, 6-3. Federer is 2-0 against Ivanisevic but they have not played since Ivanisevic won Wimbledon.

The main goal for Ivanisevic this year is to play at Wimbledon for the first time since his stunning 2001 triumph there. Surgery scuttled his 2002 plans and injuries to his left shoulder and elbow and right knee sidelined him in 2003.

"If I knew after Wimbledon what I would go through, I would have stopped immediately after Wimbledon," Ivanisevic said.

"Last year I was at Queen's. At least I was in the neighborhood.

"This year I hope to step onto the grass. I owe that to the crowd. I hope to be fit there. If I am fit I can be very dangerous. I still think I can beat these guys if I play well like I did today.

Women's top seed Serena Williams, making her return here Friday after an eight-month layoff since her victory last year at

Wimbledon, learned that her comeback match Friday will be against Spanish qualifier Marta Marrero.

Marrero eliminated 19-year-old American Angela Haynes 7-6, 7-6 to spoil what would have been a matchup of childhood rivals from the public courts on the streets of Compton, California.

"I think I will be a little nervous," Williams said.

"At the end of the day I'm going to have to perform whether I want to or not, so I shouldn't worry."

Ivanisevic needed two hours and two minutes to subdue Escude in warm and windy conditions. Ivanisevic won the first set in 33 minutes, blasting six aces, then opened the second set by breaking Escude at love.

Keraniganj cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The final of the Keraniganj Junior Division Cricket League 2004 will be held today at the Kalindi cricket ground. Howli Krira Chakra will meet Najarganj 'B' in the championship decider.

Both teams have already earned promotion to the Senior Division league next season.

Friendly cricket

CU CORRESPONDENT

A friendly cricket match between the officials of Chittagong Mohanagari Krira Sangstha (CMKS) and sports journalists will be held at the Dampara Police Lines ground today.

The CMKS has organised the match to mark Independence Day.

ICC

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every aspect of the ICC's comprehensive programme to protect the game against corruption is being implemented.

"The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and both teams have worked with the ICC to ensure that these systems are in place to protect the game and the players.

"For example, access to dressing rooms is strictly controlled, closed circuit television guards the entrance to changing rooms and the use of mobile phones is strictly managed.

"With the people and processes now in place for international cricket matches the ICC has built a strong defence against the dangers of corruption."

India and Pakistan will now play a three-game Test series starting in Multan on Sunday.

PCB chiefs have said they are considering taking legal action against Rashid, branding his comments "unpatriotic and shameful".

Latif, regarded as the original whistle-blower in the match-fixing scandal which hit cricket in 2000, laughed off the threat. "I will be willing to face any court action," Latif told AFP in Pakistan.

Wicket-keeper Latif walked out of Pakistan's tour of Zimbabwe in 1995 in protest at what he said was then captain Salim Malik's links with bookmakers.

Malik was later banned for life from the game along with two other Test captains, the late Hansie Cronje of South Africa and Mohammad Azharuddin of India, when the scandal snowballed into a major crisis.

India hails

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tour of the Indian team to Pakistan primarily for two reasons. First, India, prior to Wednesday night's triumph, never won a series -- either in Test or in one-dayers -- in Pakistan.

Secondly, never since the partition of the sub-continent so many Indian cricket lovers were present in Pakistan to watch cricket matches. There were an estimated 8,000 Indians present at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium to watch the last match.

At the end, it was cricket which emerged as real victor keeping in mind the sportsmanship of the Indian and Pakistani players and the intense bonhomie between cricket fans of the two countries.

Younis, Afridi

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Rawalpindi from April 13.

SQUAD

Inzamamul Haq (captain), Yousuf Youhana, Taufeeq Umar, Imran Farhat, Yasir Hameed, Asim Kamal, Misbahul Haq, Moin Khan, Abdul Razzaq, Shoaib Malik, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Shabbir Ahmed, Umar Gul, Saqlain Mushtaq, Danish Kaneria.