

Ctg set to host NFL 2nd phase final leg

CU CORRESPONDENT

All preparations have been taken to host the final leg of the second phase of the 4th Nitol-Tata National Football League in Chittagong.

Local boys Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on Chandpur's Nazirpara Krira Chakra on the first day of the six-day long fourth leg.

Chittagong Jila Krira Sangstha (CJKS) has an estimated Tk 2.10 lakh budget to organise the eight games including two big matches among the Dhaka giants, Abahani v Muktiyoddha and Mohammedan v Brothers Union.

A 35-minute display by Shishu Academy will mark the inauguration of the league at the MA Aziz Stadium where all the matches will be played. The CJKS authority will organise cultural functions at the gymnasium hall regularly from 8-10 pm on match-days. On the other hand, a local drama titled "Rangin Dubaiwala" will be screened at the same venue today at 7:00 pm.

A rally will be brought out in the city today at 3:00 pm from the stadium.

Pioneer soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

The second phase of the Shinepukur Ceramics Pioneer Football League begins today with Gazipur Ekadash taking on Nawabpur Krira Chakra in the opener at the Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamlapur.

Ten teams divided into two groups will take part in the second phase with two top finishers from each group to play in the semifinals, due on August 26. The final is scheduled after August 28 at the same venue.

Group A: Gazipur Ekadash, Dhaka Junior SC, Islampur Uttaran KC, Jirabo SC and Nawabpur KC.

Group B: Great Wall SC, Mahanagar KC, Friends Social Welfare Organisation, RND KC and Dipta Tarunya Football Academy.

Advantage Lanka



AFP, Colombo

Sanath Jayasuriya was an unlikely hero with the ball as Sri Lanka took control of the second and final Test against South Africa at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground here on Friday.

Jayasuriya returned a career-best haul of 5-34 as South Africa were bowled out for their lowest ever score against Sri Lanka on the third day.

Sri Lanka, who gained a huge 281-run lead after South Africa could not manage just a measly 189 in reply to 470, were 211-4 at close.

Thilan Samaraweera (21) and Tillakaratne Dilshan (23) were the not out batsmen as the home side went 492 runs ahead with six wickets in hand, thanks to half-centuries from Marvan Atapattu and Kumar Sangakkara.

Jayasuriya could not shine with the bat but he did his bit earlier in the day by taking his second five-for in 92 matches to put the home side in sight of their first Test series win over South Africa.

The first Test in Galle ended in a draw last week.

Jayasuriya struck twice early this morning and once in the second session to annihilate the opposition in the company of other left-arm spinner Rangan Herath, who finished with three wickets.

South Africa, who lost their last nine wickets for a mere 80 runs, had their previous lowest against Sri Lanka at Centurion in 1997-98 when they were out for 200.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the third day of the second Test between Sri Lanka and South Africa at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground on Friday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 470 (Sangakkara 232, Jayawardene 82, Jayasuriya 43, Chandana 40; Pollock 4-81)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 116-3)

Smith c and b Jayasuriya	65
Gibbs lbw b Vaas	0
Van Jaarsveld c Sangakkara b Jayasuriya	51
Boje b Jayasuriya	0

Kallis b Jayasuriya	13
Rudolph c Kaluwitharana b Malinga	6
Dippenaar c Dilshan b Herath	25
Boucher not out	10
Pollock lbw b Herath	1
Ntini b Herath	0
Hayward b Jayasuriya	1
Extras: (b-1, lb-8, nb-8)	17
Total: (All out in 69.1 overs)	189
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-109, 3-109, 4-140, 5-141, 6-166, 7-186, 8-188, 9-188	



JAYASURIYA... 5 for 34

SRILANKA: Second innings	
Atapattu b Rudolph	72
Jayasuriya s Boucher b Boje	19
Sangakkara c Ntini b Kallis	64
Jayawardene c Boucher b Kallis	3
Samaraweera not out	21
Dilshan not out	23
Extras: (b-6, lb-1, nb-1, w-1)	9
Total: (For four wickets in 55 overs)	211
Fall of wickets: 1-46, 2-142, 3-149, 4-179	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	8	0	46	0
Ntini	4	0	19	0
Boje	23	6	81	1
Hayward	3	1	15	0
Smith	4	0	15	0

Kallis	6	4	6	2
Rudolph	7	2	22	1
Toss: Sri Lanka				
Umpires: Steve Bucknor (WIS) and Billy Bowden (NZL)				
TV umpire: Asoka de Silva (SRI)				
Match referee: Clive Lloyd (WIS)				

Day Two rained off

AFP, Manchester

Play on the second day of the third Test between England and West Indies at Old Trafford here Friday was abandoned without a ball being bowled because of rain.

The umpires had hoped to start at 1445GMT but a fresh downpour made a resumption impossible and play was officially abandoned at 1455GMT.

It was the first time a whole day had been washed out in an Old Trafford Test since July 3, 1992, the second day of the drawn third Test between England and Pakistan.

The last time rain washed out a whole day's play in England was at Edgbaston on July 25 last year, the second day of the drawn first Test between England and South Africa.

West Indies, after winning the toss, were 275 for six when bad light and rain cut short Thursday's opening day.

Carlton Baugh was nine not out and Dave Mohammed nought not out.

England lead the four-match series 2-0.

Junior Tigers

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the first innings with figures of four for 47 in the second including the last three wickets after Bangladesh had begun the final morning on 171 for three.

Only Aftab Ahmed showed any fight with a dogged 91 (139 balls; 12x4, 2x6) but his resistance sadly ended in the last over of Day Two when he was caught behind off Wright. Aftab had featured in an 88-run fifth wicket partnership with all-rounder Nadif Chowdhury (33) that enabled Bangladesh to take the slender lead.

Right-arm pacer Nazmul Hossain, who joins the senior side after the series for the coming ICC Champions Trophy, trapped Joe Denly lbw for 12 and had Ravinder Bopara (16) caught by Dhiman Ghosh but the result was never in question as England raced to the target in only 7.4 overs.

The third and final Test will start from August 17 at Glamorgan. The teams play a three-match U-19 one-day international series after that.

SCORECARD

Scorecard of the fourth and final day of the second Test between Bangladesh Under-19 and England Under-19 at Somerset yesterday:

BANGLADESH U-19: First innings 273 in 92.4 overs.

ENGLAND U-19: First innings 396 in 103.1 overs.

BANGLADESH U-19: Second innings (overnight 171-7)

S Nafees c Davies b Turner	8
N Iqbal c Davies b Wright	6
Aftab Ahmed c Davies b Wright	91
Dhiman Ghosh b Wright	10
Nazimuddin c Cook b Cusden	4
Nadif Chowdhury c Davies b Hildreth	33
Mushfiqur Rahman lbw b Munday	1
Nazmul Hossain c Davies b Turner	0
Azzim Chowdhury b Turner	4
Shahadat Hossain b Turner	0
Enamul Haque not out	0
Extras: (b-3, lb-13, w-4, nb-1)	21
Total: (All out in 58.1 overs)	178
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-25, 3-38, 4-67, 5-155, 6-167, 7-171, 8-177, 9-177, 10-178.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Turner	14.1	5	47	4
Wright	13	5	29	3
Bopara	10	3	24	0
Cusden	8	2	36	1
Patel	7	2	21	0
Hildreth	3	2	3	1
Munday	3	2	2	1

ENGLAND U-19: Second innings
A Cook not out 16
J Denly lbw b Nazmul 12
R Bopara c Dhiman b Nazmul 16
J Hildreth not out 3
Extras: (b-8, w-1) 9
Total: (For 2 wickets in 7.4 overs) 56
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-44.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Nazmul	4	0	27	2
Nadif	3.4	0	21	0

Result: England U-19 won by eight wickets.

An Iraqi wonder

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season with 23 goals, pounced after Ghana goalkeeper George Owu had failed to hold on to his first shot to save Italy's blushes and rescue a point.

The Italians, who in June won the European under-21 championships in Germany, provided all the flair and neat touches but they were stunned by two clinical first-half strikes from Emmanuel Pappoe and Stephen Appiah.

Coached by 1982 World Cup winner Claudio Gentile, Italy hit back shortly after the break through Giampiero Pinzi and Gilardino denied Ghana a precious victory with his late leveller.

"During the first half, we had to go through the disappointment of the two goals but we were much stronger in the first half," said Gilardino.

Despire being pegged back,

Diego meets the President

AFP, Buenos Aires

Football legend Diego Maradona, struggling with health problems linked to cocaine addiction, met Argentine president Nestor Kirchner late on Thursday morning amid high security.

The player has been having drugs rehabilitation therapy in a psychiatric hospital in a Buenos Aires suburb where he is being held by court order. Argentina's 43-year-old 1986 World Cup winning captain wants to continue his treatment abroad, probably Cuba or Switzerland, but does not have the legal right to do so.

The meeting with Kirchner was Maradona's first public appearance in three months and official television pictures showed him dressed in a duvet-style jacket which did not make it clear whether he had been successfully fighting his weight problems.

During the 15-minute meeting Maradona did not talk about his difficulties in leaving the country, according to various sources, though his personal doctor Alfred Cahe had indicated Maradona might ask the president for support.

Maradona was taken to the Swiss-Argentina Clinic in Buenos Aires on April 18 with heart and lung problems and he nearly died while in intensive care. He left that clinic but returned shortly afterwards when his condition deteriorated. He has been in the psychiatric hospital since May 9.

Extra Saleh!

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work not only to regain my form but also to sharpen my technique to negotiate the English conditions. I have not been among runs recently and I feel that the task in England would be more challenging," Rajin told reporters yesterday.

"I have started a personal mission today and I hope to continue putting in added work everyday after the scheduled team practice.

"I have been using a wet ball which skids after pitching and tends to swing a bit too. I have never been in England, so I'm just trying to simulate the condition we are likely to find there," said Saleh.

The diminutive batsman from Sylhet was looking at this initiative of his in a professional spirit.

"Playing cricket is my job and I can only expect to keep it if I perform," said Saleh.

Always a team man, Saleh had to leave his customary number four position to open the batting in his last two ODIs in the absence of a regular opener, a compromise he admitted not quite relishing.

"I feel more comfortable in the middle-order and want to go back to number four where I have been more successful."

Phelps' starts

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He is projected to meet Phelps in Monday's 200 freestyle final, which also features defending champion Pieter van den Hoogenband and former world record holder Grant Hackett.

Thirteen Olympic titles will be decided on Saturday, including four in the swimming which commands centre stage until the athletics programme starts in a week's time.

The most dramatic event on Saturday promises to be the men's cycling road race which takes the field under the Acropolis and up the Lycabettus hill which was once crowned by a statue of Zeus.

Race favourite Jan Ullrich of Germany needs two medals in Athens to become the first man in the 108-year history of Olympic cycling to win four gold medals on the road.

Ullrich will have an extra incentive to win after a disappointing performance in the Tour de France this year. He finished fourth behind six-times champion Lance Armstrong, the first time he has failed to make the podium in seven years. The race comprises 17 laps of a 13.2-km course.

Ghana defender Emmanuel Osei said his side was satisfied with the point.

"It's not a bad beginning," he said. "We played against one of the strongest teams in the tournament and the important thing is we didn't lose. I believe we can qualify for the next round."

In Thursday's other games, Paraguay defeated Asian powerhouses Japan 4-3 in a Group B game in Salomika while Morocco and Costa Rica drew 0-0 in Group D.

Goals from striker Pablo Gimenez, Edgar Barreto, Jose Cardozo and Aureliano Torres secured the points for the Paraguayans, who withstood a fierce late rally from Japan to clinch victory.

Japan's goals came via two spotkicks by Feyenoord's former Asian player of the year Shinji Ono and a late effort by striker Yoshito Okubo.



PHOTO: AFP

BIGGER THAN THE PRESIDENT! Argentinian legend Diego Armando Maradona waves to the media after leaving the Casa Rosada, presidential house in Buenos Aires on August 12. Maradona accompanied by his daughter Yanina, met President Nestor Kirchner to expose his legal situation which prevents him to leave Argentina and continue his anti-drug treatment in another country.

Vieira relief for Gunners



AFP, London

Arsenal received a massive boost on Friday when captain Patrick Vieira ended a summer of speculation about a proposed move to Real Madrid by announcing he had decided to stay with the London club.

The French midfielder's decision came 24 hours before the kick-off of the 2004/05 Premiership season and two days before Arsenal begin the defence of their title away to Everton.

Vieira, 28, had been involved in negotiations about a possible move to Real since shortly after Euro 2004 having reportedly decided he needed a fresh challenge.

According to reports in Spain, negotiations with Real broke down on Thursday because the Spanish giants were not willing to meet Arsenal's asking price or Vieira's own personal demands.

Not the ideal start

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Athens organising chief Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, said the Games would be a glittering success.

"The Greek people have done things they have never done before to make these Games a success. We are confident. We are at ease," Angelopoulos-Daskalaki said.

The birthplace of the ancient Olympics more than 2,700 years ago, Athens also staged the first edition of the modern summer games in 1896.

Some 10,000 athletes representing 202 countries will march together in front of 70,000 spectators at the 8.45 pm (1745 GMT) opening ceremony, kicking off a fortnight of sporting competition that is costing 7.2 billion

dollars to stage.

Some 1.5 billion dollars of that budget will be spent on a suffocating security operation designed to deter terrorists in the first summer games since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

Heads of state and royal VIPs attending Friday's opening, with Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair and former US president George Bush among the guests, will be protected by a vast security blanket.

"We've created an environment which is hostile to any threat. What we have done is huge, but an absolute guarantee does not exist," a high-ranking security official, who asked not to be named, told AFP.

A total of 110,000 security personnel, or 11 for every athlete, will be on duty at the games in a massive show of strength.

NATO has provided AWACS aircraft which began combing airspace around Athens on Tuesday while a massive zeppelin equipped with state-of-the-art surveillance equipment has hovered over the city since July 23.

The United States Sixth Fleet and gunboats from Turkey and Italy meanwhile have been entrusted with defending the waters around Greece.

The first medals of the Games will be won on Saturday, when 13 golds go up for grabs.

Arise, it's Premiership time

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Besides, Portugal's baby-faced winger Cristiano Ronaldo and new recruit Argentine defender Gabriel Heinze are unavailable due to the Athens Olympic Games.

Newcastle who pushed Liverpool for that final Champions League spot have taken a gamble and brought Patrick Kluivert and Nicky Butt in Sir Bobby Robson's final spell at the club.

Local rivals Middlesbrough are eager to step up at their expense.

life goes on when he told a loyal Danny Murphy to ply his trade elsewhere.

At least he did one right thing by off-loading Senegal misfit El Hadj Diouf and Emile Heskey.

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Local rivals Middlesbrough are eager to step up at their expense.

FIXTURES	
English Premier League fixtures for August 14 and 15, the opening weekend of the season (all times GMT):	
Saturday (1400 unless stated): Aston Villa v Southampton Blackburn Rovers v West Bromwich Albion Bolton Wanderers v Charlton Athletic Manchester City v Fulham Middlesbrough v Newcastle United (1615) Norwich City v Crystal Palace Portsmouth v Birmingham City Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool (1145)	
Sunday: Chelsea v Manchester United (1505) Everton v Arsenal (1300)	

With a basketful of new signings Boro certainly mean business. It will be interesting to see how Mark Viduka and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink link up again up front after their time together at Leeds.

Another indication of English game's pulling power was Bolton Wanderers' acquisition of former Spain captain Fernando Hierro after the hullabaloo over Brazilian World

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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