

NCL 4th round from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The fourth round of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 10th National Cricket League will start today in three venues across the country.

Dhaka hosts defending champions Khulna at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur while second-placed Rajshahi meet Sylhet at the Sylhet District Stadium and league leaders Barisal face Chittagong at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Barisal are now leading the table with 32 points with Rajshahi behind them with 30 points and Dhaka with 25 points in third place.

Chittagong has 19 points and bottom-side Sylhet have so far managed only 11 points.

BFF gives certificates

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin handed over certificates to 52 young footballers in a simple ceremony at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

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Did U Know?

India batsman VVS Laxman scored his second double century on the second day of the third Test against Australia on Thursday and the highest score at number five for India.



Neo Cricket

India v Australia
Third Test, Day Five
Live from 10:00am

ESPN

English Premier League

Bolton v Man City

Live from 9:55pm

STAR Sports

Primera Liga

Real Betis v Deportivo

Live from 2:00am (Monday)

TEN Sports

ICL Twenty20

Chennai v Mumbai

Live from 2:30pm

Chandigarh v Lahore

Live from 8:00pm



Rafael Benitez

(Liverpool manager)
"Nobody can ever doubt the quality of (Diego) Maradona as a player, but I think he will do well as a manager."



Nat'l Cricket League

(Four-Day, Day 1)

Dhaka v Khulna

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

Sylhet v Rajshahi

Venue: Sylhet Divisional Stadium

Barisal v Chittagong

Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

Citycell B League

Brothers Union v Mukti Bahini (5:00pm)

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



PHOTO: AFP

Australia batsman Michael Clarke pulls India leg-spinner Amit Mishra through midwicket as short-leg Gautam Gambhir (L) takes cover during the fourth day of the third Test at the Feroz Shah Kotla ground in New Delhi yesterday.

Clarke ensures safety

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Michael Clarke hit a gritty century to steer Australia to safety on the fourth day of the third Test against a sloppy India here on Saturday.

27-year-old Clarke led Australia's commendable fightback with a 112-run knock that spanned six hours and took the tourists to a first innings score of 577 all out, just 36 adrift of India's 613-7 declared.

The visitors then reduced India to 43-2 with Brett Lee accounting for Virender Sehwag (12) and Stuart Clark dismissing nightwatchman Ishant Sharma for one.

India's first-innings double-century Gautam Gambhir was batting on 21 with Rahul Dravid on five at close. With the wicket not showing much signs of deterioration, a draw looks the likely result.

India lead the four-match Test series 1-0 after winning the second

Test in Mohali by 320 runs. The opener in Bangalore ended in a draw.

The platform for Australia's fightback was laid by their top-order batsmen, who made handy contributions before Clarke came to the party with his eighth Test century.

The Aussie vice-captain shared a 73-run stand with Shane Watson (36) and added 103 for the seventh wicket with Cameron White (44) while surviving three dropped chances by the butter-fingered Indians.

He was dropped on 21, 90 and 94, underlining India's indifferent effort in the field and probably dashing their hopes of forcing a series-clinching win here.

"It (dropped catches) certainly helped me," Clarke said after the day's play.

"I had a bit of luck. The wicket played quite well and personally, it was very rewarding to make another century in India. But a lot of credit goes to guys like Hayden,

Ponting, Katich and Hussey who set the game up for us.

"We will now try and take a few quick wickets tomorrow (Sunday) and try and win the game."

The only bright spot for the hosts was the maiden five-wicket haul by part-time off-spinner Sehwag, who finished with fine figures of 5-104.

India coach Gary Kirsten admitted that the team failed to grab the opportunities that came their way.

"It wasn't a great day for us," he said. "The Aussies fought back and got themselves in a strong position from the batting perspective."

"We did not bowl in the right areas and did not create enough pressure. We also missed a few opportunities that came our way. Had we grabbed those chances, the situation could have been different."

The highlight of the day was Clarke's patient 253-ball knock, containing six fours and a six.

He was dropped twice in his 90s with Venkatesh Laxman - celebrat-

ing his 34th birthday -- failing to cup a sitter off Sehwag and Amit Mishra (2-144) grassing another in the bowler's next over.

Clarke, who scored 151 on his Test debut against India in Bangalore in 2004, was earlier spilled on 21 by Sharma who failed to latch on to a simple chance at mid-on off Mishra.

He was finally dismissed by Mishra, who had him caught by Zaheer Khan at long off.

Sehwag, India's only triple-century, bowled White to bag his first Test five-wicket haul. White hit five fours and a six off leg-spinner Anil Kumble in his cameo 95-ball effort.

Kumble (1-94) returned to bowl in the 15th over a day after needing 11 stitches for a deep cut he sustained on his left little finger on Friday.

The Indian captain, who bowled with a broken jaw against West Indies in Antigua in 2002, picked his first wicket of the series when he

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TIGERS OFF TO SOUTH AFRICA

Onus on batsmen

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

With a hope to show improvement from their first full trip, the Bangladesh cricket team left the city last night for Johannesburg.

The Tigers will play a Twenty20 international against the Proteas which will be followed by a three-match one-day series and two Test matches during their month-long tour.

The Tigers played their first full series in South Africa in 2002 and had a bitter experience of making a meek surrender in both Test and one-day series under Khaled Mashud, who recently retired.

The overall record also speaks in favour of South Africa but there was only one sweet memory for the Tigers when, in the 2007 World Cup, they beat Graeme Smith's men.

In the last few series the bowlers showed some sort of consistency to create chance against Australia and New Zealand but batting remained the same and the batsmen should play their part if they want to avoid the same blues.

"It's a big challenge to face South Africa in their own conditions. I think our bowlers did well in the last couple of series but we have to do well as a team and every department to show the improvement in the tour," said pace spearhead and Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza while talking with the reporters at the Zia International Airport.

Shakib Al Hasan, who had a brilliant all-round time against New Zealand in the recently concluded home series, also said that it would be a tough challenge for his side.

"We are going to face a tough time but we have to enjoy the cricket. I am looking forward to

enjoy cricket in South Africa," said Shakib.

Nayem Islam however was not ready to promise anything before the

series rather he was looking forward to cement his place in the side.

"I think it's better to talk after the series," said the young all-rounder, who showed his potential against the Kiwis.

Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful however was confident that his side will show their improvement during the tour.

"No doubt it's a challenging tour for us but we created few opportunities in the last two series and won a one-day match against New Zealand. I am hopeful that we will be able to create chances also in South Africa and one success is not unlikely if our top order batsmen clicked," said Ashraful.

ITINERARY

November 5: Twenty20 International at Johannesburg.

November 7: 1st ODI at Potchefstroom.

November 9: 2nd ODI at Benoni.

November 12: 3rd ODI at East London.

November 15-17: 3-day match at Kimberley.

November 19-23: First Test at Bloemfontein.

November 26-30: Second Test at Centurion.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful (L) chats with coach Jamie Siddons at the Zia International Airport yesterday before their flight to Johannesburg, South Africa.

Nafees powers Warriors

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The Dhaka Warriors moved into fourth place in the league and kept their semifinal hopes alive by beating the Chandigarh Lions by eight wickets in Panchkula on Friday night. Shahriar Nafees led Dhaka's charge and his unbeaten 73 ensured that the target of 138 was achieved in the 18th over.

Nafees's task was made easier by Dhaka's bowlers who had backed up their captain Habibul Bashar's decision to field first by restricting Chandigarh to 137 for 9 in 20 overs. After conceding 23 off

the first two overs, Dhaka struck three rapid blows that irreparably damaged Chandigarh's innings.

Mohammad Sharif landed the first in the third over when he induced TP Singh to sky a pull to midwicket. Tapash Baisya struck the second, trapping Sarabjit Singh, who was given out after a referral, leg before off the last ball of the fourth over. The very next delivery, an awful mix-up resulted in Lou Vincent being run out without facing a ball. Dhaka had gone from 25 for 0 to 29 for 3 in nine balls.

They continued to lose wickets periodically and though three middle-order batsmen got starts - Chetan Sharma, Andrew Hall and Bipul Sharma scored more than 25

- no one got past 30. Mohammad Rafique was Dhaka's most successful bowler, finishing with 3 for 28.

The target didn't require a slam-bang approach and Dhaka's openers Nafees and Nazimuddin began steadily. They scored only 15 off the first three overs before tucking into Daryl Tuffey. Nazimuddin hit him for fours through cover and midwicket, while Nafees steered one to the third-man boundary. They batted sensibly, finding the boundary every other over while ensuring a steady stream of singles. By the time Nazimuddin fell, sweeping to midwicket in the ninth over, Dhaka had already reached

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THE DAILY STAR EXCLUSIVE

Diego on Diego

Cruciani speaks on Maradona's appointment

Diego Andres Cruciani joined as head coach of Bangladesh national football team in 2005 and took the team to the final of the SAFF Championship in Pakistan where they eventually lost to India. He then guided the side to the Asian Cup qualifiers with an away win over Pakistan.

The Argentine, a direct assistant of legendary Argentine World Cup winning coach Cesar Luis Menotti, was at the helm for 13 months before being given a crude farewell by the federation. He returned to Dhaka in 2007 to coach Abahani in the inaugural professional football league but also exited prematurely under crowd pressure although both the national team and eventual winners Abahani played stylish and attacking football during his tenure.

Cruciani has tried his luck in Georgia and the Mexican top division recently before returning home to attend family affairs and business.

In a frank article, he expresses his view on Diego Armando Maradona's appointment as his country's head coach.

I am not over-excited about Diego Maradona's appointment as our (Argentina's) coach, but I wish and pray he can gain success because he's the Argentina symbol, for most of our people he's a God and our national team and our football needs an urgent success in

the World Cup.

Maradona as head coach might bring some negatives as well as positives too.

I will outline them:

POSITIVES

1. Maradona knows the national team better than anybody.

2. He will instill in the player the true love for the national jersey and

presence and words, as happened at Beijing where he helped the team to gain the gold medal, after he came very close to them and talked a lot. His presence made them bigger and stronger.

5. He's a winner and he'll transmit that to the team. Never fear, never hurt, never be ashamed & never feel like a loser.

6. He'll be recovering the love for our national team which was lost last time, because the players and officials thought more of club matters.

7. The supporters, the media, the officials and even the players, everybody will be patient with Diego, and they'll forgive him for any mistake -- that doesn't happen with any other coach.

8. Diego loves the country more than anyone of us. This job is made for him, it's a pride, heart and love cause.

NEGATIVES

1. His presence may make the players opaque. His protagonism and charisma is bigger than most which means everybody will watch him, more than the players.

2. Some players could play with a lot of pressure, always looking over their shoulder seeking if Diego's happy or not.

3. We need a big boss as a coach and he is not, because he is still suffering with his impulsive character and he is still feeling and

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DIEGO ANDRES CRUCIANI

he'll call to the player to give their blood to defend it, forgetting the money, their clubs and thinking only of the glory.

3. He's the ultimate master and idol for the players, everybody loves him and they'll give 200% under his coaching.

4. He'll be the best stimulator and motivator, just with his



PHOTO: STAR

Players of Aga Khan School rejoice after clinching the Women's School Football tournament at the Dhanmondi Women's Complex ground yesterday.

Aga Khan lift title

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Aga Khan School emerged champions in the Dhaka Metropolitan Women's School Football tournament with a 3-2 win over Scholastica in the final at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Two-goal star Adiba struck in the 32nd minute to give her school the lead after Scholastica's Zara made it 2-2 in the 24th minute.

Scholastica started in the right tone, taking the lead in the eleventh minute through Karishma's strike. Adiba scored her first goal ten minutes later, making it one-all.

Mosaba put AKS ahead two minutes later but then that didn't last long as Zara put Scholastica level.

Adiba was adjudged best player of the final, Zara the best player of

the tournament while Papiya of Azimpur Girls School was awarded for being the highest scorer.

Earlier, in the semifinals on Friday, AKS eliminated Viharunissa Noon School while Scholastica beat Bangladesh

International Tutorial.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin witnessed the day's final as chief guest, while general manager of Pacific Telecom Sania Mahmud was present as the special guest.

আকর্ষণীয় লোকেশনে জমি বিক্রয়

ঢাকায় টঙ্গী-আশুলিয়া ইপিজেড মহাসড়কের
১৩ তম কিলোমিটার সড়ক সংলগ্ন অত্যন্ত
আকর্ষণীয় লোকেশনে প্রায় ১০/২০ বিঘা জমি
একত্রে/আংশিক ভাবে বিক্রয় হবে।

ফোন : ৮১১৪৭৪২, ৮১২৮৫৮০
০১৮১-৯৫০২৫৯৪, ০১৯২০৩০৮৪৮