

Wins for City, BU

Cricket

UNB, Dhaka

City Club and Brothers Union won their respective matches in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League at different city venues yesterday.

City Club recorded a comfortable 54-run victory over newcomers Orient Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

After being sent in to bat, City Club mustered a respectable 245 runs for eight in their stipulated 50 overs with Moniruzzaman making the team highest 60 off 81 balls with the help of four boundaries.

Indian Ashish Kapoor scored 59 off 67 balls that saw eleven fours, Rajin Saleh added 51 off 63 balls featuring two fours and a six, and Tareq Ahmed scored 33 off 58 balls.

Saju Dutta took two wickets conceding 46 runs in 10 overs and Pakistani Rashed Hanif two for 36 in 8 overs.

In reply, Orient Sporting Club were bundled out for 191 in 46.3 overs with Masum making team highest 58 runs off 104 balls that saw six hits across the boundary.

Rashed Hanif followed with a quick 45-ball 40 that was illustrated with three hits to the fence and a big sixer while Sajit Ali Khan scored 35 off

49 balls featuring four boundaries.

Saifullah Jem was the most successful City bowler claiming three wickets for 33 in 10 overs while Alamgir Kabir took two for 47 in 8.3 overs and Jamaluddin Babu two for 32.

Rajin Saleh was adjudged man-of-the-match.

In the other match at the Fatullah Stadium, Brothers Union defeated Surjo Tarun Club by two runs.

Brothers Union could collect 208 before being all out in 49.5 overs after they were sent in to bat with Pakistani Sadab Kabir making highest 53 runs off 87 balls.

Mahbubur Rahman was their second highest scorer with 26 off 43 deliveries. Gazi Salauddin added 20 off 28 balls.

Mominul Kabir Khan grabbed four wickets conceding 25 runs in 9.5 overs and Pakistani Manzoor Akhter four wickets giving away 45 runs in 10 overs.

In reply, Surjo Tarun ran out of overs as they finished their innings on 206 for nine with Dhiman Ghosh scoring team highest 43 runs off 57 balls.

Morshed Ali Khan captured two wickets for 39 runs in 10 overs, Shahnewaz Kabir two for 38 in 10 overs and Sohail Rana two for 42 in 10 overs.

Asghar plays defensive

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a retired bureaucrat and a little known former Board president in the facts finding committee.

"I do not think it was a bad decision to name Commodore Mojibur Rahman. He has not only served as president of the Board but also played cricket for the erstwhile East Pakistan team. Syed Shamim Ahsan might have not played the game at the top level, but he has been involved with sports for a long time. Besides, being an intelligent bureaucrat, he is an ideal choice to look into the off the field matters", Asghar said adding that he did not go for any former national cricketer fearing that their judgement might prove biased since most of them are associated with different clubs of the country.

Although Asghar came down hard on the cricketers for their failure to perform, he refused to accept that his Board was equally responsible for failing to provide a proper guideline starting from team selection to motivation when it was needed most.

"I personally feel that we have provided a lot of training and practice facilities to prepare for the World Cup. Besides, the Bangladesh team had toured South Africa in September", Asghar told the reporters. He also claimed that the selectors enjoyed total freedom while picking the World Cup squad.

"A lot of people are criticising the selection now. But only a month ago nobody was that critical when the selectors announced the team.

"If I'm not mistaking, the only criticism came regarding the exclusion of opener Javed Omar," he said.

Asghar declared that he would go for the elections in the Board in May. He however argued the concept of directorship that his predecessor Saber Hossain Chowdhury had introduced.

"I hope a fresh election will be held in May. But before that we need some amendments in the present constitution that contradicts the National Sports Council (NSC) act," said Asghar who is single-handedly calling the shots at the BCB ever since

a High Court ruling suspended the activities of the Board of Directors'.

When asked whether he had looked into the ten-point proposal of former BCB boss Saber designed to check the current slump and take cricket back on track, Asghar said he was not against entertaining the good aspects of it. But he did not elaborate.

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud and manager ASM Faruque also spoke on the occasion. But a grim-faced Mashud delivered the same sad tune which he has been singing since Bangladesh's defeat against Kenya in their last match at the Wanderers on March 1.

Will Jayasuriya

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semifinals.

"It's an important match but I wouldn't say do or die. I'd be loath to call it that," Whatmore said. "I always try and get away from the result -- I'm a process-and-performance oriented coach, not results oriented.

"I think it weighs heavy on the shoulders if you are looking at the result. We work on the individuals and the things you have to do to get the result.

"I think there's a knowledge within the group that we're in a similar situation that we were in after Nairobi (after losing to Kenya in the first stage). We had two games to go to qualify for the Super Sixes and we're in the Super Sixes.

"Now we have two games to go to qualify for the semis. It's a test."

Saturday's net session was for squad members who did not play against the Australians, although batsman Mahela Jayawardene made an appearance.

Jayawardene made a three-ball duck against Australia and has managed just 16 runs in five innings at the World Cup.

"It was his personal choice," Whatmore said. "He had a long bat. We're hoping it was the right thing to do -- some people react better in the nets, others don't."

Lightning stops

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Pollock played for his country.

Then came the key move in Donald's life.

Only 20, he accepted an invitation to join English county side Warwickshire, admitting: "I had my rough edges, including a very strong Afrikaans accent."

Donald had his first taste of alcohol -- a lager shandy -- and met an Englishwoman who was later to become his wife.

For the first time, Donald had his eyes opened to the cruelty of apartheid.

"Not until I played in England did I start to understand the realities of apartheid," he said. "I was a typical product of my particular society in Blomfontein."

Donald, an avid student of the game, also learned his trade quickly.

Great fast bowlers abounded in county cricket in the late 1980s. From New Zealand's Richard Hadlee he learned the importance of the wrist action. Another more unexpected model was the undernourished fast if often erratic England bowler Devon Malcolm.

Donald, who believed Malcolm was treated harshly by the England authorities, particularly admired his relaxed run-up.

He also absorbed the tough mental approach of South Africa teammates Kepler Wessels and Clive Rice and that of the feisty Australian captain Allan Border.

South Africa's readmission to the international arena in 1992 coincided with Donald's peak years. He enjoyed some celebrated duels with England's obdurate opening batsman Mike Atherton and West Indies' Brian Lara, later to become a colleague at Warwickshire.

Naturally fit, Donald extended his career by a devotion to training,

although the injuries inevitably associated with his trade led eventually to his retirement from test cricket.

Donald's worst moment came in the 1999 World Cup semi-final, when he was run out seeking the run against Australia which would have put the South Africans into the final.

Partly through a desire to atone for that bitter disappointment, Donald continued through to this year's World Cup. There was to be no happy ending.

He played only three of six games, taking just one wicket for



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Grand Master Ziaur Rahman (R) makes a move against IM Neelotpal Das of India during their sixth United Insurance and United Leasing Grand Masters Chess Tournament engagement at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Grand Masters chess begins

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Ziaur Rahman beat IM Neelotpal Das in the inaugural round of the 6th United Insurance and United Leasing Grand Masters Chess Tournament at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Auditorium yesterday.

FIDE Master Nasir Ahmed of Ansars drew with GM Alexi Barsov of Uzbekistan. IM Reefat bin Sattar lost against top rated player of the event Sergey Tiviakov of the Netherlands. IM Enamul Hossain Razib lost to GM Magem Jordi of Spain. IM Abdullah Al Rakib went down against IM Vakhidov Tahir of Uzbekistan.

Seven GMs, five IMs and two FMs from six countries are taking part in the event. The second round will start today at 3:00 pm at the same venue.

Americans eye gold

AFP, Indianapolis

US athletes, with seven world-leading performances including two world records so far this year, will be gunning for gold at the 2003 World Indoor Athletics Championships March 14-16 in Birmingham, England.

Olympic gold medalist Stacy Dragila enters the women's pole vault on a collision course with Svetlana Feofanova of Russia, who will be looking to avenge her loss to Dragila at the 2001 World Outdoor Championships.

Dragila reclaimed the world indoor record on March 2 with a height of 4.78m, one centimetre better than Feofanova's previous world mark.

Wasim worried

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Wasim also hit out at teammates Shahid Afridi and Abdul Razzaq for their poor form in the tournament.

"The selectors must take a long hard look at the likes of Shahid Afridi. His approach would hardly inspire any captain to persist with him," he wrote.

ECB takes its time

Cricket

INTERNET, London

It is expected to be at least a month before Nasser Hussain's successor as England one-day captain is revealed.

Hussain, 35 later this month, resigned from his leadership of the one-day side following World Cup elimination but he is likely to retain the Test captaincy.

However, the process of deciding upon the new man by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) will not be started in the near future.

The International Teams Management Board, chaired by Dennis Amiss and including coach Duncan Fletcher, chairman of selectors David Graveney and Geoff Miller will make their decision before informing ECB chairman David Morgan.

That is not likely to happen for another four weeks, however, with Fletcher spending some time off at his residence in Cape Town, following a hectic winter schedule. He is due back in England in mid-April.

Nor is there an immediate necessity for an appointment with England's first one-day international

next summer against Pakistan on June 17.

"The selectors will make their observations but there's no rush," claimed Graveney.

"It's sad when these things happen but I respect that Nasser has made the decision himself - I think a lot of him as a leader and that hasn't changed."

Michael Vaughan is the favourite for the job, having usurped Marcus Trescothick as the man in waiting in recent months.

Fletcher has insisted that an outsider should not be discounted, however, when the name is revealed, which might in fact be as late as the end of April when the International Teams Management Board are next scheduled to convene.

Once they have finished their deliberations, Morgan will be informed of the choice and barring objection - the chairman has a right to veto the decision - the inheritor of Hussain's post will be named publicly.

Meanwhile, the traditional form of the game retains a marked appeal to Hussain, who is targeting 100 Test caps, an achievement which could take him a further 18 months.

To continue leading the Test side, however, he must first get the backing of the ECB.

Stuart spins NSW to final

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

New South Wales will contest their first Sheffield Shield final in almost a decade after a four-wicket burst by Test leg-spinner Stuart MacGill enabled them to beat Queensland by 241 runs in their last qualifying clash at Sydney Cricket Ground Saturday.

Test captain Steve Waugh's side will play Queensland next week in Brisbane their first appearance in a first-class state final since they won the Shield in 1993-94.

New South Wales will go into the final with a strong psychological advantage over Queensland after bowling out the visitors for 190 and 148 with a day to spare.

New South Wales trailed on the first innings after making an abysmal 102 on the first morning, but recovered in their second knock by making 477 for eight and declaring, with Steve Waugh (138) and Michael Clarke (120) batting in commanding fashion.

Queensland went into the match without strike bowler Joe Dawes, but he is expected to be fit for the final after damaging his back before this match.

The defending champions will

also be concerned about the fitness of former skipper Stuart Law, who has a bruised wrist which kept him out of this game.

To add to their woes, all-rounder Lee Carseldine hurt his back when fielding in New South Wales' first innings and is no certainty to play in the final.

After New South Wales declared at lunch Saturday, Steve Waugh took the unusual move of opening the bowling with MacGill, who snapped up 4-76 giving him nine wickets for the match.

Don Nash (4-10) cleaned up the tail, removing the last three batsmen in quick succession as New South Wales completed the win which ended Victoria's hopes of playing in the final.

Victoria have no chance of reaching the showdown, even if they beat Western Australia outright on the last day of the match ending in Melbourne Sunday.

The Victorians are in a sound position to collect maximum points after Brad Hodge hit 183 to power them to a first innings 486 - a lead of 211.

Batting a second time, Western Australia skidded to 88 for three, needing another 123 to make Victoria bat again.

U-16 Asia Cup Hosts off to solid start

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh made a flying start in the second Under-16 Boys Asia Cup hockey tournament with a huge 13-0 victory over Sri Lanka at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.

In the day's other match, holders India also made a good start as the defeated Malaysia 3-0.

Against the Sri Lankans, last year's runners-up Bangladesh stamped their domination right from the beginning and they led the first half 7-0.

Zahid Bin Talib led the home side's assault in the first half with four superb field goals while Sultan struck twice and Russell once.

After the lemon-break, Imran scored three and Asaduzzaman two goals. First-half scorer Russell again found the net to seal the match.

Earlier in the day's first match, Gurbai Singh put the Indians ahead in the 47th minute with a field goal while V Raja doubled the margin after eight minutes.

Ajmer Singh scored the third goal three minutes from the long whistle through a penalty corner.

Today's matches: Malaysia vs Sri Lanka (1pm), Bangladesh vs India (3pm).

SUPER SIX CLIPS

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Best and worst from the Super Six matches on Friday:

BEST INNINGS

Australia captain Ricky Ponting's 12th one-day century in the 96-run Super Six win over Sri Lanka had real style. Adam Gilchrist's 99 earlier in the game was awesomely powerful, but Ponting's 109-ball 114 was pure ballet. He even appealed lovers of brawn with four big sixes.

Saurav Ganguly's match-winning 107 not out to set up India's win against Kenya was also more prose than poetry, even if it was played under much more pressure and under lights.

BEST SHOT

Ponting sashayed down the pitch to Sanath Jayasuriya's left-arm spin and, in perfect position, hit an inside out lofted extra-cover drive with the spin for a perfectly

executed four.

BEST BALL

Very much a matter of opinion. Sri Lanka skipper Jayasuriya will not have enjoyed it but Brett Lee's fifth ball of the game, short and fast, fizzed through his backward defensive shot and put him out of the game after hitting him on the forearm. A couple of deliveries before, Lee had chipped Jayasuriya's thumb bone.

BEST CATCH

Sachin Tendulkar flicked a ball from Kenya seamer Martin Suji to leg and was well caught by Suji's brother Tony as he tumbled to his right, dismissing the world's leading batsman for five.

A.N. Onymous, in the Centurion crowd, came close to the award. Ponting celebrated his half-century with two consecutive sixes off left-arm Chaminda Vaas, the second a flat-trajectory tracer bullet which a spectator snatched out of the air sitting just outside the boundary boards at long on.

BEST QUOTE

"They gave us a bath today."

Sri Lanka coach Dav Whatmore, a former Australia Test player himself, after his side's 96-run defeat to Ricky Ponting's side.

WORST INNINGS

Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene was dismissed for a three-ball duck, fencing at quick bowler Lee and being caught behind. One of the world's most highly rated batsmen, he has scored 16 in five World Cup knocks.

WORST FIELDING

Sri Lanka wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara gave Ponting two extraordinary lives. On 16 he should have stumped the batsman but somehow missed the stumps with the ball in his gloves. On 35, Ponting was well short of his ground when Sangakkara caught the ball from a fielder and, flicking at the bails, missed them again.

India's fielding against Kenya was not pretty either, but still could not match Sangakkara's performance.

Pybus quits again

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masked by exceptional individual performances.

"People always talk about the talent in the Pakistan side but a team is a collective," he said. "I believe the reasons (for Pakistan's underachievement) run deeper than what happens at international level."

Pakistan's performance in South Africa was their worst since the inaugural tournament in 1975.

They were well beaten by

Australia, lost to England after getting the worst of the conditions in a day-nighter and then lost to India after a brilliant innings by Sachin Tendulkar.

The campaign ended unhappily with leading batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq, who scored 19 runs in six innings, involved in a brawl with team mates before the team's final game against Zimbabwe. That game, Pakistan's last chance of progressing on net run rate, was washed out.

THE MUSICAL CHAIRS

AFP, Johannesburg

A chronology of the frequent changes in Pakistan cricket which has seen 10 coaches and six captains in the last five years:

COACHES

September 1998: Javed Miandad takes over from Haroon Rasheed.

April 1999: Miandad resigns after a fall-out with senior players and is replaced by Mushtaq Mohammad for the 1999 World Cup.

August 1999: Mushtaq sacked after the World Cup, Wasim Raja is appointed in his place but he too makes way for Richard Pybus for the tour of Australia in November.

December 1999: Intikhab Alam takes over for the fourth time after Pybus is axed following Pakistan's 3-0 rout in a Test series in Australia.

March 2000: Miandad returns in place of Intikhab.

April 2001: Miandad sacked after Pakistan's tour of New Zealand and is replaced by Pybus.

September 2001: Pybus refuses to come to Pakistan in the wake of the September 11 terror strikes and Mudassar Nazar takes over.

September 2002: Mudassar was summoned home mid-way through the Champions Trophy and replaced by Pybus.

March 2003: Pybus says he does not want to stay on after Pakistan were knocked out in the first round of the World Cup.

CAPTAINS

February 1998: Aamir Sohail

March 1998: Rashid Latif

April 1999: Wasim Akram

February 2000: Saeed Anwar

March 2000: Moin Khan

April 2001: Waqar Younis

April 2003:?

Ricky hits the target

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earned four more and found themselves in the semifinals even before their two remaining Super Sixes games against New Zealand and Kenya.

"They gave us a bath today," he told reporters. "They are a strong, tough team playing with a lot of confidence.

"It doesn't matter if one or two get injured as someone else just pops up and blends in as if they have been playing all along. They are a very good team at the moment."

The loss leaves Sri Lanka on 7.5 points, still ahead of New Zealand and Zimbabwe in the race for a semifinal place but now with less margin for error. It means

Monday's game against India at The Wanderers takes on major significance.

"We weren't very clever today," said Whatmore.

"After this result it is another test of character for our boys and the next one against India won't be easy either.

"In the first 15 overs they hit a lot of fours and I felt their captain had a couple of lives.

"At this level it is difficult to give more than one chance and we paid for it. The next game can't come quickly enough.

"We need to get points on the board sooner rather than later. One win could get us into the semis but our objective is to win a minimum of two."

It's only Australia

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Heath Streak hit an unbeaten 72 to help his side recover to 252 for seven in their opening Super Six match against New Zealand.

Streak and wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu, who made a career-best 53, put on 68 for the seventh wicket after the Africans collapsed to 106 for six after winning the toss.

Fast bowler Streak faced 84 balls and hit two giant sixes while 62 runs came off the last three overs with Sean Ervine, 31 not out, weighing in as well in an unbroken stand of 78.

Taibu, who faced 79 balls and hit one six, was eventually snared leg-before off Chris Harris as he tried to flick the ball over the head of the wicketkeeper.

Zimbabwe, who won the toss, lost opener Dion Ebrahim for nought when he chopped on against Andre Adams and by the time Grant Flower (one) mishooked Jacob Oram to Chris Cairns, Zimbabwe were in trouble at 63 for three.

Star batsman Andy Flower was then run out for 37 as the left-hander was beaten by Nathan Asle's direct hit.