

Mohammedan climb

Cricket AFP, Johannesburg

Mohammedan Sporting Club moved into second spot in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League after an easy 70-run victory over Bangladesh Biman at the BKSF ground in Savary yesterday.

Faisal Ahmed (62 not out off 76 balls) as Uttara, chasing a paltry Surjo Tarun total of 137 in 50 overs, scored 141 in 35.2 overs.

Faisal hit one six and a dozen boundaries. Put into bat, Surjo Tarun were bundled out for 137 in 48.5 overs with middle-order Nasiruddin scoring highest 53.

With that win, Uttara raised their tally to 26 points from ten matches while Surjo Tarun remain on 12 points so far from nine matches.

Mosaddek 6 0 32 0 Khan 10 0 44 2 Aminulsr 1 0 11 0

RashedulbMunir 57 MosaddekArifbHasibul 0 KhanJavedbEnamul 41 JahanzamanbMunir 17 AminulsrAfabbNaimur 13 JahangircKaluwitharanabMunir12 ZiaulrbwMunir 0 AminuljrbwbFahim 9 AhsanullahbFahim 16 Mortuzanotout 7 AniscEnamulbFahim 0 Extras:(b-6w-6) 12

Total:(Alloutin48.5overs) 174 Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-85, 3-118, 4-119, 5-123, 6-123, 7-138, 8-152, 9-174

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes: SaquibRanabRabbani 3, FazlecRanabRabbani 0, Nasiruddinck&bMunirul 53, MAkhterRanabDebabrata 1, SohelliwbwDebabrata 8, IlyascRanabRabbani 1.

Obayedrunout 9 Ziaulnotout 4 NazmulNayeembMonirul 5 MominstMonizamanbMonirul 0 Extras:(b-7,lb-8,nb-5,w-23) 6-34, 7-117, 8-131, 9-134

Total:(Alloutin48.5overs) 137 Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-18, 3-23, 4-35, 5-44, 6-34, 7-117, 8-131, 9-134

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes: ShaheerCSohehbMomin 24, MoinuzamanlbwNazmul 10, NayeemcNazmulbMAkhter 10, Faisalnotout 62, SumonMominbMAkhter 7, RanacDhimanbObayed 1, Monirulnotout 5, Extras:(b-6w-16) 22, Total:(For5wksin35.2overs)141

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-55, 3-75, 4-90, 5-104

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes: Momin 7 0 33 1, Nazmul 6 2 28 1, MAkhter 8 2 32 2, Ilyas 3 1 9 0, Obayed 6 2 1 18 1, Ziaul 4 2 9 0, Dhiman 1 0 6 0



Bangladesh Grand Master Ziaur Rahman (L) and his Uzbek opponent Alexi Barosov during their fourth round encounter of the 6th United Insurance and United Leasing Grand Masters chess tournament at the NSC chess room yesterday. Zia and Barosov drew.

Flower set

FROM PAGE 13 about what they have done in the last 20 years," said Flower. "I have made mistakes both on and off the field but I have kept learning."

Flower, whose brother Grant also played in the Zimbabwe World Cup team, had been threatened with being dropped from the squad if he did not give up on his protest which bitterly attacked the Mugabe regime.

He refused and his place was secured when other senior players said they would not take the field if their star batsman was axed.

Olonga, who hasn't played since the first match against Namibia, has already been sacked by his domestic club for his part in the protest.

Despite his anger with the authorities in Zimbabwe, Flower is adamant that he hasn't given up hope of his team making it to the semifinals and is confident of wins in the next two matches against Kenya on Wednesday and against Sri Lanka in East London on Saturday.

"We have been lucky to have got as far as we have but we need to win the next two games," he said.

"We can make the semifinals. We can beat Kenya and Sri Lanka are not at the top of their game at the moment."

"I don't want to leave the World Cup just yet."

Marat leads chess board

Uzbek Grand Master Marat Dzhumaev took a solo lead in the 6th United Insurance and United Leasing Grand Masters chess tournament with 3.5 points at the end of the fourth round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Auditorium yesterday.

In the round, Dzhumaev drew with Alexander Goloshchapov of Ukraine.

GM Sergey Tiviakov of the Netherlands and GM Alexi Barosov of Uzbekistan were in the 2nd position with 3 points each. Bangladesh GM Ziaur Rahman, GM Goloshchapov of Ukraine and IM Vakhidov Tahir of Uzbekistan were following them in the third place with 2.5 points each.

Tiviakov lost against IM Neelotpal Das of India, Barosov drew with Zia. Tahir drew with GM Magem Badals Jordi, IM Enamul Hossain Razib beat IM Reefat Bin Sattar, GM Niaz Murshed beat FIDE Master Nasir Ahmed and IM Abdullah AI Rakib beat FM Taibur Rahman Sumon.

Earlier the participants, arbiters, organisers, volunteers and the spectators observed one minute's silence to show respect to Masud Ahmed Rumi, a renowned sports journalist who died in the morning.

Fifth round games will start today at 3:00 pm at the same venue.

Olonga raring

FROM PAGE 13 That was also the day he and Andy Flower began their protest against what they saw as human rights abuses in Zimbabwe by wearing black armbands.

Flower has retained his place, despite being reported by his national board to the International Cricket Council and asked to stop his protest.

Olonga said he was ready to resume active duty.

"I've done a lot of fielding (as 12th man) but I'm very fresh, there's plenty of energy left in these legs," Olonga said.

Zimbabwe have an unbeaten record against Kenya, beating them in their 12 completed games. Two other matches ended in no results.

Heath Streak's team need to win both on Wednesday and against Sri Lanka in East London on Saturday to reach the semifinals.

Olonga would seem to be part of the strongest combination injury-hit Zimbabwe can put on the field.

Batsman Mark Vermeulen (fractured skull) and leg spinner Brian Murphy (torn calf) have returned home, while experienced all-rounder Guy Whittall is battling a calf muscle strain and key batsman Andy Flower has an ongoing groin problem.

First Mickey, now Jerry

AFP, Johannesburg

First it was cricket at Disney World, now American tabloid TV is courtning the grand old game.

Chat show host and former mayor of Cincinnati Jerry Springer, best known for presiding over the squabbling and foul-mouthed representatives of America's underbelly on his US television show, was at Centurion to see Australia annihilate Sri Lanka last week.

"He very much enjoyed his day and he thinks cricket's a bit like baseball," Springer's agent Bobby Heaney told the BBC website.

"He frankly feels it's not as exciting as baseball though. He said that with cricket you've got two guys who smack the ball and one guy who bowls it."

"But whereas there's several plays happening at once in baseball, cricket is a lot more simplistic. That's what Jerry feels, anyway."

Springer's interest in the game comes just two days after the International Cricket Council (ICC) admitted that some fixtures in the 2007 World Cup, to be staged in the West Indies, may be played in the United States with Disney World, home of Mickey Mouse amongst others, one of the favoured venues.

GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League Kalabagan KC v Indira Road KC Venue: BKSP Young Pegasus v Orient SC

Asghar's removal

FROM PAGE 13 "We were stunned at the disappointing performance of the national team in the World Cup. However, what shocked us even more was the Board president's recent attempt at putting all the blame on the cricketers," said Mubassar.

Asghar has formed a two-man inquiry committee to probe Bangladesh's horrible showing in the World Cup where they lost five out of their six games including defeats against non-Test playing minnows Canada and Kenya.

The suspended directors termed Asghar's action as an 'eyewash' as the job of the fact-finding committee has been restricted to World Cup related matters only.

"The poor performance of our team in the World Cup warrants an inquiry. But it should look into all the aspects including administration, training, preparation, finance and selection," said Mubassar adding that the general public hoped for a judicial inquiry.

The out of favour directors warned Asghar that he should not try to shift the blame of his errors on them since he acted alone while taking questionable decisions like appointing Pakistani Mohsin Kamal as coach and ASM Faruque as team manager of the World Cup squad.

"We also want to remind the president that he is to bear responsibility for any legal implications that may arise from spending the Board's money," said Mubassar. He also suggested that the Minister for Sports should issue a white paper on the BCB's expenses since Asghar took over.

Calling the 12-member advisory committee of Asghar 'a dead body', the directors observed that the present president's one and a half-year reign has been a disastrous one for cricket.

"It was expected that cricket would only grow on the solid platform of Test status. But at the end of

Sanath was right

FROM PAGE 13 to keep wickets in hand, but lost four within the first four overs.

"It was easier to bat in the second innings but we did not bat well."

Sri Lanka, who carried 7.5 points through to the Super Six from the first round, now need other matches to go their way if they are to have a hope of a semifinal place.

Should New Zealand down either Australia or India, and Kenya beat Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka's campaign would reach a dead-end before their final match against Zimbabwe in East London on Saturday.

"That will be a big one," Jayasuriya said of the match. "But we will have to play much better cricket than this."

Tikolo vows to topple

FROM PAGE 13 Meanwhile Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak indicated that former skipper Alistair Campbell, only called up to the squad after batsman Mark Vermeulen sustained a skull fracture batting in the nets here Friday, would play.

"It's good to have someone with his experience, an opener for an opener. He's got hundreds up front for us before and there's a pretty good chance he will be pitching up," Streak said.

But the pace bowler ruled out all-rounder Guy Whittall's chances. "Guy won't be ready, he's got a hamstring strain," explained Streak, who added that star batsman Andy Flower, who had a niggling strain, would be fit.

Streak insisted his team would not be taking Kenya lightly. "We'll approach Kenya in the same way we approached Australia."

"But we'll try to dominate in our own way, play good cricket and win."

Both press conferences were well-attended which has not always been the case in the past for two of world cricket's lesser nations.

"It's great to see so many reporters here for Kenya. When we arrived in Sri Lanka for the Champions Trophy there was no one," Patil said. "I was asking (questions to) Steve and Steve was asking me."

Kenya on a mission

FROM PAGE 13 Zimbabwe's opening group match watched his men produce one of the shocks of the tournament by beating Sri Lanka in the group phase.

"Our record against anyone is not that good," he cheerfully admitted.

"But we are capable of causing these upsets, so why not another one?"

Paceman Henry Olonga took six for 28 in Zimbabwe's nine-wicket win when the teams last met in Bulawayo in December, but Olonga hasn't played since

Campbell, whose kit has still to arrive, said Zimbabwe were in for a tough game.

"The Kenyans have got no world-beaters, but their bowlers bowl an irritating length, there are not too many balls to hit. And their batsmen are capable of posting a score," he said.

Both Andy Flower and Guy Whittall have niggling injuries.

Flower is expected to play but Whittall's hamstring problem will be assessed again on Tuesday.

Travis Friend, the man who inadvertently ended Vermeulen's World Cup in the nets here and who was a substitute fielder in the six-wicket defeat by New Zealand, could well start as Zimbabwe are a bowler light after losing leg-spinner Brian Murphy to a calf injury.

His place in the squad has gone to Stuart Matsikenyer.

LINE-UPS ZIMBABWE (from): Heath Streak (captain), Andy Blignaut, Dion Ebrahim, Sean Ervine, Andy Flower, Grant Flower, Travis Friend, Douglas Hondo, Douglas Marillier, Henry Olonga, Tatenda Taibu, Alistair Campbell, Guy Whittall, Craig Wishart, Stuart Matsikenyer

KENYA (from): Steve Tikolo (captain), Maurice Odumbe, Asif Karim, Alpesh Vadher, Ravindu Shah, Hitesh Modi, Brijal Patel, Martin Suji, Tony Suji, Thomas Odoayo, Kennedy Otieno, Joseph Angara, Peter Ongondo, David Obuya, Collins Obuya.

Umpires: Sriniwas Venkatraghavan (Ind) and Aleem Dar (Pak) TV umpire: Billy Bowden (NZ) Match referee: Wasim Raja (Pak)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Guys' moley! 2 Is that your final --? 3 Lucy of Angles! 4 Massage wings 5 Public tantrum character 6 What TGIFers anticipate 7 Wheel rod 8 Drag along 9 Chongs session? 10 Floors 11 He had a golden touch 13 Walk of Fame honorees 14 Antitoxin 15 Les of swing 16 See saw, Margery -- 17 Plumber's tool 19 Afternoon affair 20 Id 21 Earlier than 23 Juror, in theory 24 Antitoxin 26 Tuts' foot down 28 Has the where-withal 30 Newsman 31 Glimpsed 35 Deep hollows 39 Lazily



CRYPTOQUIP A W V D Y Q Z W M S Z W Z Q T Y Q X C Q A T C J T L X L X C Q S K S M X H J L W W S Q A X Y X V T S L Q C W Y T H D Q S T L

Yesterday's Cryptquip: THE STUDY ON OBEISITY HAD TO BE POSITIONED UNTIL THEY HAD A LARGE ENOUGH TEST GROUP. Today's Cryptquip Clue: C equals R. The Cryptquip 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.

FORM GUIDE

Table with columns: Date, Team, Opponent, Result/Score. Includes: March 8 2003, lost to New Zealand by 6 wickets; March 4 2003, v Pakistan No Result; Feb 28 2003, beat Netherlands by 99 runs; Feb 24 2003, lost to Australia by 7 wickets; Feb 19 2003, lost to India by 83 runs; Feb 13 2003, beat England (match forfeited); Feb 10 2003, beat Namibia by 86 runs; Dec 15 2002, beat Kenya by 9 wickets; Dec 11 2002, beat Kenya by 47 runs; Dec 8 2002, v Kenya No Result; KENYA (won 4 lost 5 NR 1) March 7 2003, lost to India by 6 wickets; March 4 2003, lost to West Indies by 142 runs; March 1 2003, beat Bangladesh by 32 runs; Feb 24 2003, beat Sri Lanka by 53 runs; Feb 21 2003, beat New Zealand (match forfeited); Feb 15 2003, beat Canada by 4 wickets; Feb 12 2003, lost to South Africa by 10 wickets