

Victoria too good for MSC

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Victoria Sporting Club crossed a major hurdle in defense of their title when they thrashed Mohammedan Sporting Club by eight wickets in a crucial GrameenPhone Premier League match at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday.

The eagerly anticipated clash of the two powerful teams turned into a mismatch after Victoria raced to their target of 185 in 32.2 overs for the loss of only two wickets.

The holders never looked back once their Pakistani opener Wasim Naveen got going after the bowlers had restricted Mohammedan to a modest 184-7 in 50 overs.

With the skies looking ominous, Naveen scored a blazing unbeaten 92 off 85 balls to make sure Victoria finish the chase before rain could spoil the party.

Wasim shared 123 runs for the second wicket with Mohammed Salim, who scored an equally impressive 61 off 80 balls.

The young wicketkeeper from Khulna has been a consistent performer this season both with the bat and the wicketkeeping gloves. Selim, who won the best wicketkeeper award in the National League, produced yet another solid performance while batting at number three.

He struck four boundaries and a couple of sixes before being dismissed by off-spinner Fahim Muntasir, leaving Victoria 38 runs away from a convincing win.

But Wasim was not ready to resign until the Mohammedan demolition was completed. The strongly built right-hander hammered a dozen boundaries and a six to leave no one in doubt who the man-of-the-match should be.

It was Victoria's tenth win from 12 games. They have 56 points on completion of the first phase.

Only City Club, the surprise package of this years league, have a realistic chance of finishing on equal points with Victoria provided they win their next two games against Brothers Union and Uttara Sporting Club.

For Mohammedan, who had formed the most impressive team on paper, it was another disappointing outing.

Their batting never took off against the tidy Victoria bowling attack once they were put into bat. Experienced batsman Javed Omar, batting in the unfamiliar number four position, top-scored for Mohammedan with a 60-ball 34.

Opener Nafis Iqbal struggled to make 29 off 62 balls. Skipper Minhazul Abedin also made 29 and veteran left-arm spinner Enamul Hoque was the other notable scorer

with 20.

The defeat, their fourth in 11 games, left Mohammedan with 42 points and plenty of work to do.

Mohammedan's defeat have however opened the door for their bitter rivals Abahani. With two more first phase games against Indira Road and Orients SC in hand, the popular Dhanmondi club have a bright chance to leapfrog their Motijheel opponents in the table.

With the battle lines for the Super Six already drawn, traditional giants like Bangladesh Biman, Brothers Union, Surjo Tarun and Kalabagan are struggling for survival in the bottom half.

Surjo Tarun suffered a 51-run defeat against Young Pegasus in the other match of the day at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium to remain last with Bangladesh Biman.

Pegasus scored 231 for eight in their stipulated 50 overs. Tarun in reply were 156 for nine in 38.4 overs when rain stopped play. According to parabola method, Tarun needed to score 207 at that stage.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards of the two GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League matches yesterday:

Victoria SC v Mohammedan SC
Venue: BKSP

MOHAMMEDAN SC
Nafees lbw b Razzak 29
Fahim c Sabbir b Saiful 2

Aftab run out 14
Javed c Nuruzzaman b Sabbir 34
Naimur c Azam b Sabbir 29

S Mahmud c & b Manzarul 5
Minhazul not out 29
Enamul c Nuruzzaman b Mushfiq 20

Anwar not out 8
Extras: (b-6, lb-4, nb-2, w-2) 14
Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs) 184

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-28, 3-54, 4-116, 5-123, 6-124, 7-161.

Bowler O M R W
Saiful 8 1 22 1
Mushfiq 9 2 30 1
Razzak 10 3 28 1
Nuruzzaman 4 0 16 0
Sabbir 10 0 37 2
Manzarul 9 0 41 1

VICTORIA
Wasim not out 92
Parvez lbw b Monir 8
Salim c Anwar b Fahim 61
Azam not out 11
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, nb-2, w-1) 13
Total: (For 2 wks in 32.3 overs) 185

Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-147.
Bowler O M R W
Hasibul 5 0 26 0
Monir 6 0 28 1
Enamul 6 0 40 0
S Mahmud 6 0 30 0
Naimur 4 0 15 0
Fahim 5 0 36 1

Result: Victoria SC won by eight wickets.
Young Pegasus v Surjo Tarun
Venue: FCS

YOUNG PEGASUS
Rakibul b Nazmul 16
Junayed c & b Ilyas 54
Fahad c Saquib b Obayed 61
Murad st Dhiman b Obayed 18
Niralal c Nasir b Ilyas 2
Rezanul c Nasir b Nazmul 29
Tanvir b Nazmul 17
Jamil st Dhiman b Akhter 3
Shahzada not out 9
Rezaul not out 5
Extras: (b-3, lb-3, nb-2, w-9) 17
Total: (For 8 wks in 50 overs) 231

Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-88, 3-143, 4-147, 5-187, 6-211, 7-216, 8-216.

Bowler O M R W
Momin 9 3 41 0

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	T	Points
1. Victoria SC	12	10	2	0	56
2. City Club	10	8	2	0	44
3. Mohammedan	11	7	4	0	42
4. Abahani KC	10	7	3	0	38
5. Indira Road	10	6	4	0	32
6. Uttara SC	11	6	5	0	32
7. Y Pegasus	11	5	6	0	30
8. Orient SC	10	4	6	0	24
9. Brothers	10	4	6	0	20
10. Kalabagan	10	3	7	0	18
11. Biman	11	2	9	0	12
12. Surjo Tarun	11	2	9	0	12
13. Development Squad	11	5	6	0	0

Note:
* Top six teams qualify for the Super Six phase.

Bowler O M R W

Nazmul 10 0 56 3
Ilyas 10 1 39 2
Rafiqul 8 1 21 0
MAkhter 6 0 33 1
Obayed 7 0 35 2

SURJOTARUN
Dhiman c sub b Jamil 9
Saquib c Niralal b Jamil 5
Jubayer run out 22
Nasir b Jamil 5
MAkhter not out 72
Sohel b Kamal 0
Obayed st Niralal b kamal 10
Ilyas c Niralal b Karim 0
Nazmul st Niralal b Rezanul 2
Rafiqul c Niralal b Shahzada 4
Momin not out 0
Extras: (b-1, lb-8, nb-2, w-16) 27
Total: (For 9 wks in 38.4 overs) 156

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-17, 3-23, 4-81, 5-84, 6-116, 7-125, 8-134, 9-140.

Bowler O M R W
Shahzada 7.4 1 25 1
Jamil 10 0 31 3
Murad 3 0 19 0
Karim 5 0 27 1
Kamal 5 0 12 2
Rezanul 8 0 33 1

Result: Young Pegasus won by 51 runs

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ICC Cricket World Cup
SOUTH AFRICA 2003

AFP, Johannesburg

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The 39-year-old Karim got rid of skipper Ricky Ponting, Darren Lehmann and Brad Hogg to finish with figures of 3-7 in their Kingsmead day-night Super Six clash.

And although the African minnows went down to a five-wicket defeat, acting skipper Hitesh Modi warned India that they are planning a huge upset when they meet at the same venue in the semifinal.

"India should watch out. We have nothing to lose and if we believe in ourselves, we can do it," said Modi.

Karim came out of retirement to play in the World Cup having quit after the last tournament in 1999.

"It was a wonderful day. There was turn in the wicket for me and by the grace of God I did well," Karim said at the end of an emotional day at the World Cup which also saw Shaun Pollock sacked as South African skipper and Zimbabwe fast bowler Henry Olonga quitting international cricket and going into exile.

Chasing 175 to win under the lights of Kingsmead, Australia reached their target in just 31.2 overs with Adam Gilchrist hitting a blistering 67.

Earlier, the Africans had to recover from a Brett Lee hat-trick in the fourth over, which reduced

them to 3-3, by removing Kennedy Otieno, Brijal Patel and David Obuya.

Ravindu Shah and skipper Steve Tikolo then added 79 for the fourth wicket with Shah reaching 46 and Tikolo, 51.

Sri Lanka predicted they will dethrone mighty Australia in their semifinal at Port Elizabeth after they had clinched their last four spot with a 74-run win over Zimbabwe at East London.

"I think on that pitch we can win it," said Jayasuriya.

The St George's Park wicket at Port Elizabeth is the slowest in the tournament and is expected to be a playground for Sri Lanka's spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan.

Meanwhile, South Africa are expected to name Western Province batsman Graeme Smith as their new skipper following the sacking of Pollock, who paid the price for his country's dismal campaign which saw them eliminated in the first round.

Also making an exit was Olonga, who called time on his international career claiming he was being threatened for his anti-Robert Mugabe protest.

He has gone into exile saying it's unsafe for him to return to Zimbabwe.

His announcement came on the same day that teammate Andy Flower, who had joined him in his black armband protest against Mugabe, played his final game for his country.

On the field at East London, Sri Lanka made 256-5 with Marvan Atapattu making an unbeaten 103 before Zimbabwe were bowled out for 182.

Andy Flower's 13-year international career ended controversially

when he was given out lbw to Aravinda de Silva despite getting an inside edge having made 38.

"For the last 13 years it has been an honour and a privilege to represent my country. The decision to bring my international career to an end has been a difficult and sad one to make," Flower said as he joined Olonga in exile.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the World Cup Super Six day-night match between Australia and Kenya at Kingsmead on Saturday:

KENYA: 174 for eight in 50 overs (S Tikolo 51, R Shah 46, H Modi 39; B Lee 3-14, D Lehmann 2-22, A Bichel 2-42)

AUSTRALIA
Gilchrist c D Obuya b Ongondo 67
Hayden c sub (Angara) b Ongondo 20
Ponting lbw b Karim 18
Symonds not out 33
Lehmann c D Obuya b Karim 2
Hogg c and b Karim 0
Harvey not out 28
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, w-4, nb-1) 10
Total: (For 5 wks in 31.2 overs) 178

Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-98, 3-109, 4-117, 5-117

Bowler O M R W
MSuji 3 0 36 0
Ongondo 10 0 44 2
TSuji 2 0 24 0
C Obuya 8 0 62 0
Karim 8.2 6 7 3

Result: Australia won by five wickets
Man-of-the-match: Asif Karim
Toss: Australia
Umpires: Billy Bowden (Nz) and Steve Bucknor (WIs)
TV umpire: Asoka De Silva (Sri)
Match referee: Mike Procter (Rsa)

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BRAC University defeated Daffodil University by 174 runs in the second day of the AIUB-Pepsi Cup cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Batting first, BRAC made 254 for eight in the stipulated 40 overs. Opener Rezanul scored team highest 110. Anisur made 36 and Raqibul 25. Shaiful took 4 wickets for 27 while Shahriar grabbed 3 for 20.

In reply, Daffodil were all out for 80 runs. Zahidul picked 4 wickets for 17 and Moniruzzaman 3 for 6.

Officials

FROM PAGE 13
India and Kenya at Durban on March 20. Simon Taufel of Australia is the TV umpire while Sri Lankan Asoka De Silva will be the fourth umpire. Mike Procter is the match referee.

David Richardson, ICC general manager-cricketer said: "These appointments reflect the consistently high standards of decision making and match management achieved over the course of the tournament."

"All officials have been assessed on a match-by-match basis, and the eight umpires selected for the finals are the men who have performed best in the opinion of the captains, match referees and the ICC."

Officials for the final at The Wanderers on March 23 will be announced after the second semifinal.

Streak

FROM PAGE 13
untenable. The stand I took earlier in the World Cup has undoubtedly had repercussions that have affected both my career and my personal life," Olonga added.

"I believe that if I were to continue to play for Zimbabwe in the midst of the prevailing crisis I would do so only by neglecting the voice of my conscience."

"I would also be condoning the grotesque human rights violations that have been perpetrated and continue to be perpetrated against my fellow countrymen."

Andy Flower will play county cricket for Essex later this year and had already moved his wife and three children to the safer environment of England.

Meanwhile, another senior player Guy Whittall also quit the game on Sunday to concentrate on his family's ranching business in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe selector Andy Pycroft also resigned his post earlier during the tournament in protest at not being consulted when the team was picked to play the first Super Sixes match against New Zealand.

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