

Easy wins for Boys, Orient

SPORTS REPORTER

Experienced opener Masumuddowla anchored Orient Sporting Club to a four-wicket victory over Young Pegasus B in the Kai-Altech First Division Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Opting to bat first, Young Pegasus B only managed 191-7 in 50 overs to which Orient replied by winning the game with 10 balls to spare.

Pegasus captain Sajed Ali Khan scored a polished half-century but only received support from Omar Faruq (42*). Ariful Hasan took 3-34 while Raihan picked up two wickets.

In reply, Orient relied on their opener Masumuddowla who stuck around till the end, hitting 72 off 127 balls. He struck six boundaries. Off-spinner Sajed was the pick of the bowlers, taking 2-25 while seamer Sajadul Karim picked up one.

Rezwani Islami picked up three wickets as Bangladesh Boys notched up an easy win by five wickets against Dhanmondi at the Dhaka University ground.

Boys bowled out Dhanmondi for only 162 runs in 45.4 overs with Rezwan creating most of the damage. Only captain Shahriar Alam batted with sincerity, scoring 40 runs. Arifur Rahman then hit a solid 58 to propel Boys to the easy win.

Rayed's day in the sun

SPORTS REPORTER

Rayed's half-century and four-wicket haul was enough to give Uttara High School a huge 121-run victory against Tejgaon Government High School in the Standard Chartered Young Tigers School Cricket competition at the Dhupkhola Jagannath University ground yesterday.

Batting first, Uttara scored 193 in 42.2 overs with Rayed scoring 56. Then he helped skittle Tejgaon out for 72 runs in 18.3 overs with impressive figures of 4 for 9.

At the adjacent East End Club ground, BLS High School beat Dr Md. Shahidullah Adarsha Vidyapith by 34 runs while Lalmatia Housing Society School trounced Badra Alatunnesa High School by 70 runs at the Uttara Friends Club ground.

Wills Little Flower rode on Bibek Das (55) as they defeated Alhaj Modhu Bepari High School by 60 runs at the Dhanmondi Club ground while at the Iqbal Road ground, Sher-e-Bangla Government Boys High School beat Gulshan Model High School by 22 runs.

Visitors on top

Enamul claimed the day's last wicket trapping Prior leg before wicket to finish with figures of 2-67 in 28 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH A: First innings 209 all out in 86.5 overs.

ENGLAND A: First innings 268-6 in 91 overs (overnight 0 for no loss in 1 over) (Jefferson 38, Compton 23, Yardy 34, Carberry 70, Davies 37, Prior 3, London 25 not out, Bresnan 21 not out, extras 17; Dollar 1-59, Enamul 2-67, Mosharraf 2-62).

United go

FROM PAGE 20
return to the club that he established as a Premiership force over the course of 15 years at the Valley.

"We are in desperate need of a win and we're hoping it will come on Saturday," the Hammers boss said ahead of his head-to-head with Alan Pardew, who took over at Charlton after being sacked to make way for Curbishley at Upton Park.

With the relegation battle now looking like it will be played out between the bottom four clubs, Wigan entertain Newcastle on Sunday.

Portsmouth are at Blackburn later the same day while Tottenham's claims to be worthy of a place in the top five will be put to the test when Martin Jol's side entertain Bolton, who currently sit 5th in the league.

Inter to dump

FROM PAGE 20
real reason behind his snubbing was because the former Parma youngster had not recovered from his 25th birthday celebrations three days earlier.

Adriano is no stranger to this kind of Milan nightife controversy, but Il Corriere dello Sport suggests that Inter have now had enough.

Although chief Massimo Moratti denied that Adriano would be fined for his latest misdemeanour, the paper insists the international will be hit in the pocket.

Now it is understood that Moratti is ready to sell the Emperor at the end of the season, possibly in a swap deal with Real Madrid's Antonio Cassano.

The Nerazzurri are also being linked with moves for Cristiano Ronaldo of Manchester United and Lionel Messi of Barcelona.



PHOTO: STAR
GrameenPhone assistant general manager Mir Nawbut Ali speaks as Bangladesh Tennis Federation general secretary Md Sanaul Haque and GrameenPhone media manager Moin Tareq look on during a press conference at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

Perfect for Pietersen

REUTERS, London

ICC Cricket World Cup
WEST INDIES 2007

Kevin Pietersen.

Pietersen's boundless talent is matched only by his ambition.

He left his native South Africa openly disgruntled with a quota system for black players. Disenchanted with Nottinghamshire he moved to more congenial surroundings in Hampshire.

Called up for the England one-day side, he promptly defied a hostile reception to strike a century against his native country.

Then on promotion to the Test side, he targeted Australia's matchless pace and spin bowling pair Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne with audacious half-centuries in a losing cause at Lord's.

Finally he launched an astonish-

ing counter-attack in the final Test at The Oval, London's other show-piece ground, hitting seven sixes in an innings of 158 and hooking Brett Lee off his forehead into the crowd to ensure England drew the match and won the 2005 Ashes.

In the following English summer, Pietersen scored heavily against Sri Lanka, including an unforgettable reverse sweep for six off Muttiah Muralidaran. He was England's best batsman in the dismal Ashes series in Australia before leaving the tri-series early after he was injured by McGrath.

Throughout the fraught Ashes campaign as the euphoria of 2005 vanished in a 5-0 series reverse, Pietersen was targeted relentlessly by his opponents, the crowds and, finally, by Australian coach John Buchanan, who said he was not a team player.

He was also criticised when he was bowled around his legs trying a sweep shot against Warne when England collapsed to a humiliating

defeat in Adelaide.

"I enjoyed the cricket. The challenge was fantastic, the rivalry on the field was magnificent," Pietersen told the Sunday Times. "I loved it but you don't need people giving you a hard time, you're coping it on the field, you're coping it off the field, you're coping it in taxis and walking to the bus."

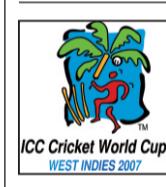
England's Ashes humiliation was followed by victory in the tri-series, which at least gave them some hope for the World Cup and provide further motivation for Pietersen.

friendly West Indian pitches and short boundaries will suit Pietersen and he clearly thrives on responsibility. Like all champions, reverses only spur him on in his quest to become a truly great batsman.

"There's records to break, runs to be scored," he said. "World Cups to win and more...."

Sister knows best!

BBC ONLINE, undated

ICC Cricket World Cup
WEST INDIES 2007

It may come as a surprise to many cricket fans to find out Ed Joyce is not the first member of his family to play in a Cricket World Cup.

He is in fact the third -- after his twin sisters Isobel and Cecelia represented Ireland Women.

And they will be offering advice to their 28-year-old older brother as he prepares to head off to the Caribbean with the rest of the England squad on 2 March.

Cecelia hopes Ireland's men's team will find the going easier in Australia but we'll be following the Ireland boys and Ed from Oz," Cecelia told BBC Sport.

"We both love Australia and we're there for the Melbourne Test although we missed Ed's maiden one day century against Australia in Sydney. It was our first ever holiday abroad because cricket has always come first."

Ed initially helped Ireland qualify for the World Cup, averaging nearly 100 in the ICC Trophy and scoring 60 against Denmark to seal Ireland's passage to the West Indies.

The Middlesex star was subsequently fated in Ireland, but then switched to England colours -- as he qualifies by residence -- and it

hasn't engendered any bad feeling in his home country.

"Most people in Ireland hope Ed does well, and they want England to win the World Cup because realistically Ireland can't expect to get beyond the group stages.

"There's a sense of 'the boy done good' and lots of Irish cricket fans are proud that Ed has the ability to mix it with the best in the world."

Ireland face Pakistan, West Indies and Zimbabwe, and I think the goal will be to claim one scalp, and that could well be Zimbabwe."

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Just as in the men's game Australia have been so dominant, you can't help but admire them.

"But their men's one day form has slumped for some reason and I think the World Cup is set up to be really open and exciting."

Lee blow

FROM PAGE 17

"The bowling group are obviously a bit down in confidence at the moment. The big key for the World Cup is to get that back up to the levels that it can be."

Lee sent Clark a text message Friday wishing him good luck for the tournament.

"It's really disappointing for Brett, because he's a friend in the team and a friend outside of the team as well," Clark told reporters.

"It's hollow, but I'm still excited about going to the World Cup."

Without the 30-year-old spearhead, Australia's bowlers were battered by New Zealand's batsmen in the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy series.

They took a total of just 13 wickets while conceding two of the three biggest run chases in one-day history - 336 and 346 - in crashing to a disastrous series sweep on grounds similar in size to those Australia will experience in the Caribbean.

Lee ranks behind Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne as Australia's third all-time leading wicket-taker in one-day internationals, with 267 wickets in 150 matches.

Clark, who was Australia's Ashes bowling hero against England with 26 wickets, has taken 35 wickets in 24 one-day internationals, conceding 5.49 runs an over.

Australia still have injury concerns concerning allrounder Andrew Symonds (bicep) and opener Matthew Hayden (broken toe) ahead of the World Cup.

down the stumps twice from backward square leg and also enabled Lloyd to break the wicket at the bowler's end when Ian Chappell hesitated and then set off for the third impossible run.

Nevertheless, Turner and particularly Ian Chappell played extremely well before their miseries, but West Indies always had the edge until near the end when Thomson and Lillee threw their bats, adding 41 in their attempt to win a lost cause. It was the longest day of the year, the longest day in cricket history and one that those who were there and the millions who watched it on television will never forget.

Prince Philip presented the Cup amidst hilarious scenes to their talented captain, the Man of the Match, Clive Lloyd, just before nine o'clock on a glorious summer's evening. From 11 am till 8.43 pm the cricketers from the Caribbean had been locked in a succession of thrills with the cricketers from the Southern Cross. It might not be termed first-class cricket, but the game has never produced better entertainment in one-day.

mighty West Indies took on a talented Australian side. Ian Chappell won the toss and invited the West Indies to bat as they struggled initially. Then came Lloyd and at once he showed himself master of the situation. He hooked Lillee in majestic style, square for 6, and then put Walker off the back foot past cover with contemptuous ease. At the other end Lloyd had the dependable Kanhai as a willing anchor man - he did not score for 11 overs - and so the pair put on 149 together in 36 overs. Lloyd hit two 6's and twelve 4's and was at the crease only one hour and forty-eight minutes while making his scintillating hundred off 82 balls.

More powerful hitting came from Boyce and Julien so that Australia required 292 to lift the Cup. Although they challenged to the very end and might have won had they shown some discretion when trying to steal precious runs, they contributed to their own destruction, for as many as five men were run out by the brilliant West Indies fielders.

The amazing Kallicharran had begun their troubles with a dazzling slip catch which removed McCosker, then Richards threw

the ball to the wicket-keeper, and Lloyd was run out by a bouncer from Symonds.

It was a repeat of the group stage match as the

Int'l tennis coming to town

SPORTS REPORTER

Five countries including hosts Bangladesh will take part in the Junior Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone pre-qualifying tournament from February 26.

Boys from Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Singapore will travel to Dhaka for the round-robin matches of the premier boys' tennis competition, according to a press conference where GrameenPhone officials Mir Nawbut Ali and Moin Tareq and Bangladesh Tennis Federation general secretary Md Sanaul Haque were present at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

They also announced that the same zonal matches for the junior Federation Cup, the girls' event, would begin on February 28.

In the girls' competition, Bangladesh will play Pakistan, Singapore and Sri Lanka, also in round-robin matches.

The tournament will end on March 2.

SL issues wc stamps

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka on Friday issued two commemorative World Cup stamps in a bid to boost its cricketers ahead of the tournament starting in the Caribbean next month.

"What we are trying to do is to encourage the players. We don't want to put any undue burdens, but just to show the players that the entire nation is behind them," Sports Minister Gamini Lokuge said.

The diamond-shaped stamps, worth five rupees and 50 rupees, have been issued by the Philatelic Bureau of the Department of Post and Telecommunications in collaboration with Sri Lanka Cricket.

Former Sri Lanka captains Michael Tissera, Bandula Warnapura and Duleep Mendis were present when the stamps were issued by Postmaster General Sherwin Senadira at Sri Lanka Cricket headquarters here.

One million five-rupee stamps and 500,000 50-rupee stamps will soon be available.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17

Evana and Mimi won their respective first round boards.

ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

The annual sports competition of Mohammadpur Preparatory and Higher Secondary School will be held at the school premises today.

Ctg hang

FROM PAGE 17

The departure of Nafis saw another mini collapse as the visitors lost two more wickets within a run before Ehsanul Haque (63 not out off 104 balls) and Dhiran Ghosh (32) salvaged the party by adding 60 runs in a sixth wicket stand.

Sunny took three wickets giving away 86 runs in 32 overs. Meanwhile, Chittagong trailed by 211 runs in the first essay.

Kamrul batted patiently to score 49 off 150 balls that featured six fours while Imrul smashed 83 off 103 deliveries with the help of eight fours and three sixes.

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