

MSC crush Sonargaon

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club took sweet revenge against Sonargaon Cricketers as they clinched the Independence Cup cricket title with a massive 102-run victory at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Well-built opener Rashidul Haque smashed 62 off 71 balls with the help of ten boundaries and a six as Mohammedan, who lost against the same opponents by 52 runs in the Premier League earlier, posted 237 runs before being bowled out in 49.5 overs after deciding to bat first.

Ehsanul Haque was the other notable scorer with a 65-ball 42 that featured three fours. Off-spinner Fahim Muntasir grabbed four wickets for 40 runs.

In reply, Sonargaon made a disastrous start, losing two wickets for 4 runs under the immense heat and ultimately were bundled out for 135 in 33.2 overs.

Al-Shahri top-scored with 46 off 63 balls that saw ten boundaries.

Out-of-favour pacer Forhad Reza was the most successful Mohammedan bowler picking up three wickets for 26 runs while left-arm pacer Monjurul Islam took two for 26 and Nabil Samad captured two for 25 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

MOHAMMEDAN: 237 all out in 49.5 overs (Rashidul 62, Mintu 26, Ehsanul 42, Faisal 22, extras 30; Sunny 2-28, Fahim 4-40, Kapali 2-30).

SONARGAON: 135 all out in 33.2 overs (Al-Shahri 46, Kapali 29, extras 6; Monjurul 2-26, Nabil 2-25, Forhad 3-26).

Result: Mohammedan won by 102 runs.



Mohammedan players pose with the Independence Cup trophy after beating Sonargaon Cricketers in the final at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Police evade diplomatic episode

AFP, London



The police chief in charge of the investigation into the murder of Pakistan cricket team coach Bob Woolmer said in an interview published Monday that he let the team leave Jamaica to avoid sparking a "significant diplomatic incident".

Speaking to the Times, the country's deputy police commissioner Mark Shields added that he was working with two Pakistani diplomats to ensure their return to Jamaica if they were needed for further questioning.

Woolmer was found unconscious in his hotel room on March 18, and was declared dead a few hours later. His death came just a day after a stunning loss to cricketing minnows in Canada, knocking Pakistan out of the World Cup.

Holding the Pakistan team in Jamaica "would have caused a

significant diplomatic incident and had an extremely adverse effect on the World Cup," Shields said.

There would have been uproar "if I had started holding people against their will," he added.

Authorities declared members of the Pakistan team in the clear, at least for the time being, and allowed them to leave the island on Saturday, when they flew to London for a stopover on their way home.

The police chief had told reporters in Kingston on Sunday that investigators were carefully looking at images taken by closed circuit cameras in the Pegasus hotel, and were focusing on the 12th floor, where Woolmer was staying.

Shields told The Times that detectives were also looking at records of every door keycard in the hotel to monitor residents' movements: "It's a huge task. But when we do that, we get the time of death."

Pakistan team spokesman Pervez Mir meanwhile told the Daily Mirror details of what three of the team's members -- captain

Inzamamul Haq, caretaker coach Mushtaq Ahmed and manager Talat Ali -- had been asked when they were questioned by police for a second time.

Inzamam was apparently asked why he changed his room in the hotel from the 12th floor to the fifth, a move he made before Woolmer's murder, to which he responded that he wanted to be closer to the team's players.

He was also asked what time he went to bed, but Mir said he did not know what Inzamam's answer was.

Police asked Ali why he changed floors from the 12th after Woolmer's death, to which he responded that he was scared. He was also asked how many times a day he prayed, a question he declined to answer.

Ahmed was meanwhile asked about cuts to his face, which he said he sustained during the team's practice on the morning of the Ireland match.

Exit the Indians

FROM PAGE 17

Ashraf admitted it had been a challenging run chase.

"It was very difficult to bat as the ball was moving around a lot," said Ashraf.

"But I knew that if I stayed at the wicket and could score 30 runs that we would win."

Mukuddem grabbed three wickets in his lively opening spell to send Bangladesh reeling at 37-3 in the pressure game, but he lacked support from the other end.

Saqibul sparked celebrations in the Bangladeshi camp when he lofted left-arm spinner Dwayne Leverock over mid-on for the winning four. He put on 59 for the unfinished fourth-wicket stand with Ashraf.

Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak earlier bagged three wickets to raise Bangladesh's hopes of posting a crucial win. He finished with 3-20 to help his team restrict Bermuda to a modest total.

Fast bowler Mashrafe Mortaza and left-arm spinner Saqibul each took two wickets to provide valuable support.

Dean Minors top-scored for

Bermuda with 23. Opener Oliver Pitcher made 22 and Lionel Cann smashed 16 off just six balls with one six and two fours. Pitcher was later stretchered off the field while attempting to take a catch.

Bashar won a good toss in overcast conditions and had no hesitation in putting Bermuda in to bat. The move clicked as Mortaza grabbed two early wickets to put the opposition in a spot.

Mortaza struck in his opening over when he had Stephen Outerbridge caught by Mohammad Rafique at fine-leg before accounting for Delyone Borden, who was held by Bashar at mid-off.

Bermuda suffered a big setback when they lost David Hemp (nought), the only professional in their ranks. Hemp, who cracked a half-century against India, was caught at Aftab Ahmed at point off left-arm seamer Syed Rasel.

The Cup debutants were reduced to 35-4 in the 11th over when Razzak trapped skipper Irvine Romaine leg-before for 11.

BANGLADESH V BERMUDA SCOREBOARD

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Did not bat: Leverock.

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-8, 3-11, 4-35, 5-52, 6-73, 7-86, 8-94, 9-94.

Bowler

	O	M	R	W	Econ
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	4	0	8	2	2.00
Syed Rasel	5	0	14	1	2.80
Abdur Razzak	4	0	20	3	5.00
Mohammad Rafique	4	0	18	1	4.50
Shakib Al Hasan	3	0	12	2	4.00
Aftab Ahmed	1	0	17	0	17.00
BANGLADESH					
Tamim Iqbal c Hurdle b Mukuddem	1	2	0	0	
Shahri Nafees c Tucker b Mukuddem	12	25	0	1	
Aftab Ahmed lbw b Mukuddem	7	14	1	0	
Shakib Al Hasan not out	26	35	2	0	
Mohammad Ashraf not out	29	32	2	0	
Extras: (8, 4, 14, nb-3)	21				
Total: (For 3 wickets in 17.3 overs)	96				

Did not bat: Mashrafe Mortaza, Habibul Bashar, Mohammad Rafique, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Abdur Razzak, Syed Rasel.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-30, 3-37.

Bowler

	O	M	R	W	Econ
Hurdle	4	0	25	0	6.25
Mukuddem	5	1	19	3	3.80
Tucker	3	0	14	0	4.66
Leverock	3.3	0	19	0	5.42
Borden	2	0	15	0	7.50

Result: Bangladesh won by 7 wickets (D/L method).

Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Ashraf.

Toss: Bangladesh

Umpires: S Davis (Australia) and I Howell (South Africa)

Match referee: A Hurst (Australia)

Australia shun Zimbabwe tour

AFP, Sydney

The Australian government Monday hardened its stand against a scheduled cricket tour of troubled Zimbabwe and said it would try to avoid huge fines for breach of contract.

The world champions are due to play three one-day internationals in the Southern African nation in September, but Foreign Minister Alexander Downer made it clear the government wanted to scrap the tour.

"I don't want them to tour Zimbabwe," he told reporters. "I think that is the wrong look."

The regime of President Robert Mugabe has drawn international criticism over its brutal crushing of dissent this month, including the shooting of an activist and the beating of several opposition leaders.

However, Cricket Australia had a contract through the International Cricket Council to play in Zimbabwe and could face fines of up to 1.6 million US dollars if it did not fulfil its commitments, Downer said.

"We'll sit down with Cricket Australia when they get back and we'll go into all that sort of detail about what the contract says."

"It might be that they are able to get out of the tour on the back of the rising violence in Zimbabwe. We'll have to look at the contract in detail."

"Just simply to breach the contract, that could be expensive but there may be other ways around it."

Downer said the cancellation of the tour would not hurt Mugabe's regime, "in the sense that a lot of them are not interested in or enthusiastic about cricket."

But, he said, "the whole concept of the world's greatest cricket team and the biggest names in world cricket visiting Zimbabwe and giving a blessing to that country is one I feel uncomfortable with."

"They reinvented the game through their style of play with the ball as well as with the bat. The West Indies side of that era was the team everybody wanted to see."

If West Indies were the definitive cricket team, Sobers was the definitive West Indian cricketer.

Gary recalls

FROM PAGE 20

ture in Trinidad.

"They reinvented the game through their style of play with the ball as well as with the bat. The West Indies side of that era was the team everybody wanted to see."

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LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

English department clinched the Inter Department Basketball tournament when they won the final against Economics department 45-43 at the gymnasium of Jahangirnagar University on March 24.

JU VC Professor Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman distributed the trophies among the winners as chief guest.

JU Pro-VC professor Md Enamul Huq Khan, former Pro-VC professor Tajul Islam, dean of social sciences professor Amin Muhammad Ali and a number of teachers and students of different departments were present in the occasion.

NATIONAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Tea players are in the lead with 7.5 points after ten rounds in the preliminary phase of the 33rd National Chess Championship at the federation hall yesterday.

FM Abu Sufian, FM Nasir Ahmed, FM Taibur Rahman, Minhazuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Javed, FM Mehdi Hasan, FM Aminul Islam, FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman, Abul Malek and Mohammad Ali were in lead after all players won their respective matches.

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