

Piul Smrity cream Fakirerpool

SPORTS REPORTER

Piul Smrity Sangsad of Jhenaidah registered a big 5-0 win in the Bashundhara Champions Club Cup over Youngmens Club Fakirerpool of Dhaka in a Group B match at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday.

Piul Smrity, who went down 6-1 against Feni Soccer Club in the group opener enjoyed superior ball possession throughout the game that resulted in a 3-0 lead in the first half with Khaled opening the account in the 13th minute.

Four minutes later Ujjal doubled the margin and Ripon made it 3-0 in the 30th minute.

Khaled struck his second and team's fourth in the 60th minute before Jahirul sealed the match in the injury time.

Despite their massive win in their second and final match, Piul Smrity have little chance to make it into the semifinals as they will have to wait for the outcome of the match between Fakirerpool and Feni Soccer Club, who just need a draw in their group final match to see them in the last four.

Away at Cox's Bazar, Shuktara Jubo Sangsad of Narayanganj made a winning start after thrashing Chittagong Mohammedan SC (Blues) 3-0 in the Group C opener.

Khokon gave Shuktara a 14th minute lead before Monir Hossain struck twice in the 52nd and 68th minute to ensure all the points.



Did U Know?

Goalkeeper Arthur Wharton was the first black professional soccer player. He was born in Ghana (then Gold Coast) and played for English League team Rotherham United in 1889.



Dwayne Bravo

(West Indies all-rounder)

"I just have a love and passion for the game. I enjoy playing cricket. This is what I was born to do. I was given the opportunity by the captain to go up the order. I grabbed it with both hands."

After his match-winning knock against India on Friday in the ICC World Twenty20.



BTV & STAR Cricket

ICC World T20 (SUPER EIGHTS)
Pakistan v Ireland
Live from 6:30pm
England v West Indies
Live from 10:30pm

ESPN

FIFA Confederation Cup
Brazil v Egypt
Live from 8:00pm
USA v Italy
Live from 12:30am (Tuesday)

TODAY'S T20 MATCHES

(SUPER EIGHTS)
Pakistan v Ireland
Venue: The Oval
Time: 8:30pm
England v West Indies
Venue: The Oval
Time: 10:30pm



PHOTO: AFP

Mahela Jayawardene of Sri Lanka (L) waits for the ball to come to play it down to fine leg during his fine knock of 78 against Ireland in a Super Eights match of the ICC World Twenty20 at Lord's in London yesterday.

SL's sigh of relief

AFP, London



Sri Lanka preserved their unbeaten record at the World Twenty20 with a nine run Super Eights win over Ireland at Lord's on Sunday but only after they'd been given a huge fright by the minnows.

Set a modest 145 to win, Ireland, who in the first round beat Bangladesh, were on course at 87 for one before Andrew White holed out to Nuwan Kulasekara.

It was the start of a collapse that saw three wickets lost for four runs in seven balls with spinner Ajantha Mendis striking twice to get rid of Kevin O'Brien and brother Niall, who made a game 31 before he was stumped.

At 91 for four Ireland were in trouble and Lasith Malinga then took two wickets in two balls to reduce them to 105 for six.

But John Mooney (31 not out) kept Ireland in the hunt and off the last over, from the unorthodox Malinga, they needed 18 to win - a target that proved beyond them as they finished on 135 for seven.

A fine all-round display in the field saw Ireland, who at the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean beat both Bangladesh and Pakistan, restrict Sri Lanka to just 144 for nine.

Only former Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene's 78 prevented complete collapse in an innings where only three batsmen made double figures and the next best score was Sanath Jayasuriya's 27.

Brisbane-born seamer Alex Cusack, who took two wickets in an over, finished with fine figures of four wickets for 18 runs in his three overs.

But Sri Lanka were already in trouble before he came on.

Former Ireland captain Trent Johnston, also born in Australia, took one for 18 in his four overs while the recalled Boyd Rankin had two for 27.

Tight bowling was backed up by fine fielding, Niall O'Brien setting the tone with three catches and a stumping.

Ireland captain William Porterfield got their reply off to a sound start.

The left-hander, who plays for English county Gloucestershire, then cover-drove Kulasekara for well-struck boundaries.

But Niall O'Brien aggravated the right ankle injury he'd sustained in the win over Bangladesh after first slipping and then diving into the crease to make his ground.

O'Brien, who needed several minutes of treatment, then reversed swept Mendis to the boundary and lofted Angelo Mathews for four overlong-off.

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India crash out

AFP, London



Defending champions India bowed out of the World Twenty20 after losing to hosts England by three runs in a key Super Eights match at a packed Lord's here on Sunday.

India restricted England to 153-7 after electing to field in good batting conditions, but then fumbled their reply to be stopped at 150-5 despite scoring 56 runs in the last five overs.

Needing 15 off the last three deliveries, Yusuf Pathan smashed Ryan Sidebottom straight for six off the first, but managed only a single of the next before skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni hit the last ball for four.

Dhoni (30 not out) and Yusuf (33 not out) added 63 for the unbroken sixth wicket after half the side was back in the pavilion by the 14th over with only 87 on the board.

India paid dearly for conceding 16 extras in England's innings, including 14 wides as two deliveries from off-spinner Harbhajan Singh went for boundaries behind the wicketkeeper.

India needed to win to stay in the tournament after losing their opening Super Eights match against the West Indies at Lord's on Friday.

England, who also lost their first match to South Africa, now face the West Indies at the Oval on Monday in a match that will almost certainly take the winner into the semifinals along with the Proteas.

India slipped to 24-2 by the fourth over as Sidebottom, who replaced leg-spinner Adil Rashid in the England team, removed Rohit Sharma and Suresh Raina.

Gautam Gambhir and Ravindra Jadeja took the total to 62-2 in the 11th over when Dmitri Mascarenhas broke through by having Gambhir caught at fine-leg by Stuart Broad.

Off-spinner Graeme Swann grabbed two wickets in four balls to reduce India to 87-5 by the 14th over.

Swann had Jadeja caught in the deep after the batsman, playing his first match in the tournament, plodded for 35 balls to make 25.

Yuvraj Singh, who hit the first ball he faced for a six, was stumped by James Foster in the

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Ray of hope for Pakistan

Cricket

AFP, London

World cricket chiefs are working out a middle path to resolve the controversy over Pakistan's right to remain co-hosts of the 2011 World Cup in the sub-continent.

Top officials of the International Cricket Council (ICC), including president David Morgan of England, will debate the matter at a meeting here on Monday on the sidelines of the World Twenty20.

"The matter will be resolved amicably," an ICC spokesman told AFP. "No one in world cricket wants to be fighting court cases."

Pakistan had served legal notices on the ICC after being stripped of hosting rights in the wake of the militant attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore on March 3 and the deteriorating security situation in the volatile nation.

Pakistan were also furious that the World Cup secretariat, which was based in Lahore, was shifted to India, co-hosts of the showpiece

event along with their South Asian neighbours Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The legal action followed an ICC meeting with the three remaining co-hosts in April where Pakistan's share of 14 matches were distributed among India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

As the issue snowballed with Pakistan accusing India of masterminding the move to deny it hosting rights, the ICC issued a rejoinder to Pakistan's legal notice.

Saying Pakistan's legal claims had "factual inaccuracies and misunderstandings", the ICC clarified that while Pakistan were removed as a host location, the Pakistan Cricket Board remained a co-host.

The ICC clarification was viewed as an attempt to diffuse the matter and open doors to a negotiated settlement that will be finalised on Monday.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has suspended legal action pending a decision on Monday, but appears to have reconciled to the fact that it won't host matches at home, given the reluctance of teams to play there.

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Tigers to start training

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A 20-member preliminary Bangladesh squad will take to the Sher-E-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today as part of their preparations for the upcoming tour of the West Indies next month.

Former national skipper and operations manager of the National Cricket Academy (NCA) Khaled Mahmud Shujon along with pace bowling head coach Champaka Ramanayeke will preside over the training in the absence of national coach Jamie Siddons who is back home in Australia.

Mahmud is excited about his 10-day interim stint with the Tigers in which he wants to concentrate on the skill levels of players and their mental approach to the game. He believes that there is reason for the team to be morally down but he maintained that the show must go on.

"Bangladesh has not performed badly in the past six months in Test and ODI's so we must carry it on and try to better it. The one-off loss to Ireland has hurt the team morally and they are as sorry about it as the supporters but life goes on no matter what and it is up to us to ensure that the batting does not fail again and let us down. I will try my best to bring the team out of any psychological friction they might be under in my short sojourn with the team."

He also said that the loss to Ireland could give way to some positives.

"I think because the players have been hurt by the defeat to Ireland it will make them more hungry now to perform and showcase their abilities. They would want to get out there and

prove themselves that they are capable of performing at the big stage.

This will be the Tigers second tour to the Caribbean after May/June 2004 where they lost 1-0 in the two Test series and 3-0 in the ODI's albeit drawing their first Test and taking two ODI's in St. Vincent and Kingston right down to the wire.

"I was a member of the 2004 touring party and we played some good cricket on that trip. The West Indies team had Brian Lara, Sarwan (Ramnaresh), Chanderpaul (Shivnarine), Gayle (Chris) and we still managed to run them close and I believe the current team can do better. The pitches should be flat as we saw in the recent home series against England where lots of runs were scored so we need to ensure that our batters do well.

However, the former skipper was quick to admit that consistency was the main problem for the Bangladesh team.

"Our main problem is consistency. As soon as a player puts on a good performance with the bat his golden touch is no where to be found in the next five matches and to be playing well at the international level we must get rid of this as everyone expects us to put in a standard performance every time we take to the field against an international side.

We did not play much cricket before the ICC World Twenty20, which rendered us rusty but we will really have to pull our socks now, as this is our first major tour this year.

Bangladesh team will play two Tests, three ODI's and one international Twenty20 in the Caribbean. The team's first stop is in Barbados where they play their initial tour game before moving on to Kingstown in St. Vincent for the first Test from July 9.

Younus hails heroes

AFP, London



Pakistan captain Younus Khan lavished rich praise on Abdur Razaq and Umar Gul after his team roared back into the World Twenty20 after a stunning win over New Zealand.

Needing a win to stay in the competition, Pakistan rode on seamer Gul's amazing figures of five wickets for six runs in three overs to skittle New Zealand out for a paltry 99 at the Oval on Saturday.

Pakistan surpassed the modest target in 13.1 overs for the loss of four wickets to come back strongly after losing their opening Super Eights match to Sri Lanka by 19 runs on Friday.

Gul became the first bowler in history to claim five wickets in Twenty20 internationals, but Younus said it was the seamer's partnership with Abdur Razaq that clinched victory for his team.

"It is all about partnerships. You need a good start in Twenty20 cricket and Razaq gave us that," the Pakistani captain said.

Razaq made a memorable return to official cricket after two years when he grabbed a wicket off his fourth delivery and another one in his third over to reduce New Zealand to 37-3.

The 29-year-old was called up as a replacement for the injured Yasir Arafat after breaking links with the rebel Indian Cricket League.

Asked to open the bowling by Younus, Razaq had the dangerous Brendon McCullum caught at point before trapping Martin Gupthill

leg-before.

Gul, brought on as the sixth bowler, claimed four of the last five wickets to leave Pakistan chasing a modest target of 5.5 runs an over.

"I am delighted that Razaq is back," said Younus.

"We do not have experience of Twenty20 cricket because we do not play so much of it at home or international matches. We did not even get to play in the Indian Premier League this year.

"But Razaq is our most experienced player in the short game because he played cricket in England for Surrey and the Oval is like a home ground for him.

"Those early wickets by him really helped the team. Half the battle is won in Twenty20 if you get a good start."

Scott Styris' 22 was New Zealand's top score on the easy-paced wicket as eight batsmen failed to reach double figures.

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori rued the lack of runs, saying the Black Caps were under pressure from the start.

"It was a good wicket, there were plenty of runs in it," said Vettori. "We needed at least 180 to compete, but there just were not enough runs on the board.

"That put is consistently under pressure. In Twenty20, there are about six to seven overs when you can make the charge and turn the game around.

"But that did not happen today."

Pakistan and New Zealand both have one win from two games in group F, while Sri Lanka

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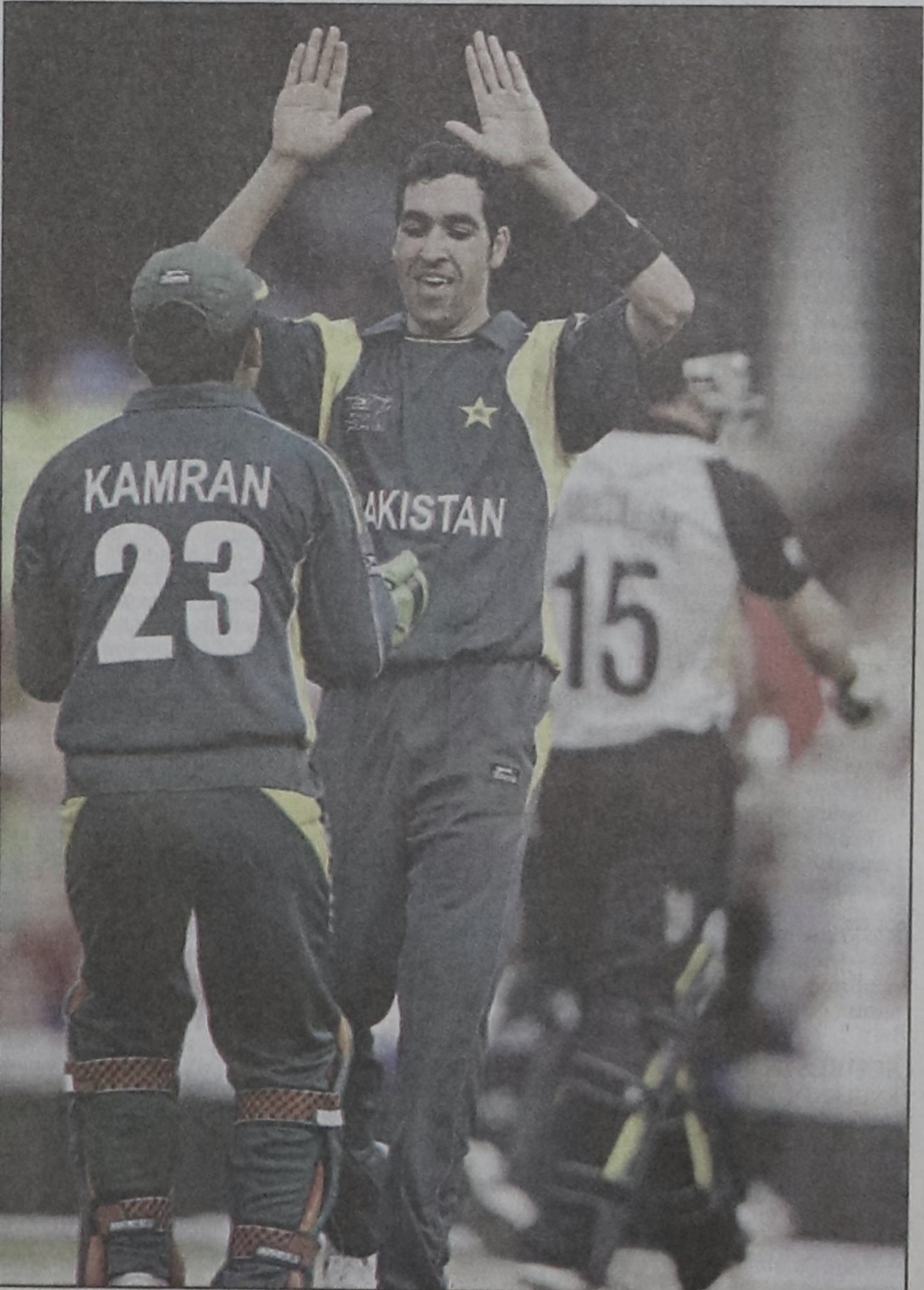


PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan paceman Umar Gul (R) celebrates with wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal after taking the wicket of New Zealand's Nathan McCullum during their Super Eights match of the ICC World Twenty20 at The Oval in London on Saturday.