

Star SPORT

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Piul Smriti cream Fakirerpool

SPORTS REPORTER

Piul Smriti 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 Jessor yesterday.

Piul Smriti, 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 Smriti 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 Mohammamed 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.



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

FIIFA 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: 6:30pm

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 fight by the minnows.

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.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

BKSP hammer Rahmatullah

SPORTS REPORTER

Amzad Ali Sarker Pilot Girls' High School A team and BKSP won their second successive matches of the Girls School Cricket tournament at separate city venues yesterday.

In the day's first match, Amzad Ali Sarker Pilot Girls' High School 'A' team earned a 38-run victory over their B team at the Gulshan Youth Club ground.

Batting first after winning the toss, Amzad Ali Sarker Girls' High School A team scored 100 for 2 in stipulated 20 overs with Khodeja contributing not out 32 runs and Rehana an unbeaten 16.

In reply, Amzad Ali Sarker Girls' High School 'B' team scored 62 runs for the loss of 9 wickets in their quota 20 overs. Khodeja, Sumaya and Rehana took two wickets each for 6, 8 and 10 runs respectively.

In another match, BKSP outplayed Rahmatullah Model High School by 10 wickets at the Azimpur Girls' High School ground.

Sent into bat first, Rahmatullah Model High School were dismissed cheaply for 30 runs in 15 overs. Chasing an easy target, BKSP scored the match winning 31 runs in just three overs without losing any wicket.

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 Younis, Razzaq had the dangerous Brendon McCullum caught at point before trapping Martin Guptill

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 Ramanayake 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 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 (Ranmnaresh), 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 Younis Khan lavished rich praise on Abdur Razzaq 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 Younis said it was the seamer's partnership with Abdur Razzaq that clinched victory for his team.

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

Razzaq 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 Younis, Razzaq had the dangerous Brendon McCullum caught at point before trapping Martin Guptill

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 Razzaq is back," said Younis.

"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 Razzaq 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 ruled 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

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

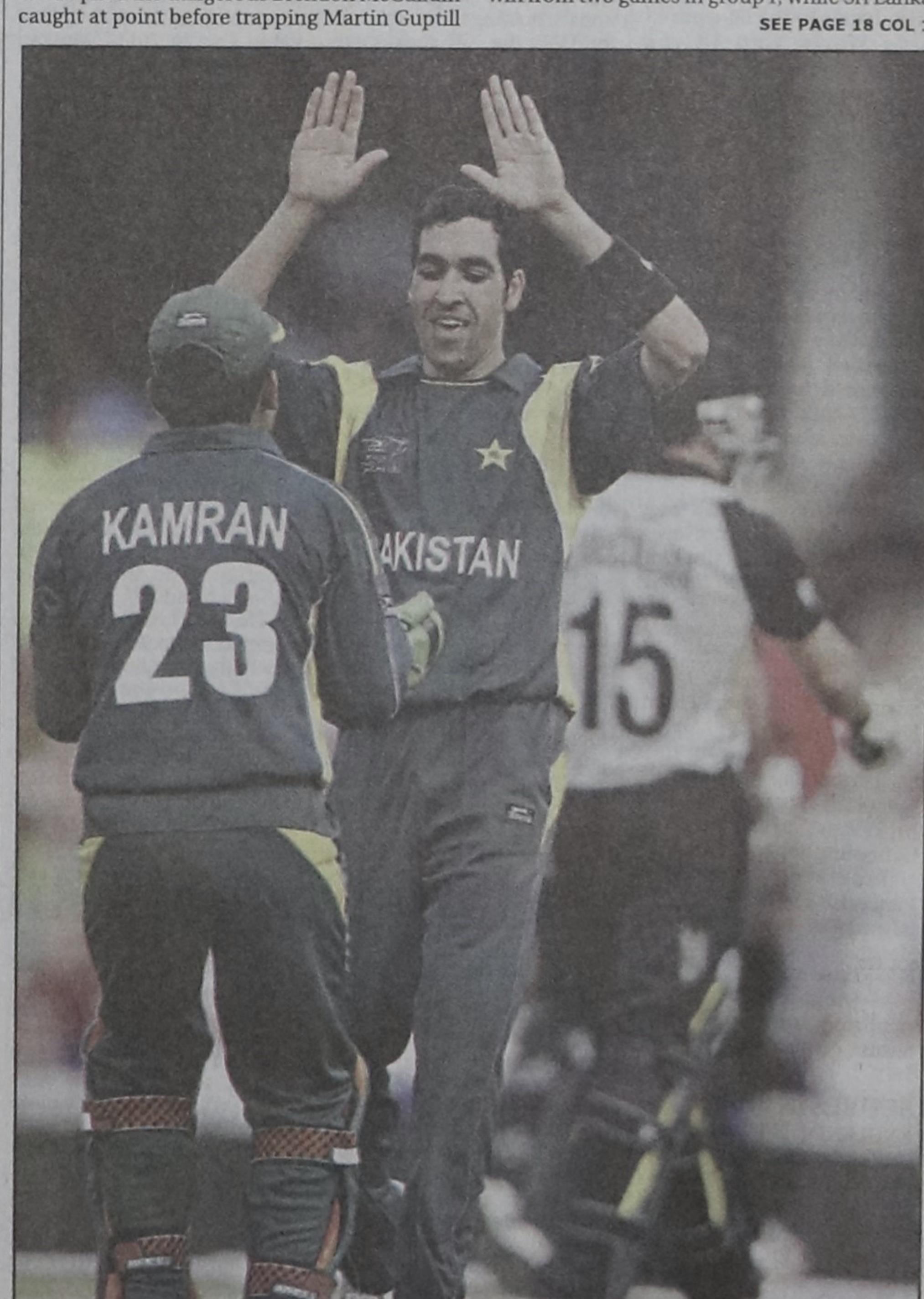


PHOTO: AFP
Pakistan paceman Umar Gul (R) celebrates with wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal after taking the wicket of New Zealand's Nathan McCullum during their Super Eights match of the ICC World Twenty20 at The Oval in London on Saturday.

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 from the first, but managed only a single of the next before skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni hit the last ball for four.

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.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Rajib slumps to sixth

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Emamul Hossain Rajib finished sixth in the 1st SCS International Open Grand Masters Chess Tournament that concluded at Bhubaneswar in Orissa, India yesterday.

Ukrainian GM Drodzovsij Yuri became the champion with eight points.

Rajib beat Indian International Master DV Prasad in the 10th and final round to finish sixth with 7.5 points while Fide Master Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar became 33rd with seven points.

He was followed by GM Niaz Murshed (51st) and Debaraj Chatterjee (65th) with both players securing 6.5 points each respectively.

Mahatabuddin Ahmed, Abdulla Al Safi, Mohammad Ali and FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon finished 91st, 93rd, 98th and 99th.

FM Taibur Rahman, FM Mohammad Javed, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag, Mohammad Hasan Emam, M Sharif Hossain and Sharmin Sultan Shirin finished beyond the 100 positions.

IWM Rani Hamid with 4.5 points became 189th out of 367 players including 20 Grand Masters and 31 International Masters.

In the last round, Sagar drew with GM Temirbayev Sarikbayev of Kazakhstan, Niaz beat FM Sayantan Das, Amin beat Debaraj, Robin drew with IM DK Sharma, Malek lost against GM Sergiy Tiviyakov of Netherlands and Saif lost against IM Vishal Shareen of India.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2