

Ruthless Pakistan break India jinx

AFP, Dubai



Captain Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan smashed unbeaten half-centuries as Pakistan crushed India by 10 wickets on Sunday to register their first win over their arch-rivals in a Twenty20 World Cup.

Chasing 152 for victory, Babar (68) and Rizwan (79) took apart the Indian bowling as they steered their team home with 13 balls to spare in Dubai.

Left-arm quick Shaheen Shah Afridi set up victory -- their first over their neighbours in six attempts in the tournament -- with figures of 3-31 that restricted India to 151-7 despite a valiant 57 from skipper Virat Kohli.

"This is the first time we've beaten India and I feel proud," said Afridi.

"I knew it would be good for us if I got early wickets and that worked out. My idea was to get as much swing as possible. 'You don't get a lot here, but I wanted to get those breakthroughs and gave it 100 percent. In my opinion the new ball was difficult to play, so credit goes to Babar and Rizwan."

In the immediate aftermath of the victory, celebratory gunfire erupted in the Pakistani cities of Islamabad and Karachi.

Babar and Rizwan went on the attack from the start with boundaries inside the powerplay - the first six overs when only two fielders are allowed outside the inner circle -- to set the tone for their chase.

The dew did not help the Indian bowlers who regularly wiped the moisture off the ball with their towels while the openers kept the score ticking and got the occasional fours and sixes.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 151 for seven in 20 overs (Kohli 57, Pant 39; Afridi 3-31, Ali 2-44)

PAKISTAN: 152 for no loss in 17.5 overs (Rizwan 79 not out, Babar 68 not out; Jadeja 0-28)

RESULT: Pakistan won by 10 wickets

PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH: Shaheen Shah Afridi

The batting pair kept up the charge as Babar reached his fifty with a six off spinner Varun Chakravarty to get the Pakistan supporters dancing with joy.

Rizwan raised his fifty with a boundary off pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah and then

raced past his captain, hitting six fours and three sixes in his 55-ball knock.

Babar hit the winning runs to turn a new page in Pakistan-India rivalry.

"We did not execute the things that we wanted to but credit is certainly due - they outplayed us today," admitted Kohli. "They were very professional with the bat as well but we're certainly not a team that presses the panic button, it's the start of the tournament, not the end."

Earlier Afridi returned figures of 3-31 after a lethal first spell to hurt India who elected to field first in the Super 12s encounter watched by 20,000 in the stadium and a global TV audience of hundreds of millions of fans.

Kohli scored his 29th T20 fifty to help the team rebuild before being caught behind off Afridi as Pakistan dismissed the star batsman for the first time in a T20 World Cup game.



Salah hattrick in MU's 5-0 rout

AFP, Manchester



Liverpool inflicted a historic hammering on Manchester United as Mohamed Salah scored a hattrick in a 5-0 win at Old Trafford on Sunday, leaving Ole Gunnar Solskjaer clinging to his job.

For the first time in Premier League history, United trailed 4-0 at half-time and failed to score in a hopelessly one-sided contest. The Red Devils have now taken a run of one point from a possible 12 in the league. Naby Keita started the rout before Diogo Jota doubled Liverpool's lead inside 15 minutes.

Salah then took centre stage to take his tally for the season to 15 goals in 12 appearances and become the top-scoring African player in Premier League history in the process.

To round off a miserable day for United, Paul Pogba lasted less than 15 minutes as a second-half substitute as he was shown a straight red card for a reckless lunge that forced Keita to leave the pitch on a stretcher.

Liverpool's first victory in front of a crowd at Old Trafford under Jurgen Klopp moves them back above Manchester City into second, just a point behind leaders Chelsea.

By contrast, United's hopes of a first league title since 2013 already look over as they remain eight points off the leaders. That gap is likely to grow in the coming weeks with Tottenham and City to come in the next fortnight before an international break.

Whether Solskjaer will still be in charge come November is now in serious doubt as he has completely failed to form a balanced team from a talented collection of star players.

The Norwegian will wonder what might have been had Bruno Fernandes not fired over a glorious chance to open the scoring on three minutes. Goalkeeper De Gea ensured Liverpool failed to match their record margin of victory against United with an incredible save from Alexander-Arnold's drive. However, that did not subdue the mood among the travelling fans as they mockingly chanted for Solskjaer to remain in his job.



Mohammad Rizwan (R) is beaming as he gets a congratulatory hug from opposition captain Virat Kohli while his skipper Babar Azam (L) watches on following Pakistan's 10-wicket victory over arch-rivals India in their T20 World Cup fixture at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Spinners continue to dictate terms

SPORTS REPORTER



The second round of the 23rd National Cricket League commenced in a similar fashion to the previous round as spinners outshined once again in most of the matches while Dhaka's Abdul Mazid and national team batter Saif Hassan scored tons apiece against Rangpur at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Opener Mazid scored 110 runs off 188 balls, his innings featuring 10 fours and three maximums.

Skipper Saif Hassan, batting at three, was unbeaten at 102 off 185 balls, striking eight fours and two sixes. Dhaka ended the day on 293 runs for three wickets. The other three matches of NCL were dominated by spinners.

Dhaka Metro's right-arm spinner Md Sharifullah bagged another fiver against Rajshahi at Cox's Bazar Academy Ground yesterday. Rajshahi skipper Nazmul Hossain Shanto was dismissed at 67 by Dhaka Metro's left-arm spinner Rakibul Hasan. Dhaka bowled Rajshahi out in 252 runs and trailed



by three runs at the end of the day.

20 wickets fell in the match between Barishal and Chattogram on the first day as Barishal were bundled out in 146 runs in their first innings. Chattogram's spinner Hasan Murad plucked a fiver

and Nayeem Hasan scalped four wickets.

However, Barishal bounced back with the ball as two five-wicket hauls from Mohammad Ashraful and Monir Hasan packed Chattogram to a total of 87. Ashraful's 13.3 overs spell featured a hat-trick, a fiver and a couple of maidens.

Anamul Haque Bijoy's Khulna was bundled out in 196 runs as all bowlers of Sylhet came on the list of wicket-takers. Khulna's Mehidy Hasan Miraz grabbed a couple of wickets as Sylhet ended the first day at 30 for three.

Real beat struggling Barca at Camp Nou

REUTERS, Barcelona



Real Madrid beat Barcelona 2-1 in the first Clasico of the season in front of 86,422 fans at the Camp Nou on Sunday after a sensational strike from defender David Alaba and a late goal from Lucas Vazquez gave Carlo Ancelotti's side three points.

Victory was Real's fourth straight in Clasicos and also Ancelotti's first at the Camp Nou in six visits, with his side devastating on the counter-attack and the result moving them provisionally top of LaLiga with 20 points.

"We played a practical game. We knew what we need to do and the boys executed the game plan perfectly," Ancelotti said.

Barcelona controlled possession in the first half but Real took the lead when Alaba started a flowing move with a tackle and finished it at the other end with a left-footed drive from the edge of the box.

Barcelona manager Ronald Koeman brought on Philippe Coutinho at halftime while strikers Sergio Aguero and Luuk de Jong were also thrown on in the second

half as they searched for an equaliser.

With seven minutes of injury time added on, Real doubled their lead when Marc-Andre ter Stegen saved a shot from Marco Asensio from another counter-attack but Vazquez was quicker than Gerard Pique to pounce on the rebound to score.

The home side got a goal back in the 97th minute when Sergino Dest crossed to the Aguero in the six-yard box and the Argentine tapped in for his first goal in a Barcelona shirt.

But it proved to be a consolation goal, leaving Barcelona five points behind in eighth place.

Koeman had warned his players they needed to be more effective when controlling the ball possession and that stopping Real's speed on the counter would be decisive but that was easier said than done. "I'm not happy with the result. I think we deserved more," Koeman said.

"We knew that we couldn't afford to miss opportunities and that if they got the lead, they know how to defend. We were not good in the last quarter (of the pitch)."

"Losing at home to our biggest rivals in a close game is tough to swallow."

Records galore as Navy become champions

SPORTS REPORTER

As many as 11 national records, including five in the third and final day, were set as the Bangabandhu 30th National Swimming Championships concluded at Syed Nazrul Islam Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

Of all the records, which were based on hand timings, 10 records belonged to Bangladesh Navy as they became champions with 38 gold, 23 silver and eight bronze medals while Bangladesh Army finished second with five gold, 18 silver and 19 bronze medals as well as setting up a new record.

On the concluding day, Omar Ali created history in 200m breaststroke event with a timing of 2:24.93, eclipsing the previous best of 2:27.11 made by Jahangir Alam in 2008 while Sonia Akter overtook her previous best of 30.63 seconds to produce a new record in 50m butterfly, clocking 30.07 seconds. In the 400m freestyle, Kajal Mia clocked 4:17.35 to erase Faisal Ahmed's 04:18.22 timing.

The other two records were toppled in relay and diving events with the Bangladesh Navy team breaking their own record in 4X100 men's

medley relay with a timing of 3:58.93 to eclipse the previous best of 3:59.14. Nasim Hossain also followed the footsteps of his teammates to create a new record in the 5m platform diving event.

Kajal Mia was adjudged the best male swimmer as the Bangladesh Navy swimmer bagged five gold and created three national records while his female teammate Sonia Akter grabbed six gold medals and two silver medals during which she produced a new record as well. Mariyam Akter and Juthi Akter, also from Bangladesh Navy, together bagged five gold medals by setting three new records to their credit.

