The International Tournament to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsi, kicked off on Thursday with a dominant display by the host nation women's cricket team.

Eight teams gathered at the Gahanga International Stadium for the competition. Rwanda, looking to repeat their 2023 victory, wasted no time in setting the tone, defeating newcomers Cameroon by a resounding margin of 102 runs.

Captain's decision paid off as Rwanda, electing to bat first, posted an impressive 141 runs in their allotted 20 overs. Open batter Uwase Merveille led the charge with a stellar 62 runs off just 51 balls.

Cameroon's chase crumbled under exceptional bowling by the Rwandan team. Chasing a target of 142, the visitors were bundled out for just 50 runs in 13.1 overs. Rwanda's bowlers displayed exceptional control, dismissing all Cameroonian batters well within the allotted overs.

While Rwanda and Cameroon battled it out on the field, other matches saw Zimbabwe overpower Malawi by 93 runs and the Victoria Pearls of Uganda defeat Botswana by 71 runs on Thursday.

A planned encounter between Nigeria and Kenya was unfortunately called off due to Kenya's late arrival.

The tournament continues on Friday, May 31st, with Kenya taking on Zimbabwe, Botswana facing Cameroon, and Malawi seeking redemption against Rwanda.

With Uganda boasting the most titles (4) and Rwanda the defending champions, the competition promises high-octane cricket and a powerful tribute to resilience in the face of tragedy.

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