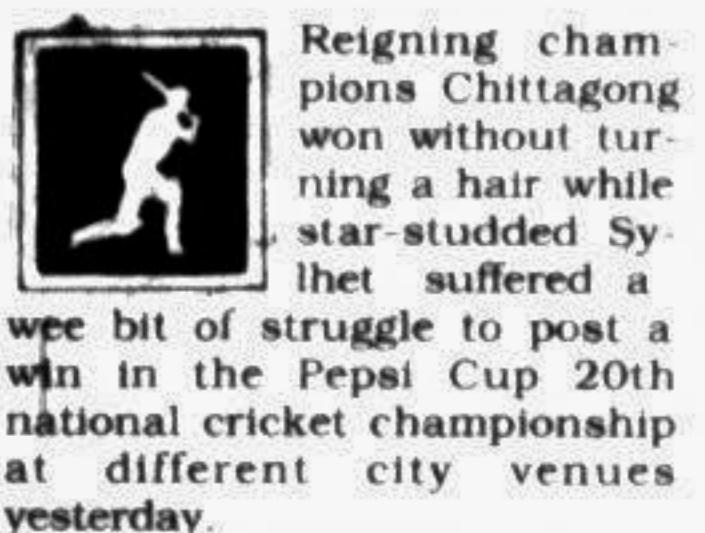


Sport

Brothers serve champs well

Sports Reporter



Reigning champions Chittagong won without turning a hair while star-studded Syhlet suffered a wee bit of struggle to post a win in the Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship at different city venues yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Chittagong served well by some effective off spin bowling from Afzal and Rubel, outplayed unfancied Sathkira by eight wickets.

Afzal, younger brother of national cricketer Akram Khan, had a haul of four wickets for 25 runs as Sathkira, after deciding to bat first on an uncomfortable wicket, were bowled out for 112.

With the wicket offering turn and Sathkira badly lacking in experience and ability to counter the strong Chittagong attack, the result was never in doubt.

In a monotonously one-sided affair, Akram Khan scored a half century to ensure some incidental amusement as Chittagong romped home in 31.3 overs, making in the process 116 for two wickets only.

Sathkira innings, which lasted 42 overs — four short of the full quota of 50 overs — recorded two instances of two-bit resistance in the middle order where Lalu made 24 and skipper Khokan 17.

Extras contributed 25 and Prince chipped in with 11 to become only the third batsman to reach the double figures.

With Afzal skimming the cream of the bowling honours with a quartet of scalps, Rubel emerged as the perfect foil for the younger journeyman, bagging two for 26.

Saiful, the quickest bowler in the country, set the pattern in the morning with a hostile spell. The young paceman, who originally hails from Mymensingh and is currently enjoying a place in the very short list of 'sympathised' cricketers as a left out from the national

Independence Day b-ball results

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Army Reds recorded their second successive win in the Independence Day basketball championship when they earned a hard fought 63-50 victory over Eagles Club in one of the two matches at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Fresh from Monday's easy win over Josephite Club, the Army outfit took a convincing 38-23 lead in the first half.

However, Eagles Club, who beat Bangladesh Army Blues in their first match, came back strongly in the second session, scoring 27 points against Army's 25 but, still, failed to change the outcome of the match.

Mamun of Eagles with 18 points was highest scorer of the match while Iqbal and Shafiqul caged 15 points each for the Army selection.

In the first match of the day, Bangladesh Air Force gave an auspicious start to their campaign with a 71-59 win over Josephite Club.

The winners led the first half 34-29.

Sharif of Air Force shared the honour of being the highest scorer of the day with Sijdah of Josephite, caging 21 points.

Sattar and Hafiz scored 17 points each for the winners.

— Star photo

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