

Sport

Pairs prevail in parallel

Sports Reporter
Patterns of curious parallelism stood out as the Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship broke out yesterday with a vengeance after a day of inaction.

While BUET, Jessor and Satkhira were sent packing from the competition following two successive losses each two of the winners — Mymensingh and neighbouring Dhaka — won by the identical margin of five wickets.

In day's other two matches, Narayanganj and Rajshahi won their respective encounters by the similar margin of four wickets.

At the Dhaka Stadium, Mymensingh had a five-wicket victory over Satkhira, who after being sent in to bat were all out for 108 in 40 overs. Just four batsmen notched double-figure scores with opener Dipu making a topscore of 38.

Mymensingh's Nasim, deployed late in the attack, did the most of the damage with a haul of four for 15.

New-ball bowler Zakir took two for 12.

Liton made 39 and Billu 20 as Mymensingh posted 110 in for five wickets in 36.3 overs to canter to a facile victory.

Satkhira's Lalu bowled well to take two wickets for 21 from nine overs, but not good enough for Satkhira to stay in the fray.

JESSORE OUT

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Rafiq's fine allround performance capped Dhaka's

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five-wicket win against Jessor.

Rafiq took four wickets for 39 as Jessor managed 166 for nine after having been put in to bat by the toss-winning Dhaka skipper Halim Shah.

Rome and Rana were the major run-getters with 38 and 36 respectively.

Rafiq apart, Durjaya was the other bowler who turned the screw on Jessor with a bowling analysis of two for 22 from ten overs.

National discard, young opener Sajjad Mansur scored a sedate 45 and with Halim making 36 and Rafiq an unbeaten 28 Dhaka rattled 168 in 47 overs for a comfty win.

Kazim did a good job for Jessor to return figures of one for 29 from ten overs.

Rana bagged one for 16 from nine overs.

RAJSHAHI ROMP

Wicket-keeper Khaled Masud and Nayan added 106 runs for the fourth wicket to guide Rajshahi to a four-wicket win over neighbours Dinajpur at Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Masud, better known as Pilot, scored an unbeaten 67 while Nayan compiled 51 as Rajshahi, chasing 174 for a win, posted 175 for six wickets in 40.1 overs.

Pilot's unconquered 80-ball innings contained seven fours and a sixer while Nayan played 87 balls and struck seven fours.

Garry bowled beautifully for the losers to finish with figures of two for 24 from the quota of ten overs.

BUET BLANKED
Earlier, Dinajpur reached 173 for eight wickets from the allotted 50 overs, mainly because of a splendid innings of 73 not out by Dear who smacked five fours, in a rather lonely vigil.

Shafiq with 23 not out was the other notable run-getter.

BUET bowed out of the meet when they went down to Narayanganj by four wickets at the Jagannath Hall ground.

After BUET had raised a respectable total of 209 in their assay earlier in the day, Narayanganj made short work of the two hundred-plus total, thanks to some solid batting from Anup, Ripon and Zia.

Anup led the charge with 63 made from 90 balls and inclusive of six fours.

Ripon cracked a rapid-fire 44 off just 39 balls hitting six fours and a sixer while Zia stayed at the kill with an unbeaten 30 off 26 balls, sending the ball across the fence six times, as Narayanganj posted 210 for six in 42 overs.

Earlier, BUET were well served by a series of middling scores from Harun, Kaisar, Rahman and Zaman, who made 47, 30, 31 and 38 respectively.

The students batted through their quota of 50 overs to pile 209 for eight wickets.

Zia and Ripon, who later shone with bat during the Narayanganj innings, took two wickets apiece.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Biman vs Narayanganj (Dhaka Stadium)
DU vs Dinajpur (DCS).

Zia atop, alone

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International Master Ziaur Rahman solely led the points table with full four points on completion of the fourth round matches of the United Insurance International Masters' chess competition at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

While Zia knocked Khandaker Kayes Hassan, who was one of the four players to finish on top after Wednesday's engagements, with a victory on the 44th move, the two other IMs — Pakistani Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi and Zia's coeval national champion Reefat Bin Sattar — agreed for a draw after 45 moves.

The draw leaves the two IMs, one norm short of the coveted Grandmaster status, jointly in the second position with three and a half points while Kayes, after the predictable loss to the higher ranked player, joins the quintet of Pritam Singh, Shubhrajit Saha, Syed Tahmidur Rahman, Jamilur Rahman, and Abdulla Al-Araqib, at the third place.

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England out of their depth

Those seamers are likely to be the trio that did duty at Bourda: Alan Iglesias, Chris Lewis and Angus Fraser. Steve Watkin and Andy Caddick both looked out of form when they played against the Board

side must win to keep the series alive, look distinctly limited, reports AFP.

Despite Tuesday's innings defeat in the second Test, which left his side 2-0 down in the five match series, Atherton does not anticipate sweeping changes for the Queen's Park Oval.

The captain's problem is that all the players left out of the Guyana Test which finished on Tuesday have had no cricket in the meantime and most of the sidelined players are out of form anyway.

Atherton had a look at the Test pitch on Wednesday. "It's damp with a lot of grass on, but given a day of sunshine on it on Thursday there is no reason to suspect it won't be okay," Atherton said. The side won't be picked until the morning of the match but he suggested the attack is likely to be the same balance as in Guyana — three seamers and a spinner.

Atherton offered no clue as to whether he would pick Ian Salisbury or Phil Tufnell to provide the spin.

With the two out-of-favour batsmen Matthew Maynard and Nasser Hussain both short of practice, Atherton's options are limited here too.

ATHERTON

President's XI ten days ago.

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On that basis, Simmons should struggle to regain his spot, but with talk of some fans boycotting the Test if he is left out, the selectors face a tricky decision.

Mark Waugh, Hughes may lose their places as

Border aims to wrap up series

Durban Test, Border said beating South Africa in the series would be a special moment.

"It is something special to go home with a 2-1 after being 1-0 down initially," he said. "Not very many Australian sides have done it in the past. So that will be the icing on the cake."

South Africa seemed unlikely to make any changes, with captain Kepler Wessels electing a shift in his all-pace attack.

Pakistani umpire Mehboob Shah will officiate the Durban Test with local Cyril Mitchley. English umpire David Shepherd returned home after the first two Tests.

Shah stood in the 1987 World Cup final in Calcutta between Australia and England, won by Australia.

But he also officiated the first Test between Australia and Pakistan in 1988 in Pakistan and was branded a 'cheat' by the Australian touring management, which threatened to call off the tour.

BAF bite dust

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Air Force suffered an upset 55-63 defeat at the hands of lowly Bangladesh Army Blues in the Independence Day basketball championship at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

The Air Force team, for whom a victory yesterday would have been enough for a place in the final, will have to beat favourites Bangladesh Army Reds today in their last round robin league match.

Air Force, with two successive wins in their credit, trailed 22-32 in the first half.

In the first match of the day, Eagles Club finished their campaign with a 74-51 win over Josephite Club.

Considered likely to end his illustrious Test career with the

selectors were considering shifting Robin Smith back up to number three in the order now he has shown some form, after Mark Ramprakash filled the slot at Bourda.

But he ruled out replacing Jack Russell with Alec Stewart behind the stumps, after Russell missed two stumpings and a catch in the last Test.

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