

Jahangir pilots Biman to fantastic win

Sports Reporter

A magnificent 118 by opener Jahangir Alam — his second century in three innings — gave Bangladesh

Biman an improbable four-wicket win over star-studded Brothers Union in the Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Facing a daunting target of 291 for victory, Biman reached, quite comfortably in the end, 293 for the loss of six wickets with more than three of their 75 overs to spare.

It was a flattering triumph for the airlines team after letting Brothers Union pile up the hitherto highest total of the season on a benign batting strip Sunday. But Biman's resourceful batting line-up lived up to its reputation and made the last few runs needed for victory so very easy.

Jahangir Alam, the youngster who a couple of seasons ago hit the headlines by making the Bangladesh under-19 squad as wicketkeeper-batsman, appears to have matured tremendously over the past two years. Last year he made the Bangladesh Asia Cup squad as the third opener, after Nurul Abedin Novel and Azhar Hossain Shantoo but was never called upon to do duty. This year he has started with the loudest of bangs.

Yesterday, realising the enormity of the task at hand, Jahangir produced one of the best knocks seen in local cricket for some years now. Some will no doubt try to detract from his extraordinary achievement by pointing out that he was lucky to have survived a snick behind the wicket after making only one on Sunday and another possible stumping chance off Arup Bhattacharya's left-arm spin later in the innings yesterday, but then that's the way the cookie crumbles. He took his chances, and batted on as long as he could.

To put Jahangir's innings in proper perspective, one must be remembered that Biman hadn't quite got off to the sort



JAHANGIR ALAM

of start they would have preferred. Tariquzzaman Munir left for 11 with the score on 26. Sumon, who picked up four Brothers wickets the day before, left for a blob a run later. If that were not trouble enough, Aminul Islam Bulbul, unquestionably the best bat among the Biman crew, managed only one before Fernando bowled him all ends up with the board showing only 32. At that point a Biman takeoff looked all but aborted.

However, that's when Biman steadied themselves with the help of a mammoth 159-run stand between former captain Ahmed Iqbal Bachchu and Jahangir. Veteran Bachchu, who made 60 to steer Biman to a vital win over GMCC last week, came good again by making 57 priceles runs. What's more, he guided Jahangir all the way with his rich experience and counsel. The pair occupied the crease for 35 overs and 156 minutes by which time Brothers were

left searching desperately for answers, which they never quite found.

Jahangir, who was eventually stumped by Monu off Arup, faced 180 balls, hit ten fours and an effortless six off Arup. His first 50 came off 113 balls but the next 50 took another 44 balls.

Bachchu's fifty took 86 balls and his innings lasted another eight deliveries.

When Bachchu left, bowled by Suru with the score on 191, Biman still had a lot of distance to cover. But skipper Shah Nawaz Shanu, coming in at number six, featured in a 63-run stand with left-arm all-rounder Enamul Haq Mont that ensured victory. Shanu remained 47 not out after playing 71 balls while Mont left, making 24, nine runs from home.

Fernando toiled hard for his three wickets which cost 44 runs while Prince, Arup and Suru got one each for 37, 59 and 22 runs respectively.

The highlight of the Biman batting, beside Jahangir's own feat, was the 46 runs scored by the in-form opener from Narayanjan and Bachchu in just five overs — between the 45th and 50th.

In the Brothers innings Sunday, Akram Khan had made an unbeaten 84, Shovon 40, Masoom 39, Atahar Ali Khan 34 and Farooq 24.

Biman have now won all their three matches while Brothers suffered their first loss in three.

RESCHEDULED

The match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Surjo Tarun, which couldn't start Sunday because Mohammedans refused to accept a change in the venue from Dhaka Stadium to Dhanmandi Cricket Stadium, has been rescheduled for a February 1 start at Dhaka Stadium.

The league committee rejected Surjo Tarun's appeal for awarding them full points because of what they termed, Mohammedans' walkover.



World number one Boris Becker of Germany displays the Australian Open trophy after defeating Czech Ivan Lendl in the final Sunday. — AFP photo

Becker unsure of his reign

MELBOURNE, Jan 28: Now that he has what he wanted most in tennis, Boris Becker is thinking about how long he will keep it and how long life might hold after it loses its appeal, reports AP.

Finally No. 1 after more than five years within reach of the top, Becker says he's uncertain how long he will stay there but doesn't want it to be too long.

It's a lot like Mats Wilander in that sense. Wilander reached the No. 1 spot in 1988 and won three of the four Grand Slam tournaments. Then he decided there was more to life, and a Wilander advance to the semifinals of one of the big four tournaments now is considered a major feat.

Becker said that was not necessarily bad.

"I am a person like Mats, a person of extremes," Becker said after beating Ivan Lendl 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 for his first Australian Open title Sunday and the top spot in the men's rankings.

"I have to be comfortable in it," he said. "I have a little fear, that it won't go on. I like to be No. 1, but I like to go on to other things. I hope I can stay there for maybe two years, and then I want to be a private man, spending time with my kids and my wife. That's what I want."

In keeping with this ethereal, somewhat poetic approach, Becker did an extraordinary thing after clinching the victory with a zinger of a forehand service return.

He went for a jog in the park.

"Outside, there is a little park with a couple of trees, and I went there to run because it meant so much to me," the 23-year-old Becker said. "I was thinking back about the past, what I had to go through. Now how long it took me, just about all the people who had been there."

"It's a very special moment, and you can't plan it."

It was the cap of what was a most unusual tournament — good, often great tennis, played in the shadow of the Gulf war and featuring some of the most surprising and bizarre moments imaginable.

Monte Seles won the women's title on Saturday with a 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 victory over Jana Novotna, an upstart who had eliminated the No. 1 woman, Steffi Graf, in the quarterfinals. It was Graf's earliest departure from a Grand Slam tournament in almost five

years and enabled Seles to climb to within 38 points of the German at the top of the rankings.

Lendl reached the final when Stefan Edberg, who lost the men's No. 1 ranking to Becker, blew two match points in the semifinals. Becker almost didn't make it past the third round, surviving a tournament-record 5-hour, 11-minute five-setter against underdog Italian Omar Camporese.

And then there was the McEnroe factor. John was absent with injuries and never got a chance to repeat his fourth-round dismissal for arguing line calls a year ago. But his youngest brother, Patrick, ranked 114th, reached the semifinals before losing to Becker in a tough four-setter.

Perhaps the strangest event of the tournament before Sunday's victory lap also involved the eventual men's champion. Becker got a good laugh during his second-round victory over Marian Vajda when a drunken fan who had heckled him throughout the match exposed her breasts before being led away by ushers.

The two-time defending champion was relentless in the early going, limiting Becker to two points in the first three games and saving the only break point against him in the fifth before holding for the set on his fourth ace. Becker looked befuddled, rarely moving to his favoured territory near the net and winning points there even more rarely.

Lendl was at break point in the first game of the second set when he lost what he considered the biggest point of the match. A backhand down the line landed out of Becker's reach — but also out of bounds — and Becker won the next two points on another Lendl error and a service winner to start his comeback.

"I hit a great shot that he could not get, and it landed just inches wide," the third-ranked Lendl said. "If I had broken in that first game of the second set, it would have been a rout."

Becker said it would take awhile before his long-sought status seemed real.

"It's hard to explain, to put into words," he said. "I've been so close and never taken that final step. I didn't expect to do it here. I can't believe it myself. I will have to sleep on it for a few days to realize it's me."

Boon makes up for two missed centuries

ADELAIDE, Jan 28: A century by David Boon and an unbeaten 83 from Australian captain Allan

Border left England needing a monumental 472 today to win the fourth Test, effectively ending their faint hopes of victory, reports Reuter.

No team in Test history has scored as many runs in the fourth innings to win, and England, with only 99 overs, will be more concerned with batting out the final day to avoid a third defeat in the series.

An impressive ninth Test century from Boon and a strong supporting hand by Border set up the target, established when Australia declared at 314 for six after a day of unremitting toil for England's bowlers.

At the close of the fourth day England were 19 for no wicket. Graham Gooch was 14 not out and Michael Atherton, who took 26 balls and 33 minutes to get off the mark, one not out.

England will need at least one innings of the quality of Boon's century, his second successive in Adelaide Ashes Tests following 103 here four years ago.

Resuming at 22, Boon moved slowly onto 50 in just under three hours before reaching the hundred in five-and-a-half hours.

It followed innings of 94 not out in the second Test in Melbourne and 97 in the third at Sydney.

He has now scored 436 Test runs at 72.67 in the series and 611 at 76.32 in first-class cricket against England this season.

"It was frustrating getting two nineties in the same series, so it is nice to get a hundred", said Boon.

Allan Border must have thought about going on to score his own hundred, breaking a Test drought that has now run 38 innings and 28 months.

But, despite a late thrash 83 he declared in time to have 10-overs at England's openers. The required total of 472 is 140 more than England have



DAVID BOON

ever scored in a fourth innings to win a Test in Australia, the record being achieved in the 1928-29 series in Melbourne.

The world record for a Test fourth innings victory is 406 for four, made in the West Indies by India in 1975/76.

So Border's declaration was cautious in the extreme. If England do avoid their eighth loss in 11 Ashes Tests, Border may feel he should have declared earlier.

But Mickey Stewart, England's coach, said: "If you are two-up in the series and everything is judged by results you don't take a chance. We would have fancied 350 or so."

The pattern of the day was set from the opening overs as Boon and nightwatchman Merv Hughes extended their overnight partnership from four to 66.

Sometimes belligerent, always frustrating, Hughes made 30 before Angus Fraser ended his stubborn resistance after 102 minutes.

Hughes, caught at second slip by Gooch, was England's sole success in the first four hours of play as Boon and Border compiled a painstaking partnership of 110 in more than two and a-half hours.

After Boon eventually went, bowled thrashing across the line to Phil Tufnell, Greg Matthews proved just as difficult to dislodge and was unbeaten on 34 at the declaration.

The only bonus for England was the improved fitness of Fraser and Tufnell who both were able to bowl at some length.

Tufnell has almost recovered from his throat infection but Fraser's ankle and hip problems remain a concern.

Paceman Phil Newpor, who has been summoned from Sri Lanka to join the party, will meet them in Perth where the fifth Test starts in four days' time.

Scoreboard

Scoreboard for the fourth day of the fourth cricket Test between Australia and England:

Australia - First Innings - 286 (M Waugh 138, G Matthews 65)

England - First Innings - 229 (G Gooch 87, R Smith 53, McDermott five for 97)

Australia - Second Innings (overnight 68 for four)

Taylor run out	4
Marsh c Gooch b Small	0
Boon b Tufnell	121
Jones lbw DeFreitas	8
Waugh b Malcolm	73
Hughes c Gooch b Fraser	30
Border not out	34
Matthews not out	83
Extras (b-1 lb-7 w-1 nb-2)	11
Total (for six wickets)	314
Fall of wickets 1-1, 2-8, 3-25, 4-64, 5-130, 6-240	

Bowling: O M R W	
Malcolm 21-0-87-1 (1nb, 1w)	
Small 18-3-64-1	
DeFreitas 23-6-61-1	
Fraser 26-3-66-1 (1nb)	
Tufnell 16-3-28-1	
England - Second Innings	
Gooch not out	14
Atherton not out	1
Extras (lb-1, nb-3)	4
Total (for no wicket)	19

Bowling: O M R W	
Reid 5-1-9-0	
McDermott 4-0-9-0	
Matthews 1-1-0-0	

Kiwis clinch one-dayers

AUCKLAND, Jan 28: New Zealand clinched a three-match one-day cricket series against Sri Lanka, winning the second match at Eden Park by 41 runs, but not before some anxious moments, reports Reuter.

The big-hitting Asanka Gurusinha kept Sri Lanka's hopes alive until late in the game, and when partnered by Ramesh Ratnayake it looked possible the pair could steal the match.

Railway lose again

Bangladesh Railway's title prospects took another beating yesterday when Agra Bank beat them by 48 runs in the Mirnas First Division cricket league match at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Agra, batting first, scored 198 for six wickets in a match curtailed to 38-overs-a-side from the scheduled 45. Towrit and Intu made 60 each.

In reply, Railway managed only 150 for the loss of nine wickets in 38 overs.

Afzal made 64 while Mamoon and Nasim claimed two wickets each. It was Agra Bank's fifth win in nine matches, while Railway have won six out of their nine.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka Wanderers vs Young Pegasus (Mirpur)

Rank-Xerox cricket league starts today

Sports Reporter

The Rank Xerox Second Division cricket league sponsored by Graphics Ltd, begins today at the Dhanmandi Cricket Stadium and Dhanmandi Club ground.

Thirty teams, divided into five groups, are taking in this year's league.

Ten teams, the champions and runners-up from each group, will qualify for the super league.

The first league matches will be 35 overs a-side while the super league ties will be of 40 overs a-side.

The champion team will get prize money worth Taka 5000 with the runners-up getting Taka 3,000.

Each participating team will be provided with the match ball by the BCCB.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Spread Eagles vs City Club (DCC)

Gandaria vs Azad SC (DCC)

They came together with Sri Lanka in deep trouble chasing New Zealand's 50-over total of 242 for five, and added 46 in under six overs.

With Sri Lanka 178 for six after 40 overs New Zealand may well have been regretting replacing strike bowler Danny Morrison with Richard Petric from Saturday's winning team at Napier.

Gurusinha clubbed two sixes and six fours in his 90-ball innings of 81 and Ratnayake joined the fray when he smashed off-spinner Andrew Jones for a straight six.

But it could not last. Ratnayake was caught off Chris Pringle for 22 while attempting another six.

Gurusinha apart, the other Sri Lankan batsmen struggled against the tight medium-fast attack on Pringle, who was the man of the match for his two for 27, and Willie Watson (2-25).

Champak clinches Mansoor chess title

Sports Reporter

International Master Zillur Rahman Champak emerged the unbeaten champion in the S.Z. Mansoor chess competition organised by the Dhaka Chess Foundation, earning seven points from nine matches, yesterday at NSC chess room.

Tahmidur Rahman became the runner-up, followed by Niamul, Nurullah and Kalam in 3rd, 4th and 5th places respectively.

The first fourteen players will share the purse of Taka ten thousand.

Star cricket

CHITTAGONG, Jan 28: Society Club beat Nabin Sangha by 128 runs in the CJKP Star Youth cricket tournament at the Outer Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Society batted first and were all out for a massive 221 in 32.4 overs. Nizam with 65 and Rezaul with 63 were the top scorers. Nizam hit six fours and four sixes while Rezaul's score included nine hits to the ropes.

Sachchu of Nabin Sangha captured three wickets for 50. Rezaul took two for 57 and Liton bagged two for 28.

In reply Nabin Sangha were all out for 93 runs. Nizam of Society also had a brilliant performance with the ball to take five wickets for only 29. Rezaul took two for 12.

Sri Lanka needed 93 runs off the last 15 overs and the task was too much for the brave Gurusinha, who was eventually caught on the boundary by Gavin Larsen off Chris Harris.

The tourists were eventually all out for 201 in the 45th over, but their day did begin well.

After captain Arjuna Ranatunga won the toss and sent New Zealand in, he received early hope when the dangerous John Wright was brilliantly caught by Asoka de Silva at first slip for four.

But an 83-run partnership in 73 minutes between captain Martin Crowe (64) and Richard Reid (44) made it simple for the later batsmen to build a big score.

Ian Smith, with a breezy 21 off 14 balls, and Jones, who ended 64 not out, took toll on some mediocre bowling.

Only leg-spinner Asoka de Silva commanded much respect and even his figures of one for 41 were only moderate.

AFP adds: A number of doubtful umpiring decisions, all of which favoured New Zealand, upset Sri Lanka here today in the second of their one-day matches in New Zealand.

Sri Lanka, who lost the first match on Saturday, won the toss and put New Zealand in to bat. After their regulation 50 overs the home side had made 242 for 5.

West Jatrabari handballers earn promotion

Sports Reporter

West Jatrabari Krta Chakra became unbeaten champions after recording a thrilling 14-13 victory over Jagaron Sanskriti Sangha in the Second Division handball league yesterday at the Outer Stadium handball court.

Junior Moishundi United became runner-up after beating Arunayaton 26-18 with a haul of 17 points from seven super league matches.

Arunayaton's consolation was that their star player Altaf Hossain Akul emerged as the highest goal scorer of the league, with a total of 62 goals.

LEAGUE TABLE

W	M	W	D	L	P
West Jatrabari	7	6	1	0	19
Jr. Moishundi	7	5	2	0	18
Jagaron	7	3	3	1	12
Nicoop	7	3	1	3	10
Chakra Club	7	2	1	4	7
Arunayaton	7	2	1	4	7
Kusumda Apollo	7	2	1	4	7
Shantipur S.C.	7	0	0	7	0



West Jatrabari yesterday became the unbeaten champions in the Second Division handball league. — Photo Tenku

Easy job for Aussie selectors

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 28: There will be no surreptitious whispers or secret notes passed

around a smoke-filled room tonight when the Australian Test selectors pick their squad to take on the West Indies next month, reports Reuter.

The selectors, chairman Lawrie Sawle, John Benaud, Jim Higgs and coach Bob Simpson, will meet by telephone hook-up to select the 16-man party to contest cricket's unofficial world championship.

Australia will play five Tests and five one-day internationals during their 11-week tour of the Caribbean.

Picking the first 13 will take about as long as Sawle needs to write down the names of the 12 on duty against England at Adelaide and the man who missed out for the first time in 42 Tests, Steve Waugh.

While Devon Malcolm has highlighted deficiencies against pace, Waugh has both class and experience even if it does already appear that brother Mark is likely to leave the greater mark on cricket history.

Like Mark, Craig McDermott has secured his ticket, and probably an opening Test place, with his performance in the current fourth Test against England.

Hughes, for his pace and strength, is a must and while there are doubts about Terry Alderman's efficiency in Caribbean conditions it will take a brave selector to omit him.

As for Bruce Reid, he represents Australia's best chance of victory.

Greg Matthews has done well on his return and the top five batsmen all have proven records and will at least start the series.

The 14th member of the current Ashes-retaining team is Carl Rackemann, who, despite taking none for 109 in his only Test appearance this series, is likely to be picked.

Which leaves two places, one of which is earmarked for the support wicketkeeper to Ian Healy.

The second-best wicket-keeper in Australia—many

would argue the best—is Tim Zocher.

Dropped after 10 Tests, more for his attitude than ability, Zocher is said to be a new man, much like Greg Matthews, and McDermott who were discarded for similar reasons but are now recalled.

But with at least one batsman bound to suffer a broken finger or wrist at some stage, Mike Veletta, to squeeze in ahead of his Western Australian team-mate.

Howevr, should Healy be injured, Zocher can expect to be summoned to keep wicket in any remaining Tests.

Australia would dearly like to take a leg-spinner but, with Trevor Hohns committed to Queensland's elusive Shield dream, there is no one good enough to pick, with Adrian Tucke r, 21, failing to live up to last season's promise and Peter Sleep having rarely bowled.

Peter Taylor is the obvious choice as second spinner but, though successful in one-day matches this season, he is unlikely to be bowled either with, or instead of, the similar Matthews.

Instead Allan Border may be asked to provide left-arm variation.

Which leaves one place for the toughest tour of all. With the Sheffield Shield continuing until late March, the selectors will be able to call on fit and in-form players as replacements for specialist positions in the event of injuries.

Thus the 16th man might well be real Test class O'Donnell, who played six Tests up to 1985, is an intrinsic part of the one-day side and all the limited-over matches come early in the tour.

Probable squad — Allan Border (captain), Geoff Marsh (vice-captain), Dean Jones, Craig McDermott, Greg Matthews, Simon O'Donnell, Carl Rackemann, Bruce Reid, Mark Taylor, Mike Veletta, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh.

Gillingham sets world record

LEICESTER, Jan 28: Briton Nick Gillingham set a world best for the 200 metres breaststroke on Sunday when he clocked two minutes 8.11 seconds in a short course meeting, reports Reuter.

He clipped 0.47 of a second from the previous mark set by Spaniard Joaquim Fernandez last Thursday.

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