

Victoria gun Biman down

Sports Reporter



Iqbal Hossain once again proved his worth as a real slogger as Victoria Sporting Club continued their giant-slaying act with a thrilling two-wicket win over joint-holders Bangladesh Biman in the lone Navana Premier Division cricket league fixture at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Iqbal scored a timely unbeaten 34 to dead-end Victoria, chasing a fighting 166 runs for an outright win, from the jaws of a defeat.

It was the second time Iqbal enacted a sensational finish following his enthralling knock of 75 in the recently-concluded 15th Dhanmendi Summer cricket tournament, the traditional curtain-raiser of the domestic cricket circuit.

In that match, the 25-year-old Tangail cricketer, hammered a huge sixer in the penultimate ball of the last over to snatch a memorable win for Victoria.

From then on Victoria continued to occupy the headlines of every news daily, rolling over GMCC and Brothers Union on their way to the final. The dream run continued in the league when they took care of Mohammedans in their league opener.

In yesterday's match, the balding Iqbal came to his team's rescue with Victoria reeling at 93 for six in 29.3 overs.

In the absence of Indian Test-discard Chetan Sharma and with dependable Rajinder Singh back in the dressing room earlier than expected, Iqbal shared priceless 36 runs for the eighth wicket with Biplab Sarker, who made a useful 10.

After surviving at 22 when Biman skipper Enamul Haq failed to hold on to a return catch with the scoreboard reading at 155 for eight in the last ball of the 43rd over, Iqbal fittingly cashed in on the chance of a lifetime, lofting Habibul Bashar over mid-on in the next over.

However, he later gave two half-chances to Enamul Haq in successive deliveries on the way to collecting required runs for victory with nine balls to spare.

In a rather low-scoring affair, opener Mihrab Hossain

scored a sedate 28 off 72 balls while Zahiduddin and Abu Hamid contributed a useful 17 and 11 respectively.

Spinner Ziaur Rashid was the most successful Biman bowler claiming three wickets for 31 runs in his quota of nine overs. Vishal Singh Yadab (7) was his third victim whom he caught spectacularly diving to his left.

But Habibul Bashar, whom Iqbal toyed with in the penultimate over, captured the vital wickets of Mihrab Hossain and Rajinder Singh.

Earlier, sent in to bat first, Biman could muster 165 for eight in the allotted 45 overs in the face of a superlative spell from Vishal, who replaced Chetan Sharma, suspended for one match by the BCCB for his on-field misconduct in the previous match.

Vishal, a left-arm spinner who slightly missed a hattrick as Abu Hamid failed to hold on



Iqbal Hossain to an easy catch of Shahinawaz, finished with a haul of four wickets for only 29 runs in his nine-over spell.

He struck in the 12th over picking up the wickets of Jahangir (16) and Habibul Bashar (0) in successive deliveries and almost got Shahinawaz, the top Biman scorer with 44, when the number four bat was on nought had not Piyal dropped him at point.

Rajinder Singh, who captured the prize scalp of Wasim Haider, finished with an enviable analysis of 6-3-11-1. Among other Victoria bowlers Iqbal, skipper Azhar Hossain

and Biplab Sarker claimed one wicket apiece.

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH BIMAN:				
Jahangir Alam c Rajinder	16			
b Vishal Singh	26			
Nasir Khan b Iqbal Hossain	00			
Habibul Bashar c Ahmed	00			
Didar b Vishal Singh	44			
b Biplab Sarker	14			
Enamul Haq lbw	01			
b Azhar Hossain	14			
Wasim Haider c Ahmed Didar	01			
b Rajinder Singh	14			
Ziaur Rashid b	08			
Vishal Singh	22			
Jahangir Talukder	04			
c Rajinder b Vishal Singh	04			
Ahmed Fayaz not out	16			
Debasish not out	16			
Extras: (b-4; lb-3; nb-4; w-7)	16			
Total: (for 8 wickets, in 45 overs)	165			
Fall of wickets: 1-40; 2-40; 3-47; 4-70; 5-71; 6-117; 7-131; 8-138.				

BIMAN:				
Mohammed Ali	4	0	16	09
Iqbal Hossain	9	0	23	1
Vishal Singh	9	0	29	4
Rajinder Singh	6	3	11	1
Abu Hamid	3	0	10	0
Azhar Hossain	6	0	25	1
Biplab Sarker	8	0	43	1

VICTORIA SC:
Azhar Hossain run out 13
Mihrab Hossain c Ahmed 28
Fayaz b Habibul Bashar 11
Rajinder Singh 02
b Habibul Bashar
Ziauddin Ahmed 17
b Ziaur Rashid
Abu Hamid c Enamul Haq 11
b Ziaur Rashid
Vishal Singh c & b Ziaur Rashid 07
Iqbal Hossain not out 34
Biplab Sarker run out 10
Mohammed Ali not out 01
Extras: (b-4; lb-11; w-16; nb-2) 33
Total: (for 8 wickets in 43.3 overs) 167
Fall of wickets: 1-37; 2-65; 3-67; 4-74; 5-93; 6-106; 7-109; 8-145.

Bowling:				
Gulam Nawsher	7	2	13	0
Jahangir Talukder	3	0	19	0
Wasim Haider	7	0	23	0
Enamul Haq	9	0	29	0
Ziaur Rashid	9	0	31	3
Habibul Bashar	8.3	0	47	2

TODAY'S MATCHES

Mohammedans vs Kalabaghian (DS)
GMCC vs Gulshan Youth (DCS)

City Club can only blame themselves

Sports Reporter

Five batsmen ran themselves out as City Club went down fighting to Agrani Bank by 38 runs in a low-scoring affair of the Yamaha First Division at the Dhanmendi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Chasing 130 runs in 45 overs for an outright win, City Club were bundled out for 91 in 39.1 overs, no thanks to the indiscreet quintet.

Earlier, invited to bat first on the eastern strip of the stadium, the bankers totalled 129 in 40.3 overs.

Muktadir Babur made life miserable for the Bank batsmen and returned enviable figures of four for 11.

Away at the Mirpur Pallabi ground, in the other match of the day, a low-scoring one, Dhaka Wanderers etched a seven-wicket victory over Lalmitia Club.

Sent in to bat first, Lalmitia simply lost their way in the face of tight Wanderers bowling and ended the innings on 113 in 41.3 overs.

There were only three two-figures scores in the losers' innings including top-scorer Raju Parvez's 27.

Nuruzzaman was the pick of Wanderers bowlers giving away only seven runs in his nine overs for three wickets. Pakistani Sagir Abbas, Ismail Islam and T Islam accounted for two batsmen each.

Bazlu led Wanderers' victory charge with a staid 52 and Jahangir Alam made a patient 32 as Wanderers posted 114 for three wickets in 31.1 overs.

Nat'l U-16 soccer begins Dec 20

Sports Reporter

The Beximco national U-16 football tournament under the auspices of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) starts December 20 at six different Zonal Venues of the country simultaneously.

At a press conference at the BFF office, federation joint-secretary Shah Abul Kashem revealed that the budget of the 49-team meet has been earmarked at Taka eight lakh.

Top finishers of the six zonal groups will qualify for the final round to be played in the capital.

On the opening day, Chittagong will take on Sunamganj at Comilla while Rajshahi will face Sirajganj at Natore.

The participating teams are: **Dhaka Zone:** Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Madaripur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Munshiganj, Chandpur and Dhaka.

Tangail Zone: Gazipur, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Netrakona, Sherpur, Manikganj, Faridpur and Tangail.

Natore Zone: Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sirajganj, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Naogaon, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat and Natore.

Comilla Zone: Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Feni, Sunamganj, Sylhet, Laxmipur, Khagrachhari and Comilla.

Jessore Zone: Khulna, Bagerhat, Narail, Satkhira, Jhalkathi, Magura and Jessore.

Chudanga Zone: Kushtia, Pabna, Barguna, Bhola, Patuakhali, Meherpur, Jhenidah and Chudanga.

N'ganj soccer

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 18: Monir scored a hattrick to lead Shuktara Junior KC to a thumping 7-0 victory over Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) in the Hanjin Shipping First Division football league at the Osmani Stadium today.

Rajangandha Club take on Sonakandi Whites tomorrow (Monday).

1994: Runs, records & Lara



LONDON, Dec 18: Before Brian Lara had picked up a bat in 1994, Sir Gary Sobers held the record for the highest Test innings. Hanif Mohammad had the biggest first class score and Warwickshire were considered an outsider in England's cricket competitions.

By the end of the summer, Lara had made history, writes AP.

Batting against England at St Johns, Antigua, the West Indian left-hander beat Sobers' 36-year-old record score of 365 by 10 runs.

Batting for Warwickshire against Durham at Edgbaston, he overtook Hanif's 499 to finish up 501 not out. Ironically, both those games were drawn although the West Indies won the series 3-1 against England and Warwickshire enjoyed unprecedented success during the county season.

Lara, who also scored 147 on his debut for Warwickshire, helped the county win three titles, the county championship, the Benson and Hedges Cup and the Sunday League.

Warwickshire almost made it a first ever sweep, losing to Worcestershire in the final of the NatWest Trophy, where Lara scored 81.

The 25-year-old batting phenomenon averaged over 100 playing for Warwickshire and then returned to the West Indies for a three-Test series in India.

With his team behind 1-0 in the series going to the last Test, Lara scored a rapid 91 and helped set up a 243-run victory.

Lara wasn't the only star of the West Indies team in 1994. Fast bowler Curtly Ambrose terrorized the English batsmen, especially in Trinidad, where they were bowled out for 46, and he took six for 24 to return match figures of 11 for 84.

India surprised the West Indies by scoring a 96-run victory in Bombay, their 10th triumph in a row on home soil. Sachin Tendulkar continued to shine with the bat, well supported by Navjot Singh Sidhu, but Indian cricket fans were in an anguish over the decision by their greatest all-rounder, Kapil Dev, to retire from the game.

Pakistan gained a 1-0 home series victory over Australia, who three times squandered winning positions under new captain Mark Taylor, the replacement for retired Allan Border.

Salim Malik scored a double century in Rawalpindi to rescue a draw for Pakistan, who won the Test at Karachi thanks to a record half-century stand by

the last pair. The Australians, with leg spinner Shane Warne continuing to baffle the English, responded by beating England by 184 runs at Brisbane at the end of November in the first Test of the Ashes series.

England looked in position to save the match before Warne's eight off 71 off 50 overs finished them off.

After losing 11 of their previous 14 Tests, the English men had a reasonably good summer, gaining a 1-0 series victory



Brian Lara over New Zealand followed by a 1-1 tie with South Africa.

They came from behind to win the third Test against the South Africans, thanks largely

to a stunning performance of nine for 57 by paceman Devon Malcolm in the tourists' second innings.

But team captain Michael Atherton came under fire in a bizarre incident when he was caught on television apparently pulling dirt from his pockets and shining the ball.

With a controversy on ball-tampering continually hitting the headlines, Atherton looked a guilty man. He explained later it was something to do with keeping the ball dry in sweaty conditions but he was fined 2,000 pounds (dls 3,200) for not giving that explanation to match officials.

It was a game England would want to forget anyway, bowled out for 99 in the second innings to lose by a massive 356 runs.

Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, the two comparative newcomers to top class international cricket, posted two of the big upset victories of the season although made little impact in tests.

The Sri Lankans beat host nation South Africa in a one-day game while Zimbabwe humbled England in a one-day game in a four-team tournament in Australia.

Hong Kong is not likely to join the top nine international teams but is promoting cricket hard so that the game survives its takeover by China in 1997.



Former England skipper Mike Gatting holds a towel to stop the bleeding from a cut inside the mouth during a four-day match against the Queensland Bulls in Toowoomba, Queensland yesterday. Gatting slammed 203 not out before retiring hurt. — AFP photo

Gatting's mixed fortune



TOOWOOMBA, Australia, Dec 18: Former England captain Mike Gatting enjoyed mixed fortunes on the

second day of his side's four-day match against Queensland today, reports Reuter.

Gatting, 114 not out overnight, cruised to an unbeaten double-century as England reached 507 for six before declaring.

But in the second over of the home side's reply, he was struck a painful blow in the mouth when the ball bounced awkwardly as he tried to field it.

Gatting was led from the ground with blood pouring from a wound inside his mouth, but the injury was found not to be serious although it might require stitches.

Queensland made a spirited reply to England's total with Stuart Law hammering 91 in only 88 balls, and by the close they had reached 197 for four, still trailing by 310 runs with two days remaining.

Gatting and vice-captain Alec Stewart ensured England, resuming at 355 for five, remained in control as they added an unbroken 145 for the seventh wicket.

Gatting again looked in prime form and played some crunching forcing shots, although he was dropped on 197. He reached his double century in 345 balls and 411 minutes with 30 fours before Michael Atherton declared.

Stewart, who recovered sufficiently from his back injury to bat after Shaun Udall had been bowled by Dirk Tazelaar for 16, played in his usual attractive fashion, and finished unbeaten

on 53 in 103 balls with six fours.

Fast bowler Devon Malcolm, playing in his first first-class match for a month following a bout of chickenpox, then made early inroads into the Queensland innings, having both openers, Matthew Hayden and Trevor Bardsby, caught behind, and finished the day with two for 50 in 11 overs.

The answer of Queensland batsman Stuart Law was to attack and having come in, soon after tea, he reached fifty in only 42 balls. He looked certain to score a century in the final session of the day until off-spinner Udall had him caught at point, slicing a drive after he had hit ten fours and a six in his 91.

Udall, in highly competitive mood, also removed Martin Love, stumped by Steven Rhodes for 47.

Gatting, who spent the rest of the day off the field after sustaining his injury, was briefly replaced by physiotherapist Dave Roberts, with the team having no more fit players. Groin injury victim Graham Thorpe then replaced Roberts briefly, before local fliers Paul Farmer and Jeff Mays took over the substitute duties.

Team manager Keith Fletcher said later: "I thought Gatt played well again. It was a nice pitch, but you still have to get the runs."

About Gatting's injury, he added: "I was worried at first that it had caught him right on the end of the nose and that it was broken."

"Thankfully, it's not as bad as we thought, but his face is badly swollen with cuts on the inside and outside. He's not

looking the best, but he'll be okay for the Test."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps Sunday, second day of the four-day cricket match between England and Queensland at Heritage Park:

ENGLAND: 1st Innings				
Gooch c Rowell b McDermott	50			
Atherton b Tazelaar	6			
Hick c Love b Rowell	49			
Gatting not out	203			
Crawley c Law b Kasprzewicz	91			
Rhodes lbw Kasprzewicz	0			
Udall b Tazelaar	16			
Stewart not out	53			
Extras:	39			
Total: (for six wickets, declared)	507			
Fall of wickets: 1-16; 106; 118; 320; 330; 362.				

Bowling:				
McDermott	26	5	98	1
Tazelaar	25	6	72	2
Symonds	10	2	51	0
Rowell	33	7	116	1
Kasprzewicz	22	3	89	2
Maher	7	1	25	0
Hayden	7.1	0	40	0

Batting time: 534 minutes. Overs: 130.1.

QUEENSLAND: 1st Innings				
Bardsby c Rhodes b Malcolm	15			
Hayden c Rhodes b Malcolm	8			
Love st Rhodes b Udall	47			
Law c Fraser b Udall	91			
Maher not out	22			
Symonds not out	4			
Extras:	10			
Total: (for four wickets)	197			
Fall of wickets: 1-11; 66; 116; 187.				

Bowling				
Malcolm	11	0	50	2
Fraser	7	1	24	0
Tufnell	11	1	53	0
Udall	17	1	62	2
Hick	2	0	6	0

Batting time: 193 minutes. Overs: 48.

Walsh's arrogant assertion



KINGSTON, Jamaica, Dec 18: Buoyant captain Courtney Walsh said on his return home from the tour of India at the weekend that West Indies would remain "very, very hard to beat," reports Reuter.

West Indies, who won the third and final Test against India by 243 runs on Wednesday to square the rubber 1-1, have not lost a Test series for almost 15 years.

Walsh said: "We all struck it out and even when our backs were against the wall, we proved to the cricketing world that we are fighters...if we could do it with the team we had, then when the other greats come back, this West

Indies team is going to be a very, very hard team to beat." Paceman Walsh is leading the West Indies in the absence of Richie Richardson, who is taking a break from the game because of acute fatigue.

Fast bowler Curtly Ambrose also missed the tour of India, because of a shoulder injury.

Walsh attributed his team's comeback after disappointing performances in a clutch of one-day games and in the first two Tests to "sheer guts and determination," talent, as well as pride.

"Everyone stuck to their

task... we knew we had a very, very proud record to defend... even if we were going to go down, we knew we had to go down fighting," he said.

Walsh described the tour as "probably the most hectic I've ever been on in terms of travelling and playing cricket."

"We were never at one place until the one-day games were over. We were playing on one day and travelling sometimes the same night so it was very, very difficult."

"We never got a chance to get ourselves together and to get some proper practice until the one-day games were over."

The 32-year-old fast bowler, who has captained Jamaica and English county Gloucestershire, said he was looking forward with enthusiasm to his second tour assignment — in

MSC's second

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded their second successive victory in the Green Delta First Division hockey league when they trounced Dhaka Wanderers 4-1 at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Zahid Biswas opened the Mohammedan account in the very first minute and 'Siam' made it two-nil three minutes later.

Ijaz scored the third ten minutes away from the short whistle while Siam completed the tally nine minutes into the second half with his second goal of the match.

Titu pulled one back for Wanderers in the 42nd minute.

In the first match of the day, Biaka Lusai struck twice to lead Dhaka Mariner Youngs to a two-nil win over Farashganj SC.

Bridge contest

The three-day 'pair-of-the-year' duplicate bridge contest for the QA Alim Memorial Cup, an annual event of the Dhaka Metropolitan Bridge Association (DMBA), will begin at 3:30 pm on December 22 at the Bangladesh Bank Club