

Biman back to winning ways

Sports Reporter

Pakistani World Cupper Wasim Haider and Indian Test-discard Sanjeev Sharma gave a quick professional response to the gross underestimation of their abilities by their skipper and team officials as the duo produced match-winning performances to help holders Bangladesh Biman rediscover the winning ways in yesterday's one of the two Navana Premier Division cricket league matches billed for the Dhaka Stadium.

Last year's joint Navana champions Bangladesh Biman, smarting under a stunning three wicket loss to giant-killers Kalabagan only in the previous match, collected only their second win in four matches so far, with an apparently massive 107 run victory over Gulshan Youth.

Wasim Haider, the lithe, handsome PIA player, walked in at number eight with the airlines team tottering at 93 for seven.

From there Haider in the company of an obdurate Debashis Barua, Biman's wicket-keeper, staged a brilliant salvage operation without compromising with his natural aggression.

While Barua remained un-

beaten on 13 only, Haider stayed unconquered on an imperious 77 made off 89 balls with the help of nine powerful boundaries and Biman registered a fighting total of 188 for eight at the end of their share of 45 overs.

Joydev Basak was Biman's scourge in the morning as the right-arm new ball bowler, so tantalisingly close on being reckoned for the national side in not too distant a past, captured four wickets for 23 runs only.

Haider's cool and clinical job with the bat sufficiently perked up Sanjeev Sharma to make amends for his relative failure with the bat and Biman, who were defeated by Victoria in their Navana opener to be followed by another humiliation at the hands of a new-look Kalabagan only recently, were destined not to visit the corridors of nightmare once again.

Mindlessly held back in the batting order along with Haider in the previous match against Kalabagan, Sharma, who enjoys the ripping analysis of six for 26, so far the best by any bowler this season, captured four wickets for nine runs only from 7.1 overs including four maidens.

Atiar stood amidst the ruins with 22 as Gulshan Youth,

breathed fire upon by Sanjeev Sharma, were shot out for 81 in 39.1 overs.

Although star-studded Abahani, one of the defending champions and the Damal Summer winners, became the latest entry in the list of beaten teams; Brothers Union maintained a clean slate when they registered a comfortable five wicket victory in the days other Navana encounter.

They beat lowly Sadharan Bima by five wickets yesterday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium to notch their fourth successive victory.

Pacemen Sajal and Mafiz did the spade work in the morning evenly sharing six wickets between themselves as Bima, batting first, were all out for 157 to the last ball of the 45th and the final over.

Mafiz bagged three for 26 while national cricketer Sajal's bag of treble cost him 21 runs.

Pakistani Aamir Hanif made 35 off 45 balls and with Shoab contributing 26 and Sohel an unbeaten 25, Brothers were home and dry with a five wicket victory posting 160 for five in 42.4 overs.

TODAY'S MATCHES
MSC vs Surja Tarun (Dhaka Stadium)
Victoria vs Eskaton (DCS)

Dhanmondi win in Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

Dhanmondi Club beat Agrani Bank by five wickets in the Yamaha First Division cricket league yesterday.

Set to score 172 in their 45-over quota for an outright win, Dhanmondi made 174 for the loss of five wickets in 43.2 overs.

Earlier in the morning, the bankers folded their innings on 171 to the last ball of the penultimate over.

Acme cricket

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Boys posted a creditable four-wicket win over Khelaghar SKS in yesterday's lone Acme Second Division cricket league fixture.

In reply to Khelaghar's fighting total of 168 for eight in 40 overs, Bangladesh Boys collected 170 in 37.4 overs for the loss of six of their batsmen.



South African opening batsman Gary Kirsten fails to make his ground as Pakistani stumper Rashid Latif whips the balls off in the second of the best-of-three Mandela Trophy limited overs cricket tournament finals at Johannesburg on January 12. South Africa won the trophy beating the World Cup winners by 157 runs. In the first, the hosts won by 37 runs. —AFP photo

De Villiers, Donald destroy Pakistan

Mandela Trophy S Africa's

JOHANNESBURG Jan 13: In the presence of their President, South Africa clinched the Mandela Trophy with a match to spare on Thursday as they thrashed Pakistan by 157 runs at the Wanderers, their biggest ever one-day win batting first, reports Reuter.

Replying to South Africa's imposing total of 266 for five Pakistan were shot out for 109 in 32.3 overs. Fanie de Villiers took a wicket in each of his first three overs to reduce Pakistan to 14 for three and they never recovered.

On his return to the side after a five month injury lay-off Allan Donald provided the perfect foil for De Villiers. Donald took a while to find his range, but when he did he was too hot for the Pakistani batsmen to handle.

Inzamamul Haq (19) and Salim Malik (12) were caught behind off Donald after putting on 23 for the fourth-wicket and then the paceman had Rashid Latif brilliantly caught at slip by Brian McMillan for a duck to make it 42 for 6.

Wasim Akram and Asif Mujtaba put on 55 for the seventh-wicket in a face saving stand, but when Akram became another Jonty Rhodes run out victim with a top score of 26 the last four wickets fell for 12 runs.

Earlier South Africa's batsmen had been equally merciless with the Pakistan bowling attack. Mike Rindel's maiden century in only his seventh match spearheaded the home team's charge to 266 for five.

Rindel, whose 106 came from 139 balls with nine fours, set a new South African first-wicket one-day record with a partnership of 190 in 38 overs with Gary Kirsten whose 87 came from 110 balls. They beat the 151 set by Kepler Wessels and Andrew Hudson against



DONALD... 3 for 25
England at Melbourne during the last World Cup.

South Africa won the first Mandela Trophy final game by 37 runs in Cape Town on Tuesday and their win at the Wanderers meant that there was no need for the deciding third match on Saturday.

The two teams meet in a one-off Test, the first ever between the two countries, at the Wanderers starting next Thursday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the second match of the best-of-three finals in the Mandela Trophy one-day cricket tournament between South Africa and Pakistan at the Wanderers on Thursday:

Player	O	M	R	W
Wasim Akram	10	1	47	1
Aaqib Javed	9	1	33	0
Waqar Younis	9	0	57	1
Akram Raza	8	0	44	0
Aamir Sohail	10	0	52	0
Salim Malik	4	0	24	1

THURSDAY: SOUTH AFRICA

G Kirsten at Rashid Latif b Salim Malik	87
M Rindel run out	106
H Cronje c Aaqib Javed b Wasim Akram	37
D Cullinan b Waqar Younis	5
J Rhodes run out	6
D Callaghan not out	7
D Richardson not out	1
Extras (w-6, nb-2, lb-9)	17
Total (for five wickets, 50 overs)	266
Fall of wickets: 1-190; 2-243; 3-251; 4-257; 5-260.	
Did not bat: B McMillan, E Simons, F de Villiers, A Donald.	

Bowling

Player	O	M	R	W
Wasim Akram	10	1	47	1
Aaqib Javed	9	1	33	0
Waqar Younis	9	0	57	1
Akram Raza	8	0	44	0
Aamir Sohail	10	0	52	0
Salim Malik	4	0	24	1

PAKISTAN

Aamir Sohail lbw De Villiers	0
Saeed Anwar c Richardson b De Villiers	3
Ijaz Ahmed c Richardson b De Villiers	4
Inzamamul Haq c Richardson b Donald	19
Salim Malik c Richardson b Donald	12
Asif Mujtaba c Richardson b Cronje	24

Bowling

Rashid Latif c McMillan b Donald	0
Wasim Akram run out	26
Akram Raza c McMillan b Simons	0
Waqar Younis c Cronje b Simons	6
Aaqib Javed not out	4
Extras (w-6, nb-2, lb-3)	11
Total (32.3 overs)	109

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-7; 3-14; 4-37; 5-42; 6-42; 7-97; 8-98; 9-98.

Bowling

Player	O	M	R	W
De Villiers	7	1	21	3
Donald	8	2	25	3
Simons	9.3	1	26	2
McMillan	5	0	25	0
Cronje	3	0	9	1

Result: South Africa won by 157 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Mike Rindel.
First match: South Africa won by 37 runs.
Man-of-the-series: Aamir Sohail.

Rutherford rues the rules

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Jan 13: New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford says international cricket is in danger of being sanitized by a rigidly-enforced code of conduct, reports AP.

Back home after one of the longest tours in modern cricket, Rutherford — who was twice fined in South Africa for breaching the code and is under a two match suspended sentence — said the game stood to lose much of its colour from the over policing of players actions.

"There'll be the sticklers who say you should show more discipline or restraint but I've always been a reasonably zealous character on the field, and I'd like to think there's a place for expressing yourself, even in international cricket," Rutherford said Friday.

He spoke of the "McEnroe factor" — a reference to outspoken and controversial tennis player John McEnroe — being lost from the game as officials attempted to enforce a uniformity in players reactions.

Rutherford said it was difficult to accept that some people believed he should be replaced as captain after being fined for dissent during the third test at Cape Town.

"If everyone gets done for what I said, you're only going to have a handful of players available for the next game," Rutherford was fined 75 per cent of his match fee during the third test after allegedly showing dissent at the crease when given out leg before wicket. He was earlier fined half his match fee for allegedly attempting to intimidate the umpire into giving a decision during the Mandela Trophy one day series.

The final games of the one-day series were completed this week. Rutherford said he would be interested to see what resulted from the "four or five incidents" he witnessed between eventual winners South Africa and Pakistan.

"The key word I guess, is consistency. I saw one player hit his stumps with the bat; (South African) Steve Jack — who I know has already been warned by matched referee Peter Burge — was having a verbal slanging match with Aamir Sohail and Inzamamul Haq stood there for an age after being given out. I saw four or five incidents as bad as, if not worse, than what I did.

"I'm not saying to kids go out there and swear and curse, I don't do that myself. But sometimes, just as your must restrain yourself, you have to stand up for yourself as well. It's a hard game and there's times when you have to give as good as you get."

Cruyff renews his contract

BARCELONA, Jan 13: Barcelona manager Johan Cruyff has extended his contract with the Spanish side until the end of the June 1997 despite a spate of recent upsels, reports AFP.

His extension comes only a week after he watched his team humiliated 5-0 by arch-rival Real Madrid and the upcoming departure of Brazil's World Cup star Romario.

There have also been growing rumours that Club president Jose Luis Nunez and Cruyff were at loggerheads.

One Spanish newspaper speculated that Nunez's decision to extend Cruyff's contract was to send a message that there was no problem at Barcelona and that it would be business as usual.

New sponsor for England soccer team

LONDON, Jan 13: England's national soccer team has acquired a commercial sponsor for the first time.

Green Flag, a holding company known primarily for its vehicle breakdown and recovery service, signed a four-year, four million pound (dls 6 million) deal Thursday with the Football Association.

The deal involves sponsorship of England home games at Wembley Stadium. The company logo will appear on England training outfits.

Some traditionalists criticised the deal, which follows sponsorship packages covering the Premier League and the FA Cup. But Trevor Phillips, the FA's commercial director, defended sponsorship as a necessity in the modern era.

"England are not the first team to be sponsored" he said.



The players and officials of Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club that emerged champions in the Purabi General Insurance seventh Federation Cup basketball tournament in the final, played at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday. Mariners beat Josephites Club 73-55. —Star photo

Federation Cup Mariners'

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club overcame a sluggish start to clinch the Purabi General Insurance seventh Federation Cup basketball trophy beating Josephites Club by a comfortable margin of 73-55 in the final at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Mariners who had easily defeated the Josephites earlier in a preliminary group match couldn't have a worse start to the finale and for reasons only known to them, allowed the eventual runners up to take a 35-32 first half lead.

The front liners missed easy shots, couldn't hold on to the rebounds and were clumsy on the last breaks as Mariners pre-tourney favourites with a host of national colours to their ranks, conceded a three-point lead to the relatively well-orchestrated Josephites.

Had Mahub Alam Chowdhury, who enjoyed a remarkable scoring spree leading up to the final but immensely disappointed the fans yesterday, been able to score from the great many chances he had, Mariners would have

gone up by at least ten points at the breather.

The second half started with the Josephites pressing on to consolidate their lead but couldn't quite do that in the face of a regrouped Mariner defence and after a few moments of worry in the bench, the eventual winners finally picked up the momentum. From then on, a Mariner triumph was over in a matter of minutes.

With Sushanta, Anthony Gomez, Asghar Hossain maneuvering with astonishing ease under the board and Mohammed Zahiruddin doing a superb job in the middle, Mariners had simply nothing to worry about.

Josephites, on the other hand, seemed a bit exhausted towards the end and struggled to keep up with the opponents, watching rather helplessly the Mariner score rolling on.

In the end, what appeared set for tight finish fizzled out in a totally Mariner-dominated affair.

The otherwise entertaining encounter was marred by a number of dubious rulings

from the umpires, incidentally in Josephites favour, resulting in pronounced annoyance among the Mariners. Moreover, the duo in the middle overlooked what appeared infringements to the onlookers and at one stage a player went to the extent of saying, "Until and unless we get killed, the umpires won't rule in our favour."

Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan witnessed the final as chief guest and gave away trophies among the finalists. Chairman of the sponsors, Purabi General Insurance Company Limited, Abdullah al Harun Chowdhury and Professor Rashiduddin Ahmed Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation (BABF) were also there as special guests.

Meanwhile, the First Division basketball league originally planned for a start immediately after the Federation Cup, will now begin some time in March owing to some sides reported reluctance in playing in the month of Ramadan.

Rindel, a revelation

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 13: A player who had never previously opened in first class cricket was instrumental in securing the victory which gave South Africa the Mandela Trophy at the Wanderers on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Mike Rindel, the 31-year-old man-of-the-match in South Africa's 157 run victory over Pakistan told a news conference: "I was horrified when Hansie (Cronje) told me I was opening. The only time I've ever done it before was in a club match when the rest of the side arrived late for the start."

Rindel scored 106 and helped build a South African one-day record for the first-wicket of 190 with Gary Kirsten. He was told on the eve of the match that he would be opening.

"When Hansie called me aside on Wednesday I thought I was going to be dropped. I didn't sleep at all last night because I was so nervous and I had an extra long net session this morning. As a result I was pretty exhausted before a ball was bowled."

Cronje said: "We sat down yesterday and discussed the opening position. We decided that Mike Rindel was the ideal man to get us off to a quick start and he Gary (Kirsten) responded magnificently."

The other match winners for South Africa were the new ball pair of Fanie de Villiers and Allan Donald. De Villiers continued his excellent season by taking three for 21 from seven overs, but it was Donald with three for 25 from eight in his first game for five months who made a telling difference.

"It was inspired bowling from Fanie and Allan," Cronje said.

"I was tempted to bowl them right through because they were doing such a great job. I think the rest did Allan a world of good and although it's up to the selectors I'm sure he'll play in the Test next week."

Pakistan captain Salim Malik offered no excuses.

"We put South Africa into bat because we prefer to chase," he said. "But today we played badly and we deserved to lose."

Asprilla goes to court

BOGOTA, Colombia, Jan 13: Soccer star Faustino Asprilla appeared before a prosecutor Thursday in a western Colombian town to face a weapons charge, reports AP. He was allowed to remain free, his attorney said.

The charge stems from a raucous New Year's Eve celebration in which Asprilla star forward for Parma of Italy, allegedly fired pistols into the air in his hometown of Tulua.

Asprilla had travelled from Italy to appear before the prosecutor. Asprilla planned to return to Italy on Friday, according to Diego Leon Cespedes, his attorney.

Cespedes refused to give details about Asprilla's appearance before the prosecutor, who could have ordered Asprilla jailed.

If the prosecutor decides to bring Asprilla to trial on a weapons charge and he is found guilty, he would face a maximum of four years in prison.

Inter-school, madrassah sports in Barisal

Our Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 13: The three-day Barisal inter-school and madrassah volleyball, hockey and badminton championships begin tomorrow. Schools and madrassahs from Barisal, Barguna, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali and Pirojpur will take part in the meet, which ends January 16.

First WSC final tomorrow

SYDNEY, Jan 13: Sean bowler Paul Reiffel today added to the confusion surrounding this weekend's World Series limited overs final when he was selected for Australia only five days after playing against them in the same competition, reports Reuter.

Reiffel was promoted from the second-string Australia team to the senior Australia squad for the three-match final series starting in Sydney on Sunday.

The two Australian teams qualified for the final at the expense of tourists England and Zimbabwe.

England captain Michael Atherton and A team captain Damien Martyn have labelled the exchange of players between the two Australia sides as "farcical".

Both Atherton and Australia captain Mark Taylor have questioned the concept of fielding two sides from the same country, saying it devalues the competition.

Reiffel is the fourth player to be selected for both Australia sides in this season's World Series, joining wicket-keeper, Phil Emery, spinner Gavin Robertson and batsman Michael Bevan.

The Victorian bowler replaced injured off-spinner Tim May after playing in all six of the A team qualifying matches, including the 29-run victory over England on Thursday which ensured the reserve side reached the finals.



PAUL REIFFEL

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The experiment of playing a second Australian side, in its first season, has not met with universal acceptance.

The finals, in common with Australia A's qualifying matches, will not be recognised as official one-day inter-

Flamengo rope in Romario

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 13: Brazilian soccer star Romario has signed for Flamengo of Rio De Janeiro, for 4.5 million dollars, a Flamengo official told Reuters on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The transfer is confirmed, said Marcos Felipe Magalhaes, head of marketing with Flamengo after speaking with club officials at Romario's former club Barcelona.

He said the club was also hoping to sign defender Branco from Corinthians in Sao Paulo and midfielder Dunga from Stuttgart in Germany.

Dunga captained the Brazil team which won the World Cup last year while Branco, like Romario, was a member of the team.

"They have seen how Flamengo is on the mend and they want in," said Magalhaes. The signing of the 29-year-old brilliant, but moody striker is seen as a turning point for soccer in Rio which is currently in the shadow of the more successful and richer clubs in Sao Paulo.

news for all the clubs in the city, Magalhaes said. The last two years have been the pits for football here.

Flamengo were Brazilian champions in 1992 but have since sold their best players and until now failed to replace them.



ROMARIO

During the final games of the club's unsuccessful 1994 season, crowds as low as 3,000 huddled together in the vast Maracana Stadium to sing abusive songs about the team's management.

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