

Duminda GMCC's hero

Sports Reporter

Sri Lankan all-rounder Duminda hit his second century of the season to power the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club to a hard-fought two-wicket win over Surjo Tarun Club in their Nanava Premier Division league match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The result left Surjo Tarun and the Greater Mymensingh CC par on points, each earning ten, but GMCC have a game in hand — against Kalabagan. Tarun completed their 1990-91 league programme of nine matches while GMCC have a chance to tie the big two — Mohammedan Sporting Club and last year's champions Abahani Krira Chakra who collected 12 points each.

The soft-spoken Duminda, who was 31 not out in GMCC's score of 90 for two wickets after 29 overs Friday played a match-winning knock yesterday, racing to a 99-ball century



DUMINDA...103

despite the fact only three of his teammates managed to enter double figures. GMCC, helped by Duminda's dashing and defiant knock, overhauled Surjo Tarun's total of 225 all out in 62.2 overs by reaching 226 for the loss of eight wickets in 70.3 overs.

Coming to the crease after

the fall of Gazi Ashraf Lipu's wicket with the board showing 40 for two, Duminda and opener Tutul, who was 21 overnight, added 93 runs for the third wicket before Tutul was dismissed for 33 after a patient stay at the wicket.

By this time Duminda was in full cry and dominated the bowling with his well-executed drives, pulls, cuts and fine placements. He was batting with such panache that Selim Jr, who joined him after the fall of Tutul's wicket, could contribute only nine of the 51 priceless runs he and Duminda added for the fourth wicket.

Wicketkeeper Nasu, who had such a rewarding day with the gloves Friday snapping up five catches behind the stumps, came a cropper with the bat yesterday and fell for just one run.

Duminda, the sixth man out, had done his job for the side. His 103 runs, worth their weight in gold for GMCC, were made with the help of a dozen

boundaries and three huge sixes. He became only the fourth batsman this season — and the first among the foreign players in our league — to hit two or more centuries. His teammate Gazi Ashraf Lipu and Mohammedan Sporting skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannoo have a couple of centuries to their credit while Biman's young opener Jahangir Alam, who started the season with a ton in his very first innings is the only one to hit three hundreds this year.

Duminda made his first century against Gulshan Youth on Feb 13 in that high-scoring match in which both sides crossed the 300-mark. In that game Gazi Ashraf Lipu had hit the first of his two tons. Duminda had made 112.

Other scorers for GMCC yesterday were Sanwar who made 16 and Lipu, out Friday, for 20.

Tanjib Ahsan Saad claimed four wickets for 63 while Morshed, Aruna de Silva and skipper Shaheen got one each.

Rupali's desperate act

Rupali Bank, the fortunes having plummeted from 1990's runners-up position to that of the bottom-of-the-table wooden-spoonists this year, hoped to live to fight another day when their match against last year's champions Abahani Krira Chakra could not be completed yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Rupali, staring straight down at their ninth consecutive defeat at the end of the first day's proceedings against Abahani Friday, managed to cry off yesterday from having to resume at their precarious

overnight total of 39 for three in reply to Abahani's 244 for nine.

Just when it appeared that lady luck had been a shade unkind to the bankers this season, she appeared to flash a silvery smile the bankers' way yesterday. The bankers were given an excuse for not having to go through the motions of yet another defeat in their last league engagement when the girl guides, who have been practising their routine for the Independence Day children's rally at the Dhaka Stadium, failed to finish their routine by the scheduled start of the cricket match. The guides, and boy scouts, overstayed and it

wasn't until 11:30am that the ground was made available to the cricketers.

It was at this point that Rupali Bank's players, and more particularly their harassed officials found it convenient to clutch at the last straw that might give them a long shot at prolonging their survival in the top division through some manipulation of the rules and by-laws. They refused to resume the match, perhaps reasoning that they would have a case to plead before the BCCB on grounds that their league programme hadn't been duly completed for them to be relegated to the lower division next season for

not having managed a win the whole season.

However, the two umpires Ataul Huq Mullick and M. A. Aziz, in their report, didn't appear to show any undue favours to the Bankers by dismissing their claim that the Guides and Scouts had adversely affected the condition of the pitch with their drills. In all likelihood, Rupali's fate appears to have been sealed.

There has been a bankrupt account this season and there seems hardly any scope for writing off their abject poor performance that does not become of a team playing in the very top league of the country.

Wheaton topples Edberg

KEY BISCAINE, Florida, Mar 23: Unseeded American David Wheaton scored the biggest win of his career when he toppled world number one Stefan Edberg 6-3, 6-4 on Friday to reach the men's final of the International Players tennis championships where he faces former schoolmate Jim Courier, reports Reuter.

Wheaton, 21, single handedly knocked out both of last year's finalists with his fourth round upset of defending champion Andre Agassi and stunner over 1990 runner-up Edberg.

Hard-hitting American Courier seeded 13th, earned his place in Sunday's final of the 2.55-million-dollar event his overpowering 24th-seeded countryman Richey Reneberg 6-4, 6-3 in 68 minutes.

The women's final between second seed Monica Seles of Yugoslavia and third seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina



STEFAN EDBERG takes place today. The top-seeded Edberg

struggled from the service line and was thoroughly dominated by Wheaton in the second set.

"It's the biggest tennis moment in my life," said the 46th-ranked Wheaton, who had lost in the first round of his four previous tournaments. "He's the best player on the planet. It's really special to beat him."

Edberg had four double faults on Friday, but none more costly than at break point in the ninth game of the second set that left Wheaton serving for the match.

Wheaton seized the opportunity and served out the set at love, ending the match with a backhand crosscourt volley right out of Edberg's bag of tricks.

You can't expect to win if you double fault, said Edberg, who had defeated Wheaton in their four previous meetings. It wasn't a good match on my side at least. My serves been giving me problems all year. It just didn't work at all.

Wheaton, who went to the

same secondary school and tennis academy as his final round opponent, never faced a break point or double faulted in the second set.

"He's tough to play," said Edberg. He tees off a lot and goes for his shots. On days like today he can beat a lot of good players.

Courier's superior firepower was fuelled by the confidence gained from winning his second career title two weeks ago in Indian Wells.

The 18th-ranked Courier's serve was overwhelming and his punishing forehand groundstrokes took their toll on Reneberg.

"When I needed a big point I pulled it out," said Courier, adding that his friendship with Wheaton will be forgotten when he faces him across the net on Sunday.

Reneberg said Courier was serving too well for him to get his game on track.

"My game plan was to go in off his second serve, but he didn't give me a chance."

Public Ad in final

Sports Reporter

At least 15 persons were injured in a fracas that followed Public Administration's win over Management in yesterday's semifinal of the Dhaka University inter-department cricket competition at the Jagannath Hall playground.

Trouble started when some Management Department supporters rushed towards one of the umpires and started roughing him up for allegedly favouring Public Administration with some of his decisions. In the free for all that ensued, around 4:15 pm, students of either department started pelting each other with coke bottles and other missiles. Eye-witnesses also reported the use of bamboo sticks and iron rods.

The injured were given first aid at the Dhaka University Medical Centre and the Medical College Hospital.

Public Administration, thanks to a fine all-round performance by Farooq who made 81 runs and took four wickets for just 23 runs, made the final beating Department of Management by 16 runs.

Batting first, Public Ad made 153 for nine in their stipulated overs, to which Management replied with 137 all out. Ranjan was Mana; gement's top scorer with 25.

Nabin, Orient win in Div II

Sports Reporter

Nabin Sangha and Orient Sporting Club won their respective matches in the second phase of the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league match yesterday at different city venues.

Nabin Sangha outplayed Lalbagh Anwar S.C. by five wickets while Orient S.C. crushed Gandaria S.C. by nine wickets.

At the Mahakhali T & T ground, Lalbagh A.S.C. decided to bat first and were shot out for a paltry 128 runs in 32 overs.

Rafiq with a fighting 46 not out, Saber 25, and Ballu 12 were the leading Lalbagh batsmen.

Robi two for 10, Barshen two for 20, and Sumon (Sr) two for 29 were the most successful bowlers for Nabin Sangha.

In reply, Nabin Sangha posted an easy 131 runs for the loss of five wickets in only 25.4 overs.

Shabbir with 40 runs was the highest scorer for Nabin Sangha.

Arif, 24 not out and Shahbaz 12 not out ensured Nabin Sangha's path to victory.

Hassan, Amir, Sawpon and Sohail took one wicket each for Lalbagh Anwar.

Gandaria Cricketers Club at the Mirpur Pallab ground, were bundled out for a miserable 67 runs in 25 overs.

Snow with 16 not out, Shaheen 13 and Nasir 12 were the only Gandaria batsmen to reach double figures.

Sohag with two wickets for 29 and Jahangir with two for 21 were the most successful Orient bowlers. Shaheen and Kajal also chipped in with one wicket each.

In reply, Orient S.C. raced to victory scoring 71 for the loss of one wicket in 17.5 overs. Pappu top-scored with 40 runs for Orient S.C.

Today's Matches
Eskaton Sabuj vs Victoria (Mirpur)

City Club vs Azad Boys (T & T)

Ispahani cricket

CHITTAGONG: Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club beat Customs and Excise Club by eight wickets in the CJKP Ispahani First Division cricket league at the Chittagong Stadium, March 22, reports BSS.

Customs batted first and were all out for 110 runs in 41.5 overs.

Jahangir 25, Liton 18, Shaheed 12 and Abbas 11 were the main scorers of Customs.

Rubel, Ripon, Dulu and Nannu of Mohammedan took two wickets each for 10, 13, 17 and 29 runs respectively.

Didar of Mohammedan top-scored with 38 followed by Azam not out 25 and Akram not out 15.

Tapan and Faruq of Customs took one wicket each for 7 and 24 runs respectively.

Faridpur cricket

FARIDPUR, Mar 23: The current cricket league championship, organised by Faridpur District Sports Association, began at the local stadium on Thursday.

In the opening match, defending champions Shahid Sufi Club outplayed Alipur Sucharyan Sangha by 175 runs.

Shahid Sufi Club winning the toss elected to bat and scored 229 runs in the stipulated 30 overs. In reply, Alipur Sucharyan were bundled out for a paltry 54 runs. Kazi of Shahid Sufi Club hit a magnificent knock of 105.

Mohammad Abdur Rahim, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur, inaugurated the championship.



Unification is bound to make the German women's handball team even more strong. —INP photo

Seraj cricket from Mar 27

Sports Reporter

The eleventh national junior cricket championship for the Seraj memorial trophy begins at five separate venues around the country from March 27.

Split into five zones, the limited-overs tournament for under-16 players is organised by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board with sponsorship from AB Bank Limited who have put up 3.36 lakhs of the estimate a budget of Taka 4.50 lakhs.

Thirty-two teams, including 31 district sports associations and the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishthan (BKSP) will be competing from five clusters on a knock-out basis. The final round of the meet

with the five zonal champions will be held in Chittagong after Ed-ul Fitr.

On the opening day, Sylhet will take on Manikganj at Satkhira, in a Zone A match, while Jessore will meet Jahalaki in Barisal in a Zone B match. Tangail face Narayanganj in a Zone C tie at Mymensingh. BKSP take on Jhenaidah in a Zone D game at Pabna while Satkhira meet Dinajpur at Rajshahi.

This was disclosed by BCCB President Kazi Bahauddin Ahmed at a press conference yesterday afternoon.

BCCB Joint Secretary Sheikh Bashiruddin Mamun, AB Bank Vice-President Alaudin Ahmed and Director Ramjul Seraj also spoke

The participating teams are:

GROUP A (Satkhira) - Barisal, Sylhet, Manikganj, Chandpur, Sunamganj and Dhaka DSAs.

GROUP B (Barisal) - Jessore, Magura, Jhalakati, Faridpur, Patuakhali, Khulna and Comilla DSAs.

GROUP C (Mymensingh) - Chittagong, Rajshahi, Sherpur, Moulvibazar, Tangail and Narayanganj.

GROUP D (Pabna) - Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishthan (BKSP), Jhenaidah, Rajbari, Meherpur, Chhainawabganj, Nilphamari and Kustha DSAs.

GROUP E (Rajshahi) - Satkhira, Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Pabna, Mymensingh and Narail.

Jahangir in semis

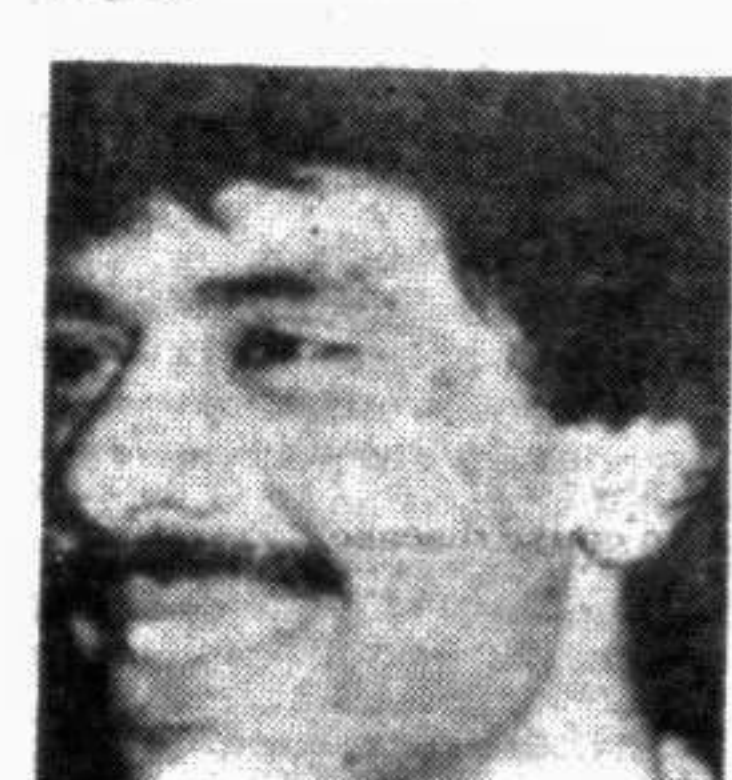
COLOGNE, Germany, Mar 23: Jahangir Khan on Friday lined up a semifinal German open squash clash with Chris Robertson, the Australian who earlier this month pushed him out of the world's top two the first time in 10 years, reports Reuter.

Both men registered relatively comfortable wins in Friday's quarter-finals. Robertson dismissed compatriot Brett Martin 15-9, 15-11, 11-15, 15-8 in minutes while Jahangir needed only 44 minutes to oust Scot Mark Maclean 15-13, 15-6, 15-9.

Robertson has loomed large in what has so far proved a frustrating season for Jahangir.

The Australian won their semifinal at the stretch challenge in Vancouver in October, after which Jahangir withdrew from the world circuit for nearly five months with mental and physical exhaustion.

Jahangir returned to the tournament scene at the Welsh Classic in Cardiff last month but again went down to



JAHANGIR KHAN

Robertson in the semifinals — a result which dropped the Pakistani to fourth spot in the world rankings.

The two men should be fresh for Saturday's clash. Jahangir dominated his match with Maclean, while only a lapse of concentration at the end of the third game prevented Robertson from recording an equally comprehensive victory over Martin.

Also though to the semifinals is Jansher Khan, the top-seeded world champion who is

attempting to win his 11th successive Grand Prix title.

The Pakistani thrashed England's captain Ryan Beeson 15-5, 15-6, 15-8 and was expected to face a grudge meeting with Chris Dittmar, the Australian world number three who has described Jansher as a nightmare of a world champion, and a total disgrace to the game in two separate outbursts this season.

But Dittmar lost in five games to Rodney Martin, his Australian compatriot winning 15-13, 5-15, 15-8, 12-15, 15-11 in 79 minutes.

Martin was the last man to beat Jansher on the world circuit in a semifinal at the Australian Open in August last year.

Meanwhile Reuter from London adds: The increase in player-referee conflicts in top class squash has prompted the sport's governing body to impose stricter requirements for tournament officials.

Only 23 international referees have been approved by the International Squash Rackets Federation (ISRF) for 1991

Delegation to decide S Africa's fate

JOHANNESBURG, Mar 23: South Africa lays out the red carpet on Saturday for the arrival of a top Olympic delegation which will decide whether the country has earned its place back in the international sporting family, reports Reuter.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is sending its watchdog commission on apartheid to see if South African political reform has gone far enough to welcome the springboks from decades of isolation.

"This is the most important sports delegation to come to South Africa," said the pro-government Beeld Newspaper.

The day of recognition has dawned. South Africa deserves this. The world realises that South African sports people are yearning for acknowledgment for what was attained in the many years of isolation and frustration, it added.

If all goes well during the visit — and most officials are optimistic — the South African flag has high chances of being raised at the 1992 Summer Games in Barcelona, which begin in July, or even at the Winter Olympics in Albertville, France, in February.

During their five-day mission, the IOC delegation will meet the country's five main sports organisations, representing all shades of political opinion.

The delegation, headed by Senegalese judge and IOC vice-president Kaba Mbaye, will also meet President FW de Klerk whose pledges to scrap apartheid have rekindled South Africa's chances of seeing the Olympic flame first hand.

IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch has already indicated South Africa could lose its pariah status if, as expected, De Klerk's reforms continue at their present pace.

South Africa's greatest reason for cheer is the dramatic conversion of Sam Ramasamy, the veteran anti-apartheid sports campaigner, who has come home from exile to champion the cause of Olympic readmission.

"I think there will be a South African presence in Barcelona. It seems highly probable," Ramasamy said.

With such words from the anti-apartheid lobby, South Africa's white-dominated establishment can hardly contain their eagerness to prove their commitment to on-racism.

The IOC delegation will report back at an IOC executive meeting in Barcelona in April before the delegation's findings are considered by a full IOC session in Birmingham, England, in June.

South Africa has been banished from the Olympic movement since 1970 because of its apartheid policies and last competed, with an all-white team, in the 1960 Rome Olympics.

Key to readmission is the unification of the country's five representative sports movements, formerly bitter rivals, into one non-racial organisation.

They have already taken the first step to settling their differences by forming the interim National Olympic Committee of South Africa, headed by Ramasamy.

Four of the bodies express

optimism about the IOC visit, but one small anti-apartheid grouping, the South African Congress on Sport (SACOS), pours cold water over the fever-pitch expectations of the others.

SACOS president Joe Ebrahim said the delegation's trip was premature and more needed to be done to dismantle apartheid before international links were restored.

"The situation still doesn't meet the requirements of the oppressed's political organisations," he said.

But other sports officials said they were confident SACOS would be left whistling in the wind, adopting a political stance out of touch with its membership which resulted last year in a mass desertion from its ranks.

Corriere Dello sport was also out for blood. "On Wednesday night someone tried to wipe out the history,"

"What we saw at Marseille was an undignified circus."

The paper called for the guilty, which it did not name, to be punished but praised club president, media magnate Silvio Berlusconi, who moved quickly to defuse the row with a statement accepting the result and wishing Marseille well in the semifinals.

The Rome-based messenger was also loud in its condemnation. "Milan risked its worldwide fame in five minutes for not knowing how to accept defeat by a team which deserved to win," it said. Echoing the words of manager Arrigo Sacchi.

Papers condemn AC Milan

ROME, Mar 23: Italian newspapers have roundly condemned AC Milan for their conduct during Wednesday's controversial European Cup defeat by Marseille, reports Reuter.

"Shame at Marseille," screamed Friday's Gazzetta Dello Sport, while Corriere Dello Sport demanded punishment for the guilty.

Milan walked off the stade Velodrome pitch following a partial floodlights failure in the last minute of the quarter-final, which the French side won 2-1 on aggregate.

Managing director Adriano Galliani, who led Milan off, said his club would lodge a protest with UEFA and demand a replay based on the power failure, lack of security and a

pitch invasion by scores of photographers. On Thursday, Milan decided not to protest and said they accepted defeat.

The newspapers were united in their horror at what they called a shameful display of bad sportsmanship by the European Cup holders.

But they were also quick to pin the blame on Club officials rather than players.

"On poor Milan," said the Gazzetta in a front page editorial. "The Italian sporting world just can't believe those 10 minutes of collective madness, of unsporting vulgarity and ignorance of the rules."

"But who do we blame?" it asked. "Do we blame the grim Emir Galliani... or the grotesque dandy (organisation director Paolo) Tavecchia, who shook his head when the referee tried to reason with

him?"

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German women set record

ROSTOCK, Germany, Mar 23: Germany's women set a world short course record of 52.71 seconds in Bonn last weekend, clocked 53.76 here and lifted Germany's Frank Hoffmeister

to a second-place time of 54.12, a national and European best.

The world's best short course sprinter, German Nils Rudolph, took a narrow lead in the 100 metres freestyle in his home pool but squandered victory at the tough to Vladimir Predkin. The Soviet swimmer clocked 48.94 to Rudolph's 48.99.

German Swimming Federation (DSV) official Hans Hartog said a problem over pay for trainers from former East Germany had been solved. Coaches would get contracts and money was being transferred to their accounts.

Last weekend in Bonn, ex-East German trainers complained they had received no money and were still awaiting contracts.

Commenting on reports from Buenos Aires that the Argentine star would fly to Latin America Monday to join his national team, Napoli's vice-president Francesco Serio said Friday that "neither the player nor others asked us for the authorization, thus Maradona won't play."

Earlier this week Napoli had denied Brazilian forward Carrea authorization to join the Brazilian side.

"We are on the eve of crucial league and Italian Cup games and Napoli players must concentrate on club business," Serio said.

Napoli plays Internazionale in a league match on March 30 and a Cup of Italy semifinal in Genoa on Apr. 3.

Italian clubs must release their foreign stars for official and qualifying games of their national teams but can oppose their employment in friendly matches.

Maradona, who has not played for the Argentine team since the World Cup final against West Germany in Rome last July, was not available for comment.

Independence Day chess meet

The Lightning Chess competition, organised by Dhaka Chess Foundation to celebrate the Independence Day will begin from March 26 at the National Sport Council chess room.

All the interested participants have been requested to send their names along with the entry fee by tomorrow, March 25 to the Bangladesh Chess Federation office.

Crooks to the rescue

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Mar 23: Cricket fans in the Georgetown criminal world came to the rescue when Australian off-spinner Greg Matthews had his wedding ring stolen this week, reports Reuter.

Matthews, in Guyana for the second Test against West Indies which starts today, was wearing the ring on a chain around his neck when it was snatched as he walked through the streets of Georgetown on Tuesday.

Police spread word about the mugging on the criminal grapevine. The thief was swiftly traced but confessed he had already sold the ring.

With the help of informers, police eventually tracked down the ring.