Gulshan let off Mohammedans

Gulshan Youth deprived themselves of yet another memorable afternoon through some atrociously

sloppy fielding as the titleaspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club registered their eighth consecutive win but not without some sweat and fret in one of the two Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Young Naimur Rahman Durjoy who has been finding himself out there in the middle almost regularly these days to give finishing touches in his sides victory quests swung Ashok Malhotra, past a sprawling Rafigul Alam off the fourth ball of the last over to help his side to a tirree-wicket win.

No matter how relatively comfortable the margin may appear on paper, Mohammedans were in a real tight corner when skip-per Aminul Islam Bulbul was smartly snapped by Sajid Hassai 1 off the bowling of left-arm sp.inner Asif Omar Belim off a wonky pull. Not that the dapper, dark cricketer totally left his side in a lurch. He did his bit compiling a deft 50 off 52 with two hits to the

But the waint of depth in their batting or the inability of the upper order batsmen to shoulder responsibilities was cruelly exposed and excused by some extravagantly generous fielding by me ssers Joydev. Shamsul and wicl cetkeeper Shahidul Alam Rata n of Gulshan Youth who had accomplished the first giant-kill ing act of the season recently, beating fancied Bangladesh Bimarı by 23 runs in their previous rnatch.

it all began with Shamsul failing to follow the flight of an aired half sweep-half pull by Ashoka de Silva, one of the two Shri Lankan cricketers with Mohammedans needing 24 runs from four overs with four wickets in hand. A catch not ac cepted, bounced away for a for tuious four. Then Joydev, the promising medium pacer who was fielding at long leg badly bungled in his attempt to pick a desperate sweep by Durjoy and the swirling, spinning speeding cherry crossed the ropes amidst the wild cheers of Mohammedan fans waiting with bated breath on the other side of the

Rajkumar's labour lost

Sports Reporter

A superb 115 studded with nine fours and two sixes by Rajkumar of Eskaton Sabuj Sangha went in vain as Sadharan Bima started their Milnars First Division cricket league with a thrilling six run win at the Mirpur Pallabi cricket ground yesterday

Eskaton chasing 211 for an outright win stopped at 204 for nine from their stipulated quota of 45 overs thus losing by six

Kiron laid the base for a sound Bima total with a 118ball innings of 80.

There were other useful contributions of varying magnitude. Sanchay made 47, Litu 28 not out off just 22 balls as Bima collected 210 for six.

Aminul of Eskaton took three for 44 and the luck less Rajkumar two for 46.

Army hockey

JESSORE, Nov 26: The Comilla Area and the Rangpur Area won their respective robin league matches in the army hockey championship at the Jessore Cantonment on Thursday, an ISPR press release said,

reports BSS. The Comilia Area beat the Savar Area by a solitary goal while the Rangpur Area defeated the Mymensingh area 3-1. The match between Jessore and Chittagong Area ended in a goalless draw.

German sports elite honoured

BADEN-BADEN, Germany Nov 26: Franziska van Almsick who won six gold medals at the 1993 European Swimming Championships, became the youngest ever winner on Thursday of the German Female Sports Personality of-the-year

award, reports Reuter. The 15-year-old former East German came top of the prestigious vote, organised by German sports journalists, ahead of second-placed Olympic long jump champion Hetke Drech-

sler. . Alpine Kier Ketja Eizinger and tennis star Steffi Graf were third and fourth.

Van Almsick, the star of this year's European Championships in the English city of Sheffield, is only the fifth winner to win the award in it's 47year history and the first for 19

Henry Maske, who captured the International Boxing Federation light heavyweight title in March, won the men's award ahead of a top six which included motor racing's Michael Shumacher and tennis star Michael Stich.

Sports Reporter . Though involuntary it was a pathetic destruction of all the good works done earlier in the morning by Gulshan's Indian trump cards - Ashok Malhotra

and Arun Lal. Former Indian Test cricketer, Ashok Malhotra once tipped as the 'Vishwanath of North' by the pundits of Indian cricket scored a silky, smooth 52 off 45 balls with the help of one sixer and four fours.

Together with his compatriot Arun Lai, another Test-discard Malhotra put on 87 runs for the third-wicket to raise the hopes

who also does the same trade but more frugally because of flatter trajectory and accuracy took two for 44.

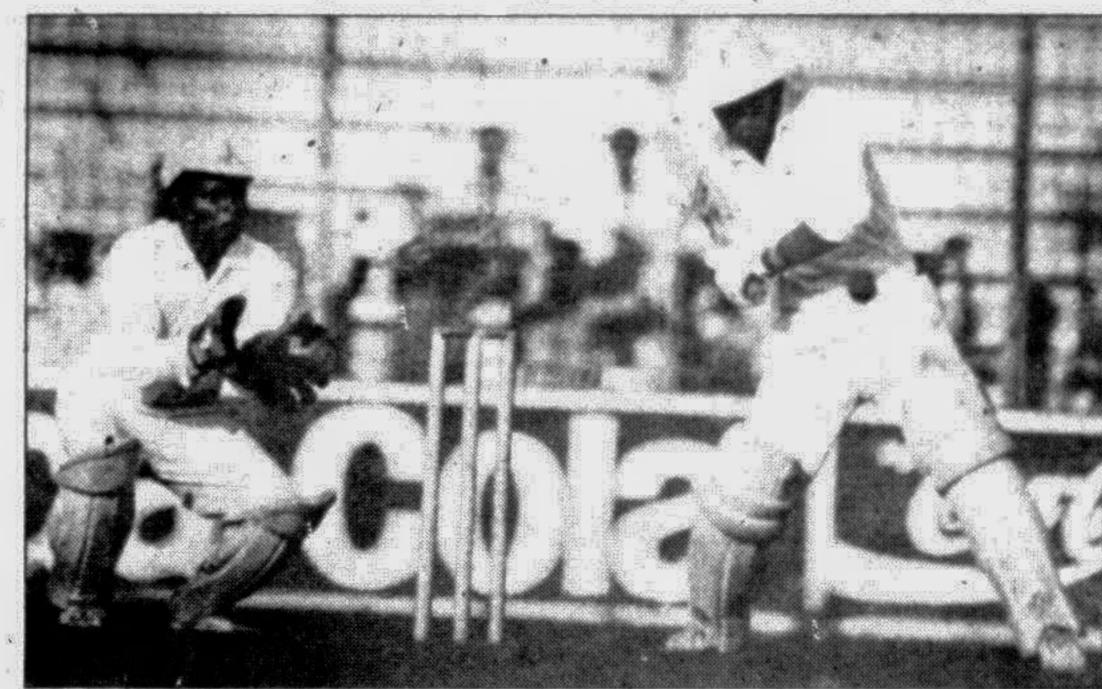
Mohammedans were given a slow and steady start by Shri Lankan Athula Samarasekara and Sajjad Mansur Shipon with the former, reinstated in his position of an opener after an abortive experiment in the middle order playing with unusual watchfulness.

Samarasekara blossomed later to play some powerful shots but his 54 balls innings of 46, featuring five hits to the

Rashid gave another sparkling display with the bat to power Kalabagan to their second win in this year's Navana League.

Kalabagan yesterday beat lowly Udity by eight wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Sta-

Kaisar, who was one of the architects of Kalabagan's first win, earned at the expense of Surja Tarun with a bright innings of 79 couple of days back remained unbeaten on 95 yesterday as his side completed a huge win by making 162 for two in 34 overs. He played 105 balls



Khaled Masud Pilot of Mohammedan Sporting Club about to cut one square of the wicket during the Navana Premier Division cricket league match against Gulshan Youth at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Shahidul Alam Ratan, the youth wicketkeeper, is the other man in the picture. Mohammedans won the match by three wickets. - Star photo

of a strong Gulshan challenge for Mohammedans.

Arun became the topscorer of the match with 63, made from 78 balls with the help of four fours and a sixer. He was followed by opener Sajid Hassan, the young son of former national skipper Rogibul Hassan. Sajid, who later stood out amid the comedy of errors by some of his older teammates on the field, grafted a patient 47 from 97 balls.

Although there was little support from other batsmen Gulshan succeeded in raising a challenging if not formidable total of 213 for six from their quota of 45 overs.

Arun and Ashok took heavy toll on Mohammedan spinners and none suffered more than the ageing leg-spinner Waheedul Ghant who bought three wickets for 66 runs, in nine

His peer Ashoka de Silva

fence came to an end when he failed to keep a hit down and bowler, Arun Lal accepted the catch in his followthrough.

Apart from Bulbul who played, a neat innings of 50. Athar Ali made 26 followed by 22 each from Shipon' and stumper Khaled Masud Pilot with the latter who saddled with the burden of stepping up the run-rate doing well to spend 32 balls for his contribution.

Ashoka de Silva made 17 before being smartly snapped by Arun at backward square of Malhotra while Durjoy remained unbeaten on 12, when Mohammedans posted 216 for seven in 44.4 overs.

A luckless Asif bowled well to take two for 47 followed by Ehsan who also managed a couple for 31 runs. KAISAR KALABAGAN'S

HERO Pakistani cricketer Kaisar

and hit nine fours. Earlier, Udity made 158 for seven with Faruque Kamal emerging the mainstay by virtue of an unbeaten knock of 55.

Gamagee, Dipu and Pappu took two wickets apiece among the Kalabagan bowlers.

MONI SUSPENDED

Meanwhile, the league committee for 1993-94 Navana Premier League has suspended Enamul Hug Moni, the skipper of Bangladesh Biman for one match as a token punishment for his unsporting gesture after being given out during the Biman-Gulshan match on November 23.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Abahani vs GMCC (Dhaka Stadium) Surja Tarun vs Victoria

Cowan, Nicholas in final Sports Reporter



Second seed Barry Cowan of Great Britain clawed his way back from 2-4 down in the third set to reach the

men's singles final of the Gold Leaf ITF Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite Circuit masters' leg at the Ramna Tennis Complex vesterday.

The Briton, who won the Rajshahi leg earlier this month, faces Richard Nicholas of Australia, who continued his magical run in this leg that started with the elimination of top seed Frank Ofori of Ghana.

Cowan made a disastrous start in yesterday's semifinal against Tom Spinks, letting his fellow-Briton racing away to a unexpectedly easy 6-1 victory in the first set like a man in a fix.

However, the second seeded left-hander regained his touch in the second set and brushed Spinks, who has played in at least ten professional tournaments before coming to Bangladesh, aside to draw level with a 6-2 win.

Cowan began the third set in style breaking his opponent on his first service game to take 2-0 lead but Spinks was not ready to let up that easily; he came back really strong and snatched the next four sets without giving his compatriot much of a room.

Having squandered an early lead and been virtually based for some time, Cowan shrugged off his momentary lapse of concentration to make sure nothing goes wrong for the rest of the match.

When he clinched the tenth game of the set, his third break in the fierce encounter, the match had already been played for 112 minutes. Cowan, who had lost to

Spinks in his first professional tournament in London in August this year, was immensely delighted this win and said later that he was confident of winning the tournament. In the other semifinal,

Nicholas also encountered stiff challenge from his Thai opposition, Narathorn Srichapan, before rounding off a 3-6, 7-6(7-5), 6-4 victory in two-hour and 15 minutes. .

Srichapan, the right-handed Thai Davis Cupper, confidently clinched the first set and gave the crowd a feeling that Nicholas's magical run may have come to an end. But the man from Down Under was not to be denied and in a thrilling

tie-breaker, Nicholas drew level. The third set followed an almost similar pattern with both the player going flat out but the Thai national number two seemed to lose his nerve towards the end and the Aussies gathered the required break to book his place in the final.

The singles final will be played tomorrow.

Yonatan Rom of South Africa and Glenn Wilson of New Zealand will take on the pair of Luciando D'Andrea and Eduardo Furusho in doubles final today. The match is scheduled for a 2-30 pm start.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Television (BTV) has decided to telecast the singles and doubles finals of the masters' leg live.



Briton Barry Cowan, seeded second for the masters' leg, all set to make a backhand return during his semifinal in the ITF tournament against compatriot Tom Spinks at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday. Cowan won 1-6, 6-2, 6-4. - Star photo

First loss for nat'l booters in Malaysia

Sports Reporter

The visiting Bangladesh national football team now on a visit to Malaysia lost 0-1 against the Malaysian Olympic squad in their fourth exhibition match. according to message received late last night in Dhaka.

The lone goal came in the 40th minute of the second half following a terrible mix-up involving Bangladesh custodian Sayedur and defender Jewel Rana.

BANGLADESH: Sayedur. Alamgir, Moon, Jewel Rana Masud Rana, Arman, Munna Rupu, Rumt (Swapan), Gaus

(Aslam), Nakib (Raqib). **UN** mini Olympics

A two-day UN Mini-Olympics-93, organised by the Federation of UN Staff Association (FUNSA) of Bangladesh, began in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda inaugurated the meet at the Manik Mia Avenue in the morning.

Aussies set their goal

SYDNEY, Nov 26: Australia is aiming to win 60 medals at the Sydney 2000 Olympic, but political squabbling could undermine athletes and coaches. former world marathon record holder Robert de Castella warned on Friday, reports Reuter.

De Castella, director of the country's elite Australian Institute of Sport, said the Australian Olympic Committee had set a target of 60 medals, more than double the tally at Bar-

Calcutta on Nov 25.

reports AFP.

now."

tentious bid.

lenient view.

Indian Test star and the first

non-Englishman to head

cricket's world body, also took a

have assured us that the latest

development will have no bear-

ing on the World Cup," he said.

"We can only go by what has

"Both India and Pakistan

26. The Interna-

tional Cricket Co-

uncil (ICC) has no

David Richards, the Austra-

lian-born chief executive officer

of the ICC, said the Cup had

been jointly allotted to India.

Pakistan and Shri Lanka and it

will stay there "unless some-

wrangle over television rights

for the ongoing Hero Cup was a

"domestic problem" and added

the ICC had "no role to play" in

thing drastic happens."

celona. But he said political squabbling over the running of the 2000 Games was already adversely affecting athletes and coaches training for the Atlanta

Games in 1996 and for 2000. "I think the coaches are starting to become a little bit distracted," De Castella said. "Everyone has to get together, the sports commission, the politicians, the bureaucrats, corporate Australia... like any

"If you have everyone running off doing their own things, then team Australia will not perform in the year 2000," he told a foreign correspondent's association lunch.

But he said the 60-medal target was attainable.

"I think it is quite realistic when you consider the statistics host countries have been able to achieve in the past," he added.

The US Team won 174

medals in Los Angeles in 1984. but only 94 at Seoul in 1988. The Spanish had a spectacular success in Barcelona last year, winning 22 medals compared with four in 1988. Australia won 27 in Bar-

celona. It best tally was at the Melbourne Olympic in 1956 when it won 35 medals.

' De Castella also said that a recent trip to China had convinced him China's athletes were achieving amazing performance legally and were on course for Olympic success.

Top seeds at receiving end

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 26: Top-seeds Grant Connell of Canada and Patrick Galbraith of the United States suffered a shock defeat Thursday in the second of the Round-robin ties at the ATP World Doubles tennis finals, reports AFP.

They went down 3-6, 6-3, 3-6 to fifth-ranked Australian David Adam and his Russian partner Andrei Olhovskiy at the Ellis Park Indoor Stadium here.

"It was our own fault. We never found any kind of rhythm," Connell said after the game. Defending champions and

number-two seeds Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, corner-stone of Australia's Davis Cup final hopes against Germany in Dusseldorf next month, also stumbled on the second-day. They lost in straight-sets to

third-ranked Dutch pair Jaccvo

Elting and Paul Haarhuis 3-6.

4-6. The result followed a shaky three-set victory on Wednesday over Czech Cyril Suk and Dutchman Tom Niussen. To be sure of qualifying for the semi-finals Woodbridge and Woodforde now have to beat experienced Spaniards Sergio

Casal and Emilio Sanchez. Casal and Sanchez lost their opening encounter to Eltingh and Haarhuis on Wednesday. Eltingh and Haarhuis were

think it might be number-three

Murphy.

thrilled after their first-ever victory over the Australians. was a remarkable behind the "I went into the match a little pissed of because everyone l speak to says it will be numberone against number-two seeds in Sunday's final. But if we can play as well as we did tonight, I

in the final," Eltingh said. In the Hewitt-McMillan groagreed to play only under up, Australian Mark Kratzmann protest, saying they would have and Wally Masur recovered pulled out but for being the from their defeat on Wednesday host nation. by Connell and Galbraith to post a three-set victory over the was unhappy with Thursday's Jensen brothers. Luke and

CALCUTTA, Nov. been said to us." Added Richards: "The ICC has the authority to review the bid, but at present we are not

West Indies pace bowler Anderson Cummins can't control his emotions after capturing the

wicket of Shri Lankan batsman Tillekaratne during the second semifinal of the Hero Cup in

plan to take the thinking in those term. 1996 World Cup "I hope these problems are away from Asia despite an resolved quickly to everyone's unending row over television satisfaction so that we all have rights, a top official said Friday. peace of mind."

> threatened to pull out of the World Cup if the television row was not resolved, have also pledged support to the Asian Krish Mackerdhuj, president

South Africa, who had earlier

of the United Cricket Board of Richards said the bitter South Africa (UCBSA) said: "We will definitely be in the Indian sub-continent in 1996 to play in the World Cup." "There is no question of our

backing out". He was also confident that Mackerdhuj said that earlier the suspension of cricketing repress reports quoting UCBSA lation between India and managing director Ali Bacher as

Pakistan would not affect the saying that South Africa would conduct of the World Cup. not support the Asian bid were "The Cup is still two years "possibly a misquote." away and that is a long time," "Knowing India's past acu-Richard told AFP Friday. "The men in solving issue, I believe ICC has no plans to step in the present problem will defi-

nitely be solved in time," he "We are hopeful the 1996 World Cup will be as successful Asia's World Cup plans were as the one the sub-continent put in jeopardy by a legal hosted in 1987 and the one wrangle between the Indian Australia and New Zealand state-run Doordarshan network hosted in 1992," he said. and the UK-based Trans-World

Richards and ICC chairman International(TWI) over the right Clyde Walcott, here to witness for the Hero Cup. the final stages of the Hero Cup. Even though TWI held sole have had a series of meeting right to telecast the tournawith top Indian officials to pament, Doordarshan and other per over cracks in the con-Walcott, the former West

state-run agencies took refuge in a 885 Telegraph Act to deny uplinking facilities to TWI. India's Supreme Court intervened to allow both Doordarshan and TWI to shoot the

matches, but gave the Indian network sole domestic right. The US-based World Television Inc-(WorldTel), which hold the World Cup rights, threa-

tened to pull of the agreement if

ICC won't step in, not now

- AFP photo

the controversy was not resolved Adding to the confusion was Pakistan's refusal to take part in the Hero Cup due to security reason. It was the third time

since 1990 that Pakistan cancelled a cricket tour of India Indian official are, however, optimistic the World Cup will go

ahead a scheduled. There is enough time to resolve matter," said Indian board secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya who is also the convenor of the Pak-Indo-Lanka Joint Management Committee(PILJMC) for the World Cup.

"We are lucky that all this ! did not happen on the eve of the World Cup. Two years is a long time to solve the problem."

Earlier a Reuter report said: Inderjit Singh Bjndra, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said the government appeared to be backing Doordarshan's stand and that his country would have to give up the World Cup unless the official policy on this

Richards said: "I appreciate his concern and I'm sure he is working hard to get the clarification of the television position... that it will be worked out in the short term, hopefully in

issue was reversed.

the right way." Richards said he had not come to Calcutta with ICC chairman Clyde Walcott to assess the World Cup with the heads of boards of countries taking part in the CAB event -West Indies, South Africa, Shri Lanka and Zimbabwe are also

in the competition. "But it (World Cup) will be discussed. We need to know the start and finish dates," he

added. Richards will visit Bangladesh, Shri Lanka and Pakistan after the CAB finals.

'akistan ensure a berth



Reuter.

Pakistan are assured of a semifinal place in the World Team Squash Championship after victories on and off court on Thursday, reports

On court, they crushed New Zealand 3-0 to ensure they go through with holders Australia from Pool A. The two countries clash today to decide the group winners and who should get the easier semifinal. Off court, Pakistan's victory

was less convincing. The World Squash Federation (WSF) panel decided to let

their 2-1 victory over Egypt on Wednesday stand-rejecting an Egyptian complaint that their opponents were not ready to play until an hour after the scheduled start. The reason for the late start

scenes row between the Pakistani camp and the WSF officials after the governing body had decided to promote Jahangir Khan from third to second in the Pakistan team order. The Pakistanis were furious at the "unilateral decision" and

Egyptian manager Sherif Aly decision to let the result stand. He said: "It is very hard to

KARACHI, Nov 26: accept because it is unfair.

"The Pakistani players were in the building, but not ready to play. But there is nothing more we can do."

Bob Finch, the WSF panel chairman from Australia explained: "It is the responsibility of the tournament director to get the match started and he did not do that. The rules state that the players must be there

ATP's top 20

MONTE CARLO, Nov 26: Leading men's tennis rankings issued by the ATP tour on Monday:

1. Pete Sampras (US) 4,128 points 2. Michael Stich (Germany) 3,445 3. Jim Courier (US) 3,390 4. Sergi Bruguera(Spain) 2,590 5. Stefan Edberg(Sweden) 2,571 6. Andrei Medvedev(Ukraine) 2,415 7. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 2,186 8. Michael Chang(US) 2,154 9. Thomas Muster (Austria) 2,033 10. Cedric Pioline(France) 2,012 11. Boris Becker (Germany) 1,948 12. Petr Korda (Czech Republic)1,742 13. Todd Martin (US) 1,695 14. Magnus Gustafson(Sweden)1,586 Richard Kraticek (Netherlands) 1,572 16. Marc Rosset (Switzerland) 1,485 17. Karel Novacek(Czech

18. Alexander Volkov (Russia) 1,382

20 Arnaud Boetsch (France) 1,344

1,412

1,362

Republic)

19. Ivan Lendi (US)

- and they were there.

It just wasn't Egypt's day. They went down 3-0 to Australia with Ahmed Barada their only player'to win a game as he lost 10-9, 7-9, 7-9, 2-9 to Rodney Eyles. Brett Martin and Tristan Nancarrow, making his debut for Australia, were the other winners.

It was just as easy for Pakistan, with Jahangir Khan playing in the disputed number two position and beating Glen Wilson 9-1, 10-8, 9-2. Jansher Khan defeated Paul Steel 9-2, 9-6, 9-2 and Zarak Jahan Khan completed the whitewash with a 9-6, 9-1, 9-1 win over Wayne Werder.

England look certain to top Group B after a 3-0 win over Finland. But Sweden played themselves into contention for second place with a surprise 3-O victory over the Netherlands.

Meanwhile, Jahangir, who had been expected to retire after the championships. May play in the eight-man super series finals in Zurich from December 3 to 7 after accumulating enough points at the World Open to clinch the eighth spot.

"I shall make up my mind about Zurich over the next couple of days," he said.

Other players at the super series are Australians Rodney Martin, Brett Martin and Rodney Eyles, England's Peter Marshall and Phil Whitlock, Ross Norman of New Zealand and Jansher Khan.