

Gulshan let off Mohammedans

Sports Reporter

Gulshan Youth deprived themselves of yet another memorable afternoon through some atrociously sloppy fielding as the title aspirants 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 Rafiqul Alam off the fourth ball of the last over to help his side to a three-wicket win.

No matter how relatively comfortable the margin may appear on paper, Mohammedans were in a real tight corner when skipper, Aminul Islam Bulbul was smartly snapped by Sajid Hassan off the bowling of left-arm spinner 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 fence.

But the want 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 seers Joydev, Shamsul and wicketkeeper Shahidul Alam Ratan of Gulshan Youth who had accomplished the first giant-killing act of the season recently, beating fancied Bangladesh Bimani by 23 runs in their previous match.

It all began with Shamsul failing to follow the flight of an aird half sweep-half pull by Ashoka de Silva, one of the two Sri Lankan cricketers with Mohammedans needing 24 runs from four overs with four wickets in hand. A catch not accepted, bounced sway for a fortuitous 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 fence.

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 Sadhan Bina started their Milnars First Division cricket league with a thrilling six run win at the Mirpur Pallabi cricket ground yesterday.

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.

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.

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 Schumacher and tennis star Michael Stich.

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.



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.

Together with his compatriot Arun Lal, another Test-discard Malhotra put on 87 runs for the third-wicket to raise the hopes 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 Rofiqul 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 Ghani who bought three wickets for 66 runs, in nine overs.

His peer Ashoka de Silva of a strong Gulshan challenge for Mohammedans.

Arund hit nine fours. Earlier, Uditu made 158 for seven with Faruque Kamal emerging the mainstay by virtue of an unbeaten knock of 55. Ganagee, Dipu and Pappu took two wickets apiece among the Kalabagan bowlers.

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



— Star photo

Meanwhile, the league committee for 1993-94 Navana Premier League has suspended Enamul Haq 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.

MONI SUSPENDED

TODAY'S MATCHES

KAISAR KALABAGAN'S HERO
Pakistani cricketer Kaisar

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



— Star photo

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 103 balls

and hit nine fours.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Abahani vs GMCC (Dhaka Stadium)
Surja Tarun vs Victoria (DCS)

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.

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.

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 Barcelona.

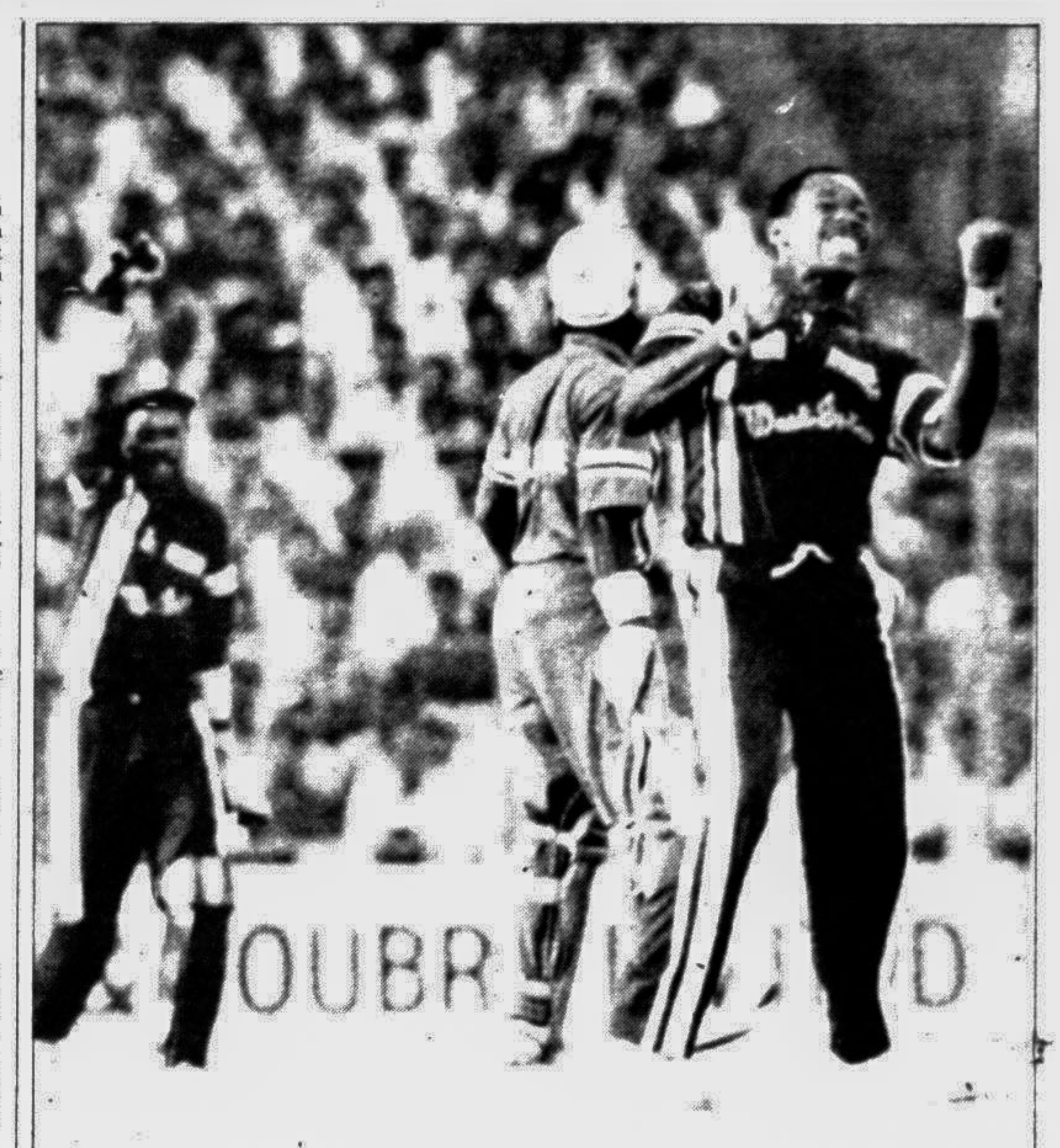
But he said political squabbling over the running of the 2000 Games was already adversely affecting athletes and coaches training for the Atlanta Games in 1996 and for 2000.

ICC won't step in, not now
CALCUTTA, Nov. 26: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has no plan to take the 1996 World Cup away from Asia despite an unending row over television rights, a top official said Friday, reports AFP.

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.

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 Gustafsson (Sweden) 1,586
- 15. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands) 1,572
- 16. Marc Rosset (Switzerland) 1,485
- 17. Karel Novacek (Czech Republic) 1,412
- 18. Alexander Volkov (Russia) 1,382
- 19. Ivan Lendl (US) 1,362
- 20. Arnaud Boetsch (France) 1,344



West Indies pace bowler Anderson Cummins can't control his emotions after capturing the wicket of Sri Lankan batsman Tillekaratne during the second semifinal of the Hero Cup in Calcutta on Nov 25. — AFP photo

David Richards, the Australian-born chief executive officer of the ICC, said the Cup had been jointly allotted to India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and it will stay there "unless something drastic happens."

Richard said the bitter wrangle over television rights for the ongoing Hero Cup was a "domestic problem" and added the ICC had "no role to play" in it.

He was also confident that the suspension of cricketing relation between India and Pakistan would not affect the conduct of the World Cup.

Pakistan ensure a berth
KARACHI, Nov 26: Pakistan are assured of a semi-final place in the World Team Squash Championship after victories on and off court on Thursday, reports Reuter.

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 was a remarkable behind the 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 agreed to play only under protest, saying they would have pulled out but for being the host nation.