

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT, in the 1904 Olympic Games at St Louis, Missouri, three times the starter fired his gun, and three times some one in the 200 metres race broke ranks. The judge then addressed the four (1) men angrily and told them that if they could not all make a decent, clean start he would punish them by giving them an extra metre to run. Thus, the four finalists found themselves lined up a metre behind the starting line. The winner, the American Archie Hahn, can claim to be the holder of a unique Olympic record: the 201 metres. The time? 21.6 seconds.

I wonder how the same judge would solve a similar problem in the swimming backstroke. Nowadays, participants are disqualified after two false starts.

SPORTS TALK



Jim Courier

(American tennis star)
"I don't want for anything in my life. Au contraire. There is nothing I don't have that I want."

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition '21'

✓ Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Jan 12, 1996)

1	Which country has won the greatest number of Olympic medals?	USA	USSR	Germany
2	What is the maximum break in snooker?	125	136	147
3	In international gymnastics, how many events are there in men's contests?	Six	Eight	Seven
4	How long is a marathon?	51.33km	40.21km	42.95km
5	A super heavyweight boxer must weigh more than	90kg	100kg	105kg

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (if any) _____

Kaluwirthana to repeat the kamikaze act

PERTH, Jan 11: Sri Lanka will continue to use dashing wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwirthana as an opener for Friday's World Series one-day cricket match against Australia at the WACA Ground, reports AP.

Captain Arjuna Ranatunga said Thursday that Kaluwirthana, who was at the top of the order when he set up the tourists' win over Australia on Tuesday with a scorching 77 off 79 balls, deserved a chance to repeat the effort.

"Most likely we will use him as an opener because he has done well there and we don't want to change it at this time," Ranatunga said.

Kaluwirthana's surprise appearance at the top of the order caught the Australians off-guard and the diminutive gloveman's willingness to hit over the in-field paid handsome dividends.

Making his significant elevation even more successful was the performance of the batsman he replaced, Roshan Mahanama.

A class stroke-player, Mahanama had struggled throughout the season before making a polished 51 on Tuesday at No. 5.

It was an effort which did not go unnoticed by his skipper, who expects Mahanama to stay in the middle order.

Controversial off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who has been called for throwing in two matches, has been ruled out of Friday's game. But Ranatunga said the talented 23-year-old would be strongly considered for Sunday's match.

BU's trial of strength

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

GULSHAN YOUTH: 271 for five in 50 overs (Arun Lal 79, Malhotra 58, Sohel 41 not out, Zia 30).

BROTHERS UNION: 272 for five in 47.3 overs (Aamir Hanif 113 not out, Abid Hanif 47, Bidyut 45).

Adazzling unbeaten century by Pakistani international Aamir Hanif lifted Brothers Union to their fourth win in the Premier cricket league when the Gopibagh-based outfit defeated Gulshan Youth by five wickets at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In a high-scoring match, with Brothers Union facing an imposing Gulshan total of 271 in the allotted 50 overs, Aamir Hanif cracked an electrifying 113 off only 90 balls to propel his side to 272 for five with 15 balls to spare.

It was Aamir's maiden century in Dhaka cricket. Besides, it was a dream start in the middle order bat who had arrived in the capital only on Wednesday to play for Brothers Union for the second consecutive year, after failing to catch the Pakistani bus to Australia.

Aamir, who came in to bat at number four after Brothers lost both their openers Shahriar Hossain Bidyut (45) and Abid Hanif (47) for 109 in 19.5 overs, blemished only once on his way to steer Brothers to an improbable victory almost single-handedly.

Dropped at 37 by Shafayet Omar Rabbu at mid-wicket off off-spinner Ziaul Huq with the Brothers scoreboard reading 156 for two in 27 overs, Aamir celebrated his new lease of life hitting almost every Gulshan bowler all over the ground.

The stockily-built Pakistani reached his fifty with a savage pull over the mid-wicket region for a four off Zia. Later, his ton came with a single off former Indian Test player, Arun Lal.

The unofficial man-of-the-

match fittingly ended the chase within the 48th over with an off-drive for two as Brothers surpassed the commanding yet not safe Gulshan total with half their wickets remaining unutilised.

It is good to score a century, especially when that decides the fate of a match," said an elated Aamir at the Brothers dressing room after the match.

Replies to a query about the changed circumstances with the artificial turf being introduced in place of grass for the first time this season, Aamir lauded the move by the Bangladesh Cricket Control

board (BCCB). "It would be very helpful for the genuine fast bowlers as well as for the batsmen because the ball is coming onto the bat, often rising and also offering movement off the seam. And those who have the talent can make the most out of it," elaborated Aamir.

With this win Brothers joined the crowded second position behind league leaders Abahani Krifa Chakra along with Mohammed Sporting Club, Kalabagan KC and Bangladesh Biman — all collecting eight points from five matches. It was Gulshan Youth's fifth consecutive defeat.

Standing at square leg from where he would have got a clearer and uninterrupted view.

"And why did Hair watch Murali's arm from the bowler's end unless he was convinced from before that there was something wrong with his action?

That begs the question: Did not the umpire come into the game with a pre-conceived notion, and does that affect his judgement?" Gavaskar asked.

The Indian batting great also pulled up the International Cricket Council (ICC) for asking Muralitharan to modify his action so that his career is not affected.

"I beg to differ, for if a bowler is called for throwing after he has sent down almost 1,000 balls in Test cricket, there is real no need for him to change his action."

"It's like telling a batsman who has scored off 1,000 deliveries from the same shot, not to play it because he has got out seven times the centages are just not right."

"What about the other umpires who have assessed him. Isn't the ICC telling these umpires that all of them were wrong, and only Darrell Hair is right?"

"Perhaps the ICC statement came so quickly because of the flak they have received for not taking the initiative in the bribery scandal involving former Pakistani captain Salim Malik," Gavaskar wrote.

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Chang, the No. 2 seed, said he had quickly adjusted to the conditions in Australia.

"I guess I adapt quickly," he said. "Realizing you have to play a top player right away here gets the blood flowing here."

Former French Open champion Chang, 23, said he finds the Colonial Classic the ideal preparation for the Open.

"Winning here helps you psychologically," he said. "These are the guys you might play at the Open."

South African Wayne Ferreira earlier won his consolation-round match against Edberg 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (7-4), while Dutch player Richard Krajicek was forced to withdraw from his match against Australian Pat Rafter because of a recurring muscle injury in his upper right arm. The injury could force Krajicek out of the Open.

Krajicek, ranked 11th in the world, won the first set of his match against Rafter 6-4, but trailed 1-3 in the second set when the pain from the injury forced him to quit.

Chang, looking fit and mobile, used his speed and court coverage to down Courier in just 67 minutes, sweeping the last eight games. He had defeated Swede Stefan Edberg in his tournament opener on Wednesday.

The second semifinal of the eight-man event, slated for Friday, will pit reigning Australian Open champion Andre Agassi, the top seed, against No. 3 seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia.

Chang reached the semifinals of the Australian Open after winning the Colonial Classic last year and said he believed he is an improved player 12 months on — particularly his serve.

I just try to return well, which I think I did today, but some of the forehands she hit — the strength of them is beyond my human ability to return."

Goran Ivanisevic overcame Australian Mark Woodforde to reach the semifinals of the Peters International tennis tournament Thursday, but needed to save a set point before winning 6-4, 7-5, reports AP.

Chasing an impressive 200 to win in 40 overs, Rainbow middle order Shaqil scored an unbeaten 67 off 87 balls which saw his side through in 35.5 overs losing four wickets.

Udayachal in the first innings collected 199 for eight in 40 overs which includes a magnificent 85 off 74 balls by Rehan Rashid.

Udayachal Club: 199 for eight in 40 overs (Rehan 85, Shahnewaz 43; Mukul 3/31, Shah 3/35).

Rainbow SC: 202 for four in 35.5 overs (Shaql 67, Rana 38; Manoj 24 not out).

Result: Rainbow won by six wickets.

to win that game and the next three to claim the match.

"I played very good tennis today," said Ivanisevic. "Mark

is a good player and I knew it would be tough. I don't like to play lefties."

I played more aggressive

and attacked more than yesterday, and every time I came in I won the point."

Ivanisevic believes that he is ready to settle down and play consistently well and put shock upsets against lowly-ranked opposition behind him.

"I think this year and the next couple of years will be my best," he said. "I'm older and wiser and know how to play big matches. And I'm concentrating better if I'm playing some low-ranked player."

Five seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands overcame American Lisa Raymond 6-4, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, while unseeded Greg Rusedski of Britain continued his excellent run with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 win over Australian Scott Draper.

Sport

NEPC Masters' series

India beat Pakistan

Sports Reporter

Mahinder Amarnath and Syed Kirmani pulverised Pakistan's final overs to clinch third place for India in the NEPC Masters cricket tournament played at Sharjah on Thursday.

Amarnath's breezy knock of 53 n.o. earned him the m-o award of \$500.

Set to score 162 to win, India were in a hapless position losing four wickets in the first ten overs.

However, Sandip Patil (39) steadied the boat for Amarnath and Kirmani (28) to sail home with five balls to spare.

Earlier, in a reduced match of 28 overs due to inclement weather, Pakistan scored 161/5 with Ijaz Fakih mesmerizing all with a 74-ball knock of 84. Only the result of the match denied Fakih the m-o award.

BRIEF SCORE

PAKISTAN: 161/5 (28 overs) (Ijaz 84, Sadeq 16; Zahid Abbas 16, V Raghavan 3/48).

INDIA: 162/7 (27.1 overs) (Amarnath 53 n.o., S Patil 39, S Kirmani 28; S Bakht 3/23, I Quasim 2/28).

Result: India won by three wickets.

The final of the tournament between England and West Indies will be played today.

Ata Mullick migrates at a point

Sports Reporter

Umpire Ataul Huq Mullick had some close shaves yesterday while umpiring during the Brothers Union-Gulshan Youth match at the Dhaka Stadium.

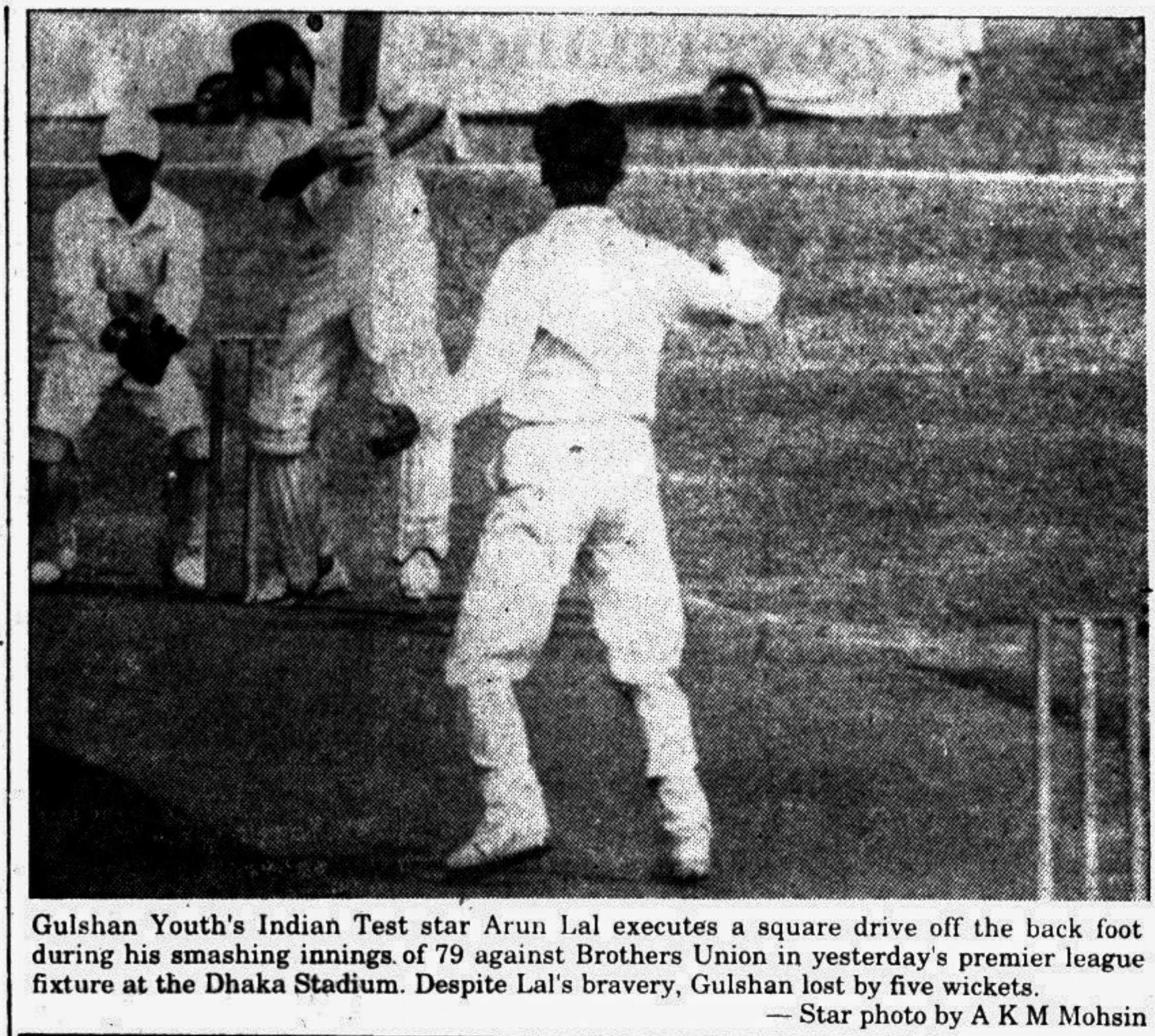
Mullick was attached to the bowler's elbow and transmit three-dimensional pictures of the arm angle during delivery, former Sri Lankan umpire Ajith Perera told Reuters.

Standing at square leg, Mullick saw three pull shots from Brothers' Pakistan international Aamir Hanif whoosh closely past him, missing the renowned personality by a matter of inches. So, dangerously close did the cherry fly that Mullick decided he had had enough close-calls for the day to prompt him to change positions to point after the third one rocked past him.

Curious observers in the stands jokingly asked one another, what wrong has the umpire done to deserve such treatment from Aamir Hanif.

Mullick later commented in Calcutta dialect. "I was seriously scared. But the way the bowlers were bowling, Aamir had no other option but to punish the ball the same way time after time."

Four days after being no-



Gulshan Youth's Indian Test star Arun Lal executes a square drive off the back foot during his smashing innings of 79 against Brothers Union in yesterday's premier league fixture at the Dhaka Stadium. Despite Lal's bravery, Gulshan lost by five wickets.

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Countering controversy



COLOMBO, Jan 11: Sri Lanka has called up a Hong Kong based professor and his electrical wizard to decide once and for all whether off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan chuck or bowls, a former first-class umpire said on Thursday.

Electrodes will be attached to the bowler's elbow and transmit three-dimensional pictures of the arm angle during delivery, former Sri Lankan umpire Ajith Perera told Reuters.

Standing at square leg, Muralitharan was a throw as a thumb to the nose of the arm during delivery, former Sri Lankan umpire Darrell Hair said.