

Gulshan too good for GMCC

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

GULSHAN YOUTH CLUB: 265 in 50 overs (Ripon 80, Hasanuzzaman 49, M Ali 46, Babu 3/32).
GMCC: 219 in 42.2 overs (Babu 54, Rummon 42, Golla 33, M Ali 2/5).

Gulshan Youth Club defeated the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) by 46 runs in their Premier cricket relegation league encounter at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Winning the toss, Gulshan elected to bat first and piled up a huge 265 before they were all out off the last delivery of their innings.

Gulshan's skipper Rafiqul Hasan Ripon scored highest 80 off 89 balls inclusive of six fours while opener Hasanuzzaman (49) and burly Mohammad Ali (46) were the other leading scorers.

GMCC's skipper Mizanur Rahman Babu grabbed three wickets for 32 runs while Al-Amin took two wickets conceding 30 runs.

In reply, GMCC were booked for 219 in 42.2 overs.

After showing his skill with the ball, GMCC captain Babu also came out with a good innings with his bat scoring highest 54 runs off only 46 balls with ten boundaries.

One down Rummon and opener Javed Omar Golla added 42 and 33 runs respectively to GMCC account.

This was the seventh win of Gulshan Youth in 15 matches which raises their tally to 14 points, equal to GMCC who have also played 15 matches.

Both teams are now leading the six-team relegation league standings leaving Agrana Bank in the second position with 12 points.

Sportsmen greet Chief Adviser

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A group of present and former sports personalities felicitated Justice Habibur Rahman on his appointment as the Chief Adviser of the caretaker government, says a press release.

At a general meeting yesterday the national celebrities of various disciplines also prayed for the salvation of the departed souls of those who had laid down their lives during the opposition's movement in the last two years.

They urged the caretaker government to appoint someone neutral as the chairman of NSC as the post has fallen vacant. Otherwise, the local sports arena would be crippled very soon, they observed.

A call to dissolve all the national federations immediately and form the new ones also came up for discussion. The meeting also resolved that recognised sportsmen of the country be inducted in the committees.

The group assured the government of all-out cooperations in this regard.

Those who attended the meeting are Imtiaz Sultan Jony, Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, Shafiqul Islam Manik, Syajid Das Rupu, Ashrafuddin Chunnu, Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutul, Aminur Rahman, Kazi Salauddin, Badal Roy, GS Hassan Tamim, Kazi Anwar, Barkatullah Chapal, Mosharrif Hossain Khan, Zobaidur Rahman Rana, Hasibur Rahman Shakil, Mahbubur Rab, Nazia Akhtar Juthi, Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, Mohammad Mohsin and Mohammad Ehsan Nammi.

Gazza's moment of truth

GLASGOW, Apr 6: Paul Gascoigne is likely to underlie his claims for a top player-of-the-year award in his first season in Scotland on Sunday, reports AFP.

Gascoigne will have to wait until April 18 to discover if he is one of four players shortlisted for the prestigious Scottish Professional Footballers Association annual award.

But the Rangers midfield Maverick—or a couple of his Celtic opponents—could pick up some last-minute votes in Sunday's Scottish Cup semifinal at Hampden.

The SPPA will reveal the four nominations for their player-of-the-year on April 18, but it is odds-on that all could be in action on Sunday.

Celtic pair Tom Boyd and Pierre van Hooydonk are in the running—as are Gascoigne, and possible Ibrox teammates Richard Gough and Brian Laudrup, last year's winner.

The individual award, of course, is a side issue in the Hampden showdown as the old firm meet for the sixth time this season.

DPRK lifter ends Sino dominance

YACHIYO, Japan, Apr 6: North Korean weightlifter Kim Myong Nam broke three world records to win the men's 70-kg event at the Asian Weightlifting Championships here Saturday, ending China's gold-medal streak, reports AFP.

Kim lifted 161 kgs in the snatch and hoisted 193.5 kgs in the jerk for a 352.5 kg total, all world records.

His winning total was less than the actual weight of his two lifts because the lifter's total is calculated in units of 2.5 kgs.

Kim's snatch eclipsed by one kg the previous mark of 160 kgs set by Turkey's Fehail Guler at Istanbul in 1994, and his 193.5 kg jerk was half a kg better than the mark set by Guler last year in Warsaw.

Waiting a riveting war



SINGAPORE, Apr 6: Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga is hoping that his side will recapture their winning touch in Sunday's Singer Cup final against a resurgent Pakistan and put the icing on their World Cup cake, reports AFP.

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Davis Cup

Australia beat Japan

OSAKA, Japan, Apr 6: Australia took a straight-set victory over host Japan in a doubles match Saturday for a 3-0 lead in their best-of-five second round in Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group One, reports AP.

Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde beat Satoshi Kase 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 at the outdoor hard court of Utsubo Tennis Centre in downtown Osaka.

Woodbridge is ranked first in the world in doubles, and Woodforde is second-ranked. Suzuki and Iwabuchi are ranked 271st and 322nd respectively.

On Friday, Australia captured both singles matches. Woodbridge beat Hideki Kase 4-6, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5, 6-2, 6-2, and Jason Stoltenberg was leading Shuzo Matsuo 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 3-6, 5-4 when the Japanese player retired with leg cramps.

Tsuyoshi Fukui, the Japanese team's non-playing captain, said Matsuo was in fair condition Saturday. "He's OK. He can play tomorrow, if the weather permits."

Cloudy skies with occasional rain were forecast for Sunday in the Osaka area in western Japan.

Matsuo is scheduled to play against Woodbridge in the first of two singles' matches Sunday. Stoltenberg takes on Kaneko in the second match.

Japan has yet to beat Australia in Davis Cup zonal competitions.

Meanwhile the doubles match on the second day of the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group One, second-round tie between South Korea and New Zealand was called off today because of rain.

The match would be played on Sunday, a spokesman for the Korea Tennis Association said.

South Korea and New Zealand were level at 1-1 after Friday's opening singles.

Jonas Bjorkman and Nicklas Kulti beat Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes in four sets to give Sweden an unbeatable 3-0 lead over India in their Davis Cup world group quarterfinal here Saturday.

The Swedish pair won 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-4, 6-1 in two hours and 40 minutes on the grass courts of Calcutta's South Club.

Thailand defeated Hong Kong in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group 2 second round tie here Saturday.

The Thai pair of Narathorn Srichaphan and Vitthaya Samret defeated Stephen So and Graem Foster 7-5, 6-1, 6-3.

On Friday Thanakorn Srichaphan beat John Hui 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 and Vorapol Thongkhamchoe beat Pang Lui 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

run-rate.

The 33-year-old Ranatunga said his side were undeterred by the defeat at the hands of the Indians, who they trounced twice in the World Cup before going on to capture the trophy at the expense of Australia in the Lahore final.

"We have lost our winning streak, but even the rest have to lose sometime. So we hope we can turn around and win the final," the skipper said.

Who they faced Sunday did not matter, added Ranatunga, who claims to feel no pressure at all.

And whatever the outcome of Sunday's match, the tag of world champions will still stay with the Sri Lankans for the next three years, he stressed.

For his counterpart Sohail, the task is to contain the Lankan batsmen led by Jayasuriya, who showed Tuesday why he was voted the Most Valuable Player of the World Cup with a tremendous display of power hitting.

The 27-year-old left-handed opener's breathtaking 134 off 65 balls included a new record for the most number of sixes—11—and he spared no Pakistani bowler.

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