

## Gulshan too good for GMCC

Sports Reporter  
BRIEF SCORES

**GULSHAN YOUTH CLUB:** 265 in 50 overs (Ripon 80, Hasanuzzaman 49, M Ali 46, Babul 3/32).  
**GMCC:** 219 in 42.2 overs (Babul 54, Rummam 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 of the last delivery of their innings.

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

GMCC's skipper Mizanur Rahman Babul 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 Babul also came out with a good innings with his bat scoring highest 54 runs off only 46 balls with ten boundaries.

One down Rummam 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 Agrani Bank in the second position with 12 points.

## Sportsmen greet Chief Adviser

Sports Reporter

A group of present and former sports personalities facilitated 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 success 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 cooperation in this regard.

Those who attended the meeting are Imtiaz Sultan Jony, Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, Shaiful Islam Manik, Syajit Das Rupu, Ashrafuddin Chinnu, Dewan Shaiful Arefin Tutul, Aminur Rahman, Kazi Salauddin, Badal Roy, GS Hassan Tamim, Kazi Anwar, Barkatullah Chapal, Mosharraf Hossain Khan, Zohairul Rahman Rana, Hasibur Rahman Shakil, Mahbubur Rab, Nazim 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 underwrite 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 short-listed for the prestigious Scottish Professional Footballers Association annual award.

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

The SPFA 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

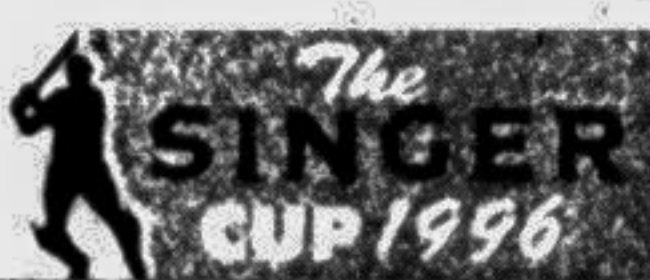
YACHIYO, Japan, Apr 6: North Korean weightlifter Kim Myong Nam broke three world records to win the men's 70-kg event at the Asian Weightlifting Championships here Saturday, ending China's gold-medal streak, reports AFP.

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 Fedali 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 Lanka 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.



AAMIR SOHAIL

When the two teams clashed at the Padang ground Tuesday, the Lankans crushed the Pakistanis by 34 runs in a high-scoring match that saw Sanath Jayasuriya crack the fastest one-day century off a mere 48 balls.

But the next day the newly-crowned world champions lost by 12 runs against India, who were then knocked out of the tournament Friday by Pakistan, who looked a different side altogether in notching up an eight-wicket triumph.

Aamir Sohail's men beat the Indians by eight wickets with a supremely confident performance, fielding and batting brilliantly in a rain-marred match to earn the right to meet Sri Lanka on better the

run-rate. The 33-year-old Ranatunga said his side was 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.

But Sohail said he was heartened by his team's performance in the crunch match against arch-rivals India and was confident going into the final.

"Saqlain Mushtaq, Aaqib Javed and Waqar Younis all bowled very well," he said. "Also, I have full confidence in our batting. Against Sri Lanka we made 315 chasing 350 and that really shows we have good batting," he said.

Sohail, who contributed an unbeaten 76 that won him the man-of-the-match award against India, said his team had worked out a strategy to tackle Sri Lanka, but kept the details to himself.

A first prize of 30,000 US

dollars is at stake in the final, which is expected to draw a full house, said the organisers, who hope to make the Singer Cup a regular fixture on the international cricket calendar.

One dampener in the round-robin tournament has been rain, which forced a rescheduling of the Sri Lanka-Pakistan encounter and a shortening of the India-Pakistan clash, and the organisers are praying for kind weather



A RANATUNGA

Sunday.

### TEAMS

**SRI LANKA:** (from) Arjuna Ranatunga (capt), Sanath Jayasuriya, Ramesh Kaluwitharana, Asanka Gurusinha, Aravinda de Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Hashan Tillekeratne, Marvan Atapattu, Kumara Dharmasena, Chaminda Vaas, Pramodaya Wickremasinghe, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Muttiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandana.

**PAKISTAN:** (from) Aamir Sohail (capt), Saeed Anwar, Rameez Raja, Salim Malik, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Ijaz Ahmed, Basit Ali, Rashid Latif, Aaqib Javed, Waqar Younis, Muhammad Akram, Mushtaq Ahmed, Saqlain Mushtaq, Ata-ur-Rehman.

## MSC-Abahani clash today

Sports Reporter

The two most crowd-pulling outfits in the domestic sporting circuit — Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra — lock their horns in a crucial Premier cricket super league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium today.

But with world champions Sri Lanka and Pakistan involving in the final of the Singer Cup in Singapore on the same day and Abahani already out of the title race, all inquisitiveness will be centred on Mohammedans, who are only a win away to lift the title.

With the two Pakistani recruits — Nadeem Younus and Shahed Mehmud — Mohammedans along with a host of local stars ready to roll for the big occasion, but there were hardly any inspiration at their arch-rivals' camp, who is expecting to roll sans any foreign players.

This is a unique incident as far as the match between the two perennial foes in the make-believe world concerned. Because after a long time Abahani are going to face the black and whites without any foreign player.

"We are out of the race, so I think it is off no use to bring in foreign players against them (Mohammedans)," said Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, the cricket manager of Abahani.

It was also informed that Abahani, who are six points adrift of Mohammedans' 24, will miss the services of their young opening bowler Rahat. The tall right-arm seamer is nursing a bad back.

On the otherhand Mohammedans, who did not lose a single league match to the Dhanmondi outfit in the last two years, with a strong lineup will certainly enjoy and edge over their beleaguered arch-rivals whose bowling department is painstakingly out of depth.

But for a puritan, who believes in the glorious uncertainties of the noble sport in the planet, an upset is always on the cards. Perhaps Abahani's best armour is that they have nothing to lose now.

## Titmus wants no part of it

LONDON, Apr 6: Fred Titmus has withdrawn from the ballot to choose two England selectors, claiming the process is developing into a farce, reports Reuters.

Titmus, the former Middlesex and England all-rounder, said English county committees were "going around nominating people who will not, whether they can do the job or not."

"It's a total nonsense and I don't want to be a part of it,"

Nine ex-players, including four former England captains — Graham Gooch, Ian Botham, John Edrich and Chris Cowdrey — were nominated ahead of the Wednesday midnight deadline.

Titmus was particularly critical of the nomination of Botham, seen by many as the larger life figure to revive the ailing English game.

"The rules clearly state that you can't be a selector if you are full time in the media like Botham," said Titmus.

"He can't pick players one minute and then criticise them on TV the next."

Alan Smith, chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, admitted on Saturday that the system for choosing England selectors was in need of overhaul.

## Man United pay the price

LONDON, Apr 6: English Premier league leaders Manchester United lost an appeal on Wednesday to the Football Association (FA) over an illegal approach to a young player with a neighbouring club, reports Reuters.

They must now pay a 20,000 pounds sterling (30,420 dollars) fine imposed at the original hearing in January and also compensation to First Division club Oldham.

David Brown, 17, was a schoolboy player with Oldham before moving to United last year. He is still with the Manchester club and is the leading scorer in their B team with 13 goals.

The January verdict came two weeks after United were censured by the FA following a similar case involving a junior player with Premier league rivals Arsenal.

United director Maurice Watkins presented Wednesday's appeal, claiming their approach to Brown was within the rules.

## Ben Johnson's blabbering on

LONDON, Apr 6: Eight years after losing his Olympic gold medal in a drug scandal, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson insists he is innocent, reports AP.

Johnson was stripped of the medal after testing positive for steroids at the 1988 Seoul Games. His world-record time of 9.79 seconds was invalidated.

Speaking in a BBC documentary on the Olympics aired Friday night, Johnson said today's athletes are "jealous" because they can't match his time.

"Even today, they are taking a lot of drugs to try to run 9.79 and can't run that fast," he said. "So how I got there, they have to idea."



IT'S HIT AND MISS AFFAIR! Deportivo Coruna defender Djukic (R), uses an unorthodox way of tackling from the back of Paris Saint-Germain striker Dely Valdes in a kung-fu style during their first-leg match of the Cup Winners Cup semifinal at La Coruna, Spain, on April 4. St Germain won 1-0. — AFP/UNB photo

## Bundesliga race hots up



BONN, Apr 6: German title contenders Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund both face two games in four days over the Easter holiday as the championship race moves into a decisive stage, reports Reuters.

Bayern, who hold a two-point lead over Dortmund, need to put a side their disappointed 2-2 home draw with Barcelona in the UEFA Cup semifinals in midweek before a difficult visit to third-placed Borussia Moenchengladbach on Sunday.

The Bavarians, who have played one more game than their rivals, then host St Pauli on Wednesday.

Dortmund play lowly Werder Bremen at home today before travelling to relegation-threatened Cologne for a tense local Derby the following Tuesday.

Both the title-chasing clubs have been battling in Europe in the past few months. Their top-of-the-table clash which Bayern won 1-0 last weekend was a bruising encounter.

Both teams are also in action next Saturday. The tough schedule is beginning to have an impact on the fitness of the players.

Dortmund's German international libero Matthias Sammer will miss both Easter games because of a pulled right calf muscle. Defender Stefan Reuter and veteran midfielder Michael Zorc are also unable to play because of muscle problems.

Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said the injuries were a major handicap. But he added: "That team has always come through in these situations."

Bayern face Moenchengladbach in Sunday evening's game without World Cup captain Lothar Matthaus, who is suspended. German international midfielder Thomas Strunz is again missing because of a groin problem.

The packed programme has come under fire in some circles in Munich. But manager Uli Hoesess said: "We have just got to close our eyes and get through it. It's go home, eat, sleep and get back and play."

The Bundesliga needs to finish earlier than usual this season to give the national team time to prepare for the European Championship finals in England in June.

With so many of the national squad playing for the leading two clubs this energy-sapping fixture list could have an impact on Germany's chances, however.

Dortmund's international midfielder playmaker Moeller, for example, will be out of action with ligament problems for several weeks.

Bayern, Germany's last team still in the European competitions, certainly could have done without the extra games as they prepare for the return leg of the UEFA Cup semifinal in Barcelona in less than two weeks.

## MLS, it's now a reality



SAN JOSE, California, Apr 6: US soccer coach Steve Sampson Friday hailed America's new professional soccer league as the crucial piece of the jigsaw that will transform the United States into a legitimate World Cup contender next century, reports Reuters.

Everyone has the dream of the United States one day winning the World Cup. To do that, we need a competitive national team and a major professional league," Sampson told reporters.

"We already have the team, now we have a major league where top players can develop," added Sampson, who predicted that by the 2010 World Cup, the sport will have developed enough for America to mount a legitimate challenge.

His comments came on the eve of the inaugural Major League Soccer (MLS) match today between the San Jose Clash and Washington DC United.

The league, hoping to harvest the enthusiasm for soccer in America which was engendered by the 1994 World Cup, features 10 teams and will play games through September. Playoffs and the league championship will extend the season into October.

Alan Rothenberg, president of the US Soccer Federation and chairman of MLS, told a news conference the US-hosted World Cup, which he organised, showed there is big potential for soccer in America.

The World Cup left a great legacy for the sport. Foundation of the league is a crucial part of that legacy."

He pointed out that the United States, which shocked the soccer world by qualifying for the 1990 World Cup finals and reaching the second-round of the 1994 championship, was now ranked 14th in the world, when last decade it was nowhere.

"In the not too distant future, I believe soccer will be the fifth major sport in the country," Rothenberg said, alluding to football, baseball, basketball and ice hockey as the four established team sports in the United States.

"It's a great time for soccer in this country, the dream has become a reality," added Rothenberg.

Many of the players who starred for the Americans in the World Cup will be returning to help launch the MLS.

Alexi Lalas, who has been playing in Italy's top-flight Serie A league, will be playing

for the New England Revolution. On Friday night, he was acting as goodwill soccer ambassador by appearing on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

John Harkes, who has been playing in the English Premier league will lead out DC United today and the local clash will feature Eric Wynalda, a German Bundesliga veteran who is the all-time top scorer for the US national team.

In addition to American stars, there are several foreign players who have signed to play in the MLS. Mexico's flamboyant goalkeeper Jorge Campos will bolster the Los Angeles Galaxy defence.

Colombian World Cup star Carlos Valderrama will be wearing the colours of the Tampa Bay Mutiny and Italian star Roberto Donadoni is in the lineup for the New York New Jersey Metrostars.

Former Ireland international striker Frank Stapleton, who is coaching New England, said: "The game will probably be slower than in England, but that's mainly because of the hot summer weather."

Kansas City wiz coach Ron Newman, who will have the top African goal scorer of 1994 in Zimbabwean striker Vitalis Takawira, is keenly aware that a key part of his job will be selling the sport to Americans.



Todd Woodbridge of Australia plays a back-hand slice against Hideki Kaneko of Japan during their Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone's (Group 1) second match in Osaka, Japan, on April 5. Woodbridge won the gruelling five-setter 4-6, 6-7 (4/7), 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 to enable Australia 1-0 lead over Japan. — AFP/UNB photo

**The Daily Star**

## Cricket World Cup Quiz '96

### Congratulations Winners!

(See issue of April 4, 1996)

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Lucky winners are requested to please attend.