

## Hanifs arrive

Sports Reporter

Aamer Hanif, who slightly missed the Pakistani Test bus, arrived in the capital yesterday along with his younger brother Aabed Hanif to play for Brothers Union.

The 24-year-old right-handed bat, who is expected to make his debut in the domestic cricket when Brothers meet Dhanmondi Club in their second match of the 15th Dhanmondi Cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium today, pronounced his intention of scoring a hundred in the match.

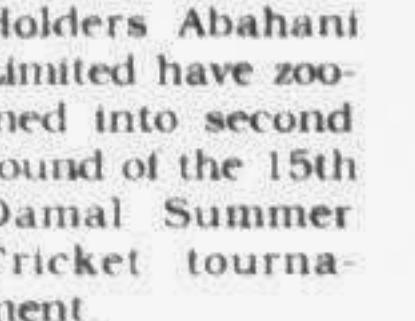
"I am a little bit unhappy for not having a place in the Pakistan Test team," said a confident Hanif, who scored five centuries in the domestic cricket in only six matches for Allied Bank. "Sooner or later I will get a chance in the team."

An agile fielder and a useful seam bowler, Hanif has scored over 3,000 runs in first class cricket.

The younger Hanif is an

## Abahani enter Round Two

Sports Reporter



Holders Abahani Limited have zoomed into second round of the 15th Dhanmondi Summer Cricket tournament.

The defenders of the curtain-raising title in domestic cricket emerged Group A champions yesterday with a massive nine-wicket mauling of minnows Udyoti in the day's lone engagement at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

It was as easy as picking pawns from the backyard for the local outfit who bowled their opponents out for the lowest score in the tourney for the quickest victory, so far.

Akram Khan, who led Abahani in designated skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu's absence, won the toss to ask his counterpart to make the first of the wicket.

Quite unexpectedly Udyoti batsmen had no answer to the mighty Abahani's incisive attack comprising Saiful Islam Khan, the quickest bowler on the prowl currently.

Just three batsmen got into the double figures with Alam making 17 before becoming one of the three victims of the

unbeaten on 24 to complete a fine day of all round performance as Abahani posted 88 for one to wrap it up in 15.4 overs.

Abahani lost wicketkeeper cum-opener Khaled Masud, who hit 74 in his side's seven-wicket victory over Sadharan Biria, cheaply but star batsman Minhaz stroked a flowing 38-ball 36 featuring five boundaries while JH. Mona remained

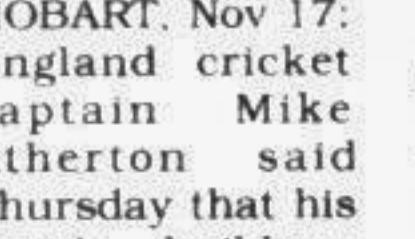
### Lotus-Kamal trials on Nov 20

Sports Reporter

The primary selection for the second batch of the Lotus-Kamal fast bowling training programme will be held at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on November 20 at 10 am.

The foundation, who concluded its first ever year-long training session last year, has invited interested candidates under 19 years with a minimum height of five feet six inches to join the trials.

## Dress rehearsal of old foes



HOBART, Nov 17: England cricket captain Mike Atherton said Thursday that his team's build-up to the five Test Ashes series has been hampered by the schedule drawn up by Australian officials, report agencies.

Atherton said the tourists would have preferred to play a warm-up match in Brisbane before the first Test, which starts on Nov 25, rather than facing an Australian XI in cold and windy Hobart from Friday.

Former England captain Mike Gatting was left out of team and his omission makes it almost impossible for the 37-year-old to be considered for the Test side.

Instead, the selectors have decided on a final eliminator between John Crawley and Craig White for the No 6 spot.

The Australian XI chosen to play England in the four-day match will treat the encounter like a Test match, Australian cricket coach Bobby Simpson said.

"We're treating it like a sixth Test match," Simpson said, setting the tone for the game.

Simpson, coach of the Test side, will be in charge over the next few days of 11 players on the fringe of Test selection, several of whom known that a good performance in Hobart could win them a place in the Brisbane Test.

They face an England side keen to bounce back from their four-wicket defeat at the hands of New South Wales in Newcastle this week. The visitors will also field players keen to secure a Test spot.

It has all the ingredients of a hard-fought encounter and Simpson guaranteed his side would be giving no quarter. "We'll be playing it as tough as we can," he said.

"It will be a test of our youngsters' integrity and temperament and it will give us a chance to look at them in a tougher environment than they will be used to in Shield cricket.

Merv Hughes will lead the Australian attack, while the batting is built around Test hopefuls Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer and Damien Martyn, along with local hero Ricky Ponting.

England are guaranteed a testing workout against the Australian XI, who include several players on the fringe of Test selection.

"We've brought our full management team to the match and given the seriousness with which we'll be playing it, we're confident of getting a good result."

Simpson was confident looking ahead to the Test

series. "We've got to start favourites as we're playing well and have got a lot of depth to our talent."

"And I understand England have a few worries at the moment with their fielding and losing wickets in a hurry, and it's nice that they have got a few concerns."

But, he added, "I haven't forgotten that England thrashed us in my first Ashes series in charge in 1986-87, but we'll be reminding our players that we've done pretty well against them in the last

couple of series."

Australian selectors will be eyeing Australian XI pace bowler Merv Hughes who is looking to regain his Test place after being dropped for the recent tour of Pakistan.

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"It happened to us last time in 1990-91," he said. "I don't think it's any coincidence. You just put up with these things."

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