

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Wasim Akram

(Pakistani captain)
"He's the best off-spinner I've seen in recent years."
About Saqlain Mushtaq.

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-59

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes: 8 pm
December 20, 1996

1	Who was the man-of-the-match in the 17th Damsiri cricket tournament?	Partho	Bulbul	Monirul
2	Which country won the 1996 Davis Cup?	Sweden	USA	France
3	Who hit the first century of the Premier Division cricket league this season?	Sujon	Sumon	Rupom
4	Which country hosted the 1970 soccer World Cup?	Brazil	Spain	Mexico
5	Who achieved the distinction of taking 300 Test wickets first?	Trueman	Lillee	Imran

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

Aussies' first stumble

ADELAIDE, Dec 17: Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq ripped through the Australian lower-order in remarkable second spell with career-best figures of 5-29 from 8.5 overs to catapult his team to a thrilling 12-run win in their World Series opener here Sunday, reports AFP.

Chasing Pakistan's score of 223, Australia's hopes were dashed when Saqlain snared 4-13 from 11 deliveries to have Taylor's men all out for 211 in 47.5 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the triangular World Series one day cricket match between Australia and Pakistan played at the Adelaide Oval Sunday:

PAKISTAN

Shahid c Healy b Bevan	67
Shahid run out	21
Wasim c Taylor b Blewett	44
Ijaz c Taylor b Blewett	21
Inzamam c Blewett b McGrath	34
Akram c Healy b Warner	7
Moin c Healy b Warner	7
Afridi c Warner b McGrath	6
Saqlain c M Waugh b Warner	3
Waqaar b Warner	2
Mushtaq not out	0
Extras: (LB-3, W-6, nb-5)	14
Total (all out, 49.5 overs)	223
Fall of wickets: 1-39; 2-141; 3-142; 4-170; 5-191; 6-205; 7-213; 8-220; 9-223.	

Bowling

McGrath	10	2	45	2
Reiffel	7	1	34	0
Moody	10	1	36	0
Warne	9.5	1	52	4
Bevan	8	0	32	2
Blewett	5	0	19	1

AUSTRALIA

Taylor c Moin b Saqlain	28
M Waugh b Waqaar	24
Ponting run out	19
S Waugh c M Wasim b Saqlain	57
Blewett b Afridi	12
Bevan b Akram	30
Moody c Moin b Saqlain	8
Healy c M Wasim b Saqlain	4
Reiffel run out	11
Warne c Ijaz b Saqlain	0
McGrath not out	0
Extras: (lb-5, w-11, nb-1)	17
Total (all out, 47.5 overs)	211
Fall of wickets: 1-39; 2-76; 3-81; 4-106; 5-175; 6-192; 7-194; 8-195; 9-211.	

Bowling

Akram	10	1	44	1
Waqaar	8	1	33	1
Saqlain	8.5	0	29	5
Mushtaq	9	0	43	0
Afridi	10	0	49	1
Shahid	2	0	8	0

Result: Pakistan won by 12 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Saqlain Mushtaq.

Arman breaks Abahani's heart

MSC win titans' war

Sports Reporter



An early strike from Arman enabled Mohammedan Sporting Club to lift the prestigious Danish Premier football league title with a lone goal win over their arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

In front of a strong 30,000 crowd, Arman broke the evening's duck by shooting home from a rebounder in the 11th minute of the blood-and-thunder 43rd clash between the two most popular of fits. Mohammedans ran away with the slender lead to emerge as unbeaten champions with 15 wins and three draws on completion of the gruelling double-leg league.

The much-needed victory for Mohammedans was not only a reward for the most consistent ensemble in the 12-team elite group, but it also put an end to their long-standing jinx against Abahani, who did not lose a single league match against Mohammedans since 1988.

On the other hand, the dear defeat for Abahani dashed their hopes of a unique treble of league titles after their star-studded front-line failed to find the opponents' net despite enjoying territorial supremacy for most of the nail-biting 90-minute showdown.

And when the Thai referee, who conducted the match like a field marshal, blew the final whistle, Mohammedans exploded into a carnival on a starry night with their stars doing a victory lap round the athletic turf at the flood-lit big egg. All this while the defeated Abahani booters stood in the middle, hands on hips, hanging their heads, inconceivable.

The victory for Mohammedans under the tutelage of their South Korean coach Mann Young Kang completed a successful campaign of a disciplined force. For Abahani, the absence of a reputed coach in their star-studded line-up cost them dearly at the end.

Meanwhile, like every pass-

ing year, it was yet another unofficial championship deciding match when the two giants strolled into the middle 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time.

With the pendulum hanging in the balance Mohammedans took the field with the objective of at least a draw to dethrone Abahani, who were left with the tough proposition of winning to clinch the title for a unique treble.

After a cautious start, lady luck suddenly smiled on Mohammedans when Arman found himself with an opening following a faulty clearance by Abahani custodian Biplob, who failed to grip a Manik free-kick from the left. And a lurking Arman after an abortive first attempt to beat the Abahani hedge of defenders, stabbed the ball home with a cool grounder.

Buoyed by the early lead, Mohammedans compressed its defence like the bellows of an accordion against an all-out Abahani attack for the remaining time. The play eventually paid with the five-man defensive wall of captain Jewel, Munna, right-back Parvez, left-back Ruhul Amin and mid-fielder Iqbal successfully thwarting the waves of attacks.

Still Abahani had their share of openings in both halves. But the goal-shy forwards coupled with some brilliant saves from national custodian Ponir denied Abahani a memorable night.

The fired-up Abahanes, who despite the presence of two prolific wingers in the line-up failed to break open the vice-like Mohammedan defence, got their first real scoring opportunity in the 25th minute when Rakib let loose a sudden right-footer from outside the box.

But an ever dependable Ponir, specially when the chips are low, in a spectacular fashion fisted away the ball for a corner. Two minutes later Ponir once again came to his side's rescue, interrupting with his hand a scorching grounder from Abahani's Russian striker Kazakov.

To add to Abahani's agony, the stockily-built Russian, who

played the pivotal role in creating many a move, helplessly watched his long-range shot narrowly miss the mark two minutes from the short whistle.

After the breather Abahani, desperately in search of an equaliser, made three changes to bolster their attack. Jahangir, the most successful performer between the two giants in recent past, came in place of an off-colour Mamun Joarder. Aung, their Myanmar recruit, who led some penetrating moves, left the ground after sustaining an injury to make room for mid-fielder Swapan. Striker Mizan, who came as a substitute for Rumi, did little to help the cause of the sky blues, seeing his attempts fade against the rock-solid Mohammedan wall.

It was Abahani's first defeat in this league, finishing behind their perennial foes with 43 points on completion of their 18 league matches.

Earlier, Home Minister Rafiqul Islam BU was introduced to the players before the match, the last engagement of this year's league.

Yellow card: Ruhul Amin, Iqbal and Arman (Mohammedan SC), Hasan Al Mamun (Abahani).

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Ponir, Parvez, Munna, Jewel Rana, Munna, Ruhul Amin, Manik, Iqbal, Alfaz, Arman, Jide (Ranjana) (Rajani), and Makino (Kaiser Hamid).

ABAHANI: Biplob, Hasan Al Mamun, Sohail Raza, Monem Munna, Partha, Barun, Aung (Swapan), Mamun Joarder (Jahangir), Rumi (Mizan) and Kazakov.

Referee: Panya Hanluma-king (Thailand).

Usha Bijoy Dibash Cup hockey champs

Usha Krira Chakra won the Bijoy Dibash Cup hockey tournament, beating Bangladesh Army 3-2 in the final at the National Hockey Stadium on Sunday, reports BSS.

The tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation, began on December 7 with 17 teams participating.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader witnessed the final match as the chief guest and gave away trophies to the winners.

The post-match parley



Mohammedan Sporting Club's football skipper Jewel Rana said that it was one of the memorable moments of his life, winning the Danish Premier football league title and that too after beating arch-rivals Abahani in the deciding match.

"I can't express my happiness today," said a beaming Mohammedan skipper after his side edged past Abahani 1-0 in a trating, one foreigner - Man Young Kang - was standing in a corner, looking at the festivity at the Mirpur Stadium.

"I'm happy, they (Mohammedans) played according to my strategy today. Everybody

played well," said the soft spoken, middle-aged South Korean. When asked whether he will coach the same team next year, the former Bangladesh national team coach smiled but declined to comment.

While Mohammedans were celebrating their victory, a contrasting scene prevailed in the Abahani dressing room with every head down. It was all quiet and somber.

"I'm totally disappointed with my team's performance today," said a frustrated Abahani skipper, Mohammad Monem Munna. "We had abundant opportunities to level the score in the first-half, but I must praise Ponir for his brilliant performance which never allowed us to score," he added.

Coach Abdul Gaffar said that a silly goal in the early first-half was the reason behind their failure. "Everything changed after the goal as we then needed to score two goals which was too difficult against a team like Mohammedans. It was their day and they earned the victory," said the Abahani coach.

Kaiser to hang his boots

Sports Reporter

Veteran national defender Kaiser Hamid bade adieu to the football league yesterday. He will finally hang his boots after participating in the forthcoming Bangabandhu Cup beginning December 30.

In his eleven-year career with the black and whites, Kaiser, considered to be one of the best defenders in the late eighties and early nineties, was lucky to see his team win the league title five times including this year.

The tall former national defender began his career with BJMC in 1983 and played for Rahmatganj in the following year before he joined Mohammedans in 1985.

It may be mentioned that Kaiser is the eldest son of Bangladesh's only International Women Master Rani Hamid, the current national evels chess champion and Lt Col (ret'd) MA Hamid, the president of Bangladesh Handball federation.

PREMIER DIV FINAL STANDINGS

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Points
Mohammedan SC	18	15	3	0	36	9	48
Abahani	18	13	4	1	36	12	43
Muktijoddha Sangsad	18	10	2	6	25	17	32
Brothers Union	18	7	5	6	18	14	26
YMC Fakirerpool	18	5	7	6	10	12	22
Parashanj SC	18	5	5	8	16	19	20
Agrani Bank SC	18	4	7	7	20	26	19
Arambagh KS	18	5	3	10	14	21	18
East End Club	18	3	5	10	18	40	14
Bangladesh Boys Club	18	1	3	14	10	36	6

Hattricks: Mizan (Abahani vs East End, 1st leg), Alfaz (MSC vs East End, 2nd leg), Tutul (Agrani Bank vs Bangladesh Boys, 2nd leg), Nakib (Muktijoddha vs East End Club, 2nd leg), Sourav Raju (East End vs Muktijoddha, 2nd leg).

Leading goalkeepers: 13 - Nakib (Muktijoddha); 12 - Tutul (Agrani Bank); 10 - Alfaz (MSC), Sourav Raju (East End); 8 - Mizan (Abahani); 6 - Rumi (Abahani); 5 - Arman (MSC), Reaz (Muktijoddha); 4 - Rakib, Kazakov (Abahani), Ranjan (MSC), Roxy (Arambagh), Towhid (Parashanj), Jamal and Tipu (BU).



The victorious Usha Krira Chakra hockey team with the Bijoy Dibash Cup trophy.

— Star photo



UNCONQUERED CHAMPS: Players and officials of Mohammedan Sporting Club who became unbeaten champions in the Danish Premier Division football league.

— Star photo

Bangladesh Games open today

The Sixth Bangladesh Games, coinciding with the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of country's independence, begin today at the National Stadium amidst enthusiasm, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the eight-day Games at 3 pm.

Giving a special emphasis on the Games, the organiser, Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), has arranged a grand opening ceremony.

About 3,700 athletes are to take part in different events of 23 disciplines.

The disciplines are: Athletics, football, badminton, judo, karate, basketball, body-building, cycling, gymnastics, hockey, handball, kabaddi, rowing, shooting, squash, swimming, table tennis, tennis, volleyball, boxing, weightlifting, wrestling, and kho kho.

BOA has increased the number of disciplines from 21 to 23 included in the previous Games held in 1992.

The Olympic Association has already completed all necessary arrangements for organising the Games colourfully.

The formal ceremony will start with the opening song to be rendered by renowned singer Shakila Zafar. The song was composed by Alauddin Ali.

The opening ceremony will be featured by a march-past by the members of Shawdhan Bangla football team, dance by Saotal tribal group, drill by students of Vignarunnessa Noon School and College, personnel of Bangladesh Ansars and VDP, Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Rifles and a chorus by Apel Mahmud and his group.

BOA have reserved VIP gate number one and two for the invited guests while other gates for the gallery except the press gallery (16) declared free for general public to watch the opening ceremony.

HOCKEY RESULTS

Dhaka University, BKSP and Dhaka DSA won their respective matches in the Bangladesh Games hockey tournament at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Dhaka University routed Rajshahi district 5-0, BKSP beat Bangladesh Air Force 2-1 and Dhaka DSA trounced Bangladesh Navy 6-1.

Exhibition cricket result

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

SHAHEED JEWEL XI: 195 for 8 in 50 overs (Akram 54, Sujon 45, Bulbul 40, Sumon 15, Moni 3, 47, Athar Ali 2/43).

SHAHEED MUSTAQUE XI: 197 for 5 in 48.3 overs (Partho 50, Nannu 39, Athar 32, Parvez 32, M Rafique 4/40).

Shaheed Mustaque Eleven defeated Shaheed Jewel Eleven by five wickets in an exhibition cricket match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Monday arranged by the Bangladesh Cricket Board to celebrate the 25th Victory Day.

Chasing a manageable target of 195 set by the Shaheed Jewel eleven, the winners succeeded at the cost of five of their batsmen with nine balls to spare. Left handed opener Imran Hamid Partho scored the highest 50 off 41 balls.

National all-rounder Minhazul Abedin Nannu (39 not out), opener Athar (32) and one down Habibul Bashar Sumon were the other notable batsmen for the winners.

Left arm spinner Mohammad Rafique of Shaheed Jewel eleven took four wickets for 40 runs while medium pacer Khaled Mahmud Sujon captured the other wicket conceded 35 runs.

Earlier, electing to bat first, Shaheed Jewel scored 195 for 8 in their stipulated 50 overs with skipper Akram Khan collecting highest 54 off 84 balls followed by Sujon and Aminul Islam Bulbul who added 45 and 40 runs respectively.

For Shaheed Mustaque eleven, left arm spinner Enamul Haque Moni was the successful bowler taking three for 47 while slow medium pacer Athar Ali Khan captured two wickets.

Asian Cup semis today



ABU DHABI, Dec 17: Saudi Arabia survived an early scare to come back from two goals down and beat China 4-3 in their Asian Cup quarterfinal match here on Monday, reports AFP.

Now the Saudis have semifinal meeting on Wednesday with Iran, who earlier in the evening demolished South Korea 6-2. The other semifinal will pit Kuwait against the UAE in a tournament that has turned from the Asian Cup to this Gulf Cup.

Saudi's victory was carved out by veteran midfielder Yousif Thunai, brought on in the 29th minute to stop the not after China had swept into a 2-0 lead and threatened to run riot.

With almost his first touch of the match, the 33-year-old Thunai open the Saudi scoring after Chinese goalkeeper Ou Chuliang could only palm away a fierce shot from Khalid Timawi.

Thunai, all alone at the far post, shot home and the Saudi victory parade was under way.

A minute later Thunai took the ball down the right side, flashed across a low centre and striker Sami al-Jaher struck after defender Ma Mingyu failed to clear.

Two minutes before half-time Saudi Arabia went in front when this time it was al-Jaher who crossed for Fahad Mahalel who cut inside the defence before slotting the ball home.

But Thunai, revelling in his return to the team, got his second in the 65th minute, again turning his defender before slotting home from the left.

Captain Xu Hong pulled one back for China in the 90th minute but it was too little too late.

But until the arrival of Thunai, the Chinese were threatening to blow the Asian Cup wide open. With pre-tournament favourites Japan and South Korea both already out, a Saudi defeat would have meant the exit of Asia's three top teams.

It took only seven minutes for China to strike.

The Saudi's, looking as if they were still in shock after their 3-0 defeat by Iran in their

final group match, were being sliced apart by the Chinese attack.

With oceans of space on either flank, Chinese made the most of it and when Zhang Enhua rose unmarked to head home a Peng Weiguo cross the Saudi fans were stunned into silence.

Nine minutes later Peng made it two nil when he got his toe to a low cross.

The Saudis were in total disarray and China were threatening to pull off the biggest shock of the tournament.

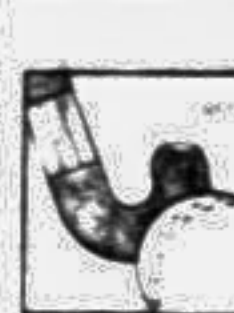
A minute later Gao Feng nearly made it 3-0 but a great diving save from Mohamed al-Daeyea denied him.

Saudi's Portuguese coach Eduardo Vingada, unable to decide what he was seeing, decided to send on Thunai and shake his lacklustre team into action.

It was an inspired decision that kept Saudi on track for their third championship title.

Semifinals: Dec 18
UAE vs Kuwait
Iran vs S Arabia
Venue: Dubai

A dazzling Dutch show



MADRAS, India, Dec 17: Roelant Oltmans' Holland added the Champions' Trophy title to their Olympic hockey gold with a 3-2 victory over Pakistan on Sunday final here, reports AFP.

All five goals came in the action-packed first half as the Dutch pumped in three goals by the 20th minute before Pakistan narrowed the margin with two goals in two minutes.

It was a proud victory for coach Oltmans, who saw his young team avenge the defeat in the World Cup final in 1994 to take the Champions' Trophy home after 14 years.

The Dutch, who last won the elite six-nation event at Amsterdam in 1982, remained unbeaten despite the absence of retired stalwarts Marc Dellissen, Floris Jan Bovelander and Taco Van Den Honert.

Defending champions Germany, fired by a hatrick from Christoph Bechmann, took the bronze with a comfortable 5-0 win over hosts India.

Olympic silver-medalist Spain finished fifth, swamping Australia 5-2.

The Australians, however, retained their place in the annual tournament by virtue of being the hosts of the next Champions' Trophy at Adelaide in 1997.

Under the new qualifying rules, India will be replaced by

Asian champions South Korea at Adelaide.

The Dutch struck gold with their first penalty corner in the eighth minute when Teun de Nooijer received a pass from Bram Lomas and slammed the ball in.

Five minutes later, Wouter Van Peit made it 2-0 by converting a penalty stroke after Bas Neuiwe was brought down near the goal by the nervous Pakistani defence.

Lomas increased the margin in the 20th with a direct penalty corner hit, but the valiant Pakistanis fought back immediately.

Rahim Khan swooped on a loose ball following Pakistan's second penalty corner in the 25th minute and pushed home past the diving Dutch goalkeeper Ronald Jansen.

Pakistan earned another corner two minutes later and this time Usman Mohammad found the target of make it 2-3.

The Pakistanis, who stunned arch-rivals India 3-2 on Friday to qualify for the final, however failed to get the equaliser in the second half.

In the play-off for the bronze, Germany outplayed a listless Indian side still recovering from the defeat by Pakistan.

After being kept scoreless till the 28th minutes, the Germans hit back with a vengeance to better their 2-1 win over In-

dia in the league.

Sascha Reinelt's opening goal was followed by three in a row from Bechmann and Eko Rott chipped in with the fifth a few seconds before the final whistle.

India's defeat may have ended the playing career of their 313-match veteran skipper, Fargat Simin, who is expected to announce his retirement early next year.

The Indians, who failed to qualify for the next Champions' Trophy, do not have an international engagement till the 1998 World Cup in Holland.