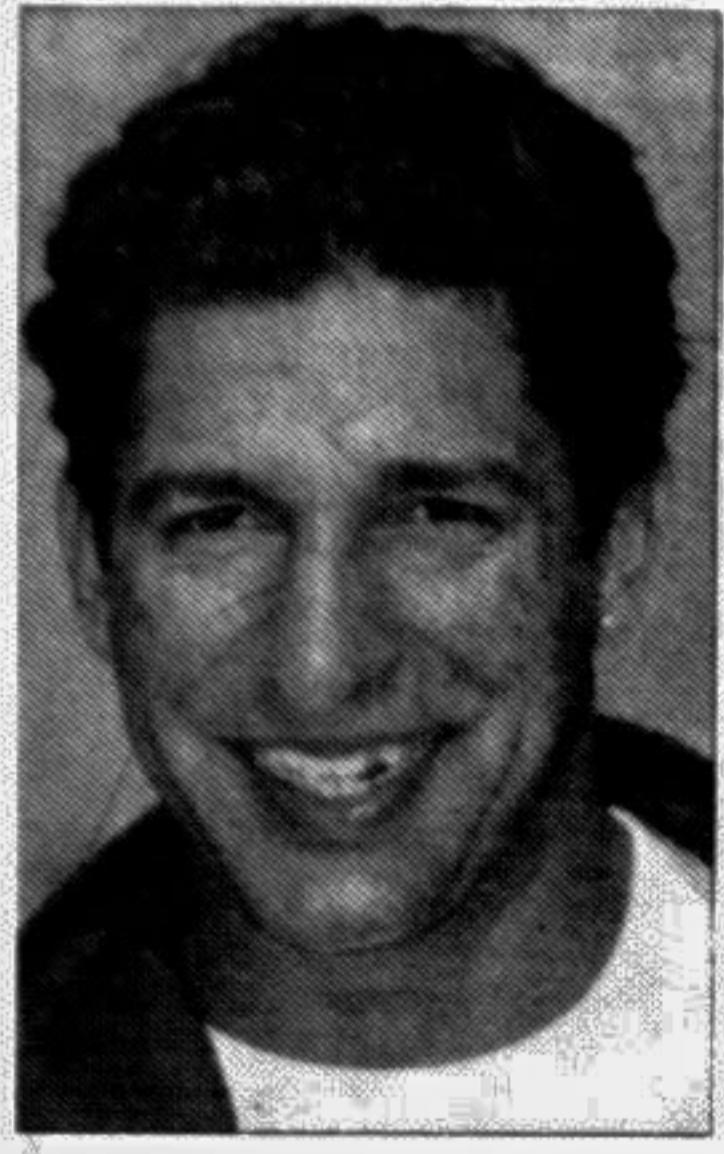


## Column One

## SPORTS TALK



**Wasim Akram**  
(Pakistan 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-final in the 17th Dalmatian Smriti cricket tournament?	Partha	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?	Truman	Lillee	Imran

Name .....

Class .....

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 Afridi b Bevan 67  
Ali run out 21

Wasim c Taylor b Blewett 44  
Ijaz c Taylor b Blewett 18

Inzamam c Blewett b McGrath 7

Akram c Healy b Warner 6

Moin c Healy b Warner 7

Afridi c Warner b McGrath 6

Saqlain c M Waqar b Warner 3

Waqar b Warner 2

Mushtaq not out 0

Extras (B-5, W-6, nb-5) 0

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 O M R W

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

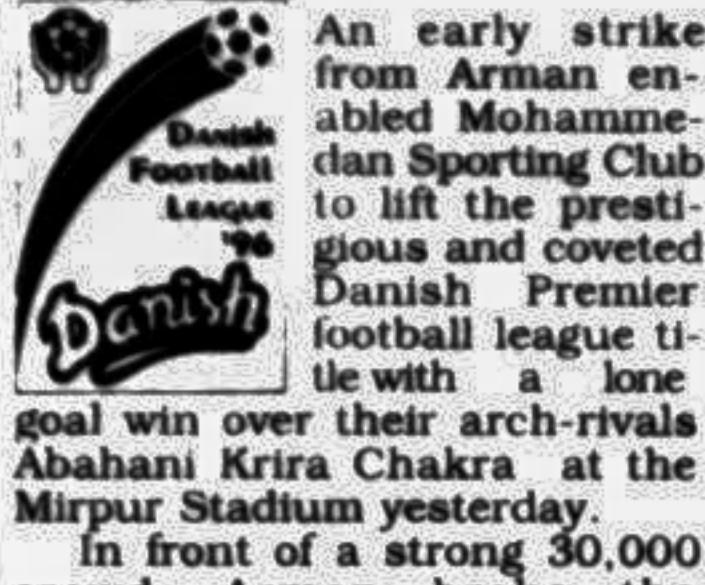
Result: Pakistan won by 12 runs.

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 and coveted Danish Premier football league title with a lone goal win over their arch-rivals Abahani Kira 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 out 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 loss 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 marshall, 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 dejected Abahani booters stood in the middle, hands on hips, hanging their heads, inconsolable.

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 passing

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 accordian against an all-out Abahani attack for the remaining time. The play eventually put 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 Abahani, 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

MOHAMMEDANS' ROAD TO FINAL

Opponents	First leg		Second leg	
	2-1 (own, Ranjan)	2-1 (own, Ranjan)	5-1 (Alfaz, 3-0)	5-1 (Alfaz, 3-0)
Brothers Union	2-1 (Alfaz, Ranjan)	3-0 (Alfaz)	1-1 (Iqbal)	2-0 (Kazakov)
Farashganj SC	1-0 (Alfaz)	3-2 (Jewel Rana, Ranjan)	1-0 (Alfaz, Iqbal)	1-0 (Arman)
Agrani Bank SC	2-1 (Manik, 2)	2-0 (Arman, Alfaz)	2-0 (Alfaz, Jewel Rana)	4-0 (Arman, Ranjan, Makino)
Arambagh KS	1-1 (Alfaz)	2-0 (Iqbal, Alfaz)	1-0 (Arman)	1-0 (Arman)
YMC Fakirpore	2-0 (Arman, Alfaz)	2-0 (Iqbal, Alfaz)	2-0 (Alfaz, Jewel Rana)	4-0 (Arman, Ranjan, Makino)
Muktijoddha Sangsad	2-0 (Arman, Alfaz)	2-0 (Iqbal, Alfaz)	1-0 (Arman)	1-0 (Arman)
Bangladesh Boys	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Abahani				

Usha Bijoy Dibash Cup hockey champs

Usha Kira 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 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 Shawdhin Bangla football team, dance by Saatoli tribal group, drill by students of Vigarunnesa Noon School and College, personnel of Bangladesh Ansars and VDP, Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Rifles and a chorus by Apel Mahmud and his group.

BOA has 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 Rajahali district 5-0, BKSP beat Bangladesh Air Force 2-1 and Dhaka DSA trounced Bangladesh Navy 6-1.

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 Bangladeshi's only International Women Master Rani Rani, the current national chess champion and Lt Col (retd) MA Hamid, the president of Bangladesh Handball federation.

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 down Habibul Bashir 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 Mahmood Sujon captured the other wicket conceding 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 Jewel 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.



## Sport



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

— Star photo

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-Daeqa denied him.

Saudi's Portuguese coach

Eduardo Vingada, unable to believe 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.

**Asian Cup semis today**

## 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 quartefinal match here on Monday, reports AFP.

Now the Saudis have semi-final 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 Yousef Thunai, brought on in the 29th minute to stop the rot 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 opened the Saudi scoring after Chinese goalkeeper Ou Chilliang could only palm away a fierce shot from Khalid Timai.

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

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.

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

Five minutes later, Wouter Van Pelt made it 2-0 by converting a penalty stroke after Bas Netwue 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 Pakistani 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.