

## Column One



Martina Hingis

(Swiss tennis starlet)

"I think I have such a good mentality on the court because I am always the youngest player on the tour."

## Sports

## WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

## Sports WHIZZ KID competition-64

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes 8 pm, Feb 28, '97

1 Who finished runners-up in the Premier Division cricket league?	Biman	Kalabagan	Brothers
2 In the ICC Trophy, Bangladesh will be led by	Bulbul	Nannu	Akram
3 The eighth SAF Games will be held in	Nepal	Bhutan	Sri Lanka
4 Where was Martina Hingis born?	Switzerland	Hungary	Czech Republic
5 Name the skipper of the Zimbabwe cricket team.	A Flower	Campbell	Houghton

Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
Phone: (If any) .....

## Boris advised to take rest

MILAN, Italy Feb 26: Boris Becker, keeping his distance from the media, was told on Tuesday to rest his injured wrist for three weeks after pulling out of his third tennis tournament in as many weeks, reports Reuters.

Milan indoor tournament organisers said in a statement that doctor Fabrizio Fati had seen the former world number one and three time Wimbledon champion in the city.

"Boris Becker came to Milan to be inspected by the tournament doctor, according to ATP rules," the statement said.

Doctor Fati, a specialist in orthopaedics, found a tendinitis of the right wrist and advised three weeks of rest.

## Courier in Davis Cup team

NEWPORT BEACH, California, Feb 26: Former world number one Jim Courier will play for the United States in the Davis Cup tennis quarter-finals against the Netherlands in April, team captain Tom Gullikson announced Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Gullikson did not name the rest of the four-man squad for the April 4-6 tie because of uncertainty over injuries to some of his potential recruits and an apparent reluctance to participate by other top American players.

"Courier's performance in our opening round win in Brazil was fantastic. Haven't seen him that focused since he was number one in the world," Gullikson said from the Palisades Tennis Club in Newport Beach, site of the quarterfinal.

"I am ecstatic to have him on the team," added Gullikson of the 18th ranked Courier.

"As far as the remainder of the team I'll have to wait and see who is available and healthy."

Numerous reports have suggested that the top two Americans — World number one Pete Sampras and third ranked Michael Chang were not interested in playing Davis Cup in the early rounds.

Unfortunately for Gullikson, injuries have cut into his deep reserve of American talent.

Davis Cup stalwart Todd Martin is unavailable to play the Dutch team after undergoing arthroscopic surgery Tuesday on his right elbow.

Andre Agassi has been struggling with an ankle injury. While Maliva Washington, always available for Davis Cup when called upon, is nursing a knee injury he suffered during a singles win in the first round against Brazil and re-aggravated last week in Memphis.

A United States Tennis Association spokesman said the entire team was expected to be named Tuesday but the injury situation had left Gullikson contemplating his options.

According to ITF regulations Gullikson must name the rest of his team no later than 10 days prior to the tie.

## Indians do it clinically

Sports Reporter

Defending champions India A moved into the final of the third SAARC cricket tournament defeating hosts Bangladesh by seven wickets in the last round robin league match of the four-nation invitational meet at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The spirited Indians, facing a daunting task of scoring 236 runs that too in 39 overs to beat Sri Lanka in run rate for a repeat clash against their arch-rivals Pakistan A in Friday's final, did it in style, rattling up the required runs in 36.2 overs and with seven wickets in hand.

With this win, the second-string side from India finished at par with their Sri Lankan counterpart, both having collected three points each from as many matches. But India pipped Sri Lanka to the post for the finale by virtue of enjoying a better run-rate - .07 as against Sri Lanka's -0.18.

In a high-scoring affair, Bangladesh, after winning the toss in the morning, scored a challenging total of 235 for nine wickets in the stipulated

with India at 138 for three. After the departure of Khoda, Sharath and Hemanga Badani, the two left-handers, guided their side to victory sharing 98 runs for the fourth wicket.

Sharath, who was out for a duck in the match against Pak-



istan, demonstrated a brilliant exhibition of batsmanship on his way to an enterprising 64 off 61 balls. The southpaw, tipped earlier by manager Srikanth as one of the batting mainstays, hit seven fours in his polished knock. The stock-

Punjab, who had earlier captured six wickets in his side's previous match against Pakistan, eventually finished with a four-wicket haul.

Athar, the tall national all-rounder, made a patient 25 before being foxed by a classic leg-break from Bahutule. The right-hander was first drawn out of his crease by the tantalising loop and then beaten by the break as the ball eluded his bat on his way to wicketkeeper Prasad who had little trouble in effecting an off-side stumping.

But the real thrust to the Bangladesh innings was provided by Aminul Islam Bulbul and Minhazul Abedin Nannu. The two highly seasoned cricketers, who featured in an enterprising 71-run stand for the fifth wicket, not only accelerated the run rate but also guided Bangladesh past the 200-mark.

Vice-captain Amin scored a fine 78 off 100 balls, the highest individual score of the match. The dapper middle-order bat, in his polished knock, hammered eight fours including a magnificent cover drive off Noel David. The Indian off-spinner, though failing to get any wicket, finished as the most frugal among the bowlers giving away 39 runs in his 10 overs.

On the other hand, Minhazul Abedin Nannu scored a quick-fire 53 off only 46 deliveries. His dazzling knock included a beautifully timed sixer off Mo-haty over the square leg fence.



## SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH:				
Athar at Prasad b Bahutule	25			
Jahangir c Khurasiya b Mohanty	0			
Sanwar c Prasad b Harvinder	13			
Aminul c Arindam b Harvinder	78			
Akram c b Harvinder	19			
Minhazul Abedin run out	53			
Naimur c David b Mohanty	1			
Hasibul c Badani b Harvinder	6			
Saiful not out	0			
Enamul Haq not out	6			
Extras: (b-1; lb-6; w-17)	24			
Total: (for 8 wks in 50 overs)	235			
Fall of wks: 1/20; 2/55; 3/79; 4/144; 5/216; 6/220; 7/228; 8/229				
Did not bat: Zakir Hossain.				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Mohanty	9	1	43	2
Arindam	8	0	47	0
Harvinder	10	0	44	4
S Bahutule	10	0	40	1
Noel David	10	0	39	0
Sharath	3	0	15	0

INDIA A:				
Jafar Iqbal b Athar	34			
Khoda run out	63			
Khurasiya c b Minhazul	14			
Sharath not out	64			
Badani not out	33			
Extras: (b-1; lb-8; nb-3; w-16)	28			
Total: (for 3 wks in 36.2 overs)	236			
Fall of wks: 1/82; 2/112; 3/138				
Did not bat: Bahutule, David, Prasad, Arindam, Harvinder and Mohanty.				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Hasibul	6.2	0	38	0
Zakir	6	1	38	0
Saiful	4	0	33	0
Athar	7	0	34	1
Enamul	2	0	14	0
Minhazul	4	0	21	1
Aminul Islam	4	0	24	0
Naimur Rahman	3	0	25	0

Result: India A won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Sharath (India A)

## STATS AT A GLANCE

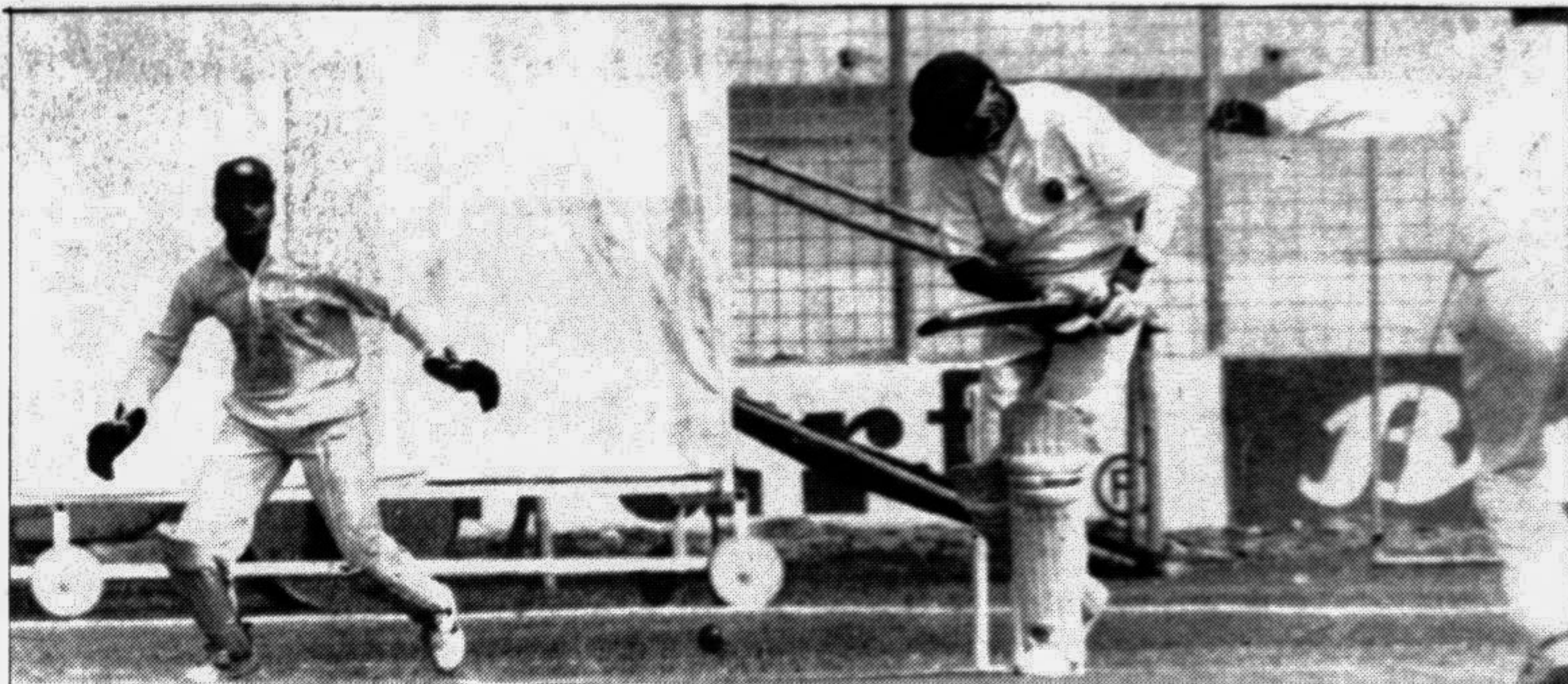
	Bangladesh	India A
After 5 overs	18/0	27/0
After 10 overs	32/1	63/0
After 15 overs	56/2	99/1
After 20 overs	74/2	129/2
After 25 overs	91/3	155/3
After 30 overs	109/3	187/3
After 35 overs	132/3	224/3
After 40 overs	156/4	236/3 (36.2)
After 45 overs	187/4	-
After 50 overs	235/9	-

## STANDINGS

Team	M	W	L	Pts	R/R
Pakistan A	3	3	0	6	-
India A	3	1	1	3	-0.07
Sri Lanka A	3	1	1	3	-0.18
Bangladesh	3	0	3	0	-

Note: \* India A and Sri Lanka A awarded one point each for their abandoned match.

\* India A go through to the Friday's final on better run-rate.



An uncomfortable moment for Athar Ali Khan, the Bangladesh opener who scored 25 against India A in yesterday's SAARC cricket tourney billing at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

## Victoria in semis

Victoria Sporting Club reached the semifinals of the King's Birthday Cup football tournament in Kathmandu, reports UNB.

Dhaka Metropolitan First Division football league champions Victoria SC eliminated Three Star Club of Nepal by a solitary goal in the quarterfinal yesterday afternoon.

## Intertoto Cup football

GENEVA, Feb 26: UEFA said on Tuesday 60 club sides from 33 countries would compete in this year's Intertoto Cup but soccer associations from England, Italy and Spain had declined to take part, reports Reuter.

France, Germany and Belgium top the list of entries with four teams each while Russia, Turkey, Austria, Yugoslavia and Denmark will each receive three berths.

Despite the lure of places in the first round of the UEFA Cup for the top three finishers, nine countries England, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Scotland, Luxembourg, Ukraine, Albania and Azerbaijan had decided not to participate in the competition due to be played in June and July.

Last season French side Bordeaux went from the Intertoto to the UEFA Cup final. During the same season premier league Tottenham Hotspur were heavily fined by UEFA for fielding what it described as under strength teams in the Intertoto Cup.

## Steffi being stoical

BONN, Feb 26: World number one Steffi Graf described 16-year-old Martina Hingis as a breath of fresh air and said she was not upset by the prospect of losing her top ranking to her, reports Reuter.

"I didn't think Martina would become so good," Graf told the German monthly magazine Sports Live in an interview released on Tuesday. "Martina exudes a freshness that can only be good for the tour."

Graf faces a four-week lay-off with a knee injury and will be unable to defend two titles in the United States.

This means Swiss Hingis, whose win at last month's Australian Open made her the youngest singles champion since 15-year-old Lottie Dod won Wimbledon in 1987, will almost certainly take over the number one ranking which Graf has held for a record 373 weeks.

But Graf, holder of 21 Grand Slam titles, insisted she was not worried.

"My sporting satisfaction has nothing to do with world rankings," she said. "I'm more than happy if the interest moves away from me for a bit. Especially after the strains of the last few months (when Graf's father was on trial for tax evasion)."

Graf, however, said she was disappointed by the failure of other players to challenge herself and Hingis more strongly.

"There are some who could get a great deal more out of themselves," she said. "Monica Seles could if she wanted to."

## The post-match parley

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh team manager, Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu pointed out that lack of application was the reason behind his boys' hopeless showings in the third SAARC cricket tournament.

Bangladesh would have to accept the similar fate in the forthcoming ICC Trophy if they play like this, the former national captain, with a tinge of dejection, expressed his fear amongst the newsmen following the seven-wicket thrashing at the hands of India A.

"Today we batted well. But you have seen how we have failed to defend that good total. We failed to put any pressure on the Indian batsmen because the fielding and bowling lacked the aggression that we needed. In spite of a such big asking rate we didn't let them feel the pressure. Moreover, our batsmen were not also very consistent. Some day the top-order failed and middle-order clicked, and the next day it turned into different complexion. That is not the like of a good batting side," said Lipu.

We also need to improve our physical standards to be a good fielding side. You see, the crick-

eters of the Netherlands, Kenya, Denmark, Fiji and UAE are physically more fit than us and that's why their record is good in the ICC. If Bangladesh can not improve in this section our chances are slim," observed the manager.

About the ICC team selection, especially when the absence of a specialist off-spinner in the team, Lipu, who is also a member of the selection committee, diplomatically replied,

"I have got the team last month from the Board and am still working on it. It will be too early to make a comment on the selection. But I agree especially after today's match that we should have had one off-spinner in the squad". But the dodgy manager, however, did not tell newsmen about the justification for selecting two left-arm twerkers instead of picking a specialist offie for the 16-member squad.

Answering to another question on what will be his priorities to work on his side to improve their playing abilities, Lipu said that he would concentrate on the physical aspects of the players and do some experiment on the batting order during the next few days before

leaving for Malaysia next month. "I will also look into the wicketkeeping. I think we are going to get some good tips from the visiting former Indian keeper Syed Kirmani who will train Pilot and Jahangir for few days at the BKSP early next month."

When Lipu was found taking his guards, Akram Khan, the skipper of Bangladesh, was seen quite straight forward in his comments while taking on the press.

Commenting on his bowlers' performance, an unhappy Akram said, "Our pacers do not have the variations and the killers' instinct we need. We also do not have a specialist off-spinner in the side. Although I have confidence in the batsmen, I am really scared about the standard of our fielding."

"Today you all will agree that 235 was quite a fighting total. But we failed miserably to defend that because of our poor bowling and fielding. They (Indians) were never under any sort of pressure in the chasing," said Akram. "Only field setting does nothing good if you bowl and field badly."

On the other hand their Indian counterparts — Krishnamachari Srikkanth and Amaya Khurasiya — were reasonably in a party mood with the thumping win that pit them against arch-rivals Pakistan in Friday's final.

"I am very happy and pleased. First and foremost, I am convinced with the way my boys make their passage to the final. The way our boys batted today was completely contrast to their previous performance. They all played to a plan you know. There was no hurry and everybody played according to the plan we drawn up during the lunch. I think it was the team effort which led us to such a emphatic victory today," said a happy Srikkanth in his reaction after the match.

When asked to comment on the local side which failed to defend a good total of 235, Srikkanth said, "Your batting is good, what you need is good bowling and fielding. I think this will be automatically improved once the team plays more international matches."

When asked about what will be their strategy against Pakistan in the final, a confident Srikkanth said, "Our team will be a different side in the final who will do their best to defend the trophy. The mistakes we did against them in the first round will not be repeated."

Amaya Khurasiya, the captain of India A, also praised his batsmen for their responsible knocks and said they were happy to reach the final and would play a different game against Pakistan in the final.

"You have a good team which needs only experiences now. I hope Bangladesh do well in the ICC and qualify in the World Cup," said Khurasiya while commenting on Bangladesh cricket team.

When Khurasiya was discreet about Bangladesh, S Sarath, the Indian middle-order who won the man-of-the-match award yesterday, was very critical of the subject as he told, "You failed to set an attacking fielding and put some pressure on the batsmen. I was never under any pressure and that speaks how weak you are in fielding."

## Sumon hits 71

## BCB Eleven lose again

Sports Reporter

Habibul Bashar Sumon strengthened his claim for a place in the Bangladesh national team as he

hit a face-saving half century in the touring Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Eleven's eight-wicket defeat to National Bank Limited (NBL) in their second Wills Trophy match at Karachi yesterday.

Sumon played the sheet anchor role by hitting a stubborn 71 as the BCB Eleven struggled to 186 all out in 48.2 overs against a somewhat powerful NBL attack. Hasanuzzaman and skipper Liton were the other mentionable run-getters, each scoring 22 runs apiece. Mohammad Javed was the highest wicket-taker with four scalps at the expense of 24 runs. Three Bangladesh batsman were run out.

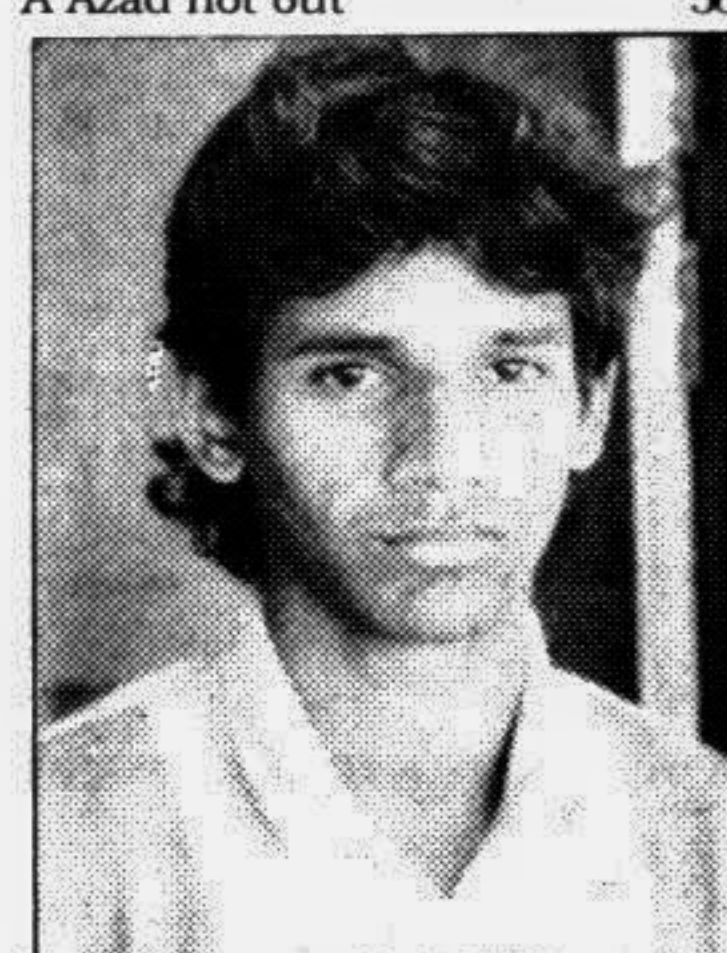
In reply, the local outfit reached 189 for the loss of two wickets in only 29.4 overs. Opener Tahir Shah hit 77 and one-down Sayeed Azad an unbeaten 56. Left-arm twerker Saifullah Jem, the highest wicket-taker in the Premier Division league this season, claimed both the wickets for 32 runs. Pacer Zakir Hassan bowled economically giving away only 35 runs in his ten overs, two of which were maidens.

It was the BCB Eleven's second successive defeat following their earlier 100-run loss to United Bank.

## SCOREBOARD

BCB XI				
Bidyut run out	0			
Liton b Salman	22			
Sumon c Jafar b Javed	71			
Hasanuzzaman run out	22			
Halim Shah b Javed	18			
Atiar run out	2			

Munna c b Javed				
Zakir Hassan	16			
Salahuddin b Jafar	15			
M Sumon b Javed	0			
Gem not out	0			
Extras:	26			
Total (all out in 48.2 over)	186			
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Jafar Iqbal	8	2	37	1
Naim Ashraf	10	2	34	0
M Javed	9.2	0	24	4
Shakil	1	0	7	0
S Faisal	10	0	27	1
Naim Khan	2	0	8	0



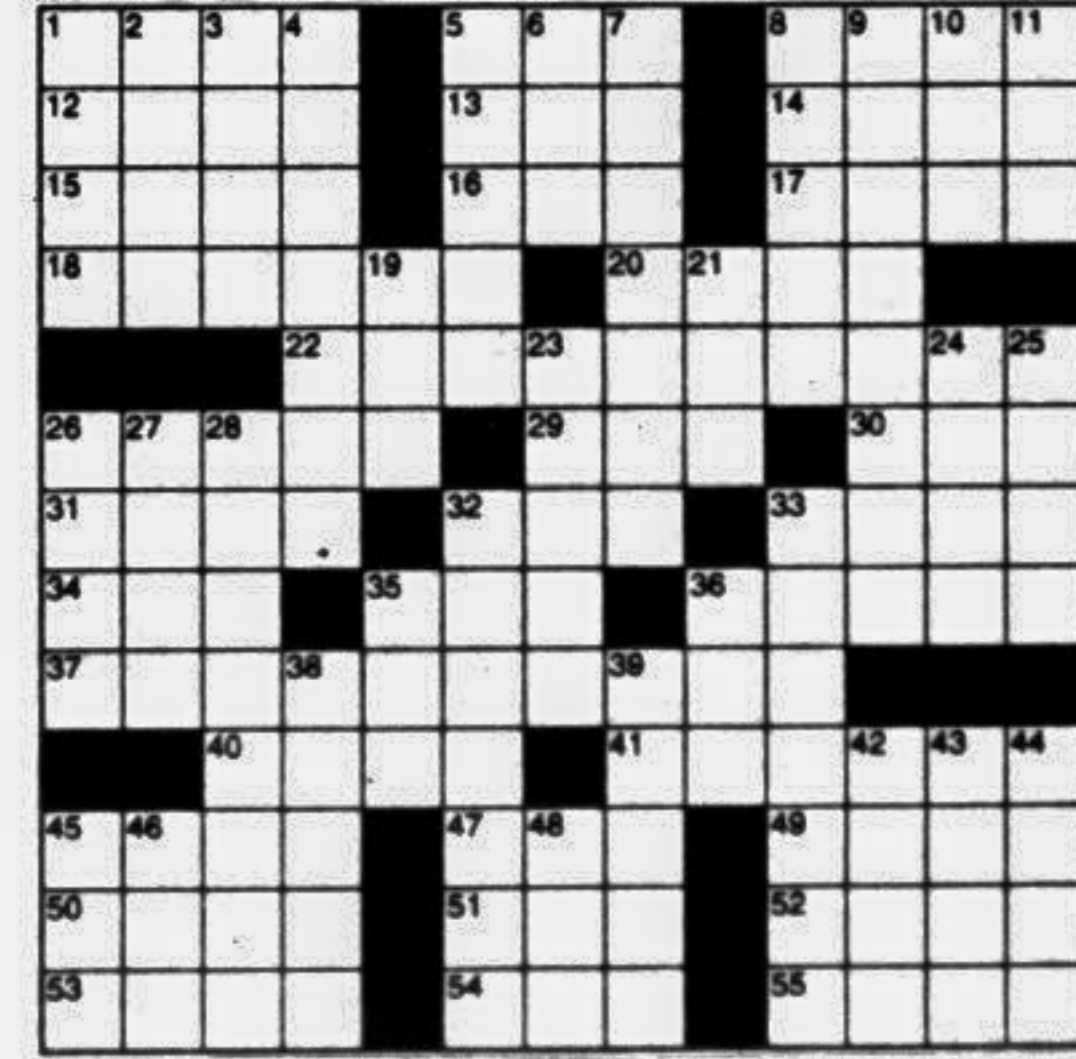
SUMON ... 71

Aamir not out				
Extras:	3			
Total: (for 29.4 overs)	189			
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Zakir	10	2	35	0
M Sumon	4	0	29	0
Gem	6	0	32	2
Munna	4	0	28	0
Salahuddin	2	0	29	2
Liton	2	0	12	0
H Sumon	1.4	0	18	0

Result: NBL won by eight wickets.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		DOWN	
1 Moist	34 Extinct	Cassidy's	10 Mouser
5 Abbott's first	35 Snap	Zealander	11 Avail of
8 Rudimentary lessons	36 "Stormy Weather"	Chaney	19 Conditions
12 Composer	37 Men's composer	55 Story	21 Exploitation
13 Addressee	40 Jog	1 Software item	24 Inlet
14 Intellectual	41 Epistle	2 Culture medium	25 Banahsee's
15 Relief	42 Dende	3 Kasparov's	26 "Green Mansions"
16 Stat	43 Flashed before	4 Come	27 Since
17 Suitable	44 "horse"	5 O.K. Corral name	28 Soft soap
18 Italian wine region	45 Inside	6 Ball in a gym	32 Poet
19 It's right in the ledger	46 Inside	7 Require a bigger size	33 Subterfuge
20 Sudden rush of wind	47 Hopalong	8 Inundated	35 Expert
22 Quake	48 Follow-up	9 Gift	36 "Hall" to Caesar
26 Great quantities	49 "Uplume"	10 "Hara estate"	38 Blundered
29 "Uplume" writer	50 Grief	11 "Hara estate"	39 "Speak for yourself"
30 Grief	51 Land in the water	12 "Hara estate"	42 The O'Hara
31 Land in the water	52 Blades	13 List-ending abbr.	43 List-ending abbr.
32 Close together, as diamonds	53 Close together, as diamonds	14 Marthea of movie-dom	44 Foreman's play
		15 "The Name of the Rose" author	46 "The Name of the Rose" author



CRYPTOQUIP

M R O T A U D L R S D R R S U  
B E B O B D A D T T C B E R D E R  
A M Y U O R C Y U U F D E  
D W W U L D O D F U R

Yesterday's Cryptquip: DOPEY BOSS ALWAYS COMMANDS HIS FAMED CLOWN NOT