

# Mohammedans get cold feet Abahani retain title in style

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra defended their Damal Smriti cricket tournament title in style when they romped past their arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club with a flattering margin of 73 runs in the final of the 18th edition of the season's curtain-raiser at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The perennial rivalry of country's two most crowd-pulling outfits petered into an anticlimactic finish when Abahani's star Pakistani recruit Shahid Afridi took two wickets in successive deliveries to complete the rout of Mohammedans who, chasing a commanding Abahani total of 197 in the stipulated 50 overs, were bundled out for only 124 with more than nine overs to spare.

A strong band of Abahani supporters, who were awaiting an imminent victory after Mohammedans were reduced to 108 for eight, rushed to join their heroes for an on-field celebration when Afridi had Raftue holed out in the deep and then went on to return number eleven Morshed Ali Khan for a first ball duck with a gem of a yorker.

The outcome however turned into a rather despondency for a near-packed audience, who thronged at the big bowl with a pronounced expectation to witness an exhilarating battle between the two worthy opponents, when Abahani returned as deserving winners by outclassing their old rivals in every department of the game.

For Mohammedans everything was at sixes and sevens despite the hectic efforts of their officials, who had helplessly watched their bargain for an extra day's recess before the final showdown eventually went astray. The stalemate before the final did no good to the reputed Motijheel cricketers as they succumbed to the maximum margin defeat against Abahani in their thirteen head-to-head clashes.

With this win Abahani, who also extended their impressive unbeaten streak against Mohammedans to six, clinched an edge over the eight-time champions by lifting the trophy for a record ninth time.

The final, originally scheduled for Saturday, was deferred for a day following a protest from Mohammedan officials, who, taking cricket as hostage, put pressure on Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to revoke the disciplinary action taken against their captain Aminul Islam and veteran Minhazul Abedin Nannu.

But it had hardly helped their cause as disaster eventually struck Mohammedans. And Aminul Islam, who got into hot water while unjustly reacting over a leg before decision during the league match against Abahani, is yet to win a trophy for Mohammedans in the last couple of seasons.

The beleaguered skipper scored only six runs before becoming the third batsman out, leaving Mohammedans in dire straits with the scoreboard reading 38 for three in 8.3 overs. Mohammedans' misery was compounded when Minhazul Abedin after scoring a gritty 20 made a long trudge towards the dressing room, leaving his side stuttering at 82 for seven in the 31st overs.

A limping long-handled bat Mohammed Raftue, who took the assistance of a runner for a sedate 11, however, salvaged his side from a complete humiliation when the southpaw joined forces with Jahangir Talukder Dulu to help Mohammedans pass the consolatory three figure mark sharing 24 runs for the eighth wicket.

But once Raftue was dismissed by leg-spinner Afridi, who after returning in his second spell in the 41st over mopped up the Mohammedan tail, their hopes for a face-saving defeat evaporated.

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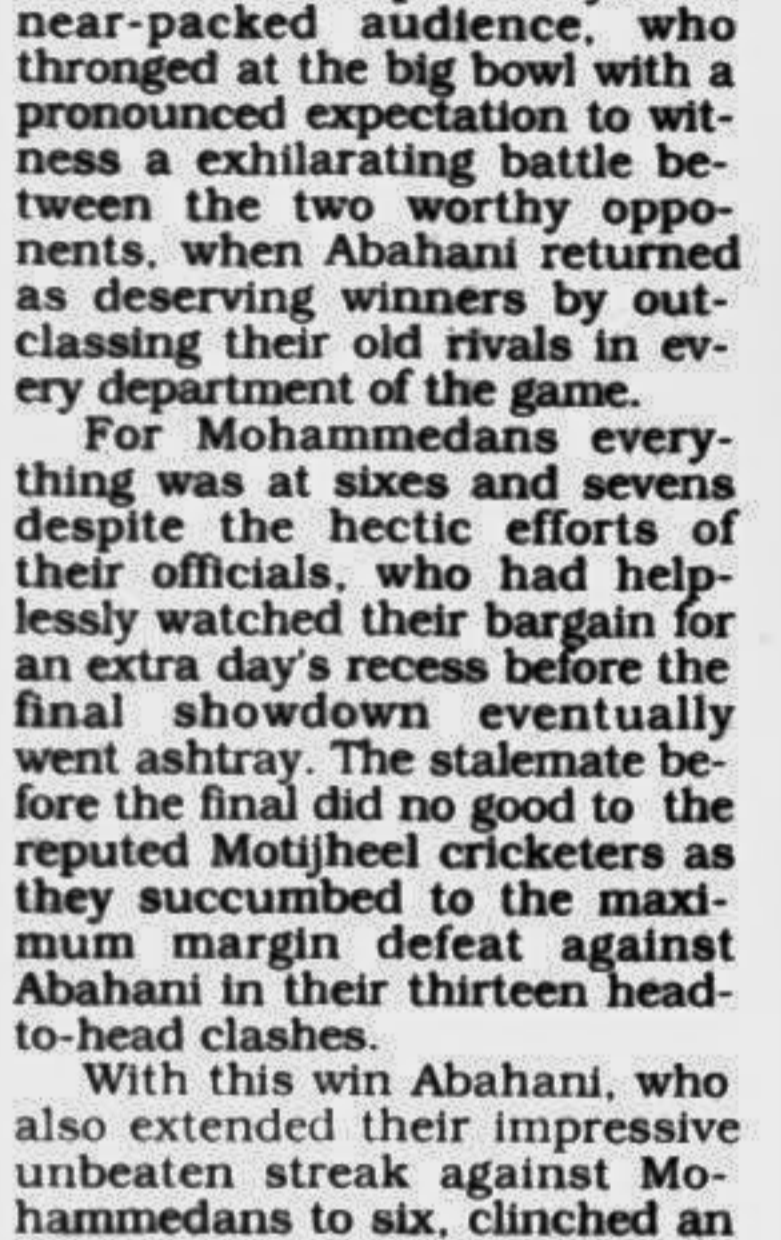
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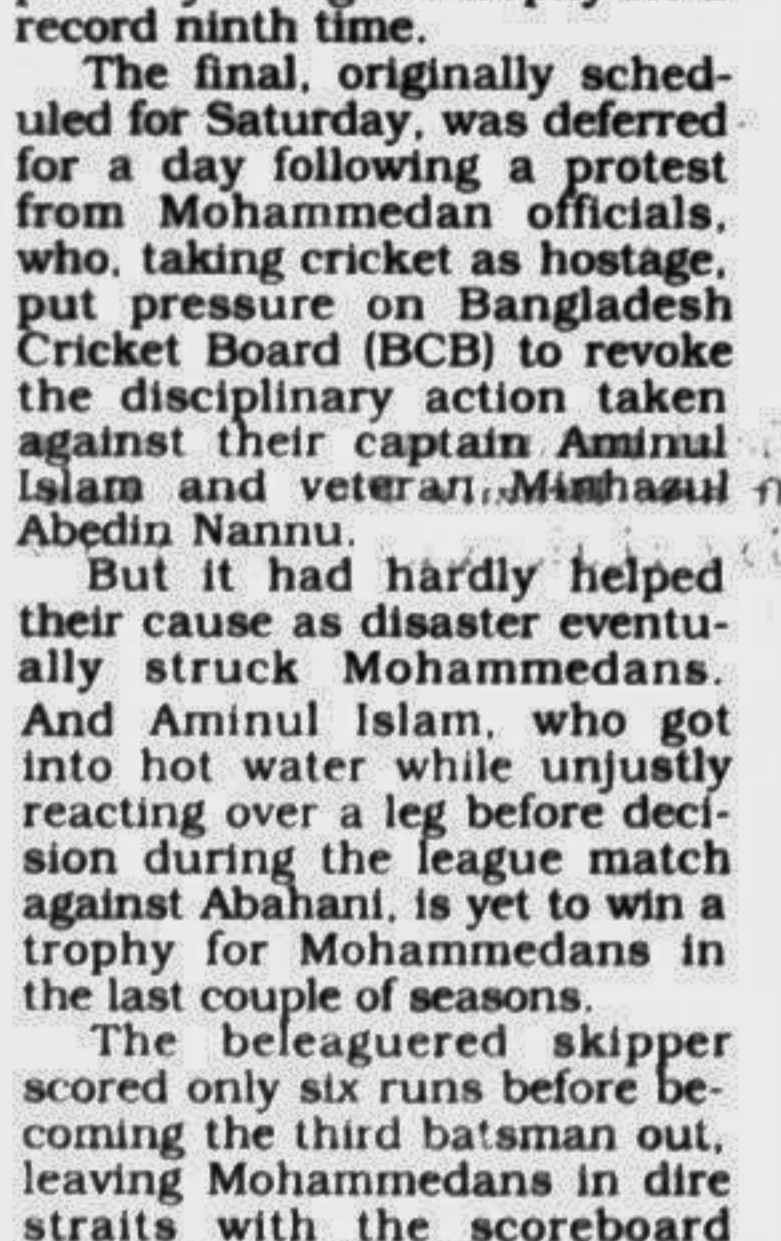
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AZAM IQBAL ... m-o-m



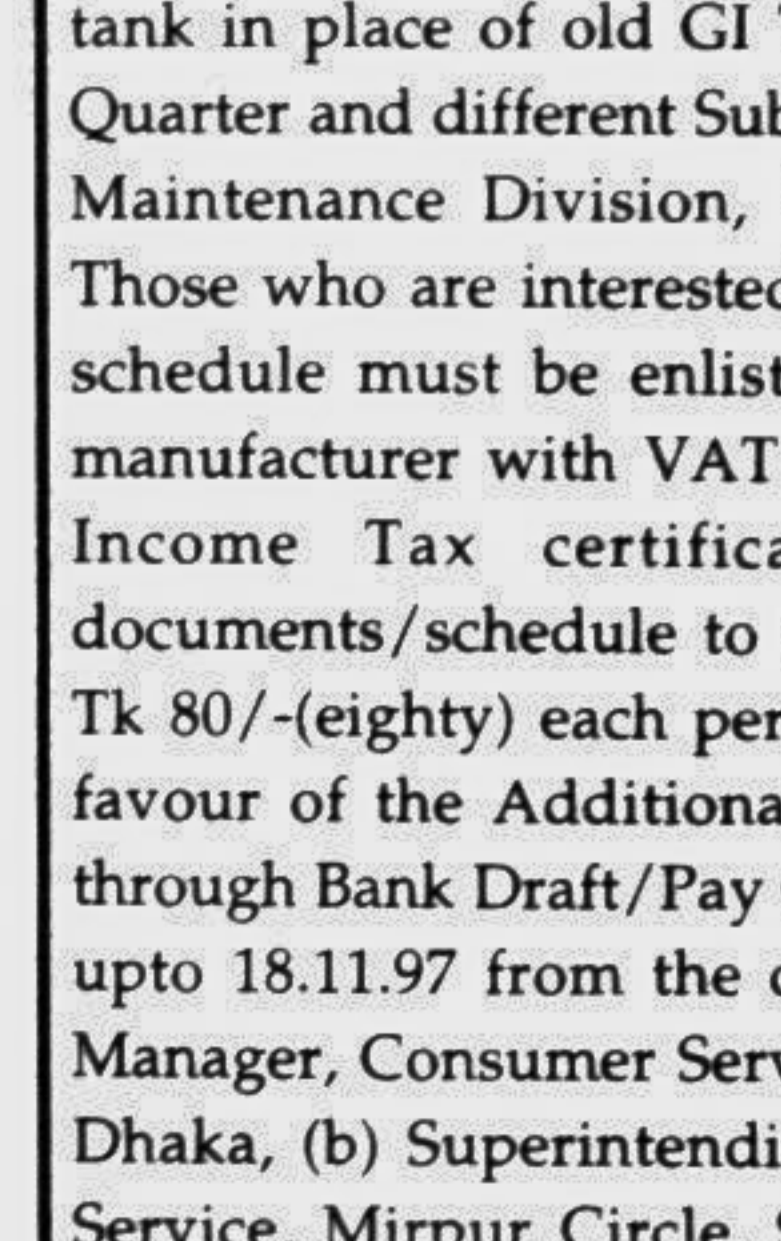
KALPAGE ... man-of-the-tournament



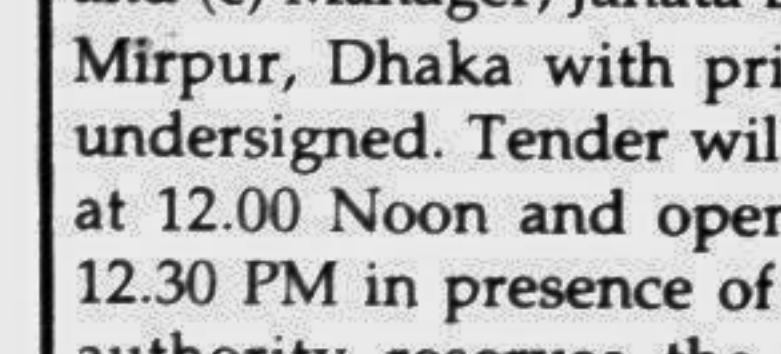
SHAHID AFRIDI ... man-of-the-tournament



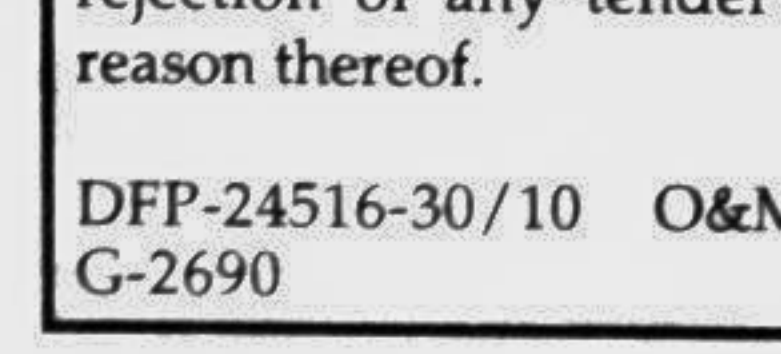
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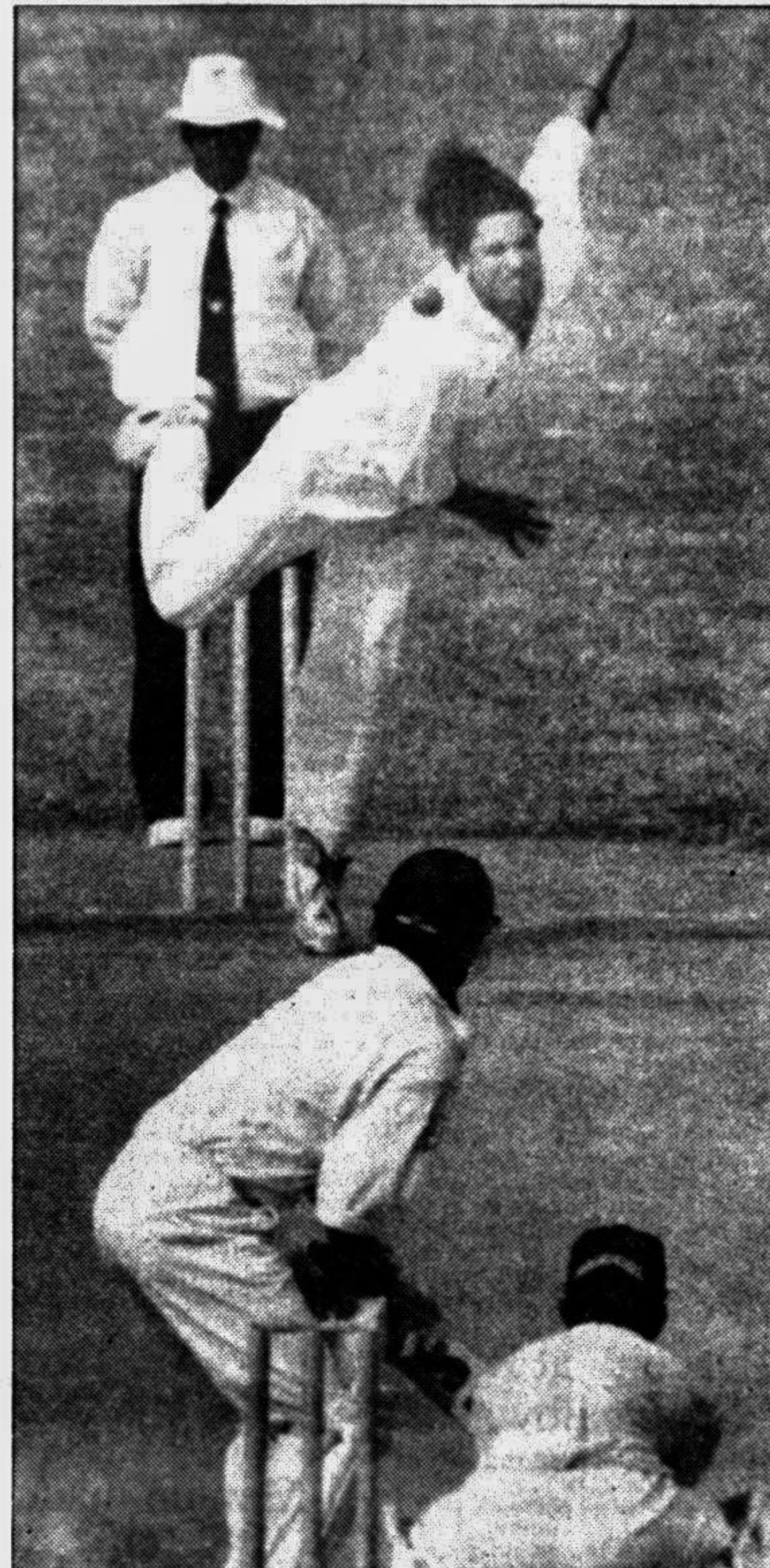
SHAHID AFRIDI ... man-of-the-tournament



AMINUL ISLAM ... man-of-the-tournament



SHAHID AFRIDI ... man-of-the-tournament



Pakistani leg-spinner Shahid Afridi who failed to live up to his reputation as an explosive batsman, however, had a happy hunting with the leather at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Man-of-the-tournament: Ruwan Kalpage (Mohammedan SC)

ROLL OF HONOUR table with columns: Year, Champion, Runners-up

### SCOREBOARD

ABAHANI KC batting table

MOHAMMEDAN SC batting table

Result: Abahani won the final by 73 runs.

Man-of-the-final: Azam Iqbal (Abahani)

### Kremlin Cup Kafelnikov's

MOSCOW, Nov 9: Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov downed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic in straight sets, 7-6, 6-4, to capture the Kremlin Cup tennis tournament on Sunday, reports AP.

The win was a sweet one for top-seeded Kafelnikov, who lost last year's final at Moscow's indoor Olympic Stadium.

Kafelnikov started out strong, breaking Korda's serve in the second game. But then Korda, the second seed, broke back in the next game.

Kafelnikov will get 157,400 dollars while 93,000 goes to Korda, as the runner-up.

### Blue Star Ctg soccer champs

CHITTAGONG, Nov 9: Defending champions Blue Star Club won the Seraj Mahanagari Kishore football tournament beating Majhrhat Krira Chakra 3-1 at the Dampara Police Line ground today, reports BSS.

The first half was locked at 1-1. Sazzad scored twice for the winners while Samrat booted the other. Rabbani of Majhrhats reduced the margin.

Lt General Mahbubur Rahman, president of Bangladesh Olympic Association and Chief of Army Staff, distributed the prizes as the chief guest.

A total of 12 teams participated in the competition under the auspices of Chittagong Mahanagari Krira Sangstha.

### W Jatrabari enter h'ball super league

West Jatrabari KC (Juniors) booked a super league berth in the Ashraf Real Estate Second Division handball league beating Bangladesh Boys Club by 25-15 goals in the last match of the first phase at the handball court near Dhaka Stadium, reports UNB.

They joined the four-team super league along with Azampur SKS Sangha, Banianagar Sports Club and Mansoor Sporting Club. The league will begin on Nov 12.

### Sampras' fabulous fifth

HANOVER, Germany, Nov 9: Pete Sampras clinched the year-end No. 1 ATP Tour ranking for the fifth consecutive year Saturday, tying the record of fellow American Jimmy Connors for finishing the most consecutive years at No. 1, reports AP.

Sampras, who won seven titles this year, clinched the top ranking when Australian Patrick Rafter lost to Jonas Bjorkman in Sweden in the semifinals in Stockholm on Saturday.

By virtue of finishing No. 1 this year, Sampras will have reached 200 weeks at the top, joining Czech Ivan Lendl (270) and Jimmy Connors (268) as the only players to hold the No. 1 ranking for more than 200 weeks.

### Jonas, Jan in final

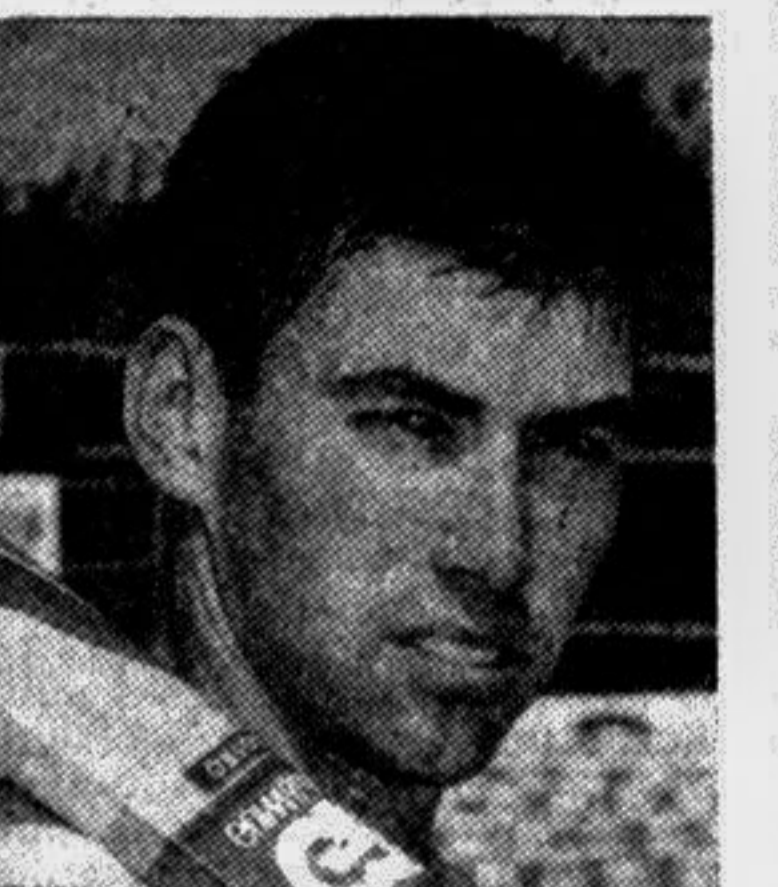
STOCKHOLM, Nov 9: Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman beat Australian top seed Patrick Rafter in straight sets, at the Stockholm Open on Saturday to qualify for his sixth tournament final of 1997, reports Reuters.

Earlier, unseeded Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands battled to a 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 upset win over second seed Greg Rusedski to earn his first final berth in more than a year.

Bjorkman, who has soared from 69th to fourth in the world rankings this year, edged Rafter 7-6, 7-6 in a tight, well-played match, taking both tie-breaks 7-3.

# Kiwis going well at Gabba

BRISBANE, Nov 9: Shane Warne gave Australia a slight advantage over a resolute New Zealand with a four-wicket haul on the third day of the first Test today, reports Reuters.



FLEMING ... 91

The leg-spinner toiled for 42 overs on a placid Gabba wicket for his reward, helping Australia to gain a slender lead of 24 runs on first innings.

At close of play on the third day, Mark Taylor's side were 25 for one in their second innings, a lead of 49 runs with nine wickets in hand, leaving the outcome in the balance with two days left to play.

After compiling 373 in their first innings, Australia dismissed the visitors for 349 during the last session today. Warne shouldered the heaviest workload of the Australian bowlers and was rewarded with the wickets of opener Blair Pocock, debutant Craig McMillan, wicketkeeper Adam Parore and all-rounder Chris Harris at a cost of 106 runs.

With the pitch expected to deteriorate over the final two days, Warne is likely to emerge as a key factor in any bid by Australia to win the game.

But New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming played down the threat posed by Warne, whose accuracy wavered, by his own high standards, during several lengthy spells.

"He is not getting a lot of assistance out of the wicket, although there is a little bounce," Fleming told reporters. "Warne was not as great a threat as he has been in the past. It's a question of being patient because he is bowling enough good balls to take the pressure off."

New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns added to his impressive tally of four wickets and 64 runs with the bat earlier in the match by removing opener Taylor for 16 just before the close.

Earlier, Fleming narrowly failed to record his first century since taking over as New Zealand captain in March, falling to fast bowler Michael Kasprovic for 91.

But the left-handed number four watched his side dispel any doubts about their competitiveness with a resolute batting display.

Few outside the New Zealand camp expected the tourists to mount a serious challenge in the Test series after they lost both their opening first-class test matches by an innings.

"It may be a bit early after just three days to say we've definitely proved we've got backbone as aside," Fleming said. "But at least we've shown we've got a couple of virtues."

Fleming, who replaced Lee Gernon as captain before the home series against Sri Lanka in March, typified their newfound resolve in recording his 16th half-century in 30 Tests.

He occupied the crease for almost five hours, during which time he hit 13 fours and faced 229 balls. McMillan followed his captain's example by mixing caution and occasional aggression to score an impressive half-century on his Test debut.

Batting number six, McMillan reached his half-century with a towering straight six off the bowling of Warne before falling to the leg-spinner for 54.

Scoreboard at the close on the third day of the first cricket Test between Australia and New Zealand at the Gabba on Sunday:

Scoreboard table with columns: BOWLING, O, M, R, W

AUSTRALIA: First innings 373 (M Taylor 112, P Reffel 77; Doull 4-70, Cairns 4-90).

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (134 for 3 overnight) B Young c Taylor b Kasprovic 1; Pocock c Taylor b Warne 57; Astle run out 12; Fleming lbw b Kasprovic 91.

WARNE ... 4/106

Vettori c S Waugh b Blewett 14; McMillan lbw b Warne 54; Cairns b McGrath 64; Parore c Taylor b Warne 12; Harris b Warne 13; Doull not out 2; Allott c Elliott b McGrath 4; Extras: (b-4, lb-4, nb-17) 25; Total: (all out in 132.2 overs) 349.

Fall of wickets: 1-2: 2-36; 3-134; 4-173; 5-210; 6-279; 7-317; 8-343; 9-343; 10-349.

Umpires: Randall (Aus), V Ramaswamy (Ind)

# Lindsay stops Serena

CHICAGO, Nov 9: Lindsay Davenport ended Serena Williams' run in the Ameritech Cup, beating the 16-year-old sister of Venus 6-4, 6-4 Saturday to reach the finals of the 450,000 dollar tournament, reports AP.

Serena Williams, ranked 304 when she entered the tournament as a wild card, had won three matches, including back-to-back upset victories over Mary Pierce and Monica Seles.

But Davenport was able to handle her strong serve while hitting one of her own and also winning the big points. Williams also had to take an injury timeout in the fourth game of the second set to have a sprained left ankle retaped.

"I'll always be Venus' little sister," Serena said after the match, saying her ankle was fine and refusing to use it as an excuse. Minutes later, however, she dropped out of the doubles tournament with her sister because of the injury.

Still, her singles play was the talk of the tournament. She was playing Saturday in just the 15th match of her career.

"I did emerge in this tournament. I was 453rd, now I'm 304, and when the tournament is over I'll be 100," Serena said.

Davenport, the third seed and No 5 player in the world, will be shooting for her sixth tournament victory of the year Sunday against France's Nathalie Tauziat, who defeated French Open champion Iva Majoli 6-2, 6-3 Saturday night.

Davenport has played 17-year-old Venus Williams twice and was asked to compare the sisters. Venus Williams, who did not enter singles in Chicago, was runner-up at the US Open.

"I think Serena has a little better serve and a better variety on her serve," Davenport said. "Both are tremendous athletes. They have similar games, they both get to a lot of balls. I don't think one is necessarily better than the other."

Tauziat, who lost in a final to Davenport in Zurich earlier this year, won the final four games to capture the first set Saturday night against an inconsistent Majoli.

Trailing 2-0 in the second, Touziat then reeled off five straight games to take control. Unseeded, she welcomes a chance to face Davenport again.

"I have played her close. I think I have a chance to beat her," Tauziat said. "I have nothing to lose, but I have to play my best tennis."

## Directorate General Defence Purchase Ministry of Defence New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215 Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed tender in foreign currency is invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/indentors (not necessarily to be enlisted with this Directorate General) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Navy:

Tender list table with columns: Sl No, Description & Qty, Tender selling dt, Tender opening date, Currency, Tender No

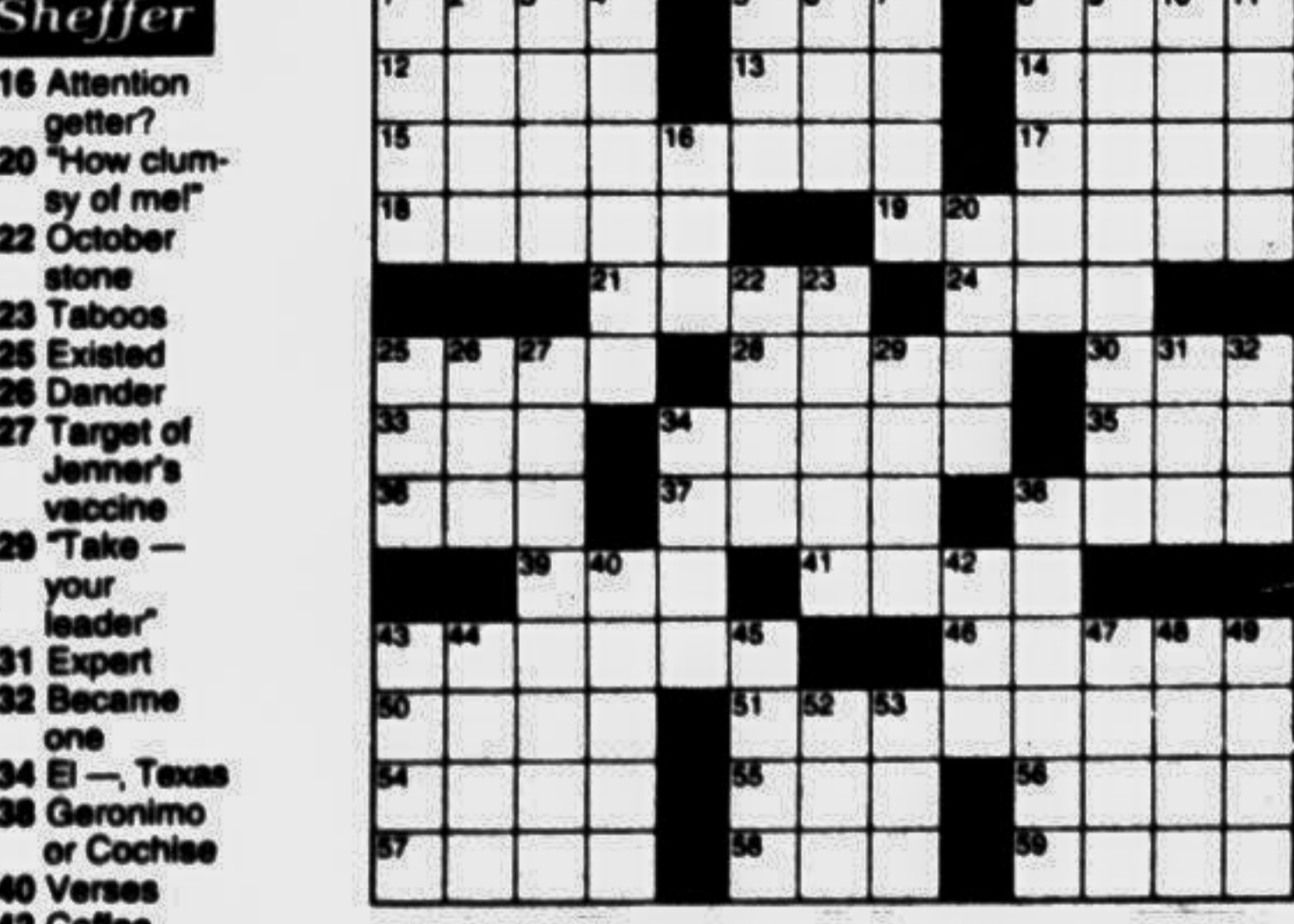
2. The tender schedule with detailed specification will be available at given rate (not-refundable) on any working day between 0800 hours to 1200 hours. The tender will be opened at 1000 hours on the above mentioned date in presence of the present tenderers.

ISPR/Misc/97/835  
DFP-23221-13/10  
G-2692

Commander, BN  
For Director General

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Crumple up paper, 5 Half a French dance, 8 Wound reminder, 12 California, 13 Tree ring tally, 14 Stash, 15 Compact car maker?, 17 Alkali, 18 What some people do for animals, 19 Cherry or beefsteak, 21 'Lolla' star Sue, 24 Ump's call, 25 Sagacious, 26 Ostentation, 30 Uncivilized, 33 Something up your sleeve?, 34 Glazier's supply, 35 Hand water?, 36 Vast quantity, 37 Greatly, 38 Off the payroll.



### CRYPTOQUIP

I EIVR YWNFXCBV YXWPH  
NSCTPR NBB VSQAF  
FAVXWQA FAB ESUHXE  
NIPBNCIU'N NTSBP.

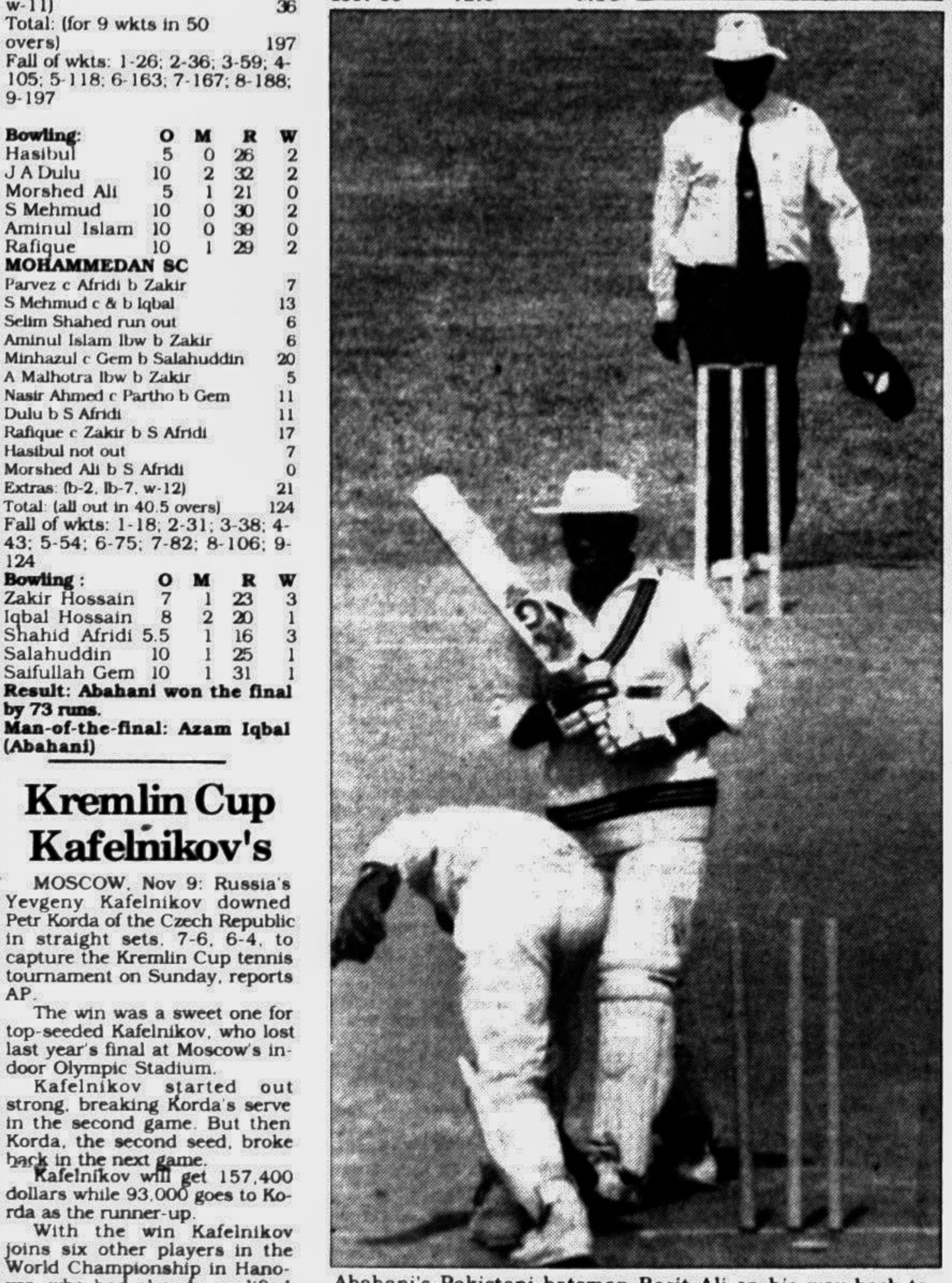
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE PERSON PRETENDING TO BE A GANGSTER IS OFTEN LABELED A FALSE HOOD.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals W. The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

## Re-Tender Notice

According to Tender Notice No. XEN/O&M/MIR/DESA/97/126/655 Dt. 12-10-97 sealed tender in PDB Form No T-1 are hereby invited from enlisted constructors/bonafide manufacturers for the set up enforcement water tank in place of old GI Tank in Divisional Staff Quarter and different Sub-station for Operation & Maintenance Division, Mirpur, DESA, Dhaka. Those who are interested to purchase the tender schedule must be enlisted contractor/bonafide manufacturer with VAT Registration & Current Income Tax certificate. Detailed tender documents/schedule to be obtained at a cost of Tk 80/-(eighty) each per set (non-refundable) in favour of the Additional Director, RAO, DESA through Bank Draft/Pay Order during office hour upto 18.11.97 from the office of the (a) General Manager, Consumer Service (North), 75, Kakrail, Dhaka, (b) Superintending Engineer, Consumer Service, Mirpur Circle, Satmasjid Road, Dhaka, and (c) Manager, Janata Bank, Section-1 Branch, Mirpur, Dhaka with prior permission from the undersigned. Tender will be received on 19.11.97 at 12.00 Noon and opened on the same day at 12.30 PM in presence of the bidders, if any. The authority reserves the right of acceptance or rejection of any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Executive Engineer  
DFP-24516-30/10 O&M Division, Mirpur DESA  
G-2690 Dhaka.



Abahani's Pakistani batsman Basit Ali on his way back to the dressing room after being outfoxed by an 'off-spinner' from his countryman Shahed Mehmod during the Damal Smriti final against Mohammedan SC yesterday.