

### Sanchoy steers Ajax home

Sports Reporter

**VICTORIA SC:** 152 all out in 48.3 overs (Moni 35, Nadir Shah 22, Nafis 21, Pappu 18; Hasan 3/25, Ripon 2/26)

**AJAX SC:** 154 for six in 43.3 overs (Sanchoy 45 n.o., Ranak 27, Asif 21, Hasan 16 n.o., Al-Amin 2/19, Nafis 2/24)

**Result:** Ajax SC won by four wickets.

An unbeaten 45 by middle order batsman Sanchoy guided promotes Ajax Sporting Club to a comfortable four-wicket victory over Victoria Sporting Club in a Janakantha Premier cricket relegation league encounter at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

In a low-scoring affair, Sanchoy put on an unbeaten 54-run partnership for the seventh wicket along with Hasan as Ajax, chasing a moderate Victoria total of 152, reached 154 in 43.3 overs with four wickets in hand.

Sanchoy hammered four boundaries in his match-winning knock.

One-down Ranak (27) and middle order Asif (21) were the other notable run-getters.

Earlier, put in to bat, Victoria were bundled out in 48.3 overs.

Hasan, ripped through the Victoria middle order finished with 3 for 25 while Ripon captured two wickets for 26 runs.

Suppi, Dola and Shoeb took one wicket apiece.

Opener Moni scored highest 35 for Victoria while veteran Nadir Shah and lower middle order Nafis added 22 and 21 runs respectively.

It was the fourth win for Ajax in 12 matches. On the other hand, Victoria suffered their ninth defeat also from 12 outings.

### BU-AKC SCORECARD

**BROTHERS UNION**

Shahriar lbw b Iqbal	30
Ehsanul b Iqbal	30
Jahangir st K Masud b Naimur	30
K Masud c Kamal b Iqbal	5
Zahid c Iqbal b Saifullah	56
Sharma not out	39
Mustadr run out	14
Wahidul not out	12
Extra: (lb-2, w-7)	9
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs) 234	
Fall of wickets: 1/62; 2/63; 3/72; 4/172; 5/200	

**Bowling**

Zakir Hossain	9	0	37	0
Ahmed Kamal	4	1	16	0
Iqbal	9	1	34	3
Salahuddin	7	0	18	0
Saifullah	10	0	64	1
Naimur	9	0	50	1
Al-Shahriar	2	0	13	0

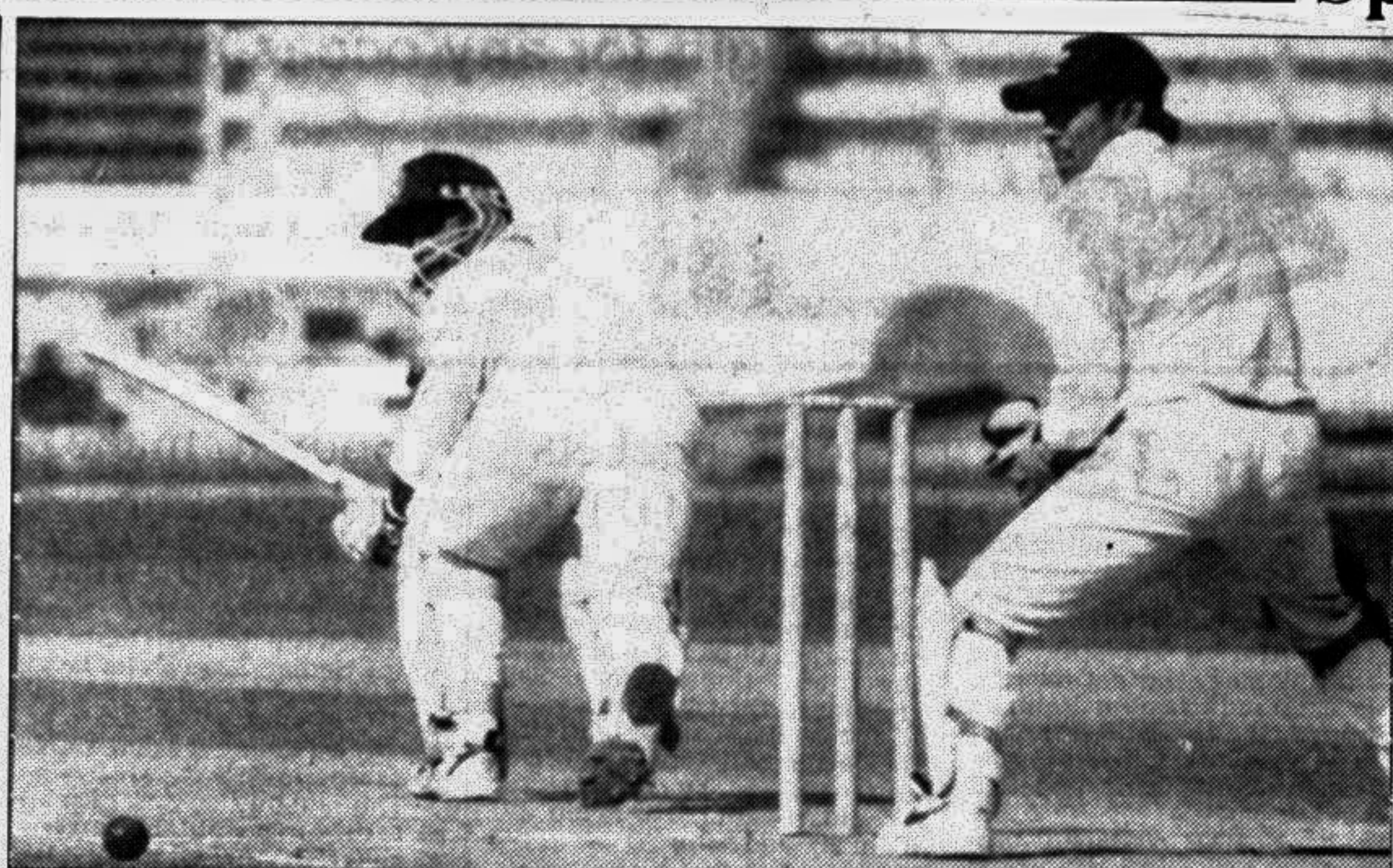
**ABAHANI KC**

Azam b K Masud	11
Al-Shahriar c Mustadr b Zahid	11
Naimur c & b Mustadr	75
Akram c & b Mustadr	26
Rahul lbw b Sohail	34
K Masud not out	24
A Kamal b Sharma	6
Iqbal c Shahriar b K Masud	9
Zakir not out	2
Extra: (lb-11, nb-9, w-17)	37
Total: (For 7 wickets in 48.5 overs) 235	
Fall of wickets: 1/16; 2/80; 3/136; 4/158; 5/193; 6/200; 7/224	

**Bowling**

Shahnawaz	6	1	17	0
Safiquddin	8	0	34	0
K Masud	6	0	36	2
Zahid	9	1	38	1
Sanjeeb	6.5	0	36	1
Sohail	6	0	27	1
Mustadr	7	0	36	2

**Result:** Abahani won by three wickets.



**ON SONG:** The aggressive Abahani all-rounder Naimur Rahman executes a delicate leg glance during his match-winning 75 against Brothers Union in the Janakantha Premier Division super league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

### Naimur knock downs Brothers

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Abahani Kirra Chakra crossed a major hurdle in their run for retaining the Premier Division cricket league title when they pipped an exciting three-wicket win over Brothers Union in their second Super League match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In a ding-dong battle with fortune fluctuating from one end to the other, Abahani, set to overhaul a commanding Brothers total of 234 for six in the stipulated 50 overs, scored 235 for seven with seven balls to spare.

Thanks to a brilliant 75 by vice-captain Naimur Rahman and an unbeaten 24 from national wicketkeeper Khaled Masud, Abahani celebrated their 11th win from 13 league outings. The outcome of yesterday's match helped Abahani consolidate their position atop the table with 22 points and let Brothers slip further behind in the title race. Brothers have collected 18 points so far.

Naimur, who scored a duck in the previous match, got into his aggressive stride with an electrifying half-century to lay the foundation of his side's second consecutive victory in the six-team Super league.

Coming in to bat at number three, Naimur gave Abahani a gritty start after in-form opener Azam departed for a quick-fire 11 embellished with a four and an extraordinary sixer over the fine-leg boundary.

Naimur completed his fifty off only 44 balls, studded with eight fours. He was in such a

marauding mood that his more belligerent partner Al-Shahriar was only on nine and Abahani on 77 for one when he reached his 50 in the 15th over.

Al-Shahriar, who opened the innings with Azam, scored a surprisingly sedate 11 off 36 balls in an absorbing 64-run stand with Naimur before being out in the 17th over. He fell to a brilliant diving catch by Mustadr at backward square leg.

Naimur added another 65 runs with skipper Akram Khan, who chipped in with 26. With the magical three figure mark



in the sight, Naimur eventually got himself out in the 35th over, but not before sharing another vital 22 runs for the fourth wicket with Khaled Masud. Naimur struck nine fours in his match-winning 107-ball run at the crease.

Brothers, however, had their share of chances of winning the match when Mustadr had Akram and Naimur caught and bowled in quick succession. The left-arm spinner who clung on to a hot return catch of Naimur almost got his second wicket in the same over when

Khaled Masud, on nought, offered a straight forward catch at the deep mid-wicket. But Ehsan dropped the sitter, only to let Abahani off the hook. Besides, a staggering 37 extras, which included 17 wides and nine no-balls by their indiscipline bowlers, had also let Brothers down.

Especially, when the match reached its climax with Abahani needing 24 runs from 30 balls, Brothers' two foreign recruits — former Indian Test-cap Sanjeeb Sharma and Pakistani Zahid Ahmed — stepped in only to produce a rather erratic bowling spell.

Bowling the 46th over Zahid opted for a packed off-side field, but had hardly delivered a ball on or outside the off-stump and conceded nine runs. Sanjeeb looked inspiring when he gave one run in the next overs. But then the right-arm seamer conceded eight runs in the penultimate over, which included four leg-by and an wide ball down the leg side.

Earlier, the huge Brothers total was built around a fluent half-century from Mohammad Zahid and some useful contributions from their top-order batsmen. Zahid scored 55 off 69 balls. Openers Shahriar and Ehsan chipped in with 30 runs apiece. Skipper Jahangir made 39 and Sanjeeb scored a run-a-ball 39. But it was the hard-hitting Wahidul, who whacked a massive sixer and a four in his unbeaten six-ball 12 in a late thunder along with Sanjeeb. The aggressive duo plundered 38 runs from the last 16 deliveries.

### War over 'unofficial' tag

**ISLAMABAD, Mar 3 (AFP):** As Pakistan savour their win over South Africa in Durban, the talk has turned away from worries over match-fixing and off-field problems, and towards a bid to dethrone Australia as unofficial world champions of Test Cricket.

Often seen as a "bunch of erratic but talented cricketers," Pakistan scored a 29-run victory over South Africa on Monday, praise replaced the rage generated by alleged past role of some players in match-fixing and betting.

"For me a win in an away series means a lot and with the Durban win, yes, we feel people will stand up and say that we are a threat to Australia as the top team," said Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive Majid Khan.

Just three months ago, Pakistan were being criticised for poor showing in Sharjah and off-field problems including indiscipline.

When the Pakistan team embarked for South Africa, doubts were raised over tour captain Rashid Latif and his deputy Aamir Sohail. Both were tipped as "problem players" for their past acts.

Latif was declared as being anti-establishment when he announced his retirement mid-tour of southern Africa in 1995.

The temperamental Aamir Sohail had a verbal confrontation with board leaders and was banned initially for two months and later for two years last April. He was forgiven after tendering an apology.

The "mugging" of two Pakistani players on the eve of the first Test at Johannesburg did not give Pakistanians the ideal start. But with the win in the second Test against South Africa Pakistan are again on

the best bowler in the world after the little leg-spinner bowled Pakistan to a 29-run victory in the second Test match at Kingsmead here, reports AFP.

Mushtaq was named player-of-the-match after taking nine wickets for 149 runs, including seven for 78 in the second innings.

Mushtaq has become a very disciplined, controlled bowler," said Sohail. "In my opinion he is the best right-arm leg-spinner any captain can have. For me he is the best bowler in the world."

South African captain Hansie Cronje also praised Mushtaq.

Asked to compare Mushtaq with Australia's Shane Warne after South Africa had played against both leg-spinners this season, Cronje said: "Mushtaq puts you in more doubt because he spins in both ways but Warne gets more drift and turns the ball bigger."

Sohail said his team would pray "to thank God for this victory" before going out for a celebratory team dinner Monday evening.

He gave credit to the whole team for a highly disciplined

performance. "We achieved this victory because we got our attitude right," he said.

Sohail indicated Pakistan would make at least two changes for the third Test start.

**Edmundo's WC dream at stake**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 3:** All-star forward Edmundo will re-join Vasco da Gama, a club director says. But that could cost him a trip to the World Cup, reports AP.

Eurico Miranda, Vasco's vice president, guaranteed that the Brazilian 1997 MVP would return, although he didn't say when.

"He's coming to Vasco," Miranda said on Sunday. "I can't say if it will be in the next few days or it will take a little longer."

The problem is Edmundo has a four-year contract with Fiorentina of the Italian First Division. Upset at his lack of playing time, he left the club last month and returned to Brazil, pledging never to return.

His walkout coincided with Brazilian carnival, and Edmundo was seen in Rio last week taking part in the famous samba parades.

Brazilian media reported that Fiorentina planned to ask FIFA, the world governing body of soccer, to take disciplinary action.

A suspension now could cost Edmundo a berth at this summer's World Cup in France. He is widely considered the choice of coach Mario Zagallo for the No. 3 attacker spot, behind Romario and Ronaldo.



**SAEED ANWAR**

the right track.

Australian great Ian Chappell once called Pakistani cricketers "school rebels but one who can do wonders any-time."

Australia and Pakistan have been the two most consistent teams and lay claim on the title of World Champions of Tests.

In recent years Australia have achieved wins everywhere except for India and Pakistan. They have not won a Test on Pakistan soil for 39 years.



**AZHAR MAHMOOD**

followed his 136 in the first Test with 132 at Durban.

Leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed is not far behind Australian leggie Shane Warne, with his eight wickets in the Durban Test, he has taken around 100 wickets in his last 16 Tests.

With Australia due to tour Pakistan in September this year, the title of unofficial world champions of Test cricket will be at stake.

### Rajib earns full points

Sports Reporter

National champion Enamul Hossain Rajib continued his impressive run at the fourth United Insurance International Masters' tournament when he posted his seventh win at the NSC chess room yesterday.

In the penultimate round of the 11-round Swiss league, Rajib, who earlier on Monday earned a nine-round IM norm, posted an easy victory over Shehsh Nasir Ahmed.

Playing with white pieces against the Sicilian defence of Nasir, Rajib checkmated his counterpart after 38 moves to keep his hopes alive for a 11-round IM norm. Rajib now needs only half a point from today's final round to accomplish the feat.

With yesterday's victory Rajib raised his tally to eight points and joined top seed IM Nguyen Anh Dung of Vietnam at the top.

Nguyen was held to a draw by national junior champion Abdullah-Al-Rakib in this round. Playing with whites against the Indian defence of the Vietnamese International Master, the match ended in a draw after only nine moves.

Rakib, with the draw, raised his tally to seven points and moved into third position along with Showkat Hossain Pallab who caused the biggest upset of the day defeating IM RB Ramesh of India.

Pallab, who adopted Dutch defence with his black pieces, won the board against his illustrious counterpart after 50 moves.

With the draw, Ramesh, who was jointly leading the table after ninth round, was pulled down to second spot with his previous collection of eight points.

### Shooting GS case HC asks NSC to show cause

A High Court Division Bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury and Justice Md Fazlul Hoq issued a rule yesterday upon the Secretary of National Sports Council and the Secretary of Ministry of Youth and Sports to show cause within four weeks as to why the impugned notice removing Mir Doulat Hossain, the General Secretary of National Shooting Federation Bangladesh issued by the Secretary of National Sports Council, should not be declared to have been issued without any lawful authority, illegal and as such is of no legal effect, says a press release.

The outcome of yesterday's match left the popular Muktijoddha outfit only one point away from winning the League title for the second successive season having raised their tally to 50 points from 21 matches. In their last match on March 11, Mohammedans will take on second-placed Muktijoddha Sangsad Kirra Chakra who have 46 points from 20 matches.



The victorious Mohammedans booters acknowledge the fans' applause after their valuable win against arch foes Abahani in a crucial Premier Division match at the Mirpur Stadium. — Star photo

### Mohammedans reach threshold of title Alfaz bang silences Abahani

Sports Reporter

A 20,000-strong city crowd at the floodlit Mirpur Stadium splintered between joy and despair yesterday as Alfaz, the dark and

dapper Mohammedan marksman, struck the all-important match-winner against arch-rivals Abahani Kirra Chakra. Alfaz's awesome left-foot strike midway through second half steered holders Mohammedan Sporting Club to an emphatic lone goal victory in a crucial match of the Premier Division football super league.

Forward Alfaz capitalised on a low left-flank cross from Don to take Mohammedans to the threshold of the most prestigious sports title in the country. Don, after receiving a through from midfielder Arman, dodged past his marker Mamun Joarder before sending the ball to Alfaz who volleyed the cross home past the left of Abahani custodian Biplab.

Mohammedans, with the victory, avenged their 1-2 first leg defeat. The return leg clash ended in a goalless draw.

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However, if Muktijoddha Sangsad lose their penultimate encounter against Abahani on March 7, Mohammedans will automatically emerge champions even before their last engagement.

The defeat virtually killed the "ifs" and "buts" in Abahani's title race as they remained glued to position three with a collection of 43 points from 21 matches. The Dhanmondi outfit began the day's proceedings on a promising note, having earned the lone penalty of the match in the very seventh minute. But, Amn Rana, the kingpin of many a Abahani win, squandered the opportunity only to send the 12-yarder straight into the safe hands of Mohammedan custodian-skipper Ponir.

Mohammedan defender Nazrul brought down Abahani skipper Zakir inside the danger area with an illegal tackle from behind, prompting Indian referee Gopinath Pain to point the dreaded spot.

Undaunted by the prodigious miss which eventually cost them the match, Abahani maintained their pressure on the black-and-whites throughout the first half and produced a couple of notable chances. But poor marksmanship kept Mohammedans smiling.

In the 15th minute, neither Zakir nor Rana could connect a Tipu cross from the left side. Soon afterwards, Rana, perhaps not psychologically fit after missing the penalty, flushed another prospect down the drain by shooting the ball miles

above the post from close after being duly led by Zakir.

Again, in the pre-breather injury time, Tipu raced down Mohammedan's left flank before releasing a powerpacked angular left footer. But, Mohammedan's alert custodian Ponir denied Tipu and fisted the ball for a corner, much to the relief of the large Mohammedan following.

Mohammedans were able to put their act together right from the start of the second half and manoeuvred their play to earn five corners in 12 minutes. But a tight Abahani defence blew them into utility.

However, Alfaz broke the day's duck with a gem of a left footer in the 67th minute. It was Alfaz's 12th goal in the marathon league which sets him one ahead of Abahani striker Amn Rana as the top scorer.

Bangladesh Betar, without any prior notice, relayed the match live from Mirpur stadium.

**Yellow cards:** Ponir, Nazrul, Manik (Mohammedan SC) and Partho (Abahani KC).

### TEAMS:

**MOHAMMEDAN SC:** Ponir, Faisal, Nazrul, Munna Senior, Manik (Mansoor Ali), Arman, Munna Junior, Ladi Baba, Farvez, I Rubul Amin), Don (Azam) and Alfaz.

**ABAHANI KC:** Biplab, Mamun Joarder, Partho, King-shuk, Prodeep, Raju (Anatoly), Zakir, John, Sentu, Amin Rana (Mizan) and Tipu.

Referee: Gopinath Pain

### Sohail sings Mushie song

**DURBAN, South Africa, Mar 3:** Victorious Pakistan captain Aamir Sohail on Monday declared Mushtaq Ahmed

the best bowler in the world after the little leg-spinner bowled Pakistan to a 29-run victory in the second Test match at Kingsmead here, reports AFP.

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performance. "We achieved this victory because we got our attitude right," he said.

Sohail indicated Pakistan would make at least two changes for the third Test start.

Cronje defended the decision to field an all-steam attack and to put Pakistan in to bat after winning the toss. He said the strategy had been decided the night before the Test.

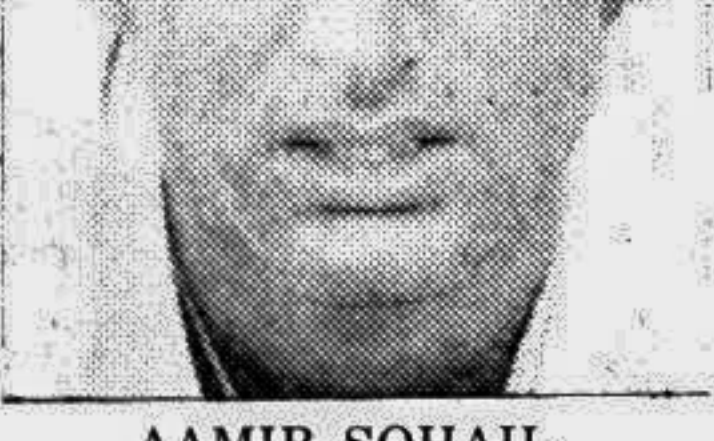
"We went with the four bowlers we thought that would be best for the conditions. I still think it was the right decision. When they were 160 for eight in the first innings we were on top but Azhar Mahmood played very well. We gave him some width and he played some very good shots."

Cronje said he did not know whether fast bowler Allan Donald, who suffered a buttock muscle injury during the match, would be fit for the third Test.

**Agassi advances**

**SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Mar 3:** Andre Agassi stormed to victory after being caught by surprise early against Spaniard Albert Portas to reach the second round of the dollars 340,000 Franklin Templeton Classic 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 Monday night, reports AFP.

World No 50 Agassi finished last year on 122 and then embarked on a serious comeback which has already earned him a 1998 title, last month in California over Pete Sampras.



**AAMIR SOHAIL**

ing in Port Elizabeth on Friday.

All-rounder Wasim Akram is expected to arrive in South Africa on Tuesday or Wednesday and Sohail said he would probably play. "He is one of the greatest players in the world."

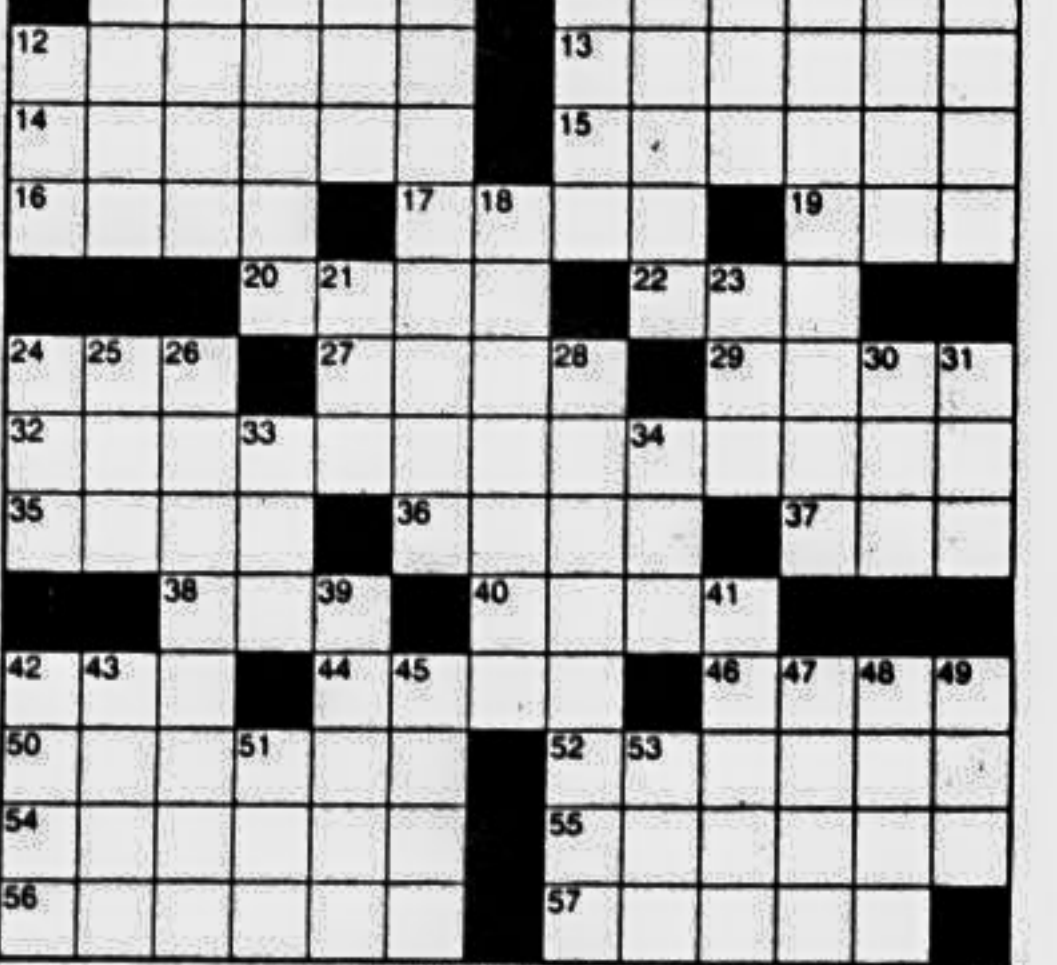
Inzamamul Haq, who missed the second Test with an ankle injury, has recovered.

Cronje said his team's batting had been disappointing.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Abdul or
  - 6 Pan
  - 12 Textbook chapter
  - 13 Microscopic view
  - 14 He may have a brush with greatness
  - 15 Michael Bolton
  - 16 Chinese money
  - 17 Bridge position
  - 18 Sor
  - 23 Sister
  - 24 Sibling, for short
  - 25 Alan folks
  - 27 Clark's co-worker
  - 29 Sgt. Snorker
  - 32 Plain dealing
  - 35 Smile broadly
  - 36 One of the Three Bears
  - 37 The

- DOWN**
- 1 North Dakota
  - 2 Indiana city
  - 3 Nick's height
  - 4 Busy with
  - 5 Lobos bit
  - 6 Waiting area
  - 7 Sinclair Lewis' area
  - 8 Songstress
  - 9 Kazan
  - 10 Quite
  - 11 decorated
  - 12 Hinder
  - 13 progress
  - 14 Entreated
  - 15 Century
  - 16 Sets down
  - 17 24 min.
  - 18 24 min.
  - 19 24 min.
  - 20 24 min.
  - 21 Heidi's height?
  - 22 Charged bit
  - 23 Unruly group
  - 24 Payable
  - 25 Stocky bird
  - 26 College of Cardinals?
  - 27 Literary monogram
  - 28 She-bear (Sp.)
  - 29 Dallas sch.
  - 30 A Bobbey twin
  - 31 Nightclub
  - 32 Must, informally
  - 33 Villain in a flick
  - 34 Disclose
  - 35 Clarinetist's need
  - 36 Paraphernalia
  - 37 Drops the ball
  - 38 Remnant
  - 39 Kvetch constantly
  - 40 Blisphoric



**CRYPTOQUIP**

G I P G U F G G B N I Z Q T S Q P N G T Q ! I L N P U C L W S S F W W Z U J B F Q W L J

Yesterday's Cryptogram: AFTER I'D FINISHED TRIMMING ALL MY SHRUBS, I'D GENERALLY BE BUSHED.

Today's Cryptogram clue: N equals C

The Cryptogram 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.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Comilla Public Works Division, Comilla

### Tender Invitation Notice

No-EM-23/1997-98

1) Tenders in Bangladesh Form No-2911 under sealed cover are invited from Public Works Department enlisted 1st class electrical contractors, Chittagong Public Works Zone enlisted 2nd class electrical contractors having A,B,C/B,C contractory license from Bangladesh Electrical Licensing Board for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received by the office of the undersigned and Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Chandpur/Noakhali/B'baria/Feni/Lakhipur up to 12:00 Noon of 12/3/98 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM in presence of the interested tenderers. Each tender superscribing the name of work on the sealed cover should be submitted in the tender box kept at the respective offices. No contractor/contractory firm without VAT registration can purchase the tender.

A) Name of work : Construction of Comilla Homna thana Sub-Register Office Building. (Sub-Head: Internal electrification work), financial year-1997-98.

B) Estimated cost : Tk 1,24,671/=

C) Earnest money : Tk 2,500/=

D) Time for completion : 40 (forty) days.

2) Last date of selling : 11/3/98. tender schedule

3) Tender, schedule consisting items and terms and conditions can be seen and purchased on payment of Tk 400/= (four hundred) only (non-refundable) for each set of the tender and Tk 25/- (twenty-five) only (non-refundable) for each Bangladesh Form No-2911 from the office of the undersigned and Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Chandpur/Noakhali/Feni/Lakhipur/B'baria and offices of all Sub-Divisional Engineers under this Division during office hours. Tender document can be seen and purchased up to 11/3/98. No tender schedule can be purchased without production of VAT registration certificate and VAT registration certificate must be attached with the tender.

**Md. Akhtarul Alam**  
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