

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-89

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm on March 6, 1998

Competition questions and answers table with 5 questions and multiple choice options.

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....



SPORTS TALK



Aamir Sohail

(Stand in Pakistan captain) 'Mushtaq has become a very disciplined controlled bowler. In my opinion he is the best right-arm leg-spinner any captain can have.'

On Mushtaq Ahmed.

BSJA awards on Mar 13

The 20th founding anniversary and awards distribution ceremony of the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) will be held at Hotel Sheraton on March 13, reports UNB.

BSJA, an umbrella of the professional sports journalists of the country, will distribute its awards for the year 1994, 1995 and 1996 at the function to be held at 3 pm.

The BSJA awardees of 1994 are: Monem Munna, Mamunur Rashid, Athar Ali Khan, Boni Amin, Nilufar Yasmin, Shah Alam, Ziaur Rahman, Monira Rahman Dalia, Raisuddin Ahmed, Protap Sankar Hazra, Narayanjan Rifles Club, Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC) and Bata Shoe Company (BD) Ltd.

The awardees of 1995 are: Rakib Hossain, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Mahboob Alam, Nilufar Yasmin, Saiful Alam Chowdhury Rinki, Nasruddin Jony, Rezaat-bin-Sattar, Mosaddiq Haq Rochi, Abul Hossain, Amalesh Sen, Dipu Roy Chowdhury, Saiful Haq Sadi, Abdul Malek Chunnun, Shafiquzzaman Shafiq, Mohammed Mala, Mohammad Yusuf Chowdhury, Square Toiletries Limited and Cute.

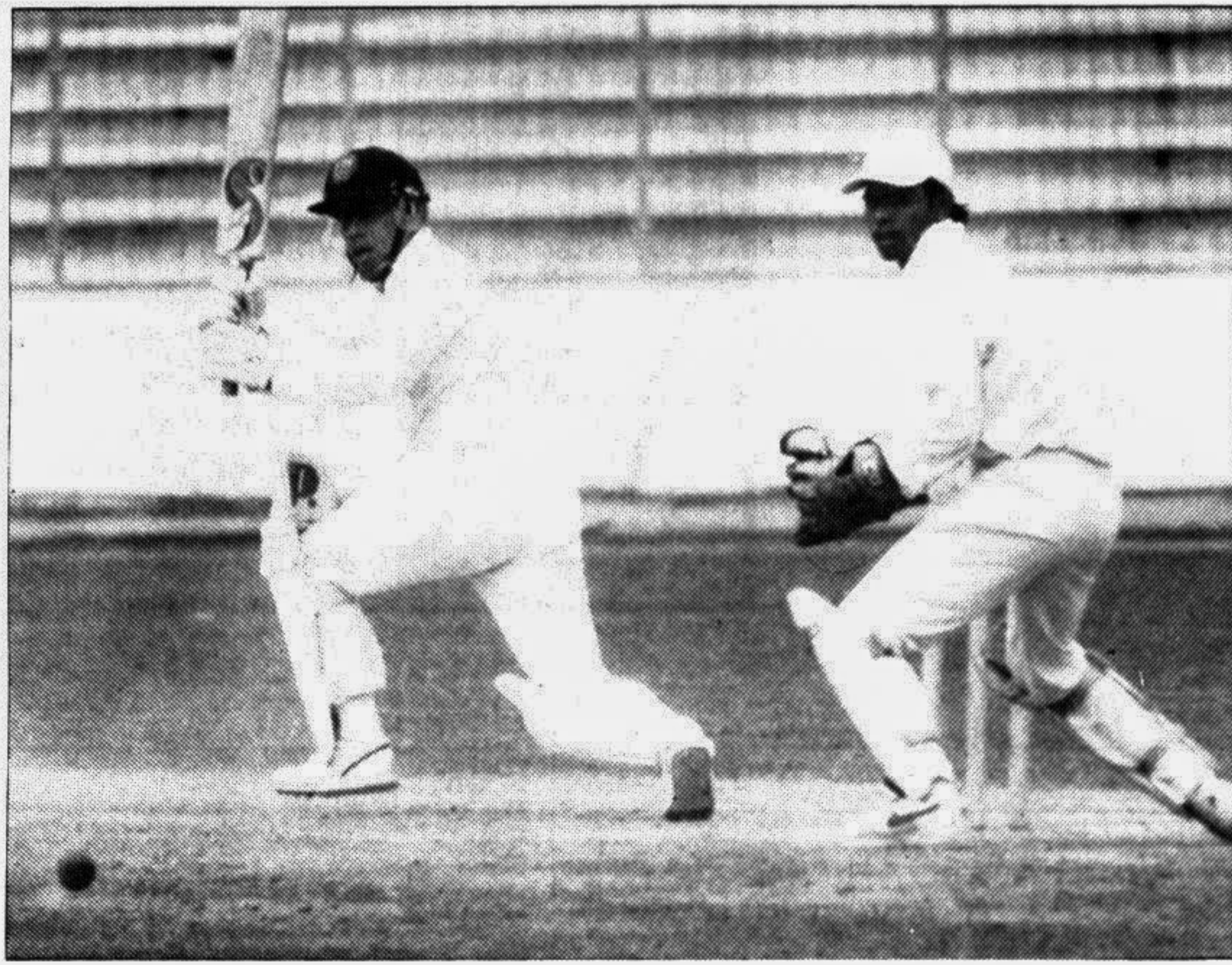
The recipients of 1996 are: Arman Miah, Saiful Islam Khan, Rafiqul Islam Kamal, Elias Hossain, Rehana Zaman, Attegar Rahman, Mahboob Alam, Rahima Khanam Jothi, Ziaur Rahman, Harun-ur-Rashid MP, Syed Ashraf Haq, Tanveer Haidar, Sheikh Daulat Zaman, Shafiqul Haq Hira, BTC and Karmafull Limited.

'Super Eagles' face a barrier

FRANKFURT, Germany, Mar 5: An exhibition match between World Cup finalists Germany and Nigeria could be in jeopardy following a move by some German lawmakers to prevent the Nigerians from entering the country, reports AP.

The lawmakers have asked the German Foreign Ministry to refuse to give entry visas to the Nigerians because of human rights violations by the Nigerian military government.

The game is scheduled for April 25 in Cologne and is one of the highlights of the run-up to the World Cup finals in France June 10-July 12.



Mohammedans' rejuvenated veteran Minhazul Abedin flicks through square leg during a Premier Division match against Brothers Union yesterday. — Star photo

Brothers baffle MSC



Mohammedan Sporting Club suffered a big blow in their bid for the Janakantha Premier league title when Brothers Union Club handed them a 14-run defeat in a crucial Super league tie at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The latest debacle of Mohammedans, which saw them slip to their fourth defeat, has thrown the popular Motijheel outfit almost out of the title race. Both Mohammedans and Brothers now have 20 points from 14 matches, two points adrift of holders Abahani who have collected 22 points from 13 outings.

Holders Abahani will take on Kalabagan today. And a win for the league leaders will give them an almost unassailable four-point lead with two matches to go.

However, in the day's match, Mohammedans were only to be blamed for inviting their own doom when, chasing a commanding Brothers Union total of 250 in 50 overs, were all out for 236 in 48.4 overs.

Although Mohammedans were off to a rollicking start with their hard-hitting Pakistani opener clubbering 22 runs off only 15 deliveries, a stunning collapse saw Mohammedans reduced to 52 four in next eight overs after Mehmd was dismissed by off-spinner Ehsanul Haq.

Mehmd was brilliantly caught by Shafiuddin at the wicket mid-off. It was an intelligent move by Brothers skipper Jahangir, who in a bid to contain a marauding Mehmd, brought Ehsan in the very fourth over after his two new-ball bowlers were mercilessly thrashed around the ground.

But the real rot in the Mohammedan innings started when the other opener Parvez, skipper Aminul Islam and In-form Mehrah Hossain joined the pathetic parade towards the dressing room, playing some irresponsible shots.

Especially, the way Aminul threw away his wicket it was a criminal offence on the part of an experienced campaigner, who is considered as the mainstay of the Mohammedan batting line-up. With three wins against four defeats under his belt as Mohammedan captain, Aminul was clean bowled for a duck by Saifuddin while trying to pull a full-length delivery in front of his off-stump.

Shafiuddin, who had earlier dismissed Parvez, then got the prize scalp of Mehrah Hossain, who departed in the same fashion as did his skipper.

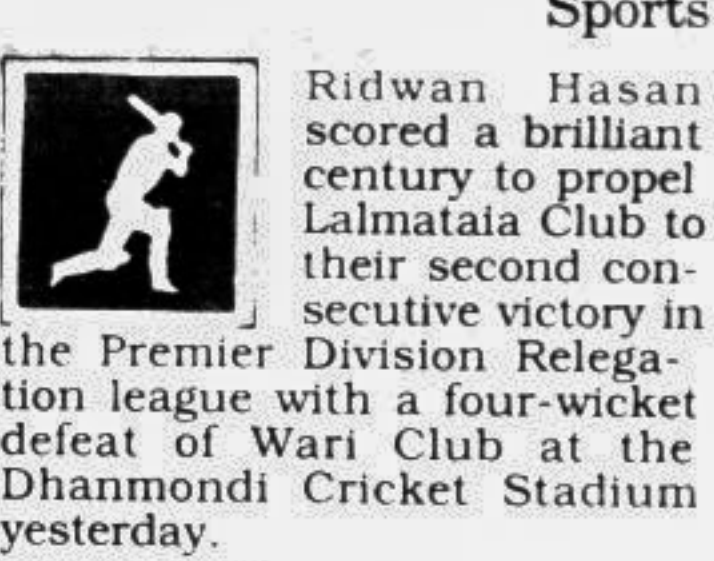
Minhazul Abedin, the only Mohammedan batsman who played with some purpose, and middle-order Selim Shahed tried to mend the early damage putting on 82 runs for the fifth wicket. The partnership came to an end when Shahed, on 28 off 55 balls, returned to the pavilion offering a simple return catch to off-spinner Sohail in the 32nd over.

Hasibul clouded two huge sixes and four boundaries. Ehsanul, who ripped through the lower-middle order after giving the early breakthrough, emerged as the most successful bowler of the day with a bag of five wickets for 54 runs. While Shafiuddin gave away 32 runs for his three wickets.

Earlier, put into bat first, Brothers' huge total was built around two half-centuries by Khaled Mahmood and Jahangir Alam and a breezy 49-run eighth wicket partnership between Wahidul Islam and Shahnewaz Kabir.

Khaled topscored with 57 off 79 balls including six fours while Jahangir chipped in with 52. But the most exciting part of the Brothers innings came in the last four overs when Wahidul and Shahnewaz rattled up 49 runs in 25 balls. Wahidul scored 31 of 28 balls with the help of two big sixes and a four while Shuvro was

Lalmatia ride on Ridwan



RIDWAN ... 112

Ridwan scored 112 with the help of fourteen fours and a couple of sixes in his match-winning 138-ball vigil at the crease as Lalmatia, chasing a moderate Wari total of 227 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs, rattled up 228 for the loss of six wickets and with nine balls to spare.

The talented right-hander, who was a member of the victorious Bangladesh youth team in South Africa, became the eleventh and the youngest player to score a century in the elite Premier league when he reached the magical three figure mark off 132 balls.

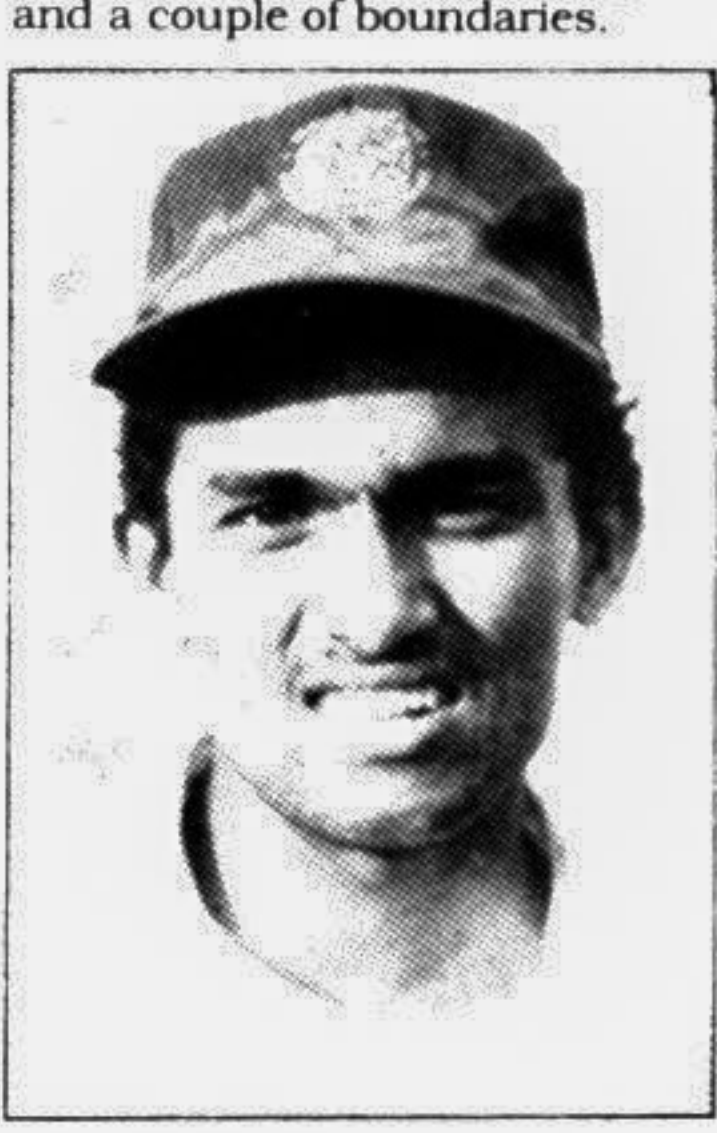
Coming into bat at his customary position of number three with Lalmatia reeling at 29 for one, Ridwan almost single-handedly took his side close to victory before getting himself out at 219 in the 48th over.

In his fluent innings Ridwan got the much-needed support from an experienced Abu Hamid, who scored a priceless unbeaten 31 off 39 balls. Arriving in the middle with Lalmatia limping on 141 for five, the number seven Hamid added an invaluable 78 runs for the sixth wicket with Ridwan.

Earlier, batting first Wari Club piled up a fighting total of 227 for eight in their share of 50 overs with their skipper Sohail notching highest 46 runs. Pakistani Tariq Mahmud chipped in with a forceful 35 off 45 balls and opener Rabbu scored a patient 30. But the real thrust in the Wari innings was provided by their two lower-order batsmen Sajib Das and Murad Khan. Sajib contributed 34 and number ten batsman Murad Khan scored an unbeaten 22 off only 12 deliveries.

The crucial win, Lalmatia's fourth from 13 outings, enabled the new-town outfit to curtail the possible relegation threat.

not out on 24 off just 13 balls which included a massive sixer against Hasibul over long-on and a couple of boundaries.



EHSANUL ... 53/5

BU-MSB SCORECARD

Scorecard table for Brothers Union vs Mohammedan SC. Columns: Batsman, Runs, Balls, Fours, Sixes, Wickets, Overs.

Rado ropes in Paes, Haas

The Swiss watch company Rado always focuses on the future; this applies to tennis sponsorship too. Two years ago the Rado Player Team was founded as part of the relation with the ATP Tour and consisted of great players like Sergi Bruguera, Alex Corretja, Todd Martin, MaliVai Washington or Greg Rusedski. During this time no less than five Rado Team Players reached at least the semifinals of a Grand Slam tournament, says a please release.

"The results of the Rado Team Players exceeded our wildest expectations", explains Roland Strele, President of Rado. "Corretja as well as Rusedski played themselves from the forties into the Top Ten."

At the Lipton in Key Biscayne, where Rado is in its seventh year as presenting sponsor, the new team will be introduced. In addition to the well known faces of Bruguera, Corretja, Martin and Washington, the new and coming Tommy Haas and Leander Paes became part of this elite group. "When we select at new athlete, it is important that he fits the Rado philosophy. In this respect we're very fortunate in working with Tommy Haas and Leander Paes, since they represent the future of the sport. In addition, both Germany and India are very important markets for Rado."

TODAY'S MATCHES

Janakantha Premier Cricket Super League: Abahani KC vs Kalabagan KC (Dhaka Stadium). Janakantha Premier Cricket Relegation League: Victoria SC vs Agrani Bank (Dhannondi Cricket Stadium). First Division Football Super League: BRTC SC vs Dhaka Wanderers Club (Mirpur Stadium, 3 pm).

AKC-Bagan tie today Gunawardhene in the city

Sports Reporter Dihan Aviska Gunawardhene, an explosive left-handed batsman in the Sri Lankan domestic cricket, arrived in the capital last night to bolster the batting line-up of Abahani Krira Chakra.

Gunawardhene, who plays for Nondescript Cricket Club in Colombo, is expected to open the innings when the popular Dhanmondi outfit appears in a crucial Premier Division Super league encounter against their neighbours Kalabagan Krira Chakra at the Dhaka Stadium today.

The young southpaw played only one limited-over international match against Zimbabwe on home soil last January. He scored 20 runs in the shadow of master blaster Sanath Jayasuriya, who lead his side to a victory in absence of regular captain Arjuna Ranatunga.

But the three Sri Lankan umpires, who have been officiating the Premier league matches, have rated Gunawardhene as a star in the making.

"He probably needs mere 10 balls to score a 50," quipped one of the umpires while commenting on the young stroke-maker. Abahani, who were without a foreign player after the sad demise of former Indian Test player Raman Lamba, in a desperate attempt to retain the league title have brought in Gunawardhene after the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) granted their plea to register another foreign player to fill the void of Lamba, who died at a city hospital three days after sustaining a head injury while fielding at forward short-leg without a helmet in a match against Mohammedans on February 23.

he was fit to join the team on the African safari. On Saturday last, he received a fax from PCB secretary Waqar Ahmed, which stated that he (Wasim) must join the team immediately. Added the former captain who was dropped from the team following an allegation of match-fixing.

Appearing relaxed, Akram said, "I am not interested in cap-

taincy. I already have had enough of it. I just want to play as an ordinary player."

Third Test begins today Akram joins team in SA

South Africa will go for a desperate attempt to square the series 1-1 against Pakistan when the two teams' lock horns in the third and final Test at Port Elizabeth today.

But the Pakistanis, who took an unassailable lead in the three-Test series after the sensational 29-run win in Durban following a draw in the first match, got a big shot in their arms with the joining of their lethal fast bowler Wasim Akram. Akram reached South Africa on Wednesday afternoon to join the team.

Talking to a correspondent of The News newspaper of Pakistan, Akram said that he had no information regarding as to why chief selector Salim Altaf had resigned. On his selection, he said that after some days' training with his county, Lancashire, he had informed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman, Khalid Mahmood, that

he was fit to join the team on the African safari. On Saturday last, he received a fax from PCB secretary Waqar Ahmed, which stated that he (Wasim) must join the team immediately. Added the former captain who was dropped from the team following an allegation of match-fixing.

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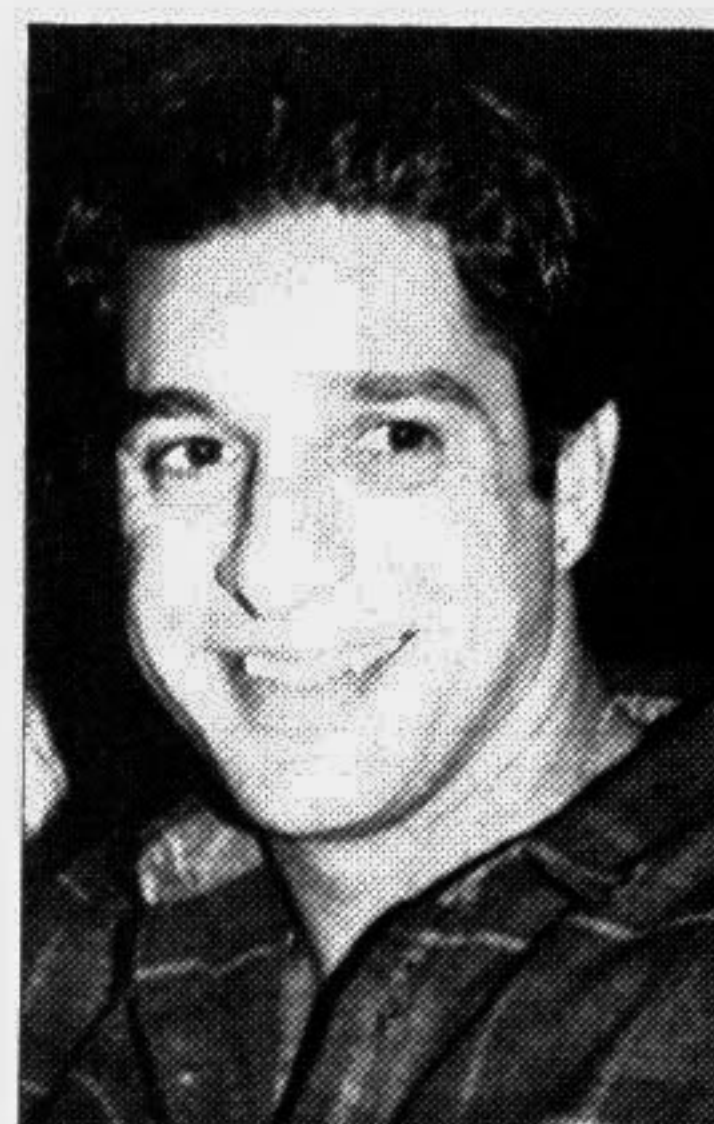


WASIM AKRAM

"I don't want to create any problems for captain Rashid Latif and vice-captain Aamer Sohail. What I am looking forward to is to play for my country and my immediate target is to complete 400 wickets in Test cricket as quickly as possible."

He said that he would be fully cooperating with Latif and Sohail. Wasim remarked that Latif must be given the captaincy for a longer term, as in

the past the change of captaincy had badly affected the performance of the team. He praised the team's performance on the tour so far, saying that the second Test victory in Durban would go a long way in boosting the morale of the team. "It is nice to see the tail-enders contributing with the bat as well."



WASIM AKRAM

On the players' reaction to his inclusion in the side, Wasim said that he would not face any problems, as he was in constant touch with Latif before his arrival there, and all the boys were happy to see him.

On the inclusion of some youngsters in the team, he said it was great to see the young players touring with the team, as Pakistan had to build a strong outfit for the next World Cup in England.

Meanwhile, senior players, especially Sohail, were visibly happy to have Wasim back in the side. The team greeted the former captain warmly on his arrival.

and 49 minutes later, with a world record 10th wicket partnership of 151 with Mushtaq Ahmed, he left the field with an unbeaten 128. In the second innings he made an unbeaten 50.

Pakistan lost that series 1-0 but when they arrived in South Africa last month Azhar was clearly keen for revenge. In the first Test he took the first innings from 112-5 to 329 all out. His 136 devastated the home-side's attack.

Azhar makes his runs with strict orthodoxy and breathtaking timing which highlight the bowlers sense of futility and helplessness.

We certainly haven't worked out where to bowl to him," said South African vice-captain Gary Kirsten. "He is such a clean crisp striker of the ball. The tiniest mistake from the bowler and he hits it for four — every single time."

Azhar's characteristic strokes are lofted. Extra-cover drives off both front and back-foot and a savage cut. Sometimes lofted, past gully towards thirdman. In his third century in the second Test in Durban, he scored 62 of his 132 runs between cover-point and the wicket-keeper.

Typically, though, just as great fast bowlers believe they are really great batsmen in disguise, Azhar still harbours dreams of heroic bowling deeds. He will always be a useful change bowler, but experts and teammates are united in their belief that he is no opening bowler. Not yet, anyway.

Azhar Mahmood is a devoted Muslim who dedicated his third century to his mother.

"She always encouraged me and told me that I was good enough to make it to the top. She is my best supporter," he said.

A star from the start

DURBAN, Mar 5 (Reuters): Nobody has ever taken to a South African bowling attack like Azhar Mahmood.

Pakistan's latest find has put the much-vaunted pace attack, led by Allan Donald, to the sword with three centuries in seven innings and seems set for a glorious career.

In 11 innings in eight Test matches to date, the 23-year-old Rawalpindi all-rounder has amassed 541 runs at an average of 77.28, all scored at number seven or eight. For good measure he has taken 13 wickets at a shade under 30 each and held four catches.

Few cricketers have made such an impact in such a short space of time. To add further spice to the story, he is from one of the country's least fashionable cricketing centres and started playing the game only six years ago.

If ever a young man had a reason to feel pleased with himself, even a little cocksure, it is Azhar. But, instead, his immediate ambitions extend no further than those of any player in his first season of international cricket.

"My ambition is just to make a permanent place for myself in the team. I know that good all-rounders are not easy to find, he says with no obvious sense of understatement.

Young Pakistani all-rounders are subject to the same demoralising comparison as those from England. With Imran Khan rather than Ian Botham presented as the ideal.

To his credit, Azhar seems more bemused by the comparison than intimidated.

"When I started I wanted to be a batsman but when I got on the under-20 tour of New

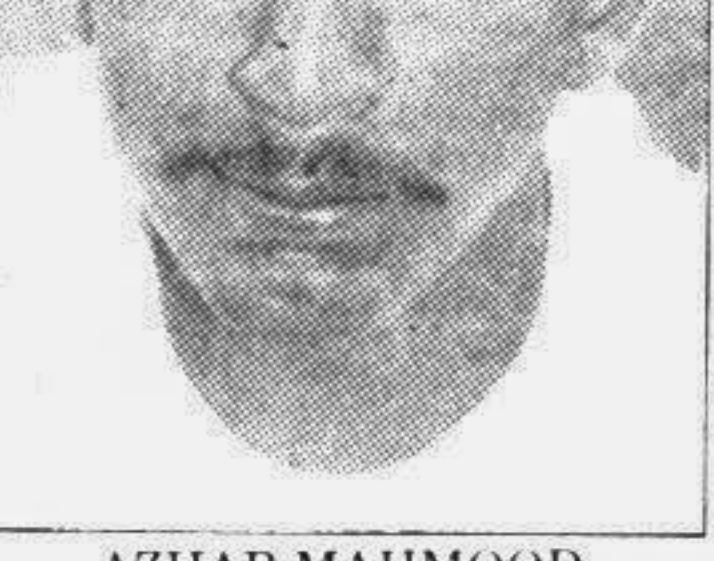
Zealand they encouraged me to bowl. Then I was chosen firstly as a bowler. But I have so much to learn about both parts of the game. I am just me, trying my best," he said.

The under-20 tour of New Zealand that launched Azhar's career came when he was 18, incredibly, just two years after he first played any form of organised cricket on a grass out field at 16. Before that his only experience of the game came "playing in street or on a very bumpy road."

Having played 17 one-day internationals he was selected for his Test debut in his home town against South Africa in October 1997.

With Wasim Akram injured and the national selectors keen to avoid defeat in the first of three Tests, an extra batsman was chosen and Azhar was asked to open the bowling and bat at number eight.

When he came to the wicket his team were 206-6. Five hours



AZHAR MAHMOOD

Aussies bury the hatchet

SYDNEY, Mar 5: Australian cricket's biggest dispute since World Series cricket was settled today with an in-principle agreement over pay and conditions for the nation's players, reports AFP.

The players' union — the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) — had been seeking better pay and conditions for first-class cricketers and a

greater say in running the game.

In a statement, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) and the union said the bitter dispute, which started last October and led to threats of strike action, was as good as over.

ACB chief executive Malcolm Speed said the board and the players union finalised the agreement at a meeting in Sydney on Tuesday night.

It will be sealed in 10 days. Until then the parties would not

comment further, he said.

The greatest argument in Australian cricket since the 1977 introduction of World Series cricket flared on October 22 last year when the ACB rejected an ACA proposal and walked out within 30 seconds of a meeting with the players' union in Melbourne.

Among the players' initial demands were to share in 40 per cent of the board's total revenue and the right of veto over tours and programming.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

Solution time: 24 mins. BRAC FIDR FAIRM LTRIA REGALICE OMAR ABSTRACTIC CYBORG SHOCKS MRO OUR SEASCAPES TILLO ERIN ANEMO KILLO WAIS AIR TRIP TIVICH WAS AIRIEA WASH AIRIA SCIENTIFIC ANKARIA PORTRAIT EGAD EDER MOE ORISO CADY ENIS NAFIS

CRYPTOQUIP W A S C K T X A F F D C Z U U S C K Z N V F U Z R X M C F D N F H M W R Q T V W H R Q H N H X N K H V X F. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MAYBE I'LL GO TO THE HOG FARMERS' BALL; LAST YEAR IT WAS A SWILL AFFAIR. Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals P. 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.