

# Star Sport

DHAKA SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1998 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
Competition-109

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
Jan 8 '99 and draw shortly  
afterwards

- Which country topped the medals table in the 13th Asian Games?  
China India Japan
- How many medals did Bangladesh clinch at the Asian Games?  
None One Two
- Who scored the first century in this year's Premier cricket league?  
Azam Shawkat Selim
- Where will the 14th Asian Games be held?  
Paris Pusan Pyongyang
- Which team won the AB Bank Senior Div TT title?  
Jatrabari Ansars Biman

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

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ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

### SPORTS TALK



**Moin Khan**  
(Stand-in Pakistan cricket captain)

"We could have won the second Test at Lahore and squared the series. But poor weather destroyed our plans and we lost the series."

After Pakistan's series loss to Zimbabwe.

### WHIZZ KID-108

Boost winner  
**Kamrul Islam**

Basir Uddin High School, Dhaka.

(Please bring your ID card and a passport size attested photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sport Desk of The Daily Star on December 30 at 8pm)

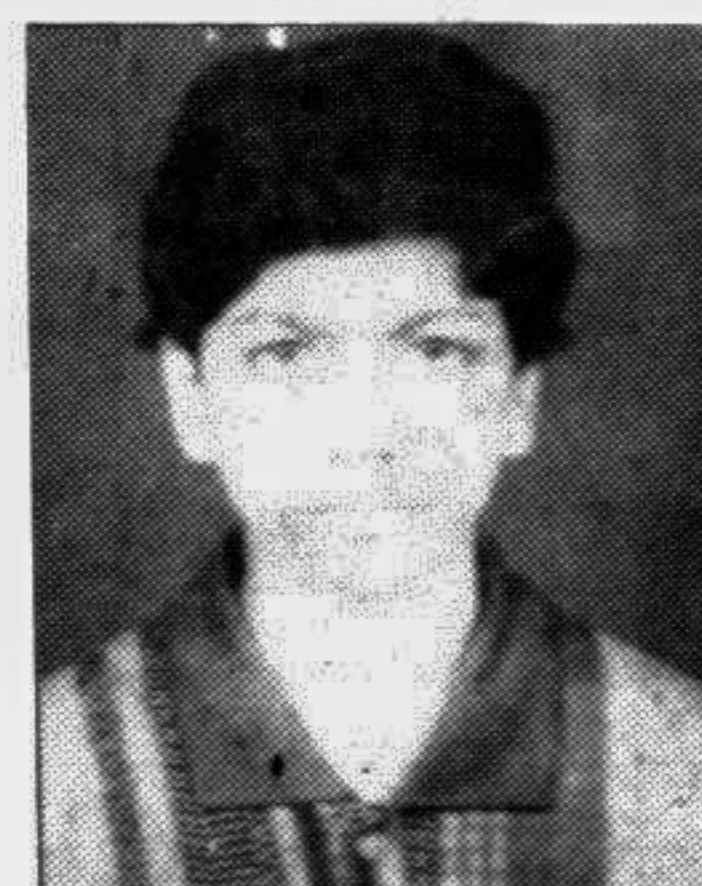
### WHIZZ KID-108

correct answers

- National cricket team captain Aminul Islam will play this season for  
Ans: Biman
- Who won the Premier league cricket title last season?  
Ans: Abahani
- How many teams play in the Premier cricket league?  
Ans: 12
- How many overs will be played per side in the Premier league this season?  
Ans: 80
- How many venues will be used for the Premier league this year?  
Ans: Three

### WHIZZ KID-107

winner

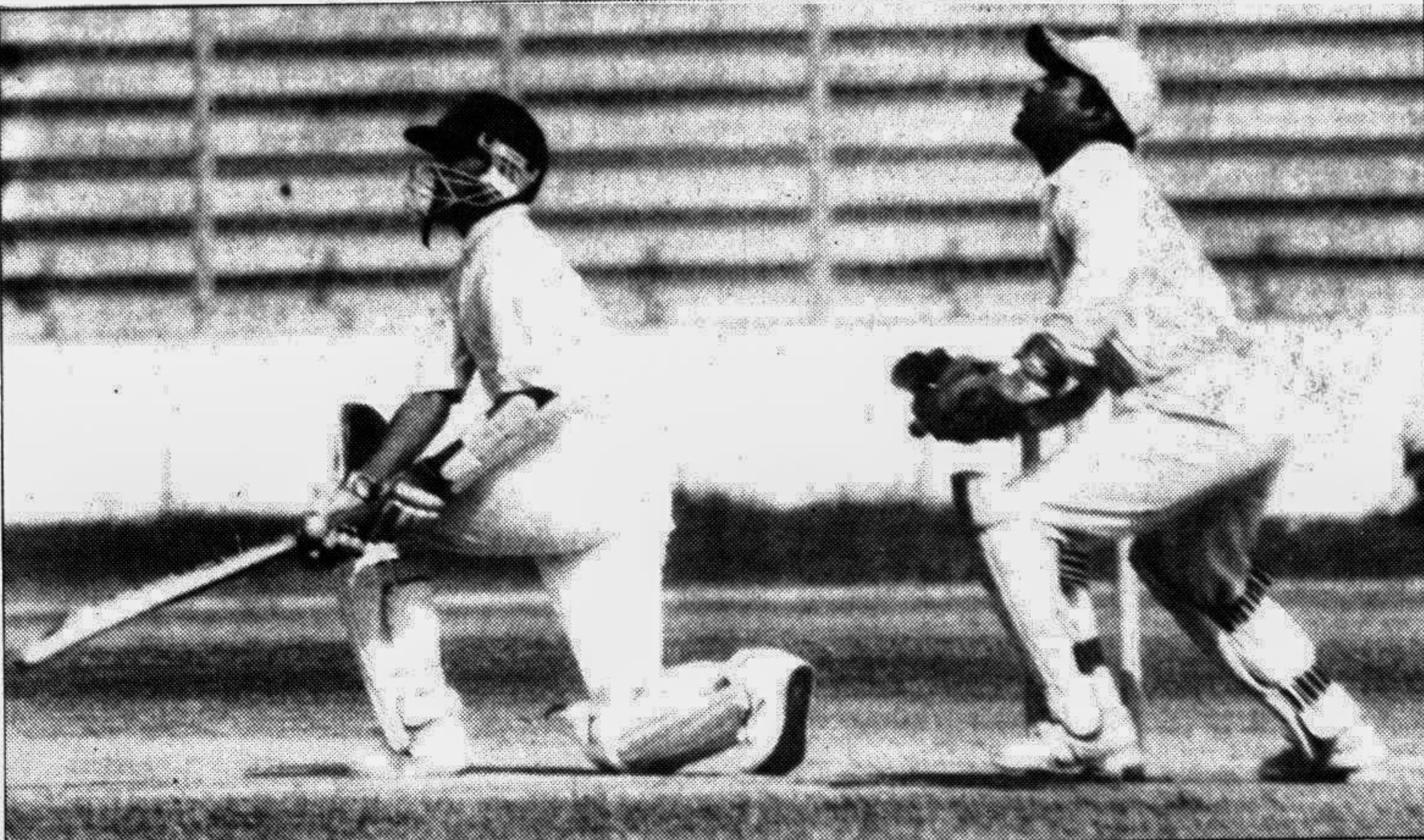


**Ronty**  
Govt Laboratory High School, Dhaka

**Universidad qualify for Libertadores Cup**

SANTIAGO, Dec 25(Reuters/Internet): Universidad Catolica qualified for next year's South American Libertadores Cup by beating Universidad de Chile 4-2 on penalties.

The final of the four-team playoff ended level on aggregate after a 0-0 draw on Wednesday, sending the tie into a shoot-out.



Brothers Union opener Ehsanul Haque sweeps during their Janakantha Premier Division cricket league match against Agrani Bank at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## McGrath passes fitness test

# Taylor promises no let-offs



MELBOURNE, Dec 25: New ball spearhead Glenn McGrath passed a fitness test Friday as Australia considered pitching rookie Matthew Nicholson into a three-man pace attack against England in the fourth cricket Test starting Saturday, reports AFP.

McGrath, who has the most wickets in the series with 16, has been troubled by a virus but indicated today at the team's Christmas day lunch that he would be fit.

Australia, who secured the Ashes for a sixth consecutive series with a 205-run victory in the last Test in Adelaide, are looking at a likely three-man pace attack on a greenish pitch.

Nicholson, called in this week after Jason Gillespie withdrew with a knee injury, has played just seven first-class games for Western Australia.

If he does make his Test debut then seamer-cum-off-spinner Colin Miller could be the 12th man, the match is expected to draw a 70,000 Boxing Day crowd in sports-mad Melbourne.

The tourist today delayed naming their side until match morning, confused at the state

of the Melbourne Cricket Ground wicket.

Australian skipper Mark Taylor wants to snuff out any England fightback in their attempt to level the best-of-five series.

The next two weeks for them is a chance to retain some pride and give us a bit of a run for our money and try and shock us into a Test loss," Taylor said today.

"We have got to make sure we are on our guard against that, they haven't been playing well so they have got nothing to lose."

England spent Christmas morning working out at the MCG, trying to iron out the problems that have beset them on tour for the last two months.

With a 2-0 lead in the series after a drawn first Test, the holders Australia keep the Ashes. But England can still salvage some pride after a dismal tour so far and draw the series with wins in Melbourne and Sydney over the next fortnight.

That appears improbable given Australia's dominance in the opening three games.

Only a fierce electrical storm stopped them winning the first Brisbane Test and Taylor's team crushed England by seven

wickets inside three days of the second Perth Test.

England endured the embarrassment of losing their final leadup game by nine wickets against the Australian XI in Hobart last Tuesday, Greg Blewett (213) and Corey Richards (138) blazed away in an unbroken 345-run stand in 206 minutes for victory with more than 22 overs to spare.

Taylor starts the Boxing Day Test two catches behind the world record set by his predecessor Allan Border of 156 Test catches.

Border established his record in 156 matches while the Boxing Day Test will be Taylor's 103rd.

"It's probably one of the few states that I keep on myself," said Taylor, an expert first slip.

"It's one thing I do keep a bit of a record of, that and how many Tests I have captained — which is 48."

Taylor said he was proud of his reputation as the game's Premier slip fielder after honing his skills with former Australian coach Bob Simpson from the age of 21.

"It's something I always felt I had to work on quite hard because you spend a lot of time in the field," he said.

# Only he will decide when to retire



MELBOURNE, Dec 25 (Reuters/Internet): Australian cricket captain Mark Taylor has ended speculation that he might retire after the current Ashes series with confirmation that he intends to continue at least until next year's tour of the West Indies.

Taylor, 34, had previously hinted that he would step down after the final Ashes Test in Sydney in two weeks' time but now says he wants to stay on.

"I'm fairly sure I'll go to the West Indies if the selectors pick me," Taylor said.

"I'm still enjoying playing and the side is playing well with me as captain so provided those two things are maintained I will keep playing."

Taylor's announcement that he wants to continue is the latest chapter in a remarkable comeback from a player whose career was at the crossroads just over a year ago.

Stripped of the one-day captaincy, Taylor looked certain to lose his place in the Test team after a prolonged batting slump leading into Australia's 1997 tour of England.

Taylor saved his career with

## Sino shame!

BEIJING, Dec 25 (AFP): China expressed disappointment today over its medal haul at the Asian Games and called for further work ahead of the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, the Xinhua news agency reported.

There were 35 gold medals offered in wrestling, boxing and men's judo at the Games, but China took nothing home and we are still in a backward situation in these sports," said Yang Weiming, head of the Chinese delegation to the Bangkok Games which ended last weekend.

"This is our shame," he was quoted as saying.

China won 129 gold medals at the Games, compared to 65 for South Korea and 52 for Japan, but the haul was down on the previous Asiad.

"We were down on the track and field as well as the swimming and we only had a few stars in these fields," Yang said.

a century in the second innings of the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston and has never looked back since.

He has scored centuries in each of Australia's last five Test series including an Australian record-equalling 334 against Pakistan in October.

Taylor told reporters on Friday that he especially wanted to travel to the West Indies because he felt he still had a point to prove against them.

Taylor averages more than 40 against each of the Test-playing countries with the exception of the West Indies where his average dips to just 28.

Taylor has scored just one century in 20 Tests against the West Indies and says he is determined to do redress the

ledger.

"The one side I haven't played well against is the West Indies, they have been the one bogey side," Taylor said.

"I'll be going over there if selected just trying to relax and play the way I would play against any other side."

Australia set off for the West Indies in February for a nine-week tour featuring four Tests.

Taylor said he would consider his future after that.

"I'll stop playing when I'm out in the middle and things aren't happening for me with the bat, as a captain or in the field," Taylor said.

"If I'm standing out there one day thinking 'what the hell am I doing out here,' that will be the reason I stop playing."



An AFP file photo shows Australian fast bowler Glenn McGrath (R) being congratulated by his captain Mark Taylor during the first Ashes Test last month. The strike bowler was cleared to play in the fourth Test which begins at the MCG today.

## Div One cricket from tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The First Division cricket league will commence in the city from December 27 under the auspices of Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM).

On the inaugural day of the 12-team league, Lalmatia Club, relegated to First Division from Premier Division last season along with Azad Sporting Club, will take on promoters Eskaton Sabuj Sangha at the City Club ground. The other venue for the league is the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The following 12 teams will take part in the league: Lalmatia Club, Azad Sporting Club, Gopibagh Friend Association, Dhaka Wanderers, City Club, Dhanmondi Club, GMCC, Bangladesh Boys Club, Uttara Sporting Club, Jatrabari Krira Chakra and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha.

Earlier, chasing a commanding Agrani Bank total of 346 in 80 overs, Brothers' snail's pace start — 107 runs in 36 overs for the first wicket between Shahriar Hossain (53) and Ehsanul — ultimately proved costly.

That partnership was broken when Shahriar was trapped leg before by one of Shahin Malik's offbreaks in the 36th over. In the remaining three overs before lunch only two runs were added.

However, Ehsanul and Jahangir managed to enliven the post-lunch session posting 52 runs from eight overs. But their late charge came to a premature finish with the reintroduction of Suja.

It may be noted that, Brothers rode their luck having previously survived by the narrowest of margins against Victoria Sporting Club and Wari Club.

At the Dhanmondi Stadium, the 6-run loss to giants Kalabagan was no reflection of how well Ajax fought in a high-scoring match.

Faced with a mammoth Kalabagan total of 391 in 80 overs, Ajax ended up on 327 for six, thanks to a century partnership between Nuruzzaman (78 n.o.) and Anisur Rahman (53) who added 125 runs for the sixth wicket.

Besides, opener Nayeem Hafiz struck 61 while two-down Selim chipped in with 56.

For Kalabagan, off-spinner Sharfuddin Shahid Ibne Saikat returned with two for 38.

Suja finished with four for 55.

The bankers' two other tweakers, Russell Khan and Pakistani Shahin Malik, then shared five wickets to close the BU innings at 305 in the 79th over.

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# Ajax give Bagan a scare Agrani end Brothers' run

Sports Reporter

Agrani Bank ended Brothers Union three-match winning streak in the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League with surprise 41-run victory at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In the other match, Kalabagan registered a 64-run win over minnows Ajax Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Agrani Bank's left-arm spinner Suja Erfan took three wickets in four overs to force the Gopibagh outfit, which finished runners-up last season, to taste its first defeat of the elite league.

Suja, coming on to bowl his second spell during the post-lunch session from the Paltan end, with Brothers nicely placed at 162 for one in 45 overs, changed the complexion of the game in the space of 23 balls dismissing three recognised batsmen — Ehsanul Haque (67), Amir Hanif (3) and Sanwar Hossain (11) respectively.

In-form opener Ehsanul, who put on a century stand with Shahriar Hossain and then added another 55 runs with one-down Jahangir Alam, was sent back off Suja's first ball for 67.

The young right hander saw his lofted drive fall safely into the hands of out-of-favour national cricketer Mofizur Rahman at long-off.

In his 137-minute vigil, Ehsanul slammed only four boundaries.

After Ehsanul, Suja castled Pakistani Hanif in his next over and then had Sanwar caught at cover two overs later, to see Brothers tottering at 185 for five in the 55th over.

Suja finished with four for 55.

The bankers' two other tweakers, Russell Khan and Pakistani Shahin Malik, then shared five wickets to close the BU innings at 305 in the 79th over.

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Jahangir c S Kadir b Russell 30

A Hanif b Suja 3

Sanwar c Obaidullah b Suja 11

S Sharma c Chayan b S Malik 35

K Mahmud b Russell 21

Towhid c Mofizur b S Malik 20

Shahnewaz c S Malik b Suja 19

Hasan run out 3

Shafuddin not out 4

Extras: (b-1, lb-12, nb-7, w-19) 305

Total: (all out in 78.3 overs) 305

Fall of wickets: 1-107; 2-162; 3-170; 4-185; 5-188; 6-232; 7-262; 8-290; 9-297; 10-305.

**Bowler** O M R W

Uzzal 8 2 18 0

Mofizur 9 0 48 0

S Azad 15 0 64 0

Suja 15 1 55 4

Russell 16 2 53 2

S Malik 14.3 1 54 3

**Result: Agrani Bank won by 41 runs**

**Kalabagan KC v Ajax SC**