over-cautious approach, India

and Azhar especially

should feel good with those

263 runs on the board and six

wickets in hand resuming on

there was little to write home

about, the limitations of the

limited attack all too evident

feeling so good in the Indian

camp is Vinod Kambli who

passed up a fine chance of an

impressive Test debut

ing their Test debut here -

England's Paul Taylor, the left-

arm medium-pacer and India's'

youngish off-spinner Rajesh

Chauhan who was in Dhaka

carly last month for the

SCOREBOARD

the first day's play of the first

cricket Test between India

and England at the Eden

N S Sidhu c Hick b Taylor

V G Kambli c Hick b Jarvis 16

Total: (4 wkts, 83 overs) 263

Fall of wickets: 1-49; 2-78;

Gardens here Friday:

M Prabhakar c Lewis

S R Tendulkar c Hick

P K Amre not out

3-93: 4-216

Malcolm

Jarvis

Lewis

Taylor

Salisbury

M A Azharuddin not out

Extras: (b2, lb2, w8, nb5)

15

Azhar delighted

CALCUTTA, Jan 29

Mohammad Azharuddin admit-

ted he was delighted to have

banished the memories of a

wasted year with the bat with

his magnificent century against

England in the first Test here

was 114 not out at the close

with India 263 for four, last

made a hundred a year ago to

the day in a defeat against

out a hundred, too long," he

said. "It is a good thing to get

"It was testing bowling ...

"I was under a bit of pres-

got my confidence high and

sure. There has been some

talking about my form. There

is always pressure if you are

not getting runs if you are a

batsman. When your confi-

dence is low you struggle a

Keith Fletcher said: "Azhar-

uddin played a fantastic

innings. He is a very dangerous

surprised England only se-

lected one specialist spinner,

but added: "It is only turning a

little and doing so slowly at the

Fletcher said: "We feel

"We bowled superbly all day,

playing four seamers is the

best way to beat India in this

game. They are very fine play-

and (lan) Salisbury all strug-

gled a bit because of the virus

they have suffered but stuck at

Test in India in September

The Australians went within

two runs of winning the series

in Adelaide. Border said he

wanted to round out his career

with a victory over the world

champions. "I can't see myself

playing until Australia plays the

West Indies again so this is my

last chance to beat them in a

The West Indies have em-

phatically won all three of

their Test appearances in

Perth. Captain Richie Richa-

rdson said his side's fondness

for the ground would win them

well suited to our play because

we have a very good track

record here," Richardson said.

"We have a lot of people back

home who expect us to win. If

we lose the series, it's going to

be a great loss to the people in

Richardson, meanwhile, has

The Antiguan has posted

some unfinished business at

eight centuries against Aust-

ralia, more than any other

West Indies batsman, and has

made at least 100 on each ma-

for Australian ground with the

Sydney in the third Test fol-

lowed his centuries at Brisbane

(1984-85), Melbourne (1988-

89) and Adelaide (1988-89).

Richardson's century at

"We think this wicket is

Test series," Border said.

the series.

the Caribbean."

the WACA Ground

exception of Perth.

England team manager

Azharuddin said he was

"A year is a long time with-

The Indian captain, who

on Friday, reports Reuter.

Australia in Adelaide.

my rhythm right.

player."

a big total."

ers of spin.

INDIA: 1st innings

b Salisbury

b Malcolm

Scoreboard at stumps on

aborted SAARC tournament.

Two other players are mak-

through his impetuosity.

For Gooch and his bowlers

Saturday.

# Azharuddin's arrogant assertion

Afzal H Khan

From Eden Gardens, Calcutta

lar strokeplay. The fluidity of

his drives and cuts almost

bordered on the sublime. And

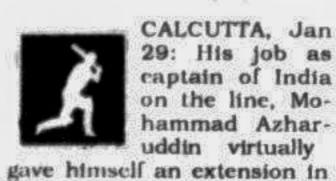
19 boundaries, all but one

exquisitely timed, in an almost

run-a-ball occupation of the

crease bore testimony to his

otherwise impressive reputa-



hammad Azharhis post with a superlative century on the first day of the first Test against England at

the Eden Gardens today. Azhar was appointed captain for the first of their five-Test series against Graham Gooch's Englishmen, the selectors letting him know that he had to convince them if they were to persevere with this tall Hyderabad batsman who came to this game with an unflattering track record of seven losses and nine draws in his 17 previous assignments as India's skipper. His solitary success was against the Shri

back in 1991. Well, Azhar answered his critics in no uncertain terms here this afternoon, at the very ground on which he had so dramatically announced his arrival on the Test scene with a century on debut - against the Englishmen, again - in 1984-85.

Lankans in Chandigarh way

Winning the toss, Azhar elected to bat on a bland strip which had far too many cracks in it on the opening day to bode ill for the visitors who might have to bat last against a home attack bolstered with the inclusion of three young spinners - Anil Kumble, Venkatapathy Raju and Rajesh Chauhan.

India tried a new opening pair - a recalled but subdued Navjot Sidhu and a plucky Manoj Probhakar. Although Sidhu did little to celebrate his return, hanging around for a painfully slow and almost pathetic 13, Prabhakar made the most of his elevation if not exactly by batting like a Boycott then at least by occupying the crease for almost three hours to see the new ball off. In the bargain Prabhakar got 46 runs before lan Salisbury beat him on the forward prod for Chris Lewis to snap him up in the

llowever, another person had a very fruitful day in the close catching position. Graeme Hick showed once again that notwithstanding his yet undistinguished performance with the bat at this level, he still possesses a most safe pair of hands, by clutching on to all the three chances all fairly easy, to be fair - that went to him.

The first was Sidhu, then Vinod Kambli and then Sachin Tendulkar - all three bringing about their own doom by unconvincingly flashing at bestleft-alone deliveries outside the off stump from three different bowlers. By doing so, these batsmen had almost compromised the advantage the toss had appeared to have given India, reducing their side to 93 for three.

It was then Azhar walked in middle. No, there wasn't much of the customary applause greeting the captain of the home side - perhaps an indication of the divided opinion among the fans regarding his tenure at the top of the team list. Yet, in the unassuming manner that is his style, the captain took charge of his ship and by day's end had steered it to clearer, comfortable waters.

What an innings it was! Not to speak of Test matches which these days tend more and more to be viewed as an anachronism because of their

Victoria win easy

Sports Reporter

found the winning touch back

after a string of defeats when

they registered a convincing

nine-wicket victory over min-

nows Public Works Depart-

ment (PWD) in the Navana

Premier Division cricket

league at the Dhanmondi

Roquibul Hassan, the Victoria

skipper, invited the PWD

batsmen to use the strip first.

In the face of some accurate

bowling PWD could muster a

paltry 125 for seven in the al-

lotted 45 overs with Imdu

contributing a useful 46. Kallol

national new ball bowler, kept

the PWD batsmen at bay with a

fine eight over spell which

carned him three wickets for

20 runs. The most economical

bowling, however, came from

ighal who conceded only six

runs in his six overs for the

first wicket in the eighth over

on 31 they were hardly trou-

bled by the feeble PWD attack.

An unconquered second-

wicket stand between Mukul

and Badshah coasted Victoria

home with as many as 14 overs

to spare. Mukul made 60 with

seven boundaries while

Badshah htt 38 including three

Sajjad took the only wicket

to fall in the innings for 18.

fours and a six.

Although Victoria lost their

one wicket, he claimed.

Golam Nawsher Prince, the

made 35.

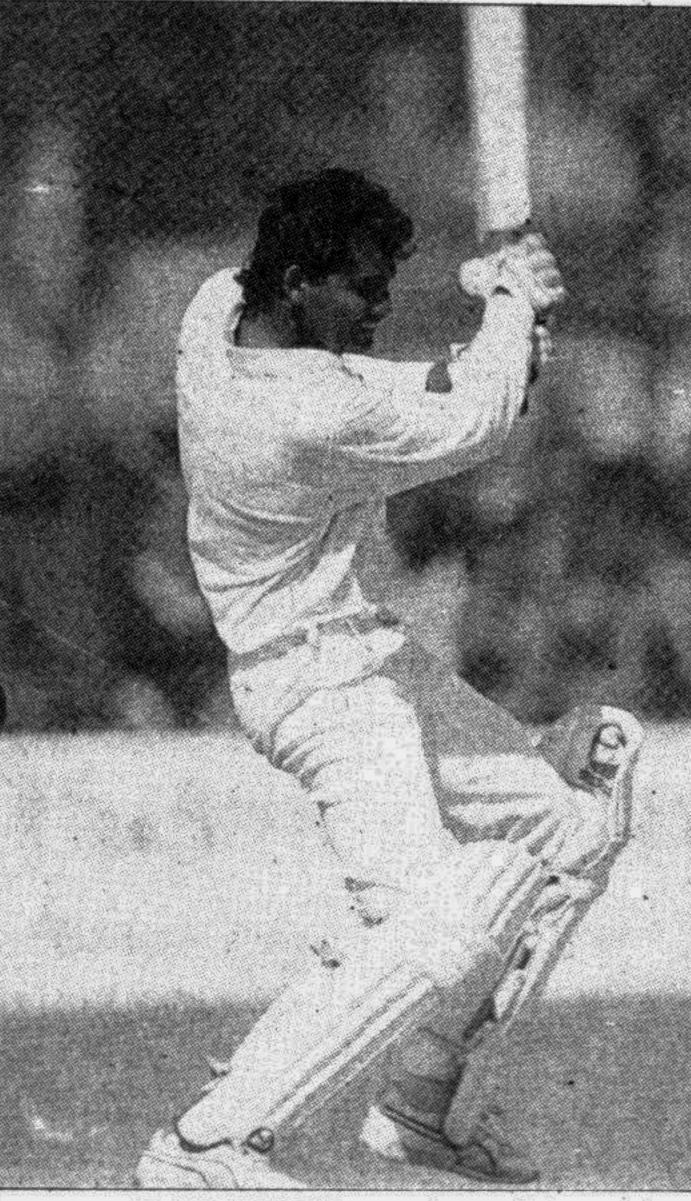
llaving won the toss

Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Victoria Sporting Club

tedious pace - one must be your detractors! really lucky to see which is As all the members of the large, British cricket press rarely seen even in the more popular, instant version of the here agreed, it was truly a fangame. Rarely does one batsman tastic (for want of a more apt seize the imagination of the adjective) innings. Well done, spectator with such spectacu-

Poor Tendulkar, he didn't stay long enough to celebrate his maiden Test century on home soil. Just when it was looking as if he would really consolidate towards a bigger innings, a split moment of youthful exuberance led to a



M AZHARUDDIN ... new lease of life

tion as a class batsman. Unlike more aggressive players in the modern game today, Azhar today was never savage. There was no hint of desperation in his batting, perhaps more a touch of disdain as he imperiously dispatched the England bowlers, all without exception, across the fence. Here was proof, if proof were needed, that India's besieged captain had regained his touch. What better way can there be to stake your claim and answer

most fatal indiscretion - again, a totally needless pursuit of a ball well outside his off stump he could easily have left alone.

But Tendulkar played his role in helping his skipper add 123 runs in 127 minutes for the fourth wicket in only 32.1 overs. While Tendulkar needed 116 balls for his 50, Azhar got his century off just 114 deliveries with the help of 17 fours. He has faced 125 balls for his unbeaten 114.

So, despite Praveen Amre's

Border banks on young 'Davids'

see Angel and legspinner

Shane Warne join Craig

McDermott and Merv Hughes

to form the bowling attack.

ALLAN BORDER

21 wickets this season at the

formances very closely this

year with a view to the long

term because there aren't that

many strike bowlers around

other than him putting their

hands up for selection," Border

and Angel, 24, join 23-year-old

Warne in the final XI, Australia

would be fielding four players

under the age of 25 for the

first time since McDermott,

Steve Waugh, Bruce Reid and

Tim Zoehrer played in the tied

If Martyn, 21, Langer, 22,

WACA.

Angel has taken 17 of his

"I've been watching his per-

## Gooch joins 100-Test club



LONDON, Jan 29: Graham Gooch became the 14th player to reach a century of Test matches when he led England in the opening Test against India in Calcutta today, reports Reuter. Players who have made 100 or more cricket

Test appearances (tab	ulated - year a	ichieved.
total Test played):		5000-5-1-21-0-1-0-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-
Colin Cowdrey (England)	1968	11
Geoff Boycot (England)	1981	10
Clive Lloyd (West Indies)	1984	110
Sunil Gavaskar (India)	1984	12
David Gower (England)	1988	11
Viv Richards (West Indies)	1988	. 12
Dilip Vengsarkar (India)	1988	11
Allan Border (Australia)	1988	13
Kapil Dev (India)	1989	120
Javed Miandad (Pakistan)	1989	111
Gordon Greenidge (West Indies)	1990	108
Desmond Haynes (West Indies)	1991	10
lan Botham (England)	1992	10:
Graham Gooch (England)	1993	100

PERTH, Jan 29:

Australian captain

Allan Border isn't

worried about th-

rowing several of

his young Davids

into battle against the bowling

Goliaths of cricket, reports AP.

what his youthful charges have

seldom seen-the sizzling West

Indian bowling attack - won't

indies are locked at 1-1 going

into the fifth and final Test

match beginning Saturday at

the WACA Ground. Border said

Friday he savoured the inclu-

sion of rookies Damien Martyn,

Justin Langer and Jo Angel in

have a total of just four Tests

between them but Border said

the Western Australia state trio

was less likely to be overawed

by the West Indies' recent

dominance and would be

helped further by playing at

"First-year guys haven't got

that recent trauma syndrome

against the West Indies,"

Border said. "They just go out

first-time syndrome because it

might be good rather than

ruled out Friday because of an

injured right forefinger.

Border said he would like to

"I'm not worried about the

Off-spinner Tim May was

and play it very naturally.

their home ground.

Martyn, Langer and Angel

Australia and the West

bother them.

the final XI.

Border says he believes that

#### Miandad may not play in Sharjah

LAHORE, Jan 29: Deposed captain Javed Miandad may not join Pakistan's 16-man squad named on Thursday for the Sharjah Cup and a tournament in South Africa, reports Reuter.

Miandad, the most experienced batsman in the side, said he felt humiliated at his replacement on Monday by Wasim Akram and was undecided whether to join the

Opener Shoaib Mohammad One person who won't be and middle order batsman Zahid Fazal are back in favour as the world champions seek a swift change of fortune after the disastrous tour of Australia and New Zealand.

There is no place, however, for openers Aamir Sohail and

Shahid Saeed. Miandad, quoted by the PPI news agency, called Sohail's exclusion "A great injustice" to

the batsman. He said he had not yet made up his mind whether to join the team and complained that he had been treated in "shabby manner" after defeat in the Triangular World Series in Australia.

Cricket Board secretary Shahid Rasi had said earlier he was confident Miandad would join the squad that leaves on Saturday for the Sharjah Cup competition against Shri Lanka and Zimbabwe. The first match is on Monday.

The 20-day South Africa trip takes in a similar threenation tournament with games against South Africa and the West Indies.

Rafi also warned failures would lose their places for the Test tour of West Indies in

Squad: Wasim Akram (captain), Waqar Younis (vicecaptain), Javed Miandad, Salim Malik, Rameez Raja, Shoaib Mohammad, Aaqib Javed, Mushtaq Ahmed, Zahid Fazal, Rashid Latif, Inzamamul Haq. Ataur Rehman, Asif Mujtaba, Ghulam Ali, Saced Anwar and Arshad Khan.

#### Tendulkar to lead Rest of India

CALCUTTA, Jan 29: Sachin Tendulkar will lead the Rest of India in the three day match against the touring English team to be played at Vizag from February 5 to 7, reports

The 14 members, Rest of India team was announced by C Nagra, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after the meeting of the national selection committee here today.

TEAM

Sachin Tendulkar (Bombaycapt), Sanjay Manjrekar (Bombay), WV Raman (Tamil Nadu), Ajay Khurasia (Madhya Pradesh), MV Sridhar (Hyderabad), Jatin Paranjpe (Bombay), Vijay Yadav (Haryana), KJ Ananthapadmanbhan (Kar), AW Zaidi (UP), Salil Ankola (Bombay), Venkatesh Prasad (Kar), Ashis Kapoor (TN), Utpal Chatterjee (Bengal), and Bhupinder Singh Jr (Punjab).

### Short needs half a point more

moment. Now we have to make SAN LORENZO DE EI ESCORIAL, Spain, Jan 29: Britain's Nigel Short moved in sight of a clash with world chess champion Garri Kasparov by beating Dutchman Jan Timman on Thursday in the 12th game of their 200,000 (Devon) Malcolm, (Paul) Taylor dollar candidates' final eliminator match, reports Reuter.

Short, 27, took an almost unassatlable seven-five lead in the 14-game contest when Timman, 41, resigned in a hopeless position on the 46th

The British champion now needs only one draw from the two remaining games to clinch victory. Timman must win both

games just to tie the match. The winner will challenge Kasparov later this year.

### Arthur Ashe Day at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Jan 29: The Australian Open tennis championships have dedicated today's men's semifinals to Arthur Ashe to mark his campaign against AIDS, report Reuter.

Tournament organisers are calling it "Arthur Ashe Day" to show their support for the work of his foundation established last August.

Ashe, who won three Grand Slam titles, set up the Arthur Ashe Foundation after he publicly announced he had contracted AIDS from a blood transfusion during heart surgery in 1983.

Players at this year's Open have been wearing the Arthur Ashed logo badges in support of the foundation and all those involved in running the championships will be wearing souventr ribbons today.

"We are proud to be part o the international tennis community's fight against AIDS, Tennis Australian's president Gooff Pollard said in a news release.

# Abahani scramble home

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra, aided by sloppy Biman fielding, survived Pakistani paceman Wasim Haid-

er's sharp second spell to register a deceptively flattering five-wicket win in the Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Wasim Haider, a member of Pakistan's World Cup winning squad impressed on his debut at the Dhaka Stadium with admirable control and fine turn of speed but was unlucky to finish with just one wicket.

As it was evident in Wasim's case yesterday's result was also a quite reminder that figures do not always support facts.

Abahani's five-wicket victory that came immediately after their humiliating ten-wicket defeat to the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) in the last match was by no means an easy one and to get 204 for victory, this year's Damal Summer champions had to hang around till the penultimate delivery of the match.

Earlier in the morning. Abahani skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu won the toss and predictably put Biman in. The airline team almost made Lipu doubt his wisdom as the opening pair of Ahmed Iqbal Bachchu and Rupom put on 42 runs in 9.5 overs before Babu, Abahani's paceman from Mymensingh pierced Bachehu's desence with the veteran batsman having 23 runs to his credit.

Skipper Enamul Huq Moni, who proved himself more useful to Abahani than his team, at least for the day failed once again at number three. This time Athula Samarasekara trapping him leg before for nought with Biman on 43.

More failures followed as Shahnawaz Shahced Shanu and Pakistani allrounder Wasim Haider departed cheaply.

Rupam, seeing the lackadaisical approach of his teammates from one end then found a willing partner in Zakaria and the two added 62 runs for the fifth wicket, before Rupam, the top scorer left for a sound 60 off 121 balls

#### BUET teachers beat BSWA Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Teachers Club (BUETTC) clinched the Bajlu memorial cricket title by beating the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) by three wickets at the BUET ground yesterday.

made with the help of five

Zakaria's 32 was cut short by Ashoka de Silva who bowled magnificently to nullify any possibility of a late Biman

flourish. Wicketkeeper Barua featured in a bit of Biman tailwagging and with extras soaring to 45 Biman collection rose to 203 at the end of their stipulated quota of 45 overs.

Ashoka was by far the best Abahani bowler claiming four



Babul dented Abahani hopes a bit trapped Abahani opener Jahangir Alam for six with the total on 33, in seven overs.

Runs were coming quite briskly with Samarasekara bent on making amends for his failure in the previous match. Shovon gave Samarasekara fine support and the two took the score to 142 in 32.4 overs before Wasim, brought back on his second spell had Samarasekara plumb leg before with a lethal inswinger for 78. The tall Shri Lankan played 110 balls and hit eight fours.

#### GQ TT from Feb 14

The second GQ Ball Pen table tennis tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Players Association, will be held at the National Coaching Centre in the city on February 14-18, reports BSS.

### Chess results

Sports Reporter

Fifteen players including national champion Recfat-bin-Sattar with two points each jointly led the points table of the 14th national junior chess championship after second round at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday. Reefat beat Mahmud in his

second-round match.

Wasim bowled a torrid spell and had luck been with him and Biman fielders more cooperative, the fast medium bowler who bowls off 22 paces and lovely straight action, Biman's favour.

could have tilted the balance in Moni slackened off the pressure with some callously loose bowling and fielders like Shanu and Rafique only aggravated Biman's plight at the fag

end of the game. Akram with 27 and Lipu with 21 remained unbeaten to give Abahani a five-wicket win

off the fifth ball of the last over. Rupam shone with the ball also taking two wickets for 36 runs. Wasim took one for 30 while Babul, who bowled on a trot, finished with an impres-

Tarun (Dhaka Stadium)

Sports Reporter

recorded a convincing 24-run victory against Eastern Sporting Club in the Second Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Crieket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first Dhanmondi Pragati were all out for 168 in the 35th over with Piklu remaining unconquered on 55 Ataur making 27.

Alam claimed three wickets and Shawkat and Sajal bagged two each for Eastern Sporting. Eastern Sporting' lost all their wickets in 35 overs making 144 with Shawkat and

#### Nirman cricket Sports Reporter

Motifheel Govt High School

and Udayan Biddalayan and St

ground St Gregory School beat Govt Laboratory High by three

At the Golapbagh ground, School

Udayan Biddalayan beat Ganabhaban High School by 15

runs at the Brothers Union ground in the other match of the day.

Stich, who risked his third

fine of the tournament by

abusing a net cord judge as the

match slipped away, claimed

the final scoreline was mis-

match for him than it really

was. He played the important

points very good but he was

also a bit lucky a couple of

times and hit a lot of returns

has been lucky during his stay

in Melbourne. Just days ago.

his tournament looked to be

over as he struggled to recover

from back spasms which left

him unable to lift himself off

treatment on Thursday and

wore a support throughout his

match but reported no ill-ef-

fects as he looked ahead to

staging a repeat of last year's

"Jim played it very well last

He needed six hours of

the treatment table.

final against Courier.

No one could say Edberg

"It made it look a far easier

leading.

off the frame.



rical look to this

year's Australian Open by reaching the men's singles final with straight sets victories over Pete Sampras and Michael Stich today, reports Reuter.

played with impressive conviction to set up a direct confrontation on Sunday, mirroring the domination of leading seeds Monica Seles and Steffi Graf in the women's singles. Edberg was magnificent for

a man still nursing a suspect back as he continued his Grand Slam mastery of Sampras in a 7-6, 6-3, 7-6 triumph which few had predicted.

more severe on Stich, hammering the 1991 Wimbledon hampion 7-6, 6-4, 6-2 to stay



JIM COURIER on course to defend the title

Edberg and Courier have dropped just one set between them in their combined 12 matches at Flinders Park in a tournament which has adhered rigidly to the computer rankings. Yet the Swede's superb dis-

play to remove world number three Sampras from contention was far from a run-ofthe mill achievement, even for a man with six Grand Slam titles who beat the same opponent in the US Open final last

He began the match disas- bridge when I come to it. trously, allowing the American to take a 4-0 lead, but fought back splendidly in a contest of wild mood swings as Sampras began to struggle with sore

match at the US Open. When he needs that big point he gets it and that's the differ-The American admitted he had wasted several chances

with service breaks by doublefaulting on the crucial point. The game which summed up the match came directly

Sampras produced three scorching service return winners of the highest calibre but still failed to break the rock-

way through the final set when Sampras, in a last desperate

Edberg, totally out of character, lashed out at the ball by the net, almost the first time in the tournament he had shown any emotion on court.

hours 37 minutes.

Courier took 22 minutes less to break Stich's resistance, once again living up to his surname as he delivered the goods promptly and with minimum fuss.

at times, losing heart after dropping the first set tiebreak 7-4, leaving Courier to bask in the satisfaction of reaching his

pleasure.

Asked if he had any plans to repeat his jump into the brown waters of the Yarra river which followed his title win 12 months ago, the 22-year-old replied he would "cross that sive analysis of one for 18. TODAY'S MATCHES Mohammedans vs Surjo GMCC vs Gulshan, Youth Div II cricket

Dhanmondi Pragati Sangha

Alam scoring 41 and 32 respectively. Nafis, Datu and Piklu took

three wickets apiece.

Gregory High School won their respective matches of the qualifying meet of the Dhaka zonal championship for the eleventh Nirman schools cricket tournament at three city venues yesterday. At the St Joseph's School

Motijheel Govt High School registered an easy 34-run victory against T & T High

# It's Courier vs Edberg again



Jan 29: Stefan Edberg and Jim Courier maintained the symmet-

The world's top two players

Top seed Courier was even



he won last year.

"My shins were getting a bit sore but that's no excuse. He beat me fair and square," said a downcast Sampras, "I really didn't serve well, that was the bottom line today." "It reminded me a lot of the

ence between him and me.' and twice presented Edberg

after Edberg had broken for 4-2 in the second set.

like Swede. A measure of Edberg's determination to win came mid

effort, broke for a 3-1 lead

The annoyance was only temporary, though, as he forced Sampras into the second tiebreak of the afternoon, winning it 7-3 to end an absorbing battle which lasted two

Stich did not help himself

fifth Grand Slam final. "It feels real good and I'm happy with the way, I'm playing. I don't feel any relief, just

beatable. DPRK edge Russia

world number one.

MADRAS, Jan 29: DPR Korea beat Russia 1-0 in the 10th Jawaharlal Nehru invitation international Gold Cup football tournament here tonight, reports PTI.

STEFAN EDBERG

year but it's going to be a bit

different on Sunday. This time

I'm the underdog, he's the de-

fending champion and the

top of his game at the moment.

He's moving well and hitting

the ball well, but he's not un-

"I think he's playing at the