#### Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES **DHANMONDI CLUB: 150** all out in 44.2 overs (Anis 55

Sabbir 25, Russel 4/27, Masuc 2/35). CITY CLUB: 100 all out in 37.3 overs (Zulfigar 25, Saad 4/24, Robin 3/17). Result: Dhanmondi Club

won by 50 runs. SADHARAN BIMA KS: 192 for eight in 40 overs (Jawad 40, Hannan 24, Kamal

28. Nakib 24 n.o., Shaheen 3/38, Azim 2/26) GOPIBAGH FA: 193 for five in 38.3 overs (Rizvi 55

n.o., Setu 36. Atiq 28, Sopu 28. Dear 1/20). Result: Gopibagh Friends Association won by five wick-

Dhanmondi Club defeated City Club by 50 runs in one of yesterday's two First Division cricket league matches held on the eastern strip of Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

In a low-scoring affair, Dhanmondi batted first and scored only 150 in 44.2 overs before they were all out.

Opener Anisur Rahman hammered highest 55 off 113 balls inclusive of four boundaries while middle order bat Sabbir Khan added 25 runs.

For City Club, Russel Khan was the most successful bowler capturing four wickets for 27 runs while Masud took two wickets conceding 35 runs.

In reply, City Club were bundled in 37.3 overs with the scoreboard reading only 100.

Dhanmondi's new-ball bowler Saad was responsible for City Club's disaster claiming four wickets for 24 runs from his nine-over spell. He ably-assisted by partner Robin who took three wickets conceding only 17 runs in his nine tight overs.

Zulfigur (25) and Imran (11) were the only City Club batsmen who reached the double figures in their innings.

In the other match of the Gopibagh Friends Association handed Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha a fivewicket defeat at the City Club ground.

In a rain curtailed 40-overa-side match, Gopibagh, chasing Sadharan Bima's total of 192, reached home (193) with the loss of five wickets and with nine balls to spare.

Pakistani middle order batsman Rizvi contributed highest 55 not out off 63 balls while openers Setu (36) and Atiq (28) were the other leading scorers for the Gopibagh boys.

Earlier, put into bat, Sadharan Bima scored 192 for eight in their allotted 40 overs with Pakistani middle order Jawad Ali collecting highest 40 off 55 deliveries. van broose i 10

Opener Hannan Sarkar and wicketkeeper-batsman Faruque added 28 runs each to their team's accounts.

### Sauray, Pankaj fined

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 22: Indian players Sauray Ganguly and Pankaj Dharmani have been fined 25 per cent of their match fee following an incident in the third Test against South Africa on Monday, reports Reuter.

The two were charged by match referee Barry Jarman with bringing the game into disrepute and attempting to intimidate an umpire on the final morning of the drawn match.

Both players appeared at disciplinary meeting with Jarman, who said they had "... charged at umpire Peter Willey" after a bat-pad appeal against Adam Bacher was turned down. Jarman announced his decision after viewing video evi-

dence on Tuesday. South African all-rounder Brian McMillan has been ruled out of the triangular one-day series because of injury.

McMillan has an inflamed tendon at the back of his left ankle and has been advised to rest by a specialist. He aggravated the problem during the final Test against India.

McMillan is replaced in the 14-man squad by Western Province medium pacer Craig

Matthews. The tournament begins on Thursday with South Africa

#### playing India in Bloemfontein. Graf takes time

to recuperate MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 22: Steffi Graf, recovering from an infected toe and a virus, plans to resume practice later this week, the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) said today, reports AFP.

the world number one was beaten by 12th seed Amanda Coetzer in oppressive heat Sunday to make in her earliest Australian Open exit since

Graf was advised by WTA medical staff to stay indoors after the defeat as Melbourne en-

dured three days of extreme temperatures. "I've been staying in, pretty much letting myself recover.

27-year-old Graf said in a statement released by the WTA The doctor's orders were to

rest and that's what I've been doing. I'm not the type that likes to be inactive, but in this case it was necessary. Graf said she was continuing

to take antibiotics for an infected toe that has troubled her for several days.

"I have had a fever that we thought was due to the toe, but they think now that it may not have been related. I just may have picked up a virus some-

where. Graf said she remained hopeful of playing in next week's Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo.



HEROES' WELCOME: Biman's Nasir Shawkat (2nd from left) and Athar Ali (R), who combinedly tore apart the Abahani bating line-up evenly sharing all of the ten wickets, get teammates' fitting reception after their breath-taking 93-run win over the title-hopers at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Athar, Shawkat run havoc

# Abahani bite the dust

Sports Reporter



The dangerous se am bowling liaison between veteran Athar Ali and Pakistani Nasir Shawkat hurtled Abahani Krira Chakra to their lowest ever total in yesterday's clash of the biggies at the Dhaka Stadium.

The pair evenly shared all the wickets as Abahani chasing an apparently simple target of 137 for their ninth win were skittled out for 43 in 23.3 overs. This was Abahani's lowest ever score surpassing their previous total of 49 against their archrivals Mohammedan Sporting Club way back in 1981-82 sea-

#### BRIEF SCORES

BANGLADESH BIMAN: 136 all out in 49.3 overs (Mizanur Rahman Babul 37 n.o. Nasir Shawkat 30 Shaheen 15, Gulam Ali 6/29, Jahangir Talukder Dulu 2/12).

ABAHANI KC: 43 all out in 23.3 overs (Javed Omar Belim 10. Gulam Ali, 9. extra 12. Athar Ali Khan 5/8, Nasir Shawkat 5/15).

Result: Biman won by 93

In a telling exhibition of accurate seam and swing bowling. Nasir returned a flattering analysis of five for 15 while national all-rounder Athar shopped at an even cheaper rate sending five Abahani batsmen for an amazingly low cost of eight runs only.

The diabolical duo's exploits in favourable conditions which shaped Biman's disproportionately huge 93 run win in a lowscoring match totally eclipsed another great bowling feat achieved by Abahani's Pakistani recruit Gulam Ali. Basica-

MELBOURNE, Jan

22 (AP): For Mar-

tina Hingis, an

Australian Open

trophy would me-

an the fulfillment

of expectation. For Mary Pierce.

it would provide tennis redemp-

Swiss prodigy Hingis and

In Thursday's semifinals,

1995 champion Pierce are one

step away from meeting in the

Hingis, at No. 4 the highest seed

left in the tournament, must get

past two-time runner-up and

14th seed Mary Joe Fernandez.

Hingis has won their only meet-

around a slide down the rank-

ings last year because of injury

and poor form, faces feisty

South African Amanda Coetzer

the No. 12 seed and conqueror

here of No. 1 Steffi Graf. Pierce

has a 3-2 record against

16 the youngest of the semifi-

ings from 16th a year ago.

reached the US Open semifinals

and won three tournaments on

pion Martina Navratilova, the

Swiss right-hander also has a

new five-year, 10 million dol-

lars contract with sportswear

youngest-ever Australian Open

champion and the youngest

women's Grand Slam singles

winner since Lottie Dod won

Wimbledon in 1887 at age 15

ture, before the quarterfinals,

of the top three seeds - Steffi

Graf, who beat her at the US

Open last summer; Arantxa

Sanchez Vicario and Conchita

Martinez. Defending champion

Monica Seles is absent with a

Easing her path is the depar-

Victory would make her the

manufacturer Sergio Tacchini.

Named after former cham-

nalists by six years.

her way to Melbourne.

years, 10 months.

The spotlight is on Hingis, at

She has moved up the rank-

Pierce, bidding to turn

ing, earlier this month.

Coetzer.

lly a batsman, Gulam wheeled his arm over to devastating effect as the Biman batsmen proved no better equipped to get on with the job of enterprising batsmanship in adverse conditions.

Gulam's nondescript bowling set the pattern of the day as Abahani's one of the two Pakistani recruits for this year frundled 9.3 overs for an absolutely fairy-tale analysis of six for 29. Gulam Ali could not, how-

ever, start from where he had left off while opening Abahani's batting later in the day. In fact, disaster followed hot on his heels after Athar sent him back with the help of a catch by skipper Ziaur Rashid at square leg in the 12th over. It changed the whole complexion of the game with Abahani losing their next four wickets for the addition of only seven runs to the total. But the most fascinating revelation was that all the four were ad-

judged leg-before. Nasir Shawkat, who extracted the most out of the chill northern breeze, removed a doughty Javed Omar Belim Golla in the next over with a gem of a vorker, leaving his prey to limp of the ground after scoring highest 10 runs for his side. While Athar promptly replied from the Pavilion end by dismissing one-down Al

Shahriar Rokon for a duck. Nasir then dismissed Khaled Masud Pilot for nought before claiming the wicket of Akram Khan. The portly Abahani skipper, who broke open the vice-like Biman circle with a beautiful cover driver for a four to get off the mark in style, fell in the next delivery off Nasir, a quicker one that beat the de-

fence of Akram. With half of the wickets gone

at 32. Abahani had still their

Freshers fill the bill

Not even a fall from a horse

while taking time out from ten-

nis Tuesday has slowed Hingis'

run at the Australian, where

of victory, although she says, "I

don't think that just anybody

can win a Grand Slam, it af-

Publicly. Hingis skirts talk

Graf, beaten in the fourth

round by Coetzer, is among

those who say Hingis could be

Spirlea, ranked No. 10 in the

world, who lost 7-5, 6-2 to

Hingis in the quarterfinals de-

spite gaining an early service

break in each set.

Another is Romanian Irina

she has yet to drop a set.

ways takes a champion.

broken finger.

hopes alive with Monirul Haq and Naimur Rahman Durjoy. the horoes of their sensational win over Mohammedans, at the crease.

But when Monirul, the middle-aged Pakistani who scored a match-winning unbeaten halfcentury in the previous match, was bowled by his compatriot Nasir Shawkat for one and Athar removed Durjoy for a duck in the next over, a defeat for Abahani was a forgone conclusion. Durjoy offered a big nick be-

hind the wicket, leaving Jahangir to clung on to a low catch diving to his right. The 47-year-old Biman stumper then took another brilliant catch off Jahangir Talukder Dulu to give Athar his fourth wicket in the match. Ahmed Faiyaz Shaheen, regarded one of the best fielders.

then took a magnificent catch at gully as Nasir Shawkat dismissed Abahani's tail-ender Iqbal Hossain while Athar heralded the fall of Abahani's last wicket by having Salahuddin trapped in front of the wicket for one.

Earlier, the Biman total was built around a valiant 47 runs partnership between Mizanur Rahman Babul and Nasir Shawkat. Nasir scored 30 off 44 balls while Babul remained unbeaten on a defiant 37 off 92 deliveries. It was Biman's ninth win on

completion of their 11 first phase engagements. With this win the national airline outfit joined Kalabagan on the top of the points table, both having collected 18 points. On the other hand, the disappointing defeat left Abahani glued to their pervious collection of 16 points and with the second position after exhausting their first phase quota of 11 matches.

"She is a natural, she is born

She has the talent more

Fernandez is a three-time

with this, this feeling," said

than everybody .... and if you

watch her, she is not moving on

the court, she's all the time in

Grand Slam finalist who lost

each time to players at the top

of their games - Graf and Seles

in the 1990 and 1992 Austra-

lian Open finals and Graf again

in the 1993 French Open

American, the only one of the

semifinalists to reach the

Australian last four without

meeting a seeded player.

"I love it down here," said the

the right position."

Spirlea.

decider.

# on air

MELBOURNE, Jan 22: Captain Wasim Akram believes his victorious Pakistan cricket team is entering a new era of

success, reports AP. Pakistan won the World Series limited-over tournament for the first time in six attempts when they defeated the West Indies in the second final on

Monday by 62 runs. But for Akram, the greatest joy was the success of some exciting young talent in the absence of several senior players, including batting stalwarts Saeed Anwar and Salim Malik.

It was not Pakistan's first limited-over success on Australian soil as they also captured the ultimate prize, the World Cup, here in 1992. However, Akram rated the

latest triumph a superior performance to the World Cup which was sealed with a victory over England in the final. "I think this was a greater

achievement," Akram said Wednesday on the eve of Pakistan's departure. "In 1992 we still had experi-

enced players like (Javed) Miandad and Imran (Khan) in the side and while we had some young players in the side then they were not as good as our young players are now."

"Here on this tour we had no one, the only experienced players we had here were myself, Ijaz Ahmed and Wagar."

In particular, the contributions from 16-year-old allrounder Shahid Afridi, who was named player-of-the-finals, and 19-year-old batsman Mohammed Wasim were cru-

"After our World Cup win cricket at home got a great boost and I think after this things are looking good for Pakistan cricket in the future." Akram

"Our youngsters were just so enthusiastic. They were really shouting all the time in the field and that sort of thing kept us going all the time."

#### Acme Div II cricket Wins for Railway, Azad Boys Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES BANGLADESH RAIL-

WAY: 273 for eight in 40 overs (Haroon 74, Akbar 49, Zishan 33 n.o: Tanvir 2/36) WESTERN CC: 115 all out

in 27.3 overs (Iqbal 24. Mamun 23; Munna 4/30, Safder 3/3, Halim Babu 2/13) Result: Bangladesh Rail way won by 158 runs.

KALINDI KC: 197 for nine in 40 overs (Jobayer 47 Arman 35, Ahmed Ali 35: Shafiul 3/37, Badshah 2/35) AZAD BOYS CLUB: 200 for six in 39 overs (Fahim 44. Badshah 39 n.o. Papan 32 n.o.

Pavel 2/41) Result: Azad Boys Club

won by four wickets. Bangladesh Railway and Azad Boys Club won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches held at different venues of the city yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Club Ground, Bangladesh Railway handed Western Cricket Club a massive 158-run defeat. Electing to bat first. Railway

piled up a huge 273 for eight in the stipulated 40 overs thanks to two splendid knocks by opener Haroon (74) and middle order bat Akbar (49). In his run-a-ball innings.

Haroon hammered eight sweetly timed boundaries and a huge six while Akbar, the youngest brother of national skipper Akram Khan took only 18 balls for his swashbuckling 49 inclusive of two huge sixes and eight fours. In reply, facing an impossi-

ble task of scoring almost seven runs per over, Western Cricket Club failed to sustain the pressure and succumbed in 27.3 overs having scored only 115

In the day's other match at the Uttara Friends' Club ground, Azad Boys Club recorded a four-wicket victory over Kalindi Krira Chakra.

Chasing Kalindi's 197 in 40 overs, Azad Boys reached 200 for six in the penultimate over with opener Fahim scoring highest 44 off 69 balls. Former national cricketer Jahangir Shah Badshah was the other notable run-getter with an unbeaten 39 off 42 balls.

Earlier, batting first, Kalindi scored 197 for nine in the stipulated 40 overs. Middle order bat Jobayer

hammered highest 47 while opener Arman and one down Ahmed Ali scored 35 runs.

### Akram walking | First Test from tomorrow body's had a run and everyone's



Eden Park on Friday odds-on favourites despite a fitness cloud handing over key paceman Dominic Cork, reports Reuter.

In stark contrast to the Zim-



babwe leg of their tour, England's preparation for the New Zealand Test series has been just about perfect.

They notched up impressive wins in their two warm-up matches, trouncing a New Zealand Selection by an innings and 113 runs, and Northern Districts by 10 wickets. "Both victories have been

comprehensive," said England skipper Mike Atherton. "Every-

Johannesburg on Monday:

77.1

Batting

B McMillan

D Cullinan

L Klusener

A Hudson

S Pollock

A Bacher

H Cronje

G Kirsten

H Gibbs

A Donald

P Adams

Bowling

A Donald

S Pollock

H Cronje

P Adams

A Bacher

R Dravid

S Tendulkar

M Azharuddin

V Laxman

S Ganguly

V Rathore

N Mongia

A Kumble

J Srinath

V Prasad

W Raman

D Ganesh

Bowling

S Ganguly

J Srinath

D Johnson

A Kumble

D Ganesh

W Raman

S Tendulkar

V Prasad

D Johnson

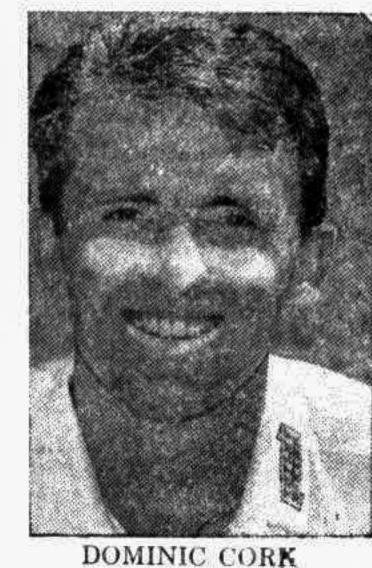
L Klusener

B McMillan

D Richardson

pretty confident.

New Zealand's Test warm-up on the other hand, could not have been worse. Their Test batsmen were embarrassed by a trio of provincial bowlers in a two-day practice match on an Eden Park pitch this week. while their bowlers were unable to match their opponents' feats with the ball.



And several of New Zealand's key Test players had their confidence badly bruised when they failed miserably playing for the Selection against the tourists.

England's only concerns are Atherton's batting, which has not improved since Zimbabwe. and Cork's back injury.

Avg 100

0

0

100 50

0

0

0

0

0

51 10m

51 10m

98.67

58.20

47.50

37.33

36.25

23.50

23.33

22.83

17.40

12.50

11.67

3-75

Avg

55.40

40.17

40.00

33.67

13.20

12.60

5.75

5.50

4.00

2.00

5-60

2 - 36

3-40

5-104

BB

35

73

25.00

28.33

18 - 28.72

245.50

8 48.00

1 165.00

115 26.67

122

102

79

23.10

34.43

3 26.33

29.1

Cork was instrumental in setting up the win against Northern Districts, tearing

SA-INDIA TEST AVGS

series between South Africa and India which ended in

SOUTH AFRICA

M Inns NO

M Runs

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 22 (Reuter): Averages of the three-Test

Runs

224

140

140

Fielding (caught/stumped): 12 D Richardson [11/1]: 6 A

160

M Runs Wkts

517

384

165

Fielding (all caught): 14 N Mongia; 6 R Dravid; 4 V Rathore; 3

Hudson (6/0): 5 B McMillan (5/0): 4 L Klusener (4/0): 3 D

Cullinan (3/0), A Bacher (3/0): 1 S Pollock (1/0), H Cronje (1/0), G Kiresten (1/0).

#### "making excuses" by blaming the weather for England's poor

viewed by private radio 702 soon after he and his team arrived in South Africa for a triangular one-day series against South Africa and India.

given us credit because we played very good cricket," a still-peeved Campbell said. "What they decided to say in

their wisdom was that they played badly and had it not rained, they would have beaten us in the Test matches and onedayers," he said. Zimbabwe managed to draw

the limited overs tournament. the first time they had won a

and the sooner they got down to the nitty gritty of why they were doing badly, the sooner they were going to improve. Campbell said. "If they kept on making excuses, they were just conning

"And they seem to have done that. In New Zealand they're

winning all their games quite comfortably now and so maybe they have found something." Campbell said his team had

in India and Pakistan last year and deserved their wins against England. Despite their lack of experience under floodlights - they

can't afford to erect them at their Zimbabwe grounds - his team planned to go out and play positive cricket against India and South Africa.

Zimbabwe play a warm-up match against North West Province in Fochville today before their first match in the triangular tournament against South Africa at Centurion Park near Pretoria on Saturday.

## The mechanical Muster



155.2

S Tendulkar, M Azharuddin.

nis, and one of the toughest mentally. Now the Austrian has added computer technology to his formidable armoury of weapons.

Muster and his coach Ronnie Leitgeb have developed a computer programme that enables them to dissect the strengths and weaknesses of opponents.

Muster gave the programme some of the credit for his impressive 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 quarterfinal victory over third-seeded Goran Ivanisevic Wednesday at the Australian Open. Muster returned serve su-

perbly — breaking lyanisevic's potentially deadly serve seven times and restricting the Croatian to just 28 per cent success on second serve points -

because the computer had told

"Everyone has a type of play he likes to use." Muster said. "The computer can help you work it out

"We have it and we'll take

advantage of it but still, you

have to go out there and play."

doesn't play for you. "It can help you out, but it's

not going to do the work for you on court. "I really returned well and I

had a good concept going in there today. I tried to read his serve and I didn't really make many mistakes from the baseline. The attitude and focus I had was good." Muster has just begun using

his groundstrokes. The effect His return of serve and power and persistence from the backcourt forced Ivanisevic to go for too much on his shots. He

rattled up 54 unforced errors to just 14 from the metronomic Muster.

Mohammedan SC First Division cricket league

Uttara SC (DSC) Dhaka Wanderers vs Eskaton SS (CCG) Acme Second Division

cricket league Khelaghar SKS vs Mill Barrack CC (DCS, West) Kathalbagan GCC vs Uditi Club (DCG)

> East End Club vs Young Nabin Sangha vs Spread

England coach David Lloyd has given Cork until Thursday to prove his fitness, but he won't be taking any chances with his potent new-ball strike bowler. Cork may miss the first Test to ensure he is fit for the second and third.

through New Zealand opening

Test batsmen Bryan Young and

Blair Pocock with consummate

In left-arm swing bowler Alan Mullally, England have a fine replacement for Cork. He took four for 52 in Northern Districts second innings and, irrespective of Cork's injury woes, seems sure to make the first Test side.

But England must decide

whether to play both spinners — left-armer Phil Tufnell and offspinner Robert Croft - along with two fast-medium blowers and all-rounder Craig White, or leave out one spinner to bolster their seam attack. Eden Park groundsman Ray

Moffat said the pace bowlers should be able to extract good bounce out of the pitch, but it will also start to take turn as the Test progresses.

#### Triangular series Zimbabweans in

South Africa JOHANNESBURG, Jan 22: Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell Tuesday fired another salvo at England's management, claiming they were merely

showing in Zimbabwe, reports Campbell was being inter-

"I believe they should have

the Test series before setting about beating England 3-0 in

one-day series. "I believed that the sooner they stopped making excuses about the way they were playing

themselves," he added. "I believed they needed to go out there and sort themselves out and determine why they were playing badly.

served a tough apprenticeship

#### 22 (AP): Thomas him what to expect. Muster is acknowledged as the fittest man in ten-

Muster said. "The computer

an extended racket to add more speed to his serve and pace to has been immediate.

The Austrian, whose only Grand Slam title came at the French Open in 1995, was aided by the roof on the National Tennis Centre Stadium Court

#### TODAY'S MATCHES Premier Division cricket

Brothers Union (DS)

Bangladesh Boys Club vs

DOHS vs Amorjyoti Club

tomorrow. are taking part in tournament.

on Rajshahi District Football Players' Association tomorrow at 2:30 PM.

### being closed because of rain. The Rebound Ace courts are

indoors. "There shouldn't be any matches in a Grand Slam played indoors," he said. Muster simply shrugged his

slower in cooler conditions.

Ivanisevic was predictably

critical of the decision to play

shoulders and went on with the

Muster is the winner of 42

career titles, only seven fewer

than current active leader Boris

"I'm a professional and I can play under any conditions," he

Becker. The 29-year-old has been a fourth-round loser the last two years Down Under and his only previous semifinal appearance was back in 1989. "I feel really relaxed," he said. "There's nothing bother-

ing me. I'm 100 per cent." Ivanisevic, in contrast, was extremely hot and bothered after being run around the court

by his fellow left-hander de-

spite out-serving Muster 16 aces "I had a lot of chances and against Thomas you have to take your chances because he doesn't give you too many."

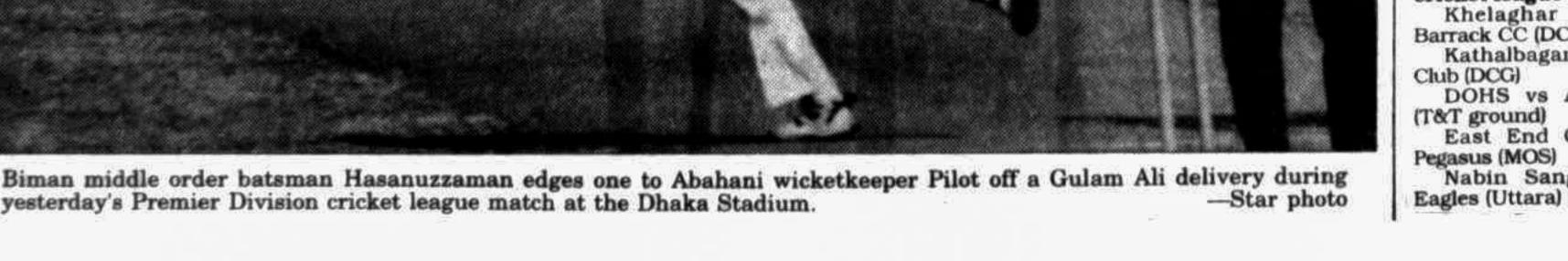
Ivanisevic said. "He is so fit, he gets almost everything back. So I was thinking I'd have to hit winners. I forced too many first serves and I played tactically not so smart."

#### Natore football From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Jan 22: The Sob-

han-Shahjahan Smriti football tournament begins here at the local Kanaikhali Stadium Eight teams from Rajshahi. Sirajganj, Khulna, Jaipurhat, Bogra, Pabna and host district

In the opening match, News-print Club of Khulna will take



yesterday's Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium.