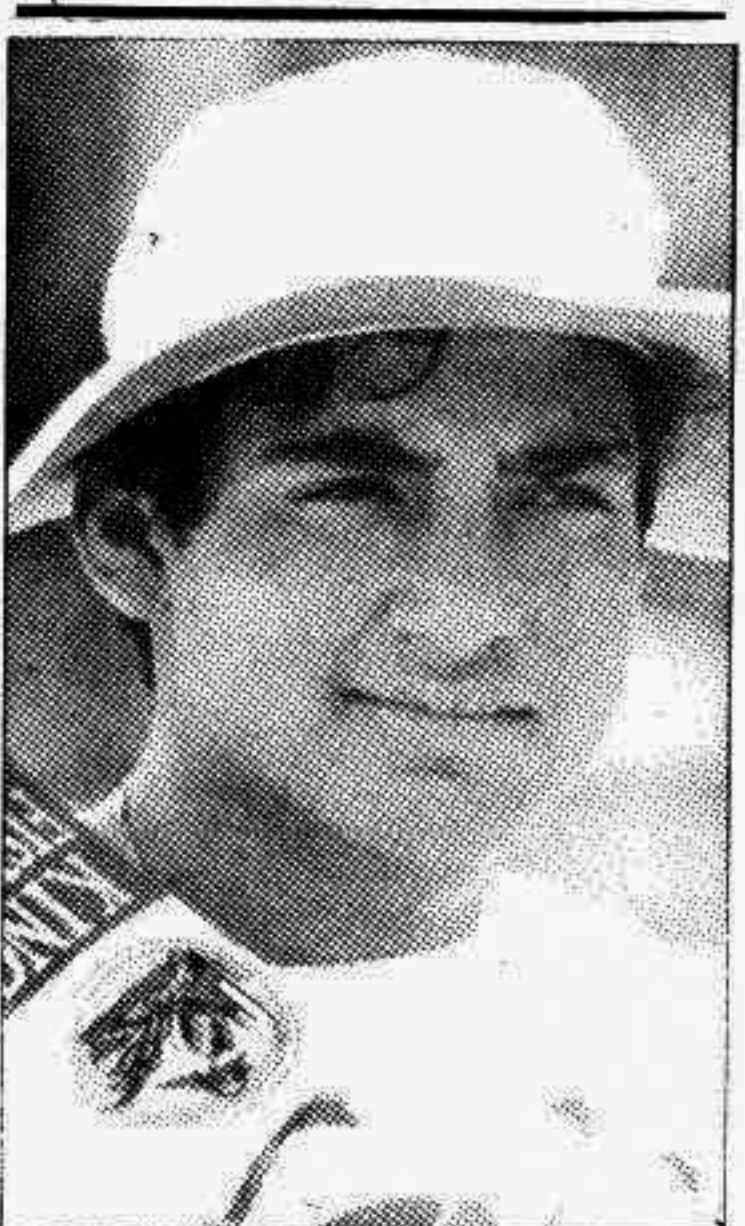


Column One SPORTS TALK



Ajay Singh Jadeja
(Indian cricketer)
"I am glad to be considered as an opener for the Test team. I did not want to be branded as just a one-day player. And being a vice-captain and opener are important roles and I am confident of doing well."
After being picked for the New Zealand-bound team.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-110
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Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 22 '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1	The margin of Australia's recent Ashes series win was	3-1	4-1	4-0
2	Who is the number one player in women's tennis at the moment?	Hings	Lindsay	Venus
3	The final of the 1st Asian Test Championship will be held in	Dhaka	Calcutta	Colombo
4	The eighth SAF Games will be held in	India	Sri Lanka	Nepal
5	How many teams are taking part in the Janakantha Premier cricket league?	10	12	14

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Nat'l tennis circuit in Bogra Jan 25

The Sadharan Bima national tennis circuit leg-1, organised by the Bogra Station Club, will be held at the club court from January 25 to 30, a press release of Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) said yesterday, reports BSS.

Players have been requested to send their entries to the Bogra Station Club before the tournament for the four events - men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles.

The players, who qualify for the main draw, will be given prize-money worth Taka 65,000.

Sub-jr chess Bobby, Mostafa jointly on top

Defending champion Ruhul Islam Bobby and Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan jointly finished on top at the end of the final round of the 19th national sub-junior chess tournament yesterday, reports APB.

Bobby and Mostafa bagged 7.5 points each and will lock horns in a play-off match today to decide the championship.

Bobby, who earned a solo lead in the previous round, failed to cash in on a half-point advantage when he tied with Yanur Rahman Royal in the final round at the NSC chess room.

On the other hand, Mostafa, who outwitted Ejaz Ahmed in the penultimate round to move to the second position the day before, kept his title hopes alive defeating Yanur Rahman.

Arif Hossain and Naktibul Haq ended with seven points each but Arif finished third while Naktibul ended up in the fourth position following a tie-break.

Ejaz became fifth with 6.5 points followed by Rawnak, Rashid and Yanur Rahman who finished sixth, seventh and eighth respectively.

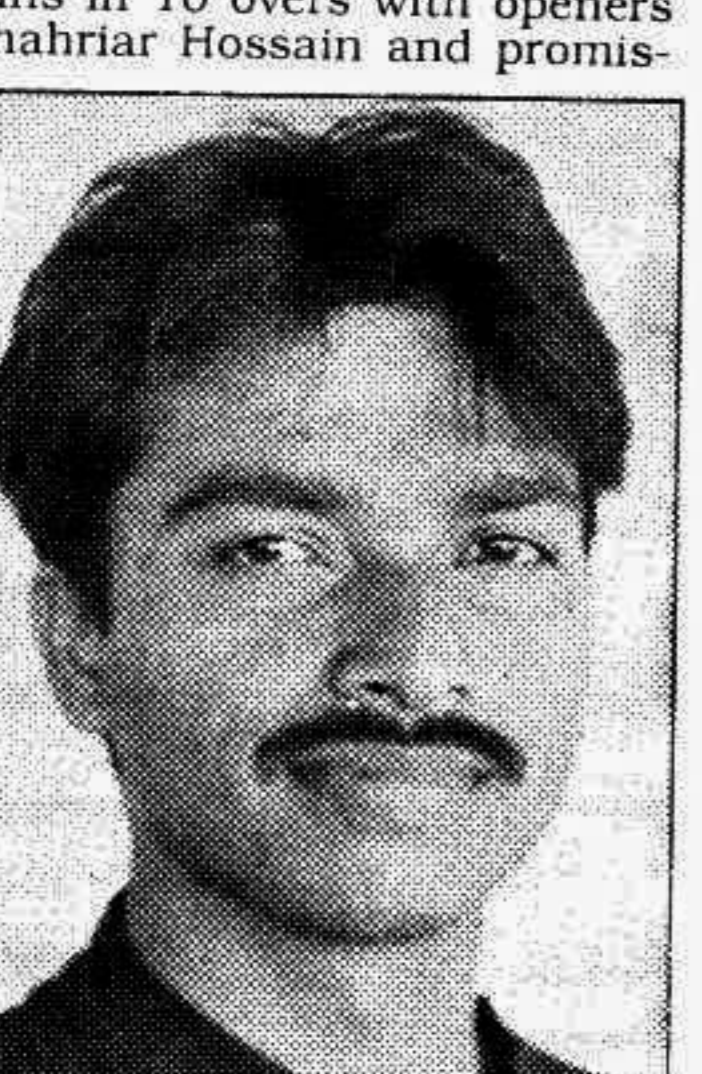
Imran's ton helps Victoria's cause Brothers zero in on Biman

Indian all-rounder Sanjeev Sharma embarked on a five-wicket burst in six overs as Brothers Union shot Biman out for 263 in 73.2 overs in a crucial Janakantha premier cricket league match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, reports APB.

Biman, who tasted their maiden defeat to Kalabagan by three wickets in their previous league match, appeared headed for scoring 300-plus runs when skipper Faruque Ahmed and national skipper Aminul Islam teamed up to add 108 runs for the second wicket.

But once Aminul was dismissed after making 56, his third half century in the league and Faruque went back after scoring highest 74 runs, the national flag carrier were caught in Sharma air-pocket and lost their last six wickets with the addition of only 27 runs, after electing to bat.

In reply, at the close of the first day's play, Brothers Union, who so far won five matches and lost one, scored 37 runs in 10 overs with opener Shahriar Hossain and prom-



FARUQUE ... 74
ing Ehsanul Haq batting on 15 and 16 respectively.

Brothers need another 227 in the remaining 70 overs when they resume this morning.

Sharma, who led the Gopibagh outfit to a dramatic one-wicket win over Wari with a superb 76 not out, bowled Hasanuzzaman with a yorker to begin his assault before his victim could open his account.

He then trapped Pakistani Nasir Shawkat (6) lbw in the 68th over and in the next over bowled another Pakistani Manzoor Akhter who made 28 in 41 balls with two fours.

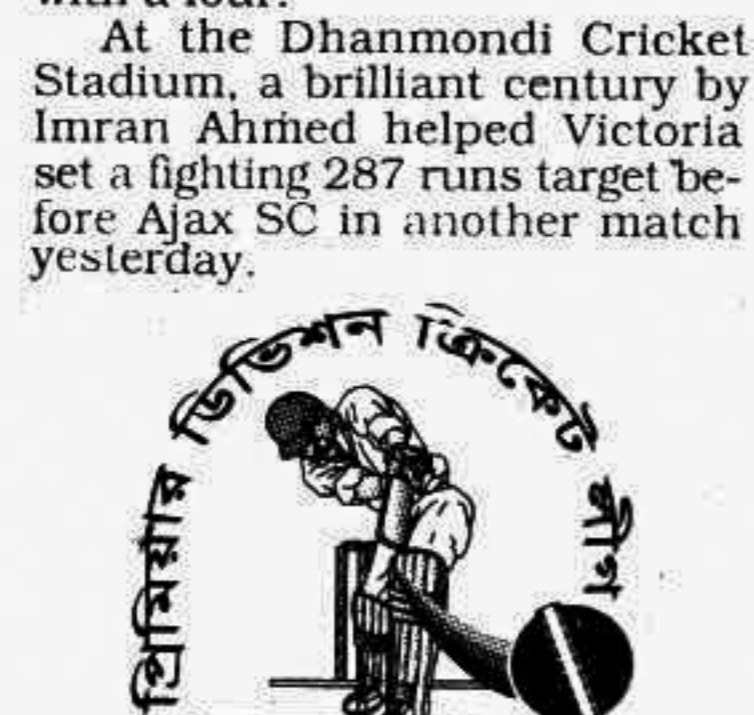
He claimed his other two wickets, by bowling tailenders

Talha (0) and Saifullah Khan (0) in successive deliveries to finish with five for 28 in a devastating 12-over spell that included two maidens.

Earlier, Biman made a fine start with a 70-run opening stand before make-shift opener Habibul Basher offered a return catch to Sanwar after making 33 with six boundaries.

With the addition of 5 more runs, Biman lost the other opener Javed Omar when he was bowled by spinner Imran Rahim. Javed made 15 off 66 with a four.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, a brilliant century by Imran Ahmed helped Victoria set a fighting 287 runs target before Ajax SC in another match yesterday.



Victoria, sent in to bat piled up a commanding 286 runs for nine wickets.

Opener Imran knocked 103 runs off 187 balls with the help of eight fours. He, who hit the league's 19th ton, completed his hundred in 181 balls and batted for almost four hours.

He featured in an important 95-run second wicket partnership with one-down Rezaul Hasan, who played a patient 38 in 104 balls that included six fours.

Pakistani recruit Rashed Hanif scored the second highest 42 off 64 balls including three fours.

Number seven Mustadir Litu and opener Moniruzzaman were the other notable contributors for Victoria with 24 and 18 runs.

Spinner Rizwanul Islam captured three wickets conceding 31 runs while Aminul Islam Bholia and Imran Parvez claimed two wickets each for 52 and 67 runs.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboards of the two Janakantha Premier League matches at the end of first day's play at different city venues yesterday.

Brothers vs Biman
(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)

BIMAN	15	33	74	28	56	28	0	6	2	3	0
Javed b Imran	15	33	74	28	56	28	0	6	2	3	0
Hasanuzzaman	33	74	28	56	28	0	6	2	3	0	0
Aminul c Hanif b Imran	74	28	56	28	0	6	2	3	0	0	0
Manzoor b Sharma	28	0	6	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hasanuzzaman b Sharma	56	28	0	6	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
N Shawkat lbw b Sharma	0	6	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atiar b A Hanif	6	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saleh not out	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Talha b Sharma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

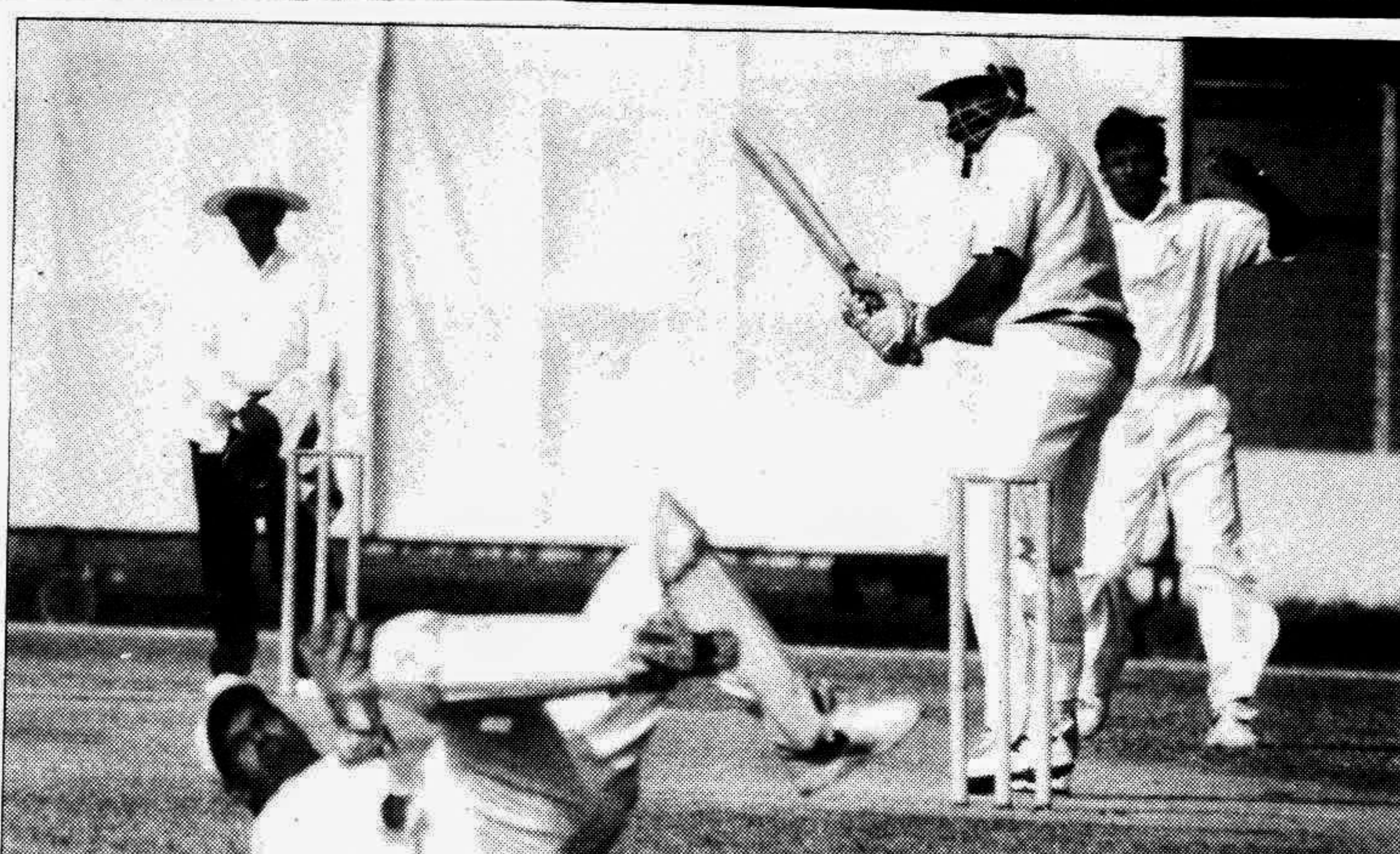
Victoria vs Ajax
(Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

VICTORIA	103	18	38
Imran c & b Rizwan	103	18	38
Monir b Rizwan	18	38	
Hassan c Sanchay b Ripon	38		



SHARMA ... 5 for 28
M Elahi c Rawnak b Haider 7
R Hanif c Shawkat b Shoaib 42
Sabbir c Labbu b Ripon 24
Mustadir st Rawnak b Rizwan 24
Jewel c Rawnak b Aminul 5
Rakib not out 5
Zakir c Haider b Rizwan 0
Aftab not out 1
Extras: (lb-4, nb-7, w-18) 39
Total: (For 9 wks in 80 overs) 286
Fall of wickets: 1/57; 2/152; 3/176; 4/219; 5/234; 6/259; 7/263; 8/280; 9/284.

Bowler: O M R W
Aminul Islam 16 2 52 1
Haider 6 0 41 1
Rizwanul Islam 16 3 31 4
Selm 16 1 44 0
Selvez Ripon 16 1 67 2
Shoaib Hasan 10 0 74 1



Biman wicketkeeper Jahangir Alam makes a desperate attempt to intercept a Manzoor Akhter glance during yesterday's play of their Janakantha Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. — Star photo

CCDM action Cricketers censured

Sports Reporter
Two cricketers -- national team wicketkeeper Khaled Masood of Surjo Tarun and Pakistani batsman Amir Hanif of Brothers Union Club -- have been given written warnings by the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) for their unbecoming behaviour during matches of the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League.

This was revealed by CCDM secretary Mahmud Ul Haque Manu yesterday. Talking to the Daily Star, Manu said the actions have been taken on the basis of the reports submitted by the match referees. Manu also said that further misbehaviour by the two players will warrant severe punitive measures.

Amir Hanif embarked on verbally assaulting the two Sri Lankan umpires during the match against Surjo Tarun Club last week while Khaled Masood was reprimanded for talking foul from behind the stumps, a stigma that has grown with him.

Coming months will decide Bangladesh's Test dreams

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Jan 11 (Reuters/Internet): A decision on Bangladesh's bid to become cricket's 10th Test-playing country will be made within the next few months.

International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive David Richardson said the ICC would review Bangladesh's application at its next conference in June.

But he said the success of their bid could well depend on them setting up a domestic first-class competition, one of the ICC's main requirements for Test status.

Richardson, speaking after a two-day ICC meeting here, said a three-man working party had been chosen to travel to Bangladesh in March to inspect the country's grounds and facilities.

Former Australian captain Bob Simpson, ex-Zimbabwean international Andy Pycroft and Pakistan's Nasim-ul-Ghani, who also works as the ICC's Development Officer for Asia, would then report back to the ICC ahead of their meeting in June.

"That will decide whether 1999 is the year to upgrade Bangladesh to become the 10th Test nation or whether there's a bit more work still to be done," Richardson said.

The nine teams currently playing test cricket are Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, West Indies and Zimbabwe.

Bangladesh, which hosted last year's highly successful mini World Cup, has been selected as the site for the final of the forthcoming inaugural Asian Test championship between India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The three nations will play each other both at home and away with the best two teams meeting in the final in Dhaka.

England make it two out of two

BRISBANE, Jan 11 (Reuters/Internet): Neil Fairbrother struck a characteristically resourceful 67 not out to carry England to a four-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the triangular limited-overs series on Monday.

Veteran left-hander Fairbrother showed his value in one-day cricket by holding England's innings together as they won with three balls of their 50 overs to spare, making 208 for six in reply to Sri Lanka's 207 for seven.

England have now won their first two games in the series, having beaten Australia in a faster run rate in a rain-hit match here 24 hours earlier.

Monday's day-night encounter brought England up against off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who destroyed them with a 16-wicket haul in a one-off Test at the Oval last August.

The Sri Lankan slow bowler with the unusual action was also making his first appearance in Australia since being no-balled for throwing during his country's 1995-96 tour, though his action was subsequently cleared by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Sri Lankan hearts sunk when Australian umpire Steve Davis no balled Muralitharan in his fourth, fifth and sixth overs -- but for overstepping.

Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga made the incident seem all the more serious when he immediately called for him to be replaced by paceman Chaminda Vaas.

But Vaas bowled just one over before Muralitharan was reintroduced.

Muralitharan again posed problems for England's batsmen as he captured three for 34 in his 10 overs, including two wickets with the last delivery of his sixth over and the first of his seventh over.

That double strike checked England's smooth progress which was launched by openers Nick Knight, who hit 40 off 53 balls, and Alec Stewart (24) with a stand of 59.

Graeme Hick and Fairbrother sustained the momentum by adding 41 for the third wicket before Muralitharan snapped up Hick (37) and Adam Holoake (1) in two balls to reduce England to 130 for four.

However, man-of-the-match Fairbrother found a staunch ally in Mark Alleyne (18), the pair sharing a fifth wicket stand of 57.

There was a contentious

moment when Fairbrother gave Upal Chandana a gentle elbow as the batsman turned for a second run, prompting a brief heated exchange of words but a potential flashpoint was soon defused.

After Alleyne and Mark Ealham (1) fell in quick succession to make England 190 for six, Fairbrother and Robert Croft joined forces to guide their side home.

Earlier, opener Romesh Kaluwitharana led the way for the world champions with 58 and was supported by Marvan Atapattu (51) and Hashan Tillekeratne, unbeaten on 50 after they won the toss.

However, England's mainly steady out-cricketer kept them in check, with Holoake taking three for 32 with his medium-pacers, they included the Lankan skipper.

Sri Lanka lost opener Sanath Jayasuriya after only four balls to paceman Darren Gough, who conceded 32 from his first three overs against Australia.

Jayasuriya was beaten by a rising ball which he edged to second slip Hick from just his second ball faced.

Sri Lanka were without batting mainstay Aravinda de Silva, who is out with an injured thigh muscle.

England captain Stewart said the hangover from losing the Ashes Test series had been fully eroded by the successive wins.

"Those who have played Test cricket have got over the disappointment of the Ashes," Stewart said. "We can't change what happened so we look forward to the one-dayers."

Sri Lanka face Australia in the next match in the tournament in Sydney on Wednesday, followed by England playing Australia in Melbourne on Friday.

Each side play the other two teams four times, with the top two qualifying for a best-of-three final series.

Div I cricket Azad beat Uttara

Azad Sporting Club notched their second consecutive victory in the Metropolitan First Division cricket league outplaying Uttara Sporting Club by five wickets at the Mirpur City Club ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Sent in to bat first, Uttara were bundled out for 136 in 41.1 overs.

Endru made highest 25 off 46 balls that included two boundaries while Ajanta added 20 off 36 balls, also with two fours.

Farid picked up three wickets giving away 22 in 7 overs while Barkat and Anwar took two wickets each for 13 and 20 runs respectively.

In reply, Azad easily reached their winning target made 138 for five wickets in 32.1 overs.

Opener Papan hammered 30 off 35 balls that included four hits across the rope while number four batsman Kabir, also made 30 but using 47 balls with three fours.

Safder took two wickets for 21 runs in 4 over.

Tuesday's match: Gopibagh FA vs Bangladesh Boys Club (City Club ground).

SCOREBOARD

SCOREBOARD in the one-day cricket international between Sri Lanka and England at the Gabba on Monday:

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya c Hick b Gough	1
Kaluwitharana c Headley b Croft	58
Atapattu b A Holoake	51
Ranasingha c and b A Holoake	50
Muralitharan not out	2
Maharaja c Knight b A Holoake	23
Chandana c Fairbrother b Ealham	5
Vass b Mullyall	5
Wickramasinghe not out	7
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-6)	10
Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs)	207
Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-99; 3-102; 4-128; 5-139; 6-185; 7-200;	

Bowler O M R W
Gough 9 0 37 1
Mullyall 10 2 35 1
Headley 5 1 22 0
Ealham 6 0 33 1
A Holoake 10 0 32 3
Croft 10 0 44 1

ENGLAND

Knight st Kaluwitharana b Chandana	40
Stewart run out	24
Hick c Kaluwitharana b Muralitharan	37
Fairbrother not out	67
A Holoake b Muralitharan	1
Alleyne st Kaluwitharana b Muralitharan	18
Ealham lbw b Tillekeratne	10
Croft not out	1
Extras: (lb-3, w-1, nb-6)	10
Total: (For 7 wks in 49.3 overs)	208
Fall of wickets: 1-59; 2-87; 3-128; 4-130; 5-187; 6-190.	

Bowler O M R W
Vaas 7.3 0 40 0
Zoysa 6 0 31 0
Wickramasinghe 4 0 16 0
Muralitharan 10 0 34 3
Chandana 10 1 41 1
Jayasuriya 10 1 35 0
Tillekeratne 2 0 8 1

Result: England won by four wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Neil Fairbrother.

Independent commission to probe into match-fixing ICC promised more power

CHRISTCHURCH, Jan 11 (Reuters/Internet): The International Cricket Council (ICC) will set up an independent commission to investigate allegations of match-fixing and also establish uniform penalties for serious offences.

A stronger ICC
At the end of a two-day meeting on Monday, ICC chief executive David Richardson said the nine Test-playing countries had unanimously agreed to arm the ICC with wide-ranging powers to deal with match-fixing, bribery and other serious matters such as drug-taking.

"This meeting's been historic," Richardson said. "It gives the ICC its teeth."

"We're looking forward to bringing this process to a rapid end so that we can take cricket into the next century with restored dignity and harmony."

In allowing the ICC to tackle the problem of match-fixing, each of the member nations agreed to relinquish some of their sovereign powers over domestic cricket.

Individual countries had previously been allowed to determine their own rules on player welfare and discipline, but will now be bound by uniform penalties established and enforced by the ICC.

"It's an enormous step forward for our parent body to be given the power it's got," Australian Cricket Board chairman Denis Rogers said.

"But the best thing about it is that the countries were unanimous about it. There was a tremendous will from everyone to do the right thing."

Richardson said the commission would be made up of three people, independent of the world's cricket boards, and would begin its investigation before the end of February with a brief to report back to the ICC by May 31.

The commission will be given authority to order any of the ICC's member nations to carry out an independent investigation into match fixing.

Each country will also be required to set up their own judicial process for handling any cases. Anyone found guilty of an offence, will be subject to a

uniform penalty code to be established by the ICC.

"We have just determined the penalties but rest assured, anyone found guilty of match-fixing can expect to be put out of the game for a very long period of time if not forever. We are taking the matter that seriously," Richardson said.

If the commission is unhappy with any country's investigation, it will have the authority to conduct its own review of the case. It will also be given powers to punish any nation that does not comply with its procedures.

Corruption to be curbed
Richardson said the decision by the ICC's executive board was proof that cricket administrators were determined to rid the game of corruption.

"We certainly have a serious problem on our hands but the view of the board is that this is not rampant throughout the game," he said.

"The vast majority of people who play the game and are involved in the game at international level are honourable and decent people disturbed about the slur on their image and reputation."

Allegations of match-fixing first surfaced in 1994 when Australian Test players Shane

Warne, Mark Waugh and Tim May accused then Pakistan captain Salim Malik of offering them bribes.

Several other Pakistan players have also been implicated in various betting scandals while dozens of players from around the world have admitted being approached by bookmakers about the possibility of bribes.

Warne and Waugh spared
Shane Warne and Mark Waugh will be spared investigation by the ICC commission looking into match-fixing because their case has already been settled.

"There is a basic principle in life that you can't be tried twice for the same crime," Richardson said. Warne and Waugh were fined by the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) in 1995 after they admitted taking money from an illegal Indian bookmaker in return for information on weather and pitch conditions. Their punishment was only revealed recently.

The issue of whether or not the duo could be investigated again arose on Monday after the ICC announced it would set up an independent commission to investigate allegations of corruption in the game.

But the ACB said their case was closed.

Rogers said: "You can't go back and re-sentence people with penalties that didn't even exist in those days."

Last week Warne was named captain of Australia's one-day team and Waugh appointed his deputy.

The ICC has been criticised for its soft approach to the issue, although Richardson said the commission was powerless to act because of its constitutional rules on sovereignty.

The first positive step towards change came in 1991 when the members allowed the ICC to introduce a code of conduct whereby an independent match referee could impose fines or suspensions of players who breached the rules.

Then, in August 1997, the ICC restructured its executive, giving each of the Test-playing countries a seat on the executive.

"This is an important development for cricket. It was something

Indo-Pak hockey Test-series in Feb

NEW DELHI, Jan 11: India and Pakistan will play a series of nine hockey Tests split between the two countries next month, an Indian official said, Sunday, reports APB.

Kunwar Pal Singh Gill, president of the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF), said four of the Tests would be played in the Indian cities of New Delhi, Bhopal, Hyderabad and Madras.

The Pakistani cities of Karachi, Peshawar, Rawalpindi and Lahore would be the sites of the rest of the series, with Lahore hosting two matches, he said.

Gill said Indian authorities would provide security to Pakistani players to prevent Hindu Zealots from sabotaging any of the Test matches in India.

Hindu fanatics have threatened to disrupt an upcoming tour of India by the Pakistan cricket team.

2 Dhaka clubs invited to WB soccer tourney

Abahani and Badda Jagarani Sangsad will participate in the four-team Independence Cup football tournament to be held January 14-17 in South Dinajpur district of West Bengal, reports UNB.

Badda Jagarani Sangsad will play Nepal Eleven on January 14 while Dhaka giants Abahani take on Calcutta Arians Club on January 15.

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— Sports Editor