Michael Atherton on Sunday made Sri Lanka firm favourites to win the first Test after England ended the fourth day still 100 runs adrift after following on.

Atherton, who ended on 44 not out as the tourists closed on 118 for two, said: "It will be a great effort if we can get a draw.

"The pitch is turning and really breaking up now - people may say it's slow but I can think of better ones to bat on. It's a good pitch for the spinners.

"On these pitches you are always going to have a cluster of wickets go at some time and that's what Mappened but we came back well. I just hope the rub of the green goes our way tomorrow."

Atherton, renowned for some marathon rearguard innings to get England out of trouble, conceded that he was short of his best form.

NSW ride on Bevan

AFP, Perth

Michael Bevan, regarded by some as the world's top one-day batsman, guided New South Wales to victory over Western Australia in the final of the Australian one-day cricket competition here on Sun-

Bevan, a 30-year-old lefthander, hammered an exhillarating 135 not out as New South Wales won a bad-tempered match by six wickets before a crowd of almost 10,000 at the WACA Ground.

Khagrachhari v'ball

OUR CORRESPONDENT. Khagrachhari

Salkatal Club became unbeaten champions in the Chabaimog Smriti volley ball tournament vesterday.

Salkatal club defeated Dighinala Fadangthong Club 19-7, 17-15 points in the final at the Marma Unnayon Club ground.

Tanvir left

FROM PAGE 13

have had a slump in their popularity under different circumstances. Both however collected 70 votes each to pass muster.

But, with 55 votes, Tanjib Ahsan Saad, a former national crick eter and selector, faced a real challenge before making it through.

Tanveer Mazhar Islam and Saurav annoyed at fans Mobasser Hossain had to hold their breath for a while as they finally filled in the last two avail-

able posts. Following is the unofficial re-

sult of the election: Candidate Mahmud Ul Huq Gazi Golam Dastagir Sved Ashraful Hug Aziz Al Kaisar Jalal Younus Afzalur Rahman Sinha Enavet Kabir Chanchal Ali Khabir Chand Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Enayet Hossain Siraj Alam Chowdhury Mahabubul Anam GS Hasan Tamim Tanjib Ahsan Saad Tanveer Mazhar Islam Mobasser Hossain Mozammel Huq Ahsan Kadir Ahmed Iqbal Hasan Syed Siraj Uddin Mainul Huq Rafigul Alam Monjur Hasan Mintu Arifur Rahman Jinnah Tanvir Haider Hossain Molla Iftekehr Rahman

England still

FROM PAGE 13 Atherton lbw b Vaas Trescothick c S'kara b Vaas Hussain Ibw b M'tharan Thorpe c Dilshan b M'tharan Stewart Ibw b J'suriya Croft c I wardene b I suriva Hick c S'kara b Vaas White c S'kara b J'suriva

Caddick e J'wardene b J'suriya Gough not out Extras: (b-2, lb-3, nb-21) Total; (All out in 132.3 overs) 253

Giles e Dilshan b M'tharan

Fall of wickets: 1-83, 2-93, 3-117. 4-197. 5-197. 6-217, 7-239. 8-253, 9-253. Bowler 7 53 M'tharan 54.3 14 79 D'sena

Fernando 2 Suriva De Silva ENGLAND: Second innings

Atherton not out Trescothick c S'kara b J'suriya 57 Hussain lbw b M'tharan Thorpe not out Extras: (b-5, lb-4, nb-5)

Total: (For 2 wkts in 69 overs) 118 | Sirajganj Ambagan Sporting Club Fall of wickets: 1-101, 2-105. Bowler l'suriva 22 M'tharan 25 Arnold

Onus on Athers Kiwis flatten Pakistan

Cricket

AFP, Christchurch

would go to the fifth and final in the innings. match with a 138-run win in the fourth match at Jade Stadium here on Sunday.

New Zealand, thanks to a whirlwind century by Craig McMillan, scored 284 for five then bowled a disappointing Pakistan out for 146 in the 47th over to square the series 2-2.

McMillan's 104 off 75 balls was the 12th equal fastest one-day century of all time, alongside Chris Cairns' effort on the same ground against India two years ago.

It was also McMillan's highest score, beating the 86 he scored against South Africa in 1997-98. He hit six fours and five sixes, and brought up the mark with a six off the last ball of the innings off Saglain Mushtag. Opener Nathan Astle got the innings rolling with 71 off 88 balls, Roger Twose scored 42 and Chris Harris chimed in with 39 at the end to add an unbroken 112 off 97 balls with McMillan.

Pakistan's reply never got going as they slumped to 36 for five in the 14th over.

The only meaningful contributions came from Moin Khan, who zamamul Haq, who scored 37 off

Inzamam batted with a runner after injuring his groin while Fleming b Younis

Opening bowler Daryl Tuffey was the pick of the New Zealand bowlers, taking three for 30 off New Zealand ensured the one-day nine overs, while Astle picked up cricket series against Pakistan three for seven off three overs late



McMILLAN ... m-o-m

The final match in the series is in Dunedin on Wednesday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth onescored 50 off 60 balls, and In- day ericket international between Astle New Zealand and Pakistan on

NEW ZEALAND

Inzy's tour in doubt

SPORT

Astle c Moin b Razzaq

Oram e Moin b Razzaq

Vincent lbw b Razzaq

Extras: (lb-6, w-14, nb-3)

10

Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs) 284

Fall-of wickets: 1-11, 2-112, 3-

0 53

0 63

Twose b Mahmood

McMillan not out

Harris not out

113, 4-166, 5-172.

PAKISTAN

Youhana run out

Saglain not out

Bowler

Vettori

Harris

0 McMillan.

Anwar c Astle b Tuffey

Elahi e Harris b Oram

Moin c Harris b Astle

Younis lbw b Tuffey

Extras: (lb-3, nb-2)

Akram c Twose b Astle

Nazir c Twose b Franklin

Razzag c Tuffey b Harris

Inzamam c Vincent b Astle

Total: (All out in 47 overs)

138 runs and level series 2-2.

Man-of-the-match:

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-2, 3-5, 4-

15, 5-36, 6-71, 7-144, 8-144, 9-144.

Mahmood c Parore b Tuffey

Razzag

Saglain

AGENCIES, Christchurch

Pakistani batsman Inzamamul 104 Hag's tour of New Zealand could be in doubt after he suffered a double injury while fielding in the fourth one-day international in Christchurch on Sunday.

Inzamam injured both his groin and a calf muscle while fielding within 10 minutes of the Sunday morning start. He batted in the Pakistan in-

nings with a runner and made a painstaking 37 in 101 minutes as 0 the tourists went on to lose the match by 138 runs for New Zea-2 land to square the series 2-2 with 0 one match to go.

Pakistan captain, Moin Khan, said Inzamam's injury was "fairly bad." He said the team would not take the chance of playing him in 37 the next match and if he did not 50 look like healing in time for the 0 three-match Test series, a replacement could be called for from Pakistan.

"His injury is a big handicap for us," Moin said. "He's a key batsman and we need him fit."

with a thigh injury he suffered almost a week ago in Napier, according to Moin. He said he is in doubt about playing in the final one-day match in Dunedin on Wednesday and any decision would be made on the advice of Result: New Zealand won by team medic Tauseef Razzag.

> for us," Moin said. "We might have to wait until the Test series before

Leave him alone'

REUTERS, Christchurch

Controversial Pakistan pace bowler Shoaib Akhtar is good for cricket but not bigger than the game, according to former New Zealand all-rounder Lance Cairns.

Cairns, the father of New Zealand all-rounder Chris, said any debate about the legality of Akhtar's action helped promote interest in the sport.

But he advised both the bowler, nicknamed the "Rawalpindi Express", and his opponents to avoid the issue.

the seniors and this is very good News, argued: "The media will set. always have an interest in him because of the speed he can bowl. I think it is great Akhtar creates this interest.

> "His bowling generates debate and keeps the sport in high pro-

> realise cricket is bigger than him. If some decide his action is illegal and he is banned again, cricket will still be played and he'll soon be forgotten.

The International Cricket Council's (ICC) bowling panel ruled Akhtar's action should be adjusted at the end of 1999 following doubts about its legality during Pakistan's tour of Australia. The 25-year-old Akhtar had re-

sponded by arguing his action did not need changing and the ICC then overruled its bowling panel and cleared him to play again. Cairns added that New Zealand

captain Stephen Fleming had been wrong in questioning Akhtar's action earlier in the ongoing oneday series between the sides.

"Fleming should not be making comments, no matter how flippant, because when his team is losing, it smacks of sour grapes,' he wrote.

Suspended ban on Hick

INTERNET, Colombo

Graeme Hick has been given a suspended ban Sunday after displaying dissent over his dismissal in the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle.

He was summoned to a hearing at the close of play on the fourth day by match referee Hanuman Singh with England coach Duncan Fletcher also present.

Hick shook his head at being given out, caught behind by umpire Peter Manuel shortly before

But after a lengthy hearing Singh, who warned both sides of the possible punishment if he did not adhere to the International Cricket Council's code of conduct prior to the start of the series, issued a suspended one-match ban which ends once the current tour is completed.

Singh said: "As far as dissent is concerned we must learn to accept decisions with good grace.

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Dilip Smriti Sangsad recorded a seven-run victory over Bangabandhu Jubo-Kishore Sangsad in the second match of the Haidar Akter Banu Memorial Cricket Tournament at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Dilip Smriti scored 95 all out in 19.1 overs. In reply, Bangabandhu Jubo-Kishore Sangsad made 88 all out in 23.4 overs.

Born-again Hirwani

Cricket

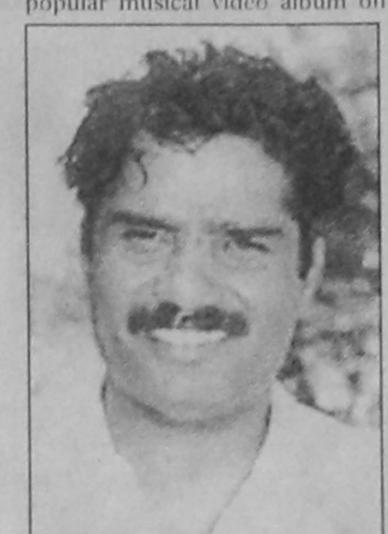
PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Half a decade is too long a lay-off popular musical video album on to leave any cricketer, however promising he is, in with a chance to stage a comeback to the highest level of the game. But not, it seems, for Narendra Hirwani, the 32-year-old leg-spinner who has been recalled to the Indian team for the first Test against Australia beginning in Mumbai (Bombay) next week.

It is a virtual rise of the mythical Sphinx from the ashes. Not even the most foolhardy supporter of Hirwani would have dared to bet on his return to the national squad after he had played his previous Test against South Africa at the Eden Gardens, Calcutta, in November, 1996. India had lost that Test and Hirwani could collect just two wickets at an average of 64.50 in that match.

Consider what had happened to Hirwani, or "Hiru" as he is the theme of India's national inpopularly called by teammates, tegrity. Shoaib Akhtar is still struggling only eight years ago. It was a dream debut for a leggie by any went into a decline managing only standard. The 19-year-old Sindhi- 36 wickets in 13 Tests in the next speaking lad from Indore, the ten years before being dropped town in central Indian state of from the side after that Test Madhya Pradesh, finished with 16 against the South Africa in Calwickets giving away 136 runs in his cutta in 1996. Interestingly, that

Tests. He became an overnight celebrity and was among the galaxy of top Indian sports personalities who featured in an immensely



NARENDRA HIRWANI

Thereafter, Hirwani suddenly very first Test appearance - Test saw another leg-spinner Anil to live up to the faith reposed in against a formidable West Indies Kumble making his debut. Why him by the selectors as well as "He's a very important player | batting line-up in Madras in 1988. did Hirwani go into virtual obliv- Wright and Ganguly and to make The magic of Hirwani contin- ion as far as Test cricket was con- his return to Test cricket as ued for some more time which cerned? Cynics would say he had memorable as was his debut.

saw him bagging 36 wickets in four been off to a too good a start in his career and from there could only come down.

Hirwani may have found a place back into the national team after five years due to the injury of Kumble. But the senior leggie attributes his selection to "God's grace" and his own "hard work" over the years. "I never gave up hope of bowling for India again. I am a firmly believer in honesty and hard work and that is what helped me in making this comeback," he said.

Hirwani believes it is not that he is bowling better. "I have been the same the last so many years. Probably, this time I was watched closely and I am grateful to national selectors for recognising my calibre," says he. No doubt, the Indian team coach John Wright, captain Saurav Ganguly and selection committee chairman Chandu Borde watched him bowl from close and were impressed at the training camp recently in Ma-

Borde said Hirwani was preferred because the Aussie batsmen were found difficulty in playing leg spin in their tour opener match in Nagpur last week. Hirwani, according to him, was more accurate than another leg spinner Sairaj Bahutule at the camp.

Hirwani says he is determined

Martina 'Desert Queen' Holding a set point at 5-2, she victory.

had to wait another 10 minutes

failed to convert three more set

next game, before finally holding

She was broken for 5-3, and said.

before closing out the set.

Tennis

AFP, Dubai

Martina Hingis claimed her third title of the year here on Saturday when she overcame weary French veteran Nathalie Tauziat 6-4 6-4 to win the Dubai Tennis Champion-

second successive title on her mini-Gulf State tour and was her fifth final of the year, earned her 90,000 dollars, but the match lacked ex-Cairns, writing in the Sunday | citement until late in the second Although 33-year-old Tauziat,

seeded three, often played textbook serve and volley and was able to remain competitive, she never looked capable of troubling the top seed. Hingis immediately stamped

But he added: "Akhtar has to her authority on the match by breaking serve in the opening game, aided by several blistering to love at 5-4. service returns.

> sent a forehand winner whistling to level at 4-4. past the Frenchwoman. Tauziat throwing her racquet at the ball.

But Hingis then wavered.

CROSSWORD

Whoopee" 44 "-

39 Basis

41 Sudden

rain-

43 Imper-

46 Dangle

50 Actor

carrot

53 Terhune

pooch

55 Sushi

56 Largest

of the

seven

57 Lemieux

future

59 Arithmetic

Solution time: 24 mins.

58 In the

Howard

wrapper

storms

sonate

Rhythm"

ACROSS

4 "Wham!"

lyricist

11 Mesopo-

tamia

spike

14 Notion

decision

character

17 "Cheers"

18 Break-

food

20 Unseen

22 A cont.

drama

28 Baseball

Casey

24 Ibsen

32 Show-

biz

union

33 Vaccine

34 Bing's

36 Marshy

37 Birth-

territory

related

problem

15 Carte

16 Ring

13 Corn

7 "Makin'

1 Trail

The victory, which was her

MARTINA HINGIS

In the second set, Hingis again And when the 20-year-old broke twice to lead 4-1, before a And she can return well so I had to Swiss held break point at 4-2 and number of errors allowed Tauziat put my first serve in.

5-4 and served out for a 72-minute added.

"I stepped up my level a little bit from earlier in the week," she

"I knew I had to against Nathapoints on Tauziat's serve in the lie. "It was also nice conditions, a

night match. "But with her it's a mental match. The rallies are not long, but

Het her come back in both sets. "However, at important times I always won the point. I played solid tennis, and even if I had lost the second set I was fresher than

her and had more energy." Tauziat admitted that she was feeling the effects of a long week, which also saw her reach the doubles semi-finals with Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

"I played a good match," she

"But I was a little bit tired so I tried to play shorter points and made some mistakes, especially

on the return. "It cost me the match I think,

"I tried to serve the best I can.

Now under pressure to prevent Sometimes it worked, sometimes was reduced to desperately the match going to a third set. it was so-so, but the difference was Hingis broke with a smash to lead I didn't return well today," she

Bangladesh Bank's deputy governor MA Majid Khan (5th from R) distributes a crest to a winner of the bank's annual sports competition which was held at the Notre Dame College playground in the city on February

Satkhira cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Rasulpur Krira Sangstha and Gana Mukhi Sangha won their respective super league matches in the Acme First Division Cricket

At Satkhira stadium, Rasulpur defeated Sultanpur club by 9 wickets.

League today.

Winning the toss, Sultanpur batted first and scored 203 all out in 41.4 overs. In reply, Rasulpur scored 204 for one.

Away at Satkhira Government College Ground, Ganamukhi Sangha defeated Rasulpur Juba

Chakra by 77 runs. Put in to bat, Ganamukhi club amassed 328 for seven in 45 overs. In reply, Rasulpur made 251 for

nine in 45 overs.

28 | 29 | 30 47 48 49 CRYPTOQUIP

SOF

GEHSEDPOU ORTYSEHMET. Saturday's Cryptoquip: I WAS TAKEN WITH THE MUSIC SUNG AT A BAKER'S WEDDING:

"HERE CRUMBS THE BRIDE." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals C 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.

61 Nathan

Hale,

e.g.

DOWN

1 Owl's

2 Square

footage

hoods

acorns

6 Mistaken

James

sitcom

7 Kevin

8 Fuss

9 Part of

H.M.S.

10 "Platoon"

locale

ARMA

4 Favorite

By Eugene Sheffer

60 - Jones 12 Rapper

3 Horde of 27 Droops

5 Erstwhile 29 Catch

nee Dana

Owens

19 Schlep

21 "Caught

soldier

26 Folk song

byline

children

horsel"

front

38 Journey

40 Choose

45 Mexican

47 Imitates

Elsie

48 Item on

49 Itty-bitty

barrier

51 Neighbor

of Can.

52 Healthy

54 Morning

moisture

50 Water

42 Unyielding

protector

segment

28 Male

30 "I could

31 Diary

35 Car-

25 Amaze

23 CSA

avoid the embarrasment of a follow-on. badminton BSS, Sherpur A badminton tournament, organised by the District Sports Association, was held at local New Market ground recently. A total of 16 teams took part in

man-Sothi team defeated Imon-Sathi team by 2-1 set. Sirajganj soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

14 | Sirajganj Jamuna Traders blanked in the semifinals 11-0 to reach the W | final of the First Division Football 0 League at Shahid Shamsuddin 0 Stadium yesterday on Saturday. 1 Masumpur Krirachakra defeated 0 Ekok Sangha Sporting Club 1-0.

Satisfied Saber BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Cricket Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury on Sunday praised the Under-17 cricket team for their positive approach to the game. "I am satisfied with the performance of our inexperienced

Cup," he told reporters at the National Sports Council. Bangladesh, who beat previous champions Sri Lanka to reach the

cricketers in the Under-17 Asia

final, lost to experienced India and became the runners-up. He said, "The approach by our boys during batting, in particular. was positive. And they were never under psychological pressure like

sign for our cricket." "They were not shy in the first 13 overs during the inner-circle

Osman Khan, ex-cricketer and Abahani manager GS Hasan Tamim and former national wicketkeeper Nasir Ahmed having a chat out the BCB oflimit," he said. fice yesterday.

(L-R) Former Bangladesh cricket captain Minhazul Abedin (L), coach

Cricket

AFP, Bombay Vote India's cricket captain Saurav they have not won a series in India Ganguly on Sunday lashed out at since 1970," Ganguly said. the media and fans alike for predicting a cake walk for the world- two times they played here in 1996

coming Test series. Ganguly, preparing for the first 74 Test starting here on Tuesday. 73 | rued the Indian tradition of plac-70 | ing more faith in the opposition than in their own team.

65 | team, only we Indians think nega-59 lively about ourselves," the em-55 | battled skipper said. "But deep inside, I believe it is

really possible to beat Steve Waugh's side." The Indian media has forecast a drubbing for Ganguly's men against the formidable Australians, rated the best team in the world after securing a record 15

India, always a formidable side at home despite moderate success overseas, had not lost a series in their backyard for 13 years till South Africa ended that streak last year with a 2-0 whitewash. Hansie Cronje's men routed

consecutive Test wins.

India in three days at the same Wankhede Stadium where the first Test will be played, suggesting the home team is vulnerable even in familiar conditions. But Ganguly, targeted by the

media recently for an alleged ex-

tra-marital affair with a film ac-

Sherpur

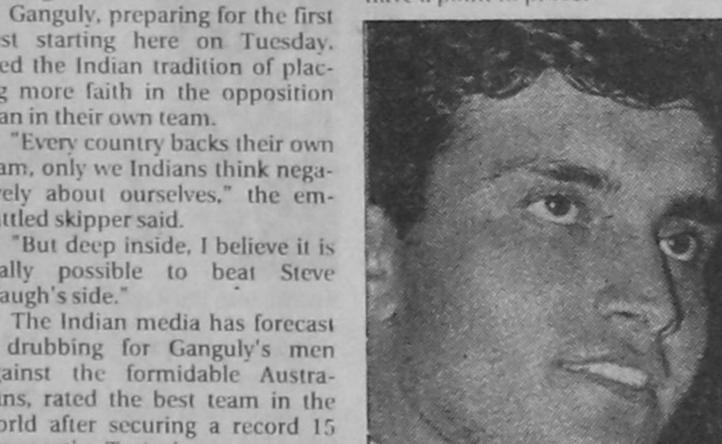
this tournament. In the final, So-

The final will be played after 0 | Eid.

entirely on the Australians to win

They may be the world champions with 15 wins in a row, but

"We beat them easily the last force a draw. beating Australians in the up- and 1998, so they are the ones who have a point to prove.



SAURAV GANGULY important and that is with us. Of

been in Australia. I think they will have a tough time here." hazards of playing in India when series after a shoulder surgery last the batsmen struggled to adapt to month. the slow, spin-friendly wickets in

the two lead-up matches to the peared less enthused by the hard They slipped to 133-8 against wicket which will not aid the spin-25 tress, said the pressure will be Ranji Trophy champions Mumbai ners as much as the hosts may last week before Steve Waugh have wanted. scored a typically gutsy century to

"The home advantage is very the 15 wins by the Aussies, 11 have

Waugh came to his team's rescue again in the second innings when defeat stared the Aussies in the face at 80-6, adding an undefeated 61 for the seventh wicket with tailender Damien Fleming to

With star batsman Mark Waugh uncertain of playing the first Test because of injury and the top order short of runs, the Australians are clearly on the back "Time is running out for the

batsmen," said captain Steve Waugh said, who considers the Indian tour as the last frontier for his all-conquering side. "We will have to bat much better if we are to win the series." Australia's plight against the turning ball could see India in-

cluding three spinners for the first Test at the expense of a mediumpacer. With the hosts determined to play six batsmen, Ganguly himself may share the new ball with Javagal Srinath to accommodate the three spinners - recalled leggie Narendra Hirwani, off-break bowler Harbhajan Singh and left-

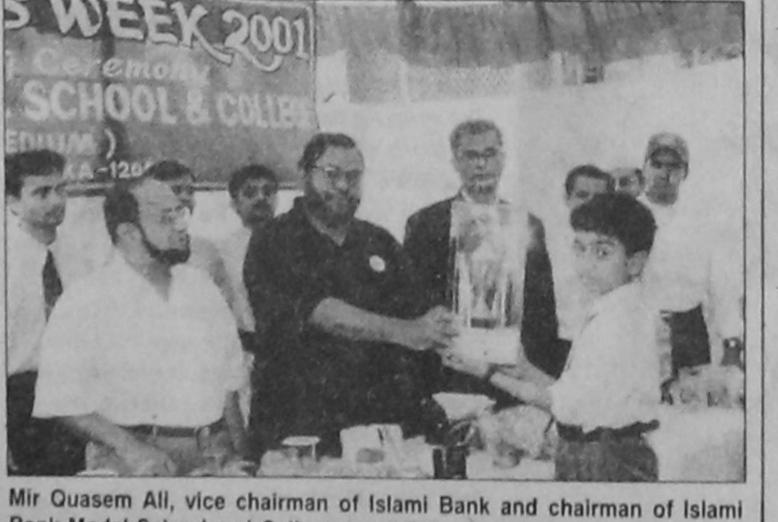
arm debutant Rahul Sanghvi. Ganguly was confident the trio would fill the void created by the absence of spin spearhead Anil The tourists got a taste of the Kumble, who was ruled out of the

> "I would rather concentrate on what we have, instead of blaming

any one," Ganguly said.

But the Indian captain ap-

top of the Wankhede stadium



Bank Model School and College managing committee, gives away prize to a winner of the school's sports week at its premises at Green Road in the city on February 24.