

Hughes destroys Indian hopes

BRISBANE, Dec 1 : Australia were on the threshold of victory in the first Test today after a day in which 14 wickets tumbled and Indian fortunes rose at first but then dipped disastrously, reports Reuter.

When bad light brought an early close with nine overs remaining in the third day's play, India were 104 for six wickets in their second innings, just three runs ahead.

Only the patience of opener Ravi Shastri, 37, not out after two and half hours of application, ensured Australia would need to return to Brisbane's Gabba cricket ground for a fourth day.

The tourists' intention when they began the day was to prevent Australia amassing a daunting first innings lead. Their aim at the end was simply to make them bat again.

They just achieved that but,



MERV HUGHES 4 for 31 having bowled beautifully to restrict Australia to a first innings lead of 101, they collapsed at the crease.

Merv Hughes, he of the bristling moustache and unorthodox haircut, was the man who trimmed India's ambitions after their good work with the ball.

Showing little indication of his hamstring strain, Hughes

Six-a-side finals today

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club, Bangladesh Biman, Brothers Union and Udyt Club all moved into the Cup semifinals of the second RV six-a-side cricket tournament following the quarter-finals held yesterday simultaneously at the Dhaka Stadium and Dhamondi Cricket Stadium.

Bangladesh Biman beat GMCC by five wickets. Wining the toss GMCC halted first to make 54 for two from their stipulated five overs. Biman made 57 without any loss to ensure a semifinal berth.

Group C champions Brothers Union thrashed Group A runners-up Young Pegasus by 44 runs. Brothers batted first to rattle up 83 for one in five overs. Pegasus, in their turn, could manage only 39 for the loss of two wickets.

Udyt Club, the Group B champions, accepted the challenge posed by Victoria Sporting Club to move into the semifinals. Victoria batted first to collect 51 for four from five overs. Udyt overhauled that total losing two wickets in the process. Group D champions

Wanderers batted first to score 59 for 5. Kalabagan man aged 46 for the loss of one wicket from their stipulated five overs.

BKSP were little unfortunate to lose a semifinal berth when their rivals Wari Club edged them out by virtue of having lost fewer wickets.

Wari batted first to score 70 for three wickets. BKSP also scored 70, but lost one more wicket than Wari and thus bowed out.

Surja Tarun booked a semifinal slot when they got a walk-over against Lalmatia Club.

Leeds United 1-0 win at home against Everton and keep them top in the English First Division on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Leeds stayed one point clear of Manchester United, whose 3-1 victory at Crystal Palace looked like putting them back in first place until Wallace's late strike at Elland Road.

Leeds played the final 21 minutes with 10 men after defender Chris Fairclough was sent for retaliation.

Veteran Scottish midfielder Gordon Strachan, the inspiration behind Leed's surge to the top of the table, floated a cross to the far post from the right, finding Wallace unmarked.

Welsh teenager Ryan Giggs, who turned 18 on Friday, beat the Crystal Palace offside trap twice to lay on Manchester United's first two goals as he inspired them to victory at Elland Road.

Leeds have 39 points, Manchester United 38 with a game in hand and third-placed Manchester City 31 after being held 0-0 at home by Wimbledon.

Everton had the best chances in a tight match at Leeds — who notched up their sixth successive home victory — with Tony Cottee and England's Peter Beardsley both missing chances.

Crystal Palace took the lead against Manchester United after 17 minutes through mid-

took four wickets in a devastating spell of seven overs at the beginning of India's second innings to leave them tottering at 32 for four.

Craig McDermott, bowling at real pace, then added two more to his five-wicket first innings haul.

Three of Hughes' wickets were caught at short leg by David Boon, the chunky batsman showing particularly sharp reactions when catching Sanjay Manjrekar for a duck.

Dilip Vengsarkar also went for nought, although there was more doubt about a leg before decision that went in Hughes's favour on the last ball before tea.

Event he knowledge that Hughes habitually celebrates wickets by poking his tongue in team-mates' ears did not prevent the Australians congratulating him as they headed for the pavilion.

AP adds: The Australians will go into the fourth day with a three-run deficit but needing only four further Indian wickets.

Hughes ignored the pain from a strained hamstring to rip through the Indian upper order.

"I got lucky," Hughes said.

There was a bit of bounce in the pitch and it's always easy to say how well you bowled when you've taken wickets."

Hughes was magnificently supported by David Boon, fielding at short leg.

Boon caught opener Kris Srikkanth for a duck in Hughes' first over and Sanjay Manjrekar for five soon after.

Hughes also trapped Dilip Vengsarkar lbw for nought and India went to tea at 14 for three.

After the resumption, the Hughes-Boon combination struck again, ending the stay of Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin for 12.

Craig McDermott then took up the challenge and dismissed Sachin Tendulkar for seven, caught by wicketkeeper

Ian Healy.

McDermott also grabbed the vital wicket of Kapil Dev, who was caught in the slips by Mark Waugh for 25.

Kapil Dev now shares second place in the alltime Test wicket-taking list with England allrounder Ian Botham.

Sir Richard Hadlee of New Zealand holds the record with 431 Test victims.

For India, Kapil Dev again prospered in adopting an aggressive response to the crisis, but his innings of 25 in 24 balls was not really the answer.

After the dreary accumulation of runs by Australia on Saturday the tumble of wickets was quite unexpected.

Boon and Allan Border, so dominant on the previous evening, were prised out early and Dean Jones followed, collecting his sixth duck in 23 Test innings as Kapil Dev showed he is still a danger with an inspired burst of swing

first time in 11 outings.

By the time India had knocked those 60 off they had lost five wickets.

Scores : India 239 (M Prabhakar 54 not out, C McDermott five for 54) and 104 for six (M Hughes four for 31); Australia 340 (M Taylor 94, D Boon 66).

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the first Test between Australia and India today:

INDIA: First innings 239 (M Prabhakar 54 not out, C McDermott five for 54).

AUSTRALIA : First innings (overnight 235 for two)

	O	M	R	W
Kapil Dev	34	9	80	4 (2nb)
Prabhakar	37	10	88	2 (5nb)
Srinath	24.4	4	59	3 (2nb)
Raju	31	5	90	1
Tendulkar	1	0	8	0
INDIA: Second innings				
R Shastri not out				37
K Srikkanth c Boon b Hughes				0
S Manjrekar c Boon b Hughes				5
D Vengsarkar lbw Hughes				0
M Azharuddin c Boon b Hughes				12
S Tendulkar c Healy b McDermott				7
Kapil Dev c Waugh b McDermott				25
M Prabhakar not out				9
Extras (lb-15 w-1 nb-9)				9
Total (for six wickets)				104
Fall of wickets: 1-95, 2-178, 3-244, 4-244, 5-265, 6-278, 7-280; 8-301; 9-316				

BOWLING

BOWLING O M R W

	O	M	R	W
Bowling O M R W				
McDermott	14	3	30	2 (1nb)
Hughes	12	4	31	4
Whitney	10	1	39	0 (4nb)
KAPIL DEV 4 for 80				
bowling.				

Kapil Dev took his Test wicket tally level to that of Ian Botham at 380 victims, and Jawagal Srinath collected a promising three for 59 on his debut.

But the Australian tail, guided by Peter Taylor (31), was allowed to score 60 for the last three wickets, with Mike Whitney passing four for the

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