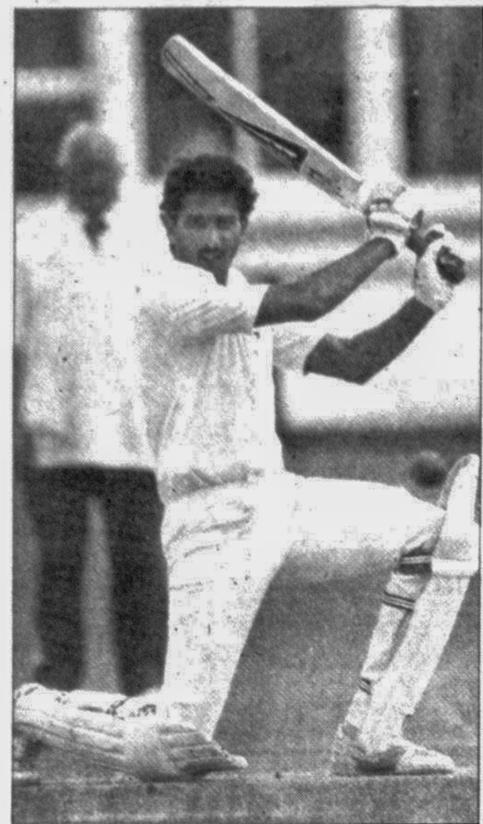


Career-bests by Shastri (206) and Tendulkar (120 NO)

Indians put Aussies to sword



RAVI SHASTRI...a monumental 206 as an opener

Shastri never doubted his own ability

SYDNEY, Jan 5: Indian opening batsman Ravi Shastri never had any doubts he would burst out of his Test batting slump, he said Sunday, reports AP.

Shastri scored 206 of India's first innings score of 445 for seven against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground in an undulating knock of long defensive troughs and exciting attacking peaks.

It was his first double century in 76 Tests, with a previous highest score of 187.

"I've made a hundred abroad in every country I've played as an opener England, West Indies, Pakistan and now Australia," said Shastri.

"I've only opened once in India and I got 90 against Sri Lanka."

Shastri teamed in a splendid 196-run stand in 198 minutes with dazzling youngster Sachin Tendulkar.

The pair brought respect back to a batting order which has faltered to perform in two previous Test losses during this tour.

Imran will expect his quickies to deliver

FAISALABAD, Jan 5: Imran Khan will call for a special effort from his fast bowlers on Monday as Pakistan try to force a win in the third and final cricket Test against Sri Lanka, reports Reuters.

With both the first two Tests drawn and only two days remaining in the series, Sri Lanka held a slender lead of 87 on Sunday's rest day with seven wickets remaining in their second innings.

Thanks to some splendid bowling from 20-year-old medium-pace Kapila Wijegunawardene, who finished with five for 73, Sri Lanka dismissed Pakistan for only 221 in their first innings on Saturday to hold an unexpected 19-run advantage.

But by the close Waqar Younis had provided a hint of things to come with two of the three wickets to fall after Imran had given him the new ball ahead of Salm Jaffer.

Waqar has become one of the world's most formidable fast bowlers over the past year and the strength of the Pakistani pace attack is such that the ageing Imran, the finest strike bowler produced by his country, is content now to play purely as a batsman.

In addition to the prospect of facing Waqar, Jaffer, Wasim Akram and Aaqib Javed, Sri Lanka also have a number of injury worries.

Captain Aravinda De Silva, who was suffering from fever and stomach problems, got out of a sick bed on Saturday to face the Pakistanis and struggle courageously to finish with an unbeaten 18 at the close.

In addition paceman Ramesh Ratanayake has a pulled groin muscle and middle-order batsman Arjuna Ranatunga is suffering from a shoulder injury.

Scores: Sri Lanka 240 and 68 for three; Pakistan 221.

NZ pick Vaughan for debut

HAMILTON, Jan 5: All-rounder Justin Vaughan was named Sunday to make his international cricket debut for New Zealand against England, reports AP.

Vaughan was included in a 12-man squad for the first limited-overs international in Auckland on Jan. 13.

His inclusion was a major surprise - as was the omission of experienced trio Richard Reid, Ken Rutherford and Willie Watson.

Vaughan has forced his way into the team with a string of good performances this season, said convener of selectors Don Neely.

"I think Justin Vaughan is one of the form players in New Zealand at the moment," Neely said. "He's performed admirably for Auckland, getting runs and wickets."

SYDNEY, Jan 5: Ravi Shastri and Sachin Tendulkar struck career-best scores today to fire India to an unassailable position in the third cricket Test against Australia here, reports AP.

Shastri, the Indian vice-captain, made a monumental 206 while teenage sensation Sachin Tendulkar cracked an unbeaten 120 as India finally broke free from the Australian stranglehold in the current five-Test series.

Replying to Australia's first innings score of 313, India piled up 445 for seven - a lead of 132 - before a thunderstorm halted the fourth day's play after tea.

Nearly 75 minutes' play was wiped out in the day, the second major interference by the weather in the rain-hit Test which saw just 134 minutes' action on Saturday.

With only one day remaining in the match, India's prospects of forcing a result appear dim although the tourists would be satisfied at erasing memories of humiliating four-day defeats in the previous two Tests.

The tenacious Shastri and the flamboyant Tendulkar tore the Australian attack apart during a break-taking 196-run stand in 198 minutes for the fourth wicket.

The 29-year-old Shastri, a veteran of 76 Tests, batted for 9-1/2 hours to guide the Indian innings towards its highest score in the series.

It was the lanky all-rounder's 11th Test century, four of them in the role of an opener, and included 17 boundaries and two sixes.

When Shastri goes out to field in Australia's second innings Monday, he will achieve the rare feat of being in action for all five days of a Test.

Tendulkar, 18, delighted a holiday crowd of 12,854 at the Sydney Cricket Ground with a flurry of strokes around the wicket to score his second hundred in 14 Tests.

He surpassed by one run his previous best score of 119 against England at Old Trafford in 1990.

A majority of Tendulkar's 11 boundaries were off the Australian pacemen who struggled to make an impact on the slow SCG wicket.

When play ended for the day, Chandrakant Pandit was keeping Tendulkar company with three.

Starting the day on 95, Shastri reached his century in seven minutes with a quick single off Merv Hughes.

The stroke also brought up the third-wicket pair of Shastri and Dilip Vengsarkar in 181 minutes.

In the same over, Vengsarkar completed his individual half-century with a slice to third man for a second boundary.

It was the 114-Test veteran's 35th fifty, but four runs later he found himself back in the pavilion, caught in the slips by Mark Waugh off Craig McDermott.

The off-form Indian skipper Mohammed Azharuddin sliced McDermott's first delivery through to the vacant third man boundary and was dismissed next ball, the result of a brilliant catch by David Boon.

The Tasmanian, a century-maker in Australia's innings, intercepted a hard flick towards his left and caught the ball on the second attempt.

The luckless Azharuddin now has a dismal sequence of 10, 12, 22, two, and four in five Test innings on the current tour.

Shastri carried on gamely despite the two quick blows, reserving his best strokeplay for debutante leg-spinner Shane Warne whose five overs in the morning session cost 29 runs.

He slammed two fours in one over from the leg-spinner and bettered that with a four and six in three balls in a later over.

The huge six, which landed in front of the Indian dressing room at long-on, gave Shastri his 150th run and India its best total in the series so far.

India's previous scores were 239 and 156 in the first Test in Brisbane and 263 and 213 in the second at Melbourne.

Batting landmarks were reached easily as Shastri and Tendulkar fired 74 runs in the first hour after lunch.

Tendulkar, who made 41 of those runs, enabled India to draw level with Australia's score by pulling Australian skipper Allan Border to the mid-wicket boundary.

The stroke also helped the pair overtake India's highest fifth-wicket stand against Australia - 109 by the current cricket manager Abbas Ali Baig and Ramnath Kenny against Richie Benaud's men in Bombay in 1959.

Shastri overtook his previous best Test score of 187 against England in 1990 when he drove Shane Warne over covers for his 15th boundary.

He celebrated the feat by pulling Warne to the mid-wicket fence in the same over, which also posted the 150-run stand in just 152 minutes.

India were 379 for four when Shastri cut Warne for two runs to reach 200 after batting for 556 minutes. He had 16 boundaries and two sixes in that score.

Shastri was finally out 20 minutes before tea when an attempted lofted shot against Warne was skidded to Dean Jones at cover.

It gave the 22-year-old leg-spinner his first Test wicket, but not before he had conceded 133 runs in 41 overs.

After tea, Merv Hughes removed Manoj Prabhakar and Kapil Dev off successive deliveries to halt India's rapid progress.

Prabhakar was taken at first slip by Mark Taylor, while the indisposed Kapil Dev, running slight fever, was well-taken by Geoff Marsh at gully first ball.

Pandit defended a fast yorker to prevent a hat-trick and then kept Tendulkar company until the rain came to spoil the Indian party.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth day of the third Test between Australia and India today.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings, 313

INDIA: First Innings (overnight 178 for two)

Shastri c Jones b Warne	206
Sidhu c Waugh b McDermott	0
Manjrekar c Waugh b Hughes	34
Vengsarkar c Waugh b McDermott	54
Azharuddin b Boon b McDermott	4
Tendulkar not out	120
Prabhakar c Taylor b Hughes	14
Kapil Dev c Marsh b Hughes	0
Pandit not out	3
Extras (b-1 lb-4 nb-5)	10
Total (for seven wickets)	445

To bat - S Banerjee, J Srinath

Fall of wickets - 1-7, 2-86; 3-197; 4-201; 5-397; 6-434; 7-434

Bowling	O	M	R	W
McDermott	47.5	11	131	3
Reid	4	0	10	0
Hughes	38	8	82	3
Waugh	14	5	28	0
Warne	45	7	150	1
Border	13	3	39	0



SACHIN TENDULKAR...youngest overseas centurion

It's Arthurton again

LISMORE, Australia, Jan 5: Brash hitting in the final two overs from left-hander Keith Arthurton led the West Indies to 21-run victory over New South Wales state at Onkes Oval on Sunday, reports AP.

The West Indies amassed 198 for seven wickets in their 50 overs, while New South Wales was 177-9 in reply.

In trouble early at 42-4 and looking at a modest total of 140 in the 42nd over, Arthurton and pace bowler Curtley Ambrose restored respectability to the West Indian total with an unbeaten 77-run partnership.

Arthurton, 26, followed up his unbeaten 93 against a New South Wales Country side on Friday with 81 not out. His last 31 runs came off only 13 balls.

He hit 18 runs in the second-last over of the innings and made New South Wales captain Steve Waugh's bowling figures look ordinary.

Arthurton pulled Waugh's first ball through mid-wicket for four and then cut the medium-pace bowler to the boundary later. Two deliveries later, he belted Waugh for six over the head of a fielder on the mid-wicket fence before driving the next ball through covers for yet another four.

Ambrose, who was not out 38, worked the field to score his runs from 54 balls.

Erratic New South Wales paceman Wayne Holdsworth bowled four wide in his first over with one delivery being called a wide and also signalled a no-ball by the square leg umpire. But Holdsworth recovered to finish at 46-3 in 10 overs.

Phil Emery led New South Wales with 33 not out while Malcolm Marshall and Anderson Cummins each took three home-team wickets.

Scores: West Indies 198-7 (Keith Arthurton 81 not out, Curtley Ambrose 38 not out; Wayne Holdsworth 46-3); New South Wales 177-9 (Phil Emery 33 not out; Malcolm Marshall 35-3; Malcolm Marshall 32-3). West Indies won by 21 runs.

England beat rookie Kiwis

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Jan 5: England romped to an innings and 105-run win over the New Zealand Emerging Players on Sunday, final day of the three-day match between the teams at Trustbank Park, reports AP.

Stand - in England captain Alec Stewart declared his team's first innings closed at the overnight score of 434 for four - leaving the New Zealand youngsters a deficit of 258 to wipe away to make England bat again.

Instead, they folded to be all out for 153, with Michael Pawson unable to bat because of a hand injury sustained on the first day.

Burly England fast bowler David Lawrence set the tone for the day. He had both openers - Blair Hattland (0) and Blair Pocock (1) - caught behind by Jack Russell.

At lunch, the Emerging Players were 71 for four with the aggressive Lorne Howell out after a fighting 28, and Justin Vaughan, the new New Zealand international, falling to spinner Phil Tufnell for 24.

Tufnell took control after lunch as the Emerging Players' innings collapsed.

He had Chris Harris caught at silly mid - off for 14, Ian Smith at first slip for six. Mark Richardson caught behind for 16 and Murphy Su'a caught at deep mid-wicket for 13.

The spinner bowled unchanged after lunch and finished with figures of five for 66 from 23 overs.

Russell took four catches in the innings, for a total of six for the match.

There are 10 very disappointed guys in the change-room at the moment," said Emerging Players skipper Ian Smith.

"The team really didn't play up to their potential."

Stewart said the match had been a satisfactory one for the tourists.

England has a rest day Monday but faces the Ubx xi, a team of players from minor associations, in Napier from Tuesday.

SCOREBOARD

NZ Emerging Players, 1st Innings 176

ENGLAND, 1st Innings 434

4 Dec 1.

NZ Emerging Players, 2nd Innings:

Blair Hattland c Russell b Lawrence	0
Blair Pocock c Russell b Lawrence	1
Lorne Howell c Gooch b Lewis	28
Justin Vaughan c and b Tufnell	24
Chris Harris c Lewis b Tufnell	14
Jason Wells c Russell b Lewis	29
Ian Smith c Lamb b Tufnell	6
Mark Richardson c Russell b Tufnell	16
Murphy Su'a c Ramprakash b Tufnell	13
Chris Pringle not out	8
Michael Pawson absent injured	0
Extras: (5b, 2lb, 7nb)	14
Total:	153

Fall of wickets: 4, 13, 42, 63, 84, 90, 114, 141, 153.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Lawrence	12	5	15	2
DeFreitas	10	3	24	0
C Lewis	11	5	37	2
Tufnell	23	4	66	5
G Hlick	4	2	4	0

England won by an innings and 105 runs.

Victoria beat City Club

Sports Reporter

Victoria Sporting Club, one of the strong bidders for this year's Milners First Division cricket league title, maintained their quest when they outplayed City Club by four wickets yesterday at the latter's Mirpur Pallabi ground.

City Club batted first and were all out for 111 in 38.4 overs.

Skipper Goutam with five boundaries top scored with 33. Al-Amin was the other notable scorer with an unbeaten 26.

Jewel was the most successful Victoria bowler with the remarkable figures of three wickets for nought.

Mukul backed him up well with three for 18 and Talha captured two for 25.

Despite the fact that four of their batsmen, including former national skipper Raquibul Hassan were dismissed for no score, Victoria crossed the target in the 31st over for the loss of six wicket.

Wahidul Islam with an unbeaten 42 inclusive of seven fours engineered the Victoria triumph.

Shoibal gave him admirable support, scoring 29 which featured five hits to the fence.

Pappa was the most successful City bowler with figures of three for 17.

Salahuddin claimed two wickets for 24 runs.

TODAY'S MATCH

Rayway vs Eskaton Sabuj Sangha (Mirpur Pallabi ground).

Ivanisevic in Adelaide final

ADELAIDE, Jan 5: Top-seeded Croatian Goran Ivanisevic has qualified for today's final against Sweden's Christian Bergstrom in the 182,500 US dollar Australian men's Hardcourt championships at Memorial Drive here, reports AP.

The tall left-hander, ranked 16 in the world, Saturday overcame the recurring tennis elbow that has cast doubt on his chances here to dismiss unseeded American Bryan Shelton 6-4, 6-2 in the first semifinal.

Shelton twisted his left ankle during the first set when, serving at 2-4, he slipped trying to reach a drop shot. The match stopped while he was treated.

The 72nd ranked American returned with his ankle heavily strapped and after taking painkillers, but was unable to resist Ivanisevic's charge to the final.

Bergstrom, ranked 44, reached his first tour singles final with a straight sets 7-6 (9/7), 6-4 win over tough German left-hander Carl-Uwe Steeb.

Neither Bergstrom nor Ivanisevic have dropped a set during the tournament.

Bergstrom, 24, trailed Steeb 2-5 in the first set but fought back to hold two set points when Steeb was serving at 5-6.

GMCC crash against Tarun

Sports Reporter

The GMCC batsmen, however, made a mess of this modest target with their openers, the in-form Harunur Rashid Liton and Selim, departing cheaply.

Sri Lankan Duminda Pereira's poor batting form continued and a Suppi delivery found the edge of his bat when the southpaw had scored only six.

Suppi clean bowled former national skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu for one and GMCC's back was right up against the wall.

Desperate situation sometimes bring out the best but it did not happen this time and with the Tarun bowling gradually tightening around GMCC's neck, the side was shot out for 93.

Sri Laanaka Aruna de Silva stole the bowling honours for Tarun by taking two for 12 from nine overs.

Suppi picked up two crucial wickets to pave the path for others to make a dent in the GMCC innings with figures of two for 19.

Babu picked up two for eight while Rodrigo, Saikat, Khokan and Shoeb took one wicket apiece.

SCOREBOARD

SURJA TARUN

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Saiful	5	1	20	0
Zakir	4	0	13	0
Rubel	8	2	27	0
Sanwar	7	2	15	0
Sharath	6	2	18	1
Duminda	8	1	31	1
Goala	7	0	20	1

Wari win a cliff hanger

Sports Club

Wari Club fasted their first victory in their year's Navana Premier Division cricket league when they chalked up an exciting one-wicket victory over Rupali Bank at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In a match which, with apologies to the concerned teams can be termed as the battle of the 'have nots' Rupali, after being sent in to bat, managed a fighting total of 153 for nine wickets.

Skipper Khokan starred in the Rupali challenge with a patient innings of 43 which included only one hit to the fence.

Tanveer Nuwaid Partha, the bearded all-rounder, shone brightly with 30 in an innings which was clouded by four ducks.

Zia was the pick of the Wari bowlers with figures of three for 18.

Kamrul, the wiry Wari paceman and skipper, bowled well to capture two for 21.

Kajal was the other main sharer of the spoils with two for 23.

Wicket-keeper Raju led the Wari chase with an excellent knock of 56 off 106 balls with the help of three fours.

Zia went one better with the willow with an invaluable 20 before being run out at a time when things were threatening to fall apart for Wari.

Biddut chipped in with a useful 18 to facilitate victory and Wari were home and dry in this nail-biting match in the very last over.

Plabon was the most successful Rupali bowler with figures of three for 29.

Khokan, Billu and Dulu picked up one wicket each.

SCOREBOARD

RUPALI BANK

Jahangir c Raju b Kajal	6
Dulu b Kajal	19
Tipu not out	47
Khokan c & b Kamran	43
Billu c Zia b Kamrul	0
Belal c Kamran b Kamrul	0
Partha c Kamran b Lulu	30
Hasnain std Raju b Zia	0
Prince b Zia	16
Nafis not out	10
Plabon b Zia	2
Extras	30
Total (for 9 wickets in 41 overs)	153

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Kajal	9	-	23	2
Ashim	3	-	19	-
Kamrul	9	2	21	2
Ripon	6	1	21	-
Kamran	2	-	8	1
Lulu	7	-	36	1
Zia	5	2	18	3

TODAY'S MATCHES

Abahani KC vs PWD (Dhaka Stadium)

Brothers Union vs Lalmitia (DCS)

Lulu not out	2
Extras	16
Total (for 9 wickets in 40.4 overs)	154

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Prince	4	-	19	-
Hasnain	9	3	21	-
Khokan	5	4	23	1
Dulu	8	-	23	1
Billu	9	-	32	1
Plabon	5	-	29	3



Bangladesh Rifles players hold aloft the third Federation Cup handball trophy after beating Air Force in yesterday's final.