

Sport

Steve Waugh's timely ton

SYDNEY, Jan 2: Australian batsman Steve Waugh resurrected his flagging international cricket career with a stylish century in the third Test against the West Indies on Saturday, reports AP.

With his Test spot in jeopardy, Waugh scored 100 to steer Australia to 272-5 at stumps on the first day.

The Australians looked comfortable on a placid Sydney Cricket Ground pitch after captain Allan Border won his third consecutive series toss and elected to bat.

At one stage in the last session Australia were cruising at 254-2, but the visitors claimed three late wickets to get back into the contest.

Waugh's fourth Test century, off 205 balls, was his first since his 134 against Sri Lanka in Hobart in 1989 and his first against the West Indies.

It was a welcome return to form for the New South Wales state native who received a rousing reception from the 28,000-strong crowd at the SCG despite his scores of 10, 20, 38 and one in the series to date.

While on 100, Waugh tried to clip Curly Ambrose's delivery off his hip. Waugh nudged the ball in the air to Phil Simmons at backward square leg and the Windies' allrounder made a fine catch.

Waugh had combined for a record second-wicket partnership for Australia-West Indies Sydney Tests of 118 with David Boon, who continued his good form with 76.

Boon has now scored nearly 300 runs in the series and is averaging more than 80 with the bat. Saturday's half-century was his 21st in Test. He looked set to register three figures when he was caught behind trying to sweep Jimmy Adams.

Steve Waugh also put on 94 with brother Mark, who hit a quick-fire 57 before being run out.

Mark Waugh hit six fours in his innings with the pair scoring at more than a run a minute. But his dismissal sparked a small collapse with Damien Martyn going for a duck with the score on 261.

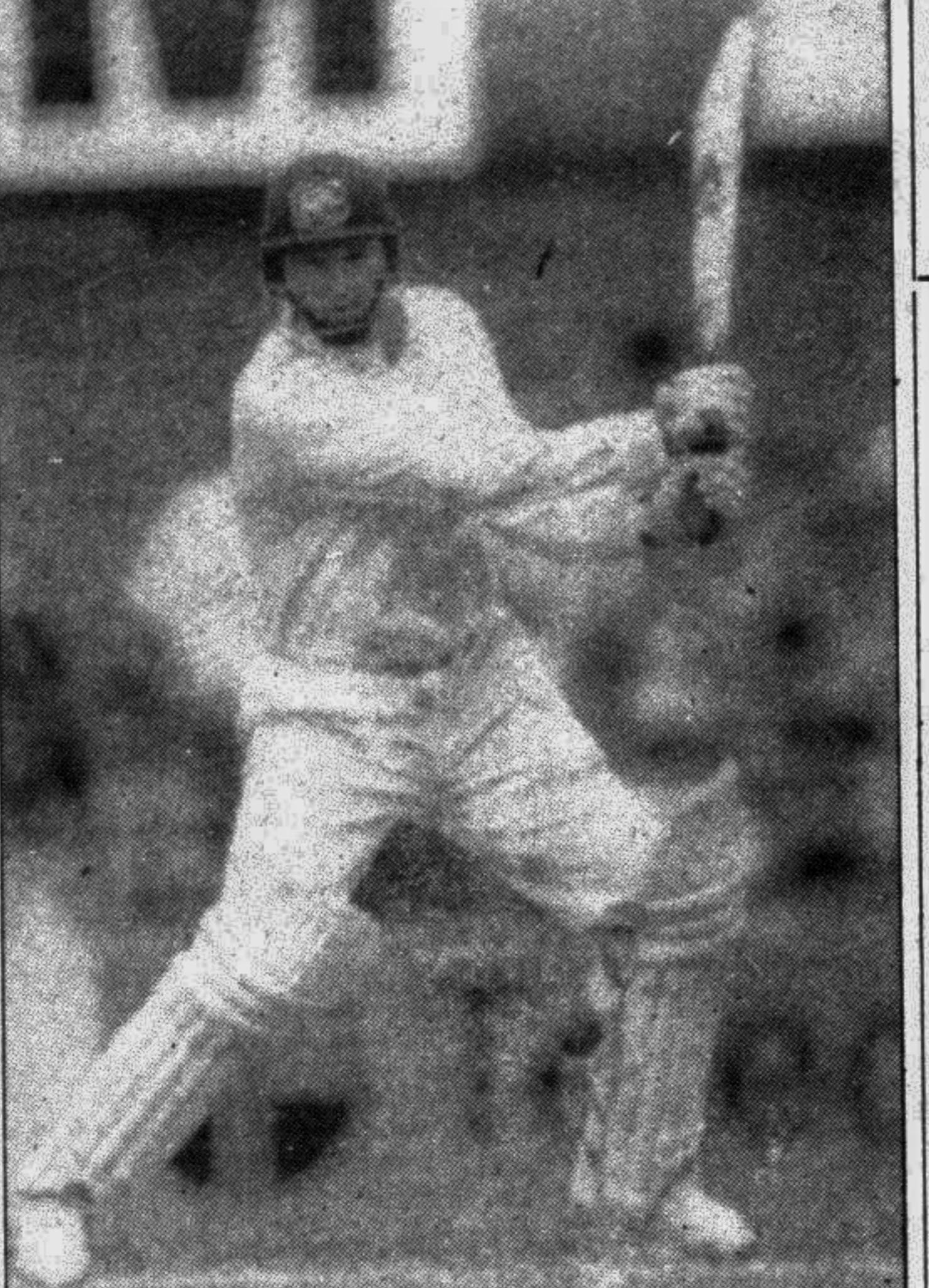
Martyn was bowled by fiery paceman Ambrose with the first delivery with the new ball.

Shortly before stumps Steve

Waugh departed and Australia were left with two fresh batsmen at the crease.

Border survived a few testing moments from Ambrose and will resume with Greg Matthews on Sunday.

100



Steve Waugh, the Australian allrounder, is seen in action against the West Indies on the first day of the third test at the Sydney Cricket Ground on January 2. Waugh's ton helped Australia rattle up 272 for five. — AFP photo

Ambrose was the best West Indian bowler, taking two wickets for 37 runs in 20 overs.

Australia won the second Test last week in Melbourne, while the first Test in Brisbane in early December ended in a draw. The fourth Test is scheduled to begin on Jan. 23 in Adelaide, with the fifth in Perth on Jan. 30.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the third Test between Australia and the West Indies

Provis, Masur post an upset win

PERTH, Jan 2: Nicole Provis and Wally Masur upset higher-ranked opponents Saturday and lifted Australia to victory over sixth-seeded South Africa in the first round of the \$100,000 Hopman Cup team tennis tournament at the Burswood Superdome, reports AP.

Provis saved a match point in the final set tie-breaker to defeat Amanda Coetzer 6-7 (4-7), 7-5, 7-6 (8-6) in a two-hour 45-minute opening women's singles.

Masur then cruised past unseeded Australia to defeat Wayne Ferreira 7-5, 6-3 in the men's singles, dropping serve only once in the match.

Provis is ranked 47th in the world — 30 places behind Coetzer — but kept her nerve in a tight struggle marked by

Perag badminton

Sports Reporter

Four matches were decided on the second day of the twelfth Pallima Perag Socks badminton championships at the Sangsaa's Khiagaon auditorium on Friday.

In three men's singles matches held on the day, Sumon beat Zakir 15-6, 15-13; Sarwar snuffed Rinku 15-13, 15-6 while Shuru edged Romel in three sets.

In the mixed doubles Juthi and Mahbub outplayed Rupa and Shiru 15-4, 15-2.

Eight matches are scheduled for today.

long baseline rallies and numerous unforced errors by both players.

Masur returned serve effectively and was more consistent than Ferreira, despite being ranked 38th in the world to the South African's 11th.

A disgruntled Ferreira was given a code of conduct warning late in the match after throwing his racket into the air.

Masur's victory took him only one hour and 20 minutes. He volleyed impressively and constantly kept the pressure on his opponent.

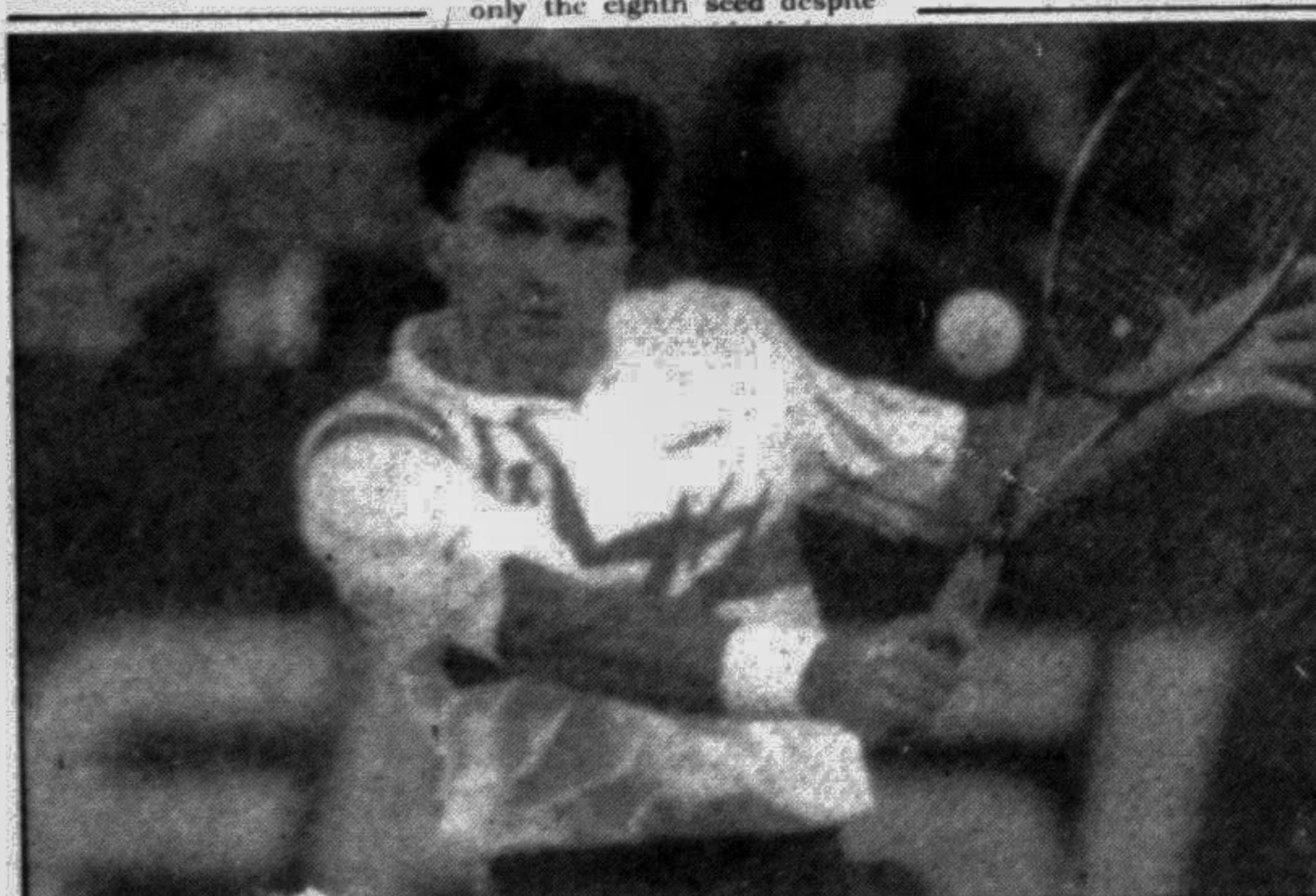
Unseeded Australia now will play the second-seeded Czech Republic team in the quarterfinals of the tournament, which features a unique format of men's singles, women's singles and mixed doubles matches.

Top-seeded Germany, represented by Michael Stich and Steffi Graf, has a first-round bye and will meet the winner of the Ukraine-Austria contest in the quarterfinals.

The second-seeded Czech Republic team of French Open runner-up Petr Korda and Jana Novotna also had a first-round bye.

The brother-sister combination of Emilio and Arantxa Sanchez won the Hopman Cup for Spain in 1990 and is seeded third ahead of the United States team of Malvai Washington and Mary Joe Fernandez.

Switzerland, which will feature Claudio Mezzadri and Martina Malceva-Fagniere, is only the eighth seed despite



Australia's Wally Masur makes a backhand return against Wayne Ferreira during their men's singles match of the Hopman Cup on January 2. Australia bundled South Africa out of the competition, winning the men's and women's singles as well as the mixed doubles matches. — AFP photo

Imran's new job

LAHORE, Pakistan, Jan 2: Pakistan's former cricket captain Imran Khan has been appointed an honorary advisor to the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP), a cricket official said here Friday, reports AFP.

Imran will advise the BCCP in formulating an international calendar for Pakistan's national and under-19 sides during the next 10 years, he said.

Imran's appointment Thursday comes as Pakistan faces difficulties in its tripartite bid to host the next one-day cricket World Cup.

Rain the spoiler

NEW DELHI, Jan 2: Heavy rain ruined England's chances of a practice game before their opening tour match on Sunday, reports Reuters.

The touring party had opted to play a 45-overs preparation match with some local players and the full squad on Saturday instead of traveling to Faridabad, venue of the three-day match against Indian champions Delhi.

But they managed only fielding practice on the rain-soaked pitch.

Tulu outruns Meyer again

DURHAM, England, Jan 2: Olympic 10,000 metre champion Derartu Tulu broke away from a field that included silver medalist Elana Meyer of South Africa to win the County Durham international cross country race by some 40 yards (metres) Saturday, reports AP.

It was the first time since the Olympics had raced against Meyer. And in icy, misty conditions, Tulu scored a comfortable victory in the 5.2 kilometre race.

Tulu finished ahead of Britain's Paula Radcliffe, the world junior cross country champion, with Meyer a distant third.

American runner Lynn Jennings, the world cross country champion who won the Olympic 10,000 metre bronze medal, had to pull out of the race on Thursday. Soon after arriving in Durham, she complained of stomach pains and needed an operation to remove her appendix.

Fita Bayesa, bronze medalist in the men's Olympic 5,000 metres, made it an Ethiopian double when he broke away from the field to win an 8-kilometer race by some 60 yards. Britain's John Brown was second and countryman Dave Lewis third.

Meyer and Tulu made the early running in the women's race, accompanied by Radcliffe, Kenya's Helen Kimathy and another British runner, Jenny Clague.

Nine of the 12 competing teams are represented by their top-ranked male and female players.

The tournament is sponsored by Pepsi, is being played on synthetic Rebound Ace courts, offers a first prize of \$10,000 and continues through Jan. 8.

It is one of a series of lead-up events before the Australian Open, which is slated for Jan. 18-31 at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

Lindros ready to go

PHILADELPHIA, Jan 2: The Philadelphia Flyers might have rookie centre Eric Lindros on the ice Saturday when they visit the Calgary Flames, reports AP.

Lindros practised hard Friday for the first time since re-injuring his left knee Tuesday morning and said afterwards he planned to play Saturday night.

"It feels pretty good," Lindros told The Philadelphia Inquirer. "As far as conditioning goes, I could really feel it today. We'll see how it goes."

He said his knee is still less than 100 percent. Lindros sprained his knee on Nov. 22 in a game against Buffalo and missed nine games over four weeks.

Devoy ends career on a high

LONDON, Jan 2: World squash champion Susan Devoy of New Zealand has made her last appearance as the women's number one in the world rankings, reports AFP.

Devoy, who retired in October and will be 29 on Monday, finished her magnificent career nearly 300 points clear of her nearest rival, Australia's Michelle Martin, according to the latest rankings.

With fifth-ranked Robyn Lamourne also retiring, the effective rankings for the new year have fellow Australian Michelle Martin on top, followed by a posse of five Englishwomen led by Martine le Moignan.

Rankings:

1. Susan Devoy (New Zealand) 1,364 pts
2. Michelle Martin (Australia) 1,007
3. Martine le Moignan (England) 850
4. Cassandra Jackman (England) 629
5. Robyn Lamourne (Australia) 595
6. Susan Wright (England) 451
7. Lisa Opie (England) 407
8. Suzanne Horner (England) 392
9. Liz Irving (Australia) 363
10. Heather Wallace (Canada) 360

Rhodes, Cullinan steady SA innings

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Jan 2: Jonty Rhodes and debutant Darrell Cullinan defied the Indian attack

to help South Africa recover from a dismal start to their fourth and final Test here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Coming together with South Africa down to 78-4 after electing to bat first, the pair added 99 for the fifth wicket to put the home team on 189 for five by stumps on the first day.

The 25-year-old Cullinan showed no signs of nerves as he stroked an impressive 46 before being caught at mid-on by Venkatapathy Raju 30 minutes before stumps.

The flamboyant Rhodes remained unbeaten on 61 with seven boundaries, his second Test half-century, keeping his company was local hero Brian McMillan on four.

The Indians, who need to win the match to level the series 1-1, marred an otherwise impressive display in the field by letting both Rhodes and Cullinan off the hook.

Cullinan was missed at silly point by Indian skipper Mohammad Azharuddin off Raju when he was on 14.

Rhodes saw an uppish on-drive against Kumble pass just beyond the reach of a diving Raju at mid-wicket shortly before stumps.

Rhodes, then on seven, also escaped being run out by a fumbling Kiran More when he had moved to 35.

India, pilloried by critics home for a dismal performance on the African tour so far, applied early pressure on Newlands wicket that is already aching.

Seamer Manoj Prabhakar uprooted Wessels' centre stump in his first over, just as he had done in the third Test in Port Elizabeth earlier this week.

It was the third time in the series that a South African wicket had fallen for nought, following Kapil Dev's first-ball dismissal of Jimmy Cook in the

Mar 4-8: First Test (Johannesburg)

Mar 11-13: Combined Bowl XI

Mar 17-21: Second Test (Cape Town)

Mar 25-29: Third Test (Durban)

Apr 2: v South Africa (day/night, Port Elizabeth)

Apr 4: v South Africa (day/night, Cape Town)

Apr 6: v South Africa (day/night, East London)

Apr 8: v South Africa (day/night, Durban)

JONTY RHODES . . . 61 n.o.

in Durban. The early fall of the in-form Wessels stopped the South African batsmen in their tracks.

The first run came off the 32nd delivery of the match and only 19 had been scored at the end of the first hour.

Left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju, who came on in the 10th over, bowled five maidens on a trot before conceding his first run off the fifth ball of his sixth over.

But it was seamer Jagaval Srinath at the other end who struck the second blow by holding a sharp return catch to remove Hudson and make South Africa 28-2.

Peter Kirsten, 11 at lunch, added two more when he edged Kapil Dev outswinger to wicket-keeper Kiran More to make South Africa 57 for three.

It was the 33-year-old Kapil's 41st Test wicket which puts him just 20 behind Richard Hadlee's world record of 431.

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