

Agrani Bank book super league berth

Sports Reporter

Ripon ripped through the Shantinagar B batting line up to help Agrani Bank post a comfortable eight-wicket victory and earn a place in the six-team super league of the Milnars First Division cricket.

On the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday, Ripon, introduced into attack in the 14th over, finished with fantastic figures of four for 14 to help his side skittle the Shantinagar outfit out for 98 in 37.3 overs. In reply, the bankers sailed easily past the winning target in the 27th over, posting 101 for the loss of two batsmen.

The win, Agrani Bank's fourth in eight encounters, places the team in the joint fifth place in the points table along with City Club.

Sent in to bat first, the Shantinagar batsmen were never let the space to settle down and they lost their two openers with only 36 on the board in 11 overs.

Things got even worse when Ripon came in to bowl as he struck twice in the space of four balls to reduce Shantinagar B to 46 for four. Ripon's third victim was Apan, who was trapped leg before for nought two runs later in the medium fast bowler's third over.

Only Tuhin, coming to bat at number seven, put up any kind of resistance, making 28 with the help of three boundaries and thanks to him, Shantinagar reached 98.

Ripon took the last wicket when he had Babu clean bowled for no score to round off a superb spell.

Apart from Tuhin, only Ripu and Morshed managed double-digit scores, contributing 19 each.

Atique extended able support to Ripon, claiming two wickets for 11 while Talha and Ali Amin — the new ball bowlers — chipped in with one apiece.

Chasing a modest total, the bankers were given a flying start by their two opening batsmen, who featured a solid 81-run stand for the first wicket. Although Babu and Anwar departed in the space of three balls, the Shantinagar bowlers had very little to rejoice as they saw Neaz and Inoo post the winning runs in the 27th over. Eventually the scoreboard read 101 for two.

Anwar, the Bank skipper, notched up the highest individual score of 99 with the help of five fours in 77 balls. Babu, the other opener, made 26 sending two shots across the fence.

Ripu and Tuhin shared the two wickets Agrani Bank lost on their way to victory.

United face a tough one

LONDON, Jan 2: Paul Ince and Lee Sharpe should be fit to return when Manchester United go to Liverpool on Tuesday night for a tough English Premier League clash, reports Reuter.

Veteran campaigner Bryan Robson played in Saturday's 0-0 draw with Leeds, but will revert to his now more familiar role as an occasional contributor from the substitutes' bench.

United have drawn four of their last five home games and look more comfortable away. Robson said: "I certainly can't see Liverpool sitting back against us like Leeds did, their crowd won't put up with that at Anfield. And it will suit us, too, because we'll get more space to play."

"I expect I'll be back on the sidelines on Tuesday but I'm happy I showed I can still do a useful job."

"I thought Roy Keane and I did well together against Leeds and I only wish I could have scored a winner to make the boss's selections a bit more difficult."

New year nightmare for BCCB XI

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh national cricket team, now touring Pakistan in the amateurish guise of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) Eleven as a part of the preparatory package for the forthcoming ICC Trophy, had a shattering and ominous passage to the inchoate new year.

According to a sketchy telephonic message received at the BCCB office last night, BCCB XI suffered a humiliating nine-wicket defeat to Pakistan WAPDA in their 15-day tour opener.

At the Jinnah Cricket Ground, Lahore yesterday, the visitors batted first and were all out for 131 in 37.3 overs, well short of their quota of 40 overs. Pakistan WAPDA then ran away with a nine-wicket win, posting 134 for just one wicket in 27 overs.

BCCB XI batting was in complete disarray right from the word go. Only former captain Minhazul Abedin Nannu stood the racket making a freewheeling 78. Only two other batsmen — Athar Ali Khan and young Al Shahrir

Rokon — made it to the double figures. Athar Ali made 13 while Rokon managed 11. WAPDA's Hafiz Shaleed



NANNU ... 78

sent three BCCB batsmen back to the pavilion for nine runs only.

Shock of being exposed, perhaps to a superior and experienced team on an alien

ground, triggered off indiscretion and Akram Khan, the most consistent Bangladeshi batsman in the recent times, added to the miseries by managing to get himself run out.

Akram was not the only player to go for blob. Enamul Huq Moni, the effective Biman allrounder, too, failed to add anything to the team total.

With skipper Faruque Ahmed and talented allrounder Aminul Islam Bulbul still groping in the dark in search of their form, the final total, in spite of all those mind-boggling failures, was quite commendable.

If the batsmen had a bad day, Bangladeshi bowlers, pitted against an unenviable but challenging task of defending 131 runs, fared even worse.

The seasoned WAPDA batsmen walloped the bowlers of the visiting team all over the ground to reach their target in 27 overs with minimum casualty.

Athar Ali Khan captured the lone wicket that fell for ten runs.

BCCB XI play the second of their ten matches of the tour against P&T Gymkhana today in Lahore.

New turn in SA soccer scandal



JOHANNESBURG Jan 2: The foreign footballers scandal rocking South Africa has taken a new turn

with a Liberian admitting he played here for two seasons under a false name, reports AFP.

Former national striker Friday Roberts fled the war-ravaged west African nation in 1991 to join Bloemfontein Celtic, a First Division club from Orange Free State province.

Celtic officials repeatedly denied media claims that the Liberian was a foreigner, and he became an established first-team player using the name Williams.

But Roberts, who previously played for Mighty Barolle of Monrovia, admitted Sunday that Celtic brought him into the country illegally and changed his name.

South Africa permits clubs to register five foreigners and field three rules which some clubs allegedly break by altering players' names and giving them fake identity documents.

Responding to frequent press reports of abuse, National Football Association

officials launched an inquiry and the findings should be released during January.

Roberts and compatriot Alex Theo, who also played for Celtic under an assumed name, have been detained briefly, charged with being illegal immigrants, and are expected to be deported.

Another Liberian, goalkeeper Antohony Togbah, was recently sent home after admitting that he played under a false name and had fake documents.

Nat'l sub junior chess begins today

Sports Reporter

The fourteenth National sub-junior (under-16) chess competition begins at 3 pm today at the chess room of the National Sports Club, according to a Bangladesh Chess Federation press release yesterday.

The deadline for last-minute entries is 2 pm today while the participants are requested to be present by 2.30 pm.

Togbah helped Chatsworth Rangers, who are based in the Indian Ocean port of Durban, defeat Total Aces in the South African Cup semifinals.

But when aces protested that their opponents used four foreigners—Zambians Albert Bwalya and Tennant Chembo, Peruvian Ricardo Cano and Togbah — Rangers were disqualified.

Jomo Cosmos and Dynamos, relegated at the end of last season, are threatening legal action if clubs who used more than three foreigners in league games are not punished.

Since returning to international football in 1992 after 28 years of apartheid-induced isolation, South Africa has experienced a huge influx of footballers, largely from Africa and South America.

The latest recruit is Kennedy Nagoli, a youth international from Zimbabwe club Ziscoosteel, who has been signed by Aces to bolster their squad for the African Cup Winners' Cup.

Kaizer Chiefs, rebuilding after failing to win a trophy last season, are chasing Swazi striker Bongli Dlamini, another star of the recent regional youth championship.

M United slip up slightly



LONDON, Jan 2: Runway leaders Manchester United had their emphatic advantage shaved slightly

when they were held 0-0 at home by Leeds on Saturday as second-placed Blackburn Rovers won 1-0 at Aston Villa, reports Reuter.

Champions United maintained their unbeaten home record but their fourth draw in their last five games at Old Trafford allowed Blackburn to close the intimidating gap to 12 points, courtesy of Alan Shearer's 20th goal of the season.

United, who kicked off two hours earlier, held off the challenge of one of their few realistic title rivals but Blackburn, who have a game in hand, kept up the chase with their fifth win in six games.

Kevin Campbell scored his seventh goal in four games as Arsenal won 3-0 at Wimbledon to move third. Ian Wright also scored for the third successive game.

Andy Cole took his tally for the season to 27 with both goals in Newcastle's 2-0 win over Manchester City.

Relegation-strugglers Sheffield United celebrated the new year with their first goal in 620 minutes in a 2-1 win over Oldham. Dane Whitehouse's 23rd minute penalty ended Sheffield's misery.

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson extended his record of never losing to Leeds to 13 games as the champions stretched their impressive unbeaten run in all competitions to 22 despite missing injured trio Lee Sharpe, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes.

Leeds, who were robbed of their incisiveness with the absence of top scorer Rod Wallace and influential midfielder Gary Speed, were only the second side to keep United goalless at Old Trafford this season.

Priceless England striker Shearer kept Blackburn within sight of United when he started the new year as he ended the old — on the scoresheet.

Shearer, whose midweek double, against Everton lifted Kenny Dalglish's side into second place, struck in the 38th minute with a clinical finish after a brilliant run down the left by Graeme Le Saux.

Tim Breacker scored the first Premier League goal of 1994 after six minutes to give West

Ham a 1-0 win at Everton.

Liverpool ended their run of five successive draws with a 2-1 win at Ipswich, with Ian Rush earning them their first away league victory since August with a goal two minutes from time.

Defender Beil Ruddock headed Liverpool's first.

Glenn Hoddle endured a storm of boos and cries of "Judas" on his return to bottom club Swindon, but left in triumph as his Chelsea side won 3-1 to register their second successive victory after going 10 matches without one.

Hoddle left Swindon to manage Chelsea in the close season after leading them to promotion to the Premier League.

Former England assistant manager Lawrie McMenemy's return as a director to Southampton, the club he managed, ended in disappointment as they lost 1-0 to Norwich and had Francis Benali sent off for elbowing Ruel Fox.

Sheffield Wednesday scored twice in two minutes late in the second half to come from behind for a 2-1 win at Queen's Park Rangers. Mark Bright and Gordon Watson scored Wednesday's goals after Less Ferdinand had put Rangers ahead.

Div II cricket results

Sports Reporter

The Shantinagar cricketers had a miserable time at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. While Shantinagar B batsmen experienced all sorts of trouble in their Milnars First Division tie against Agrani Bank on the eastern strip, at the other wicket the senior squad was groping in the dark for a way to spoil Rupali Bank's run feast.

In one of the three Second Division cricket league matches scheduled for the day, Rupali Bank batsmen treated the Shantinagar A bowlers disdainfully to carve a huge 118-run victory.

Batting first, the bankers amassed an imposing 266 for seven in the stipulated 40 overs, with half-centuries from Babli and Dipu, who made 86 and 58 respectively. Sloppy fielding provided 62 runs in the form of extras.

With an asking rate of more than six and a half runs an over to win, the Shantinagar A batsmen, decided to bat through the quota their quota than go for a win. When the last ball of the innings was bowled, the scoreboard read 148 for eight.

Aamir topscored with 47, followed by Ripu who made 23. At the Jagannath Hall cricket ground, a similar act took place with Uttara Sporting club on the driving seat.

Against Azad Boys, a formidable force in the Senior Division cricket of the yester years, Uttara, batting first, piled up 242 for six in 40 overs.

Monzu top scored with an unbeaten 58. He was closely followed by Saimon 55, Shamol 37, and Chinu 32. Extras came to 34.

Farid, Shakil, Shabbir and Shaoun took a wicket apiece for Azad Boys.

Chasing a huge total, Azad fell well short when they were bundled out for only 132 in 34.3 overs.

Kamrul and Rono were the two main scorers for Azad who hit 29 and 18 respectively.

Shamol was the most successful amongst the Uttara bowlers capturing four wickets for 17.

In the other tie of the day at the DCG Amarjyoti Club outplayed Cantonian Sporting Club by five wickets.

Cantonian SC batted first and were shot out for 121 in 39.1 overs.

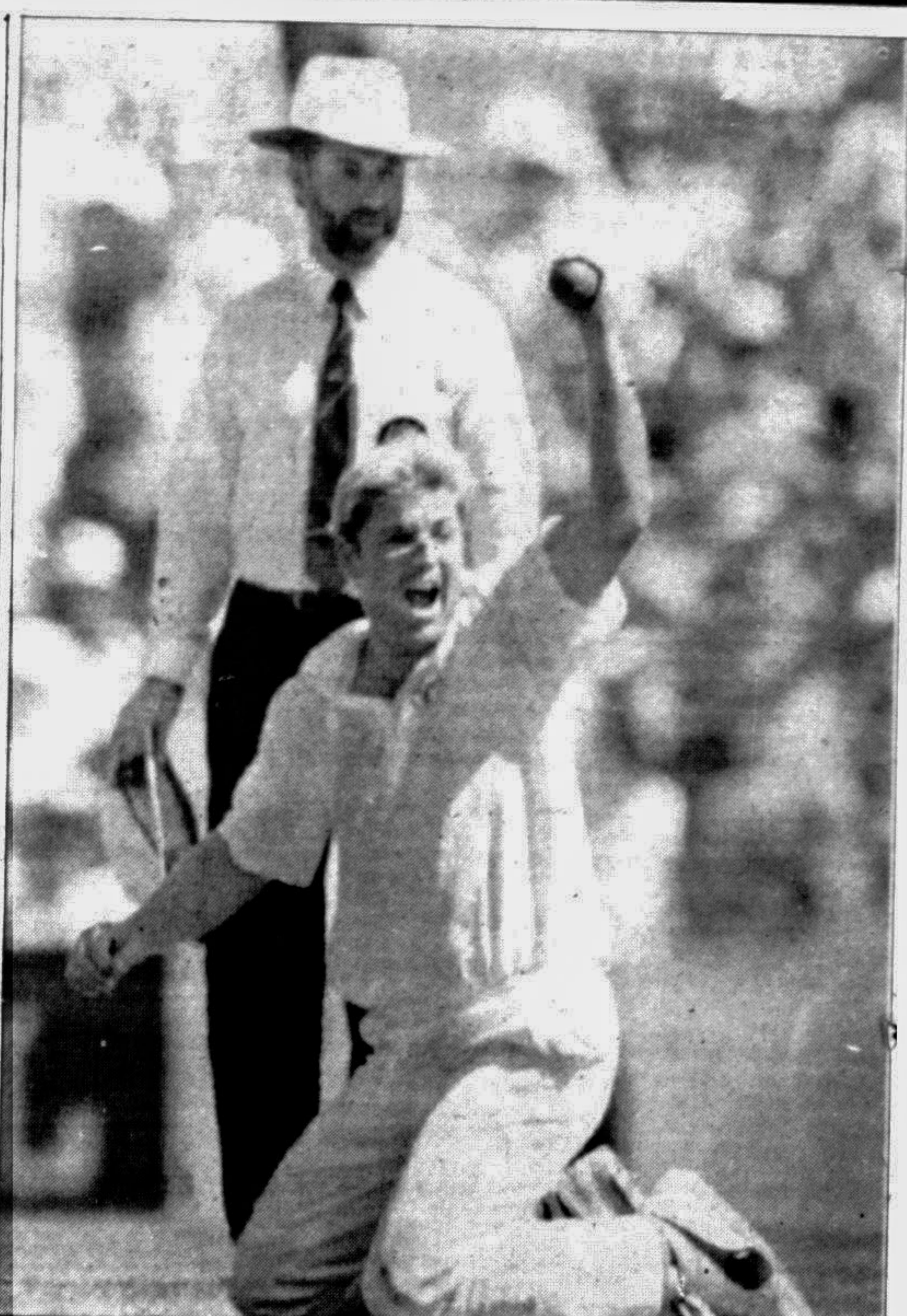
Extras (40) figured prominently in the total. Bulbul made 24 and Hemal got 17.

Amarjyoti bowlers Rashed, Tareq, Polish and Sezan captured 2 wickets each.

Amarjyoti easily achieved their goal for the loss of only five wickets in 26.2 overs.

Extras (35) again added to the tally. Zabr, Polish, Aman, Sumi scored 27, 15, 15 n.o. and 12 respectively.

Monowar, the Cantonian bowler, captured three wicket for 27.



Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne is absolutely delighted after capturing the wicket of South African captain Kepler Wessels off his own bowling for only 3 on the first day of the second Test between Australia and South Africa in Sydney yesterday. — AFP photo

Warne sends SA on a spin



SYDNEY, Jan 2: Legspin bowler Shane Warne snared seven wickets Sunday to add South Africa to the list of countries he has devastated in his young cricket career, reports AP.

Australia's match-winning slow bowler carried on with his 1993 form in his initial outing of the new year with a stunning 7-56 against the visitors on the opening day of the second Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Warne tore the heart out of the South African middle-order with a spell of 7-56 in 78 deliveries as the visitors collapsed to 169 all out.

By stumps, Australia were 20-1 in reply and needing only a further 149 runs Monday to build a strong lead.

Warne rewrote the record books for slow bowlers in 1993 with his 72 wickets at 23.57 for the calendar year — the best by any spinner in Test history.

The Victorian state player has won Test matches against Sri Lanka, the West Indies, England and New Zealand.

Once Warne shattered Daryl Cullinan's stumps with his deadly flipper to grab his first scalp, the writing was on the wall.

Opener Gary Kirsten battled hard for 67 but only three

batsmen made it into double figures as South Africa's shortcomings against good spin bowling were exposed.

"Once you get your first wicket, you tend to get your confidence going," Warne said. "I like to get a wicket early because then I feel like I'm well on top."

Warne was introduced to the attack within the first hour of the Test, coming on to bowl the 12th over of the match with the score 23-1.

Glenn McGrath had trapped Andrew Hudson lbw for a duck with what looked to be a harsh decision for the batsman.

The 32,681 spectators — the best Sydney Test crowd in more than a decade — were strangely subdued for the first three-quarters of an hour before finding voice when it was apparent Warne would bowl.

Kirsten and Hansie Cronje added 90 for the second-wicket and Warne did not begin his wrecking operation until after Cronje was back in the pavilion for 41.

The South African vice-captain played the two spinners particularly well in Melbourne and it took a fast bowler to remove him, brilliantly caught at gully by Mark Waugh in the midst of a superb post-lunch spell from Craig McDermott. Cullinan was the first of

Warne's victims at 110-2, misreading the deadly flipper and being bowled for nine. Just as he was dismissed for nought in a one-day game two weeks ago.

Once the flipper was on target, Jonny Rhodes (four), Kirsten (67) Dave Richardson (four), Kepler Wessels (three) and Chris Matthews (nought) were dispatched in five overs encompassing the tea break.

Rhodes fell lbw at 133 while Kirsten was stumped by Ian Healy one run later.

A subdued Wessels, who won the toss and elected to bat, was angry after stumps and said he had no excuses for his side's effort.

"It's a very disappointing day and we didn't bat well," Wessels said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening day of the second Test between Australia and South Africa at the Sydney Cricket Ground today.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings

A Hudson lbw b McGrath	0
G Kirsten st Healy b Warne	67
H Cronje c M Waugh b McDermott	41
D Cullinan b Warne	9
J Rhodes lbw b Warne	4
K Wessels c and b Warne	3
D Richardson c Taylor b Warne	4
P Symcox b Warne	7
C Matthews c Taylor b Warne	0
F De Villiers c Waugh b McDermott	18
A Donald not out	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, nb-11)	16
Total:	169

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-91; 3-110; 4-133; 5-134; 6-141; 7-142; 8-142; 9-152

Bowling:

Bowler	O	M	R	W
McDermott	18.1	2	42	2
McGrath	19	5	32	1
S Warne	27	8	56	7
T May	10	1	34	0

Overs: 74.1

AUSTRALIA: First innings

M Slater not out	5
M Taylor c Richardson b Donald	7
D Boon not out	7
Extras: (nb-1)	7
Total: (for one wicket)	20

Fall of wickets: 1-10

Did not bat: M Waugh, A Border, D Martyn, I Healy, S Warne, T May, C McDermott, G McGrath

Bowling:

Bowler	O	M	R	W
A Donald	6	2	10	1
De Villiers	3	1	9	0
Matthews	3	2	1	0

Kirsten shows how it's done



SYDNEY, Jan 2: Rookie South African opener Gary Kirsten ignored his own advice on how to handle Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne to top-score with his maiden half-century in the second cricket test Sunday, reports AP.

Warne took 7-56 as South Africa crumbled for 169, but only after Kirsten had made a dogged 67 in more than 3 1/2 hours of sustained and often lucky defiance.

The tiny left hander, a half brother of World Cup star Peter, was a surprise omission from the original squad and Sunday gave the selectors a timely reminder of that gaffe.

Subscribing to the theory that a scratchy 50 or 60 is better than a flashy 20, Kirsten had five "lives" at the expense of paceman Craig McDermott and off-spinner Tim May before finally being stumped off Warne.

"It wasn't easy, it was quite hard out there," Kirsten said in a big understatement. "The wicket isn't as good as we thought it would be."

McDermott bowled very well after lunch, it wasn't easy to face him, and Warne turned it a lot. I think the way to go, you have to try to be aggressive against him. Hansie Cronje and I played well for a period of time

until lunch but then after lunch I got a bit loose.

"When Hansie got out we never got partnerships going again."

On 27, a full toss from May landed on Kirsten's boot, popped up and ricocheted off his gloves to Mark Waugh, at short point.

The appeal was denied by umpire Steve Randell. Four runs later and after lunch, Kirsten chopped a ball from McDermott within a brush of paint of his leg stump.

He then tormented Waugh and McDermott a further three times.

Still on 31 he slashed a ball from McDermott to Waugh at second slip, but the usually safe Waugh spilled it at the third grab, then learned Randell had called a no-ball.

At 35 Kirsten got a shoulder of the bat to a McDermott lifter, and the Test spearhead watched in astonishment as Waugh took a few steps and stopped as the ball fell, softly to earth in front of him.

James Pyle US tennis expert in city

James Pyle, an international tennis expert from the United States, arrived here yesterday to conduct a training course for the budding and young tennis players, reports BSS.

The three week course, organised by Bangladesh Tennis Federation in cooperation with the International Tennis Federation (ITF), begins at the National Tennis Complex here today at 9 am.

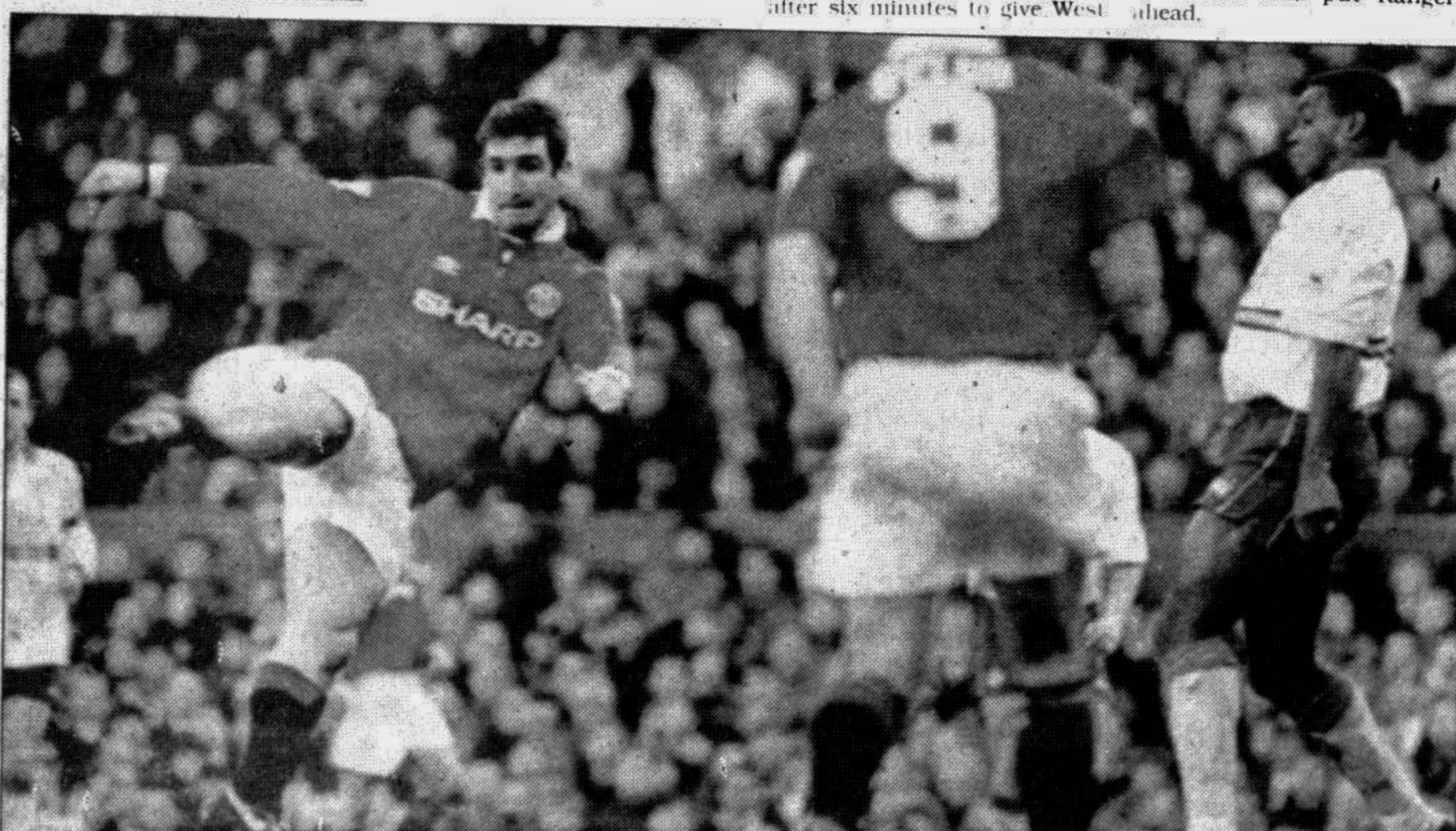
Interested players, both boys and girls, have been requested to report to the Tennis Complex at 8-30 am.

Local tennis coaches will be attached with Pyle during the course.

Besides, the US tennis expert will conduct a one-week course in Chittagong from January 24 and a similar course in Rajshahi from February 1.

Memorial badminton

The Mother's memorial badminton tournament, organised by Tengra Prograti Sangha, will be held at Tengra Primary School play ground at Demra on January 10, reports BSS.



Manchester United's French striker Eric Cantona attempts a half-volley during his side's English Premier League match against Leeds at Old Trafford on Jan 1. — AFP photo