

**Nat'l athletics begins Feb 16**

**Sports Reporter**  
 The three-day 22nd national athletics championship organised by Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF) begins from February 16 at the Mirpur Stadium, according to a BAAF press release issued in Dhaka yesterday.

Participants have been requested to register their names before February 10.

**Radio Bangladesh to broadcast BCCB-Pak matches**

Radio Bangladesh will broadcast a running commentary on the Bangladesh-Pakistan cricket match to be played at Dhaka Stadium on January 23 and 24, an official handout said here last night, reports BBS.

The commentary will be broadcast from 9-15 am to 12-40 noon and 1-15 pm to 5-45 pm, the handout said.

**Partex b'ball**

**Sports Reporter**  
 Angels Club trounced Dhaka Wanderers Club 108-48 in the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 56-15.

Dual top scored with 39 points.

Siddique was the other notable eager for Angel.

Azad Boys Club defeated Fleet Club 74-59 in the other game.

Azad led the first half 30-22. James caged 28 points while Nahaz 15 for the winners.

Mahmudur with 20 and Intiaz with 11 were the main scorers for the losers.

**Div III soccer**

**Sports Reporter**  
 The sun didn't rise early enough for Sunrise Sporting when they were trounced 5-2 by Maghbaraz KC in the Pragati Insurance Third Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The loss now puts them in a play-off match against BG Press to decide the runners-up spot in this season's league.

Monturul sealed their (Sunrise) fate with a superb hat-trick.

**Monaco find it simply crazy**

PARIS, Jan 21: Monaco football club denied on Thursday making a 14 million franc (2.8 million dollar) under-the-table payment to Italian side Torino last year for Belgian World Cup captain Enzo Scifo, reports AFP.

"That's crazy," Monaco president Jean-Louis Campora said of reports in the Italian press that Gian Mauro Borsano, the former Torino president, had revealed the deal to magistrates examining financial malpractice at the club.

"We would have nothing to gain from such an action as we don't pay VAT on transfer fees anyway," Campora said from the tax-free principality.

He said Monaco paid a club record 30 million francs with payments spread over three years.

Arsene Wenger, the Monaco coach wanted by Bayern Munich, insisted he would honour his contract but Franz Beckenbauer said from Germany he would have to make his mind up within the next month.

Wenger's coaching skills and the fact he speaks German — he comes from Strasbourg — have made him Beckenbauer's leading choice to revive the club's fortunes.

**'Biggest and most complicated'**

MANCHESTER, Jan 21: UEFA will direct their biggest and most complicated European Championship qualifying draw ever here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Following the break-up of the eastern bloc, European football's governing body will be faced by an unprecedented 47 countries, which will be organised into eight groups to produce 16 finalists.

UEFA look set to settle on seven groups of six nations and one of five, with the winners of each group automatically qualifying for the finals.

They will probably be joined by the six best runners-up from the six-team groups. The remaining place will then be decided by a play-off between the worst runners-up with the team who finishes second in the five-team group.

UEFA are also considering awarding three points for a win instead of two to encourage attacking play in the finals.

Jack Charlton's fate could rest in the hands of his brother, as Bobby is one of three 1966 World Cup winners lined up by hosts England to make the draw.

He could find himself drawing brother Jack's Republic of Ireland out of the pots when the qualifying groups are shaped.

**Pakistan arrive today**



**Sports Reporter**  
 A 16-member Pakistani national team, led by Salim Malik, arrives today to play two exhibition one-day matches against Bangladesh.

The two limited-over ties of the unofficial Gold Leaf One-Day Series will be played tomorrow and the day after at the Dhaka Stadium.

Asif Mujtaba, the left-hand batsman, will be Malik's deputy on the tour. The other members of the squad are: Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Aftab Ghani, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Basit Ali, Rasheed Latif, Aamir Sohail, Saeed Anwar, Shoaib Mohammed, Atif Rauf, Aamir Nazir, Shakeel Ahmed and Mushtaq Ahmed.

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has already announced a 16-strong squad for the series and next month's ICC Trophy in Kenya with Faruque Ahmed as the skipper.

Faruque, the gutsy right-hand batsman, will have Akram Khan, the burly right-hander, who is now the most consistent run-getter for the Bangladesh national team, as the vice-captain.

Meanwhile, all the preparations have nearly been completed for the series, arranged with a view to giving the local cricketers an exposure to some of the top cricketers of the world.

However, many believe Pakistan's visit, a long overdue (according to BCCB's earlier announcement), would do few blocks away, the national side, which performed rather indifferently in the recent tour of Pakistan, is not really ideally poised to digest a thrashing at this stage.

Bangladesh, who lost six of their ten-match preparatory package on the recent Pakistan tour, have not yet shown any sign of settling down and the 'expected drubbing' at the hands of the World Cup holders, observers feel, would surely do more harm than any real good to their morale.

Moreover, the deadly Pakistani pace duo of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, with their in-swinging yorkers, might cause injuries to some of our batsmen and that, at this point, could be a fatal blow for a squad, which aspires to be one of the three ICC associate members to play in the next World Cup.

The three top finishers of the ICC Trophy will, according to a recent ICC proclamation, join the nine Test-playing nations in the next world championships of cricket, to be co-hosted by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

With the ICC Trophy just a month away, the board's coffers than focusing on the loopholes in the local selection, which may surface during the strenuous and taxing tour of Kenya.

With the ICC Trophy just a

**Eskaton emerge champs**

**Sports Reporter**  
 Tauhid played a pivotal role as Eskaton Sabuj Sangha stole a march on Sadharan Bima to win the distinction of Milnars First Division cricket league champions.

Earlier with no promotional stakes on since both teams had confirmed their rights to play in next year's Navana Premier Division cricket league, yesterday's encounter between the two top teams zeroed in on the discernment of the champions. The honours went to Eskaton who beat Bima by 19 runs on the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Eskaton were sent in to bat after the Bima skipper won the toss and decided to field first. After a steady start Eskaton lost way. From 48 without loss they were reduced to 64 for four and only some resilient batting by allrounder Tauhid, the eventual top scorer and wicketkeeper Pappu gave them the capital for a win.

Tauhid who later engineered Bima's batting collapse with some extremely stinging bowling scored 44 followed by Pappu who made 33.

Mona (Sr) with 28, openers Biplob and Jewel with 17 and 18 respectively figured prominently in Eskaton's final score of 168 for nine wickets from the allotted quota of 45 overs.

Bima's Dear was the most successful bowler bagging three for 30.

Pacers Nakib and Tareq two and one wicket apiece at relatively low costs.

Bima progressed merrily along for some time with middling contributions from the top order batsmen when they went out in search of 169 runs for a win.

But Bima innings like that of Eskaton's innings caved in the middle.

Apart from the top three batsmen — stumper Shabbir, Ismail and skipper Towab who made 24, 20 and 28 respectively — only two more batsmen made it to the double figures as wickets fell like nine pins.

Dear scored 15 and Nakib a hefty ten which included a sixer as Bima were bowled out for 149 in 44.5 overs.

Mona (Jr) took three Bima wickets for 22 runs while Biplob and Shabbir captured two wickets apiece giving away 29 and 26 runs respectively.

Eskaton have finished their engagements with 22 points from 13 matches. Bima's final collection remains stuck at 20 also from 13 matches.

**Bolton gun Everton down**

LONDON, Jan 21: Everton surrendered a 2-0 lead in their home FA Cup third round replay with First Division Bolton on Wednesday night to crash out 3-2, reports AFP.

An extra-time goal by Bolton striker Owen Coyle completed their magnificent fightback and earned a lucrative home clash with holders Arsenal.

Bolton had seemed down and out of this stirring replay after stand-in striker Stuart Barlow scored two fine goals for Everton with an angled 28th minute shot and a brave 46th minute header.

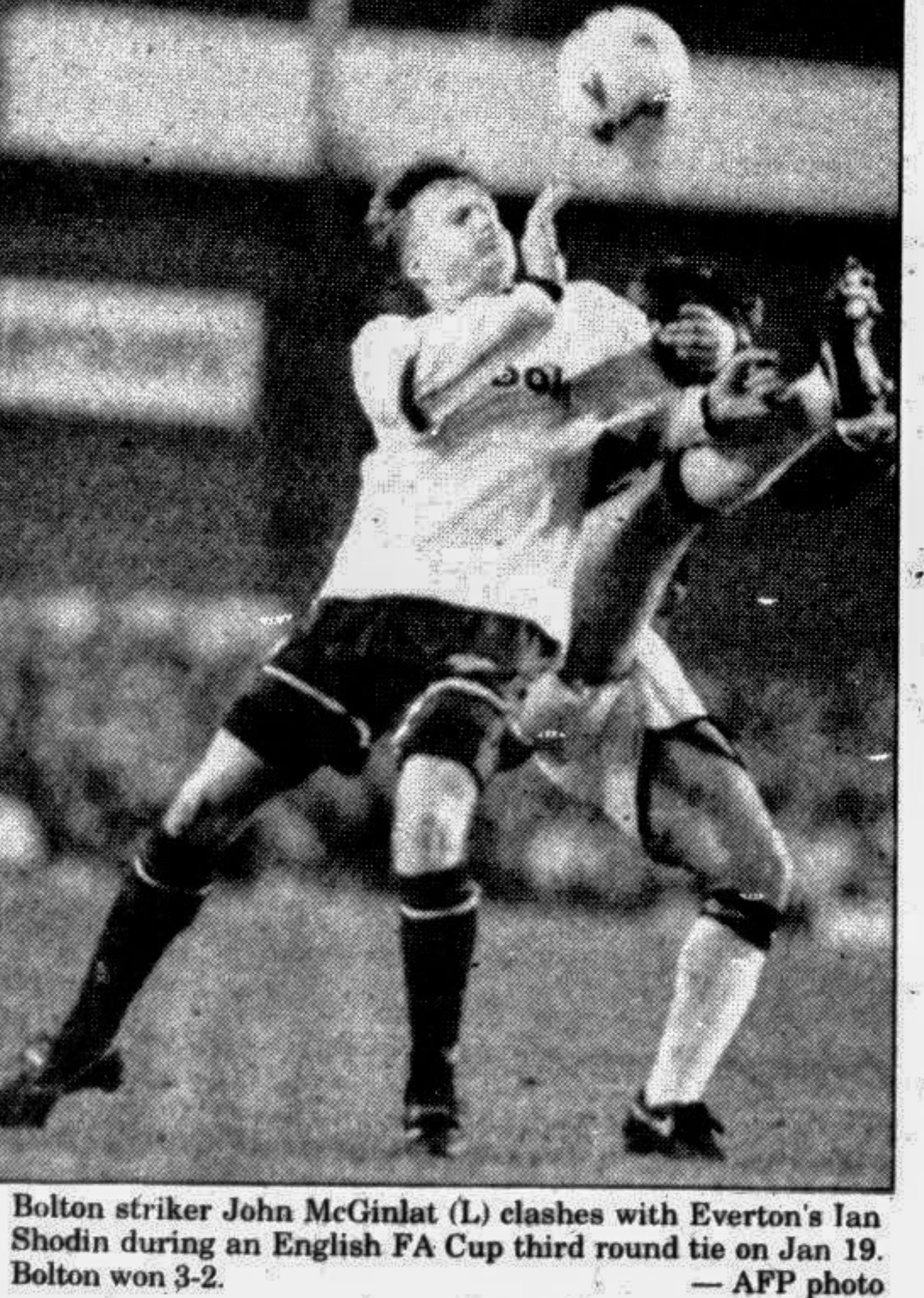
But John McGinlay threw Bolton a lifeline with a low 52nd minute volley, before Everton fan Alan Stubbs grabbed a dramatic equaliser seven minutes from time after Neville Southall had dropped David Lee's cross.

Ten minutes into extra-time Lee and Jason McAteer combined to set Coyle up to calmly cut inside and rifle home Bolton's richly-deserved winner.

Tottenham were saved from similar embarrassment as goalkeeper Ian Walker, who was the Spurs hero as they edged past First Division strugglers Peterborough 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 deadlock.

The first six spot-kicks were successful, but then Walker juggled the seventh from Peterborough teenager Andy Furnell against a post, before Nick Barmby and Steve Sedgley sealed Spurs' victory.

However, Tottenham, who have won the trophy a record eight times, might never have got the chance of sealing a fourth-round trip to Ipswich on penalties but for Waler, who pulled off a string of super saves.



**Cook to lead S African A**

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 21: Veteran Transvaal batsman Jimmy Cook has been selected to lead the South African A cricket side against England A at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth in a five-day match January 27-31, reports AFP.

Cook, 40, discarded for the current South African tour of Australia, tops a list of five players who have earned selection to the national side in the past.

The others are former national vice-captain Adrian Kuiper, his Western province teammate Meyrick Pringle, Transvaal left-arm spin bowler Clive Eksteen and Border wicketkeeper Steven Palfra-man.

"From the composition of the side, you can see we are taking this game very seriously," said Peter Pollock, convener of national selectors. "We regard it as a very important match and one we want to win."

**SOUTH AFRICA A:**  
 Micky Arthur (Free State), Gerhardus Liebenberg (Free State), Rudloff Steyn (Free State), Jimmy Cook (Transvaal-captain), Adrian Kuiper (Western Province), Louis Wilkinson (Free State), Eric Simon (Western Province), Derek Crooks (Natal), Steve Palfra-man (Border), Clive Eksteen (Transvaal), Meyrick Pringle (Western Province), Aubrey Martin (Western Province).

Manager: Mustafa Khan (Natal), Coach: Eddie Barlo (Transvaal).

The boys from Colombo will meet hosts Calcutta on the opening day while the other two participants, Bombay and Chandanagar will open their campaign the following day in the 45-overs a side tournament.

The tournament will be played on a round robin basis.

**Tight security for second India-SL Test**

BANGALORE, Jan 21: Elaborate security arrangements have been made here in view of the second cricket Test match to be played between India and the visiting Sri Lankan team scheduled to begin on January 26, reports PTI.

The honorary secretary of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), Nagaraj, told newsmen here yesterday that strict measures would be taken not to allow crackers and fireworks inside the stadium, besides prohibiting sale of eatables.

He said he had held meeting with the city police commissioner, P Kodandaramiah yesterday to review the security arrangements to prevent any untoward incidents.

Indian Air Force personnel would man the gates.

Nagaraj said season ticket sales would commence from Jan 23 to 25, for which 21,000 tickets had been printed. Sale of daily tickets would begin on the day of the match, he said, adding, 3,000 tickets had been printed for the payment class.

The Indian and the Sri Lankan cricket teams will arrive here from Delhi on Jan 24.

**Protasov heads for Japan**

TOKYO, Jan 21: Oleg Protasov became the latest overseas soccer international to move to Japan when he signed for Gamba Osaka of the J-League, club officials confirmed on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The Ukrainian, who will be 30 next month, has been at Olympiakos in Greece for the past four years.

Protasov made his international debut in 1984, but made headlines a year later when he set a Soviet league scoring record of 35 goals in 34 games with Dnepr. He later moved on to Dynamo Kiev and Olympiakos.

He made 66 full camps for the former Soviet Union team scoring 28 goals.

The club did not disclose the details of the transfer fee. Protasov began training with his new team on Thursday in preparation of the new J-League season which starts on March 12.

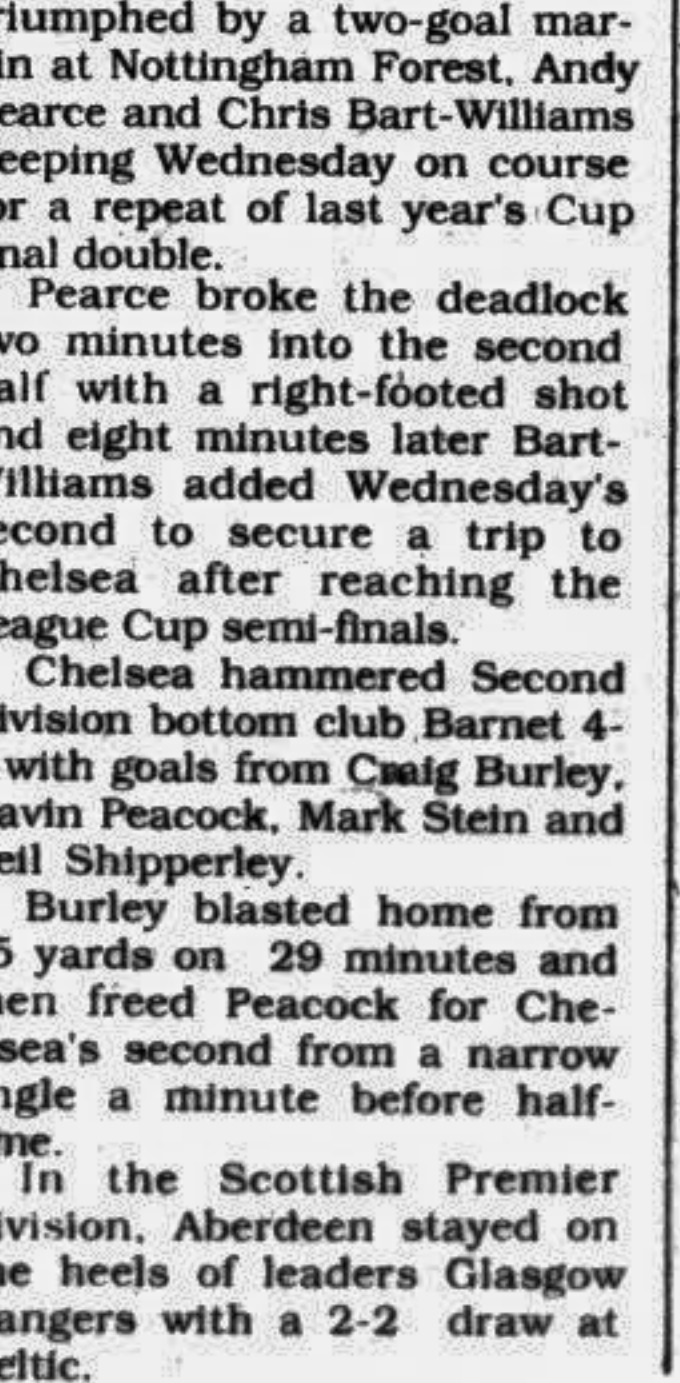
**Sonali Bank sports**

**Sports Reporter**  
 The annual sports competition of the Sonali Bank Dhaka Division concluded at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In all, four hundred and fifty-five competitors from thirteen teams under the Dhaka Division took part in thirty-two events.

Local office of the bank bagged the team title respectively.

Earlier M Ahsanul Haque, Managing Director of Sonali Bank inaugurated the meet as chief guest.



**South Africans go one-up**

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: South Africa produced the perfect all-round performance to go one-up in the best of three one-day cricket finals against Australia here today, reports AFP.

Enterprising batting in setting up a 231-run target and then some penetrating bowling and poor fielding by Australia paved the way for the 28-run victory.

South Africa, which have now beaten Australia in four of six one-day encounters since returning to international cricket, will now go into the second final in Sydney on Sunday as strong favourites to take the Triangular Series Cup.

Man-of-the-match Gary Kirsten helped set up the win with an unbeaten 112 off 137 deliveries, the first century of the one-day series this season.

Kirsten, who was flown out to Australia last month to bolster the squad after Brian McMillan's knee injury, continued his wonderful post-christmas run and was the mainstay of the innings.

He shared a 53-run opening stand with half brother Peter Kirsten (28), 90 with skipper Hansie Cronje (40), and 53 with Jonty Rhodes (31).

Australia were struck a blow from the start when Cronje won the toss and batted.

Australia have never felt comfortable chasing targets and captain Allan Border's worst fears were realised when South Africa amassed 230 for five off their allotted 50 overs.

Border, playing in possibly his last international at the famous ground, made a valiant 42 and in typical style the skipper went down fighting.

South Africa's bowlers, led by medium pacer Richard Snell with 5-40, made life difficult for Australia's batsmen and were superbly supported in the field. Jonty Rhodes once again providing inspiration with the important run out of David Boon.

Australia kept pace with South Africa in its early run chase, 52 for one compared to South Africa's 58 for one after the 15th over.

But then Australia's batsmen panicked.

When the required run-rate crept up to six an over midway through the innings and with one-day specialist Dean Jones back in the pavilion for just three, the cracks started to appear.

The near 70,000 crowd became restless during Boon and Mark Waugh's 31-run partnership before the pair paid dearly for chasing Rhodes' arm attempting a cheeky leg-bye and Boon was short of his ground with a direct underarm throw.

Apart from Jones, all of Australia's top order made a start.

Matthew Hayden (20) was

**Calculta Mayor's sub-jr cricket from Jan 24**

Calculta Mayor's sub-jr cricket tournament starting at the Eden Gardens here on January 24, reports PTI.

**Christie pitted against Jackson**

LONDON, Jan 21: Britain's world champions Linford Christie and Colin Jackson will clash over 60 metres at an indoor meeting between Britain and Russia at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall on January 29, reports Reuter.

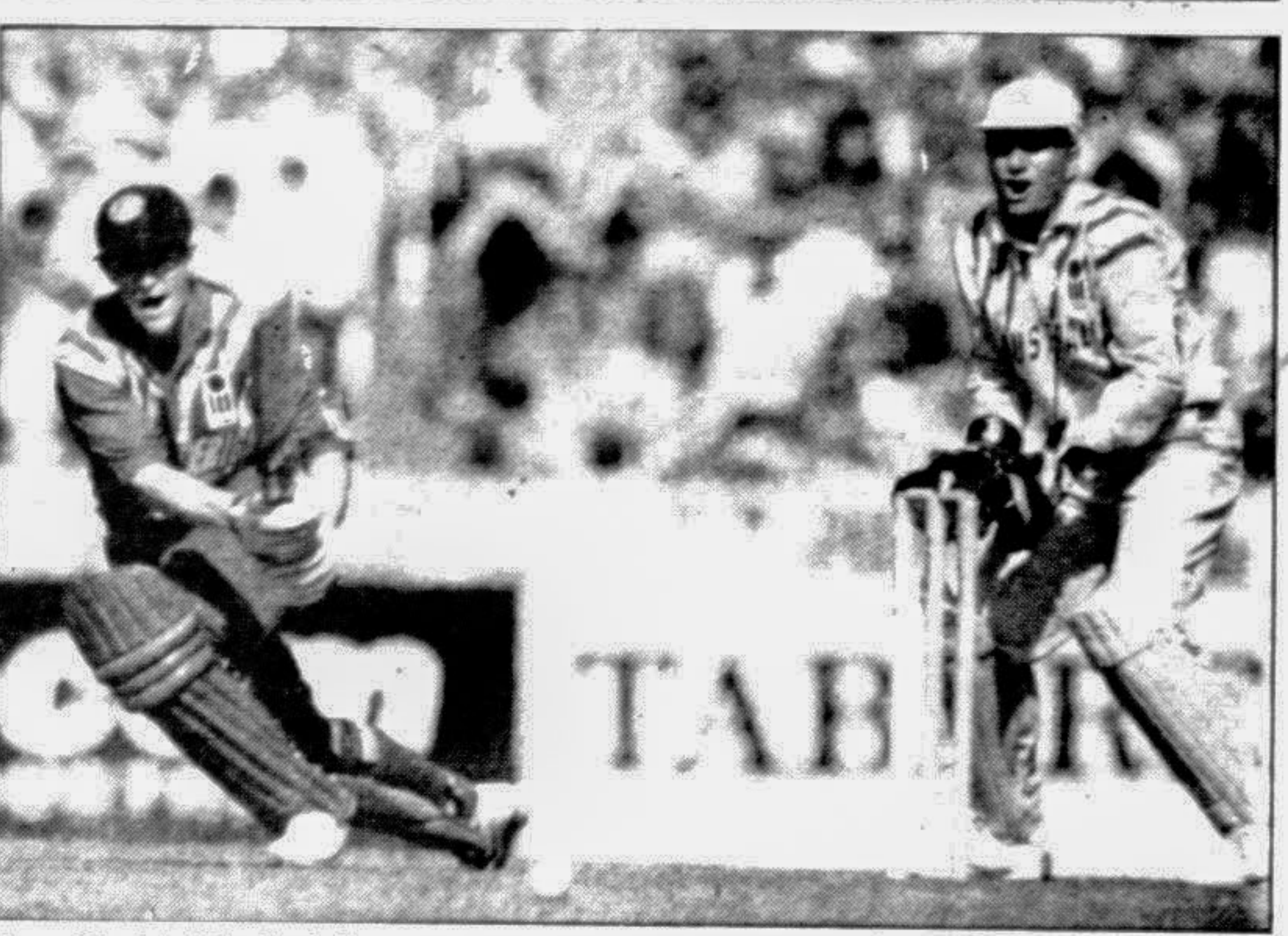
World high hurdles champion Jackson, who has been training in Australia with Christie, will run both the 60 metres flat and 60 metres hurdles in Glasgow.

Christie, the Olympic and world 100 metres gold medalist, has won three European Indoor 60 metres titles and is co-holder of the British record with a time of 6.51 seconds.

"I'm both nervous and excited about the prospect of racing against Linford indoors," Jackson said. "I have great respect for him and know it will take a superhuman effort to beat him."

**Gary Kirsten hits maiden one-day ton**

Jonty Rhodes dabs the ball to the leg while wicketkeeper Ian Healy watches during the first of the World Series Cup (WSC) one-day finals between Australia and South Africa in Melbourne yesterday. South Africa won by 28 runs to take a one-nil lead. — AFP photo



Jonty Rhodes dabs the ball to the leg while wicketkeeper Ian Healy watches during the first of the World Series Cup (WSC) one-day finals between Australia and South Africa in Melbourne yesterday. South Africa won by 28 runs to take a one-nil lead. — AFP photo

**South Africans go one-up**

again disappointing, playing onto his stumps.

Mark Waugh was out caught behind for 36 after Allan Donald bowled one into his rib cage and then Steve Waugh (27) and Ian Healy (0) holed out to Peter Kirsten at mid-on in the 39th and 40th overs as the required run-rate ballooned up to eight an over.

Border and Paul Reiffel (18) gave Australia hope with a 42-run partnership for the seventh wicket before Snell bowled both in a devastating finishing spell.

Afterwards Border conceded that the South Africans would now be hard to beat in the final series.

"They are in tremendous form," he said.

"We played well below our best in the field, arguably that's where we lost the game — it cost us 20 runs through sloppy fielding."

South Africa's innings got off to a flying start when the Kirsten brothers brought up the first 50 in only 49 minutes.

Reiffel (23 of seven overs) and Steve Waugh (1-27) briefly stemmed the tide after Peter Kirsten was caught off a top edge at the wicket.

Glenn McGrath came in for some heavy punishment, conceding 52 runs off his nine overs. He was blasted for 34 off his first six overs and his two wickets only came during the happy hour.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne was overshadowed for one of the few times this summer.

He was hit for 45 runs off 10 overs and dropped two catches, including one off his own bowling when Rhodes was six.

His only wicket came from Cronje holed out to Jones on the mid-off boundary when the score was 143.

Throughout it all, Gary Kirsten continued to play his shots.

Since the second Test in Sydney, he has compiled scores of 51, 31, 55 and 112 not out in the one-day competition.

Cronje described South Africa's win as one of the more professional performances the team has put up in the past three years.

He did believe though that luck was on his team's side.

"Batting-wise the luck went our way today," he said.

"It was one of those days when everything we nicked just seemed to go wide, or got dropped or chipped into the gaps."

"There is still a long way to go, one match doesn't win you the trophy."

**SCOREBOARD**  
 Scoreboard in the first of the best-of-three World Series Cup cricket finals between Australia and South Africa at the Melbourne Cricket Ground today:

**SOUTH AFRICA:**  
 P Kirsten c Healy b S

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Donald	10	0	48	1
Villiers	9	1	26	2
Snell	9.5	0	40	5
McMillan	10	2	38	1
Callaghan	5	0	27	0
Cronje	5	0	22	0
Batting time: 215 minutes.				
Over 48.5.				
South Africa won first game of best-of-three final by 28 runs.				
Man of the Match: Gary Kirsten				