



Scoreboard in the four-nation SAARC cricket match between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

SRI LANKA	BANGLADESH
Hathurusinghe b Anis	47
Arnold b Rafique	21
Atapattu b Enam	1
De Saran c Athar Ali b Enam	0
Nawaz run out	7
Jayantha lbw b Anis	30
Chandana b Saiful	20
Dunusinghe b Saiful	0
Munasinghe b Anis	0
Villavarayan lbw b Anis	0
Silva not out	1
Extras: (lb-11, wb-25, nb-4)	40
Total: (48 overs)	167

Fall of wickets: 1-67; 2-70; 3-70; 4-101; 5-115; 6-166; 7-166; 8-166; 9-166; 10-167.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Sajal	7	0	34	0
Anis	9	1	29	4
Saiful	9	1	21	2
Athar	3	0	16	0
Enam	10	1	29	2
Rafique	10	0	27	1

BANGLADESH

Jahangir c Atapattu b Chandana	22
Athar st Dunusinghe S Jayantha	52
Shahar c Munasinghe b Atapattu	24
Akram Khan c Munasinghe b Arnold	12
Munasinghe not out	27
Enam c Dunusinghe b Arnold	1
Aminal Islam not out	4
Extras: (b-12, lb-9, w-5)	26
Total (48.5 overs)	168

Fall of wickets: 1-57; 2-110; 3-119; 4-141; 5-143.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Munasinghe	5.5	2	19	0
Villavarayan	4	0	12	0
Chandana	10	3	23	1
Hathurusinghe	4	1	18	0
Arnold	9	0	31	2
Silva	10	3	20	1
Atapattu	3	0	14	1
Jayantha	3	0	10	0

Result: Bangladesh won by five wickets.

Man-of-the-Match: Athar Ali Khan (Bangladesh)

TODAY'S MATCH

Pakistan vs India

BEXIMCO U-16 soccer results

Comilla, Jamalpur, Khulna and Gaibandha DSAs won their respective matches in the Beximco national schools (under-16) football tournament played at different zonal venues yesterday, reports UNB.

In Comilla, the hosts defeated Luxmpur DSA 2-0. Nazmul put Comilla ahead in the 19th minute and Jamal doubled the margin in the 43rd minute.

In Tangail, Jamalpur DSA also beat Netrokona 2-0 with Biplob and Latif scoring once each.

In Jessore, Khulna DSA overcame Magura by a 25th minute strike from Saiddullah.

In Natore, Gaibandha DSA registered a solitary goal victory over the hosts. Rubel netted the all important goal for the winners.

Navy athletics

CHITTAGONG, Dec 24: BNS Haji Mohsin clinched the title of the annual athletic championship of the Bangladesh Navy which concluded at BNS Issa Khan here on Friday, reports BSS.

Hazi Mohsin athletes collected 111 points while Frigate Squadron became runners-up with 82 points.

M A Rahim, CPO (muse) of BNS Haji Mohsin, was adjudged the best athlete of the meet. He won gold in 400m sprint and 400m hurdles.

M Ismail became the fastest man of Navy.

Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff Commodore Fakhruddin Ahmed was chief guest on the concluding day and gave away prizes.

Guy Delage doing well

PARIS, Dec 24: A 42-year-old Frenchman trying to swim across the Atlantic Ocean said on Friday he had covered 400 km (250 miles) since setting out for the Caribbean a week ago from Cape Verde off West Africa, reports Reuter.

Guy Delage, who was seasick for the first three days of his swim, told French television TF-1 by radio that he was feeling better and had picked up speed.

"I am just starting to swim well," said Delage who has 3,500 km (1,900 miles) left to go.

Until now, Delage had been spending most of his time on his raft rather than in the water because of his seasickness and to check his equipment. A shark gnawed on his raft's anchor and damaged it on Delage's first night out.

"I don't know which (shark) it was. It's still a little frightening but I haven't met any others," he said.

The raft enables him to sleep and carries his food and equipment for water desalination, communication and emergencies.

Delage hopes to complete the swim in two to three months.

Indo-Pak battle today

Sports Reporter

Sub-continental superpowers, bitter neighbours Pakistan and India play a crucial match of the four-nation SAARC cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium today. The match, expected to be a high-voltage one for the two sides' age-old rivalry, begins at 9 am as usual.

Apart from the prestige element involved in any Indo-Pak affair, tomorrow's match holds extra importance for the quadrangular competition with the winners virtually booking a place in the final, to be played on December 29.

With one win each under their belt, both Pakistan and India will go for a win to avoid do or die situation.

Of the two, the Indians are definitely enjoying a psychological edge, having taken care of the selection from fellow-ICC member Sri Lanka without even stretching themselves. On the contrary, the representatives of the world champions in the one-day version of the game almost stumbled against the weaklings of the sub-continent, squeezing out a win by the narrowest possible margin — one wicket, over the hosts, the only nation in the most sans Test status.

Fazal, Nadeem Khan, Mohsin Kamal and Aamir Nazir — with Test experience, India, with four Test-discards in captain Praveen Amre, Vijay Yadav, Rajesh Chauhan and Sall Ankola, seem to have more depth. However, none of this experienced lot played any significant part in their respective sides' victory.



But, as far as the issue of the venue is concerned, the Indian should feel comfortable as the Dhaka Stadium has the record of being a happy hunting ground for them since they won all three previous meetings of the two countries here.

Nevertheless, as it has been proved earlier on a number of occasions, statistics and records have very little consequence in the end of a match that involves these two.

Regardless of their respective head-to-head records and theoretical balance, both camps expressed guarded optimism over today's encounter. Indian manger Sandeep Patil was more philosophical though.

"Winning is not our goal," said the 29-Test veteran when asked about his expectation. "My boys are here to build their future."

Patil's Pakistani counterpart was, on the other hand, more specific, only in a round about way.

"There's no reason why we can't win tomorrow," said Nasimul Ghani, who is also the chairman of selectors in his country.

Ghani, however, stipulated the fact that the Indians will be hard nut to crack, praising their positive approach to the tournament.

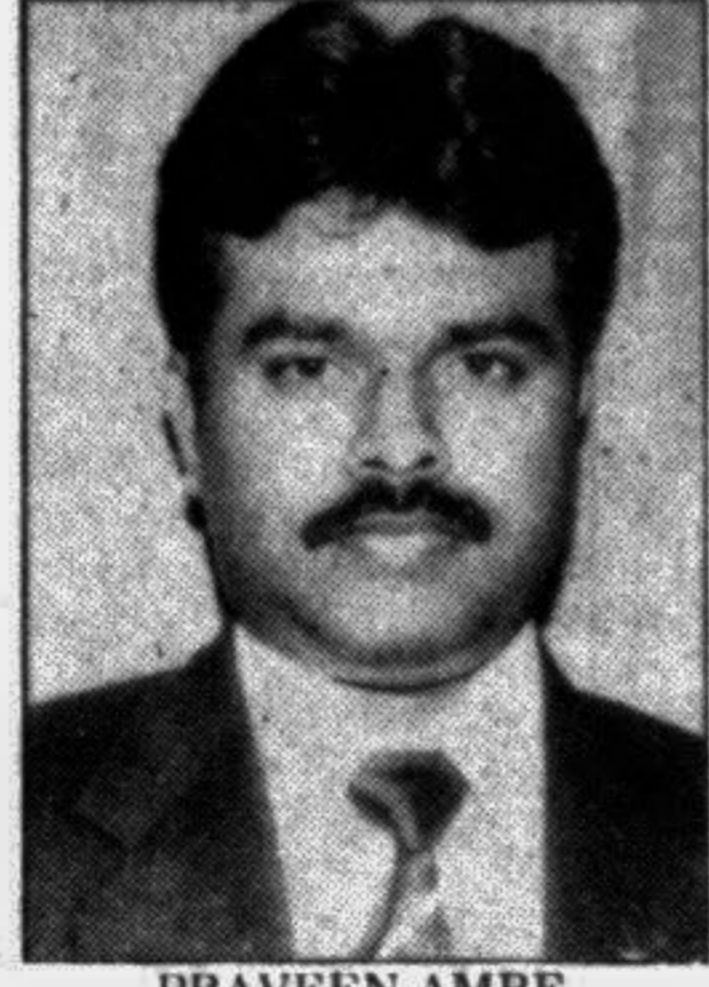
"They are a balanced team," he said. "We have to fight hard to avoid a fourth defeat at the hands of the same opponent in Dhaka."

Asked about what he would suggest his boys to do today against their familiar foes, Ghani said: "on this pitch, grafting should be the order of the day, and our batsmen should not forget that for a moment. The bowlers should be as accurate as possible."

Pakistani skipper Raja, the stylish right-hand opening batsmen with 47 Tests under his belt, who does not consider himself a cricketing genius, was severely critical about the condition of the wicket.

"This kind of wickets is not ideal for one-day matches," said the man who has almost five thousands Test runs against his name.

What would he suggest to his boys?



PRAVEEN AMRE "Just relax, be yourself on the ground and leave the rest to the Almighty," said Raja.

Two new records in nat'l shooting

Two new national records were set on the third day of the national shooting competition at the Gulshan shooting range yesterday, reports BSS.

Fauzia Azam and G M Haider of Dhaka Rifle Club achieved the feat in match air rifle (women's) and free rifle English match (men's) respectively.

Fauzia Azam scored 379 points out of a possible 400 to bag the gold. Latifa Hossain (371) of Rajdhani Shooting Club and Farzana Hossain (370) of Narayanganj Rifle Club pocketed the silver and bronze respectively.

G M Haider scored a record 587 out of a possible 600. Atequr Rahman of Gulshan Shooting Club and Nasruddin Johry of Chittagong Rifle Club got the silver and bronze medals with 581 and 577 respectively.

Taufiqur Rahman of Dhaka Rifle Club earned the gold in match air pistol scoring 563 out of a possible 600 while the silver and bronze medals went to Asif Hossain of Gulshan Shooting Club and Haider Ali of Chittagong Rifle Club, who scored 557 and 555 points respectively.

Saiful Alam Rinki of Gulshan Shooting Club secured the gold in match air rifle with 574 out of a possible 600. Firoz Hossain of Gulshan Shooting Club and Syed Asbab Ali of Kushtia Rifle Club got 572 points each, but Firoz was given silver on tie-breaking.

In standard rifle prone (women's), Farzana Hossain of Narayanganj Rifle Club earned the gold collecting 581 out of a possible 600 while her club mate Lovely Chowdhury got silver with 580. Rajdhani Shooting Club's Rumma Yasmin took the bronze with 576 points.

Yekini to play for Gijon

PIRAEUS, Greece, Dec 24: Olympiakos Piraeus has freed Nigerian soccer star Rashid Yekini from his contract so he can join Spain's Gijon team, the Greek club said on Saturday, reports AP.

The announcement did not refer to financial terms but media reports said that agreement to break the player's dir 1.2 million two-year contract was reached only after Gijon agreed to pay to Olympiakos dir 350,000.

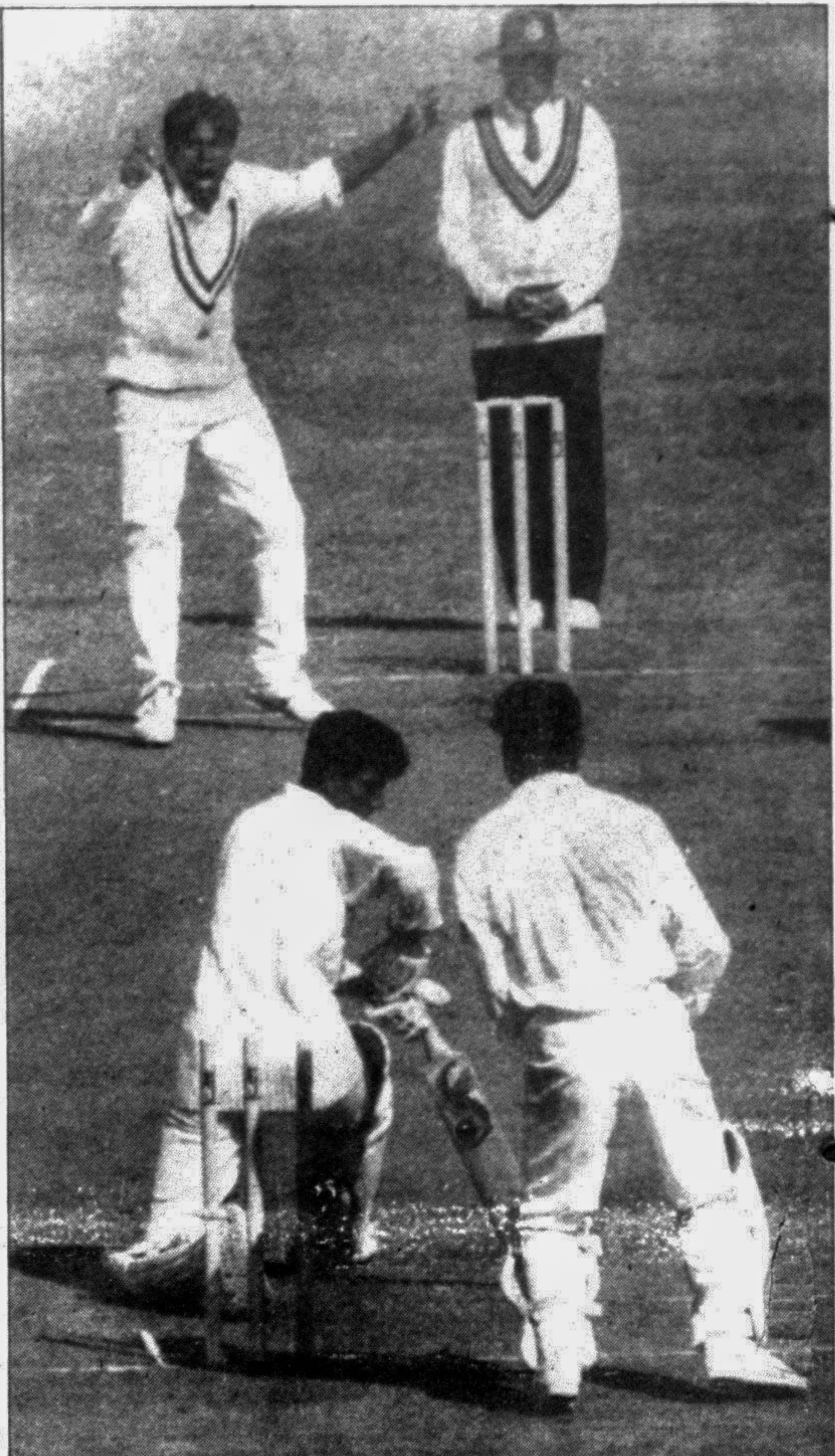
The Spanish team will also pay dir 150,000 to Portuguese club Setobal from which Yekini moved to Piraeus in August.

Relations between the 31-year old Yekini, who played for his country's national team in the 1994 World Cup, and Olympiakos had never been smooth.

In October, Olympiakos suspended him for two months because of "unconventional behavior" and "indifference in carrying out his duties."

Yekini played with Olympiakos in six league and cup games and scored three goals.

Olympiakos, Greece's most popular team, shares 7th place with Apollon Athens in the 18 team standings with 20 points each after 12 games. The two teams are 14 points behind league leader Panathinaikos Athens.



Bangladesh spinner Rafique yells in joy as his off-spinner defeats Sri Lankan batsman Russel Arnold's intention to sweep with the turn during the match of the SAARC cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Day 1 belongs to England

MELBOURNE, Dec 24: England took charge on the first day of the second Ashes Test against Australia despite deliant fifties from twins Steve and Mark Waugh on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The home side struggled to 220 for seven after England captain Mike Atherton sought to exploit the overcast conditions by sending the opposition in to bat at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The English attack responded to their captain's bold initiative, with pace bowler Darren Gough capping a fine team display by removing spinner Shane Warne with the penultimate ball of the day.

Atherton, battling to level the five-Test series, must have been pleased with the day's outcome.

Mark Waugh, who abandoned his normal flamboyant style, compiled a restrained innings of 71 off 155 balls on a damp wicket.

Fellow all-rounder Steve responded to his brother's example to remain unbeaten on 61.

Australia, who won last month's first Test in Brisbane by 184 runs, will resume their innings on Monday following a rest day on Christmas Day.

Pace bowler Gough, seamer Phil DeFreitas and spinner Phil Tufnell took two wickets each in a vastly improved bowling and fielding performance by England.

Australia faltered early on when opener Michael Slater

was run out for three in the seventh over.

Fellow opener and captain Mark Taylor quickly followed him back to the pavilion after being trapped leg before by DeFreitas for nine.

That left the home side reeling on 39 for two and despite the efforts of both Waughs and David Boon, who made 41, England kept the initiative throughout the day.

Fast bowler Devon Malcolm, who missed the first Test because of chicken pox, failed to take a wicket but troubled all the batsmen with this pace and lift.

With only tail-enders Tim May, Craig McDermott and Damien Fleming left to bat, England will be delighted with their position as they turn their minds to Christmas celebrations.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the second cricket Test between Australia and England at the MCG on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings

M Slater run out	3
M Taylor lbw b DeFreitas	9
D Boon c Hick b Tufnell	41
M Waugh c Thorpe b DeFreitas	71
M Bevan c Atherton b Gough	3
S Waugh not out	61
I Healy c Rhodes b Tufnell	17
S Warne c Hick b Gough	6
Extras: (lb-7, nb-2)	9
Total: (for seven wickets)	220

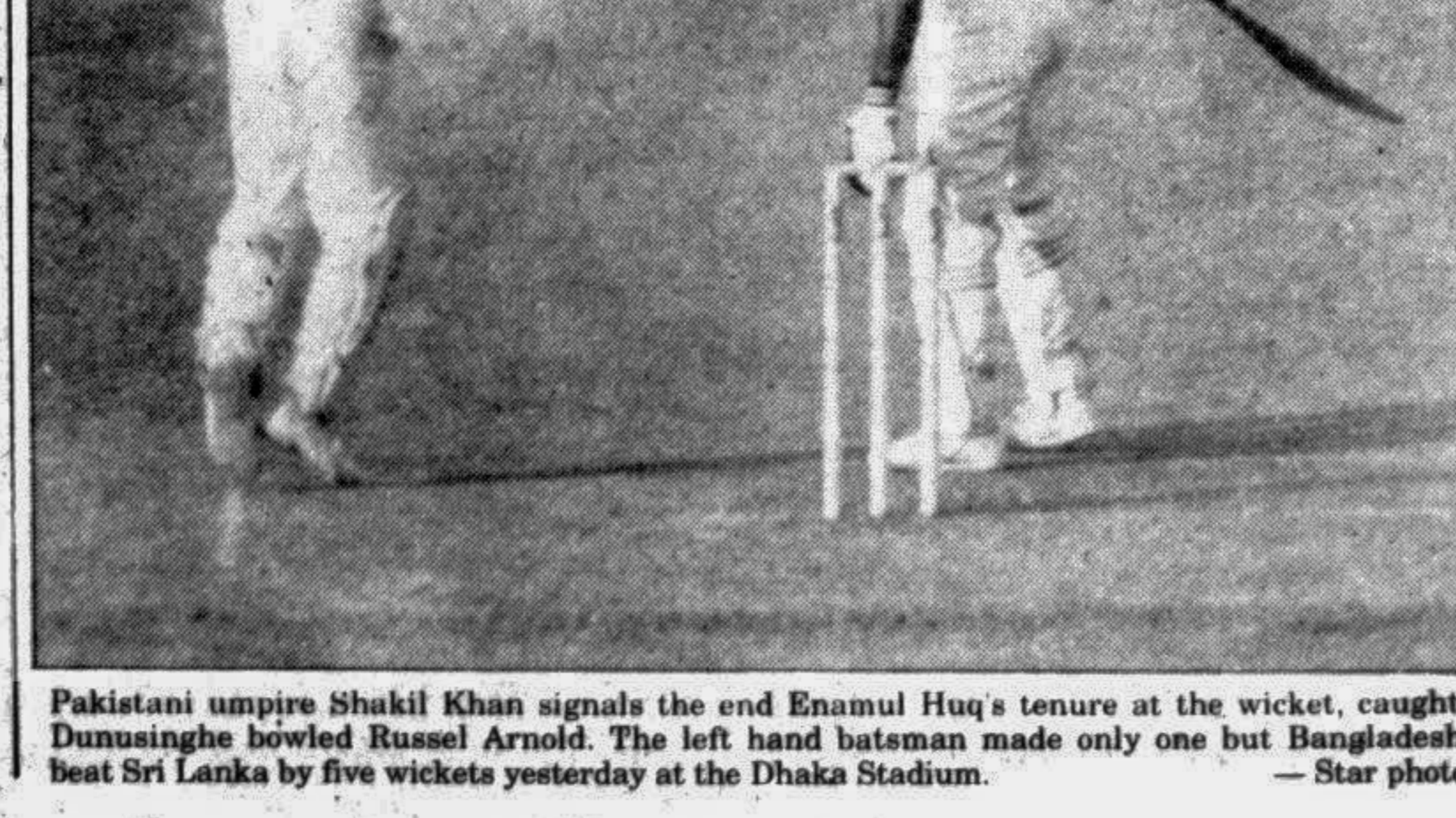
Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-39; 3-91; 4-100; 5-171; 6-208; 7-220.

To bat: C McDermott, D Fleming, T May

Bowling (to date):

	O	M	R	W
Malcolm	21	4	53	0
DeFreitas	19	3	53	2
Gough	19.5	8	39	2
Tufnell	28	7	59	2
Hick	2	0	9	0

ENGLAND: M Atherton (Captain), A Stewart, G Hick, G Thorpe, G Gooch, M Gatting, S Rhodes, P DeFreitas, D Gough, P Tufnell, D Malcolm.



Pakistani umpire Shakil Khan signals the end Enamul Huq's tenure at the wicket, caught Dunusinghe bowled Russel Arnold. The left hand batsman made only one but Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka by five wickets yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

1994: A dark patch in US history

WASHINGTON, Dec 24: In the United States, 1994 was the sports year from hell.

One of the most miserable periods in US sports history included the fall of former hero O J Simpson, skater Tonya Harding involved in a plot to injure rival Nancy Kerrigan and a baseball labour dispute that killed the World Series, reports AFP.

The first-ever US World Cup final brought record crowds, but also the doping disgrace of Argentine star Maradona. The FIFA-backed plan for a US elite league failed to find financial support and was postponed until 1996, losing any boost the tournament might have brought.

The US team reached the second round in large part because of an own goal by Colombia's Andres Escobar, who was killed in his homeland for his mistake.

National Hockey League (NHL) owners shut down their season rather than risk a player strike over their efforts to impose salary limits, National Basketball Association (NBA) owners considered a similar measure but struck a deal to play one more season under expired contract terms.

Martina Navratilova retired from tennis while Jennifer Capriati went through drug rehabilitation and played only at season's end. But nothing challenged Simpson as the year's most noted tragedy.

Simpson was a respected US sports broadcaster and actor who parlayed a legendary National Football League career into fame and top-money endorsements.

But since Simpson was charged with two murders in the grisly June deaths of his ex-wife and another man, he has become a notorious figure. A lengthy trial process, most of it on television, will drag well into next year.

The starkest image came June 17 when Simpson was driving along a California highway trailed by police while television cameras followed the low-speed chase. World Cup openers and US Open golf could not compete with the stuff of Greek tragedy.

The Simpson shocker drove

Tonya and Nancy off the front pages after their tale of woe dominated attention for months. It began in January when Kerrigan was struck on the right knee with a metal baton after a practice session.

Harding went on to win the US crown, but officials gave Kerrigan a berth at the Lillehammer Winter Olympics.

Two weeks after baseball's shutdown, NHL owners halted their season before it began over similar issues, increasing US apathy over the game despite the New York Rangers winning their first Stanley Cup title since 1940.

Even winners had problems. The Dallas Cowboys won their second straight National Football League title, but coach Jimmy Johnson was paid two million dollars to depart in a dispute with owner Jerry Jones.

Nigerian-born Hakeem Olajuwon led Houston to the NBA title over New York in a seven-game final, but the season's defensive tone was criticised, as was the overwhelming gold-medal dominance by Dream Team II at the World Championships.

Al Unser Jr won the Indianapolis 500 and Indy-car season title, while past champion Nigel Mansell struggled and headed back to Formula One. The series' domination by Penske racing pushed talk of a rival circuit.

Civil war erupted in golf, with Australia's Greg Norman backing a new world tour that would compete for top players with the PGA tour.

Golf's four major titles went to non-US players for the first time ever. Spain's Jose Maria Olazabal won the masters, Ernie Els of South Africa took the US Open. Zimbabwe's Nick Price won the PGA championship and British Open.



O.J SIMPSON