



A TRULY VICTORY MARCH IN THE MONTH OF VICTORY... the men in uniform having a hard time to contain a jubilant crowd as they try to enforce some sort of an order prior to the award giving ceremony after Bangladesh's enthralling one-run win over India at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

NZ 130 for eight

DURBAN, Dec 26: New Zealand had their backs to the wall at 130-8 when bad light stopped play two minutes before the tea interval on the first day Monday of the second Test against New Zealand at Kingsmead here, reports AFP.

The Kiwis owe their precarious position to some exceptional bowling from South Africa's all-pace attack and some poor strokeplay from their upper-order batsmen.

Only three batsmen were able to make double figures: Darrin Murray (38), Martin Crowe (18) and Shane Thomson, who is not out on 53.

the only partnership of note was 43 for the third wicket between Murray and Crowe.

Steven Jack made an impressive debut for South Africa, returning figures of 2-14 off 10 overs, while Brian McMillan and Fanie de Villiers weighed in with three wickets apiece.

Scrooge-like Craig Matthews was not giving anything away for Christmas, with only 23 runs coming off his 14 overs, of which nine were maidens.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first day in the second Test between South Africa and New Zealand at Kingsmead here:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| B Young b Jack | 2 |
| D Murray c Richardson b De Villiers | 38 |
| S Fleming c Jack b De Villiers | 4 |
| M Crowe c De Villiers b Jack | 18 |
| K Rutherford c Cummins b De Villiers | 0 |
| S Thomson not out | 53 |
| A Barore c Kirsten b McMillan | 5 |
| M Hart c Cronje b McMillan | 5 |
| S Dool c Richardson b McMillan | 0 |
| D Morrison not out | 0 |
| Extras (lb 4, nb 1) | 5 |
| Total (8 wickets) | 130 |

Overs: 52 (bad light stopped play, early tea taken)

Fall of wickets: 1-9; 2-19; 3-62; 4-65; 5-66; 6-102; 7-114; 8-114.

Bowling:

| | O | M | R | W |
|-------------|----|---|----|---|
| Jack | 10 | 4 | 14 | 2 |
| De Villiers | 16 | 5 | 51 | 8 |
| Matthews | 14 | 9 | 23 | 0 |
| McMillan | 11 | 3 | 35 | 3 |
| Cronje | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

Nat'l handball begins

CHITTAGONG, Dec 26: The 10th national men's handball competition began at the Dampara police line ground here today, reports BSS.

Minister for Fisheries and Livestock, Abdullah-Al-Noman inaugurated the competition as chief guest.

Bangladesh Handball Federation president MA Hamid was present.

Six matches were decided on the opening day.

Bangladesh Rifles crushed Rajshahi 45-7, Bangladesh Police outplayed Jessore 30-15, Air Force defeated Navy 21-18, Dhaka knocked out Narail 22-20, and the hosts Chittagong Metropolitan Sports Association Pabna trounced 22-7.

Nat'l team bridge Jan 19

The national bridge team championship '95 of the Bangladesh Bridge Federation will be held from January 19 to January 27 here, states a press release, reports BSS.

Interested teams have requested to contact the following persons by January 12:

Kazi Abdul Halim, chief tournament director, Dhaka. Phone: 245033-5.

Mahfuzur Rashid, convener, tournament committee and president, Bangladesh Bank Club, Dhaka. Phones: 247403 (off) and 889657 (res).

Words of a red letter day

Sports Reporter

When Shakil Khan, one of the two umpires of yesterday's match, ruled the last Indian batsman out to the penultimate ball of the innings, it appeared to the zillion cricket lovers of this country as if a probated judge has awarded them with all the money in all the banks.

The 25,000-strong crowd at the big bowl, who kept their fingers crossed, erupted in thunderous cheers when wicket-keeper Jahangir Alam stumped Venkatesh Prasad off left-arm spinner Rafique to ensure Bangladesh their first ever win against any Indian side.

The delirious fans soon rushed on to the ground and inspired the players on a victory lap while the subdued section of the crowd hugged each other and waved the national flag with seemingly ceaseless enthusiasm.

Sandeep Patil, the manager of the Indian cricket team, was overwhelmed and summed up his feelings by saying, "It would be more fitting to say that cricket was the winner."

"The match revived the memories of the 1983 World Cup final," said Patil, who was a member of India's World Cup

winning squad. "We have been beaten fair and square," said Patil, who was all praise to the disciplined local outfit. They exemplified the true spirit of cricket which was a warning not only for us but also for the

the bowlers and the fielders have performed."

The inspirational Bangladeshi captain, Akram Khan, for whom it was a dream debut after the Chittagong cricketer replaced Faruque Ahmed, said "I have said earlier that we were going to win the match because my team possesses the killer's instinct."

"It is obviously the greatest moment of my cricketing career," added the soft spoken Bangladesh skipper.

Tanveer Haider, manager of the Bangladesh team, echoed Akram's words saying, "You know I said the other day at a dinner hosted by the BCCB that we were going to win the match."

Aminul Islam, who was named the man-of-the-match, for his gritty 64 — the highest individual score of the meet so far, said, "I'm happy that I have delivered what the team expected from me. It is one of the finest innings, I have ever played."

Mohammed Rafique, the young cricketer from Kerani-ganj, said, "I was not afraid when my skipper called me to bowl the last over. What crossed my mind was that I should let Utpal take a single because I was quite confident that I can pin down Prasad for the last five balls. Thank God, I'm successful."

Anisur Rahman, the most successful bowler so far in the tournament with a haul of ten wickets, who was once again unlucky not to win the man-of-the-match award after capturing three vital wickets in the match, said, "I'm not an award seeker. What I want is to improve on my performance."

"This is the first time in my career that I missed a match for the national team," said injured Minhazul Abedin. "I'm happy that my colleagues made it without me."

Brothers win

CHITTAGONG, Dec 26: Chittagong Brothers Union beat Bakalia Krira Parishad 1-0 in the tie-breaker in the Mayor Gold Cup football tournament at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

The match was goalless in the scheduled time. In the tie-breaker, Bakalia's players missed all five penalties while four shots of Brothers were muffed.

Chotan of Brothers scored the all-important goal.

Lapentti upsets Gomez

MIAMI BEACH, Fla, Dec 26: Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador, drawing on his Davis Cup experience, ended his junior tennis career by defeating doubles partner Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) in the boy's 18s Rolex Orange Bowl International tennis championships on Sunday, reports AP.

There's not much pressure in this tournament after I played Davis Cup with Andres Gomez, our country hero, at home," Lapentti said. "It was a great experience."

Gomez won the French Open in 1990.

Lapentti broke service to lead 4-2 in the first set, then won it by returning Kuerten's attempted drop shot down the line.

With the second set on serve through 11 games, Lapentti staved off set points with a service winner and a forehand winner down the line. In the tiebreaker, Lapentti followed his baseline topspin groundstrokes to the net.



Scoreboard of the Bangladesh-India match in the SAARC cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium:

BANGLADESH:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Jahangir Alam c Rathore b Ankola | 12 |
| Athar A Khan run out | 26 |
| Al-Shahriar lbw b Prasad | 0 |
| Aminul Islam lbw b Prasad | 64 |
| Akram Khan b Vaidya | 11 |
| Naimur Rahman b Vaidya | 0 |
| Enamul Huq c and b Vaidya | 20 |
| M Rafique b Prasad | 2 |
| Saiful Islam not out | 5 |
| Sajal Chowdhury not out | 7 |
| Extras: (lb-2, lb-9, wb-8, nb-6) | 25 |
| Total: (8 wickets, 50 overs) | 172 |

Fall of wickets: 1-22; 2-33; 3-63; 4-94; 5-98; 6-154; 7-159; 8-162.

Bowling:

| | O | M | R | W |
|------------------|----|---|----|---|
| V Prasad | 10 | 2 | 25 | 3 |
| S Ankola | 10 | 5 | 28 | 1 |
| P Vaidya | 10 | 0 | 35 | 3 |
| Utpal Chatterjee | 10 | 0 | 32 | 0 |
| R Chauhan | 10 | 0 | 41 | 0 |

INDIA:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| V Rathore c Naimur b Athar | 35 |
| Arun Kumar lbw b Anis | 0 |
| R Dravid lbw b Rafique | 33 |
| A Bedade c Sajal b Anis | 21 |
| P Amre c Naimur b Anis | 7 |
| V Yadav c Enamul b Saiful | 11 |
| P Vaidya run out | 22 |
| Utpal Chatterjee not out | 6 |
| S Ankola st Jahangir c Enamul | 5 |
| R Chauhan b Enamul | 10 |
| V Prasad st Jahangir b Rafique | 2 |
| Extras: (lb-5, wb-12, nb-2) | 19 |
| Total: (all out, 49.5 overs) | 171 |

Fall of wickets: 1-9; 2-61; 3-83; 4-107; 5-107; 6-137; 7-150; 8-158; 9-168.

Bowling:

| | O | M | R | W |
|-----------------|-----|---|----|---|
| Sajal Chowdhury | 5 | 1 | 28 | 0 |
| Anis | 10 | 0 | 28 | 3 |
| Saiful Islam | 9 | 0 | 27 | 1 |
| Athar Ali Khan | 7 | 0 | 22 | 1 |
| Enamul Huq | 10 | 0 | 36 | 2 |
| Rafique | 8.5 | 0 | 25 | 2 |

Result: Bangladesh won by one run.

Man-of-the-match: Aminul Islam Bulbul (Bangladesh)

SCORING PATTERN

| | Bangladesh | India |
|----------------|------------|-------|
| After 05 overs | 16/0 | 20/1 |
| After 10 overs | 32/1 | 33/1 |
| After 15 overs | 35/2 | 42/1 |
| After 20 overs | 45/2 | 49/1 |
| After 25 overs | 58/2 | 80/2 |
| After 30 overs | 77/3 | 97/3 |
| After 35 overs | 94/4 | 113/5 |
| After 40 overs | 113/5 | 137/6 |
| After 45 overs | 142/5 | 153/7 |
| After 50 overs | 172/8 | |

STANDINGS

Standing of the SAARC cricket tournament at the end of Bangladesh-India match (tabulate under teams, matches, wins, losses, ties, points)

| | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|---|
| India | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Bangladesh | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Pakistan | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Sri Lanka | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

TODAY'S MATCH

Pakistan vs Sri Lanka

WTA's leading money-winners

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Dec 26: Leading women's tennis money earners issued by the WTA Tour on Sunday, reports Reuter.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain) | dollars 2,943,665 |
| 2. Conchita Martinez (Spain) | 1,540,167 |
| 3. Steffi Graf (Germany) | 1,487,980 |
| 4. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic) | 876,119 |
| 5. Natasha Zvereva (Belarus) | 874,592 |
| 6. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina) | 874,470 |
| 7. Martina Navratilova (US) | 851,082 |
| 8. Mary Pierce (France) | 768,614 |
| 9. Gigi Fernandez (US) | 742,650 |
| 10. Lindsay Davenport (Germany) | 600,745 |
| 11. Anke Huber (Germany) | 456,731 |
| 12. Meredith McGrath (US) | 381,942 |
| 13. Kimiko Date (Japan) | 376,904 |
| 14. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa) | 361,791 |
| 15. Larissa Neiland (Latvia) | 359,012 |
| 16. Julie Halard (France) | 357,273 |
| 17. Lori McNeil (US) | 337,046 |
| 18. Brenda Schultz (Netherlands) | 334,046 |
| 19. Iva Majoli (Croatia) | 318,152 |

History is made

by Tawfiq Aziz Khan



Suddenly the late afternoon sun peeped through the clouds. Our boys in flannels at the Dhaka Stadium bathed in golden glory. Thousands of fans in the galleries

bit their nails and held their breath every now and then in agony and then released it in ecstasy.

The joy of an early success in making a breakthrough was drowned by the dour defence of Rathore and Dravid. A full

fell over the stands. The crowd only prayed to the heavens with hands clasped. And suddenly Rathore gave in and a few runs later Dravid followed suit.

The big-hitting specialist Atul Bedade, a nightmare for so many bowlers, took the long walk back to the pavilion to the relief of his opponents and the home team's cup of joy was almost full to the brim when skipper Praveen Amre again cut a sorry figure. The forbidden fruit was tantalisingly within reach, yet it appeared distant as Yadav and Vaidya defied doggedly until Bangladesh captain Akram Khan shattered the stumps at the non-striker's end with a direct hit to send Vaidya packing.

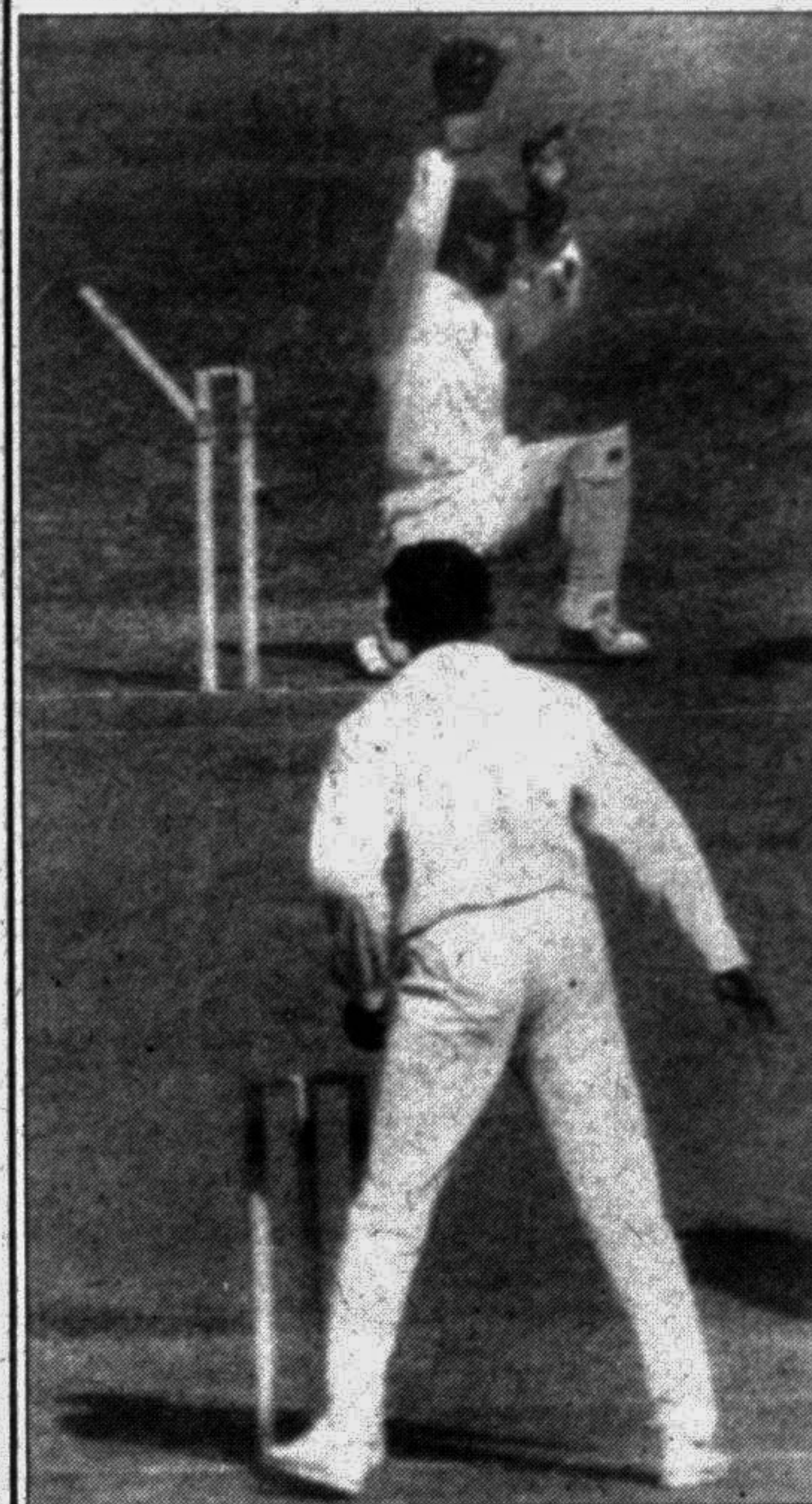
The return of Anis had heralded the impending Indian doom. The lanky lefty lifted the spirits with his uncanny accuracy of line and length. Bedade and Amre were his prized scalps, falling in the same over. Utpal Chatterjee held the forte at one end but Chauhan wielded his bat like a Sardarjee, brandishing his sword to the tune of "Gore Gore Mukhuc Pe Kale Kale Chashma." But song soon went out of tune when Moni bowled him round his legs. And the end was in sight.

Last man Prasad walked on to the wicket with the gait of a sacrificial lamb. And his movements were so heavy that one would not believe he could run and bowl real quick unless one saw him in action.

Two runs, one wicket and two balls left — such was the equation for India to win. Prasad had to move. The bat weighed heavy in his hands and his feet went leaden giving Jahangir behind the stumps the opportunity to do the rest. History was made. David had beaten Goliath. Bangladesh had won by one run.

The early morning saga of Bangladesh coasting to a reasonable total with the help of Bulbul, Athar and Moni was almost forgotten until Bulbul was rewarded for his brilliant contribution. This is a victory we needed so badly. The Red and Green fluttered in the evening breeze proclaiming the coming of age of a young cricketing nation.

Heartiest Congratulations!



Indian wicketkeeper Vijay Yadav looks for the umpire's endorsement as a ripping throw from his captain Amre uproot's a stump to run Athar Ali out during yesterday's India-Bangladesh match in the SAARC cricket tourney at the Dhaka Stadium. Bangladesh won the gripping match by just one run to almost book a berth in the final. — Star photo

Stewart ready to soldier on



MELBOURNE, Dec 26: England vice-captain Alec Stewart has vowed to bat in the second cricket

completely from the last break, but if you get hit in the wrong place these things can happen. Now I've got to set my sights on being ready for the fourth and fifth Tests.

Manager Keith Fletcher confirmed that England will consider flying in a replacement for Stewart, who also is the squad's back-up wicket-keeper.



ALEC STEWART

ment for Stewart, who also is the squad's back-up wicket-keeper.

"We will be discussing cover in the course of the evening," Fletcher said.

"It's only just happened so

we will be collecting our thoughts and sorting this out before we make a decision in the morning.

"Jack Russell is a name in the frame, and we could call up an extra batsman as well."

Australian allrounder Steve Waugh, meanwhile, does not expect to be able to bowl until well into the New Year.

Waugh, who scored 94 not out in Australia's first innings, dislocated his right shoulder in a limited-overs game against Pakistan in Lahore in late October.

The 29-year-old was not considered for the recent block of World Series one-day matches and Monday said the shoulder still is causing him pain.

"There is still a bit of nerve damage there," Waugh said. "It's really hard to pinpoint and the shoulder is probably only 60-70 per cent right at the moment."

"There is no point bowling at this stage until it is recovered."

Waugh's batting has not been affected by his shoulder problem and he top-scored in Australia's innings, registering his highest Test score at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Halifax may bid for 2008 Games

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, Dec 26: Halifax, pinning its hopes on the success of next summer's Group of Seven economic summit, is considering a bid for 2008 Summer Olympics, reports AP.

"If we can handle the G-7 summit, we can handle anything," Halifax Mayor Walter Fitzgerald said Wednesday.

The meeting of the leading industrial nations is expected to draw thousands of politicians, aides and journalists to the city.

The next two Summer Olympics are in Atlanta in 1996 and Sydney in 2000. China and South Africa are possible contenders for the 2004 Games.

Canada has twice staged an Olympics — the 1976 Summer Games in Montreal and the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary.

The Halifax Metro Center has been the site of many international sports events, but many more venues would have to be built to accommodate the Olympics, including a stadium to seat 50,000 people, a cycling oval, an Olympic-sized swimming pool and housing for athletes.



Bangladesh wicketkeeper who pulled off a vital stumping at the day's end to give the country's cricket lovers a memorable day is caught in the picture in one of his less cherishing moments at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.



Indian pacesman Prashant Vaidya sends Bangladesh skipper Akram Khan's off-stump cartwheeling during yesterday's SAARC cricket tournament match at the Dhaka Stadium.

— Star photo