



Scoreboard of the SAARC cricket tournament final between Bangladesh and India at the Dhaka Stadium here yesterday.

INDIA

V. Rathore	run out	11
S. Ganguly	b Prasad	39
R. Dravid	run out	37
Pravin Amre	not out	88
V. Yadav	c Aminul b Rafique	12
S. Bahutule	run out	9
P. Vaidya	b Anis	5
C. Chatterjee	not out	4
Did not bat	S. Anko	0
Extras	(b-1, lb-1, nb-3, w-6)	11
Total	(for 6 wickets in 50 overs)	216

Fall of wickets: 1-23 (V. Rathore 8.0 overs); 2-81 (S. Ganguly 27.2); 3-119 (R. Dravid 35.4); 4-147 (V. Yadav 41.0); 5-165 (S. Bahutule 44.0); 6-181 (P. Vaidya 47.0).

Bowling:

O	M	R	W	
Sajal Chowdhury	6	1	20	0
Anisur Rahman	9	0	46	1
Saiful Islam	10	2	34	0
Athar Ali	5	0	24	0
Enamul	10	0	56	1
M. Rafique	10	0	34	1

BANGLADESH

Jahangir Alam	c Amre b Prasad	5
Athar Ali	b Bahutule b Prasad	10
R. Shahrinar	b Prasad	2
Aminul Islam	c Yadav b Prasad	0
Munnaal Abidin	c Amre b Chaulhan	19
Akram Khan	c Yadav b Bahutule	66
Enamul Haq	c Vaidya b Chatterjee	10
M. Rafique	c Dravid b Bahutule	12
Saiful Islam	not out	6
Sajal Chowdhury	c Chatterjee b Bahutule	3
Anisur Rahman	run out	1
Extras	(b-5, lb-13, nb-3, w-9)	30
Total	(All out in 49.1 overs)	164

Fall of wicket: 1-23 (Athar 10.2 overs); 2-25 (Al Shahrinar 11.0); 3-27 Aminul: 12.5; 4-31 (Jahangir: 14.2); 5-85 (Minhaz 31.2); 6-114 (Enamul 37.0); 7-144 (Rafique: 42.4); 8-159 (Akram: 43.4); 9-163 (Sajal: 46.2); 10-164 (Anis: 49.1).

Bowling:

O	M	R	W	
Prasad	8	1	11	4
Ankola	9	1	20	0
Vaidya	6	1	29	0
Bahutule	8	1	26	3
Chatterjee	8.1	1	31	1
Chaulhan	10	2	29	1

Result: India won by 52 runs.



Indian batsman Sairaj Bahutule is still a couple of inches out of the crease as Bangladesh's Saiful Islam takes the bails off the wicket at the bowler's end. Young Bahutule left cheaply but India rattled 216 for six in the final of the SAARC cricket tournament to beat Bangladesh by 52 runs at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Looking back in candour

Although not in the fashion the millions of cricket lovers of this country would have wanted, curtains came down on the four-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) cricket tournament with the best outfit in the fray winning the title in front of a fullhouse Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

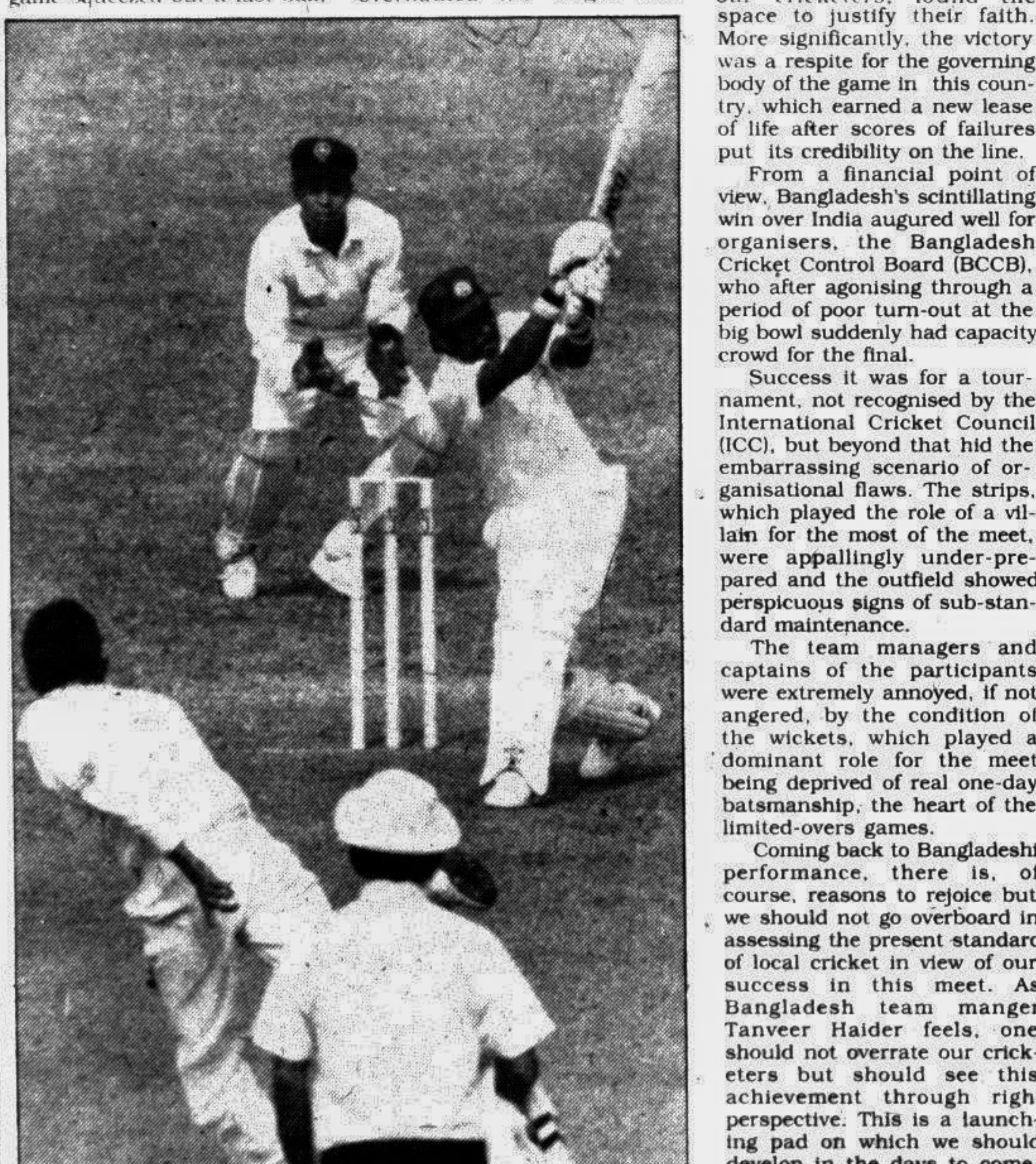
Powered on by skipper Praveen Amre, the workmanlike middle-order batsman, the second national selection of India made light of hosts Bangladesh en route to an anticlimactically comfortable 52-run victory.

The week-long meet, involving second national selections from the three Test-playing nation of the sub-continent — India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, got off to a dramatic start when theoretical underdogs Bangladesh pushed the Pakistani cricketers to the verge of an embarrassing defeat.

Although the representatives of the world champions in the instant version of the game squeezed out a last ball, one wicket win, their unconvincing performance foretold one of the pre-tournament favourites late. Rameez Raja's men gave a glimpse of their true potential in the last league match against the Lankas.

SAARC CRICKET BANGLADESH 1994

nevertheless it was, as it later turned out to be, a little too late. Needing to score 148 runs in 31 overs for a place in the final, the Pakistan team overhauled the target four



Man-of-the-match Praveen Amre swings Saiful Islam down to midwicket during his brilliant innings that shaped India's 52-run victory over Bangladesh in the SAARC cricket tourney final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Man-of-the match: Praveen Amre (India)

SCORING PATTERN

India	Bangladesh	
After 05 overs	16/0	13/0
After 10 overs	31/1	22/0
After 15 overs	46/1	33/4
After 20 overs	62/1	44/4
After 25 overs	75/1	63/4
After 30 overs	94/2	77/4
After 35 overs	117/2	100/5
After 40 overs	146/3	126/6
After 45 overs	170/5	159/8
After 50 overs	216/6	—

Pakistan 232 for five

CAPE TOWN, Dec 28: Pakistan, spearheaded by Saeed Anwar and Shakeel Ahmed, reached 232 for five at the close of the second day of the four-day match against Western Province at Newlands on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Pakistan were still 204 runs behind after Western Province, with captain Eric Simons notching his maiden first-class century before being forced to retire hurt on 102, earlier finished with 436 for nine in their first innings.

The 32-year-old Simons, who started the day at 40 not out, has been stranded in the 90's on three occasions in his 12-year career.

But a 48-run partnership with Dean Payne (12 not out) allowed him to reach treble figures at lunch, at which point he retired with a badly bruised left leg and the innings was closed.

After losing opener Amir Sohail (4) to be nine for one, Pakistan consolidated through left-hander Anwar and wicket-keeper Ahmed.

The pair added 93 runs for the second-wicket against a severely weakened Western Province attack, missing internationals Craig Matthews and Brian McMillan.

Anwar posted a chanceless 51 from just 71 balls, including seven boundaries, before lofting Dave Rundle to cover, where he was caught by Allan Dawson.

Ahmed was caught at extra cover by Jacques Kallis off the bowling of Dawson for 43.

Basit Ali provided some of the day's best batting, scoring 53 off 98 balls, with eight boundaries, before departing lbw to Cedric English in a decision that did not please the batsman.

Rain ruins play

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 28: Rain washed out play on the third day of the four-day match between Eastern Province and Sri Lanka at St Georges Park on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

It was the second consecutive day to be washed out after a curtailed opening day.

Score: Eastern Province 93-1.

MSC on a roll

Title aspirants Mohammed Sporting Club recorded their fourth successive win in the Green Delta Insurance Hockey league with a thumping 4-0 win over Police Athletic Club in one of the two matches played at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Siam put the winners into the lead in the 11th minute by a nice field goal followed by Ehtesham's who struck twice in the second half for Mohammedans who failed to convert any of the 13 penalty corners in the one-sided affair.

In the other match of the day, Usha Krira Chakra edged past Azad Sporting Club by the odd goal in three.

Rafiqul Islam scored both the goals for the winners notching the second two minutes before the long whistle to earn his side an exciting victory. Khokon scored the lone goal for the losers.

Tributes for Peter May

MELBOURNE, Dec 28: Former Australian Test captain Richie Benaud said Wednesday that Peter May, who has died aged 64, was the only great batsman England has produced in the past 50 years, reports AFP.

"He was the best England batsman since the war," Benaud declared during the second Ashes Test here. "He was the only great player they have produced."

The former England captain and chairman of selectors died peacefully at his home in Hampshire on Tuesday after a short illness. May, who captained England a record 41 times, played in 66 Tests, scoring 4,537 runs at an average of 46.77.

"He was an outstanding captain and a very determined man, but also he was quite shy and self-effacing," Benaud said. Ray Illingworth, England's current chairman of selectors, and tour manager Mike Smith also paid tribute to May.

"Peter was easily the best England batsman since the war and a genuinely nice bloke," said Illingworth.

"Although he played as an amateur, he was as hard as any professional. If you gave him 100 per cent then fine, but he wouldn't tolerate anyone who didn't."

"It was a great pity he retired from the game when he was still in his pomp."

Smith, a former Test teammate of May, added: "Peter's death is a very sad loss to cricket. I think it is particularly poignant that he should die while England and Australia are playing a Test match."

Forest owe Bohinen one

LONDON, Dec 28: Norway international Lars Bohinen scored direct from a corner kick to give Nottingham Forest a 1-0 win over Norwich City that lifted them into fourth place in the English Premier league on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Bohinen's curling corner kick from the left in the 51st minute sailed in over the head of Norwich's young reserve goalkeeper Andy Marshall, who came on 10 minutes into the match when Brayn Gunn was injured.

The Scotland international goalkeeper was taken to hospital with a suspected dislocated ankle after being carried off the field on a stretcher.

Apart from the goal, Marshall played well and highlighted his performance with a magnificent 76th-minute save to prevent Forest skipper Stuart Pearce scoring a second goal from a free kick.

The home side had more of the ball, particularly in the first hour, but found Norwich determined to make up for their first home defeat of the season against Tottenham on Tuesday.

They came nearest to a first half goal when Stan Collymore struck the base of the post with a left-foot shot.

Forest are on 39 points, seven adrift of leaders Blackburn Rovers and five behind champions Manchester United on goal difference.

Earlier, Tottenham stretched their unbeaten run in the Premier league to seven games with a hard-fought 0-0 draw against London rivals Crystal Palace.

Struggling Palace, without a league goal since November 5, scrambled, battled and chased their way to their second 0-0 draw in 24 hours and a point that could be precious in their fight for survival in the top flight.

It was a frustrating afternoon for Tottenham, who were unable to build on Monday's 2-0 win at Norwich, but it was another game which showed their increased defensive resilience since Gerry Francis assumed command.

Tottenham have now kept clean sheets in three successive matches — a feat they never managed under Francis' predecessor, Ossie Ardiles.



Indian captain Praveen Amre receives the four-nation SAARC invitational cricket tournament trophy from Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman who is also the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB). India beat hosts Bangladesh by 52 runs in the final held at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

England in a quagmire

MELBOURNE, Dec 28: Australian paceman Craig McDermott and Damien Fleming hammered speedy nails in England's coffin on Wednesday to push their rivals to the brink of another defeat in the second Test, reports AFP.

England collapsed to 79 for four by the close of the fourth day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Few gave them much hope of surviving the final day, let alone reaching the victory target of 388.

Defeat would put England 2-0 down in the best-of-five series and surely leave their hopes of winning back the Ashes in tatters.

The veteran McDermott and Test rookie Fleming took two wickets each as Australia closed in on their 13th victory in the past 19 Tests against the old enemy.

This time, England could not even claim that spinner Shane Warne's unplayable bowling was the cause of their downfall.

England were exposed by pace and at one stage were 23 for three before skipper Mike Atherton and former captain Mike Gatting restored some balance.

But with the exit of Atherton, given out by Jamaican umpire Steve Bucknor to a dubious-looking caught behind appeal by Ian Healy down leg-side off McDermott, England's cause looked desperate.

Fleming, a 24-year-old Victorian seamer, who took seven wickets in his Test debut against Pakistan in October, rocked the tourists when he had Graham Gooch caught by Healy for two.

Nine balls later he bowled Graeme Hick, fooling him with movement off the deteriorating pitch for two, and leaving England at 10 for two.

McDermott took the wickets of Graham Thorpe, giving Healy his third catch, for nine, and the fortuitous dismissal of Atherton for 25.

England were then 43 for

four. But Gatting and wicket-keeper Steve Rhodes had staged another mini-recovery. Gatting will go into the final day on 23 and Rhodes on 13.

The wickets took McDermott's Test tally to 251, second in Australian lists, to Dennis Lillee (355) and just behind English great Brian Statham (252), who ranks 13th on the all-time list led by Kapil Dev of India on 434.

Healy's catches took him to 228 Test dismissals, level with Pakistan's Wasim Bari in fourth place behind Rodney Marsh's 355 victims for Australia.

Australian captain Mark Taylor prolonged England's agony by waiting until tea to declare his side's second innings at 320 for seven: Australia scored 279 in the first innings but Warne took six wickets as England collapsed to 212 all out in their first effort.

Taylor waited for David Boon, playing in his 94th Test, to complete his 20th Test century before he was dismissed for 131.

It was Boon's seventh Test hundred against England, and gave him a Test aggregate of 6,916 runs.

Boon, who will be 34 on Thursday, batted for 379 minutes with 14 fours off 277 balls. He was finally trapped leg before by Pjil DeFreitas.

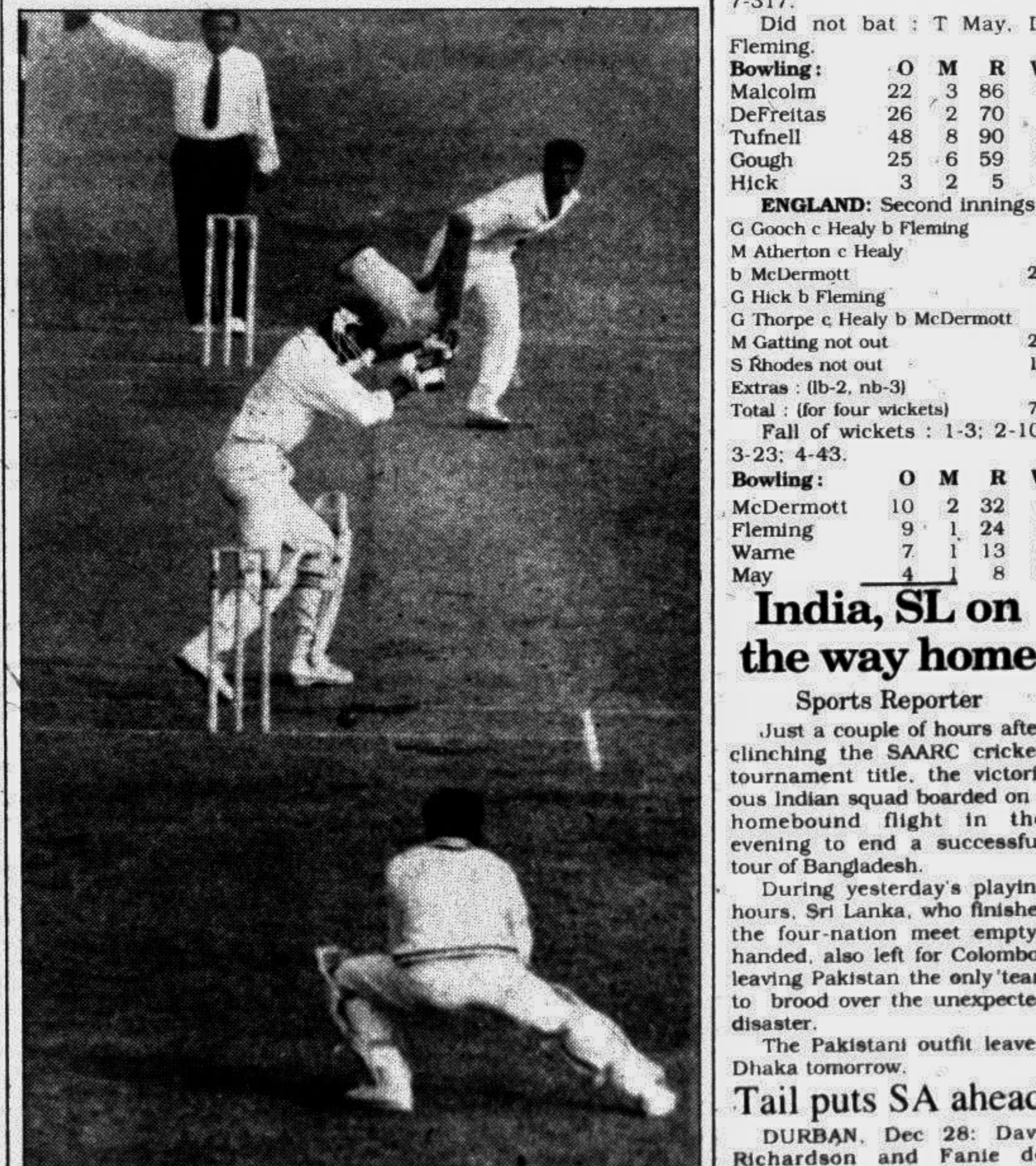
When Taylor decided to send England in after tea, Steve Waugh was left not out 26, following on from his unbeaten 94 in Australia's first innings and McDermott was on two.

It was purely a decision of when Taylor would declare throughout the first two sessions as the Australian score crawled along aimlessly against Atherton's defensive bowling and field settings.

Australia added 150 runs after resuming on Wednesday morning at 170 for three.

Phil Tufnell, who persisted in bowling into the rough on the leg-side to restrict scoring shots, bowled a marathon 48 overs. He took 3-90. The impressive Darren Gough recorded 3-59 off 25 overs giving him seven wickets for the match.

Devon Malcolm was wayward and went wicketless for 86 runs off 22 overs. He finished with just one wicket from the match and remains one wicket from 100 Test victims.



Indian opener Vikram Rathore lets go a delivery from Sajal Chowdhury of Bangladesh in the SAARC cricket tourney final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Rathore could have well had a go because umpire Shakeel Khan is seen declaring it a no-ball.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the second Test between Australia and England on Wednesday.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 279

ENGLAND: First innings 212

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 170 for three)

M Taylor	lbw	Gough	19
M Slater	st Rhodes	b Tufnell	44
D Boon	lbw	DeFreitas	131
M Waugh	c and b Gough		29
M Bevan	c sub (J Crawley)		19
b Tufnell			35
S Waugh	not out		26
I Healy	c Thorpe	b Tufnell	17
S Warne	c DeFreitas	b Gough	0
C McDermott	not out		2
Extras	(b-1, lb-9, nb-6, w-1)		17
Total	(for seven wickets, declared)		320

Fall of wickets: 1-61; 2-81; 3-157; 4-269; 5-275; 6-316; 7-317.

Did not bat: T May, D Fleming.

Bowling:

O	M	R	W	
McDermott	22	3	86	0
DeFreitas	26	2	70	1
Tufnell	48	8	90	3
Gough	25	6	59	3
Hick	3	2	5	0

ENGLAND: Second innings

G Gooch	c Healy	b Fleming	2
M Atherton	c Healy		25
b McDermott			2
G Hick	b Fleming		9
G Thorpe	c Healy	b McDermott	23
M Gatting	not out		13
S Rhodes	not out		5
Extras	(lb-2, nb-3)		79
Total	(for four wickets)		170

Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-10; 3-23; 4-43.

Bowling:

O	M	R	W	
McDermott	10	2	32	2
Fleming	9	1	24	2
Warne	7	1	13	0
May	4	1	8	0

India, SL on the way home

SPORTS REPORTER

Just a couple of hours after clinching the SAARC cricket tournament title, the victorious Indian squad boarded on a homebound flight in the evening to end a successful tour of Bangladesh.

During yesterday's playing hours, Sri Lanka, who finished the four-nation meet empty-handed, also left for Colombo, leaving Pakistan the only team to brood over the unexpected disaster.

The Pakistani outfit leaves Dhaka tomorrow.

Tail puts SA ahead

DURBAN, Dec 28: Dave Richardson and Fanie de Villiers staged a crucial 10th-wicket partnership Wednesday to help South Africa to a 41-run lead in the second Test against New Zealand, reports AP.