

Nat'l squad to take on Gazipur today

Sports Reporter
National footballers will look wistfully for a much desired vacation when they take part in an exhibition match at Gazipur Stadium today.
After sweating cheerlessly over two months, under the supervision of South Korean coach Man Young Kang, the booters will go for a ten-day recess following their second exhibition match against a Gazipur selection scheduled for a 3pm kick-off.
This will be the second warm-up match for the national team following their disappointing 1-1 draw against a local selection at Comilla last month.
Irrespective of the result in today's match, it will be a welcome relief for the footballers, who have been undergoing rigorous training session at the BKSP shortly after a gruelling league campaign.

Navana, Yamaha leagues resume today

Sports Reporter
The frenzy over club cricket returns today as local cricket's grade one competitions begin after a prolonged lull.
Navana Premier Division cricket league comprising top twelve clubs resumes today after 16 days with Brothers Union taking on Surja Tarun in one match at the Dhaka Stadium while in day's other billing Wari play Sadharan Bima at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.
Navana league had to be suspended on December 20 for the four-nation SAARC cricket tourney held at the Dhaka Stadium from December 22 to 28.
Yamaha First Division cricket league a lower tier competition comprising ten teams will also restart simultaneously.

Udity will take on Lalmatta at the City Club ground.
In day's other engagement Dhaka Wanderers will take on Agrani Bank at one of the two strips at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.
Yamaha First Division league was stopped December 21.

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter
Dipali Juba Sangha recorded their second successive win in the Progoti Insurance Third Division football league with a 2-0 win over Chalanika Krira Chakra in one of the two matches billed for the Outer Stadium yesterday.
Bashir gave Dipali an early lead when he struck in the very second minute of the proceeding while Nazrul doubled the winners margin at the stroke of the long whistle.
In the other match of the day, Dhaka Sporting Club and Dhaka WASA split points in a goalless draw.

Welcome change in Sino sports scenario

BEIJING, Jan 4: China's provincial sports teams will be allowed to openly swap athletes for the first time at an officially organized sports exchange, an official report said Wednesday, reports AP.
Until now, athletes were not allowed to leave their home teams, although many did under secret arrangements, the China Sports News said.
Last year, for example south China's wealthy province of Guangdong was able to entice more than 200 athletes from the northeast province of Liaoning to join Guangdong teams, the report said.
Liaoning is a comparatively poor province, but boasts many athletes. China's famous women long-distance runners, for example, all are from Liaoning. One result, however, is that competition is fierce, with only one of 20 being selected for provincial teams, the paper said.
In another example, each province is allowed to field only one contestant in national competitions in women's judo. But Liaoning has more than 30 national-standard women's judo athletes who have no opportunity to compete, while many other provinces have none.
China's athletic programmes and teams are all funded by the government. With only a fraction of Liaoning athletes making it to the provincial team or into national competition, the state's investment in the athletes who didn't make it was wasted.
And when these athletes make private arrangements to join other teams, the athletes benefit but the state again loses its investment, the report said.
Rather than try to fight the trend, Liaoning sports officials have joined forces with the National Sports Commission to hold a sports exchange in either February or March in Shenyang, capital of Liaoning.

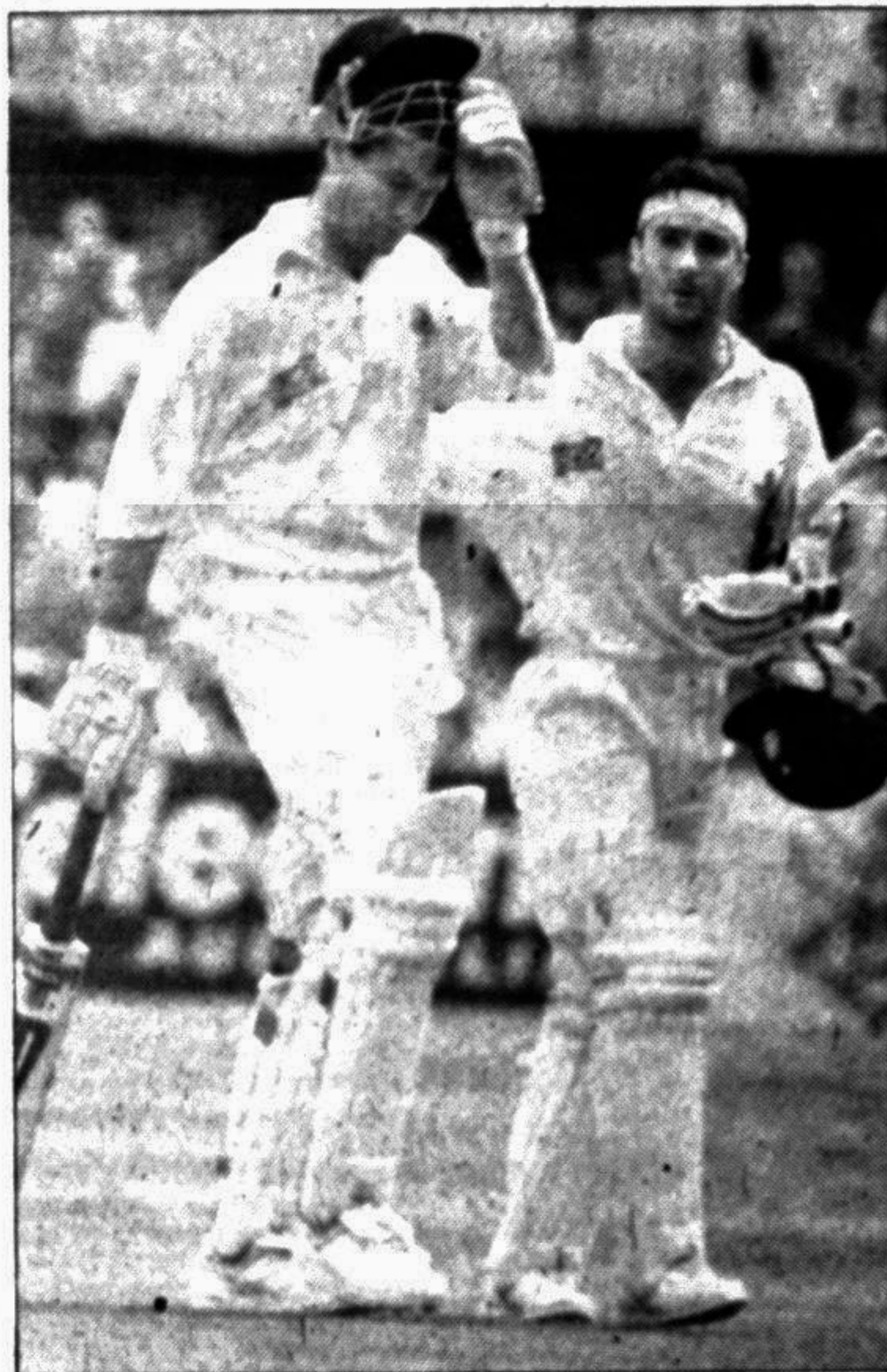
Sydney Test nicely poised



SYDNEY, Jan 4: Australian captain Mark Taylor launched a stunning fightback in the third Test today after his England counterpart Mike Atherton appeared poised to record a rare victory, reports Reuter.
After being set a seemingly unattainable victory target of 449, Taylor launched an assault on the English bowling at the Sydney Cricket Ground.
Australia, who lead the series 2-0 and need only a draw to retain the Ashes were 139 for no wicket at close of play on the fourth day, still needing 310 for victory.
After dominating the opening three days, England still hold the advantage going into the final day on Thursday despite Australia's fine recovery.
Statistically, the odds remain firmly in the tourists' favour. Only two teams in Test history have scored more than 400 in their second innings to win.
But the ease with which Taylor and opening partner Michael Slater accumulated their runs during the final session must have worried the England camp.
Taylor ended the day on 64 after hitting seven fours from 106 balls.
The New South Wales opener was marginally more aggressive than Slater, who faced 18 more balls to score and unbeaten 65, including eight fours.
Atherton declared England's second innings at 255 for two forty minutes before tea, stranding number three batsman Graeme Hick on 98 not out.
Australia coach Bobby Simpson said his side would adopt a positive approach on Thursday in pursuit of a remarkable victory.
We will go out and play our natural game and only play with caution when there is no chance of winning. It's an achievable target, he said.
England team manager Keith Fletcher said the game was evenly poised.
The target will take some getting because it is a huge score but it is a flat pitch and we need to make a breakthrough, Fletcher said. It's fifty-fifty at the moment.
If we get a couple of early wickets we will be in the better position but if their two openers are still there at lunch time they will be looking good," he added.
Atherton's decision denied Hick a maiden Test century against Australia.
The Worcestershire batsman, who was stuck in the nineties for three overs, failed to score off what turned out to be the last three balls of the inning from seamer Damien Fleming to miss out.
Graeme knew that the declaration was coming very soon, Fletcher said.
Mike (Atherton) declared in the context of the match and it's the team and not the individual that's the most important thing.
We wanted to bowl eight overs at them before tea and so get a second bite with the new ball after the break," Fletcher added, explaining the timing of the declaration.
Hick, whose previous high score against Australia

came at The Oval last year when he made 80, hit one six and ten fours from 166 balls. He declined to speak to reporters after the close of play.
Left hander Graham Thorpe was the other not out batsman on 47.
over 400 to win in Test were Australia reaching 404 against England at Headingley in 1948 and India's pursuit of 406 to beat West Indies at Port of Spain in 1975-76.

SCOREBOARD



DEPRIVED, DEJECTED. A stunned Graeme Hick (L) is comforted by partner Graham Thorpe after being denied his first Ashes ton on the fourth day of the third Test at the SCG yesterday. England skipper Mike Atherton opted to declare his team's second innings at 255 leaving Hick stranded on 98 not out and setting the Aussies an improbable target of 449 to win.

Resuming on 90 for one, England built their lead with ease during the morning session before Atherton fell for 67 as he tried to increase the scoring rate.
The Lancashire opener, day of the third Test between Australia and England today

ENGLAND: First innings 309 (M. Atherton 88, J. Crawley 72, D. Gough 51, C. McDermott five for 101)
AUSTRALIA: First innings 116 (M. Taylor 49, D. Gough six for 49)
ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 90 for one)
G. Gough lbw Fleming 29
M. Atherton c Taylor b Fleming 67
G. Hick not out 98
G. Thorpe not out 47
Extras (lb-6, w-1, nb-7) 14
Total (for two wickets declared) 255
Fall: 1-54; 2-158.
Did not bat: J. Crawley, M. Gatting, S. Rhodes, D. Gough, A. Fraser, D. Malcolm, P. Tufnell.

Bowling: O M R W
McDermott 24 2 76 0
Fleming 20 3 66 2
M. Waugh 2 1 4 0
Warne 16 2 48 0
May 10 1 55 0
AUSTRALIA: Second innings
M. Taylor not out 64
M. Slater not out 65
Extras (fb-5, lb-3, nb-2) 10
Total (for no wicket) 139
Bowling: O M R W
To date Malcolm 9 1 44 0
Gough 10 3 32 0
Fisher 7 1 26 0
Tufnell 10 0 20 0
Hick 2 0 9 0

MARK TAYLOR...64 n.o. who rallied his side with a defiant 88 in the first innings, batted with more adventure today before edging an attempted cut off Fleming to Taylor at slip.
The two previous instances of sides successfully chasing

Malik doubtful

DURBAN, Jan 4: Pakistan captain Salim Malik may miss the first Mandela Trophy one-day final against South Africa next Tuesday after withdrawing from his team's four-day match against Natal on Wednesday, reports Reuter.
"I hope that I'll be fit for the final but I don't want to take any chances," Salim said. "I am taking treatment and I hope that everything will be okay."
Salim pulled his hamstring while taking a running catch during fielding practice on Tuesday.
Pakistan are also concerned about the fitness of batsman Basit Ali who has a slightly damaged knee.

Ranatunga consolidates SL lead

EAST LONDON, South Africa, Jan 4: A fine 116 by Arjuna Ranatunga helped Sri Lanka to a commanding 231-run first innings lead over Border on the third day of their four-day match at Buffalo Park on Tuesday, reports Reuter.
Sri Lanka, who resumed this morning on 249 for six, were eventually bowled out for 454 thanks to a seventh-wicket partnership of 168 between captain Ranatunga and Eric Upasanthra (57).
At the close Border had reached 79 for no wicket in their second innings, still 152 behind, with openers Michael Stoner on 41 and Andrew Lawson 30.

Rowdy fans

SYDNEY, Jan 4: Police were called in to separate rival groups of English and Australian cricket supporters after they hurled plastic containers full of beer at each other during the fourth day of the third Test on Wednesday, reports Reuter.
A police spokesman said 20 people were ejected from the ground but there were no arrests.
The contingent of chanting England supporters, who call themselves "the barmy army," have maintained a barrage of noise throughout each day's play.
The disturbance occurred in the previously unseated section of the ground known as the Hill. At least one fight broke out, forcing police to intervene.
Hayden steers Queensland home

BRISBANE, Jan 4: Matthew Hayden led the way with 51 runs Wednesday as state team Queensland beat Zimbabwe by four wickets in their limited-overs cricket match at Beenleigh in Brisbane's southern suburbs, reports AP.
Queensland dismissed Zimbabwe for 165 off 47.5 overs and then reached the victory target in just 42 overs for the loss of six wickets.
Hayden was supported by Martin Love, who was run out two runs short of a half-century.
Paceman Mike Kasprovic set up the win by taking four Zimbabwe wickets for 34 off 8.5 overs, while Australia A paceman Greg Rowell took three for 31, with his three strikes coming within the space of 19 balls.
Captain Andy Flower was the most productive Zimbabwe batsman, scoring 45 runs from 55 deliveries.
The match was Zimbabwe's final warmup before they face England in a World Series match at the Gabba Ground on Saturday.
Scores: Zimbabwe 165 (Andy Flower 45; Mike Kasprovic 4-34); Queensland 166-6 (Matthew Hayden 51).

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter
Jurain Janata recorded their second win in the Second Division football league when they edged past BG Press by the odd goal in three at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.
Rezaul Haq and Zahiruddin scored one goal apiece for the winners while Liton pulled one goal back for the losers.
In the other match of the day at the same venue, Abhijatrik Malibagh and Govt. Printing Press shared points in a goalless draw.

Tendulkar, Warne head list



NEW DELHI, Jan 4: India's batting genius Sachin Tendulkar has overtaken record-holder Brian Lara, in the race for the world's best batsman, according to the



SACHIN TENDULKAR, latest computer ratings published Wednesday, reports AFP.

The 21-year-old topped the batsmen's list with 814 points, followed by Pakistani captain Salim Malik (764), West Indian Lara (753) and two Australians, Michael Slater (742) and David Boon (725).
Australia's leg-spin sensation Shane Warne heads the bowlers ratings with 899 points. Pakistani speedster Waqar Younis (894), West Indian leg spinner Anil Kumble (825) and Pakistan all-rounder Wasim Akram (802)

are the next four in the list.
The quarterly ratings, conducted by the accounting firm of Coopers and Lybrand, are based on a complicated system that takes into account current form, the quality of opposition and wickets, and contribution to the team's success.
The latest rankings have taken in performances till December 5, which means Lara's 91 in the third and final Test against India at Chandigarh, which helped the West Indians to a series-leveling win, was not considered.
Tendulkar failed to get going in the Chandigarh Test. But in 16 completed Test innings before that, he was dismissed for under 50 only twice which enabled him to surge ahead in the ratings.
In separate rankings commissioned by the London-based Cricketer magazine, India was rated the most successful side in limited-overs cricket. Arch-rivals Pakistan topped the list for Test matches.
The Indians won three consecutive one-day series since September. They won the four-nation Singer Cup in Sri Lanka, the triangular home series against the West Indies and New Zealand and thrashed then Windies 4-1 in a five-game series.
Mark Taylor's Australians are second in both Test and one-day cricket.

RATINGS
Batsmen: Sachin Tendulkar (India) 814 points; Salim

Malik (Pakistan) 764; Brian Lara (West Indies) 753; Michael Slater (Australia) 742; David Boon (Australia) 725.
Bowlers: Shane Warne (Australia) 899 points; Waqar Younis (Pakistan) 894; Curtley Ambrose 885; Anil Kumble



SHANE WARNE (India) 825; Wasim Akram (Pakistan) 802.

CRICKETER MAGAZINE RATINGS

Test cricket: Pakistan 66 points; Australia (65); West Indies (65); India (58); South Africa (44); England (40); New Zealand (36); Sri Lanka (21); Zimbabwe (20).
One-day cricket: India 68 points; Australia (66); Pakistan (58); England (56); West Indies (54); Sri Lanka (44); South Africa (36); New Zealand (35); Zimbabwe (15).

Thomson slows SA down



CAPE TOWN, Jan 4: New Zealand off-spinner Shane Thomson captured three wickets in quick succession to check South Africa as they threatened to take charge in the third and final Test on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Thomson ended a first-wicket stand of 106, removing Rudolf Steyn and fellow opener Gary Kirsten, and also dismissed Daryll Cullinan to reduce South Africa to 125 for three.
By the close on the second day, South Africa were 152 for three in reply to New Zealand's first innings of 288 in the deciding game of the series which is level 1-1.
Steyn and Kirsten were providing an ideal start before the introduction of Thomson, who put a brake on the scoring as well as making inroads into the top order.
First to go was Steyn who, after a promising debut innings in Test cricket, played around a straight ball from Thomson and was adjudged lbw for 38.
Kirsten then tried to sweep Thomson and was bowled round his legs for 64, having hit nine fours and faced 131 balls.
Cullinan tried to hit Thomson out of the attack but, having made five, pulled a short ball and was caught by a

leaping Bryan Young at mid-wicket.
John Commins (22 not out) and captain Hansie Cronje (11 not out) guided South Africa safely through the remaining phase of the day.
New Zealand extended their overnight 211 for six to 288 all out, having been 96 for five at one stage on the first day.
Stephen Fleming completed an excellent 79 from 160 balls, hitting 11 fours and sharing a seventh-wicket stand of 66 with Matthew Hart (24).
Fleming's score, originally given as 78, was increased by one run and the New Zealand total adjusted accordingly after television cameras proved Fanie de Villiers had been over the boundary when he fielded a shot from the left-hander.
Fleming was one of three victims in the morning session for paceman Steven Jack.
Jack ended with four for 69 and all-rounder Brian McMillan had four for 65, both Test bests.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the second day of the third and final cricket Test between South Africa and New Zealand at Newlands on Tuesday:
NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 211-6)
B. Young lbw b McMillan 45

D. Murray c Kirsten b McMillan 5
A. Parore run out 2
M. Crowe c Richardson b Jack 18
K. Rutherford c Kirsten b McMillan 56
S. Thomson b McMillan 10
S. Fleming b Jack 79
M. Hart c Richardson b Jack 24
S. Doull c Cronje b Jack 6
D. Morrison not out 0
C. Pringle b De Villiers 30
Extras (lb-13, nb-10) 23
Total 288
Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-19; 3-61; 4-95; 5-96; 6-179; 7-245; 8-255; 9-255.

Bowling: O M R W
De Villiers 28.5 7 90 1
Jack 27 7 69 4
McMillan 26 5 65 4
Cronje 5 3 8 0
Eksteen 26 10 36 0
Kirsten 2 0 7 0

SOUTH AFRICA: first innings
G. Kirsten b Thomson 64
R. Steyn lbw Thomson 38
J. Commins not out 22
D. Cullinan c Young b Thomson 5
H. Cronje not out 11
Extras (nb-6, w-1, lb-3, nb-2) 12
Total (for three wickets) 152
Fall of wickets: 1-106; 2-119; 3-125.

To bat: Rhodes, B. McMillan, D. Richardson, C. Eksteen, S. Jack, F. de Villiers.
Bowling: O M R W
Morrison 12 4 38 0
Doull 14 5 25 0
Hart 20 4 47 0
Pringle 6 2 14 0
Thomson 13 3 23 3

More desertion in Ma's Army



BEIJING, Jan 4: Flamboyant and controversial Chinese track coach Ma Junren has lost 16 of his top women distance runners in disputes over prize money and his stern discipline, an official newspaper reported Wednesday, reports AP.
But the Beijing Youth Daily also quoted local sports officials as denying that the team, known as Ma's Army, had split up. Ma has been in the news frequently since his runners broke a string of world records in September 1993, but most of the reports recently have focused on his short temper and disputes with his athletes.
The latest article said that only three teammates were left at Ma's training grounds in northeast China's Liaoning province following a mass

walkout in mid-December led by Wang Junxia, who set world records at 3,000 and 10,000 meters in 1993.
The walkout followed a fruitless, several hour-long session with Ma during which the athletes were reduced to tears, the report said. The next morning, they started to secretly leave the training grounds.
The paper said one issue was distribution of their prize money. While suspecting that they had received only a portion of it, they said they were complaining only that Ma never made clear what happened to the rest.
The runners also complained that Ma tried to exercise excessive discipline and control over them. He already had lost one star runner in disputes over the length of her boyfriend.

The report said the women were encouraged by the example of Ma's seven top male runners, who left the team following the Asian Games in October in Japan. It said the male runners left because Ma insisted on keeping their prize money and because it was not clear what he did with donations given to support their training.
Following the women's departure, the Liaoning Athletic Skills School held an emergency meeting and decided that the 16 athletes should not return to Ma's team but should continue training for the province under a different coach.
But the deputy director of the province's Sports Commission, Cui Dalin, denied that the athletes had abandoned Ma's team.

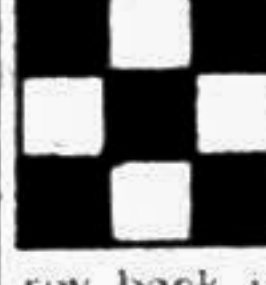
Transcom golf

Sports Reporter
Hadi Wayarabi and Shaheen Khan won the men's and women's titles respectively in the Transcom golf championships at the Kurmitola golf course last Friday.
Nasir H. Khan and Ji Lee finished runners-up in their respective groups.
Rahib Bashar and Wasama Doja were champion and runner-up respectively in the junior group while Shaikatuz Zaman garnered the best gross of the day-long meet, which was followed by dinner and prize-giving ceremony.



The winners of the Transcom golf tournament along with the vice-president of the Kurmitola Golf Club, Maj Gen Mahbubur Rahman and the chairman of the tournament committee Maj Gen Abdur Rab at the club premises on December 30.

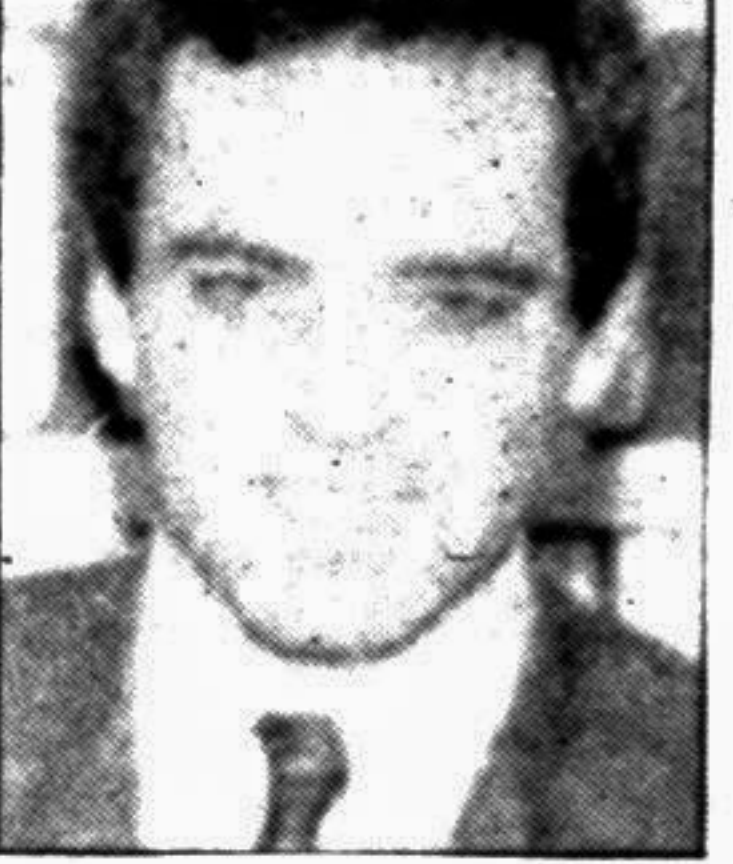
FIDE wants Kasparov back



MANILA, Jan 4: The World Chess Federation (FIDE) is close to coaxing rebel champion Garry Kasparov back into the fold, and a reunification match for the World Championship is likely in 1996, FIDE chief Florencio Campomanes said Wednesday, reports AFP.

The Filipino sportsman won an unprecedented fourth term of the federation in Moscow last month with the support of his long-time Russian nemesis Kasparov, and said they have since signed joint declarations towards unity and cooperation.
Then-reigning FIDE world champion Kasparov and his challenger, Nigel Short of Britain, broke away from the federation and formed their rebel Professional Chess Association (PCA) following a dispute over prize money and venue in early 1993.
Kasparov subsequently won the rebel championship while FIDE organised an alternate World Championship from among the two losing semi-finalists in the last Candidates' cycle. Former world champion Anatoly Karpov beat Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman and was declared FIDE world champion.
Campomanes said Kasparov and his fellow rebels have apparently come around to the realisation that they cannot live without FIDE, and that "when a prodigal son returns, you must accept him."
He said he and Kasparov were proposing that "to end the current confusion among chess players, chess fans, sponsors and media, a reunification match will be organised in 1996" after the end of the current eliminations for the next PCA and FIDE World Championships.
He said they also proposed that a joint commission be formed "On an equal represen-

tation basis" to organise the reunification rules by May 1, 1995.



GARRY KASPAROV

"The terrain is promising." Campomanes said he foresaw top chess players eventually earning prize money comparable to those won by top tennis pros on the ATP Tour.
He also dismissed suggestions that powerful chess computers would eventually topple the world's top human players. "Do not fear the machine, use it," he said.
He said he had discussed with Kasparov the formation of a body to improve the current system of rating chess players, saying that the current ELO system "Needs improvement due both to the advances in computer technology and to errors which have come to light."

Delage bored

PARIS, Jan 4: A Frenchman swimming across the Atlantic said on Tuesday he was getting fed up after more than two weeks in the water and was finding it hard to sleep, reports Reuter.
"There's a certain disappointment, even suffering," Guy Delage, 42, said in a radio interview from the Atlantic.
He is about 1,100 km (680 miles) into his trip, which stretches from the Cape Verde Islands of Africa to the Caribbean island of Martinique.
"My dream has lasted eight years and now it's gradually being replaced by a reality which isn't exactly what I had dreamt of," he told France-Info radio.
Delage has spent 18 days at sea in his bid for the first Transatlantic swim and has about 2,800 km (1,750 miles) to go, braving sharks, storms and loneliness.
He spends about 10 hours a day in the water and the rest drifting westwards on ocean currents on a small wind-powered raft. The raft follows him when he swims by a satellite-tracking device.