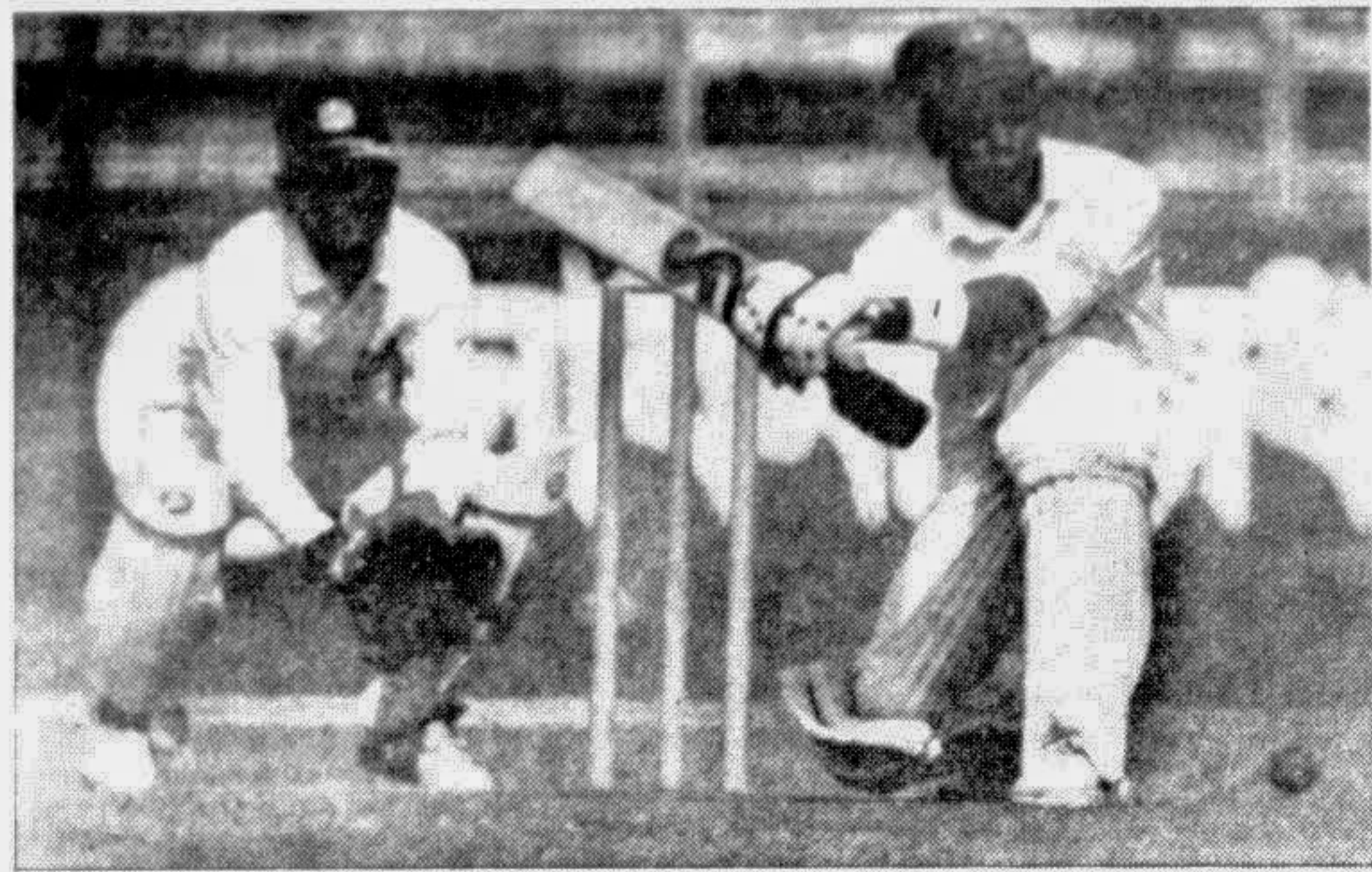


KGC retain KLM Challenge Cup

Sports Reporter
Star-studded Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) returned from Chittagong on Saturday after successfully retaining the prestigious KLM Challenge Cup at the Bhatary Golf and Country Club, says a press release.
The highly motivated KGC side tamed both the spirited Bhatary team, as well as the challenges of the newly realigned course, to win by a convincing margin of 5.5 to 3.5. The victory was largely achieved, through some inspiring and singularly brilliant golf played by some of the KGC golfers.
Demeer Chowdhury played a blistering round of 76, one under his handicap, to thoroughly demolish his opponents. He was ably supported by his teammate, the seasoned Sajjad Ahmad. Youngsters Saad Rahim and Sadiq Qudus in tandem with their senior partners Farooq Ahmed and Tarek Taher allowed no respite to their opponents, while newcomer Saber Afzal displayed considerable cool under pressure, to partner a steady Manzoor Ahmed to win a close match.



Mohamedans' skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul is about to execute a sweep during his whirlwind 54-ball 70 in yesterday's Premier Division cricket league match against Dhaka Wanderers at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Bulbul's blazing show

Sports Reporter
set back in the 5th over when Pakistani opener Nadeem Younus, who scored an unbeaten 141 in their league opener against Agrani Bank, returned cheaply on 12 Bulbul 70, Jahangir 36, Shuvro 2/37.
DHAKA WANDERERS: 197 for 6 in 35 overs (Zafar Quraishi 90, Asif 26 not out; Bulbul 3/27)
ESKATON SS: 80 in 33.3 overs (rain-curtailed) (Majid Hanif 17; Manna 5/17, Muihasin Rashid 2/8)
BANGLADESH BIMAN: 84 for 2 in 16.4 overs (Nasir Khan 28, Rupom 20 not out)

BRIEF SCORES
MOHAMMEDAN SC: 211 for 4 in 35 overs (rain-curtailed) (Selim Shahed 72, Bulbul 70, Jahangir 36, Shuvro 2/37)
DHAKA WANDERERS: 197 for 6 in 35 overs (Zafar Quraishi 90, Asif 26 not out; Bulbul 3/27)
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An all-round display by skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul steered joint holders Mohammedan Sporting Club to their second successive victory in the Premier Division cricket league when they won a hard-fought battle against promotees Dhaka Wanderers Club by 14 runs at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.
Bulbul, who scored a half-century against the other promotees Agrani Bank in their opening league match last Wednesday, scored 70 runs off only 54 balls in the morning session when Mohammedans, put in to bat in a rain reduced 35-over-a-side match, piled up a defendable 211 for four.
The little national all-rounder, who is leading the Motijheel outfit for the last couple of seasons, played the most important role in the afternoon in restricting Wanderers to 197 for six taking three wickets with his off spin.
Mohammedans, the 1995 Damal Summer cricket champions, suffered an initial

between the other opener Jahangir Alam and one-down Selim Shahed, added 52 runs and took the score from 18 to 70 in 10.2 overs before Jahangir was out on 36.
Skipper Bulbul joined Selim Shahed in the next wicket and they gradually took command of the game with their natural strokes. The partnership added 127 runs off 111 balls before Selim Shahed, who scored 72 off 92 balls including 7 fours, was caught by Wanderers captain Rokon Islam Tutul off Talam in the fifth delivery of the 34th over leaving MSC on 197 for three.
Bulbul, who slammed two over boundaries and five fours in his 54-ball inning of 70 runs, was next to go with MSC on 207 in the fourth ball of the final over.
In the remaining two ball, MSC collected a further four runs and closed their account on 211 for four at the end of 35 overs.
In reply, Dhaka Wanderers seemed to cruise confidently towards an upset victory with their in-form Pakistani middle order batsman Zafar Quraishi scoring 90 runs off only 76 balls including one towering six and 12 boundaries.

But, timely intervention by Bulbul, who came to bowl at number six, helped Mohammedans to avoid a possible defeat as he got three wickets including the prized wicket of Quraishi to restrict Wanderers to 197.
Bulbul earned his three

wickets conceding 27 runs in his seven overs.
The winners will face Eskaton Sabuj Sangha in their next match on December 28, while Wanderers will meet Brothers Union on the same day.
BIMAN WIN
In the day's other match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Bangladesh Biman recorded an emphatic eight-wicket victory over Eskaton Sabuj Sangha.
Chasing an easy target of 81 to win in 45 overs, Biman, the Bijoy-Dibash cricket tournament champions, reached home in the 17th over with eight wickets in hand.
Openers Athar Ali (13) and Pakistani Nasir Khan (28) were the men out for Biman while skipper Ziaur Rashid Rupom and middle order batsman Shahnewaz Shahid Shanu remained not out scoring 20 and 13 runs respectively.
Earlier, Biman's promising right-arm pacer Nizamuddin Manna played the key role in bundling out Eskaton in 33.3 overs with the scoreboard reading only 80 runs.
Manna, who bowled ten overs including three maidens, sent back five Eskaton batsmen conceding only 17 runs.
Majid Hanif, one of three Hanif brothers from Pakistan playing in Dhaka at present along with Abid and Rashed Hanif of Brothers Union, was the highest Eskaton scorer with 17 runs while his compatriot Sayeed Ali added 12 runs to their account.
Biman will take on GMCC in their next engagement on December 30 while Eskaton will face Mohammedan SC also on the same day.

Cloud over Sydney's site

CANBERRA, Dec 24: Sydney's most valuable asset, its spectacular waterfront location, could make it vulnerable to a terrorist attack during the 2000 Olympic Games, a leading international terrorism expert warned Thursday, reports AFP.
Bruce Hoffman, the head of the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at St Andrews University in Scotland, said the Homebush Bay venue for the Games presented unusual security challenges.
"Historically, terrorists shy away from engaging in maritime terrorism," he told reporters after addressing a conference on terrorism and the 2000 Olympics.
"But I don't think we should assume there's not a threat in Sydney because so much of the movement of athletes will be facilitated by maritime transport.
"That in itself could provide an attraction for terrorists and change their previous patterns of operations.
"I think it will present new challenges for security officials. On the other hand it may present new opportunities for terrorists as well."
Hoffman, who was a security consultant for last year's soccer World Cup in the United States, warned that Australia's geographical isolation and strict immigration procedures did not mean it was immune from terrorist attack.
"They do make Australia much more difficult to enter for potential adversaries and they do provide Australia with more natural advantages that other Olympic venues might not have enjoyed," he said.
"But I think what's absolutely critical is that Australia shouldn't wrap itself in a fatally false blanket of security about its geographical isolation, about its immigration procedures."
There have been no major incidents at the Olympics since 11 Israeli team members were killed after Palestinian terrorists broke into the athletes' village at the 1972 Munich Games.
But the conference was told there had been internal and external security threats at subsequent Olympics, particularly the past two Games at Seoul and Barcelona.
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) director general David Sadler told the conference there was a credible prospect of more terrorism in the Asia-Pacific region in the lead-up to the Sydney Games.
Sadler said Australia had experienced mainly 'mild' forms of terrorism.
ASIO, he said, had monitored about 100 incidents since 1969, including five major terrorist attacks.
Sadler said conditions in big cities in the Asia-Pacific region were attractive to the itinerant terrorists because they offered ready transport and excellent communications.
"At best, the region can expect no less terrorism and it seems to me there is a credible prospect of more," he said.

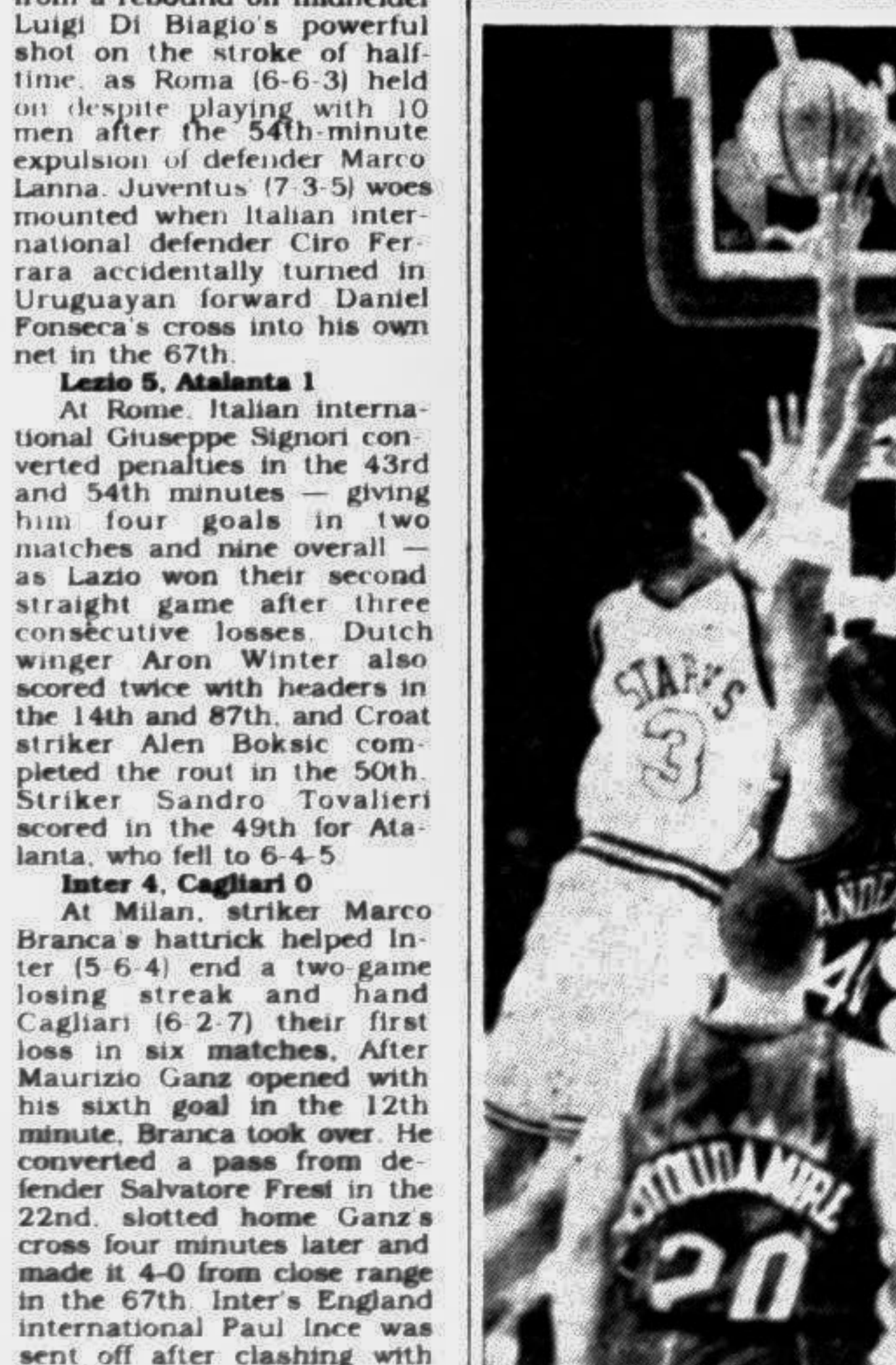
Milan's magnificent run



ROME, Dec 24: AC Milan, with goals from star strikers George Weah and Roberto Baggio, drew 2-2 with second-place Fiorentina Saturday to stay atop the Italian First Division, while two other top contenders were shockingly upset, reports AP.
Liberian-born Weah, expected to claim the Golden Ball Award Tuesday, scored in the 11th minute and Baggio, who won European soccer's top individual honour in 1993, converted a penalty in the 54th after Weah was fouled in the area. Midfielder Anselmo Robbiati and forward Francesco Baiano scored for Fiorentina.
Elsewhere, third-place AC Parma saw their 11-match unbeaten streak end in a 1-0 loss to mediocre Vicenza, while AS Roma beat defending champions Juventus 2-0, their first victory in Turin since 1981.
Milan (8-6-1, 30 points), whose run of 10 games without a loss is now Serie A's longest, maintained their one-point lead over Fiorentina (9-2-4), Parma (7-6-2) follow with 27 points.
Lazio (7-4-4) are fourth with 25 points after a 5-1 rout of Atalanta, and Juventus and Roma are in a virtual tie for fifth place with 24.
In other matches Sunday, Inter beat Cagliari 4-0, Sampdoria and Napoli drew 2-2, Bari beat Udinese 2-1, Cremonese and Torino drew 1-1, and Padova and Piacenza drew 1-1.
Matches were moved up one day from the usual Sunday to avoid playing on Christmas Eve. The league resumes its schedule with the 16th round to Jan 7.
Fiorentina 2, Milan 2
At Florence, Weah scored another spectacular goal, with his back to the net, he flicked home a precise header for his sixth of the year. But the hosts quickly retaliated, with Robbiati concluding a tight counterattack two minutes later. The teams then settled into a battle at midfield, until Weah was dragged down by defender Lorenzo Ameruso as he leaped for a header.
Baggio, jeered all afternoon by Fiorentina fans who still haven't forgiven his transfer from their club in

1990, converted from the spot for his third goal and a 2-1 lead. But Baiano redirected a free kick by Portuguese midfielder Rui Costa in the 73rd to equalize.
Vicenza 1, Parma 0
At Parma, where Vicenza's lone victory was in 1948, striker Roberto Murgita headed in a Maurizio Rossi cross for the winner in the 57th minute. Vicenza (5-5-5), 10th in the 18-team league, hadn't won in seven away matches this season, and Parma were 5-2-0 at home.
Roma 2, Juventus 0
At Turin, Argentine striker Abel Balbo scored from a rebound off midfielder Luigi Di Biagio's powerful shot on the stroke of half-time, as Roma (6-6-3) held on despite playing with 10 men after the 54th-minute expulsion of defender Marco Lanna. Juventus (7-3-5) woes mounted when Italian international defender Ciro Ferrara accidentally turned in Uruguayan forward Daniel Fonseca's cross into his own net in the 67th.
Lazio 5, Atalanta 1
At Rome, Italian international Giuseppe Signori converted penalties in the 43rd and 54th minutes — giving him four goals in two matches and nine overall — as Lazio won their second straight game after three consecutive losses. Dutch winger Aron Winter also scored twice with headers in the 14th and 87th, and Croat striker Alen Boksic completed the rout in the 50th. Striker Sandro Tovalieri scored in the 49th for Atalanta, who fell to 6-4-5.
Inter 4, Cagliari 0
At Milan, striker Marco Branca's hatrick helped Inter (5-6-4) end a two-game losing streak and hand Cagliari (6-2-7) their first loss in six matches. After Maurizio Ganz opened with his sixth goal in the 12th minute, Branca took over. He converted a pass from defender Salvatore Frest in the 22nd, slotted home Ganz's cross four minutes later and made it 4-0 from close range in the 67th. Inter's England international Paul Ince was sent off after clashing with Cagliari's Marco Sanna, who also received his marching orders.
Sampdoria 2, Napoli 2
At Genoa, Napoli (4-8-3)

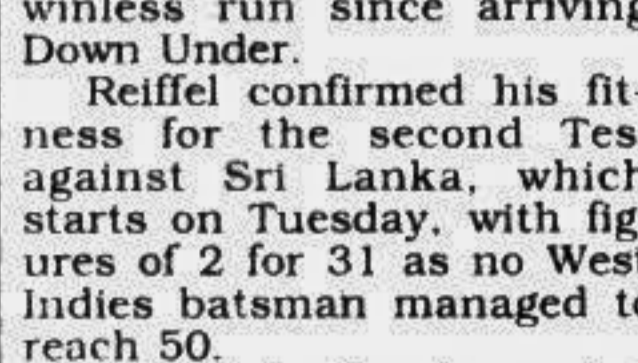
rallied from a two-goal deficit for the draw. Napoli defender Francesco Baldini handed the hosts (5-6-4) the lead in the third minute of first-half injury time, deflecting Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf's shot past goalkeeper Giuseppe Tagliapietra for an own-goal.
Winger Enrico Chiesa's sixth goal in three games, a running volley in the 48th, made it 2-0. But substitute Arturo Di Napoli's first Serie A goal drew Napoli within one in the 54th, and forward Renato Buso levelled the match in the 76th, putting back a rebound off French midfielder Alain Boghossian's header.



New York Knicks' John Starks' (No 3) scoring attempt is intercepted by Oliver Miller of Toronto Raptors during a NBA clash on Dec 23. — AFP/UNB photo

Richie's plight

BRISBANE, Dec 24: The pressure mounted on embattled West Indies cricket captain Richie Richardson after the tourists suffered another upper-order batting collapse in their drawn match against an Australian XI at the Gabba Ground.
Richardson scored just 11 before playing on to a ball from Paul Reiffel as the tourists slumped to 197 for six before a late rally.
The Australian XI made 323-7 declared in their first innings Friday and the second day was washed out Saturday. The West Indies made 325 in their first innings and the Australian XI were 17 without loss in their second innings when the match came to an end.
Greg Blewett, who scored 115 in the first innings, took 4 for 59 from 18.2 overs as the West Indies continued winless run since arriving Down Under.
Reiffel confirmed his fitness for the second Test against Sri Lanka, which starts on Tuesday, with figures of 2 for 31 as no West Indies batsman managed to reach 50.
Saturday's abandonment of play meant the game was effectively dead when play resumed. The West Indies had the option of asking for a one-day game but instead said they wanted to use the day for batting practice.
They failed to make the most of it, despite being aided by five dropped catches and two missed stumpings.
Jimmy Adams made a solid 47 over two-and-a-half hours, but several of his teammates lost their wickets in causal fashion.
Opener Phil Simmons (35) and No 3 Roland Holder (20) both were run out after loafing between wickets.
Stuart Williams (47) was dropped three times and wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist also missed a stumping chance.
Carl Hooper top-scored with 48 before being caught by Brendon Julian off the bowling of spinner David Freedman.
Queensland opener Matthew Hayden was one victim of the spilled catches when he dropped Williams on 24 in the gully. Hayden split the webbing on his right hand and needed five stitches.
Hayden is out of Tuesday's day/night match between Queensland and the West Indies.
Scores: Australia XI 323-7 dec and 17-0, West Indies 325 (Greg Blewett 4-59).



MIKE ATHERTON

By rain.
In the other 10 days of scheduled cricket, only the first day at Centurion Park, Pretoria, was not interrupted.
The St George's Park pitch

MELBOURNE, Dec 24: Match-winning Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne and Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga Sunday confirmed they would be playing in the second cricket Test, beginning here on Boxing Day, reports AFP.
Sunday there was no chance they would miss what is generally regarded as the show-piece Test of the Australian summer of cricket at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.
Warne said reports that a virus was threatening an appearance at his home ground were a "little exaggerated."
"I've got a strong bout of the flu but that's it and it won't stop me from playing in this Test match," he said.
Australia's maestro spin bowler, who has now over 200 wickets in Test cricket, did concede he was not 100 per cent fit, but said the fact that the game was at the Melbourne Cricket Ground would help him overcome any slight problems.
"I might not be 100 per cent on energy, I'm more about 95 per cent but the motivation of playing in front of my home crowd in Melbourne will make up for that," he said.
"Nothing is going to stop me playing in this Test match."
While Warne is treating his influenza, Ranatunga said he had obtained some "magic oil from Colombo" to ensure his injured finger would not prevent him from leading Sri Lanka this week.
"It (his finger) looks all right and I put some oil I got from Colombo on it," he said.
"It's magic oil and I used it

Acme Div II cricket

Sports Reporter
Uttara Sporting Club, Western Cricket Club and East End Club won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches held in three different city venues yesterday.
Uttara recorded a huge 123-run win over Amoryjoti Club at the Dhanmondi Club ground while Western Club defeated Lalbagh Anwar Sporting Club by 58 runs at the Mirpur Outer Stadium. In the day's remaining tie at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, East End Club posted a 4-wicket victory over Nabeen Sangha.

Kenyan wins Yangon marathon

YANGON, Dec 24: Kenya's Timothy Moni won the sixth Yangon Mayor's international marathon on Saturday, beating some 40,000 runners to clinch the US 5,000 dollars first prize, reports Reuter.
Moni, a lanky 35-year-old hospital orderly, covered the 26 miles in two hours 18 minutes 26.6 seconds.
Burmese runners Thiha and Philip finished second and third.



New York Knicks' John Starks' (No 3) scoring attempt is intercepted by Oliver Miller of Toronto Raptors during a NBA clash on Dec 23. — AFP/UNB photo

Eng-SA fourth Test Skippers throw the dice



PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 24: Hansie Cronje and Mike Atherton may be ready to take risks in the fourth Test encounter as effectively coming down to a two-match series with no room for error.
South African captain Cronje and his opposite number Atherton know that five days of clear weather at St George's Park is what they most want for Christmas.
Of the first three Tests, which were all drawn, only the second at the Wanderers in Johannesburg was completed without interruption

Five other days have been washed out without a ball being bowled and another saw just 47 deliveries sent down.
It means that what was billed as a thrilling five-Test encounter is effectively coming down to a two-match series with no room for error.
Although the approach of both sides will probably not be known until the teams are announced on the morning of the match, there is exciting talk coming from both camps about taking risks.
England are toying with the idea of playing just five specialist batsmen to allow room for a second spinner, while South Africa have brought 18-year-old left-arm wrist spinner Paul Adams into the squad as well as orthodox left-arm spinner Nicky Boje.
"If it looks like a two-spinner pitch then we'll only play five batsmen with (wicketkeeper) Jack (Russell) at six but we'll just wait and see what it looks like," said Atherton.
South Africa are equally unsure. After the third Test at Kingsmead, Durban, coach Bob Woolmer deflected the question of whether he would continue to play seven specialist batsmen.
"I don't think you could say we only had seven specialist batsmen because Dave Richardson, Shaun Pollock and Craig Matthews are all batsmen and after Allan Donald's efforts in this game we had better include him too. So that makes 11 specialist batsmen," he said.
The St George's Park pitch

is likely to be slow and low, suggesting each team will definitely include at least one spinner, and in South Africa's case it is almost certain to be Adams, who would become his country's youngest Test player.
A coloured cricketer who has come through the ranks of the United Cricket Board of South Africa's development programme, Adams may have an influential role to play in the climax to the series.
"I don't know what to expect but I'm honoured and thrilled. And I don't feel under pressure because everyone has told me just to do what I normally do, and that means enjoying myself," Adams said.



MIKE ATHERTON

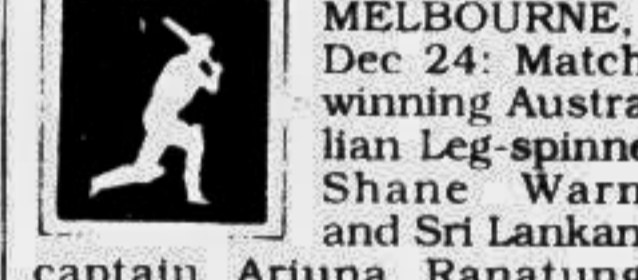
By rain.
In the other 10 days of scheduled cricket, only the first day at Centurion Park, Pretoria, was not interrupted.
The St George's Park pitch



HANSIE CRONJE

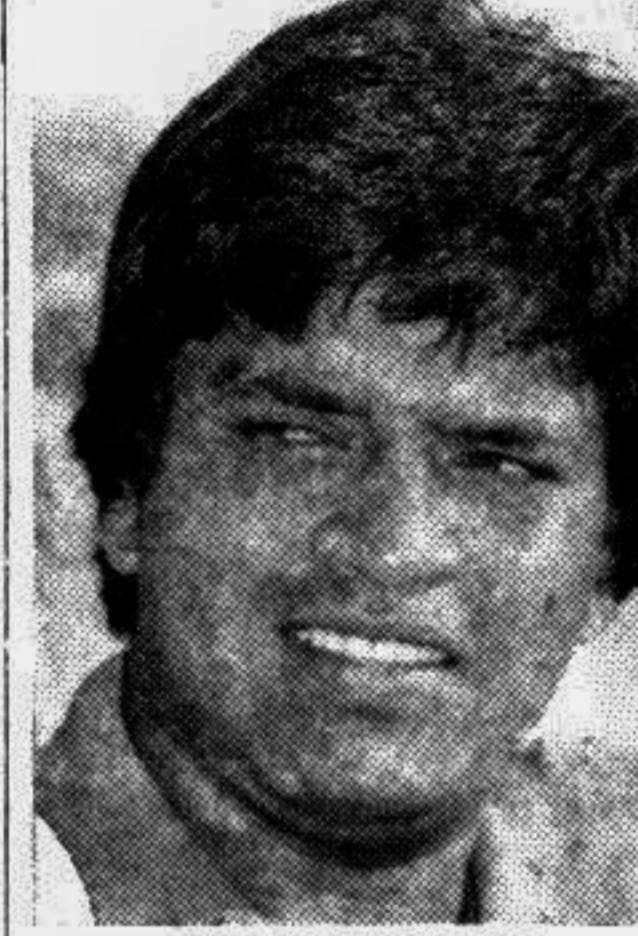
"The pitch should have plenty of cracks, good for my bowling. I just hope England play their shots and attack me."

Melbourne Test tomorrow



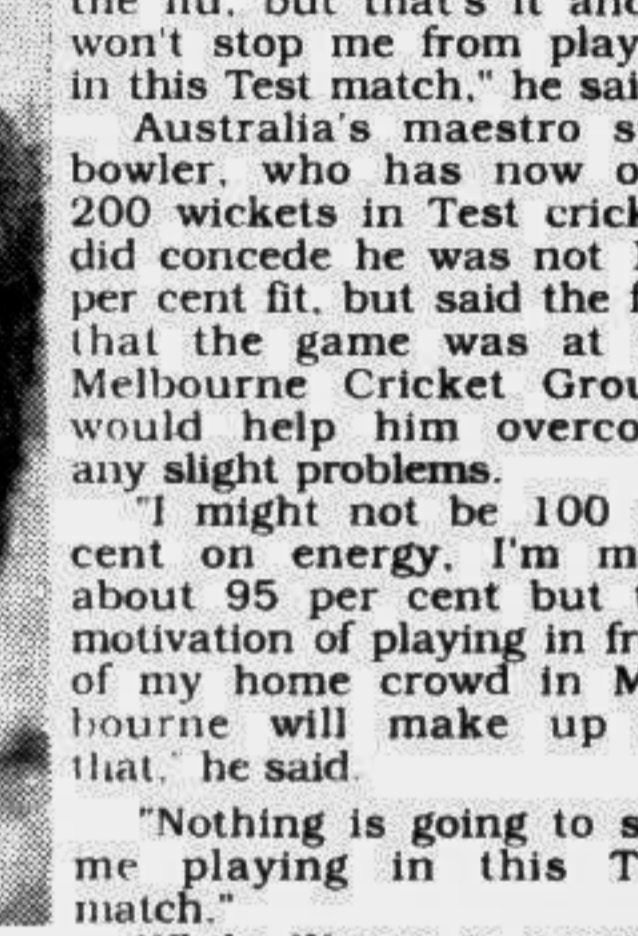
MELBOURNE, Dec 24: Match-winning Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne and Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga Sunday confirmed they would be playing in the second cricket Test, beginning here on Boxing Day, reports AFP.

to just keep it improving." The 32-year-old Sri Lankan captain, used the position with success.
"I did the same thing last time I was hurt here and I put the magic oil on it and I was playing again in five days," he said.
Ranatunga did not bat during the Sri Lanka's net



RANATUNGA

Warne has been weakened by influenza, while Ranatunga injured his right finger while attempting a catch in Thursday's World Series limited-overs loss to Australia in Sydney.
However the duo, key players in their sides, said



SHANE WARNE

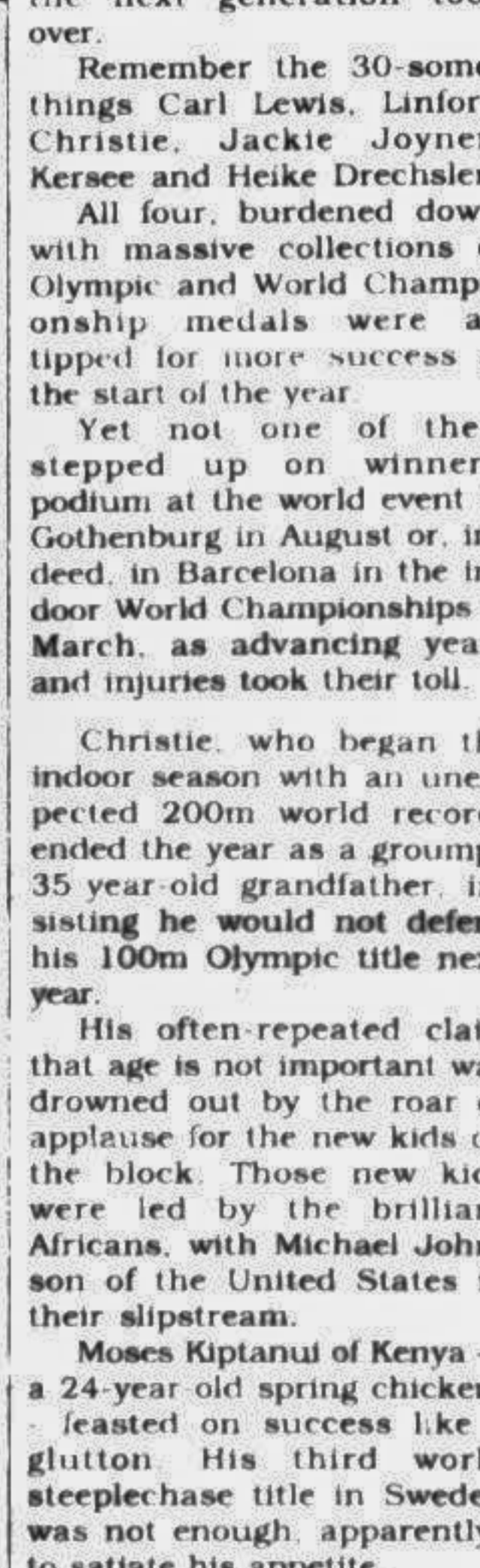
session this morning, but will test out his finger in a practice session on Christmas day.
The Australians, 1-0 up in the series, will also round off their preparations with a net session at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Monday.

New kids on the block



PARIS, Dec 24: Old father time after years of sharpening his scythe, finally cut athletics' ageing stars down to size in 1995, reports AFP.
It was a year of world records and golden moments — but the sport's senior citizens hardly got a look-in as the next generation took over.
Remember the 30-somethings Carl Lewis, Linford Christie, Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Heike Drechsler? All four, burdened down with massive collections of Olympic and World Championship medals were all tipped for more success at the start of the year.
Yet not one of them stepped up on winner's podium at the world event in Gothenburg in August or, indeed, in Barcelona in the indoor World Championships in March, as advancing years and injuries took their toll.
Christie, who began the indoor season with an unexpected 200m world record, ended the year as a grouchy 35-year-old grandfather, insisting he would not defend his 100m Olympic title next year.
His often-repeated claim that age is not important was drowned out by the roar of applause for the new kids on the block. Those new kids were led by the brilliant Africans, with Michael Johnson of the United States in their slipstream.
Moses Kiptanui of Kenya — a 24-year-old spring chicken — feasted on success like a glutton. His third world steeplechase title in Sweden was not enough, apparently, to satiate his appetite.
The former army officer — who claims he is so unknown in his own country that even his neighbours do not know

how he earns his living — also found room for two world records, over the steeplechase and 5,000m, before banking 130,000 dollars as the Grand Prix champion in Monaco.
World champions Nouredine Morceli of Algeria and Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie — who now has two Mercedes cars for his Golden exploits but still no driving licence — were not far behind.
Morceli is already an all-time great at the tender age of 25. He is a devout history-maker, adding a third 1,500m world gold and two world records — at 1,500 and 2,000m — to his roll of honour.
His dream, he says, is to hold all the world's best times from 800 to 5,000m.
To do that, however, he would have to deal with Gebrselassie — who lost his 10,000m world record but regained the one at 5,000 — at the top end of the bracket, while Johnson looks set to make waves at the bottom.
The Texan sprinter, who looks like comedy actor Eddi Murphy and runs just as comically, leaning backwards as if in a force-nine gale, is considering a move up to the two-lap discipline after his unprecedented 200-400m double in Gothenburg.
In doing so, he missed Pietro Mennea's 16-year-old world record by a wafer-thin 07 sec while Butch Reynolds' seven-year 400m record escaped by Mere 1sec.
There is always one man to buck a trend, however.
In athletics, it is Sergei Bubka, who pole vaulted to his fifth world title in a row. Someone should remind him he is 32.
Africa also laid claim to the women's Grand Prix champion, in the muscled shape of Maria Mutola.
Yet the Mozambican 800m runner, a mere 22-year-old like Gebrselassie, did not get it all her own way, after a ghastly Gothenburg blunder cost her what seemed like inevitable gold when she was disqualified for running out of her lane.
Her tears, however, were lost in the biggest smile of the year as Cuba's Ana Fidelia Quirot, almost buried to death in a kitchen fire two years previously, took the title.
Sonia O'Sullivan also had plenty to smile about, becoming Ireland's first-ever female world champion by winning the 5,000m, while France's Marie-Jose Perec ruled over 400m and Kim Batten beat Sally Gunnell's 400m hurdles world mark for gold.
Gwen Torrence, meanwhile, did not know whether to smile or cry, after she was denied a Gothenburg double by Maria Mutola in the 200m final.
She left Sweden, however, enjoying the taste of sweet revenge, overhauling Jamaican Merlene Ottey — who was handed the 200m title by default and then called Torrence a cheat — for a United States relay triumph.
Even better for Torrence, she will be running for gold in her home city of Atlanta next year when she chases the Olympic title.
There is a hitch, however. By then, she will be 31, and old father time will be waiting.



New York Knicks' John Starks' (No 3) scoring attempt is intercepted by Oliver Miller of Toronto Raptors during a NBA clash on Dec 23. — AFP/UNB photo

Camacho named IBC's best
NEW YORK, Dec 24: IBC welterweight champion Hector Macho Camacho was selected as the fighter of the year by the International Boxing Council. Camacho defended his title three times this year, reports AP.