

# Hick may not have to return home early

PERTH, Dec 1 (Reuters/Internet): England batsman Graeme Hick is expected to stay in Australia for the remainder of the Ashes cricket series, England captain Alec Stewart said.

Hick joined the team in Australia as a back-up for opener Michael Atherton, who aggravated an old back injury before the first Test.

Hick was expected to return to England after Atherton recovered but earned a reprieve when Graham Thorpe had to withdraw from the second Ashes Test in Perth, also with a back complaint.

Hick scored 68, the highest individual score of the match, in England's second innings despite the tourists losing the second Test by seven wickets on Monday to trail 1-0 in the five-match series.

Stewart said Thorpe's back was still a concern and he would like to see Hick stay with the squad.

"I can't give you a definite answer, but I'm assuming that he's staying," Stewart said after the second-Test loss.

"Thorpe's back is still not right, so to me it makes sense that he stays for the foreseeable future, if not the whole tour. I'd like to think that he will stay."

Stewart said he expected a final decision on Hick to be made in the next few days.

The third test is scheduled for Adelaide from December 11-15.

# Aussie bookies jack up odds against tourists

SYDNEY, Dec 1 (AFP/Internet): Australian bookmakers have joined London bookies in assigning England's cricketers little esteem to win the Ashes after their savaging in the second Test.

English bookmaker William Hill has Australia as 20-1 favourites to retain the Ashes.

Australian agency Centrebet has England 30-1 to win the series with a draw 8-1. William Hill quoted England at 22-1 for the series with odds of 8-1 for a draw.

William Hill has England a 7-1 outsider to win the third Test, starting in Adelaide on Dec. 11, with Australia at 5-4 and the draw 5-4. Centrebet has given the tourists 5-1 for Adelaide, Australia even money and a draw 5-4.

The touring team is 150-1 at William Hill's to win the next three Tests, with Australia quoted at just 4-1.

Australia took a 1-0 lead in the five-Test series with its seven-wicket win in Perth on Monday.

# Leeds, Newcastle discuss Batty deal

LONDON, Dec 1 (Reuters/Internet): Leeds and Newcastle officials are in talks over a deal to bring England international David Batty back to Elland Road.

The Newcastle midfielder waived his right to pick up an estimated 800,000 pounds (1.32 million dollars) in signing on fees by requesting a transfer last week.

Leeds tabled a bid of around 4 million pounds (6.59 million dollars) on Monday but Newcastle reportedly want more for the player who won the championship with Leeds in 1992.

Newcastle chairman Freddie Shepherd said: "We are not giving players away, and David Batty is a current England international."

Leeds manager David O'Leary is waiting for the go ahead from Newcastle.

# Gooch refuses to be beaten

PERTH, Dec 1: England manager Graham Gooch has refused to write off a side the Australian press has dubbed "rabbit stew" after their seven-wicket thrashing by Australia in the second Ashes Test, reports AFP.

"The thing we have to believe in is we played under-par in this Test and got beaten," Gooch said today.

"We can play a lot better than that and have to play a lot better than that," he added.

"We have to play at our best to compete with the best players in the world. We will talk to individuals and reinforce things but you can only put what you believe are the best policies in place and hopefully they can take that in and put it into practice."

Gooch feared their poor form may have been caused by over-training.

"Too much practice breeds mediocrity," was the surprising comment of a man who as a player forged a reputation as a fitness fanatic.

Gooch and coach David Lloyd told the squad to forget about cricket for two days before travelling to Melbourne for the four-day fixture against a Victorian side, minus Shane Warne, starting at the MCG on Saturday.

The English have enjoyed just one day off since arriving in Australia on October 22 and most of the daily net sessions have lasted more than three hours and been followed by fielding practice.

The England squad was to have travelled today but opted to stay in Perth before flying into Melbourne on Thursday.

Gooch also said batsman Graeme Hick would stay with the squad for the remaining three Tests but not merely as cover for Graham Thorpe.

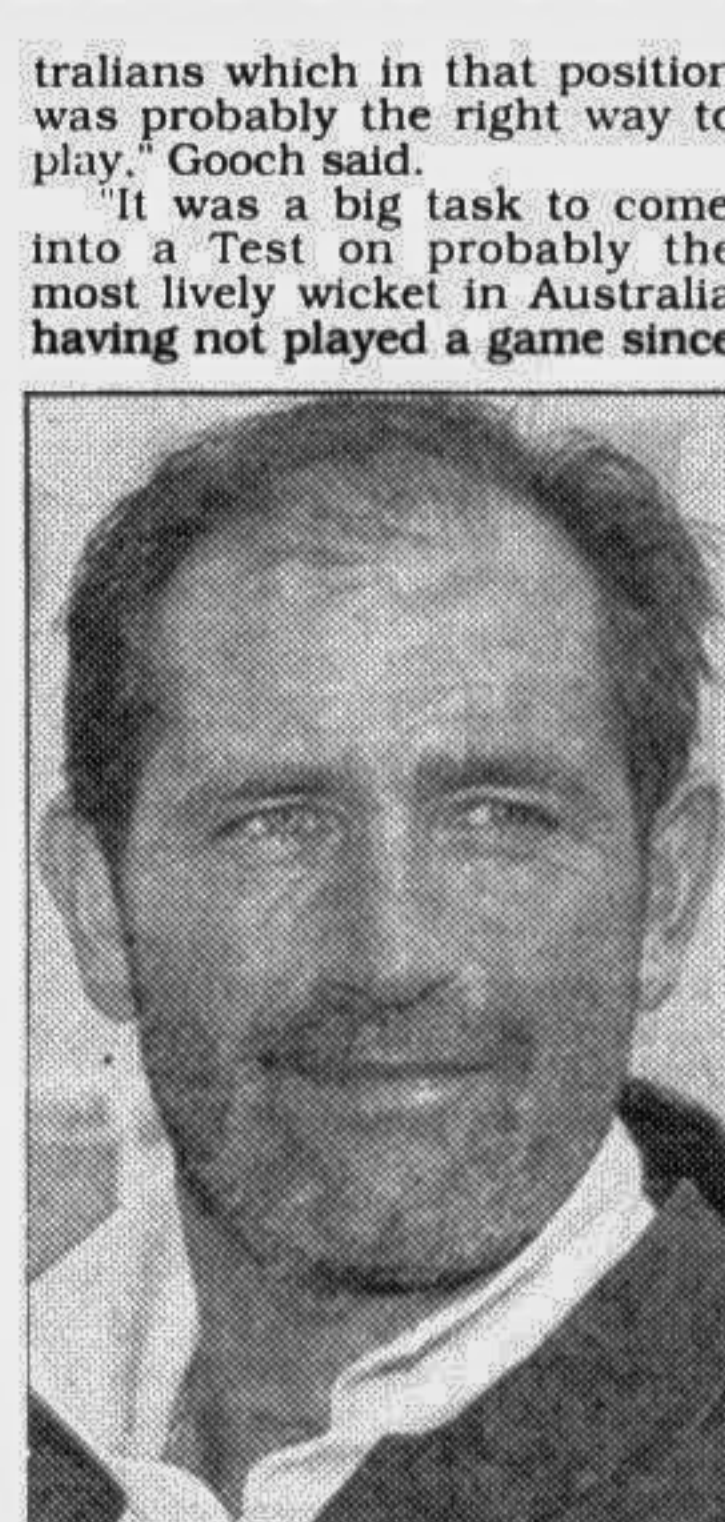
Hick originally came out because of a scare over Michael Atherton before the first Test in Brisbane and was to have returned home last Sunday.

But he was summoned to the second Test side after Thorpe's troublesome back injury flared two days before the WACA fixture began.

The Zimbabwe-born player grasped the opportunity by making 68 in England's second innings, the highest individual score of the Test, after just a handful of net sessions.

But he Thorpe does recover for the third Test which starts in Adelaide on December 11 he will present England with a dilemma.

"He played very positively and took the attack to the Aus-



GRAHAM GOOCH

# ASHES AVERAGES SO FAR

PERTH, Dec 1 (AFP): Batting and bowling averages of leading players after the first two Ashes Tests:

AUSTRALIA						
Player	I	R	NO	HS	100s	Avg
S Waugh	4	176	2	112	1	88.0
I Healy	2	146	-	134	1	73.0
D Fleming	2	71	1	71	-	71
M Waugh	4	111	2	36	-	55.5
M Slater	4	180	-	113	1	45.0
M Taylor	4	110	-	61	-	27.5
J Langer	4	104	-	74	-	26.0
S MacGill	1	20	-	21	-	20.0
R Ponting	2	32	-	20	-	16.0
	O	M		R	Wkts	Avg
C Miller	12	4		15	1	15.0
J Gillespie	22.2	2		111	7	15.86
G McGrath	92.2	31		199	10	19.9
D Fleming	67	17		186	9	20.67
M Waugh	22	73		73	3	24.33
S MacGill	46	8		121	4	30.25
M Kasprowicz	37	10		110	2	55.00
ENGLAND						
Player	I	R	NO	HS	100s	Avg
M Ramprakash	4	156	2	69	-	78.0
G Thorpe	2	86	-	77	-	43.0
M Butcher	4	157	-	116	1	39.25
G Hick	2	68	-	68	-	34.0
N Hussain	4	113	-	59	-	28.25
R Croft	2	27	1	23	-	27.0
A Tudor	2	18	1	18	-	18.0
M Atherton	4	64	-	35	-	16.0
D Cork	4	39	1	21	-	13.0
A Stewart	4	49	-	38	-	12.25
	O	M		R	Wkts	Avg
M Ramprakash	4	1		14	1	14.0
A Tudor	25.2	5		108	5	21.6
A Mullally	84	24		203	7	29.0
D Cork	57	11		165	4	41.25
D Gough	74	18		246	5	49.2
R Croft	43	8		126	2	63.0
A Fraser	43	8		128	2	64.0

# Simoni's Inter days over?

MILAN, Italy, Dec 1 (Reuters/Internet): UEFA Cup holders Inter Milan reportedly have fired Gigi Simoni as coach on Monday and placed him with former Romanian national team coach Mircea Lucescu.

The club declined to confirm the reports but Italian news agency ANSA claimed to have spoken to Simoni by telephone and said he had confirmed he was out of a job.

"They're not just rumours, they're facts. It's true. I've been sacked," ANSA quoted Simoni as saying. "I really wasn't expecting it and it's very sad news."

Simoni was expected to be replaced by Lucescu, currently coach of Rapid Bucharest. "Lucescu left Romania for Milan this afternoon to meet members of Inter's board and negotiate a contract extending until next summer," Rapid's general

manager Gheorghe Dinu said in Bucharest.

Lucescu coached in Italy for seven years at modest Serie A and B sides Brescia, Pisa and Reggina before returning home last year.

He led Romania to the 1984 European championship. Simoni had been under pressure for several weeks following Inter's erratic start to the season.

The hugely expensive side have slithered to seventh in the league after defeats at Juventus and Fiorentina and were embarrassed at home by Lazio and Bari.

They needed a last minute

# FIFA bails out Congo

BRAZZAVILLE, Dec 1 (Reuters/Internet): World soccer's governing body FIFA has made a grant of 15 million CFA francs (\$26,500) to cash-strapped Congo Republic to enable the national soccer team to take part in the 2000 Olympics soccer championship, national soccer officials said on Tuesday.

They said the grant was agreed by FIFA's Zurich headquarters following a plea from Congolese Football Federation president Sylvestre Mbongo.

No other details were available.

The Central African country is facing severe financial hardship following the devastating six-month civil war that ended last October.

Inter topped the Italian first division for the first half of the season but lost out to Juventus in a tremendous title tussle.

However, Inter's powerful president Massimo Moratti stuck by Simoni.

"Simoni's like quality wine. The longer he's around the better he gets," Moratti once said.

Inter coaxed Roberto Baggio to the San Siro in the close season and again looked to have the firepower to topple Juventus as league champions.

But although they possess some of the world's most exciting players they have never truly gelled as a unit.

Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper recently described Simoni's Inter as "more of a collection of priceless art works than a soccer team."



Action from yesterday's Premier Division volleyball league encounter between Titas Club and Azad Sporting Club. — Star photo

# Beaten 'bunnies' blasted

SYDNEY, Dec 1 (Reuters/Internet): England's humiliating defeat in the second Ashes cricket Test drew scathing comment in Australian newspapers on Tuesday.

"Rabbit stew," trumpeted the Sydney Daily Telegraph newspaper across its back page. The headline ran over a picture of three rabbits, with the faces of England cricketers Michael Atherton, John Crawley and captain Alec Stewart superimposed on them.

Australia beat England by seven wickets in the second Test in Perth on Monday to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match Ashes series.

The Telegraph said the majority of England's war-torn Ashes outfit was "so psychologically shattered by Australia's Ashes dominance yesterday they could not look their tormentors in the eye."

The paper said when the home side invited the England players into their dressing room after the test only four players -- Atherton, Mark Ramprakash, Graeme Hick and Stewart -- turned up.

Melbourne's Herald Sun newspaper said England had been exposed as being "markedly inferior" to the Australians and should be trailing by 2-0 in the series.

The first Test in Brisbane ended in a draw when rain washed out the final hours of the match with England staring at defeat.

The paper added that "already it is impossible to escape the depressing feeling that the contest has lost its hard edge almost before it has begun and that the remainder of the tour is in danger of being reduced to just one go. Aussie, go! theme song after another."

But Englishman and former cricketer Peter Roebuck, in a syndicated column, said England cricket "was not as bankrupt as previously."

"England fought to the end. Brief as the match was, it was still aggressive and eventful," he wrote.

He added that though England "can hardly hope to recover the Ashes," neither England's captain or coach "need feel any shame in this defeat. The better side won, it's as simple as that."

The Australian newspaper reported on the defeat under the headline, "England mentally battered."

The paper said the tourists would now need a miracle to prevent their losing sequence extending to a record six Ashes series.

# Inter-Varsity TT, badminton from today

Dhaka University announced its teams for the inter-university badminton and table tennis competitions, beginning at its Gymnasium Wednesday, reports UNB.

The badminton team: Adjit Paul, Sarker Sadikur Jaham, SM Emruzzaman and Rabul Alam.

Women players: Afana Ferdous, Kazi Mushfiqa Parveen and Ismat Zerin Bely.

The table tennis team: Mahbub Billa, Goutam Kumar Das, Manas Chowdhury and Mahmudun Nabi.

Women members: Farhana Parveen, Chaman Ara and Afana Ferdous.

# Chess competition

Kendrio Khelaghar Asar has organised a chess competition for children from December 25-27 at the NSC chessroom on the occasion of the Victory Day, reports UNB.

The Swiss league basis competition will be held in four different age groups.

Participants have been asked to send their entries by December 20 at the Chess Federation office or at the central office of Kendrio Khelaghar Asar, Dilu Road, Eskaton.

# Arm wrestling from Dec 11

The Sharif Foundation third national arm wrestling championship begins at the Mohammad Ali Boxing Stadium here on December 11, reports UNB.

Seven events of different weight categories -- 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, and over-80 kg -- have been included in the two-day knockout basis competition.

Interested teams of different district sports associations, clubs, services, colleges and universities have been asked to send their entries to the general secretary of Bangladesh Arm Wrestling Federation at Mirpur National Stadium by December 5.

# Premier Div v'ball

Titus Club and Power Development Board (PDB) registered their third successive wins in the National Bank Premier Division volleyball league at the Outer Stadium Volleyball court yesterday, reports UNB.

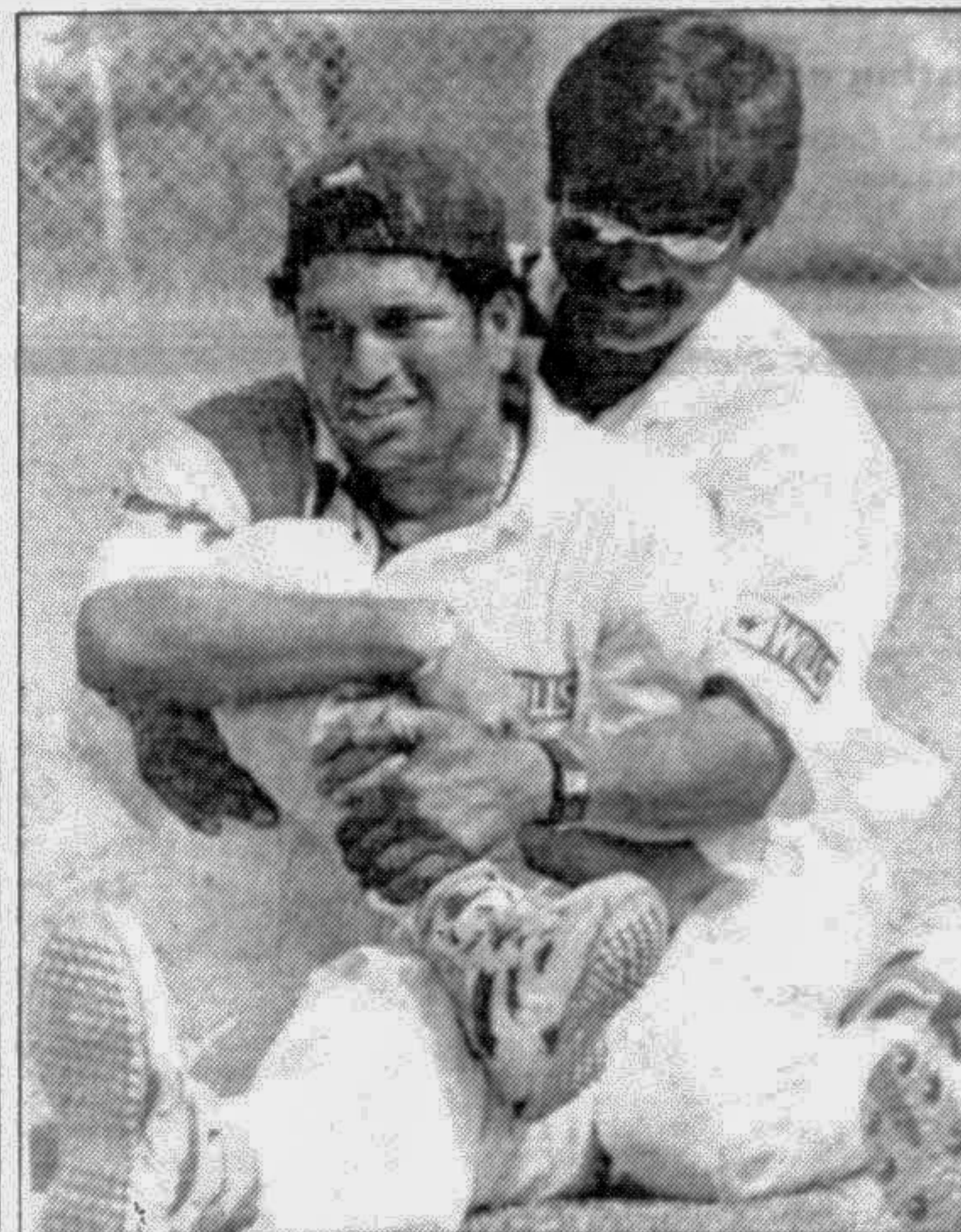
In a one-sided match, Titus dumped Azad Sporting Club 15-2, 15-1, 15-8 while PDB outplayed Wari Club 15-7, 15-5, 15-13.

In the First Division league, Brothers Union and Dilkusha Club made a good start beating their respective rivals at the same venue.

In the first match of the inaugural day, Brothers overpowered East End Club 15-6, 15-12, 15-1 while Dilkusha defeated Shantibag Wari, Association 15-6, 15-1, 15-0 in the other match.

Wednesday's Premier Division matches: Bangladesh Rifles Vs Dhaka Sabuj Sangha (2:30 pm), Bangladesh Police Vs Bangladesh Bank (14 pm).

Wednesday's First Division matches: Fire Service Vs Jiban Bima Corporation (2:30 pm).



Indian batting genius Sachin Tendulkar stretches with the aid of a physiotherapist at the team's training camp on November 30. The Indians are due to tour New Zealand later this month to play three Tests and a one-day series. —Internet photo

# Mercury going up in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, Dec 1 (Reuters/Internet): Turkey's Galatasaray and Italy's Juventus face Wednesday's rescheduled Champions' League match with mounting trepidation as tension between the two countries over Kurdish rebel chief Abdullah Ocalan continues.

Peruzzi acknowledges his and his teammates have travelled reluctantly to Istanbul after security concerns led to the group B match being postponed from last Wednesday.

A wave of angry anti-Italian protests swept Turkish cities after Italy refused to extradite Ocalan following his arrest in Rome last month.

The match between us and Galatasaray will not be a normal one but rather influenced by a whole host of factors," said Peruzzi. "We find ourselves almost forced to play this away fixture but we continue to be very worried."

The Istanbul side is also feeling the pressure of a nation up in arms over Ocalan, known as "Apo" and held responsible by Ankara for 29,000 deaths in 14 years of fighting. Ironically, the guerrilla leader is known to support Galatasaray.

The other day, a relative of a dead soldier came up to me and said 'play for us and give Apo and those Italians support- ing him a lesson,'" said Galatasaray striker Hasan Sas.

European soccer's governing body UEFA gave the go ahead for the match in Istanbul after Turkish authorities promised tighter security to calm Juventus fears.

"We have taken all measures so that this match begins and ends in a way befitting our nation and state," Interior Minister Kutlu Aktas told reporters. Nevertheless, Juventus said they had delayed their arrival here until Wednesday as a precaution.

Authorities said 22,000 members of the security forces, including police, gendarmes and troops, will be on duty on Wednesday night, most of them at a distance from the stadium.

"In sending us to play in Istanbul, UEFA, the Turkish and Italian governments have all taken on a serious responsibility and they should be aware of this," Peruzzi said.

Both club and government have appealed for spectators at the notoriously hostile Ali Sami Yen stadium to remain calm, knowing the match, as the only Champions' League fixture of the night, will be televised across Europe.

"I believe the people will confound the expectations of the Italian lobby by greeting Juventus with flowers and seeing them off with flowers too," said Sports Minister Yucel Seckiner. Even before the Ocalan af-

fair prompted last week's postponement, Juventus had plenty of purely footballing reasons to be worried about meeting Galatasaray.

Juventus go into the clash after a disappointing spell in which they have drawn four consecutive Champions' League games, and need victory in Istanbul to keep alive their hopes of reaching the European Cup quarter-finals.

Juventus, second in the group, are fresh after a 10-day break because fellow Istanbul club Besiktas agreed to postpone their derby match last weekend.

Juventus lost 3-0 away to Bologna on Sunday in perhaps their worst performance of the season.

Yet coach Marcello Lippi believes his side can overcome the setbacks and recover their best form.

"We're going through a bad patch...but we have the technical, psychological and moral qualities to get ourselves out of this situation," he said.

Galatasaray coach Fatih Terim says the Italians should try not to be scared by the atmosphere at Ali Sami Yen, famous for its 'Welcome to Hell' banners greeting foreign teams. "Juventus should know fear is no good... (But) there is no escaping Ali Sami Yen," he said. "They will leave empty handed."

Terim will rely on the trusted combination of Sas and Hakan Sukur up front, fed by Romanian playmaker Gheorghe Hagi from midfield. But international midfielder Tugay Kerimoglu will miss the game through injury.

Juventus will be without striker Alessandro Del Piero and Dutch midfielder Edgar Davids, both injured, as well as suspended midfielders Angelo Di Livio and Alessio Tacchinardi.

Frenchman Didier Deschamps, Gianluca Pessotto and Antonio Conte may be joined in midfield by Alessandro Birindelli, leaving French playmaker Zinedine Zidane his customary free role behind strikers Filippo Inzaghi and either Nicola Amoruso or Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca.

# Hadji Africa's best

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 1 (Reuters/Internet): Moroccan midfielder Mustapha Hadji was named Africa's footballer-of-the-year on Tuesday by the Confederation of African Football in Cairo.

The Deportivo Coruna player was cited by the award's committee for his performances in the World Cup finals in France and won a narrow vote over Nigeria's Austin Okocha.

Hadji polled 76 votes to Okocha's 74 in the ballot of members of CAF's technical and press committees.

The 27-year-old midfielder is the fourth Moroccan to win the award but the first since goalkeeper Badou Ezaki in 1986.

Initially, Hadji almost never played for the country of his birth, making a difficult decision five years ago to play for Morocco rather than accept a call-up from the French under-21 team.

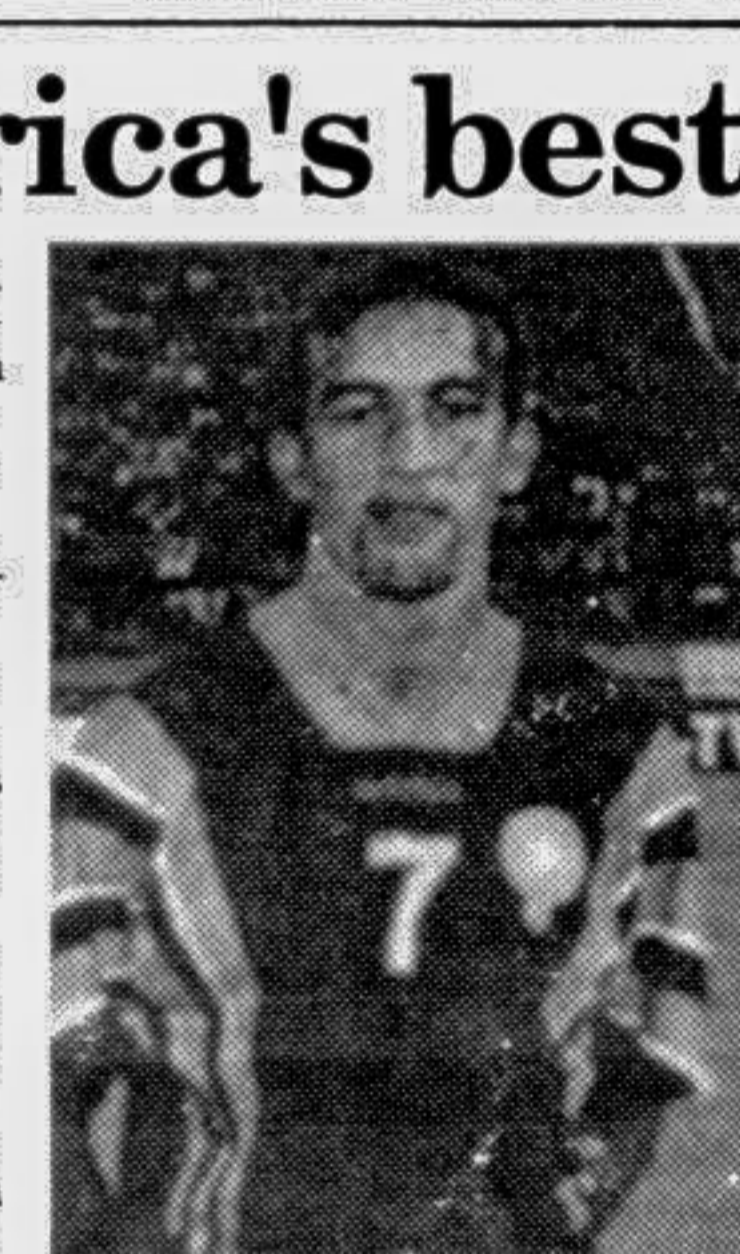
Hadji, whose family moved to France while he was still a toddler, started his career at second division Nancy before moving to Sporting Lisbon in Portugal in 1996.

He was won 38 caps for his country and scored nine goals, including two at the World Cup finals in France.

He also played at the 1994 World Cup finals in the U.S.

Nigerian Sunday Oliseh finished third in the voting, with veteran Egyptian striker Hosam Hassan fourth and 21-year-old South African Benni McCarthy fifth.

Last year's winner, Victor Ikpeba of Nigeria, did not poll any votes this year.



HADJI

country and scored nine goals, including two at the World Cup finals in France.

He also played at the 1994 World Cup finals in the U.S.

Nigerian Sunday Oliseh finished third in the voting, with veteran Egyptian striker Hosam Hassan fourth and 21-year-old South African Benni McCarthy fifth.

Last year's winner, Victor Ikpeba of Nigeria, did not poll any votes this year.

# India A chase 395 runs for victory

BANGALORE, Dec 1: India A fought back strongly scoring 108 without loss at close on the penultimate day of the four-day first Test against West Indies A here yesterday after being set a victory target of 395, reports PTI.

Openers S Ramesh (51) and Davang Gandhi (53) led the reply as the home side began the chase on a confident note after struggling to dismiss the Caribbean tailenders.

India need to score 287 runs tomorrow for a victory.

Earlier, resuming at overnight 160 for seven, the visitors frustrated the Indian attack, taking their score to 212 by lunch without losing a wicket, with skipper Ian Bishop (39) and McCarrel playing cautiously.

The post-lunch session saw the last three West Indian wickets falling, but not before McCarrel reaching 51 which came in 199 balls. He and Bishop put on 84 runs for the eighth wicket in 323 balls as the last four wickets yielded 149 vital runs.

# Fed Cup karate

The fourth Federation Cup Karate competition, organised by Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation, will begin from December 16 at Mirpur Shahid Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium, reports UNB.

## SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

A VERY GOOD DEFENCE BY WEST  
(Hand # 141)

North

♠ Q 10 7

♥ H Q 4 2

♦ K 5

♣ A J 9 7 4

West

♠ A K 9 8 5 2

♥ H J 9

♦ D 10 7

♣ C Q 5 2

East

♠ S J 6 4

♥ H K 7 6 3

♦ D 9 4 2

♣ C K 8

South (D)

♠ S 3

♥ H A 10 6

♦ D A Q J 8 6 3

♣ C 10 6 3

Bidding: East-West were vulnerable.

South	West	North	East
1 Diamond*	1 Spade	2 Clubs	Pass
2 Diamonds	Pass	2 No Trumps	Pass
3 Diamonds	Pass	3 No Trumps	Pass
Pass	Pass		

\* Artificial opening.

With a long Diamond suit but 11 HCP South opened his hand artificially and when South showed the actual Diamond suit, North bid 2 No Trumps against West's Spade overall. With a singleton in Spade, South rebid Diamonds at three level. North counted six tricks in Diamonds and with a probable stopper in spades (as West overcalled Spades), he pushed on to 3 No Trumps. The bid is justified since he held 12 HCP himself against partner's opening hand.

THE PLAY

East led 4 of Spades, and the singleton 3 was played from the dummy. West won with the Ace and the declarer dropped seven. Partners 4 of Spades could not be a singleton as the 6 of Spades was missing. With 6 and 4 partner would have led 6. As the declarer bid No Trump twice, he must have the Queen and probably also the Ten. Hence, West hid the fact that he held the King (by taking the trick with the Ace), and returned his original fourth highest Spade. The declarer failed to guess the location of the Spade King and assuming that it was with the East played the Ten. East got the Jack and thus the defence collected six Spade tricks.

Notice that it was appropriate for West to win the first Spade with the Ace. An experienced declarer could still guess the location of the King correctly, but there was no harm in applying a bit of trickery which might be able to deceive even experienced players some times.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sailor; slang

4 Mine car

8 Marshy area

12 — tree

13 Latvia's capital

14 Language of Pakistan

15 Retriever type

17 Lost Ark seeker

18 Satisfy

19 1967 James

21 Fractional suffix

22 Shepherd's companion

26 Sweetheart

29 Moonlight

30 Harlem room

31 "Diary of —" Housewife

32 Clear the tables

33 Unpartial

34 Deterioration

35 Soar

DOWN

1 Swallow

2 Amorphous silica

3 Motion picture?

4 Inferior in quality

5 Park attractions

6 Past often

7 Percussion instruments

8 Porcupine

9 Greician vessel

10 Keep talking

11 Fella

16 Made an assessment

20 Powell co-alar

23 Bank transaction

24 "— it my way"

25 Dumbo's wings

26 Dwell (on)

27 Melville book

28 International grp.

29 Broker's advice

32 Kitchen appliance

33 Hindu ascetic

35 "Alice's spinoff"

36 Servant's uniform

38 Sleepy, e.g.

39 Normand of silents

42 Chinese port

43 Story

44 Extremities

45 Trot

46 Commotion

47 "Cook-a-doodle —"

49 Have bills

Solution time: 28 mins.

DATA RAGS BOO  
EVILL ADAM EBB  
BELLICIOUS EBB  
TREATY ALLEY  
WEBB EX OWEN  
ARE ALL DUKE  
SALT ILL FEET  
LAURA GL  
STORM BOOTS  
WOW BELLACHIE  
AGE BRITTE TON  
MAD REDD STUDD  
Yesterday's answer

## CRYPTOQUIP

Z U F W C K C W G Q N U V B U  
U V Q T C C N F I M H T U C N  
K Q W U Y B G E Q I B M F  
V Q H C F U V Z F Y B N E H Q F

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I IMAGINE A FRIGHTENED CALF MIGHT WELL GROW INTO A COWWARD.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: L equals B

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.