

### Gough always positive

MELBOURNE, Australia, Dec 28 (AFP): Hope springs eternal in stout-hearted English strike bowler Darren Gough, who hasn't discounted a victory against the odds over cricket kingpins Australia in the fourth Ashes Test here.

England were 65 for two in their second innings at the close of the third day, still trailing Australia by five runs and needing to build a sizeable score to pressure the home side on a last-day wicket.

Gough, let down by missed catches from his teammates during the series, got his overdue reward today when he captured 5-96 off 28 overs. But he could not prevent the Australians from surging to a 70-run lead.

England lost the wickets of Michael Atherton for his first Test 'pair' of ducks and Mark Butcher to a freakish close-in catch by Michael Slater in their efforts to rub out the deficit. They resume Tuesday looking to first innings centurion Alec Stewart for another big score.

"We're in a great position," said the perky Yorkshireman. "Obviously, we're two down but we've got class batsmen to come, especially Alec Stewart who has played positively."

"If we can get some runs on the board we could be looking to be bowling last against Australia for the first time, and that would be good."

Gough refuses to blame his butter-fingered teammates for costing him more than the 15 wickets he taken so far in the series.

"I've created opportunities through the whole series, I've tried to bowl consistently when I came here, that was my target," he said.

"I feel I've done that, except for one innings in Brisbane (first Test). Obviously, we're two down but we've got class batsmen to come, especially Alec Stewart who has played positively."

"I bowled here the same as I have in Adelaide and Perth. But that's what happens with a fast bowler, you go in spells. You can go a couple of games without getting a wicket then get four or five, and it gets your confidence back up."

### Celtic stay in touch

GLASGOW, Dec 28: Defending champions Celtic kept alive their Scottish Premier League hopes by coasting to a 3-0 win over lowly Dundee at Dens Park on Sunday.

Two goals in the first 43 minutes set up a victory which left Celtic in third place after 20 matches on 33 points, seven behind leaders Rangers who have a game in hand, and four behind second-placed Kilmarnock. Celtic face Rangers at Ibrox in the "old firm" derby next Sunday.

There was little doubt about the outcome against Dundee after Phil O'Donnell had given Celtic the lead in the fourth minute with a superbly executed strike.

Trapping the ball neatly on the edge of the penalty area, O'Donnell sliced between two defenders before sidefooting ball into the net for his fourth league goal of the season.

Celtic went further ahead in the 13th minute when a perfectly weighted cross from Paul Lambert enabled Norwegian international Vidar Riseth to head home his first goal for Celtic since joining them in September.

Relegation-threatened Dundee fought back during the opening minutes of the second half before a third Celtic goal effectively settled matters.

It came in an unfortunate manner for Dundee as a header by Swedish striker Henrik Larsson, the Premier League's leading scorer, was cleared off the line only for the ball to rebound off the back of Dundee goalkeeper Robert Douglas and into the net.

### Cruyff rebuffs Nunez move

BARCELONA, Spain, Dec 28 (Reuters/Internet): Johan Cruyff on Sunday rebuffed efforts by Barcelona president Josep Lluís Nunez to end a prolonged dispute between the two men.

Nunez had written to former Barcelona player and coach Cruyff suggesting dates in March and April for two testimonial matches the Dutchman is owed as part of a severance package when he was sacked in May 1996.

Nunez said he hoped the game would play a prominent part in the club's centenary celebrations and suggested they forget past recriminations.

But Cruyff said on Sunday: "I have to remind Nunez that the first step is to retract everything he has said about me."

Cruyff has been a bitter and constant critic of Nunez since he left Barcelona, although he is still a season ticket holder at the club and owns a home nearby.

## Waugh wears England down

MELBOURNE, Dec 28 (AP/Reuters): Steve Waugh po-und a majestic century Monday to lift Australia in to a good position in the fourth Test against England at the MCG.

Waugh finished unbeaten on 122, his 17th Test century, and passed 7,000 career runs in the process as Australia posted 340 in reply to England's 270.

Battling a second time, England were still five behind at 65 for two at stumps on an extended Day Three with opener Mike Atherton out for a pair of ducks for the first time in his career and Mark Butcher falling to a freak catch.

Waugh showed rare emotion after reaching his century with a faultless performance in difficult conditions. He added 88 with No 10 Stuart MacGill, who struck 43.

"I've always dreamed about getting a hundred here before a big crowd, I got a hundred against Sri Lanka here a couple of years ago but the crowd wasn't as big," Waugh said of his feat Monday in front of more than 43,000 fans.

"It was an important hundred in the context of the match which makes it all the more special. You always rate a hundred highly when your team is in a bit of trouble and they need you to score runs."

England pacer Darren Gough bowled superbly early Monday and looked to have done enough to give the tourists, 2-0 down with two Tests to play including this one, a strong chance of a first innings lead.

Gough finished with 5-96, his first five-wicket haul since the triumphant victory over South Africa at Headingley last August.

Australia resumed Monday on 59-2 and Angus Fraser had made the initial breakthrough of the day, getting a lucky lbw decision against Mark Waugh (36).

But it was the pace of Gough which enabled England to make serious inroads into Australia's formidable batting order by dismissing in-form Justin Langer for 44 and Darren Lehmann for 13.

Ian Healy joined Waugh for a 58-run stand and MacGill helped Australia to its strong position. The Australian innings was again in sharp contrast to England, which lost its last seven wickets for 70 runs Sunday.

Waugh dug in with 13 boundaries in his five-hour stay and helped Australia add 189 runs for the last five wickets.

With the 40th run of his innings, he overtook Sir Donald Bradman's Test match total of 6,996 and few minutes later he passed the 7,000 run mark, only the fifth Australian batsman to do so.

"I was aware of it and I was certainly nervous about going past Don Bradman," Waugh said of the milestone. "But it took me a lot longer to get the runs than he did."

Waugh's 7,000 came in his 110th Test while Bradman took only 52 to make his runs at the astonishing average of 99.94. He joined David Boon, Allan Border, Mark Taylor and Greg Chappell in reaching the mark.

Waugh's century was his seventh in Ashes Tests and his unbeaten innings allowed him to lift his all-time average past 50.

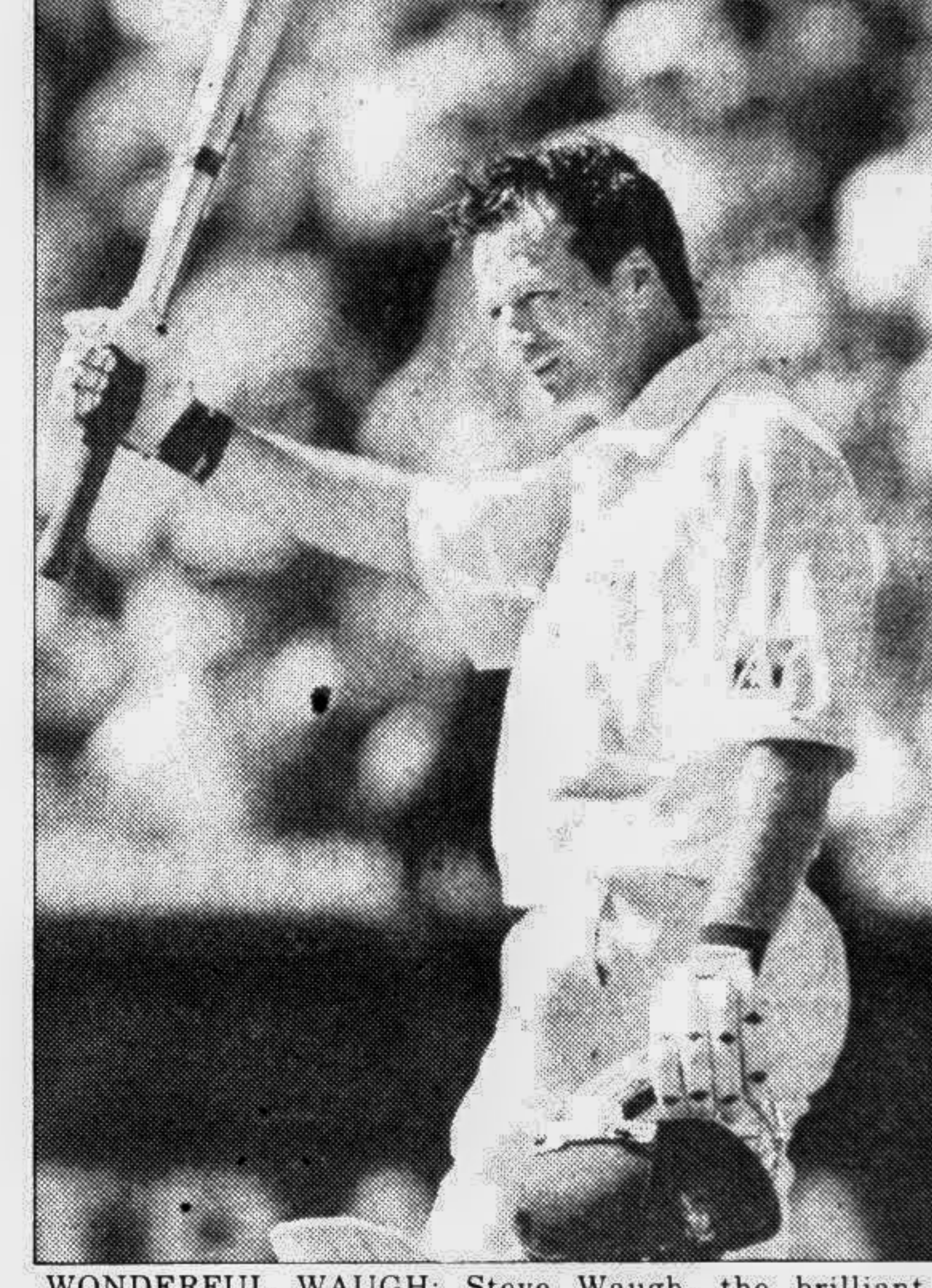
Australia made a strong start to England's second innings when Damien Fleming had Atherton clean bowled a

ball after a strong shout for lbw was denied.

No. 3 Butcher fell second to an unlucky dismissal, hitting a shot off the meet of the bat only for it to lodge in the arms of short leg fielder Michael Slater who was trying to avoid getting hit.

England sent Dean Headley out as nightwatchman and he was yet to score with captain Alec Stewart unbeaten on 43.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard on the third day of the fourth Ashes Test between Australia and England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Monday:  
ENGLAND: First innings 270  
AUSTRALIA: First innings (59-2 overnight)



WONDERFUL WAUGH: Steve Waugh, the brilliant Australian batsman, acknowledges the MCG Fans' applause after reaching his 17th career hundred.

— AFP photo

### 7000 MEMBERS' CLUB

MELBOURNE, Dec 28 (Reuters/Internet): List of batsmen to have scored more than 7,000 runs in Test cricket:

Batsmen	Country	Tests	Runs
Allan Border	Australia	156	11,174
Sunil Gavaskar	India	125	10,122
Graham Gooch	England	118	8,900
Javed Miandad	Pakistan	124	8,832
Viv Richards	West Indies	121	8,540
David Gower	England	117	8,231
Geoff Boycott	England	109	8,114
Gary Sobers	West Indies	93	8,032
Colin Cowdrey	England	115	7,624
Gordon Greenidge	West Indies	108	7,558
Clive Lloyd	West Indies	110	7,515
Mark Taylor	Australia	103	7,502
Desmond Haynes	West Indies	116	7,487
David Boon	Australia	107	7,422
Wally Hammond	England	85	7,249
Greg Chappell	Australia	88	7,110
Steve Waugh	Australia	110	7,079

## British MP's suggestion to fight hooliganism

LONDON, Dec 28 (Reuters/Internet): A British opposition parliamentarian on Monday unveiled a bill to crack down on soccer hooligans and said he was confident the measures proposed could become law before the end of the summer.

"I am confident that with government support... it could become law by late July or early August," Conservative member Simon Burns told Sky television on his proposed Football Spectators Offences Bill.

Burns, who came sixth in a ballot among MPs to propose a private member's bill, has a good chance of seeing his measures become law since he can count on cross-party support.

England is bidding for the 2006 World Cup finals and Sport Minister Tony Banks said last month that anti-hooligan legislation would greatly help that campaign after a 1998 World Cup scarred by rampaging fans in southern France.

Home Office (Interior Ministry) Minister Kate Hoey last month put forward proposals in

a 29-point document that Banks said at the time could become the toughest anti-hooligan legislation of almost any country in the world.

Hoey told the Guardian newspaper on Monday that she welcomed Burns' move.

"I am pleased that an MP in the House has decided to take this very important and very necessary legislation," she said. "It is in the interests of all supporters to see the lives of a small, ruthless minority made more difficult."

Burns said the scenes on television and reports in newspapers of hooligans on the rampage at the World Cup finals made the bill all the more necessary before the Euro 2000 championship was staged in Belgium and the Netherlands.

The disgraceful behaviour by a small element of yobs and thugs at the World Cup in France last summer shows that more needs to be done to tighten up the law to allow the police

and the courts to take greater action," he said in a statement.

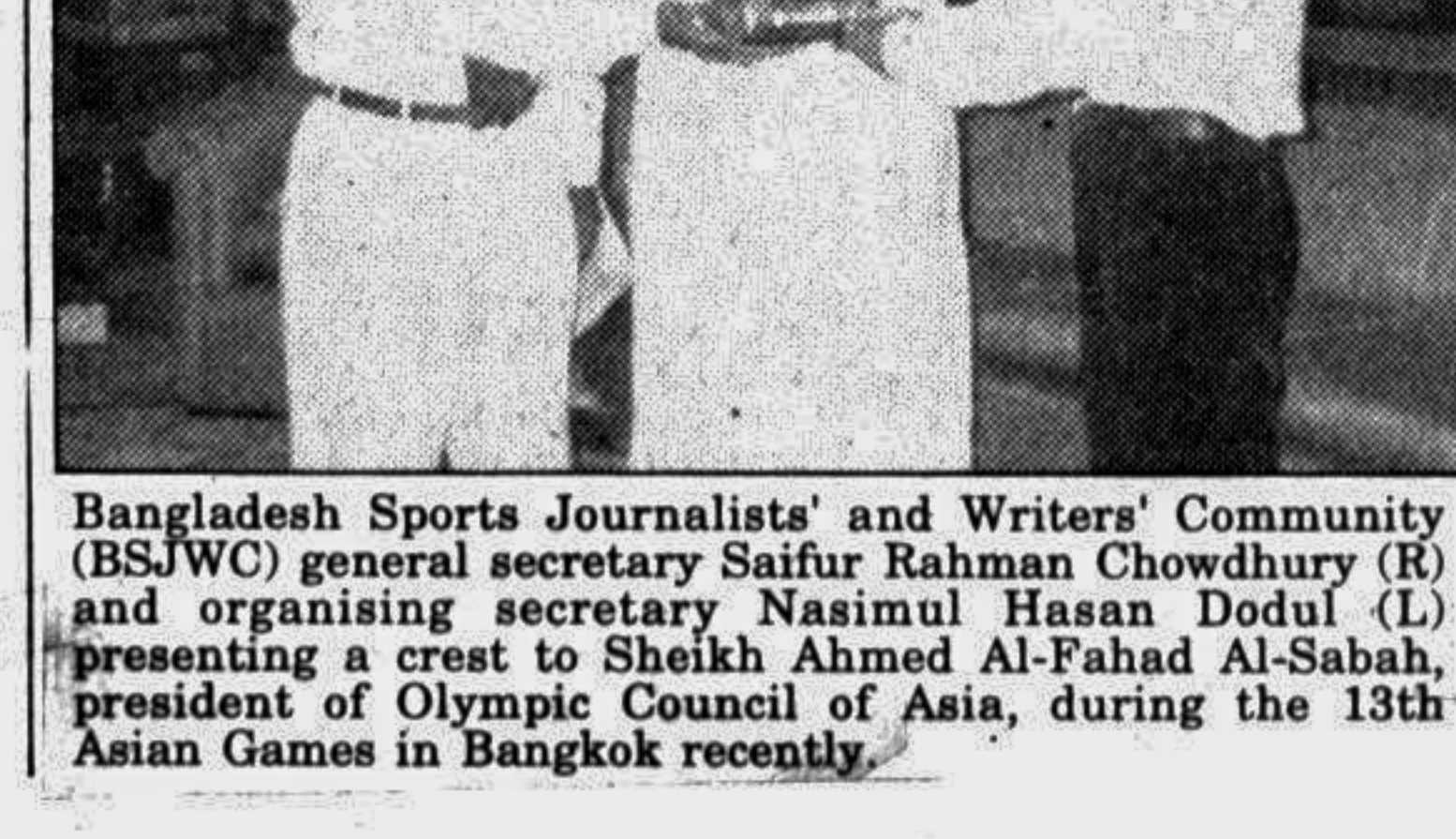
"The bill will introduce measures to restrict the movement of football hooligans, to tighten up on ticket touts and amend legislation on racist chanting at football matches."

Current British legislation under the Football Offences Act of 1991 deems an offence to have been committed only if two or more fans are making racist or indecent chants.

Burns told Sky it "does seem extraordinary" that an individual could escape unpunished for something that constitutes a crime when carried out by two people.

The proposed bill also suggests making it unlawful for ticket touts to sell tickets in England and Wales for designated matches being played in other parts of Britain or abroad.

Ticket touting would also be added to the list of football related offences.



### WICB unaware of wrongdoing

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Dec 28: West Indies have dismissed speculation that any of their players has been implicated in incidents involving bookmakers or match-fixing, reports Reuters.

"Nothing has ever been brought to our attention about anything like that," Stephen Camacho, chief executive officer of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB), told the Trinidad weekend Independent Newspaper.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) admitted recently they secretly fined Mark Waugh and Shane Warne for accepting money from an Indian bookmaker for information nearly four years ago.

Pakistan are currently holding an inquiry into allegations of bribery and match-fixing among their players.

"If we were ever to have any such problems, we would have to take some strong action, as this would be a serious breach of the code of conduct," Camacho said.

"We have not really discussed this at the WICB stage as yet, but it will be an urgent matter for us when we have our next meeting."

Camacho, the former West Indies opener, added: "We have to believe in our players and their integrity and pride in playing for West Indies."

"We have not kept anything back or in hiding. We are speaking from what we know and our guys are clean."

Camacho said recent developments involving allegations of match-fixing had surprised the WICB.

"Before, this was just an isolated case in Pakistan. Now that we are hearing a lot more, around the world, it is causing some concern for everyone," he said.

Allegations of bribery and match-fixing are at the top of the agenda of a meeting of the International Cricket Council, the sport's governing body, at a meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand, next month.

### Arjuna's father in hot water

COLOMBO, Dec 28: The Supreme Court has asked a junior minister in the national government, who also is the father of Sri Lanka's cricket captain, to pay compensation to a journalist for ordering his police bodyguards to attack him, reports AP.

A court official said Monday last week's Supreme Court ruling found Reggie Ranatunga, the deputy minister for transport, environment and women's affairs, guilty of instigating the assault on Jayantha Dias who heads the news division of the state-run television network.

He was ordered to pay the journalist 50,000 rupees, worth 735 dollars.

Ranatunga, father of cricket hero Arjuna Ranatunga who led Sri Lanka to the 1996 World Championship, denied he ordered the attack and blamed his political supporters.

The court also ordered the government to pay 75,000 rupees 1,100 dollars to Dias. Two of the police bodyguards were asked to pay a total of 25,000 rupees (367 dollars).

Dias told the court he was filming protesters set fire to a truck that had hit a pedestrian on a highway near Colombo when the minister's motorcade pulled up.

When the camera turned on Ranatunga, he became angry and demanded that the tape be handed over, fearing he would be blamed in the torching of the truck, according to court documents.

When Dias refused, half a dozen of the minister's police escorts beat him and robbed him of 3,700 rupees (55 dollars). They then threw him into a police jeep and took him to a police station.

"Upon Dias refusing to accede to Ranatunga's demand for the surrender of the tape, he attempted to seize the tape and the camera by force, through the instrumentality of the others (bodyguards), and when that failed, it was he (Ranatunga) who instigated the assault," the court said in its judgment.

### USOC to discuss Salt Lake scandal

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec 28: A US Olympic Committee panel probing allegations that bribes helped Salt Lake win the 2002 winter Olympics will hold its first meeting Tuesday, reports AP.

Salt Lake Organising Committee officials will not attend the closed-door meeting in Washington, a spokesperson said. No agenda has been released, but the meeting will likely build the framework for the probe.

## SA tighten grip on Windies

DURBAN, South Africa, Dec 28 (Reuters/Internet): A brilliant catch at square leg by Herschelle Gibbs started a West Indies second innings collapse that left South Africa in sight of a winning 3-0 series lead in the third Test on Monday.

Gibbs dived full length to his left to hold the chance that dismissed captain Brian Lara for 79, ending his third wicket stand of 160 with Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who hit 75.

Lara's departure started a slump in which West Indies, 114 behind on first innings, tumbled from 201 to 214 for

in the morning after resuming on 292 for eight. Fast bowler Franklyn Rose finished with a test career best of seven for 84.

West Indies, trailing by 114 on first innings, were 193 for two in their second innings at tea.

Captain Lara and Chanderpaul joined forces at 41 for two and have taken the touring team into a lead of 79.

Under pressure for the first time in the five-Test series in which they lead 2-0, the South African bowlers strayed from their habitually disciplined line and length.

Chanderpaul reached his half-century first, in 133 minutes off 104 balls and with nine

West Indies suffered the first casualty the fifth over when Wallace was caught behind by Mark Boucher off Allan Donald for one.

Makeshift opener Murray, who is essentially a wicket-keeper, made 29 before splicing Jacques Kallis' first delivery of the second innings to Herschelle Gibbs at square leg.

South Africa, 292 for eight overnight, were dismissed 4.4 overs into the day's play.

Jonty Rhodes, resuming on 85, was dismissed in the second over of the morning for 87 when he was caught and bowled by Courtney Walsh as he tried to work a delivery to leg. Rhodes batted 182 minutes, faced 129 balls and hit eight fours and two sixes.

Donald then became Franklyn Rose's seventh victim of the innings when he was bowled for one, giving the Jamaican paceman Test career-best Test figures.

### SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboard on the third day of the third Test between South Africa and the West Indies at Kingsmead in Durban on Monday:

**WEST INDIES:** First innings 198  
**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings (overnight 292-8)

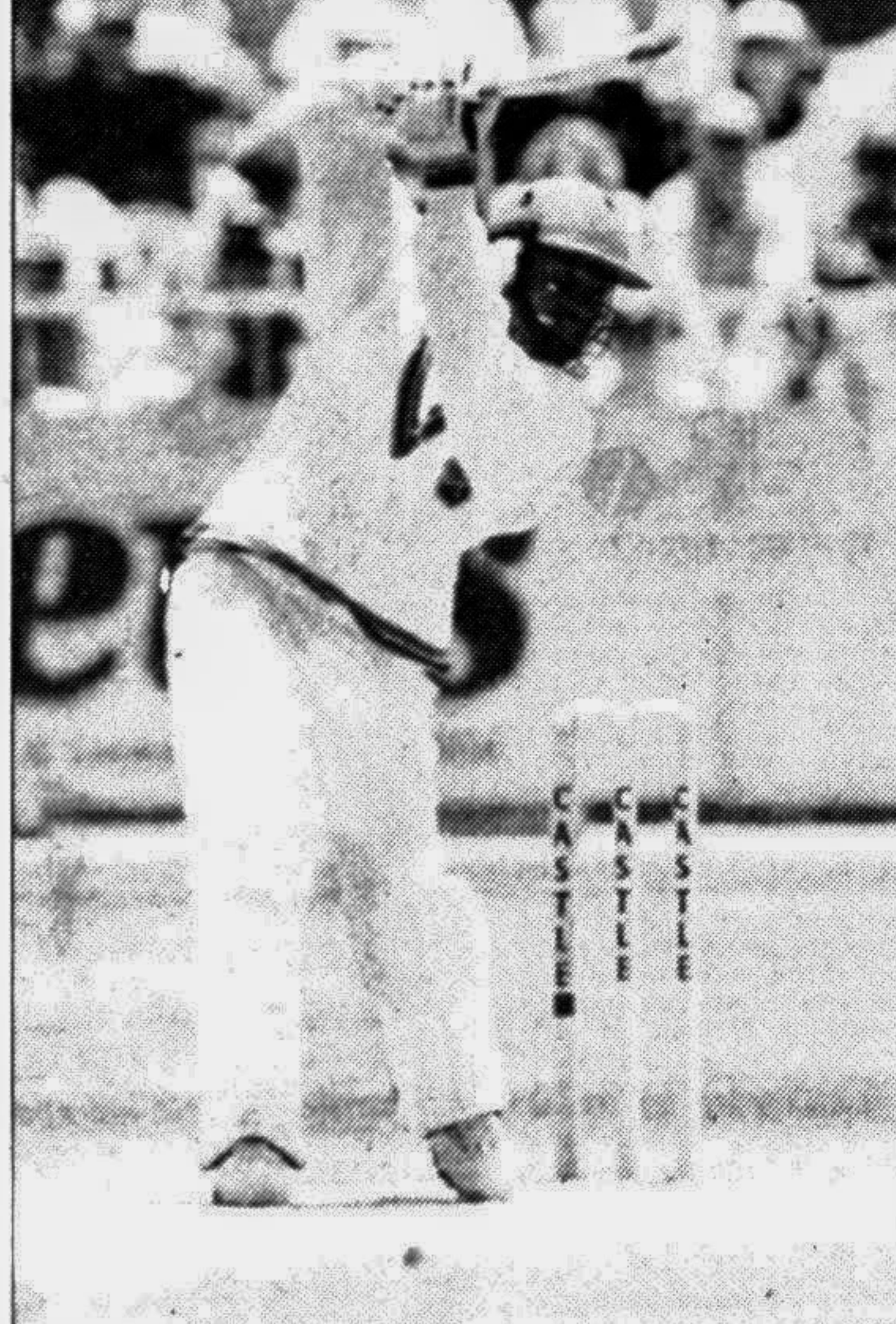
G Kirsten c Hooper b Rose	26
H Gibbs c Wallace b Rose	35
J Kallis c Jacobs b Rose	11
D Gullinan run out (Rose)	40
D Cronje b Walsh	30
J Rhodes c b Walsh	87
S Pollock c Hooper b Rose	30
M Boucher b Rose	0
P Symcox b Rose	12
A Donald b Rose	13
D Terbrugge not out	2
Extras: (b-4, lb-8, nb-13, w-1)	26
Total: (All out in 98 overs)	312

Fall of wickets: 1-57; 2-79; 3-80; 4-140; 5-182; 6-262; 7-262; 8-284; 9-295.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ambrose	17	1	60	0
Walsh	29	6	68	2
Rose	28	6	84	7
Lewis	20	2	70	0
Hooper	4	0	18	0

**WEST INDIES:** Second innings  
P Wallace b Boucher b Donald 1  
J Murray c Gibbs b Kallis 29  
S Chanderpaul c b Pollock 75  
B Lara c Gibbs b Terbrugge 79  
C Hooper c Boucher b Pollock 2  
D Ganga c Gibbs b Pollock 5  
R Jacobs not out 12  
R Lewis c Boucher b Donald 0  
F Rose c Gibbs b Pollock 22  
C Ambrose not out 0  
Extras: (lb-12, nb-7, w-2) 21  
Total: (for eight wickets) 246  
Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-41; 3-201; 4-201; 5-204; 6-173; 7-214; 8-245.

Bowler (to date)	O	M	R	W
Donald	18	4	58	2
Pollock	24.5	6	74	4
Terbrugge	13	4	28	1
Kallis	10	1	31	1
Symcox	12	3	43	0



IN FULL FLOW: West Indies captain Brian Lara executes a fluent cover drive during the tourists' second innings yesterday.

seven in seven overs.

West Indies were 246 for eight, 132 ahead, when the close came 14.1 overs early due to bad light.

South Africa were bowled out for 312 in their first innings

fours. Lara got to his 50 off 74 balls in 104 minutes, stroking 10 fours.

They have repaired the early damage caused by the dismissals of openers Philo Wallace and Junior Murray.

## Overmars Wenger's solution

LONDON, Dec 28 (Mirror/Internet): Marc Overmars will be asked to solve Arsenal's injury crisis up front at Charlton today.

Gunnars boss Arsene Wenger is set to play winger Overmars as a striker alongside Dutch international teammate Dennis Bergkamp because Nicolas Anelka is injured.

It is a temporary solution while Wenger hunts for a new back-up forward.

Anelka limped off during the 1-0 Boxing Day victory over West Ham after badly turning an ankle and will be out for around three weeks.

The injury has plunged Wenger back into the crisis which hit the Gunners title bid when Bergkamp spent several weeks on the sidelines earlier in the season. Champions Arsenal have no top-quality replacements for either Bergkamp or Anelka.

Liberian youngster Christopher Wreh is clearly not up to scratch — and was substituted after being sent on as first-half stand-in for Anelka against the Hammers.

And although Wenger thinks little-known Spaniard Fabian Caballero can stand the pace in the Premiership, he is suspended after being sent off in a reserve match against QPR.

The loss of Anelka could hit Arsenal hard just as they have begun to rediscover the form which won them the title last season, with successive home victories against Leeds and West

Ham.

Wenger said: "I would have tried Caballero but he is suspended, I don't know what I can do now. May be I will play Marc Overmars through the middle."

Overmars, who scored the winner against West Ham on Boxing Day, would play in a role just behind Bergkamp, although his pace against a Charlton team who have lost six consecutive matches will be a threat from any position.

Alex Manning is set to continue in goal in place of the

injured David Seaman. Wenger meanwhile is ready to step up his interest in Celtic wonderkid Mark Burchill. Hot-shot

Burchill, 18, has rejected two contact offers at Celtic Park and Arsenal head the queue in the race for the hottest young property in Scottish football.

Burchill, whose current deal runs out at the end of this season, can talk to interested clubs from January 1 and Wenger is keen to tempt him to Highbury.

Lifelong Celtic fan Burchill is getting frustrated at chairman Fergus McCann's stalling tactics on a new deal and is ready to try his luck in England.

His agent Blair Morgan said last night: "Mark would prefer to stay but we need the position clarified sooner rather than later." Wenger has been heavily linked with Burchill throughout this season as he seeks to boost his strike force.

Liverpool are also admirers of Burchill while Benfica boss Graeme Souness had a 500,000 pound bid rejected last month.

Burchill could cost Arsenal a fraction of his real worth in a deal that would mirror Stephen Glass' move from Aberdeen to Newcastle last summer.

Glass, 21, enjoyed freedom of movement under the Bosman ruling and Newcastle had to pay Aberdeen only a paltry 650,000 pound tribunal-set compensation fee because he was under 24.

Wenger still thinks his team are outsiders in the title race despite the recent upturn in form.

He said: "We first have to get back to being consistent. Things are not in our hands. We have to be very realistic. We have only won two games."

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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