

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Wasim Akram

(Pakistani ace all-rounder)
"I will try my best to take Pakistan back on winning track and although it is tough to raise the morale of a team down with unimpressive recent losses against Australia and Zimbabwe but I will fulfil the confidence reposed in me."
After being renamed as the team captain.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-109

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 8 '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Which country topped the medals table in the 13th Asian Games?
China India Japan

2. How many medals did Bangladesh clinch at the Asian Games?
None One Two

3. Who scored the first century in this year's Premier cricket league?
Azam Shawkat Selim

4. Where will the 14th Asian Games be held?
Paris Pusan Pyongyang

5. Which team won the AB Bank Senior Div TT title?
Jatrabari Ansars Biman

Name
Class Roll No.

School Address
Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Golfers leave tomorrow

A four-member Bangladesh team will leave for India tomorrow to take part in the SAARC Friendship Golf Cup Championship to be held in the southern city of Bangalore, reports UNB.

The team members are: Manager-cum-captain - Manjor Ahmed, players - Saber Ahmed, Tarek Taher and Ramzan Rab.

The tournament will be held in the Karnataka Golf Association's Classic Golf Club under the auspices of the Indian Golf Federation.

The golf team made a courtesy call on Bangladesh Olympic Association president and Army Chief Lt Gen Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman at the Army Headquarters yesterday.

Sub-jr chess

Five players - Mohammad Javed, Ejaz Hossain, Shahidul Islam, Golam Mostafa and Obaidul Islam - are sharing the lead with three points each in the 19th sub-junior national chess tournament yesterday, reports APB.

Another five players - holder Ruhul Islam Body, Farhadul Imam, Mohammadul lah Mohan, Nahid Parvez and Ramak Ehsan - are half-point behind the leaders.

Boby drew with Farhadul Imam, Nadid shared points with Rawnak while Mohan beat Sharif Hossain after dropping half point in the previous round.

Div I cricket

Azad Sporting Club recorded their first victory in the First Division League beating Young Crackers by 22 runs at the Dharmadhi Cricket Stadium yesterday, reports APB.

Azad SC, electing to bat first, piled up 239 for four in allotted 50 overs with opener Sanjay top scoring 97 in 125 balls including 12 boundaries.

Two down Mahfuz Kabir contributed 81 off 125 balls featuring nine fours while Nasir was the other notable scorer with not out 21 runs.

Bipul, Liton, Monir and Helal bagged one wicket apiece.

Surjo Tarun need 267 to stun number two

Khaled Mahmud, Amir Hanif hold Brothers together

Sports Reporter

A century partnership between skipper Khaled Mahmud and Pakistan middle-order Amir Hanif helped runners-up Brothers Union reach a fighting total against new powerhouse Surjo Tarun in a crucial Janakantha Premier Cricket League clash began at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The duo put on exactly 100 runs for the fourth wicket to see the Gopibagh outfit, who won the important toss and elected to bat, recovering well from an early collapse to score 266 before being all out in the 76th over.

Brothers were virtually put on the back foot in the first session when Ehsanul, Shahriar and Jahangir were out and middle-order Sanwar returned hurt on zero with a twisted left ankle. It was Amir Hanif and Mahmud who then put their gritty act together, and took only 20 overs to add the hundred runs, thereby doing good groundwork for their innings.

Surjo Tarun off-spinner Rafiqul, who returned with his career-best five for 45, gave his side the early breakthrough in the ninth over by removing young opener Ehsanul on 16. Left-arm pacer Anisur then dismissed the other opener Shahriar Hossain.

Ehsanul was brilliantly taken by Athar at the square-leg region when he pulled Rafiqul while Shahriar was beaten by a brilliant outswinger from Anis which kissed the edge of the bat before going to the safe hands of wicketkeeper Khaled Masood.

Things turned worse for Brothers Union when Sanwar retired hurt in the next over. The discarded national right-hander batsman later made a brilliant comeback with a runner and scored 22 off 29 balls, which included four sweetly timed hits across the rope.

One-down Jahangir Alam, who scored 24 off 53 balls with two fours, threw his wicket in the 27th over when he tried to take a risky third run. Although he was prompt, his non-striking partner Amir Hanif did not leave the crease, leaving both batsman at the same end, allowing Sri Lankan Naveed Newaz to throw the ball from point to wicketkeeper Khaled Masood who did the rest.

Surjo Tarun's dream to restrict Brothers below the 200-mark came to an end at that point when Khaled Mahmud joined Amir Hanif at the crease for the century partnership. The stand was broken in the 50th over when Amir Hanif was caught by Minhazul Abedin at cover off a Rafiqul delivery. The in-form right-hander tried a



RAFIQUL ... 5 for 45

drive but failed to middle properly, which resulted into a simple catch. In his more than two-hour long stay at the crease, Hanif, who scored an unbeaten 95 against Ajax Sporting in their previous match, scored 67 off 103 balls, which included six boundaries and a huge six off Athar over the wide long-off

fence.

Rafiqul was on a hat-trick after the next ball when former Indian Test cricketer Sanjeev Sharma gave him a return catch on a duck. But the tall off-spinner failed to create any panic in lower-order Shahnewaz Kabir.

After Brothers Union lost two quick wickets, Mahmud added an invaluable 43 runs for the sixth wicket with Shahnewaz and took the scoreboard to 224 before being stumped by Khaled Masood on 75. Mahmud faced 114 balls and hit seven fours. The national vice-captain went down to drive left-arm spinner Enamul Haque in the 63rd over but missed the ball, which pitched outside the leg stump and took a sharp turn towards the wicketkeeper.

Brothers added another 42 runs to their total before being



all out in 75.2 overs.

Apart from Rafiqul's five-wicket haul, left-arm spinner Enamul Haque was the most economical bowler of the day as he finished with two for 34 from his 15 overs.

Surjo Tarun will be looking forward to score 267 in 80 overs when they begin their innings this morning.

SCOREBOARD

First day's scoreboard of the Janakantha Premier Division cricket league match between Brothers Union and Surjo Tarun Club played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

BROTHERS UNION
Shahriar c K Masood b Anis 15
Ehsanul c Athar b Rafiqul 16
Jahangir run out 24
Sanwar lbw b Enamul 22
A Hanif c M Abedin b Rafiqul 67
K Mahmud st K Masood b Enamul 75
S Sharma c & b Rafiqul 0
Shahnewaz c Rafiqul b N Nazir 19
Shafuddin c Enamul b Rafiqul 6
Reaz c Al-Shahriar b Rafiqul 6
Imran not out 0
Extras: (lb-3, nb-2, w-12) 17
Total: (All out in 75.2 overs) 266
Fall of wkts: 1-35; 2-41; 3-81; 4-81; 5-181; 6-224; 7-240; 8-257; 9-264; 10-266.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anis	12	2	47	1
Athar	12	2	41	0
Rafiqul	15.2	1	45	5
Enamul	15	5	34	2
N Nazir	15	2	64	1
N Newaz	2	0	15	0
M Abedin	4	0	17	0

Stewart reflects on what could've been



SYDNEY, Jan 5 (AP/AFPP): England captain Alec Stewart made it clear Tuesday he believed his team might have levelled the Ashes series against Australia but for a close run-out call in the fifth Test.

Australian opener Michael Slater got the benefit of the doubt from television umpire Simon Taufel when 35 on Monday. He made 123 and the decision was worth 87 to Australia.

Slater's innings enabled Australia to set England 287 to win the Test.

"I haven't seen it and I haven't watched it on purpose," Stewart said.

"I saw it on the big screen, it wasn't that clear but I think Slater's reaction gives you a clue and I'm yet to see anyone who's told me it wasn't out."

"It's disappointing we didn't have the cameras in place but there's also the question of do you need a more experienced third umpire," Taufel said.

Stewart stopped short of saying the decision decided the match.

"If he's run out for 35 we may not have been chasing 280, but the outcome I couldn't tell you," Stewart said.

Later, in summing up the difference in the match where Australian batsmen had two centuries and one score of 96 in contrast to England's sole half-century, Stewart revisited the run out decision.

"Slater made a tremendous attacking hundred in the 2nd stroke 3rd innings," Stewart said.

came back strong," Stewart said. "We should a lot of fight."

Australian captain Mark Taylor said there was a marked difference between the England team from the first three matches and the outfit which won in Melbourne.

"There were moments in the first three Tests which could have gone either way and they went to us quite easily," Taylor said.

Australia's Shane Warne has been the bane of England in recent series and Stuart MacGill proved an exceptional replacement. He topped the wicket-taking charts with 27 including 12-107 in Sydney and continued to expose flaws in England's approach to leg-spin.

"We didn't master it is the honest answer," Stewart admitted. "On helpful wickets to spinners, they bowled very well and we came unstuck. If we don't have top quality spinners back home you're not going to find we have top quality batsmen who can play spin well."

Stewart, who lost all five tosses to Taylor, said two of them were particularly vital in Adelaide and Sydney.

"We missed chances early on. Brisbane and Perth come to mind, and we weren't playing as well as we should have done and because of that we went 2-0 down."

"We were always trying to drag it back, we almost did, but not quite."

Stewart praised the contribution of batsmen, Nasser Hussain and Mark Ramprakash, through the series and Dean Headley had proved in a couple of Tests that he is a class bowler.

"Darren Gough just underlined just what we knew he could do and if we had held onto a few more catches he would have ended up the leading wicket-taker in the series and a Alex Tudor emerged during the tour," he said.

Stewart has the England job

until after the World Cup in midyear and he said he hoped he and coach David Lloyd would continue the partnership after that limited-overs tournament.



A PROUD MOMENT: Australian skipper Mark Taylor with the new-look Ashes Trophy.

— AFP photo

ICC's reluctance

LONDON, Jan 5: The International Cricket Council said on Monday it would not give any financial backing to any programme aimed at improving the third umpire system, reports AFP.

England's hopes of drawing their Test series with Australia were dealt a potentially fatal blow when Steve Taufel failed to give Michael Slater run out when he appeared to be short of his ground in Sydney on Monday.

Slater, on 35 at the time, went on to make 123 out of a total of 184, leaving the tourists needing an imposing 287 to win at the Sydney Cricket Ground and level the Ashes series at 2-2.

The ICC, however, are rejecting suggestions they should pump money into a scheme to set up four fixed cameras level with the wickets at each side of the ground.

Third umpires currently rely on television replays to adjudicate on tight decisions when the two umpires on the field are undecided.

"We're not looking to fund it at this stage," said Clive Hitchcock, the ICC's cricket operations manager.

There's a huge cost involved in doing it, some countries are going down that road and providing square angle cameras at each end — South Africa have that and it's sponsored by Panasonic.

"It's something that we're working on because some countries provide better facilities than others and we're looking to see if we can make it standard across the board."

But it's the responsibility of the home board to provide cameras in liaison with the host broadcaster and at this stage, we're not looking to fund it ourselves.

Pak legal team goes down under

KARACHI, Jan 5: A three-member Pakistan judicial commission team is to fly to Australia late today to cross-examine Australian cricket stars Mark Waugh and Shane Warne on bribery allegations, legal officials said, reports AFP.

The commission wants to re-examine Waugh and take testimony from Waerne following the pair's admission last month they took money from an Indian bookmaker for supplying match information in Sri Lanka in 1994.

The team comprises Pakistan Cricket Board legal adviser Ali Sibtain Fazli, his assistant Ali Sajjad and registrar of the Lahore High Court Abdus Salam Khawar.

They are joined by the lawyer of Pakistan player Salim Malik.

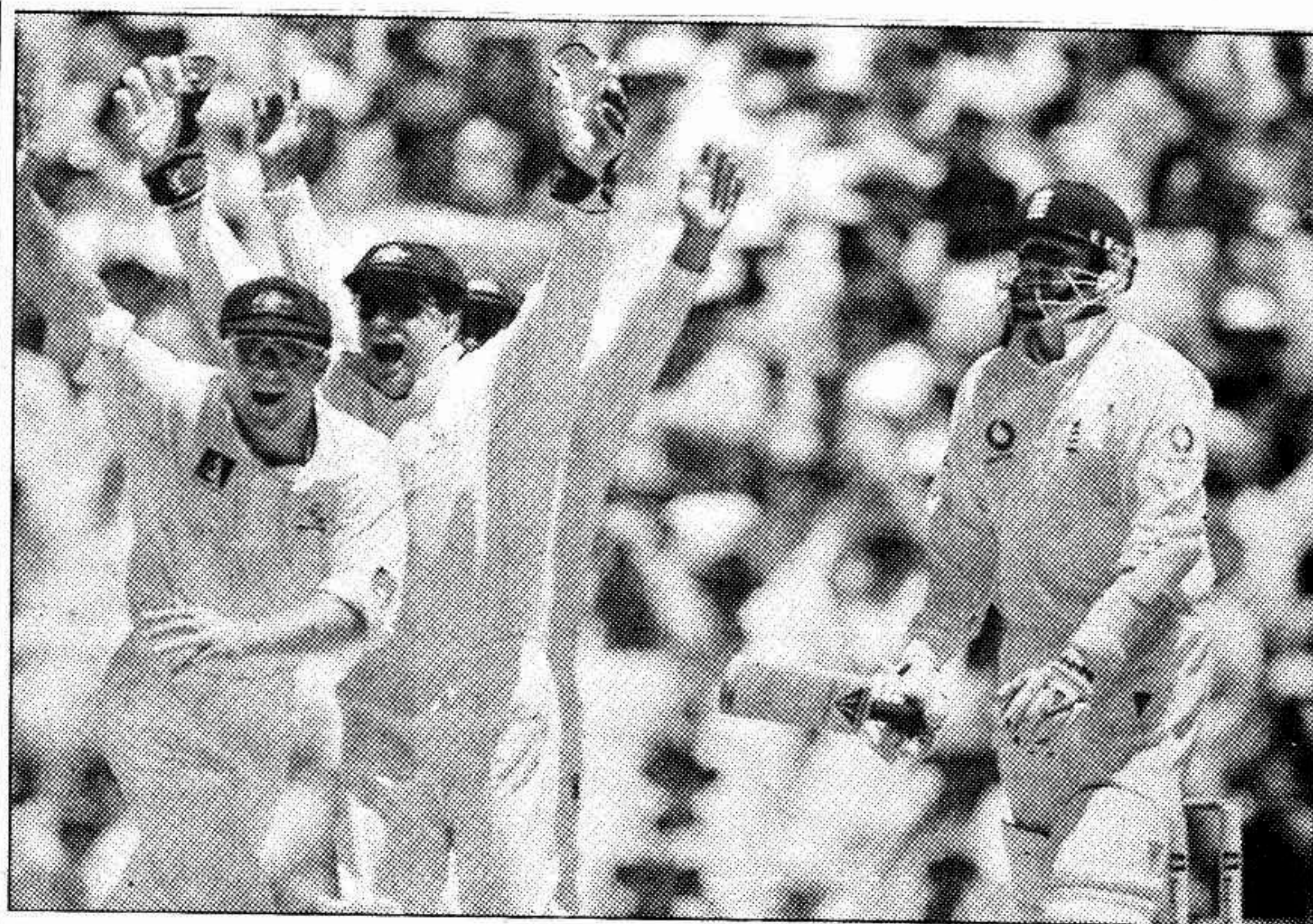
The judicial body is expected to return on January 11.

Rafi Memorial cricket in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 5: Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA), Chittagong Chapter will organise the Rafi Memorial cricket tournament here after the Eid-ul-Fitr, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a meeting of BSJA executive body held at the bureau office of the Daily Ittefaq here today.

Interested clubs have been requested to get their names registered with the committee from January 6-12.



THAT'S IT! Ecstatic Australian fielders celebrate the dismissal of England's Darren Gough at Sydney yesterday.

— AFP photo

Aussies retain Ashes 3-1

Pathetic English show



SYDNEY, Jan 5 (AP/AFPP): Stuart MacGill spun Australia to a 3-1 Ashes series victory over England.

MacGill followed his 5-57 in England's first innings with 7-50 in the second, making the most of violent turn with his leg-spinners off a helpful pitch.

Both innings gave him career-best figures and it was the first time he got more than nine in a match.

Captain Mark Taylor broke a world record for catching to start England's slide after they resumed on 104 for two, needing a record 287 in their second innings to level the series at 2-2.

Australia dismissed England for 188 just after lunch on Day Four to win by 98 runs and wrap up a sixth-straight Ashes series victory stretching back to the 1989 tour of England.

England made a positive start to their innings but no team has scored more than 276 in the fourth innings to win in Sydney, and that was achieved 100 years ago.

MacGill dismissed Graeme Hick (7), Warren Hegg (3) and Nasser Hussain (53) before lunch Tuesday after getting Alec Stewart for 42 on Monday evening.

When ended Hussain's 170 minutes of dogged resistance MacGill joined McGrath atop the series wicket-taking charts with 24 and he moved ahead when he got three more after the break.

Paceman McGrath, bowling with fire despite an unhelpful pitch, made the initial breakthrough.

He had Mark Ramprakash caught low by Taylor at first-slip, the captain completing his 157th Test catch in his 104th match. It surpassed the 156 from 156 games set by Taylor's predecessor Allan Border.

Graeme Hick was next to go with 131 on the board, missing a sweep against MacGill and being bowled behind his legs.

John Crawley was the victim of an unlucky decision, departing for five when he was hit on the pads by a ball from off-spinner Colin Miller which side-on replays suggested was climbing over the stumps.

MacGill then had Warren Hegg caught behind off a vicious leg spinner and surprised Hussain with a pitched up ball which the batsman hit straight back at him.

From 175-7 at lunch, England lost 3-13 in quick time. MacGill bowled Alex Tudor around his legs and got his sixth of the innings when Dean Headley edged a catch to Ian Healy.

Peter Such was the last man out to a dismissal which summed up MacGill's dominance.

Such hit a lusty drive into the ankle of Michael Slater at silly point. The ball flew in the air and MacGill completed a diving catch to end the game.

The series, opened with a draw in Brisbane when rain on the final afternoon held up Australia's charge. The hosts won the next two Tests convincingly in Perth and Adelaide before

England pulled one back in Melbourne.

Australian vice-captain Steve Waugh was named player-of-the-series.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard after the fourth day of the fifth Ashes cricket Test between Australia and England at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 322 (M Waugh 121, S Waugh 96; Headley 4-62; D Gough 3-61)

ENGLAND: First innings 220 (Crawley 44, N Hussain 42; MacGill 5-57)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 184 (Slater 123; Such 5-81; Headley 4-40)

ENGLAND: Second innings (Overnight 104 for two)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
McGill	10	1	40	1
Miller	17	1	50	1
MacGill	20.1	4	50	7
Warne	19	3	43	1

Total: All out 188
Fall of wickets: 1-57; 2-77; 3-110; 4-131; 5-150; 6-157; 7-162; 8-175; 9-180.

Result: Australia won by 98 runs.

Australia won series 3-1

Man-of-the match: Stuart MacGill.

Player-of-series: Steve Waugh.

Tireless, timeless Taylor



SYDNEY, Jan 5 (AP/AFPP): Mark Taylor, fresh from leading Australia to a record sixth successive Ashes win against England, refused to make big pronouncements about his future Tuesday.

Instead it was only the little things, such as his choice of

hat, which suggested he is occupied, like much of the nation, with thoughts of when he will retire.

Taylor, the traditionalist who gave up a possible world record against Pakistan late last year, apparently as a mark of respect for Sir Don Bradman, left his trademark floppy white hat in the rooms when he led Australia out for perhaps his last Test on Australian soil Tuesday.

Perched on his head was the baggy green cap, similar to those worn by Australian players since the first ever Test match in 1877.

"That's one of the reasons I did wear it today, because I don't really know if I'll be back here," said Taylor, after beating England in his 104th Test.

"My form and how the team's going will dictate that over the next nine months until the next Test match in Australia."

opening batsman or a commentator is uncertain.

Taylor, who had a disappointing series scoring 228 runs at an average of 22.8, said there was no reason for Australia to slip as world cricket's premier nation.

"That's going to depend on how well we can fill the holes in years to come," he said.

"They are going to be the holes of Taylor. (Steve) Waugh, (Mark) Waugh, (Ian) Healy, I think we have got players to do that."

"We are producing a lot of good cricketers at the moment but whether they are going to be of the same Test hardness as may the four of us are at the moment, I don't really know."

The Test was Taylor's 50th as captain. Now one of Australia's greatest leaders, the 34-year-old New South Welshman has won 26 Tests, lost 13 and drawn 11.

Australia will name the 13-man squad Wednesday for the first few games and Waugh's withdrawal makes for a difficult decision on the captaincy.

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FINEST FIELDERS

Following are Test cricket's leading fielders:
Mark Taylor (Australia) 157 catches, 104 matches.
Allan Border (Australia) 156 catches, 156 matches.
Greg Chappell (Australia) 122 catches, 88 matches.
Vivian Richards (West Indies) 122 catches, 121 matches.
Ian Botham (England) 120 catches, 102 matches.
Colin Cowdrey (England) 120 catches, 115 matches.
Bob Simpson (Australia) 110 catches, 62 matches.
Wally Hammond (England) 110 catches, 85 matches.
Gary Sobers (West Indies) 109 catches, 93 matches.
Sunil Gavaskar (India) 108 catches, 125 matches.

"But I wanted to make sure that if it is my last day of Test cricket in Australia I wore the right outfit, so the baggy green fit very well today."

Taylor, who broke a world record with his 157th catch Tuesday, has made it clear that he would like to lead Australia to the West Indies this year.