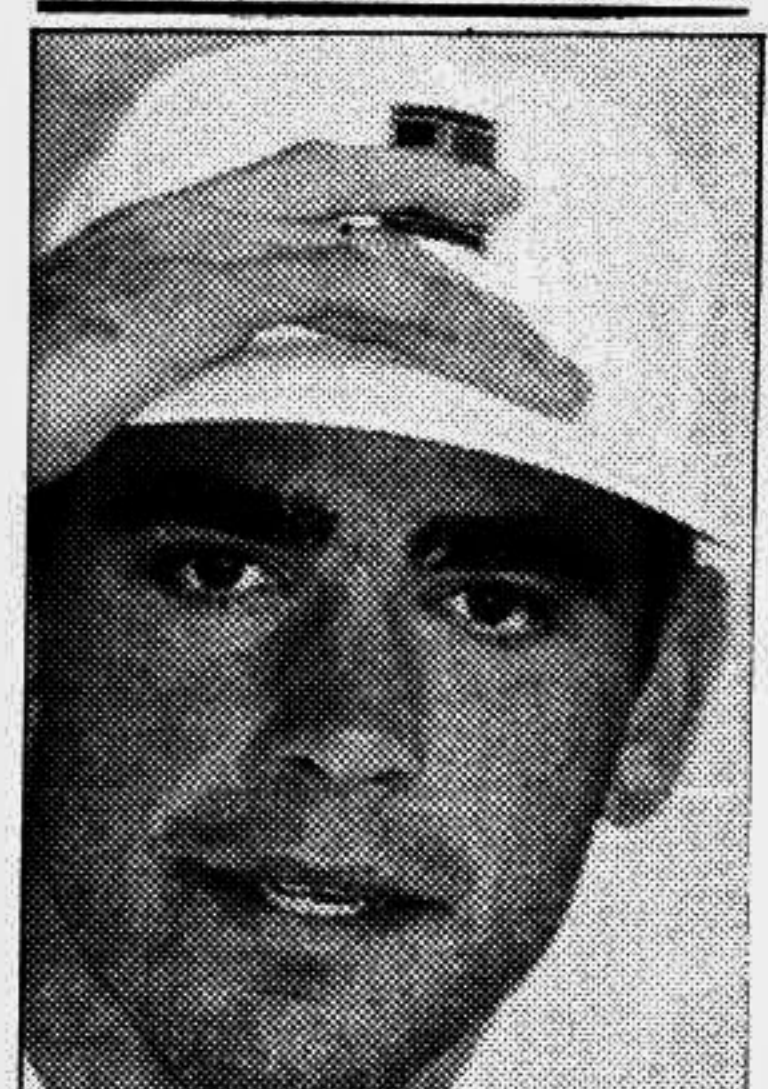


## Column One SPORTS TALK



**Pete Sampras**  
(World No 1 tennis player)  
I'm against on-court coaching. Deep down, I have always felt tennis is unique because it's a one-on-one sport.

### DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT the legendary W G Grace had said, "When you win the toss, always bat. If the conditions suit bowling, think about it. Then always bat". Now, obviously Pakistan's skipper Javed Miandad never knew about that priceless advice. Or else, he would not have put Australia to bat in the 1981-82 series. It looked bright in the beginning because Australia scored only 180. But, (Grace was chucking somewhere high above) Pakistan collapsed to 26 for eight, were all out for 62, lost the match by 286 runs and the series 2-1.

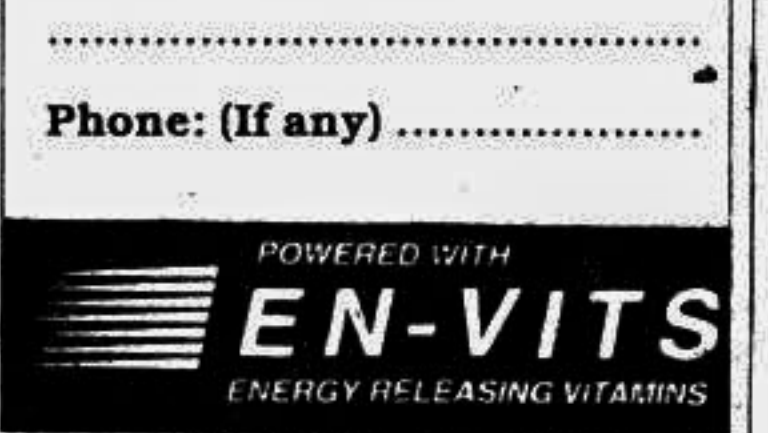
Beards do not gray just like that. Ahem!

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
**Competition-113**  
Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
April 9, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the Asian Test Championship title?  
India Sri Lanka Pakistan
- Kevin Keegan is the manager of  
England Scotland Wales
- Warne is a  
leg-spinner off-spinner medium-pacer
- Who is the first Bangladesh batsman to score an ODI century?  
Mehrab Shahriar Hasibul
- How many half-centuries has Akram Khan scored?  
4 5 6

Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....



### National Youth Cricket Nilphamari make Tangail sweat

Sports Reporter  
Sathkira ambled past Pirojpur while Tangail pulled off a dramatic six-run win over Nilphamari yesterday in final round matches of the 19th National Youth Cricket Championship.

At Kushtia, Tangail rode on a sparkling exhibition of bowling win over Nilphamari, who, resuming on 60 for six, could manage 171 runs before being all out in 50.2 overs.

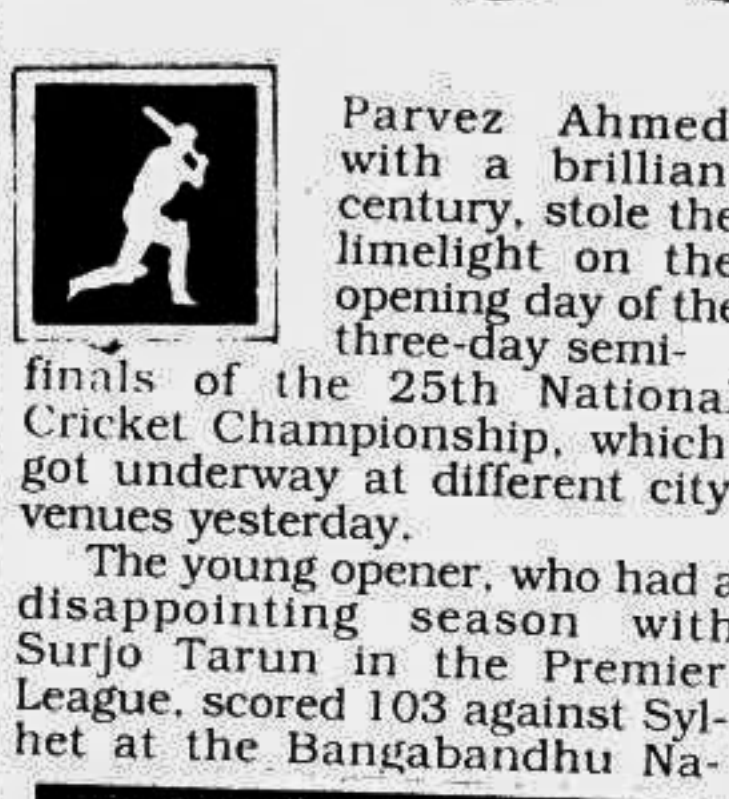
Earlier, Tangail scored a fighting 177 all out on the first day of the two-day affair on Saturday. But, after a successful opening day, Tangail almost had their heart in their mouth when a spectacular rearguard action from Nilphamari threw a caution to the wind.

Tangail, however, heaved a sigh of relief after Uttam took two vital wickets to effectively take the match away from Nilphamari's grasp.

Undoubtedly the unofficial man-of-the-match, Uttam, who claimed five wickets on the first day, returned with astounding match figures of seven for 51.

Away at Sathkira, the hosts advanced to the next round with an impressive 62-run win over Pirojpur.

## National Championship semis Parvez Jessore's lone fighter M'singh give Biman a contest



**BRIEF SCORES**  
**Mymensingh vs Biman**  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium  
Mymensingh: (First innings) 225 for 9 in 90 overs (Ashraf 53 batting, Biplob 36; Sohail 3/16, Shariful 3/36)  
**Jessore vs Sylhet**  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Jessore: (First innings) 179 for 9 in 90 overs (Parvez 103, Kagal 25, Imran batting 22; Jamaluddin 4/54, Khairuzzaman 2/20, Aminul 2/46)

Sports Reporter  
Parvez Ahmed, with a brilliant century, stole the limelight on the opening day of the three-day semi-finals of the 25th National Cricket Championship, which got underway at different city venues yesterday.

The young opener, who had a disappointing season with Surjo Tarun in the Premier League, scored 103 against Sylhet at the Bangabandhu National Stadium to help Jessore record a not-so-impressive 179 for nine in 90 overs.

Parvez, who played a lone hand against a seemingly never-ending procession at the other end, clubbed a dozen fours in his 206-ball vigil at the crease.

Imran Ahmed, batting on 22, will resume the Jessore innings today with the objective of getting as many runs as possible from their remaining quota of 10 overs.

Meanwhile, in the other semi-final of the day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Mymensingh stocked up a fighting total of 225 for nine against Bangladesh Biman before stumps were drawn after 90 overs.

The Mymensingh total was built around a fine half-century from Ashraf and a couple of thirty-plus knocks from Biplob and Sumon. Left-handed Biplob scored 36 off 90 balls while Sumon chipped in with 30.

But it was Ashraf, batting on 53, who held the Mymensingh innings together. He will resume the innings today with discarded national right-arm seamer Zakir, the number

### Upasahar blast Baikali Sangha

From Our Correspondent  
Rajshahi, Apr 4: Upasahar Cricket Club and Friends Club won their respective First Division Cricket League matches here today.

At the Rajshahi Stadium, Upasahar handed a crushing 185-run defeat to Baikali Sangha.

Batting first, Upasahar piled up a huge 281 for eight wickets in the stipulated 45 overs with Sujon notching highest 64. Rana hammered 61 and Tony made 51.

In reply, Baikali Sangha were bundled out for a meagre 96 run in 21 overs.

In the other match at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium, Friends Club defeated Kazihat Sporting Club by seven wickets.

In a low-scoring affair, Friends Club, chasing a moderate Kazihat total of 123 all out in 39.3 overs, raced on to score 124 for three wickets in only 21.3 overs.



Parvez of Jessore DSA plays down the on side during his unbeaten century against Sylhet DSA during their national championship semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman



FUTURE CAREER? Ace Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne indulges himself in a game of tennis at the close of play on the opening day of the fourth and final Test against the West Indies at St John's, Antigua on March 3. Warne was dropped from the playing eleven and now is looking towards an uncertain future. — Internet photo

## Thinking of retirement!

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Apr 4: Shane Warne said here Saturday he had been forced to wonder whether he would ever play Test cricket for Australia again after being dropped for the first time in seven years for the crucial fourth Test with the West Indies, reports AFP.

However, Warne, whose 317 wickets in 71 Tests make him Australia's second-highest wicket-taker, said he would play in the one-day series against the West Indies and in the World Cup in England in May-June.

And he added that as Australia's next Test was not for another six months, it gave him ample time to consider his future.

with what he thinks is the best team to win, he doesn't want to be the captain that's lost the series," Warne told Australian Associated Press.

"When he walks out on the field, he's got to know when he turns to someone that he's got faith in them with ball, that he can do the job."

"That's why he's picked these 10 blocks plus himself. I'm good friends with Steve and have been for a long time and I don't think this strains the friendship. I respect his decision."

"Financially I'm pretty well off. I've been lucky enough to play something I love and I've enjoyed for eight or nine seasons of international cricket," he said.

"I've got a beautiful wife. I've got another kid on the way. I've got a couple of kids. I've got a nice house and car, all those sorts of things."

"I've always played to win and the biggest enjoyment I've got is playing in teams," Warne said.

"When I do finish, whenever that may be, I've got the memories to think about."

"I don't think about the time I got five-for or six-for or went out and got 30-odd. I think about the times we had when we've won the Test match with all the boys together."

"That's what I play for."

"As a senior player, I thought

was a pretty big part of the team but unfortunately that's not the way it falls this game so hopefully I'll get another chance."

One of the finest leg-spinners in the history of cricket, he has taken five wickets in an innings 14 times and ten in a match on four occasions since making his Test debut against India in Sydney in the 1991-92 season.

Marsh and West Indian captain Brian Lara said they would be stunned if Warne's career ended after the four-Test series for the Frank Worrell Trophy.

"Why would he retire?" Marsh asked.

"The bottom line is that he's just had a huge disappointment and he probably needs a few days to think things through properly."

"He's not the first block it's happened to and he probably won't be the last. It's just one of those things that happens in life."

"He's going to have an important role to play in the World Cup, the whole atmosphere of the tournament and within the team will probably remind him of how much he enjoys it, and how much it means to him."

Marsh said they had agonised about the decision to drop Warne. "Me and Steve sat around all afternoon talking about it, it was just a nightmare," he said.



Cricket enthusiasts in Dhaka crowd before a shop window to watch the telecast of yesterday's India-Pakistan final played at Bangalore. — Photo by Emran Hossain

### BCB Karachi match Silence is not always golden

Sports Reporter  
There was no news about the KCA-BCB match of the President's Cup one-day cricket tournament scheduled to be played at Karachi yesterday.

The BCB office in Dhaka till 10 pm last night was also in the dark regarding the match.

BCB, led by Habibul Bashar, was expected to reach Karachi yesterday after an overnight delayed flight via Dubai.

It could not be gathered whether the team reached Karachi before the match. Or, where was it last night!

It is not unusual for Bangladesh team management touring abroad to keep people at home guessing. One would have expected manager Roquibul Hasan to at least make a phone call to BCB from Dubai or Karachi. Such silence is not only unbearable, it is also unacceptable in these times of telecommunication revolution.

### Pakistan 291/8

BANGALORE, Apr 4: Fine batting by Inzamumul Haq and Shahid Afridi helped Pakistan rack up 291 for eight in 50 overs against India in the final of the triangular cricket series in this southern city on Sunday, reports AP.

After losing two quick wickets for 28 runs in the sixth over, Pakistan recovered with a fine 64-run partnership for the third wicket between Afridi and Inzamum.

Moin Khan (35), Azhar Mahmood (25) and skipper Wasim Akram (21) added to the score.

Venkatesh Prasad tormented the Pakistanis, with 2 for 37 while Saurav Ganguly claimed two wickets for 35 runs.

India went in with a full team, recalling speedster Javagal Srinath, spinner Anil Kumble and batsmen Sadagopan Ramesh and Nayan Mongia. The home side also dropped three under-19 players.

Pakistan made two changes, bringing in Yousof Youhana in place of Imran Nazir and Arshad Khan in place of Shahid Nazir.

Pakistan also went in with pacemakers and two spinners instead of four seamers as earlier indicated by skipper Wasim Akram.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of Pakistan's innings against India in the final of the tri-series on Sunday:

PAKISTAN				
Anwar lbw b Prasad	13			
Afridi c Jadeja b Ganguly	65			
Ijaz b Srinath	3			
Inzamam run out	91			
Youhana c Kumble b Ganguly	16			
Moin c Mongia b Prasad	35			
Mahmood c Srinath b Agarkar	25			
Akram not out	21			
Saeedin run out	2			
Arshad not out	6			
Extras: (lb-5, w-5, nb-5)	15			
Total: (For eight wks in 50 overs)	291			
Did not bat: Shoaib Akhtar				
Fall of wks: 1-23; 2-28; 3-122; 4-154; 5-217; 6-247; 7-273; 8-275.				
Bowler				
Prasad	0	1	37	2
Srinath	10	0	63	1
Agarkar	10	0	63	1
Kumble	10	0	56	0
R Singh	3	0	30	0
Ganguly	7	0	35	2

### Foster wins second gold

HONG KONG, Apr 4: Britain's Mark Foster landed his second gold medal by winning the men's 50 metres butterfly at the World Short-Course Swimming Championships today, reports Reuters.

## Steve redresses balance

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Apr 4: Australia failed to capitalise on their best opening stand of the series on the first day of the fourth and final Test against West Indies on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The touring team struggled to 221 for five at the close after openers Michael Slater and Greg Blewett had given them a solid platform with a partnership of 60.

Skipper Steve Waugh, Australia's most accomplished batsman of the series, again came to his side's rescue after they had limped to 96 for three.

He made a dogged, unbeaten

52 off 126 balls during which he moved into the top 10 Test run scorers of all time. His 13th run took him past Gordon Greenidge's 7,558.

Waugh redressed the balance in half century partnerships with Justin Langer and Ricky Ponting.

Tight bowling, a slow pitch and a very slow outfield did not make for exciting cricket. The first two sessions producing just 123 runs.

Blewett and Slater had battled confidently if somewhat cautiously through the morning session when Slater fell in the final over before lunch bowled by off-spinner Nehemiah Perry.

He cut hard and was caught at backward square point by the

diving Dave Joseph for 33. It was another Slater innings that flattered only to deceive.

Test debutant Corey Collymore was eventually rewarded for some excellent bowling in his 12th over when he forced Blewett into a loose drive and he was caught behind by Ridley Jacobs, leaving the Australians on 76 for two. Blewett faced 117 balls in grinding out 32.

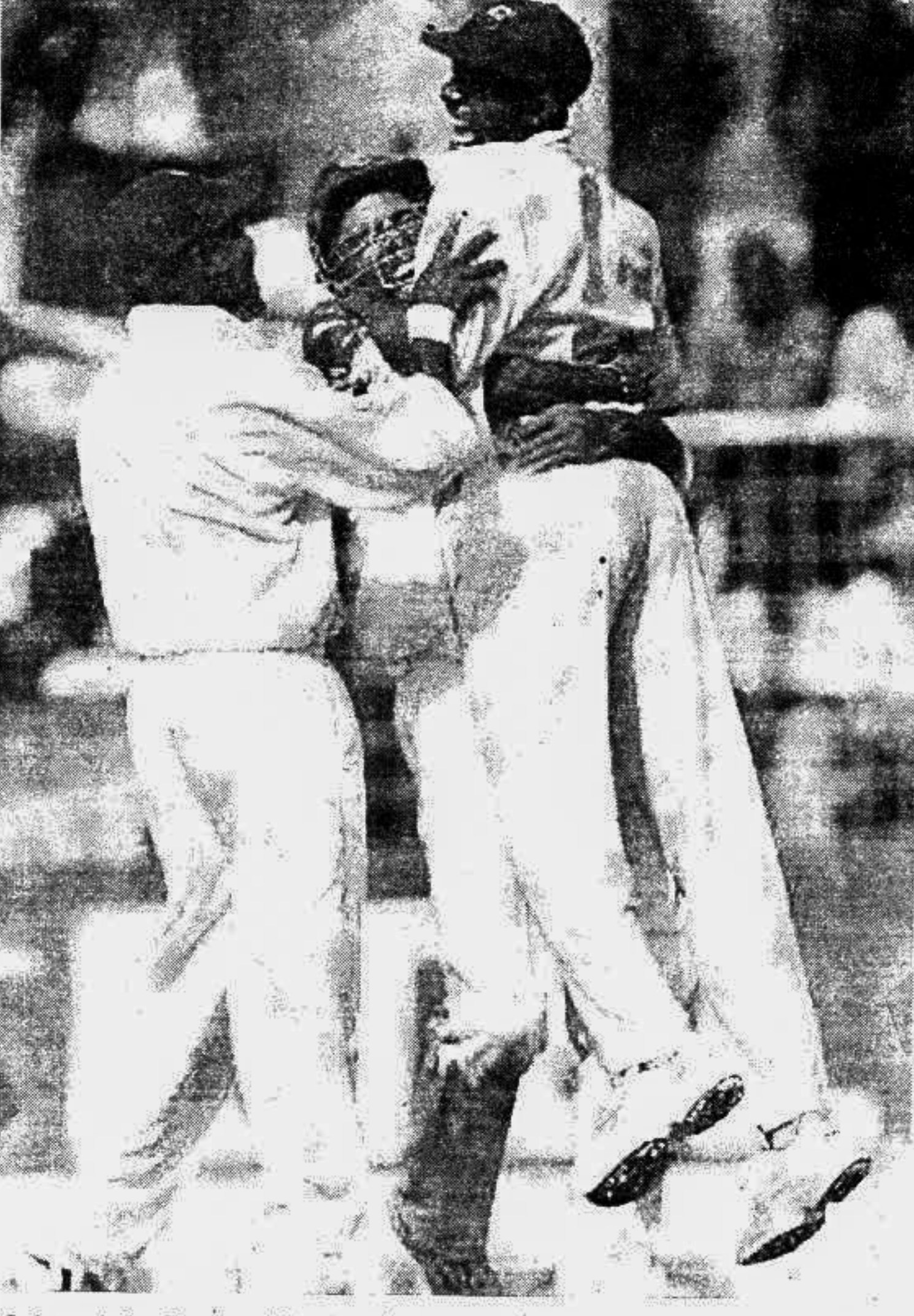
The out-of-form Mark Waugh became Walsh's 22nd victim of the series at 96 when he edged to Carl Hooper at second slip having made only 11.

Steve Waugh and Langer then hauled the innings around with a fourth wicket stand of 59 but just as they appeared to be getting on top of the bowling Langer was brilliantly runout as he completed his half century.

Perry's bullet-like return from the extra cover boundary caught him short of his ground as he attempted a third run Hooper taking the ball above the stumps and whipping off the bats.

Langer's 51 from 102 balls included sixes off both Perry and Hooper.

Curtly Ambrose broke the threatening fifth wicket stand between Waugh and Ricky Ponting after Brian Lara had taken the new ball. Ponting was leg before for 21 at 221 padding up.



Nehemiah Perry (L) is the toart of his teammates after running out Australian batsman Justin Langer on the first day of the final Test at St John's. — Internet photo

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first day of the fourth and final Test between West Indies and Australia at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings				
Slater c Joseph b Perry	33			
Blewett c Jacobs b Collymore	32			
Langer run out	51			
M Waugh c Hooper b Walsh	11			
S Waugh not out	52			
Ponting lbw b Ambrose	21			
Healy not out	4			
Extras: (lb-2, nb-15)	17			
Total: (For five wickets)	221			
Fall of wickets: 1-60; 2-76; 3-96; 4-155; 5-221				
To bat: C Miller, S MacGill, G McGrath, A Dale.				
Bowler (to date): O M R W				
Ambrose	20	5	48	1
Walsh	18	0	46	1
Collymore	22	6	41	1
Perry	15	5	36	1
Adams	5	1	14	0
Hooper	16	1	34	0

WEST INDIES: S Campbell, A Griffith, D Joseph, B Lara, C Hooper, J Adams, R Jacobs, N Perry, C Ambrose, C Walsh, C Collymore.

## Bordeaux back on song

PARIS, Apr 4 (Reuters/Inter-net): Girondins Bordeaux proved they are back to their best when they trashed Toulouse 3-0 to reclaim the French lead from Olympique Marseille on Saturday.

Striker Lilian Laslandes began the rout in the 25th minute before substitute Ivan and inspirational midfielder Johan Micoud scored in the 79th and 90th respectively.

"We are back to our best. We had to fight hard after the shock defeat at Parma," Bordeaux coach Elie Baup said. "It was the trickiest moment of the season and now we are through."

Italian side Parma crushed Girondins Bordeaux 6-0 in their UEFA Cup quarter-final second leg last month.

"We are back to the top but it does not mean anything to me," Baup said. "We have been leaders 15 times so far but I'm sure we will have to wait until the very last minute of the season to know who are going to be

champions."

Bordeaux are on 62 points with six games to go but second-placed Olympique Marseille, who beat Monaco 2-1 at the Stade Louis-II on Friday, are just one point behind.

"Our goal is to play the Champions' League next season," Baup said. "If we can clinch the title it will be even better."

Opportunist Laslandes exploited an error from Toulouse defender Ocamano to put his side ahead in the 25th minute and lifted his season's personal tally to 15 goals.

Toulouse, who had not lost at home since coach Alain Giresse returned in January, tried to react swiftly but the Bordeaux defense showed too much consistency.

Toulouse tried everything but we were not worried. We knew that we could cope with such opposition. We are the leaders and we are aware that nobody is going to give us gifts," Baup said.

Substitute Ivan, who replaced international Sylvain Wilrodt in the second half,

made it 2-0 off a corner with 11 minutes minutes to go.

Midfielder Micoud wrapped it up thanks to a dramatic 40-metre goal in injury time.

"I dedicated this goal to my daughter who was three two days ago," Micoud said. "We needed three points to stay in the driving seat and we reaped them. This is the most important thing."

Troubled Paris St Germain slumped to a clumsy 1-0 defeat to Montpellier at the Parc des Princes, striker Nicolas Ouedec netting the winner in the 78th minute to sink his former team.

Despite the defeat, Paris coach Philippe Bergeroo said he was not disappointed by his team's performance.

PSG, who relished a 1-0 win at AJ Auxerre two weeks ago, are without success at home since they beat bottom-of-the-table Sochaux in February.

"We need more luck and it will do. Now we are looking to our match at Metz where we will have to win," Bergeroo said.