

Expatriates' chess

Shahinor Hossain took solo lead in the Expatriates' Open tournament with seven and a half points after the eighth round at the NSC chess room.

Shahinor of Leonine Chess Club beat Feroz Ahmed of Uttara Central Chess Club.

International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar followed in second place securing seven points beating Sohail Chowdhury.

Over night joint leader Feroz and Salfuddin Ahmed Lavlu bagged 6.5 points. Lavlu beat Rafique.

StanChart chess on

The Standard Chartered Bank schools chess tournament organised by Bangladesh Chess Federation began at the NSC chess room yesterday, reports UNB.

A total of 100 players from different schools including six in the nine-round Swiss-league basis tournament.

In the day's first round, 40 players won their respective boards.

The winners are: Ejaj Hosain (2127), Puneet Jaiswal (India, 2087), Soham Das (India, 2070), Golam Mastofa Bhuyain (National Sub-junior Champion), Subham Das (India), Naim Arifin Ratul, Nilabhi Upadhyay (India), Ayan Lahiri (India), Nakibul Haque Uddah, Ranwak Ahsan Sajib, Farhadur Imam, Nazir Salehin, Mahabuddin Robin, Moksedul Monir, Obaidul Islam, Riad Ahmed, Nazir Arifin and Abdul Halim.

The second round matches will start at 10 am today at the same venue.

Waugh, Ponting

From page 13 tremors on a cool day.

The best chance came when Ponting on 90 was missed by Vangipurapu Laxman at second slip off Javagal Srinath with Australia 217-4.

Laxman appeared to have the ball safely in his hands as he dived, but it slipped out as he crashed into the ground.

India thought they had trapped Ponting when he was on 61. He pulled at a delivery from Ajit Agarkar, and the fieldsmen believed he had tickled it through to wicketkeeper Manuvu Prasad.

But umpire Steve Dunne could not be persuaded and Ponting survived.

It was paceman Venkatesh Prasad who caused the early fireworks as he snared little left-hander Justin Langer (11) and Mark Waugh (5) in his opening five overs to have 2-11 from eight overs at the lunch break.

In the early revelry by the Indian pace attack, Srinath mopped up Greg Blewett (4) and Saurav Ganguly accounted for opening batsman Michael Slater (28).

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of play on the first day of the first Test between India and Australia on Friday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings Slater c Ramesh b Ganguly 28; Blewett c M Prasad b Srinath 4; Langer lbw b V Prasad 11; M Waugh c M Prasad b V Prasad 5; S Waugh not out 117; Ponting run out 125; Gilchrist not out 0; Extras: (lb-1, lb-1, nb-6) 8; Total: (For five wickets in 90 overs) 298; Fall of wickets: 1-8; 2-29; 3-45; 4-52; 5-291.

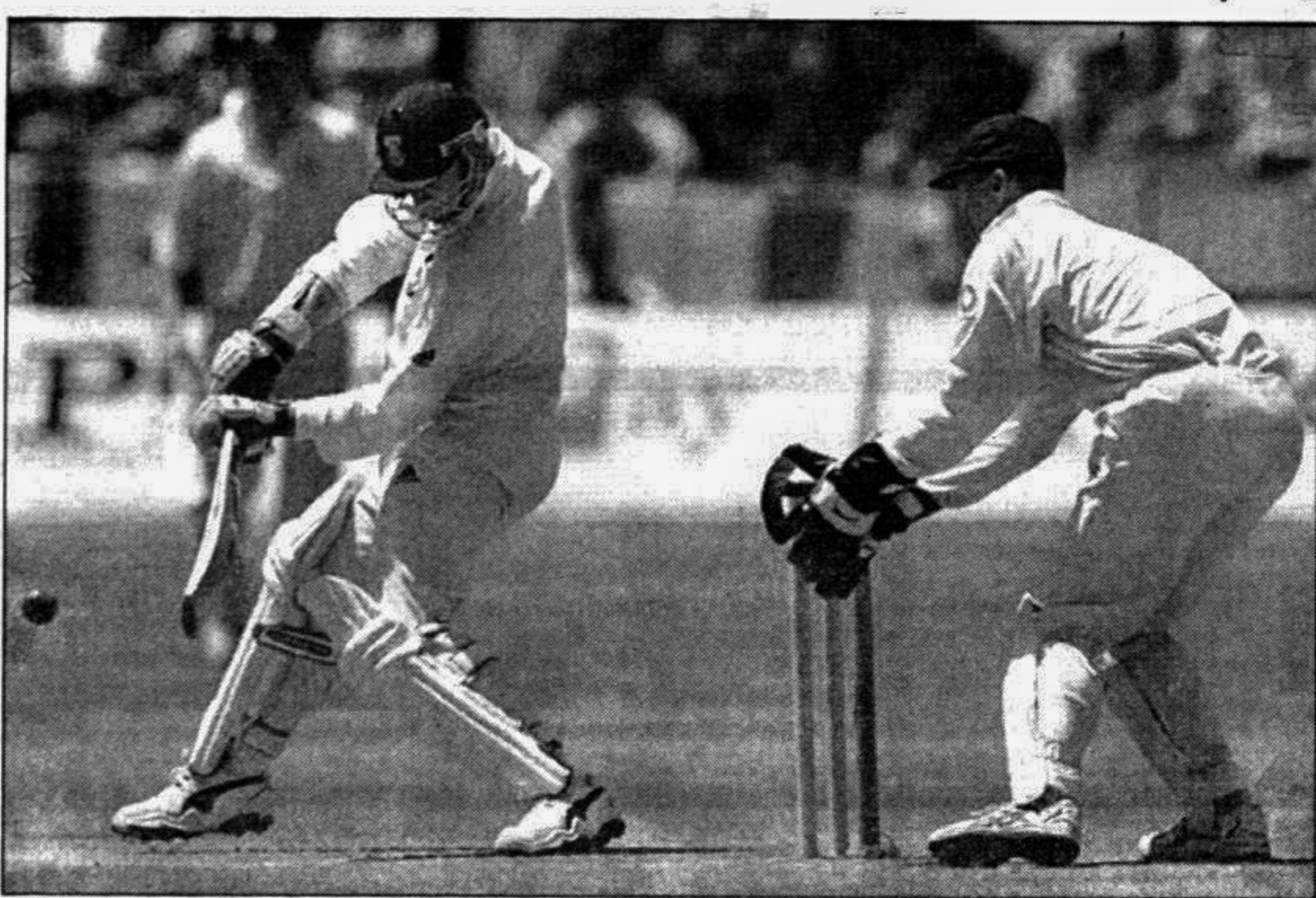
To bat: S Warner, D. Fleming, M Kasprzowicz, G McGrath.

Bowler O M R W Srinath 22 3 83 1 Agarkar 16 3 55 0 V Prasad 17 4 50 2 Ganguly 7 1 34 1 Kumble 2 1 60 0 Tendulkar 2 0 12 0 Laxman 3 1 2 0

INDIA: Sachin Tendulkar (capt), Saurav Ganguly (vice-capt), Ajit Agarkar, Rahul Dravid, Devang Gandhi, Anil Kumble, Vangipurapu Laxman, Manuvu Prasad, Venkatesh Prasad, Sadagopan Ramesh, Javagal Srinath.

Umpires: Daryl Harper (Aus), Steve Dunne (NZ).

TV match referee: Ranjan Madugalle.



South African all-rounder Lance Klusener, who made an outstanding 174, is about to slice one off the back-foot on the second day of the second Test against England in Port Elizabeth yesterday.

Klusener bludgeons England

Nasser, Mike combine

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 10: England captain Nasser Hussain led a spirited fightback after his team had taken a pounding from all-rounder Lance Klusener on the second day of the second Test against England at St George's Park on Friday, reports AFP.

Hussain made 70 not out as England reached 139 for one at the close. Klusener earlier top-scored with 174 in a South African first innings total of 450.

Hussain took the fight to South Africa's all-pace attack after Mark Butcher had been bowled for four in Shaun Pollock's first over.

The England captain hooked two sixes in the first over he faced from Pollock and raced to a half-century off 54 balls.

With South Africa forced onto the defensive, he then proceeded more cautiously until the close, facing another 71 balls in adding 20 more runs.

Former captain Mike Atherton, dismissed twice for nought in the first Test, made 58 not out and helped Hussain put on an unbeaten 134 for the second wicket.

On a hot, sunny day, conditions favoured the batsmen, with 336 runs being scored for the loss of only five wickets in 116 overs.

That was unlike the first day, when South African slumped to 146 for five after being sent in to bat in overcast weather. It was at that point that Klusener walked in.

Klusener completed the transition from World Cup one-day hero to Test stardom as he hit his 174 off 221 balls with 25 fours and two sixes.

It was the highest score in 18 Tests played at St George's Park, South Africa's oldest Test ground, besting the 167 by Lindsay Hassett for Australia in 1949/50.

The powerful left-hander shared stands of 106 for the sixth wicket with Jonty Rhodes, 119 for the eighth wicket with Mark Boucher and 49 for the last wicket with new captain Morne van der Merwe.

The stand with Boucher was a record eighth-wicket stand for South Africa against England.

It was Klusener's second Test century. He made 102 not out off 100 balls against India in Cape Town in 1996/97.

Having reached 50 off 54 balls on Thursday, he was reluctantly restrained on Friday as he went to his century off 127 deliveries and then reached 150 off 201. He took on the responsibility of steering South Africa to a 400-plus first innings total for the seventh Test match in succession.

But there were still plenty of the bludgeoning square cuts, cover drives and straight hits that have made him a crowd favourite. With England's spirits wilting under a hot sun, he hit his last 33 runs during the last-wicket stand with Hayward.

He was particularly severe on left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell, England's best bowler, who conceded 26 runs off his last two overs after earlier keeping Klusener in check. Tufnell finished with four for 124.

England, whose first wickets had fallen at one and nought during their innings defeat in the first Test in Johannesburg, again made a poor start. After punching Pollock through the covers for four, Butcher got an inside edge to an attempted force off the back foot and the ball crashed into his stumps.

Hussain hooked the second ball he received from Pollock for four and thrashed sixes off the fourth and fifth balls he faced. The total reached 100 in the 23rd over, forcing South Africa to set defensive fields.

Leicester City's record move for Eadie

LEICESTER, England, Dec 10: Martin O'Neill, coach of high-flying English Premier League outfit Leicester City, is set to break his side's record transfer fee with the 3million pound signing of Norwich's former England Under-21 striker Darren Eadie, reports AFP.

O'Neill, who coached Eadie during a brief stay at the First Division club in 1996, should have no problem agreeing personal terms with the talented 24-year-old striker, who featured in the full England squad for the 1997 'Le Tournoi' in France before withdrawing through injury.

The only problem may well arise over the medical as Eadie has been plagued by injuries throughout his professional career.

The deal would smash Leicester's previous record transfer fee for Chelsea's Jamaican international defender Frank Sinclair in the summer of 1998.

Eadie would not be eligible to play in Saturday's FA Cup tie at Hereford and is cup-tied for next Wednesday's League Cup clash with Premiership leaders Leeds United so there is no need for O'Neill to rush through the deal in the next 24 hours.

But he would like to have secured the services of Eadie in time for him to be available for the home Premiership match with relegation threatened Derby County on December 18.

O'Neill has been desperate to supplement his strike force of England international Emile Heskey and veteran Tony Cottee to help Leicester maintain their push for a European spot.

He has some cover in defence and midfield but up front is where he would be exposed if either Heskey and Cottee were ruled out - with another former Norwich player veteran Ian Marshall his only viable option.

O'Neill recently tried to sign Sheffield Wednesday striker Andy Booth in a 2.7million pounds deal but that fell through after the clubs could not agree on the method of payment.

Eadie enjoyed his most successful season with Norwich in 1996-97 when he scored 17 goals in 42 league games.

He was considered to be one of the rising England stars of the future and greatly impressed Under-21 coach Peter Taylor.

Jordan voted best of century

CHICAGO, Dec 10 (AP/Internet): One way to measure Michael Jordan's greatness is simply to look at a photo of anguished, open-mouthed faces.

Utah fans, their expressions frozen after cringing and grimacing as Jordan's final, championship-winning shot hangs in the air. They know the inevitable is a mere second away - the ball going in the basket as it did so often when he took a last-second shot.

It was that kind of dominance, determination and unmatched skill that earned Jordan his selection as the top basketball player of the century by a six-member panel of experts assembled for The Associated Press.

Windies 330/7

AUCKLAND, Dec 10: A defiant century from West Indies opener Sherwin Campbell was the highlight of the first day's play against Auckland today as West Indies finished on 330 for seven, reports Reuters.

Campbell saw Darren Ganga and Shivnarine Chanderpaul dismissed in the third and fourth overs respectively after skipper Brian Lara won the toss and elected to bat on a lively wicket.

Campbell and Lara began a mini recovery before Lara fell for 22.

Ricardo Powell hit a quick 20 before he was out and the West Indies went to lunch at 102-4, with Campbell and the evergreen Jimmy Adams at the crease.

Adams and Campbell figured in a partnership of 151 before Adams mistimed a pull and was smartly caught by Kyle Mills at mid-wicket.

Campbell fell soon after reaching his century off 208 balls in 287 minutes. He got an edge to an attempted hook off Kerry Walsley.

West Indies wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs and Nehemiah Perry, who was dropped off the first ball he faced, then had a 76-run partnership before Perry was bowled by Auckland debutant Richard Morgan.

Morgan, a left-arm medium pacer, had a day to remember taking three for 59 that included the wickets of Chanderpaul, a double century against New Zealand A last week, Lara as well as Perry.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of the first day of the four-day match between the West Indies and Auckland on Friday:

WEST INDIES

Campbell c Walsley b Mills 112
Ganga c Young b Mills 0
Chanderpaul b Morgan 1
Lara c Young b Morgan 22
Powell c Aiken b Mills 20
Adams c Mills b Walsley 65
Jacobs not out 52
Perry b Morgan 25
Rose not out 17
Extras: (lb-13, nb-4) 17
Total: (For seven wickets) 330

Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-4; 3-22; 4-61; 5-212; 6-237; 7-313
To bat: R King, P Collins

Bowler O M R W
Mills 26 4 104 2
Morgan 19 4 59 3
Walsley 21 5 84 2
Barnes 8 4 15 0
Pocock 3 1 6 0
Walker 16 6 49 0

ACA to help young Indians

ADELAIDE, Dec 10: India's most promising young cricketers will be invited to Australia's renowned Cricket Academy under a scholarship deal announced today, reports Reuters.

The Australia-India Council (AIC) announced before the start of play on the first day of the first Test between the two countries today that three of India's best young players will be invited to come to Australia each season.

"A scholarship like this... can only help to make those youngsters into better players," Australian Cricket Board chairman Denis Rogers said.

"And that must benefit not only Indian cricket, but also the future good health of the game at an international level."

The AIC said it had donated 18,000 Australian dollars (11,340 US) to cover the costs of next year's scholarships and was hoping to develop the plan into a long-term scheme.

Joy Bangla tennis starts today

Sports Reporter

The Joy Bangla national tennis championship will start at the National Tennis Complex this morning.

A total of 110 players including 35 women are taking part in the event, organised by Bangladesh Tennis Federation in observance of Victory Day.

Shield cricket

MELBOURNE, Dec 10 (Reuters): Competition leaders Victoria strengthened their grip on the Australian interstate cricket championship with a remarkable recovery on the second day of their match against South Australia on Friday.

Victoria started the day in trouble after making just 169 in their first innings, but their bowlers sprang into action to dismiss the visitors for just 127 before Jason Arnberger and Matthew Elliott blasted quick half-centuries.

By the end of the day, the Vics were 169 in front with eight second innings wickets in hand and two days to play.

Tasmania also staged a magnificent fightback in their match against New South Wales at the Sydney Cricket Ground although they ran into problems late in the day.

Tasmania crumbled to be all out for just 226 in their first innings, with New South Wales speedster Don Nash claiming a career-best haul of 7-54. But then their bowlers rattled through the NSW line-up for 138 with Mark Ridgway snaring 4-28.

But the match was still evenly poised after the home side struck back in the final session, reducing the Tigers to 98-6, an overall lead of 186.

Reigning champions Western Australia were in deep trouble when played ended in their match against Queensland at the Gabba.

The fall on a high after scoring back-to-back centuries against the touring Indians in warm-up games, Queensland's Andrew Symonds hit a dazzling 158 from just 154 balls.

He helped the home side to pile on 412 in their first innings in reply to Western Australia's 171. The visitors were 65-3 at the close, still needing another 76 to make Queensland bat again.



Roma's Francesco Totti (L) and Newcastle's Nolberto Solna fight for possession during their UEFA Cup second-leg third-round fixture at St James' Park on December 9.

UEFA Cup third round second leg

Happy hunting for Spaniards

PARIS, Dec 10: It was a notable day for Spain in Thursday's UEFA Cup third round second leg matches with all four Primera Liga clubs in action securing berths in the last 16, reports AFP.

But it was a dismal day for Germany with all three of their contenders eliminated although that disappointment was tempered by the fact that two Bundesliga clubs had qualified earlier in the week.

The most notable scalp was claimed by Real Mallorca whose 2-0 home victory over four-time European champions Ajax Amsterdam - the goals were scored by Paco Soler (penalty) and Leonardo Biagini - ensured a 3-0 aggregate scoreline.

Primera Liga leaders Deportivo La Coruna's 1-1 draw in Greece with Panathinaikos was enough for a 5-3 aggregate victory. That same scoreline was enough for Atletico Madrid, whose 2-1 home win on the night accounted for Wolfsburg, one of the three German casualties - Kaiserslautern and Bayer Leverkusen were the others.

And Celta Vigo's 1-1 draw was a mere postscript to a Leeds United's Alan Smith (R) pulls down Spartak Moscow's Evgeni Boushmanov during their UEFA Cup second-leg third-round clash at Leeds on December 9.

—AFP photo

match with another team that has won European football's ultimate prize - Portugal's Benfica. Vigo's 7-0 first leg win had made that tie a formality.

Arguably the most dramatic win of the night came in England. South African defender Lucas Radebe scored with just six minutes left to give Leeds United a 1-0 win over Spartak Moscow and a place in the last 16 of the UEFA Cup.

Radebe's late strike lifted the English Premiership side into a 2-2 third round aggregate draw with the Russians and they advanced by virtue of the two goals they scored in the away leg, which was played in Sofia, Bulgaria, last week.

Manager David O'Leary's youngsters were exceptional on a night when Leeds played brave, free-flowing football before Radebe killed off Spartak

by heading home from a corner.

Leeds, who made the last 16 in a European competition for the first time in 24 years, were joined in the fourth round by compatriots Arsenal.

Arsenal were held to a 3-3 draw away to French club Nantes but won through 6-3 on aggregate.

Arsenal's goals came from their foreign legion - with Frenchmen Gilles Grimandi and Thierry Henry and Dutchman Marc Overmars on target, while Nantes got two fine goals from Antoine Sibierski and another from pacy Tahitian substitute Marama Vahirua.

Arsenal led 3-1 before taking their foot off the pedal late in the game.

"It's not easy when you are leading 3-0 from the first leg to have the right concentration," said Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger. "But even after the first few minutes I felt we would score and that if they got two or three we would still be able to come back."

The third English representatives, Newcastle United, were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Italian giants Roma and were ousted 1-0 on aggregate.

While Nantes bowed out, two Turkish giants Galatasaray also advanced with a 2-1 home victory over Italian side Bologna for a 3-2 aggregate triumph.

First-half goals from Hasan Sas and Davala Umit negated a strike from Bologna's Nicola Ventola. Bologna had defender Michele Parmatti sent off two minutes from the end.

Bologna's compatriots from Roma, Parma and Udinese did rather better as three Italian sides made it through to join Juventus, who qualified earlier in the week.

Parma drew 3-3 away to Sturm Graz after extra-time to advance 5-4 on aggregate.

Graz led 2-1 at the end of the regulation time at the Arnold Schwarzenegger Stadium - sending the match into extra-time after the sides were locked 3-3 on aggregate. Mario Stanic netted twice for Parma - his second strike deflected into his own net by Josef Schickelgruber - and Parma also got a 120th-minute goal from Argentine ace Hernan Crespo that was academic as they would already have advanced on the way goals rule.

Udinese got two first-half goals from Massimo Margiotta to overturn a one-goal deficit from the first leg and beat Germany's Bayer Leverkusen 2-1 for a 2-2 draw on aggregate that saw them advance on the away goals rule.

Michael Ballack was Leverkusen's scorer but the Germans were left to rue a wasted opportunity.

Germany at least have Borussia Dortmund and Werder Bremen in the hat thanks to wins earlier in the week.

Spanish league pacesetters Deportivo La Coruna needed a last-minute goal from Dutch striker Roy Makaay to draw 1-1 away to Panathinaikos in Athens, but still went through 5-3 on aggregate. Croatian midfielder Aljosa Asanovic scored for Panathinaikos from the penalty spot.

Slavia Prague of the Czech Republic also advanced, drawing 1-1 away to Steaua Bucharest of Romania to win through 5-2 on aggregate.

But hopes of Sociedad overturning Deportivo may be premature. The San Sebastian side are also underperforming and are yet to revive under new coach Javier Clemente, the former Spain national team boss.

Last week Sociedad returned from Bilbao with a 1-1 draw in the Basque derby in an occasion which saw Clemente return to the club where he made his reputation.

Primera Liga preview

Basques battle Galicians

PARIS, Dec 10: Basque clubs Real Sociedad and Athletic Bilbao will find their ranks of loyal supporters uncharacteristically swollen by Primera Liga fans in Catalunya and Madrid this weekend as they bid to halt the emergence of a new stronghold in Spanish football, reports AFP.

Galicia - the north west tip of Spain - is out on a geographical limb but has also traditionally been a fringe region in Spanish football.

The region's clubs - Deportivo La Coruna and Celta Vigo - have never won a title between them but are currently in charge of the division with leaders Deportivo this weekend going to San Sebastian to face Real Sociedad and second placed Vigo hosting Bilbao.

The title has been the preserve of Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid since 1985.

Ironically, those same clubs that could help foil the ambitions of a new Galician powerbase. Not much love is lost between the Basque region and the rest of Spain - in particular Madrid.

The Basque nationalist ETA terrorist movement last week ended their ceasefire but this weekend at least the region's football clubs will be cheered on by fans of the big three.

Of those clubs only Barcelona, who visit bottom club Sevilla, look capable of mounting a challenge - they are fourth, seven points behind Deportivo.

But Atletico are struggling although there might be nothing in comparison to Real, who are in 17th place and currently in line for a relegation play-off match.

FIXTURES:

Saturday: Sevilla v Barcelona (20h00 GMT)

Sunday (all 16h00 GMT unless stated): Espanyol v Valladolid, Real Sociedad v Deportivo La Coruna, Real Mallorca v Oviedo, Alaves v Real Betis, Rayo Vallecano v Malaga, Celta Vigo v Athletic Bilbao, Real Zaragoza v Numancia, Atletico Madrid v Valencia (18h30)

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Where knots are tied

6 Item of lounge-wear

12 Paid in full

13 Irritate

14 Did the bouncer's job

15 Attractive one

16 Info

17 Hum-dinger

19 Furthest point

20 Faux pas

21 1773 jetsam

24 Sooner city

27 City on the Jumna

29 Wash-stand item

32 Sweet tooth

35 Money

36 Sound of a pendulum's back-swing?

DOWN

1 Blue

2 Overwhelm

3 Parting remarks

4 Exist

5 Play-ground game

6 8-ball

7 Roughly

8 To and

9 Remove

10 Gulf

11 Dweeb

12 Divot

13 Material

18 Displaces violently

Solution time: 27 mins.

CUP BALL BOLO
ATE OBOE ARID
BASQUITAT MAZE
SHOULD TAB
SWEET UNIQUE
OTINK ORE LADD
SSE YDS MAGUS
OPAQUE PAS
UPS INSANE
MESA SIEQUOTIAS
AGUA OTIP
NUDE NOEL SILY

Yesterday's answer

CRYPTOQUIP

N M S Z B G I I X B S J G H X
B G I Y X G Q M S J N X W H M
I M S I R Q Q S Z Y U C S H X B S
X W G B S Y S I I C S X R W U
Y E S T E R D A Y S C R Y P T O Q U I P : T H A T Y O - Y O
B E L I E V E S W H O E V E R L I V E S N E A R A B E A C H
W I L L C E R T A I N L Y H A V E W A V Y H A I R .
T o d a y ' s C r y p t o q u i p c l u e : I e q u a l s S

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