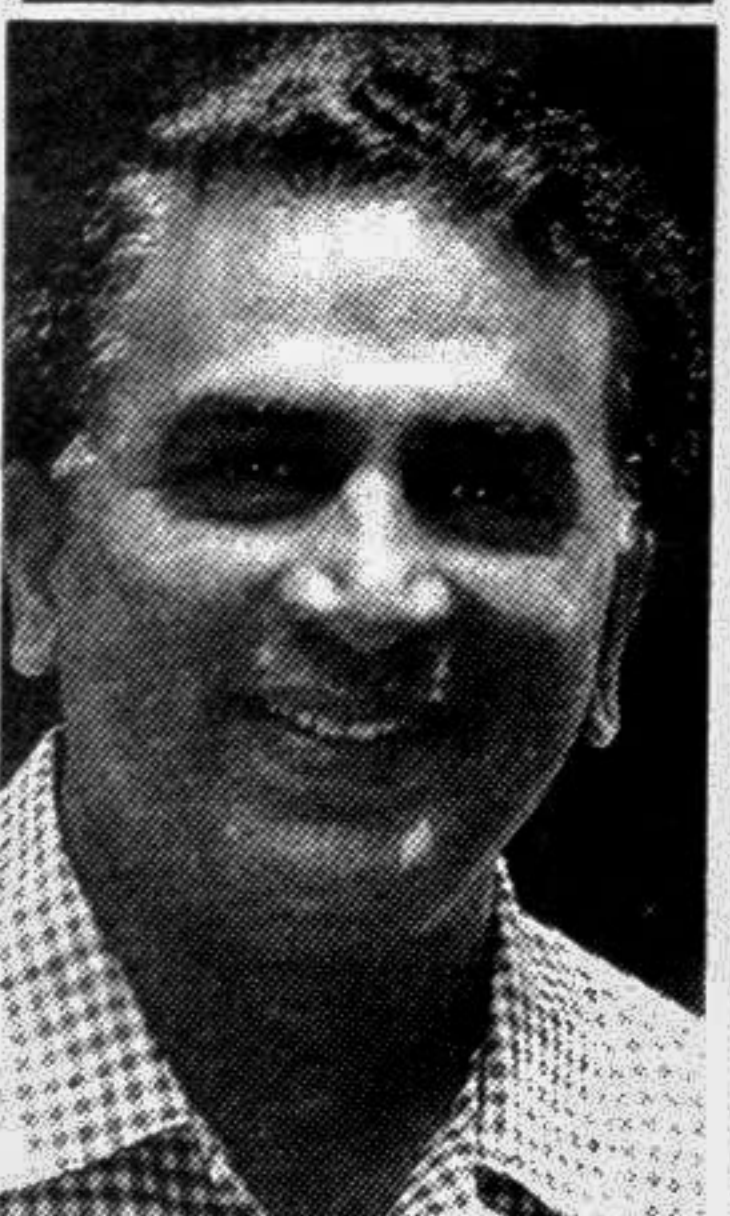


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Sunil Gavaskar
(Indian cricket great)
"I will talk to any player who needs my advice."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-124

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

Competition closes at 5 pm
Dec 17, 1999 and draw
shortly afterwards

1 Argentine soccer star
Batistuta plays for Serie A
club

2 Which country will host the
12th Asian Cup football
finals?

3 How many Test double
centuries has Sri Lankan
batsman Marvan Atapattu
scored so far?

4 Where will the ninth-SAF
Games be held?

5 How many teams are playing
in the National Cricket League?

One Two Three

Delhi Karachi Peshawar

Four Eight Six

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Draw in Auckland

Campbell, Ganga hit hundreds

AUCKLAND, Dec 13: The West Indies drew their four-day match against Auckland on Monday, but before opener Sherwin Campbell hit a commanding century, reports Reuters.

Campbell, who scored 112 in the first innings, was again in encouraging form ahead of Thursday's start of the first Test against New Zealand, and blasted the Auckland bowling before he retired hurt on 109 with a slight leg injury.

West Indies captain Brian Lara later said Campbell had ended his innings as a precaution and that his in-form batsman would play in the first Test in Hamilton.

Campbell and fellow opener Darren Ganga, a first innings failure who is fighting for a place in the Test side, figured in a first-wicket partnership of 196.

Ganga also completed a century before play was abandoned at 5:30 pm (0430 GMT).

Heavy rain in the morning made a draw inevitable and play did not start until 2:00 pm (0100 GMT), when the West Indies resumed on their overnight score of 14 for none.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the last day of the four-day match between Auckland and West Indies at Eden Park on Monday:

WEST INDIES: First Innings 380

AUCKLAND: First Innings 369

WEST INDIES: Second Innings

Campbell retired hurt 109

Ganga not out 100

Chanderpaul not out 9

Extras (nb-5; w-1; lb-4) 10

Total: (For no wicket: 47 overs) 228

Did not bat: B Lara, R Powell, J Adams, R Jacobs, N Perry, F Rose, R King, P. Collins.

Bowler: O M R W

Morgan 13 1 51 0

Mills 12 1 58 0

Walmisley 6 0 39 0

Walker 5 0 31 0

Barnes 11 1 45 0

Result: Match drawn.

Sabbir show saves Ctg

Sports Reporter



Young Sabbir Ahmed appeared from no where to hit a brilliant half-century as Chittagong recovered from a shaky start to score 206 for seven at stumps yesterday, the opening day of their three-day National League match against Sylhet.

At the Sylhet Stadium, the crucial return-leg clash of the two title contenders tilted towards the hosts early in the morning when Chittagong, opening to bat first, stumbled to 38 for three in no time.

But, while in deep crisis the port city outfit discovered a wily willow-wielder in Sabbir, who led a spectacular recovery operation with an absorbing 56. Promoted up in the batting order, the tall right-hander, with a credential of a promising off-spinner under his belt, more than justified his elevation, putting on 90 runs for the fourth wicket with Akram Khan.

Considered as a useful long-hand bat, the former BKSP student hammered eight fours

in his 114-ball knock before being caught by Pakistani Saifullah of the bowling of national left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique.

Chittagong got off to a disappointing start when both their openers Azam Iqbal, Ehsanul Haq and one-down Jahangir departed within a space of 15 runs.

Ehsan was run out for 10 in a terrible mix-up with Azam, who scored a struggling 19 before becoming the second victim of medium pacer Iqbal.

Iqbal made the early inroads by dismissing one-down Jahangir for a duck.

With the fall of Azam came the most enterprising partnership of Chittagong between Sabbir and Akram, the former national captain who scored a fighting 35 with the help of three fours.

Skipper Minhazul Abedin scored a defiant 31 before becoming the last Chittagong batsman out on the day.

Enamul Haq, on 26, will resume the Chittagong innings with Shahed Mehmud today.

For Sylhet, Rafique returned as the most successful bowler

with three for 45 in his 20 economical overs. Iqbal meanwhile captured two wickets giving away 49 runs in his 18 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening day of the three-day National League match between Sylhet and Chittagong played at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday:

CHITTAGONG: First Innings

Azam c Imran b Iqbal 19

Ehsanul run out 10

Jahangir c Imran b Iqbal 0

Sabbir c Saifullah b Rafique 56

Akram c Rajin b Rafique 35

Minhazul c Parvez b Saifullah 31

Z Rashid c Rajin b Rafique 8

Enamul batting 26

S Mehmud batting 17

Extras: (b-5; lb-9; nb-3) 17

Total: (For 7 wickets in 84 overs) 206

Fall of wickets: 1/23; 2/26; 3/38; 4/128; 5/133; 6/157; 7/198

Bowler: O M R W

Nayeem 12 7 12 0

Iqbal 18 5 49 2

Neyamur: 13 4 34 0

Rafique 20 5 45 3

Imran Rahim 3 0 13 0

Saifullah 12 2 39 1

Muktis select 28 young booters

Sports Reporter

Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra picked up 28 young footballers on completion of a three-day trial held at the Uttara Armed Police ground recently.

As part of its talent-hunt programme, the leading city club ran a camp for the interested under-19 footballers from December 8. Muktijoddha will now hold a training course to groom them up, says a press release of the club yesterday. The aspiring youths have been asked to be present at the Uttara Armed Police ground on December 17 at 2 pm.

The 28 booters are: Fakhrul Islam (goalkeeper, Sylhet), Mesbahuddin Miraj (goalkeeper, Noakhali), Zia (goalkeeper, Bagerhat), Sabbir Ahmed (goalkeeper, Sylhet), Shamsher Alam (Pabna), Musa Khan (Bogra), Raihanul Alam (Sirajganj), Shimul Ahmed (Gazipur), Palash (Barisal), Nurul Alam (Comilla), Samrul Islam (Chandpur), Shafiqul Islam (Dhaka), Ahsan Kabir Shamim (Netrokona), Mohammad Sharif Khan (Dhaka), M Mamun (Dhaka), Manzur Alam (Rajshahi), Farhad Hossain (Narayanganj), Abdullah Al-Mamun (Narsingdi), Akbar Hossain (Ramgati), Sumon (Dhaka), Arifur Rahman Bappi (Bogra), Galib Imran Kafi (Dhaka), Jashim Mehdi (Dhaka), Mahfuzur Rashid (Sylhet), Nadeem Ahmed Khan (Pabna), Sadeque Ahmed (Sylhet), Ripon Khan (Netrokona) and Rana (Faridpur).

One-match ban on Halim Shah

Sports Reporter

Barisal cricketer Halim Shah has been slapped with one-match suspension for angrily protesting an umpire's decision during their National League match against host Khulna recently.

Halim was given caught behind for duck off a Khairuzaman delivery in Barisal's first innings last Friday. But the middle-order bat, who played Premier League for Mohammed Sporting Club, reportedly left the ground after making some obscene gestures to the umpire.

Halim will miss Barisal's next match against Dhaka, scheduled to start at the Barisal Stadium from tomorrow.

Five to get Nat'l Award

Four sportsmen and one organiser will be honoured with the National Sports Award for the year 1998 on December 15 at Omani Memorial Hall, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to hand over the awards.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, Additional Secretary-in-charge of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Manik Lal Somaddar, president and general secretary of different national sports federations, sports organisers, sportsmen and women will be present on the occasion.

The award recipients are: The organiser: Former treasurer of the National Sports Council and former president of Bangladesh Cricket Board Quazi Bahauddin Ahmed (posthumously).

Footballer: Former national footballer Amalech Sen.

Swimming: Former SAF Games gold winning swimmer Lt. Commander M Bazul Rahman.

Cricketer: Former national captain Akram Khan, who led Bangladesh to victory in the ICC Trophy to qualify for the first ever World Cup cricket in England.

Shooting: Gold winning shooter in the Commonwealth Championship Begum Sabrina Sultana.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 13: Friends Sporting Club defeated Sepoy Para Sporting Club by 43 runs in the 5th Birshrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti cricket tournament at Railway ground.

Friends Sporting batted first and scored 172 losing seven wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Sepoy Para Sporting managed 129 runs losing all wickets.

In other match of the day, Bissommo Ekadosh beat Young Boys Club by 3 runs.

Bissommo decided to bat first after winning the toss and collected 125 runs for nine in allotted 25 overs.

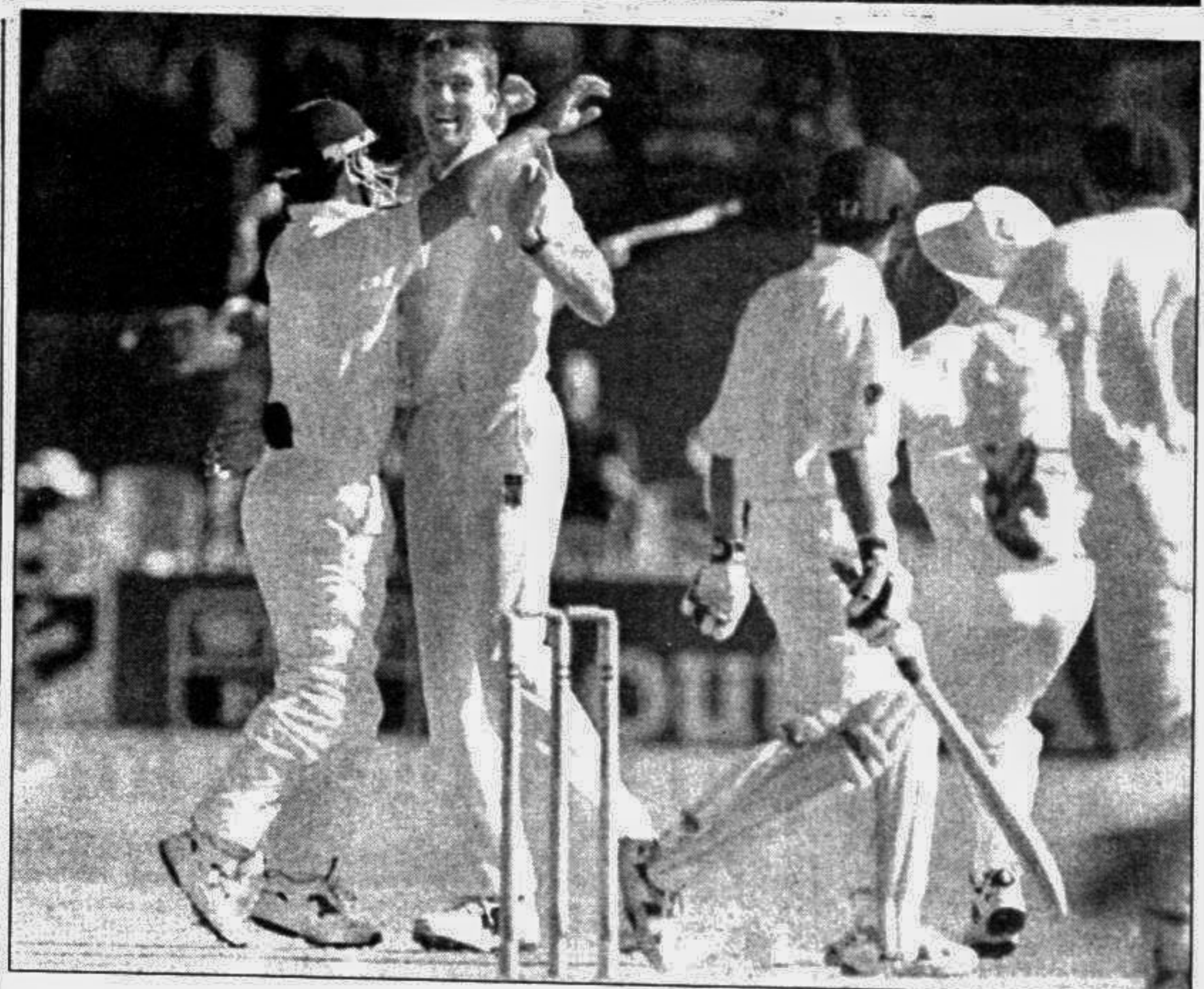
In reply, Young Boys were all out for 122 runs in 22 overs.

Sub-jr chess

Sports Reporter

The 20th national sub-junior chess championship, organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF), gets underway at the NSC chess room from December 21.

Boys and girls, who are born after January 1, 1985, are eligible to take part in the championship. Interested players have been asked to make their entries in person or over the telephone (9666766) by December 20.



Glenn McGrath (2nd from L) being congratulated by a teammate after the Australian fast bowler trapped Indian kingpin Sachin Tendulkar leg before on the fourth day of the Adelaide Test yesterday. — AFP photo

Miracle can save India



ADELAIDE, Dec 13: Australia were on the verge of a landslide victory over India after the tourists collapsed late on the fourth day of the first cricket Test in Adelaide today, reports Reuters.

Set 396 for victory, India slumped to 76 for five by the close of play, still 319 behind with only five second innings wickets in hand and a full day to go.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne and paceman Glenn McGrath captured two wickets each while Damien Fleming grabbed a fifth to put Australia in total control of the first of the three Test.

Three Indian batsmen, including their brilliant captain Sachin Tendulkar, made ducks while Rahul Dravid and Sadagopan Ramesh also went cheaply as they made dismal attempts to win the match.

India were sent into bat after Australian captain Steve Waugh declared his team's second innings closed at 239-8 after tea, setting the tourists an imposing total of 396 for victory.

Their run-chase could not have got off to a worse start as they lost two wickets within the first nine balls.

Opener Devang Gandhi went

for a duck when he was caught behind by wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist from the last ball of McGrath's first over.

Venkatasai Laxman departed three balls later, also without scoring when Fleming found a gap between bat and pad and sent the ball crashing onto his stumps.

Warne collected the first of his two wickets when Rahul Dravid gloved a catch to Gilchrist for six before McGrath got the vital wicket of Tendulkar in bizarre fashion.

Attempting to duck under a short-pitched delivery, the Indian captain was given out leg before wicket when the leg skidded through and hit him on the shoulder as he was crouching down.

Tendulkar, who was also given out to a dubious decision in the first innings, appeared displeased by the ruling although television replays of the ball's trajectory suggested it would have probably clipped the top of the bats.

India's last real hopes of salvaging a draw effectively disappeared with Tendulkar as he trudged back to the dressing room with the visitors in dire straits at 27-4.

Ramesh had played a steady innings to reach 28 but gave his wicket away when he padded up

to Warne and was given out lbw without offering a shot. Warne now just needs one more wicket to become the first slow bowler in history to claim 350 Test victims.

In the final overs, Saurav Ganguly was given the benefit of the doubt to a confident appeal for caught behind as he clawed his way to 31 not out by stumps with Mannava Prasad unbeaten on six.

India's late collapse undid all their good work from earlier in the day when they forced Australia to declare their second innings at 239.

Resuming at 71-2, Australia's batsmen were unable to score quickly as India's bowlers successfully tied them down.

Mark and Steve Waugh both fell cheaply before lunch while, Ricky Ponting, Warne and Greg Blewett all departed before tea, with Blewett top scoring with 88.

Gilchrist belted a quick 43 before he fell in the final session, prompting Waugh to call an end to the innings and send the tourists in.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of play on the fourth day of the first Test between Australia and India at the Adelaide Oval on Monday:

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 441 (S Waugh 150, R Ponting 125, S Warne 86)

INDIA: First Innings 285 (S. Tendulkar 61, S Ganguly 60, S. Warne 4-92)

AUSTRALIA: Second Innings (overnight 71-2)

Slater C Ganguly b Srinath 0

Blewett b Agarkar 88

Langer c Gandhi b Kumble 38

M Waugh c Laxman b Agarkar 8

S Waugh c M Prasad b Agarkar 5

Ponting c M Prasad b V Prasad 21

Gilchrist c Laxman b Srinath 43

Warne c Dravid b Srinath 0

Extras: (b-3; lb-8; nb-2; w-2) 15

Total: (For eight wks in declared) 239

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-65; 3-95; 4-113; 5-153; 6-204; 7-206; 8-239

Did not bat: D Fleming, G McGrath

Bowler: O M R W

Srinath 21.5 4 64 3

Agarkar 18 6 43 3

Prasad 18 5 43 1

Kumble 32 9 73 1

INDIA: Second Innings

Ganguly c Gilchrist b McGrath 0

Ramesh lbw b Warne 28

Laxman b Fleming 0

Dravid c Gilchrist b Warne 6

Tendulkar lbw b McGrath 0

Ganguly not out 31

M Prasad not out 6

Extras: (nb-5) 5

Total: (For five wks in 26 overs) 76

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-3; 3-24; 4-27; 5-48.

To bat: A Agarkar, J Srinath, A Kumble, V Prasad.

Bowler: O M R W

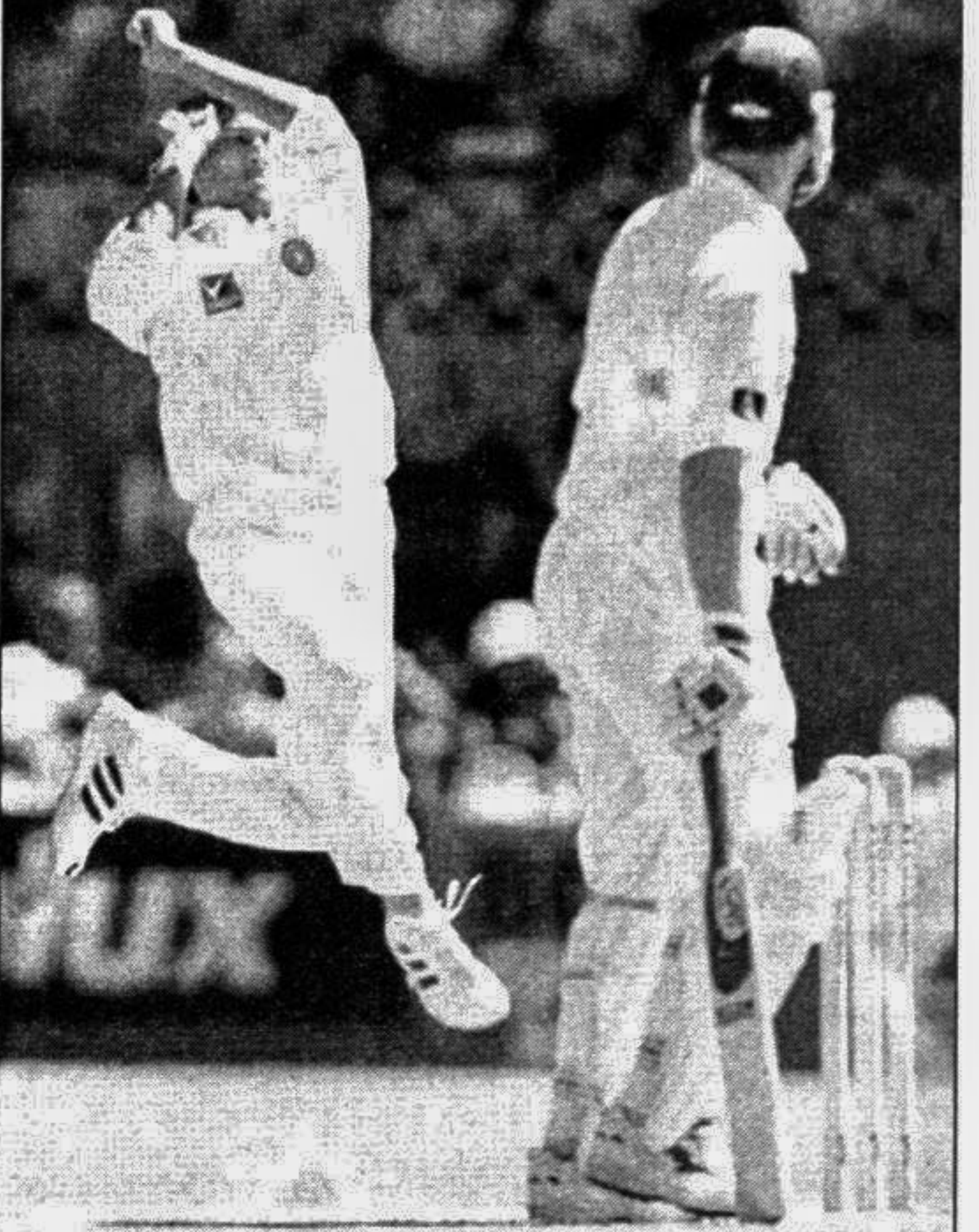
McGrath 6 1 19 2

Fleming 3 1 13 1

Warne 10 6 21 2

Kasprovicz 6 0 23 0

M Waugh 1 1 0 0



Indian pacer Ajit Agarkar in his delivery stride on the fourth day of the Adelaide Test yesterday. — AFP photo

Tabloids' war of words

LONDON, Dec 13 (Reuters): Britain's tabloid press ignored diplomatic advice on Monday, splashing anti-German headlines across front pages in preparation for soccer battles to come.

"Huncanny," declared the Daily Star after England were drawn for the second time in a week to face arch-rivals Germany, this time in next summer's European Championships.

"We'll win Hans down," said the best-selling Sun after it noted that England had landed in der Schmidt for the second time in a week.

Last week organisers of the World Cup finals in 2002 drew England in the same qualifying group as Germany: news that

was greeted by a traditional "don't mention the war" commentary.

Despite warnings by Berlin's former ambassador to London, who slammed Britain's media for stereotyping Germans as "Huns and Krauts who eat bratwurst", the tabloids were in full flow.

The Mirror urged England manager Kevin Keegan to beat the Germans in the race for the sunbed, playing on a classic English joke about pushy German holidaymakers rushing down to the poolside to grab the best seats.

Referring to the German side as "cocky sausage-munchers", the Star said Keegan was confident his team could beat Germany in both competitions. And although it littered its own pages with such phrases as "Ve

meet again" and "Herr we go again", it was outraged at snipes by the German media.

Accusing Germans of being unable "to wipe the smiles off their faces", the Star cited comments from one German TV host, who played up European tensions over "mad cow" disease, to declare: "The English have all been eating BSE beef anyway so it'll be a walkover before it begins."

The last time England emerged smiling from a match against Germany was more than 50 years ago when they beat Germany 4-2 in extra time in the 1966 World Cup final.

But Keegan refused to be intimidated. "Ourselves and Germany have both got something to prove but we shouldn't be worrying too much just about that game," he said after the draw.