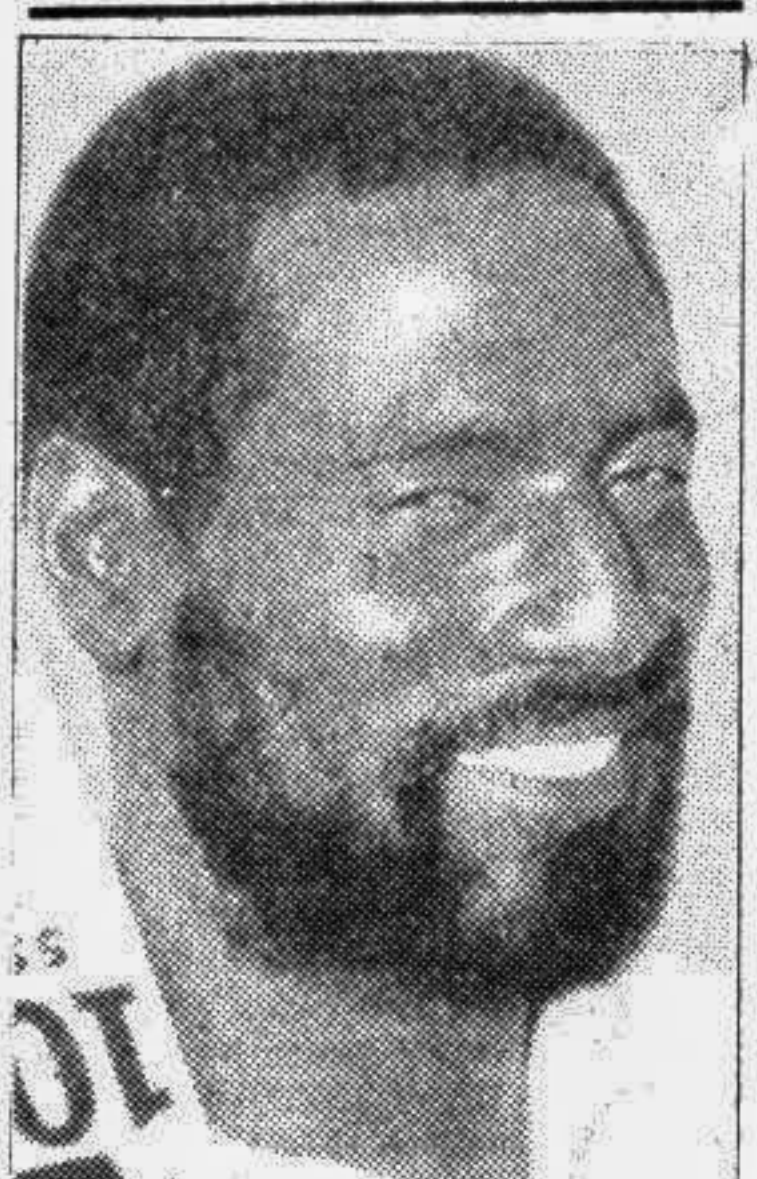


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Vivian Richards
(West Indies cricket captain)
"I honestly believe that lack of commitment in West Indies cricket is an issue that drastically needs attention."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-125

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Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 31, '99 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who was the man-of-the-series in the Australia-Pakistan Tests?	Langer	Ponting	Inzamam
2. Who was the highest wicket-taker in the Australia-Pakistan Test series?	Akram	Fleming	McGrath
3. How many Test hundreds has Mark Waugh scored to date?	15	16	17
4. Who became champions in the Keya Premier soccer tournament?	Mukitjodha	Mohammedan	Amanatullah
5. Who lifted the Expatriates' Open chess title?	Refaat	Zia	Tanveer

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

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Div I cricket

Bangladesh Boys and Young Cricketers began their metropolitan First Division cricket league campaign with victories at different city venues yesterday.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Bangladesh Boys defeated Dhanmondi Club by two wickets in a low-scoring match.

Dhanmondi won the toss and made 164 for nine in 50 overs.

The Boys in reply, home

BRIEF SCORES
DHANMONDI CLUB: 164 for nine in 50 overs (Tushar 29, Anil 23, Tito 3/55, Apollo 2/18, Bablu 2/21).
B BOYS: 167 for eight in 48.5 overs (Tinku 42, Monoj 33, Dickens 2/22, Tushar 2/30).
Result: Bangladesh Boys won by two wickets.

ESKATON SS: 195 for eight in 50 overs (Shahidul 54, Sayed 46, Suif 3/30).
Y CRICKETERS: 196 for eight in 48.4 overs (Rezaul 53, Azmul 47 n.o., Moniruzzaman 30, Tapas 2/29).
Result: Young Cricketers won two wickets.

scraped with seven balls to spare.

In the other match held at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Young Cricketers recorded a similar two-wicket victory over Eskaton Sabuj Sangha.

Sent in to bat, Eskaton made 195 for eight in 50 overs.

Young Cricketers reached 196 for eight in 48.4 overs.

Victory Day badminton on

The Agrani Bank Victory Day badminton tournament, organised by Bangladesh Badminton Federation, began at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

Four players — Shihab, Hasanur Rahman, Nanda Dutta and Saifuddin — won their respective inaugural matches in the boys' under-16 group.

Shihab beat Kayes 15-1, 16-0; Hasanur beat Jasim 15-4, 15-12; Nanda beat Rimon 15-4, 15-6 and Saifuddin beat Majedul 15-13, 15-10.

Hannan captain for Colombo

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 14-man squad for the World Youth Cricket Championship, scheduled to begin in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo from January 10.

Hannan Sarker, the young opener who played for Abahani last season, will lead Bangladesh in the mega event, where the entire nine Test-playing nations along with seven ICC (International Cricket Council) associate member nations will participate.

Placed in Group B alongside India, New Zealand and Holland, Bangladesh will play their first match against their closest neighbours across the border on January 12. As the build-up of their campaign in the 16-team tourney, Bangladesh will play a couple of practice matches against different local selections on January 7 and 8.

The Bangladesh youths, being coached by Dipu Rai Chowdhury, leave for the emerald islands on January 5.

But prior to their departure, they will gather at the BKSP camp. Eddie Barlow, the director of coaching, will run a 12-day crash course there to give the final touch to their preparations for the big occasion.

BCB meanwhile had had a dubious distinction of sending over-aged players in early age-limit competition. But this is for the first time the Board is sending a true under-19 team.

Thirty cricketers were initially called up for the BKSP residential camp that started on December 8. Later the Board invited six more cricketers to join the selection trial run by Eddie Barlow.

But it however could not completely come out of controversy when the Board has chosen Azmal Ahmed Tapan, a person with minimum cricketing credentials, to manage the team in a meet of this magnitude.

It is understandable that the Board prefers to avail its members overseas trips in turn but many feel that rotation should be made among the capable and eligible ones, at least for the country's sake. Especially after having the embarrassing experience with Kutubuddin Akbar in the qualifying round in Singapore last April; the Board should have been more careful in picking person for such an important job. While being interviewed by electronic media Kutubuddin had made a big fool of himself by trying to provide erroneous information both about cricketers and country's cricket in his mumble-jumble English speech.

The Board meanwhile has decided to send Gavin Benzafield, the South African physio of the national team, at

their own expense.

Bangladesh, who performed credibly in the previous edition of the World Cup in South Africa, where they won the Plate title defeating mighty West Indies in the final, are likely to face a tough challenge in the first round.

They will play their second group league match against the Kiwis on January 14 before taking on Holland on January 16. Only the top-finisher of the four groups will advance into the final round to fight it out for the Cup. England are the defending champions of the meet.

SQUAD
Hannan Sarker, Nahidul Haq, Ashraful, Mohammad Kalim, Kuntal Chandra, Rajin Saleh, Mohammad Selim, Tariqul Hasan, Mossadek Hossain, Abu Naser, Mahfuz Kabir, Anwar Hossain, Arman Hossain, Bikash Ranjan Das

Manager: Azmal Ahmed Tapan
Coach: Dipu Rai Chowdhury
Physio: Gavin Benzafield

Asia Cup

Saad named technical member

Sports Reporter

Former national cricketer and one of the selectors of the present national team, Tanzeem Ahsan Saad, has been nominated as Bangladesh's representative in the technical committee for the forthcoming Asia Cup.

The tournament is scheduled to begin in Dhaka from May 26. Saad was selected in place of BCB's general secretary Syed Ashrafu Haque who pulled out citing poor health.



Scene from yesterday's Cute First Division handball league match between West Jatrabari Krira Sangha and Mansur Sporting at the court near Bangabandhu National Stadium.

— Star photo

Kapil criticises schedule

Tasmania toy with India



HOBBART, Dec 19: India's cricket coach Kapil Dev hit out at his team's itinerary on the Australian tour after his bowlers were flogged by Tasmania here today, reports AFP.

Tasmania, replying to India's 316, built on skipper Jamie Cox's 139 and 118 not out from Daniel Marsh to take their overnight score of 166-0 to 472 for four by stumps on the third day of the four-day game.

Kapil defended his bowlers' insipid display at the Bellerive Oval, and instead criticised the route the tourists were following on the current tour.

"I can't understand why we were made to play this game in Hobart," Kapil said.

"It's cold here and the wicket is flat, very different from what we will get in the second Test in Melbourne."

"There was little the bowlers could do. It was not easy to take wickets," he said.

Kapil, Test cricket's leading wicket-taker, said he expected a bouncer track and moderate weather in Melbourne.

"This four-day game should have been played in Melbourne, so that we could have prepared better," Kapil said.

He also slammed the five-day break between this match and the second Test, which begins on December 26.

"It's going to be just nets and more nets till the Test starts," Kapil said.

"Another four-day game would have been better, but there was not enough gap till the Test to get one more match in."

The Indian team refused to

play a one-day practice match in Melbourne next weekend arranged for them by Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil's former Test colleague.

"There's no point playing a one-day game before a Test," Kapil said.

The Indians have also been given a six-day break during the triangular one-day series against Australia and Pakistan, which commences on January 9.

The tourists plan to use the time to play a match in aid of the leprosy home in Calcutta adopted by Australian captain Steve Waugh.

"We are ready to play that game, provided the Australian Cricket Board agrees," Kapil said.

Cox, meanwhile, used the current match to score his 24th first-class century, falling just 43 short of completing 10,000 runs.

The 30-year-old, who led Somerset in English county cricket last year but has never been in the reckoning for an Australian cap, kept the Indians at bay for six hours and 40 minutes.

Cox and Dene Hills carried their opening stand to 205 when the Indians earned a lucky break through the run out of left-hander Hills for 84.

The highly-rated Michael Di Venuto made 12 when he edged a slash from off-spinner Vijay Bharadwaj to wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia.

Cox finally fell an hour after lunch when he on-drove his Indian counterpart, Saurav Ganguly upishly to mid-on where Venkatesh Prasad picked up a low catch.

There was, however, little respite for the Indians as Marsh, son of former Australian wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh, and Andrew Dykes added 104 for the fourth wicket.

Dykes made 61 before being trapped leg-before by Bharadwaj soon after tea, but Marsh exposed the limitations of the Indian attack without the rested Javagal Srinath, Anil Kumble and Ajit Agarkar.

Cox said a lead of 156 gave his side a good chance to force a victory on the final day.

"We've played according to plan. It's now up to the bowlers to use the fourth-day wicket against the Indians," he said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the four-day match between India and Tasmania at the Bellerive Oval on Sunday.

INDIA: First innings 316 (R Dravid 107, H Kanitkar 58; A Downton 5-90).

TASMANIA: First innings (overnight 166-0).
Cox c Prasad b Ganguly 139
Hills run out 84
Di Venuto c Mongia b Bharadwaj 12
Dykes lbw b Bharadwaj 61
Marsh not out 118
Young not out 32
Extras: (lb-7, w-5, nb-14) 26
Total: (For 4 wickets) 472.
Fall of wickets: 1-205; 2-227; 3-277; 4-381.

Bowler
Prasad 21 5 52 0
Mohanty 25 7 81 0
Ganguly 11 0 42 1
Kumar 23 6 90 0
Bharadwaj 28 4 108 0
Bharadwaj 25 2 84 2
Kanitkar 4 0 8 0

BCB announces players' pool for 1999-2000

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced the list of 30 pool players for the season 1999-2000.

The elite thirty, starting with national skipper Aminul Islam, will be regarded as a guideline for the 12 Premier League outfits, who shall not be allowed to register more than four players from the pool in the coming cricket season.

The board relieved former national captain Minhazul Abedin and his predecessor Faruque Ahmed from the bracketed list, since both have announced their retirement from the national team after the World Cup.

Meanwhile, organisers of local cricket decided to strictly implement a rule from the next season.

According to the new rule, cricketers to don the national cap in the next season, will be bracketed in national pool even if a player announces retirement during that period.

The 30 players of the national pool are: Aminul Islam, Shahrar Hossain, Javed Omar, Belim, Habibul Bashar, Al-Shahrar, Mushfiqur Rahman, Khaled Masood (wk), Enamul Hossain, Sabir Khan, Hasibul Hossain, Bikash Ranjan Das, Mehrah Hossain, Nasirul Alam, Saifuddin Ahmed, Khaled Mahmud, Monjurul Islam, Akram Khan, Mossadek Hossain, Naimur Rahman, Ahmed Kamal, Neeamur Rashid, Jahangir Alam (wk), Mahabubur Rahman, Aminul Islam Jr., Morshed Ali Khan, Hasanuzzaman, Fahim Muntasir, Harun-ur Rashid, Sajjad Ahmed Monsur and Mohammad Rafique.

Nat'l cricket resumes today

The seventh round of matches in the National Cricket League begin today at different venues across the country, reports UNB.

After the sixth round, Chittagong dominate the points table securing 18 points and will meet Khulna (six points) at the Jessore Stadium.

Sylhet followed the leaders with 14 points and will take on the standard Dhaka (six points) at the Faridpur Stadium.

In another match, Rajshahi will face Barisal at the Barisal Stadium. Rajshahi secured four points and Barisal two from the six previous matches.

MCC's tour dates

Sports Reporter

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) will arrive in Dhaka on January 10 as part of their promotional tours to different non-Test playing nations.

The oldest cricket club in the world, which holds the distinction of being the first foreign team to visit Bangladesh since independence, will play a series of matches against different local selections during their 20-day tour in the new millennium.

The MCC, owners of the famous Lord's ground at St John's Wood in London, will feature in a three-day, a four-day and four limited-over matches.

ITINERARY
Jan 10: Arrival
Jan 11: Rest day
Jan 12: Practice at BKSP
Jan 13: Travel to Rajshahi
Jan 14-16: Three-day match (Rajshahi)
Jan 17: Travel to Dhaka
Jan 18-21: Four-day match (Bangabandhu Stadium)
Jan 22: Travel to Sylhet
Jan 23: Limited-over match (Sylhet)
Jan 24: Travel to Chittagong
Jan 25: Limited-over match (Chittagong)
Jan 26: Travel to Dhaka
Jan 27: Rest day
Jan 28: Limited-over match (Day/Night) Bangabandhu Stadium
Jan 29: Limited-over match (Day/Night) Bangabandhu Stadium
Jan 30: Depart

Shaheed Zia cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Dec 19: Raisuddin Smriti Sangha beat Bandhan Krira Chakra by 93 runs in the Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Government College ground today.

Raisuddin Smriti batted first and collected 162 for six in the stipulated 25 overs after winning toss.

Amin (30) and Sumon (25) were the notable run-getters for the winners. For Bandhan, Robin claimed two wickets giving away 21 runs.

Later, Sohail and Sumon ran through the Bandhan line-up as they were bundled out for 69 in just 17.3 overs.

Sohail grabbed five wickets for 15 while Sumon took two for 13. Robin (18) and Babu (16) were the top Bandhan scorers.

In the day's other match, Mrigha Krira Chakra recorded a huge eight-wicket win over Mirer Chalk Sporting Club.

Electing to bat, Mirer Chalk made 126 all out in 24.4 overs.

In reply, the winners reached 131 in the 19th overs for the loss of two wickets.



Maple Leaf International School's Ejaz Ahmed, who became champion in the Standard Chartered schools chess competition, makes a move against Soham Das of Calcutta Kedarnath Institute yesterday.

— Star photo

Ejaz lifts schools chess crown

Syed Ejaz Hossain emerged unbeaten champion in the Standard Chartered schools chess competition securing seven and a half points after the ninth and last round match yesterday, reports UNB.

Ejaz of Maple Leaf International and Soham Das of Kedarnath Institute in Calcutta earned same points after they drew with their respective matches.

Later, the championship was decided by progressive scores through a tie-breaker with Ejaz scoring 42 and Soham 40.5.

In the last round, Ejaz drew with Naqibul Haq Udas and Soham drew with Nazir Arefin.

In other matches, Mustafa beat Rajib, Farhad beat Robin, Puneet beat Zia, Shuvom beat Ujjal and Faruque beat Rial while Ratul drew with Ayan.

Later, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader distributed prizes as the chief guest at a simple ceremony at the NSC chess room.

All 100 students, including five Indians, took part in the Swiss League tournament.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Dec 19: Primary Krira Training Centre defeated Babodhan Sangha by three wickets in the Bir Shrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Gold Cup cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Railway ground today.

In the other match, Simla Sporting Club beat Uttaram Krira Chakra by five wickets.

Rain rescues Windies



HAMILTON, New Zealand, Dec 19 (Reuters/AFP): New Zealand's march to possible victory in the first Test against the West Indies today was ruined by rain, which stopped play 16 minutes into the afternoon session.

The West Indies were 66 for four in their second innings for an overall lead of 38, with the final day tomorrow.

New Zealand had a sensational start to the fourth morning's play when they captured three West Indies wickets for two runs at one stage.

Chris Cairns bowled first innings century-maker Sherwin Campbell with the third ball of the day and in the next over had number three Shivarine Chandepaul caught behind by Adam Parore without scoring.

At that stage the tourists were two for nothing and Chandepaul's fall brought captain Brian Lara in.

He looked intent on steadying the ship with some attacking strokes, but he fell in Dion Nash's second over of the morning, again caught behind by Parore from on invidious swish at a well pitched-up ball.

That brought Ricardo Powell to the wicket for his second Test innings. His first was inauspicious when he got nought in the first innings here, but he immediately went on the offensive and took to Nash and blasted him over extra cover for four.

Powell effectively hit Nash out of the attack by launching a barrage of audacious shots. His first six scoring shots in Test cricket were fours off Nash, and a lofted shot through mid-wicket brought the West Indies into credit after they were 28 behind on the first innings.

After an 11-minute stoppage for light rain after an hour of play, Daniel Vettori ended Powell's jaunty knock when he induced a thick edge and Craig Spearman snapped up the catch at slip.

When the rain came down heavily just after lunch, the other century maker in the West Indies first innings, Adrian Griffith, was still there on 14, the 'same' score as Jimmy Adams.

However, Nash believes the team can still force a win.

"There's a lot of cricket left to be played in the Test. The wicket's turning," Daniel (Vettori) is looking completely dangerous, who knows," Nash said.

"A couple of quick wickets and we could get into them. I believe it's certainly on if we can get it right."

Rain had threatened all day but started falling just before 3:00 pm and continued into the evening.

While it caused big headaches for the New Zealand team who looked on a winning roll, Nash said they were positive about continuing Monday with the forecast for improving weather.

The forecast for tomorrow is variable, with morning light showers clearing later in the day.

"There's nothing you can really say or do about the weather, you've just got to hope that it clears up and we can carry on with what's been an exciting test match," Nash said.

"I'm sure tomorrow won't let us down in that regard."

Nash said while Vettori and off-spinner Paul Wiseman were two key men in Monday's play, he believed the pitch still had enough in it for himself and Chris Cairns despite it being the

fifth day.

"With the couch grass here and the overhead conditions it adds spice to the wicket. There's no reason in the world that we can't bowl them out," he said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the Test cricket Test between New Zealand and the West Indies at WestpacTrust Park on Sunday.

WEST INDIES: First innings 365
NEW ZEALAND: First innings 393
WEST INDIES: Second innings
Campbell b Cairns 0
Griffith not out 14
Chanderpaul c Parore b Cairns 0
Lara c Parore b Nash 1
Powell c Spearman b Vettori 30
Adams not out 14
Extras: (lb-4, nb-3) 7
Total: (For 4 wickets) 66
Fall of wks: 1-0; 2-0; 3-1; 4-36

Bowler:
Vettori 10.1 7 11 1
Cairns 11 5 11 2
Nash 7 1 37 1
Wiseman 2 0 3 0

Rating chess

International Masters Ziaur Rahman and Reefat-bin-Sattar were jointly leading the table with four and a half points after the fifth round in the Prime Bank second International Rating chess tournament on Saturday, says a press release.

Zia defeated IM Abdullah Al Rakib and Reefat overcame FIDE Master Rezaul Huq.

Rakib, Tayebur Rahman and Sheikh Nasir Ahmed were in the second place with four points apiece.

Eight players with three and a half points were in the crowded third spot. They are: Enamul Hossain Rajib, Rezaul Huq, Lovlu, Firoz Ahmed, Sufian Shakil, Anisuzzaman Mallik, Mahub Ali and Hasan Imam.

Shield cricket

BRISBANE, Dec 19: Queensland defeated Victoria by 121 runs at the Gabba here today to move to the top of the Sheffield Shield cricket competition, reports AFP.

Victoria were bowled out for 103 in their second innings, giving Queensland their fourth outright win from five matches this season.

Queensland used only three bowlers in the second innings, with Andrew Bichel taking 4-36, Michael Kasprzowicz 3-21 and Adam Dale 2-41.

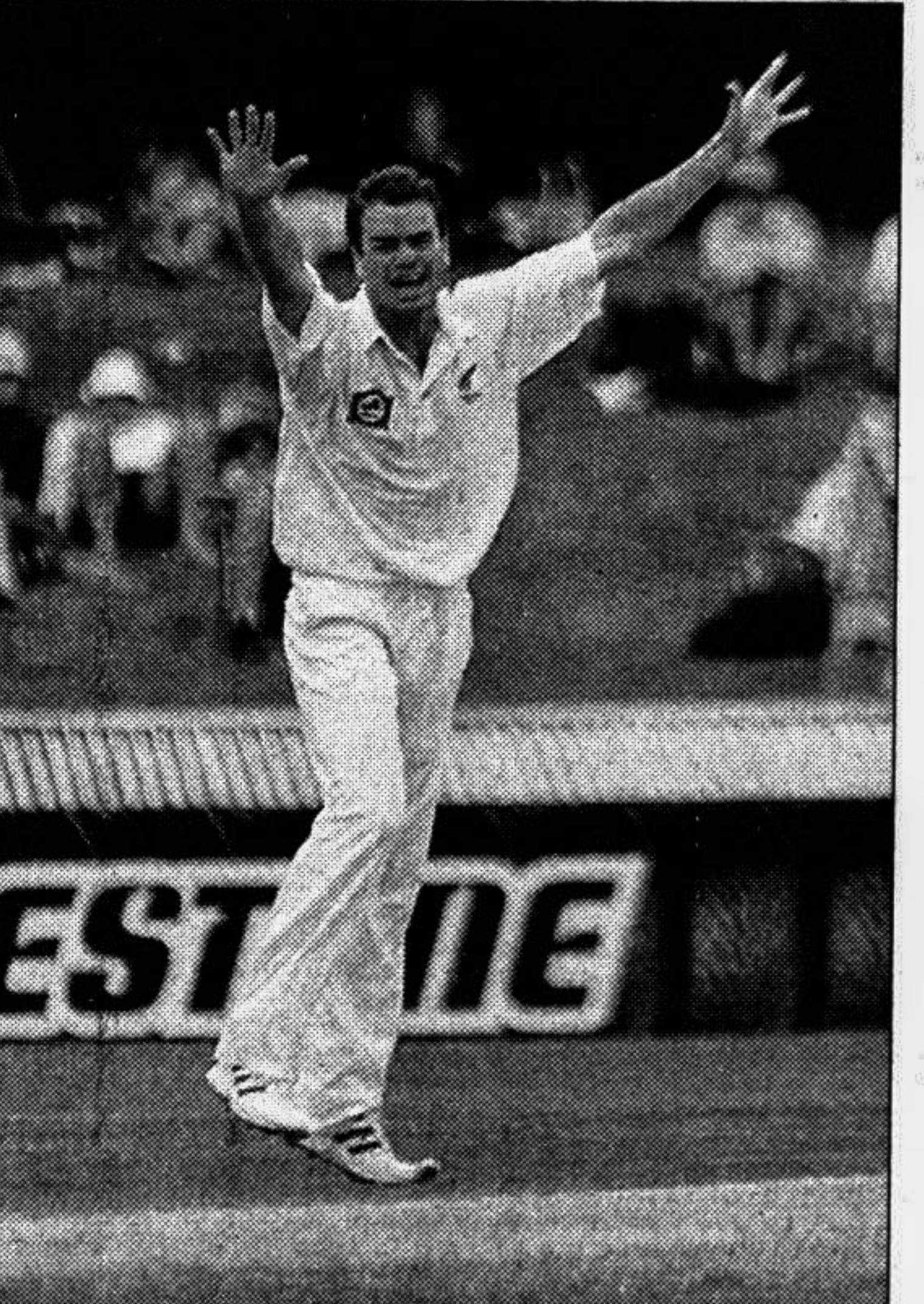
Ian Harvey remained not out 34 after figuring in a 53-run partnership with captain Paul Reiffel, which gave Victoria a glimmer of hope before they were bowled out in just 29 overs.

Queensland and Victoria are level on 24 points on the standings but the Queenslanders have a better run quotient and a game in hand.

Meanwhile, AFP adds from Perth, an aggressive century by skipper Steve Waugh has lifted New South Wales' hopes of recording their first outright victory of the season with Western Australia ending here Monday.

On a rain-shortened Sunday, New South Wales moved to a second innings 308-4, holding a lead of 178 with seven hours of the game remaining on an extended final day.

New South Wales are expected to declare before lunch Monday, setting Western Australia a tempting target on a wearing pitch.



New Zealand paceman Dion Nash demands an lbw decision against Ricardo Powell of the West Indies during the fourth day's play of the first Test in Hamilton yesterday.

— AFP photo