

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Mohammad Azharuddin

(Former Indian captain)
"I am very optimistic that I will be back into the Indian team. I have confidence in my ability and I do not see why I should not get a chance to play for India again."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-125

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Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

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?
35 36 37 38

4. Who became champions in the Keya Premier soccer?
Multijodha Mohammedan Arambagh

5. Who lifted the Expatriates' Open chess title?
Rezaul Zia Tanveer

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

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Third win for third-placed Dhaka

Sports Reporter



An 88-run third wicket partnership between opener Javed Omar and Al-Shahriar steered Dhaka to a comprehensive 7-wicket win over Khulna at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday, the final day of their eighth round match.

Dhaka, needing 101 runs for their third win in the League, was struggling with 22 for two when number four batsman Al-Shahriar joined Javed at the crease in the 7th over.

The duo then got their acts together to ensure Dhaka reach home in 25 overs. The partnership was broken on 100 when Javed, who scored a dazzling 187 against Sylhet in the previous match in Faridpur, offered a return catch to veteran off-spinner Sheikh Salauddin.

Javed laced his 46 with three boundaries, playing 63 balls. Al-Shahriar then collected the required one run to complete the formality. The aggressive right-hander faced 74 balls and smote three fours to remain unbeaten on 45.

Earlier, Khulna, resuming their second innings at 68 for 4, scored 262 before being all out in 110.1 overs.

Khulna's lower middle-order Asadullah Khan hit a brilliant 84 to give his team total some respectability. He added 99 runs for the seventh wicket combining with Masudul Hasan, who scored 41 runs, in his 125-ball innings. Asadullah hit a six and nine boundaries. Masudul smashed five fours off 87 balls to score 41.

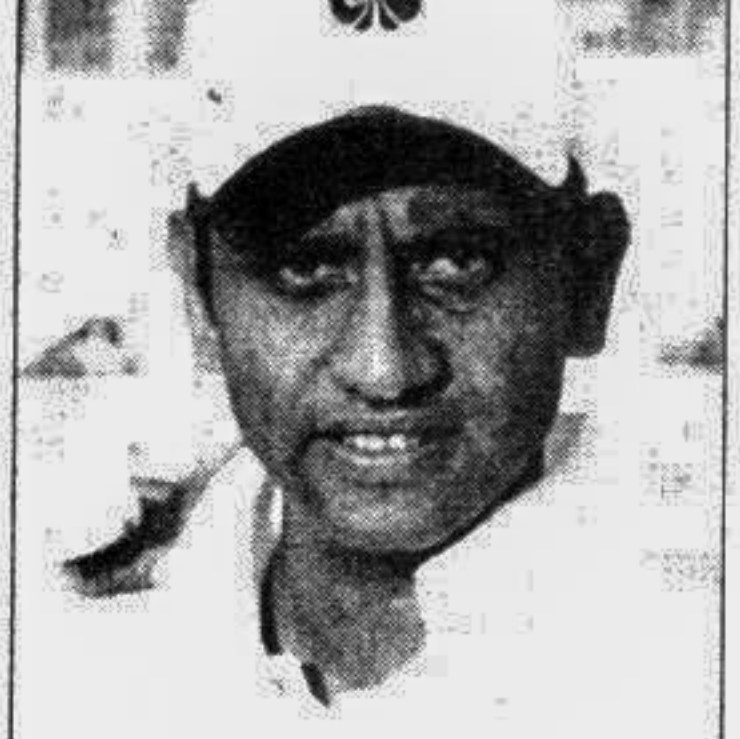
Besides, opener Sajid Hasan, with 41, was the other notable run-getter for Khulna.

Dhaka off-spinner Fahim Muntasir, who took 6 wickets in the first innings, captured another four wickets for 43 runs to finish with a match haul of 10 wickets for 72 runs. He was later adjudged man-of-the-match.

It was third win from eight matches for the star-studded Dhaka, who with a collection of 14 points remained glued to

their third place in the six-team meet. On the other hand, no-hopers Khulna could manage six points on completion of their 8th round outing for their distant fourth position.

Dhaka will now travel to Rangpur to take on Rajshahi in



FAHIM MUNTASIR ...m-o-m

their ninth round clash starting on December 29. Khulna will meet second-placed Sylhet in Jessore on the same day.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day National League match between Dhaka and Khulna at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday:

KHULNA: First innings 118 all out in 60.3 overs (Sajid 32, Salim 20, Al-Amin 19 n.o., Fahim 6/29, Saiful 2/12).
DHAKA: First innings 280 all out in 88 overs (Saiful 47 n.o., K Mahmud 40, Atiar 37,

Salauddin 5/76, Jamaluddin 2/59).

KHULNA: Second innings (overnight 68 for 4 in 43 overs)

Sajid b Naimur 42
Sajid c Moshed b Naimur 4

Jewel b Fahim 6
Mofizul b Fahim 3

Jamaluddin c Al-Shahriar 18
Aminul 23

Al-Amin b K Mahmud 23
Asadullah lbw b Saiful 84

Masudul c Sanwar b Fahim 41
Khairuzzaman c Saiful b Fahim 13

Ahmed not out 6
Salauddin lbw b Saiful 0

Extras: (b-6, lb-11, nb-3, w-2) 22
Total: (All out in 110.1 overs) 262

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-25; 3-35; 4-56; 5-107; 6-126; 7-225; 8-253; 9-253.

Bowler O M R W

K Mahmud 21 7 40 1
Moshed 8 2 20 0

Naimur 33 14 45 4
Fahim 21 5 43 2

Sanwar 4 1 17 2
Saiful 10.1 2 32 2

Aminul 5 3 12 1
Al-Shahriar 4 0 14 0

Javed Omar 3 1 3 0
Shahriar 1 0 5 0

DHAKA: Second innings

Shahriar run out 4
Javed Omar c b Salauddin 46

Sanwar b Ahmed 1
Al-Shahriar not out 45

Aminul not out 5
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-1, w-1) 5

Total: (For 3 wks in 25 overs) 101
Fall of wickets: 1-12; 2-22; 3-100

Bowler O M R W

Khairuzzaman 9 1 28 0
Ahmed 7 0 31 1

Al-Amin 2 0 11 0
Salauddin 5 0 16 1

Jamaluddin 2 0 12 0

Result: Dhaka won by 7 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Fahim Muntasir (Dhaka).

NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE

Team	M	W	D/pts	D/O	L	Points
Chittagong	8	6	1	1	0	26
Sylhet	8	3	3	0	2	18
Dhaka	8	3	1	3	1	14
Khulna	8	0	3	3	2	6
Rajshahi	8	0	2	4	2	4
Barisal	8	0	2	3	3	4

Sylhet saunter in Barisal

Sports Reporter



Sylhet collected 28 runs comfortably, needed for their third win in the National Cricket League, on the final day at the Abdur Rab Stadium yesterday.

Chasing 46 runs in their second innings, opener Syed Parvez and Rajin Saleh picked off the runs with ease in 12.1 overs, inflicting an eight-wicket defeat on their hosts Barisal.

Sylhet, resuming the day at 19 for two, wrapped up the match in only 39 minutes without further loss.

A cautious Parvez, seven overs into his innings, scored another 21 runs to take his side to over half the target. His 28 came off 71 balls. His overnight partner Rajin however played the role of silent partner at the other end. Although he faced 20 balls he could not get off the mark.

Sylhet's right-arm pacer Hasibul Hossain, who had a match bag of ten wickets (6/37 and 4/60) and a useful contribution of 25 with the bat, was named man-of-the-match.

Sylhet, with yesterday's win, raised their tally to 18 points from eight matches and remained second behind Chittagong, who have almost ensured the title with 26 points from eight outings.

Barisal, on the other hand, were at the bottom of the table along with Rajshahi, each having collected four points.

Barisal will now host runaway leaders Chittagong in their ninth round clash on December 29.



HASIBUL HOSSAIN ...m-o-m

Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day National

League match between Barisal and Sylhet at the Abdur Rab Serniabad Stadium in Barisal yesterday:

BARISAL: First innings 111 all out in 45.5 overs (Monu 33, Mofizur 26, Hasibul 6/37, Rafique 4/18).

SYLHET: First innings 173 all out in 67.2 overs (Hasibul 25, Neezyamur 25, Iqbal 24, Rajin 20, Saleh 5/37, Totam 2/42).

BARISAL: Second innings 108 all out in 45.5 overs (Saleh 24, Monju 21, Rafique 5/25, Hasibul 4/60).

SYLHET: Second innings (overnight 19 for 2 in 12.5 overs)

Parvez not out 28
Rafique c Saleh b Faruque 6

S Shabed c Nayan b Saleh 4
Rajin not out 9

Extras: (b-7, nb-2) 9
Total: (For 2 wickets in 25.1 overs) 47

Fall of wickets: 1-12; 2-19

Bowler O M R W

Ashfaq 2 0 11 0
Rafique 1 0 1 0

Faruque 4 1 3 1
Monju 1 0 4 0

Saleh 8 6 6 1
Moin 3 2 1 0

Totam 1 0 5 0
Monu 3 1 3 0

Arun 2 2 0 0
Mofizur 0.1 0 6 0

Result: Sylhet won by 8 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Hasibul Hossain (Sylhet).



Action from yesterday's First Division league encounter between Prime Sporting Club and West Jatrabari Krira Chakra at the Outer Stadium handball court.

— Star photo

First Division Cricket Young Cricketers, Eskaton prevail

Sports Reporter

Young Cricketers pulled off an exciting one-run victory over Dhaka Wanderers while Eskaton Sabuj Sangha ambled past a lowly rated Jatrabari Krira Chakra in the two First Division Cricket League matches played at different city venues yesterday.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Young Cricketers staged a dramatic turnaround to celebrate a victory from the jaws of defeat. Defending a not-so-impressive total of 174 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs, the Dhanmondi-based outfit aided by super ground fielding restricted their Motijheel counterparts to

143 for eight.

Wanderers looked well on course for an easy victory when Tapan (38) and Aniruddha Aich (37) took the score to 144, producing 83 runs for the fourth wicket. But once Niaz dismissed the two in the space of four deliveries in the 42nd over, Wanderers suffered a stunning slide from which they never recovered.

At one stage, they were reduced to 157 for eight before Kabir and Avijit produced 16 runs for undefeated ninth wicket. But that was not enough to avoid defeat.

Earlier, the Young Cricketers total was built around a polished 50 from their Indian recruit Shome Kapoor.

In the other match of the day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha defeated Jatrabari KC by seven wickets.

In a low-scoring affair, Eskaton, chasing a target of 143, total of 143 in the stipulated 50 overs, reached the victory target in only 36 overs with opener Sajid and skipper Tota sharing 71 runs for the undefeated fourth wicket.

Sajid scored a patient 50 off 112 balls with the help of six fours while Tota hammered a breezy 41-ball 35 that included a huge six and a quartet of fours.

Prasad fined

MELBOURNE, Dec 27: Indian seam bowler Venkatesh Prasad was fined 35 per cent of his match fee and given one Test or two one-day international ban suspended for four months by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday, reports AP.

Prasad was found guilty of abusing Australian batsman Michael Slater when he dismissed him for 91 in the second Test.

In a hearing summoned after the second day's play when just 45 overs were possible, match referee Ranjan Madugalle found Prasad guilty after umpires David Shepherd and Steve Davis reported the Indian.

Prasad was fined 900 dollars of his 3000 dollars match fee while his suspension will stay in effect until April 27, 2000 starting Monday.

It was Prasad's second such violation of the playing behavior code after he was fined 30 per cent of his match fee for use of "crude and abusive language" at a dismissed batsman in a one-day international against England in Sharjah in April this year.

Krishnan India's new Davis Cup captain

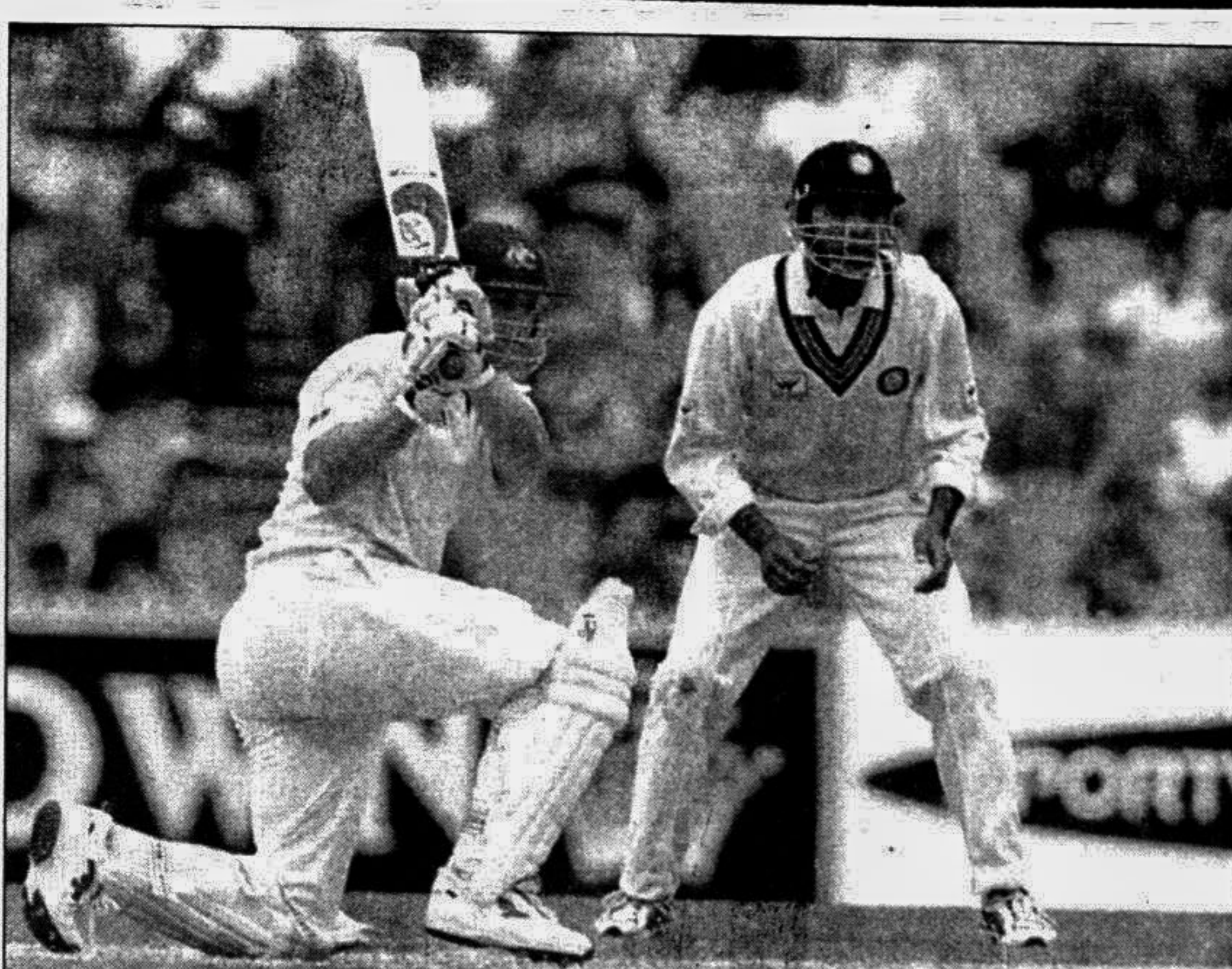
NEW DELHI, Dec 27: Third-generation tennis pro Ramesh Krishnan has been named India's non-playing Davis Cup captain, six years after retiring as his country's top player, reports AP.

Krishnan was the only name under consideration by the All India Tennis Association on Sunday when it chose a successor to Jaideep Mukherjee, who led the squad since 1994.

Krishnan's first match will be against Lebanon in February.

Krishnan, a Wimbledon juniors champion in 1978, was on the Davis Cup team for more than a decade until 1993, when it lost to Australia in the semifinals. He later set up a tennis academy in his home town of Madras in southern India.

He is the son of Ramanathan Krishnan, the only Indian to reach the Wimbledon singles semifinals and the player who took India to the Davis Cup finals in 1966 and 1974.



Hard-hitting Australian wicketkeeper-batsman Adam Gilchrist sweeps at the MCG yesterday. Gilchrist had made a defiant 77 when play was called off for the day.

— AFP photo

Rain slows Aussies down



MELBOURNE, Dec 27 (AFP/Reuters): Rain came to India's rescue as Adam Gilchrist and Ricky Ponting lifted Australia to a commanding position in the second Test here today.

The pair put on 135 for the unbroken sixth wicket as Australia moved from their overnight score of 138-3 to 332 for five on the rain-curtailed second day.

Just 45 overs were bowled during the day — the opening day saw only 48 overs — as thundershowers wiped out the entire post-tea session after another 90 minutes were lost earlier in the afternoon.

With more rain forecast over the remaining three days, Australia will be hardpressed to force victory for a 2-0 lead in the three-Test series.

The hosts won the first Test in Adelaide by 285 runs. Gilchrist was unbeaten on 77, while Ponting was on 59 as the Indians struggled to keep runs in check on the wicket that eased up considerably after the first day.

The pair came together after a double strike by seamer Venkatesh Prasad in the morning session reduced Australia from 192 to three to 197 for five.

The overnight pair of Michael Slater and skipper Steve Waugh added 54 runs in the first hour to take their fourth wicket moved to 69.

Slater moved to within nine runs of his 14th Test century when he pulled Prasad down, Javagal Srinath's throat at fine leg.

Slater's eighth out in the nineties placed him equal second alongside West Indies' Alvin Kallicharran and Steve Waugh's record.

Five overs later, Prasad forced Waugh to edge a catch to wicketkeeper Mannava Prasad to open up the Australian middle order.

Prasad's joy was, however, short-lived as his aggressive celebration at Slater's dismissal drew the attention of Sri Lankan match referee Ranjan Madugalle.

Madugalle called Prasad and coach Kapil Dev for a hearing after the day's play, but details

of the meeting were not disclosed.

India almost claimed another wicket soon after, but third umpire Bill Sheahan turned down leg-spinner Anil Kumble shout for a low return catch off Gilchrist.

Television replays from just one angle remained inconclusive on whether Kumble had taken the catch cleanly.

A relieved Kumble was in a way out of trouble, making a mockery of India's tactics to get him on the hook shot by smashing short-pitched balls for a succession of boundaries.

The left-hander has so far hit 12 fours. Ponting, who made 125 in the first Test, continued his lift.

See page 14

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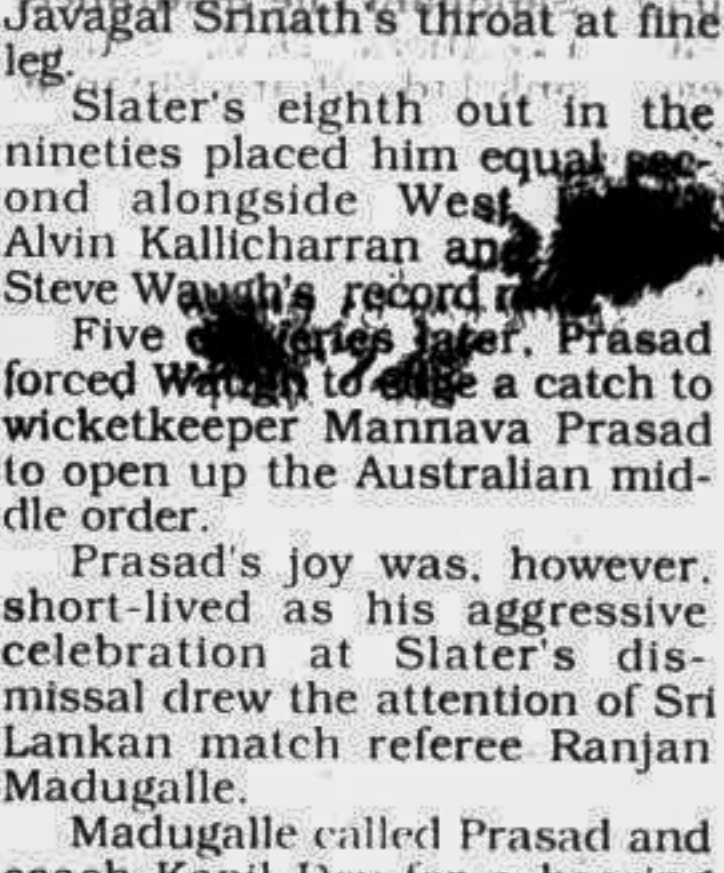
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SLATER ... 91



PONTING ... 59 n.o

Sinclair joins elite club

Black Caps strike early blow



WELLINGTON, Dec 27: The West Indies were five for one wicket at the second day of the second Test in reply to New Zealand's 518 for nine declared today, reports Reuters.

With only five overs to play when the West Indies went into bat, they had a disastrous start when first Test century-maker Sherwin Campbell was trapped lbw by Chris Cairns for no score in the first over.

Adrian Griffith and night-watchman Nehemiah Perry saw out the final four overs.

The final session was the most successful for the West Indies, who spent most of the day watching debutant Mathew Sinclair move through to 214 before he was bowled by Reon King.

Sinclair's total was the second equal highest debut Test score. RE (Reginald) Foster of England scored 287 against Australia in 1903-04 and leads the list, followed by Lawrence Rowe of the West Indies in 1972 and Sinclair.

Nathan Astle, who shared a partnership of 189 with Sinclair, was run out for 93 when he was going for what would have been Sinclair's 200th run.

Franklyn Rose returned from mid-wicket to the bowler Walsh catching Astle just short of his ground.

Astle's 93 came in 246 min-

utes from 165 balls and contained 11 fours and one six and the figured in a partnership with Sinclair of 189.

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DAZZLING DEBUTANTS

WELLINGTON, Dec 27 (Reuters): Highest individual scores by a player on his test cricket debut:

287 Reginald Foster (England) v Australia, Sydney, 1903-04.

214 Lawrence Rowe (West Indies) v New Zealand, Kingstons, 1971-72.

214 Matthew Sinclair (New Zealand) v West Indies, Wellington, 1999-00.

201* Brendon Kuruppu (Sri Lanka) v New Zealand, Colombo, 1986-87.

176 George Headley (West Indies) v England, Bridgetown, 1929-30.

166 Khalid Ibadulla (Pakistan) v Australia, Karachi, 1964-65.

165* Charles Bannerman (Australia) v England, Melbourne, 1876-77.

164 Archie Jackson (Australia), v England, Adelaide, 1928-29.

163 Javed Miandad (Pakistan) v England, Lahore, 1976-77.

163 Andrew Hudson (South Africa) v West Indies, Bridgetown, 1992.

(* denotes not out)