

Column One SPORTS TALK



Arsene Wenger

(Arsenal manager)
"It's very disappointing... physically it cost us a lot today and of course mentally it's very disappointing to lose a game."
After his side went down 3-2 to Coventry City in the Premiership.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-125

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 31, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who was the man-of-the-series in the Australia-Pakistan Tests?
Langer Ponting Inzamam
- Who was the highest wicket-taker in the Australia-Pakistan Test series?
Akram Fleming McGrath
- How many Test hundreds has Mark Waugh scored to date?
15 16 17
- Who became champion in the Keya Premier soccer?
Wukijodha Mohammed Arambagh
- Who lifted the Expatriates' Open chess title?
Refaat Zia Tanveer

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

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Sub-junior Chess

Sports Reporter
Mehdi Hasan Parag of Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan Sangha earned a solo lead in the 20th national sub-junior chess championship after defeating Nayeem Arefin Ratul in the penultimate round at the NSC room yesterday.
Parag, with this win, raised his tally to 7.5 points from 8 matches and needs only a draw in the final round today to lift the title.
Defending champion Golam Mustafa, who were jointly leading the table until yesterday, lost his 8th round clash to Nakibul Haque Udash. Both Mustafa and Udash are now sharing the second spot with 6.5 points.
The final round will start at the same venue at 10 am today.

Cute H'ball

Sports Reporter
Arambagh Kira Sangha and Mariner Young's Club won their respective Cute First Division handball league matches, played at a court adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.
Arambagh beat Satirtha Club 20-13. The winners led the first half 12-6.
Uzzal and Zahid scored five goals each for the winners.
In the other match, Mariner cruised past Mansoor Sporting Club 21-7. Mariner's Sultan scored 14 goals alone.

Morocco for united Africa

ABUJA, Dec 28 (Reuters): Morocco's 2006 World Cup campaign boss said during a lobbying visit to Nigeria that Africa should make only a single bid to host the tournament.
Morocco and South Africa are among five nations bidding to host the 2006 finals along with Brazil, England and Germany.
"FIFA may find it easier to reject Africa's bid if both Morocco and South Africa insist on presenting their bids, citing lack of unity," Driss Benhima, head of the Morocco 2006 bid committee, told reporters.

Round Nine starts today

Barisal to cop Ctg flak

Sports Reporter



Runaway leaders Chittagong will take on hosts Barisal in their penultimate match at the Abdur Rab Serniabad Stadium as the ninth round of the inaugural National Cricket League begins at different venues across the country this morning.

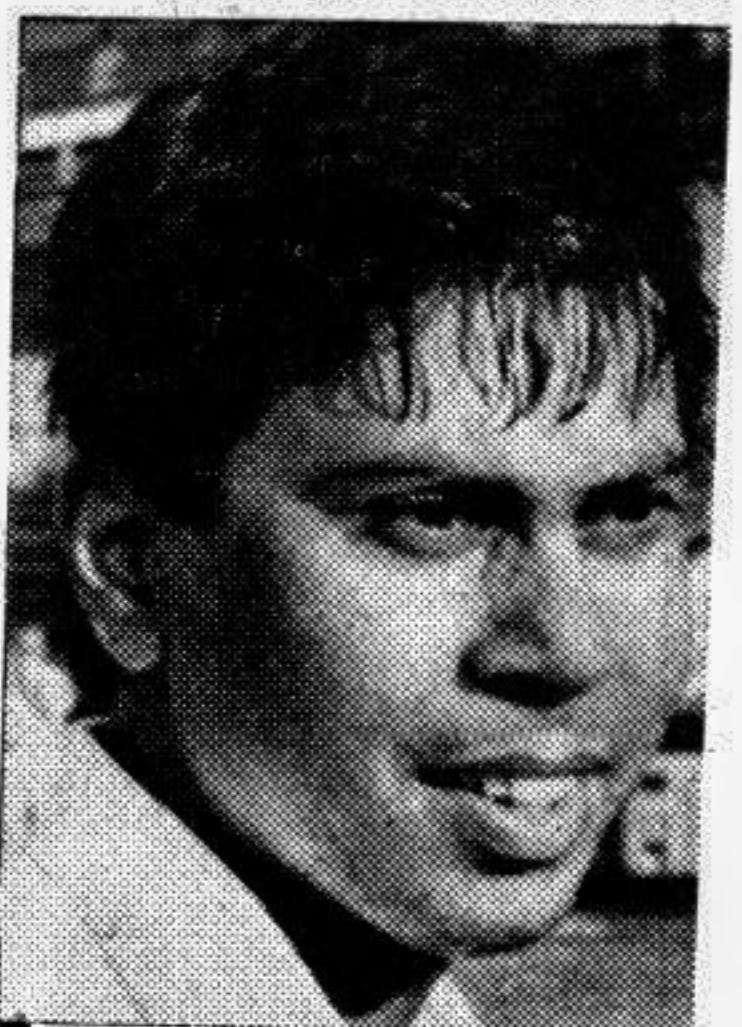
In the other two matches, second-placed Sylhet meet Khulna at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore while third-placed Dhaka face Rajshahi at the Rangpur Stadium.

Taking note of the current course of events, it seems that only miracle can refrain Chittagong, who are leading the race by eight points, from lifting the title. The enterprising port city, under the charismatic leadership of Minhazul Abedin, have collected 26 points from eight matches while Sylhet and Dhaka have collections of 18 and 14 points respectively on completion of their eighth round matches.

Chittagong, thriving on a

six-match winning streak, is the only team yet to be beaten in the six-team league. They will certainly start the 'insignificant' affair as clear favourites against the home side.

On the other hand, despite some good yet inconsistent



MINHAZUL ABEDIN

performances, no-hopers Barisal have not won any match in eight outings. They lost three matches and managed to collect four batting points from five drawn encounters. They are currently sharing the last place along with Rajshahi.

Tournament's surprise-setters Sylhet, who shared the lead with Chittagong till the fifth round, lost their way after losing two successive matches against Chittagong and Dhaka in the sixth and seventh round. They however got back on track with an eight-wicket win over Barisal in their previous match in Barisal on Monday.

With their strike bowler Hasibul Hossain and left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique back in form, Sylhet, who won three matches so far in eight engagements, will look forward for an outright win against Khulna to keep their remote title hopes alive. Sylhet skipper Nasirul Haque will certainly look to this two bowlers to do it again. Jessore, Hasibul and Rafique took nineteen wickets

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FIFA acknowledgement for Bangladesh

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh have found itself inducted into an elite group of 27 countries in football's governing body FIFA's 'Best Mover in 1999' (by confederation) list according to a FIFA Communication Division press release.

FIFA selected the teams which had earned the most number of ranking points in 1999 from its six confederations—UEFA, CONMEBOL, CONCACAF, AFC, CAF and the OFC—and placed them according to their index value (ranking points at the end of 1999 multiplied by ranking points earned in 1999 = index value).

Bangladesh are fifth among Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) five teams. Uzbekistan leads the pack with 46683 index points followed by Iraq (37044), Indonesia (34850), Jordan (26311), while Bangladesh have 24700 points. However Bangladesh have earned most ranking points in Asia in the year with 100.

This recognition from FIFA comes in a year regarded as the best in the country's football history.

Bangladesh, under the astute guidance of Iraqi World Cup veteran Samir Shakir, made steady progress throughout 1999.

In March it finished runners up to India in the SAF Football Championships at Goa. Then

came the biggest triumph of all—its first ever gold medal in the SAF Games football competition at Nepal in September.

The national booters also performed creditably in the Asia Cup qualifying matches in November.

BEST MOVERS IN 1999

Confederation/ Rank	Team	Points end of 1999 (X)	Points won in 1999 (Y)	Index value (XxY)
1	Slovenia	544	115	62560
2	Russia	634	63	40509
3	Spain	753	50	37650
4	Czech Republic	774	48	37152
5	Bosnia-Herzegovina	447	83	37101
6	Peru	538	58	31204
7	Uruguay	533	54	28782
8	Venezuela	335	78	26130
9	Paraguay	648	40	25920
10	Colombia	614	21	12894
11	Cuba	441	118	52038
12	Trinidad & Tobago	536	81	43416
13	Haiti	384	104	39936
14	Canada	430	40	17200
15	British Virgin Islands	141	107	15087
16	Uzbekistan	513	91	46683
17	Iraq	441	84	37044
18	Indonesia	410	85	34850
19	Jordan	317	83	26311
20	Bangladesh	247	100	24700
21	Libya	247	111	27417
22	Mauritius	289	89	25721
23	Swaziland	253	99	25047
24	Congo	397	55	21835
25	Burkina Faso	456	41	18696
26	New Zealand	381	25	9525
27	US Samoa	6	0	0

* Only two teams ranked as the 1999 index value for all other teams is negative

Windies made to follow-on



WELLINGTON, Dec 28: The West Indies were in dire straits at the close of the third day today of the second Test after collapsing dramatically and being forced to follow on 399 runs behind New Zealand, reports Reuters.

Chasing New Zealand's first innings of 518 for nine declared, the West Indies lost their last four wickets for five runs in the final hour of play and were all out for 179. At stumps they were two for no loss.

One of the final West Indies wickets to fall was a run out off a no-ball, while the bowler of the series so far, Chris Cairns, ended with five wickets for 44.

The West Indies earlier had fought back from 17 for three with a partnership of 112 between Adrian Griffith and Brian Lara.

But once Lara was out for 67 just before tea, the West Indies

were in trouble. They lost Jimmy Adams in the first over after tea when he pushed a ball from Daniel Vettori to Gary Stead at short-forward square for a fine diving catch.

Stead missed a hard chance off the new batsman, scoreless Ridley Jacobs, in the next Vettori over.

Adrian Griffith, who had been a spectator at the other end while wickets were falling fast after Lara's dismissal, went for 67 at 174, caught behind by Adam Parore off Dion Nash.

Franklyn Rose faced two balls before edging to Parore off Cairns and Reon King was run out the next ball of Cairns' no ball.

King hit the ball square of the wicket on the off side and started down the pitch. Vettori threw down the wicket to strand King well short.

Courtney Walsh lasted a short time before he became

Cairns' fifth victim for no score, leaving Jacobs not out on 19.

Lara came to the wicket after Shivnarine Chanderpaul's wretched series continued when he was out for five. Earlier nightwatchman, Nehemiah Perry was dismissed by Cairns' first ball of the morning.

It was a bright innings from Lara, who seemed to have rid himself of the reckless manner which led to his downfall twice in the Hamilton Test.

He did not appear in any difficulty and struck the ball all over the ground. He saw the dangerous Cairns off by hitting two boundaries in successive overs.

Griffith hung in at the other end but never really looked comfortable for much of the day, particularly against Vettori. But it was Nash who snared him after changing to bowl around the wicket, caught

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Indo-Bangla soccer series in England?

Sports Reporter

President of the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) Priyaranjan Das Munshi has invited the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to send a team in England to play a series of exhibition matches against India.

According to a faxed message recently, the AIFF president expressed his keen interest to hold matches between the two national sides in either June or July next year.

BFF meanwhile received another invitation to take part in the under-19 Tata Cup Football Championship, scheduled to begin in Jamshedpur. The invitational tourney, involving three selections from India and as many from abroad, will commence in the second week of February next year.

Khelaghar back on right track

Sports Reporter

Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Sangha recorded their third win in the First Division Cricket League, defeating Uttara Sporting Club by seven wickets at the Dhammondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The up and coming cricketing outfit, who lifted the Damal Smriti Cricket tournament this year, made a mockery of a contest when they, chasing Uttara's modest total of 130 in the stipulated 50 overs, raced on to score 132 for the loss of three wickets and with more than 16 overs to spare.

Nadim scored an unbeaten 45 after opener Shamsul laid the foundation of an easy victory with 31.

Earlier, the Uttara total was revolved around a patient 35 from Masud. Rana captured three wickets for 28 runs while new-ball bowler Sumon returned with two for 14 in his seven overs for the promotion in the First Division this year.

In the other match of the day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Young Pegasus recorded a 41-run victory over Dhammondi Club.

Batting first, Pegasus scored a fighting 217 for nine in their share of 90 overs with Sohail notching highest 49. Opener Sohag, who later shone with the cherry, hammered a breezy 38 off 34 balls. Rashed with a run-a-ball 28 was the other notable run-getter for the eventual winners.

Dhammondi, in reply, could manage 176 for eight wickets before exhausting their quota of 50 overs. Skipper Anis, with 44, fought a lost battle for Dhammondi. Sohag claimed two wickets for Pegasus.

Acme Cricket

Sports Reporter

Indira Road Kira Chakra thrashed Anirban Sangha with a five-wicket defeat in one of the two Acme Second Division cricket league matches, played at the Uttara Friends Club ground yesterday.

Chasing Anirban's 166 in 40 overs, Indira Road scored 170 for the loss of five wickets in 37 overs. Middle-order Liton scored highest 39 off 70 balls with the help of four boundaries followed by opener Bappy who chipped in with 32 off 49 balls. Bappy smote a six and five fours.

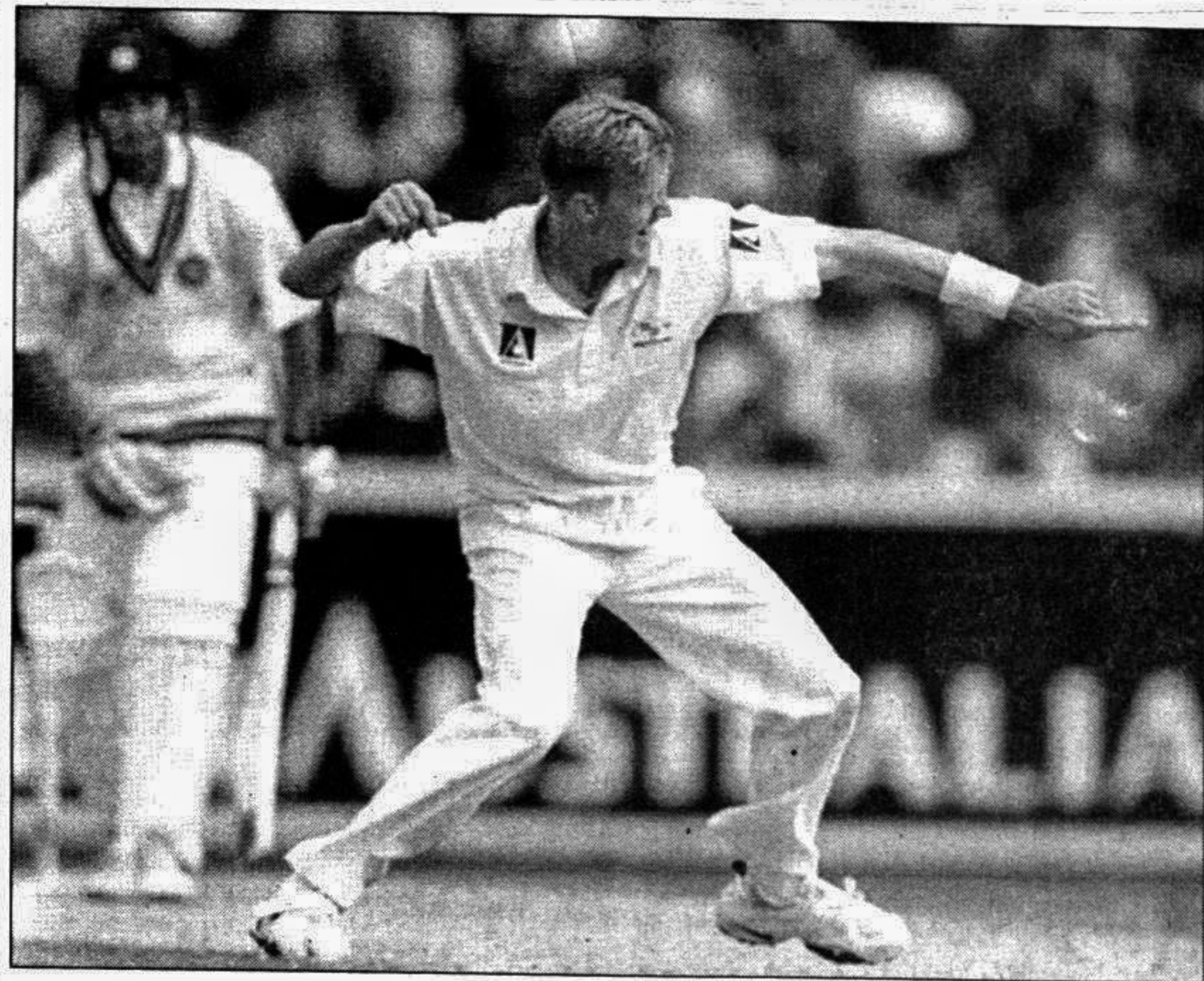
Electing to bat, Anirban's 166 was built around a run-a-ball 58 from lower middle-order Apu. Apu hammered four sixes and five boundaries. Anirban were all out in 37.5 overs.

Indira Road's new-ball bowler Rahul finished with four for 27 from his 8 overs.

In the other match of the day, Azad Sporting Club recorded a 26-run win over Lalbagh Union Sporting Club.

In a low-scoring match, Azad were all out for 107 in 32.1 overs after being put into bat.

In reply, Lalbagh were shot out for 81 in the face of brilliant bowling from Azad's new-ball bowler Salauddin. Salauddin took five wickets for 15 runs off 8 overs.



TEARAWAY: Australian pace sensation Brett Lee exults after claiming the wicket of Indian tail-ender Ajit Agarkar. Lee, who was on the verge of a hat-trick on debut, finished with fantastic figures of five for 44. — AFP photo

Brett strikes, Sachin fights



MELBOURNE, Dec 28: Sachin Tendulkar produced an innings of rare genius to save India from having to follow-on against Australia on the third day of the second Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground today, reports Reuters.

The Indian captain scored a defiant 116 to guide the tourists to 235 for nine in their first innings in reply to Australia's total of 405.

Tendulkar's 22nd Test hundred ensured the Australians would at least have to bat a second time although the home side were still firmly in control of the match thanks to a stunning display from debutant

did the same against India at Brisbane in 1977-78.

Lee, whose older brother Shane was a member of the Australian limited-overs side that won this year's World Cup in England, also claimed the scalp of Rahul Dravid for nine in his first spell before returning to snare three wickets in six balls to finish the innings with five for 44 from 17 overs.

"I'm still waiting to wake up. I think I might be dreaming all this," said Lee, whose older brother Shane was a member of the Australian limited overs team who won the World Cup this year.

"It's an experience I will never, ever forget. It's one of those things I have dreamed

He bowled Mannava Prasad for six with an inswinger that crashed into the Indian wicket-keeper's stumps then trapped Ajit Agarkar leg before wicket first ball for with a toecrushing yorker.

Javagal Srinath managed to avoid Lee's hat-trick ball but fell on the final delivery of the over when he fended a bouncer to Mark Waugh at second slip.

Waugh also took two sharp catches off Australian strike bowler Glenn McGrath to take his career tally to 124 and leapfrog Greg Chappell and Viv Richards into third place on the all-time fielding list.

Shane Warne also reached a major milestone when he became the first spin bowler in the game's history to take 350 Test wickets when he trapped Hrishikesh Kanitkar lbw for 11 but his achievement, like Waugh's, was totally overshadowed by the displays of Tendulkar and Lee.

India, who lost the first Test in Adelaide by 285 runs, looked certain to be heading towards a similar flogging when Lee reduced them to 169-8.

But Tendulkar, who had been confined to playing a defensive role as his team mates fell by the wayside, unleashed himself on the Australians to steer his side to safety.

The little master, who stands unchallenged as the world's premier batsman, clubbed nine boundaries, and a towering six over the head of Warne, on his way to reaching his fifth century against Australia.

He joined Michael Slater as the only batsmen to make 1,000 Test runs this year and hardly played a single false stroke despite facing a hostile Australian attack on an overcast day made even more difficult by a swirling wind.

He reached his hundred when he pulled Warne through square leg for two then took India past the follow-on point of 206 when he flicked the Australian off his pads for another two.

His innings, which spanned 191 balls in almost five hours, came to an end at 116 when he skied a catch off Damien Fleming to Justin Langer in the deep. He departed to a standing ovation.

Tendulkar's solo batting display came as a welcome reward to India's bowlers after they had done well to restrict Australia to 405 after they resumed the day at 332-5.

Adam Gilchrist and Ricky Ponting both went quickly after making half-centuries the previous night while Warne came and went for two.

Lee and Fleming added 59 for the ninth wicket with an adventurous partnership before Lee was caught hitting out. McGrath was run out seven balls later to leave Fleming stranded on 31.

SCOREBOARD

MELBOURNE, Dec 28: Scoreboard at the close of play on the third day of the second cricket Test between Australia and India at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday:
AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 332-5)
Slater c Srinath b V Prasad 91
Blewett b Srinath 2



WARNE ... 350th wicket

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TOP WICKET-TAKERS

MELBOURNE, Dec 28: Australian leg spinner Shane Warne became only the 10th player to take 350 Test wickets when he dismissed Indian batsman Hrishikesh Kanitkar today, reports Reuters.

Warne is now just five short of Dennis Lillee's Australian record of 355 dismissals.

Leading Test wicket-takers (tabulate under bowler, country, matches, wickets, best figures):

Kapil Dev (India)	131	434	9-83
Richard Hadlee (New Zealand)	86	431	9-52
Courtney Walsh (West Indies)	112	426	7-37
Wasim Akram (Pakistan)	91	383	7-119
Ian Botham (England)	102	383	8-34
Malcolm Marshall (West Indies)	81	376	7-22
Curtly Ambrose (West Indies)	88	369	8-45
Imran Khan (Pakistan)	88	362	8-58
Dennis Lillee (Australia)	70	355	7-83
Shane Warne (Australia)	80	350	8-71

(* denotes currently involved in a Test match).



Scene from the eighth round matches of the 20th sub-junior chess championship at the NSC yesterday. — Star photo