

## Acme Cricket

Sports Reporter

Udity Club and Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches, played at different city venues yesterday.

A six-wicket haul by Shimul guided Udity Club to a comprehensive 78-run win over CC Blues at the Dhammendi Club ground.

Defending his side's 163 in 40 overs, Shimul captured six wickets for 23 runs in his 7.5-over spell to send CCS Blues packing for only 85 in 26.5 overs.

Obaid, taking three wickets for 15 runs, played a perfect foil at the other end.

Earlier, electing to bat first, Udity Club rode on extras to score 163 for nine. The highest 48-run contribution came from extras.

Shamim and Shariful scored 38 and 25 respectively.

In the other match, GMCC registered a 43-run win over Mill Barrack Cricket Club.

Batting first, GMCC piled up 217 for 8 in the allotted 40 overs with middle-order Sajib notching highest 60.

In reply, Mill Barrack were all out for 174 in 36.1 overs.

Macedonian coach for Jubilo

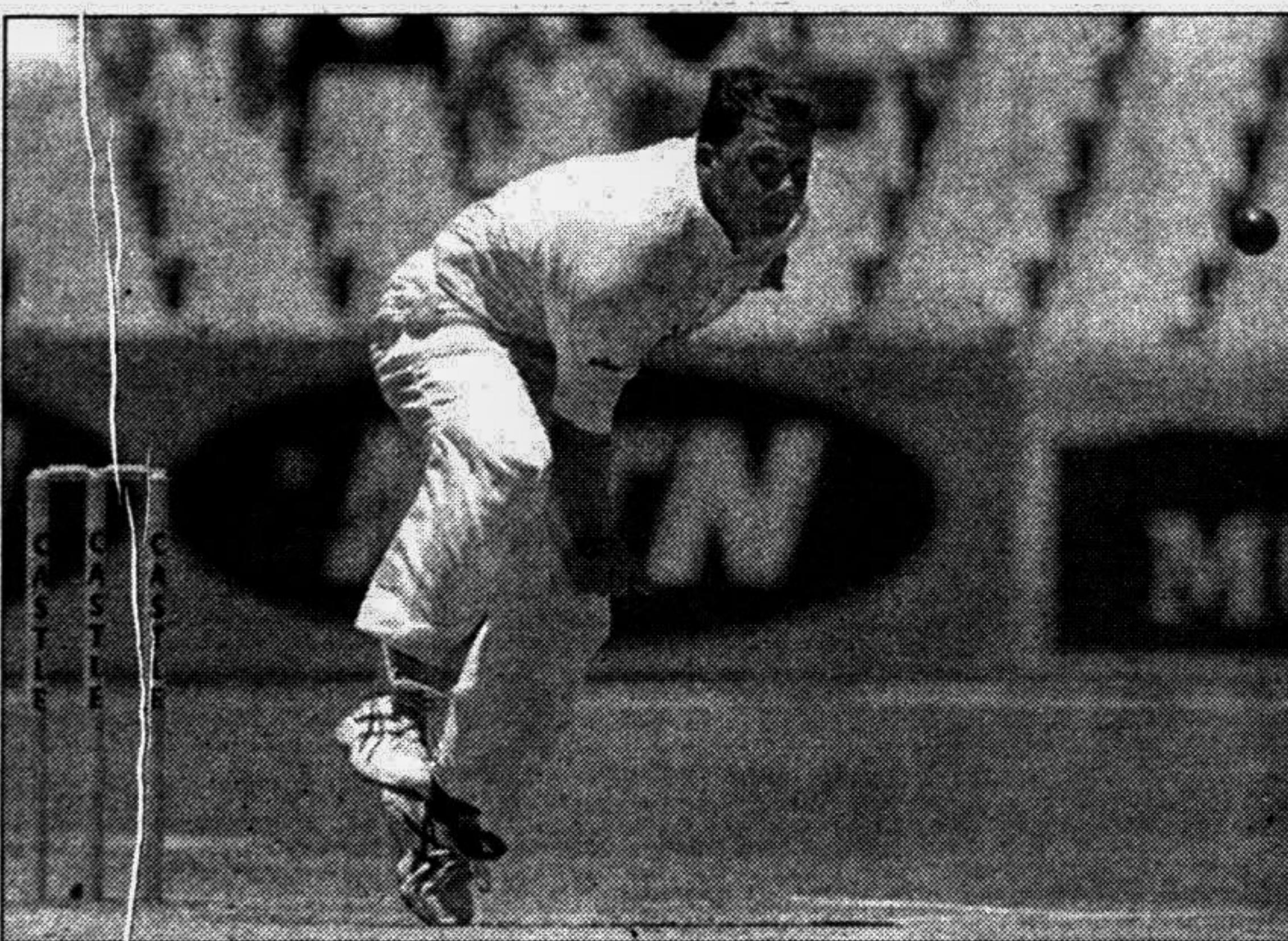
TOKYO, Dec 29: Asian club champions Jubilo Iwata of Japan have hired former Macedonian national coach Gjokica Hadzhevski as their new manager, reports Reuters.

Hadzhevski, 44, replaces Takashi Kuwahara, who stood down after one of the most successful seasons ever by a Japanese club in which Jubilo lifted the Asian Club Championship, the Asian Super Cup and Japanese league title.

In a 16-year coaching career, Hadzhevski has worked for the Yugoslav and Macedonian football associations, and was also in charge of Bulgaria's CSKA Sofia from 1993-94.

Macedonia failed to qualify for next year's European Championship finals in Belgium and the Netherlands after finishing fourth in the five-nation qualifying Group Eight.

Another Japanese club, the Urawa Reds, has also announced a new coach, promoting former national team defender Kazuo Saito from the backroom staff.



England fast bowler Darren Gough sends down a delivery on the fourth day of the third Test against South Africa in Durban yesterday.

— AFP photo

## Kirsten leads SA fightback



DURBAN, Dec 29:

Gary Kirsten battled his way back into form and made a record 10th century for South Africa as his side fought back on the fourth day of the third Test at Kingsmead here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Kirsten made 126 not out as South Africa, who were forced to follow on 210 runs behind, reached 251 for four at the close of play, a lead of 41.

Kirsten's eight-hour effort took South Africa a long way towards safety but medium-pacer Andrew Flintoff took two wickets in three balls shortly before the close to renew the tourists' chances of squaring the series, which South Africa lead 1-0.

It was the 10th Test century for Kirsten, a new South African record. He had previously shared the mark with Dudley Nourse and Daryl Cullinan.

Kirsten and Jacques Kallis put on 152 for the second wicket in a partnership which greatly reduced England's hopes of victory.

Kallis made a solid 69 in 288 minutes off 204 balls before being caught behind off Darren Gough with the second new ball.

He had gone to the wicket early in the day with the total 41 for one after Herschelle Gibbs was caught for 28 of England's first innings hero Andrew Caddick.

Gibbs was caught at short leg by Darren Maddy off a ball which lifted sharply. It was Caddick's eighth wicket of the match after he sent South Africa tumbling to 156 all out in the first innings with figures of seven for 46.

Kirsten and Kallis played watchfully as they posted a half-century partnership after 104 minutes, going on to 100 in 194 minutes and 150 in 282 minutes.

Kirsten, 32, whose previous highest score of the series was 15, was under pressure to keep his place in the side after a string of mediocre performances. But when it mattered he called on all his reserves of concentration.

The left-handed opening batsman gradually began to play more fluently and he quickly caught behind for a single.

## Div I Cricket

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Boys Club recorded a five-wicket win over Orient Sporting Club in one of the two First Division cricket league matches, played at the Dhammendi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Chasing Orient's moderate total of 184 in the stipulated 50 overs, Boys scored 187 for the loss of five wickets in 47.4 overs, thanks to the highest 45 from Mr. Sundries. Orient bowlers shown the luxury of sending down as many as 38 wides.

## BRIEF SCORES

**ORIENT SC:** 184 all out in 48.5 overs (Zahiruddin 64, Ehsan 23, Jewel 22, Salauddin 20; Arif 3/21, Imtiaz 2/32)

**BANGLADESH BOYS CLUB:** 187 for 5 in 47.4 overs (Extras 46, Mazed 36 n.o., Mashuk 34, Sami 25 n.o. Aminul 2/26)

**Result:** Bangladesh Boys Club won by 5 wickets.

**AJAK SC:** 181 all out in 49.4 overs (Nayeem 69, Extras 30, Azim 19, Shahidul; 5/26, Rajon 3/27)

**YOUNG CRICKETERS:** 182 for 8 in 48.2 overs (Rezaul 65, Adil 27, Imtiaz 13; Nayeem 4/32)

**Result:** Young Cricketers won by 2 wickets.

Middle-order Mazed scored an unbeaten 36 while Mashukur Rahman chipped in with 34 for the winners.

Earlier, electing to bat first, Orient were all out for 184 in 48.5 overs with one-down Zahiruddin hammering highest 64 of 94 balls.

Arif was the most successful Boys bowlers with three for 21. Imtiaz meanwhile captured two wickets for 32 runs.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Young Cricketers registered an exciting two-wicket win over Ajax Sporting Club, much to the dismay of Nayeem Hafiz who displayed a brilliant all-round performance for his team.

Chasing 181 in 50 overs, opener Rezaul Hasan scored 65 runs as Young Cricketers sailed home (182) in 48.2 overs with only two wickets in hand.

Rezaul, in his 107-ball innings, hit seven boundaries. Among others, Adil added 27 runs.

Nayeem Hafiz took highest four wickets for 32 runs for the losing side.

Earlier, batting first, Ajax's 181 was built around a fine 69 from Nayeem. In his 87-ball innings, he hit a six and seven fours.

Gomes from the young side.

The former Arsenal favourite who played a record 722 games for the club said: "People say I talk us down and that I should get a life and get some belief, but you could see from this match why I say we are still learning our trade."

"I'm disappointed with the result, naturally, but there are no excuses even though Nigel Martyn made a mistake to give their first goal."

"Arsenal are still a very good side with mature people in there and although their manager made some changes today we were given a lesson."

"We looked tired and ran out of legs a bit but that's not very surprising in our 10th game in 30 days."

"The players are disappointed with themselves today, but I'm still proud of them and mistakes like the one Nigel made when he pushed out a Kanu shot that was going off-target, happen even though people don't mean them to."

"But Kanu I thought was outstanding and Arsenal were first to almost everything. They were deserved winners and they will be in there for the title right at the death but so will Manchester United and so will we."

Manchester United came back from being two-nil down to earn a point in a thrilling 2-2 draw against Sunderland at the Stadium of Light with Nicky Butt scoring the equaliser four minutes from time.

Sunderland scored twice in the opening 12 minutes through Gavin McCann and Niall Quinn before Roy Keane halved the deficit in 27 minutes.

United remain second on 43 points, a point behind leaders Leeds who have played a game more: while Sunderland leapfrog Liverpool into fourth on 38.

United boss Sir Alex Ferguson praised his side for a spirited comeback after a dreadful start.

Ferguson said: "To my mind we dominated the game completely. OK, we got off to a bad start, a terrible start for us."

"It's something we spoke about before the game but sometimes these things are unavoidable. But once we got the show going I thought we played excellently."

"We should have won in terms of possession and creation in the game. I was very pleased, it's not an easy place to come to."

Sunderland striker Quinn found it hard to hide his disappointment after he helped his side storm into a two-goal lead.

Quinn said: "United are a great team and we knew it was going to be hard, but for the goal to go in the way it did - it looked like a double ricochet - it's a bit disappointing because we held them at bay really."

Liverpool also stayed in touch with the leading pack by beating Wimbledon 3-1 while Newcastle continued their recent improvement with a 2-1 win over Leicester with in-form strikers Duncan Ferguson and Alan Shearer on target again.

Struggling Watford beat Southampton 3-2 while Bradford and Everton shared a goalless draw and West Ham drew 1-1 with Derby in the other matches Tuesday.

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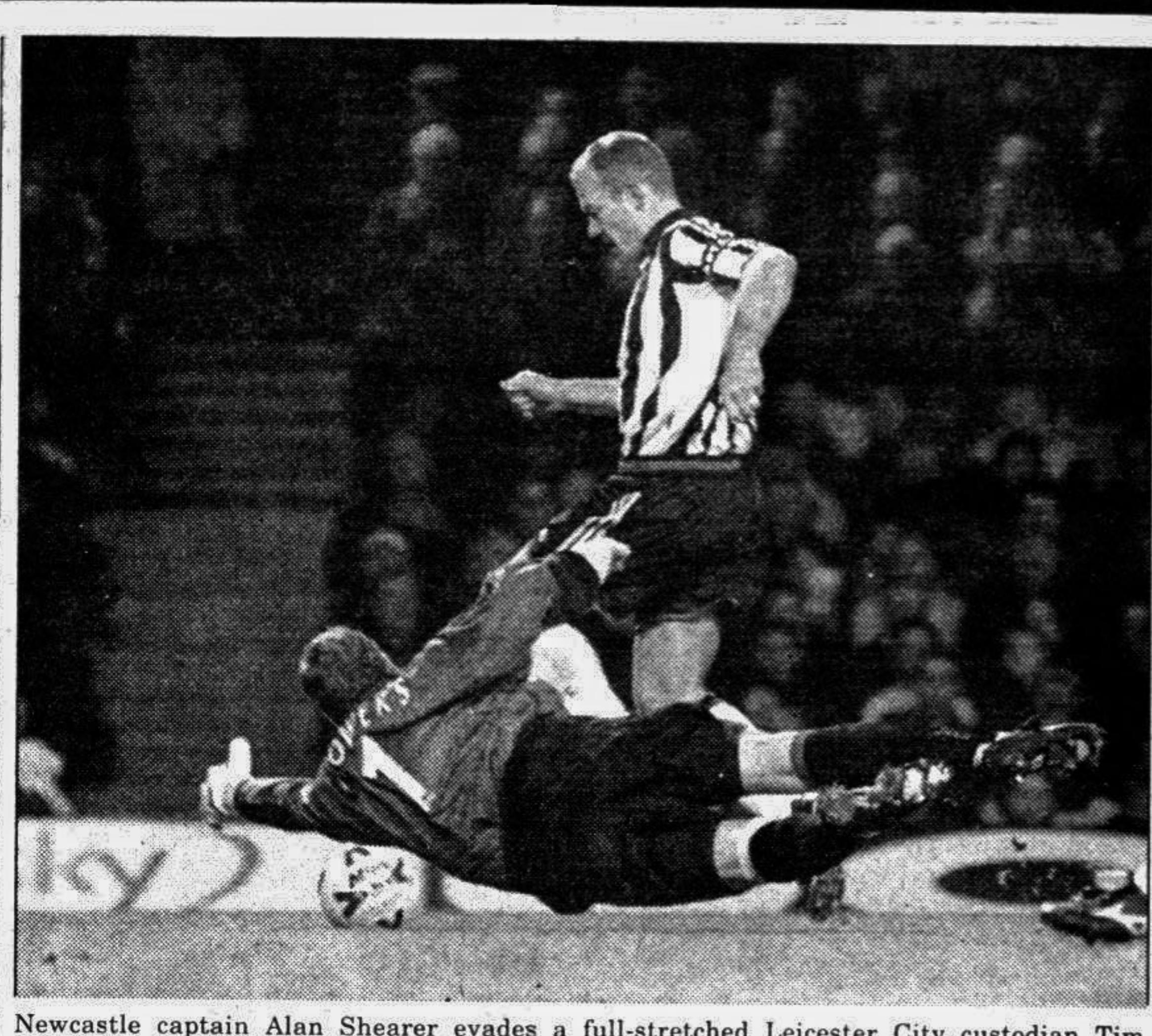
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M'singh soccer

MYALKALI KRIRA CHAKRA defeated College Road Boys Club by 2-1 goals in a nail-biting match of the Beg Tyre First Division football league at local stadium today, reports UNB.



Newcastle captain Alan Shearer evades a full-stretched Leicester City custodian Tim Flowers before finding the net during their Premiership encounter on December 28.

— AFP photo

## Premiership

## Gunners serve notice



LONDON, Dec 29:

Arsenal proved that they are genuine contenders for the Premiership title with a well-deserved 2-0 home win over leaders Leeds United on Tuesday to close the gap at the top to just five points, reports AFP.

Goals from Swede Fredrik Ljungberg and Frenchman Thierry Henry won the day for Arsenal, who were boosted by the return from suspension of French World Cup winning midfielder Patrick Vieira.

Leeds manager David O'Leary admitted his team were given a valuable footballing lesson and hit back at critics who have accused him of playing down the merits of his

young side.

The former Arsenal favourite who played a record 722 games for the club said: "People say I talk us down and that I should get a life and get some belief, but you could see from this match why I say we are still learning our trade."

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