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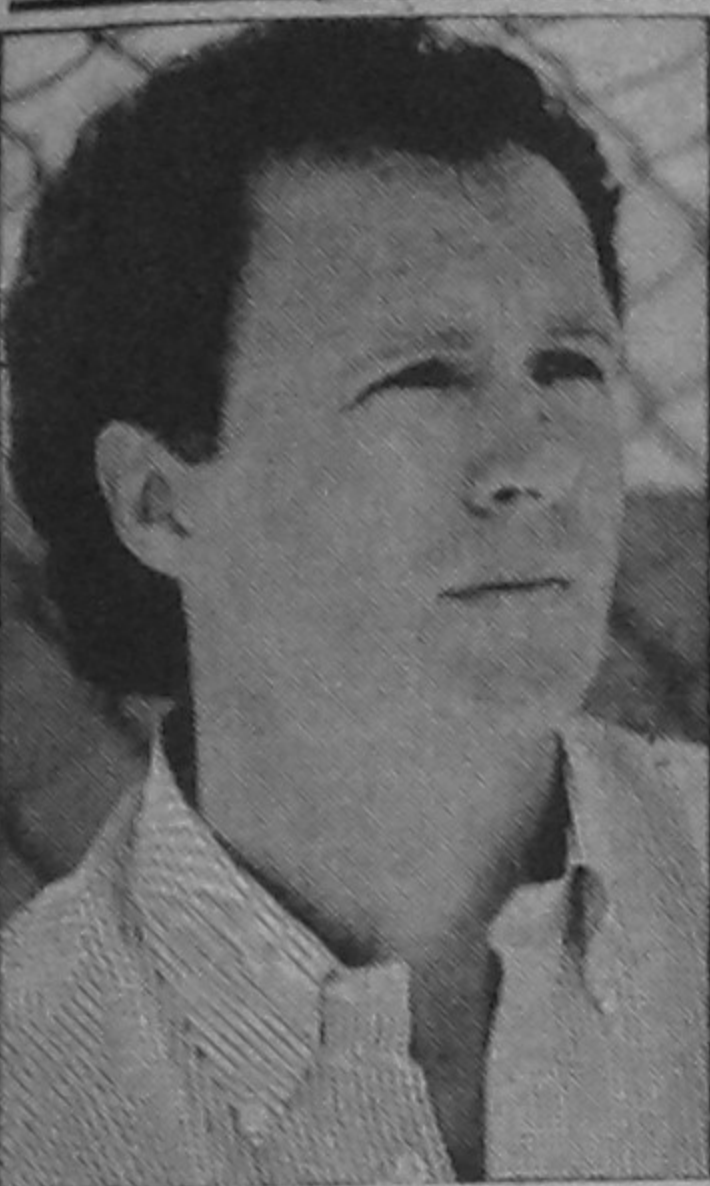
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SPORTS TALK



Franz Beckenbauer
(German soccer legend)

"It's a sorry episode, but there are too many crazy people in the world."
About the death threat from Basque separatist group ETA on French international Bixente Lizarazu.

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 141
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to Star Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 29, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who was named world footballer-of-the-year?
Rivaldo Ronaldo Zidane
2. Who won the Davis Cup?
Spain Australia USA
3. Which club clinched J-League title?
Kashima Yokohama S-Pulse
4. Who became First Division Chess League champions?
Titus Club Biman Leconte
5. Who was man-of-the-match in the Karachi Test?
Amerton Youhana Sagah

Name: _____
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Redgrave BBC's best

LONDON, Dec 11: Steve Redgrave, who won a fifth consecutive Olympic rowing gold medal in Sydney, was voted the BBC's Sports Personality-of-the-Year on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Redgrave, who retired in October as Britain's most successful Olympic athlete ever, came in ahead of Sydney Olympic heptathlon champion Denise Lewis, Tanni Grey-Thompson, who won four wheelchair goals at the Sydney Paralympics, was third.

Blewett hits double ton

BRISBANE, Dec 18: Former Test batsman Greg Blewett scored a double century as South Australia ground out a draw with champions Queensland in their Sheffield Shield cricket match here Monday, reports AFP.

Blewett's unbeaten 260 was eight runs short of his highest first-class score.

South Australia finished on 493 for five, with skipper Darren Lehmann also unbeaten on 47, to deny Queensland outright victory.

Queensland (116 points) are on top of the table with New South Wales and Victoria on 14, and Western Australia on 10.

Blewett was dropped from the Test opening spot earlier this year but has signalled his return to form at No.3 with his marathon innings of 30 boundaries and two sixes in 10 hours at the crease.

His last double century was two years ago in Hobart with 213 for Australia A against England.

Sheffield Shield scores

BRIEF SCORES

In Brisbane (final day)
Queensland 378 (S. Law 87, A. Symonds 85, J. Maher 62; B. Swain 4-96) drew with South Australia 126 (D. Lehmann 57, A. Dale 4-42, J. Dawes 3-41, B. Creevey 3-42) and 493 for five.
G. Blewett 260 not out, S. Deitz 106, A. Dale 2-68, J. Dawes 2-80, Pts: Qld 2 SA 0.

STANDINGS (games/pts)

Qland	5	16
Victoria	5	14
NSW	5	14
W Australia	5	10
S Australia	5	6
Tasmania	5	4

Khulna saunter past Sylhet

GREEN DELTA NAT'L CRICKET LEAGUE

Khulna v Sylhet

Sports Reporter

middle-order batsman, scored highest 60 off 106 balls with only two fours while the latter clipped in with 37 off 67 balls with a huge six.

In reply, the home side capitulated after Khulna's medium pacers Tariqul Islam and Paltu shared eight wickets respectively.

Tariqul conceded only 18 runs from ten overs while Paltu gave away 17 runs in eight overs.

For Sylhet, middle-orderer Alok Kapali (23) and Naveem (13) were the only batsmen who reached double figures.

Khulna consolidated their position atop the Group B table. They have raised their tally to 24 points. On the other hand, Sylhet languishing at the foot of the group along with Barisal on 13 points, have to earn full eight points from their next game against Barisal at home in the sixth round and then wait for the outcome of the Khulna-Dhaka Metropolis match in the same round.

Metropolis are currently in second spot with 18 points.

The last round of the first leg will start at different venues from tomorrow.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hasibul	10	2	34	0
Iqbal	3	0	18	0
Taposh	4	0	27	1
Parvez	1	0	16	0
Naveem	5	1	34	0
Rafique	9	0	30	3
Alok	8	0	35	0
Obayed	9	0	35	0

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tariqul	10	2	18	1
Al-Amin	10	2	24	1
Paltu	8	1	17	4
Manzarul	7	4	22	1

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Green Delta National Cricket League one-day match between Sylhet and Khulna at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday:

KHULNA Nahidul c Joy b Rafique 37

Warne turns to teaching

MELBOURNE, Dec 18 (AFP) - Injured Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne is using his convalescence to help an aspiring English leg spinner who may play in the 2001 Ashes series.

Warne, who says his spinning finger suffered no ill effect from his weekend return with club Saint Kilda, revealed Monday he was training an English leg-spin prospect.

In the Australian off-season Warne played with English county Hampshire, and struck up a friendship with opening batsman and prospective leggie Giles White.

White was spending a month in Melbourne under Warne's tutelage, with the lessons learned to be applied as soon as the 2001 Ashes series in England.

"He (White) mucked around with a few legspinners and was a bit of a part-timer," Warne said.

"We've worked on him for the summer in England."

"He's starting to come on really well and he could play Test cricket for England within

the next couple of years - maybe even next year against the Aussies in the Ashes."

"We'll just keep working on him and maybe he'll come good - he could play as an all-rounder, maybe bat five or six

teaching a novice the art of leg-spin was also of benefit to him on the comeback trail.

"Saying to him 'Follow through, get your weight forward, get your delivery stride right' is helping me re-gain all the stuff, going back to basics myself," Warne said.

There was no swelling or restricted movement in Warne's finger Monday after nine overs with Saint Kilda on Sunday - his first competitive bowl after breaking his finger fumbling a catch against New South Wales in October.

"It just feels really good so that's very positive and very encouraging," Warne said. "There's no swelling there whatsoever and I've still got good movement."

"I'll just keep bowling longer periods, trying to rip it more and more every day."

"As long as it keeps pulling up okay the next day I'll keep moving forward."

"I don't want to set any comeback date because if I don't reach that date it's like I'm behind and if I'm a bit earlier than that it's like 'He's rushing it.'"

White, 28, made his county debut with Somerset in 1991 before moving to Hampshire in 1994.

Warne said the process of



SHANE WARNE

England recall Croft

LONDON, Dec 18: Off-spin duo Jason Brown and Robert Croft were named Monday in England's Test squad in place of axed Ian Salisbury and injured Dominic Cork for the new year tour of Sri Lanka, reports AFP.

The recalled Croft, who played two Tests against West Indies last summer, joins incumbent Brown of Northamptonshire in the 15-man party.

Glanorgan slow bowler Croft, who considered never playing for England again after his disappointment of being overlooked for the recent trip to Pakistan, has also been included in the 15-man one-day party to face the Sri Lankans.

Croft reacted with some surprise to his call-up, having been touted as a one-day replacement for Ashley Giles at the ICC knockout in October when left-arm orthodox Paul Grayson was instead summoned to Kenya.

The Welshman said, "I've just been coming to the end of my benefit year and was intending to spend the winter doing some fitness work and

getting into the nets.

"So this is fantastic news, and it's an opportunity that I intend to grab with both hands."

Cork and Salisbury are both omitted after being chosen in the squad that won the Test series in Pakistan 1-0.

Cork, who flew home from Lahore in November with a back injury, has been advised to rest for three months - but he is expected to be fit for the start of the next domestic season with Derbyshire.

Surrey wrist-spinner Salisbury was a major disappointment in the three-Test series against the Pakistanis, taking just one wicket.

Chairman of selectors David Graveney said, "We believe that we need three out and out slow bowlers for the tour to Sri Lanka because the wickets will suit finger spin and the conditions will be very hot and humid."

Brown, who took 61 first-class wickets for his county last season, will fly out to the Caribbean on December 28 for the England A tour of the West Indies before joining up with the senior squad on January 30 for the Sri Lanka tour.

His replacement for the remainder of the A trip will be his county colleague Graeme Swann, who missed the one-day international series in Pakistan and the ICC Trophy with a rib injury, will undergo a fitness test before going to Sri Lanka with the one-day squad.



ROBERT CROFT

Selectors overlook Gibbs

EAST LONDON, Dec 17: Herschelle Gibbs, banned from international cricket until December 31 for agreeing to accept a bribe from his former captain Hansie Cronje, was not included in a South African squad named Sunday for two Tests against Sri Lanka, reports AFP.

A 12-man squad was picked for 12 games. The first Test starts in Durban on December 26, while Gibbs is still banned, but the second is in Cape Town from January 2, after the ban expires.

Selection convenor Rusudi Magdi did not entirely rule out the possibility of Gibbs playing in the second Test, however. "We reserve the right to add anyone to the squad for the second Test," he said.

That did not mean only Gibbs might be added. "It could be anyone. But obviously we hope the team will do well and that we will not have to make any changes."

Gibbs was fined 60,000 rand (7,800 dollars) and suspended from international cricket after agreeing to accept 15,000 dollars from Cronje for underperforming in a one-day international against India in Nagpur in March. He did not stick to the agreement, however, and revealed the bribery offer during the King Commission hearings in Cape Town in June.

Gibbs, an automatic choice for South Africa as an opening batsman before the scandal, has been playing provincial cricket for Western Province but has performed moderately, although he scored a century in a day-night game in Johannesburg Saturday night. His replacement, Bowler Dippenaar, made a maiden Test century against New Zealand in the rain-soaked third Test last

national against India in Nagpur in March. He did not stick to the agreement, however, and revealed the bribery offer during the King Commission hearings in Cape Town in June.

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V-Day cricket

Kalabagan Cricket Academy, Dhaka Metropolis, Future Cricketers and Cricket Coaching School Colts won their respective Inter Sports-WECCA Victory Day under-13 cricket tournament matches at different city venues yesterday.

At the Kalabagan Krira Chaikra ground, Dhaka Metropolis registered a 22-run win over Dhanmondi Club Cricket Club.

At the nearby Dhanmondi Club ground, Future Cricketers posted a 21-run win over Maple Leaf School while Cricket Coaching School Colts trounced Boy Care by seven wickets.

Future Cricketers who made 92 for four in 20 overs then restricted Maple Leaf to 71 for eight in 20 overs. Boy Care were all out for 84 in 18 overs which the winners successfully chased in 15 overs.

Women's WC cricket

Australia enter final

WELLINGTON, Dec 18: Defending champions Australia made short work of South Africa today in the first semi-final of the Women's World Cup tournament in Christchurch, reports Reuters.

Lisa Keightley hit an unbeaten 91 and Belinda Clark 75 to lead Australia to a nine-wicket win.

The second semi-final will be between host New Zealand and India on Wednesday, with the final on Saturday.

Results:

SOUTH AFRICA: 180-8 (Linda Olivier 41, Sunette Viljoen 28, Charmaine Mason 3-39).

AUSTRALIA: 181-1 (31.2 overs Lisa Keightley 91 not out Belinda Clark 75, Cindy Eksteen 1-39).

Result: Australia won by nine wickets.

MacGill regrets it

ADELAIDE, Dec 18: Australian leg-spinner Stuart MacGill has apologised to West Indies' 12th man Ramnaresh Sarwan over an incident on the third day of the third cricket Test at Adelaide Oval Sunday, match referee Alan Smith said here Monday, reports AFP.

The players collided in the players' race, just off the field, as MacGill was returning to the Australian dressing room after being controversially dismissed late in the day.

Smith interviewed both players after play Sunday night.

In a statement issued Monday, Smith said he had warned MacGill he should be more careful in future.

Smith said in the statement, "MacGill regrets the collision, which he did not intend. However, he has accepted responsibility for the accident and has apologised warmly to Sarwan - this apology has been equally warmly accepted."

The captains, players and management of Australia and the West Indies are determined that the good relationship between the teams should carry on as before.

"Having completed my inquiry into the incident, I am satisfied the teams have sorted it out amicably, but I have warned MacGill he should be more careful in future."

The incident occurred shortly after MacGill had been ruled out, caught behind the wicket, by Australian umpire Steve Davis.

TV replays showed the ball had struck MacGill's helmet, but made no contact with his bat or gloves.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Dec 18: Golden Star Sporting Club defeated Eleven Star Club by six wickets in the sixth Bir Sresthitva Captain Shaheed Mohiuddin Jahangir Smith Gold Cup cricket tournament today at the local AHM Qamruzzaman Divisional Stadium.

Winning the toss, Golden Star invited Eleven Star to bat first. Eleven Star collected 132 for eight wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Golden Star scored 137 for four wickets in 22.1 overs.

Meanwhile, Sabuj Palli and Diganta Proshery Sangha won their respective matches of the Zia Smriti cricket tournament today at the Rajshahi Govt College playground.

In the first match of the day, Sabuj Palli defeated Baya Parasman Club by 159 runs.

Diganta Proshery beat Talata Club by 118 runs in the record match of the day.

20th National Youth Cricket Championship

BKSP too good for Dhaka Edu

Sports Reporter

Fancied Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishan (BKSP) romped into the next round of the 20th National Youth Cricket Championship when they thumped down a massive 227-run defeat on Dhaka Education Board at their home ground in Savar yesterday.

Sent into bat, BKSP piled up a mammoth 284 for eight wickets in the stipulated 50 overs with Kafi Khan hammering a superb 95 off 127 balls. Opener Hasibul scored an enterprising 70 off 86 balls that included 11 fours.

In reply, Dhaka Education Board were shot out for 57 runs with only Habibul reaching double figures.

Obaidur with three for seven runs was the most successful among the BKSP bowlers.

The second day of the meet also saw Netrakona, Lalmonirhat, Chittagong, Rajbari and Bagerhat winning convincingly against their respective opponents at different venues across the country.

At Tangail, Netrokona defeated Narsingdi by seven wickets. In a low-scoring affair, Netrakona, chasing Narsingdi's paltry 91, rattled up 94 for three wickets in 20.1 overs with Mansur notching a run-a-ball 45.

Ratan with four for 13 runs was the pick among the Netrakona bowlers.

At Naokhali, Chittagong also scored an identical 7-wicket win over Laxmipur.

Batting first, Laxmipur could manage only 103 before being

all out in 40.3 overs in the face of a fantastic bowling performance from Adnan, who claimed five wickets giving just 16 runs.

Chittagong raced to 104 for three wickets in 20.1 overs with their opener Afab making 44 that included five boundaries.

Away at Kurigram, the hosts made an early exit from the meet, conceding a 54-run defeat against Lalmonirhat.

Lalmonirhat, defending a not-so-impressive total of 120 all out in 31.3 overs, shot Kurigram out for 66 runs in 25.2 overs.

But at Bagerhat, the home side were too strong for Magura. Bagerhat recorded a convincing nine-wicket victory against the visitors.

Needing 118 for win, Bagerhat reached the target in 21 overs with Biru hammering 56 off 53 balls.

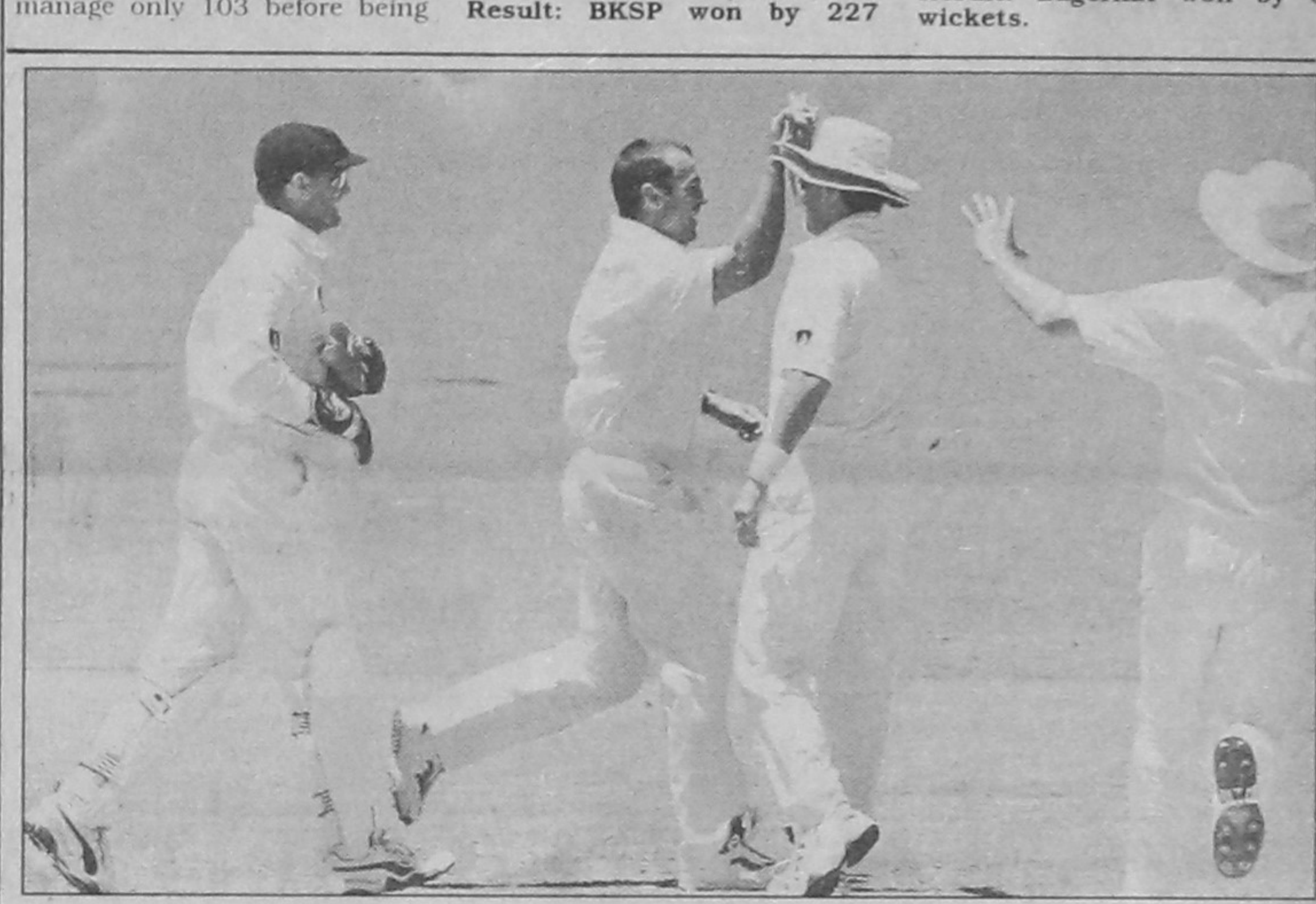
At Rajbari, the hosts recorded a four-wicket win against Sariapur.

Set to score 182 in 50 overs, Rajbari cruised to 185 for the loss of six wickets and with more than eight overs to spare thanks to a breezy 67 from Shipon.

BRIEF SCORES

BKSP vs Dhaka Board
Venue: BKSP
BKSP: 284 for 8 wickets in 50 overs (Kafi 95, Hasibul 70, Iftekher 34; Saiful 3/13, Rajib 2/30)
Dhaka Education Board: 75 all out in 20.1 overs (Habibul 28; Obaidur 3/7, Shafiq 2/9)
Result: BKSP won by 227

Netrakona vs Narsingdi
Venue: Tangail Stadium
Narsingdi: 91 all out in 25.3 overs (Masud 14, Ratan 4/13, Munna 3/28, Chanchal 2/18)
Netrakona: 94 for 3 wickets in 20.1 overs (Mansur 45, Mohsin 15 not out; Babu 2/23)
Result: Netrakona won by 7 wickets.
Chittagong vs Laxmipur
Venue: Naokhali
Laxmipur: 103 all out in 40.3 overs (Shamim 19, Adnan 5/16, Mishu 2/19)
Chittagong: 104 for 3 wickets in 20.4 overs (Afab 44, Rana 21 not out; Rintu 1/13)
Result: Chittagong won by 7 wickets.
Lalmonirhat vs Kurigram
Venue: Kurigram Stadium
Lalmonirhat: 120 all out in 31.3 overs (Khorshad 34, Sajad 20, Kanjiet 3/12)
Kurigram: 66 all out in 25.2 overs (Kanjet 13, Mashur 3/13, Nazrul 2/13, Rezar 2/9)
Result: Lalmonirhat won by 54 runs.
Rajbari vs Sariapur
Venue: Rajbari Stadium
Sariapur: 181 for 8 wickets in 50 overs (Shahidul 56)
Rajbari: 182 for 6 wickets in 41.4 overs (Shipon 67)
Result: Rajbari won by 4 wickets.
Bagerhat vs Magura
Venue: Bagerhat Stadium
Magura: 117 all out in 44.5 overs (Bappi 3/18, Jewel 2/30)
Bagerhat: 118 for 1 wicket in 21 overs (Biru 56)
Result: Bagerhat won by 9 wickets.



Colin Miller is the toast of his Australian teammates after getting the prized scalp of West Indies masterbat Brian Lara at Adelaide yesterday.

Australia on course

ADELAIDE, Dec 18: Australia survived some anxious moments to ease themselves into a winning position against the West Indies on the fourth day of the third cricket Test at Adelaide Oval here Monday.

Set a victory target of 130 after bundling out the tourists for a second innings 141, Australia went to stumps with 98 for four - needing just another 32 runs - and well poised to extend to 13 their world record sequence of Test victories.

Not out batsmen Justin Langer (43) and Damien Martyn (118) will pad up Tuesday aiming to secure for Australia the win which will give them an unsailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series, ensuring they retain the Frank Worrell Trophy.

Australia were in deep trouble at various stages of their second innings, but again displayed that resilience under pressure which makes them the best Test side in the world.

The home country were struggling with 27 for three in the 10th over and again with 48 for four in the 15th over before Langer and Martyn came together in a crucial fifth-wicket liaison which turned the game.

They did not find it easy against a much more spirited West Indies outfit, but showed much character in adding 50 in 82 minutes off 124 balls.

There were early dramas in the Australian second innings as paceman Mervyn Dillon removed Michael Slater for one and veteran speedster Courtney Walsh ousted Matthew Hayden (14).

Dillon weighed in again to send back Mark Waugh for five, as Australia teetered on the edge with 27 for three.

The first three dismissals were all the result of catches by wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs.

Hayden was ruled out only after field umpires Steve Davis and Srinivas Venkatraghavan had sought confirmation from third umpire Daryl Harper that the ball had carried to Jacobs.

Walsh struck again to trap

vice-captain Ricky Ponting lbw for 11, leaving Australia again in disarray with 48 for four before Langer and Martyn came together to stage their rescue act.

Veteran off-spinner Colin Miller, who made his Test debut only two years ago, destroyed the West Indies' second innings with a beautiful exhibition of turn and flight on a helpful pitch.

Miller, 37 early next year, snapped up 5-32 after sparing 5-81 in the first innings to complete a Test 10-wicket match haul for the first time.

The West Indies were all out shortly before tea after losing eight wickets in less than a session.

The tourists collapsed dramatically in the second session after appearing to be reasonably well placed at lunch with 82 for two, holding an overall lead of 70.

Miller was well supported by champion paceman Glenn McGrath, who captured 3-27.

The delicately poised game swung strongly Australia's way soon after lunch when the vital wickets of champion left-hander Brian Lara (39) and improving opener Daren (Daren) Ganga (32).

Both were trapped by the persistent Miller, who troubled all the batsmen on the wearing pitch.

The prized wicket of Lara, who made a classic 182 in the first innings, came when the threatening left-hander had added only five to his lunch score.

Miller produced a ball which bounced and turned sharply, and Lara succeeded only in popping up a simple catch to Justin Langer, at forward short leg.

Before lunch, Lara had hammered the Australian attack again, racing to 34 in 41 minutes from 32 balls, helped by three fours and a massive six.

Ganga fell lbw to Miller when the bowler earned a verdict from Venkatraghavan.

That gave Miller his 50th wicket in his 15th Test.

The procession continued with leg-spinner Stuart MacGill ousting Marlon Samuels (three) and Miller snapping up skipper Jimmy Adams (15) and Nixon McLean (0) and wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs (two).

McGrath mopped up the tail by dismissing Mervyn Dillon (19) and Courtney Walsh (0) in quick succession.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the third cricket Test between Australia and West Indies at Adelaide Oval on Monday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 391 (Brian Lara 182)
AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 403-9)
Slater c sub (Sarwan) b Samuels 83
Hayden run out 58
Langer c Lara b Samuels 6
M Waugh lbw b Dillon 63
Gillespie lbw b Walsh 4
Ponting c Jacobs b Walsh 92
Martyn not out 46
Gilechrist c Jacobs b McLean 9
MacGill c Jacobs b Dillon 6
Miller c Campbell b McLean 1
McGrath b Dillon 1
Extras: (b-5, lb-13, w-5, nb-11) 34
Total: (All out in 127.4 overs) 403
Fall of wickets: 1-156; 2-160; 3-169; 4-187; 5-310; 6-369; 7-386; 8-397; 9-398; 10-403.
Bowler O M R W
Walsh 32 7 73 2
Black 18 1 75 0
Dillon 24.4 2 84 3
McLean 21 1 69 2
Adams 13 2 35 0
Samuels 19 6 49 2

WEST INDIES: Second innings
Campbell c Gilechrist b McGrath 8
Ganga lbw b Miller 32
Hinds c Martyn b MacGill 9
Lara c Langer b Miller 39
Adams c Martyn b Miller 15
Samuels c Hayden b MacGill 3
Jacobs c Ponting b Miller 2
McLean c Hayden b Miller 0
Dillon lbw b McGrath 19
Black not out 3
Walsh c Gilechrist b McGrath 0
Extras: (b-6, lb-3, w-1, nb-1) 11
Total: (All out in 51.5 overs) 141
Fall of wickets: 1-26; 2-36; 3-87; 4-96; 5-109; 6-100; 7-109; 8-116; 9-137; 10-141.
Bowler O M R W
See page 15