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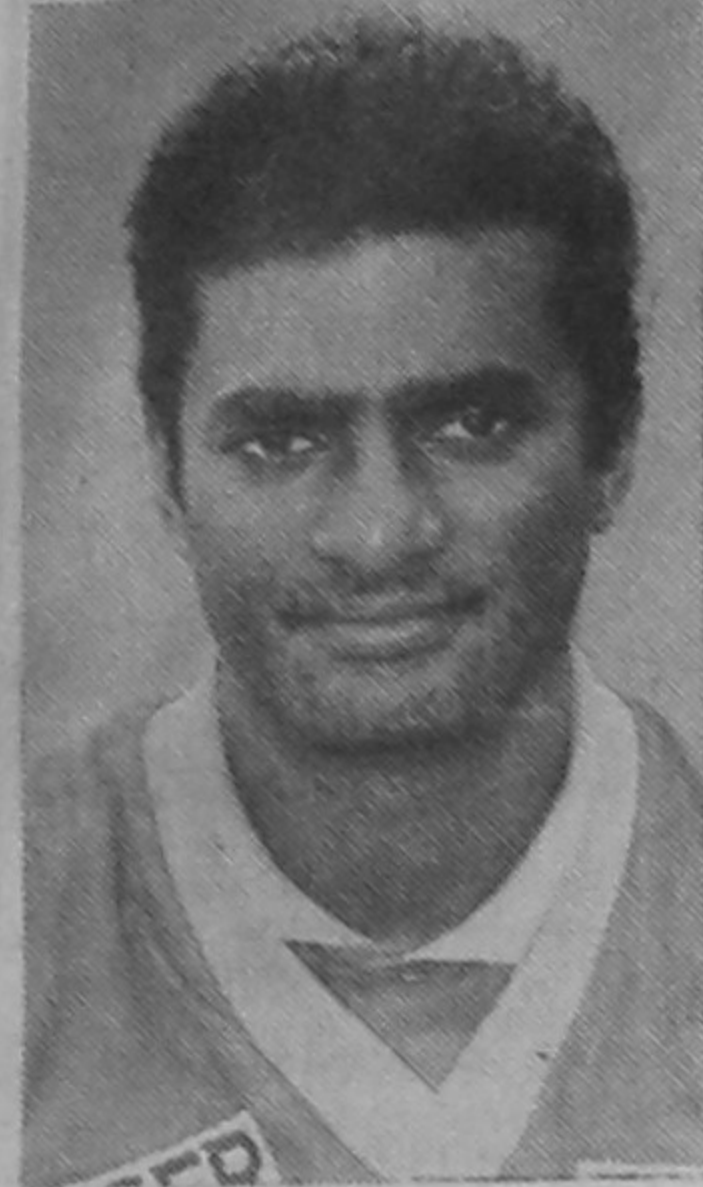
Star Sport

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SPORTS TALK



Mutthiah Muralitharan
(Sri Lankan star spinner)
"We are playing a lot of Test cricket nowadays. If I can play for another five or six years I can reach 500."

Sports WHIZZ KID
Competition 141
Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 5, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who was named world footballer-of-the-year?
Rivaldo Ronaldo Zidane
- Who won the Davis Cup?
Spain Australia USA
- Which club clinched J-League title?
Kashima Yokohama S-Pulse
- Who became First Division Chess League champions?
Titus Club Biman Leonine
- Who was man-of-the-match in the Karachi Test?
Aftab Khan Wasim Sarfaraz

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

BCB starts hunting Jan 10

The first round of under-13 and under-17 and Gra-nienPhone under-17 cricket tournaments, organised by the development committee of Bangladesh Cricket Board will begin across the country from January 10.

Twelve teams, two each from Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Chittagong divisions and Dhaka Metropolitan, and one from Barisal and Sylhet divisions will take part in all the talent-hunting tournaments while BKSP will appear in the under-15 and under-17 competitions.

With the exception of BKSP, all teams have been given nicknames and will be split into two groups for the first round. The top two finishers will qualify for the semifinals.

The primary rounds of the under-13 meet will be held in Chittagong and Dhaka while Satkhira and Rajshahi will host the first round of under-15 tourney. Mymensingh and Dhaka have been selected as the venues for the first round of the under-17s.

FIXTURES

Milo Under-13
Group A (Venue: Chittagong)
Teams: Rajshahi Padma, Khulna Tigers, Chittagong Karnaphuli, Sylhet Surma, Dhaka Colts and Metro Greens.

Date	Match
Jan 10	Rajshahi Padma v Dhaka Colts
Jan 11	Chittagong Karnaphuli v Sylhet Surma
Jan 12	Rajshahi Padma v Sylhet Surma
Jan 13	Chittagong Karnaphuli v Dhaka Colts

Group B (Venue: Dhaka)
Teams: Khulna Rupsha, Dhaka Rangers, Rajshahi Gold, Metro Blues, Barisal Maroons and Chittagong Titas.

Date	Match
Jan 10	Khulna Rupsha v Dhaka Rangers
Jan 11	Chittagong Titas v Barisal Maroons
Jan 12	Rajshahi Gold v Barisal Maroons
Jan 13	Chittagong Titas v Dhaka Rangers

Sports Reporter

Jan 14	Chittagong Karnaphuli v Metro Greens	Sylhet Surma v Dhaka Colts
Jan 15	Rajshahi Padma v Chittagong Karnaphuli	Khulna Tigers v Sylhet Surma
Jan 16	Dhaka Colts v Metro Greens	
Jan 17	Rajshahi Padma v Dhaka Colts	
Jan 18	Khulna Tigers v Chittagong Karnaphuli	Sylhet Surma v Metro Greens
Jan 19	Rajshahi Padma v Dhaka Colts	
Jan 20, 21 and 23.		

Milo Under-15
Group A (Venue: Satkhira)
Teams: Rajshahi Padma, Khulna Tigers, Chittagong Karnaphuli, Sylhet Surma, Dhaka Colts and Metro Greens.

Date	Match
Jan 10	Khulna Tigers v Dhaka Colts
Jan 11	Chittagong Karnaphuli v Sylhet Surma
Jan 12	Rajshahi Padma v Sylhet Surma
Jan 13	Chittagong Karnaphuli v Dhaka Colts
Jan 14	Chittagong Karnaphuli v Metro Greens
Jan 15	Rajshahi Padma v Chittagong Karnaphuli
Jan 16	Dhaka Colts v Metro Greens
Jan 17	Rajshahi Padma v Dhaka Colts
Jan 18	Khulna Tigers v Chittagong Karnaphuli

Group B (Venue: Rajshahi)
Teams: Rajshahi Tista, BKSP, Khulna Rupsha, Metro Blues, Chittagong Titas, Dhaka Rangers and Barisal Maroons.

Date	Match
Jan 10	Rajshahi Tista v BKSP
Jan 11	Chittagong Titas v Dhaka Rangers
Jan 12	Chittagong Titas v Metro Blues
Jan 13	Barisal Maroons v Dhaka Rangers

(The semifinals and final of the under-13 tournament will be held at the Dhanomdi Club ground on January 20, 21 and 23.)

Millennium Cup Booters play Bosnia first

Bangladesh meet Bosnia in their opening Group A match of the Millennium Cup Football Tournament at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Cochin on January 12, according to a media release of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday. The game will kick off at 8 pm (BST).

Bangladesh, who play all their preliminary matches in the south Indian city, take on European giants Yugoslavia on January 14 (6 pm BST). Their last match is two days later against Iraq.

Earlier, the BFF said that the fixture list was supposed to be disclosed on January 2, in fact, the promoter of the 16-nation tournament Studio-2001 decided to reveal it on New Year's Eve.

A 20-member Bangladesh team with ace striker Aliaz Ahmed as captain, was announced on Sunday. The team is expected to fly to India either on January 7 or the following day.

Assistant general secretary of BFF, Badal Roy, said that the booters are likely to play two exhibition matches in Chittagong before they leave.

Green Delta Nat'l League resumes

The second leg of the Green Delta Second National Cricket League begins this morning. Leaders Biman are up against hosts Dhaka Metropolitan at the Dhanomdi Cricket Stadium while defending champions Chittagong travel to the Jessore Stadium to play Khulna.

The eight-team meet which also includes Barisal, Sylhet, Dhaka and Rajshahi, took part in the first leg in two groups. Biman and Chittagong from Group A and Khulna and Dhaka Metropolitan from Group B, entered the second leg securing first and second positions in their respective groups.

After the home and away second round where teams from one group will meet teams from the other group, the side collecting most points will take away the title worth Taka three lakh.

Biman are leading the points table with 32 points. Chittagong trail the national airbirds by two points and Dhaka Metropolitan and Rajshahi have 26 points each.

SA batter in Lanka lineup!

DURBAN, Jan 1 (Internet report): One of the most original pitch invaders in Test history took place at Kingsmead on Saturday on the final afternoon of the match between South Africa and Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka had just lost their third wicket, and Marvan Atapattu was walking off the field. Suddenly, a little earlier than usual, he was passed by the next batsman in.

It was not immediately clear who he was, although he was perfectly dressed for the occasion, and the South African fielders seemed at a loss as well. The television cameras had no inkling that anything was amiss, and there were no Kingsmead security guards in sight.

The batsman walked up to South African captain Shaun Pollock, who smilingly ushered him to the city end to take his guard.

Then, after a brief moment at the crease, the Sri Lankan No. 5 briskly walked off the field, being greeted by a huge roar from the packed crowd at Castle Corner.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's real No. 5, Russell Arnold, was walking to the wicket.

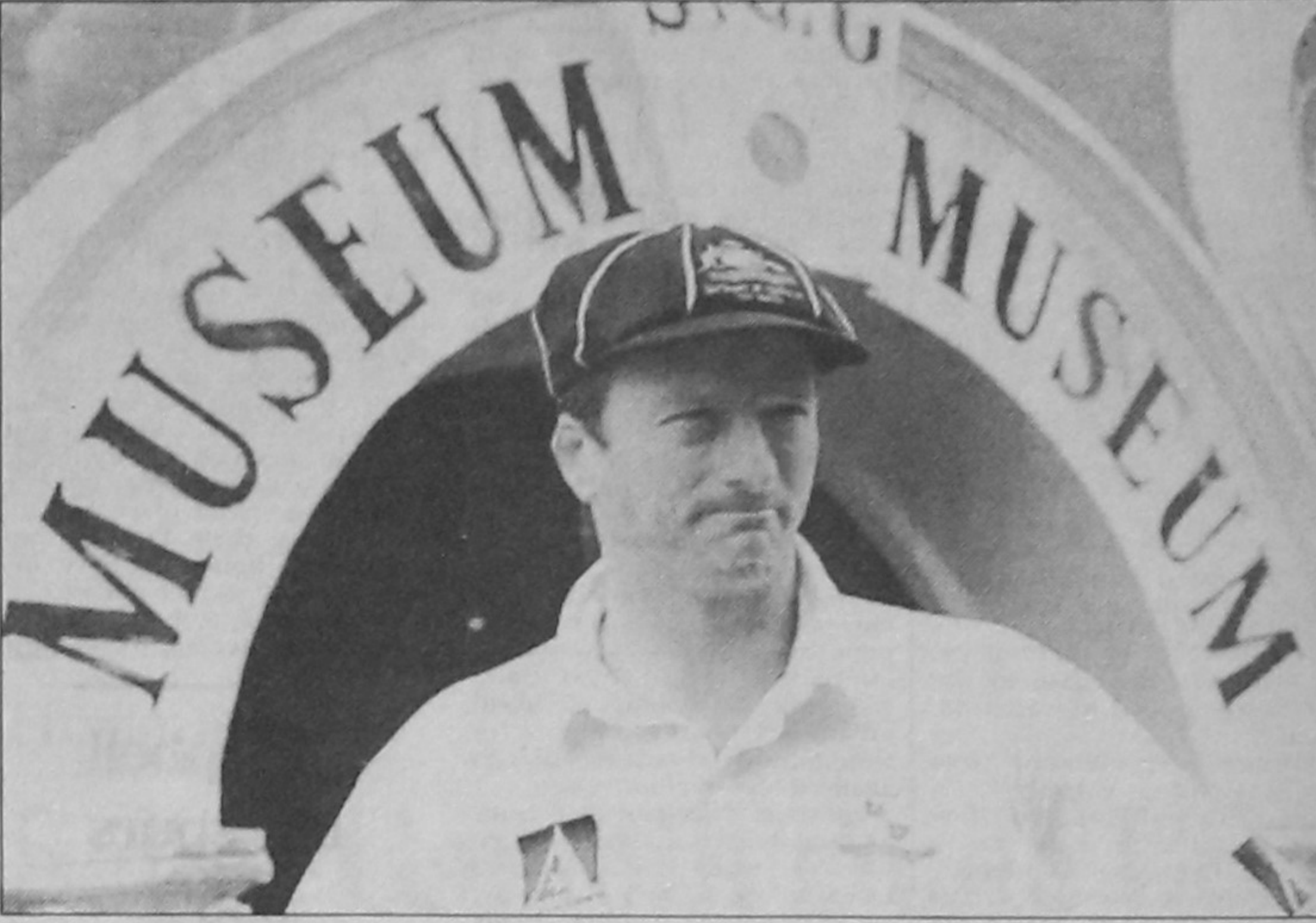
The identity of the invader was soon revealed, as he then took his place amid a sea of his University of Natal mates on the grass bank.

The student, Grant Smith, of Glenwood, is a former Durban High School pupil and current league hockey player.

"I waited just next to the players' entrance and hopped over the barrier when the security guard wasn't looking. I just tried to walk calmly to the wicket. I knew 'Polly' from the old days at Gongs and I just went up to him and said: 'Howzit, Polly.'"

"He then started laughing and told me I was taking guard at the wrong end. When I got to the other end, the South Africans said: 'Now head off to Castle Corner, quick!' It was great, and I also want to say that I did it all for my girlfriend Annie."

Annie's appearance was not long delayed. A blow-up doll, dressed in South African colours, was raised to the skies to a deafening cheer.



Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh wears a specially made hat to mark the centenary of federation celebrations yesterday.

Final Test from today

SYDNEY, Jan 1: Steve Waugh's ruthless approach to cricket is almost certain to not limit another milestone in the fifth Test in Sydney and sink the West Indies further into turmoil, reports AP.

Waugh's Australian team is targeting its 15th consecutive Test win and a first ever whitewash of the West Indies when the series finale gets underway Tuesday at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

With a 4-0 lead in the five Test series, the Australians are hot favourites to achieve both goals against the embattled tourists.

Waugh has guided the Australians to 13 of their world record 14 successive wins on this sequence and, with 15 wins from 20 Tests, to date as skipper, he is the most successful captain in international cricket.

Extending Australia's winning stretch and completing the first sweep of a comparable series since their 5-0 whitewash of South Africa in 1931-32, will only enhance Waugh's reputation as Australia's greatest skipper.

Star Sports will show the match live from 5:55 am (BST).

Australian selectors on Monday recalled Stuart MacGill to the starting lineup to partner Colin Miller in a two-pronged spin attack expected to wreak havoc on a turning pitch at the SCG.

The leg-spinner was 12th man in Melbourne last week but was elevated at the expense of Andy Bichel, who could be considered unlucky after bagging his first five-wicket haul in an innings during the fourth Test.

Fast bowler Jason Gillespie, whose 6-40 in the second in-

nings in Melbourne boosted his wicket haul to 18 from three Tests since returning from injury, will again partner Glenn McGrath with the new ball.

West Indies management named their team later Monday for the fifth Test, with leg-spinner Mahendra Nagamootoo included in the starting 11 for his first Test this tour.

Also skipper Jimmy Adams could promote himself to the troublesome No. 3 batting position after the tourists were forced Monday to make two changes on their team.

Opener Daren Ganga failed a fitness test and was replaced by Ramnaresh Sarwan. Nagamootoo will replace fast bowler Mervyn Dillon.

Ganga has a left hamstring strain, forcing selectors to consider promoting No. 3 Wavell.



JIMMY ADAMS
Hints to the opening batting position alongside vice-captain Sherwin Campbell.

That could leave Adams to fill the void if the West Indies decide not to send 20-year-old Sarwan or 19-year-old Marlon Samuels into first drop in the order.

Adams has played 53 Tests but has never batted at No. 3, forging his reputation in the

middle-order.

The West Indies, the leading cricket nation of the 1980s, have only ever suffered a series whitewash once before, losing 5-0 to South Africa in 1998-99.

Champion batsman Brian Lara hinted at the problems within the touring squad in comments attributed to him about the "psychological damage" incurred during a stretch of 15 losses in 17 Tests away from home.

Lara's 182 in Adelaide and some gritty innings from Ridley Jacobs and Marlon Samuels have been the only highlights for a fragile batting lineup that has been exposed by the Australian bowling attack.

The 352-run loss in Melbourne, when the West Indies were bowled out for 165 and 109 in its two innings, only served to compound the tourists' batting woes.

The West Indies bowling attack, spearheaded by 126-Test veteran Courtney Walsh, has shown glimpses of promise this series but has been too erratic and never been able to completely dominate the Australians.

The 38-year-old Walsh has 21 international record 492 wickets. West Indies skipper Jimmy Adams said the tourists would ideally love to send the veteran fast bowler off with a win.

LINEUPS
AUSTRALIA: Steve Waugh (captain), Michael Slater, Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Adam Gilchrist, Jason Gillespie, Colin Miller, Stuart MacGill, Glenn McGrath.
WEST INDIES: Jimmy Adams (captain), Sherwin Campbell, Wavell Hinds, Brian Lara, Marlon Samuels, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Ridley Jacobs, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Nixon McLean, Colin Stuart, Courtney Walsh.

Newlands factor on SA's mind

CAPE TOWN, Jan 1: South African captain Shaun Pollock will be hoping that the Newlands factor does not help opponents Sri Lanka in the second Test starting on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Three years ago, India's Sachin Tendulkar and Mohammad Azharuddin - flitted by capacity crowd of 19,000 at the atmospheric Cape Town ground - blasted extraordinary hundreds in the New Year Test while sharing a century stand in just 13 overs.



SANATH JAYASURIYA
Itali saved Sri Lanka in the first Test in Durban, which ended in a draw on Saturday.

Captain Sanath Jayasuriya and off-spinner Mutthiah Muralitharan are among the best match-winners of their generation.

Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara provide

classy batting support for the captain but the visitors have few other strengths.

Chaminda Vaas and Nuwan Zoysa were unable to penetrate the home side's top order with their left-arm seamers in Durban and although Dillara Fernando claimed five wickets South Africa comfortably passed 400.

This match will be live on Star Sports from 2:25 pm (BST).

The tourists are contemplating including Pramodya Wickremasinghe to boost the attack but on another good batting surface he is unlikely to make the required difference.

Pollock's team, despite still being without the injured Allan Donald, are in tremendous form. The batting, boosted by the controversial inclusion of Herschelle Gibbs to open with Gary Kirsten, stretches down to number nine while the side also boasts six frontline bowlers.

The in-form, Xhosa pace attackers Makhaya Ntini and Mfeneke Ngam have conspired to make Donald's absence go almost unnoticed while Pollock sneaks in behind to pick up the pieces, and wickets, Jacques Kallis and Lance Klusener can strike or contain and Nicky Boje has become a wicket-taking spinner.

It is hard to see Sri Lanka finding a way through the combined forces of South Africa's all-rounders even if their captain does score a century and Muralitharan claims 11 wickets, as he did in Durban to pass 300 in just his 58th Test.

Even the inclusion of Gibbs, just 24 hours after the expiry of

his six-month ban for conspiring with disgraced former captain Hansie Cronje to fix a one-day international against India last year, is unlikely to be a distraction.

Gibbs is regarded as a victim, not a criminal, by the South African public and Newlands is his home ground.

TEAMS
South Africa: Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Daryl Cullinan, Neil McKenzie, Lance Klusener, Mark Boucher, Nicky Boje, Shaun Pollock (captain), Makhaya Ntini, Mfeneke Ngam.



SHAUN POLLOCK
Sri Lanka (probable): Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Russell Arnold, Tillekeratne Dilshan, Ramesh Kaluwitharana, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Mutthiah Muralitharan, Dillara Fernando.
Umpires: Jan Howell (South Africa) and Ed Nicholls (West Indies).

Gibbs rehabilitated

CAPE TOWN, Jan 1: Herschelle Gibbs was recalled to the South African team Monday on the day a six-month ban from international cricket for conspiring in match-fixing expired, reports AFP.

Gibbs will open the batting in the second Test against Sri Lanka which starts at Newlands Tuesday. He replaces Boeta Dippenaar in the only change from the side that drew the first Test in Durban last week.

Rushdi Magjet, convenor of the South African selectors, said the decision of the panel to recall Gibbs was unanimous. "He has served his time and he is the best man for the job," said Magjet.

Although the team was picked Saturday, the announcement was delayed until Gibbs ban expired.

Gibbs, 26, was banned for six months and fined 7,932 dollars by a three-man United Cricket Board (UCB) disciplinary committee headed by former judge Mervyn King. He was fined for agreeing to an offer of

15,000 dollars by former captain Hansie Cronje to score fewer than 20 runs in a one-day international against India in Nagpur in March last year.

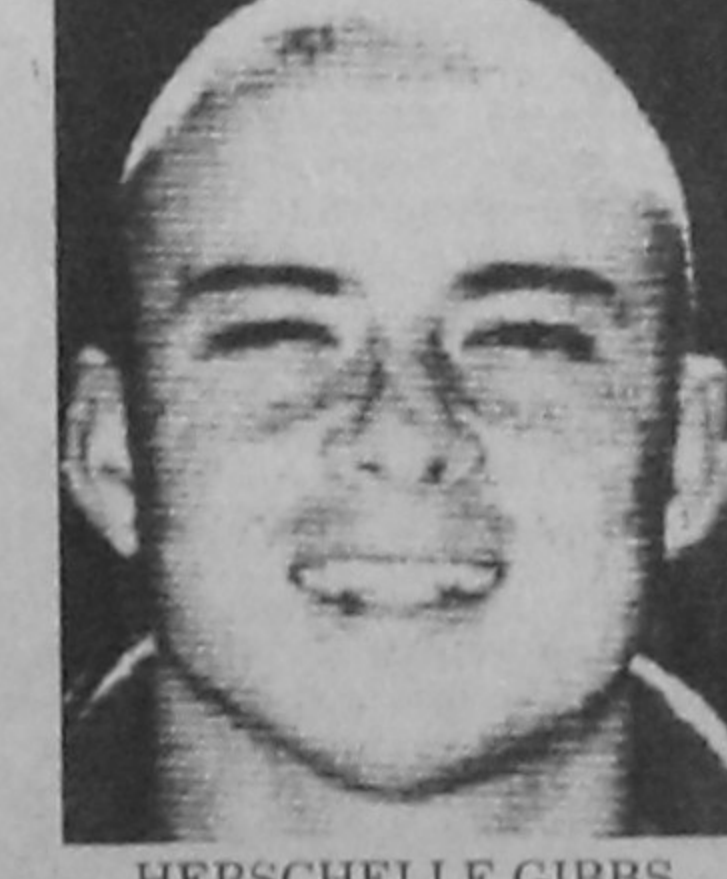
The tribunal decided that Gibbs and teammate Henry Williams, who was banned for six months and fined 1,322 dollars, had been "corrupted" by Cronje - who was sacked as captain and banned for life by the UCB after admitting that he had received thousands of dollars from bookmakers or gamblers.

Michael Kruper, a member of the disciplinary committee, told a press conference in Johannesburg on August 28 that Gibbs and Williams had been found guilty of "conspiracy", not match-fixing as neither had gone through with the plan to underperform. Gibbs had scored 74 and Cronje had then told the players the deal was off.

Kruper said the players had not been banned for life because tough new International Cricket Council rules had not come into effect at the time of the offence.

Mitigating circumstances were that both players were heavily under the influence of Cronje and that they had lost money through the withdrawal of match fees, monthly salaries and sponsorships.

Gibbs was not immediately available for comment but was due to talk to the media after a South African net practice Monday morning. In a statement after his ban was announced in August he apologised for his actions and said he had "come to appreciate fully my stupidity".



HERSCHELLE GIBBS

Waugh's words for Warne

SYDNEY, Jan 1: Captain Steve Waugh warned Shane Warne Monday he will have to take the hard road back to Test cricket after his spinning rivals were lining up for more wickets against the battered West Indies here Tuesday.

Australia will be taking two spinners, Colin Miller and Stuart MacGill, into the fifth and final Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground in a bid to clinch an unprecedented 5-0 series clean sweep of the West Indies.

Selectors inspecting a grassless SCG wicket relegated paceman Andrew Bichel to 12th man even though he took a five-wicket haul in last week's fourth Melbourne Test.

While Miller and MacGill were preparing to present their final case for selection on next month's Indian tour, Warne was told he would not walk back into the Test team when he recovered from a broken finger.

Waugh said Warne should brace for a fight as he joins Miller and MacGill in the race for Test berths in India.

Warne takes his first step back from injury Tuesday when he plays a one-day match for Victoria against Western Australia at the WACA Ground in Perth.

"It's up to him," Waugh said Monday. "He's got to get in there and do the hard work, take some wickets and get some bowling under his belt."

The guys in the side are playing well and it's up to Warne to get his form and wickets in order and get ready for selection.

"Warne's got 360-odd wickets under his belt, so that's got to help him, but he's got to get

in there and put the form on the board as well.

"He hasn't played a lot recently, so it's given the other guys an opportunity to show what they can do and it really will depend on who wants the spot the most."

Miller has cashed in on Warne's absence, becoming Australia's first-choice spinner when he kept MacGill out of the fourth Test.



SHANE WARNE
But MacGill has the chance to fight back on his home track this week after selectors made the difficult but necessary decision to omit Bichel after his great form at the MCG.

MacGill took 12-107 in his last Test in Sydney two years ago and a similar return would make it hard for selectors to overlook him on the turning tracks in India.

The battle between the slow men looms as one of the most intriguing in Australian cricket in recent years, with each spinner already proving their class at Test level.

But Australian selectors have not shied away from tough decisions, tinkering with the bowling attack this summer despite watching Waugh's team build a world-record winning streak which is expected to stretch to 15 matches in Sydney.

"It doesn't matter what team we put on the park - we've shown that in the last couple of Tests when we've had injuries," Waugh said.

"I expect to win the Test match with whatever team we put out there."

Aussies going for another change

SYDNEY, Jan 1: Australia's cricketers will again break with tradition in the fifth Test against the West Indies starting Tuesday by exchanging their baggy green caps for a special hat made to mark the centenary of federation, reports AFP.

The green cap with gold seams will be handed to the players by Prime Minister John Howard, temporarily replacing the most famous headwear in Australian sport.

Steve Waugh's Australian team last wore different caps a year ago in Sydney when the players were handed replica skullcaps worn by the Australian team at the turn of the 20th century.

Waugh, who still wears the Australian cap he was given for his Test debut 15 years ago, said the federation caps were the idea of the Australian Cricket Board.

The federation tribute marks 100 years since six British colonies united to form one country - Australia.