

Genius wins over professionalism

By Shakil Kasem

For once in the World Cup, it was good old-fashioned cricket.

The final match was a re-sounding triumph of sheer genius and inspiration over stolid dull professionalism.

The Pakistan run machine stuttered a wee bit in the early overs, as Derek Pringle, the lumbering yeoman from Essex

tential situation that would have tested Sartre's patience. Imran's is an imperious, commanding presence; always seemingly in control even if he is not having an off day.

Javed Miandad, on the other hand, is not someone one would pay good money to go and watch, so ungainly is his style. But he has almost 7000 runs under his belt and Viv Richards swears by him when the chips are down.

Against such a combination, the English think tank ran woefully short of questions to pose. Lewis, Defreitas and Reeve never really had the chemistry that could serve, as the second line of attack.

tion of what was to come later was decidedly eerie. England's batting problems were further compounded by the fact that they were up against a team whose strike bowlers had just enjoyed a most successful English county season.

If England expected every man to do his duty, they were somewhat disenchanted with Ian Botham's dismissal. Botham has surely rounded off his chequered career, albeit on a disappointing note.

Pakistan's trump card then delivered again in the form of

the next two body blows. The art of leg spin, even in the hurly burly world of one-day cricket, is alive and kicking.

It was left to Neil Fairbrother to carry the fight, but the writing was ominously on the wall.

Pakistan's reputation as erratic genius finally came good. This was an occasion where inspiration triumphed over good old-fashioned commitment.

Gooch says he's proud of team

MELBOURNE, Mar 25: Graham Gooch, surveying a personal record of three test finals and with his dejected England team behind him

England preceded the World Cup with a test and one-day series win over New Zealand and Gooch said: 'I am pleased with the way the players have gone on tour.'

Their attitude and commitment has been excellent. We have played good cricket but today our game was not up to standard, we did not match up on the big day.

'We started well and were trying to keep them to 220-250 which was gettable but we did not play well enough all round.'

'I think three final defeats is a record that won't be bettered. I don't think I'll get a chance to play in another.'

Gooch revealed that Robin Smith was fit to play after a back injury but was dropped in favour of Allan Lamb.

Lamb, who made 31, had failed to reach 20 in his three previous tournament innings but Gooch said: 'We (Gooch, manager Mickey Stewart and vice-captain Alec Stewart) came down on the side of Lamb because of his big-match experience.'

'It was the toughest decision I've had to make. It was very tough to leave out someone like Robin—it shows the strength of the team.'

'The lads are very dejected. It is not the end of the world—close to it—but you have to live with defeat as a sportsman.'

'Hold your head up high, look in the mirror and think you did your best, but if you were beaten by someone else that is the way it is.'

Aldridge, too, slams rain rules

WELLINGTON, Mar 25: New Zealander Brian Aldridge, one of the umpires for Wednesday's World Cup cricket final, has joined the call to have controversial rain rules changed, reports Reuter.

Aldridge, who umpired the England-South Africa semifinal in Sydney on Sunday that brought the issue to a head, agreed with criticism that tournament rules for rain-affected games were unsatisfactory.

'I think everybody would (like to see the rules changed). I think it doesn't work properly and I'm quite sure for the next World Cup or even for one-day internationals, the rules will be modified slightly,' he said.

The Sydney semifinal had a farcical finish after a stoppage for a shower.

Aldridge, who was speaking in a Radio New Zealand interview on Wednesday, admitted to a few pre-final nerves.

Told the television audience would be the largest ever to watch a cricket match, he said: 'I don't need to know that.'

Aldridge, who will officiate the England-Pakistan final with West Indian Steve Bucknor, said: 'I'm quite sure I'll be a little bit dry in the mouth before the game starts, a little bit nervous.'

'Hopefully, that will give us an edge to get all the decisions correct and things like that.'

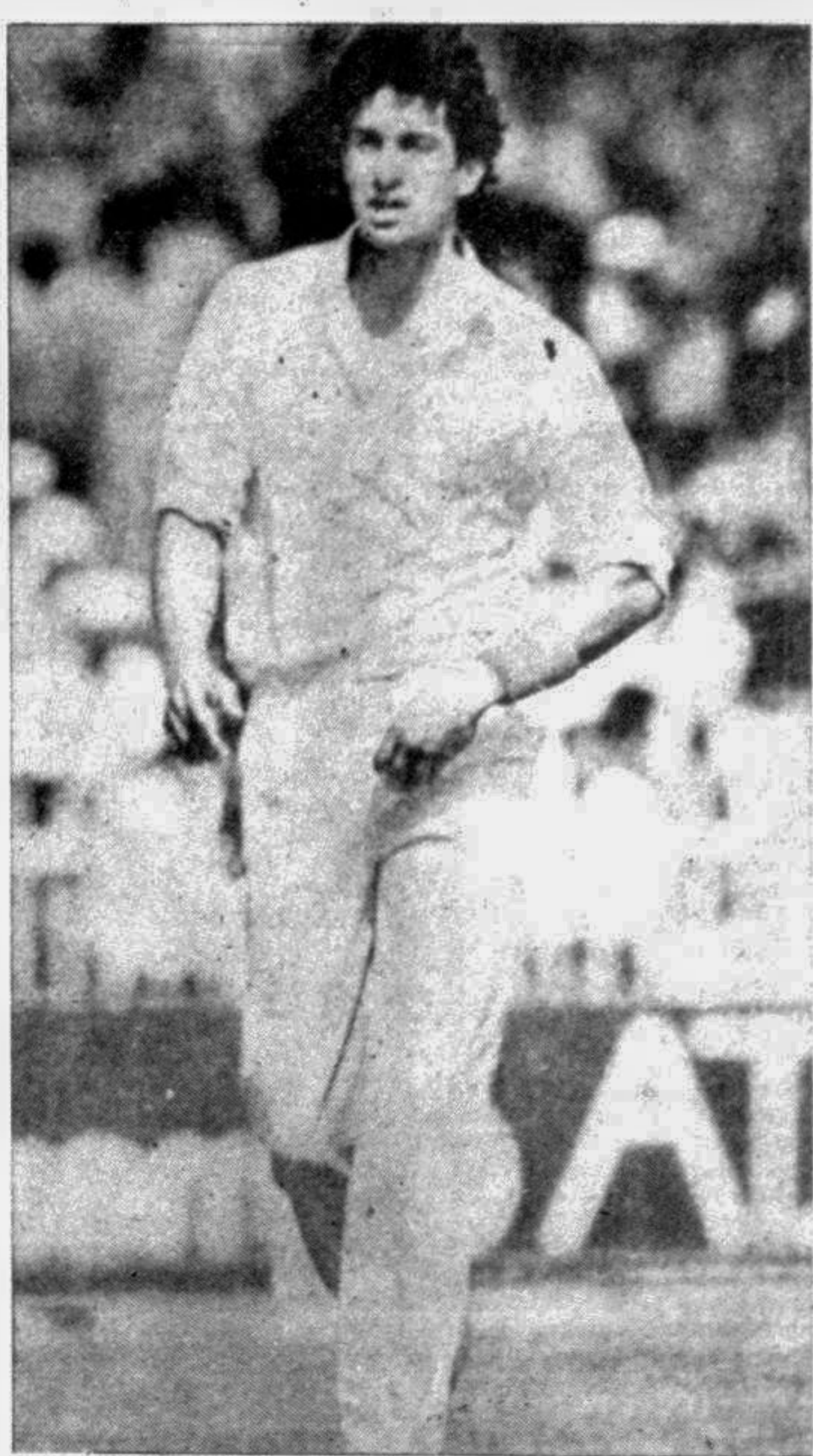
He said the trial by televi-

sion of umpires' decisions was a mixed blessing. 'Television can prove us right or wrong, in a club match you don't have television so everyone thinks you are wrong.'

'Your mistakes do stand out but sometimes you are right and the television proves it, whereas up until the replay everyone thought you were wrong, it can be your friend as well as your enemy.'

Aldridge agreed with England captain Graham Gooch and Ian Botham, who both walked out of the function in protest, that anti-royal jokes at an official dinner on the eve of the Cup final were offensive.

Asked if a drag-artist's impersonation of Britain's Queen Elizabeth was off-colour, the New Zealand umpire said: 'To me it was. It was quite humorous, but just not do me anyway.'



WASEEM AKRAM...Pakistan's champion bowler

LEADING PERFORMANCES

MELBOURNE, Mar 25: Final leading individual performances in the World Cricket Cup:

BATTING (Batsman, country, matches, innings, not out, highest score, runs, average)

Table with columns: M, I, NO, HS, R, Ave. Lists top performers like M D Crowe (NZ), P N Kirsten (SA), B M McMillan (SA), Javed Miandad (Pak), etc.

BOWLING (bowler, country, overs, maidens, runs, wickets, average) - minimum 5 wickets:

Table with columns: O, M, R, W, Ave. Lists top bowlers like D A Reeve (Eng), Wasim Akram (Pak), I T Botham (Eng), etc.

CATCHES: Lists catchers like K C Wessels (SA), N H Fairbrother (Eng), etc.

WICKETKEEPERS (catches, stumpings, total): Lists wicketkeepers like D J Richardson (SA), D Williams (WI), etc.

Mission Accomplished

Tawfiq Aziz Khan

'At the twilight of my career I have finally managed to win the World Cup,' declared the 39-year-old captain of the victorious Pakistan team, holding the crystal trophy before a cheering 90 thousand spectators at the huge Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Perhaps, and why perhaps, this was definitely the last World Cup match for the demi god of Pakistan cricket. This was not only a personal triumph for Imran Khan but the biggest-ever achievement for the Pakistanis who started their official cricket in 1952-53 against India.

In achieving their enviable feat Javed Miandad, another brilliant star of world cricket, crossed a milestone which no other player has been able to achieve so far. Miandad, while scoring his 27th run yesterday, passed the dream figure of 1000 runs in the World Cup.

Imran's decision to bat first on winning the toss proved to be vital, specially on a sunny day and on a wicket which was full of runs. And, secondly, he did not want to be under pressure chasing a target, particularly if it were unmanageable. It was true that his team had done so on a number of times in the past, in some cases unwittingly, but you don't, usually, do it every time. Again he was quite conscious of the bowling strength of his opponents which could at best be termed as tidy without being devastating.

The start for Pakistan was disastrous as Pringle with his military medium pace helped by slight variation in pace and swing sent back both the openers cheaply. But the veterans of all the five World Cup battles, Imran himself and his versatile deputy Javed Miandad, toyed with the English bowlers. Overs ticked by but runs were scarce. Instead of the batsmen being frustrated it was the other way round. Then, after the 28th over, the Pakistani charge began and the graph started a steep rise. Once again the great Khan led his team from the front.

Javed recorded his painstaking fifty, then lost concentration due to his stomach cramps. Inzamam's arrival at the crease changed the whole complexion of the innings. He kept his cool but was furious on the England bowlers. By the time Imran had left after a glorious 72, Wasim Akram, known for his big-hitting, joined Inzamam and these two tore the English bowling to shreds. Yet Pringle, in his second spell, bowled intelligently and restricted the Pakistanis to 249.

England, too, did not manage a better beginning. Botham was perhaps a victim of mis-judgment of umpire Aldridge. Both Akram and Aaqib were bowling extremely well, though at times Akram was guilty of bowling wides. Aaqib removed Stewart and when Hick, dancing to the tune of Mushtaq, and Gooch playing his favourite sweep shot fell, the end seemed near.

But this was a game of cricket. Fairbrother and Lamb struck a superb combination and threatened to overtake

Nat'l cricket from tomorrow

Sports Reporter The Gold Leaf national cricket championship gets under way tomorrow at nine different venues across the country.

A record 57 teams, including 49 district sports associations—split into nine zones—will participate in the first phase to be played on a knock-out basis.

The nine zonal champions and the runners-up of the Dhaka zone will take part in the final round scheduled to begin on April 10 in Dhaka.

The Dhaka zone is made up of Dhaka University, Rajshahi University, Agricultural University, BUET, PWD Sporting Club, BKSP, Bangladesh Railway and Bangladesh Btman. Dhaka University will take on Agricultural University in the zonal opener at the Dhanmondi Stadium tomorrow.

Following are the other participating teams: SYLHET ZONE: Chittagong, Chandpur, Brahmanbaria, Feni and Comilla DSAs. CHANDPUR ZONE: Sylhet, Habiganj, Madaripur and Moulvibazar DSAs. FARIDPUR ZONE: Mymensingh, Sherpur, Kishoreganj, Gazipur, Narayanganj and Tangail DSAs.

TANGAIL ZONE: Dhaka, Gopalganj, Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Manikganj, Rajbari and Faridpur DSAs. BARISAL ZONE: Khulna, Pirojpur, Bagerhat, Patuakhali, Narail, Jessore and Jhenidah DSAs.

JESSORE ZONE: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Satkhira, Magura, Meherpur and Kushtia DSAs. PABNA ZONE: Rajshahi, Gaibandha, Thakurgaon, Natore, Kurigram, Panchagar and Rangpur DSAs. THAKURGAON ZONE: Bogra, Lalmonirhat, Naogon, Pabna, Nawabganj, Nilphamari and Dinajpur DSAs.

Insipid soccer Sports Reporter

Dhaka Wanderers Club and Sadharan Bina Kira Sangstha shared points in the First Division Football league after the match ended goalless at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Brothers Union will take on Muktijoddha Sangsad tomorrow at 6:45 pm.

BTF picks youngsters for Davis Cup tie

Bangladesh will play Pakistan in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group Two play-off tie at the Ramna National Tennis Complex in the city from March 27-29, reports BSS.

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia will inaugurate the three-day tie at 8-30 am. Bangladesh's junior champion Shibu Lal will meet Pakistan's number one Rashid Malik in the opening singles on March 27 followed by the second singles between Hira Lal and Pakistan's Mohammad Khalid.

Hira Lal and Faisal S Huq will face Pakistan's Rashid Malik and Mohammad Khalid in the doubles on March 28 and the reverse singles will take place on March 29.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday evening, president of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation Khondakar M Asaduzzaman said, 'We have picked some junior but potential players this year to give them exposure to international events.'

He said, Bangladesh has been playing in the Davis Cup since 1986 and qualified for the group two semifinals in 1989 beating Singapore.

General secretary of the federation A M Khan Chowdhury and tournament director Atiqur Rahman also spoke on the occasion. The five-member Pakistan

Windies A rout England A

ARNDS VALE, St Vincent, Mar 25: West Indies A routed England A Tuesday for 108 in their second

innings on the way to an overwhelming nine-wicket victory on the final day of the second unofficial cricket Test, reports AP.

They gave the home team an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three match series which concludes Saturday with the final Test in Barbados.

England, facing a first innings deficit of 61, never came to grips with the accurate and unerring bowling by the West Indians after they resumed on 46 for one.

Nehemiah Perry, the Jamaican off-spinner who took five for 47 in the first innings, was again the leading bowler, taking four for 26.

In addition to fine bowling, the Englishmen were set back by top class catching by the West Indians. Clayton Lambert set the standards early in the day by making a brilliant grab at short leg off Benjamin to remove Mark Ramprakash for five.

Wicket-keeper Junior Murray took a diving catch down the leg side to get rid of first Innings topscorer Paul Johnson and when Darren Bicknell was bowled for 20, England were struggling at 63 for four.

Graham Thorpe and John Stephenson raised hope in a partnership of 33 for the fifth wicket. But when fast bowler Tony Broke their stand with the wicket of Thorpe, the last six England wickets tumbled for 12 runs.

Steve Rhodes was caught at slip off the bat and pad and Stephenson's topscore of 25 was ended by another remarkable short leg catch by Lambert—diving left-handed.

Perry took both wickets. Walsh ripped through the roll removing both Dominic Cork and Tim Munton without scoring.

Cort was the victim of another good catch by Gary at second slip. Last man Steve Watkin also failed to score, Lambert ending the innings with his third catch of the innings and the fifth of the match, an easy offering at short leg off Perry.

Summarized scores: England A: 241 and 108 (John Stephenson 25, Hugh Morris 23, Darren Bicknell 20, Mehemiah Perry four for 26, Courtney Walsh two for 14, Kenneth Benjamin two for nine. West Indies A: 302 and 48 for one (Clayton Lambert 21.)

Brothers-Biman final today

Sports Reporter

The 1990-91 Navana Premier Division cricket league champions Brothers Union take on Bangladesh Biman in the final of the Independence Day Cricket Cup championship at the Dhaka Stadium today.

Brothers beat newly-crowned Mlnars First Division cricket league champions Victoria Club while Biman outplayed Mlnars runners-up Uddy Club in their respective semifinals held on March 22 and 23 at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangad, will attend the occasion as chief guest and give away the prizes.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, organisers of the tournament, have fixed the rates of tickets for the final as follows:

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for across and down words.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP

FJEE PJOGYIE YRPTROGWGRS

YIEEZF VRN WUZ TNRVZO

OGRSIE OGSZNO WR UR-UJP. Yesterday's Cryptogram: HISTORIANS CALLED THE REIGN OF MIDAS, THE MONARCH, THE GOLDEN RULE.

Today's Cryptogram clue: U equals H

The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.