

The brilliant left-hander hits 277

Aussies dance to Lara's tune

SYDNEY, Jan 5: West Indian cricketer Brian Lara completed one of the all-time great innings at the Sydney Cricket Ground in the third Test against Australia on Tuesday, reports AP.

The 23-year-old hit 38 fours to turn his maiden Test century into a remarkable 277, the third highest score by any batsman in Tests against Australia.

He remained in complete control of the bowling throughout his 474 minutes at the crease.

He was finally run out having registered the fourth highest maiden century in Test history and the fourth highest Test score by a West Indian.

The young lefthander's dominance steered the West Indies to 488-5 at stumps on the fourth day in reply to Australia's 503 for nine declared.

With only one day of play remaining Wednesday, the match looks destined for a draw.

When bad light stopped play 48 minutes before scheduled stumps, Carl Hooper was on seven and Jimmy Adams on five.

With captain Richie Richardson, who scored his 15th Test century Tuesday, Lara put on 293 for the third wicket in only 303 minutes. Their stand, after coming together with the team battling at 31-2, was a record for that wicket in Australia by the West Indies and the highest for the third wicket at the Sydney ground.

The West Indian captain, stranded on 94 overnight, was kept off the field because of rain for 90 minutes on Tuesday morning, but he managed to score the required six runs just before lunch.

It was his eighth century against Australia — a record for West Indian batsmen.

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He scrambled back to the crease having set off for a single after nudging the ball wide of cover when Hooper sent him back.

"When I got back to the dressing room the coach said 'Remember, your next innings starts at zero.'"

Richardson said watching Lara's batting from the other end of the wicket was "breathtaking."

"It was the finest innings I have ever seen," said Richardson, who still does not rule out the possibility of going for a win on Wednesday's last day.

"We will try to build up a handy lead in the first session and then see what we can do to the Australians in the final two," he said.

However, on the perfect batting wicket, Richardson's win scenario is very optimistic.

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Australia lead the five-Test series 1-0.

The highlights of the day's event were the performances of the country's fastest woman Feroza Begum who won four golds for Dhaka University. Not only did she center to an easy 100m sprint gold, the girl from Mymensingh also proved too much of a challenge for her rivals in the 200m and the 100m hurdles as well as the women's high jump.

Earlier in the morning BUET Vice Chancellor Dr M Shah-jahan formally inaugurated the meet, being participated by seven universities of the country.

The other gold medalists yesterday were Mehdi Hasan (200m sprint), Sanjay Kumar Jotdar (110m hurdles), Farhad Hossain (400m low hurdles), Samar Ranjan Kar (800m sprint), Abdul Ahad (Hammer throw), Md Shahanuddin (triple jump), Usman Gani (high jump), Ajmal Hossain (10,000m), Jyotsna Afroze (women's javelin) and Nelly Jasmine (women's shot put).

Several events and prize giving ceremony will be held today.

DU athletes to the fore

Sports Reporter

Not unexpectedly athletes of the Dhaka University dominated the opening day of the two-day annual inter-universities athletics championships at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) playground in the city yesterday.

Dhaka athletes topped the medals table with a haul of seven golds, two silvers and three bronzes followed by Rajshahi with five golds, nine silvers and four bronzes. Chittagong had secured two golds, two silvers and as many bronzes to lie in third place.

Jahangirnagar had a silver and three bronzes to their credit while the hosts BUET had managed only a couple of bronzes for all their toils on the first day. Shahjalal University and Bangladesh Agricultural University were yet to open their accounts.

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England settle for a draw

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The tourists went for runs

Gooch now needs two more tons

LONDON, Jan 5: England cricket captain Graham Gooch will have to score more runs than he thought to reach the milestone of one hundred first class centuries, reports Reuter.

One of the 99 hundreds credited to him so far does not count because it was scored during the 1982 rebel English tour of South Africa.

A spokesman for the Test and County Cricket Board said on Tuesday the tour was not recognised by the International Cricket Council so the score would not stand.

Gooch, 39, hopes to join a select band of 22 cricketers who scored 100 or more centuries in their careers during England's current tour of India and Sri Lanka.

initially, with Gooch setting the pace. But he was bowled for 28 by a Feroz Ghyas cutter that kept low and the other batsmen struggled.

Alex Stewart top-edged Ghyas and was caught behind for one, then Mike Atherton, first-innings top-scorer with 59, edged spinner Maninder Singh and was also caught behind for 18.

The day finished with the visitors 63 for three.

Paul Jarvis' bowling was a bright spot in the England performance.

"I am pleased with Jarvis bowling a good line and length and striking a rhythm so early on the tour," Gooch said.

Slow start for Ivanisevic

DOHA, Qatar, Jan 5: Following a slow start, Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia seeded second, defeated Dutch qualifier Henrik-Jan Davids in straight sets on the opening day Monday of the dhrs 450,000 Qatar Open Tennis Tournament, reports AP.

Ivanisevic failed to produce the firepower which has made him such a performer in the world in the opening games. But he managed to churn out a comfortable 6-2, 6-4 victory in front of a capacity Centre Court crowd and enter the last 16 of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) world ranking championship, the first ever held in the Gulf.

"This is the first time I've played outdoors for three months and I was a long way off my best," the lanky, Ivanisevic said after his 71-minute victory over his sometime practice partner on the ATP Tour.

He gave a thinly-veiled challenge to top seed Stefan Edberg and third seed Boris Becker saying: "I can only get much, much better."

"Henrik is a very dangerous player so I was relieved to get past him. It was nice being first on Centre Court," he added.

Edberg, a Swede, who is striving to regain the world number one slot from

Smooth sail for top seeds

BRISBANE, Jan 5: Top-seeded Conchita Martinez and second-seeded Magdalena Maleeva both scored straight set victories Tuesday in the second round of the dhrs 150,000 Australian Women's hardcourt championships at the Milton Tennis Centre, reports AP.

Spaniard Martinez downed Li Fang of China 6-3, 6-1 to advance to the round of 16, while Maleeva, from Bulgaria, downed Nicole Muns-Jagerman of the Netherlands 6-2, 6-2.

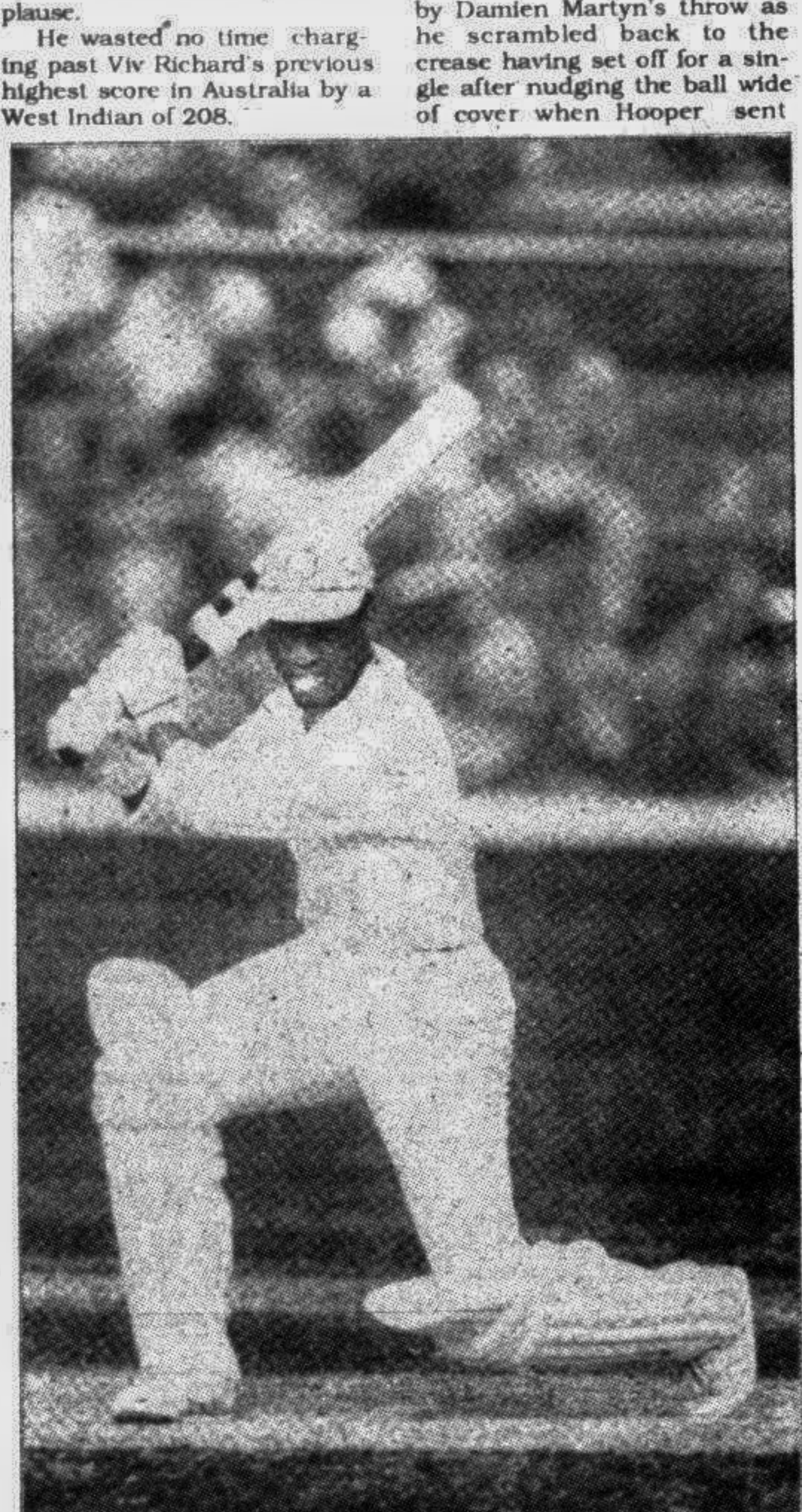
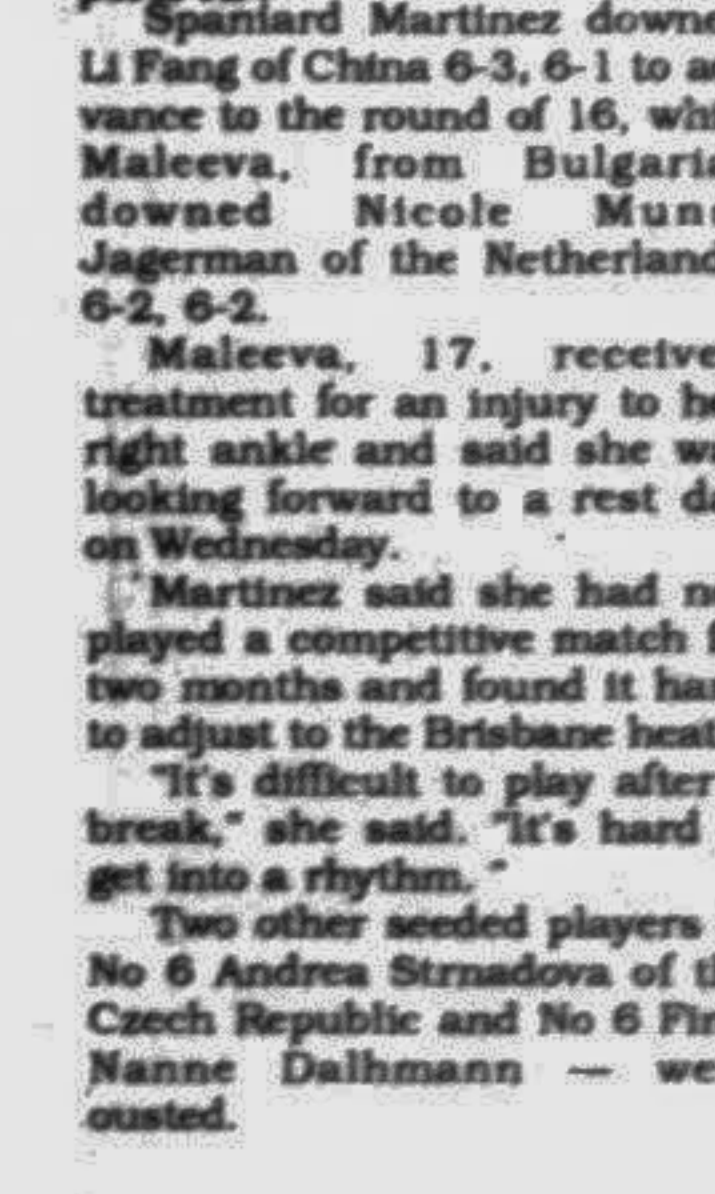
Maleeva, 17, received treatment for an injury to her right ankle and said she was looking forward to a rest day on Wednesday.

Martinez said she had not played a competitive match for two months and found it hard to adjust to the Brisbane heat.

"It's difficult to play after a break," she said. "It's hard to get into a rhythm."

Two other seeded players — No 6 Andrea Strnadova of the Czech Republic and No 6 Fritzi Nanne Dalhmann — were ousted.

Heavyweight champion Riddick Bows (R) puts 18-year-old Jerraine Perry in a head lock after he gave Perry a ticket to his upcoming title fight to be held in New York on Jan 4.



BRIAN LARA... a glorious 277 for a maiden Test ton

When he reached 227 in only his fifth Test, Lara had overtaken the previous highest score by a West Indian against Australia — 226 by Gordon Greenidge in Bridgetown in 1990-91.

Along the way he put on 124 with Keith Arthurton off spinner Greg Matthews' bowling for 47.

Lara was finally out, beaten

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