

Column One

DID U KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT from today the first of the two World Cup Cricket Quizzes, sponsored by The Daily Star and Phillips, gets underway in these pages.

WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-25

Tick the Correct Answer (Competition closes: 8 p.m. Feb 9, 1996)

- 1. Chinaman is a term associated with... 2. The MCC cricket team currently touring Bangladesh is from... 3. The 1977 Commonwealth Games were held in... 4. The Australian Open tennis women's competition is held in... 5. Zinedine Zidane is the captain of...

Name: Class: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any):

SPORTS TALK



Mark Waugh (Australian batting star) 'One of us had to go (out), and brotherly love stops short when it comes to playing for your country.'

Sacchi stays in saddle

ROME, Feb 3: Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi has had his contract extended until the end of 1998, ensuring that he will be at the helm during the next World Cup, reports Reuter.

Duva loses battle with cancer

LITTLE FALLS, New Jersey, Feb 3: Dan Duva, a promoter who gave many of boxing's champions their start, was buried here Friday, reports AFP.

His three showdowns between Evander Holyfield and Riddick Bowe came to more than 100 million dollars. Duva's fights involved such champions as Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, Alexander Holyfield, George Foreman, Lennox Lewis, Pernell Whitaker, Michael Moorer, Meldrick Taylor, Mark Breland, Alexis Arguello, Aaron Pryor, Mike McClellan, Vinny Pazienza, Rocky Lockridge, Livingstone Brantley and John Molina.



The visiting MCC cricketers, who arrived in the capital Friday to play a series of exhibition matches against different local selections, enjoying a light practice session at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday evening. — Star photo

IFA Shield soccer East Bengal draw with MSC

SHILIGURI, Feb 3: Calcutta giant East Bengal entered the semifinals of the IFA Shield tournament by sharing points with Dhaka's Mohammedan Sporting Club as the last and crucial Shiliguri cluster match ended goalless at Kanchenjunga Stadium here today, reports PTI.

The fancied East Bengal failed to tame the experienced Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting. Its stray attacks on the rival defence were nipped in the bud. However, on the fifth minute of the first half it missed a golden opportunity when advancing striker Mizan lost control and shot the ball way outside the net with the goalkeeper at his mercy.

On the other hand, Abahani, who have lost two matches so far in ten outings, will obviously look for a win today to level their tally with Mohammedans. The Dhakamond outfit earned 16 points from 10 matches.

Sanskriti Majlish win in Barisal

BARISAL, Feb 3: Sanskriti Majlish beat Four Aces by three wickets in a local First Division cricket league encounter today. Batting first, Four Aces collected 168 in 27.1 overs before they were all out. Halim scored highest 35. Majlish's Rabi grabbed six wickets conceding 31 runs while Apu took two wickets. In reply, Majlish reached home losing only seven wickets. Milon was the highest scorer for the winners with 39 runs.

TODAY'S MATCH Bright Eleven vs Khe-laghar KS

MSC-AKC clash today

Arch-rivals in local cricket, Abahani Kria Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club, will lock their horns in a crucial Premier Division cricket league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium this morning.

The match will start at 9:00 am and will be broadcast live by Radio Bangladesh from Dhaka Stadium. A win in today's match will enable the Mohammedans to take a solo lead in the 12-team league 'standings'. They have played ten matches, winning nine as against a defeat to Wari Club, and have 18 points to their credit.

Incontrad v'ball from today

The Incontrad inter-district men's and women's volleyball championship begins today at the volleyball court, reports UNB. Defending champions Khulna DSA will take on Comilla DSA in the men's inaugural match of the tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation. Holder Dhaka DSA will encounter Dhanupur DSA in the women's opening match, both at 3 pm, at the volleyball stadium.

Following are the standing of the groups. Group A - Khulna, Tangail, Dhaka and Dinajpur DSAs. Group B - Rajbari, Narayanganj, Rangpur and Chittagong DSAs. Later, two top teams of each men's and women's group will play in the semifinals, scheduled for February 9.

A cruel hoax to Craig?



BRISBANE, Feb 3: A hoax bomb threat against Australian fast bowler Craig McDermott here Friday further raised tension among members of the World Cup cricket squad preparing to play in strife-torn Sri Lanka, report agencies.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) late Friday confirmed they were investigating 'written threats made against the Australian Cricket Board. A statement' from AFP headquarters said police could not comment on specific aspects or the nature of the threats because of ongoing investigations, except to say the matter was being treated as a hoax.

McDermott's manager, Geoffrey Schukraft, said the 30-year-old Queensland pacer was shocked by the hoax and his family was upset. 'His (McDermott's) wife Sue is very upset. Craig's got young children. His kids are in tears and Craig's devastated. The whole thing is extremely upsetting,' said Schukraft.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) in Melbourne declined comment, except to say senior ACB representatives had been in close contact with McDermott throughout the day. Referring to last Wednesday's Colombo bomb blast which killed up to 80 people and injured 1,400, Hindustan Times said 'the scare whipped up in Australia on this count is quite misplaced.'

It is clear that Australian fears stem not from the security aspect but the adverse consequences of the home Test and the one-day series played recently against Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The newspaper said in an editorial, 'As long as legitimate concerns about security are addressed, the tournament must go on as scheduled, with the venues remaining unchanged,' it concluded.

The Indian Express said however that Australian fears about the safety of players in Sri Lanka might be justified. The editorial said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are players would be exposed risk. 'If a venue is unsafe, the match must be rescheduled, given to another centre where the safety of players and spectators can be assured,' the Statesman said. The loss of face in having a game taken away is surely less than that deaths on the field, or around it, will involve,' it added.

SL hoping against hope



NEW ZEALAND, Feb 3: World Cup organisers said on Saturday they would follow the advice of Sri Lankan cricket authorities on whether to go ahead with matches there following a bomb attack, virtually ruling out any changes of venue, reports Reuter.

We have asked the Sri Lankan cricket board for their assessment since they are in the best position to comment on it. Pakistan-India-Lanka Committee (PILCOM) secretary Jagmohan Dalamiya told Reuters by phone from Calcutta. Dalamiya was commenting on security fears following last Wednesday's Colombo bomb blast which killed up to 80 people and all four matches should go ahead. PILCOM will come out with our observation on Monday after hearing Sri Lanka's views, he said. Ana Panchihewa, President of the Board of Control

for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) has passed on to PILCOM the assurance of maximum security for the teams by the island nation's president, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga. Dalamiya told the BCCSL president as saying no sports event in Sri Lanka had ever been a target of attacks and the cricketers had nothing to fear. Dalamiya said the three hosts were in constant contact and had asked the Australian Cricket Board and the International Cricket Conference (ICC) to allow them until Monday to make an assessment. Australia will decide on Monday on the options available to the squad - to go ahead with the first match in Colombo, seek a change of venue or forfeit the game. The playing conditions of the World Cup do not mention anything about the penalties for forfeiting a match. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka youngsters to stage its four fixtures at the World Cup Cricket chief Ana Panchihewa said to Colombo on Friday.

West Indies, Zimbabwe and Kenya are the other countries scheduled to play in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka team manager Denis Stead said on Thursday his team were not concerned about the blast. 'Hopefully security will be good, we don't see it as a major problem,' he said. Kenya Cricket Association vice-chairman Harilal Shah said the team had made violence in Sri Lanka a priority concern. West Indies assembled in Barbados on Thursday for a week-long training camp and officials said they were waiting for an independent assessment on the security situation in Sri Lanka. Panchihewa said he was pleased at what he called the very positive response from Zimbabwe. 'Zimbabwe has taken a very positive stance and they have also supported our view that cricketers were not at risk,' he said. 'I am confident that on February 17 our cricket fans will have the pleasure of seeing the Australians playing here in Colombo.'

Full-fledged Fabio force

ROME, Feb 3: Veteran Milan captain Franco Baresi can celebrate the signing of a new club contract with a home win against Roma on Sunday, reports Reuter. Baresi, who will be 36 in May, signed a one year contract in mid-week, prompting Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani to comment, 'This is very satisfying for us, Baresi is unique.'

Baresi and Liberian striker George Weah both return for the Italian league leaders against Roma in what is always a competitive fixture. Weah has missed Milan's last three games while playing for Liberia in the African Nations Cup while Baresi was ruled out of last week's 2-0 win against Udinese by a minor injury. Fabio Capello's men come into Sunday's game unbeaten in 14 matches and three points clear of second placed Fiorentina with Parma two points further back in third place.

With Frenchman Marcel Desailly suspended, Croat Svonimir Boban lines up alongside Roberto Donadoni and Demetrio Albertini in midfield, while Weah joins Roberto Baggio and Montenegro Dejan Savicevic in attack.

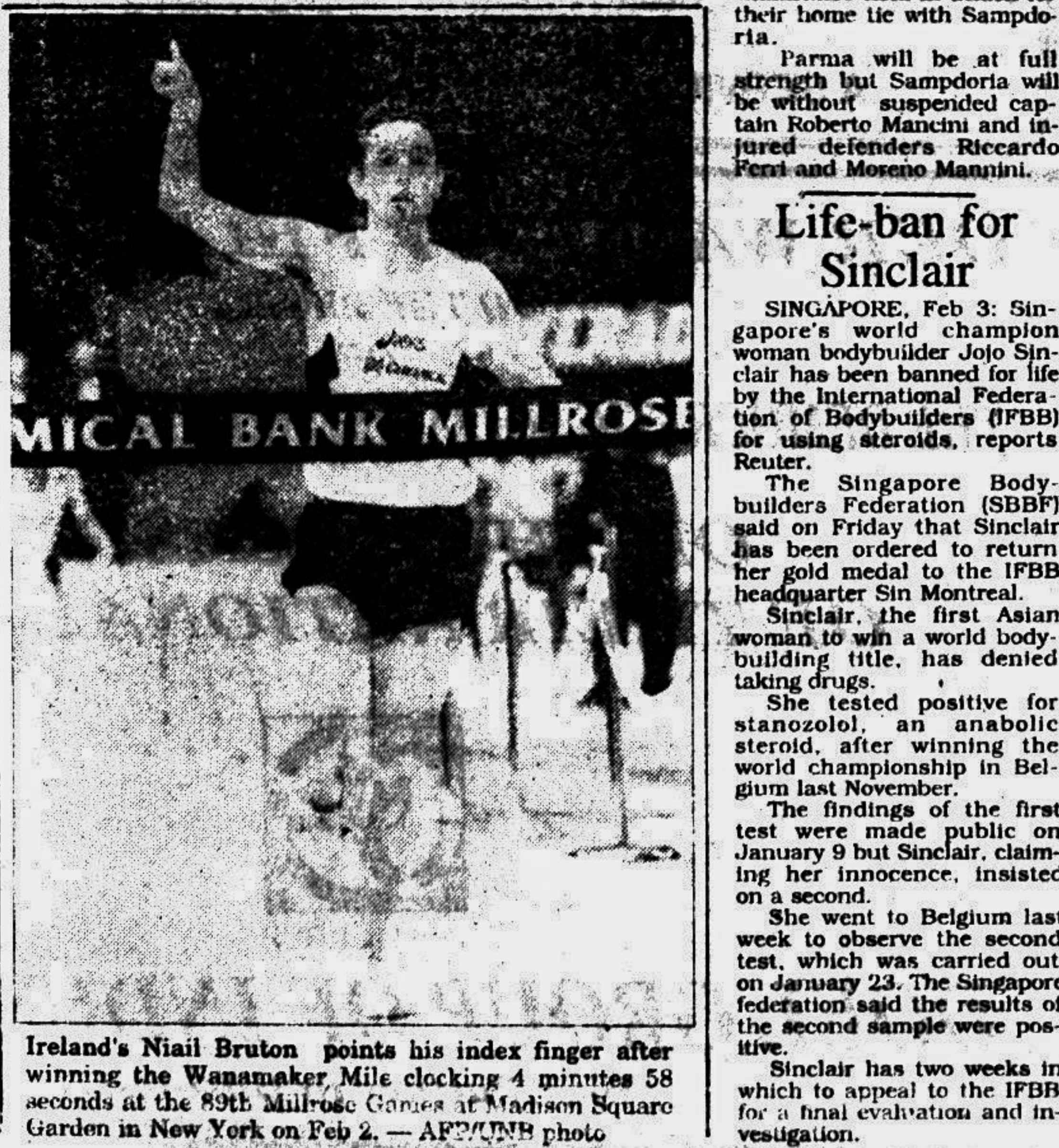
Roma may be without Uruguayan striker Daniel Fonseca, suffering from a foot injury and due to be replaced by either Francesco Totti or Marco Delvecchio. Argentine Abel Balbo will lead the Roma attack, with Swede Jonas Thern in midfield and Brazilian Aldair in defence.

One man hoping for a Roma win on Sunday will be Balbo's compatriot, Gabriel Batistuta, the leading goalscorer for second placed Fiorentina who visit Cagliari. Fiorentina welcome back

Jordan, NBA's January best

NEW YORK, Feb 3: Michael Jordan, who sparked the Chicago Bulls to an unbeaten January, was named the National Basketball Association's player of the month for the first month of 1996, reports AFP. Jordan averaged 32.5 points, seven rebounds, 3.6 assists and two steals a game while Chicago went 14-0. He sank 52 per cent of his shots and 45.6 per cent from three point range. The Bulls began the year 40-3, the best start in league history.

Parma will be at full strength but Sampdoria will be without suspended captain Roberto Mancini and injured defenders Riccardo Ferri and Moreno Mannini.



Ireland's Niall Bruton points his index finger after winning the Wanamaker Mile clocking 4 minutes 58 seconds at the 89th Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden in New York on Feb 2. — AP/WIDE photo

Life-ban for Sinclair

SINGAPORE, Feb 3: Singapore's world champion woman bodybuilder Jojo Sinclair has been banned for life by the International Federation of Bodybuilders (IFBB) for using steroids, reports Reuter. The Singapore Bodybuilders Federation (SBFF) said on Friday that Sinclair has been ordered to return her gold medal to the IFBB headquarter in Montreal. Sinclair, the first Asian woman to win a world bodybuilding title, has denied taking drugs. She tested positive for stanozolol, an anabolic steroid, after winning the world championship in Belgium last November. The findings of the first test were made public on January 9 but Sinclair, claiming her innocence, insisted on a second. She went to Belgium last week to observe the second test, which was carried out on January 23. The Singapore federation said the results of the second sample were positive. Sinclair has two weeks in which to appeal to the IFBB for a final evaluation and investigation.

Chess for peace

BELGRADE, Feb 3: Six chess Grand Masters, headed by official world champion Anatoly Karpov, will take part in a 'tournament for peace' opening in Belgrade on Saturday as part of a campaign to promote the children's chess Olympiad, reports Reuter. The tournament will be very interesting because the participants are quite strong. We conceived it as a promotion for the children's chess olympiad which will be held in Belgrade from August 12 to 20 this year,' Karpov said. The other participants in this month's tournament, to be played in Belgrade and Budva on the Montenegrin coast from February 3 to 14, are Russians Valery Salov and Yevgeny Barevny, Peter Leko of Hungary and Yugoslav Grand Masters Petar Popovic and Zlatko Ilincic.

Anxious week for Nigeria

ZURICH, Feb 3: FIFA said Friday it will wait for a report from soccer's ruling body in Africa before deciding whether to punish Nigeria for withdrawing from the African Nations Cup, reports AFP. The African Football Confederation (CAF) said earlier Friday that Nigeria had been banned from the Nations' Cup till the turn of the century, raising fears that FIFA might also ban them from the 1998 World Cup. A spokesman for football's governing body worldwide said here: 'FIFA is waiting to be officially informed of the sanctions decided by the CAF, and any recommendations it may have. The possibility of extending the sanction to include the World Cup does exist,' he added. 'But it is not automatic. Everything depends on the circumstances.'

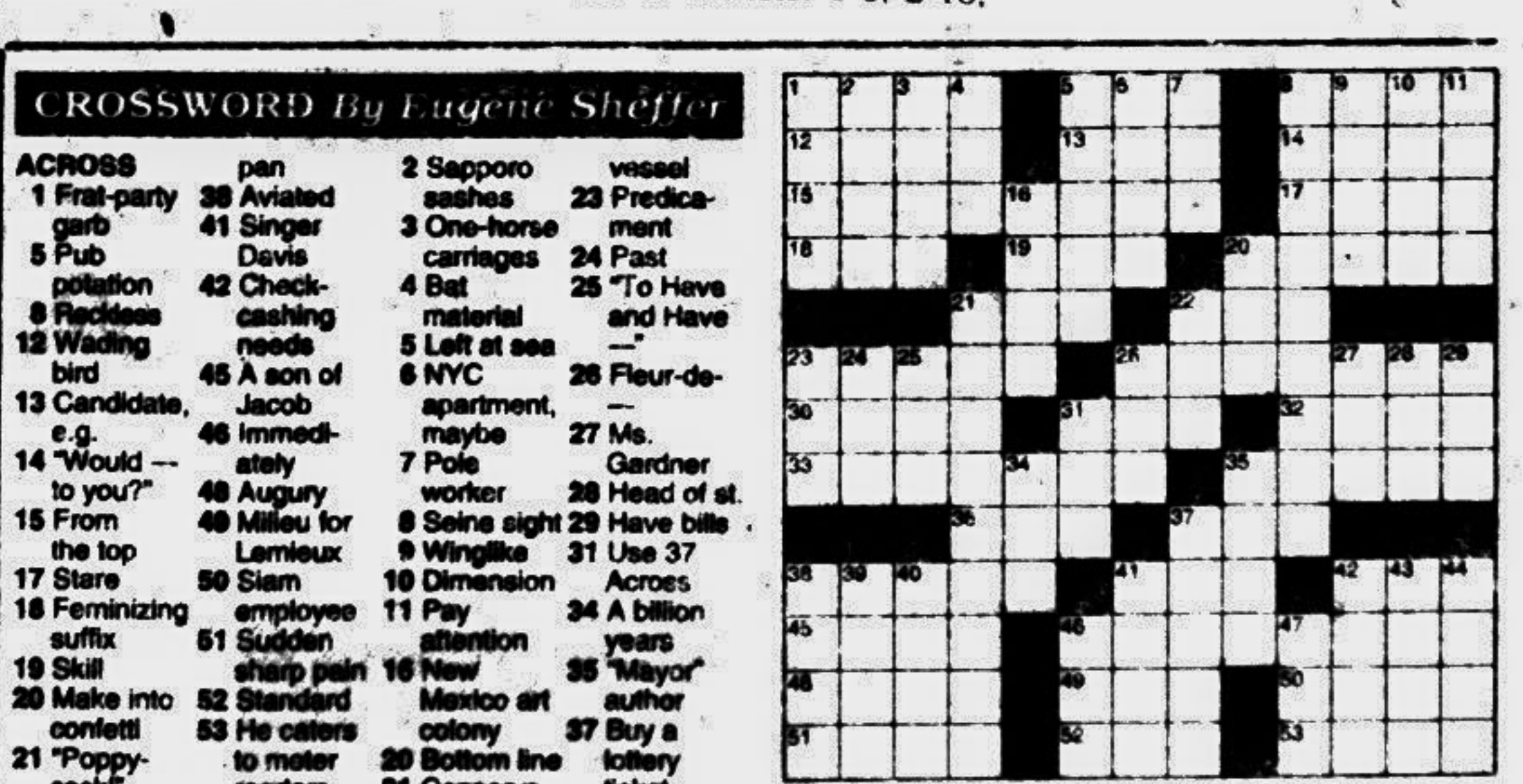
FIFA are set to discuss Nigeria's case next week. CAF rules state any team which pulls out less than 20 days before the finals, will be banned for the next two tournaments. The next two are scheduled in 1998 and 2000. Nigeria's government pulled the defending champions out after South Africa led an international outcry over the execution of nine minority rights campaigners. The official reason for the withdrawal was that Nigeria feared for the welfare of players following worldwide condemnation of the executions in November last year.

Zimbabwe puzzle Kiwis

NEW ZEALAND, Feb 3: Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower pulled out of the one-day international on Saturday, beating the home side by 21 runs, reports Reuter. New Zealand won the three-match series 2-1. Zimbabwe made 267 for seven after being put in by New Zealand in the first day-night international played in this country. New Zealand were on target to win the match until Zimbabwe bowler Charlie Lock took five wickets in 11 balls at the end of the innings as New Zealand plummeted from 227 for five after the 44th over to be all out for 216 in the 49th. Lock finished with five for 44 from 8.1 overs. New Zealand started their chase in spectacular fashion with Craig Spearman and Nathan Astle putting on 65 in 10 overs before Eddo Brandes got rid of both of them in his second over. Astle went for 30 off 37 balls and Spearman made 28 off 26 balls. Both hit sixes out

of the ground, Spearman lofting Charlie Lock over mid-wicket and Astle pulling Paul Strang to the same place. Roger Twose (60) and Stephen Fleming (50) looked to be taking New Zealand to victory but both departed too early and the tail was exposed for Lock to wrap up. Earlier Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower steered his side to 267 for seven wickets from 50 overs. He made 57 in 66 balls and featured in a 55 run partnership with Alistair Campbell. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard from the third and final one-day international between Zimbabwe and New Zealand at McLean Park on Saturday. ZIMBABWE G Flower c Astle b Morrison 7 C Evans c Fleming b Morrison 0 G Whittall c Harris b Morrison 1 A Flower lb Patel 7 S Campbell c Germon b Nash 2 S Davies run out 45 S Carlisle run out 25 H Strang not out 36 P Strang not out 24 Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-4, nb-9) 267 Total: (for seven wks, 50 overs) 267 Fall of wickets: 1-65; 2-228; 7-229; 8-233; 9-235. NEW ZEALAND C Spearman lbw b Brandes 2 N Astle c A Flower b Brandes 30 S Fleming lbw b Strang 50 R Twose lbw b Lock 0 A Parore c Strang b G Flower 3 C Harris c A Flower b Strang 2 L Germon b Lock 7 D Patel c and b Lock 4 D Nash b Lock 4 D Morrison lbw b Lock 1 R Kennedy not out 8 Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-4, nb-9) 296 Total: (fall out-48.1 overs) 296 Fall of wickets: 1-65; 2-72; 3-164; 4-169; 5-204; 6-228; 7-229; 8-233; 9-235. ZIMBABWE G Flower c Astle b Morrison 7 C Evans c Fleming b Morrison 0 G Whittall c Harris b Morrison 1 A Flower lb Patel 7 S Campbell c Germon b Nash 2 S Davies run out 45 S Carlisle run out 25 H Strang not out 36 P Strang not out 24 Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-4, nb-9) 267 Total: (for seven wks, 50 overs) 267 Fall of wickets: 1-65; 2-18.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. ACROSS: 1 First-party garb, 5 Pub, 8 Pollution, 12 Wading bird, 13 Candidate, 14 'Would you?', 15 From the top, 17 Stere, 18 Feminizing suffix, 19 Skill, 20 Make into, 21 'Poppycock', 22 Stick out like a sore thumb, 23 Ion of Joplin, 24 Chronic back pain, 25 Enthusiastic, 26 Illness, 27 Acknowledged, 28 Mid-May honorees, 29 Scoundrel, 30 Monkey (with), 31 Chinese. DOWN: 2 Sapporo, 3 One-horse carriage, 4 Bat material, 5 Left at sea, 6 NYC apartment, 7 Pole, 8 Seine sight, 9 Winkles, 10 Dimension, 11 Pay, 12 Sudden eruption, 13 Standard, 14 He catters to meter, 15 Bottom line readers, 16 Exhaust, 17 Moonshine, 18 'Champagne Tony' of golf, 19 Potter's chamber, 20 Inaugural, 21 Uncertain terms, 22 Finished, 23 Bat a gnat, 24 Serenely, 25 Wiggling device.



CRYPTOQUIP ERZMB VNRXT UGT XEWKV GTUXXR XZITXR N H U U M V E Z W N B T K U U M V E Z W N B T Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOW IRONIC IT WAS MY MENTIS A COMPUTER FROM A SAD BYE. Today's Cryptoquip clue: K equals R. The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that K equals O, R will equal I, then you can replace the letters K and R with I and O, respectively, and you will have a word.