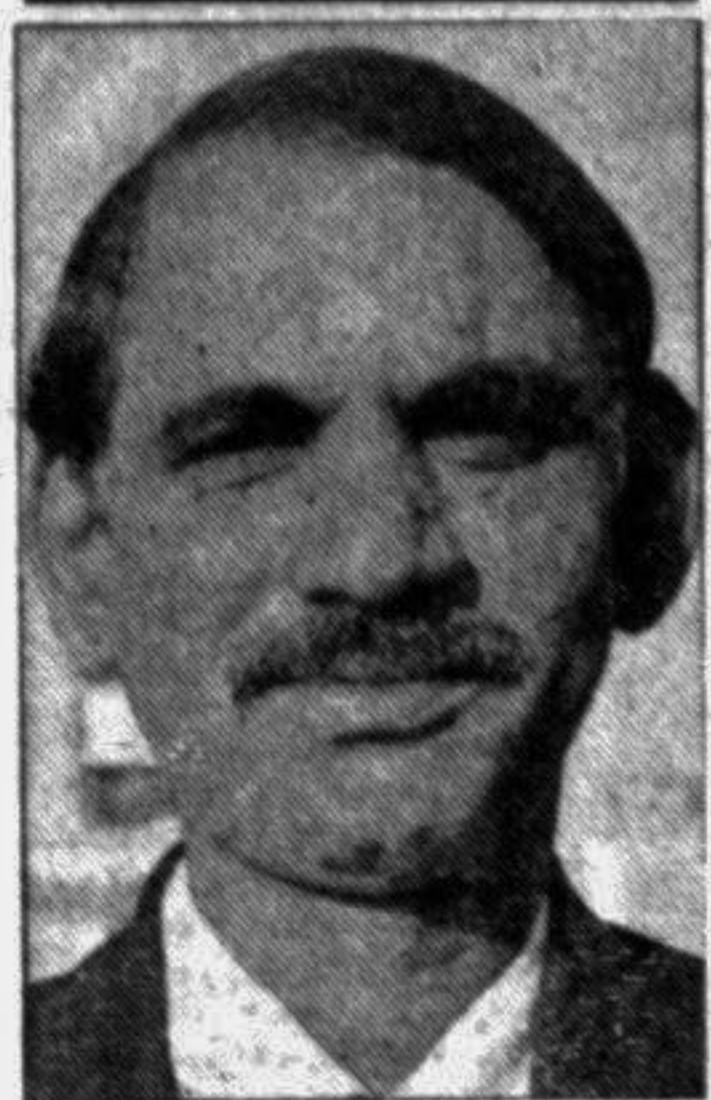


## Sport

Column One  
SPORTS TALK

V K Ramaswamy

(Noted Indian cricket umpire)  
"When we umpires take up our task, we know that we are taking up a duty which will receive little appreciation. When we make mistakes there are many people who will pick on us but when we do a good job everyone takes it for granted."

DID U' KNOW?  
(The Professor does)

HAT even heroes have their heroes. In a game like cricket which is effectively an individual as well as a team sport, stars are not as egocentric as we mortals may suppose.

Hansie Cronje, the South African skipper, considers Brian Lara the world's best. So, it might be interesting to find out what is Lara's opinion. If he is the world's best, there can't be anyone better. But, Lara thinks otherwise. The holder of the highest test first-class scores thinks he is not as great as Viv Richards.

The trouble with Lara's modesty is that, like Gooch and Richie Richardson, he has little doubt that indeed the incredible run machine from West Indies is the best batsman under the sun.

Does all this mean that Sachin has no fans among the greats? Hardly! David Boon, Australia's mainstay for several years and Mohammad Azharuddin, India's most successful captain (ever) (Gavaskar, please note), considers Sachin Tendulkar as having an old head on young shoulders and the very best.

The professor will abstain from casting his opinion unless, of course, there is a tie.

Sports  
WHIZZ KID  
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDRENSports WHIZZ KID  
competition-33

✓ Tick the Correct Answer  
(Competition closes: 8 p.m. April 12, 1996)

1. Thomas Muster is a master of	Hand-out	Crash-out	Clay-out
2. The defending Olympic soccer champions are	Spain	Poland	Italy
3. Ma Junren is a famous-coach	Swimming	Athletics	Hockey
4. Who are the Cup sponsors of the next Sharjah cricket tournament?	Pepsi	Coca-Cola	Sprite
5. The recently concluded The Daily Star World Cup cricket quiz was sponsored by	Philips	Sony	Singer

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

Russian boxers  
to the fore

VEJLE, Denmark, Apr 7: Three Russians, led by super-heavyweight Alexei Lezin, gained title bouts during Saturday's second semifinal session in the 31st European Amateur Boxing Championships, reports AP.

Russia, Germany and Bulgaria will have four finalists each in Sunday's championship session of the six-day meet that also is a qualifying event for the Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

Lezin will meet Ukraine's Vladimir Klitschko in the super-heavy (over 91-kilo) class. Lezin, the reigning world champion, won on Germany over Rene Monse of Germany, who was injured in the quarterfinals earlier this week. Klitschko dethroned Attila Levin of Sweden 7-0 in the other semifinal.

The other Russian finalists were Albert Pakeev, who dethroned Damaen Kelly of Ireland 9-3 in the 51-kilo class, and Ramazi Paliani, who scored a 9-3 decision over Scott Harrison of Scotland in the 57-kilo division.

Bulgaria's two semifinal winners came in lighter divisions. Mikhailov Strogov (51-kilo) and Serafim Todorov (57-kilo).

## Dulu's spell sinks Mohammedans

## AKC's triumph over trivia

Sports Reporter

## BRIEF SCORES

**MOHAMMEDAN SC:** 161 in 47.5 overs (Nannu 55, Subon 21, Shahed Mehmud 19; Dulu 5/14)  
**ABAHANI KC:** 185 for 4 in 40.2 overs (Partho 56, Liton 38, Akram 36, Bulbul 2/25, Shanto 2/26)



Former national left-arm seamer Jahangir Talukder, popularly known as 'danger Dulu', captured five wickets for only 14 runs, took two brilliant catches and effected a vital run out as Mohammedans, sent into bat in the morning by Abahani skipper Akram Khan, could hardly muster a defensible total.

In reply, Abahani, powered by a century partnership for the first wicket between Imran Hamid Partho and Harun-ur Rashid Liton, rattled up the targeted runs with six wickets in the bank to pull off a memorable victory with more than nine overs to spare in the 50-over-a-side match.

With this defeat Mohammedans, who began their six-team super league campaign yesterday.

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The long-haired left-armed, who ripped through the Mohammedans top order, started the rot in the third over when he dismissed Pakistan-recruit and opener Nadeem Younis for five. He then had a shaky Selim Shahed (2) caught at extra-cover to reduce Mohammedans to 13 for two in 6.1 overs.

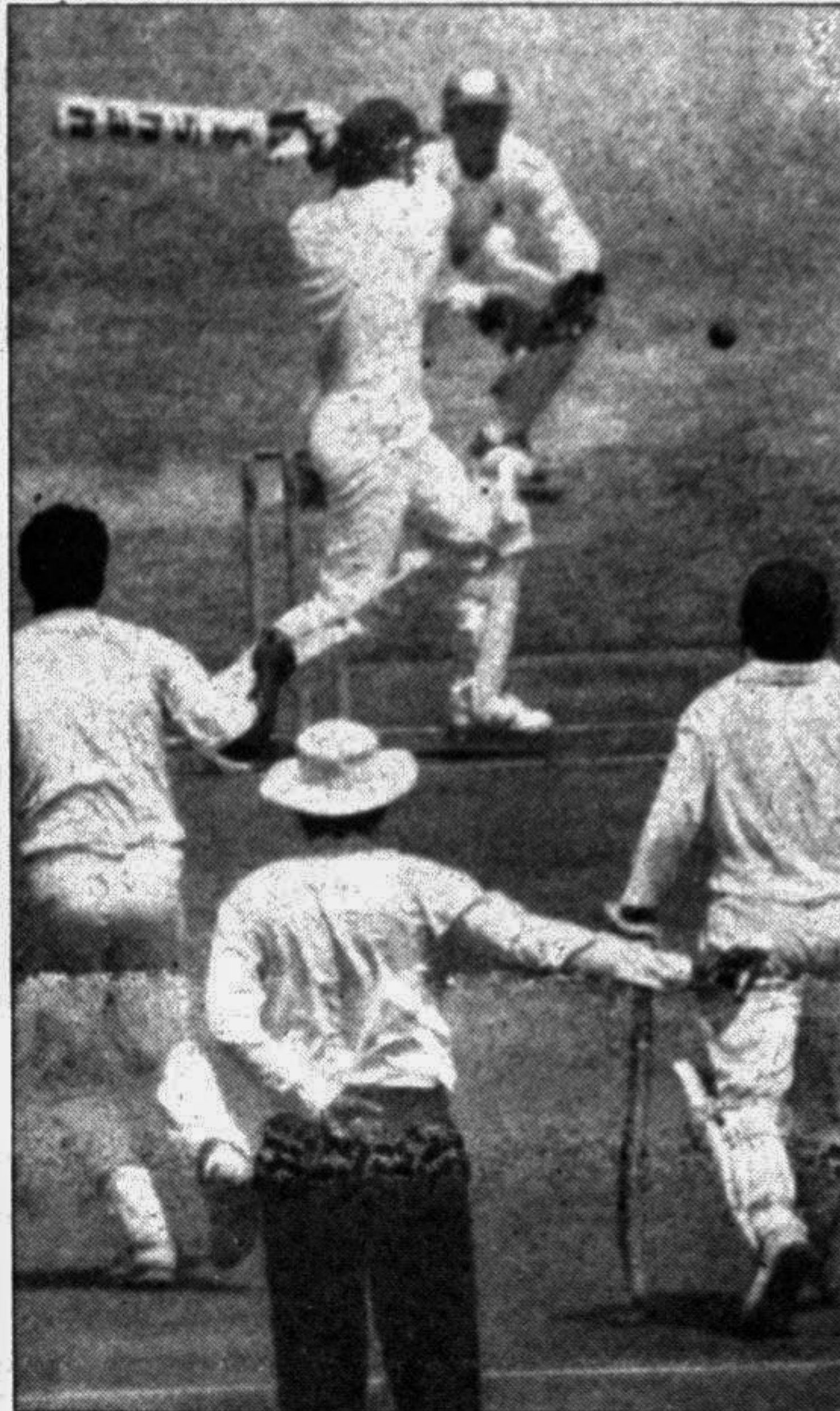
Jahangir, the other Mohammedans opener, with a plucky 18, tried to stick around for a while but when right-arm seamer Ruhul Niamur Rashid uprooted his off-stump Mohammedans plunged into deeper trouble with 3/31 in 12.3 overs.

Things turned graver when ever-dependable Mohammedans

Rahul, who evenly shared four wickets among them. Chasing a rather easy target on a placid artificial turf, Abahani were given a flying start by their openers Partho and Liton, who put on 102 runs in 22.2 overs.

Left-handed Partho, who in the recent past has earned the reputation of being a pinch-hitter, took full advantage of the first 15 overs field-restriction with a strokeful 56 off 73 deliveries embellished with eight hits across the rope. At the other end Liton scored a patient 38 before Abahani suffered a mini-collapse.

Both Partho and Liton were dismissed by Aminul Islam Bulbul in quick-succession while tall national new-ball



Mohammedan opener Jahangir pulling a no-ball Abahani's from Rahul during yesterday's clash of the arch-rivals.

— Star photo

dans skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul was run out in a terrible mix-up with Liton after scoring only 16. Liton soon followed his skipper when Dulu struck again in the 23rd over and Mohammedans were reduced to 69 for five.

After that horrible start Mohammedans never appeared up to the task of scoring a commanding total and it was only a brilliant 55 by Minhazul Abedin Nannu that lifted the score to some respectability.

Nannu, the most experienced but in the country who helplessly watched wickets tumbling at the other end at regular intervals, hammered six fours in his polished 80-ball knock before playing on a Dulu in-cutter on to his stumps.

Dulu, who later removed wicket-keeper Nasu, finished with an enviable analysis of 10-4-14-5. He was well supported by national slow left-armed Enamul Huq Mont and young

bowler Hasibul Hossain Shanto accounted for the scalp of one-down Khaled Masud Pilot (5) as Abahani were reduced to 130 for three in 29.1 overs.

And, when Akram feel after a rapid-fire 36 off 33 balls a glimmer of hope lined the Mohammedan cloud. But an undefeated 37-run fifth wicket partnership between Anup (13) and Dulu (17), the crowd's choice of the day, steered Abahani to victory without further damage.

Dulu, undoubtedly the man-of-the-match, who enthralled the sparse audience with his unorthodox batting, concluded the chase with a fitting reverse sweep to complete his savoury day of cricket.

With this win Abahani raised their tally to 20 points from 15 matches while Mohammedans remained glued to their previous collection of 24, also playing as many matches.

## Athens relives sensation



ATHENS, Apr 7: The flame that will burn at the Summer Games began its long journey to Atlanta on Saturday as the city that hosted the first modern Olympics celebrated their rebirth 100 years ago, reports AP.

Athletes from the United States, Greece and the eight other countries that took part in the 1896 Games competed in four track and six field events in the 1,666-year-old all-marble Panathinaic Stadium that hosted the first modern Olympics.

The flame lit one week ago by the sun's rays at the ancient sanctuary of Olympia was the centerpiece of the celebration to mark the centennial, attended by more than 25,000 Athenians who braved a windy evening and a cold drizzle to watch the ceremonies.

"This was a historic ceremony even though we did not have Greece's traditional weather," said IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch. "On this 100th anniversary permit me to salute Greece, the cradle of an ancient civilisation and the Olympic movement."

The celebration and reenactment was an effort by the IOC to mend fences with Greece after it chose Atlanta over sentimental favourite Athens for the centennial Games.

Although the bitterness of many Greeks has waned, much of the resentment still lies just below the surface.

"Don't give them the flame," a lone voice was heard to cry as the torch entered the silent and darkened stadium after a

week-long 1,562-mile relay around Greece.

"Greece, Greece," the rest of the crowd then chanted as a group of 50 children sitting in the stands and holding a banner reading "Athens 96" lit candles.

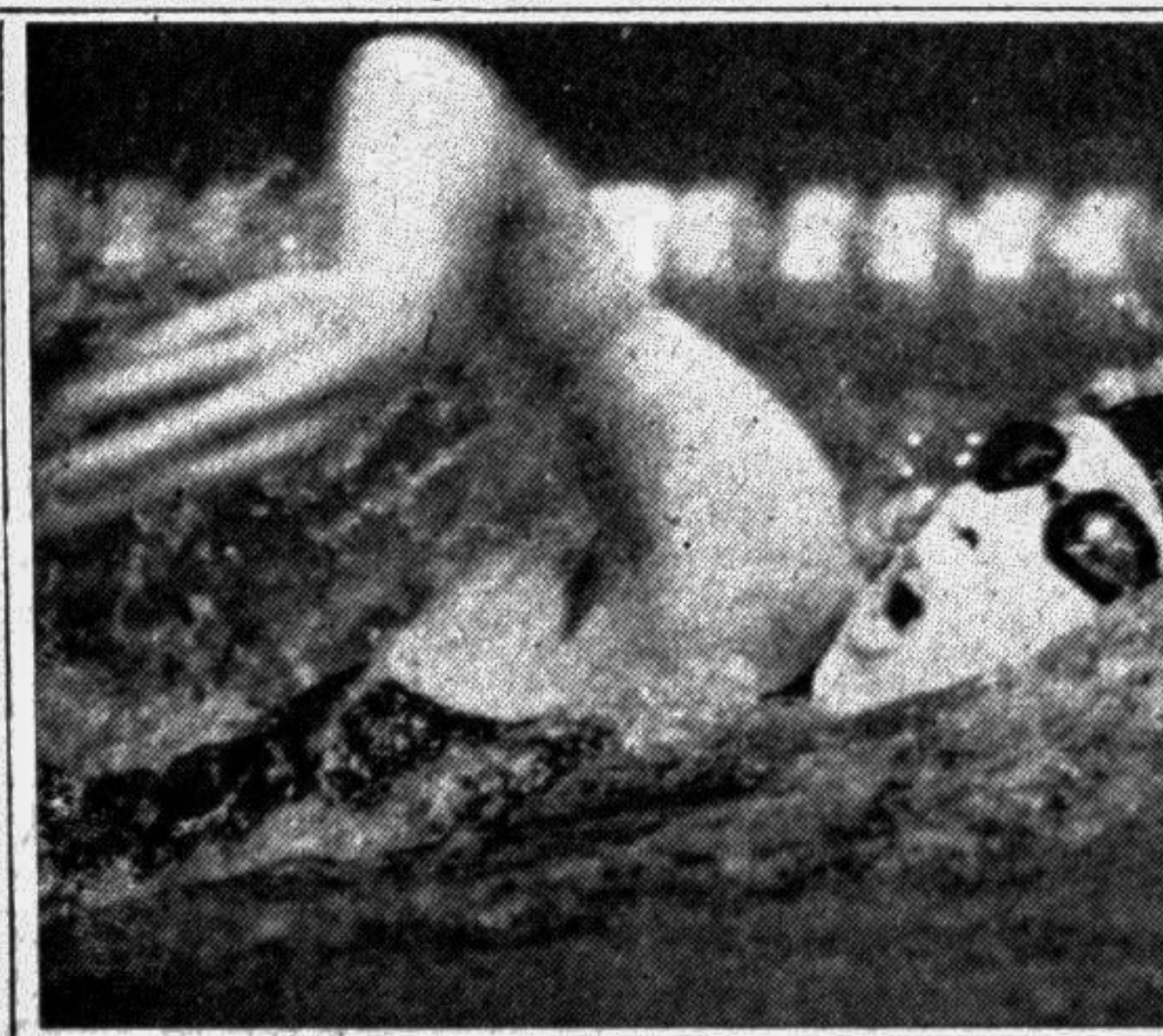
Athens Mayor Dimitris Avramopoulos later told the crowd that his city would make its bid for the 2004 Games a "sacred common goal that will unite all Greeks."

The celebrations to mark the centennial began with 121 athletes dressed in simple tan-

colored shorts and shirts competing in the events that marked the rival of a Greek tradition dating back at least 2,772 years.

The other countries that participated were Germany, France, Britain, Hungary, Austria, Australia, Denmark and Chile.

"To have been here to take part in the reenactment and to compete here with all the history is just overwhelming," said Roger Kingdom, gold medalist in the 110-metre hurdles at the 1984 Los Angeles Games.



China's rising star Chen Yan powers through the pool during the women's 800 metres freestyle at the China Swimming Championships in Tianjin on April 6. Chen completed her fourth victory at meet and is considered a Olympic gold prospect in Atlanta.

Davis Cup  
Swedes rout  
Indians

CALCUTTA, Apr 7: Sweden's Nicklas Kulti and Jonas Bjorkman took just three hours to win their reverse singles and complete a 5-0 rout of India in their Davis Cup World Group quarterfinal on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Kulti served 16 aces to beat Lander Paes 6-3, 6-7, 7-6 in a dead rubber reduced to the best of three sets. Bjorkman beat Mahesh Bhupathi 6-2, 6-4 in the final match on the grass court.

Sweden, five times Cup winners, will meet either the Czech republic or defending champions the United States in the semifinals in September.

The Swedes, playing without former Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg who declined to go to India because he was worried about falling ill, had taken a winning 3-0 lead after Friday's opening singles and Saturday's doubles.

Kulti broke Paes in the third and ninth games of the first set. Paes won the second set on a tiebreak and held on in the third for another tiebreak, which the Swede won 8-6.

The tie started amid had feeling on both sides after the Swedes complained about customs delays which held up food and equipment they were bringing in and their captain Carl Axel Hageskog was quoted in the Swedish press as saying the fixture could become a "hate match."

Indian officials complained to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) about the reported remarks.

But Hageskog said on Sunday that he had been misquoted.

"We have no complaint," Hageskog said. "The problem with the customs was over with the help of the organisers on Tuesday night. I could not take up the matter with the Swedish press because I was busy with the matches. I will deal with the reports once I get back."

"I am proud of my boys and they did well against a very good Indian team," Hageskog added.

Chen grabs  
spotlight

BEIJING, Apr 7: Sixteen-year-old Chen Yan, a powerful new talent in China's challenge for the Atlanta Games, collected her fourth title of the Chinese Olympic trials by winning the women's 800 metres freestyle in Tianjin on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Chen, who made her international bow in the World Cup series earlier this year, won the 400 individual medley and 400 freestyle and shared first place in the 200 freestyle earlier in the week, she also finished third in the 200 individual medley.

But while Chen has flourished, the trials have been a disaster for world champion He Chong, who pulled out of Saturday's 200 metres backstroke through illness.

He, who finished second equal in Wednesday's 100 backstroke more than two years outside her world record, has been out of the international picture since the 1994 World Championships in Rome where she won the 100 and 200 backstroke.

"She got a fever last night," national assistant head coach Zhou Ming said but added that the chances of her failing to make the squad for Atlanta were slight.

He's personal coach Wang Lin said he needed to concentrate on the Asian Championships which begin in Bangkok on April 12, adding that the lack of major competition was the main reason for her failure.

Rain ruins  
the day

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina, Apr 7: Rain forced the postponement of all matches at the \$26,250 dollars Family Circle Cup tennis tournament on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The two semifinal singles matches, between top seed Conchita Martinez of Spain and Barbara Paulus of Austria, and between second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain and sixth seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic, will be played this morning. The final will be played in the afternoon.



Gleaming winners of The Daily Star-Philips Cricket World Cup Quiz Bumper Round: (L to R) Mohammad Nuruzzaman (3rd), Md Monirul Hoque (1st), Kamran R Chowdhury (2nd) and Md Anwarul Hassan (3rd).

— Star photo

## Windies wear Kiwis down



ARNOS VALE, St Vincent, Apr 7: Trinidadians Brian Lara and Phil Simmons both hit thrilling centuries to lead the West Indies to a comfortable seven-wicket victory over New Zealand Saturday to clinch a five-match series, reports AP.

With exciting strokeplay that kept the crowd of 9,000 on its feet for most of the match, Lara hit 104 and man-of-the-match Simmons an unbeaten 103 to rescue the West

Indies from 31 for two and propel the West Indies to its victory target of 242 with nine balls to spare.

Winning captain Courtney Walsh said afterward that star batsman Lara had promised him success before the decisive fifth and final match that won the series of one-day internationals 3-2 for the home team.

"Lara said to me this morning that whatever we do, we're going to win this one. I said I'm going to bank on you for that," Walsh said. "I am pretty pleased for him and am also very glad Simmo (Simmons) got a hundred as well."

The pair added a record 186 in 31 overs for the third wicket that virtually decided the outcome of the match.

When Lara was out, playing a lazy pull at Chris Cairns, 25 were still needed from 47 balls.

But Simmons, then 92, took over and brought up his century with a pulled four that also sealed the victory.

Lara's second century of the series, following his dazzling, match-winning 146 not out in the third match exactly a week ago in his native Trinidad, was his ninth overall in 103 matches. The 26-year-old left-hander faced 103 deliveries and struck 10 fours and one six.

His stand with Simmons broke the record third-wicket score for the West Indies against New Zealand of 127 between Desmond Haynes and Viv Richards in Antigua in 1985.

Simmons' fifth one-day in-

ternational century came off 124 balls with 10 fours and two sixes. It was the 32-year-old's first international century since his last against South Africa in the Caribbean in 1992, almost four years ago to the day.

New Zealand had removed both openers cheaply to take the early edge when the West Indies started their reply.

Philo Wallace, back in international cricket for the first time in four years, was out for a duck off the last ball of the first over, from off-spinner Dipak Patel.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul made 13 before frustration got the better of him and he holed out to long-on off Chris Harris.

But then Lara and Simmons took over and New Zealand captain Lee Germon, despite using seven bowlers, could not get the break through.

Earlier, half centuries from Germon and left-hander Stephen Fleming had formed the backbone of New Zealand's total of 241 for eight off 50 overs.

Germon and Fleming added 120 for the third wicket in 24.4 overs.

Germon's even 50 off 66 balls included three boundaries and was his best score of the series.

Fleming, who had made a match-winning century in the series second match in Trinidad eight days earlier, hit a sparkling 75, stroking six fours in 102 balls.

After they parted in quick succession, only left-hander Chris Harris and Justin Vaughan could maintain the

Gomez gains  
WBC crown

MIAMI, Apr 7: Mexico's Cuauhtemoc Gomez scored an 11th-round technical knock-out over Puerto Rico's Angel Rosario to win the World Council Caribbean Central American Federation bantamweight title Saturday night, reports AP.

Gomez, the WBC's No. 4 ranked bantamweight, overcame an early fight deficit, by connecting head punches to floor Rosario in the final seconds of the 10th round.

In the cruiserweight title, Uruguian Grant stopped Argentina's Reynaldo Gimenez in the first round of a scheduled 12-round fight, using a left jab and right to the head.

Grant, 35, of Jamaica and now living in Miami, then cautiously pursued 30-year-old Gimenez with solid lefts and rights to the head. The unanswered blows finally prompted referee Jorge Ortiz to stop the fight at 1:39.

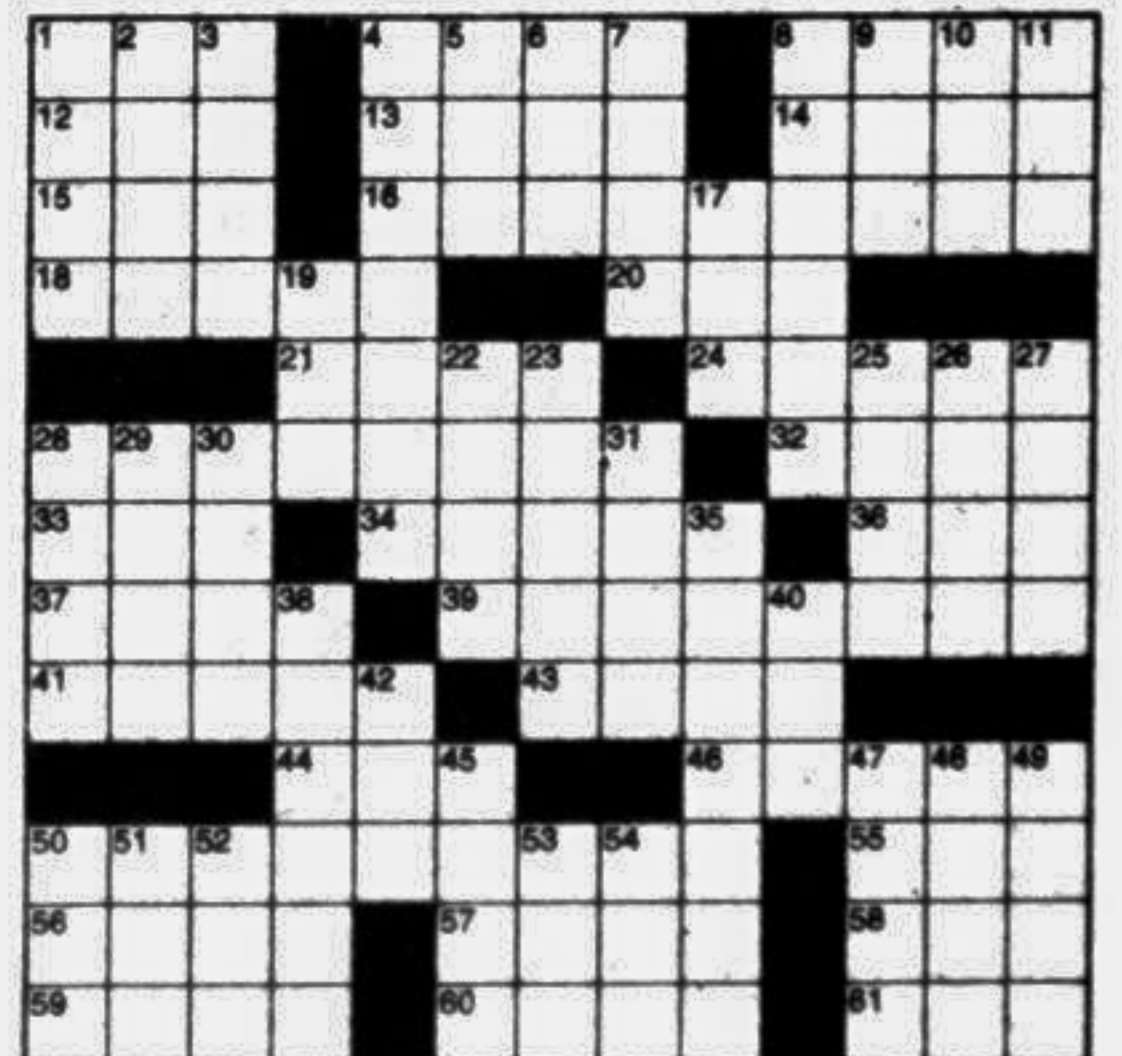
With Rosario exhausted by the 11th round of the bantamweight fight, Gomez pressed with short combinations that featured lefts, rights and uppercuts. The onslaught finally forced referee Bill Connors to stop the fight at 35 seconds of the round.

Rosario, 31, built an early advantage using quick combinations to Gomez's head.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	43 Test the waters	3 Silents rocks
1 Hangout for Andy	4 Approves star Thede	23 Scatter about
5 Capp	46 Bashful or pher Ruth	25 Jale follower
6 Hour-glass fill	50 Defen-dent's absolute	26 Note to the workers
7 Footballers' protection	55 Bear hair	27 "— for All Seasons"
12 Plato's H	56 Outside the baseline	28 Predicate component
13 Verifiable	57 Staffer	29 Charles Lamb
14 Verdi opera	58 Citric quaff	30 Engrossed
15 Children's card game	59 Prince, pre-occupation	31 Director Vittorio de
16 No longer a lawyer	60 Interpreter	32 Trifled (with)
18 Disgrace	61 Catcher's place	33 Ought to
20 Teeter-tot-ter quorum	1 Church	40 Weld a needle
21 Les Etats-	2 Hexagonal state	42 Emulate
24 Camel's cousin	3 Guidonian high note	43 Luminary
28 Jurist's findings	34 Calligraphy stroke	47 Worship-er's place?
32 Sch before high	36 Docs' org.	48 NYC mayor Giuliani
33 Guidonian high note	37 Satorial woes	49 Priceless?
34 Calligraphy stroke	38 Judge's determination	50 Steward
36 Docs' org.	41 Dog owner's ordesals	51 Columbine call
37 Satorial woes		52 Sine-non link
39 Judge's determination		53 Father's Day gift
41 Dog owner's ordesals		54 Oklahoma city

Solution time: 28 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

NIFA ITZGFISL GTFUO

BRU NIAL TS FIDO IO  
FUNIF ITZ DRUB BID  
I DUIZ FUDLZ

Yesterday's Cryptquip: FOR GARDENER, PLAYING POKER WITH FRIENDS, HIS LUCKY SUIT WAS SPADES.

Today's Cryptquip clue: F equals L  
The Cryptquip 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.

— AFP/UNB photo