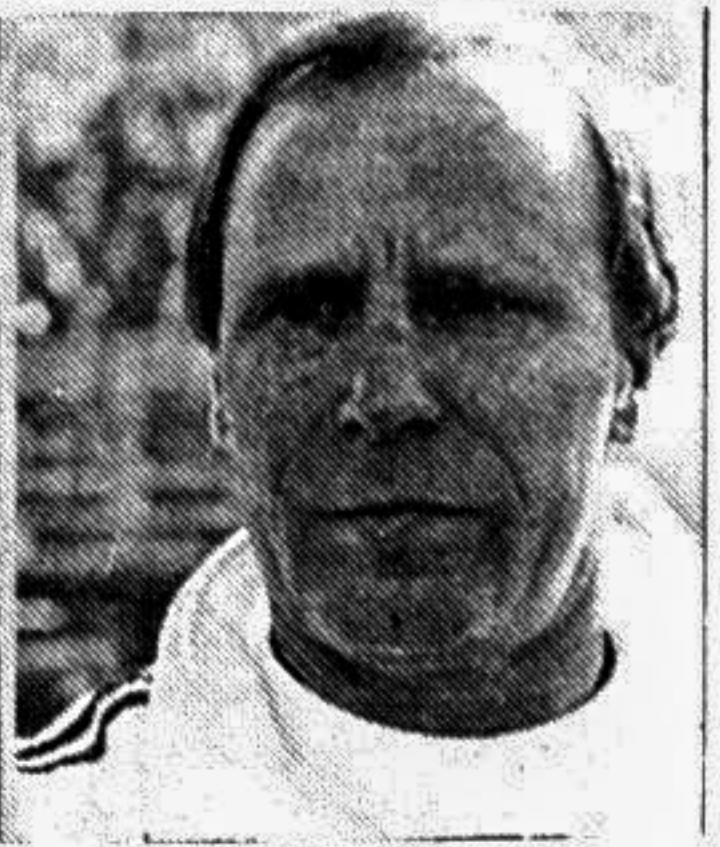


Column One SPORTS TALK



Berti Vogts
(German national football coach)
"We need a unified team if we are to perform well in France. Our side is not superior to other teams, neither technically nor physically and certainly not tactically."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-86
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Competition closes at 8 pm on Jan 9, 1998

1	Who is the Australia cricket coach?	Lille	Marsh	Simpson
2	Who is the Argentina soccer coach?	Passarella	Venables	Cruyff
3	Which county will Lara lead next year?	Essex	Durham	Warwickshire
4	Who hit the first century in this year's Premier Division cricket league?	Nadim	Sead	Kazmi
5	Who lifted the women's singles title of the national TT championships?	Linu	Tumpa	Zulekha

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Iran interested in Lattek

BONN, Jan 2: German Udo Lattek has been offered the job of coaching Iran in this year's World Cup finals in France, the Daily Bild reported today, reports Reuters.

Lattek, 62, told Bild he had met Iranian officials on Tuesday and Wednesday in Tehran and was considering their proposal.

"There are several things I must discuss with my family (Before giving an answer)," Lattek told Bild. "My family would not be able to come to Iran with me. Our daughter Nadia, who is 15, goes to school here (in Germany) ... and then there is the problem with the language."

Lattek, who trained several leading clubs including Bayern Munich, Borussia Mönchengladbach, and Barcelona, said the offer was "not bad at all" financially and added he would make a final decision before the end of the month.

USA prefers Kiawah Island

KIAWAH ISLAND, South Carolina, Jan 2: Kiawah Island will play host to the United States' first round match in next year's Fed Cup, scheduled for April 18-19 against the Netherlands, reports AP.

The international team competition will be contested at the East Beach Tennis Club, which previously served as host for the 1990 US Clay Court Championships.

"Kiawah is a nice facility," said Jeff Ryan, Fed Cup manager for the United States Tennis Association. "They've had the Clay Courts there and done real well. We felt the Fed Cup would fit in real well there, and Kiawah was standing there with arms wide open to hold it."

TODAY'S MATCHES

Victory Day Cricket Tournament:
Abahani KC vs Biman (BKSP)
Kalabagan KC vs Lalmitia Club (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

First Division Cricket League:
Dhaka Wanderers Club vs Bangladesh Boys Club (City Club)

Premier Division Football League:
Abahani KC vs Brothers Union (Mirpur Stadium, 2:15 pm)

First Division Football League:
Shantinagar Club vs Dhanmondi Club (Army Stadium, 2:15 pm)

Independence Cup notebook

Sports Reporter

January 6.

There are five kinds of tickets including one exclusively for ladies.

The VIP tickets holders will have to enter through Shaheed Jewel Gate (formerly Gate No 3) while the Club House ticket holders proceed through gate No 2.

The Western Gallery (Gate Nos 11-19) tickets were priced at Tk 150 each per day while the Eastern Gallery (Gate Nos 5-10) tickets have been fixed at Tk 100 for one match.

Besides there will be a special enclosure for the ladies which will cost Tk 150 per match. In addition to the above, there are 24 hospitality boxes each containing ten seats.

Every box will have a TV monitor (Singer 16" colour TV) and all the ten persons will be provided with lunch and other refreshments.

Each box, entrance to which will be through Shaheed Mush-taq Gate (former Gate No 1) is priced at Tk one lakh for the whole tourney.

The VIP tickets for one match will cost Tk 1200 while the Club House ones will be Tk 750.



TICKETS

Meanwhile, the rates of different tickets were fixed. They will be available at ten selected branches of Al-Baraka Bank and are likely to go on sale from

Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

Gopibagh Friends Association earned a walk-over against Bangladesh Railway in the First Division cricket league as the latter failed to appear for the match at the City Club ground yesterday.

According to the report of umpire Mahbub, the team failed to turn up even after one hour of the scheduled time.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Amor Jyoti Club, Young Cricketers and Rupali Bank won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches at different city venues yesterday.

Amor Jyoti Club recorded a facile 54-run victory over Indira Road Krira Chakra at the Mirpur Outer Stadium and Young Cricketers beat Dhanmondi Progoti by 27 runs at the T & T ground in Mahakhali.

Easy win for Seniors

Sports Reporter

The primary selection for Bangladesh national team for the Coca Cola Independence Cup handed the South Africa bound youth team a 47-run defeat in the second exhibition

match played on the eastern strip of Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Former national skipper Faruque Ahmed and opener Shahriar Hossain each scored half centuries as the senior, put in to bat, collected 220 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs.

Faruque, who was ignored by the selectors after the infamous Kenya campaign in 1994, hammered 53 of 56 balls.

After Shahriar Hossain (50) and Azam Iqbal (41) put on a solid 95-run opening stand in 23.5 overs, the right-handed Faruque came at number three and occupied the crease for only 54 minutes to take the score-board to 175 before being stumped by Mehra Hossain off leg spinner Al Shahrir in the last ball of the 40th over.

After a brief 26-run partnership with Shahriar for the second wicket Faruque added 54 runs for the third with middle-order Aminul Islam who made 30.

In his run-a-ball innings, Faruque struck six boundaries and a six.

Shahriar, who faced 99 balls for his 50, hit five fours while his partner Azam faced 58 balls for his sedate 41 which included six sweetly timed strikes across the rope.

Aminul, with his characteristic 30 off 41 balls and Akram (15) were the other notable run-getters for the senior side.

Youth team skipper Al-Shahrir, who ripped through the fragile national tail finished with four for 35 from his seven overs while right-arm medium-pacer Sajal Chowdhury captured two wickets for 32 runs in ten overs.

In reply, the youth team were bundled out for 173 in 47.1 overs in the face of some fired up spin bowling from left-arm spinner Saifullah Khan Gem and two offies Shariful Haque Plaban and Aminul who shared eight wickets among themselves.

Plaban and Gem captured three wickets apiece conceding 30 and 31 runs respectively while Aminul finished with two for 24 from his seven-over spell.

One down Mehra Hossain Opee fought the lost battle with 46 off 59 balls while opener Sezan and middle-order Sumon contributed 31 and 22 runs respectively.

The two sides meet in their last trial match tomorrow after which a 14-member Bangladesh team will be announced.



FARUQUE ... 53



BIDYUT ... 50

It's FA Cup time again

LONDON, Jan 2: FA Cup holders Chelsea see no reason why they cannot retain the famous old trophy they won last May — despite being drawn against Premier-league champions Manchester United in the pick of this weekend's third round action, reports AFP.

Most teams would have been happy to avoid Alex Ferguson's men, but Ruud Gullit's Blues have reason to believe they can progress and in doing so hurdle one of the major obstacles standing in the way of a repeat win in the competition.

Stamford Bridge will be packed to the rafters on Sunday, yet, ironically Gullit's men might have preferred the game to be held at Old Trafford, where the Londoners have lost just twice in 22 seasons.

Chelsea appear to hold the Indian sign over United, over whom they did the double when the Mancunians swept to the title in 1994, losing two other games in the process.

In the cup, it has been a different story, however, with United winning a tense 1996 semifinal 2-1, while Ferguson's side, led by an ever-efficient Eric Cantona, steamrollered Chelsea 4-0 in the final two years earlier.

Chelsea striker Mark Hughes is hoping to down his former club and make it a double celebration after being receiving an MBE in the new year's honours list, which left his teammates calling him "Sir" in training.

Both sides are chasing glory on several fronts this season with United favourites to lift the European Cup and Chelsea going well in the Cup Winners' Cup. There is also the Premier League with United five points in the clear with Chelsea third in the table following their defeat this week at Southampton.

The FA Cup may rank as the third priority for both clubs but the tournament still counts for much in terms of glamour and United are also intent on landing a record tenth success.

The two drew 2-2 at Old Trafford in the league earlier in the season and Chelsea may have to be satisfied with more of the same provided they can keep their fine run on United territory going in the reply.

While United's clash with Chelsea is undoubtedly the pick of the bunch of third round matches, there are four other all-Premiership ties, with relegation-haunted Everton hosting Newcastle United, in the middle of a dismal run which has taken them into the table's lower reaches.

Liverpool, losing ground in the title race despite their win at Newcastle, host Coventry City, who shocked Manchester United at Highfield Road last week.

The two other top flight tiers feature clashes between Derby and Southampton and struggling pair Barnsley and Bolton, neither of them lies to capture the imagination.

Matches which do come into that category are West Ham against non-league Leyton, who are desperate to cause an upset which would be on a par with Hereford United's memorable defeat of Newcastle back in the early seventies.

The romance of the competition is also in evidence with another non-league side, Stevenage of the Vauxhall Conference, off to Swindon Town of Division One looking to pull off a giant killing act of their own, having already dumped out Cambridge.

Elsewhere, under-fire Spurs coach Christian Gross will experience the pressure of the FA Cup for the first time as his injury-hit side entertain Fulham, now run by former England stars Ray Wilkins in tandem with Kevin Keegan.

Rumours have abounded that Gross may quit White Hart Lane after chosen fitness trainer Fritz Schmid failed to get a work permit while England striker Les Ferdinand has publicly accused gross of making him train while injured.

Ferdinand is just one of several stars nursing injuries and in-form David Ginola could also miss the tie so Fulham, although not exactly setting the world on fire in Division Two, may just fancy their chances.

Spurs' North London rivals Arsenal should have few problems ousting Port Vale at High-bury, while high-flying Leeds, who have curiously found their shooting boots recently under George Graham, are likewise hoping for a scoring spree against Oxford at Elland Road.

Division One promotion hopefuls Charlton and Nottingham Forest clash at Charlton while inconsistent QPR entertain Bryan Robson's Middlesbrough at Loftus Road.

Portsmouth and Manchester City will put their poor league form to one side as they host Aston Villa, seeking their eighth cup win (but first in 40 years) and Bradford respectively.

V-day cricket starts today

Sports Reporter

The eight-team Victory Day cricket tournament, organised by the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) begins today at different city venues.

On the inaugural day of the knock-out meet which offers Tk 25,000 appearance money to all the eight participating teams from the Premier Division, Abahani Krira Chakra will take on Biman at the BKSP ground in Savar while Kalabagan Krira Chakra meet Lalmitia Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The other two matches of the first round will be held on January 5 with Mohammedan Sporting Club taking on Victoria Sporting Club at BKSP while Brothers Union meeting Surjo Tarun at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The winners from the first round who will be richer by Tk 10,000 will qualify for the semifinals to be held at BKSP on January 7 and 8.

The final will be held at the Dhaka Stadium after completion of the Independence Cup. No date has been fixed yet. The champion team will receive cash award worth Tk 1,00,000 while the runners-up will get Tk 75,000.

Zia Smriti cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 2: Primary Krira Training Centre defeated Alal Smriti Sangha by 30 runs in the Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament held at Rajshahi Govt College playground today.

Winning the toss, Primary Krira Training Centre batted first and made 98 runs for all out in 20.4 overs.

In reply, Alal Smriti Sangha collected 68 runs losing all wickets in 19.4 overs.

In the day's other match, Boppara Cricket Club beat Dorgahpara Network by 99 runs.

The winners won the toss to bat first and made 161 runs for five in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Dorgahpara Network went all out in 19.1 overs collecting 62 runs.

Comedy of errors!

SYDNEY, Jan 2: Very little went according to plan on the first morning of the second Test between Australia and South Africa today — with more happening off the field than on it, reports Reuters.

Play was delayed by 30 minutes on a baking hot day because groundsman had excessively watered an area of the square at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The embarrassing mistake forced the umpires to put back the scheduled start to allow the area to dry out, and so avoid putting the fielding side at risk of injury on the soggy ground.

During the enforced delay, the South African and Australian players lined up in front of the pavilion to hear their respective national anthems.

But the South African anthem "Nkosi Sikelele i Afrika" had to be interrupted when the singer complained he could not hear his own voice, prompting officials to repeat the whole exercise.

While the crowd, already restless over the avoidable disruption to play, waited for the taped music to start again, a ground announcer described the tourists as South Australia, one of Australia's six states and not South Africa.

Matters deteriorated into near-farce during play, when the drinks wagon, used to carry liquid refreshment to the players during the session, broke down in the middle of the ground.

Umpire Peter Willey and Australian players, Mark Waugh and Glenn McGrath had to intervene to push the cart toward the boundary fence, to howls of laughter from the crowd.

Meanwhile, in a comparatively uneventful session of cricket, South Africa reached 47 for one at lunch.

Top Aussies meet in 1st round

GOLD COAST, Australia, Jan 2: Australia's top-ranked female tennis players — Rachel McQuillan and Kerry — Anne Guse — were drawn Friday to play each other in the first round of the Australian women's hardcourt championships, reports AP.

Top seed Brenda Shultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands and second seed Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania have first-round byes in the Women's Tennis Association event that begins Sunday at Hope Island.

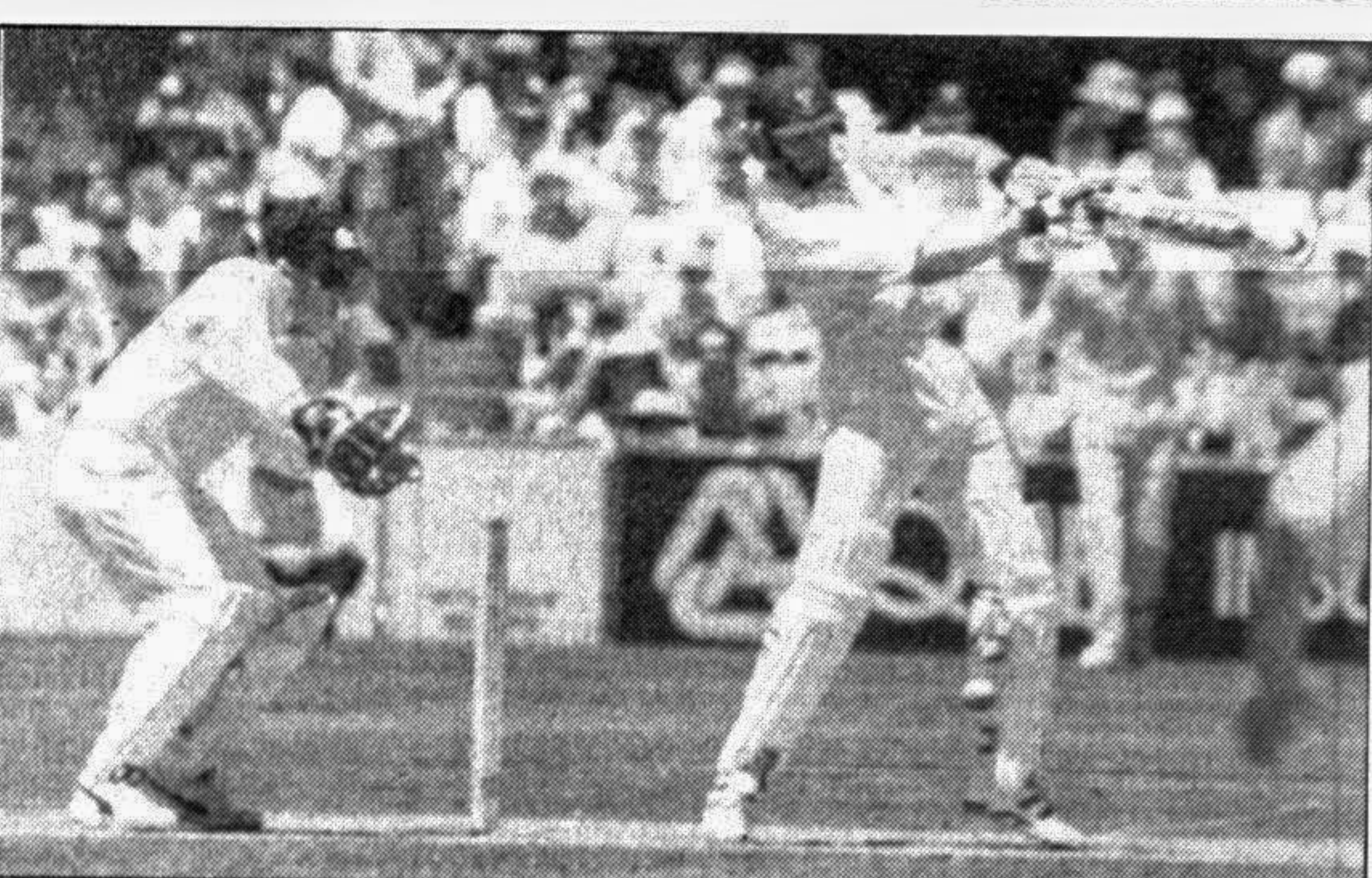
Schultz-McCarthy will play the winner of the match between Australia's Nicole Pratt and American Corina Morariu.

Defending champion Elena Likhovseva of Russia is seeded seventh and plays Olga Babanshnikova in the first round.

Bubka clinches it

PARIS, Jan 2: World pole vault champion Sergei Bubka was crowned "champion of champions" for the second time by L'Equipe today, reports Reuters.

Michael Jordan was second and Pete Sampras third in the 1997 poll by the staff of the French sports newspaper.



Jacques Kallis of South Africa drives off the backfoot during the first day of the second Test against Australia at Sydney yesterday.

Aussies dictate terms

SYDNEY, Jan 2: Failed Test batsman Michael Bevan justified his recall for Australia as a specialist spinner by claiming two wickets as South Africa laboured to 197 for five in 97 overs on the first day of the second cricket Test today, reports Reuters.

Australian selectors, who dropped Bevan as a Test batsman during the Ashes tour to England in July, turned to the left-arm wrist-spinner as support for leg-spinner Shane Warne.

Bevan responded by dismissing Herschelle Gibbs for 54 and Brian McMillan for six in the final session at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

He finished with figures of two for 41 in 20 overs, the best performance by an Australian bowler on a day of often painfully slow scoring by South Africa.

South Africa captain Hansie Cronje, who earlier won the toss, remained unbeaten on 56, his 10th Test half-century and second in successive Tests, after occupying the crease for four hours and facing 198 balls.

Cronje adopted a highly cautious approach on a pitch that was expected to offer the spin bowlers more encouragement as the match wears on.

After batting out the fifth and final day to earn a draw in the first Test in Melbourne on Tuesday, South Africa also strengthened their spin attack by recalling left-arm spinner Paul Adams.

The tourists also dropped number four batsman Daryll Cullinan, giving Gibbs the opportunity to score his maiden Test half-century in his fifth Test appearance for his country.

At no stage during the day did South Africa dominate the bowling and they were restricted to a run rate of below two runs an over during the day.

Gibbs and Cronje added 97 runs for the fourth wicket in South Africa's biggest partnership.

Gibbs was caught off the inside edge when he attempted to cover drive a wide delivery that turned back into him. Wicket-keeper Ian Healy completed his downfall by holding a difficult chance.

Bevan claimed his second wicket with perhaps the worst ball of the day, a full toss that McMillan miscued straight to Matthew Elliott at Mid-on.

South Africa number three Jacques Kallis, whose century helped save the first Test, was left to rue a monetary lapse in concentration during the afternoon session.

An alert Ricky Ponting, fielding at mid-wicket, noticed Kallis had drifted out of his ground at the bowler's end and a direct hit on the stumps left the batsman stranded with his score on 16.

Earlier in the same over, part-time seam bowler Greg Blewett trapped opener Adam Bacher leg before wicket on the back foot for 39.

Blewett was one of eight bowlers — including one over of makeshift left-arm orthodox spin from opener Elliott — used by Australian captain Mark Taylor during the day.

Fast bowler Glenn McGrath made the initial breakthrough

Grief-stricken Cullinan

SYDNEY, Jan 2: Daryll Cullinan took a swipe at South African selectors and accused the Australian media of ruining his test career after being dropped for the second Test against Australia on Friday, reports AP.

The visitors dumped Cullinan after his second-innings failure against leg-spinner Shane Warne in the drawn first test in Melbourne.

The 30-year-old right-hander has been traumatised by the negative press on the tour and baying crowd that backed Warne every time he bowled to Cullinan.

Cullinan, South Africa's most successful batsman of the post-apartheid era, has also been entangled in a verbal warfare with the Australian players.

"It is all media hype," Cullinan said.

Cullinan also blamed the selectors of not being forthright with him and not giving the opportunity to prove himself.

"They (selectors) haven't given me a second chance," Cullinan said after he learned that Herschelle Gibbs had replaced him.

"We've discussed him (Warne) in the past, and I have offered to open the batting," he added. "But they don't want to know."

Cullinan's seven Tests against Australia have produced a modest 153 runs with a highest score of 47.

Warne has dismissed him four times in the Tests and six times in the 16 one-day international matches since 1993.

Cullinan said. "The selectors have shown that with their selection policy."

Cullinan was released by the team to spend the day Friday with his three-month old son Aidan and wife Virginia, who are on tour.

"It has been a tour policy to give a player a day off. We decided to give Cullinan today," said Ali Bacher, the chief executive of the United Cricket Board of South Africa.

Cullinan was a notable absentee before the start of the Test Friday at the Sydney Cricket Ground as both teams lined up to honour Steve Waugh, who was playing his 100th test.

Cullinan also accused the Australian press of fabricating quotes allegedly made by him on Warne's touchy subject of his weight.

"I was shown this article in Pakistan which had me quoted. I have never said a word."

Cullinan felt the on-field confrontation with the Australian players on the current tour was a direct result of that article.

"They (press) just wanted to make the article look good and fabricated quotes," he told The Associated Press.

"My career is now in the cross-roads. The selectors don't tell me what's going in their mind. It is frustrating."

On Thursday, South African coach Bob Woolmer said Warne had a psychological hold over Cullinan.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

44 Noah's passenger list

46 Kentucky colonel's quaff

50 Green gem

53 Navigation aid

55 Zhivago's love

56 "I can't get up!"

57 Census

58 Bard's river

59 Carriage

60 Morning moisture

61 Donkey

DOWN

1 Big barrel

2 Movie pooch of note

3 Piglet's pop

4 Petrol

5 "Exodus" author

6 Divest

7 Batman?

8 Hockey legend

9 Periodical for short

10 Indivisible

12 A man of many parts?

13 Pop

14 Jewel

15 Mate of 3

16 Down

17 Mahal

18 Wanderer

19 Wise man

20 St. Helens

21 Cupid's alias

22 Cookware

23 Predicament

24 Blackbird

25 White House monogram

26 Basilica bench

CRYPTOQUIP

M U O B M D R O A W N A C F F V U
T M U C G M R F C B N B D O T S W Z
Z N M B U D F V S V S V G G

Saturday's Cryptquip: IT WAS THE SCULPTOR'S BIRTHDAY, SO WE ALL CHIPPED IN TO BUY A PRESENT.

Today's Cryptquip clue: S equals P

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.