

Column One  
SPORTS TALK



**Pete Sampras**  
(American tennis superstar)  
"Watching us lose from the hotel room, that is not how I wanted to finish my year."  
After the US team suffered a whitewash at the hands of Sweden in the Davis Cup final.

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

- Who is the Australia cricket coach?  
Lillee Marsh Simpson
- Who is the Argentina soccer coach?  
Passarella Venables Cruyff
- Which county will Lara lead next year?  
Essex Durham Warwickshire
- Who hit the first century in this year's Premier Division cricket league?  
Nadim Saeed Kazmi
- Who lifted the women's singles title of the national TT championships?  
Lima Tumpa Zulekha

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

POWERED WITH  
**EN-VITS**  
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

**Popov ready to roll**

PERTH, Jan 6: Alexander Popov, supreme champion of the 1990s, is ready in mind if not fully in body to take on all challengers to his titles at the World Swimming Championships next week, reports Reuters.  
The Australian-based Russian, who became the first swimmer to retain the Olympic 50 and 100 metres freestyle titles at the 1996 Atlanta Games, aims for an identical "double sprint double" when he defends the world crown in Rome in 1994.  
He contests the 100 freestyle on January 14 and the 50 freestyle on January 17 in the Challenge Stadium 50-metre pool.  
"Everything is up in your head — upstairs," Popov told reporters. "If the head is ready the body will follow."  
The extra physical zing has yet to come for the 26-year-old Russian. "I should have known (the feeling about three weeks ago but) I didn't notice it yet," he said.  
Popov proved his full recovery from a knife attack by a roadside mauler in Moscow a month after the 1996 Olympics when he set the fastest times in the world for 1997 in both the 50 and 100 freestyle at last August's European Championships in Seville.  
"We've done all the mental preparation before. My head is ready but the physical part is not yet," he said.  
But Popov, who has won the 50 and 100 freestyle at all his major championships since 1992, is unfazed by any opposition and, with gentle amusement, chided a questioner for wanting to build up "a little bit of a battle," between himself and 20-year-old training partner Michael Klim.  
Klim broke the world 100 metres butterfly record last October and was second behind Popov in the 1997 100 freestyle rankings with his winning time at August's Pan Pacific championships.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

**Premier Division Football**  
League: Mohammedan SC vs Brothers Union (Mirpur Stadium, 2:15 pm)  
**First Division Football**  
League: BRTC SC vs Shantinagar Club (Army Stadium, 2:15 pm)  
**First Division Cricket**  
League: Dhanmondi Club vs Bangladesh Railway (City Club)

**Bangladesh squad named**

Sports Reporter



**Tickets go on sale today**

Sports Reporter

**Exhibition h'ball**

CHITTAGONG, Jan 6: An exhibition match between the visiting German handball team and Chittagong Mahanagar Kira Sangsha will be held at Dampara Police Lines ground here tomorrow afternoon, reports BSS.  
Minister for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan will witness the match as the chief guest.

**Flame heads for Nagano**

TOKYO, Jan 6: From frozen Hokkaido in the north and tropical Okinawa in the south, the Olympic flame on Tuesday began making its way across Japan to Nagano, where the first Winter Games in Asia in nearly three decades are to open next month, reports AP.  
The relay began on the southern island of Okinawa with local high school long distance runner Miwa Ishiki taking the torch from Gov Masahide Ota on a course that will lead up the coast of the Sea of Japan.  
The ceremony was held at a memorial to the nearly 200,000 people believed to have died in the battle for Okinawa in 1945, the last major land campaign of World War II.  
"It is very significant that the flame, symbol of the Olympics, departs from this memorial to peace," Ota said.  
The second set of runners was to start later Tuesday from Sapporo, the largest city on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido and the first Asian city to host the Winter Games.  
Sapporo hosted in 1972, and although Seoul hosted the Summer Games in 1988, Nagano will mark the Winter Olympics' return to Asia after a 26-year hiatus.  
Akisugu Konno, who won a ski jumping silver medal in the

1972 games, was the first torchbearer on the route from Sapporo. Junichi Ishida, a well-known actor and TV personality, led runners on yet a third course heading toward Nagano along Japan's Pacific coast.  
Some 1,200 runners and several thousand escorts will carry the three torches through all 47 of Japan's prefectures on a trek of 1,150 kilometres (690 miles) before arriving in Nagano for the games' Feb 7 opening ceremony.  
The games are to continue through Feb 22.  
Midori Ito, Albertville figure skating silver medalist, will have the honour of lighting the flame at the opening ceremony — though exactly how she is to do that remains a secret.  
Organisers say they are planning to pepper the opening with lots of Japanese culture, including an ancient ritual performed by sumo wrestlers that is believed to ward off evil spirits and bad luck.  
Pillars will also be set up at the cardinal directions to symbolise the sanctity of the venue where the opening ceremony is to be held.  
Not all in Japan are welcoming that idea.  
The inclusion of such elements from the native Shinto religion in a government-backed event has irked some civil activists and Christian groups, who see it as a violation of the country's constitutional separation of church and state.

**FINA to go for four-year ban**

PERTH, Australia, Jan 6: World swimming's governing body Tuesday continued to snub the International Olympic committee's desire for standardised drug penalties by retaining four-year penalties for first offenders, reports AP.  
At its congress on the eve of the world swimming championships, FINA president Mustapha Larfaoui called a halt to a debate on whether to move to two-year bans after only four speakers.  
Delegates from Australia, Britain, Barbados and Denmark spoke for retaining four-year bans.  
Larfaoui then told the congress that it was obvious that its sentiment backed a retention of current FINA rules. His statement was met with applause from the floor.  
The IOC wants all sports under its banner to have standard two-year bans for first offenders because of difficulty in forcing four-year suspensions in the face of international court proceedings.  
Australia Swimming president Terry Gathercole said the mood of the congress was clear — it did not want a change.  
"I'm sure in putting this notice forward, FINA felt they had some chance of success," Gathercole said. "But it became quite obvious early on what the feeling of the meeting was — they didn't ask us to vote."  
Gathercole said FINA should not be concerned about pressure from the IOC to change the ban.  
"Swimming shouldn't be told to change the position that has worked so well for us by anyone," said Gathercole. "Going to two years would have been a soft option."  
"I believe it to be a landmark in swimming to show our combined strength."  
The International Amateur Athletic Federation has fallen into line with the IOC guidelines, changing their bans to two years.  
In 1996, FINA leaders pushed for a return to a two-year ban, citing costly litigation and legal problems with the four-year sanction.  
But the shorter penalty was rejected when congress delegates from the United States, Australia and Britain spoke strongly against it.  
FINA raised the penalty after a series of positive cases involving Chinese women swimmers at the 1994 Asian Games.



Parliamentary vice minister of education Kensaku Morita (R) lights a lamp from the Olympic flame at the National Stadium in Tokyo on Jan 4.

**Orient win big**  
Sports Reporter

**BRIEF SCORES**

**ORIENT SC:** 218 for three in 35 overs (Jewel 81, Ishaque 57, Rezaul 38 n.o., Shaon 1/32)  
**GULSHAN YOUTH:** 140 for eight in 35 overs (Farid 39, Sudha 30, Ziad 18 n.o., Shaon 17, Dalim 1/4, Lucky 2/16)  
**Result:** Orient SC won by 78 runs.

Orient Sporting Club recorded an emphatic 78-run victory over Gulshan Youth Club in a First Division cricket league affair at the City Club ground yesterday.

In a match reduced to 35 overs a side due to foggy weather, opener Abdul Karim Jewel scored 81 runs as Orient, electing to bat first after calling the coin correct, piled up a huge 218 for three.

Jewel, who lost his opening partner Babu (1) in the seventh over with the scoreboard on 44, shared a 121-run partnership with one down Ishaque (57) before returning to the dressing room in the 26th over with Orient firmly placed at 165.

In his 83-ball innings, Jewel hammered 12 fours and a six while Ishaque, who faced 62 balls for his 57, hit seven boundaries.

After Jewel and Ishaque laid the solid foundation, Rezaul (38 not out) and Ashique (13 not out) followed them with an unbeaten 51-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

In reply, Gulshan Youth were restricted to 140 for eight in the stipulated 35 overs with two lower middle order bats Farid and Sudha contributing 39 and 30 runs respectively.

**Div II cricket**  
Sports Reporter

Young Pegasus Club, Mariner Youngs Club, Jatrabari Kira Chakra and Uttara Friends' Club won their respective Acme Second Division matches played at different city venues yesterday.

Young Pegasus recorded an 81-run victory over Gandaria Cricketers at the Uttara Friends' Club ground, Mariner Young's Club beat Amariyoti Club by four wickets at the T&T ground in Mahakhali, Jatrabari whitewashed Shantinagar 'A' by nine wickets at the Dhanmondi Club ground while Uttara Friends' Club handed Labagh Union Sporting Club a six-wicket defeat at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

**BKSP down hosts**

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Kira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) recorded a solitary goal victory over Nepal national youth team in their inaugural match of the Galaxy International youth football tournament held in Kathmandu on Monday.

Surat struck the winner for the visitors.  
BKSP were scheduled to play their second match yesterday and a victory would ensure them a berth in the semifinals, says a press release.

**Zia Smriti cricket**

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Jan 6: City Cable Network Club and Diganta Proshari Sangha won their respective 10th Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament matches at the Rajshahi College ground here today.

In the first match, City Cable registered a 35-run victory over Wanderers Cricket Club while Diganta Proshari beat Ekata Sangha by three wickets.

**Pete, Martina ITF's best**

LONDON, Jan 6: Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis were named as the International Tennis Federation (ITF) world champions on Monday, reports Reuters.

Sampras, the Australian Open and Wimbledon champion, took the honour for the fifth successive year. Hingis, who won three of the Grand Slams and lost in the final of the French Open, won for the first time.

"Pete Sampras continued to dominate the men's field. In contrast, this year women's tennis has witnessed the rise of a new talent in Hingis," ITF president Brian Tabin of Australia said.

Sampras has won now 10 Grand Slam titles and is the only player to be accorded the honour five consecutive times. He also ended 1997 ranked first for the fifth successive year.

Australians Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodford were named as men's doubles champions and American Lindsay Davenport and Czech Jana Novotna took the women's doubles honour.

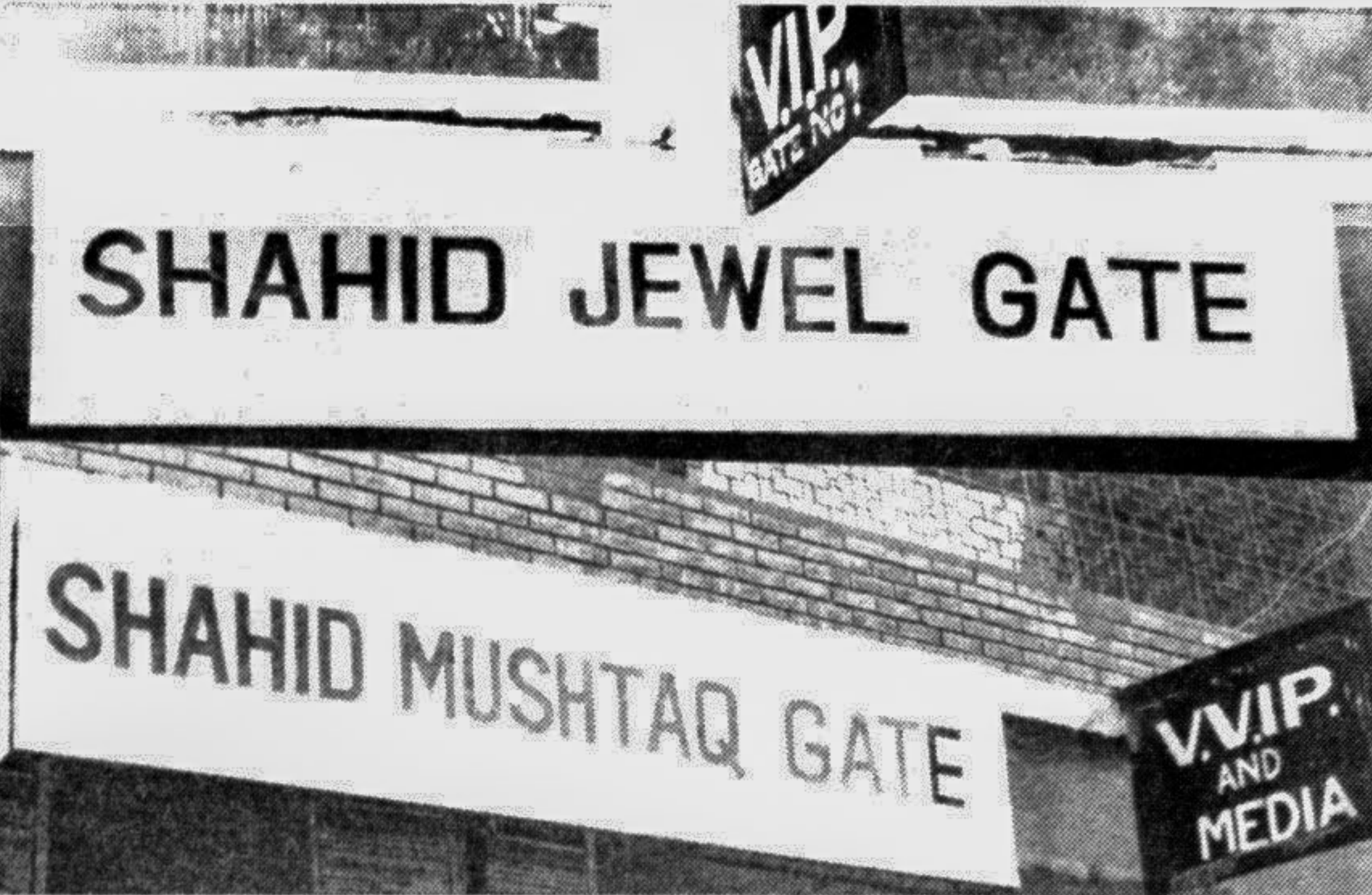
**Barisal v'ball**

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 6: Baptist Udyog Samity beat Druti Paribahan 2-1 in the First Division volleyball league at the local stadium here today.

In the day's other match, Play Bund Road Eleven earned a walk-over against Relation Video.

A total of eleven local teams are taking part in the league. Inland Water Transport Authority (IWTA) will take on Brothers Union in tomorrow's match at the same venue.



IGNORANCE OR INDIFFERENCE? The VIP Gate No 1 and VVIP and Media Gate has been renamed Shahid Jewel Gate and Shahid Mushtaq Gate respectively. The spelling should raise highbrows as the gates are dedicated to martyred (shaheed) cricketers.

**Search for a successor**

LAHORE, Jan 6: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Monday they would soon name a new captain for next month's tour of South Africa after Wasim Akram's resignation from the captaincy at the weekend.

PCB chief executive Majid Khan told Reuters Akram had informed the board verbally about his decision but had not put it in writing.

Majid confirmed a newspaper interview quoting Akram as saying he would never lead Pakistan again but would still be available to play and would cooperate with his successor. He has, however, opted out of the three-nation one-day tournament being organised by Bangladesh in Dhaka from January 10. That team is led by wicketkeeper Rashid Latif.

Majid confirmed Akram, 31, had told the board he was quitting because of allegations of match-fixing and betting. His resignation is seen as a blow to the team even though his captaincy in last month's

Sharjah Cup one-day tournament came under heavy criticism after his side went down by seven runs to England, the eventual winners.

"It has been one of the most difficult decisions to take but I have decided to play as an ordinary player," Akram said in the weekend interview with the Dawn.

With 334 Test wickets and 341 in one-day games Akram is one of the most successful pace bowlers in the game today.

He led Pakistan to a historic 3-0 victory over West Indies in the home Test series last month.

As a captain in 17 Tests, he led his side to victory in nine, lost and drew four matches each. In the 72 one-dayers, Akram was successful in 43 games, lost 28 and tied one.

Last week, his father was reported by local newspapers to have been kidnapped and released after payment of a ransom, an incident which some believed was linked to betting.

Akram, however, flatly denied the incident but said his family had received death threats.

MAJID KHAN  
Akram complained about harassment and public criticism following Pakistan's poor

**South Africa's revenge**

PERTH, Jan 6: South Africa avenged last year's loss in the final by beating the United States 2-1 in the Hopman Cup mixed team tournament on Monday, reports Reuters.

The win was achieved when Wayne Ferreira and Amanda Coetzer held out against Jonathan Stark and Chanda Rubin 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 in an entertaining mixed doubles.

The Americans were given a dream start by Rubin, who overpowered world number four Coetzer 6-4, 6-3.

Stark, a late replacement for the injured Justin Gimelstob, took the first set against Ferreira but the 27-year-old South African found a way to counter Stark's booming first serve and fought to a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory.

The South Africans were cruising at a set and 4-1 up in the mixed before the United States surged back to force a deciding set. But the Africans raced through it.

South Africa's next outing is against Germany on Tuesday evening, while the United States meet France.

Earlier on Monday Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario compensated for a disappointing performance by teammate Carlos Moya as Spain beat Slovakia.

Seventh-ranked Moya, suffering from a cold caught on a flight to Australia from Spain over the weekend, was defeated by Karol Kucera, ranked 24, 7-5, 6-4.

Sanchez-Vicario easily disposed of 29th-ranked Karina Habsudova 6-2, 6-3 and the Spaniards went on to win the mixed 7-6, 6-1.

**Henman ousts Sanchez**

DOHA, Qatar, Jan 6: Tim Henman, who lost in the finals of this tournament in 1997, defeated Spain's Javier Sanchez 7-5, 6-1 Monday in the first round of the one million dollars Qatar Open, the first tournament of the ATP season, reports AP.

"The first set was very close tonight," Henman said. "You are always anxious to do well in the first match of the year."

Henman, seeded fifth, next plays Guillaume Raoux of France. Raoux defeated Bohdan Ullrich of the Czech Republic 7-6, 6-4.

Henman could meet fellow Briton Greg Rusedski in the final since both are in different parts of the draw.

Rusedski, the top seed, meets Spain's Juan Albert Viloca in his first-round match Tuesday. Rusedski, the US Open runner-up, was promoted to top seed after Yevgeny Kafelnikov pulled out because of a knee injury.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

**ACROSS**  
1 Stomach muscles.  
4 Love among Latins.  
8 Skewer.  
12 Acknowledge.  
13 Movie house.  
14 Collapse, with "in".  
15 Apply subject.  
17 Jet black.  
18 Besides.  
19 Visitor to Roswell, N.M.  
21 Gield.  
22 Cruise flick.  
26 Cell door noise.  
29 Kineasy.  
30 Raw rock.  
31 Shake in the grass.  
32 Boom times.  
33 Storm.  
34 End for fib or form.  
35 Thickness.

**DOWN**  
2 Bit of hardware.  
3 Bat a gnat.  
4 Antiaircraft fire.  
5 Thurber's dreamer.  
6 Lennon's lady.  
7 Estimation of character.  
8 Journalist's coup.  
9 Skillet buy.  
10 Wall climber.  
11 Cowboy nickname.  
16 Dishes.  
20 Crafty sort.  
23 Capricorn.  
24 Id product.  
25 Requisite.  
26 Down a brewski.  
27 Hum-dinger.  
28 Chester — Arthur.  
29 OOT, e.g.  
32 Joyce's work.  
33 Tybalt's slayer.  
35 — Beta Kappa.  
36 In the nobility.  
38 Broad, thin layer.  
39 Pop singer.  
42 Legal doings.  
43 Hide.  
44 Sports channel.  
45 Crazyed.  
46 Ms. MacGraw.  
47 Caldwell or Akins.  
49 Waste not a moment.

**Solution time: 28 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer**  
LAWN TARTAN FLU  
ODIE AMEN RAIN  
SUPERCALIFRAJIS  
STEREO TIGHT  
DIE SWAMI  
FITTING OWL TUNA  
LOCA MEL ISPY  
ELMER MO  
SIXTY MANTRA  
AMP LIDCLOTHOUS  
LEIF AZOV TUCK  
ETA RENE ELKS

**CRYPTOQUIP**  
Z CBZJY ZC ADMGE WR  
X ODDE CBZJO VDI XJ  
XMACZJIR CD GDDY  
VDI WZEEZO  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A GHOST STORY MIGHT DEFINITELY GET CALLED A FORM OF SEANCE FICTION.  
Today's Cryptoquip clue: O equals G  
The Cryptoquip 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.