

**Column One**

**Roost 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?  
Lille Marsh Simpson
- Who is the Argentina soccer coach?  
Passarella Venables Cruff
- 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) .....



**SPORTS TALK**



**Sachin Tendulkar**  
(Former India cricket captain)  
The selectors have the final authority.

**Tim, Goran in qtrs**

DOHA, Qatar, Jan 8: Britain's Tim Henman and Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic reached the quarterfinals of the 1 million dollar Qatar Open Wednesday in contrasting fashion, reports AP.

Henman defeated Frenchman Guillaume Raoux in straight sets, 7-5, 6-4, while Ivanisevic had to rally to beat Switzerland's Marc Rosset 6-7, 7-5, 7-5.

The fifth-seeded Henman, the losing finalist to Jim Courier last year, will next face third-seeded Petr Korda, who defeated German qualifier Lars Burgsmuller 6-3, 6-2.

Ivanisevic saved a match point, then staged a stunning comeback to defeat Rosset, his close friend and Olympic champion. Ivanisevic trailed by a set and was down 3-5 in the second set when Rosset served four double faults, including one at match point.

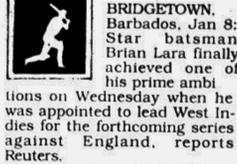
Ivanisevic, seeded fourth, broke back to 4-5, served three successive aces to tie at 5-5 and broke again when Rosset served two more double faults to go ahead 6-5. He then served and won the set.

There were four breaks of serve in the third set which went to 6-5. Then, Ivanisevic needed only one match point to take the set and the match after 2 hours, 18 minutes.

"Even when I was match point down, I still thought something could happen," said Ivanisevic, who next meets Germany's Bernd Karbacher.

Karbacher won in a walkover against No. 6 seed Magnus Larsson after the Swede withdrew because of a bad back and a stomach virus.

**Brian becomes captain**



BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Jan 8: Star batsman Brian Lara finally achieved one of his prime ambitions on Wednesday when he was appointed to lead West Indies for the forthcoming series against England, reports Reuters.

Lara admitted West Indies' recent form had been poor. "We haven't been playing very well as a team of late and we have to work on our all-round play as our performance on the field has not been of a very high standard."

"One of the first things I will be looking to do as captain will be to sit down with the coach,

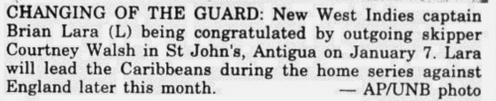
West Indies cricket. He has indicated he will take some time to decide what his next steps will be.

Lara was optimistic. "Courtney will play as far as I am concerned," he said.

"He will, of course, be disappointed but I am looking forward to having him in the team on January 29 when we walk out at Sabina Park (for the first Test). He still has a lot to offer."

Manager Clive Lloyd said he was pleased with the appointment. "Brian is in a great position as he now holds a number of the most prestigious jobs in world cricket. I am expecting great things. He now has the somewhat daunting but exciting task of bringing West Indies cricket back to the top."

"He has the skills and ability to do just that and I am sure he will, starting with England, who haven't won a series here in 30 years. I am positive this year will make it 31."



**CHANGING OF THE GUARD:** New West Indies captain Brian Lara (L) being congratulated by outgoing skipper Courtney Walsh in St John's, Antigua on January 7. Lara will lead the Caribbeans during the home series against England later this month.

He replaces fast bowler Courtney Walsh who had captained the side since 1996.

Announcing the decision in Antigua, Pat Resseu, president of the West Indies Cricket Board, said Lara's appointment had been a unanimous decision by the board.

Last year the board rejected a recommendation by the selectors to make Lara captain for a tour of Pakistan. But on Wednesday Resseu said cricket in the Caribbean was now in a rebuilding stage and it was decided a new captain was required.

Lara told a press conference he was very pleased but he recognised he had a difficult job ahead.

"I am looking forward to great things for myself and the players. West Indies cricket can be successful in the future and will be. I don't want success in the future — I want success now, starting with England," he said.

**Lara at a glance**

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Jan 8 (Reuters): Profile of Brian Lara, named on Wednesday as West Indies captain for the forthcoming Test series against England:

Name: Brian Charles Lara  
Born: 2.5.69 in Trinidad  
Teams: Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, Northern Transvaal, Warwickshire.

Bats left-handed, occasional leg-break bowler.

Test debut: Lahore, Pakistan, 1990.

One-day international debut: Karachi, same year.

Played 48 Tests, 82 innings, scoring 4,133 runs.

Ten centuries, 20 50s.

One-day internationals: 125 matches, 123 innings, 5,150 runs.

Highest score: 169.

Average 46.39.

11 centuries, 34 50s.

Highest first-class score: 501 for Warwickshire v Durham, 1994.

First represented West Indies in 1984 at under-9 level. First-class debut 1987 captain of under-23 team against Pakistan.

Captained West Indies B team of Zimbabwe in 1989. Also captained Trinidad and Tobago same year for the first time.

**AKC, Muktis split points**

Two title aspirants — Muktijodha Sangad and Abahani — played to a goalless draw in a vital match of the Premier Division Football League at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

After the day's match, the Muktis took a joint lead in the league with holders Mohammedan securing 37 points each from 16 matches while Abahani followed the leaders with 35 points from 16 matches.

Both the teams played with attack and counter-attack, but Muktijodha managed comparatively better chances, but could not utilise them.

Meanwhile, Dhanmudi Club beat Wari Club by a lone goal in the First Division League at the Army Stadium.

Abul Hossain netted the match-winning goal in the 12th minute.

Yellow Card: Hasan Al-Mamun, Golam Gaus and Alio (Muktijodha).

**ABAHANI KC:** Biplob Partha, Kingshuk, Prodig, Anatoiy (Jahangir), John, Raju, Barun (Manun Joarder), Zakir, Tipu and Rumi (Mizan).

**MUKTIJODHA SANGAD:** Arun, Hasan Al-Mamun, Jewel Rana, Rajani, Titu, Masud Rana, Iqbal, Gaus (Swapan), Rakib, Alio and Naquib.

**Donald in doubt**

BRISBANE, Jan 8: South Africa fast bowler Allan Donald was cleared of a fractured ankle after undergoing a precautionary X-ray today, reports Reuters.

Donald was expected to play in the World Series Cup limited-overs international against New Zealand on Friday but he may undergo further tests on his troublesome foot, team management said.

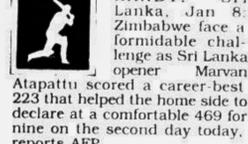
"There's no definite fracture but certainly in that area there is plenty of wear and tear," team manager Alan Jordaan told reporters.

Donald appeared in some discomfort during training at Brisbane's Gabba ground today.

The strike bowler has clearly been hampered at times on tour and South Africa are determined to ensure his fitness for the third Test against Australia in Adelaide, starting on January 30.

Australia lead the three-Test series 1-0 after winning the second match in Sydney by an innings and 21 runs on Monday.

**Atapattu's hits twin ton**



KANDY, Sri Lanka, Jan 8: Kandy batsman Kandy Silva scored a career-best 223 that helped the home side to declare at a comfortable 469 for nine on the second day today, reports AFP.

Problems for the Zimbabwe team were compounded when Sri Lankan spin duo Jayantha Silva and Muttiah Muralitharan plucked a wicket each to restrict the tourists to 46 for two at close of play.

Muralitharan first got rid of opener Grant Flower who played a ball onto his stumps at just four runs after which number three bats, Murray Goodwin was trapped leg-before on the backfoot by Silva for two.

However, senior player Andrew Flower stayed off any further trouble as he joined Gavin Rennie who remained unbeaten on 23. Andy Flower was not out eight but both survived some anxious moments, Zimbabwe had 92 minutes of batting.

Earlier in the day, Atapattu recorded his first Test double century and set a new record for the Kandy Test ground bettering the 1982-83 record held by Australian David Hookes who scored 143 here.



ATAPATTU ... 223

(44) and Romesh Kaluwitharana (29) with easy return catches off his own bowling and bowled skipper Arjuna Ranatunga for 27 on the first day.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard on the second day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe on Thursday:

**SRI LANKA:** First innings (overnight 265 for four)

Jayasuriya lbw b Streak	6
Atapattu c Campbell b P Strang	223
Mahanama c Campbell b Streak	7
De Silva c Whittall b Huckle	75
Ranatunga b Whittall	27
Tillekeratne c and b Whittall	44
Kaluwitharana c and Whittall	29
Vaas c Rennie b P Strang	26
Muralitharan c B Strang b P Strang	17
Pushpakumara not out	2
Extras: (b-2, lb-2, nb-9)	13
Total: (for 9 wts decl)	469

Did not bat: J Silva

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-33; 3-173; 4-226; 5-321; 6-383; 7-440; 8-461; 9-469.

**Bowling:**

	O	M	R	W
Streak	34	11	96	2
B Strang	30	7	78	0
P Strang	35.3	10	123	3
Whittall	30	4	73	3
Huckle	21	3	68	1
Goodwin	4	2	7	0

**ZIMBABWE:** First innings

G Rennie not out	23
G Flower b Muralitharan	4
M Goodwin lbw b J Silva	2
A Flower not out	8
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-3)	9
Total: (for two wts)	46
Fall of wickets: 1-29; 2-36.	

**Bowling:**

	O	M	R	W
Vaas	7	1	15	0
Pushpakumara	4	0	12	0
Muralitharan	7	4	6	1
J Silva	4	3	3	1
De Silva	1	0	4	0

**L'pool, Chelsea rebound**



LONDON, Jan 8: Liverpool and Chelsea bounced back from their early FA Cup exits at the weekend to earn places in the semifinals of the League Cup on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Teenager Michael Owen and Robbie Fowler scored in extra time to give Liverpool a 2-0 victory at Newcastle while Chelsea needed a penalty shoot-out to overcome First Division Reading after the game finished level at 2-2.

In the two-leg semifinals Liverpool will play Middlesbrough while Chelsea face Arsenal.

Struggling in the league and dumped out of the FA Cup by Coventry, Liverpool desperately needed a good run in the "third competition" to keep their season alive.

Wednesday's game followed a similar pattern to the December 25 league meeting between the two, with the visitors dominating the first half only for Newcastle to come back into it after the break.

Newcastle's Temur Ketsbaia missed the best chance of normal time shortly after coming on as a second half substitute. Another substitute, Dane Jon Dahl Tomasson, picked him out

unmarked at the far post and only three metres from goal but the Georgian volleyed wide.

The breakthrough came five minutes into extra time when Steve McManaman and Fowler combined to slip a pass into the Newcastle box. Defender Aaron Swede culprit punished

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Jan 8: A court on Thursday handed down a sentence of seven years in prison to a man convicted of an arson and attempted bombing in apparent protests against Stockholm's bid for the 2004 Olympics, reports AP.

Mats Hinze, 26, was arrested in September as he attempted to bomb a soaring statue in a suburban Stockholm park that had been used as the symbol of the unsuccessful Olympics bid. The arrest came just hours before the International Olympic Committee voted to give the games to Athens, Greece.

Hinze was convicted of intent to cause public endangerment and of arson for setting a fire at a tennis hall.

In the months leading up to the IOC's decision, bombs were set off at two major Swedish stadia and there were 10 arson fires at athletic facilities.

Huges looked favourite to win the ball but 18-year-old Owen's lightning pace got him there first and he calmly chipped Shaka Hislop for his 11th goal of the season.

Fowler then killed the tie with a typically sharp finish eight minutes later following good work by Jamie Redknapp.

Ipswich, who knocked out Manchester United in the third round, fought back magnificently after trailing 2-0.

Goals by Tore Andre Flo and Graeme le Saux had Chelsea in command and seemingly over their 5-3 mauling by Manchester United in the FA Cup on Sunday.

But Argentine Mauricio Tarricco, who scored against United, pulled one back seconds before the break and Alex Mathie made it 2-2 in the 63rd minute.

Chelsea, for whom player-manager Ruud Gullit made his first appearance since November 22, finished normal time bombarding the Ipswich goal but could not break through. The extra half hour produced no further goals.

In the shoot-out, Chelsea converted all four their kicks while their goalkeeper Ed de Goey saved from James Scowcroft and Tarricco.



Action from the Premier Division encounter between Abahani and Muktijodha at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

**Seles skips Aussie Open**



MELBOURNE, Jan 8: Former world number one Monica Seles withdrew today for personal reasons from the Australian Open, the tournament where she has never lost a match, officials said, reports Reuters, AFP.

Australian Open organisers issued a short statement that said world number five Seles, the winner of nine Grand Slam titles, would be unable to play in the year's first Grand Slam tournament that begins on January 19.

While not commenting further on the reasons for Seles' withdrawal, a tournament official later said the 24-year-old American would have been seeded fourth because world number two Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic was not playing along with another perennial contender, former finalist Mary Joe Fernandez.

Seles, born in the former Yugoslavia, has won the Open each of the four times she has entered but has not played in Melbourne since her victory in 1996.

The 1996 win came shortly after Seles' return to professional tennis following a 27-month absence. Seles was stabbed by a fan during a match in Germany in April 1993.

Seles reached the final of the US Open later in 1996 but her career stalled after that and she failed to make it past the quarter-finals at the US last September.

Seles had a frustrating year in 1997, often appearing out of shape and showing only sporadic glimpses of her past form.

It was also a difficult year off the court after her father Karoly, a long-time coach and touring companion, was diagnosed with stomach cancer.

Seles' withdrawal comes after another former world number one, Steffi Graf, said last month she would not compete.



MONICA SELES

Graf, who lost her number one ranking to Swiss teenager Martina Hingis last March, has not played since a knee operation in June and has decided to spend more time recuperating.

The German had held the number one spot since August 1995 but her ranking plummeted during a year plagued by injuries and overshadowed by the conviction of her father of tax evasion.

Seles had also pulled out of next week's Sydney International, a traditional warm-up event for the Australian, tournament spokesman Craig Gabriel said.

"She is staying in the United States," Gabriel said.

Open tournament director Paul McNamee was philosophical at the loss of a second top drawcard and was unable to clarify reasons for the withdrawal.

"I was disappointed. She's a four-time Champion and a great friend of the tournament and Australia. She's never lost a singles match in Australia."

The Open men's field has

also lost a key player in former French Open winner Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

He will miss the tournament for the second consecutive year after withdrawing Wednesday with a knee injury.

COLOMBO, Jan 8: A Sri Lankan man ordered his wife to stay under a bed without food and water for several hours every day after she refused to worship the photographs of his idols, the Independent Island newspaper reported today, reports Reuters.

It said Ajith Pathmakumara of western Gampaha town wanted his wife to worship the photographs of the Sri Lankan cricketer Roshan Mahanama and Vijaya Kumaratunga, the assassinated husband of President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

The wife's lawyer told a court in the Gampaha that Tusshar Priyadarshini had lived under a bed for most of the two years that she had been married because she declined to obey her husband, the newspaper said.

It said Priyadarshini was still prepared to live with her husband for the sake of their one-year-old child, but was not ready to spend her life under a bed or kneel before the pictures.

The magistrate has postponed the case until next month, the newspaper added.

**Sino divers win gold**

PERTH, Australia, Jan 8: Shuwei Sun and Liang Tian won gold medals Thursday after finishing first in the men's platform synchronized diving event at the World Swimming Championships, reports AP.

Sun and Tian scored 326.34 points to finish well ahead of Michael Kuhne and Jan Hempel of Germany, who took silver with 308.01 points.

**France upset Americans**

PERTH, Jan 8: Mary Pierce and Cedric Pioline of France easily beat the defending champions United States 3-0 today to move a step nearer the Hopman Cup final, reports Reuters.

Pierce took just 52 minutes to beat Chanda Rubin 6-0, 6-3. The 21-year-old American proving little more than an annoyance for Pierce as she clocked up 39 unforced errors.

Pioline never appeared extended in accounting for Strak 6-4, 6-3 as the second seeds took an unassailable 2-0 lead.

Then they rubbed salt into the US wounds by winning the mixed doubles 6-4, 7-6.

The Americans are now out of contention for Saturday's final.

France next meet also unbeaten South Africans Wayne Ferreira and Amanda Coetzer on Friday for a berth in the final, which carries a winners' purse of 220,000 Australian dollars.

Pioline made the crucial break when Stark served at 5-4 down in the first set and then gained an advantage early in the second.

The cool Frenchman said he enjoyed the indoor stadium's surface and felt confident his country could reach its maiden final.

"It's a good surface, not unlike the hard courts that we play on and I like it," Pioline said. "Hopefully this is our year and my year and Mary's year, also."

**Pique!**

COLOMBO, Jan 8: An unemployed Sri Lankan man committed suicide by swallowing insecticide after his father told him to stop playing cricket and look for a job, the Island newspaper reported today, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old victim identified as Ajith Premakumara from the southern district of Kalutara took poison after being told to stop playing with children in his village, the English-language newspaper quoted the man's father as saying.

Recently a college student committed suicide and wanted to be buried with a bat and ball in the hope that he will be born again a better cricketer like his idol, Sri Lanka's dashing batsman Aravinda de Silva.

Sri Lankans are cricket crazy and the country's team is the current world champions.

Sri Lanka also holds the title of having one of the highest suicide rates in the world with more than 70,000 people taking their lives in the past 15 years.

A Tamil separatist war during the same period in the country has claimed 55,000 lives, according to official estimates.

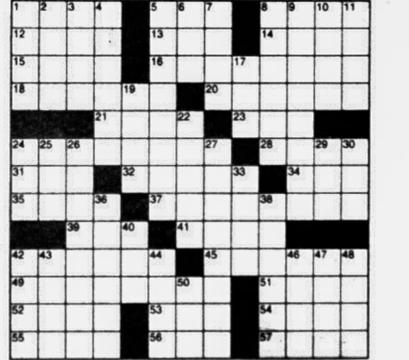
Last month, the government ordered a progressive cut in the use of pesticides to reduce the easy access to agro-chemicals that have become a favourite way to commit suicide.



The youth cricket team which left for South Africa yesterday to take part in the World Youth Cup. —Star photo

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

- ACROSS**
- Ground grain
  - Dawn goddess
  - Vatican VIP
  - Recorded proceedings
  - Name in Myanmar's history
  - Ellipse
  - Hotel booking
  - Rash
  - Rio Grande city
  - Munsters' car
  - Nui (Easter Island)
  - Picnic intruder
  - Intrepid
  - Limp-watch painter
  - Jungfrau, n.p.
  - Mexican food
  - Tease
  - Kennel comments
- DOWN**
- Paddock parent
  - Greenpeace subj.
  - Porter
  - Vain on screen
  - Bound along
  - Not 'er'
  - Expert
  - PC operator
  - Gadgets for Tiger
  - Woods beyond
  - Orchestra's place
  - Long skirt
  - One of the Maunas
  - Cellar contents
  - Musical org.
  - "Wings" role
  - Ivy League
  - Desert option
  - County of England
  - Fleur-de-lis
  - Proofs of age
  - Withered
  - Naturals in Vegas
  - "The Bourne Identity" author
  - Tooth-paste type
  - Confabulate
  - Theater box
  - Harvest
  - Nostra lead-in
  - Prinnacle
  - Gilpin of "Frasier"
  - fi
- Solution time: 26 min.**
- WABIT FAITHS**  
POLITE ARARAT  
ANADEM ARORERO  
WISE FROM AMP  
REF NAVE GLEO  
ORIENT EXPRESS  
CAFE EROS SPA  
TRY IRIS  
JOY OPEI EMUS  
ARTHUR TITLES  
BEWAVE BULLEDO  
SLOPES MANES  
Saturday's answer



**CRYPTOQUIP**

PGB CFWB CFVFNLBW  
GLVBTN OR BHEDVPTK  
VHRLDA, L PELBW UR  
O BVP.

**Saturday's Cryptquip: AS THE TEACHER EXPLAINED, "A CHEMISTRY EXAM IS SIMPLY AN ACID TEST."**

Today's Cryptquip clue: U equals M

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.