

Column One

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?
Lille 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 Razmi
 - Who lifted the women's singles title of the national TT championships?
Lino Tumpa Zulekha

Name _____

Class _____ Roll No. _____

School/Address _____

Phone: (if any) _____

NOTICE

Due to unavoidable circumstances draw for the WHIZZ KID Competition-86 could not be held yesterday. Therefore, the current competition will continue upto Jan 16. Inconvenience regretted.

— Sports Editor

SPORTS TALK



Wasim Akram
(Former Pakistan cricket captain)

"I might have been badly injured, or it might have been more serious."

After escaping a car crash in Sharjah during the Champions' Trophy.

Agassi in semis

ADELAIDE, Jan 9: Andre Agassi continued his strong start to the year with a solid quarterfinal win over New Zealand's Brett Steven at the Australian men's hardcourt tennis championship Friday, reports AP.

Agassi won 1-6, 6-1, 6-1 and Steven declared that the former world No 1 was in great touch.

"He's as fit as he's been since he was No 1 and he'll get better," said Steven of the three-time Grand Slam singles winner, now ranked 110 in the world.

"It shows he's back to play for real because he stayed in there and he's in good luck."

In another quarterfinal Friday, Australia's Jason Stoltenberg beat Nicolas Pietrangeli of France 6-7 (3-7), 6-1, 7-5. He now faces fellow Australian and defending champion Todd Woodbridge.

The fifth seeded Woodbridge downed France's Jerome Golmard 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 in his quarterfinal.

Agassi next faces Australia's Lleyton Hewitt, a 7-5, 3-6, 6-1 winner over Vince Spadea of the United States.

In heat-wave conditions at Adelaide's Memorial Drive courts, Agassi broke Steven's spirit in the first game of the second set when the New Zealander squandered three break points.

"I survived a bullet in that game and held serve and then I felt I did sense a bit of a bleed (in Steven)," said Agassi.

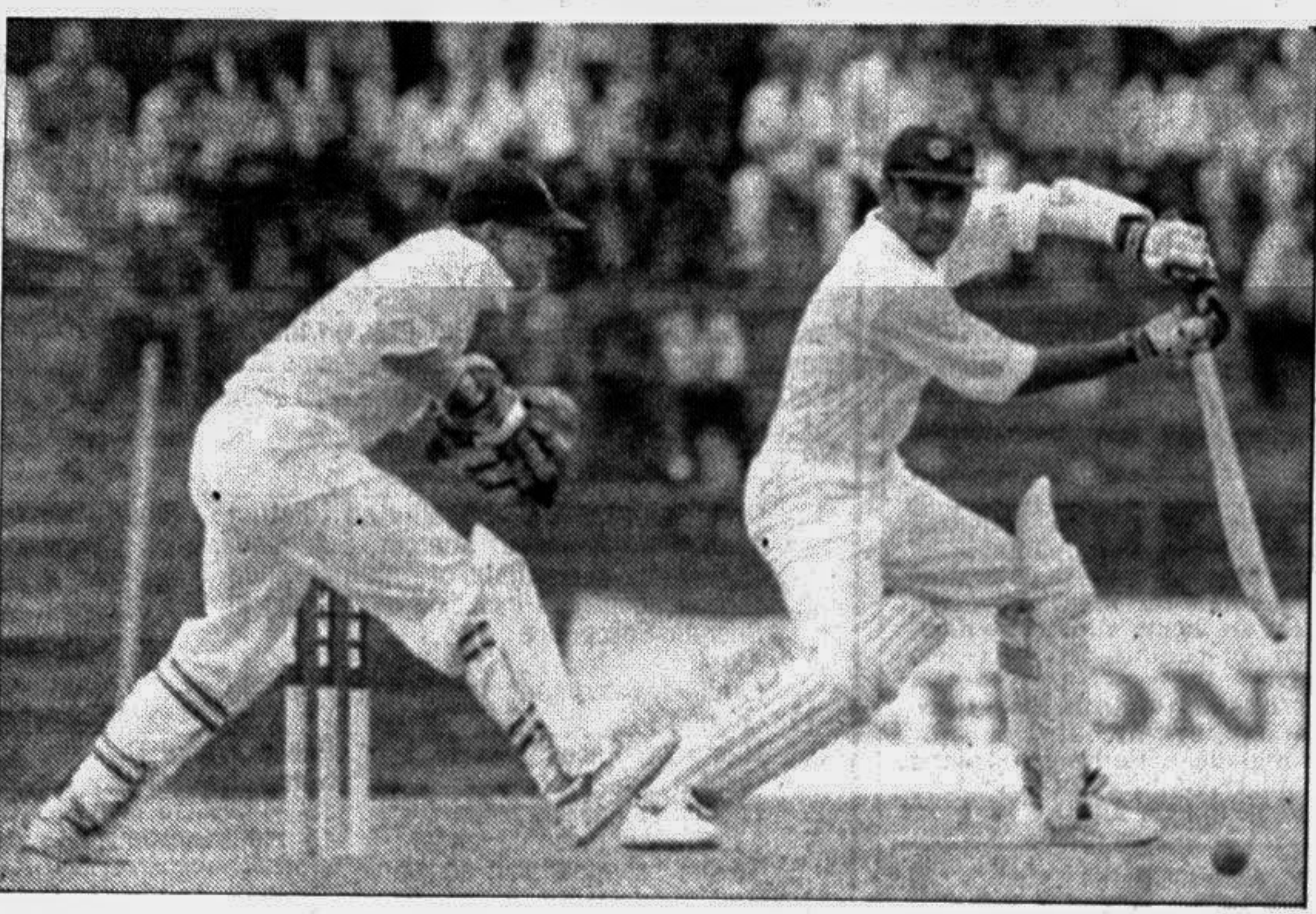
"There are a few significant points of a comeback where you feel a surge and you feel yourself making a huge step... today reflected a huge step."

Stoltenberg came back from a set down to beat French qualifier Escude.

The Australian said he always felt in control of the match despite the close scoreline, putting his inability to win earlier down to the heat and a four-month injury-induced break from the game.

"I just went into a couple of lapses at stages where I should have closed in and put the match away," Stoltenberg said.

The tournament is a warm-up event to the Australian Open, the year's first Grand Slam tournament, starting in Melbourne on Jan 19.



Sri Lankan opener Marvan Atapattu cuts the ball during his majestic knock of 223 against Zimbabwe on the second day of the first Test on Jan 8. — AP/UNB photo

Zimbabwe in deep trouble

KANDY, Sri Lanka, Jan 9 (AP/Reuters): Zimbabwe were in deep trouble at 71 for two, still needing 258 runs to avert an innings defeat in the first cricket Test against Sri Lanka at the Asgiriya Stadium on Friday.

Sri Lanka enforced the follow-on after bundling out Zimbabwe for 140 shortly after tea as their spin duo of Muttiah Muralitharan and Jayanthi Silva accounted for eight of the wickets.

But if Zimbabwe harboured thoughts of saving the match, it may have been dashed aside when openers Grant Flower (38) and Gavin Rennie (24) departed within the space of two overs after defying the Lankans for 19 overs in the second innings on the third day.

Save a brisk 35 with four boundaries from the bat of Paul Strang and a painstaking 53 by Rennie, the rest of the tourists' batsmen could not read the pace or spin of the hosts' bowlers. They adopted a more defensive approach while at the crease.

Strang and Rennie produced the highest partnership for the tourists which yielded 44 runs and was terminated by the dismissal of the latter who drove a delivery from left-arm spinner Jayanthi into the hands of Aravinda de Silva at mid-on.

Rennie, dropped by wicket-keeper Romesh Kaluwitharana off paceman Ravindra Pushpakumara with his score on 34 minutes, hitting just two boundaries off 207 balls.

But it was Strang who made the only worthwhile effort to attack the Sri Lankan bowlers before off-spinner Muralitharan found the edge of his bat to let Aravinda take the catch at first slip.

Resuming at the overnight score of 46 for two, Zimbabwe lost Andy Flower in the second over of the day, trapped leg-before by paceman Chaminda Vaas. His exit only paved the way for a collapse to 75 for five, a total at which Strang joined Rennie.

Skipper Alistair Campbell (7) and Craig Wishart (3) were the most disappointing for Zimbabwe with the former occupying the crease for 88 minutes and unable to do anything positive.

Both were caught in the slips by Roshan Mahanama with Campbell falling to Pushpakumara and Wishart becoming the victim of Muralitharan.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe on Friday.

SRI LANKA: First innings 469-9 dec (M Atapattu 223, A de Silva 75)

ZIMBABWE: First innings (overnight 46-2)

Rennie c de Silva b Silva	53
G Flower b Muralitharan	4
Goodwin lbw b Silva	2
A Flower lbw b Vaas	8
Campbell c Mahanama b Pushpakumara	7
Wishart c Mahanama b Muralitharan	3
P Strang c de Silva b Muralitharan	35
H Streak b Muralitharan	5
Whittall not out	2
B Strang b Muralitharan	6
Huckle lbw b Silva	15
Extras (b-6, lb-2, nb-7)	15
Total (all out)	140

Fall of wickets: 1-29; 2-36; 3-46; 4-72; 5-75; 6-119; 7-127; 8-134; 9-136; 10-140.

Bowling

Vaas	17	4	36	1
Pushpakumara	14	5	34	1
Muralitharan	29	18	23	5
Silva	19	4	27	3
De Silva	5	0	12	0
Jayasuriya	1	1	0	0

ZIMBABWE: Second innings

Rennie lbw b Muralitharan	24
G Flower b de Silva	38
Goodwin not out	1
Whittall not out	7
Extras (b-1, lb-5)	6
Total (for two wickets)	21

Fall of wickets: 1-68; 2-68.

Bowling (to date)

Vaas	6	1	13	0
Pushpakumara	5	0	22	0
Muralitharan	7	4	11	1
Silva	2	1	2	0
De Silva	8	3	17	1

Barca draw first blood

BARCELONA, Jan 9: Only one team appeared to take the European Super Cup first leg on Thursday seriously and that was Barcelona — 2-0 winners over Borussia Dortmund, reports Reuters.

The German club arrived with several star players on the injury list, fielded a team full of reserves and paid the price.

The Spanish league leaders attacked from the outset in front of a crowd of just 25,000 at their Camp Nou Stadium and got a quick reward for their endeavour.

With eight minutes gone Barcelona captain Luis Figo overhit a cross but Rivaldo passed it back across the Dortmund penalty area and Luis Enrique Martinez was on hand to take advantage.

Dortmund, the European champions, spent much of the first half pinned down but they did occasionally show the form that also made them last year's premier club side in the world.

The second half opened with two clear-cut opportunities, both missed by Figo.

Fortunately for him he was not to regret his profligacy, although Dortmund on one of their rare forays almost equalised after 58 minutes.

Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat, who had come on as a substitute only four minutes before, found an open goal and slotted the ball in the net only for his effort to be disallowed for offside.

Barcelona finally got their second goal when Figo was sandwiched between two Dortmund defenders on the edge of the penalty box.

English referee David Elleray pointed to the spot and Rivaldo blasted the ball home.

The gravity of the situation finally seemed to sink into the Dortmund players.

They increased the tempo in the final 30 minutes but despite some good efforts, they failed to score.

Ironically, the biggest cheer of the night was reserved not for either of the two Barcelona goals but the entrance of Hristo Stoichkov four minutes from time.

The Bulgarian striker has not played since November 1 after suffering a knee injury so the fans' favourite jogged on the field to resounding cheers.

Coach Louis van Gaal denied he was swayed by public opinion by play Stoichkov, a survivor of the Barcelona side that won the 1992 Super Cup. The pair have endured a stormy relationship.

AC run riot in Milan derby

MILAN, Jan 9: AC Milan crushed city rivals and league leaders Inter Milan 5-0 in an amazing Italian Cup quarterfinal first leg match on Thursday night, reports Reuters.

Maurizio Ganz scored against his former club just a month after leaving them and Norwegian defender Steinar Nilsen found the net in his first Milan derby as the five-time European champions produced their best performance of the season.

Demetrio Albertini and Dejan Savicevic also scored for Milan, as did Inter's Francesco Colaninno, who put through his own net on a miserable night for his fellow defenders.

Milan's victory emphatically ended a run of nine derbies without a victory. Not since March 1994 had they beaten their neighbours in either cup or league. It obviously makes them odds-on favourites to make the semifinals.

"We played wonderfully tonight. It's difficult to recall a derby like this," Milan coach Fabio Capello said.

"This was the real Milan, not the one every one saw at the start of the season," added captain Paolo Maldini. "Hopefully this can help us in the league although, for the moment, our thoughts are on the cup."

Milan signalled their intent after 20 minutes when Ganz ghosted in to the box to meet a cross from the left and rattled Gianluca Pagliuca's crossbar with a sweetly-timed left foot volley.

Within 10 minutes Milan took the lead from the penalty spot after Brazilian Leonardo was brought down by Nigerian Taribo West and Albertini converted.

Three minutes later, Ganz, whose goals guided Inter to the UEFA Cup final last season, scored Milan's second with a low drive.

The third came when Albertini floated in a cross from the right and Luigi Sartor appeared to be caught in two mins and chested the ball back across the face of his own goal leaving Savicevic to hammer the ball past Pagliuca from 10 metres.

Inter's Ronaldo was anonymous in the first half against a superbly organised Milan defence. Capello pulled French midfielder Ibrahim Ba back to mark him and each time the Brazilian received the ball he was surrounded by at least two red and black shirts.

Milan went 4-0 up straight after the interval as Ganz's goal-bound header cannoned into the net off Colaninno's chest.

Milan's fifth goal after an hour was perhaps the most embarrassing for an Inter side who just four days ago in the same San Siro stadium beat Juventus to go four points clear in the league.

Capello's side won a freekick 30 metres out and Steinar, who signed from Tromso in November, blasted the ball straight through the defensive wall and past an exasperated Pagliuca.

"They were more aggressive and more motivated tonight," Inter coach Gigi Simoni said. "We seemed a bit psychologically drained by the Juventus match."

Inter's Brazilian superstar Ronaldo (R) and Ibrahim Ba of AC Milan are in quest of the bar during their city derby at the San Siro on Thursday. — AP/UNB photo

Hopman Cup French-Slovak showdown

PERTH, Jan 9: Cedric Pioline assured France of a berth against Slovakia in Saturday's Hopman Cup final with a straight-sets victory over South African Wayne Ferreira on Friday, reports AP.

Pioline's 7-6, 6-3 win gave France a winning 2-0 lead over last year's runner-up with only the mixed doubles remaining. Earlier, Mary Pierce beat Amanda Coetzer 6-3, 6-3.

The French pair won the mixed doubles 6-4, 7-6.

"I think today I played the match better on the important points," Pioline said.

"I had a very good start in the tie-break so he was chasing my score and it was difficult for him because I closed the tie-breaker."

"I played one very good point at 6-6 to give me another set point and then it is always difficult to play."

Pierce lost the opening set of her first match to Germany's Anke Huber on Tuesday, but has since conceded just 16 games in six sets.

Her win Friday was punctuated by blistering groundstrokes.

In the second match Friday, the United States scored its only win from five matches, beating Germany 2-1.

Huber beat Chanda Rubin 6-3, 6-1 inside an hour to give Germany an early lead.

Jonathan Stark beat Tommy Haas 7-6 (7-4), 6-7 (3-7), 6-4 to level the tie.

Stark and Rubin won the mixed doubles 6-3, 6-4.

Sheffield Shield scores

MELBOURNE, Jan 9: Victoria captain Darren Berry saved his side from the follow-on and probable defeat against New South Wales with an unbeaten century in the Sheffield Shield today, reports Reuters.

But wicketkeeper Berry needed the assistance of fast bowler Matthew Innes to frustrate the visitors with a record last wicket partnership worth 118 runs.

Their defiant stand lifted Victoria to 387 all out, four runs more than they needed to avoid the follow-on at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

New South Wales amassed 532 for nine declared in their first innings on Thursday after opener Rodney Davison hit 169, his highest score in first-class cricket.

At close of play on the third day, New South Wales were 66 for one, a lead of 211 runs with nine wickets in hand and three sessions left to play.

Victoria began the day on 149 for six, still 234 runs short of their immediate target.

Berry, who took over the captaincy in the absence of leg-spinner Shane Warne because of international duty, resumed on 25 before posting his highest score in first-class cricket.

Inness scored 27, his highest score in any form of cricket, on his debut for Victoria.

New South Wales were left to rue a costly mistake by former Test opener Michael Slater, who dropped a simple catch at first slip when Berry had scored 103.

The partnership between Berry and Inness was a record for the 10th wicket for Victoria against New South Wales.

Indonesia may skip Asiad

JAKARTA, Jan 9: Indonesia may pull out of the 13th Asian Games in Bangkok, Thailand, because of the currency crisis, a senior sports official was quoted as saying Friday, reports AP.

Should the situation get worse, if needed, we would not send athletes to the Asian sports event," said Chairman of Indonesian National Sports Committee, Wisnomo Arismunandar.

The official Antara news agency quoted Wisnomo as saying in the first step, the committee will be thrifty by trying to limit the number of athletes, and then the number of sports.

"If the allotted fund is still not enough, then if possible, we will not send our athletes," Wisnomo said as quoted Friday by Antara.

The Indonesian rupiah has continued to drop, plummeting to an all-time low Thursday of 10,550 rupiahs per dollar.

In another report, Antara quoted Jusuf Talib, chairman of the parliament commission dealing with sports, as calling for participation regardless of the number of sports.

"The Asian Games is not only an arena for sports competition but also reflects the spirit of solidarity among Asian countries," Talib said.

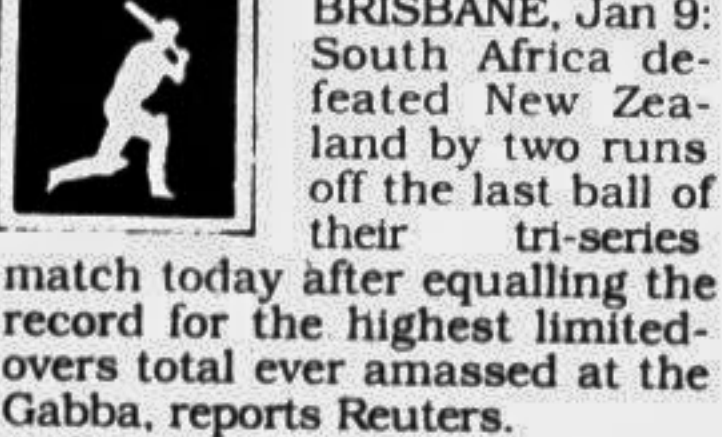
Jakarta has so far managed to set aside two billion rupiahs (dhs 250) out of the 16.5 billion rupiah (dhs 2,062 million) budget for the December event, Antara said.

The remainder is expected coming from the provincial committees whose athletes take part in the games.

Wisnomo also indicated that Indonesia might only participate in badminton, which he said could provide the country with some money.

He vowed, however, not to give up in trying to meet the country's plan to take part in all 21 sports.

Thrilling win for S Africa



BRISBANE, Jan 9: South Africa defeated New Zealand by two runs off the last ball of their tri-series match today after equalling the record for the highest limited-overs total ever amassed at the Gabba, reports Reuters.

In a thrilling finish, Lance Klusener held a difficult running catch on the deep mid-wicket boundary to deny a spirited New Zealand.

Seemingly set for an easy victory after amassing a massive 300 for six in their 50 overs after electing to bat, South Africa endured a very nervous moments before New Zealand's innings ended on 298 for nine.

Both sides were given a standing ovation as the exhausted players walked off the field after Klusener was swamped by jubilant and relieved teammates.

Needing three runs for victory off the last ball from fast bowler Shaun Pollock, pace bowler Dion Nash was unable to find the boundary.

Nash, who scored 38, came desperately close to tying the scores off the previous ball when his sweep to fine leg landed on the boundary rope.

After checking a television replay, the umpires signalled a boundary rather than the six Nash would have earned if the ball had carried just a few centimetres further.

Left-handed opener Gary Kirsten established the tone for the Proteas' big innings by hitting 103 from 113 balls including nine fours.

On a night of high-scoring, South Africa were grateful to fast bowler Allan Donald who took four for 43 in his 10 overs.

In his final spell on a hot and humid night, Donald turned pale and collapsed to the ground in sheer exhaustion, needing several minutes' rest before resuming.

Kirsten's eighth one-day hundred for his country laid the foundation for the innings, while captain Hansie Cronje

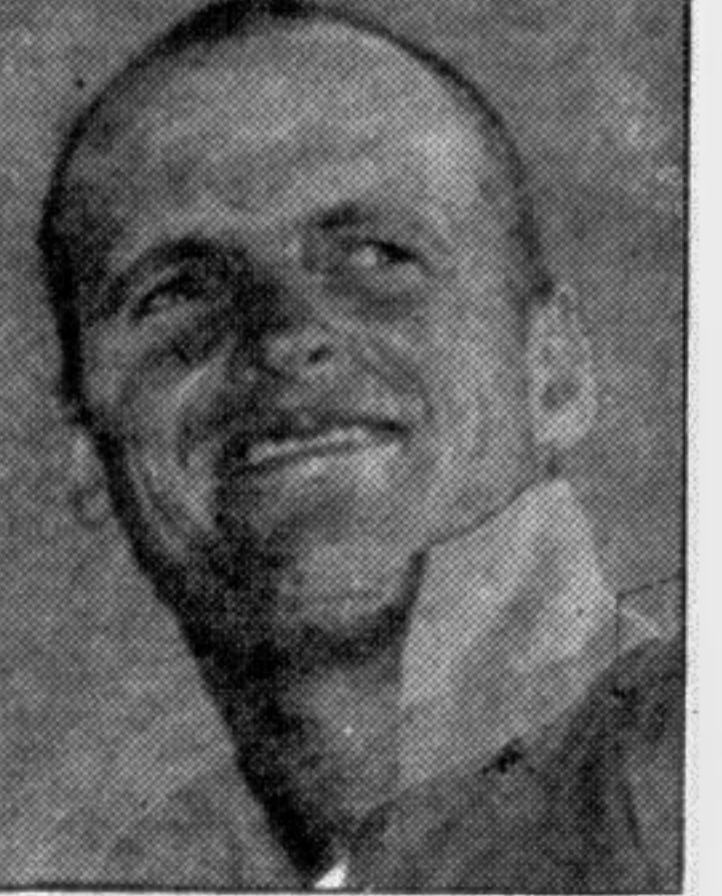
SOUTH AFRICA

Kirsten c Nash b Harris	103
Klusener b Nash	50
Kallis c Parore b Vettori	31
Cronje c Harris b McMillan	55
Gibbs lbw b Harris	2
Gibbs c Nash b McMillan	23
Pollock not out	14
Symcox not out	12
Extras (b-5, w-5)	10
Total (for six wickets in 50 overs)	300

Fall of wickets: 1-100; 2-167; 3-231; 4-241; 5-269; 6-277.

Bowling:

O'Connor	6	0	50	0
Cairns	7	0	37	0
Nash	10	1	52	1
Harris	10	0	41	2
Vettori	7	0	46	1
Astle	5	0	42	0
McMillan	5	0	27	2



G KIRSTEN ... m-o-m and opener Klusener both added rapid half-centuries.

After New Zealand were reduced for 124 for six, their hopes were revived by a stirring 67 from wicketkeeper Adam Parore and 64 from Chris Cairns.

South Africa lead the triangular competition with eight points from five games, four points clear of hosts Australia, who have a game in hand.

New Zealand prop up the table with two points from five matches.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the tri-series limited-overs cricket international between New Zealand and South Africa at the Gabba on Friday:

Bowling:

Pollock	10	1	58	2
Klusener	10	0	55	0
Donald	10	1	43	4
McMillan	8	0	52	0
Kallis	8	1	49	2
Symcox	4	0	27	0

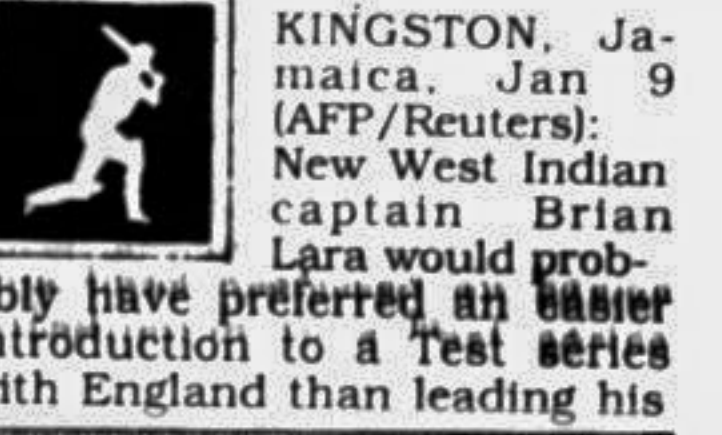
Did not bat: S. O'Connor.

Result: South Africa won by two runs.

Man-of-the-match: Gary Kirsten.

Next match: Australia vs South Africa in Brisbane on January 11.

Richie blasts decision



KINGSTON, Jamaica, Jan 9 (AFP/Reuters): New West Indian captain Brian Lara would probably have preferred an earlier introduction to a Test series with England than leading his team out for the first Test at Sabina Park — home to deposed captain and 96 Test great Courtney Walsh.

The 28-year-old Lara, holder of both the highest Test and first class scores, replaced Walsh, 36, on Wednesday following the 3-0 series whitewash against Pakistan, the first time the once dominant West Indies had been humiliated in such a fashion since England trounced them 3-0 in 1928.

However, the choice of Lara, who has been disciplined several times over the last three years by the West Indian authorities, has not been universally welcomed and former captain Richie Richardson has not been shy in voicing his fears over the master batsman's appointment.

Richardson, who had trouble with Lara on the 1995 tour to England which led to the new captain being fined, insisted that Walsh should have kept his job instead of the power being handed to Lara by the West Indies board.

And Richardson, who skippered West Indies against England in their last Caribbean tour in 1994, knows all about the pressures of trying to revive a flagging team.

"The first Test is in Jamaica and Brian could be in for a hostile reception from the Sabina Park crowd, for whom Courtney is their hero," said Richardson.

"I feel sorry for Courtney and believe he should have been retained as captain."

Richardson believes the West Indies selectors have nominated the wrong man.

"It's going to be very difficult for so controversial a character. Brian is taking over the captaincy without necessarily having the total support of all the players," he said.

"There are even those in his home country of Trinidad who have got doubts about him being appointed West Indies captain."

"The West Indies were in a state of decline when I took over a few years back from Viv Richards. I know how difficult it was for me."

This current team just hasn't been performing and they have been falling out with one and another.

"Courtney bowled his heart out in Pakistan but there was a feeling that not everyone else was doing that."

"West Indies cricket is in a bad way and I don't think this was the right time for Lara to take over. Lara will have enough problems without the shadow of losing to England hanging over him."

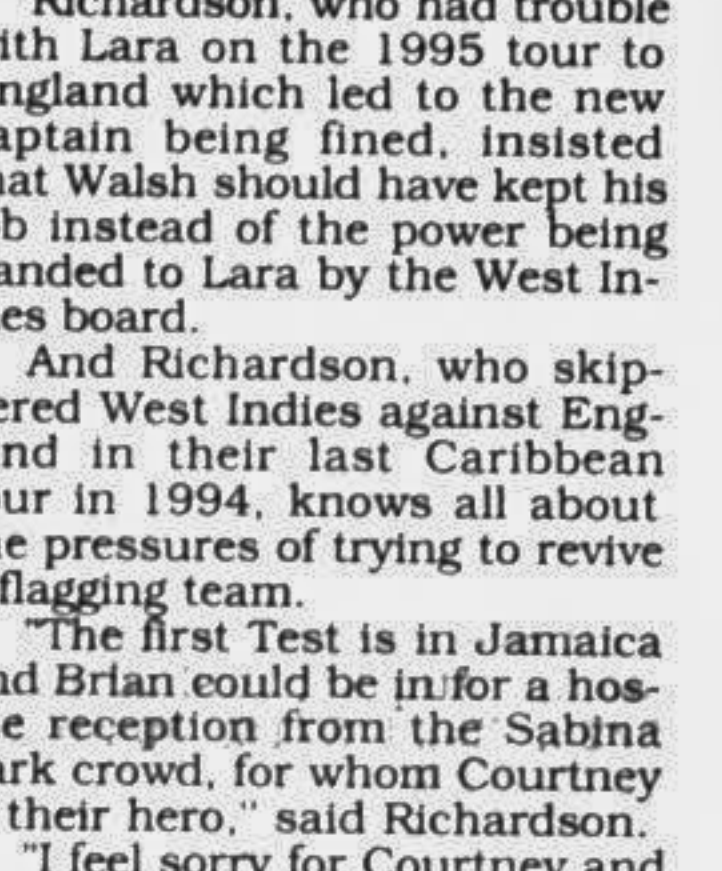
Walsh, 23, wickets away from Malcolm Marshall's West Indies record, has yet to decide if he is to continue his Test career under Lara.

Lara, for his part, wants Walsh's authority as his disposal as West Indies try to regain the faith of the Caribbean public after the battering in Pakistan.

Walsh, despite the trio of wide defeats, showed that he is still a potent force with the new ball.

But one of the top men in Jamaican cricket, George Prescod, thinks this is the time for Walsh to bid farewell to the international game.

"I don't think an old captain should play under a new one," said the Jamaican Cricket Association chief executive.



BRIAN LARA

"Things did not go his way recently in Pakistan."

"I would prefer to see Walsh leave on a high note instead of being dropped as captain after he had done a good job with the team."

"Walsh is of the age where he should bow out in style, but it appears the selectors have succumbed to too much pressure."

Meanwhile, Lara celebrated his appointment by hitting an undefeated 103 on the opening day of the North v South Trinidad match at the Queen's Park Oval on Thursday.

He struck a six and 11 fours as North Trinidad reached 228 for three. Lincoln Roberts was 71 not out.

The four-day North v South match, billed as the Gerry Gomez Classic, is played in honour of the former West Indies all-rounder who died two years ago from heart attack.

Jesse Owens Trophy finalists

NEW YORK, Jan 9: Ethiopian distance runner Haile Gebrselassie, American sprinter Marion Jones and 800 metres runner Wilson Kipketer of Denmark were named Thursday as finalists for the Jesse Owens International Trophy Award, reports Reuters.

The trio of world champions were announced as finalists by former hurdling great Edwin Moses, president of the International Amateur Athletic Association.

Zia Smriti cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 9: Shimla Sporting Club defeated Laxmipur Vatapara Juba Sangha by 47 runs in the 10th Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament today held at Rajshahi Government College playground.

Shimla Sporting put into bat reached 153 all out in 21.5 overs.

Laxmipur were bundled out for 106.

In the second match, Friends Circle Club defeated Avijatri Sporting Club by six runs.

Winning the toss, Friends Circle Club batted first and collected 119 runs in 22 overs. In reply, Avijatri made 103 in 20 overs.

The first round of the tournament ended today 100 clubs competed. Fifty clubs will take part in the second round from tomorrow.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bird as — 40 Toaster's word

5 Archer's need

8 Crotchety old fool

12 Traditional tales

13 Copper head

14 Plankton component

15 Aspirin's target

16 Love —

18 Cancellation beneficiary

20 Florist's supply

21 Mid-afternoon nap

22 Apiece

23 Foolish things...

26 Love —

30 Massage

31 Speed along

32 Ms. Gardner

33 Love —

36 Extra

38 Freudian concept

39 Madam's

3 Pavarotti piece

4 Kefauver's game

5 Ena's nephew

6 Do what you're told

7 Drenched

8 Baseless rumor

9 Automaker's accessory

10 Curved molding

11 Still

12 Metaphor

13 Gravy server

22 Baby food

23 Solution time: 24 mins.

40 Ump's call

41 Recognize

42 Garfield's pal

43 Portico of old

44 Red wine

45 Entreaty

46 Calendar

47 Quota

48 Wall St. wheeler-dealer

DOWN

1 Bird as — 40 Toaster's word

5 Archer's need

8 Crotchety old fool

12 Traditional tales

13 Copper head

14 Plankton component

15 Aspirin's target

16 Love —

18 Cancellation beneficiary

20 Florist's supply

21 Mid-afternoon nap

22 Apiece

23 Foolish things...

26 Love —

30 Massage

31 Speed along

32 Ms. Gardner

33 Love —

36 Extra

38 Freudian concept

39 Madam's

3 Pavarotti piece

4 Kefauver's game

5 Ena's nephew

6 Do what you're told

7 Drenched

8 Baseless rumor

9 Automaker's accessory

10 Curved molding

11 Still

12 Metaphor

13 Gravy server

22 Baby food

23 Solution time: 24 mins.

40 Ump's call

41 Recognize

42 Garfield's pal

43 Portico of old

44 Red wine

45 Entreaty

46 Calendar

47 Quota

48 Wall St. wheeler-dealer

CRYPTOQUIP

F B W T A B Y P Z Z Y E J N D Y
D P R N J P A F N E Y E A M P W D Y Q
B Y B P Q M X F T X J
A X D D X R T A Y R F T

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE JUDGE JUSTIFIED HIMSELF BY EARNESTLY SAYING, "I TRIED MY BEST."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals C

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.