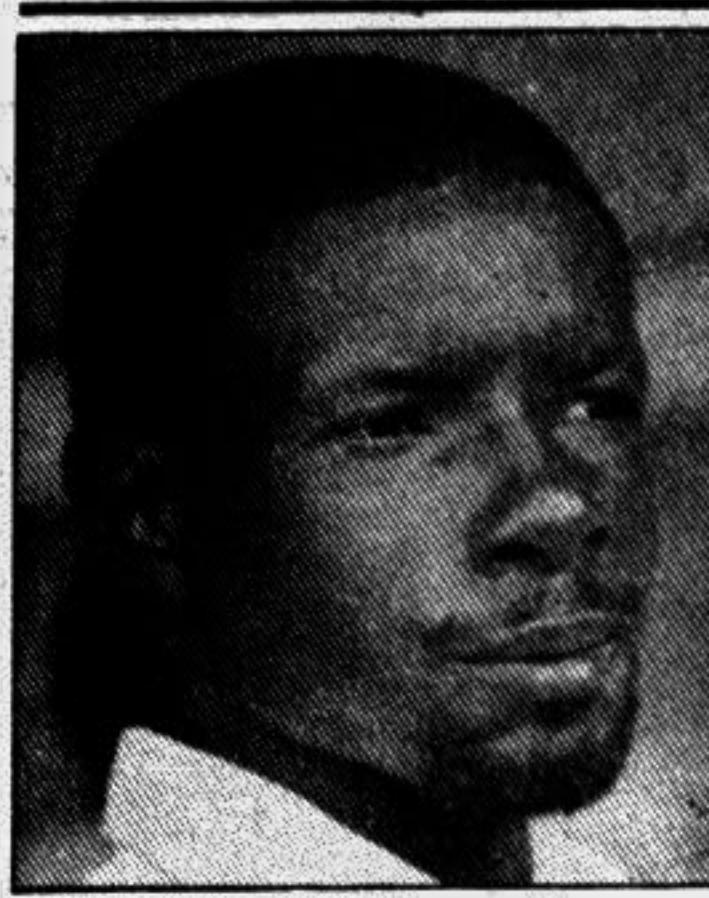


Column One

SPORTS TALK

**Richie Richardson**
(Former West Indies captain)
"I feel sorry for Courtney Walsh and believe he should have been retained as captain."

After knowing that Courtney Walsh was replaced by Brian Lara as the West Indies captain.

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	Saeed	Kazmi
5	Who lifted the women's singles title of the national TT championships?	Liu	Tumpa	Zulekha

Name

.....

Class **Roll No.****School Address**

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Phone: (If any)**EN-VITS**
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS**Santoro stuns Rusedski**

DOHA, Jan 10: Top seed Greg Rusedski lost to Frenchman Fabrice Santoro in Saturday's quarterfinals of the one million dollar Qatar Open, reports AP.

The eighth seeded Santoro beat the Brit 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 to set up a semifinal match against either Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic or Germany's Bernd Karcher.

Later Saturday, Britain's Tim Henman was to meet Petr Korda of the Czech Republic while Dutchman Sjeng Schalken was due to play Andre Medvedev of the Ukraine.

The semifinals of the tournament were also to be played Saturday because Friday's entire programme was washed out by the rain.

Agassi amazed

ADELAIDE, Jan 10: Australian newcomer Lleyton Hewitt notched his biggest career win with an upset semifinal victory over former world No 1 Andre Agassi at the Australian men's hardcourt tennis championship on Saturday, reports AP.

Hewitt, 16, used blistering passing shots, particularly off his backhand, to win 7-6, 7-6 at the Memorial Drive courts and secure a berth in Sunday's final.

Agassi, attempting a comeback to the elite level of men's tennis after a dismal 1997, had trouble countering the consistency and tenacity of his inexperienced opponent, who got everything back and chased down every ball.

Hewitt, from Adelaide, will face Jason Stoltenberg, who beat fifth seeded fellow Australian Todd Woodbridge 6-4, 6-1, in the final.

Hewitt was ecstatic after the win in a match in which neither player was able to break serve.

"I don't think it's really sunk in yet. It feels good to make the finals of a tournament in my home town," he said.

Hewitt admitted to being a little overawed when he first went onto centre court, but soon settled and went for his shots.

Hewitt took the first set tiebreak after Agassi fought back from 2-6 to 5-6. Hewitt, with the crowd screaming support, clinched the set with a blistering backhand.

In the second tiebreaker, Hewitt again led 6-2 and clinched it and the match after Agassi missed a forehand.

Agassi had numerous break-point opportunities in both sets, but was unable to capitalise.

Hewitt said Agassi has always been his idol.

Lara's warning to England

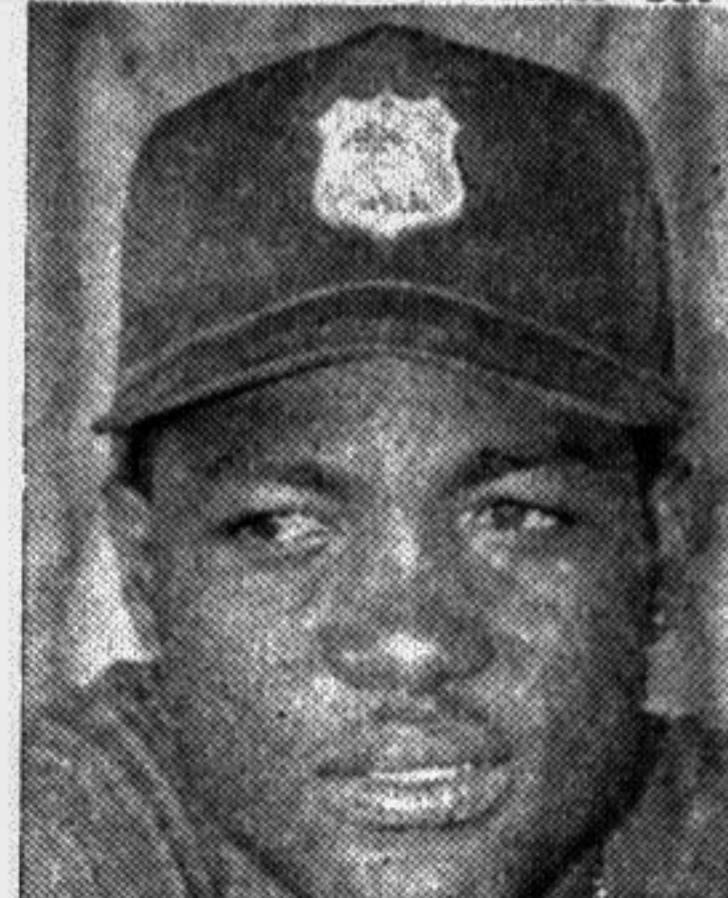
PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Jan 10: New West Indies captain Brian Lara scored an unbeaten double century in a North versus South match, serving the England team notice that they cannot expect an easy ride in their forthcoming Test series, reports Reuters.

The gifted left-hander scored 206 for the North who declared at 450 for five on the second day of the annual Gerry Gomez Classic. It was the highest score made in the 73-year history of the Classic, surpassing the previous best of 189 made by Gerry Gomez himself in 1947.

Lara holds two world batting records. He set the first against England during their last tour in 1994 with 375 in a Test match. He then broke the first class record with 501 not out for Warwickshire against Durham the same year.

The man Lara succeeded as West Indies captain earlier this week, Courtney Walsh was also on form in Friday's matches, grabbing six wickets for 46 for Jamaica against Barbados in a President's Cup match.

Walsh, who said he was uncertain about his Test future after being replaced as West Indies captain following an unsuccessful run, helped Jamaica to bunt

**BRIAN LARA** ... 206

back on Friday when their kit failed to arrive on a flight from the Eastern Caribbean.

Mike Atherton's team, who made a hasty departure from Antigua after being frustrated by unseasonal rain, is now only six days from their opening game against Jamaica at Jarrett Park and woefully short of

time.

Meanwhile, England's desperate attempts to play some cricket suffered another set-

back. Atherton took time to share his thoughts on the upcoming series and said he was unconcerned by England's failure to win in the West Indies for 30 years.

"The team that travels here this time around can be held responsible for the past 30 years," he said.

"I think we are all aware of the fact that we have not beaten the West Indies in the Caribbean for a long time but there are two ways to approach that. The record will either intimidate us or we will use it as an immense challenge and that is the way that we are viewing it. This whole squad can see a huge opportunity to be the first (England) team to win in the Caribbean for a long time."

The recent Test series between England and the West Indies have all been hard fought and I expect that trend to continue," added the skipper. "I think it will be a close series and the team that starts well, the team that wins the tough sessions, will come out on top."

England begin their West Indies tour with a match against Jamaica starting on Friday. The first Test begins on January 29.

Victoria-NSW match drawn

SYDNEY, Jan 10: Victoria managed to hold on for a draw on the final day of their Sheffield Shield match against New South Wales today despite a six-wicket haul by leg-spinner Stuart MacGill, reports Reuters.

Victoria were chasing an unlikely winning target of 334 after New South Wales earlier declared their second innings closed at 188 for four shortly before lunch on the final day.

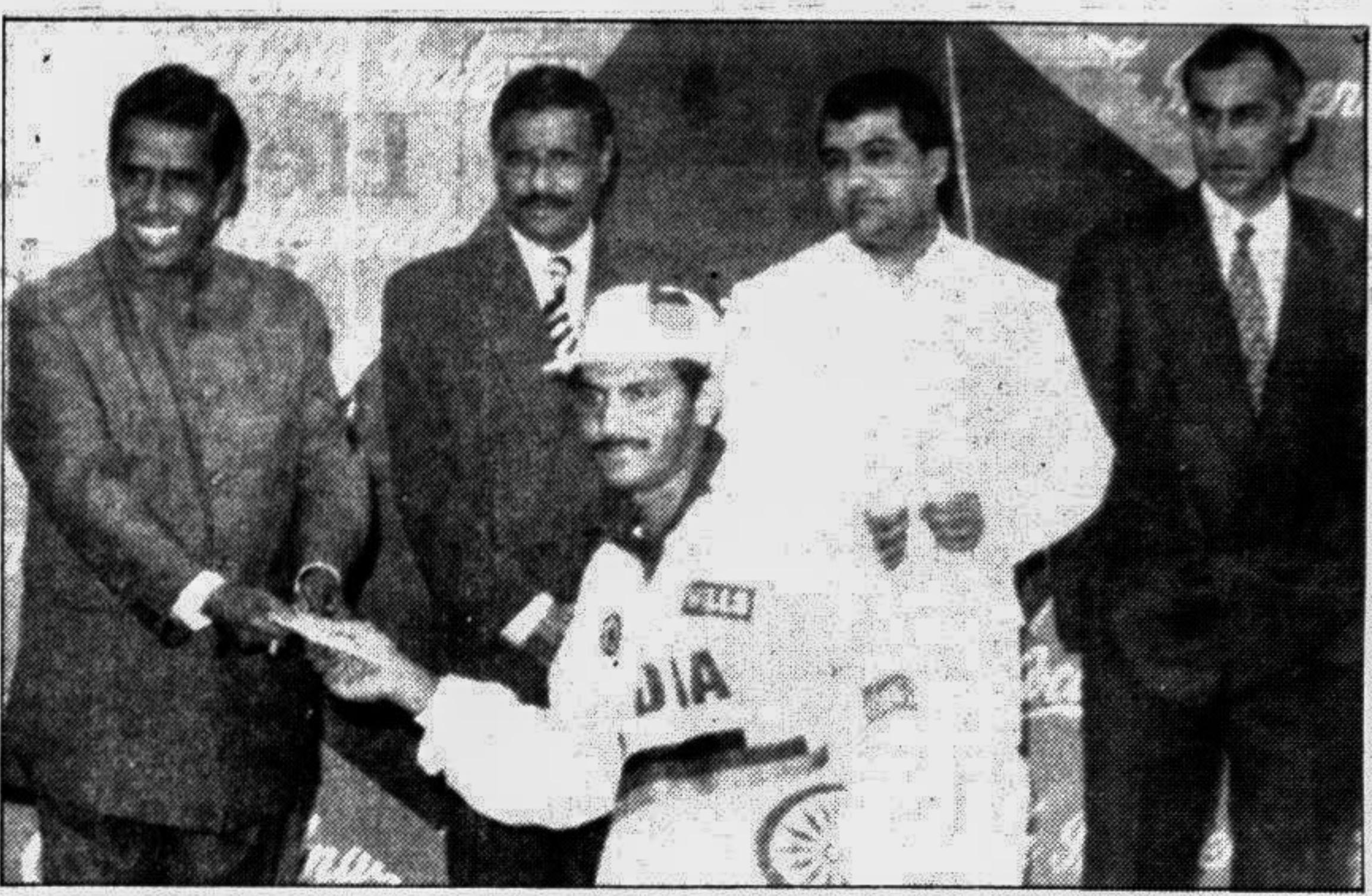
New South Wales seemed headed for victory late in the day after MacGill took a career-best six for 99 from 26 overs, including the wickets of Australia opener Matthew Elliott for 42 and former Australia batsman Dean Jones for 57.

MacGill has taken five wickets in an innings three times this season and is being touted as a possible partner for master leg-spinner Shane Warne in Australia's tour of India in March.

Victoria made 387 in their first innings in response to New South Wales' massive total of 532 for nine declared and the hosts set about tackling the winning target in earnest early in their second innings.

The Victorians reached 243 for seven but gave up their run chase after MacGill bowled tail-ender David Saker for a duck.

Brad Williams and fellow tail-ender Matthew Inness then safely saw out the final 25 deliveries before play was halted. New South Wales took two points from the match for their superior first innings score and are two points behind leaders Western Australia on the Shield standings.



Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin receives the winners' cheque from Water Resources and Irrigation Minister Abdur Razzak at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Tourists still 40 runs shy**KANDY, Sri Lanka**, JAN 10 (AP/AFP): Zimbabwe produced a better batting performance in the second

innings but face the prospect of defeat ending the fourth day's play at 289 for seven in the first cricket Test against Sri Lanka at the Asgiriya Stadium here on Saturday.

Zimbabwe attempted a further 40 runs to avert an innings defeat.

Zimbabwe cruised comfortably at one stage piling up 261 runs for the loss of four wickets, but slumped to 271 for seven when off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan struck to remove Andrew Flower (67) and Craig Wishart for a duck within the space of three deliveries after which paceman Chaminda Vaas using the new ball got rid of Alastair Campbell leg-before for 40.

Goodwin and Flower went on to repair the damage displaying better temperament than in the first innings while sharing in an 82-run stand for the fourth wicket before Muralitharan struck to separate the pair.

Goodwin, making his debut, was the batsman to be sent back when for once he lost his patience to step out and miss the line of another turning delivery that cut into his stumps.

Before his dismissal Goodwin was given a rousing applause by the crowd when he dispatched paceman Ravindra Pushpakumara to the mid-off boundary to bring his half century. In all Goodwin occupied the crease for 191 minutes. He made 70.

Wet conditions resulting from overnight rain delayed the start of the day's play by 30 minutes.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the fourth day of the first Test between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka at the Asgiriya Stadium on Saturday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 469-7 dec (Atapattu 223, A de Silva 75).**ZIMBABWE:** First innings 140 (G. Rennie 53, P. Strang 35).**ZIMBABWE:** Second innings (overnight 71 for two) Rennie 1bw Muralitharan 24G flower b A de Silva 38
Goodwin b Muralitharan 30
A Whittall b Muralitharan 14

A Flower c Mahanama b Muralitharan 67

Campbell 1bw Vaas 40

Wishart b Muralitharan 0

P. Strang not out 13

Streak not out 6

Extras (b-1, lb-10, nb-6) 17

Total: (For seven wickets) 289

Fall of wickets: 1-68; 2-69;

3-104; 4-185; 5-261; 6-261; 7-271

Bowling: O M R W

Vaas 20 3 52 1

Pushpakumara 16 1 49 0

Muralitharan 39 13 78 5

Jayantha 11 2 35 0

Aravinda 13 5 25 1

Jayasuriya 15 0 28 0

Atapattu 1 0 1 0

Gascoigne

Gascoigne punished

GLASGOW, Jan 10: Scottish champions Rangers have disciplined Paul Gascoigne for his mimed-fouling at last week's game against Celtic, reports Reuters.

Rangers manager Walter Smith, speaking on Scottish television on Friday, confirmed he had punished the England midfielder but said the details would remain internal — as with all club discipline.

"Paul has served us well over the couple of years he has been here, but there are always bite and pieces of him that let him down now and again and that one was another story," said Smith.

Gascoigne pretended to play an imaginary flute — a symbol of the Protestant marches favoured by the Rangers fans and considered inflammatory to the mainly Catholic Celtic fans — as he warmed up before coming on as a substitute.

Gascoigne performed the same routine in 1995 shortly after joining Rangers. He apologised afterwards saying he had not realised it would cause offence to Catholics.

Gascoigne's gesture was not noticed by the referees in last week's match, won 2-0 by Celtic, but it was captured on television and led to widespread condemnation.

Hingis in Sydney

SYDNEY, Jan 10: Martina Hingis said here today anyone of the top 10 ranked players was capable of ending the season as world number one, reports AFP.

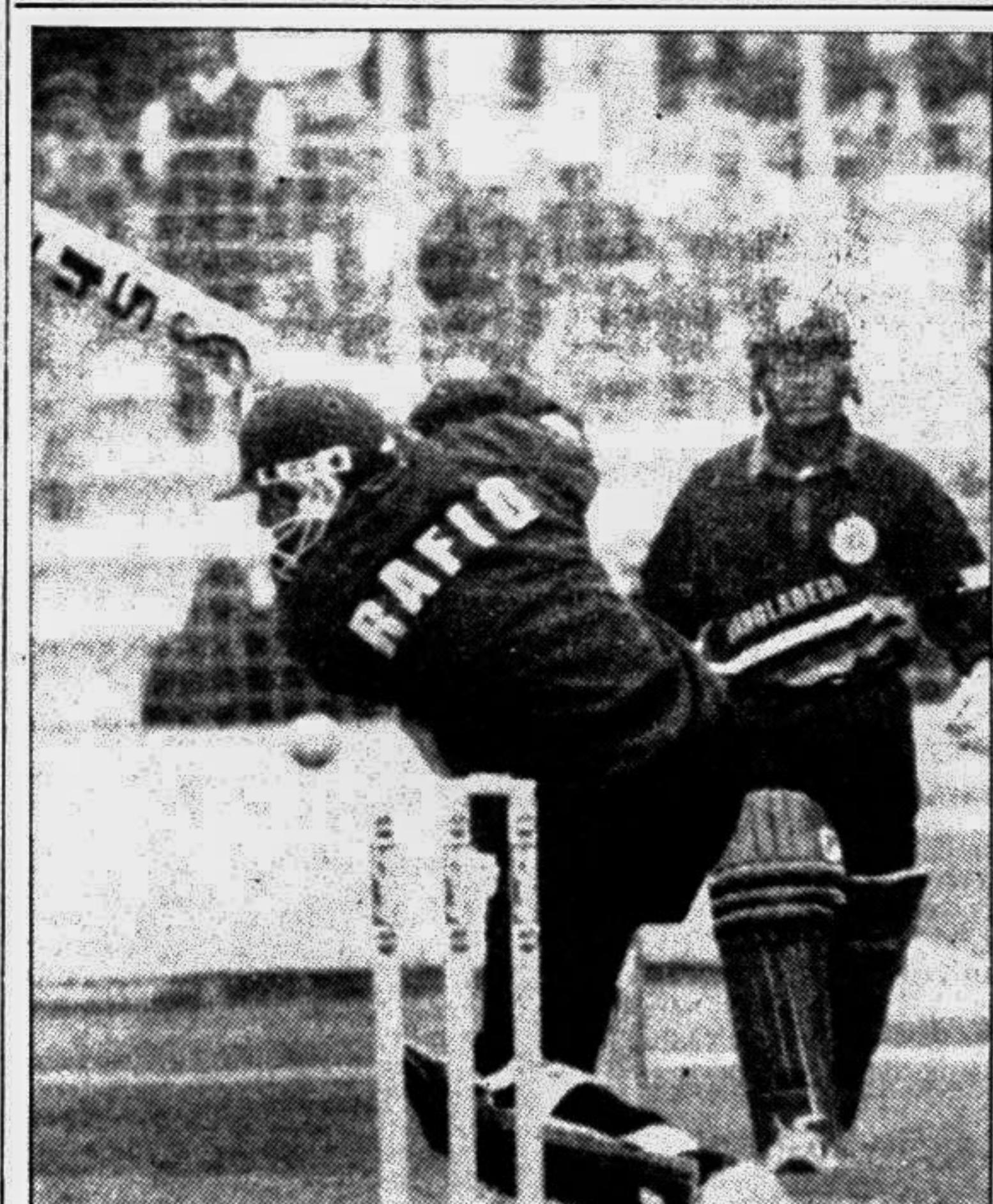
"There are so many, everybody is tough from the top 10 players," she told reporters on the eve of the 440,000 dollars Sydney International tournament.

But the teenager refused to name her most dangerous challenger.

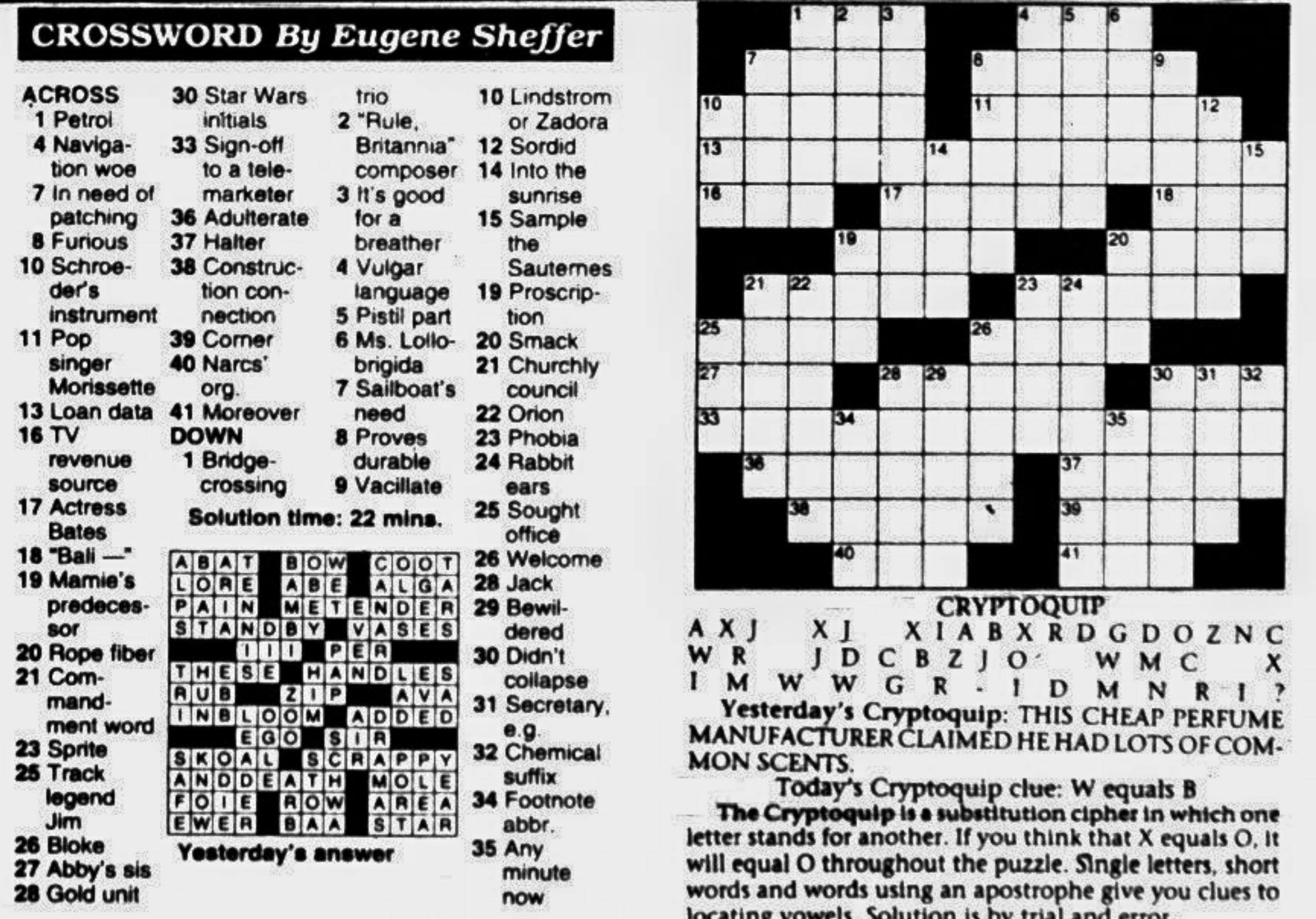
"I always enjoy coming back to Australia, this is the beginning of the year. I did very well last year winning my first title in Sydney and I'm looking forward to the beginning of this tournament," she said.

However, it may be two players outside the leading rankings who pose the biggest long-term obstacles for Hingis.

Rising stars Venus Williams and Anna Kournikova, tipped by many to battle it out with Hingis over the next decade, were handed daunting assignments in the early rounds here.



Bangladesh's left-hand batsman Mohammad Rafique makes an abortive attempt to drive Indian leg-spinner Saifur Bahutule during the inaugural match of the Coca-Cola Independence Cup at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

CRYPTOQUIP

A X J X J X I X A B X R D G D O Z N C

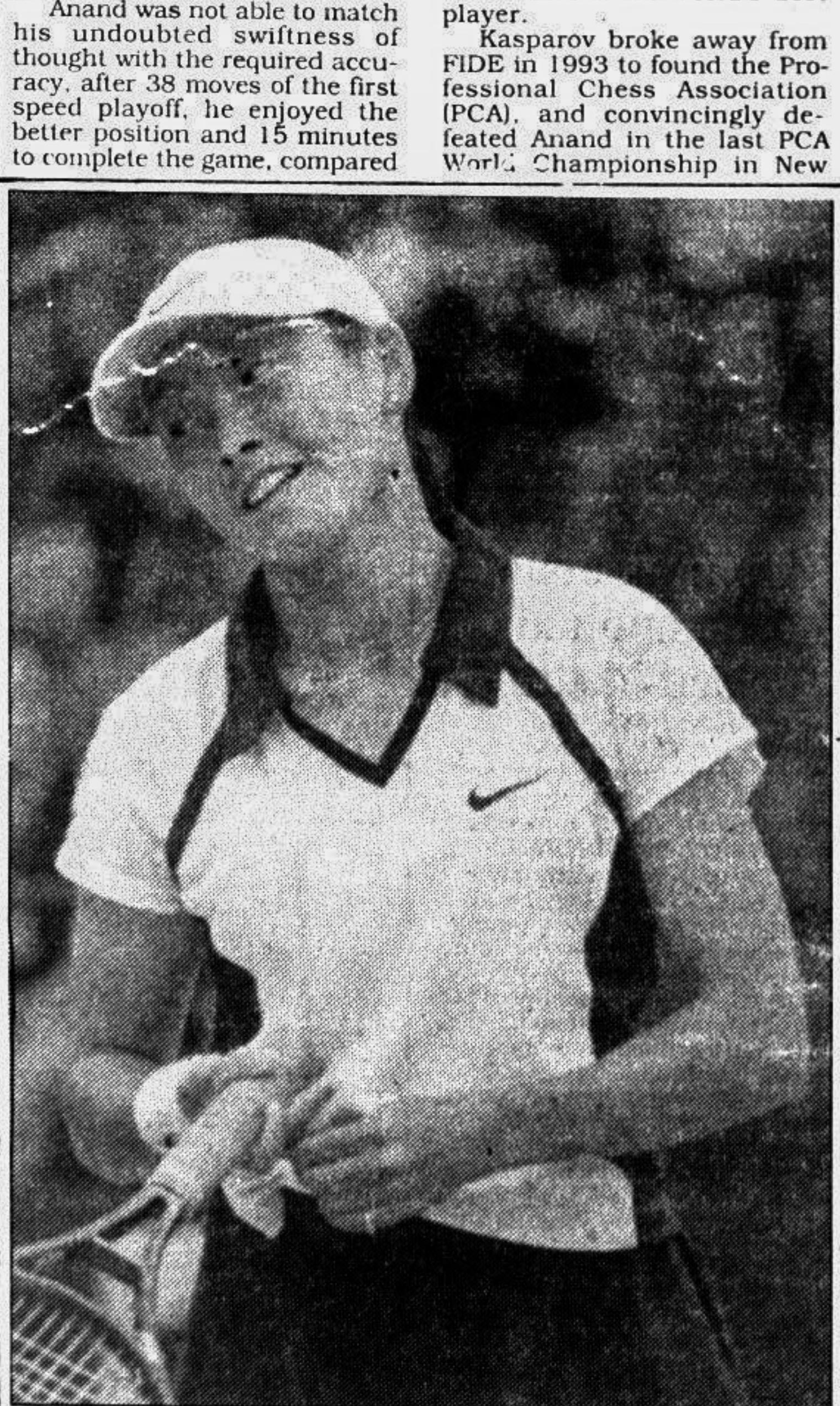
W R J D C B Z J O W M C X

I M W W G R I D M N R I ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS CHEAP PERFUME MANUFACTURER CLAIMED HE HAD LOTS OF COM- MON SCENTS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals B

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.



Japan's Ai Sugiyama gestures during the Australian women's hardcourt tennis final against Venezuela's Maria Vento at Australian Gold Coast yesterday. Sugiyama won 7-5, 6-0.

— AP/UNB photo

FINA chooses Fukuoka

PERTH, Jan 10: Fukuoka in Japan will stage the 2001 World Swimming Championships, the sport's governing body, FINA, announced Saturday, reports AP.

Fukuoka beat Barcelona for the right to stage the next world titles. The eighth championships are now being staged in Perth.

FINA president Mustapha Larfaoui announced the decision by the FINA bureau after presentations were concluded by both bidding cities earlier Saturday.

The 1995 Australian open champion needed four chances to clinch the first set, lasting 51 minutes.

In the second, she broke Habsudova after the Slovak had a terrible seventh game and had two opportunities to close out the match in the 10th game.

Habsudova lost her next service game to love and then couldn't control a big Pierce serve on the third match point.