

Column One  
SPORTS TALK



Glenn McGrath  
(Australia's No 1 pace bowler)  
"I'm at the stage, where I know my body as well as anyone else, and know whether I can get through a Test match."

Boost sports  
WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
Competition-87

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm  
on Jan 30, 1998

- 1 Which Kiwi batsman scored the only ODI century against Pakistan?  
Cairns     Astle     Crowe
- 2 Which is the highest ODI individual score?  
194     189     198
- 3 How many ODI centuries has Azharuddin hit?  
3     4     5

- 4 Who scored the only half-century for Bangladesh in the Independence Cup?  
Aminul     Akram     Mahmud
- 5 Who is leading Bangladesh in the World Youth Cup cricket in South Africa?  
Sabir     Al-Sharif     Sajal

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....



Colonial Classic  
Philippoussis?

MELBOURNE, Jan 17: Mark Philippoussis received a welcome boost to his confidence on the eve of the Australian Open when he outthought Andre Agassi 6-3 7-6 (7-3) to claim the Colonial Classic title at Kooyong on Saturday, reports AP.

The 21-year-old Australian missed the end of last season with a shoulder injury and earlier in the week claimed he was still reluctant to unleash the full power of his formidable serve.

But his 21 aces marked the difference between the two finalists. Agassi, acknowledged as one of the best returners in the game, rarely made any impression against the awesome firepower of his opponent.

Peter, Luo reach final

TOKYO, Jan 17: Top seed Peter Gade Christensen of Denmark rallied past fifth-seeded Indonesian Henyanti Arbi 4-15, 15-2, 15-6 in the men's singles semifinals Saturday at the 200,000 dollars Yonex Japan Open badminton championships, reports AP.

In Sunday's final match, the world's No 2 shuttler takes on ninth-seeded Luo Yiyang of China, who beat unseeded Rashid Sidek of Malaysia 15-17, 15-7, 15-4. Luo is ranked ninth in the world.

In the all-Chinese semifinals on the women's side, top seed Ye Zhaoying ousted fifth-seeded Dai Yun 11-1, 11-9.

Ye, ranked second in the world, will play Sunday against second-seeded Gong Zhichao, who advanced by defeating fifth seed Wang Chen 11-3, 11-5. Gong is ranked third in the world.

Schnyder stops Van Roost

HOBART, Jan 17: Switzerland's Patty Schnyder beat top seed and defending champion Dominique Van Roost 6-3, 6-2 to win the Tasmanian International women's tennis tournament Saturday, reports AP.

Schnyder, 19 and the second seed, needed just 58 minutes to complete the victory, which gave the left-hander her first WTA Tour singles title.

She held a 5-0 lead in the first set but squandered two set points in the ninth game before closing it out.

In the second set Van Roost, from Belgium, was unable to cope with Schnyder's top-spin and surrendered her serve three times.

Of men and cricket

Tawfiq Aziz Khan

A pleasing silence enveloped the grounds. The cold January morning provided a near-perfect atmosphere for an absorbing and at the same time interesting battle between bat and ball. The holiday traffic on the nearby Gullistan area and around the stadium was thin and smooth — no congestion, no contamination, no pollution. Motorised vehicles were few and far between. The rickshawpullers, wrapped in cotton shawls or sleepovers in an attempt to keep themselves warm against the biting wind, languidly pedalled away the three-wheelers. The sun shone, but not in its full glory as a light curtain of morning mist hung over the town. Children, gathered in plenty rolled out mats at nearby club premises, chirped like birds and occasionally cried out 'Howzat!' in pleasing tones. They had their own ways of enjoying holiday and the game of cricket.

All humdrum and activities known as sporting were generated during the only stadium we had — our 'dearest Dhaka Stadium'. The stands were roofed with coloured Shami-ana, folding chairs were placed in particular enclosures to make one feel comfortable and important. The press was perched exactly below the present location — the number of publication being very few compared to the present crowd, life at the enclosure during a match was easier if not cozy. The decorators were in great demand during these occasions providing portable chairs and tables and invariably the 'once white' tablecloth covering the uneven surface of a wooden plank known as table top.

Ted Dexter's strong England team was to play Pakistan on a turf wicket at Dhaka Stadium.

This was possibly, as far as I can remember, the first such important game to be played on a newly laid turf, the behaviour pattern of which was unpredictable. It was a great sight to watch the Englishmen walking on to the ground behind Dexter — all in cream-coloured flannels. Cricketers who were until



HANIF MOHAMMAD

then names and figures to us suddenly took the human form as we looked at them in awe. Dexter apart, the team had a galaxy of brilliant batsmen — Ken Barrington, Geoff Puller, Bob Barber and bowlers like Tony Lock and Allen.

Pakistan put up a very good total. Thanks to Oxford Blue civil servant Javed Burki who scored a scintillating 140 and another patient but delectable innings of 111 by the 'Little Master' Hanif Mohammad.

England's reply was equally brilliant and Puller played a masterly innings of 165, the highest individual score on this ground so far aided by a hard-

hitting 86 by Barber and a gutsy 84 by Barrington who received a tremendous blow on his chest from Khan Mohammad, the speed merchant of Pakistan. The match petered out in a draw but not before the 'Little Master' had scored a century in the second innings also, a crafty 104 to be the 21st player in cricket history and first Pakistani to have scored a century in each innings of a Test match.

Time has rolled by. I sat comfortably in the same area as a spectator after 35 years last Friday. So many scenes crossed my mind, some stayed too long to be wiped away. I remembered late lamented Ali Ashraf, a senior reporter of the now-defunct Daily Azad. He was a good soul, senior to us, and we used to pull his legs. I met Dexter at Lord's in 1979 during the World Cup final. And, in the mean time, Barrington passed away. Tony Lock, like Harold Larwood retired and settled in Australia where he died. Hanif is still alive and well.

The scenery has changed radically. The stadium has grown in size and stature, the game has gone through radical transformation in duration and playing conditions, the flannel has given way to colourful uniforms with identification of players, may be soon they will sport numbers as in American football, some of the laws have also been amended for this type of game and above all great incentives are up for grabs.

Despite all these teasers the contest was one-sided. It was like a repeat performance of the first final — only this time the Green XI prevailed over the Grey XI.

I did not have to wait for five days for a draw. I returned home in time for the afternoon tea and that too with a result.

Arantxa, Karol lift titles

SYDNEY, Jan 17 (AP): Venus Williams ran into the same indefatigable force in the Sydney International final that her sister Serena did in the semifinals, an inspired Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario delivering this message: "I'm still here."

Sanchez-Vicario, a former No 1 who slipped to No 9 after a 20-month drought in 36 tournaments, outslugged and outran the 17-year-old Venus Williams in a 6-1, 6-3 victory Saturday.

At 26, Sanchez-Vicario has resented being overlooked amid all the young players coming on, and she insists she still has the skill and will to add another major to the US Open and two French Open titles she already owns. On the eve of the Australian Open, she certainly has played that way, though she hadn't won a tournament since Hamburg, Germany in May 1996.

Williams played well, just not consistently enough. She tried to put pressure on Sanchez-Vicario at the net, often successfully, but wound up getting passed too much. When Williams tried to slug it out from the baseline, she could match or surpass Sanchez-Vicario's power but not her steadiness.

They met once before, in Williams' debut tournament in Oakland in 1994. On that occasion, Williams romped through the first set and half of the second, stunning the Spaniard who had just won the US Open a month earlier. But Sanchez-Vicario, at the peak of her game then, hung on to wear down the tiring, skinny youngster.

A year ago, Venus Williams was home in Florida, trying to stay up late enough to catch a few of the matches at the Aus-

tralian Open. In preparing for the year's first Grand Slam event in her first trip Down Under, Williams has shown she's indeed ready. She's coped with heat, rain, and a variety of opponents, from No 1 Martina Hingis early in the Sydney International, to No 20 Al Sugiyama in Friday's 6-1, 6-6 semifinal victory.

A finalist in the US Open last September, Williams will move from No 21 to No 15 in the next WTA Tour rankings. But because the Australian Open went according to last week's rankings when officials named the seeds Thursday, she will not



SANCHEZ-VICARIO

be seeded and could meet her No 56-ranked sister in the second round.

Karol Kucera spotted defending champion Tim Henman the first four games in the men's final Saturday, then whittled away from the baseline to capture his first title in three years and only the third of his career.

Kucera, a 23-year-old from Slovakia, showed the same resiliency in the final of this Australian Open tune-up as he did in the semifinals, when he

came back from two match points down in the second set against Michael Tabbutt to win in three sets.

In crafting a 7-5, 6-4 victory over the 23-year-old Henman of Britain, after trailing 0-4, Kucera showed his patience and accuracy from the baseline and just enough power on serve to keep Henman on the defensive.

Kucera, who led Slovakia to a surprise victory at the Hopman Cup in Perth a week earlier, also showed he may be an unseeded threat at the Australian Open, starting Monday, where he'll be playing on the same kind of rubberised hard courts.

Ranked No 25 coming into Sydney, Kucera has been making strides since he started to work last May with 1988 Olympic champion Miloslav Mecir. Kucera was ranked No 63 going into 1997, but he still has never gone past the third round of a Grand Slam tournament.

At the Australian Open, Kucera has a tough draw, starting with a first-rounder against No 10 Sergi Bruguera. Kucera is also in No 1 Pete Sampras' quarter of the draw.

Henman, ranked No 19 coming into Sydney, looked flat a day after knocking off top-seeded Patrick Rafter, the US Open champion, in straight sets.

But Henman consoled himself with the knowledge that he's playing well enough to be able to raise his game for the bigger matches ahead in Melbourne, where he also will be unseeded.

Meanwhile, in the women's doubles Martina Hingis and Helena Sukova defeated Americans Katrina Adams and Meredith McGrath 6-1, 6-2 to lift the title. In the men's doubles finals, top-seeded Australian pair Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde beat Jacco Eltingh and Daniel Nestor 6-3, 7-5.

Pilczuk pulls Popov down

PERTH, Jan 17: Bill Pilczuk, who missed making the United States Olympic team in 1996, surprised himself Saturday by beating two of the world's fastest swimmers over 50 metres at the World Championships, reports AP.

Pilczuk outspurred Alexander Popov of Russia and Michael Klim of Australia to pull off one of the biggest upsets of the meet.

"I didn't even know how to react at the finish," Pilczuk said. "The furthest thing from my mind was winning it. I was just trying to beat Klim."

Roxana Maracineanu won France's first World Championship pool gold medal in the 200-metre backstroke, finishing ahead of silver medal winner Dagmar Hase of Germany and Mai Nakamura of Japan.

After the race, Maracineanu looked stunned and after getting out of the pool was in tears and at first speechless.

"I didn't really expect this. I had no idea," she said after being told she'd won.

Brooke Bennett's win in the 800-metre race earlier in the night gave the Americans 11 gold medals at the meet that they have dominated — with the exception of triple gold medal winner Klim — since opening night last Monday.

Jenny Thompson, who had four gold medals going into Saturday night's 800-metre freestyle relay, was denied a fifth when the Americans finished runner-up to Germany in the final.

The 26-year-old Pilczuk, who missed an Olympic qualifying berth by .05 seconds, finished in 22.29 seconds ahead of Popov in 22.43. Ricardo Busquets of Puerto Rico and Klim

both finished in 22.47 to dead-heat for the bronze.

The Australian said Pilczuk left all others in his wake.

"I was nearly better than all of us today," said Klim. "He would have been at least a meter in front of us."

Popov, philosophical in defeat, agreed.

"The winner takes it all and Bill was much better than us," said Popov. "He deserves the medal .... I have enough of the (gold) medals so I might as well start collecting the silver."

Popov, who along with Klim is coached by Gennadi Touretski at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, was seeking to become the first man to win the 50-100-metre gold double at consecutive World Championships.

It is a feat he has achieved at the Olympic Games and he set up another double with victory in the 100 metres here.

"I knew I lost the race from the blocks," said Popov. "I was thinking about something else — I can't remember what."

Klim, who is the leading male swimmer of the world championships with his three golds, two silvers and a bronze, and Popov had finished in a dead heat in their 50-metre qualifying race on Saturday morning.

Marcel Wouda of the Netherlands won the men's 200-metre individual medley, clocking 2 minutes 11.8 seconds.

Xavier Marchand of France took the silver in 2:01.66 while Ron Karnaugh of the United States, a 31-year-old medical doctor, was third in 2:01.89.

BSWA awards given away

Sports Reporter

The prize distribution ceremony of Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) was held at the National Museum auditorium yesterday.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury attended the function, presided over by association president Roquibul Hasan, as the chief guest and gave away the prizes.

Winners of 1995: Aminul Islam Bulbul (cricket), Rakib Hossain Rakib (football), Mahboob Alam (athletics), Mamunur Rashid (hockey), Nasiruddin Johny and Fowzia Karim (shooting), Karar Mizanur Rahman (swimming), S M Mansoor Azad (referee), Shamsul Bari (organiser), Green Delta Ins Co Ltd (sponsor), player-of-the-year (S A Mohsin Trophy): Saiful Alam Chowdhury Rinki (shooting).

1996: Sabrina Sultana (shooting), Saiful Islam Khan (cricket), Jewel Rana (football), Rafiqul Islam Kamal (hockey), Ziaur Rahman (chess), Syed Ashraf Haque (organiser), player-of-the-year (S A Mohsin Trophy): Akram Khan (cricket).

France '98 tickets

Irregularities to be probed

PARIS, Jan 17: FIFA said on Friday it would investigate reports that tickets for the World Cup finals were being illegally sold at inflated prices on the Internet.

"We are taking these reports very seriously," said FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter in a statement faxed to Reuters in Paris.

The London daily newspaper the Independent said earlier in the day that the French Organising Committee (CFO) was looking at sales made on the Internet by a US company, offering tickets far above their face value.

Blatter said FIFA had asked national soccer associations to provide a list of the agents appointed to represent them for the sale of tickets to their fans.

"Once we have these details, we shall publish them, in order that fans will be able to know which outlets are official and which are not," Blatter added.

Results of the investigation will not be available before next week.

The organisers' move comes amid growing criticism from several national football associations over ticket allocations for the finals, due to be held in France from June 10 to July 12.

England, Belgium and the Netherlands have officially complained to FIFA about their low allocations and UEFA head Lennart Johansson has criticised the ticket plans.

The Dutch federation said it had received 5,800 tickets for the match against Belgium in Paris Stade de France on June 13, a much-anticipated clash for which Belgium was allocated 5,400 tickets. The brand new stadium can seat 80,000 people.

Blatter said national associations had until this Friday (Jan 16) to submit their ticket requirements to FIFA. "At this moment, no national association knows exactly to what extent its wishes will or can be satisfied," he said.

Japan announce preliminary WC squad

TOKYO, Jan 17: Kashima Antlers star forward Atsushi Yanagisawa received his first national squad call-up Friday when the Football Association of Japan announced the line-up for this summer's World Cup finals, reports AFP.

Yanagisawa, 20, is coming off a strong domestic season in which he contributed to the Antlers first victory in an Emperor's Cup final, against the Yokohama Flügels at the beginning of this year.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi, Nobuyuki Kojima, Seigo Narazaki, Hayato Okanaka.

Defenders: Masami Ihara, Norio Omura, Yutaka Akita, Tadashi Nakamura, Naoki Sonoma, Akira Nishizaki, Toshihide Saito, Eisuke Nakanishi, Hideto Suzuki.

Midfielders: Tsuyoshi Kitazawa, Motohiro Yamaguchi, Yamauchi, Yasuto Honda, Hiroaki Morishima, Hiroshi Nanami, Toshihiro Hattori, Tadatoshi Masuda, Takashi Hirano, Hidetoshi Nakata, Syunsuke Nakamura.

Forwards: Kazuyoshi Miura, Massashi Nakayama, Wagner Lopes, Masayuki Okano, Shoji Jo, Atsushi Yanagisawa.

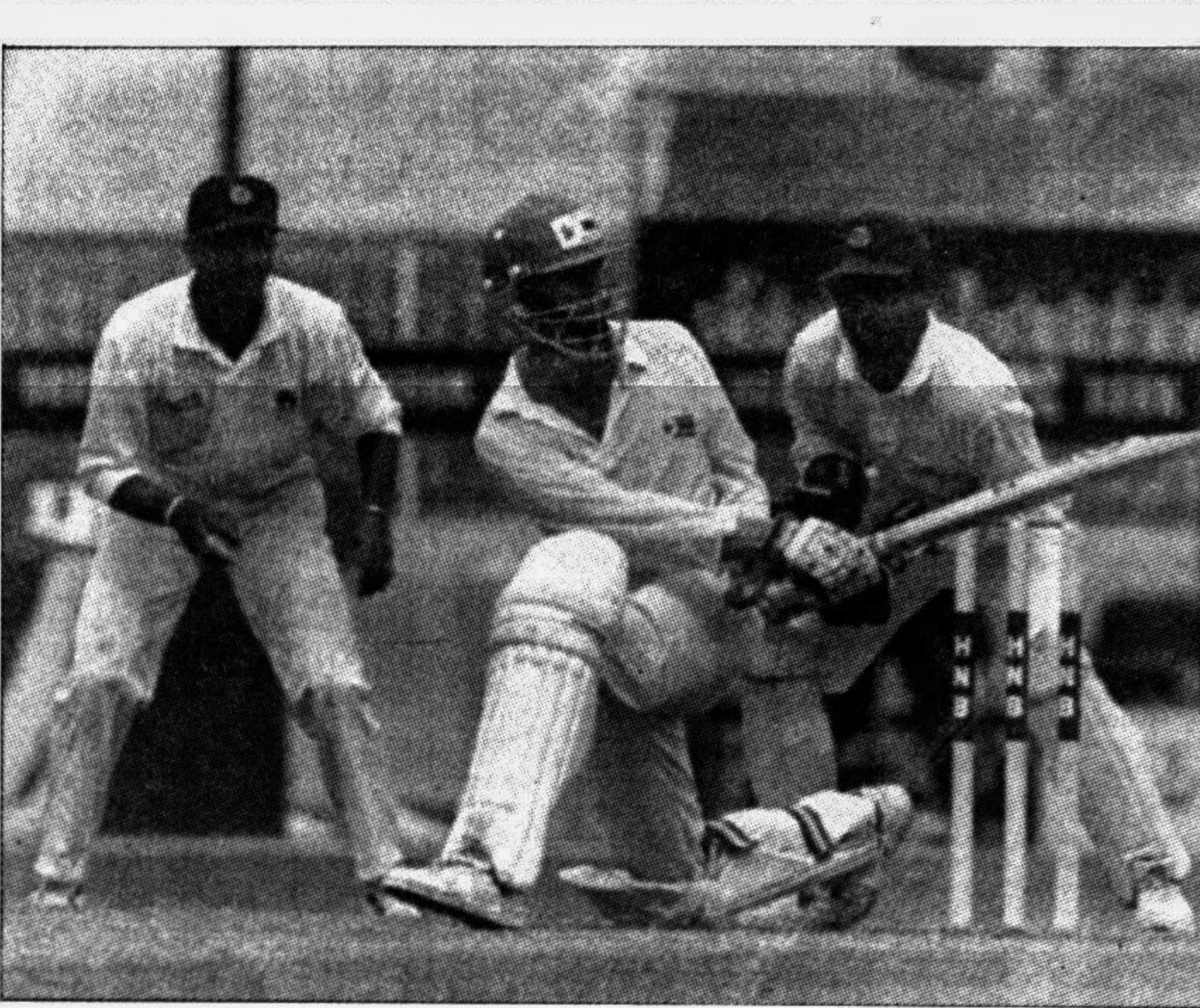
Music fiesta on the eve of WC final

PARIS, Jan 17: Opera's three tenors, Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti, announced details Tuesday of their huge free open-air concert at football's World Cup finals in France in July, reports AFP.

The July 10 concert at the foot of the Eiffel Tower will mark their third appearance at the finals, after Italy in 1990 and the United States in 1994.

Speaking at a press conference here, Pavarotti promised an "unforgettable evening of great emotion," but said it was also a "great challenge."

The concert, which will be broadcast to more than 100 countries around the world, comes two days before the final in Paris of the World Cup.



Grant Flower the Zimbabwe opener sweeps on the third day of the second Test at Colombo on Jan 16.

— AP/UNB photo

Hosts 117 runs away, tourists 5 wkts

Anybody's game in Colombo

COLOMBO, Jan 17: Sri Lanka staged a gritty show to stymie Zimbabwe on the fourth day of the second and final Test in the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo on Saturday, reports AP.

Chasing a target of 326 to win the match, the home side scored 209 for five when stumps were drawn for the day.

Sri Lanka's two most experienced players, Arjuna Ranatunga (29 not out) and Aravinda de Silva (87 not out) lifted the side from a shaky 137 for five.

Their stand was worth 72 runs in 104 minutes but had its share of hiccups. Ranatunga, troubled by the spin of Andrew Whittall, survived a loud appeal for a catch behind with his score on 18.

Zimbabwe got on to a flying start when the pace combination of Heath Streak and Mpumelo Mbangwa plucked a wicket each after conceding just 10 runs.

Streak got Marvan Atapattu to edge a ball to be caught behind and Mbangwa claimed Roshan Mahanama leg-before on the back foot within the space of three overs.

But the day's most dramatic action came in the final session of play when Streak entering the fray for a second spell sent back Sanath Jayasuriya, caught behind for 68, to inflict a middle-order collapse.

Streak got a ball to take the inside edge of Jayasuriya's bat for Andrew Flower to hold on to a low catch, and two deliveries

later trapped Hashan Tillekeratne leg-before off a full toss delivery.

In the last ball of the same over, Ramesh Kaluwitharana survived a loud appeal for a caught behind, but two overs later, Streak came back to have the final say by claiming the batsman caught at first slip by Alistair Campbell for four.

Streak's second spell after changing ends brought him three wickets for 27 runs off eight overs to finish the day with figures of four for 58.

Flower hit his first century against Sri Lanka as Zimbabwe left the home side with a challenging target of 326 at lunch.

Resuming from an overnight 241 for six, Zimbabwe were all out for 299 ten minutes before lunch with Flower remaining unbeaten at 105.

Flower, unbeaten on an overnight 61, reached his century with a well-timed reverse sweep to the boundary off left-arm spinner Sanath Jayasuriya as Sri Lanka closed in to capture the last Zimbabwe wicket.

Flower was on 96 when last man Mpumelo Mbangwa entered the crease. The left hander looked untruffled, even willing to expose the newcomer on a tricky pitch and reached his fourth career ton consuming 331 minutes with the help of 10 fours and one six.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the second and final Test between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe on Saturday:

ZIMBABWE: First innings 251

SRI LANKA: First innings 225

ZIMBABWE: Second innings (241 for six overnight)

Rennie c Kaluwitharana

b Aravinda

G Flower b Jayasuriya

A Whittall c Tillekeratne

b Aravinda

Goodwin b Jayasuriya

G Whittall c sub (M Jayawardena)

b Muralitharan

A Flower not out

Campbell c Kaluwitharana

b Anurasi

Wishart c Kaluwitharana

b Pushpakumara

P Strang b Muralitharan

Streak run out

Mbangwa c Aravinda

b Muralitharan

Extras: (lb-6, w-1, nb-2) 9

Total: (all out) 299

Fall of wkts: 1-22; 2-34;

3-104; 4-117; 5-129; 6-204; 7-

267; 8-284; 9-286; 10-299.

Bowling O M R W

Pushpakumara 17 2 54 1

Aravinda 23 4 61 2

Muralitharan 37 5 73 3

Anurasi 19 7 41 1

Jayasuriya 29 9 64 2

SRI LANKA: Second in-

nings

Jayasuriya c A Flower b Streak

Atapattu c A Flower b Streak

Midanana lbw M Bhangwa

Aravinda not out

Tillekeratne lbw Streak

Kaluwitharana c Campbell b

Streak

Ranatunga not out

Extras: (nb-11, lb-10) 21

Total: (for five) 209

Fall of wkts: 1-1; 2-10; 3-115;

4-115; 5-137

Bowling: O M R W

Streak 15 4 58 4

Bhangwa 10 4 25 1

A Whittall 25 6 56 0

P Strang 12 1 48 0

G Whittall 2 1 1 0



Winners of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association awards pose during the prize distribution ceremony at the National Museum yesterday.

— Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Tray remnant  
4 "I've — Secret"  
8 Scoundrel  
12 Sandra or Ruby  
13 Mined-over matter  
14 Satter's cousin  
15 The Frost  
16 Flop  
19 Honey-comb cell  
21 Paveish temper  
24 Ill-lit  
25 Author Buscaglia  
26 No Derby winner, this  
28 Watch  
32 St. Louis sight  
34 Snooper's device  
36 Algonquian language  
37 Press-conference arrav

DOWN  
1 Put two and two together  
2 Observe  
3 Ring tactic  
4 — rule  
5 Plats' a partner  
6 Georgia or Cal  
7 Invited  
8 Made of clay  
9 "Or would you rather be?"  
10 Sample  
11 Witnessed leap  
16 Soon to arrive  
20 Louis —

the Sun King  
21 Bridge coup