

New committee of Kalabagan



CHAIRMAN SECRETARY

Kalabagan Kriya Chakra has formed an eight-member new Cricket Committee headed by Obaidul Islam Jinnah for the 2000-2001 season recently.

The committee also have five vice-chairmen, a secretary and a technical manager.

THE COMMITTEE: Chairman-Obaidul Islam Jinnah, Vice-chairmen-S Alim Pokhraj, Syed Mazharul Huq, Ikramul Karim and Syed Selim Ahmed Ihanute, Secretary-Rizwan-bin-Farouque and Technical Manager-Rafiqul Alam.

Let's forget the past

AP, Colombo

Over a beer garden party, England and Sri Lankan players joked, laughed and shared lamb kebabs in an effort to forget animosity before they start their third and final Test on Thursday.

There were competitions among 200 invitees from Sri Lanka's rich elite and media for the largest pot belly, the shiniest bald head and most colorful men's underwear.

"Tropical paradise was the theme, said Chandrisan Perera, the public relations manager for Sri Lanka's cricket board, which organised Monday's party at a garden overlooking the Indian Ocean so that the players could unwind ahead of the final Test.

It was also an effort to clear some of the misunderstanding and animosity that have affected the series, now tied at 1-1.

Thrilling cricket in the three-Test Series has been overshadowed by incessant appealing, several poor umpiring decisions and finger pointing incidents between rival teams.

"Here we should play clean and good cricket. Mind you, this is a tropical paradise," Perera said, as top Sri Lankan musicians played Western music and local dancers performed.

England captain Nasser Hussain and his Sri Lankan counterpart, Sanath Jayasuriya, and their teams were guided to food stalls serving lamb kebabs and a host of Sri Lankan delicacies.

The 7:30 pm party, scheduled for two hours, lasted until midnight.

"This was a great chance for all of us to have some fun ahead of the third Test," said Mohan Kumar, general manager of Taj Samudra, the host hotel for the cricketers.

Although the cricketers spoke among themselves, none of them wanted to talk to journalists. The party came ahead of a visit by England and Wales Cricket Board chief Lord Ian MacLaurin, who will hold discussions with the England team on Wednesday.

Sarwan turns up heat

Cricket AFP, Georgetown

Carl Hooper and Ramnaresh Sarwan launched a late assault on South Africa's bowling to leave the West Indies scenting victory at close on the fourth day of the first Test on Monday.

Hooper and Sarwan shared an unbeaten stand of 76 to leave the West Indies 258 runs ahead on 286 for four at stumps at the Bourda ground.

Most of their runs came at the end of a frenetic final session, with both batsmen cutting loose to hammer 62 runs off the final 11 overs of the day.

At close veteran Hooper stood on 31 not out with 20-year-old Sarwan on an unbeaten 71.

Their stand started after the second new ball was due but as in the first innings South African captain Shaun Pollock opted to stay with the old one, with run-scoring having proved difficult on a slow surface.

His decision backfired, though, as Hooper and Sarwan went on the attack.

Earlier, fast bowlers Allan Donald and Makhaya Ntini were the pick of a disciplined bowling combination.

Despite the late run chase, their efforts ensured that West Indies will have to bat on into the final day, reducing the number of overs they will be able to bowl at the South Africans in the final innings.

South Africa missed a chance of a crucial breakthrough when star batsman Lara was dropped before he had scored. Neil McKenzie put down a sharp chance at short leg off left-arm spinner Nicky Boje.

For a while it seemed Lara would make the tourists pay for their lapse. He made 37 of a 50-run stand with Marlon Samuels in 62 minutes but the runs dried up and Lara added only eight more in another 45 minutes before the pressure finally told and he hit a tame catch to extra cover off Makhaya Ntini. He made 43 off 82 balls with five fours.

When Lara came in only 28 runs had been scored in 22 overs and South Africa would have had a triumphant morning if McKenzie had held Lara's offering. Lara and Samuels took their third wicket stand to 76, with Samuels playing a secondary role. Samuels struggled to pierce the field and it took him 111 balls to hit his first boundary.

Samuels, 20, went on to reach his second Test fifty off 199 balls but was bowled three balls later by Kallis for 51. He hit five fours.

Sarwan reached his half-century off his 112th ball when he hammered Donald through the covers off the back foot. It was his seventh boundary. He showed more fluency than in the first in-

LATEST STARSPORT MONITOR

South Africa, set to score 306 to win in a minimum 76 overs, were 27 without loss at lunch on the final day of the first Test against West Indies on Tuesday.

West Indies declared their second innings at 333 for seven. Sarwan's brilliant innings came to an end when he ran himself out on 91.

nings when he struggled to seven off 83 balls.

Hooper survived a confident lbw appeal from the first ball he faced from Kallis.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the

fourth day of the first Test between South Africa and the West Indies at the Bourda ground on Monday: WEST INDIES: First innings 304 (C Gayle 81, B Lara 47, C Hooper 69) SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 332 (G Kirsten 150, J Kallis 50, M Boucher 52, M Dillon 3/64, D Ramnarine 3/105)

WEST INDIES: 2nd innings (overnight 50/0) Hinds c Boucher b Donald 14 Gayle c Boucher b Boje 44 Samuels b Kallis 51 Lara c Pollock b Ntini 45 Sarwan not out 91 Hooper not out 31 Extras: (b-14, lb-7, w-1, nb-8) 30 Total: (For 4 wks in 105 overs) 286 Fall: 1-51, 2-78, 3-147, 4-210

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes Donald, Pollock, Kallis, Boje, Ntini, Klusener.



Ramnaresh Sarwan of the West Indies running back to the crease to beat a throw on the fourth day of the first Test against South Africa in Georgetown on Monday.

Hooper wishes Lara well

REUTERS, Georgetown

West Indies captain Carl Hooper is confident Brian Lara will start making big scores again.

Lara hit 47 and 45 in the first Test against South Africa - dismissed just as he seemed to be getting into his stride.

Lara's frustration was evident as he walked back to the pavilion after driving the ball straight into the hands of Shaun Pollock at short extra cover in the second innings.

"I suppose it is a bit disappointing, but the positive sign is that he looks as if he is getting his touch back and perhaps he will get a three-figure score in (the second Test in) Trinidad," said new skipper Hooper.

Lara, told that he has to put in time and effort in the nets more consistently, returned to international cricket last year after resigning the captaincy.

He averaged 26.55 in last year's series in England and 32.10 in Australia, a figure improved by his magnificent 182 in Adelaide.

Hooper said that his team put safety first in the first two sessions yesterday.

"We had to be very cautious at the start. We have a fairly long tail, so we didn't want to lose early wickets and then find ourselves struggling to get a decent score," Hooper said.

They finished 258 runs ahead with six wickets left.

Bradman's last victory?

AP, Sydney

Cricket legend Sir Donald Bradman won a legal battle over the unauthorised use of his name just two days before he died, court officials said Tuesday.

Property developer the Bradman Corporation and its related companies have agreed to phase out their use of the cricketer's name over the next two years, the Federal Court was told.

Bradman and the charitable organisation The Bradman Foundation took action against the companies and two directors last year alleging their use of the Bradman name breached trademark laws.

On Tuesday, Justice Roger Gyles was told by lawyer Bob Elliott, representing the Bradman family and the foundation, that a settlement had been reached two days before Bradman died on February 25.

Court orders formalising the settlement could not be made until procedural matters concerning his death were dealt with Tuesday.

In a statement, Bradman Corporation managing director Peter Brennan said the company would change its name to Bradcorp Holdings.

Bradman initiated several legal battles in his last years to prevent people cashing in on his name.

Last year an Adelaide restaurant owner agreed to drop plans to name her establishment Bradman's Cafe Restaurant and instead call it Bradman Drive Cafe Restaurant.

An Adelaide sex shop also dropped plans to incorporate Bradman in its name.

Harvey coming to India

AFP, Melbourne

All-rounder Ian Harvey will be fit for Australia's one-day internationals in India after overcoming a thumb injury, the Victorian chairman of selectors Shaun Graf said Tuesday.

Harvey missed the first innings Sheffield Shield win over New South Wales in Sydney Monday, after being struck on the thumb while batting in Victoria's previous game against Tasmania.

However he has been named in Australia's 14-man squad and is scheduled to travel to the sub-continent on Saturday along with the four other members of the squad not already in India - Nathan Bracken, Michael Bevan, Andrew Symonds and Darren Lehmann.

Graf said Harvey would not face a fitness test before leaving for India but would likely be tested before the first of Australia's five one-day matches against India in Bangalore on March 25.

"If it hadn't been such a crunch game for us or there wasn't the Indian tour straight afterwards, Ian could have played against New South Wales," Graf said.

"It just wasn't worth risking him getting another knock on his thumb."

Graf said Harvey has been able to bowl in the nets without discomfort as well as hitting catches in fielding drills.

"He could have run in and bowled with full pace with no problems," Graf said.

"I don't think he's got any problems in being right for India." Harvey was a key contributor with both bat and ball during the triangular series against West Indies and Zimbabwe this summer in which Australia claimed the trophy without losing a match.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader (R) and Bangladesh Cricket Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury inspecting the construction work of the National Stadium at Kamalapur-Mugdopara in the city on Tuesday. It is expected that the first phase of the construction work to make the football stadium fit for play will be finished by June this year.

Andre, Pete progress

Tennis AFP, Indian Wells

Australian Open champion Andre Agassi dispatched Hicham Arazi 6-3, 6-2 at the Tennis Masters Series on Monday, avenging a first-round defeat by the Moroccan here last year.

But Agassi, the fourth seed, was reluctant to read too much into a comparison between his quick victory and last season's shocker.

"Every week is so different," he said. "I went from playing great in January last year to struggling for a while. There's no question tonight I was a lot better than I was this week last year."

Agassi was just happy to stay in with a chance at capturing this title for the first time, after runner-up finishes in 1990 and 1995.

"I'm putting a lot of pressure on myself to play well here," admitted Agassi. "Especially because I haven't accomplished winning this tournament."

"This is a week that I've always expected myself to play well. I grew up on hard courts, grew up in the desert. This seems like it's a place I should be pretty familiar with. But I have to go out and prove that."

Third-seeded American Pete Sampras, who won back-to-back titles here in 1994-95 but hasn't made it past the quarterfinals since, is also keen to reverse his image as a player who dries up in the desert.

Sampras rode a three-match losing streak into the event but stopped the rot with a 6-4, 6-4

victory over German David Prinosil.

"Today was a good start," said Sampras, who was ousted in the fourth round of the Australian Open and had since lost his opening matches in both Memphis and Scottsdale.

"I feel like I've been struggling a little bit over the past couple of weeks. Today I felt like I got my game going, I was serving well. It was a pretty solid effort."

"All you can do when you haven't played a lot of matches is practice hard, practice with purpose," he said. "That's what I've tried to do. Usually that works out in playing pretty well, like I did today."

He said the early exit in Scottsdale at least let him get to Indian Wells early and start preparing.

"I've struggled here the last couple of years," Sampras said. "I've been here since Friday to get used to the elements. The ball does go a little bit more here than, say, Miami."

Sampras and Agassi were the top seeds in action as the men's tournament got underway. Defending champion Alex Corretja, the eighth seed, also advanced, rallying to defeat unseeded Argentine Gaston Gaudio 3-6, 7-6, 7-6.

Australian Open runner-up Arnaud Clement of France needed just 49 minutes to get past Andrew Ilie 6-0, 6-2, the erratic Australian looking nothing like the player who upset Sampras last week.

"My play was OK," Clement said. "At the beginning I only had to put the ball on the court be-

cause he did so many mistakes. He hit the ball very hard, but the first set it was always out.

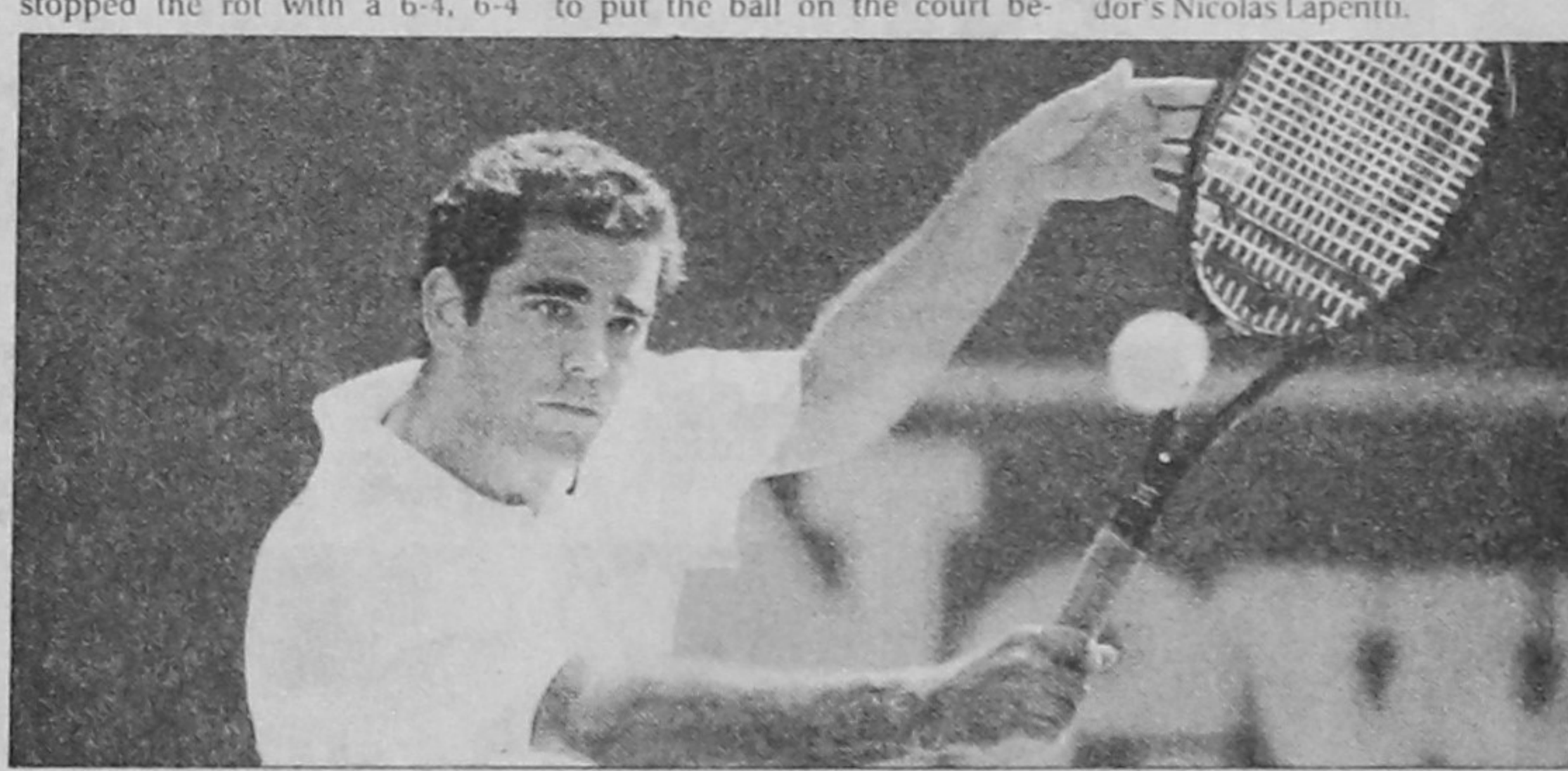
While the men were finding their feet, world number one and top seed Martina Hingis led the way into the women's quarterfinals with a 6-3, 7-6 victory over 16th-seeded Austrian Barbara Schett.

She'll face Italy's Silvia Parina Elia, who upset 11th-seeded German Anke Huber 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

Second seed and defending champion Lindsay Davenport downed fellow American Lisa Raymond 6-4, 6-2 to advance to a meeting with seventh-seeded Serena Williams. Williams needed six match points in the final game to put away Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-3, 6-2.

Third-seeded American Venus Williams got past Australian Kim Clijsters, who beat Japan's Ai Sugiyama 6-4, 4-6, 6-2, and Russian wildcard Elena Bovina, a 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 winner over France's Nathalie Dechy.

Clijsters and Bovina were scheduled to meet on Tuesday, while Hingis' quarterfinal was the curtain-raiser of the Tuesday night session, to be followed by the first-round men's match between Sweden's Magnus Norman and Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentti.



American Pete Sampras hits a backhand against David Prinosil in the Indian Wells Masters Series event on March 12.

Umpires lbw-ed?

Cricket AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's star spinner Muttiah Muralitharan fared below par in the first two Tests against England because umpires were apparently taken in by an "English bluff", a state-run daily claimed on Tuesday.

Muralitharan took 12 wickets in the first and the second Tests with a high strike rate of 93.5 balls per wicket, compared with a career average of 62.3 balls a wicket in his 303 Test wickets, the Daily News said.

"Where the umpires are erring is that they are being bluffed by the English batsmen who pretend to play a shot by striking out their pads and putting the bat behind it giving the impression that they are playing a shot."

"There have been some deliveries in line with the stumps which the umpires are not giving out ... When the batsmen try to hit them and they miss, they get bowled, but when the ball hits the pad they are not given out lbw," the paper said.

For a bowler who was the focal point of Sri Lanka's attack, Muralitharan has been suddenly left with an ordinary striking rate, it said in an article headlined "Umpires fall to English bluff and criticism."

The newspaper also slammed International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee Hanuman Singh of India for allegedly going out of his way to be courteous to

the English.

Singh on Friday handed down a two-Test and two-one-day match bans and a 60 per cent fine of match fees on Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya for showing dissent when he was given out for a bump catch by Graham Thorpe in the gully off Andy Caddick for nought in the second innings.

The Daily News said the referee figured so prominently during the series that he had issued enough statements to publish a book.

"It will be pertinent to ask the question here whether the umpires have been swayed in their decision making by what is written

and said by the English scribes and commentators on tour," the Daily News said.

The English had complained bitterly about poor umpiring when they lost the first Test to Sri Lanka by an innings and 28 runs, but when England won the second Test by three wickets, it was Sri Lanka's turn to gripe.

Both skippers, Jayasuriya and Nasser Hussain, have spoken of poor umpiring and said something must be done to salvage the reputation of the game as the two teams go for their third and final Test starting in Colombo on Thursday.

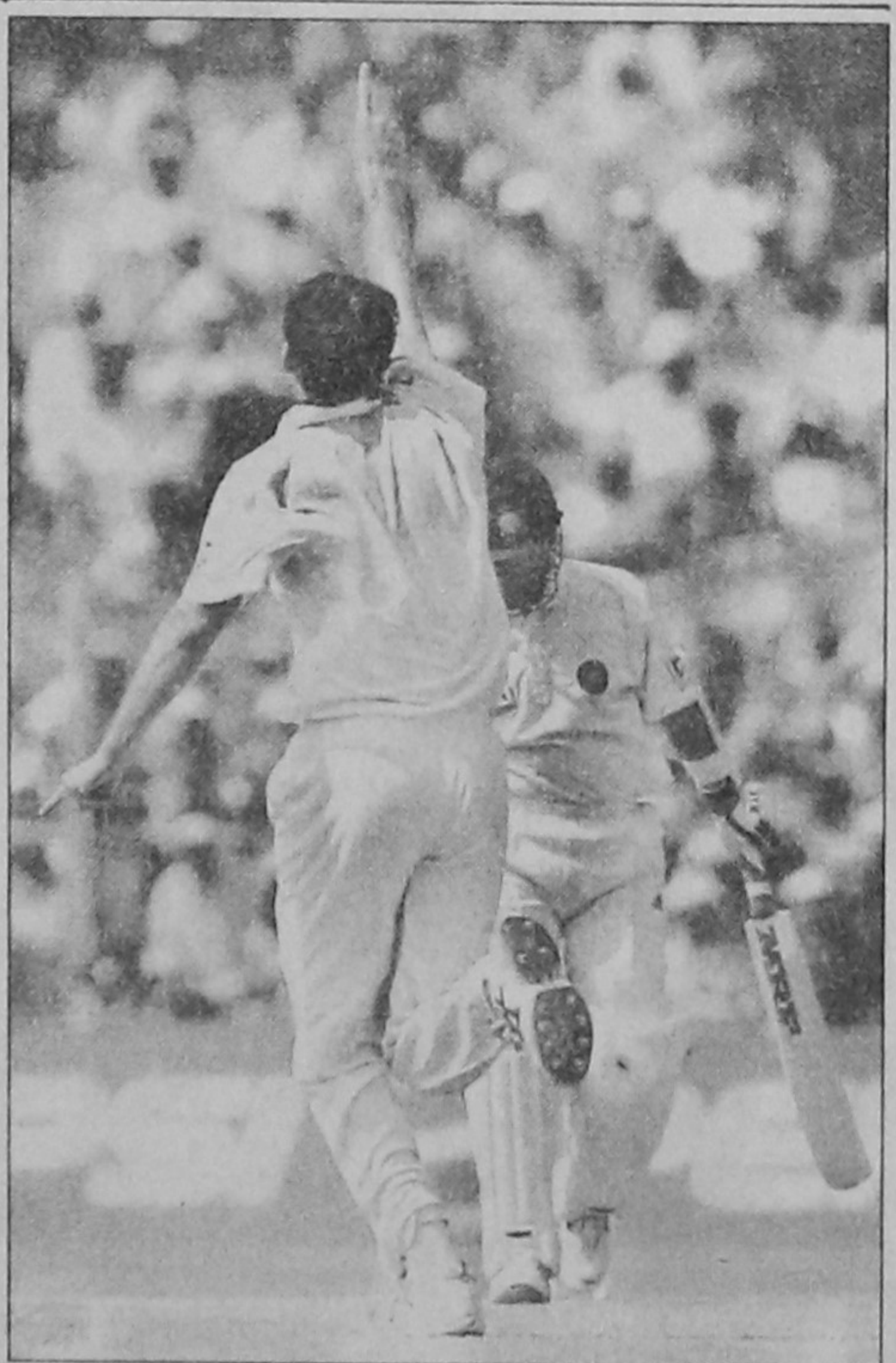
New Athens Olympics boss

AFP, Athens

Businessman Yannis Spanoudakis was named Tuesday as the director-general of the organising committee for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

Government spokesman Dimitris Reppas said that Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis had made the appointment.

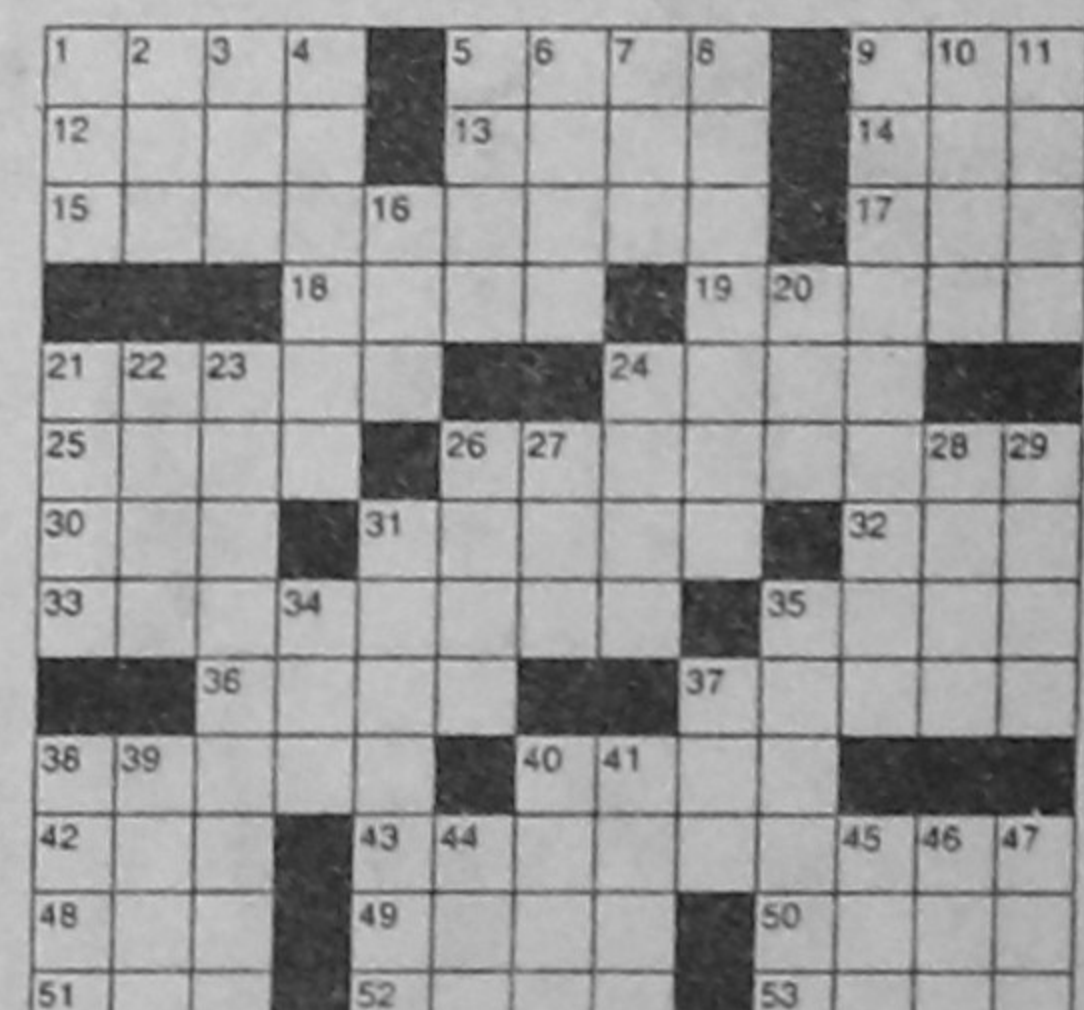
The 48-year old Spanoudakis has headed several private sector companies including the Dow Chemical Company.



Australian fast bowler Jason Gillespie exults after capturing the prized wicket of Indian batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar on the third day of the first Test at Eden Gardens in Calcutta yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Lotion 5 Head 9 Windy 12 Duck Soup 13 ...with sugar 14 Fond du 15 "60 Minutes" 17 Wapiti 18 Hibernia 19 Devoid of 21 Snail's 24 New Haven student body 25 Cabin components 26 Rolled over, in a way 30 Assn. 31 5-in-a-row win 32 Desiccated 33 Napoleon's loss 35 Pennsylvania 53 Sweet potatoes 21 Traffic sign 22 Circle dance 1 Early hrs. 2 Long, crosser 3 Plala's partner 4 Ousts 5 Frost 6 Stud fee? 7 Driver's ID 8 Whom 9 Ancient water clock 10 Stop 11 Gross 16 Actor 20 One of Frank's exes 23 Breakfast makers' 24 Theatres 25 Dosage, maybe 27 Spanish year 28 See 18- Across 29 Coloring agents 31 Monkeys member 34 Dutch commune 35 In a satanic way 37 Work unit 38 Arrived 39 "Metamorphoses" poet 40 Business attire 41 Crafts' males 44 Harem room 45 Coloring's grp. 46 Actor Alastair 47 '60s campus grp. SOLUTION TIME: 25 mins. LAVA PEEP SALLE EVIDENCE CLOUD VIACATION RATTI GON GASTRIS WAKEN GRIP ALES TRAVELIS DON CRONE AHA TOUARIST CRIEW PLEAS EASIE SHREWS ACT NOON SIGHTSEE AULD TOELOGY PRIES CUD EDGE



CRYPTOQUIP D F P U N G K Q A S K A F T A W Z Y Q T Y Z E S K D W P A T G Z D P W Z K G G T N W U E D Y N U Y F Z Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WOULD YOU PRESUME THAT A FOOD THIEF ALWAYS PREFERS HIS MEALS HOT? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals S The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, it will equal Q throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.