

Milnars cricket

Sports Reporter
The desperate fight for survival, that is, the five-team relegation league of the Milnars First Division cricket got underway with Bangladesh Railway heaving a sigh of relief as they beat Dhaka Wanderers Club by two wickets in a low-scoring match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Wednesday last.

The bottom-three of the five teams will be relegated to the Second Division cricket league.

Railway skipper Selim won the loss and invited his counterpart Poltu to bat.

Wanderers could muster a narrow 105 for eight wickets from their quota of 45 overs, thanks to the tight bowling and fielding by Railway.

Opener Kiron made 21 and Shihab remained not out with another 21 while Sohail scored 18.

Ripon and Shadon claimed two wickets each while Tito and Afzal got a wicket apiece for the railwaymen.

Chasing the target, Railway cruised past Wanderers in 41.1 overs for eight wickets.

Afzal, who took two Wanderers wickets, topscored with 27, that included a couple of hits to the fence.

Abid and Ripon remained not out with 18 and 15 respectively.

Ismail and Sohail bagged two wickets each for Wanderers Club.

Railway collected six points while Wanderers managed four from nine outings each in the first phase of the Milnars league in which ten teams participated.

TOMORROW'S MATCHES
Milnars relegation league
Sadharon Bima vs Young Pegasus (DCS)
Milnars super league
Udity Club vs Agrani Bank (Mirpur Pallabi)

BDR school sports

Sports Reporter
The inter-house annual sports meet of the Bangladesh Rifles High School concluded at the Pithaha Sector field on Wednesday last, said a BDR press release.

Students from four residential houses took part in the seven events held in the final day of the tournament.

Dr Shahidullah House with eight golds, eight silvers and five bronzes emerged champions while Kazi Nazrul Islam House clinched the runners-up trophy by collecting six golds, five silvers and five bronzes.

Major General Mohammad Abdul Latif, PSC, Director General of the BDR witnessed the games and gave away prizes among the winners.

Cricket's razzle-dazzle bonanza begins tomorrow

SYDNEY, Feb 20: Cricket's most innovative World Cup opens Under Saturday with defending champions Australia overwhelming favourites to win against the strongest field ever assembled, reports AFP.

Co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand, the fifth edition of the game's premier limited overs competition has many novelties, including night cricket in coloured clothing and a round-robin league involving all teams to determine the semi finalists.

But the biggest change from the previous four tournaments is the inclusion of a ninth team in South Africa, who returned to the international fold last year after a 21-year exile because of Pretoria's apartheid policies.

Despite it being the most open World Cup ever, the formidable Australians remain the team to beat in the month-long tournament which ends on March 25.

Playing in their own backyard, Allan Border's men could not have asked for a better setting to defend the title they won in 1987 with a seven-run victory over England at Calcutta's Eden Gardens.

Australia's undisputed one-day skills, highlighted by breathtaking running between the wickets and brilliant field-

ing, have overwhelmed rivals in the last three World Series competitions held here annually.

Even the unpredictable nature of one-day cricket, which former West Indian captain Clive Lloyd once described as a "lottery," does not affect the Australians' confidence in their own ability.

Skipper Border, a veteran of 233 one-day internationals, believes his men have it in them to defend the tag of world champions successfully and sounded a ominous warning to the other eight teams.

"If we play to our full potential, we will be a very hard side to beat," said the 36-year-old Border, under whose astute leadership Australia have ruled the one-day world for the last four years.

Border brushes aside fears that the pressure of playing before expectant home crowds could tell on the players.

"We play well in front of our fans and they tend to lift us when we're struggling," he said.

England and Pakistan, who Border believes will be Australia's main rivals, can, however, take heart from the fact that no home team has won any of the four tournaments played so far.

England, who like Pakistan have never won the World Cup, come to the tournament with a morale-boosting rout of New

Zealand in both the recent Test and one-day series.

Led by dependable opener Graham Gooch and including temperamental all-rounder Ian Botham, England are determined to hit the bull's eye after losing in the finals in 1979 and 1987 and the semi-

finals in 1983. The 36-year-old all rounder smashed a brilliant 73 against

New Zealand last week in that role, taking advantage of the rule that allows just two fielders outside the restrictive circle in the first 15 overs.

Middle-order batsmen Allan Lamb was Wednesday retained in the England 14 despite a hamstring injury which will



Allan Border's Australians after winning the Reliance Cup at Calcutta's Eden Gardens on Nov 8, 1987. —Star file photo

on the other two occasions.

The irrepressible Botham, who said recently it was his dream to beat Australia "in front of 100,000 convicts" in the final at the gigantic Melbourne Cricket Ground, holds the key to England's success as he assumes the unfamiliar role of an opening batsman.

The 36-year-old all rounder smashed a brilliant 73 against

the inconsistent batting lineup gave skipper Imran Khan little hope of a successful Cup campaign.

"We will be lucky to make the final," said the 39-year-old Imran who like team-mate Javed Miandad will be playing his fifth World Cup.

Master blaster Viv Richards missed a similar distinction when the West Indian selectors, angered at his refusal to play domestic cricket, left him out of the World Cup.

Without Richards and retired stalwarts like Lloyd, Michael Holding and Gordon Greenidge, the West Indians will not be the same force which won them the first two World Cups in England.

But skipper Richie Richardson, one of the game's leading batsmen, believes the new-look West Indians are capable of a few surprises.

India, shock winners in 1983, will rely on the remarkable batting prowess of wonderkid Sachin Tendulkar and veteran all rounder Kapil Dev to overcome a lean season which saw them routed 4-0 in the Test series and 2-0 in the World Series finals by Border's men.

The South Africans will be the star attractions in their first World Cup, but it remains to be seen how they cope with the new experience of playing a major tournament before huge crowds.

They blamed their 2-1 loss in India in the historic one-day series last November 2 "an unfamiliar experience," but captain Kepler Wessels knows Australian conditions well, having played 24 Tests for his adopted country before returning home.

In Allan Donald, South Africa have a potent strike force and they can make the semifinals if the batting, led by Wessels and vice captain Adrian Kuiper, adjusts itself to the bounce of faster Australian wickets.

Critics regard New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe as the odd teams out in the run-in to the semifinals, but none of the fancied sides can afford to take them lightly.

The spirited Sri Lankans shocked Pakistan recently in a practice match, and the Australians have not forgotten a shock defeat at the hands of Zimbabwe, the only non-test playing nation in the competition, during the 1983 World Cup.

Former Australian skipper Ian Chappell believes the round-robin league, unlike the earlier grouping system, makes this the most open World Cup ever played.

"As it is, you can't predict the outcome of one-day cricket," Chappell said. "Now it is like a Russian roulette."

It will all depend on how well a team plays on a particular day. It is anybody's cup."

TVNZ bows to Maori demand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Feb 20: Television New Zealand agreed Thursday to run Maori-language news bulletins during breaks in World Cup cricket matches, reports AP.

A Maori cultural group threatened Wednesday to disrupt World Cup matches because the national broadcaster often abandons the Maori language in favour of televising major sporting events.

Tino Rangatratana, a group that promotes the Maori language of New Zealand's indigenous people's protested a decision by TVNZ to cancel the news programme Te Karere during the World Cup, which begins Saturday and continues through March 25.

TVNZ said in a statement that the Maori programme would be run during lunch breaks in the cricket matches.

TVNZ has frequently dropped the program in the past to facilitate the coverage of major sports events.

Women's cricket

SYDNEY, Feb 20: Australia were 229 for three in reply to England's first innings of 146 all out at the close of the second-day of the five-day women's cricket Test on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Border warns against complacency

SYDNEY, Feb 20: Australian cricket captain Allan Border warned against over-confidence Thursday, saying his team faced a tough assignment in its opening two matches of the World Cup tournament, reports AP.

Defending champion Australia plays co-host New Zealand in Auckland in the tournament opener on Saturday, then faces South Africa in Sydney on Wednesday.

Border said those two matches hold the key to Australia's campaign in the nine-nation championship, which continues through March 25.

"New Zealanders like beating Australia in all sports and cricket is one of their favourite areas of trying to beat us," Border said before flying to Auckland.

"We are going to have 30, 40, or 50,000 people at Eden Park really cheering for the New Zealand side.

"It's a tough start, particularly when we have to come back to Australia and play the South Africans, who no-one really knows too much about.

"Our first two games are really crucial."

Border said the return of South Africa after a 22-year absence from international cricket made the World Cup more competitive than ever before.

"I suppose this World Cup is going to be the hardest of all to win," Border said.

"Not just because of South Africa's inclusion, or the different format, but because all the teams can beat each other."

"I think in the period of time between 1987 and now, all teams have become very adept at playing the one-day game."

"We are certainly playing a lot better than we did in '87 when we really hit our straps."

"We were an emerging team, now we have probably started to peak as a one-day unit."

"But all sides have improved their performances and even teams like Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe are going to be very dangerous."

Each team in the competition will play every other team in the 36-match first round series of round-robin matches. The top four teams will advance to the semifinals.

No host nation has ever won the World Cup, which puts more pressure on the Australians.



BORDER with the 87 Cup

"Maybe it's that extra pressure of playing in front of your own crowd and the players respond to those pressures in the wrong way," Border said.

"I'm hoping we respond in the right way and that the crowds get behind us in tight games rather than hinder our chances."

"We have advantages in playing a format we're used to, with coloured gear, white balls and day-night matches."

Border said Australia's status as favourite was justified, but would be a heavy burden.

"I don't like favouritism," he said. "It's a worry. There are a lot of favourites who don't win races."

Border said he rated England and Pakistan as the major challengers to Australia. "The England team is going to be very tough. I think they've got their act into gear over the last 12 months," he said.

"They really seem to be playing well, particularly at one-day cricket."

"Pakistan is very dangerous, a tremendous all-round talented side with four or five players who can win games by themselves."

The West Indies, too, can never be discounted. No-one knows too much about South Africa and New Zealand have a chance because they're playing all their games at home."

WORLD CUP CRICKET 1992: BTV's LIVE TELECAST SCHEDULE

Following is the complete, corrected schedule of BTV's live coverage of the 1992 World Cup:

Date	Match No.	Match	Venue	Hours of Play GMT	BST
FEBRUARY					
Sat 22nd	1	New Zealand V Australia	Auckland	2230-0615	0430-1215
Sun 23rd	4	West Indies V Pakistan	Melbourne	2300-0645	0500-1245
Tue 25th	5	New Zealand V Sri Lanka	Hamilton	2130-0515	0330-1115
Wed 26th	6	Australia V South Africa	Sydney (D/N)	0330-1115	0930-1715
Thu 27th	8	England V West Indies	Melbourne (D/N)	0330-1115	0930-1715
MARCH					
Sun 1st	12	Australia V India	Brisbane	2330-0715	0530-1315
Mon 2nd	14	Sri Lanka V South Africa	Wellington	2130-0515	0330-1115
Wed 4th	16	Pakistan V India	Sydney (D/N)	0430-1215	1030-1815
Thu 5th	17	West Indies V S. Africa	Christchurch	2130-0515	0330-1115
Thu 5th	18	Australia V England	Sydney (D/N)	0430-1215	1030-1815
Sat 7th	19	India V Zimbabwe	Hamilton	2130-0515	0330-1115
Sun 8th	22	Australia V Sri Lanka	Adelaide	2330-0715	0530-1315
Tue 10th	24	Pakistan V South Africa	Brisbane	2130-0515	0330-1115
Wed 11th	26	Australia V Pakistan	Perth (D/N)	0630-1415	1230-2015
Thu 12th	27	New Zealand V India	Dunedin	2130-0515	0330-1115
Thu 12th	28	England V South Africa	Melbourne	0430-1215	1030-1815
Sun 15th	32	India V South Africa	Adelaide	2330-0715	0530-1315
Wed 18th	34	New Zealand V Pakistan	Christchurch	2200-0545	0400-1145
Wed 18th	36	Australia V West Indies	Melbourne	0430-1215	1030-1815
Sat 21st	37	First Semi-final	Auckland	2200-0545	0400-1145
Sun 22nd	38	Second Semi-final	Sydney (D/N)	0430-1215	1030-1815
Wed 25th	39	Final	Melbourne (D/N)	0430-1215	1030-1815

Tyson's victim lauded for her courage

COVENTRY, RI Feb 20: She is smart, sweet, and like many small town girls — grew up a little naive, say friends of the woman raped by Mike Tyson. Now, they say, Desiree Washington is proving that she is also very brave, reports AP.

The 18-year-old Miss Black Rhode Island, who is to appear on ABC-TV's "20/20" Friday, went public after Tyson was convicted Feb 10 in Indianapolis.

"I think she's doing it because of a perception that women who are victims of date rape are helpless," said Frank Graham, editor and publisher of the providence American

newspaper, which focuses on the state's minority community. "I think that in championing a cause of women's rights and purity, she therefore stands out as a heroine."

Miss Washington testified at Tyson's trial that the former heavyweight boxing champion lured her to his hotel room and raped her last July 19 when she was in Indianapolis for the Miss Black America beauty pageant.

Tyson, 25, claimed she consented to sex and became vengeful after he treated her like a one-night stand. His lawyers said she was after his money.

He was convicted of one count of rape and two counts

of deviate sexual behaviour. He faces six to 20 years in prison on each count when he is sentenced next month.

"I think it really took a lot of guts but that's the kind of person she is. She stands up for what she wants," said Sue Bruner, who played on Coventry High School softball team with Miss Washington.

Miss Washington, now a freshman at Providence College, has said little publicly, but she allowed people magazine to publish a small photo of her on its cover. She told the magazine she brought charges, not to become famous, but because "it was the right thing to do."

"She's a sweet young woman who has a beautiful personality, and although she is a little naive, that can be expected of an 18-year-old from Coventry, Rhode Island," said Graham.

Coventry is a small town south of Providence.

Attorney says Tyson trial was fixed

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb 20: An attorney said Wednesday he overheard a juror from the Mike Tyson rape trial claim that the trial was fixed, reports AP.

Robert Prather said that a man he recognized as juror No 2 was exercising at a gym on Saturday when he made the remark.

"He said the trial was fixed and outside the control of the jury and there was nothing they could do about it," Prather said.

"As an attorney, I felt I had an ethical obligation to report it," he said. "I notified the prosecutor's office."

Prather said he met with David J Dreyer, the chief counsel for the Marion County prosecutor, but did not know what he planned to do with the information.

A nostalgic return for Wessels

BRISBANE, Feb 20: South African cricket captain Kepler Wessels will return to his favourite Australian ground Friday, looking to pick-up where he left off six years ago, reports AP.

The last time Wessels played on the Brisbane Cricket Ground he scored 167 for the Queensland state team against Tasmania.

Wessels returns to the arena to play against the team he represented between 1980 and 1986, leading South Africa in its penultimate warm-up match before the start of the nine-nation World Cup.

Wessels played 53 matches for Queensland and scored 162 on his debut for Australia in 1982. He returned home to South Africa at the end of the 1986 season.

"It's nice to be back. It's been historic and this is no exception," Wessels said Thursday.

The 34-year-old left-hander scored a total of 4779 runs at 54.3 for Queensland in his six summers Down Under

with a best of 249 against Victoria.

Wessels will lead South Africa against some of his former teammates, including Carl Rackemann and Greg Ritchie.



KEPLER WESSELS

"It's something I am sure I will enjoy, but naturally I will enjoy the first international a little more," he said.

"Tomorrow is a practice

match and we must try to get as much out of it as we can."

South Africa begins its World Cup campaign when it faces Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

The team's ace is expected to be pace bowler Allan Donald, who has a reputation as one of the fastest bowlers in the world.

"I am sure that any fast bowler here for the World Cup won't be out to prove he is the quickest," said Donald.

"It's very difficult in one-day cricket to bowl at pace. It depends on the conditions of the day."

"Some days you feel really good and you can bowl as quick as anyone in the world, but other times you don't and have to concentrate on line and length."

"I just want to soak up some experience and take a few wickets."

Wessels said South Africa's underdog tag rested easily with his team.

"We like the firm underdog. It puts less pressure on and ensures we have nothing to lose," he said.

Windies score impressive win

SYDNEY, Feb 20: Captain Richie Richardson scored an explosive unbeaten 80 Thursday as the West Indies warm-up for the World Cup cricket championship with a 77-run win over state team New South Wales, reports AP.

The West Indies roared to 234 for four in its 50-overs and then dismissed New South Wales for 157 with four overs remaining.

It was an impressive return to form by the two-time World Cup champion, which failed to qualify for the final of a recent triangular competition featuring Australia and India.

The West Indies faces Pakistan in Melbourne on Sunday in its opening match of the nine-nation World Cup.

Richardson's 80 came from only 93 balls and included seven fours and two sixes.

Makeshift opener Brian Lara

laid claim to a permanent spot at the top of the order with an impressive 71.

The left-hander shared a 56-run partnership with Phil Simmons and a stand of 82 with Richardson.

Paceman Winston Benjamin took two for eight from six miserly overs when New South Wales batted, while veteran Malcolm Marshall grabbed two for 22 from eight overs.

The West Indies rested Desmond Haynes, Curtly Ambrose and Anderson Cummins and included veterans Gus Logie, Roger Harper and Benjamin.

Spinner Harper was surprise choice for the World Cup, but unveiled a new bowling action, his arm much straighter at the point of delivery.

New South Wales was never in the hunt after losing its top three batsmen for 24 in 12 tortuous overs of defense.

West Indies manager

Deryck Murray said the team was reaping the benefits of a month of hard work.

"Everything about the game was encouraging," he said.

"We were playing a New South Wales team without the majority of their international players, so it's not something to go overboard about, but it was exactly the type of work-out we needed."

"We are confident that the team we have has the ability, players and experience to do the job."

Scores:
West Indies 234-4 (Richie Richardson 80, Brian Lara 71), New South Wales 157, West Indies won by 77 runs.

No games today

All sporting activities will remain suspended today on account of 'Shaheed Dibas' commemorating the supreme sacrifice of the valiant sons for the soil to establish Bangla as the state language.

The 1992 World Cup: Revised Itinerary

In NZ	In Aus	Match	Venue	Days
22	22	Australia v New Zealand	Auckland	D/N
23	23	England v India	Perth	D/N
25	25	Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe	New Plymouth	
26	26	Pakistan v Sri Lanka	Hamilton	
27	27	West Indies v Sri Lanka	Hobart	
28	28	Australia v South Africa	Sydney	D/N
29	29	England v West Indies	Melbourne	D/N
29	29			