

# In clash of the co-hosts, the favourites come a cropper

**AUCKLAND, Feb 22**: Martin Crowe's New Zealanders launched the cricket World Cup in an stunning style by pulling off a 37-run victory over holders and favourites Australia at Eden Park on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Crowe played an accomplished innings of exactly 100 not out to lift New Zealand to 248 for six in their 50 overs and then directed an effective piece of out-cricking as his team dismissed Australia for 211 with 11 balls left.

A dogged century from opener David Boon could not save Australia, whose frail batting on a good pitch followed their uncharacteristically poor catching — four catches being missed, including Crowe twice.

Roared on by a 25,000-strong crowd, New Zealand medium-pace Gavin Larsen took three for 30, while three Australian batsmen were run out by sharp fielding.



MARTIN CROWE...Kiwi hero

Reeling after a drubbing from England in the past six weeks, New Zealand were rank outsiders against an Australian team supposed to be peaking for the World Cup.

Crowe, whose century led a New Zealand fightback from 13 for two after he won the toss and elected to bat, won the man-of-the-match award.

Australia got off to a flying start, following ceremonies to launch the fifth edition of the Cup, when Craig McDermott bowled opener John Wright for nought with the third ball of the match.

Andrew Jones was trapped leg before by Bruce Reid to make the score 13 for two, and dashing opener Rod Latham scored 26 quick runs before he was caught behind by Ian Healy.

Ken Rutherford joined Crowe with the score at 53 for three, and the pair breathed fresh life into the innings with a stand of 118.

Crowe, one of the world's most elegant batsmen when he finds his form, dominated some loose bowling despite pain from a knee injury which doctors advised him to rest instead of playing in the World Cup.

Rutherford worked the ball into the open areas of Eden Park for a valuable 57 before he was run out, making the score 171 for four.

Chris Cairns, Ian Smith and Chris Cairns provided vital support for Crowe, who reached his century with the penultimate ball of the innings.

## Nirman cricket

**Sports Reporter**  
Morning Sun and Western High School won their respective matches yesterday in the Nirman Schools cricket tournament.

On the western side of the Dhanmondi Club ground Morning Sun High School were all out for 148 in 29.3 overs after being put into bat. Skipper Masud got scored with 30. Wicket-keeper Bullet with 28 and opener Sujon with 23 were the other notable scorers.

Santanu of Government Laboratory School was the pick of the bowlers taking four wickets for 44 runs. He was well supported by Abed who picked up three for 17.

In their turn, Government Laboratory School were all out for 113 in 27.3 overs.

Abed went one better with the bat scoring a fighting 35 as wickets fell at the other end like nine pins.

In the other match on the eastern strip of the same ground, Western High School crushed Rayer Bazar High by seven wickets.

Put into bat Rayer Bazar were shot out for a wee 75 in the face of some accurate bowling by Jasim and Mintu of Western High School.

Wicketkeeper and opening batsman Riaz of Rayer Bazar was the topscorer with 22. Skipper Seraj was the other batsman to reach the double figures.

Mintu wrecked the batting with figures of four for 20 while Jasim took three for ten.

Western overhauled the score in the 13th over with opener Mintu scoring a polished 29. Jasim with an unbeaten 17 helped his side record an easy seven-wicket victory.

Badrul of Rayer Bazar claimed two wickets for 22.



Australian captain Allan Border drops a vital catch from New Zealand captain Martin Crowe during World Cup match in Auckland yesterday. Crowe went on to score 100 not out.

Boon and Geoff Marsh began Australia's innings in style, hitting 35 off the first seven overs, with Cairns being dispatched for 30 runs from four overs.

Crowe experimented by opening the bowling with the offspin of Kenyan-born Dipak Patel, who responded with figures of one for 36 from 10 overs.

The Australians, 6-4 favourites to retain the Cup, were restricted by the accuracy of Patel and medium pacers Willie Watson, Larsen and Latham, and wickets fell as they lashed out in frustration.

Boon could only watch as Dean Jones fell to a touch-and-go run out decision for four, captain Allan Border was caught on the boundary for

three and Tom Moody was caught and bowled by Latham for seven.

Steve Waugh rallied the Australians by hitting 38 in a 74-run partnership with Boon, but Waugh's dismissal started a slide in which the last five wickets fell for 12 runs.

Border told a news conference after the match — "My worst fears came true today. The Kiwis came out smoking. They never let up pressure on us."

Border said Crowe's innovative captaincy — opening the bowling with Patel and bowling each player in two or three over spells — had upset his team.

The Australian skipper said the defeat did not wreck his team's chances of retaining the Cup.

"One game does not a summer make, but I imagine New Zealand's odds have shortened a tad," he said.

Crowe said he was delighted to silence critics who questioned his ability during the tour by England, in which New Zealand lost all three one-day games and two out of three Test matches.

"We know we've been struggling but finally today we got a reward. The team needed someone to lead the way with a bit of courage," he said of his third one-day international century.

He said of his innovative tactics: "We thought we would do it differently. There was nothing to lose, everyone expected us to be stuffed."

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the 50 overs World Cup cricket match between New Zealand and Australia on Saturday:

**NEW ZEALAND**  
Wright b McDermott 0  
Latham c Healy b Moody 26  
Jones lbw b Reid 4  
Crowe not out 100  
Rutherford run out 57  
Harris run out 14  
Smith c Healy b McDermott 14  
Cairns not out 16  
Extras, (lb-6, w-7, nb-4) 17  
Total: (Six wickets-50 overs) 248  
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-13, 3-53, 4-171, 5-191, 6-215.  
Did not bat: D Patel, G Larsen, W Watson.

**Bowling:** O M R W  
McDermott 10 1 43 2  
Reid 10 0 39 1  
Moody 9 1 37 1  
S Waugh 10 0 60 0  
Taylor 7 0 36 0  
M Waugh 4 0 27 0

**AUSTRALIA**  
Boon run out 100  
Marsh c Latham b Larsen 19  
Jones run out 21  
Border c Cairns b Patel 3  
Moody c and b Latham 7  
M Waugh lbw b Larsen 2  
S Waugh c and b Larsen 38  
Healy not out 7  
McDermott run out 1  
Taylor c Rutherford b Watson 1  
Reid c Jones b Harris 3  
Extras: (lb-6 w-2 nb-1) 9  
Total: (48.1 overs) 211  
Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-92, 3-104, 4-120, 5-125, 6-199, 7-200, 8-205, 9-206.

**Bowling:** O M R W  
Cairns 4 0 30 0  
Patel 10 1 36 1  
Watson 9 1 39 1  
Larsen 10 1 30 3  
Latham 8 0 35 1  
Harris 7 1 0 35 1  
Result: New Zealand won by 37 runs.  
Man-of-the-match — Martin Crowe.

## Gooch still fancies Aussies

**PERTH, Feb 22**: Captain Graham Gooch, fresh from England's opening win over India said he still made Australia the cricket World Cup favourites despite their surprise defeat by New Zealand today, reports Reuter.

And in a reference to the pitch-fixing debate he said, "I am not surprised because I know New Zealand will have prepared the wicket to suit their own type of slow-medium bowlers."

"We saw that in a few matches over there. That type of bowling is very difficult to get away."

"Australia still remain favourites in my book."

Cup pitches are supposed to be like a third-day Test pitch and favour the batsman.

New Zealand cricket management pair Ian Taylor and Warren Lees said this week slow pitches would favour them but added they would not be deliberately fixing wickets.

## Bare behinds for Benaud

**AUCKLAND, Feb 22**: The fifth cricket World Cup was launched on Saturday with brass bands, dancing girls and a fly-past by veteran aircraft before the opening match between co-hosts New Zealand and Australia, reports Reuter.

Ladies bearing cricketing personalities from the nine nations involved in the Cup drove around the Eden Park Stadium as six brass bands played stirring martial music.

Veteran players such as England's Tony Greig, Australia's Richie Benaud and South Africa's Clive Rice were greeted by a crowd of around 15,000.

The biggest cheer was reserved for New Zealand's greatest cricketer, Sir Richard Hadlee, who led the crystal World Cup trophy aloft as he was driven around the stadium in a rolls Royce car.

Former Australian Test captain Benaud was greeted less cheerfully. Raucous New Zealand fans bared their teeth to him as he drove past the terraces, and hurled cushions and paper missiles at him.

## Econo jr TT

**Sports Reporter**  
Eight more matches of the Econo junior table tennis league '92 were decided yesterday at the National Coaching Centre.

Ansars, Officers' Club, Azimpur Young Star and Armanitola Sabuj Sangha registered straight-sets victories over Surja Tarun Club, Ajax SC, Swambag TTS and Azimpur Vintage respectively, while Armanitola Juniors, Armanitola Boys Club, Kalpataru Club and Armanitola Kishore Club lost to Azimpur Young Boys Club, Swambag Boys Club, Biman and Victoria Sporting Club respectively.

## Majumdar snooker begins in N'ganj

**Sports Reporter**  
The first F H Majumdar memorial snooker championship got underway at the Narayananj Club yesterday with State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain formally inaugurating the meet at an impressive ceremony in the morning.

Twenty-eight players from seven clubs of the country are taking part in this invitational meet organised by the Narayananj Club with sponsorship of the Majumdar Group of Companies. Late Fazul Haq Majumdar, founder-Chairman of the group, who died in 1983, was the General Secretary of the Narayananj Club in the early Seventies and several times club billiards champion.

On the opening day, M A Awal of Gulshan Club beat Jewel of Chittagong Club by three frames to two while N A T Rouf of Dhaka Club and Syed Masood of Gulshan Club received first round walk-overs when their Chittagong Club opponents failed to arrive for their matches.

The opening ceremony was addressed, among others, by Narayananj Club president Alhaj M A Rashed and treasurer-cum-organising committee chairman Muniruddin. Syedul Haque Majumdar, Managing Director of the sponsoring company, was also present.

"We thought we had a good three-hour session yesterday and would relax a little bit before the game," Intikhab said.

"The boys are all fit and we have no worries at all."

The West Indies beat Pakistan 2-0 in a one-day series in Pakistan last October and Richardson said he was confident his men could make a flying start in the competition.

"I fancy ourselves against them, especially since we beat them last time in Pakistan," Richardson said.

Neither team will finalise its lineup until shortly before the match starts.

## Pallab's title

**Sports Reporter**  
Shawkat Hossain Pallab yesterday became the unbeaten champion in the twelfth national sub-junior chess championship organized by the Bangladesh Chess Federation.

Pallab scored 6.5 points and was followed by Hossain Arif and SAS Nasser who collected 5.5 points each.

On the basis of the Buscholtz tie-break, Hossain Arif emerged runner-up while Nasser finished third in the meet.

# Script favours Botham as England beat India

**PERTH, Feb 22**: Ian Botham stamped his extraordinary personality on the cricket World Cup with yet another of his star performances as England opened their campaign with a nine-run win over India today, reports Reuter.

Boldly chasing England's 236 for nine — a total built around Robin Smith's brilliant 91 — India were derailed by the irrepressible 36-year-old all-rounder just as they neared a full head of steam.

Botham, having failed in his unfamiliar role as an explosive opener, halted the Indian express in the unlikely guise of a third-change bowler as he took two for 27 off 10 tight and wily overs.

He took the key wicket of Sachin Tendulkar whose blossoming innings of 35 was slowly strangled by the craft and experience of a player twice his age.

Ravi Shastri made a pedestrian 57 and Krish Srikkanth a dashing 39 but England, whose captain Graham Gooch made 51, were just too strong for the Indians.

A late charge by bowler Subroto Banerjee, with 25 not out off 16 balls, made for a tense finish but India's challenge ended at 227 with four deliveries remaining when his partner, Jagavall Srinath, run out — inevitably by man-of-the-match Botham.

One-scare for England came when 38-year-old Gooch pulled up, having a problem with his right leg. He batted on with a runner — Botham again — and later fielded without apparent discomfort.

The game was Gooch's first since an operation on his right knee and it was the same knee that troubled him. But Indian skipper Azharuddin, also not fully fit, said he would be fit for India's next match, against Sri Lanka in Mackay on Friday.

England's plans for a flying start were grounded by the new ball attack of Manoj Prabhakar and Kapil Dev.

Continuing the fine form they have showed all summer in Australia, they kept England to 23 off the first 10 overs — Prabhakar conceded four runs in five overs while Kapil dismissed Botham for nine.

He was caught behind by Kiran More, who had missed a difficult legside chance offered by Gooch before he scored.

Gooch prospered from the reprieve and with Smith, began to stoke up the innings. Ravi Shastri, whose bowling was embarrassingly awry and

Subroto Banerjee were both hit out of the attack but Tendulkar filled in capably, bowling his full complement for 37 runs.

Azharuddin added another chapter to his miserable season, out first ball, but Tendulkar again batted beautifully until Botham applied the brakes. He tied up and eventually dismissed Tendulkar with a leg-cutter.

Azharuddin said Tendulkar's dismissal was the turning point and India's fortunes subsequently dipped.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Cup cricket match between England and India today.

**ENGLAND**  
Gooch c Tendulkar b Shastri 51  
Botham c More b Kapil Dev 9  
Smith c Azharuddin b Prabhakar 91  
Hich c More b Banerjee 5  
Fairbrother c Srikkanth b Srinath 24  
Stewart b Prabhakar 13  
Lewis c Banerjee b Kapil Dev 10  
Pringle c Srikkanth b Srinath 1  
Reeve not out 6  
DeFreitas run out 1  
Tufnell not out 3  
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, w-13) 20  
Total: (nine wickets-50 overs) 236  
Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-131, 3-137, 4-197, 5-198, 6-214, 7-222, 8-223, 9-224.

**Bowling:** O M R W  
Kapil Dev 10 0 38 2  
Prabhakar 10 3 34 2  
Srinath 9 1 47 2  
Banerjee 7 0 45 1  
Tendulkar 10 0 37 0  
Shastri 4 0 28 1

**INDIA**  
Shastri run out 57  
Srikkanth c Botham b DeFreitas 39  
Azharuddin c Stewart b Reeve 0  
Tendulkar c Stewart b Botham 35  
Kambli c Hich b Botham 3  
Amre run out 22  
Kapil Dev c DeFreitas b Reeve 17  
Banerjee not out 25  
More run out 0  
Prabhakar b Reeve 0  
Srinath run out 11  
Extras: (lb-9, w-7, nb-1) 17  
Total: (49.2 overs) 227  
Fall of wickets: 1-63, 2-63, 3-126, 4-140, 5-149, 6-187, 7-194, 8-200, 9-201.

**Bowling:** O M R W  
Pringle 10 0 35 0  
Lewis 9.2 0 36 0  
DeFreitas 10 0 39 1  
Reeve 6 0 38 3  
Botham 10 2 27 2  
Tufnell 4 0 25 0  
Result: England won by nine runs.

## ROBIN SMITH...91

## BOTHAM...man-of-the-match

Gooch, having injured himself running a single in the 23rd over, limped off to the dressing room seven overs later after being surprised in Shastri's last over when the left-arm spinner managed to pitch one after a series of full tosses.

Smith, returning to an area where he played several years of grade cricket, pulled two massive sixes and struck eight other boundaries in his 108-ball innings.

Hick once again failed to deliver but Neil Fairbrother busily added 60 in 11 overs with Smith as England built a formidable launching pad for the end-of-innings slog.

However, from 197 for three in the 43rd over they lost six wickets for 27, taking just 23 runs of the last five.

India's innings maintained a rough parity with England's progress for 30 overs before slipping behind.

While Shastri dropped an anchor, Krish Srikkanth displayed his usual range of thick

## Ratnayeke to miss Lankan opener

**NEW PLYMOUTH, Feb 22**: Sri Lanka will be without strike bowler Ramesh Ratnayeke when it faces Zimbabwe on Sunday in its opening match of the World Cup cricket tournament, reports AP.

Ratnayeke still has a painful shoulder injury and the Sri Lankans have decided not to risk aggravating the problem, team manager Ranjit Fernando said Saturday.

"It is unlikely that he would be fit to bowl tomorrow but we are hoping he'll be fit to play against New Zealand next Tuesday at Hamilton," Fernando said.

The loss of Ratnayeke, Sri Lanka's leading wicket-taker, is a considerable blow to the team, which sees a win over Zimbabwe as the spark it needs to reach the tournament semifinals.

## Div II cricket

**Sports Reporter**  
Cantonian Cricket Club recorded a massive ten wicket victory in the Rank Xerox Second Division cricket league against Mill Barracks at the Mohakhali T and T ground yesterday.

Mill Barracks won the toss and elected to bat. But fine bowling by Cantonians' Shaheen helped skittle Mill Barracks out for just 69 in only 21.2 overs.

Shabbir and Ripon were the only two batsmen to reach the double figures with 15 and 11.

Shaheen with figures of four for 23 devastated the Mill Barracks batting. Atiq took two for 13 while Imran picked up, two for 20.

Pial and Imran, the two Cantonian openers, put on 72 in only nine overs to seal the fate of the match. Imran remained unbeaten on 29 with the help of one sixer and three fours while Pial made 26.

The other match of the day, between Dhanmondi Club and Young Pegasus 'B' at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, fell through because of overnight rain rendering the ground unplayable.

## TODAY'S MATCH

Wari KC vs United Heroes (TCS)

"He's probably our main strike bowler in one-day games and we rely on him a lot, so his presence is very necessary," Fernando said.

"We would have preferred to have him for this game," Ramesh's presence in the

so critical to us."

Fernando said Ratnayeke was depressed at being sidelined.

"He was obviously raring to bowl in the first match but, like all injuries, you can't tell when this one will heal."

Former captain Arjuna Ranatunga will play his 100th limited-overs international for Sri Lanka against Zimbabwe — the first Sri Lankan to register that milestone.

Captain Aravinda De Silva is scheduled to reach the same milestone against the West Indies on March 13.

Zimbabwe captain David Houghton said his team would be an underdog in all eight of its first round matches.

"Every team we play are better than us — but we must rate ourselves as having a chance against anyone," he said.

The Zimbabwe lineup was a mixture of youth and experience, he said.

"There are five of us who are on their third World Cup campaign, while eight of us are playing in the Cup for the second time," he said.

## Rain mars cricket

**Sports Reporter**  
The Navana Premier Division cricket league and the Milnars First Division league matches scheduled for yesterday fell through because of overnight rain.

The fixtures will be bodily shifted and Gulshan Youth will take on Surja Tarun Club in the play-off match to decide the sixth for the Navana qualifier super league, at the Dhaka Stadium.

In the Milnars relegation league, Sadharan Bima plays Young Pegasus at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Uddy takes on Agram Bank at the Pallabi ground.

## Pioneer soccer

**Sports Reporter**  
Sunrise Sporting Club edged past Eskaton Sabuj Sangha by a solitary goal in the Janata Bank Pioneer football super league yesterday.

Saiful scored the all-important goal for the winners.

The other match, between Lalbagh Tarun Sangha and Mirpur Kishore Ekadash, ended in a goalless draw.

## Imran may hold the key

**MELBOURNE, Feb 22**: Imran Khan could hold the key to one of the most intriguing matches of the World Cup when Pakistan meet former one-day kings West Indies at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Although nearing 40, the dark and brooding all-rounder with the film star looks still has the ability with either bat or ball to turn a match around.

Having played in all four previous World Cups, Imran tops the list of wicket-takers with 27 victims at an average of just under 15 apiece.

He is, however, disarmingly modest about his bowling ability these days.

"I am more of a batting all-rounder now. As a bowler, I have lost a lot of pace, the deliveries are a bit rusty," he said.

But while his pace may have decreased, his guile has not.

Much more will depend on Imran's bowling than originally anticipated following the massive blow of losing main pacesman Waqar Younis with a stress fracture in his back only days before the tournament started.

The West Indies played poorly in a triangular series against Australia and India earlier in the summer but Richardson said the return to the Caribbean had refreshed his men.

"The guys are very enthusiastic and we feel very positive," Richardson said.

"Once we get our attitude right, I think we have a very good chance of winning the tournament."

Pakistan has been in Australia for more than three weeks, playing six warm-up matches and took a break Saturday, skipping practice completely.

Team manager Intikhab Alam said his men needed a rest.

"We thought we had a good three-hour session yesterday and would relax a little bit before the game," Intikhab said.

"The boys are all fit and we have no worries at all."

The West Indies beat Pakistan 2-0 in a one-day series in Pakistan last October and Richardson said he was confident his men could make a flying start in the competition.

"I fancy ourselves against them, especially since we beat them last time in Pakistan," Richardson said.

Neither team will finalise its lineup until shortly before the match starts.

## Richardson nurses finger injury

**MELBOURNE, Feb 22**: West Indies captain Richie Richardson is nursing a persistent finger injury on the eve of his team's opening match of the World Cup cricket tournament, reports AP.

The West Indies faces Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday and Richardson abandoned a net session on Saturday, fearing he may aggravate damage to his left ring finger.

Richardson broke the finger three weeks ago during a domestic match in Antigua and hurt it again in a match against the New South Wales state team.

Richardson said he planned to play against Pakistan despite the injury.

"I was feeling vibration when I was batting today, so I decided to stop," he said.

"I don't mind the pain and I can cope with it, so I'll play."

But Pakistan still has another dangerous fast bowler in Wasim Akram, who has the ability to swing the ball either way at great pace.

Pakistan last November lost a three-match limited overs series 2-0, with one game tied, against West Indies, who then went to Australia and failed to qualify for the final of the triangular World Series competition.

But the West Indies have returned feeling lessons have been learned from their recent venture here and are confident about their prospects of lifting the Cup they won on the first two occasions it was staged, in 1975 and 1979.

Richardson leads the West Indians in their attempt to restore one-day pride, and he will have been encouraged by the form his side showed in Thursday's emphatic 77-run win over New Southwales in a warm-up match.

Richardson's undefeated 80 hinted at an improvement in his own form, while an innings of 71 by talented 22-year-old Brian Lara may have earned himself a spot in Sunday's game.

Especially impressive was pace bowler Winston Benjamin with two w