

## Kapil may open for India

MACKAY, Australia, Feb 27: India could open their batting in the cricket World Cup with all-rounder Kapil Dev, copying the play England have adopted by starting their innings with Ian Botham, reports Reuter.

The Indians are considering promoting Kapil for their match against Sri Lanka here on Friday.

England send Botham in first in an attempt to exploit his powerful hitting while only two players are allowed outside the 30-yard fielding circles during the first 15 overs.

Kapil's promotion from the middle order is being considered together with using talented Vinod Kambly or promising newcomer Praveen Amre as an opener.

Those are decisions that will be left for the morning but Kapil is definitely an option for us, said Indian manager Abbas Ali Baig.

Kapil has not opened an innings for India since his debut in 1978 but, according to Baig, is comfortable with the idea, designed to give India a less predictable combination.

In this style of competition, we would like to be a little more flexible than we are at present, said Baig.

The South Africans, emerging from nearly 22 years of isolation because of their apartheid policies, trounced holders and favourites Australia by nine wickets in day-night match at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

Procter said: "We don't really know how strong we are. I said all along we were the unknown."

"We don't know the opposition that well and we're still feeling our way but the pleasing thing is the guys are working very hard."

It's been a hard tour as far as travelling and everything else is concerned.

South African endured eight days of wet weather which washed out practice matches and upset training schedules but Procter said that was of little concern to the team.

The frustration of not playing because of rain, wasn't a big factor because in South Africa we don't play all the time, he said.

Procter has a confident but realistic outlook: "Having beaten the tournament favourites, we're not going to fear too many teams," he said.

New Zealand and South Africa have beaten Australia but that doesn't mean they'll get to the semifinals. We know we've still got all the hard work to do and we've just got to keep working."

Ali Bacher, South African cricket chief who fought to get his country back into international cricket following an absence of 22 years, was near to tears following the victory.

Bacher hugged Wessels after the match and told him: "This is the greatest moment in South African cricket."

Wessels, who played cricket for Australia in the 1990s, said: "It means a lot to me to win here against this team and I have some very good friends playing for Australia."

Radio stations in South Africa broke into their normal programmes to announce the result at about midday local time and jubilation was not confined to whites.

"It's the most emotional day of my life," said Wahida, a housewife in the Indian suburb of Lenasia, south of Johannesburg. "The tears were pouring down my face."

Milnars cricket

Sports Reporter

The third wicket partnership between Alam and Afzal of 113 helped Bangladesh Railway beat Young Pegasus by six wickets in the five-team Milnars relegation league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Railway now have four points from two games while Pegasus are yet to open their account.

Elected to bat, Pegasus scored 152 for the loss of nine wickets in their stipulated 45 overs.

Kutub made 23 while Jhantu and Azam scored 20 each for Pegasus.

Ripon and Aloke took two wickets apiece for the railwaymen.

In reply, Railway were in deep trouble when their two top batsmen were sent back to the pavilion with the score on 35. But then the sensible batting by Alam and Afzal paved the way for the Railway victory.

Alam made 59 with the help of four boundaries while Afzal got 51 off 83 deliveries.

Kaif of Pegasus bagged two wickets while Paplu and Liton took a wicket apiece.

## Pakistan post first victory

HOBART, Feb 27: Pakistan strolled to a 53-run victory over World Cup cricket minnows Zimbabwe here today, reports AFP.

Pakistan, using three spinners in the middle of the innings, restricted Zimbabwe to 201 for seven after batting first and making 254 for four.

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At the end of their opening spell of six overs each, Zimbabwe were 16 for two after Akram had dismissed opening match century-maker Andy Flower (6 from 23 balls) with the first ball of his fifth over.

Five balls later, he struck again to have Andy Pycroft back in the pavilion for a duck.

The other opener, Kevin Arnott, struggled for just seven from 63 balls.

Wasim Akram achieved a personal milestone when he became the second Pakistani other than captain Imran Khan to take 150 wickets in one-day internationals as Pakistan then frustrated the Zimbabwe batsmen.

Too often the Zimbabweans allowed balls to pass through to the keeper, failed to take short singles or even put pressure on the fieldsmen by picking up extra runs.

After 20 overs, they only had accumulated 35 runs and after 30 had lifted their total to 39 for three.

Zimbabwe captain David Houghton put together 44 from 83 balls and Shah made 33 from 57 balls but they were never on top of the bowling.

Andy Walker (44 from 37 balls) and Iain Butchart (33 from 35 balls) shared a 79-run sixth wicket partnership but the result was never in doubt, even at that stage.

Pakistan captain Imran Khan, who played but did not bat or bowl, used three spinners — Iqbal Sikander (1-35), Mushatq Ahmed (0-34) and Sohail (2-26) — and the Zimbabwe batsman managed only 67 runs from them.

Pakistan next play England in Adelaide on Sunday, while Zimbabwe back against the West Indies in Brisbane on Saturday.

Scoreboard

Scoreboard in the World Cup cricket match between Pakistan and Zimbabwe on Thursday:

PAKISTAN

Rameez Raja c Flower b Jarvis

Aamir Sohail c Pycroft b Butchart

Inzamam-ul-Haq c

Result: Pakistan won by 53 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Aamir Sohail.

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Branded b Butchart 14  
Javed Miandad lbw b Butchart 49  
Salim Malik not out 14  
Wasim Akram not out 1  
Extras (lb-9, nb-4) 13  
Total: (four wickets — 50 overs) 254  
Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-63, 3-208, 4-253.

Did not bat: Imran Khan, Moin Khan, Iqbal Sikander, Mushatq Ahmed, Aaqib Javed.

Bowling O M R W  
Brands 10 1 49 0

MIANDAD .89

Jarvis 10 1 52 1  
Shah 10 1 24 0  
Butchart 10 0 57 3  
Traicos 10 0 63 0

ZIMBABWE

Arnott c Akram b Sikander 7  
Flower c Inzamamul b Akram 6  
Pycroft b Akram 0  
Houghton c Raja b Sohail 44  
Shah b Sohail 33  
Walker b Akram 44  
Butchart c Miandad b Aaqib 33  
Brands not out 2  
Traicos not out 8  
Extras: (lb-3, lb-15, w-6) 24  
Total: (seven wickets — 50 overs) 201  
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-14, 3-33, 4-103, 5-108, 6-187, 7-190  
Did not bat: W. James, M. Jarvis.

Bowling O M R W  
Wasim Akram 10 2 21 3  
Aaqib Javed 10 1 49 1  
Iqbal Sikander 10 1 35 1  
Mushatq Ahmed 10 1 34 0  
Aamir Sohail 6 1 26 2  
Salim Malik 4 0 18 0  
Result: Pakistan won by 53 runs.

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## Healy wants to stay in squad

SYDNEY, Feb 27: Australia's injured wicketkeeper Ian Healy wants the selectors to keep faith with him for the rest of the cricket World Cup, reports Reuter.

Healy's future in the tournament is in doubt after he suffered a hamstring injury against South Africa here on Wednesday.

The Australian selectors must determine whether or not to draft in a replacement within the next two days.

Healy wants to return for Sunday's match against India in Brisbane, but he may be rested and the wicketkeeping duties given to another squad member as a part-time measure.

Another option would be to replace Healy with a specialist keeper—probably Western Australia's Tim Zochrer.

Under Cup Rules, Healy would be ineligible to play again during the series if replaced.

"I hope they stick with me," Healy said on Thursday. "It's the first muscle I've pulled so I don't really know what to expect. But I've still got a few days and I'll be doing everything I can to play on Sunday."

Team physiotherapist Errol Alcott said: "He's responding very well (to treatment) but we have to keep in mind the major danger which is returning too quickly and risking a re-peat injury."

Australian captain Allan Border said Thursday that Australia need a "quick fix" to their middle order if they are to reverse its dismal start to the tournament. Australia play India on Sunday in Brisbane.

Border said several players need to rediscover form to get Australia back in the hunt to defend the title won in India in 1987.

"We need a spark and we need it quickly," Border said. Experienced opening batsman John Wright has been ruled out of New Zealand's match against South Africa.

Wright, 38, injured a shoulder while fielding against Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

duced to more of a swing bowler although his form in domestic cricket was sufficient for Sri Lanka to fly him to Australia.

Weerakkody, 23, a promising youngster from Colombo, is tipped for a bright international future but selectors opted against introducing him midway through the World Cup tournament.

Sri Lanka has been left with a squad of 12 for at least another week with the hamstring injury to in-form opener Athula Samarasekera which is expected to take another seven to 10 days to heal.

Samarasekera's injury was a cruel blow for Sri Lanka following Ratnayake's exit from the World Cup, leaving the side without the two form players of the tour.

Coupled with the hectic schedule involving 25,000 kilometres (15,600 miles) of travel during the Cup, easily the most of any of the nine sides, the Sri Lankans could have reasons to complain.

Mohammedans march on

Sports Reporter

Title-aspirants Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club registered their tenth consecutive victory in the Green Delta First Division hockey league swamping the rivals Victoria Sporting Club 6-1 at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedans, still unbeaten, have full twenty points while Victoria have only three from ten outings each.

Zahirul Islam Mital sounded the board for the black-and-whites in the tenth minute by converting a penalty corner (1-0).

Dipu equalised for Victoria four minutes from time by converting a penalty stroke (1-1).

Jamal Haider put Mohammedans once again ahead in the 45th minute with a spectacular field goal (2-1).

Rabuddin Rabi got the third for Mohammedans in the 50th minute from a penalty stroke (3-1).

Soon afterwards, Zahid Biswas netted the fourth goal for the black-and-whites (4-1).

Mumtaz Haider, Mohammedans' Pakistani-recruit, scored the fifth goal by placing the ball past Victoria goalie Bulbul (5-1) a couple of minutes from the hooter.

He got his fifteenth goal in the league to complete the tally for the winners in the final minute of play.

Mumtaz Haider of Mohammedans was shown the green card.

In the other match of the day, Dhaka Ansars beat Bangladesh Railway Sporting Club by two goals to nil.

## A clinical win for England

MELBOURNE, Feb 27: Strong favourites England continued their impressive march in cricket's fifth World Cup with a thumping six-wicket win over the West Indies here Thursday, reports AFP.

In a one-sided night game at the floodlit Melbourne Cricket Ground, England showed their awesome all-round strength.

What was expected to be a key contest went England's way from the start as the West Indies, sent in to bat, were shot out for a paltry 157 with four balls to spare in their 50 overs.

Graham Gooch played a captain's knock of 65 and Graeme Hick contributed a breezy 54 off 55 balls as England achieved victory in the 40th over.

The easy win, England's second victory following their nine-run defeat of India in their first match last Saturday, made them joint leaders with New Zealand in the preliminary round-robin league of the nine-nation tournament.

The West Indians have two points from as many matches, garnered from their 10-wicket rout of Pakistan in their first match at the same ground.

The West Indies paid the penalty for a reckless batting display in which seven players failed to get into double figures on an easy-paced wicket.

Left-handed Keith Arthurton top-scored with an attractive 54, but found no support at the other end after Desmond Haynes fell for 38.

At 102 for six in the 36th over, the West Indies were in danger of falling short of their lowest World Cup score — 140 against India in the 1983 final at Lord's.

But the last four wickets put on 55 runs to prevent further humiliation.

English seamers Chris Lewis, later named man-of-the-match, and Philip DeFreitas claimed three wickets each as England struck regular blows to dent the West Indian innings.

Lewis began the slide with the wickets of star batsmen Brian Lara (0) and skipper Richie Richardson (5) in his first and fourth overs. Ian Botham chipped in by scalping Carl Hooper for five as soon as he came on in the 15th over to make the West Indians 36 for three.

Vice captain Gus Logie highlighted the West Indies' off-day when he ran himself out as the umpire was turning down Botham's appeal for leg before.

Malcolm Marshall was the other batsman run out as England raised their fielding to match the steady display of

their bowlers.

Arthurton made amends for poor running between the wickets with a flurry of strokes around the park and reached his half century in the penultimate over by swinging Lewis over the long-on boundary.

Chasing a moderate target, England lost opener Botham and Robin Smith for eight apiece, both batsmen falling to seamer Winston Benjamin.

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WEST INDIES  
Haynes c Fairbrother b DeFreitas 38  
Lara c Stewart b Lewis 0  
Richardson c Botham b Lewis 5  
Hooper c Reeve b Botham 5  
Arthurton c Fairbrother b DeFreitas 54  
Logie run out 20  
Harper c Hick b Reeve 3  
Marshall run out 3  
Williams c Pringle b DeFreitas 6  
Ambrose c DeFreitas b Lewis 4

England's Chris Lewis sends down one to the West Indian openers during the World Cup match