

Rain robs both India and Lanka

MACKAY, Australia, Feb 28: The Australian wet season always looked certain to seal the fate of the 1992 cricket World Cup's most northernly match but not before 3,000 people were treated to some unexpected entertainment on Friday, reports Reuters.

Spectators at the tiny Hurray Park Ground will remember not just the two balls bowled by Sri Lanka before the rain deluge resumed but also the use of a helicopter to dry the pitch and an impromptu display of aerobic dancing by Indian players in the lunch interval.

The abandonment due to rain of this tropical city's first official cricket international left Sri Lanka with a point they would otherwise have found to gain.

It also deprived India, who lost their first game of the tournament to England, of match practice before their crucial encounter with Australia in Brisbane on Sunday.

Imran remains doubtful

HOBART, Feb 28: Imran Khan remains under an injury cloud as his Pakistanis, victors over Zimbabwe here on Thursday, move on to face new World Cup cricket favourites England in Adelaide on Sunday, reports Reuters.

All-rounder Imran, nursing a right shoulder injury, missed Pakistan's opening match against West Indies which his side lost by 10 wickets. He played, but did not bowl, when they beat the Zimbabweans by 53 runs.

Imran did not need to bat against Zimbabwe, so the tournament has yet to see the lion of Lahore at his magnificent best.

Pakistan's captain is undergoing daily physiotherapy but said at the end of the Zimbabwe match that he was not confident of bowling against England or even taking the field.

Imran had hoped to bowl against Zimbabwe, despite feeling pain in his right shoulder.

"But when we went out on to the field I decided not to bowl. Maybe I shouldn't have played at all," Imran said.

Australia, the defending Cup champions and joint hosts with New Zealand, are smarting from two successive defeats.

"It's a little disappointing," Indian team manager Abbas Ali Baig said of the result which also gave India one point.

"We enjoy playing against Sri Lanka and both of us needed this game."

Heavy rain which began on the night before the match continued intermittently through the morning, prompting officials to delay the start and call an early lunch interval.

Umpires David Shepherd of England and Ian Robinson of Zimbabwe had earlier found the ground too wet for play.

A break in the weather gave eager fans some encourage-



KAPIL DEV, "opener"

ment, especially with the removal of the covers and the arrival of a helicopter which hovered low over the pitch for 10 minutes in a bid to dry the area.

Towards the end of lunch, spectators' spirits were further lifted when an official display of acrobatics dancing enticed Indians Kapil Dev, Subroto

CUP STANDINGS	
SYDNEY, Feb 28: Standings in the cricket World Cup after Friday's match (tablets underplayed, won, lost, no result, points):	
England	2 0 0 4
New Zealand	2 0 0 4
South Africa	1 0 0 2
Pakistan	1 0 0 2
West Indies	1 0 0 2
India	0 1 1 1
Sri Lanka	0 1 1 1
Zimbabwe	0 2 0 0
Australia	0 2 0 0
1/England, 1/NZ, 3/S Africa, 4/Pak, 7/W Indies, 6/India, 7/S Lanka, 8/Zimbabwe.	

Banerjee and Vinod Kambl from their dressing room. The trio joined the 30 women from a Mackay fitness centre on the ground for a performance which had players and spectators in fits of laughter.

"That shows the spirit of the guys," Baig said. Their performance was no more surprising than the decision to move Kapil up the order to open the batting in the very limited overs contest that started nearly five hours late.

Baig explained that the Indians needed Kapil's aggression to produce quick runs. "It's horses for courses," he said.

Kapil's opening skills were never tested, however, as the heavy rain resumed and the umpires took the players off before he faced a ball.

Sri Lanka had won the toss and elected to bowl on the damp track.

Indian opener Krishnamachari Srikkanth blocked the first ball from Sri Lankan fast-medium bowler Champaka Ramanayake and edged the second to deep third man for a single before the rain returned.

Indian skipper Mohammed Azharuddin said it had not yet been determined if Kapil would retain the opener's spot in subsequent games. "I'm not too sure. It's possible," he said.

Sri Lanka, who with three points are third in the World Cup standings, fly to Wellington on Saturday for Monday's match against South Africa.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the rain-hit World Cup cricket match between India and Sri Lanka on Friday.

INDIA
K Srikkanth not out 1
Kapil Dev not out 0
Extras 0
Total: (no-wicket-0.2 overs) 1
Did not bat: M Azharuddin, V Kambl, S Tendulkar, M Prabhakar, K More, V Raju, J Srinath, P Amre, A Jadhav.

Bowling: O M R W
C Ramanayake 0.2 0 1 0
SRI LANKA: R Mahanama, A De Silva, A Gurusinha, C Hathurusinghe, A Ranatunga, S Jayasuriya, R Kalpage, C Ramanayake, H Tikkeratne, P Wickremasinghe, K Wijesunwardene.
Match abandoned rain. Each team receives one point.



English bowler Dermot Reeve takes a "high five" from teammate Chris Lewis after taking the wicket of West Indian Roger Harper during the World Cup match in Melbourne on Feb 27. At left is Ian Botham. — AFP photo

Wessels wants more improvement

AUCKLAND, Feb 28: While South Africa's buoyant cricket team prepared Friday for its second World Cup match, captain Kepler Wessels warned that his players can only improve, reports AP.

Wessels, 34, will lead South Africa against New Zealand at Eden Park in Auckland on Saturday in a match of unbeaten teams. New Zealand has a 2-0 record, including an opening-match win over Australia, while South Africa began with a stunning nine-wicket victory over Australia at Sydney on Wednesday.

It marked the first full international match between the two teams in more than 28 years following South Africa's banning from international play for its apartheid policies.

"We can improve in some areas very definitely, and there are some areas we've got to work on," said Wessels, a former Australian Test batsman who returned to his native South Africa.

"Our bowling in the first 10 overs hasn't been as good as we'd like to be. That is one area we have to improve; if we can get that right we'll be happy."

His team watched New Zealand's performance against Australia and knew what to expect.

"We've done our homework and we'll continue to do it over the next few days so we know them fairly well," he said.

Wessels said he was not concerned that the match will be played on the same pitch where Australia began its campaign disastrously with a 37-run loss to New Zealand. Playing on a slower wicket, he said, would not bother the visitors.

"That suits us because we've got so many varying conditions in South Africa that we really play under most conditions. And we've got players who are suitable to those sort of pitches."

Wessels and coach Mike Procter may opt to play veteran offspinner Omar Henry, something New Zealand captain Martin Crowe expects.

"I would imagine that if they have a spinner they would play him here rather than go in with five medium or fast bowlers," Crowe said after his team's training session.

In Melbourne, former Australian Test bowler Carl Rackemann said he expects South Africa to be a major force in the tournament.

Rackemann, who played in South Africa on two rebel tours in 1985-86 and 1986-87, said he tips South Africa to make the semifinals.

"I think they are going to be

Wright and replace him with Mark Greatbatch. Wright, 38, injured a shoulder while fielding against Sri Lanka on Tuesday and batted with some discomfort while completing 57.

Wright should be back for the match against West Indies in Auckland the following Saturday, but he will also probably miss the game against Zimbabwe in Napier next Tuesday.

New Zealand captain Martin Crowe said Wright would be sorely missed. "He was in great form against Sri Lanka and not having his experience at the top (of the batting order) is a blow to us."

Crowe said Greatbatch or Andrew Jones would open the batting with dasher Rod Latham.

BRISBANE, Feb 28: Australia will continue its World Cup cricket survival fight without calling for a replacement for injured wicketkeeper Ian Healy, team officials said Friday, reports AP.

Healy partially tore his right hamstring batting against South Africa in Sydney on Wednesday night and has been receiving continuous treatment from the team physiotherapist.

Australia, the defending Cup champions, have started this tournament dismally, losing matches to New Zealand and South Africa.

On Friday, Australian captain Allan Border said Healy has a slim chance of playing against India at the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Sunday.

"He's made good progress. Hopefully he might even play on Sunday. At worst it looks like he'll only miss Sunday," said Border.

Healy moved slowly on the tender hamstring in the background as Border discussed an alternative wicketkeeper for Sunday's match.

"(David) Boon looks the obvious choice," said Border. "He's done it before and the other guys like (Mark) Taylor are only really part-timers."

Boon — whose only previous official form behind the stumps was in a one-day game on an Australian under-19 tour of Sri Lanka in 1978 — grabbed the gloves when the team arrived in Brisbane on Friday. He took over for the injured Healy in Wednesday's match.

MORCELI
The 800 or 5,000 metres.

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Aussies to stick with Healy

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Ban on Kiwi spectators

WELLINGTON, Feb 28: Spectators will be banned from all playing areas during the remaining World Cup matches here, New Zealand cricket officials announced Thursday, reports AP.

"We had a problem at Eden Park (Auckland) last Saturday when Martin Crowe scored his century," New Zealand cricket chairman Peter McDermott said. "There was some exuberant back slapping, although Martin handled it pretty well."

The main problem has not been young children, but the older people out to get souvenirs and to congratulate players.

"Unfortunately it is the innocent who have to suffer," McDermott said the players should be able to leave the ground in dignity at the end of a match.

"We saw in Sydney the South Africans being applauded off the ground by the Australians, which is the way it should be."

In Australia the public are barred from the playing areas at all times.

Nat'l cycling begins today

The 17th national cycling championships and the first ever national junior cycling championships, both organised simultaneously by the Bangladesh Cycling Federation, begin today at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground.

Minister for Law and Justice Mirza Gohar Hafez will inaugurate the meet at 3 in the afternoon.

and Ken Rutherford took off in fear when he scored the winning run. The Indian umpire was also shaken by the jostling.

McDermott said there had been attempts to souvenir stumps, balls, and stump covers.

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Fed Cup volleyball Sports Reporter

Three matches were decided yesterday, the opening day of first Federation Cup volleyball championship '92 at the Outer Stadium volleyball court.

Bangladesh Navy outplayed Police A C 15-6, 15-6 and 15-6 while Bangladesh Air Force crushed Wari Club 15-2, 15-5 and 15-9.

The other match, which was also a one-sided affair like the previous two, saw Titus Club thrash Madarick Club 15-6, 15-2 and 15-4.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Goose or snake sound

5 Funny Roseanne

9 "Help!"

12 Mine entrance

13 Wings

14 Wurttemberg measure

15 Circus attractions

17 Hunt for buried treasure

18 Routine

19 Some canines

21 Portrait holder

24 Word with dance or song

25 Elevator man

26 Frightful

30 Doze off

31 Make amends

32 "East of Eden" role

33 Reason for a ticket

35 Gumbo

36 Garden plots

37 Pondered

38 Old Greek coins

40 Kimono

42 Flightless bird

43 Dodges

48 Make a boo-boo

49 Corrida cheers

50 Verve

51 Barber or Buttons

52 Monster's loch?

53 Piquant

DOWN

1 "Spring — Sprung"

2 — Amin

3 One of the

4 Cubic meters

5 Thai coin

6 Lily plant

7 Inexperienced

8 Renew friends

10 Skip over

11 Yearn or lament (for)

16 The sun

20 Stately tree

21 Eternities

22 Above

23 Piece of dining-room furniture

24 Long tooth

26 Aconite

27 Actor Chaney

28 Son of Loki

29 Word before hand or rags

31 Noted English physician

34 Slippery one

35 Legal fiction

37 Take or place

38 Hebrew measure

39 Drill a hole

40 Lyric poems

41 Harry's lady

44 — de France

45 High note

46 — Man (video game)

47 Upward curve of ship's planking

Solution time: 24 mins.

Thursday's answer 8-27

Pakistan's hard-earned bronze

KARACHI, Feb 28: Pakistan won the bronze medal in the 14th Champions Trophy hockey tournament here today with a hard-earned 2-1 victory over the Netherlands, reports AP.

Pakistan began the match without number one goalkeeper Shahid Ali Khan and speedy outside-right Qamar Ibrahim, both ruled out through injury, and with Mohammad Shahbaz preferred to Mussaddiq Hussain at centre forward.

But they were only able to win after Mussaddiq had been brought on early in the second half in place of Qasim Khan.

Until then, Pakistan had found problems getting their right flank into full flow, but Mussaddiq and Shahbaz then managed to find the crucial burst of speed to give the home side their winning goal.

Mussaddiq ran fast down the right wing to put a hard centre across the circle for Moham-

mad Shahbaz to score with a strong shot in the 60th minute.

The teams had been level at half-time after Khalid Bashir had given Pakistan the lead with a direct hit from a short corner in the 12th minute, followed by Gijs Weerings scoring indirectly from a short corner seven minutes later.

Pakistan had a total of six short corners in the match, four in the first half. All three of the Netherlands' short corners were awarded in the first half.

Four players were placed under temporary suspension in the game — Dutchmen Leo Gebbink and Weerings, and Pakistan's Qasim Khan and Tahir Zaman.

In the 13th Champions Trophy tournament, played in Berlin last September, Pakistan won the silver medal.

BRITAIN FIFTH
Meanwhile, Olympic champions Great Britain finished fifth here today with a 3-0 victory over France.

France's only show of enterprise up front came in the 10th minute when Benjamin Schindler broke through to force a short corner from which the British goalkeeper saved from Pascal Felix.

After that, it was a story of the British attacking strongly but finishing poorly as they failed to convert their authority into goals.

Simon Nicklin put a penalty stroke against a post in the 45th minute, before Britain finally went ahead in the 57th minute when Robert Cliff scored from a Sean Kerly forward pass.

Nicklin added the second goal from a short corner in the 63rd minute after Martyn Grimley had made the opening.

Shortly after, Grimley was escorted off the field with a back injury.

Sean Kerly hit Britain's final goal from a pass by Don Williams in the 67th minute for his first score of the tournament.

Nelson focuses on Fenech

MELBOURNE, Feb 28: Azumah Nelson will put a contractual dispute with promoter Don King out of his mind until after he has defended his World Boxing Council super-featherweight title on Sunday, reports AP.

Nelson puts his title on the line against unbeaten Australian Jeff Fenech at Princes Park in a rematch. The duo fought a controversial draw in Las Vegas last year.

Nelson has threatened to sue King, alleging his long-time promoter has withheld purse payments, and has said he wants to sever all ties with him.

Both fighters now are at loggerheads with the king or organization, which is co-promoting Sunday's bout with Mordy.

Fenech blamed Don King

Bubka absent

GENOA, Italy, Feb 27: Sergei Bubka, Ukraine's world pole-vault champion and record holder, will miss the European indoor athletics championships here this weekend, reports AP.

"The organisers said the championships did not figure in Bubka's plans and his next appearance would be in Donetsk on March 4. Last weekend, Bubka broke his own world record with a leap of 6.13 m in Berlin.

for last year's draw, saying he believed the promoter had influenced the result.

Carl King said he was confident Nelson would continue to be promoted by his father.

"Nelson is entitled to feel the way he wants. However, I don't believe that the problem is as big as most people want to think it is," Carl King said.

He denied his father had influenced the result of the first Nelson-Fenech bout.

"I am not a judge and neither is my father and it is a perverted sense of flattery to think we've got that kind of power," he said.

"A lot of people have blamed my family for the decision that was made. Don King sat in the stands — he was one of the three judges."

ABORTIVE COMEBACK

Meanwhile, another report from Irvine California, adds: Danny "Little Red" Lopez, away from the ring for a dozen years, was knocked out 37 seconds into the second round Thursday by Jorge Rodriguez in a scheduled 10-round junior lightweight bout.

Lopez, who retired in 1980 after being knocked down by Salvador Sanchez in consecutive fights, was cut under the first round.

Green Delta hockey

Sports Reporter

Three teams — reigning champions Abahani Krim Chakra, Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club and Dhaka Marine Young's Club — shared the lead in the Green Delta First Division hockey league having collected full twenty points from ten matches each.

Another side, former champions Ajax Sports Club, are also unbeaten but have dropped a point, having been held to a goalless draw by Police A. C. at the other end of the league table, Victoria Sporting Club are languishing at the bottom of the 16-team league with only three points from ten outings. Bangladesh Railway are in 15th spot with five points from ten games while police also have five points but have played a game less.

Yesterday was a rest day in the league programme.

In today's matches, Azad Sporting Club take on Police at 1.45 pm while Dhaka Wanderers face league newcomers Bangladesh Sporting Club at 3:15 pm.



MORCELI

NEW YORK, Feb 28: If Noureddine Morceli has learned one thing from the great Said Aouita it's not to do more than your body will allow, reports Reuters.

Morceli saw what happened to Aouita at the 1988 Olympics when he tried to double in the 800 and 1,500 metres, and has decided to focus on just one event in Barcelona.

"I am only going to do one event," the 22-year-old Algerian middle distance runner said. "I don't know which one yet."

Aouita ran four 800s in four days in Seoul, settled for a bronze, and then went out three days later for heats in the 1,500. All the running brought injury to the Moroccan who was forced to withdraw from the second heat of the 1,500.

Morceli has been the

world's best over 1,500 metres the past two years. His last loss came in Cologne in August 1990.

But the Algerian is not ruling out competing in either

When he reaches Barcelona, however, records will not enter into his strategy, whatever race he runs.

"The important thing is the title," Morceli said this week as he prepared to compete in Friday's USA/Mobil Indoor athletics championships at Madison Square Garden. "If I get a record, someone can come along and take it from you."

Morceli will run the mile on Friday, but does not believe a world record is attainable at the small Garden track under the right conditions. Morceli said he was capable of running 3:47 indoors. The current record of 3:49.78 was set by Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan in 1983.

It would take a good rabbit, a 200 metre rubber track and a gently banked track, Morceli said. "I ran 1:47 (over 800 metres) when I set the world record in the 1,000."

8-27 CRYPTOQUIP

PKSJ GTTDWWDVGOZYETQCSTQ
WZYUOKS UGZV ODCU

"Z'W GO JDCS UKSPZTK."

Thursday's Cryptoquip: SAUSAGE MAKER'S KNOTS WEREN'T TIGHT ENOUGH, SO HE FOUND HIMSELF AT LOOSE ENDS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals M

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.