A TURBULENT WEEK

Sports Reporter



The fifth Benson and Hedges World Cup, the greatest competition in the genre of limited-overs ericket, has so far been a prophesisers enigma. Let alone those well-wishers or supporters who have emotional rapport with any of the nine teams that are taking part in the month-long bonanza of 'pyjama cricket' Down Under, even the logic abiding pundtts have been forced to eat their words in

the whirlpool of a series of upsets that has taken place in the last seven days or so. Sunti Gavaskar battling against Tauscel and Ighal Qustni on a beast of a wicket at Bangalore could have served as the objective correlative for the unpredictability of the turn of events.

Allan Border's Australia, until recently rated as the best one-day team, took a tumble against New Zealand, the cohosts, in the curtain raiser on February 22. Martin Crowe in a rare display of innovation as the captain and batsmanship inspired the Kiwis to inflict a stinging and shocking 37-run defeat upon the pre-tournament favourites Australia, While the whole of New Zealand was cock-a-hoop with the victory, England made their intentions clear by beating India in Perth by nine runs.

India was taken somewhat lightly by the bettors after their dismal performance in Australia but with their wealth of batting underlined by the presence of blokes like Sachin Tendulkar, Kapil, Majrekar, Srikkanth, Shastri and Azharuddin India looked capable enough of making a match of it. And who does not know that one-day cricket is a batsman's game? But they gave an absolutely amateurish display against the thoroughly professional Englishmen.

The West Indies, the undisputed kings of this type of cricket with their explosive batsmen, athletic fielding and redoubtable fast bowling battery only a couple of years ago, suffered for the indifferent form of their star performers and also for the retirement of geniuses like Lloyd, Holding, Roberts and others. That made them vulnerable and beatable and other cricketing nations recorded a number of wins against them, something which was difficult to speculate in the early Eighties. But gone are, those days. Yet, at Melbourne on Sunday their huge ten-wicket victory against Pakistan encouraged many to consider them as tournament favourties.

Pakistan, an immensely talented team handicapped by the absence of Waqar Younis, the kingpin of their attack who had to be flown back home because of a back injury, cut a sorry figure. Their problems were multiplied by the shoulder injury of their inspirational skipper Imran Khan which forced him to skip the match.

Although Rameez Raja's inability to accelerate the tempo robbed Pakistan of at least 20/25 runs yet the remarkable ease with which Brian Lara and Haynes saw the Caribbeans through puzzled many. Wasim Akram's pace, bounce and movement caused the pair quite a few concerns but the rest of the bowlers looked pedestrian. It looks like Pakistan's bowling, one of the most feared among the cricket playing countries, now will considerably hinder their chances of making it to the semis. With Miandad back in form and the ever-dependable Imran around to get the best out of the talented batsmen like Rameez, Malik, Inzamamul and Amir Sohail, the Pakistani batting looks a great deal more solid than it was touted and doubted initially.

Zimbabwe, who did quite well in the last two World Cup competitions, gave a trial of their batting potential against Shrt Lanka in Hamilton. Andy Flower got a superb ton to help his side score an almost unassailable 312 from their quota of overs but Shri Lanka's more experienced batsmen, making the most of a small ground, overtook the daunting total in a

record aggregate of runs.

On February 26 South Africa made a dream debut in World Cup cricket by providing the tournament its biggest upset yet. Wessels, who has the rare distinction of representing two countries in the World Cup (Australia and South Africa) led his side to a huge nine-wicket victory against hosts Australia in Sydney. After Donald and company had restricted the kangaroos to 170 Wessels guided his side to a well-merited victory with a disciplined innings of 81.

Cricket lovers are yet to discover the two successive debacles of the overwhelmingly fancied side of the competition. But South African coach and one of the great all rounders Mike Procter's fears that he was unsure about his side's ability to live up to the expectations after the foudroyant in Sydney materialised as the New Zealanders thrashed them yesterday by seven wickets.

One of the intriguing factors of the upsets of this competition has been that it has not been a matter of narrow, hair-breadth margins; whichever of the fancted teams in losing, it's been losing by a mile.

India's chances of staging a comeback at the cost of the

relatively inexperienced and somewhat inconsistent Shri Lankans suffered a setback on Friday as the match fell through because of heavy rains and both teams had to be content with a point. Shri Lanka, who lost their second match to New Zealand, have now three points while India sit with their fingers crossed with just one point. India pushed mercurial all rounder Kapil Dev to open the innings in the match against Shri Lanka which had to be called off after just two balls. With the chance of experiment slipping away, it remains to be seen whether Kapil would be sent to open the innings against the likes of McDermott, Reid and Whitney in the match against Australia today.

England, after their authentic six-wicket victory against the West Indies, appear to be the side to beat although New Zcaland have also so far maintained a hundred percent record. The English batting looks solid, the fielding is top class and above all the bowling has been impeccable. Even then one feels that both England and New Zealand have so far played to the best of their abilities and in a game where fortunes are often turned around by individual brilliance the mediocrity of both New Zealand and England can come a cropper anyday.

New Zealand are leading the points table with six points while minnows Zimbabwe, despite their brave shows, have not opened their account. England with two consecutive wins have collected four, Shri Lanka three from as many matches, West Indies five from three, Pakistan and South Africa two points each from as many matches, while India have only one from two matches.

All said and done Australia, with their unquestioned store of talent and home advantage can still make a comeback and if they can they will be the first-ever side to win the championship on home soil. Who knows, as Geoffrey Madan said. The dust of exploded beliefs may yet make a fine sunset."



President Abdur Rahman Biswas is giving away trophies on the conclusion of the 5th Nissan Cup tennis tournament at the Gulshan Club yesterday. -Star photo

Shibu, Shima win Nissan titles

Sports Reporter The 5th Nissan Cup tennis championships concluded yesterday at the Gulshan Club court with Shibu Lal and Shima emerging champions in the men's and women's singles re-

spectively. Ram Kumar of India became the runner-up in the men's singles while Kham Goodyear finished runner-up in the women's singles.

In the men's doubles, Amit and Kumar, the visiting players from across the border, clinched the title beating the local pair of Maroof and Hira

The prize-giving ceremony in the evening was graced by President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

Full points for PWD

Sports Reporter Bangladesh Public Works Department Sporting Club recorded their fourth victory in the Star First Division football league beating Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society by a solitary goal in the flood-lit tie at the Mirpur Stadium yester-

The victory took PWD's points tally to 11 from cight games while Rahmatganj, who have also played eight games, have as many points.

Jewel scored the all-important goal for PWD in the final minute of the first session following a goal mouth melec.

Despite their repeated at tacks inside the opponent's territory in the second half Rahmatganj failed to come back into the game because of poor marksmanship by their forwards.

Jamrul of PWD and Sohel of Rahmatganj were shown the vellow cards.

In the other match of the day, newcomers Police Athletic Club snatched an invaluable point when they held the more fancied Muktijoddha Sangsad to a 1-1 draw.

After a barren first half both the goals were scored in the second session.

Rana put the freedom fighters ahead in the 60th minute by converting a penalty (1-0). Police drew level three minutes from the time when referee Nazir Hossain awarded them a penalty. Shahjahan made no mistake in converting the spot kick (1-1).

Muktijoddha now have nine points while Police have only three from eight games each.

Nat'l gymnastics from today Sports Reporter

The 18th national gymnas tics championships-'92 organized by the Bangladesh **Gymnastics** Federation(BGF) begin today at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkhya Protisthan (BKSP), Savar, says a BGF press

release. Secretary of Sports and Youth Nurul Momen Khan will inaugurate the meet at 10 in the morning while State Minister for Sports and Youth Sadck Hossain Khoka will give away prizes among the winners on March 3, the concluding

BU's sweet revenge

Sports Reporter

scintillating 107 not out by opener Nurul Abedin Nobel and a telling a burst with the new ball

by Shri Lankan Fernando helped Brothers Union avenge the defeat at the hands of babes Public Works Depart ment in the opening encounter of this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league as the reigning champions outplayed the newcomers by 84 runs to get off to a good start in the super league.

Nobel, who had hardly done anything notable with the bat in the first phase apart from a whirlwind eighty-plus knock, yesterday struck three sixes and five fours in his 132-ball knock as no other Brothers batsman, with the exception of Tomal who got 21, crossed the twenties. Calcuttan Arup Bhattacharya and Halim Shah scored 17 each and wicketkeeper Shovon chipped in with and unbeaten 12 as Brothers made 209 for six wickets from the 43 overs sent down by the PWD bowlers.

Ehsan was the most successful of the PWD bowlers with figures of two for 36. PWD's veteran skipper Jahangir Shah Badshah, who took one for 60 from eight overs, was the worst sufferer. Shabbir bowled much better to claim one for 25.

When PWD's Shri Lankan opener Hamin was run out for one no one had any inkling of the impending disaster to follow soon. The man who caused this devastation was Shri Lankan allrounder T L Fernando.

The dark, curly-haired (Dhaka Stadium)

Double golds for

Shahana, Atiq

Sports Reporter

won the first gold medal for

Bangladesh in the fifth South

Asian Federation (SAF) Games

held in the Shri Lankan capital

Colombo last December,

clinched her second gold

medal of the current 13th na-

tional shooting championships

by winning the women's stan-

dard rifle prone-60-shots yes-

terday at the Gulshan Shooting

Range. She second 575 out of a

possible 600 points. In the men's free-pistol-60-

shots event, Atique Rahman,

another double SAF gold win-

ner, became champion scoring

509 points while Haider Ali

with 493 points finished sec-

opening day of the meet,

Shahana Parveen won the air

rifle _ 40-shots title, while

Atique Rahman clinched the

Kamrul Islam Tito the men's

English match-60-shots event

DU cricket

registered an emphatic ten-

wicket victory over

Department of Bio-chemistry

in the Dhaka University inter-

department cricket competi-

tion at the Jagannath Hall

ericket ground yesterday.

Department of Pharmacy

on Friday.

men's air-pistol-60-shots and

ond and third respectively.

Babu with 499 and Asif Hossain

Earlier, on Thursday the

Qazi Shahana Parveen, who

medium-pacer with the flowing action ripped through the PWD batting line up. He removed four batsmen, including Shri Lankan Romesh Kaluwirthana, the mainstay of the PWD batting, for a nought. Ashfaq, the other paceman,

ing Partho and Ehsan. Rownakul Islam Tutul, the opener who has been in fine form this season, fought a lone battle with a defiant 54 before holing out to Ashfaq off Nadir

also joined the act, clean bowl-

Kamrul was the other notable scorer with 20 as PWD were booked for 125 in 32.5

Fernando had a match winning analysis of four for 41 from nine overs. Ashfaq took two for 22. Arup and Nadir picked up one apiece.

GULSHAN'S WIN

Gulshan Youth Club won their second match of the Navana Premier Division relegation league against hapless Wari Club by five wickets.

Wari, suffering their seeond consecutive defeat, made 121 for nine in 45 overs after being sent in to bat by the Gulshan skipper. Raju was again his side's to scorer with 24 as Rupani with two for 14 and Manju with two for 33 turned the screw on them.

Shri Lankan Rajkumara with 43 and Arif with 41 led the victory chase for Gulshan.

Gulshan scored 125 for five in 31.2 overs to walk away with a five-wicket win. Kajal and Kamrul of Wari took one wicket each.

TODAY'S MATCH Surja Tarun vs Lalmatia Club

BJMC riders to the fore

Sports Reporter The 17th national cycling championships and the first ever junior championships under the auspices of the Bangladesh Cycling Federation got underway yesterday at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground with BTMC leading the medal table following the conclusion of five events on the opening

BTMC and BDR riders set new national records in the 100 km road team time trial when they covered the distance in 2 hours 32.15 minutes and 2 hours 37.11 minutes respectively.

Three riders from BTMC Abdur Razzak in the men's 4000 m scratch, Runa Laila in the 4000 m women's scratch, and Rahima Khatun in the 1000 m time trial finished first clocking seven minutes 23.95 seconds, eight minutes 30.48 seconds and one minute 53.50 seconds respectively while Shaheb Ali of the BDR took one minute 34.72 seconds to cover the men's 1000 m time trial

Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz inaugurated the threeday meet as chief guest in the afternoon.

Seventy-seven cyclists including 19 women are participating in the national meet while there are 21 in the ju-

Joyner-Kersee succeeds at last NEW YORK, Feb meet in 1981, to Larry 29: Jackie Joyn-Myricks. Lewis' only other loss er-Kersee, winnduring that period was to Mike



er of three world and two Olympic titles in the last five years, finally added a US indoor championship to her

credits, reports Reuter. In fact, she added two in one day on Friday, capturing the women's long jump and the 60 metre hurdles at the USA-Mobil Indoor track and field championships at Madison Square Garden.

Joyner-Kersee has been competing on the national level since 1980, her freshman year at university. Invariably, whenever she came to this meet, she competed against tougher competition such as East Germans Heike Drechsler in the long jump and Cornelia Oschkenat in the hurdles.

I'm very happy. This (winning a US title) was one of my goals," said Joyner-Kersee, the reigning outdoor queen in the hetathlon and long jump.

Joyner-Kersee, who turns 30 on Wednesday, captured the long jump with a leap of 6.84 metres (22 feet, 5-1/4 inches) and took the hurdles in 8.07 seconds. She broke well in the hurdles and led comfortably until the end. when she had to hold off Kim McKenzie and Jackie Humphrey.

Joyner-Kersee is scheduled to fly to Tokyo for a meet next week, but hasn't decided whether to go.

"Let's see how I feel," she said. "If I don't go to Tokyo, I'll get ready for the outdoor sea-

Carl Lewis, competing for the second time this season, won the men's long jump with a lacklustre effort of 8.35 metres (27 feet, 4-3/4 inches). He started the competition with four poor jumps, although he never trailed in the competition. His best jump came on his sixth and final attempt.

"Obviously, I've jumped better," Lewis said. "I'm a little tired this week. I jumped pretty well considering this is the second time I've jumped this year."

"My main objective before retire is to jump a lot farther. definitely feel I can go farther. won't rest until I reach my potential.

It was Lowis' 21st consecutive indoors long jump victory. His last loss came at this

Day of draws Sports Reporter

Dhaka Wanderers Club shared points with new-comers Bangladesh Sporting Club in a one-all draw in the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Wanderers now have seven while Bangladesh points Sporting have five, from ten outings each.

Siam put Wanderers ahead in the 27th minute while Ehtesham equalised for Bangladesh Sporting a couple of minutes after the breather. Siam of Wanderers was

shown the yellow card. Earlier in the asternoon, the match between Police Athletic Club and Azad Sporting Club also ended in a one-all draw.

After a barren first half Shariful Alam sounded the board for Azad in the 65th minute while Jahangir of Police drew level five minutes from the hooter.

Police now have six points from ten engagements while Azad have four, also from ten

TODAY'S MATCHES Wari vs Usha KC (1:45 pm) Mariner Youngs vs Bachelors (3:15 pm)

Germany retain Champions Trophy

KARACIII, Fcb 29: Andreas Becker scored all four goals for Germany as they beat Australia 4-0 to retain the Champions Trophy men's hockey title on Friday, reports Reuter. Becker destroyed the Austr-

alian challenge in an explosive seven minutes spell in the first half, scoring three quick goals in succession. Earlier in the day, Pakistan

beat the Netherlands 2-1 to take third place in the six-nation championship. Germany, who won the tro-

phy in Berlin last year by defeating Pakistan, opened the scoring in the 26th minute when Becker seized on a pass from Christian Blunck and put the ball past Australian keeper Lachlan Drcher from seven metres. Four minutes later Backer

hit the target again, and when Germany were awarded a short corner two minutes from halftime Becker was there to con-In the second half, Australia

failed to find their rhythm and Germany completed the scoreline in the 69th minute with Becker once again finding the back of the net.

Pakistan skipper Shahbaz Ahmed was declared player-ofthe-tournament for the second successive championship. Australia's Stephen Davies was the top goal scorer with eight followed by Germany's Becker on six.

Powell at the world outdoor

JOYNER-KERSEE

Oregon-based high school se-

ntor from Mozambique, won

the women's 800 in two min-

utes, 1.49 seconds. Mutola's

time set a U S high school

record, breaking a mark estab-

lished by Mary Decker in

Raincy, who stumbled a bit

after trying to pass Mutola

duced photo finishes, with

Leroy Burrell taking the men's

in 6.55 seconds and Michelle

Both 60 metre dashes pro-

around the final turn.

16 Rainbow

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18 Fall flower

20 Toupee:

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34 Jean of

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"Upstairs,

Down-

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36 Zodiac

37 Worm's

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39 Afternoon

41 Pretend

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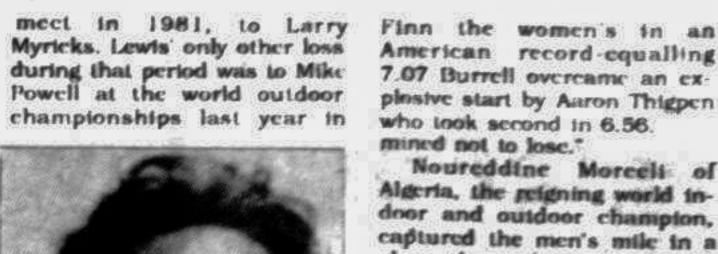
32 Pub

24 Cozy

21 Old

1974. She held off Mededith

María Mutola, a 19-year-old



American record-equalling 7.07 Burrell overcame an explastve start by Aaron Thigpen who took second in 6.56 mined not to lose." Noureddine Morceli of

Algeria, the reigning world indoor and outdoor champton, captured the men's mile in a

slow three minutes, 59.45 World indoor champion Diane Dixon ran 53.16 seconds in the 400 to capture her 10th consecutive US title and 11th

Sacchi swims to world record

PALMA DE MALLORCA. Spain. Feb 29: Italy's Luca Sacchi smashed the men's 400 metres individual medley short course world record in the first-ever finals of the swimming World Cup on Friday, reports Reuter.

Sacchi, winner of the European title last year. touched home in four minutes 8.77 seconds, nearly four seconds ahead of second placed Curties Myden of Canada.

He took nearly one second off the previous world record of 4:09.64 set by Canada's Alex Bauman in 1987

The Italian kept a comfortable lead through the race but pulled ahead during the butterfly leg to put himself well in contention for the world mark as he changed to freestyle.

Myden offered the best opposition during Sacchi's faultless performance but the Canadian tired visibly in the last leg and Sacchi was left to battle against the clock.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 43 Auld lang sediment cases 1 Ralph 4 Tavern 25 Syllable Kramden's 44 chamber before --- -picker vehicle 5 Word in cellar or (tussy O'Hara Latin I water 46 Habituate 6 Decom-26 Arbore-50 Rest or 8 Regrets tum star pose 12 Slender 7 Hebrew 27 Greek retire 55 Legal portico finial 28 Hard work 3 Andy's matter 8 Torn from 56 Anagram 29 River in sidekick wear 14 Confused 9 Gl's of veer France 15 Former 57 Leave out "friend" 10 It might chess Antonio, champ

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40 Bog song) 19 Winter 42 African time in nation: abbr. 22 Brain, in 45 Fox or turkey

Philippines follow * 23 Cluster of 47 Major or Minor Solution time: 28 mins. 49 Slave of HISS BARR SOS

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NESS

CRYPTOQUIP 8-28

EQR IZQD MZEHVKZT

MSQRH VMPZYXXKZT VQPXYX?

K IZQD M SKH."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: VERY ACCOMMODAT-ING CHURCH MINISTER SAID TO US, "I'M AT YOUR SERVICE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals Y

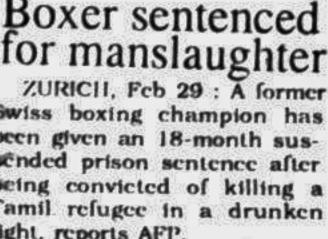
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

for manslaughter Swiss boxing champion has

been given an 18-month suspended prison sentence after being convicted of killing a Tamil refugee in a drunken

year-old refugee from Sri Lanka.
Eberahrdt, a former Swiss featherweight division title-

wards. The Dielsdorf district court drunk at the time, guilty of inout a racist motive in the killing, calling it simply "an incomprehensible act."



fight, reports AFP. Walter Eberhardt, 42, was convicted of involuntary homicide in the July 1990 death of Sivarugu Santhakumar, a 23-

holder, punched Santhakumar once and the Tamil refugee struck his head sharply on the ground and died shortly after-

found Eberhardt, who was voluntary homicide but ruled



German captain Volker Fried and his teammates hold aloft the trophy of the 14th Champions Trophy tournament after the team beat Australia in final 4-0, in Karachi on Feb 28. -AFP photo