

Crowe's men get the calculations right

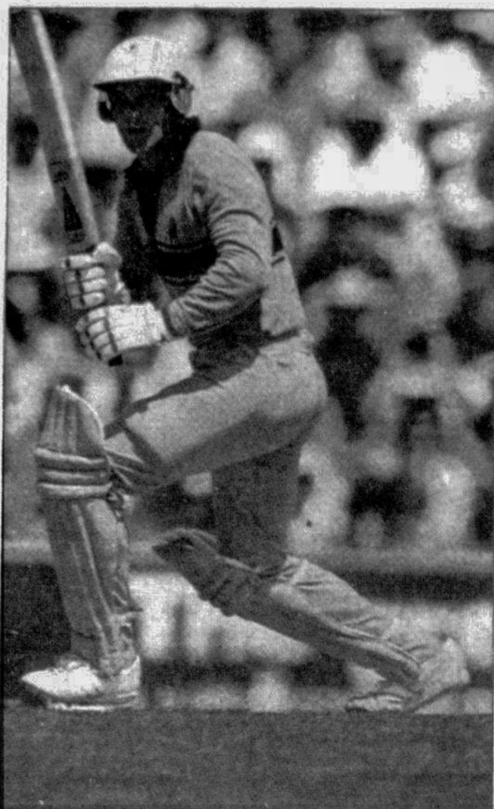
NAPIER, New Zealand, Mar 3: New Zealand beat Zimbabwe by 48 runs in a chaotic World Cup cricket match today marked by three rain interruptions and a whirlwind stand of 127 between Martin Crowe and Andrew Jones, reports Reuter.

Calculators were almost as useful as bats as rain stopped play three times during New Zealand's innings, with the original 50-over game eventually having to be decided over 18 overs.

New Zealand scored 162 for three in 20.5 overs but umpires revised their score, after rain, to 153 for two, from their 18 highest scoring overs.

Zimbabwe were set 154 to win in 18 overs, the maximum that could be played in the murky, damp conditions.

Zimbabwe, always struggling to reach the target, managed only 105 for seven in their 18 overs.



MARTIN CROWE again man-of-the-match

attack on the mediocre Zimbabwe bowling.

New Zealand captain Crowe reached his 50 in just 30 balls, and when rain brought his team's innings to a premature close after 20.5 overs, he had smashed a total of seven fours and two sixes. Jones' innings contained eight fours.

Chasing 154, Zimbabwe wickets fell regularly to medium pacer Gavling Larsen and Chris Harris, the ball swinging wildly in the overcast conditions.

Andy Flower was Zimbabwe's most stubborn batsman, scoring 30 before falling to Larsen as the run-rate became impossible. Only another downpour could have saved his side.

Larsen finished with figures of three for 16 from four overs and Harris three for 15 from four overs as Zimbabwe collapsed to 105 for seven in their allotted 18 overs.

Crowe said after the match he was relieved it had been completed, but frustrated by the frequent interruptions.

"It was a frustrating day but it turned out well for us because we hung on to our concentration and our determination to compete. We never turned off during the day," he said.

He acknowledged New Zealand's place in the semifinals of the World Cup now appeared secure, although they still have four matches to play in the preliminary round-

Robin.

Zimbabwe captain David Houghton said it was difficult to keep his players motivated because of the interruptions.

His fielders slipped frequently in the damp outfield and bowlers fell several times on their own run-ups.

"It's quite hard to concentrate on bowling a line and length when you also have to concentrate on staying on your feet," he said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the rain-reduced World Cup cricket match between New Zealand and Zimbabwe today:

NEW ZEALAND:

Greatbatch b Duers	15
Latham b Brandes	52
Jones c Waller b Butchart	7
Crowe not out	74
Cairns not out	1
Extras (lb-6 b-7)	13
Total (three wickets-20.5 overs)	162
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-25, 3-154.	

Did not bat: K Rutherford, G Larsen, C Harris, I Smith, D Patel, D Morrison.

Bowling: O M R W
 Duers 5 1 28 1
 Brandes 6 0 17 1
 Shah 4 0 34 0
 M Butchart 4 0 35 1
 Burmester 1.5 0 17 0

ZIMBABWE:

Flower b Larsen	30
Waller b Morrison	11
Houghton b Larsen	10
Butchart c Cairns b Larsen	3
Brandes b Harris	6
Pycroft not out	13
Campbell c Crowe b Harris	8
Shah b Harris	7
Burmester not out	4
Extras (lb-9, nb-1, w-3)	13
Total (seven wickets-18 overs)	105
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-41, 3-63, 4-63, 5-75, 6-86, 7-97.	

Did not bat: J Traicos, K Duers.

Bowling: O M R W
 Morrison 4 0 14 1
 Cairns 2 0 27 0
 Larsen 4 0 16 3
 Harris 4 0 15 3
 Latham 3 0 18 0
 Crowe 1 0 6 0

Result: New Zealand won by 48 runs (NZ original score of 162 for three in 20.5 overs revised after rain to 153 for two from 18).

Man-of-the-match: Martin Crowe.

Cup standings

Standings after Tuesday's match in the World Cup Cricket tabulate under played, won, loss, tie/no result, points:

New Zealand	4	4	-	8
England	3	2	-	5
Sri Lanka	4	2	1	5
West Indies	3	2	1	4
Pakistan	3	1	1	3
South Africa	3	1	2	2
Australia	3	1	2	2
India	3	-	2	1
Zimbabwe	4	-	4	0

S Africa to play in West Indies

WELLINGTON, Mar 3: South Africa will make a one-Test cricket tour of the West Indies next month, United Cricket Board of South Africa general manager Ali Bacher said today, reports AFP.

"This will be South Africa's first official Test since 1970, and the first time a South African side has gone into the West Indies," he said in a statement.

The Test will be played at Bridgetown from April 18 to 23, while other matches will be in Kingston on April 7 and Port of Spain on April 11 and 12.

The West Indies will play several one-day internationals in South Africa in February 1993 after their tour of Australia.

Rupam fails to save Gulshan

A valiant all-round performance by Rupam went in vain as Lalmatia Club prevailed over Gulshan Youth Club by 25 runs in the Navana Premier Division relegation league yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Sent in to bat by Gulshan skipper Rupam who won the toss, Lalmatia made 187 for eight wickets from the 41 overs bowled by the Gulshan bowlers within the stipulated time.

Shahidur Rahman, returning to form after a long while, since his association with the bigger clubs, formed the backbone of the Lalmatia innings with an invaluable knock of 63 off 66 balls. He sent the ball to the fence four times. Before holing out in the deep off spinner Rupam.

Shri Lankan Sanjeeva Weerasinghe struck three fours and a six in his knock 40 while opener Anwar made 30.

Gulshan's Shri Lankan medium-pace Rajkumara claimed three Lalmatia wickets for 42 runs. Rupam took two for 27 while Shamim picked up two for 37.

Gulshan got off to a terrible start losing five wickets for 33 runs. Rupam then stepped in to play perhaps one of the finest innings of his life in a desperate bid to make a match of it. But his superb knock of 82 ran to seed as his teammates failed to back up his stellar effort. He was the last man out when he danced down the track to loft spinner Atiq for a sixer but he missed it in the air and Anwar took off the balls behind the stumps to tilt the balance in Lalmatia's favour.

Gulshan, who made 162 from 38.3 overs, were 25 runs short of the target when the last wicket fell.

Left arm seamer Anisur Rahman made the early inroads into the Gulshan batting with figures of three for 24. Subrata, the other medium-pace, picked up two for 35.

Atiq, who settled the issue in Lalmatia's favour by claiming the prize wicket of Rupam finished with figures of one for 23. Utam picked one for two.

Fed Cup volleyball final today

The final of the Federation Cup volleyball tournament will be played today at the Outer Stadium volleyball court with Bangladesh Air Force and Bangladesh Rifles vying for the champions' trophy.

Prior to the final at the same venue, Bangladesh Navy is to play Titus Club in the third-place deciding match.

Jadeja to open for India

SYDNEY, Mar 3: India will go into Wednesday's important World Cup cricket match against Pakistan with Rookie International Ajay Jadeja stepping in for experienced opening batsman Ravi Shastri, reports Reuter.

Shastri, the vice-captain, has been struggling since early January with his right knee despite arthroscopic surgery a month ago and his slow scoring at the top of the order has put India's batting under pressure.

However, he was expected to retain his place for his experience and left-arm spin bowling a potential match winning factor at Sydney where he made



AJAY JADEJA

206 and took four for 45 as India nearly won the third Test against Australia earlier this year.

India, who named their team after training today, also omitted batsman Praveen Amre and seamer Subroto Banerjee.

Team manager Abbas Ali Baig said Jadeja, 21, who made one on his one-day international debut against Australia on Sunday, would move up to open with Srikanth, leaving Vinod Kumble to bat in the middle order.

Jadeja missed India's Test tour to Australia which finished just before the start of the nine-nation World Cup.

The 21-year-old all-rounder scored heavily during the Indian domestic season for club team Haryana to earn a

call-up for the limited-overs tournament.

"He had a fantastic season at home scoring two or three double hundreds," said team manager Abbas Ali Baig.

"Jadeja is a fine player and will handle the pressures of a World Cup game against Pakistan. Otherwise he has no business being here."

Jadeja also bowls medium-pace, coming on at first change for Haryana, the team captained by veteran all-rounder Kapil Dev. "He also gives us more scope with our bowling," said Baig.

The Indians must win all their remaining five matches to be sure of featuring in the semifinals. They were beaten by one run by Australia in Brisbane on Sunday, a loss Baig said was the result of inexperience.

"We feel we should have won that game, but in the

pressure situation we mucked it up somewhat," he said.

Baig said there was always fierce on-field rivalry between the sub-continent neighbours but said his team took every match "as seriously as every other."

An Indian win will come as a relief for Australian High Commission officials in Islamabad who have been swamped by visa applications from Pakistanis wishing to support their team.

A spokesman said they had received 2,000 applications normally a year's worth in six weeks. With the stringent criteria not being relaxed, long queues have developed. The spokesman added: "The more the likelihood of Pakistan getting to the final, the more I am getting worried."

The team, meanwhile, are still waiting on the fitness of Imran Khan.

Pakistan captain Imran Khan will have a fitness test on his injured right shoulder on Wednesday morning.

Pakistan are better placed after three matches, with a win, loss and no result.

Rival spin bowlers are likely to play important roles on Australia's best spinner's wicket.

Off-spinner Venkatapathy Raju took three wickets in a World Series final against Australia at the Sydney Cricket ground this season, while Pakistan's hopes will rest with leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed.

The teams never have played each other in a World Cup fixture.

Healy to return for Aussies

SYDNEY, Mar 3: Ian Healy, Australia's injured wicket-keeper, will limp back into action for the World Cup hosts on Thursday as they attempt to continue their faltering recovery against the team that has usurped their position as favourites, reports Reuter.

England's own hamstringing victim, Allan Lamb, is, however, expected to play in the day-night clash at the Sydney Cricket Ground after aggravating the three-week old problem in Adelaide.

Healy, said physiotherapist Errol Alcott, is "ready to keep". He is not as ready to bat and will play with strapping around his knee to restrict movement and, hopefully, prevent him re-injuring the hamstring.

Who lineups alongside Healy is a matter of guesswork, conjecture and pin-sticking for pundits, players and, by the sound of things, management alike.

"Ideally by now we would have our XI," said captain Allan Border. "But everyone in the 14 is in contention."

The situation is ironic for a team which has been more settled and successful than any in the last few years with changes a matter of fine-tuning and minor adjustments to a well-oiled unit.

Inside a fortnight Australia's



IAN HEALY

smooth-running machine has suddenly begun coughing and spluttering, rusty patches have

widely followed one - and Border's emotional reaction to Marsh's omission from the fifth Test team recently suggests he would not hold the rope either.

But national selector John Benaud will join in selection in Sydney and the addition could make the difference.

Simpson is adamant he will not bring in a dasher to open like some teams, such as England with Ian Botham, saying: "People get excited when it comes off but over 20 years it has been proved it is wrong."

While Australia's today training session was unusually tense, England, working out alongside, looked relaxed.

As well as the tender leg of Lamb, England are also carrying Chris Lewis strained side and his chances of being fit to bowl are rated by Gooch as being "in the balance."

But England are confident, Gooch said he rated the ground as one of his favourites and was looking forward to playing. Adding: "We have played close to our potential in our last two matches and will need to do so again to beat Australia."

If they do they will take a large step towards the semifinal. But Australia will be back on their knees and in grave danger of following the weekend fate of Sydney boxing hero Jeff Fench in being counted out.

smooth-running machine has suddenly begun coughing and spluttering, rusty patches have

Cricket exorcises colour ghost

CHRISTCHURCH, Mar 3: Lancaster Park will be the scene here on Thursday of a momentous first meeting between West Indies and South Africa, an event undreamed of only a few years ago, when they clash in the cricket World Cup, reports Reuter.

West Indies, for many years strong supporters of the international sports boycott of the Republic, have ended their opposition with the dismantling of apartheid.

A team of West Indians did make two unofficial tours of South Africa some 10 years ago and were banished from the game for life on their return home.

Victory is vital to each side here in their quest to reach the semifinals of the tournament.

West Indies stumbled against England to lose one of

their three matches so far and still have tough games against host countries New Zealand and Australia ahead of them.

South Africa are in even more desperate plight, brought down to earth with losses to New Zealand and Sri Lanka after their heady triumph over Australia.

The loss to Sri Lanka will have been the most damaging to their morale and captain Kepler Wessels admits his batsmen are having difficulty adjusting to the slower pace of the New Zealand and only the veteran Peter Kirsten, the pugnacious batsman the South African selectors included only at the last minute, has played with any confidence.

"We're struggling to hit the ball off the square at this stage on the slower wickets," Wessels said following Monday's unexpected loss to Sri Lanka.

With South Africa playing in

the World Cup for the first time after nearly 22 years of international isolation, the inexperience of many of their players was obvious as rash strokes by the middle and lower order batsmen saw the last six wickets falling for 46 runs.

"We played too rashly. We could probably have rescued it and got, say, 210 which may have been enough," Wessels said.

It is in that middle order that South Africa are missing the vast experience of former captain and all-rounder Clive Rice, inexplicably omitted by the selectors.

They will, however, have the advantage of those two matches over West Indies, who will be playing on the slower New Zealand pitches for the first time in the tournament.

West Indies, fully aware of the difference in pace they will

face, immediately got down to practice after their arrival at the weekend.

"It'll be slower wickets here than we are used to and that means plenty of practice in the nets," said Brian Lara, their top batsman in the tournament so far.

Elevated to opening the innings, Lara retired hurt on 88 after being hit on the toe by a Wasim Akram yorker in the opening win over Pakistan, was out for a duck against England but returned to form with a sparkling 72 against Zimbabwe.

His foot injury is still painful, and during practice wore a boot with the big toe area cut out of it.

The Lancaster Park Ground has produced plenty of runs in New Zealand's domestic cricket this season but looks certain to aid the seam bowlers, especially early on.

Heavy rain left the ground under water last Friday and it is still damp and green, although if the rain holds off, it should play easier by Thursday.

Neither side will name their team until shortly before the match, though South Africa look likely to retain 39-year-old left-arm spinner Omar Henry the only non-white in their squad.

He was the most economical of the bowlers in their match against Sri Lanka, taking one for 31 in his 10 overs.

There is obviously concern about their main striker bowler Allan Donald who, although taking three wickets, bowled nine wides, giving Sri Lanka not only nine runs but also nine extra balls.

Such things can mean the difference between victory and defeat.

JF D'Costa lifts Majumder snooker championship

National champion Reshadul Amin Bappa of Dhaka Club lost to fellow club member Joseph Francis D'Costa 6/7

Both the finalists had to grapple with injury problems in the game that was decided in the best-of-13 frames. Underdog D'Costa overcame a shoulder injury to upstage his more fancied opponent who reportedly suffered from a back injury.

Minister for Industry Shamsul Islam Khan gave away the prizes as the chief guest in the evening.

Twenty-eight players from seven clubs of the country took part in this 11-day invitational meet organised by Narayanjan Club and sponsored by the Majumder Group, of which late F H Majumder was the founder-chairman.

MSC beat Bima 2-0

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club defeated Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha by two goals to nil in the Star First Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The winners, who collected 16 points from nine outings after yesterday's match, scored both the goals in the first half.

Mohammedans, who appeared to have undergone some transformation since the inclusion of the three Russian footballers, shaped up well by defeating Brothers Union by a solitary goal in their earlier match.

Mohammedans shot into the lead as early as the eleventh minute when midfielder Rony scored hauled the duels with a solo effort. Rony received a ball from Kuznetsov in the mid field and the curly-haired medio dodged past a few Bima players to find the net with a left-footer from inside the box 1-0.

The Russian trio worked in tandem to set up the second goal for the black-and-whites that sealed the fate of the match. Rahimov sped down the right flank to float a ball for Shabbir who gave the finishing touch by volleying it home 2-0 four minutes from the short whistle.

Nakib deprived Mohammedans of their third goal at the stroke of half-time when the striker headed the ball wide of the post after Shabbir had lobbed it from the right.

Sadharan Bima almost

equalised 15 minutes into the second half when Mohammedans custodian Kanan saved a short from Lablu who latched on to a wrong back-pass by Nabikov. Lablu, the Bima striker who overnight became familiar with the football enthusiasts after that goal against Brothers, hit straight to the advancing Kanan. Bima remain stuck at six points from nine matches.

In the first match of the day, Dhanmondi Club edged past Wanderers Club by a solitary goal.

Javed scored the all-important goal in the very first minute of the match.

With this win, Dhanmondi's collection rose to six points while Wanderers remain at five, with each playing nine matches.

Pioneer final tomorrow

The final of the Janata Bank Pioneer football league between Sunrise Sporting Club and Govt. Printing Press S & RC will be held tomorrow Thursday, at 2:30 pm at the Outer Stadium, said a DMFA press release.

Sadek Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports, will witness the match as the chief guest and distribute prizes among the winners.

Both the finalists have earned promotion to the Third Division league next year.

Mohammedans march on

Green Delta First Division hockey league beating Sonali Bank by two goals to one at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

All three goals were scored in the first session of play.

Mumtaz Haider Mohammedan's Pakistan recruit, put the black-and-whites ahead in the tenth minute with a spectacular field goal (1-0).

He scored his seventeenth goal in the league to double the margin for the winners in the 17th minute (2-0).

Mazharul Huq of Sonali Bank pulled one back in the 22nd minute by converting a penalty corner (2-1).

Rabi of Mohammedans was shown the green card.

Mohammedans now have 22 points while Sonali Bank

Shilton's new role

LONDON, Mar 3: Former international goalkeeper Peter Shilton became the latest big name appointment in English soccer when he was named player-manager of Second Division strugglers Plymouth Argyle on Monday, reports Reuter.

Shilton, 42, ironically starts his new job on Saturday at home to Derby county, the club he has played for over the past four and a half years.

The move comes only four weeks after Newcastle appointed another famous ex-international Kevin Keegan to lift them, away from the relegation zone.

Shilton, who won the last of his 125 caps for England in the 1990 World Cup, has signed a three-year contract. He said his immediate priority was to make sure the club stayed up. They are currently third from the foot of the table.

Ansars women win Bata handball

Bangladesh Ansars and VDP clinched the championship of the first Bata women's handball league beating Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation by sixteen goals to fifteen in the thrilling final of the meet held at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday under flood-lights.

The first half of this exciting affair ended with BJMC leading 8-7.

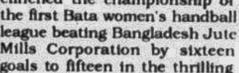
But the recharged Ansars girls carried out repeated raids inside their opponents' territory and scored as many as nine goals in the second session to seal the fate of the match in their favour.

Rahima with five and Saicha and Shabera with four goals each were the main scorers for Ansars.

Michael R Roys, Managing Director of the Bata Shoes Ltd witnessed the match as chief guest and gave away trophies among the winners.

St Joseph's win in Nirman cricket

Dhaka Collegiate High School and St Joseph's High School won their respective matches of the Dhaka zonal Nirman schools cricket competition at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.



PETER SHILTON



Bangladesh Ansars won the Bata women's handball title yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium. —Star photo