

Border's boys are Bothamed

SYDNEY, Mar 5: Ian Botham fired on all cylinders Thursday to send holders Australia hurtling towards disaster in the World Cup cricket tournament, reports AFP.

The 36-year-old star all-rounder shone with both bat and ball as England carved out an emphatic eight-wicket victory over the hosts in their day-night encounter at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Botham took four wickets in seven balls without conceding a run as Australia, clobbering to bat first, were shot out for a paltry 171 in 49 overs.

He then slammed a breezy 53 off 79 balls in a 107-run opening stand with skipper Graham Gooch (58) to fire England to an easy victory in the 41st over.

This one-man road show gave Botham his second man-of-the-match award in the tournament after a similar distinction in the Cup opener against India in Perth on February 22.

It was England's third win in four matches — a rain-cut game against Pakistan being the only hiccup — and put them firmly in line for a semi-final berth in the nine-nation tournament.

England's seven points from four games is only one short of New Zealand's all-time tally of eight at the half-way stage of the round-robin preliminary league.

But Australia, the pre-tournament favourites, came a step closer to elimination with their third defeat in four games which put them above only minnows Zimbabwe in the pool table.

One more defeat in their remaining four matches — against West Indies, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe — would send Allan Border's beleaguered team packing from the competition.

Some 40,000 fans at the SCG — many of them waving the union jack — watched in awe as the decidedly superior Englishmen avenged a seven-run defeat by Australia during the 1987 Cup final at the Eden Gardens in Calcutta.

England, who have never won the title, put in a outstanding display in the field to run through Australia's innings in the first session.

From a healthy 106 for two in the 28th over, Australia caved in like a collapsing house of cards losing eight

wickets for 65 runs, the last six for just 26.

Australia appeared to be cruising to a big score when Tom Moody, who made 51 after being promoted to open the innings in place of the dropped Geoff Marsh, and Dean Jones put on 71 for the third wicket.

But once Chris Lewis broke the partnership with a blinding catch at point to remove Jones, Australia's innings fell apart against the steady English attack.

Left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell bowled Moody in the 31st over, then Botham took



BOTHAM...man-of-the-match

over to apply the finishing touches.

He began the rot by bowling Australian captain Allan Border for 16 in his seventh over and took three wickets in his next over, the 40th of the innings.

He had Ian Healy caught at short mid-wicket by Neil Fairbrother off his first delivery, trapped Peter Taylor leg before with the third and had Craig McDermott taken at mid-on by Phil DeFreitas off the fifth.

Botham finished with four for 31, his best figures in 105 one-day internationals, easily besting his four for 45 performance against West Indies in Birmingham last year.

But he was not yet done with the team he said he would love to beat "before 100,000 convicts" in the final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on March 25.

While Gooch struggled to come to terms against fiery paceman Craig McDermott, Botham launched a savage attack to prevent any last-minute hitches in an impressive march towards victory.

He hit six boundaries all around the park, before glid-

ing Mike Whitney to wicket-keeper healy for a low catch on the leg side in the 24th over.

Gooch carried on Botham's good work by cracking seven fours in a 115-ball innings before being bowled by Steve Waugh in the 38th over when only 19 runs were needed for victory.

Robin Smith (30 not out) and Graeme Hick (seven not out) easily scored the remaining runs to end the one-sided encounter with 55 balls to spare.

Sri Lanka, who have five points from four games, will be the opponents for both teams in their next league matches.

While Australia take on the Islanders in Adelaide on Saturday, England meet them in Ballarat on Monday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup cricket match between Australia and England today:

AUSTRALIA	
Moody b Tufnell	51
Taylor lbw Pringle	0
Boon run out	18
Jones c Lewis b DeFreitas	22
Waugh run out	27
Border b Botham	16
Healy c Fairbrother b Botham	9
Taylor lbw Botham	0
McDermott c DeFreitas	0
B Botham	0
Whitney not out	8
Reid b Reeve	1
Extras: (lb-2, lb-8, w-5, nb-4)	17
Total: (all out, 49 overs)	171
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-35, 3-106, 4-114, 5-145, 6-155, 7-155, 8-155, 9-164.	
ENGLAND	
Gooch b Waugh	58
Botham c Healy b Whitney	53
Smith not out	30
Hick not out	7
Extras: (lb-13, w-8, nb-4)	25
Total: (two wickets, 40.5 overs)	173
Fall of wickets: 1-107, 2-153.	
Did not bat: N Fairbrother, A Stewart, D Reeve, C Lewis, D Pringle, P DeFreitas, P Tufnell	
Bowling: O M R W	
Pringle	9 1 24 1
Lewis	10 2 28 0
DeFreitas	10 3 23 1
Botham	10 1 31 4
Tufnell	9 0 52 1
Reeve	1 0 3 1

CUP STANDINGS

World Cup cricket standings after Thursday's matches (tabulate under points, won, lost, no result, points, net run-rate):

New Zealand	4	0	0	8	1.08
England	4	3	0	17	0.65
Sri Lanka	4	2	1	15	0.62
South Africa	4	2	0	4	0.05
West Indies	4	2	0	4	0.10
India	4	1	2	13	0.23
Pakistan	4	1	2	13	0.03
Australia	4	1	3	0	0.46
Zimbabwe	4	0	4	0	1.08

Note: Net run-rate in difference between batting and bowling rates. Under competition rules, runs scored in no-result matches are not included in run-rate.

Aussies to tour Lanka

ADELAIDE, Mar 5: The Australian cricket team will not be confronted by civil or political unrest when it tours Sri Lanka later this year, Sri Lankan officials said Thursday, reports AP.

Australia will tour Sri Lanka for three weeks in August and September to play a Test and three limited overs internationals, but the itinerary will avoid politically sensitive areas.

The manager of the Sri Lankan World Cup team, Ranjit Fernando, said it was hoped the Australian trip would be problem free and justify tours by other countries.

Smith injured

AUCKLAND, Mar 5: New Zealand wicketkeeper Ian Smith has an injured little finger on his left hand and may miss Sunday's World Cup match against the West Indies, officials said Thursday, reports AP.

Smith dislocated the finger during the match against Zimbabwe in Napier on Tuesday. He was an onlooker Thursday as the New Zealanders began their preparations for the match.

Batsman Mark Greatbatch, who has limited experience, in keeping wicket for New Zealand, spent time working with the keeper's gloves in the nets.

New Zealand captain Martin Crowe said he was keen for Smith to play if possible.

"The finger is a bit sore at the moment," Crowe said. "We tried Mark in the nets. He's the standby."

Crowe said it was too early to be concerned about Smith.

"Come Saturday we'll probably make a decision as to whether he wants to keep risking it and carry on through," he said.

"We are a little concerned I suppose. You want your best keeper out there."

Crowe also does not want additional pressure to be put on Greatbatch, who has recently returned to form as a batsman.

Experienced opening batsman John Wright was Thursday declared fit to return to action after being sidelined by injury.

With Wright back, Crowe said Greatbatch may have to bat way down the order if he plays.

"We'll probably have to bat him down at six or seven," he said.

Pringle revives S African hopes

CHRISTCHURCH, Mar 5: An amazing spell by seamer Meyrick Pringle kept alive South Africa's World Cup cricket hopes as they beat West Indies, by 64 runs in a dramatic match today, reports Reuter.

Pringle cut the heart out of West Indies' innings with four wickets in the space of 11 balls to send them sliding to 136 all out in 38.4 overs.

South Africa, sent in to bat, made 200 for eight in their 50 overs.

The result left both sides with two wins out of four matches and still in with a chance of reaching the semifinals.

Only Gus Logie and Desmond Haynes showed any resistance and Logie hit a majestically belligerent 61 which for a while hinted at a remarkable recovery.

Pringle's four for 11 in eight overs were the best bowling figures of the tournament so far.

South Africa, who beat holders Australia in their opening game, had lost their last two matches, both played in New Zealand.

Fast bowler Allan Donald opened with a fiery five over spell for South Africa which included two maidens and cost 12 runs.

But it was Pringle at the other end who caused the damage with a devastating six overs which brought him the four wickets for 10 runs and included three maidens.

There was no hint of the drama to come as left hander Brian Lara hit Pringle for a classic extra cover driven four in his first over and took another boundary with a magnificent square cut in the bowler's second.

But in attempting to repeat the shot, Lara failed to get over the ball and Jonny Rhodes swooped low to pick up a magnificent catch at backward point.

In his third over, Pringle trapped captain Richie Richardson leg before for one and then had Carl Hooper caught by Kepler Wessels at first slip without scoring.

At that stage, Pringle had taken three wickets in the space of seven balls, and that soon became four in 11 as in his next over Wessels took another slip catch to remove Keith Arthurton.

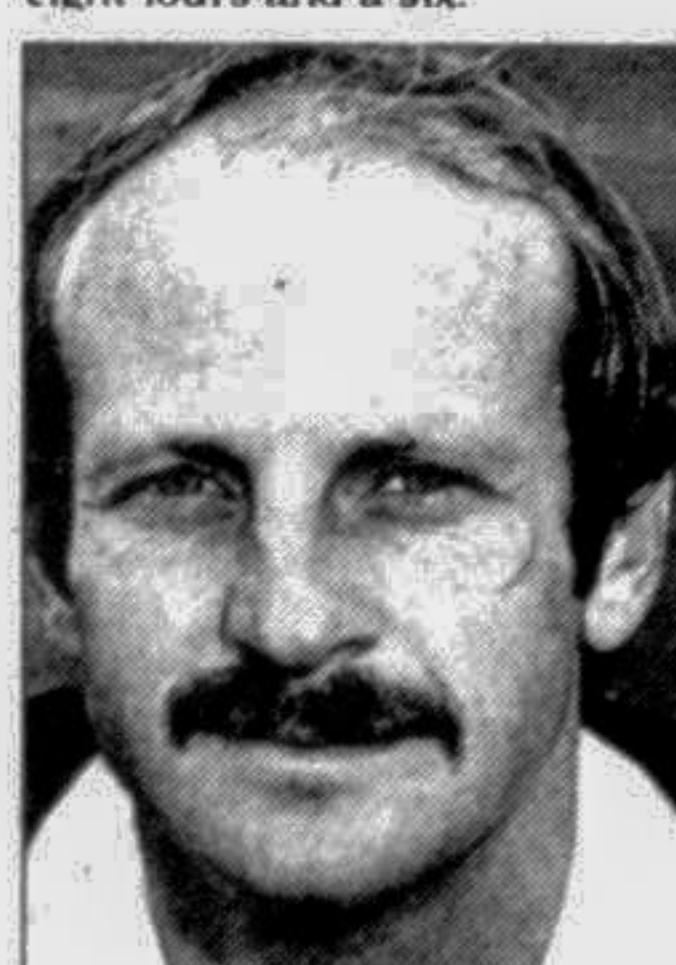
Altogether Pringle bowled 26 balls in succession without conceding a run and for a

stretch of 24 deliveries West Indies failed to score a run at either end.

But then the magnificent Logie went on to the attack after Pringle was taken off and immediately began cracking the ball to all corners of the field.

He was severe on Brian McMillan, whose first four overs cost 22, but he saved his big guns for Adrain Kuiper.

The seamer's first five overs were hit for 36 runs, most of them by Logie, who plundered four boundaries off his fifth over during which he reached his 50 from 59 deliveries, with eight fours and a six.



PETER KIRSTEN...56

Opener Desmond Haynes was Logie's much more conservative partner for most of the time but was forced to leave the field for six overs for medical attention after twice being hit on his right forefinger.

It was in his absence that paceman Richard Snell stepped in to grab the wickets of Malcolm Marshall (six) and David Williams (nought).

Haynes returned on the fall of Williams' wicket and he and Logie again steadied the innings.

But it was Kuiper who had the last laugh on both of them.

With the first ball of his second spell, Haynes flashed outside the off stump and was well caught by wicketkeeper Dave Richardson for 30, painstakingly acquired over 83 deliveries.

That left West Indies on 116 for seven and one run later Kuiper struck the death knell for their hopes when Logie skied him to long on where he was caught by man of the match Pringle.

South Africa, playing West Indies for the first time in an official cricket international following the dismantling of

apartheid, based their innings on a brave half century by Peter Kirsten after an early setback.

They lost captain Kepler Wessels when he miscued an attempted pull of Malcolm Marshall to be caught for one with only eight on the board.

Kirsten and opener Andrew Hudson weathered a fiery opening spell from Curtly Ambrose and gradually improved the tempo.

Hudson pulled Winston Benjamin to the mid wicket boundary to bring up the 50 in the 17th over and give South Africa their best start in their three matches in New Zealand.



GUS LOGIE...61

Hudson departed for 22 to a stunning two handed catch by Lara, diving to his left in the gully, and Mark Rushmore was stumped off spinner Carl Hooper for 10 shortly afterwards.

But Kirsten soldiered professionally on, steadily accumulating runs with dabs and pushes despite injuring his leg and calling for a runner when he had made 28.

The scoring rate increased with the arrival of Kuiper, who brought up the 100 in the 30th over with a six over square leg off Benjamin.

But boundaries were few and far between and Kuiper did not hit another in scoring 23 from 28 balls before he played round a full toss from Ambrose and was bowled.

Kirsten's defiance was ended soon afterwards when he edged Marshall to Williams, leaving South Africa on 127 for five in the 36th over and needing quick runs.

Kirsten's 56 took 92 deliveries and included just two fours and a five, courtesy of an overthrow.

Once again West Indies' fielding was shoddy and they conceded at least 20 runs from

misclicks and overthrows.

Useful innings of 22 and 20 from Jonny Rhodes and Brian McMillan respectively kept the scoreboard moving.

Although both were dismissed before the 50 overs were up, South Africa just scraped to 200 for the first time in the tournament.

It hardly seemed enough against the hard hitting West Indians. But that was before Pringle stepped in.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Cup cricket match between West Indies and South Africa:

SOUTH AFRICA	
Wessels c Haynes b Marshall	11
Rhodes c Lara b Cummins	22
Kirsten c Williams	56
Marshall	56
Rushmore st Williams b Hooper	10
Kuiper b Ambrose	23
Rhodes c Williams	23
Cummins	22
McMillan c Lara b Benjamin	20
Richardson not out	20
Snell c Haynes b Ambrose	3
Pringle not out	5
Extras: (lb-8, nb-7, w-3)	18
Total: (eight wickets, 50 overs)	200
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-52, 3-73, 4-118, 5-127, 6-159, 7-181, 8-187.	
Did not bat: A Donald.	
Bowling: O M R W	
Ambrose	10 1 34 2
Marshall	10 1 26 2
Benjamin	10 0 47 1
Cummins	10 0 40 2
Hooper	10 0 45 1

WEST INDIES
Haynes c Richardson b Kuiper
Lara c Rhodes b Pringle
Richardson lbw b Pringle
Hooper c Wessels b Pringle
Arthurton c Wessels
b Pringle
Logie c Pringle b Kuiper
Marshall c Rhodes
b Snell
Williams c Richardson
b Snell
Ambrose run out
Cummins c McMillan
b Donald
Benjamin not out
Extras: (lb-9, w-1)
Total: (38.4 overs)
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-19, 3-19, 4-19, 5-70, 6-70, 7-116, 8-117, 9-132.

Bowling: O M R W
Donald 6.4 2 13 1
Pringle 8 4 11 4
McMillan 8 2 36 0
Snell 7 2 16 2
Kuiper 9 0 51 2
Result: South Africa won by 64 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Meyrick Pringle.

India determined to give it a go

AUCKLAND, Mar 5: India hopes to continue its World Cup revival when it plays three straight matches in New Zealand, team captain Mohammad Azharuddin said Thursday, reports AP.

India scored its first victory of the tournament on Wednesday, when it defeated arch-rival Pakistan by 43 runs in Sydney.

India has three points from its first four matches and needs to win two of its three matches in New Zealand to have any chance of qualifying for the semifinals.

"It's a good thing that we are here for all three games," Azharuddin said Thursday.

"At least we don't have to go and come back again like Sri Lanka. It's not so tough on us."

After spending nearly five months in Australia, the change of scenery might spark the Indians, Azharuddin said.

The Indian team travelled to Hamilton on Thursday night and has a training session scheduled for Friday.

Rank-Xerox cricket Sports Reporter

Rayerbazar and Three Star won their respective matches in the Rank-Xerox Second Division super league yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi cricket stadium Rayerbazar defeated Amar Jyoti by 59 runs.

Three Star registered a four wicket victory against Gandaria Cricketers at the Mohakhali cricket ground.

Nirman cricket Sports Reporter

West End High School and Khilgaon High School won their respective matches of the Dhaka zonal championship in the ninth Nirman Schools cricket competition at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Nat'l jr athletics Sports Reporter

The two-day 10th national junior athletics championships began yesterday at the Dhaka Hockey Stadium.

Eighteen events for boys and girls were decided yesterday with Kishoreganj DSA topping the first-day medals list.

Border still optimistic

SYDNEY, Mar 5: Australian captain Allan Border admitted after his team's crushing defeat by England World Cup favourites had not



ALLAN BORDER

taken the competition seriously enough, reports Reuter.

"We took it too lightly," said Border. "We did not prepare properly for this tournament and we have been found out of sorts."

Australia have one win from four games and Border admitted: "We have to win the remainder very well and we need some favours, for England and the Kiwis to keep winning."

Border paid tribute to the man who ravaged his team, Ian Botham.

He is the ultimate competitor — and he seems to save the best for us.

Botham himself said he thought Australia were "down but not out", adding: "They have to win all their games."

As for England, he declared: "With a bit of luck we can go all the way to the final."

"I am delighted the way the team are playing and to be part of it."

Botham missed the 1988 season with a back injury, has been dropped for poor form and suspended for using drugs, and had not toured with England since their triumphant 1986-87 tour of Australia.

And he admitted: "You have to save it up when you get to my age, there is not too much fuel left in the tank."

'94 Cup sites to be picked Mar 25

ZURICH, Mar 5: The venues for the 1994 World Cup soccer finals in the United States will be announced in New York on March 23, FIFA said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Guido Tognoni, spokesman for soccer's world governing body, said the 12 selected venues from 19 bidders would be made known at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

Manzoor wins Sabera golf

The Sabera Huq memorial golf tournament was held at the Kurmitola Golf Club course yesterday, reports BSS.

A large number of golfers including ladies and foreigners took part in the meet organised by the club in memory of late Sabera Huq, wife of Syed Ashrafur Huq, former general secretary of Bangladesh Cricket Control Board.

A former teacher of Scholastica School Mrs Sabera Huq died in a road accident in Sharjah, UAE, on October 24 last year during the Sharjah Cup Cricket tournament.

Manzoor Ahmed became the champion of the meet.

Brothers go down fighting

A sparkling century by Calcutta's Arup Bhattacharya went abegging as reigning champions Brothers Union went down fighting against Abahani Kriya Chakra in the Navana Premier Division super league cricket at the Dhaka stadium yesterday, Brothers relieved the bitter memories of their earlier encounter in the first phase of

the league by concealing a four-run defeat. Abahani had beaten Brothers by six runs in an exciting match on that occasion.

Arup Bhattacharya scored a scintillating 105 with the help of four huge sixes and six fours as Brothers chased Abahani's 246 for seven wickets from 42 overs. Brothers finally made 242 for eight as their batsmen wilted under pressure in the frenetic last overs.

Earlier, Abahani piled up a huge 246 for seven with Akram Khan top scoring with 78, inclusive of five fours. Mahbubur Rahman Selim made 63 with the help of five fours and a sixer. Indian Raman Lamba was the other notable scorer with 52.

Shri Lankan T.L. Fernando was the most successful Brothers bowler with figures of two for 44. Arup's left-arm spin fetched him two wickets while Nadir Shah bagged two.

Brothers skipper Athar Ali Khan promoted himself in the

Ansars champions in Japan Cup karate Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars emerged champions in the first-ever Japan Cup karate tournament which concluded yesterday at the National Coaching Centre.

Twenty-two teams comprising 146 karatekas including 15 women took part in the two-day meet.

With the conclusion of another seven events yesterday, karatekas of Bangladesh Ansars grabbed three more golds for their team.

VDP finished a poor second in the meet which was jointly organized by the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation (BJKF) and the Japanese embassy in Dhaka.

State Minister for Establishment Md Nurul Huda witnessed the final rounds of the competition and gave away prizes among the winners.

Women's chess Sports Reporter

The 13th national women's chess championship begins tomorrow (Saturday), at the chess federation with 10 participants taking part.