

Cricketers off to Kenya

Sports Reporter
A twenty-member Bangladesh cricket team left Dhaka for the Kenyan capital of Nairobi yesterday to take part in the ICC Trophy, beginning from February 12.
Faruque Ahmed and Akram Khan are the captain and the vice captain of the squad comprising 16 players.
K Z Islam, the former Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) president and the pioneer of the Nirman schools competition who has been designated as the chef de mission of the squad, will leave Dhaka on February 11 to join the rest of the team which has three officials including Indian coach Mohinder Amarnath.
Bangladesh will be competing for one of the three top finishers of the 20-team fray, who will play in the next World Cup, to be jointly hosted by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 1996.



The players and officials of the Bangladesh national cricket team prior to their boarding of the aircraft to take part in the ICC Trophy in Kenya. — Star photo

Bangladesh, a losing semifinalist of the last meet, play their first match against Argentina at Simba on February 13.

H'ball matches fall through

Sports Reporter
Yesterday's matches of the Phoenix Insurance handball championship were suspended due to unplayable ground condition.
Revised schedule will be announced on a later date.

Batsmen reign at Antigua

ANTIGUA, Jan 25: An easy-paced pitch made sure that the bat dominated the ball on the second day of England's cricket match against Antigua at the Recreation Ground on Monday, reports AFP.
First, the tourists' tail-enders Andrew Caddick and Steve Watkin continued their overnight stand, adding 103 in 31 overs as England totalled 419. And then the Antiguan, despite having only two players with first-class experience, responded positively with 226-4 by the close.
Both Caddick with 77, and Watkin, who made 45, recorded their highest scores in competitive cricket, but there was a price to pay.
Without one of their frontline bowlers, England struggled to dictate terms to the inexperienced home side's batting line-up, with opener Earl Waldron (43), Dave Joseph (44) and Audwin Walsh (39) all playing attractively.
Caddick was the pick of the bowlers on show turning in a hostile spell either side of the tea-break, and he deserved better than his figures of 16-2-63-2.
Antigua captain McClesney Simon, who made 35, and former Glamorgan all-rounder Hameesh Anthony with 39, added an unbroken 61 for the fifth wicket, although Anthony survived three difficult chances.

BSWA awards ceremony held

The Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) yesterday distributed its sports awards for 1991 and 1992 at a function, marred by the absence of chief guest and two special guests, reports UNB.
Earlier, the BSWA announced 32 names for sports awards — 19 for the year 1991 and 13 for 1992.
BSWA president Abdul Towhid handed over the awards to sportsmen, organisers, umpires and sponsoring organisations amidst cheers from sports lovers present at the function at the Public Library Auditorium this evening.
The recipients for 1991: Mohammed Mohsin (football), Wahidul Gani (cricket), Jamil Parvez Lulu (hockey), Golam Ambia and Nelly Jesmin (athletics), Afzal Hossain (volleyball), Akram Hossain (handball), Mokhlesur Rahman (swimming), Kazi Shahana Parveen (shooting), Reefat-bin-Sattar (chess), Hira Lal (tennis), Md Jamal Hossain (boxing), Zobera Rahman Linu (table tennis), Manjoor Milki (cricket umpire), Md Abdul Mannan (athletics coach), Harun-ur-Rashid and Rashed Asgar Chowdhury (organiser) and Bangladesh Tobacco Company Ltd (sponsor).
Sportsman of the year: Shooter Ateequr Rahman.
Recipients for 1992: Rumi Rizvi Karim (football), Akram Khan (cricket), Mohammad Sadeq (hockey), Monimul Haq and Jyotsna Afroze (athletics), Kazi Salahuddin (football coach), Mohammed Asgar (cricket umpire), Syed Yusuf Hossain, M Ahia Reza Chowdhury and Tanveer Haider (organisers), Latifur Rahman Khan (boxing judge), Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh) Ltd (sponsor).
Sportsman of the year: Athlete Golam Ambia.

Lalmonirhat make it too

Sports Reporter
Hosts Lalmonirhat became the second team to earn the right to play in the final round of the 18th Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship when they beat Nilphamari 7-5 in the tie-breaker yesterday.
The regulation period of the zonal final ended in a deadlock with both sides scoring three goals each. After the extra time failed to produce any breakthrough to this stalemate, the hard-fought encounter was automatically carried over to penalty shoots-out.
In the tie-breaker, four of the Lalmonirhat booters were able to heat the Nilphamari goalkeeper while their counterparts could only manage to sent the ball home twice out of five chances.
Earlier on Monday, Feni qualified for the 12-team knock-out round, scheduled for a February 2 start in Khulna, with a comprehensive 2-0 victory over Chittagong in the Feni Zone final.

Partex b'ball results

Sports Reporter
Josephites Club beat Hornets Club 78-71 in a keenly-contested match of the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.
Josephites led the first half 37-32.
Asif top scored for the victors with 20, followed by Shehjad who notched up 19.
Julian and Dulal scored 15 points each for the losers.
In the other match of the day, Dhumketu Club outplayed Backstroke Boys Club 73-32.
The winners led the first half 34-18.
Shiblee and Jabbar caged 21 and 19 points respectively for Dhumketu.
Swapan with 18 was the top-scorer for the vanquished.

Youth v'ball final today

Sports Reporter
Dhaka take on Naogaon in the final of the Rahima Foods national youth volleyball championship today at the Outer Stadium volleyball court.
Dhaka beat Jessore 4-15, 15-3, 8-15, 15-11 and 15-11 while Naogaon outplayed Rajshahi 15-3, 11-15, 15-8 and 15-10 in their respective semifinal encounters.
Nuruddin Al-Masud, secretary for the Information Ministry, will witness the match as chief guest and distribute the prizes among the winners.

Office cricket now from Feb 3

The first ever office cricket league, earlier scheduled to begin on January 28, will now start from February 3.
The last date of players' registration for the forthcoming meet has been fixed on January 29.
Officials of the participating clubs have been requested to contact at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) at 6 pm on January 29, said a board press release.

'Tiger' tamed

COLOMBO, Jan 25: A former Sri Lankan Tamil guerrilla leader, sacked from his organisation for spying, has become a cricket coach in Sri Lanka's rebel-controlled northern peninsula, a local newspaper said on Monday, reports Reuter.
Yogarajnam Yogi, former head of the political wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrilla group, is cricket coach at his old school, Hindu College, the state-run Observer said.
It said Yogi, along with Tigers deputy leader Gopal Aswamy Mahendrarajah, were accused last year of spying for Indian intelligence agencies.
Yogi has been released and ordered not to leave the Jaffna peninsula for five years. Mahendrarajah was put in detention by the rebels and there have been unconfirmed reports he has been executed.
Yogi was captain of his college cricket side, the newspaper said.

Wanderers win

Sports Reporter
Wanderers Club beat Bangladesh Railway by four wickets in an inconsequential Milnars First Division cricket league match at the Dhanmendi Cricket Stadium yesterday.
With Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Sadharan Bima Kriya Sangstha robbing the league of all competitive interest by winning promotion to next year's Navana Premier league as the champions and runners-up respectively quite some time before, yesterday's match was held because it had to be held — for regulation's sake.
Sent in to bat, Railway scored 185 for five from 45 overs, the stipulated quota for every team. Rezaul, skipper Shahid, and Nafees were the main run-getters for the railwaymen with 60, 45 not out and 35 respectively.
Opener Rana's unbeaten 59 and a couple of useful knocks like 34 from Pakistani Sagir Abbas and 19 from skipper Jahangir helped Wanderers post 189 for six wickets, in 43.3 overs.

Srinath's omission enrages fans

BANGALORE, Jan 25: Fans have threatened to sabotage the second Test between India and Sri Lanka starting on Wednesday if home town favourite Javagal Srinath is not selected, reports Reuter.
Posters have appeared in and around Bangalore saying: "No Srinath, no Test."
But Indian manager Ajit Wadekar said on Tuesday officials would not be swayed by the posters.
Srinath, India's quickest bowler, has been consistently left out of the Test side despite being a regular member of the one-day team.
Critics say veteran all-rounder Kapil Dev, a declining force, should be dropped to make way for him.

TEAMS

INDIA: (from) Mohammad Azharuddin (capt), Navtej Sidhu, Manoj Prabhakar, Vinod Kambale, Sachin Tendulkar, Sanjay Manjrekar, Kapil Dev, Nayan Mongia, Anil Kumble, Rajesh Chauhan, Venkatapathy Raju, Javagal Srinath, Praveen Amre, Ajay Jadeja.
SRI LANKA: (from) Arjuna Ranatunga (capt), Roshan Mahanama, Duleep Samaraweera, Aravinda de Silva, Hashan Tilakaratne, Pubudu Dassanayake, Anura Gunawardene, Nisal Fernando, Sanath Jayasuriya, Ruwan Kalpage, Pramodya Wickramasinghe, Muthiah Muralidharan, Don Anurasiri, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Marvan Atapattu.

Border shelves thought of retirement

SYDNEY, Jan 25: Allan Border says he will stay, as Australian cricket captain at least until after the tour to South Africa starting next month, reports Reuter.
Border, 38, has been under pressure, particularly from the Australian media, to make way for a younger man after the third Test against South Africa starting in Adelaide on Friday.
"First and foremost, I'm looking forward to a strong performance by the team in Adelaide and of course to the tour of South Africa," he said in a statement on Monday night.
"Any further talk of retirement can wait until after that."
The Australian Cricket Board has announced that when Border retires he will be appointed management officer in charge of its development programmes.
Whenever he retires... Allan has a new career with the Australian Cricket Board to promote Australian cricketers," said Chairman Alan Crompton.
Batsman Mark Taylor and wicketkeeper Ian Healy are the leading contenders to replace Border as captain.

Office cricket now from Feb 3

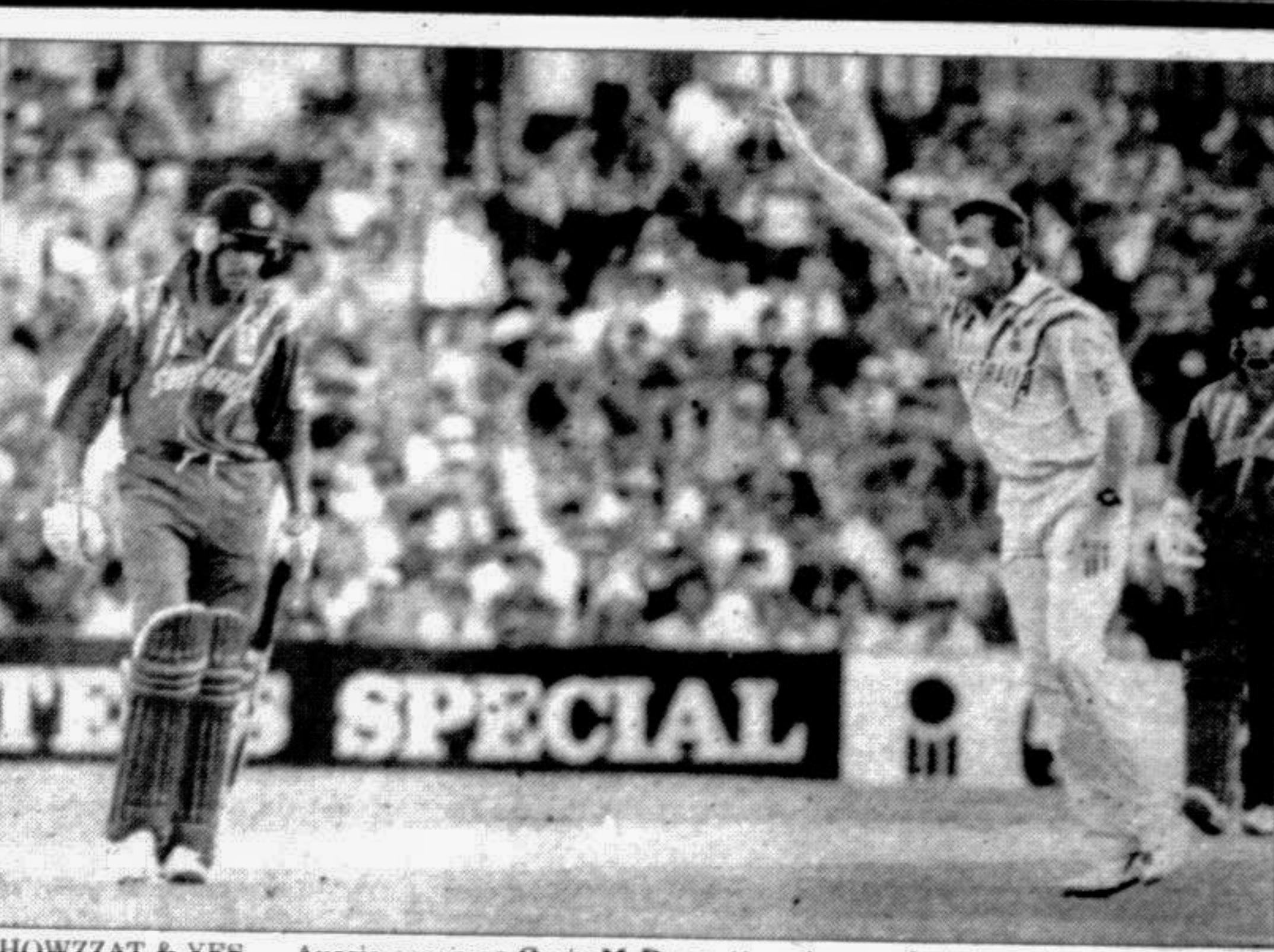
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HOWZZAT & YES... Aussie pacer Craig McDermott conjures a fortuitous breakthrough for his team after having deflected a straight drive on to the wicket at the bowler's end to run South African captain Hansie Cronje out. Australia won the World Series Cup, beating South Africa by the odd match in the best of three finals at the SCG yesterday. — AFP photo

Mark Waugh's first major int'l award

SYDNEY, Jan 25: Mark Waugh claimed his first major international cricket award and captain Allan Border was chaired from the field as Australia thrashed South Africa by 35 runs to win the international one-day final series in the third and deciding match here on Tuesday night, reports AFP.
Waugh followed his breathtaking 107 from Sunday night with an equally swashbuckling 60 from 53 balls as Australia amassed 223 for eight from their 50 overs, then restricted South Africa to 188 for nine.
Waugh received the player-of-the-finals award for his two decisive knocks, and finished the triangular tournament, which also involved New Zealand, with 405 runs at an average of 40.5.
Leg-spinner and player-of-the-preliminary-series Shane Warne (2-28 on Tuesday and 22 wickets all up) again had a hand in the triumph, removing middle order batsmen Stewart (13) and Jonty Rhodes (43) as South Africa crashed from 51 for three to 136 for eight. After losing the first match in Melbourne, last Friday, Australia clawed back to clinch the World Series Cup by winning the toss in both Sydney games, batting first and scoring competitive innings of 200-plus.
On Sunday 247 was too much for South Africa to overhaul and again on Tuesday night 223 proved beyond reach.
No side chased more than 190 and won this season.
Border bowled the last over to chants of "Border, Border" from the rejoicing home crowd of nearly 38,000 and was later chaired and cheered around the ground after what could be his last one-day match on home soil.
"I thought it was the best wicket we played on all series," Waugh said later, adding: "We also took our chances when they came."
Border said the South Africans had proven tough competitors.
"It was a tremendous effort by our fellows," Border said.
"We haven't done it the hard way in these finals for a while and I was very pleased to come back from 1-0 down.
"I would like to commend the hard way with the South Africans. They're a great team of competitors."
Opposite number Hansie Cronje returned the compliment.
"I thought Australia played really well in Sydney and we didn't get enough runs here," Cronje said. "They deserved to win."
Australia pocketed more than 80,000 Australian dollars (56,000 US) in prize money and gave their confidence for Friday's third Test in Adelaide a boost.
Three times the South Africa fielders missed with throws from close range, whereas the Australians enjoyed a night of bulls-eyes.
David Boon relayed to Dean Jones to claim Peter Kirsten (14) on a fourth run, fast bowler Craig McDermott deflected a Gary Kirsten drive to get rid of Cronje (0) and Mark Waugh made a direct hit to remove Richard Snell (6).
After Border won the toss Matthew Hayden scratched out 20 from 70 balls before being stumped with the total 62 in the 22nd over.
Australia were able to reach 200 due to the quickfire efforts of Dean Jones (25 from 29 balls), Steve Waugh (17 from 22), Allan Border (30 from 26) and Mark Waugh.
Boon played a sound opener's role and his 64 from 98 balls set the stage for a big second half of the innings.
Mark Waugh hit across the line several times but found the middle of the bat each time to smack seven boundaries.
His 68-run stand with Border from 56 balls featured some powerful hitting and exciting running between wickets before he became a victim of the third umpire.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard in the last of 1.

AUSTRALIA		SOUTH AFRICA	
Bowler	O M R W	Bowler	O M R W
D Boon c Rhodes b De Villiers	64	P. Kirsten c M Waugh b Reiffel	14
M Hayden b Rundle	20	H. Cronje run out	0
St Richardson	25	J. Rhodes c Healy b Warne	43
D Jones c Rundle b Donald	20	E. Stewart b Warne	18
M Waugh run out	60	D. Callaghan c Healy	6
S Waugh b Cronje	17	b McDermott	30
A Border b De Villiers	30	D. Richardson not out	38
I Healy run out	0	R. Snell run out	6
P Reiffel run out	2	D. Rundle lbw b May	6
S Warne not out	1	F. De Villiers BS Waugh	15
Extras: (lb-3, w-1)	4	A. Donald not out	7
Total: (for eight wickets, 50 overs)	223	F. De Villiers BS Waugh	15
Fall of wickets: 1-62; 2-112; 3-114; 4-150; 5-218; 6-220; 7-221; 8-223.		A. Donald not out	7
Did not bat: C McDermott, T May.		Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-3)	6
		Total: (For nine wickets, 50 overs)	188
		Fall of wickets: 1-21; 2-23; 3-26; 4-51; 5-110; 6-117; 7-124; 8-136; 9-166.	
		Bowling	O M R W
		McDermott	10 1 41 1
		Warne	10 0 36 2
		Reiffel	9 0 32 1
		S. Waugh	10 2 39 1
		Border	1 0 6 0
		May	10 0-31 1

Fiery feud finally over?

LILLEHAMMER, Norway, Jan 25: Olympic organisers Monday said a dispute between Greece and Norway over their dueling Olympic flames for the 1994 Winter Olympics has been solved, reports AP.
The smoldering dispute has flared up repeatedly, but this time officials indicated the settlement would last.
After arguing over whether the flames could be merged, or meet, the two sides agreed Monday that the Norwegians would carry their own flame to Lillehammer in a national relay and bring the real Greek flame separately.
This has been a long, difficult and sometimes embarrassing matter," said Odd Ustad of the Lillehammer Organizing Committee. "It's also a complicated one," he said, adding that the latest solution satisfied all parties.
The Norwegians had planned to merge the two flames in their capital of Oslo on Feb. 5 and then carry the united flame on the final legs of a relay to the opening ceremony.
The Greek Olympic Committee rejected mixing the flames because it would taint the real Olympic flame, so the Norwegian organizers agreed that the flames could "meet" but not "merge."
But thousands of Norwegians have been carrying the Norwegian flame on an 8,000 kilometre (5,000 mile) national relay. Many were outraged and insisted that their flame be carried to Lillehammer.
Ustad said the latest solution was to drop plans for the Greek flame to meet the Norwegian flame — which was lit by rubbing two sticks together on Nov. 27 in Morgedal, a valley Norwegians call "The Cradle of Skiing."
Instead, Norwegians will continue their relay with the Morgedal flame. Once it reaches Lillehammer, it will light the flame holder used for the 1952 Winter Games in Oslo.
The real Greek flame will be brought to Oslo separately on Feb. 11 instead of the planned date of Feb 5. It will be used to light the official flame at the Lillehammer opening ceremony on Feb. 12.
Ustad said the 1952 Olympic flame holder would be extinguished before the Greek flame arrives in Lillehammer. But the Morgedal flame itself would be kept burning for use at the paralympics, which begin in Lillehammer on March 10.
Lillehammer Olympic Organising Committee president Gerhard Heiberg last week said he thought the dispute had been solved several times.
The first agreement he presented, earlier this month, was for the two flames to simultaneously light a cauldron in Oslo, and for the torch that originally carried Greek flame to be carried to Lillehammer.
However, the Greeks apparently had a different interpretation, and saw that solution as an unacceptable mixing of the flames.
They said the Greek flame would have to be lowered into the cauldron first to light the flame, and then withdrawn before the Morgedal flame was lowered to keep the real flame pure.
Many Norwegians argue the Morgedal flame is the original Winter Olympic flame, because the first time a flame was ever ignited for a Winter Games — for Oslo in 1952 — it came from Norheims fireplace.



Recipients of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) awards pose gregatim during the distribution ceremony at the Public Library Auditorium yesterday. — Star photo