

Silva's ouster sets the heather on fire Ranatunga quits in protest

COLOMBO, Apr 7: Five top Sri Lankan cricket selectors resigned Thursday after skipper Arjuna Ranatunga quit, amid a worsening crisis over the removal of vice-captain Aravinda de Silva for next week's tour of Sharjah, reports AFP.

Former Test stars Duleep Mendis, Ranjan Madugalle and Roy Dias together with Daya Sahabandu and K M Nelson wrote to Sports Minister Nanda Mathew informing him of their decision to resign from the seven-member selection committee.

The five officials expressed displeasure about the decision to dump the in-form batsman De Silva and four others without providing them an opportunity for a second physical fitness test.

In a joint letter of resignation, the five said they had decided to quit because of the refusal of Sports Medicine Unit (SMU) of the Sports Ministry "to consider our appeal" for another test.

"We believe that we would not be in a position to carry out our duties in a just and fair manner, and consequently were unable to select the best combination of players to represent the country at the forthcoming Sharjah tournament," the five selectors said.

They said that some of the players who were dropped on physical fitness grounds had performed "exceptionally well" in the domestic cricket tournaments. De Silva scored a double hundred in the premier domestic tournament last month.

The others who were left out of a 14-member squad to Sharjah were Test spinner Don Anuradhi, pace bowler Ravindra Pushpakumara, Sanjeeva Ranatunga and Ajith Ekanayake.

The physical check was ordered by Minister Mathew, who is empowered to appoint selectors and reject or accept team selections. There was no immediate reaction from Mathew's office or the cricket board.

The chairman of selectors, Anurudha Polonowita, and another selector, T B Kehelgamuwa have stayed back in the committee.

The latest cricket controversy caused serious doubts over Sri Lanka's participation in the six-nation Australasia Cup tournament in Sharjah from April 13 to April 22.

The selectors' resignation followed skipper Arjuna Ranatunga's decision to pull out of the Sharjah tour, protesting the decision to axe De Silva purely on his failure to pass a fitness test.

"It's very difficult for me to go on this tour. My conscience is clear on this. I cannot accept the way the fitness test was done and its outcome," Ranatunga told AFP Thursday.

"It's very unfair and demoralising. When you have a world class player like Aravinda, who keep him out? If he can score a double hundred, an improper fitness test should not be the criteria for selection," Ranatunga said.

The Australasia Cup will also feature teams from Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, India and the United Arab Emirates.

Former cricket administrators opposed to the action against De Silva said the fitness test was merely a cover to carry out "a well-planned conspiracy" to remove outspoken players like Ranatunga and De Silva.

The 28-year-old De Silva's exclusion also followed severe criticism of the diminutive batsman by a six-member committee that probed Sri Lanka's humiliation in India.

The committee also slated Ranatunga for "ineffective captaincy."

Lalith Ratnayake, a doctor, who carried out the examination, said that most players did not satisfy international physical fitness requirements but the ministry was forced to lower the standard in order to field a team for Sharjah.

De Silva obtained a 35 per cent score which was well below the pass mark of 50 per cent.

De Silva, however, has questioned the validity of the test which came in the wake of growing criticism over the team's disastrous show during their January tour of India. Sri Lanka lost all three Tests by an innings inside four days.

"I think I am pretty fit. I don't have any injuries and I have been performing well in the (domestic) matches," De Silva said, a veteran of 131 one-day internationals and 41 Tests.

The players were tested for speed, strength, balance, flexibility, cardio-vascular and muscular endurance.



A RANATUNGA

Pele pulls in his horns

ROME, Apr 7: Soccer legend Pele on Wednesday glossed over differences with FIFA president Joao Havelange and applauded the decision to grant him another four-year term as head of the game's world governing body, reports Reuter.

"I think these four more years represented a tribute to what Havelange has done for world soccer," Pele said of his fellow Brazilian.

"He is like a father to me and it's obviously good for Brazil too," added Pele, the man who inspired the "beautiful game" which swept the Brazilians to World Cup triumphs three times between 1958 and 1970.

The FIFA boss caused controversy in December when he barred Pele from the World Cup draw in Las Vegas over a row between the former player and Ricardo Teixeira, Havelange's son-in-law and head of the Brazilian Soccer Confederation (CBF).

The ban on the game's favourite son provoked fierce press criticism of Havelange's autocratic style and led to rumours of a move to oust the 77-year-old, head of FIFA since 1974.

But the five continental federations who comprise FIFA on Tuesday agreed to support Havelange's candidacy for a sixth and final four-year term.

The European Football Federation (UEFA) dropped plans to propose Italian Antonio Matarrese as a rival candidate after receiving unspecified guarantees from the ruling body.

Havelange will be reelected unopposed at the FIFA congress in Chicago on June 16, the eve of the World Cup finals.

In Rome on promotional work for a World Cup sponsor, Pele said he felt Argentine star Diego Maradona was wrong to try to play on the finals.

"I don't think that he will be in the right shape physically or mentally. He should have retired last year," Pele said.

Maradona, who led Argentina to victory in the 1986 finals and runners-up spot in 1990, has a history of drug abuse and has hardly played since quitting Newell's Old Boys Club in February.

The Argentine's most dangerous shooting since then has been with an argun, injuring four reporters after blasting away at reporters camped outside his house two months ago.

Pele, who ended his great career with the New York Cosmos in the ill-fated North American soccer league in the 1970s, tipped Colombia as one of the favourites for the tournament.

"They are one of the strongest sides around, at least in Latin America," he said.

He forecast that the tournament would provide the kind of entertainment needed for the game to take off in the US soccer's new frontier.

Miandad won't return

KARACHI, Apr 7: Pakistan's most successful batsman Javed Miandad announced his retirement from international cricket on Wednesday, claiming he had been victimised, reports Reuter.

"My decision to quit cricket is irrevocable," a weeping Miandad told a news conference.

He said his retirement was prompted by a decision by the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) to drop him from the team for the Australasia Cup in Sharjah next week.

The Pakistani team that toured New Zealand earlier this year and dropped again from the tour of Sharjah where an international one-day competition between India, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates is due to start on April 13.

Miandad played 124 Tests, scoring 8,832 runs with the help of 23 centuries and 43 half-centuries, and held 93 catches. He is the third-highest Test run-scorer in history behind Allan Border of Australia and India's Sunil Gavaskar.

"I have been victimised by BCCP officials who ignored me when picking teams for both foreign and home series," said Miandad.

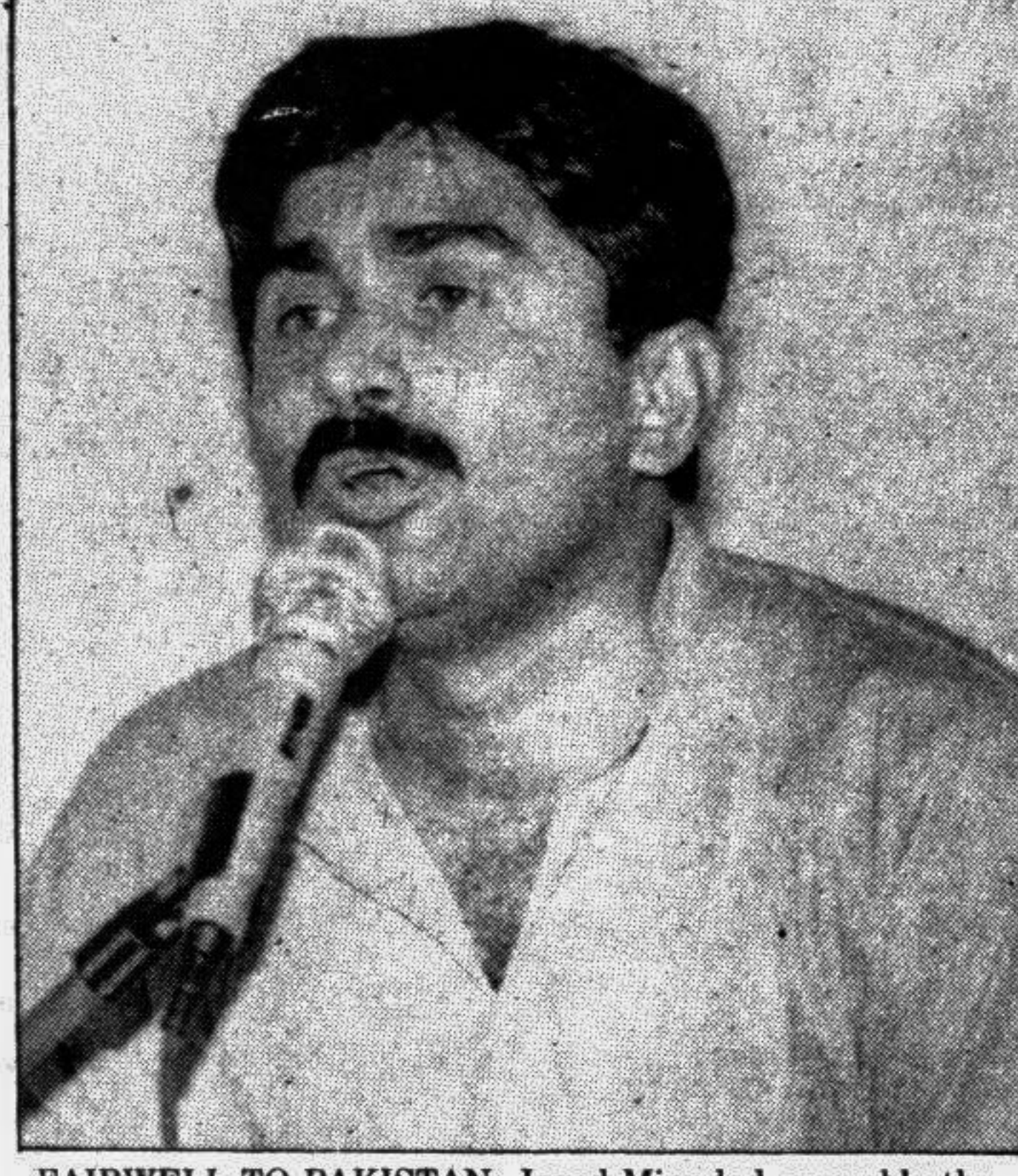
Supporters said they would organise protests and hunger strikes to force BCCP officials to reverse their decision to exclude Miandad from the 14-member squad for Sharjah.

BCCP officials said Miandad's performances had not been what was expected of him.

There is a limit to everything and I feel that my exclusion from Sharjah is unjust," said the 37-year-old former national captain.

Supporters shouted slogans attacking the decision by the BCCP, currently being run by a three-member adhoc committee headed by former Test star Javed Burki since the board was sacked in January.

Miandad was excluded from



FAIRWELL TO PAKISTAN: Javed Miandad, arguably the greatest batsman Pakistan has produced, makes an emotional announcement about his retirement from international cricket at a press conference in Karachi on Wednesday.

Aussie quartet in Wisden quintet

LONDON, Apr 7: Wisden, the cricketing "Bible" has nominated four members of the victorious Australian team in England among its traditional five cricketers of the year, reports Reuter.

Shane Warne, David Boon, Merv Hughes and Ian Healy are all rewarded for their part in last year's 4-1 Ashes series win in the almanack's 131st edition, published on Thursday.

Wisden Editor Matthews Engel admitted the timing of the awards was slightly unfortunate as Warne and Hughes were both fined a 4,000 dollars (2,840 dollars) last month by the Australian Cricket Board for verbal abuse of batsmen in South Africa.

The only non-Australian chosen is Welshman Steve Watkins, a member of England's current struggling team attack in the Caribbean.

Elsewhere in the new edition, England manager Keith Fletcher, who has suffered 11 defeats in his 13 matches in the job, has been castigated by former Australian captain Ian Chappell.

"Maybe Mike Atherton doesn't need assistants like Fletcher," writes Chappell. "The England cricket manager seems typical of a mentality that pervades county cricket — if it's difficult, take the easy way out."

Hadlee writes off England

WELLINGTON, Apr 7: Retired New Zealand fast bowler Sir Richard Hadlee claimed Thursday the New Zealand team will do very well in their forthcoming tour of England, reports AFP.

They could capitalise on England's vulnerability following the West Indies tour.

"I do tend to think we'll score more than 46 in a Test match," said Hadlee, making a sharp reference to England's dismal Test innings score in their current series against the West Indies in the Caribbean.

New Zealand has only won two Tests in England, with Hadlee playing in both victories in 1983 and 1986.

"We've had our moments, but this side could even do better than that. You only need one Test win and you've already matched the record for a New Zealand touring side."

He said following the southern summer, critics of the New Zealand team had to realise that sometimes the teams they were playing were simply better. Hadlee attributed New Zealand's downfall this season to three bowlers, Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne and the Pakistani pace duo of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis.

"Only those three undid us, other than that, no-one else was a threat," he said. "We lacked a bit of confidence and obviously technique was a problem but we haven't had Martin Crowe, and Danny Morrison and Chris Cairns have had injury problems."

Maradona opens the ball

BUENOS AIRES, Apr 7: Diego Maradona practiced Wednesday with the national soccer team for the first time since announcing his plans to play in this year's World Cup finals, reports AP.

Maradona and 10 other players practiced, drills for about 75 minutes under a steady morning rain at the team's training site outside Buenos Aires.

Maradona, 33, said Tuesday he plans to play in the World Cup, which begins June 17 in the United States. He had said just last week that he might retire.

National team coach Alfio Basile said there is "some possibility" Maradona will play in an April 20 friendly match against Morocco in Salta, Argentina.

Nigeria sweat, Zambia sail

TUNIS, Apr 7: Nigeria, the pre-tournament favourites, meet unfancied Zambia in the final of the African Nations Cup on Sunday, reports Reuter.

But while Nigeria needed a penalty shootout to secure their place at the expense of the Ivory Coast on Wednesday, Zambia won a one-sided match against Mali scoring two goals in each half for a 4-0 victory.

Rehash in BHF

Sports Reporter

National Sports Council (NSC) announced a 31-member new ad-hoc committee for Bangladesh Hockey Federation yesterday.

Major General Mohammed Abdur Rab and Shamsul Bari were retained as president and general secretary respectively in the revamped office.

Warne has SA in tangle again

CAPE TOWN, Apr 7: Leg spinner Shane Warne played a key role in Australia's 36-run victory over South Africa in the seventh one-day international on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Chasing Australia's 50-over total of 242-6, South Africa were making good headway while Andrew Hudson and Hansie Cronje were adding 79 in 119 balls for the second wicket.

However, the complexion of the game changed when Warne was brought into the attack.

First, he trapped opener Hudson leg before for 62 with a flipper.

Four overs later Cronje, on 37, having been dropped off a skler by Allan Border the previous delivery, was caught in the covers by Mark Taylor to leave South Africa on 114-3 in the 32nd over.

Jonny Rhodes scampered his singles effectively and pulled Mark Waugh for one big six. But with Adrian Kuiper struggling to hit the ball cleanly South Africa dropped further behind the run-rate.

Warne claimed his third victim when Rhodes was smartly stumped by Ian Healy for 35. He finished with 3-31 from his 10 overs.

Kuiper belatedly began to time the ball but his unbeaten 38 was too little, too late.

A 123-run third-wicket stand between Mark Taylor and Mark Waugh helped the Australians to set their hosts a daunting target.

The pair came to the rescue after Craig Matthews had picked up the wickets of Matthew Hayden and Dean Jones with just 10 runs scored.

Taylor reached his 50 first off 80 balls. The 100 partner-

ship and Waugh's half-century off 72 balls followed swiftly.

The partnership ended when Adrian Kuiper dropped Waugh in the covers. Kuiper's return to the bowler's end broke the stumps with Taylor, ambling back to his crease, still out of his ground.

He made 63 from 100 balls.

Waugh, dropped again three balls later off the luckless Brian McMillan, went on to score 71 off 99 balls before being bowled by Matthews.

Allan Border (40 not out off 48 balls) and Healy (26 off 22) added 62 from the final 55 balls of the innings.

Scoreboard of the day-night 50 overs cricket match between South Africa and Australia at Newlands on Wednesday.

AUSTRALIA

Taylor run out 63
Hayden lbw b Matthews 0
Jones c Richardson b Matthews 8
M Waugh b Matthews 71
S Waugh b Simons 23
Border not out 40
Healy c Wessels b Matthews 26
Extras: (lb-8, w-1, nb-2) 11
Total: (for six wickets, 50 overs) 242
Fall of wickets: 1-0: 2-10; 3-133; 4-163; 5-180; 6-242.
Did not bat: P Reiffel, S Warne, T May, G McGrath.

Bowling: O M R W
De Villiers 10 1 52 0
Matthews 10 0 47 4
McMillan 10 0 46 0
Simons 10 0 31 1
Cronje 5 0 40 0
Kuiper 5 0 18 0

SOUTH AFRICA

Hudson lbw Warne 62
Kirsten c Taylor b Reiffel 3
Cronje c Taylor b Warne 37
Rhodes st Healy b Warne 35
Kuiper not out 38
Wessels c Border b M Waugh 12
Simons not out 9
Extras: (nb-1, lb-8, b-1) 10
Total: (for five wickets, 50 overs) 208
Fall of wickets: 1-22; 2-101; 3-114; 4-163; 5-186.
Did not bat: B McMillan, D Richardson, C Matthews, F de Villiers.

Bowling: O M R W
McGrath 10 1 38 0
Reiffel 7 2 18 1
May 10 0 38 0
S Waugh 4 0 22 0
S Warne 10 0 31 3
M Waugh 9 0 50 1

Result: Australia won by 36 runs.

South Africa lead eight match series 4-3 with the final match to be played in Bloemfontein on Friday.

Havelange prefers 32 at '98 WC

PARIS, Apr 7: FIFA president Joao Havelange would like to see 32 teams in the 1998 World Cup finals, instead of the current 24, reports AFP.

"I put this idea on Tuesday to the presidents of the confederations, who said they were delighted with it," the head of world football ruling body told Thursday's edition of L'Equipe newspaper.

"But it still only a plan and it needs negotiations ... but it ought to be approved by the executive committee and we'll try to put it to them as soon as possible."

The 1998 finals are being hosted by France.

Havelange, who is set to be re-elected for a sixth four-year term as FIFA president in June, said he would discuss the matter with Fernand Sastre and Michel Platini, Co-chairmen of the French Organising Committee.

"But I think France will agree with our idea," he said.

The 32 countries would be divided into eight groups of four teams, with the top two from each group going through to the second round.

The French welcomed Havelange's idea during a meeting here on Thursday.

Platini said: "I'll be honest that we were a bit surprised by president Havelange's announcement, because we haven't so far talked to him about it."

"But we are pretty well in favour of it. It would be good for us to be hosting the biggest sporting event of the end of the century."

The matches will be more interesting, especially during the first round, and will make for more games for the stadiums.

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Quiz 1. Entries close on 14-04-94

Read the instructions carefully. Then tick (X) the answer which you think is correct.

1. When was the inaugural World Cup held? 1930 ☐ 1932 ☐ 1934 ☐

2. Who were the first World Cup champions? Brazil ☐ Chile ☐ Uruguay ☐

3. How many teams took part in the first World Cup? 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 16 ☐

4. Which country hosted the second World Cup? Spain ☐ Italy ☐ Brazil ☐

5. Which country has played in all the World Cup finals? Italy ☐ Brazil ☐ France ☐

6. How many goals were scored in the 1938 final? 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐

7. When did England make its World Cup debut? 1938 ☐ 1934 ☐ 1950 ☐

8. How many goals did French striker Just Fontaine score in the 1958 tournament? 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐

9. When did Pele make his World Cup debut? 1954 ☐ 1958 ☐ 1962 ☐

10. How many hattricks were scored in Italia-90? 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐

INTRODUCTION:

A. The Daily Star World Cup Quiz 94, is a series of 60s Quiz Competitions on World Cup Football. Sets of questions will be published for 10 (ten) consecutive days in the Sports Page of the Daily Star for the first (five) Quiz Competitions. For the last and final Bumper Quiz Competition, a set of questions will be published for one month in the Sports Page of the Daily Star according to the schedule (Fixture of the Rounds) as fixed by the Daily Star authorities.

B. For the first (five) Quiz Competitions there will be 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th (five) consolation prizes. The prizes will be Colour TV, Black & White TV, Super Turbo 2-in-1 Stereo Recorder and light bulbs respectively.

C. Any taxes or levies, as per rule, for all the above prizes, will have to be borne by the winners.

D. Names and addresses of all prizewinners will be published in the Daily Star. Winners will be responsible for collecting their prizes from the Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.

E. For the Bumper Quiz Competition, there will be the BUMPER PRIZE consisting of a ticket to the World Cup Final match, along with an Economy Class return air ticket (Dhaka-Los Angeles-Dhaka) and an amount for incidental expenses. The Daily Star DOES NOT take any responsibility for any visa or other travel documents that may be required. The BUMPER PRIZE Winner will have to make his/her own arrangements in this regard. In case of the Bumper Prize winner's inability to travel to the USA he/she may choose to receive a sum of Tk.100,000/- in cash in lieu of the air fare and living expenses.

RULES

1. Residents of Bangladesh, subject to these rules, will be eligible to participate in the Daily Star World Cup Quiz 94. All personnel of the Daily Star, Unirent (advertising agency) and Transcom Electronics Ltd. and all its affiliate companies shall be deemed disqualified to participate in the Daily Star World Cup Quiz 94.

2. Participants are to cut the original form along the indicated dotted lines. All entries must be submitted on the original form printed in the Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.

3. Participants are to put a tick (X) mark in the box which they think is the correct answer to the question. A person may send as many entries in his/her own name and address.

4. Each entry form should be clearly filled-in complete with a ball-point pen. Participant's name, address, father's name, must be clearly written. Each entry form must bear the correct date and signature of the participant.

5. Participants must ensure the following: All entries must reach the office of the Daily Star on or before the closing date marked on the entry form. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "STAR QUIZ". Entries may be hand delivered or sent by post to the Daily Star House No.11, Road No.3, Dhanmandi Residential Area, Dhaka-1205.

6. Entries will be opened by the Daily Star authorities. Entries with all correct answers will be placed in a sealed box for the lucky draw, to be held on the notified/appointed date in public in the presence of invited guests and quiz participants, if any.

7. The Daily Star authorities, in their absolute discretion, reserve the right to amend, modify or substitute any of the above rules and/or change or re-schedule any and all dates of the Daily Star World Cup Quiz 94 in any circumstances.

8. All participants agree to abide by all rules, instructions and guide-lines as may be issued, from time to time, by the Daily Star authorities. Participants' entry in the quiz competition shall be construed as their respective agreement to all such rules, instructions and guidelines.

9. Any decision of the Daily Star authorities in the conduct of the Quiz Competition (including the answers selected as correct) shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner whatsoever.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

FATHER'S NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Write with a ball-point pen in clear, CAPITAL LETTERS. Cut along the dotted lines and mail it to us FAST!