

MSC, BU DMFA Cup semifinal tie today

Sports Reporter
Defending champions Mohammedans Sporting Club, who are looking for a treble of title, meet Brothers Union in the first semifinal of the third DMFA Cup at the Dhaka Stadium today.

Lara's quest goes awry



LONDON, May 27: West Indian Brian Lara failed to equal the world record of six consecutive first class centuries when he was dismissed for 26 at Lord's on Friday, reports Reuter.

ern boundary. Middlesex captain Mike Gatting replaced Fraser with Johnson at the Pavilion end and the 19-year-old medium-pacer responded by inducting Lara to tickle his fourth ball down the leg side straight to wicketkeeper Keith Brown.



BRIAN LARA

Johnson has already dismissed Lara once this season in a Benson and Hedges Cup match. His brief innings had taken 72 minutes and 49 balls. Lara's sequence before Friday was 375, 147, 106, 120 and 136.

Kent to seek justice

LONDON, May 27: Unhappy Kent may take legal advice after their controversial Benson and Hedges Cup cricket quarter-final defeat by Warwickshire, reports Reuter.

Warwickshire won 5-4 in an indoor school bowl-out on Wednesday after the Edgbaston outdoor ground proved unplayable following rain. The winners now face Surrey in the semifinals.

Kent say the pitch was not covered properly during heavy weekend rain. Parts were unplayable on Tuesday, although it hardly rained that day.

The county has now written to the authorities at Lord's. Kent secretary Stuart Anderson said: "We have not demanded that Lord's take any particular action, but we have registered our discontent."

He added: "We have not included mention of any possible legal proceedings in the letter but... it's something we might well consider."

"Kent have a very strong one-day side and the potential loss of revenue from not getting to a semifinal, plus perhaps a final, is considerable."

Div II qualifying cricket results

Sports Reporter
Zubair Ahmed scored a swashbuckling half-century to guide his side Rahmatganj MFS to a massive 109-run win over Muradpur Cricket Club in one of the three Lotus-Kamal Second Division qualifying matches played at different city venues yesterday.

On the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium DCS Rahmatganj scored a moderate 155 for eight wickets in the stipulated 35 overs with Zubair hitting an unbeaten 60.

Zubair, who came to bat at number seven, executed two hits to the fence in his 75-ball unconquered innings to propel his side to a comfortable total.

Ishfaq and Mamun with 30 and 35 respectively were the other notable scorers for Rahmatganj.

Chasing 156 for victory, Muradpur capitulated for a meagre 46 in 16.5 overs with Rajib scoring highest 16 runs for the losers.

Piroz, who mopped up the Muradpur tail finished with three wickets for 12 runs.

At the Jagannath Hall ground Seven Brothers earned a facile eight wickets win over Jijira Cricket Club.

Sent in to bat first, Jinjira were bundled out of 104 in 31.2 overs. Anwar scored 28 while Hafiz contributed 14.

Muktl, who claimed three wickets for 17 runs, was the most successful bowler followed by Saiful and Faisal who took two wickets apiece.

Needing 105 for victory, Seven Brothers reached the target in 25.3 overs for the loss of two wickets with opener Sadaat hitting an excellent unbeaten 59.

His 83-ball innings featured three boundaries. In the other match of the day on the western strip of Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Falcon Eleven humbled Protiva Juba Kalyan Sangha by six wickets in a low-scoring match.

Batting first, Protiva Juba Kalyan were skittled out for a paltry 49 in 18.1 overs with extras featuring highest 16 in the poor total.

Dipu, who had haul of three wickets, did the most of damage to Protiva followed by Mahmud and Idi Amin who claimed two wickets each.

In reply, Falcon Eleven reached 55 for four wickets in 11.2 overs with Rana hitting an unbeaten 26.

His sparkling innings included four hits to the fence and a huge sixer.

White wrecks Kiwis

LEEDS, England, May 27: Craig White boosted his England chances as New Zealand crashed to a humiliating defeat by an innings and 33 runs against Yorkshire at Headingley on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The tourists were immediately summoned to an extra net practice with coach Geoff Howarth condemning his side for lack of application.

Yorkshires 24-year-old all-rounder White, who hit a dashing 59 in his county's first innings, took two for 30 with his lively medium-pacers in New Zealand's second innings to finish with seven wickets in the match.

White, who took a high-class century off Essex last week, has been closely watched by chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth in this match.

He has now emerged as a real possibility for the first Test at Trent Bridge next week as England seek a credible and consistent all-rounder.

New Zealand resumed at 98-1 on the third and last morning needing another 137 to make Yorkshire bat again but never looked remotely liked doing so once opener Blair Hartland had fallen to Peter Hartley without addition to his overnight 60.

Captain Ken Rutherford fell soon afterwards, caught at long leg hooking at Mark Robinson and although left-hander Stephen Fleming hit a six and six boundaries in a bright 40 made from 43 deliveries, the contest was over once he had spooned a return catch to off-spinner Michael Vaughan.

New Zealand's innings then folded tamely with left-hander Mark Greatbatch continuing his dismal form on the tour so far, making just 12 in 74 minutes.

The visitors were all out for 202 in 61.4 overs.

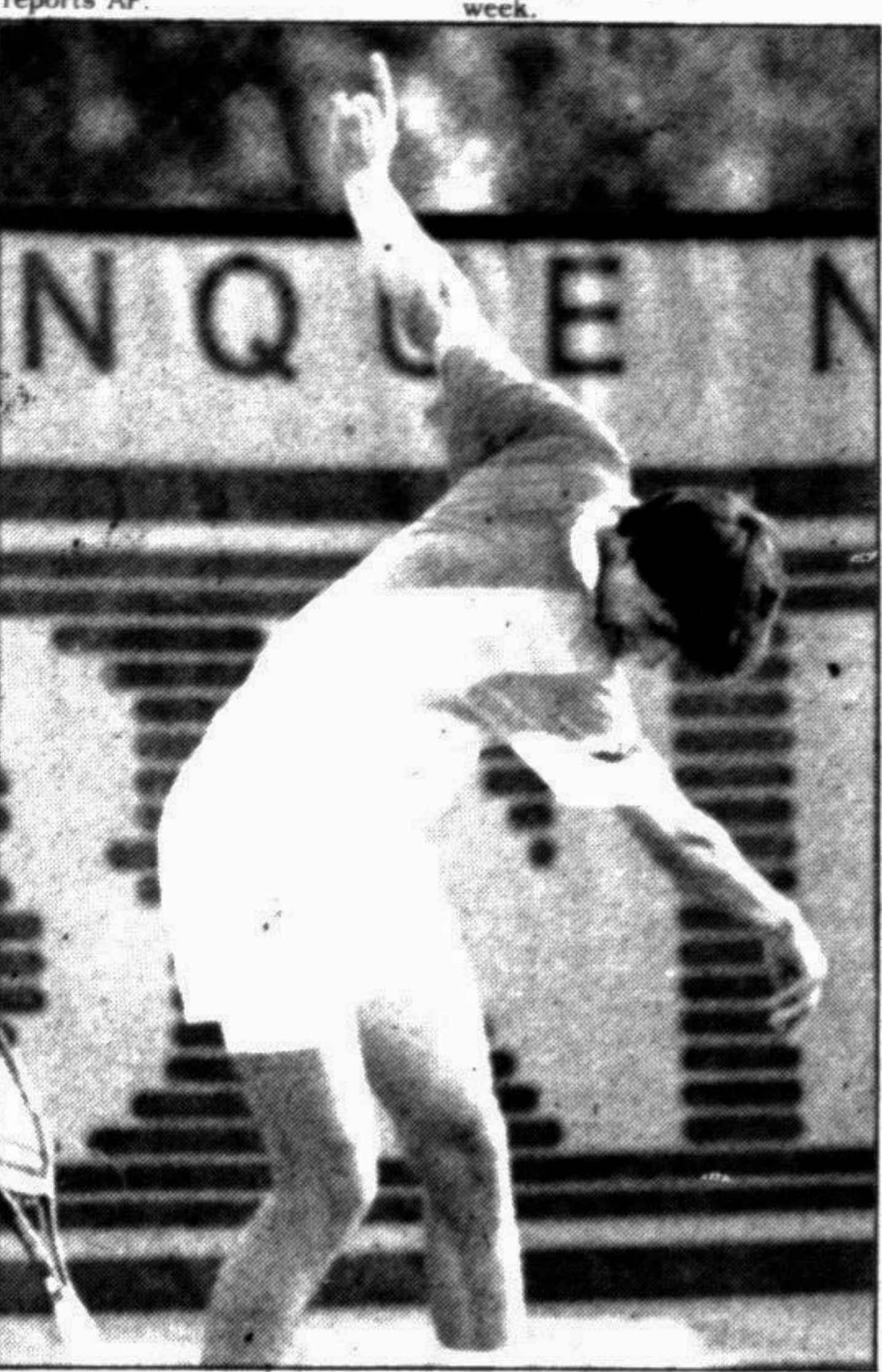
Sampras, Courier move on



PARIS, May 27: Top-seeded Pete Sampras powered into the fourth round of the French Open on Friday, but Mary Joe Fernandez, the women's runner-up last year, was upset by promising Romanian Irina Spirlea, reports AP.

The 20-year-old Spirlea, ranked 41st in the world, outran and outhit the 10th-seeded Fernandez in a one-sided 6-4, 6-1 victory.

"Once she got into the match, she got confident and started to play very well," said Fernandez, who had never seen Spirlea play before this week.



Croatian Goran Ivanisevic throws his racquet down in disgust after missing a point against American Brian Shelton during his match in the second round of the French Open on May 26. Ivanisevic won 1-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

15th-seeded Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic also was toppled, 7-6 (10-8), 7-6 (7-1) by Ines Gorrochategui of Argentina, leaving only eight of the 16 seeded women even before the tournament reached the halfway mark.

Sampras, in his best match of the tournament so far, overwhelmed Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands, 6-1, 6-4, 6-1 in just 99 minutes. Jim Courier, the men's runner-up last year and champion in 1991 and 1992, also advanced with a 6-3, 6-1, 6-1 drubbing of Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman.

"It was a strange match," Courier said. "He made quite a few unforced errors. Its hard to say how I'm hitting the ball."

Last year, in what she and her coach depicted as a breakthrough, Fernandez lost a three-set final to Steffi Graf after victories over Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Gabriela Sabatini. She rallied from a 1-6, 1-5 deficit in her quarterfinal against Sabatini, one of the great all-time Grand Slam comebacks.

But Fernandez said her preparation for the French Open were hampered by health problems and limited play on clay.

Spirlea had lost in the first round in her two previous Grand Slams, but showed promise at the Italian Open earlier this month by beating Sabatini en route to a semifinal loss to

Martina Navratilova. The Romanian's likely opponent in the fourth round is Graf, the No 1 seed and overwhelming favorite.

Spirlea refused to speculate on her chances. "That's too quickly," she said. "I just finished my match. I'll have time to think about it."

Graf faced Joannette Kurgor of South Africa in a third-round match later Friday.

On Thursday, the spotlight fell on two durable pros who rarely get much attention - Aaron Krickstein and Ronald Agenor. Agenor, at 29 the oldest man left in the field, outlasted 21-year-old David Prinosil in the longest match at the tournament since the tiebreaker was adopted in 1973.

It took five hours and 71 games - played over two days - but Agenor came out on top, 6-7 (4-7), 6-7 (2-7), 6-3, 6-4, 14-12 victory.

Krickstein, three years younger than Agenor but a tour member since 1983, has kept plugging away despite a daunting series of injuries over the years. His persistence was rewarded with a straight-set victory over No 2 seed Michael Stich.

"I never really thought about quitting as of yet," Krickstein said. "I feel like I could play another three, four years, if I want to and can hopefully improve still a little bit more."

Now ranked 33rd, the American said he wouldn't rule out a return to the top 10, but "it's getting tougher every year."

At 16, Krickstein became the youngest player ever to win a men's tour event at Tel Aviv in 1983. He won three more titles in 1984, but since then has been plagued by injuries and now has surgically implanted screws in both feet.

Agenor also has battled physical problems - elbow surgery in 1987 after an injury contributed to three straight first-round losses. But he said Thursday he was too fit to consider retirement.

"I'm in good shape," he said. "I could play another two or three years, easy."

The Haitian, ranked 31st, also had to play five sets in his first-round win over Lionel Barthez. He has another tough task in the third round Friday, facing defending champion and No 6 seed Sergi Bruguera.

Stich's ouster further weakened the bottom half of the men's draw, which already had lost No 3 seed Stefan Edberg.

Fifth-seeded Croatian Goran Ivanisevic is the top-ranked player remaining in that half of the field, followed by No 8 Michael Chang.

Crawley's ton goes in vain

LONDON, May 27: John Crawley hit a superb century in front of England captain Mike Atherton on Thursday as Lancashire took command against Somerset in an England county cricket championship match at Southampton, reports Reuter.

But his unbeaten 119 was probably too late to earn him a place in the first Test against New Zealand at Trent Bridge next week.

Atherton meets his co-selectors on Saturday but Crawley, the outstanding success of England's A winter tour of South Africa, looks out of the reckoning.

Lancashire coach David Lloyd said: "He has not played enough cricket because of the way the fixtures have fallen, but this was a superb innings."

Crawley steered Lancashire to a commanding 288 for four after sharing in a stand of 167 with Nick Speak.

Rain washed out five of the seven games due to start on Thursday.

Richardson's son hurt in road mishap

LEEDS, England, May 27: West Indies captain Richie Richardson returned to Antigua from England on Thursday to be with his seven-year-old son Ari, hurt in a road accident, reports Reuter.

The youngster was in intensive care in a St John's Hospital with serious head and neck injuries, Richardson told his Yorkshire County Club before dropping out of their match against New Zealand.

WC: A truly corporate season



WASHINGTON, May 27: With 750 million dollars in revenue guaranteed, sponsorship deals have met half of the 1994 World Cup budget of 1.5 billion dollars, reports AP.

"We have already met our objectives," World Cup spokesman John Griffin said less than a month before the start of the tournament.

He estimated the Cup, which starts on June 17 in nine cities across America, would realise a surplus of 25 million dollars.

To make the most of its sources of revenue, the organising committee instituted several levels of sponsorship.

Eleven multinational corporations paid between 10 and 20 million dollars to join the elite group of officials sponsors. FIFA, footballs governing body, will pocket all the revenues from this category.

Sponsors are counting on a cumulative audience of 32 billion for the 52 matches although their main target is the non-US market.

"Soccer is the universal language. If you set out to match a global brand with a global sport, there is no better choice," said spokesman for Gillette, which has the longest history of World Cup sponsorship among US companies.

Coca-Cola, a World Cup sponsor since 1978 is also focusing its Cup-related promotions on the non-American market.

Gary Hart, Coke's vice president in charge of international sports marketing, admitted they were not primarily attracted because the competition was taking place in the United States.

"We bought into it because it is such a magnificent global event," he said.

The credit card company Mastercard will spend about

75 million dollars on sponsorship and advertising during the Cup.

Both Mastercard and McDonald's will broadcast global television commercials - using the same ads on every continent.

General Motors plan to differentiate their advertising messages by match, using the advertising boards that surround the pitch.

During matches of interest in Europe and South East Asia, GM will advertise Opel. For games involving Latin American teams GM will plug Chevrolet.

Eight firms are "marketing partners", they paid seven million dollars, each for the right to use the World Cup logo. These companies are focusing mainly on the US market, but they also hope to raise their profiles overseas.

All revenues from this category go to World Cup USA.

The eight manufacturers of "official products" paid 2.5 million dollars apiece and they are targeting the 16 million registered soccer players in the United States and their families a market estimated to be between 40 and 50 million.

There are 15 equipment suppliers, who furnish the organising committee with one million dollars worth of goods and services in exchange for advertising space.

The regional partners, banks and companies that operate locally in the United States, paid 250,000 dollars each for advertising rights at the various sites.

Finally, 100 firm have bought the right to manufacture related products, such as T-shirts, key chains and video cassettes bearing the official logo. Sales of such items are expected to reach 400 million dollars.

Revenues from the last four categories will be shared equally by FIFA and World Cup USA.

The organising committee have also signed a 100 million-dollar contract with Plygram Records for three concerts that will be broadcast globally during the competition.

Outrageous!

CARDIFF, Wales, May 27: The family of a 67-year-old soccer fan killed when two others fired a rocket during a Wales-Romania World Cup game say they are outraged that they only got three year's jail, reports AP.

Welsh fan John Hill died of massive internal injuries when the distress rocket struck him on the chest at the end of the game.

Kerry Still, 35, and his brother, Andrew McAllister, 31, also Welsh supporters, began their sentences Friday after admitting manslaughter.

Hill's son, John, who cradled his dying father in his arms at the stadium, said after the case at Cardiff Crown Court he did not believe the sentence was tough enough.

The court heard that Still smuggled the rocket and a hand-held flare into the stadium. He handed the rocket to McAllister to fire immediately after the final whistle when Wales went out of the competition 2-1.

The brothers, of Wrexham, north Wales, said they thought the device was a flare which would just give off smoke.

Prosecutor Patrick Harrington said Still and McAllister committed "the ultimate act of (soccer) hooliganism", killing life-long Wales supporter who had been taken by his son to the game as a special treat.

Still and McAllister both had been drinking, he said, and behaved "like louts" before the fatal incident, shouting abuse and swearing at Romanian fans.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues. ACROSS: 1 "du Lieber", 4 Gridlock noise, 8 Pack down fellow, 12 Jack of "Barney Miller", 13 Wings, 14 "The Morning Watch" author, 15 Nostalgic, in a way, 17 Letterman's rival, 18 Wapiti, 19 Four-bagger, 21 Gable role, 24 Lo-o-o-o-ong time, 25 Indivisible, 26 Sammy Davis Jr.'s last film, 28 Different, 32 He lived alone for a while, 34 Snapshot, 36 Angered, 37 Big books, 39 Soda, 41 Central, 42 Heavy. DOWN: 1 Archie Bunker's borough, 46 Local fellow, 50 Scoundrel, 51 Bread spread, 52 Freshman's base, 56 Prevaricator, 57 Muskogean type, 58 Personal question, 59 Puts on, 60 Fuse, 61 Pronto, 1 Bat, Solution time: 23 mins.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-55.

CRYPTOQUIP
E S W P R Z W V J N A J U W
E R T N J P Q V R N V A W W T P
J U B J "B R S U W B Z" R P
B P T Q S
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EACH DAY, PET SHOP OWNER READS THE STEINBECK BOOK, "CANARY ROW."
Today's Cryptoquip clue: S equals R
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.

Windies won't do ICC any favour

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, May 27: West Indies will oppose retaining the experimental law limiting fast bowlers to one bounce and over at the next International Cricket Council meeting this year, reports Reuter. The law expires on September 30 after three years in operation.

Welcome to Capone's Chicago



CHICAGO, May 27: Blues, beaches and the ghost of gangster Al Capone await World Cup soccer fans arriving in America's windy city, reports Reuter.

Typically big, bold and brash, the third largest city in the country can cater for every taste - from breathtaking architecture and museums to dinner at a Capone theme restaurant.

Sicilian-born Capone is long dead, of course, as is the roaring twenties empire of illegal booze, prostitution and gambling over which he presided.

Security will be tight, particularly if president Bill Clinton turns up for the opening

match which with Chancellor Helmut Kohl - the German will be based here - but low-key on the streets.

For a city of 2.5 million, the downtown streets are relatively crime-free and - at World Cup time - they will be free of souvenir hawkers as well.

The city council has made certain of that by passing a regulation restricting Cup-Oriented souvenir sales largely to shops instead of street vendors.

David Coldren, who works in the office of Security programmes at Illinois University, said a bigger concern was the risk of fans straying into bad areas of the sprawling midwest metropolis.

Soldier Field, built in 1922 on the shores of Lake Michigan, the most interesting architecturally of the nine World Cup venues, is in a safe area a short cab ride from downtown hotels and has been completely renovated for the occasion.

June weather is usually mild but the Lake, bordered by beaches, parks and museums, offers a chance to cool off, even if the water feels like melted ice.

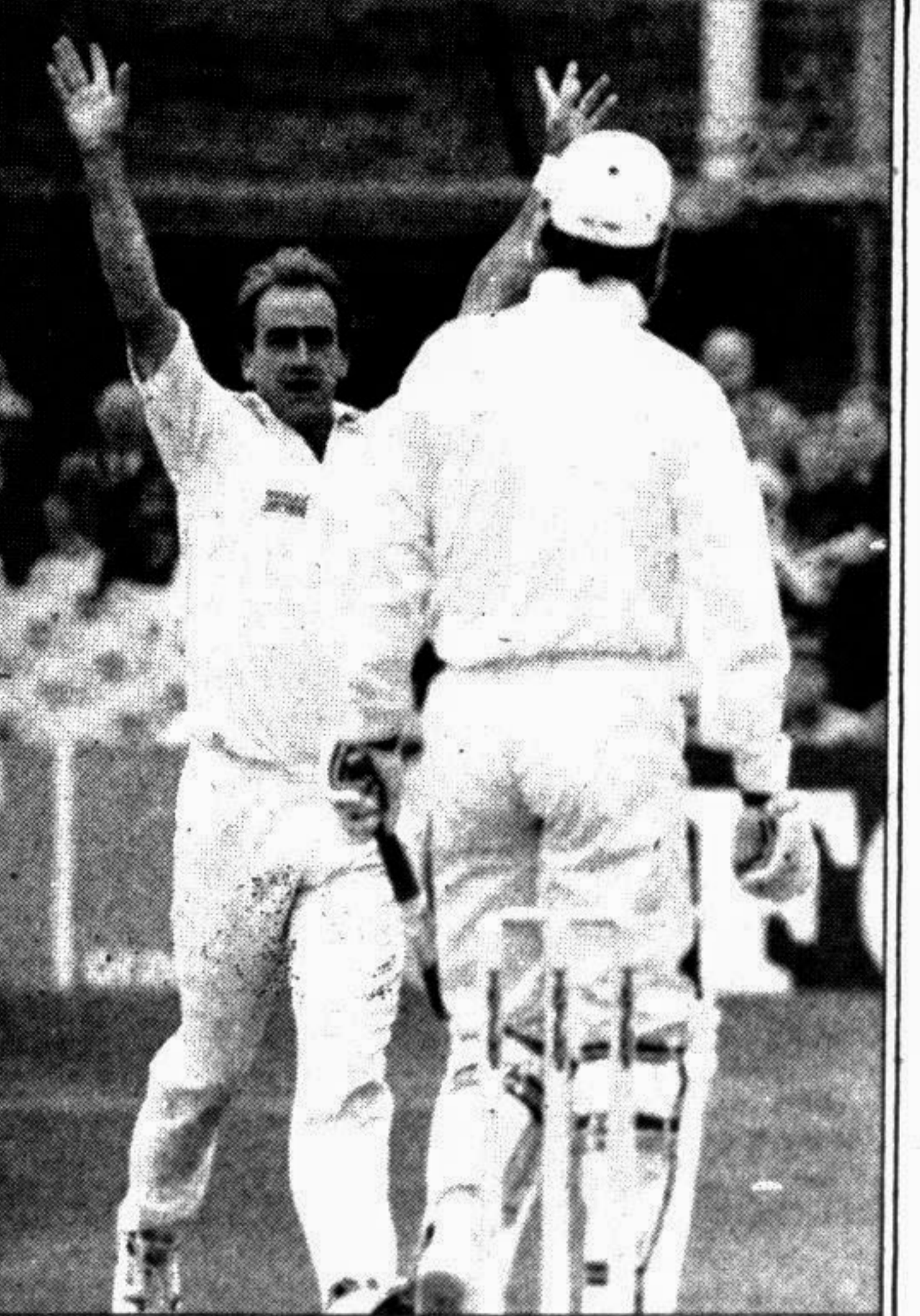
The winding Chicago River provides a backdrop view of the city and its trend-setting architecture from a variety of cruise ships, some with multilingual guides.

The heart of the city was burned down in 1871 and Chicago set about rebuilding on a huge scale. Architect Louis H. Sullivan summed it up when he said he felt a sense of big things to be done.

The city has a cheap rapid transit system and visitors arriving at O'Hare and midway airports can shoot downtown for 1.50 dollars on the elevated-subwaylines which also take fans to the Cubs and White Sox baseball parks.

A World Cup welcoming parade will take place on June 15 and a "free day" is planned for almost all museums and cultural institutions on June 19. There will be a boat parade and fireworks display over Lake Michigan on June 25.

Prohibition, like Al Capone, is history.



OPENING THE FLOODGATES: Peter Hartley of Yorkshire celebrates the dismissal of Kiwi opener Blair Pocock on the second of the three-day match between New Zealand and Yorkshire at Headingley on May 25. The county team inflicted a humiliating defeat on the touring New Zealanders. - AFP photo