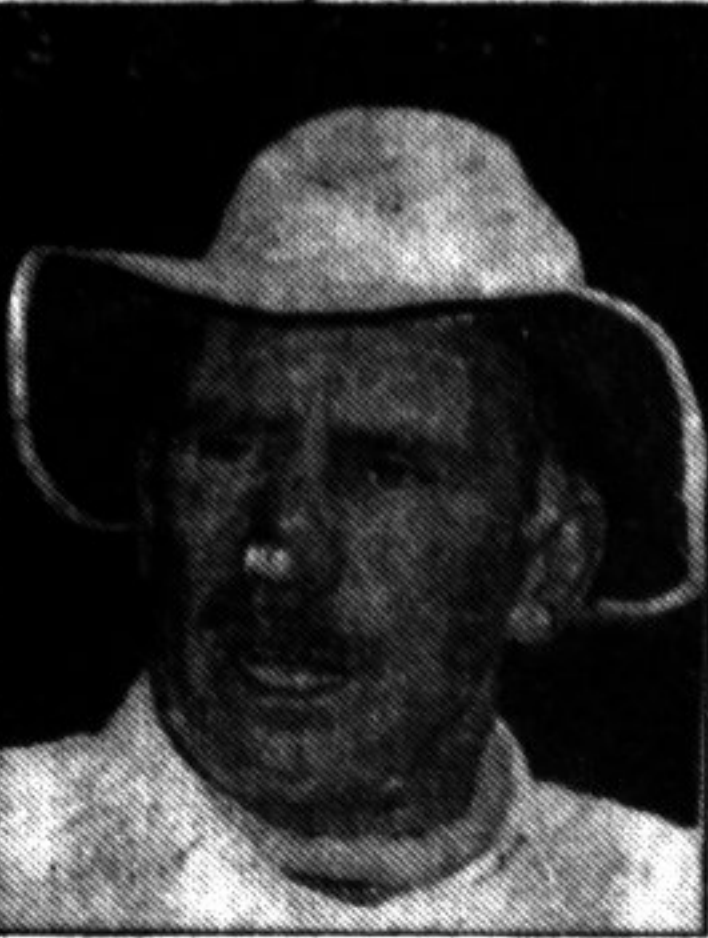


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Ian Chappel

(Former Australian Test batsman) The unpredictable nature of pitches, like the fallibility of umpires is a vital part of the glorious uncertainty of cricket.

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

That every new year begins with millions of resolutions; only thousands are followed for a few weeks and barely hundreds go on forever.

In the New Year a footballer should resolve to bring home the SAF gold, a cricketer should focus on the ICC trophy and the hockey player should go for a win against either of the regional giants.

In order to realise the difficult sporting resolutions, players must put in a lot of hard work, lead a disciplined life, not fall prey to petty politics and actually put the nation before all else.

It is true we have come a long way. Our shooters can smell international glory, our chess players have nothing to be ashamed of.

The race is on to bring Bangladesh international glory. Our footballers seem to be doing the yo-yo; up one feet, down three. The hockey players will have to wait for the artificial turf. Somehow, I have a feeling our cricketers are just nudging ahead of the others.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

(The rules are published every Saturday.)

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-20

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Jan 5, 1996)

- 1. Who was the captain of the Bangladesh hockey team in the 7th SAF Games?
2. How many teams are scheduled to participate in the soccer World Cup '98?
3. Penalty-corner is a term usually associated with?
4. Boca is?
5. The governing body for international athletics is called?

Name:
Class: Roll No:
School Address:
Phone: (if any)

Barry richer by \$ 1m

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Jan 1: Barry Lane of England beat two opponents — David Frost and his own reputation — for faltering under pressure — to win the 1 million dollars first prize Sunday in the Andersen Consulting World Championships of golf, reports AP.

No more than three holes separated the finalist during 36 holes of match play before Lane won 2-up. Lane, a five-time winner on the European PGA Tour who couldn't qualify for the European Ryder Cup team this year because he faded in the Scandinavian Masters and the Czech Open, saved his biggest shots for the last four holes.

He went 1-up with a 2-metre (6-foot) birdie putt on the 33rd hole. No 15 on the Talon course at the Grayhawk Golf Club, made par-saving putts to halve the next two holes, then hit an approach shot inside Frost's ball after Frost left himself a 1-2-metres (15-foot) putt for birdie on the final green.

Abahani beat Eskaton

ABAHANI: 284 for four in 50 overs (Liton 106, Durjoy 102, Habib 2/56)
ESKATON: 260 for six in 50 overs (Sayed Ali 72, Marwar 56, Parvez 46)

AGRANI BANK: 222 for eight in 50 overs (Azam 56, Ishtiaq 50, Nahid 30; Sahwar 3/53)
BROTHERS: 225 for seven in 49.3 overs (Rashed Hanif 49, Abeer Hanif 39, Iqbal 35 not out; Dipu Roy 3/30)

Harunur Rashid Liton and Naimur Durjoy cracked centuries enabling Abahani to record a 24-run victory over Eskaton Sabuj Sangha in the Premier league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

National all-rounder Durjoy (102) completed his ton off 75 balls, one of the fastest in the league, that included eight fours and four sixers while opener Liton's well-deserved 106 came from 141 balls with nine fours allowing Abahani to post an imposing total of 284 for four in 50 overs.

Both the out-of-form batsmen cashed in on poor fielding especially Durjoy who



DURJOY... 102



LITON... 106

survived on at least three occasions, and shared 166 runs from 23.5 overs. They joined after the departure of Anup Kumar (24) with Abahani on 107 for two.

couple. But a classical one-day burst from Sayeed Ali, the robust Pakistani middle order, along with wicket-keeper Jasim (13 off 17) and

SL name WC probables

COLOMBO, Jan 1: Controversial off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan has been included in Sri Lanka's preliminary squad for next month's World Cup cricket tournament, officials said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The squad, led by veteran Arjuna Ranatunga, features 15 of the 18 players currently touring Australia, including Muralitharan who was bowled seven times for throwing by umpire Darrell Hair on the opening day of the second Test in Melbourne last Tuesday.

Muralitharan has been urged by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to change his unorthodox action, which he said was the result of a natural condition that prevented him from straightening his arm.

Omitted from the squad announced on Monday are uncapped Manjula Munasinghe, batsman Sanjeeva Ranatunga and left-arm spinner Jayantha Silva.

They are replaced by all-rounder Upul Chandana and former Test players Marvan Atapattu and Ruwan Kalpage. Atapattu and Kalpage were dropped from the Australian

tour but have been recalled following impressive performances in domestic tournaments recently.



MURALITHARAN

The pair were also members of the Sri Lanka A team which toured Sharjah in mid-December for a one-day series. Kalpage captained the team.

"Sri Lanka are joint hosts with India and Pakistan for the World Cup, which runs from February 14 to March 17.

SQUAD

Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Aravinda de Silva, Roshan Mahanama Sanath Jayasuriya, Asanka Gurusinha, Hashan Till keratne, Romesh Kaluwithana, Kumar, Dhar-masena, Chaminda Vaas, Promodya Wickramasinghe, Muttiah Muralitharan, Eric Upashantha, Ruwan Kalpage, Chandrika Khathurasinghe, Chamara Dunsunghie, Upul Chandana, Ravindra Push-pakumara, Marvan Atapattu.

Jones gets selectors' nod

SYDNEY, Jan 1: Australia summoned veteran batsman Dean Jones from the international cricketing wilderness today by naming him in a preliminary 18-man squad for next month's World Cup, reports Reuter.

Jones, widely regarded in his prime as the world's best one-day batsman in the world, last played for Australia on the tour to South Africa in 1994.

Jones had a disappointing tour and announced his retirement from international cricket, a decision he later reversed. He has since been overlooked by selectors.

All-rounder Greg Blewett, who lost his place in both Australia's Test and limited overs side last month after a poor Test series against Pakistan, also earned a recall.

Veteran off-spinner Tim Ponting, Stuart Law, and Michael Bevan to fill the order after openers Taylor and Michael Slater.

The four players who miss out on final selection for the 14-man squad can be called up in the event of injury to another squad member before the start of the World Cup.

May, another former Test and limited overs international overlooked by Australia this season in both forms of cricket, was named as a second specialist spinner alongside leg-spinner Shane Warne.

But there was no place for Test number three David Boon, who was dropped for the opening round of matches in the current World Series tournament featuring hosts Australia, West Indies and Sri Lanka.

Boon is the only Test regular to be missing from the limited overs squad.

SQUAD

Mark Taylor (captain), Michael Slater, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Dean Jones, Michael Bevan, Stuart Law, Ricky Ponting, Shane Lee, Greg Blewett, Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Craig McDermott, Michael Kasprovic, Glenn McGrath, Damien Fleming, Shane Warne, Time May.



Dean of Faculty of Civil Engineering (BUET), Prof. Alamgir Mojibul Haque giving away prizes to the winners of the inter faculty volleyball competition at the BUET ground yesterday.

Both the out-of-form batsmen cashed in on poor fielding especially Durjoy who survived on at least three occasions, and shared 166 runs from 23.5 overs. They joined after the departure of Anup Kumar (24) with Abahani on 107 for two.

couple. But a classical one-day burst from Sayeed Ali, the robust Pakistani middle order, along with wicket-keeper Jasim (13 off 17) and



Windies' top scorer (93 not out) Carl Hooper (C) gets a helping hand from Australian all-rounder Shane Lee (R) while wicketkeeper Ian Healy looks on during yesterday's World Series Cup match at the Sydney Cricket Ground. — AFP/UNB photo

Rioch's plight with Platt

LONDON, Jan 1: David Platt's form has become a major concern for manager Bruce Rioch as Arsenal struggle to emerge from a run of six games with just one victory, reports AFP.

After losing their unbeaten home record in a 3-1 High-bury mauling by Wimbledon on Saturday, Rioch decided the time was right for a clear-the-air dressing-room lock-in which last the best part of 90 minutes.

Rioch is almost certain to persevere with Platt, who was comfortably outshone in midfield by Wimbledon hardman Vinnie Jones on Saturday, despite trying to set the example as captain in place of illness-victim Tony Adams.

But the ability to burst into the opposition box which made his reputation and score goals still lies dormant.

Rioch said: "There were many aspects we discussed after the match and I got good feedback from the players. It was very positive and there was no need for raised voices, but I felt the time was right to have this discussion."

"Too many of our players were not part of the game when we didn't have the ball and that was very disappointing. We were nailed on set-pieces for two of the goals and that hurt us, too."

Rioch rails at the mention of the word "stars" but admits: "We do look a bit thin when certain players are missing."

"For spells this season we've been without Ian Wright, Tony Adams, Steve Bould and David Platt and struggled to adjust."

"David scored twice in four games before he had to have a knee operation which took nine weeks out of his season, and he has had to recover from that."

"We bought him as a mid-field player who could make runs into the box on the end of quality crosses and passes and it is fair to say we have not been doing that too well."

"But don't ask me if I would drop star players. It is a silly question. What defines a star player at a club like Arsenal?"

Rangers' goal glut

GLASGOW, Jan 1: Gordon Durie scored four goals and led Rangers on a 7-0 spree against Hibernian which stretched their lead at the top of the Scottish Premier division to eight points on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Bevan bedevils Windies

SYDNEY, Jan 1: Australia's middle-order batsman Michael Bevan hammered a boundary off the last delivery of the match to send West Indies tumbling to their fourth consecutive defeat in the World Series cup on Monday, reports Reuter.

Bevan smashed the ball straight back over off-spinner Roger Harper's head to give Australia a thrilling one-wicket victory at the Sydney Cricket Ground in a day-night match reduced by rain from 50 to 43 overs.

Batting at number six, Bevan was unbeaten on 78, his highest score in a limited-overs international, as Australia made 173 for nine in reply to West Indies 172 for nine.

Australia, who lead the triangular tournament with a maximum eight points from four games, appeared destined for a heavy defeat after crashing to 38 for six in the 16th over.

Bevan, who has yet to be dismissed in four World Series innings, struck six boundaries as he made his runs off 89 balls to eclipse his previous highest score of 53 not out against Pakistan in Lahore in 1994.

After hitting the winning runs, the New South Wales player raised his bat in triumph to the cheering, near-capacity 37,000 crowd at his home ground.

Bevan shared a vital eighth-wicket partnership of 83 with pace bowler Paul Reiffel to lead Australia out of trouble and within sight of victory.

Reiffel, who also captured four for 29, contributed 34 before falling in the penultimate over.

West Indies were earlier rescued from 54 for five by a brilliant, unbeaten 93 in 99 balls from Carl Hooper.

"It was a bit nerve-wracking at the end," Bevan told reporters. "We had needed a boundary for a while but the opportunity did not present itself until the last ball."

With his score 14, Bevan was involved in a controversial incident when he refused to walk after Harper appealed for a return catch.

"It occurred to me straight away that it was not out, so I was not going to walk," said Bevan.

The crowd jeered loudly when a television replay on the SCG's large screen seemed to show the ball touched the ground before Harper grasped it at the second attempt.

Bevan bedevils Windies

to win because we were dead and buried at 38 for six but thanks to Michael, we got home," said Australia captain Mark Taylor.

In the pulsating climax, fast bowler Glenn McGrath scampered a quick single to give Bevan the strike for the final two deliveries.

Bevan failed to score off the first of these balls before charging down the pitch to smash the last delivery to the boundary.

The match was reduced to 43 overs a side after 104 minutes were lost because of rain during West Indies innings.

West Indies, who have now won only one of their 10 tour matches since arriving in Australia early last month, were fined 10 per cent of their match fee for a slow over rate.

Sri Lanka, the third team in the competition, are in second place in the standings with two points from two games.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecard of the World Series Cup one-day international between Australia and West Indies here Monday. (Rain reduced match to 43-overs a side):

WEST INDIES
Williams c Healy b Reiffel 5
Campbell lbw b Reiffel 15
Simmons c Warne b Reiffel 2
Chanderpaul c Taylor b Reiffel 3
Hooper not out 93
Adams c M Waugh b Warne 0
Harper run out 28
Gibson b McGrath 4
Brown c Warne b Reiffel 2
Ambrose b Warne 0
Walsh not out 3
Extras: (lb-6, w-7, nb-2) 15
Total: (for 9 wickets, 43 overs) 172
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-21, 3-28, 4-54; 5-54, 6-135, 7-150, 8-164, 9-168

Bowling:
McGrath 9 2 22 1
Reiffel 9 2 23 4
Law 6 0 34 0
Lee 6 0 20 0
Warne 9 2 30 3
Extras: (lb-6, w-7, nb-2) 15
Total: (for 9 wickets, 43 overs) 172
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-21, 3-28, 4-54; 5-54, 6-135, 7-150, 8-164, 9-168

Australia won by one wicket.

Man-of-the-match: Michael Bevan.

STANDINGS

Standings in the World Series one-day cricket series after Monday's match (tabulate under games played, won, lost, no result and points):
Australia 4 0 0 8
Sri Lanka 2 1 0 2
West Indies 4 0 4 0

A chilly New Year's Day

LONDON, Jan 1: Freezing weather, which decimated the English and Scottish soccer programmes on Saturday, has forced a number of postponements of today's games, reports Reuter.

Ten English First Division games on the New Year's Day programme were called off on Sunday and only three matches in Scotland have a chance of going ahead.

Frozen pitches claimed most of the casualties but burst pipes forced postponement of Partick Thistle's Scottish Premier Division game against Falkirk.

The pitch was playable but other areas of the ground were flooded as pipes burst as a result of a thaw in the weather.

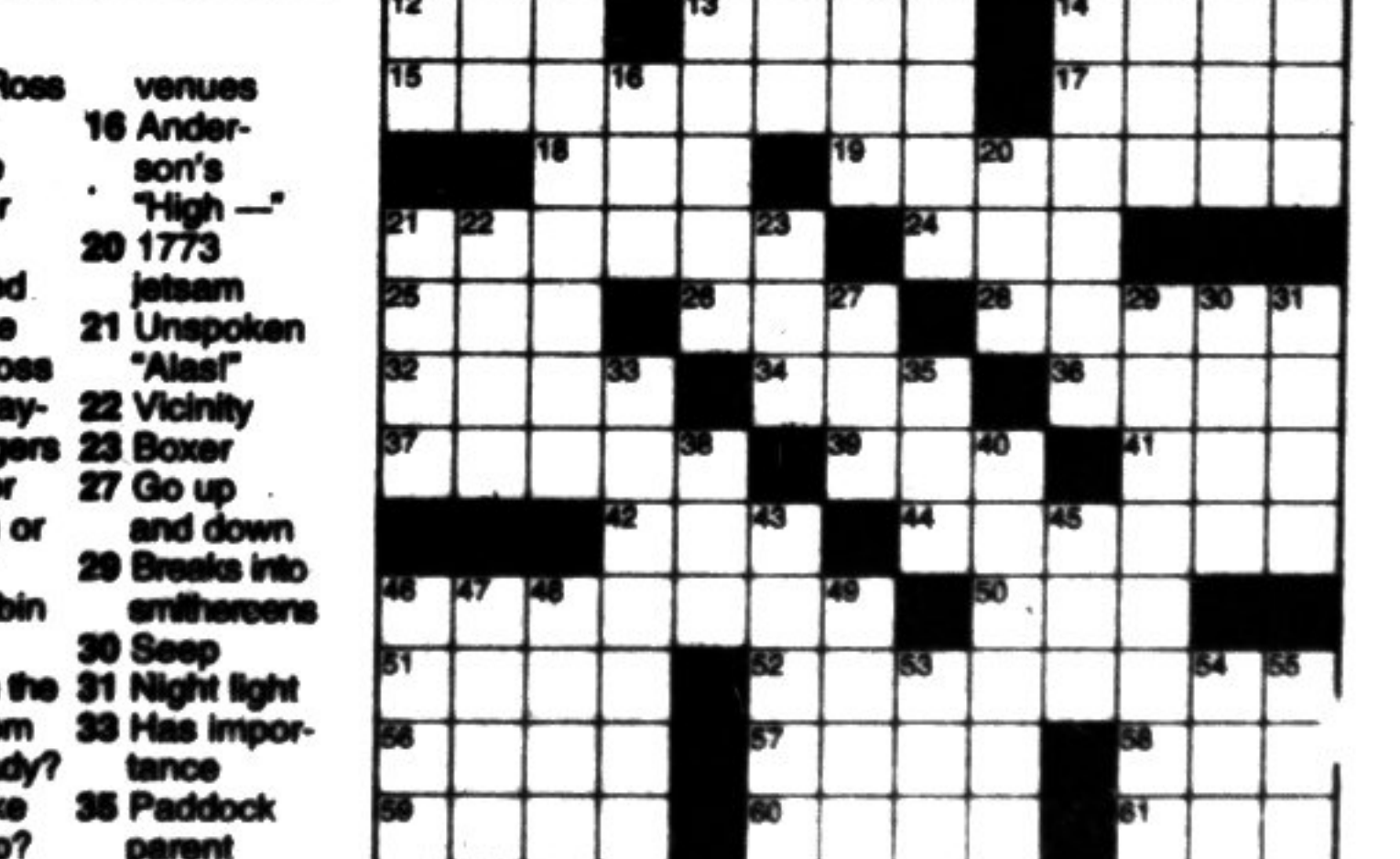
"The pitch is fine but the rest of the ground is totally flooded," a Partick Thistle spokesman said. "We've contacted the Scottish league secretary Peter Donald and he has given us permission to put the game off."

The only Scottish Premier Division game due to go ahead is the Edinburgh derby between Hibernian and Hearts, thanks to the under-sold heating at Easter Road. All First Division games are off.

In the Second Division there will be an inspection at 1100 today to decide if the match between Ayr and Stranraer can be played but the three other scheduled games have been called off.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Evadrop-ping device, 4 Low, 8 Slam, 12 Immigrant's study (abbr.), 13 Ben Adhem's list, 14 Deputy precursor, 15 Talks and... 17 Streetcar, 18 Rose-anna's ex, 19 Rage, 21 Subordi-nate's despot, 24 Barn, 25 Wash, 26 Gist, 28 Burning desire?, 32 Micro-scope view, 34 Tree maker, 36 Jeff MacNeely comic strip, 37 Attacks, 38 Diamond club, 41 Nitrogen-ous, 42 Padre's brother, 44 Michigan silhouette comparison, 46 Their wares are the height of fashion (abbr.), 50 Deposit, 51 "I cannot tell...". 52 Splashes, as bacon grease, 56 Man of the Hour, 57 Roughly, 58 Kangaroo's id, 59 Chop sticks?, 60 AMEX counterpart, 61 Emulate, 62 Micro-scope view, 63 Tree maker, 64 Jeff MacNeely comic strip, 65 Attacks, 66 Diamond club, 67 Nitrogen-ous, 68 Padre's brother, Baby Ross, 16 Anderson's "High...", 20 1773, 21 Unspoken "Aha!", 22 Vicinity, 23 Boser, 27 Go up, 28 Breaks into smithereens, 30 Sheep, 31 Night light, 32 Has importance, 33 Paddock parent, 34 Divide the honors, 40 Traded, 43 Mr. Wolcott, 45 Legendary boy king of laughter, 47 Author, 48 Fatigue, 49 Aggie, 53 Foolish fellow, 54 Cavalier, 55 Piglet's mom, DOWN: 1 Private eye, for short, 2 It's used to make, 3 My Pray-er, 4 Role for Keaton or Klinger, 5 Log cabin boy, 6 Work in the mailroom, 7 Lazy lady?, 8 Pancake, 9 Land unit, 10 Approach, 11 Without, Solution time: 23 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP
CR NFO OYNIWYUZF RS
WUZ WRPA CIEE
"FN IYJEI O PRPO IS
REF AIW"
Yesterday's Cryptogram: I SUGGEST THAT MINING GOLD AND PLATINUM IS AN EITHER/ORE PROPOSITION.
Today's Cryptogram clue: P equals M
The Cryptogram 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.