Sushmita's plea

to Sachin

India proud, Sachin' is the

message of former Miss Uni-

verse, Miss Sushmita Sen for

the Indian vice-captain

Sachin Tendulkar just a few

days before the opening cer-

emony of the Wills World

flew in here last night for re-

hearsals for the opening cer-

emony, felt that it was a great

honour to take part in such

garding her role in the open-

ing ceremony, she clarified

that she would not do any-

thing silly to belittle India's

opening ceremony.

name and honour at Sunday's

Press reports about

Sushmita Sen's "controversial

appearance" in the opening

ceremony had led to an

uproar among women organi-

sations and a flood of calls to

PILCOM headquarters here.

The state government also

seemed concerned at the

media coverage in this re-

The former Miss Universe

Asked whether she knew

On the blast in Sri Lanka

which has threatened World

Cup matches in that country.

she said. The matter should be sorted out in the true

Div II soccer

Lalbagh

relegated

Sports Reporter

almost confirmed their rele-

gation from the Sonali Bank

Second Division football

league when Bashaboo Tarun

Sangha inflicted the old-town

outfit-their tenth defeat at

the Mirpur Stadium yester-

win a match, hardly inspired

by an early lead from Mtraz as

Bashaboo came from behind

of the day, BG Press S & RC

In the other two matches

a convincing 2-0 win over

to pull off a 2-1 victory.

recorded

Lalbagh, who are yet to

Lalbagh Krira Chakra have

would hand over the national

flags to the respective cap-

tains of participating teams

cricket. Sushmita said "ves"

and went to add that she is a

"great friend of Brian Lara".

during the ceremony.

spirit of the game."

On the controversy re-

The beauty queen, who

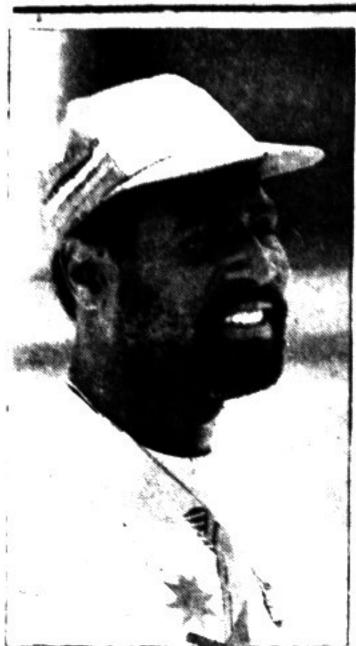
Cup. reports PTI.

an event.

gard.

CALCUTTA, Feb 8: 'Make

SPORTS TALK



Vivian Richards

(West Indian batting legend) "If I had to ask someone to play an innings for my life, it would be Javed Miandad. (On Javed Miandad)

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

T HAT cricket scribes as a tribe are a hard-headed lot. From their privileged seats in the press-box. they dissect the happenings in the middle, magnify human failings, stress on errors of strategy, compare the present with the past and trade statements that are invariably cautions and qualified. Praise. when it comes, is miserly and measured. A mere report or review is

raised to the level of litera-

For instance, a London newspaper in 1888 portrayed Dr William Gilbert Grace

"Bright phoebus Apollo (occasionally as the sun) swing high in the bending gloom, imparting a full flood of mellow, warmth and shedding a stream of golden glory over the level green as W. G. Grace, swing out of the tent. with his bat under his arm. resembling nothing so much as an Assyrian monarch on the frieze of an ancient entablature."



Sports WHiZZ KID competition-25

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m.

	Feb 9, 1996)				
1.	Chinaman is a term associated with				
	Cricket	Squash	Table Tenn		

The MCC cricket team_currently touring Bangladesh is from England | Australia | New Zealand The SAF Games hockey champions are Pakistan India Sn Lanka

4. The Australian Open tehnis women's competition was won by Seles

Ziauddin Shovon is the captain of Mohamedans Brothers Name :.............

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

Yamaha Div 1 cricket

Sports Reporter Bangladesh Boys Club pos-

ted a win in the ongoing Yamaha First Division cricket league with a two-wicket victory over Gopibagh Friends Association at the City Club ground yesterday.

BRIEF SCORES *

GOPIBAGH FA: 138 in 42.1 overs (Azim 45, Saad 18, Sumit 5/28) BANGLADESH BOYS: 139

for eight in 44.4 overs (Nasim 35, Sumit 26).

Acme Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Azad Sporing Club and Kathalbagan Green Cricket Club won their respective Acme Second Division cricket super league matches on Thursday.

Azad defeated Nawabgani Evergreen by eight runs at the Mirpur Outer Stadium while Kathalbagan beat Nirman Eleven by five wickets at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

BRIEF SCORES AZAD SC: 208 for five in 40 overs (Adil 66, Jashim 35,

n.o., Rabi 28) NAWABGANJ EVER-GREEN: 200 in 40 overs (Ashiq 68, Nirmal 34) **NIRMAN XI:** 138 in 31.1

Mithu 3/27) KATHALBAGAN GCC: 143 for five in 29 overs (Riad 46, Taj 23, Sajal 2/7).

overs (Sumon 47, Riad 4/16,

Column One Luck smiles on E Bengal

Both the teams were re-8: Defending duced to ten players as early as the seventh minute of the champions East Bengal kept contest when East Bengal's their cool in the star striker Baichung Bhutia and Mohammedan Sporting's crucial stages to retain the IFA Shield with a Arman were given marching thrilling 4-2 victory via tieorders by referee Sagar Sen

> for rough play. The early exit of Bhutia triggered off violent scenes on the galleries as ardent East Bengal supporters hurled brickbats and other missiles onto the ground, forcing the players and officials to scurry for cover.

Play was held up for nearly 25 minutes as the crowd violence continued despite fervent appeals by the officials on the public address system. The State Sports Minister, Subhas Chakraborty was also seen trying to pacify the enraged East Bengal supporters who wanted Baichung's re-

The Dhaka outfit dominated the proceedings after play resumed with a flurry of raids from both the flanks and shot into the lead 15 minutes before the interval with the hard-working Masud Rana producing the gem of a

The goal was the result of a fast counter-attack as Masud, fed by a gentle forward pass by Mamun, controlled the ball splendidly and slammed in from inside the box with none of the defenders in position.

Leading by a solitary goal at the interval, the Dhaka outfit kept up the tempo in the second half as Rana kept tormenting the rival defenders with his searing runs down the flanks.

East Bengal, however, restored parity just two minutes before the long whistle as stopper back Ranjan Dey climaxed a combined move with a gentle placement inside the box, sending the East Bengal supporters into the frenzy

A fresh bout of crowd violence held up play again for about 20 minutes in the second half. Brickbats and other missiles were again hurled into the ground when referee Sen did not give a penalty after Gautam Ghosh was brought down.

Mohammedan Sporting could have, however, settled the issue in the regulation time itself had their forwards not missed a couple of easy scoring opportunities. Amin Rana being the offender on two occasions.

East Bengal accelerated the pace of the game in the extra-time in a bid to fetch the golden goal, but were distinctly unlucky as many of their attempts missed the mark by a whisker.

target Eskaton falter again

ESKATON 88: 226 for nine in 50 overs (Pappu 64. Liton 44, Sanwar 40, Babu 4/31, Talha 3/32. **GULSHAN YOUTH: 227**

for four in 38.2 overs

(Ripon 66, Arun Lal 49

n.o. Malhotra 27 n.o)

breaker over Dhaka Moha-

mmedan Sporting at the Salt

lake stadium here today.

locked 1-1 at the end of the

regulation and extra-time.

East Bengal custodian He-

manta Dora pulled off three

brilliant saves in the exciting

tie-breaker to seal the fate of

the Bangladeshi outfit in a

match marred by crowd vio-

the first shot, managed to

find the target for Dhaka Mo-

hammedan Sporting in the

tie-breaker while Nakib, Ma-

sud Rana and Amin Rana let

their team down by hitting

their shots straight to the ri-

men Tausif Jamal, Gautam

Ghosh and Hemanta Dora

made no mistake with their

spotkicks to guide their team

to victory much to the de-

light of the home crowd who

vociferously cheered the

players in the dying stages of

the contest. Ran Jan Dey and

Rakib Hossain missed the

The East Bengal marks-

Only Jewel Rana, who took

lence and frayed tempers.

After both the teams were

reports PTI.

val custodian



Gulshan Youth Club reco-rded their fourth win in the Premier Division cricket league when thev handed Eskaton Sabuj Sangha a six-wicket defeat at the Dhanmondi cricket

stadium vesterdav. Chasing 226 to win in 50 overs, the Gulshan outfit took only 38.2 overs to reach the pinnacle losing only four

wickets. Put into bat, Eskaton collected 226 for nine in their stipulated 50 overs with middle-order bat Sohel Hossain Pappu scoring highest 64 runs.

In his 94-ball inning. Pappu hit five boundaries. Besides, opener Firoze Rahman Liton scored 44 off Eskaton account.

Gulshan's new bowler Saifuddin Ahmed Babu grabbed four wickets conceding 31 runs in eight overs while right-arm pacer Mohammad Talha took three wickets giving away 32 runs in ten overs.

In reply, Gulshan made a fair start with 32 runs coming from their opening pair in only 5.4 overs. But after non-striking opener Ziaul Haque (6) returned being caught behind off Sayeed Ali, Gulshan suddenly lost the momentum. As a result, the other opener Shafayet Omar Rabbu (26) came back to the pavilion in the tenth over with the score board on 50. One-down Rafiqul Hasan

Ripon and Rubayet Jamil added 49 runs in the third wicket stand before the latter was run-out in the 18th over. Ripon then added another

72 runs with Arun Lal before he was out on 66 leaving Gulshan on 171 in 29.1 overs. Skipper Ashoke Malhotra and Arun Lal, the two former Indian Test cricketers, took

another nine overs to prevail

Arun Lal was not out on 49

without any further mishap.

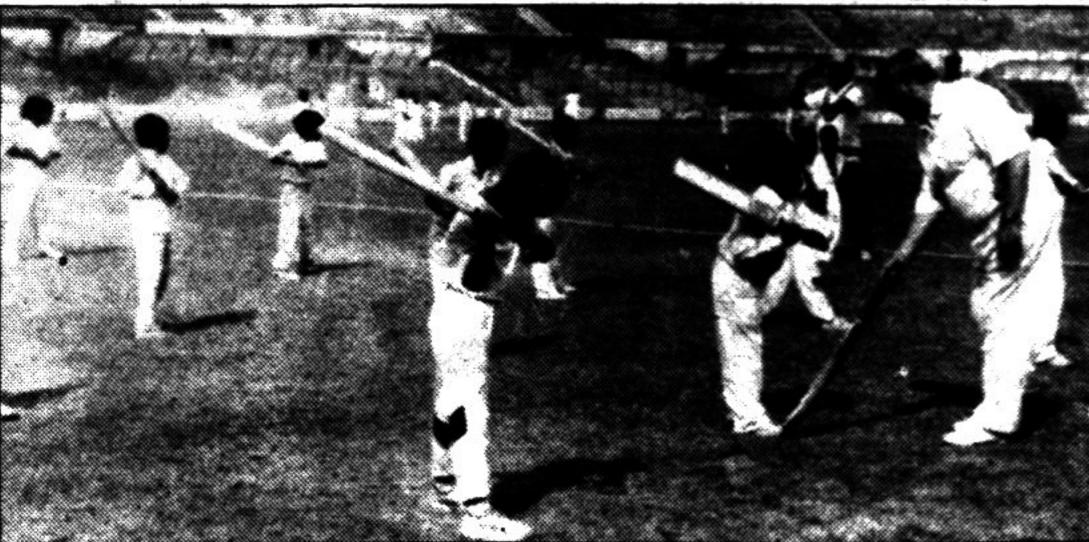
off 63 balls while Malhotra

With yesterday's match. eleven matches.

cricket league points table on completion of the first phase

of the league:			P		
Team	PM	win	loss	pto	
Mohammedans SC	• 11	10	1	20	
Abahani KC *	11	8	3	16	
Bangladesh Biman	• 11	8	3	16	
Brothers Union *	11	8	3	16	
Kalabagan KC *	11	6	5	12	
Wari Club *	11	6	5	12	
GMCC	11	5	6	10	
Victoria	11	4	7	8	
Agrant Bank	-11	4	7	8	
Gulshan Youth	11	3	8	6	
Dhaka Wanderers	11	3	8	6	
Eskaton SS	11	0	11	0	
(Teams ma	rke	d wi	th .	an	

asterisk (*) will play in the Super league)



John Jameson (extreme right) manager of the visiting MCC team gives some tips to the tiny-tots gathered for the under-12 cricket coaching camp at the Dhaka stadium yester-— Star photo

Craving against all odds

time is not overly important.

fact that we have an excellent

build-up to this major tour-

for a better-build up than the

one we have had playing and

beating India, Pakistan and

Zimbabwe," he said. "How far

we have gone, time alone will

most outstanding batsmen of

the last few years, like Martin

Crowe and Mark Greatbatch.

is a big blow no doubt, but

ours is a young side that can

make up for the absence of

the two stalwarts." Turner

bowlers Chris Harris and

Deepak Patel back in the

ment on the controversy over

Sri Lanka as a venue for

World Cup matches following

a bomb blast last week in the

island capital Colombo that

so we are not concerned," he

killed more than 80 people.

team," he said.

"It is good to see the two

Turner refused to com-

"To be without two of our

"We could not have hoped

nament," Turner said.



BOMBAY, Feb 8: New Zealand, who play England in the opening World Cup game next week, are confident of making the quarterfinals despite the absence of two stalwarts, team manager and coach Glen Turner said on Thursday. "But the real battle begins

thereafter." Turner told Reuters a day after the team's arrival in Bombay for the 12nation tournament hosted jointly by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"It looks like we hardly left this place," he said referring to New Zealand's latest and second visit to India in less than two months.

New Zealand reached the semifinals in the last tourna-. ment held jointly in Australia

and New Zealand in 1992. That was four years ago. A lot has happened since. That we were semifinalists last

But what really matters is the

Australia and West Indies have refused to participate in the matches to be held in Sri Lanka on safety grounds. Lee Germon, the New

Zealand captain, said the last couple of months had set up quite a few things for New Zealand cricket.

"The hard tour of India, during which we lost the one-day series narrowly at 2-3. and recent games against Pakistan and Zimbabwe, whom we beat, has helped our young team to get into a proper groove for the World Cup," Germon said.

Our strength is flexibility in batting and bowling. We have six specialist batsmen who can bat at any position and three medium-pacers and a couple of good spinners," said Germon, the wicketkeeper-batsman who is leading his country only for the second time abroad.

"In today's cricket, the top eight teams are capable of defeating any one. We are amongst the top eight," he said.

the cartoonist Sporting Sam Tribute to Reg Woollon,

"We are not playing there







With special thanks to the SUNDAY EXPRESS

remained unbeaten on 27 off 26 balls.

the first phase of the 12team elite league was completed with Mohammedan Sporting Club leading the table having 20 points from

Gulshan earned eight points while Eskaton, who suffered their eleventh successive defeat yesterday, are yet to see any points so far.

POINTS TABLE The Premier Division

of the league:				
Team	PM	win	loss	pto
Mohammedans SC 1	11	10	1	20
Abahani KC *	11	8	3	16
Bangladesh Biman *	11	8	3	16
Brothers Union *	11	8	3	16
Kalabagan KC *	11	6	5	12
Wari Club *	11	6	5	12
GMCC	11	5	6	10
Victoria	11	4	7	8
Agrant Bank	11	4	7	8
Gulshan Youth	11	. 3	8	6
Dhaka Wanderers	11	3	8	6
Eskaton SS	11	0	11	0
(Teams ma	rked	t wi	th	an

Avijatrik Malibagh which City Club prevailed over Muslim Institute by a solitary goal. Progoti soccer Prantik's maiden defeat Sports Reporter

Prantik Krira Chakra collapsed to their first defeat in the Progoti Insurance Third Division football league when Moghbazaar Kishalava Sangha handed them a more goal defeat at the Rajuk ground adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium vesterday. In a see-saw encounter,

the three match of the day, Noor Hossain struck the allimportant goal for Moghbazaar in the 68th minute. With this upset Prantik remained stuck to their pre-

vious collection of 13 points from six outings while Moghbazaar raised their tally to eight on completion of their six matches. In the other matches of

the day. Motijheel T & T blanked Amin Bazaar 2-0. Sunrise SC defeated East End Boys 1-0 while Kadamtola Sangsad and Mirpur XI shared honours in a one-all draw.

Incontrad v'ball semis today

Semifinal matches of Incontrad Inter-District Men and Women's volleyball championship will be held at the Dhaka volleyball stadium today, reports UNB. Holders and Group A

champions Khulna will take on Tangail, while Group B champions Rangpur will encounter Kushtia in the men's semis, both in the afternoon. In the women's semis, defending champions Khulna will face Rangpur and Rajbari

the afternoon. In the day's match, Kushtia finished Group A runnersup to reach the men's semis eliminating Dhaka by 3-1 sets while Comilla beat Patuakhali by 3-0 sets at the volleyball

will play against Dinajpur in

stadium. In the women's matches, Khulna beat Tangail, Rajbari defeated Narayanganj and Dinajpur eliminated Dhaka by 3-0 equal sets at the same

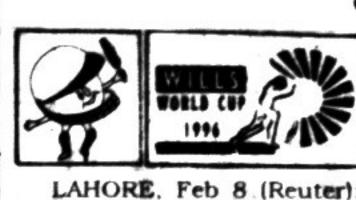
Nat'l Jr snooker.

Nawced Al-Haq, a 12-year promising snooker player of Gulshan Club beat his clubmate Rahat Kamal 3-2 in the Ashok Leyland National Junior (U-21) snooker championship held at Gulshan Club billiards room Wednesday. says a press release. Tasir Farooque of Dhaka

Club and Amin Chowdhury of Gulshan Club had an easy 3-0 win against Saddam Haq and Bazeeb both from Gulshan Club in onesided matches. Syed M Sajjad of Dhaka

Club displayed some brilliant game to beat Newton D'Silva of Catholic Club, Chittagong 3-1 after losing the first frame.

Miandad gunning for the goodbye gift

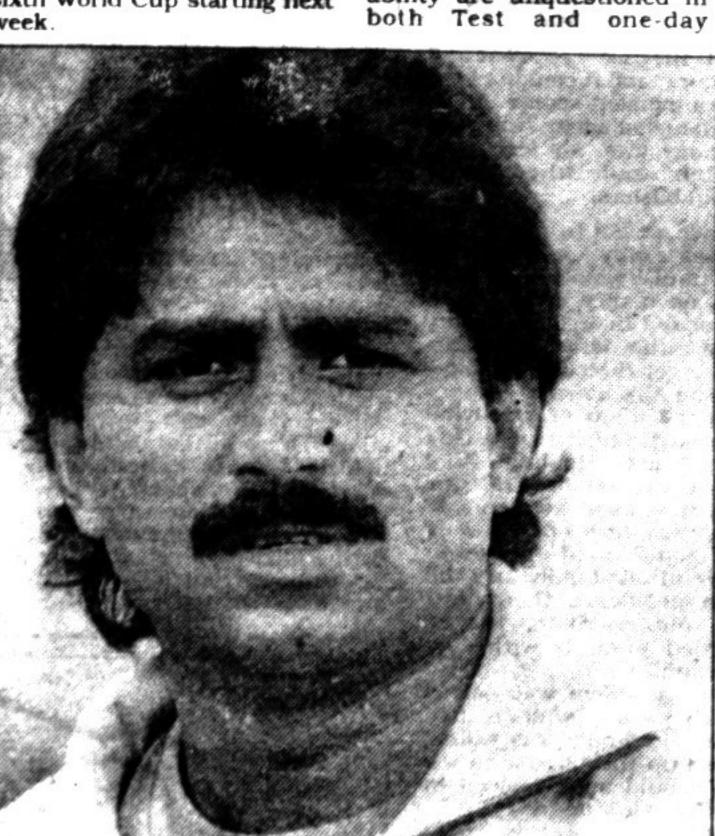


Javed Miandad, one of the toughest competitors to step on to a cricket ground, pursues a final ambition in the sixth World Cup starting next

"I have conditioned myself mentally to put sup with strains of top-class competi-

tion. "I know it is going to be very difficult to make a successful comeback because there is a lot of pressure on me but I have always cherished challenges.

Miandad's record and ability are unquestioned in



JAVED MIANDAD cricket

Miandad, 39, is the only survivor from the inaugural tournament in 1975 and with characteristic determination and ambition he has forced his way back into the Pakistan squad after a knee injury and recent indifferent

"I have planned to say goodbye to international cricket after the World Cup. But I think the best goodbye party I can have will be when Pakistan retain the World Cup," Miandad said.

He is Pakistan's highest Test run scorer and has

played 228 one-day matches, scoring 7,327 runs with eight centuries and 50 halfcenturies. But figures do not reveal his value to Pakistan. summed up by former West

nings for my life, it would be Javed Miandad." Born in June 1957 in

Indies captain Viv Richards

who once remarked. "if I had

to ask someone to play an in-

Karachi. Miandad began his Test career against New Zealand in the season following the 1975 World Cup with a classic 163 and in the final Test in Karachi scored a magnificent 206 to become. at 19 years for months, the youngest player to score a Test double century.

Miandad also captained his country in 34 Tests spread over 11 series, winning 14 matches, losing six

and drawing 14. But, under him, there was often a marked lack of harmony within the team, culminating in a 1982 revolt against him by senior players.

When Imran Khan retired after leading Pakistan to victory in the 1992 World Cup final at Melbourne, Miandad again took over the captaincy

But after winning Test series in England and in New Zealand, he was dumped again as a captain in favour of Wasim Akram.

A new twist to his career came when he was ignored for the AustralAsia Cup in Sharjah in 1994 after earlier being dropped from the tour to New Zealand.

Saddened the deeply hurt over this humiliation, Miandad announced his retirement from international cricket but rescinded his decision when Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto personally persuaded him to change his mind.

Miandad says Pakistan have every chance of retaining the Cup.

"There will no doubt be enormous pressure on our team because we are the defending champions and are playing in front of own crowd. We have to sustain the pressure if we are to retain the title," he said.

He retains his enthusiasm for one-day cricket, saying, "There is no room for recovery and you have to keep thinking and work hard all day because one mistake can turn the entire fortune of the match."

enue won't be switched But Zimbabwe, who play in compensation from the de-Colombo on February 21, and



NEW DELHI, Feb 8: World Cup cricket organisers on Thursday rejected lastminute attempts to shift matches out of Sri Lanka, insisting Australia and West Indies must play there or forfeit the games, reports AFP.

Inderjit Singh Bindra, India's cricket board chief and a member of the tournament's Pak-Indo-Lanka organising committee (PILCOM), said Australia and West Indies had "insulted" the host nations. "There is no question of changing venues." he added.

Bindra said it was unlikely a compromise would be worked out at a meeting of cricket administrators in Calcutta on Saturday, a day before the opening of the competition.

I am not aware of any compromise formula, it's too late for that. We will not shift matches out of Sri Lanka," he said. "The only choice before Australia or the West Indies

is to fulfill their commit-

ments about playing in

Colombo. If they don't, they will be considered to have forfeited those matches." The International Cricket Council (ICC), the game's governing body, have called together officials from the three host nations and Australia, West Indies, Zimbabwe and Kenya for the meeting in

Calcutta. Australia and West Indies have asked for their matches against Sri Lanka, on February 17 and 25 respectively, to be moved because of last week's suicide bombing in Colombo which killed people.

post

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

1 The world 39 Ph.D., e.g. 57 Showdown sitcom

Sprat's diet DOWN

down your 2 Rose's

Kenya, who play in Kandy on March 6, say they will go ahead as planned. · Australia and the West Indies rejected offers by the

Sri Lankan government and

PILCOM to fly the teams from

neighbouring India on the morning of the match by special flights. Bindra sald he was "terribly upset" by the attitude of the two teams, saying they had "insulted the hosts and hurt their national pres-

"We believe the matter of security should rest with the hosts and not the guests. Australia and the West Indies should know how the guests are treated in the sub-continent by their previous experience.

"For the people in the subcontinent, any guest was like a demi-god and they got of their way to make them comfortable." Bindra said. He added that PILCOM

will hold a separate meeting in Calcutta on Saturday to consider penalties that may be imposed on Australia and West Indies for boycotting a match, unprecedented in World Cup history.

Another PILCOM official said this week that seeking

Hollanders stumble

BOMBAY, Feb 8: Holland, preparing for their first World Cup, were whipped by 118 runs in a warm-up match against the Cricket Club of India (CCI) at the Brabourne Stadium here today, reports

Chasing CCI's 224 for five from 40 overs, the Dutch were bundled out for 106 in just 25.2 overs.

Dutton

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1 The Lady 22 Re the

5 Enigmatic 29 Jack of

boy or girl 38 Away from

or the

Tiger?"

choice

3 Pickling

4 Hockey

7 Persian

8 Flowering

9 Unrivaled

17 Charles

Teaspoon- 10 Lead-in to

6 Exploitation

faulting nations could not be ruled out. Sri Lanka has started a

diplomatic drive to save the threatened matches with Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar writing to Caribbean counterparts to pressure West Indies to change their mind. Kadirgamar expressed

ciation" to Zimbabwe and Kenya for sticking to their schedule, the Foreign Ministry in Colombo said. Sri Lanka Sports Minister S B Dissanayake said in letters to his counterparts in

"deep admiration and appre-

India and Pakistan they should stick to the original "At this juncture, I seek your fullest cooperation as a friendly neighbour with longstanding relations to stand firm and ensure that the matches are held in Sri

Lanka as originally sched-

uled," Dissanayake wrote. He said the issue was not just cricket. "The Australian rejection to play these matches in Sri Lanka will bring adverse effects not only for sports, but in other activities such as tourism and foreign investment."

Australia and West Indies will concede two points to Sri Lanka if they forfeit their one-day games. They will not be banned from playing their remaining league matches, scheduled in India. Australia and West Indies

are in group A with India, Sri

Lanka. Zimbabwe and Kenya.

The other group comprises

defending champions Pakistan, England, South Africa. New Zealand, Untied Arab Emirates and Holland. Four of the six teams in each group will advance to the quarterfinals. Most ana-

lysts believe Australia and the West Indies will still go through.

CRYPTOQUIP

Saturday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU WANT TO DRIVE SOME CUSTOMERS AWAY? TRY BEING A VERY

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

YUMZOS KPYS AOSOO M

YMVFPSY AVSAOMS GOOD CABBIE. Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals C The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O. it

Sports Reporter 74 deliveries while skipper BRIEF SCORES Sarwar Imran added 40 to