

The World Cup with Philips



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Prigs' prediction comes true?

HYDERABAD, India, Feb 12: The West Indies cricket side, who boycotted a World Cup match in Sri Lanka for security reasons, refused to comment here today after a new bomb drama in the country, reports AFP.

"We have no comments, it does not concern us," team manager Wesley Hall said after the discovery of a huge truck bomb in the Sri Lankan capital.

"Don't expect any, I told you so," comments from me," he added.

Richie Richardson's men training here for Friday's Group A game against Zimbabwe, stayed tight-lipped after the explosives were found by Sri Lankan military police in the car park of a Buddhist temple.

The truck, bomb, packed with explosives weighing 121 kilos (266 pounds), was found parked one mile from the Premadasa Stadium where both the West Indies and Australia were scheduled to play.

The West Indies and Australia both forfeited their opening matches against Sri Lanka after refusing to play in the City, citing security fears after more than 85 people were killed in a suicide bombing in downtown Colombo on January 31.

Both sides stood firm after being widely attacked for their stance.

Australia were due to play the hosts there on February 17 and the West Indies on February 25.

The Australians and World Cup organising committee PILCOM were not available for comment.

World Cup snippets

CALCUTTA, Feb 12: Though the much-publicised laser show caused disappointment, the inaugural ceremony of the World Cup this evening was not devoid of glamour, reports PTI.

While former Miss Universe, Sushmita Sen, attired in a flowing green and white gown stole the limelight, the newly-crowned Miss India, Sandhya Chib, was also at hand to lend colour to the opening show.

Chib, clad in a glittering blue sari, led the Indian team into the arena while all other teams had glamorous models walking ahead of them.

The Zimbabwean team was taken by surprise when the announcer described them as South Africa.

The faux pas was later regretted by the compere Saad Jaffrey.

Calcutta wore a festive look for the opening ceremony of the World Cup with archways, boardings and festoons sprouting up in various localities. Shelnat was played over loudspeakers in some places as peoples enthusiasm reached a crescendo.

The organisers had arranged eighty buses to ferry the crowd from various points of the metropolis. The spectators had only to show their tickets for the opening ceremony to avail the facility. Special trains on the circular railway were also run to meet the rush.

Better late than never!

CALCUTTA, Feb 12: The international cricket conference has said there was nothing wrong with Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan's bowling during a controversial tour of Australia recently, reports AP.

"I was confident that I would come out clean," said the 23-year-old off-spinner when the committee gave its opinion Sunday after watching videotapes of the bowling in Australia.

Muralitharan was not balled several times during his country's tour of Australia and accused of "chucking" the ball, a charge he repeatedly denied.

Sri Lanka was angered with what it called harassment of Muralitharan by the Australians. That incident had soured Sri Lankans so much that it was widely expected that the Australians would face a hostile crowd when they were scheduled to play during the World Cup 1996 in Colombo.

But the Australians refused to play their games there, citing terrorist attacks that destroyed commercial buildings, killed 83 people and left 1,500 injured on Jan 31.

Sri Lanka promised to provide tight security to the Australians, in vain. The organisers of the World Cup even suggested that the Australians stay in neighboring India, then fly every day to Sri Lanka to play the match, which Australia refused to do.

Ingredients that matter



ISLAMABAD, Feb 12: (AFP) The team that lifts this year's World Cup will need three crucial ingredients — luck, a star player ... and a master tactician.

Good fortune and the God-given talents of men like Brian Lara, Wasim Akram and Shane Warne cannot be coached.

Tactics, however, can. And they are sure to play a bigger role over the next six weeks than ever before.

Tactics or the lack of them will also decide the long term fates of figureheads



WASIM AKRAM

like Akram, Richie Richardson, Michael Atherton and Mohammed Azharuddin.

It was New Zealand who showed in 1992 how a new approach to the limited-over game could unsettle more highly-rated yet complacent opponents.

Despite their lack of top-bracket players the rest of it was bold, innovative tactics.

Skipper Martin Crowe tore up the rule book first by heading his bowling attack not with pace but with Dipak Patel's gentle off spin, then promoting Mark Greatbatch up the order to launch each innings with his blunderbuss stroke play.

Similar sleights of hand can be expected this time.

South Africa's Hansie Cronje, backed up by coach

Bob Woolmer, may be the man to watch to bring the first surprise of the tournament.

Africaners are more commonly associated with conservatism than innovation, but Cronje has proved himself to be a deft operator on the field ever since taking over from mentor Keppeler Wessels.

The use of Richard Snell as a one-day opener against England just before the tournament showed that the springbooks are willing to adopt new ideas (Snell responded with a lightning 63 in an opening partnership of 116 at Bloemfontein).

Strike bowler Allan Donald, meanwhile avoided a direct confrontation with the pitch-hitter Phil DeFreitas and was used instead to break the batsmen's early rhythm by coming on at first change.

The South Africans will certainly bring a new scientific approach to the art of fielding. Cronje and Woolmer will have scrutinized their opponents on video, frame by frame, player by player. Fields will be constantly juggled and regurgitated to try to exploit individual weaknesses.

The character of pitches on the Asian sub-continent will also demand special consideration.

Morning dew is likely to offer bowlers some movement early on, while wickets are likely to become slower and low for batsmen as matches progress. With little sideways movement available, variation of length and disguised changes of pace — Indian bowler Jagavallab Srinath is an expert in this department — are likely to come to the fore.

Richardson and Azharuddin, in particular, will have their tactical choices put under the most powerful of microscopes.

Both the West Indian and Indian skippers have ready-made successors jostling at their elbows during the World Cup. Richardson, with Brian Lara in the wings is the more vulnerable since his lacklustre captaincy has always earned him widespread criticism. Lara, significantly has been counted among his detractors.

Azharuddin, in contrast,

boasts an impressive record of home success dating back to 1990 but Tendulkar, the world's richest cricketer, has a through of backers and after captaining Bombay for two years is perfectly positioned to take over if things go wrong this month.

England skipper Atherton like Richardson has been lambasted for having the lateral thinking flair of a gatepost. There were even suggestions that Warwickshire captain Dermott Reeve not in the final England 14 should replace him after the 6-1 one-day defeat to South Africa.

Atherton's qualities as a barnacle opening batsman are still required but lack of imagination in Pakistan could see him reduced to ranks.



SHANE WARNE

Wasim Akram's problems as captain are unique, like Mark Taylor of Australia he has a supremely gifted squad at his disposal and a wide range of options. Like Atherton his place in the side is automatic.

His major challenge, however, will be motivational rather than tactical. It can't be easy unifying the likes of Salim Malik, Javed Miandad and Rameez Raja — all former Pakistan captains themselves under one pavilion roof.

Rule by committee on the pitch, where instant tactical decisions are required from one ball to the next is not advisable but the critics are already in place if Wasim Akram in his second spell as team leader fails to make the grade.

Not made in India-2

Sports Reporter

The West Bengal state legislative assembly has echoed the feelings expressed in this column yesterday regarding the opening ceremony of the sixth World Cup cricket at Calcutta Sunday.

In the Rajya Sava on Monday, legislators termed the Rs. 11 crore opening gala as "very poor" and demanded an inquiry.

Representatives of CPI, Congress, RSP and other parties were furious about the way "PILCOM cheated the people". The members thought that the opening ceremony was "ludicrous".

PTI adds: A senior Congress-I legislator has demanded the arrest of PILCOM Convener-secretary, Jagmohan Dalmiya, for defrauding the people.

Raising the issue in the house during mention hour, the senior Congress-I MLA, Saugata Roy, not only called for the arrest of Dalmiya but also demanded that Italy's Gianfranco Lunetta should not be allowed to go out of the country as his "half moon images" had failed to beam the much-publicised laser show.

Roy said that the World Cup opening ceremony had put Calcutta to shame as what had happened in the name of high-tech laser show and the presence of former Miss Universe, Sushmita Sen, was nothing but a fraud on the people.

The Congress-I MLA alleged that people including the legislator himself had paid up to Rs 200 each for the ticket of the 90-minute show but they were treated to a third class show.

Ruling left front legislator, Tapan Hore (RSP), demanded that the details of the opening ceremony should be enquired into.

A down to earth show

CALCUTTA, Feb 12: The over one lakh crowd at the Wills World Cup cricket extravaganza this evening had expected her to descend from the skies instead she emerged from the bowels of the centre stage, reports PTI.

Having raised a lot of dust over her exact role in the ceremony, a demure Sushmita Sen appeared on a circular platform at the Eden Gardens from behind a billowing smoke screen with three little girls to present flags to the captains of the 12 participating teams.

Originally scheduled to descend from a Pawan Hans helicopter to hand over the flags, the former Miss Universe took spectators by surprise by her down to earth entry.

In fact Pawan Hans had inserted advertisements in newspapers today saying that Sushmita would descend from one of their helicopters. A helicopter did figure in the programme, but it was to shower tinsel and flower petals over the stadium.

Doordarshan lets 'em down

CALCUTTA, Feb 12: Millions of television viewers all over the country who were watching the World Cup inaugural ceremony over doordarshan were disappointed when the national channel abruptly stopped the live telecast of the function when it was at its peak, reports PTI.

The television viewers were surprised when around 1915 hrs the telecast was stopped and doordarshan started showing some highlights of the previous World Cup. The live telecast of the 90-minute function was also interrupted on more than one occasion by commercials.

On the contrary STAR TV, which was also telecasting the inaugural function on its sports network, continued to show the function till the end thus scoring a point over the Doordarshan's coverage.

It may be noted here that Doordarshan had fought a long drawn legal battle with World-Tel the telecasting rights owners of the World Cup, for getting the exclusive television rights of the World Cup over Indian territory and the issue was resolved only a few days ago.

Television viewers also complained of poor audio quality of the live telecast of the inaugural function as little was clearly audible during the beginning of the function when noted film personality it Sayed Jafary was making the announcements and the West Bengal Chief Minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, declared the World Cup open. It was mainly because echo-microphones were used for that period.



(L to R) teams from New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and South Africa pictured during the opening ceremony of the World Cup cricket at Eden Gardens in Calcutta on February 11.

— AFP/UNB photo

Co-hosts pull punches



NEW DELHI, Feb 12: Australia and West Indies face the prospect of multi-million-dollar fines for refusing to play World Cup matches in Sri Lanka, angry organisers said Monday, reports AFP.

"They will not get away lightly, and you can be sure that the last has not been heard on this episode," said Inderjit Singh Bindra, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

"Australia and the West Indies face the possibility of heavy fines, probably in the region of three or four million dollars," said Bindra, a senior member of the joint Pak-Indo-Lanka Organising Committee (PILCOM).

Both teams refused to play in Colombo this month fearing for the safety of players because of the Sri Lankan Tamil terrorists. Sri Lanka will now host only two World Cup matches, against Zimbabwe and Kenya.

Arjuna Ranatunga's men were awarded four points for the forfeited matches, meaning they have qualified for the quarterfinals even before the first World Cup ball is bowled.

"It's a ridiculous situation," said PILCOM member Arif Abbasi from Pakistan. "The World Cup is undermined by these forfeited games. It's never happened

before, but I am not sure it won't happen again."

"Australia and West Indies have opened up a Pandora's box," an agitated PILCOM convener-secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya said. "I shudder to think what the future holds."

Added Abbasi: "We repeatedly asked both teams to reconsider their decision. But their one-point agenda was to shift the venues. How can you talk to someone who has already made up his mind?"

Dalmiya said PILCOM's decision to send a joint Indian-Pakistan team to play a goodwill match against Sri Lanka in Colombo on Tuesday would serve two purposes.

"It is a measure of our solidarity with the Sri Lankans. But more than that it will prove that conditions were conducive to playing in Colombo," he said.

Police and military in Colombo were placed on maximum alert on state television and is expected to draw a full house.

Sri Lanka had expected about 35,000 to 50,000 spectators for each of the matches against Australia and West Indies.

Tickets priced between 500 and 2,000 rupees (37 dollars), or the average monthly income of a Sri Lankan, sold out last month.

Cricket board officials said they have not yet decided if the tickets will be refunded or swapped for the matches against Kenya and Zimbabwe. PILCOM is unlikely to take

any action against the two defaulting teams before the month-long tournament, which kicks off on Wednesday, until after the final at Lahore, Pakistan on March 17, an official said.

"But a lot will happen after that," the official, who requested anonymity, said, "a split in world cricket cannot be ruled out. Nothing can be ruled out."

"There have been boycotts of Olympics and other sporting events, but it never happened in cricket before. But we could now see cricket tours being boycotted. The cricket world is in turmoil," he said.

The dispute may put a question mark over Australia's scheduled tour of Sri Lanka in August, although Sri Lankan cricket board president Ana Punnihewa said there were no plans yet to cancel the tour.

"We want them to come, in fact we are even willing to host them in the World Cup if they change their minds. But in the present circumstances who can foresee the future?" Punnihewa said.

"I am sad and angry, but we in Sri Lanka have to take it in our stride and get on with the game. Winning the World Cup is our immediate aim," he said.

Action in cricket's premier limited-Overs competition starts on Wednesday when England play New Zealand in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad.

Onus on Windies' wizard



ISLAMABAD, Feb 12 (AFP): Brian Lara will face the toughest test of his career in the next few days as he bids single-handedly to save the West Indies from World Cup disaster.

If the world's greatest batsman fails to come up with his normal elan in the Group A opener against Zimbabwe in Hyderabad this week, the former double champions might have to book their planes home just after the first round.

Defeat to Zimbabwe — on top of the match forfeited against Sri Lanka on Sunday — would leave the West Indians needing to beat favourites Australia, home side India and the minnows from Kenya to make absolutely sure of a quarter-final berth.

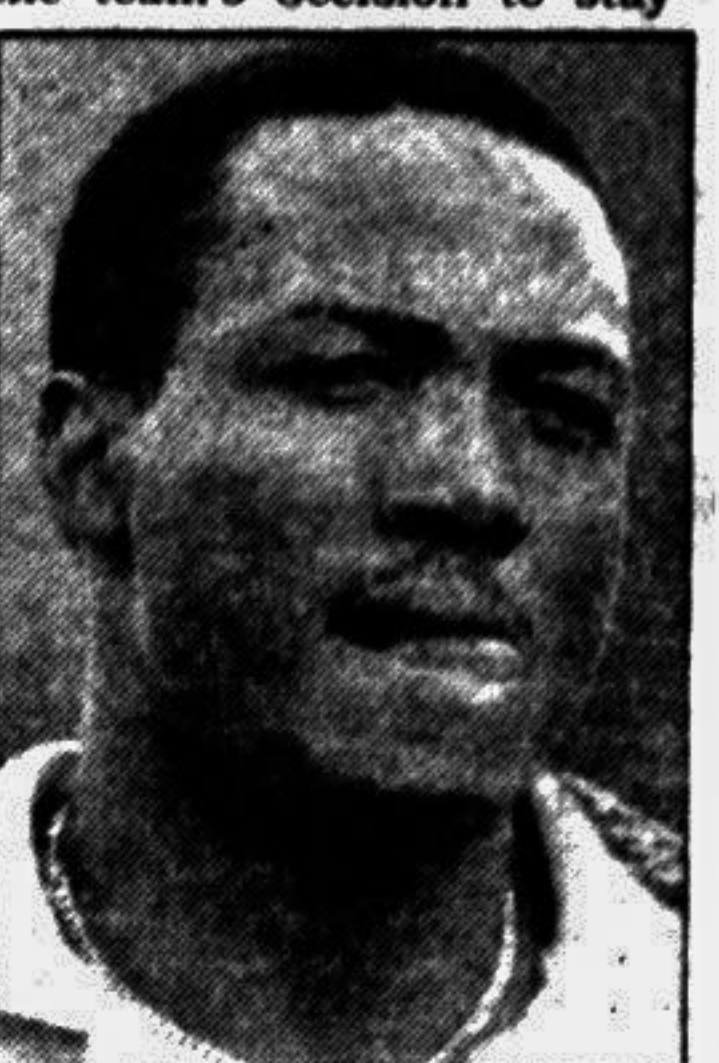
Their early elimination would be a disaster for the tournament, the fans ... and for Lara himself.

Rarely has so much expectation been heaped upon a single player.

When Lara boycotted the West Indies' warm-up tour of Australia after falling out with both teammates and management, the side promptly

crashed to one humiliating defeat after another, even losing to the apprentices from the Australian Cricket Academy before being bundled out of the World Series.

The loss of Carl Hooper from the squad — followed by the team's decision to stay



BRIAN LARA

clear of the Sri Lankan capital, thus forfeiting both sympathy and points — has raised the stakes even further.

Lara's brittle relationship with team skipper Richie Richardson presents another potential problem on Friday.

Lara, whose refusal to go

to Australia followed another bust up in England last year, offered an olive branch last month by saying, "We must forget the past and look to the future."

Richardson, who knows that Lara — the proud owner of the highest individual Test score of 375 and first-class total of 501 — is likely to be his successor, responded pointedly. "You can't afford to have that talent not playing the game ... he is the best in the world. I'm delighted to be playing with him and to be his captain."

Victory against Zimbabwe, set up by a Lara ton, may help heal the wounds between the two men, during the World Cup at least.

But the West Indies, winners in 1975 and 1979, should not expect too much support from the local fans at Hyderabad on February 18.

The sub-continent has closed ranks in criticising the Australian and West Indian boycott of Colombo following security fears and have taken the Zimbabweans — the two teams willing to play there — to their hearts.

The tournament organisers, however, despite adding to the chorus of disapproval, will not want to see the West Indies, one of the major draws of the competition, fail to reach the quarterfinals.

Nor will Caribbean cricket fans. Failure could see some of them turn on Lara, after suggestions that his refusal to tour Australia was merely a self-centred, ill-timed challenge to the West Indies cricket board.

The good news for them all is that the 27-year-old's comeback for Trinidad and Tobago against Barbados last month saw him score 77 and 199 — then suggest ominously.

"Even though I scored runs in this game, my timing is not there yet. I badly need more tie in the middle."

The money men will be praying he gets just that. A Lara-less World Cup would leave the sponsors crying into their pillows at night.

US U-23 still undefeated

LOS ANGELES, Feb 12: The United States under-23 national soccer team extended its unbeaten streak to six games, tying the South Korea under-23 team 0-0 in an exhibition match at East Los Angeles College, reports AP.

WORLD CUP DIARY

ISLAMABAD, Feb 12: Cricket World Cup diary on Monday:

INJURY & INZAMAM

The injury scare over Pakistan batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq appears to be over after he revealed he would rejoin his teammates for training on Tuesday. The 25-year-old has just returned from England after receiving injections in a troublesome knee. Doctors in Pakistan had feared he could need surgery but Inzamam said he would be fit for the tournament.

MOCKERY WITH MEDIA

A major row is blowing up over media accreditation just days before the opening of the tournament, with many reporters issued with passes for the wrong matches.

Perhaps arguments were to be expected. The firm responsible for Accreditation is the aptly named big bang

communications.

WC REUNION

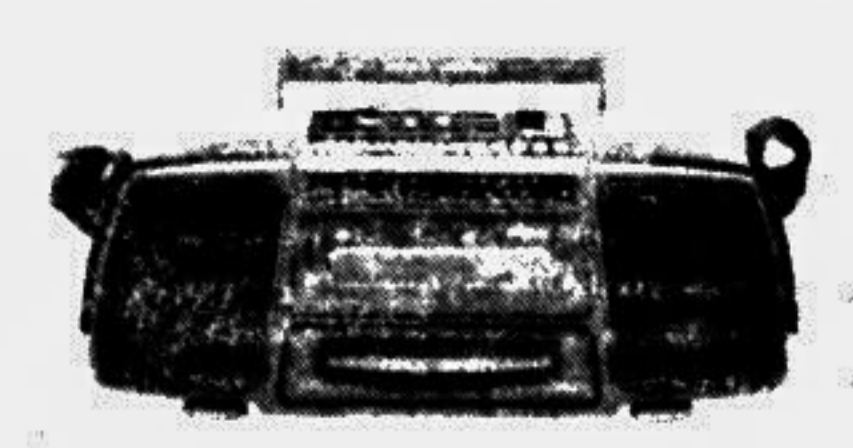
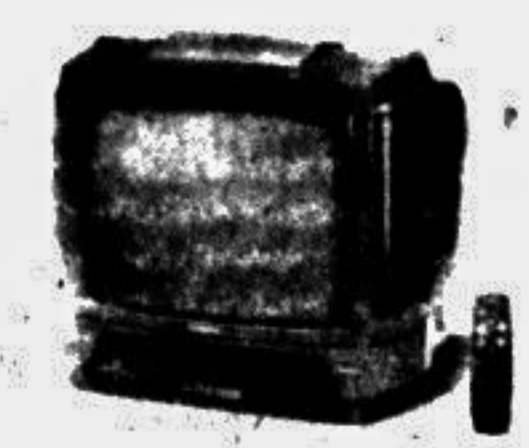
Pakistan wicketkeeper Rashid Latif has met his elder step-brother Sahid after 24 years. The reunion took place when Latif, who has kept in regular contact with Indian-based Sahid, went to Calcutta for the World Cup opening ceremony on Sunday.

The family was split in two when their father settled in Pakistan with his second wife after the partition of the countries following independence. The last time the two had met was when Rashid was a four-year-old toddler.

PTV'S BLACKOUT

The World Cup cricket ceremony was not shown on the main PTV Pakistan television channel because the company felt the asking price of 200,000 dollars was too expensive. The event, however, was shown on the Hong Kong-based Star television satellite channel which is available in Pakistan.

The Daily Star PHILIPS Cricket World Cup Quiz '96



1. First Prize: 21" Powervision Colour TV. Price: Tk. 25,990.00

2. Second Prize: 14" Powervision Colour TV. Price: Tk. 15,990.00

3. Third Prize (3 Nos.): Turbo Bass. Price Tk. 5500.00 each

All prize courtesy:

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Competition Information and Rules

- Information
 - The Daily Star-Philips World Cup Quiz is a series of 2 (two) Quiz Competitions on World Cup Cricket. Sets of questions will be published from Feb 4-17, 1996 for Quiz 1 and from Feb 28-March 18, 1996 for Quiz 2 which will be a bumper round. In the Sports Page.
 - For the Quiz Competitions the prizes will be as follows:

1st Prize	Powervision 21" Colour TV
2nd Prize	Powervision 14" Colour TV
3rd Prize (three nos)	Turbo Bass Two-In-One
 - Any issues or queries, as per rule, for all the above prizes, will have to be borne by the winners.
 - Names and addresses of all prize winners 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.
- Participants are to put a tick (✓) mark in the box alongside the correct answer to the question. A person may send as many entries as one pleases.
- Each entry form should be clearly completed with a ball-point pen. Participant's name, address, father's name, etc must be clearly written. Each entry form must bear the date and signature of the participant.
- 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 1" or "Star Quiz 2", as the case may be. Entries may be hand delivered or sent by post to The Daily Star, House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dharmamandi R/A, Dhaka: 1205.
- Entries will be placed in a sealed box for the lucky draw, to be held in public in presence of invited guests and Quiz participants, if any, on a notified date.
- Winners will be decided on the basis of correct entries drawn out from the box.
- 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 Quiz competitions under any circumstances.
- All participants agree to abide by all rules, instructions and guide-lines as may be issued from time to time by The Daily Star. Participants' entry in the Quiz competition shall be construed as their respective agreement to all such rules, instructions and guidelines.
- Any decision of The Daily Star in the conduct of the Quiz Competitions (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.
- In complete forms will not be considered.

Quiz 1

Read the information and rules carefully. Tick (✓) the correct answer.

- | | | | |
|--|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. The final of the 1975 World Cup was held on | June 14 | June 21 | June 27 |
| 2. The 1979 World Cup was won by | Australia | England | West Indies |
| 3. The man-of-the-match in the 1983 final was | M. Amarnath | S. Gavaskar | Kapil Dev |
| 4. The 1987 World Cup final was held in | Sydney | Calcutta | Lahore |
| 5. The highest score in the 1992 final was | Graham Gooch | Imran Khan | Javed Miandad |
| 6. In the 1986 World Cup, Zimbabwe will be led by | Grant Flower | D. Houghton | Andy Flower |
| 7. Bangladesh has been participating in the ICC Trophy since | 1975 | 1977 | 1979 |

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

FATHER'S NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: (if any) _____

OCCUPATION: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Write with a ball point pen in clear BLOCK letters. Cut along the dotted line and mail to or drop in the Quiz Box in the Daily Star. You may send as many entries as you like.