

## Column One

## DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

**T**HAT about 275 journalists will cover the final of the sixth World Cup Cricket at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on March 17. The semifinals at Calcutta and Chandigarh will be held in presence of 200 journalists while each of the quarters, all four, will be witnessed by 150 sports scribes.

About a hundred journalists will be accorded accreditation for each of the preliminary matches.

The percentage of accredited journalists to cover the preliminary matches will be as follows: host country — 30%, co-host country (India or Pakistan) — 15%, co-host country (Sri Lanka) — 5%, each participant (2x20%) — 40%, non-participant — 10%.

Now you know why the Professor is languishing in Dhaka!

## SPORTS TALK



Danny Morrison

(New Zealand's bowling spearhead)

"I try to upset the batsman by smiling. Some captains haven't liked it. It is different with the Aussies. They are so aggressive. But I don't think you have to swear to upset the batsman. Hadlee used to say it was nothing but wasting your energy. His philosophy comes back to me. Just bowl. Hadlee if you remember, used to smile at the batsman after beating him."

## Sports

## WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

## Sports WHIZZ KID

## competition-26

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Feb 16, 1996)

1. Munich Olympics were held in
 

1970	1972	1974
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2. The name of the first three cricket World Cups were
 

Prudential Cup (Wills Cup) Benson and Hedges Cup
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3. 1978 soccer World Cup was won by
 

Brazil	England	Argentina
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4. The current national cricket manager is
 

Roopnarain Hanuman	Tanvir Hossain	Gus Atkinson
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5. 2000 Summer Olympics will be held in
 

London	Beijing	Sydney
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

## Aussies abase Japan

MELBOURNE, Feb 15: Australia brought off a stunning revival to down Japan 3-0 in their second football international here late Wednesday, reports AFP.

Stung into action by a humiliating 4-1 defeat to the Japanese in Wollongong on Saturday night, Australia's domestic players, in the absence of a large European-based contingent, answered their critics with a performance which got their 1998 World Cup plan back on track.



**SOAKING IT OUT:** Groundsmen try to sponge the water out of the surface while South African cricketers natter at the Rawalpindi cricket stadium in Pakistan yesterday. The match between UAE and South Africa scheduled to take place Thursday was postponed due to rain. — AFP/UNB photo

## Acid test for Richardson



**HYDERABAD, India, Feb 15:** Richie Richardson knows it may already be too late to save his job as West Indian Captain, reports AFP.

An impressive World Cup, however, might restore the honour of a man once regarded as a top-drawer talent.

The 33-year-old has been unlucky, his tenure of the captaincy coinciding with the demise of a Caribbean dynasty of lethal strike bowlers.

Some, however, argue he should never have accepted the job in the first place. The Antiguan's batting gifts sharply contrasting his tactical myopia and lack of leadership qualities.

When he takes the field against Zimbabwe on Friday,

the West Indies.

"Winning the World Cup is essential for the team," Richardson told reporters on the eve of his side's opening match against Zimbabwe. "Our mission is to win the World Cup."

Richardson has stoically endured an unhappy year, beginning with West Indies' first series defeat for 15 years last March when the unofficial world champions succumbed to Mark Taylor's Australians.

They then drew 2-2 with England in a six-Test series before completing a miserable tour of Australia where, without Brian Lara, West Indies failed to qualify for the World Series one-day finals.

Inevitably, Richardson has been blamed for his team's failings.

Joel Garner and Jeff Dujon, two leading members of the great 1980s West Indies side, have called for his resignation.

And Lara's absence from the Australian tour has been interpreted in the Caribbean and elsewhere as an expression of dissatisfaction with Richardson's captaincy as much as anger at a fine incurred as a result of incidents on the England tour.

A flood of runs for Lara at the sixth World Cup would not only confirm the Trinidadian left-hander's status as the world's leading batsman but also ensure a successful tournament for West Indies and Richardson, a paradox that will not be lost on either man.

Richardson, once one of the world's most exciting batsmen, has struggled increasingly for form in both Test and one-day cricket and looked badly out of touch in a warm-up match on Tuesday.

## RICHIE RICHARDSON

more people will be watching him as he handles his men — and rebel Brian Lara in particular — than the way he handles his bat.

Richardson, the target of virulent criticism from the passionate but unforgiving Caribbean cricket community, pledged on Thursday to bring the World Cup back to

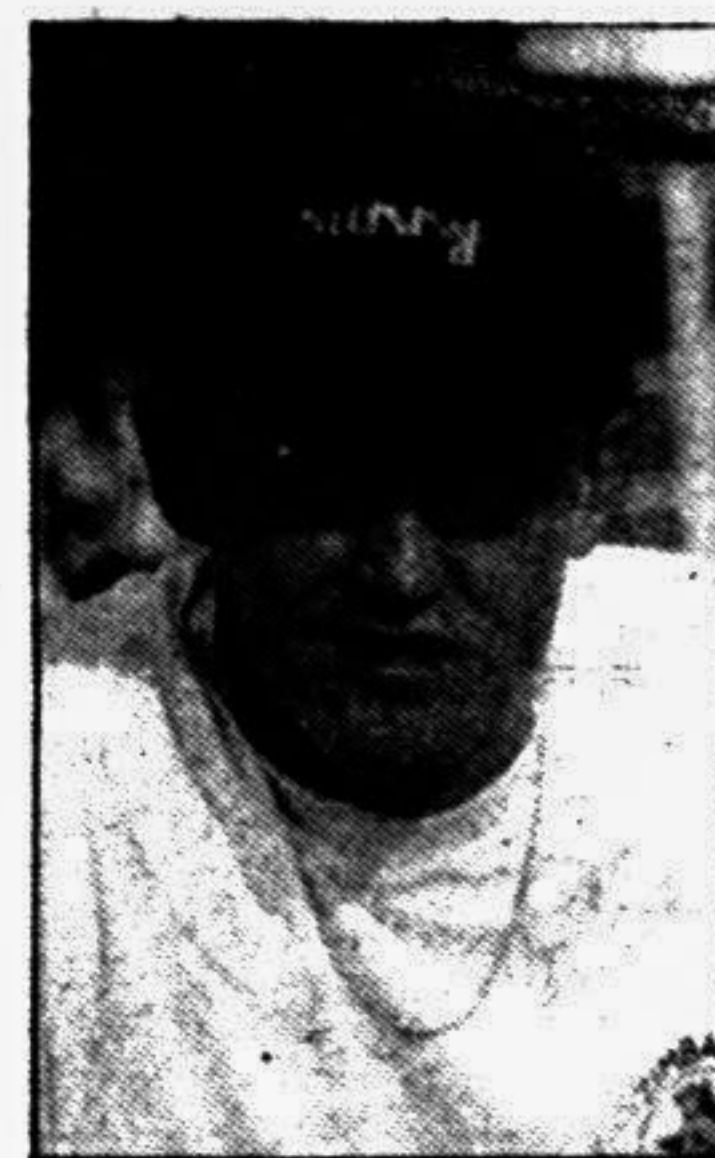
he may well choose to lead from the front on Friday and open the innings with Sherwin Campbell.

He gave nothing away on Thursday after a morning practice session, saying merely: "Time only will tell."

All the West Indian team have reported fit, with Ottis Gibson, one of the few successes in Australia, set to take over the all-rounder's slot from the absent Carl Hooper.

Lara's return and the potent opening bowling of Courtney Walsh should give West Indies the edge on Friday.

Zimbabwe captain, Andy Flower, whose team were denied practice facilities in Calcutta where the 12 teams had assembled for Sunday's opening ceremony, said arrangements had been satisfactory here.

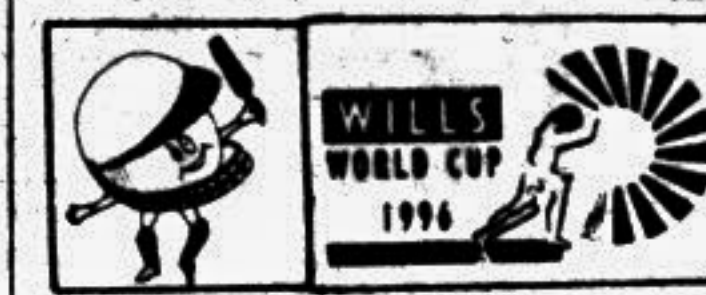


ANDY FLOWER

"I don't know why we couldn't practise in Calcutta," he said. "But it has been fine here."

Flower said Leg-spinner Paul Strang was an essential part of the Zimbabwean lineup and would play on Friday, but added they would probably field only one spinner.

## Eden's duel in eclipse



CALCUTTA, Feb 15: The World Cup was hit by a new low here today as organisers threatened to pull the plug on the Eden Gardens semi-final unless a new section of the ground was declared safe, reports AFP.

Tournament organising secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya said he would be forced to move the March 13 semifinal out of Calcutta if the matter was not cleared up within the next four days.

The row began after a new 10,000-seat stand was built to increase the stadium capacity to 111,000 — making it the largest cricket venue in the world.

The West Bengal government gave its seal of approval in January but the Calcutta Municipal Corporation (CMC), which functions independently of the state government, is refusing to issue a clearance certificate.

Dalmiya complained: "There was no problem at Sun-

day's opening ceremony here. The new galleries stood the test well. I can't understand what the fuss is about now."

Dalmiya, who runs the ground as the president of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), added: "Unless we get the all-clear signal from the government in the next three or four days, we will not take the responsibility of holding the match."

"I don't know who is supposed to issue the fitness certificate, the state government or the municipal corporation. Everyone has their own version."

But CMC chief Asiam Barman said the additional structure was "not in tune with the building rules" and threatened to prevent the sale of tickets for the semi-final.

"We will not allow the CAB to use the newly-constructed portions if our engineers are not satisfied with the safety standards," he added. "The municipal corporation has the final authority. We are responsible if any mishap takes place."

Safety concerns about World Cup venues began

when a stadium wall collapsed in Nagpur on November 26 during a one-day international between India and New Zealand, killing 10 people.

The stadium, which hosts the Australia-Zimbabwe Cup game on March 1, was later cleared by the state government of Maharashtra after an internal inquiry.

In Delhi, local authorities blocked new construction at the Feroze Shah Kotla Ground because it did not have the necessary approval.

But cricket official said they were confident the ground would be ready for the India-Sri Lanka match on March 2 after they agreed to abide by government regulations.

"Everything will be ready on time," said Sunil Dev, sports secretary of the Delhi and district cricket association.

Visiting cricket teams have felt in the past that at least five venues, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Gwalior, Cuttack and Baroda, were sub-standard for one reason or another.

## Rain plays foul in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI, Feb 15: Wet outfield and soggy underfooting abandoned the Group B World Cup match between South Africa and United Arab Emirates at the Pindi Cricket Stadium Thursday, report agencies.

The match will be played Friday at the same venue according to match referee Ranjan Madhugalle.

The decision came after frantic efforts by workers, using blankets, straw, brushes, mops and sponges, failed to dry the pitch and outfield at the Pindi Stadium on Thursday morning.

"We will try again tomorrow," said umpire Steve Buckner of the West Indies. "But the sun will have to continue to shine if we are to have any chance of play."

The pitch and outfield were soaked by heavy rain over the past two days.

Match referee Rajan Madhugalle and Umpires and VK Ramaswamy made the decision after a third inspection at 11 am (0500 GMT).

Officials had been talking about playing a reduced 25-over match on Thursday afternoon before finally deciding the pitch and outfield were too wet.

The weather improved on Thursday morning with the sun breaking through. Forecasters said they expected sunny conditions on Friday.

The tournament rules have provisions for a reserve day.

"It's far better than playing a 25 overs, aside match. We would like to play a complete match," said the South African coach Bob Woolmer.

The South Africans headed off for training to a nearby stadium for fielding practice.

## TODAY'S VENUE

**HYDERABAD:** Exuding the atmosphere of 400 year old Muslim splendour, Hyderabad is a city of infinite variety.

Founded in the 16th century by Quli Qutub Shah, the city was named after his Begum Hyder Mahal. Today, Hyderabad is the capital of Andhra Pradesh and a centre of learning and the arts. An important commercial centre, Hyderabad is famous for textiles, pearls, bidri work and of course its irresistible cuisine.

The 40,000 capacity Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium in the heart of the city has hosted both Tests and one-day matches. Venue of the today's day-night match between West-Indies and Zimbabwe.

## The Daily Star

## readers' poll

## TODAY'S PREDICTED

**WINNERS:** Match at Hyderabad: West Indies.

Match at Rawalpindi: South Africa.

(The Daily Star Readers' poll was conducted by our Sports Section and the results were published on page 3 of the Wills World Cup special supplement).

## A futile mission

HYDERABAD, India, Feb 15: Security forces mounted a massive search Thursday for possible land mines at a cricket stadium here ahead of Friday's World Cup match between the West Indies and Zimbabwe, but they found nothing, reports AFP.

Witnesses said sniffer dogs were pressed into service and hundreds of policemen combed the Lal Bahadur Stadium to search for mines.

The southern Indian city of Hyderabad, is a stronghold of Maoist guerrillas known in India as 'Naxalites'.

The most violent Indian Maoist group, called PWC (People's War Group), has been known to use land mines in the past.

Friday's match is the first for the West Indies, who joined Australia in refusing to play in strife-torn Sri Lanka because of security concerns for their players.

## Garri, 'Deep

## Blue' go neck &amp; neck

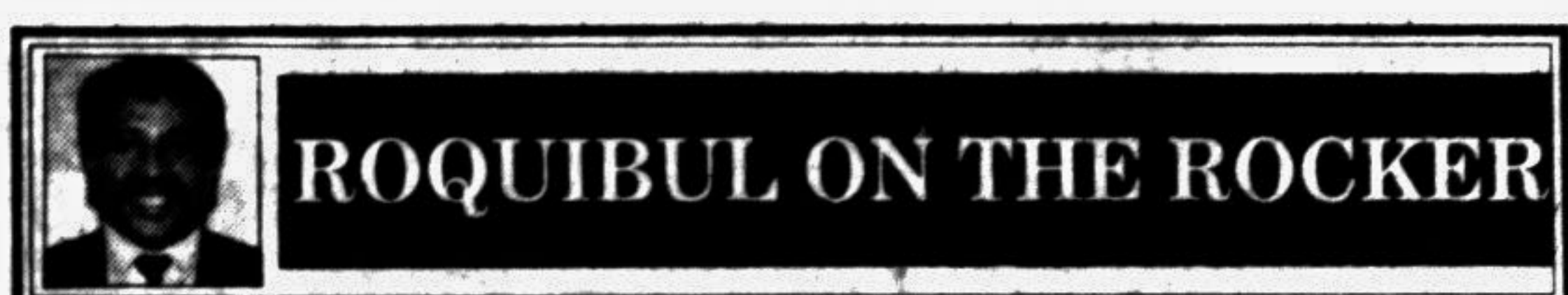
PHILADELPHIA, Feb 15: The world's strongest chess player Garri Kasparov and the most powerful chess computer agreed to a draw in Wednesday's fourth game of their 500,000 dollar six-game match, reports Reuters.

In the most exciting game since the contest started on Saturday, the IBM supercomputer 'Deep Blue' sacrificed a pawn for dynamic tactical play and then world champion Kasparov also gave up material to force a drawn position after 50 moves and 4-1/2 hours play.

## Sorry!

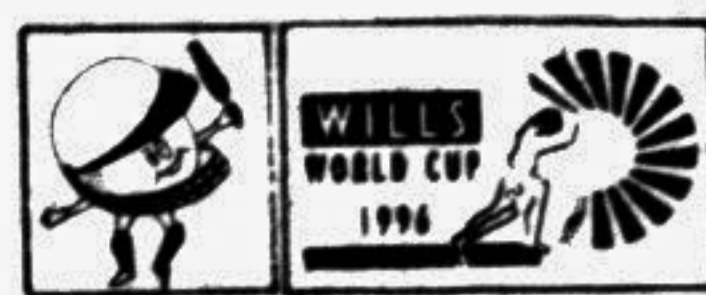
## Yousuf Babu!

We regret that in our World Cup special on February 14, in the item "Bangladesh in the ICC", we inadvertently named Gazi Ashraf Lipu with 77 as the highest scorer in the 1982 tourney, which should be Yousuf Babu with 115 against Papua New Guinea. Our apologies to Yousuf Babu, Lipu and our readers.



## ROQUIBUL ON THE ROCKER

## Anxious moments for SA



The weather god stood in the way of the second day's proceedings of the Wills World Cup cricket. Heavy shower during the previous day made the outfield unfit for the match between South Africa and the United Arab Emirates at Rawalpindi yesterday.

But thanks to the new playing conditions, an extra day was provided contrary to previous rules so that matches could be decided on the field. The South Africans will certainly be waiting with their fingers crossed and longing for a sunny day.

The beleaguered South Africans, who were last time around robbed of a possible final berth by the sudden heavy showers in the second semifinal of the last World Cup against England, were

once again at the receiving end of the cursed, yet unavoidable rain rule in a country which incidentally made the most of it on their way to lift the 1992 World Cup in Australia.

In the last World Cup, South Africa were denied of a berth in the final when heavy rain left them with an impossible revised target of 22 runs from only one delivery while Pakistan, the eventual winners, got a crucial point in a postponed match against England for a place in the last eight.

Since these unpredictable happenings are always on the card I remember one instance when Bangladesh were playing in England. Although we eventually made it to the semifinal, we had to cope with many odds including the persistent rain.

After being forced to split points with Singapore we were left with the only option of beating Holland in our last group league match

to ensure a berth in the last four.

Holland scored some 190-odd runs. In reply, Bangladesh were cruising comfortably before rain came in our way. But we decided to continue on a tricky wicket with the ball turning more and Bangladesh requiring some 50 runs for a win. The Holland bowlers were taking more time than was necessary in the hope of more rains to wash the match in which they were facing defeat. The rains did not come heavily after that. We scored the runs with modest hitting two successive fours including the winning shot.

Today's other match between the Windies and Zimbabwe is crucial for the Caribbean as they have already forfeited two points by refusing to play against the Lankans in Colombo. A defeat today will leave the Windies precariously poised with matches against Australia and India.

## The villain of the piece



**AHMEDABAD, Feb 15 (AFP):** It would be a major quandary for any World Cup captain.

One of your key batsmen, a few weeks after complaining of exhaustion opens the tournament with just one run, plays the villain's role in a bungled run-out of a team-mate, then drops a catch.

What should Michael Atherton do? Reprive the player... or give himself another chance?

It may seem rather early to be burying the England captain after his personal nightmare in the Group B defeat to New Zealand.

Yet, Wednesday's performance follows a series of failures by the Lancastrian, and comes only a few weeks after the British media were even questioning whether he was the right man for the job.

Atherton, it was suggested after the 6-1 one-day hammering by South Africa, did not have the tactical flair or imagination for a World Cup campaign.

Dermot Reeve, hardly a world-class talent but the finest cricketing brain on the English circuit after leading

Warwickshire to five championship and Cup titles in the last two seasons, was outed as a possible replacement.

Atherton, of course, would remain as opener, yet now the England No 1's runs are

his own socks up.

With Grame Hick — the man the England captain ran out on 85 while acting as his runner on Wednesday — nursing a thigh strain and Robin Smith recovering from a groin pull, England have few options.

Manager Ray Illingworth will also be watching Dominic Cork's fitness closely. The Derbyshire pace bowler may need resting after just returning from a knee muscle injury.

Atherton was also not the only under-par player in the first game. Graham Thorpe managing a mere nine after putting down two catches.

A few weeks, it seems, is a long time in cricket. It was only in December that Atherton hit 185 not out at Johannesburg to save the second Test against South Africa, an innings of almost 11 hours described by Illingworth as "one of the all-time great innings."

Yet since then there has been a 5th Test duck, a golden duck in the second one-dayer against the Springboks and the admission of exhaustion at the end of the tour.

The pressure is now on "Captain Orumpy," as he was dubbed by the South African press, desperately needs to put a smile back on England faces.



MIKE ATHERTON

drying up as well.

Reeve is no longer available as an option, after being axed from the final World Cup squad, but Neil Fairbrother, who ironically captains Atherton at Lancashire, could take over the reins.

Circumstances, however, suggest Atherton will give another chance, but only after telling himself to pull

## Dominic's fate in doubt



**AHMEDABAD, India, Feb 15:** England fast bowling spearhead Dominic Cork will have to be nursed through the rest of the World Cup because of a knee injury, reports Reuters.

England team doctor Philip Bell said on Thursday that surgery might not ultimately be necessary to correct the problem, but the Derbyshire paceman would need rest and treatment after the tournament.

Cork, England's leading bowler in successive Test series against West Indies and South Africa when he claimed 45 wickets in 10 matches, damaged his right knee during a practice match in Lahore last Thursday.

Although Cork played in England's 1-1 run defeat against New Zealand in the World Cup opener on Wednesday, he did not bowl during their practice session at the Sardar Patel Gujarat Stadium on Thursday.

Bell, who confirmed Cork is suffering from patella tendonitis, an injury brought on by overworking the knee,

said: "The ideal from now on would be for Dominic to rest as much as possible before playing the matches."

Cork had surgery on his left knee for a similar problem in 1994 but Bell said an operation might not be required this time.

"If Dominic had a com-

and possibly a cortisone injection to aid the recovery process," said the team doctor.

Cork bowled 189.2 overs in the rain-rained five-Test series against South Africa, almost twice as many deliveries as the next most used England bowler, Peter Martin, and got through 760.5 overs in all cricket in the 1995 English season.

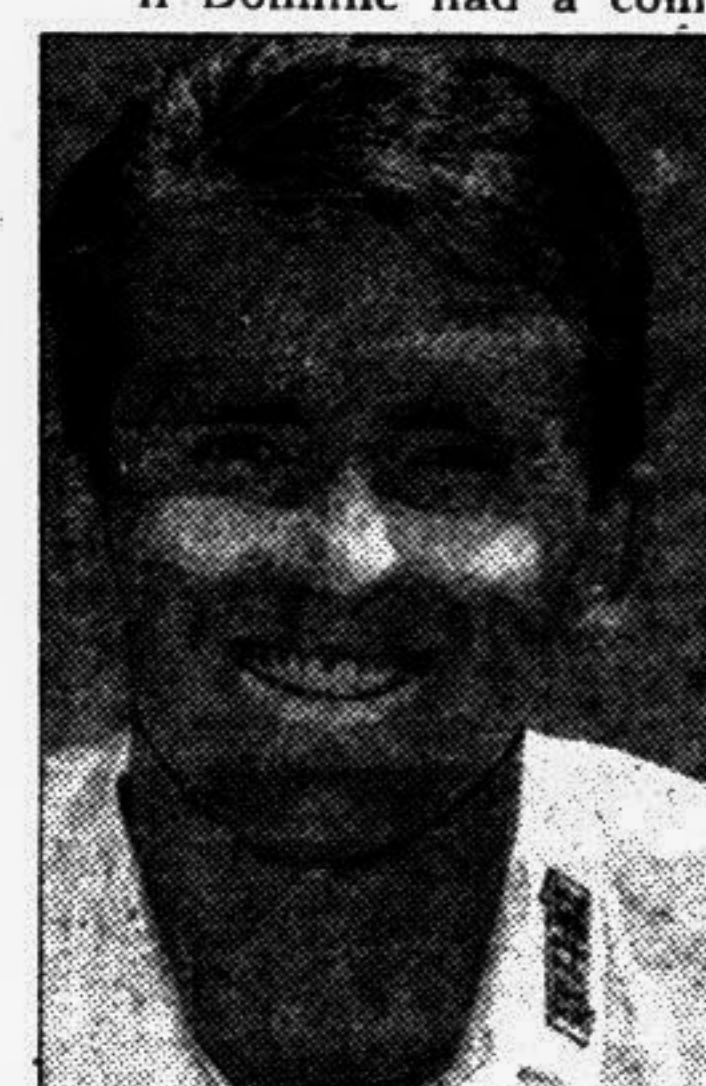
England team manager Ray Illingworth denied England's practice session on Thursday was a form of punishment for their defeat the previous day.

He said: "As we are travelling tonight and all day tomorrow there is no other chance to practise before the eve of our next match on Sunday. So we were always going to have this session."

Illingworth repeated his criticism of the team's catching — they dropped four chances against New Zealand — but added: "I'm not making excuses as it was the same

for New Zealand, both teams had bloody awful preparations for the match."

We were into bed at 2 am in Calcutta on Saturday and up at 4.30 am two days later so people are tired, and no one is in a sleeping pattern."

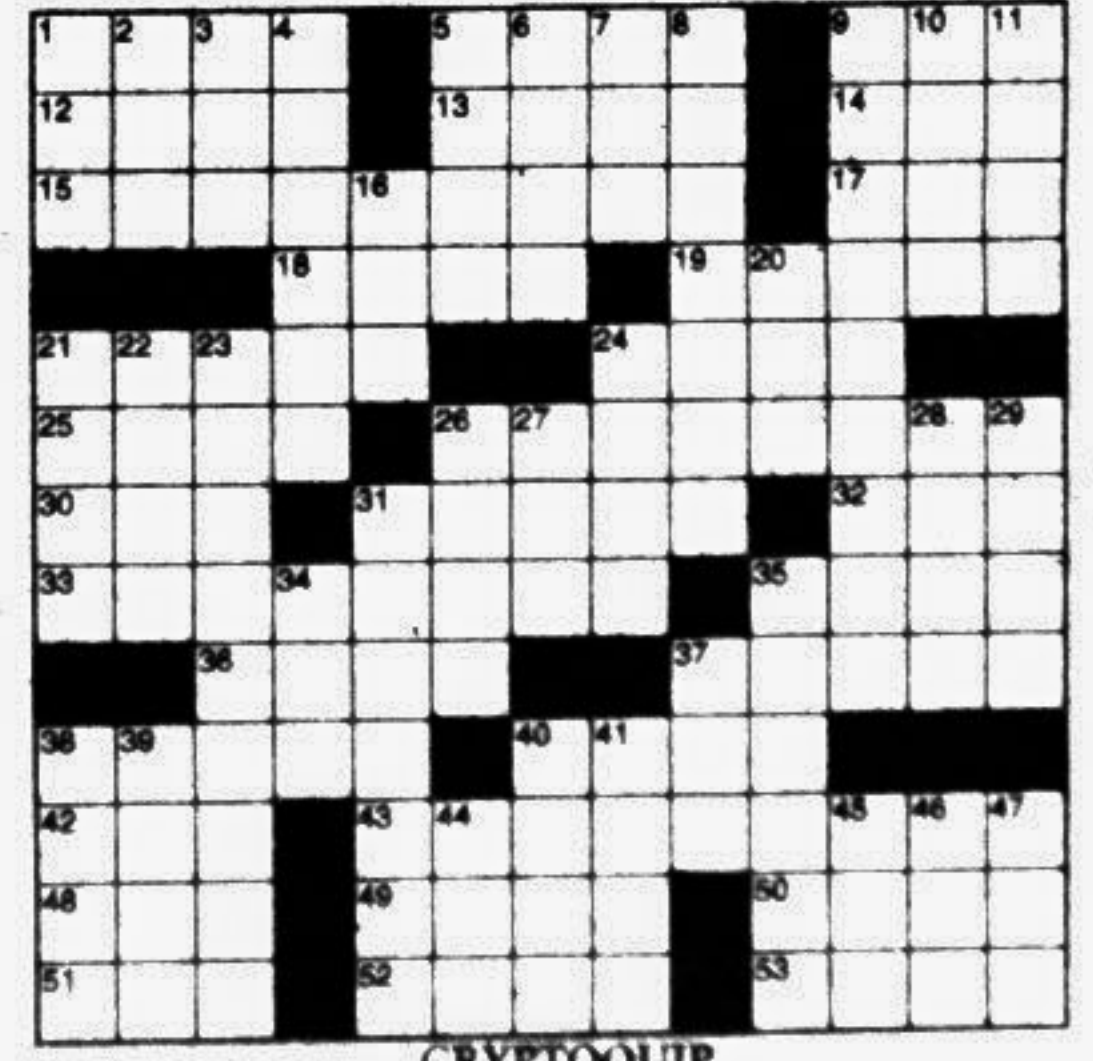


DOMINIC CORK

plete rest in the six weeks between the end of the World Cup and the start of the English season, that would be a start. But he would still need treatment

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- |                               |  |                                   |                                   |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ACROSS                        | 36 Poolroom device   | writer                            | 20 Schlepp                        |
| 1 Shadow of gloom             | 37 Midwestern expanses   | 2 Palin-dromic title              | 21 Wholesale                      |
| 5 Plumbing problem            | 38 Hoosergow   | 3 Bandleader                      | 22 Skip                           |
| 9 — Looka, Fla.               | 40 Difficulty  | 4 Brown                           | 23 World's longest                |
| 12 Curved molding             | 42 Gun the engine  | 4 "Wheel of Fortune"              | waterway                          |
| 13 Circle dance               | 43 Tuscan waterway   | 5 request                         | 24 Puts on the line               |
| 14 Yon                        | 46 "Half to Caesar"  | 5 integrated circuit              | 25 Service member?                |
| 15 New York City              | 48 The Bee —   | 6 Lyricist's subject              | 27 Flushed                        |
| 17 Squid squirt               | 50 Sitarist's rendition  | 7 Mined find                      | 28 Hollywood output               |
| 18 Factor in Nixon's downfall | 51 Russian space station   | 8 Cleans                          | 29 Earl Grey's ilk                |
| 19 Lipstick alternative       | 52 Fols  | 9 It empties into the Mississippi | 31 UPS delivery                   |
| 21 "Bread"                    | 53 Keynes' field abbr.   | 10 Confines                       | 34 Ashen                          |
| 24 Go out of focus            | 54 "To Helen"  | 11 Chummy                         | 35 Artists' specialties           |
| 25 Turkish VIP                | Solution time: 24 mins.  | 12 Bob's lifetime partner         | 36 Pull an all-nighter            |
| 26 Redundant                  | ALPS APT HANA BOUTIQUE AMOR EXPOSURE POLO BEACH MAJESTIC JAMES GALE ODES MAGENTA DAS GAGLES WIG MANAGER KONA OVAL HOSTIS CHAVERZ BAO LINE IMPLICIT TOOL NUISANCE PENS EST KNEE | 13 Cleanse                        | 37 Backing                        |
| 27 Redundant                  | Yesterdays answer  | 14 Mined find                     | 38 One of the Strausses           |
| 28 Redundant                  |  | 15 Russian space station          | 40 Foot-better's sore spot, maybe |
| 29 Redundant                  |  | 16 Confines                       | 41 Durante trademark              |
| 30 Part of R.S.V.P.           |  | 17 Chummy                         | 44 D.C. figure                    |
| 31 "Dead — Society"           |  | 18 Bob's lifetime partner         | 45 Carpet cleaner, briefly        |
| 32 Complete                   |  | 19 Cleanse                        | 46 L                              |
| 33 Flight attendants          |  | 20 Schlepp                        | 47 Skad-died                      |
| 34 Sisters' across Ward       |  | 21 Wholesale                      |                                   |



CRYPTOQUIP

KMTBC KYC QYFW NDQ

SQU MTC FSWBFC QM

NB UYCSTO QUM

FMT O QM CMT

Yesterday's Cryptogram: I WOULD SAY THAT VERY SURELY AN ASTRONAUT IS A WHIRLED TRAVELER.

Today's Cryptogram clue: C equals Y

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.

## Tribute to Reg Woolton, the cartoonist Sporting Sam



With special thanks to the SUNDAY EXPRESS