

The World Cup with Philips



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A dismal win for Lanka

COLOMBO, Feb 17: Australia lost to Sri Lanka a match that wasn't even played Saturday, the day of their scheduled World Cup match, in Colombo, report agencies.

Sri Lankans collected four points, but by default, as Australians boycotted Colombo, citing concerns for the safety of their players.

The Sri Lankan team led by Arjuna Ranatunga turned up at the Premadasa Stadium here but match officials said they had received a message from the organisers late Friday confirming that the Australians would not show up.

"They (the Sri Lankans) have gone through the formalities," the official said. "Until the last minute the Sri Lankans were hoping they would be able to get the Australians to change their mind."

Skipper Ranatunga used a mobile phone to contact cricket board officials that they were still at the Premadasa Stadium ready to play but was told that they had been officially awarded two points for the Australian match.

Sri Lanka's cricket board president Ana Panchihewa said the International Cricket Council (ICC) had informed that it would not be necessary for the umpires or the match referee to go to the Premadasa Stadium.

"This is because Australia and the West Indies have informed that they will not play their matches," Panchihewa said adding that Sri Lanka has now been awarded a total of four points for the two matches.

Australia forfeited their Saturday match against Sri Lanka in Colombo, refusing to come here because of a terrorist bombing last month in Colombo. The West Indies also have conceded their Feb 25 match against Sri Lanka for the same reason.

Since both teams have "finally conveyed their refusal to play... Sri Lanka is hereby being awarded two points for each of the two matches," said a statement by Ana Panchihewa.

"This is the first time in the World Cup cricket's 20-year history that any team has thrown away a match, triggering calls for penalising Australia and the West Indies."

"This is not the way we wanted to get the points. We rather play the matches and even lose them than get forfeited points," said Sri Lankan team manager Duleep Mendis.

Critics said Australia used terrorism as an excuse because it feared a hostile reception here after a recent Sri Lankan tour of Australia that was marred by accusations of bad Australian umpiring and ball-tampering by the Sri Lankans.

The Daily Star readers' poll

Your lucky streak continues! New Zealand thrashed home comers Holland and, as mentioned yesterday, Sri Lanka defeated Australia without a ball being bowled. Very little chance of an upset today. So the forecast promises to be true for a while!

Today's predicted winners: Match at Cuttack — India Match at Peshawar — England

Paris Open Majoli moves into final

PARIS, Feb 17: Top-seeded Iva Majoli made it into the final of her second consecutive tournament Saturday with a three-set victory over third-seeded Magdalena Maleeva at the Paris Open, reports AP.

Majoli of Croatia rallied for the second straight match after dropping the first set to beat the Bulgarian, 1-6, 7-5, 6-3.

It was only the second match of the week for the fourth-ranked Majoli. She had a first-round bye and a second-round walkover when her opponent was injured.

She lost the first set of the week against 16-year-old qualifier Nathalie Dechy in the quarterfinal Friday before winning.

Against Maleeva she dropped the first set in 23 minutes and looked to be heading out of the tournament after falling behind a service break at 2-0 in the second.

Then suddenly things turned around. Majoli, using her strong forehand for key winners, came back to tie at 2-2 and eventually won the second set at 7-5.

She raced to a 4-0 lead in the final set as Maleeva, seventh-ranked in the world, started getting frustrated and made more errors.

Majoli won and enters her second consecutive final. She won the Pan Pacific tournament in Japan earlier this month and lost in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open against Monica Seles.



ROQUIBUL ON THE ROCKER



New Zealand confirmed their quarterfinal berth yesterday by defeating Holland, one of the three qualifiers from the ICC quota, by a huge margin of 119 runs.

The match at the Baroda Stadium also turned out to be a sort of a miss-match like the one between South Africa and the UAE the other day, but with a difference. The Dutch, unlike the UAE, did really look like a team with positive attitude, having done their homework and having a visible game plan.

Their bowlers bowled to a set field and their captain Lubbers re-arranged the field positions during the first 15 overs to frustrate the Kiwi openers from picking their favourite hitting spots. The fielders looked aggressive and threw themselves to stop everything going by. Their young wicketkeeper Marcel Schewe, who was also busy in encouraging the bowlers and fielders all through, did a good job behind the stumps.

In their previous match against England, the Kiwis failed to muster the slog overs, but yesterday it was not to be and led by Cairns, Parore, Fleming and the day's m-o-m Craig Spearman, they rattled up 142 runs in the last 20 overs.

Illy's healing mission



PESHAWAR, Feb 17: Injury-hit England, still smarting from an unexpected loss to New Zealand, is determined to stay focused to beat cricket newcomers United Arab Emirates in Peshawar on Sunday.

Although England were relieved to learn senior batsman Robin Smith declared himself healthy, there was some doubt over the fitness of batsman Graeme Hick and all-rounder Dominic Cork.

Hick is recovering from a tight hamstring while Cork is nursing a sore knee and may miss the UAE match, which should be a sure win for England.

Smith injured his groin in a pre-tournament warm-up session and missed the opening match. He still faces a fitness test before the start of play, team officials say.

Skipper Michael Atherton, aware of England's strength against UAE, said he was wary of underestimating the new squad.

"We will field what we believe is our best team, after taking into account the pitch

and the opposition," he said.

England would still prefer to play Hick ahead of Smith and give the South African-born batsman a few more days to recuperate from the injury.

Injuries are inevitable in tournaments like this and travel does not help either," Atherton said. "And with a squad of 14, players must be prepared to play when only 85 per cent fit if necessary."

"England have travelled extensively since they left Lahore to attend the opening ceremony in Calcutta."

If England can pull off victories against UAE and Holland in four days, they will qualify for the quarterfinals regardless of their results against South Africa and hosts Pakistan.

"Playing lesser known teams creates a reverse kind of pressure," said English cricket boss Ray Illingworth. "They've got nothing to lose and will try everything possible to win against us."

The defeat in the World Cup opener upset England's plans for their lesser known matches, he said.

"We wanted to use these matches for a good hit up, but it's not the case anymore," Illingworth said. "What you need is a good 15 to 20 minutes in a match to turn the

course of it, and I think we have the players capable of doing that."

Illingworth expects his team will do well at the Arbab Niaz Stadium, where England have a 100 per cent success record.

Mike Gatting's side played two games in Peshawar in 1987, beating Sri Lanka in a World Cup match and then defeating Pakistan during a three-match one-day series.

All-rounder Philip DeFreitas who celebrates his 30th birthday Sunday could get the nod ahead of either medium pacer Darren Gough or Peter Martin.

Atherton rated the grass-less pitch prepared for the match as one of the best he has seen so far in the World Cup.

UAE could be looking forward to a much refined performance after their lacklustre effort while losing by 169 runs to South Africa in Rawalpindi.

Skipper Sultan Zarawani was given a clean bill of health and will lead his side. He was hurt by an Allan Donald bounce, which struck him on the left side of his head.

UAE have hinted at a change to their side, bringing in hard-hitting Salim Raza for Mohammad Aslam.

often made a mockery of that sort of distinction — one of the abiding attractions of the old game.

First Division Ipswich, FA Cup winners in 1978, upset Blackburn in the third round and will be looking to kill another giant in the form of League Cup semifinalists Aston Villa at their Portman Road ground on Saturday.

Manager George Burley, who played in Ipswich's 1978 side, is well aware striker Dwight Yorke could mark the difference for Villa after scoring twice in each of his team's last three matches.

Burley said: "Villa have ability and pace all over their team."

England's second put his team ahead 2-0 just before the half-time.

Denmark battled back in the second half but found a solid Romanian defence difficult to break down.

With both teams tiring, Stiffen Hojer scored a consolation goal in the closing seconds.

Football fans beware!

LONDON, Feb 17: Fans hunting Euro 96 tickets for England's matches against Scotland and Holland were warned Friday not to hand over cash to private agencies, reports AP.

Some agencies are claiming they have tickets in stock but Euro 96 official Philippa Warhurst said: "That is nonsense. The tickets are not even printed yet."

"We would advise people they are taking huge risks handing over money for tickets unless they are dealing with one of the three approved agencies, if people are being offered tickets now, they must be forgeries."

A Daily Star reporter claimed he had been offered 25 tickets for the June 15 England-Scotland clash at 275 pounds each by a private agency, who were able to specify exactly where the owners would sit.

In conjunction with the football association, we are still looking at security and segregation of fans for this match," Warhurst added.

No seats have been allocated at all yet, so it would be quite impossible for anyone to be informed where they will be sitting."

Police in Scotland are already investigating claims that multiple tickets will be available through agencies there.

Warhurst said: "Our advice to fans is — deal only with the three approved agencies and be aware that all multiple applications are checked."

Buyers should expect to receive vouchers, which can be exchanged for actual admission tickets when they become available in May.

TODAY'S VENUES

PESHAWAR: A frontier town, Peshawar is the first city after the Khyber Pass. The name Peshawar was given to it by the Mughal Emperor Akbar, the Great. Ruled by Muslims, conquered by the Greeks, run by Buddhists, captured by the Mughals, over run by the Sikhs and then taken by the British. Peshawar has experienced a very colourful history. It still bears the mark of its glorious past, emerging with a richer culture and tradition.

The capital of North West Frontier Province is the home of the famous Pathan tribe. The 30,000-seater Shahi Bagh Stadium hosted its first Test match last year, but has been the venue of several one-dayers in the past. It will hold today's match between England-UAE.

CUTTACK: Situated between West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, Orissa lies on the eastern coast of India with the Bay of Bengal swirling along its eastern and south-eastern boundaries. The former capital of the state and the oldest city in the region, Cuttack completed its 1000th year in 1986.

Cuttack today is a bustling commercial centre. Situated on the delta formed by the Mahanandi and Kathajodi rivers, it has many places of historical interest in and around itself.

The Barabati Stadium, which seats 40,000 people has hosted two Tests. The town has no luxury hotels or airport. Teams arrive and stay in the state capital Bhubaneswar, an hour's drive from Cuttack.

Venue for today's match between hosts India and Kenya.

Greig's money on Aussies

NEW DELHI, Feb 17: Former England captain Tony Greig said today Australia were still the strongest contenders for the World Cup despite forfeiting a match in Sri Lanka because of security fears, reports Reuter.

It is my personal feeling that the Australian team is good enough to beat any side in this tournament," Greig said in an interview with the Asian Age newspaper.

"Considering their strength in both batting and bowling, they seem the most balanced side. They may have lost two crucial points but they are capable of overcoming this disadvantage."

King's Cup Romania's

BANGKOK, Feb 17: Romania scored in the ninth minute and went on to beat European champions Denmark 2-1 to win the four-nation Kings Cup soccer tournament on Friday, reports Reuter.

The Romanians dominated from the start and Gabriel Popescu rammed in a loose ball in the ninth minute.

Popescu's second put his team ahead 2-0 just before the half-time.

Denmark battled back in the second half but found a solid Romanian defence difficult to break down.

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Kenya face India today



ing the India team in August. Coached by former Indian Test batsman Hanuman Singh, they went on a three-week tour of South Africa in November, where star batsman Steve

CUTTACK, India, Feb 17: Rusty India are set to lose star spinner Anil Kumble for their World Cup opener against minnows Kenya at the Barabati Stadium here on Sunday, report agencies.

Kumble has been confined to bed for the last two days because of viral fever and team manager Ajit Wadekar said the leg-spinner only had a "50-50" chance of playing in the match.

"He is feeling extremely weak and may not be fit for the match," Wadekar said today. "At the moment his chances of playing are 50-50. We will wait till Sunday morning before deciding."

Two other Indians affected by viral infection, Navjot Sidhu and Ajay Jadeja, appeared to have recovered, Wadekar said, adding: "We are keeping our fingers."

The Kenyans are given little chance in their maiden World Cup appearance, but at least the Africans have the satisfaction of knowing they are better prepared for the opening match than their fancied hosts.

While India have not played international cricket since the New Zealanders' visit in November, the Kenyans have been hard at work since host-

Gibson. Kenyan manager Jaamer Singh believes his team is not here merely to make up the numbers in cricket's premier limited-overs tournament.

"We seriously harbour hopes of making it to the quarterfinals," Singh said. "We are confident we can defeat Zimbabwe and, given a bit of luck, are capable of an upset against better sides like India and Australia."

It's an assessment Wadekar refuses to laugh at. "Kenya put up a creditable performance during the India A team's tour. We won 4-1, but the scoreline does not suggest the tough manner in which the Kenyans played. We will not underestimate them."

The unpredictable nature of one-day cricket does offer Kenya a chance to make a dream debut in international cricket by upsetting India.

"Playing in the World Cup is a good feeling," said Maurice Odumbe, Kenya's 25-year-old captain.

Odumbe promised good cricket against India. He is a right-hand batsman who also bowls off-spinners. Odumbe twice played for Kenya in ICC Trophy in 1990 and in 1994. He scored his highest 158 not out against Bermuda in 1994.

"A couple of mistakes and India can be in serious trouble," said Bishen Singh Bedi, a former Indian captain and left-arm spin bowler.

AZHARUDDIN

Tikolo scored a fine 139 against provincial side Border. Tikolo was rewarded by the effort when Border signed him as a professional, replacing West Indian last bowler Otis

WILLS WORLD CUP SNIPPETS

NEW DELHI, Feb 17 (AP): The taxman is after PILCOM, the regional cricket body that is hosting the sixth cricket World Cup in the subcontinent.

Income tax officials say the body, which consists of representatives from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka is only an association and not a registered body. Hence, it cannot get tax exemptions. Press Trust of India news agency reported Saturday quoting unnamed tax officials.

The tax office in Calcutta gave the organizing committee a week to file the tax returns, before the March 31 deadline when PILCOM dissolves itself.

The tax officials, PTI said, felt that PILCOM owed the government several millions of rupees in taxes.

PTI said India's federal bank is also trying to find out if the cricket body violated the government's foreign exchange rules in transferring money to England.

The woes of the Australian cricket team appears to be unending. After being called sports- and other names for refusing to play Sri Lanka, the Australians have been struck by tummy troubles.

Shane Warne and Ricky Ponting missed practice at the Bombay Gymkhana Club on Friday. "He was feeling washed out," said physiotherapist Errol Alcot, newspapers reported Saturday.

Warne had eaten a frugal meal of sandwich and tomato soup, but still got the bugs, as did Glen McGrath.

But Alcot did not blame the local restaurants. "It happens even in Australia," he said. Craig McDermott sprained his right calf and his team decided to rest him. It was not immediately clear if he will bowl on Sunday against the Bombay Gymkhana in a friendly match.

Australia's Steve Waugh is writing a book about his team's experiences in the World Cup and that will include his memorable visit to Mother Teresa's Sisters of Mercy orphanage in Calcutta.

It was a great moment. One of the journalists had organized it and I jumped at the chance to go and meet Mother because I've always admired all the work she has done," he said. Waugh has been playing for Australia for 11 years and hopes to be around for the next World Cup in 1999.

I would like to be there, but I don't know... Injuries, form, all those things come in between, but I would like to see myself play till at least the year 2000.

The Daily Star PHILIPS Cricket World Cup Quiz '96

1. First Prize: 21" Povevision Colour TV, Price Tk. 25,000.00
2. Second Prize: 14" Povevision Colour TV, Price Tk. 15,000.00
3. Third Prize (3 Nos.): Turbo Bass, Price Tk. 5500.00 each

All prizes courtesy: Transcom Electronics Ltd.
Official Licensee of PHILIPS Electronics N.V. for Lighting products, Radio and TV Sets.

Competition Information and Rules

Information
A. 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 4-24, 1996 for Quiz 1 and from Feb 25-March 15, 1996 for Quiz 2 which will be a Bumper Round, in the Sports Page. For the Quiz Competitions the prizes will be as follows:

Quiz 1
1st Prize: Povevision 21" Colour TV
2nd Prize: Povevision 14" Colour TV
3rd Prize (three nos): Turbo Bass Two-In-One

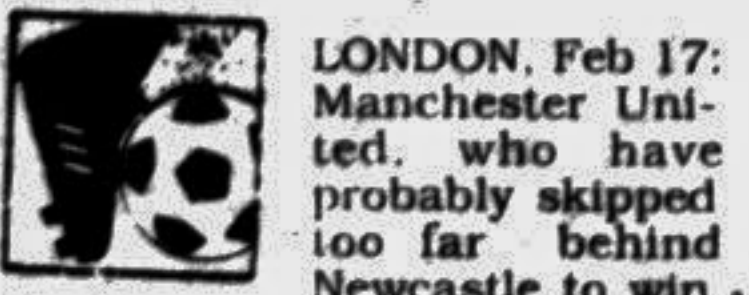
Quiz 2 (Bumper Round)
1st Prize: Povevision 25" Colour TV
2nd Prize: Povevision 20" Colour TV
3rd Prize (three nos): CD Player

C. Any taxes or levies, as per rule, for all the above prizes, will have to be borne by the winners.
D. 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.

Rules
1. Residents of Bangladesh will be eligible to participate in the Daily Star-Philips World Cup Quiz. Employees of the Daily Star and Transcom Electronics Ltd and their immediate family members shall not be eligible to participate in the Quiz competition.
2. Participants are to cut the original form along the indicated dotted lines. All entries must be submitted on the original form printed in the Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.

Entries close on 25-02-96
Read the information and rules carefully. Tick (x) 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 Bombay [] Calcutta [] Lahore []
5. The highest scorer in the 1992 final was Graham Gough [] Imran Khan [] Javed Miandad []
6. In the 1996 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 lines and mail to or drop in the Quiz Box in the Daily Star. You may send as many entries as you like.



LONDON, Feb 17: Manchester United, who have probably skipped too far behind Newcastle to win the Premier league, head into a derby with Manchester City in the fifth round of the FA Cup on Sunday looking to go all the way, reports Reuter.

United manager Alex Ferguson, whose side did the double two seasons back but failed to win a trophy at all last term, will be looking to repeat a January 1987 success against City at Old Trafford in his first FA Cup tie in charge of the club.

Since Ferguson took over the club, United have lost only once in 15 games against City.

Ferguson is pondering whether to field a defence that shut out champions Blackburn Rovers last weekend in the league without the injured Steve Bruce or recall the captain.

Yellow centreback Gary Neville is still under suspension, which could mean a second successive game together for fit again Gary Pallister and David May in central defence.

Midfielder Nicky Butt is also pushing for a recall after his one-match ban.

"We couldn't go into a derby match like this in a better position," said Ferguson.

City are near the bottom end of the Premier league table while United are one from top, but the FA Cup has

often made a mockery of that sort of distinction — one of the abiding attractions of the old game.

First Division Ipswich, FA Cup winners in 1978, upset Blackburn in the third round and will be looking to kill another giant in the form of League Cup semifinalists Aston Villa at their Portman Road ground on Saturday.

Manager George Burley, who played in Ipswich's 1978 side, is well aware striker Dwight Yorke could mark the difference for Villa after scoring twice in each of his team's last three matches.

Burley said: "Villa have ability and pace all over their team."



Lens' striker Pierre Laigle (C) is being sandwiched by Nantes' defenders Raynold Pedros and Claude Makelele during their French First Division encounter in Lens, France, on February 16. Lens won 2-1.

— AFP/UNB photo