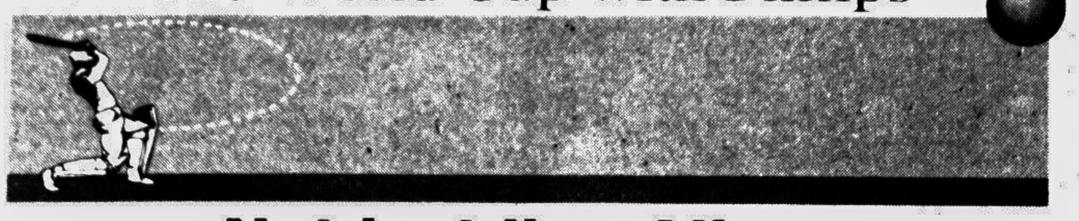

Some solace for minnows

NEW DELHI, Feb 19: Former Australian captain Ian Chappell said today cricket authorities were right to expand the World Cup to include minor countries because otherwise the game would wither, reports Reuter.

"Why should we expand the World Cup and have 12 teams? for the same reason that we no longer have Test cricket only being played by Australia and England," Chappell said in an article in the Indian Express newspaper.

"The authorities are correct to try and broaden the footprint of cricket and include countries like Kenya, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Holland in the World Cup.

"Without expansion the game of cricket will wither and die in the ultra-competitive global village that we have become through rapid changes in technology."

Some commentators have declared that the expansion of the 1996 tournament has resulted in some farcical one sided matches.

They argue that it has devalued performances such as South African Gary Kristen's record Cup score of 188 not out against the UAE at Rawalpindi last Friday.

"Be that as it may, it's only 20 years ago that Sri Lanka played its first World Cup match and were dismissed by the powerful West Indies for a score in the 80s," said Chappell.

"However, 21 years later Sri Lanka is considered by many to be a dark horse to win the World Cup."

First Sobers, then Lara

KARACHI, Feb 19 (AFP): World Cup kingpin Brian Lara was given a top rating by Pakistan cricketing legend Hanif Mohammad here on Monday ... before being told that he would never measure up to the greatest player of them all.

Hanif has no doubts.

There was only one true monster of the game. And that man was Sir Garfield Sobers.

No matter that Lara broke Sobers' Test record of 365 for an individual innings, before going on to erase Hanif's own first-class mark of 499.

"Lara is a world-class batsman," says Hanif, now 60. "But Gary Sobers was something different. He was four-in-one.

"A great stroke-player, medium-fast bowler, a left-arm spinner who could bowl leg-breaks as well as chinaman, and a brilliant close-in fielder."

The former Pakistani captain and world class opener's views are fired not by regret at losing his place in the record books but by his reverence for Sobers.

Lara scored 375 against England in April, 1994, in Antigua, then 501 for Warwickshire against Durham in June to underline his pretensions to the title of the world's best batsman.

Hanif is diplomatic: "Nobody likes to see his record broken, but then records are made to be broken. And I have no regrets as the record I held for almost 35 years has been broken by a very good batsman. He's world class.

"But to me, Sobers was sent to earth by God for cricket. All good things were rolled into one player and that was Sobers."

Hanif should know. Just as Sir Garfield was on hand to congratulate Lara when he overtook his record, so the Pakistani was there when

HANIF MOHAMMAD

Sobers made his 365 at Kingston, Jamaica, in the 1957-58 series. A fair amount of his time, indeed, must have been spent fetching the ball back from the fence.

Sobers' multi-faceted talents are reflected in the statistics, the West Indian becoming the first Test player to score the triple of 1,000 runs, 100 wickets and 100 catches.

Lara, however, has comparable genius running through his blood, according to Hanif, even if it is one-dimensional.

"There are similarities between Lara and Sobers. Both are West Indians and left-handers as well. Lara is also a stroke-player and does not like to be pinned down, just like Sobers," he says.

"Lara is a match-winner and Sobers was. The West Indies must definitely be looking forward to seeing Lara take them through to the final of the World Cup, just as they used to pin their hopes on Sobers' form in the past.

"Lara, like other stroke-players, sees the ball early and hits the ball with perfect timing. He has all the strokes. But I have yet to see a player like Sobers."

Hanif himself, who was known as the little master, had all the strokes himself. But his true greatness came with his back firmly to the wall.

The elder brother of former Pakistani Test cricketers Mushtaq Mohammad and Sadiq Mohammad (they all played together in his final appearance against New Zealand in 1969-70) and the father of Shoaib, Hanif was all guts and stickability when the going got tough.

Considered one of the game's greatest defensive players, he still holds one world record that even Lara is unlikely to break, rooting himself to the crease for 16 hours and ten minutes during his rearguard 337 against the West Indies in the 1957-58 series.

Where has their love for cricket gone?

FAISALABAD, Pakistan, Feb 19: South Africa and New Zealand's World Cup clash here on Tuesday has really caught the imagination... of 382 people at least, reports AFP.

That is the total ticket purchase so far reported by the branches of the National Bank of Pakistan which is handling the advanced ticket sales.

The Iqbal Stadium hosting the Group B match has just increased its capacity from 18,000 to 26,000.

A bank official was reported by national news agency Associated Press Pakistan as saying sales might increase on Tuesday following the decision to install a ticket booth at the stadium.

"When the people can watch the match on television in the comfort of their own homes, why should they buy the high-priced tickets?" he added.

The low ticket demand may also be caused by the date of the game, which falls at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. Muslim religious leaders may announce an Eid Ul-Fitr for Tuesday, a mass celebration of the end of the fast.

Official attendance figures for the two World Cup matches staged in Pakistan — South Africa against the United Arab Emirates and England against the Emirates — have yet to be released.

But those games have been poorly attended compared to the four matches across the border in India, where crowds have reached the 20,000 mark.

Ticket sales in Pakistan will get a huge boost soon, however. The national side, the trophy holders, make their first appearance against the Emirates on Saturday, February 24.

Lee's timely reminder

BOMBAY, Feb 19 (AFP): Unheralded Shane Lee was dreaming of a leading role in Australia's World Cup challenge here on Monday after forcing skipper Mark Taylor to take note of his all-round talents.

The 22-year-old a unbeaten 96 in a weekend practice match at the Bombay Gymkhana confirmed the New South Wales cricketer is peaking at just the right time.

Lee, who first performed in Australian colours last year, revealed he had been deadly serious about the warm-up. "Every time I pull on the yellow gear, I want to do well," he said, after leading Ian Healy's eleven to a six-wicket win over Mark Taylor's select side.

"It is a lot slower than the wickets back home but I started hitting the ball well."

Taylor, clearly impressed by what he saw, responded: "I can definitely see him coming into the equation.

"We are looking for a genuine all-rounder who can come in at six or seven and also bowl well in a tight situation.

"Shane has the ability to hit 50 off 35 balls and that can be the difference between winning and losing a match."

Lee, who began his career as an out-and-fast bowler, is to replace Pakistan spinner Mushtaq Ahmed at Somerset for next season after being recommended by Mark Waugh. His selection for the Cup was the one shock in the final Australian selection.

Yet he is already being regarded as the best lower-order hitting the side has been able to call upon since Simon O'Donnell, offering the selectors the added option of using him as a pinch-hitter.

Another newcomer to the squad, Ricky Ponting, also made sure he would not be overlooked easily.

He top-scored with 72 for Taylor a eleven. The captain's side was bowled out for 247 before Healy and Co cruised to 251 for four.

Taylor and the Australian selectors were not ready to announce a line-up for their first game against Kenya on Friday yet.

"At this stage it is too early to say who will and who won't play in the first match," he said.

Key players Shane Warne and Craig McDermott will be under the fitness microscope before a final eleven takes the field in Visakhapatnam.

"Shane should be okay in the next day or so, but we will have to see how Craig gets on during the week," Taylor said. The spinner is recovering from a stomach Virus while the pace bowler is being plagued by a cough.

The team leaves for Visakhapatnam on Monday via Madras to acclimatise to the conditions on the east coast.

WILLS WORLD CUP DIARY

ISLAMABAD, Feb 19(AFP): World Cup cricket diary on Monday:

AZHAR HITS DOUBLE TON

MOHAMMAD Azharuddin has always been a high scorer and carried on the tradition on Sunday when he ignored a minor thigh strain to play in his 200th one-day international since his debut in 1984-85.

VENKAT HAS THIRD UMPIRE FOR BREAKFAST

CASHING in on World Cup fever gripping India, hotels have drawn up special menus listing such tasty morsels as "cover drive", "long leg" and "hit wicket". India's Srinivas Venkataraghvan, one of 12 umpires officiating in the World Cup, read through the menu, and ordered the "third umpire" — a mouth-watering helping of ice cream with chocolate sauce.

DUTCH DOUBT

DUTCH captain Steven Lubbers will retire after the Cup as long as his family will let him.

The 42-year-old all-rounder, who took three wickets in his side's opener against New Zealand, said: "There are a lot of people who have their doubts-even a few Lubberses — but it's over — it's been nice."

But would a victory during Holland's first tournament make change his mind? "I would very much like a victory — let's go for the victory and talk about the rest later."

NOW SADIQ JOINS IN

FORMER Pakistan opener Sadiq Mohammad has joined former Test stars Kapil Dev and Zaheer Abbas in an attack on the world governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC). He argued it should have been tougher after Australia and West Indies boycotted their World Cup matches in Sri Lanka. "Maybe the council felt scared that, if fined, these countries would withdraw from the whole World Cup." Zaheer, the former Pakistan captain, argued the ICC needed power to match football's governing body FIFA and the International Olympic Committee.

JOURNALISTS STAGE A BOYCOTT

AROUND 30 journalists have taken a break from penning attacks on the Australian and West Indian boycotts to stage one of their own. The journalists, angry at not being issued passes for Sunday's game between India and Kenya in Cuttack, staged a demonstration outside the Barabati Stadium.

Spokesman Devi Patnaik said: "The organisers promised us passes, but backed out at last minute. Whenever an international event is held here, we are discriminated against." The press box was, however, packed to capacity by 120 foreign and regional journalists.

Indian legend Srinivas Venkataraghavan Venkat to his worldwide fans — will record a World Cup first on Tuesday when he becomes in first person to both play and umpire in the tournament.

Venkat, 50, played in the 1975 and 1979 editions. He will officiate South Africa's match with New Zealand at Faisalabad in Pakistan.

He made up India's most favour spin quartet alongside Bishan Bedi, Bhagwat Chandrasekhar and Erapalli Prasanna and, after retiring, became a national selector before turning to umpiring.

West Indies' year of disaster

by Chris Dighton

THE year 1995 was one to forget for the West Indies — a year that went from bad on the field to worse off it as Brian Lara and the West Indian Cricket Board of Control shaped up to each other in a battle of wills, the common ground between them as firm as quicksand.

The rumblings started in April when Australia won the first Test in Barbados by ten wickets to go one up in a four-match series and from that point on it was downhill — to such an extent that Lara, the world's greatest batsman, has put his future on the line. Is he bigger than West Indies cricket? Lara is infuriated at being disciplined by the West Indies Cricket Board of Control, angry at being labelled a rebel and punished. In other words he is not a happy chap. For him it is a matter of the WICBC climbing down — or he doesn't play. And the WICBC are not happy at the prospect on one player, regardless of his glorious talent, backing them into a corner.

The trouble stems back to April and that Australia series which kicked off with disharmony almost before a ball had been bowled as the West Indies Board disciplined members of the team for attending a rock concert on the eve of the Test. On top of that there was no place in the side for one of the world's greatest opening batsmen — Desmond Haynes. The second most-capped West Indian was not brought back into the Test side because he has not made himself available for the entire domestic Red Stripe season. He appealed to the West Indies Cricket Board of Control and was backed by the West Indies captain Richie Richardson but the Board were not budging and Haynes announced he was going to sue the board.

Face was saved when the third Test against the Australians was won but it was a short respite — Australia took the deciding fourth Test by a crushing innings and 53 runs to end the longest unbeaten home run in Test cricket history. It was the West Indies first defeat at home by more than an innings since March 1958 and the Australian visitors of 1972-73 were the last side to win a series in the Caribbean. Richardson having battled to have Haynes included in the squad now became the target as a breeze of dissension turned into a gale of fury with calls for him to be stripped of the captaincy. But he survived to be confirmed as skipper of the summer tour to England. Yet again, however, it started to go wrong on the playing side. After winning the first of the three Texaco Trophy one-day internationals they let the lead slip and lost the other two. England then came back from defeat in the first Test at Headingley to level the series with a thrilling victory at Lord's by 72 runs after the West Indians collapsed from 99 for one to 223 all out on the last day. Shortly after that Winston Benjamin was sent home. Manager Wes Hall citing "discipline and fitness" problems as the reason for his dismissal. He refused to play against the Combined Universities during an injury crisis for the tourists but Richardson spotted Benjamin on the ground playing football with Curtly Ambrose and some children and was said to be livid.

The split in the dressing room was widening by the day and it was later revealed that Benjamin had been one of a group of players unhappy that Richardson regained the captaincy from Courtney Walsh after missing the winter tours of India and New Zealand through injury.

So annoyed was Benjamin that he too followed Haynes with a threat to sue the West Indian Cricket Board. Victory

RICHIE RICHARDSON

at Edgbaston — more down to England making a total hash of the whole match — brought more short-lived relief. But at Old Trafford the West Indies were hammered by six wickets and worse, Courtney Walsh was officially warned by Dickie Bird for intimidatory bowling. The West Indians great Michael Holding wrote that; "West Indies have batted and bowled like absolute rubbish."

The row and divide in the dressing room had now reached seismic proportions although tour manager Wes Hall controlled it at the time — in the sense of airing the dirty washing in public, but he could not bring peace. Allowed to fester for months it came to a head when it was revealed in November that Brian Lara has almost quit the tour during the Old Trafford Test because he was unhappy at the attitude of some of his fellow tourists and with the way that the tour was being managed. At that time the team's morale was rock bottom and Hall called a meeting behind closed doors at which Lara attacked Richardson's captaincy and issued an ultimatum — he was going to retire from cricket and was set to pack his bags and stay with his friend, the Aston Villa footballer Dwight Yorke. Only the personal intervention of Captain Peter Short, president of the West Indies Board, persuaded Lara to apologise and return to the tour and while he finished in style — proving beyond doubt he is the greatest batsman of his generation the tour result — a shared series at 2-2 was not enough for the demanding Caribbean public.

At a stormy meeting of the WICBC in Barbados in October Richardson was targeted as the scapegoat and irate demands for his removal came from the public and former players, notably ex-Test colleague Jeffrey Dujon. The WICBC appointed a high-powered disciplinary committee to deal with members of the tour party reported by the team management for various breaches of discipline during the visit to England. The WICBC reported that: "The behaviour of some members on the touring party was considered unsatisfactory". Brian Lara, Curtly Ambrose, Carl Hooper and Kenny Benjamin were found guilty of breaches of discipline and fined ten per cent of their tour earnings. Lara and Hooper both breached the code by being absent without leave but Ambrose and Benjamin received even heavier censure, the committee calling Benjamin to task for his "unrepentant attitude" and "his record of having been fined on two occasions during the tour". Ambrose was criticised for setting a "bad example to junior members of the team". Both players publicly breached Hall's strict dress sense on the return flight, an action described by the manager as "despicable". Hooper and Benjamin were then left out of the October squad for the limited-overs tournament in Sharjah. Lara then hurled West Indies cricket into a state of shock by suddenly pulling out of the team for the tour of Australia and stuck to his decision inspite of personal appeals again from WICBC president, Peter Short.

A week before that Lara has terminated a three-year contract with Warwickshire by mutual agreement. Short says that Lara had told him that he felt his reputation had been diminished by the publicity surrounding the disciplinary hearing and by being labelled by newspapers as one of "the gang of four" and a rebel. Lara told a Trinidad newspaper that he was: "Finding it very diffi-

BRIAN LARA

cult to come to terms with the fact that the management of the tour looked at me as one of the guys who tried to create disharmony in the camp."

Such a stand leaves cricket supporters stunned and while admitting Lara is not bigger than the game — his loss would be dreadful to everyone — not least the man himself who has put his living on the line. And a West Indies World Cup side without Lara is drastically weakened but the team needs a happy Lara, not just for his own good, but for the state of morale among the rest of the squad. The comforting thought is that 1996 can hardly be worse than 1995 for Caribbean cricket. Or can it?

Courtesy: Ian Botham's Cricket World Cup

On balance

FAISALABAD, Feb 19 (AFP): World Cup match analysis before South Africa's clash with New Zealand here on Tuesday.

Group: B (with Pakistan, England, Holland and the United Arab Emirates)

Strengths and weaknesses: South Africa functioned on all cylinders in their opener, with the seam attack impressive and the batting adventurous despite the Emirates' limited ability to upset them. If there is a question mark over the side, it is in the spin department.

New Zealand rely on a young, very exciting batting line-up. Like the South Africans, they excel in the field. Cracks could appear if the team's neat though not particularly penetrating attack is put under pressure.

Men to watch: Paul Adams, the unorthodox left-arm wrist spinner, is the man who will command the most attention if South Africa introduce spin for the first time.

Pace bowler Dany Morrison has taken one wicket in two outings so far and New Zealand will be looking for something special from him if he leads the line again.

Cup head-to-head: New Zealand won the only previous Cup encounter between the two four years ago, by seven wickets. Gary Kirsten's half-brother Peter hit 90 that day but Mark Greatbatch — missing this tournament — cracked a decisive 68 off 60 balls.

Previous records: New Zealand — three semifinal finishes in 1975, 1979, 1992. South Africa — semifinalists in their only previous cup in 1992.

Form book: South Africa came to the Cup with a 6-1 crushing of England under their belts and made short work of the United Arab Emirates here. New Zealand, after losing 3-2 to India at the end of last year, held Pakistan 2-2 and impressed with their Cup win over England before making short work of Holland.

Venue: The Iqbal Stadium at Faisalabad in Punjab province, seating 28,000. The town is known for its textile industry. The ground has been a regular Test Centre since 1982 and will also host New Zealand versus the Emirates (Feb 27) and a quarterfinal on March 9.

Porto fire Queiros

LISBON, Feb 19: Carlos Queiros coach of Portuguese giants Sporting Lisbon became the 19th coach to leave the club since 1982 when he was sacked here on Sunday after a board meeting, reports AFP.

Queiros, who coached Portugal to the 1989 and 1991 junior World Cups, had been coach for just over two years.

Sporting Lisbon, champions in 1982 under Englishman Malcolm Allison, lie joint third in this year's championship, though 14 point adrift of leaders Porto.

Manchester United's French international Eric Cantona steps up to convert a 12-yarder against local rivals Manchester City during their FA Cup fifth round clash at Old Trafford on Feb 18. United won 2-1. — AFP/UNB photo

The Daily Star PHILIPS

Cricket World Cup Quiz '96

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2. Second Prize : 14" Powervision Colour TV. Price : Tk. 15,550.00
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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 4-25, 1996 for Quiz 1 and from Feb 25-March 15, 1996 for Quiz 2 which will be a Bumper Round, in the Sports Page.

B. For the Quiz Competitions the prizes will be as follows:

QUIZ 1

1st Prize	Powervision 21" Colour TV
2nd Prize	Powervision 14" Colour TV
3rd Prize (three nos)	Turbo Bass Two-in-One

QUIZ - Bumper Round

1st Prize	Powervision 29" Colour TV
2nd Prize	Powervision 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka: 1205.
6. 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.
7. Winners will be decided on the basis of correct entries drawn out from the box.
8. 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 reschedule any and all dates of the Quiz competitions under any circumstances.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. In complete forms will not be considered.

Quiz 1 — Entries close on 25-02-96

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. Gavasker ☐	Kapil Dev ☐
4.	The 1987 World Cup final was held in	Bombay ☐	Calcutta ☐	Lahore ☐
5.	The highest scorer in the 1992 final was	Graham Gooch ☐	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.