

Column One
DID U' KNOW?
(The Professor does)

THAT the battle of the bottles has taken an interesting turn in the World Cup. While Coca Cola is the official drink of the cricketing extravaganza, rivals Pepsi seem to be smacking one right across their campaign by making cricket stars say, (Pepsi) nothing official about it.

Sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-27
Tick the Correct Answer
(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Feb 23, 1996)

1. Asian Club football champions are:
Thailand, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Al-Nasr

2. The 1974 Asian Games were held in:
Doha, Tehran, Islamabad

3. The present West Indian cricket vice-captain is:
Courtney Walsh, Brian Lara, Roger Harper

4. Tennis prodigy Martina Hingis is a:
Swiss, Czech, Polish

5. The name of the captain of the UAE cricket team is:
Zarwanji, Duganwala, Masdar

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

SPORTS TALK



Krishnamachari Srikanth
(Former Indian opening batsman)

"You need winners in one-day cricket. But if you want to be an aggressive opener you can't think about the records. That's the sacrifice. It is the question of the number of matches you can win for your team."

Warne's woes

VISAKHAPATNAM, India, Feb 23: Worried Shane Warne three Australia's World Cup campaign into confusion on Wednesday after admitting he may have to play throughout the tournament with a torn ligament in his bowling hand, reports AFP.

Warne revealed his key spinning finger is causing him constant pain and feared he would need an operation after the Cup.

The leg spinner, trump card in Mark Taylor's attack plans, said: "The doctors think it may be arthritis, or a torn ligament, but no one is really sure."

"I will have a bone scan after returning home from here and go in for a surgery if it is needed."

The 26-year-old Victorian said cortisone injections to the third finger of his right hand failed to blunt the pain, although it did wear off after he had warmed up.

"I took two injections during the home series against Pakistan and Sri Lanka and another one just before leaving for the World Cup. But the finger remains stiff," he said. "Surgery is not really what I want. The problem is there is no pain after I have warmed up. But it is there at the back of my mind."

"I think the bone scan after I return will finally decide what is wrong."

Australia's main rivals here, led by Pakistan and South Africa, will be secretly delighted that the world's best bowler is feeling under pressure over the injury.

Polgar new world chess champ

JAEN, Spain, Feb 23: Hungarian Zsuzsa Polgar beat Chinese teenager Xie Jun to become the new women's world chess champion on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Polgar won by 8.5 points to 4.5 after 13 games.

Xie, women's champion since 1991, had won the 12th game to claw back some of the difference in points but Polgar, playing white, defeated her in the 13th in 24 moves.



MAN FOR ALL OCCASIONS: Steve Waugh strokes an elegant sweep during his lovely innings of 82 against Kenya during Australia's World Cup opener in Visakhapatnam, India yesterday. Australia submerged the Kenyans by 97 runs. — AFP/UNB photo

Waugh's pull Aussies thru'



VISAKHAPATNAM, India, Feb 23: Twins Mark and Steve Waugh piled up a record World Cup stand today as Australia began their controversial campaign with an easy 97-run victory over minnows Kenya, reports AFP.

But the easy win was dampened by the news that top strike bowler Craig McDermott limped off the field after sending down just three overs during which he dismissed Depak Chudasama. Team officials feared he may be out of action for at least a month.

Coach Bobby Simpson said it was too early to take a decision on McDermott's future in the tournament but hinted he was unlikely to play in Tuesday's key clash against hosts India in Bombay.

"He has torn a calf muscle and the physiotherapist is having a look. It looks back but I can't say anything right now how the injury will progress," Simpson said.

The Waugh brothers stand as the highest in the World Cup, surpassing the undefeated 195 for the third wicket between West Indians Gordon Greenidge and Larry Gomes against Zimbabwe at Worcester, England in 1985.

The total fell just 24 short of Australia's best of 328 for five, made off 60 overs against Sri Lanka in the inaugural World Cup in 1975.

Mark Waugh's sixth one-day hundred — his third as an opener since moving up the order earlier in the season — made him Australia's third highest century-maker behind Geoff Marsh (nine) and Dean Jones (seven).

The brothers showed no signs of rustiness after a forced lay-off since Australia's last international in the World Series at home a month ago.

Mark Taylor's men were scheduled to open their World Cup campaign against Sri Lanka last Saturday, but forfeited the match in strife-torn

Colombo because of security fears to the players.

But what was expected to be an easy outing at the crease began horribly as skipper Mark Taylor and Ricky Ponting fell cheaply to make Australia a shaky 26 for two by the eight over.

Taylor, who said earlier he was "sick of net practice," saw his stint in the middle last only 13 deliveries as an uphill drive off seamer Martin Suji was well held in the covers by Hitesh Modi.

Ponting, stepping into retired David Boon's shoes at number three, made six off 12 balls before edging seamer Rajab Ali into the gloves of wicket-keeper Kennedy Otieno.

But Kenya, who gave Australia first strike on an easy-paced wicket, chased leather thereafter as the Waugh brothers played the inexperienced attack before departing in the space of seven balls in trying to step up the run-rate.

Martin Suji had a hand in both dismissals, catching Mark

make us for the future games." He said the India match would be "a very good game. I dare say there should be a good house."

Maurice Odumbe said his side had had no answers to the Waugh brothers. "We just could not contain them. We played pretty well but unfortunately our batting slowed down towards the end. We had hoped to get around 240."

Mark Waugh revealed he had not realised he and his twin had broken a record, adding: "They are certainly good batting wickets over here and you are going to see a lot of runs. Hopefully in the next game in Bombay there might be a few runs from our guys and not too many from Sachin Tendulkar."

SCOREBOARD

World Cup Group A scoreboard between Australia and Kenya here today:

AUSTRALIA				
M Taylor c Modi b Suji	6			
M Waugh c Suji b Ali	130			
R Ponting c Otieno b Ali	6			
S Waugh c b Suji	82			
S Law run out	35			
M Bevan b Ali	12			
I Healy c E Odumbe b Karim	17			
P Reifel not out	3			
S Warne not out	0			
Extras: (b-1, w-10, nb-2)	13			
Total: (7 wks, 50 overs)	304			
Did not bat: C McDermott, G McGrath				
Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-26; 3-233; 4-237; 5-261; 6-301; 7-301				
KENYA				
Otieno c McGrath	85			
Chudasama c Healy b McDermott	5			
S Tikolo c Ponting b Reifel	8			
M Odumbe c Reifel b Bevan	50			
H Modi b Bevan	10			
E Odumbe c Bevan b Reifel	14			
D Tikolo not out	11			
T Odoyo c Healy b Warne	10			
M Suji not out	1			
Extras: (b-8, nb-2, w-5)	15			
Total: (7 wks)	207			
Did not bat: A Karim, Rajab Ali				
Fall of wickets: 1-12; 2-30; 3-132; 4-167; 5-188; 6-195; 7-206				
Bowling				
McDermott	3	0	12	1
Reifel	7	1	18	2
McGrath	10	0	44	1
Warne	10	0	25	1
S Waugh	7	0	43	0
M Waugh	5	0	23	0
Bevan	8	0	34	2
Overs: 50				
Result: Australia won by 97 runs.				
Man-of-the-match: Mark Waugh				

M WAUGH ... 130

at point off Ali before taking a brilliant return catch in the next over.

Ali also bowled Michael Bevan for 12 to finish with three wickets. Australia lost Stuart Law and Ian Healy before the overs ran out.

Kenya, who lost their opening match to India by seven wickets, play Zimbabwe next in Patna on Monday. Australia take on India in Bombay on Tuesday.

Mark Taylor said: "We were disappointed to lose Craig — that's a bit of a blow for us."

"We were a bit rusty but, all in all, it was a fairly convincing win and we couldn't ask for more. Kenya gave us a very good game. We are going to need that before taking on India."

"The better the opposition, probably the stronger it will

KENYA

Otieno c McGrath 85
Chudasama c Healy b McDermott 5
S Tikolo c Ponting b Reifel 8
M Odumbe c Reifel b Bevan 50
H Modi b Bevan 10
E Odumbe c Bevan b Reifel 14
D Tikolo not out 11
T Odoyo c Healy b Warne 10
M Suji not out 1
Extras: (b-8, nb-2, w-5) 15
Total: (7 wks) 207
Did not bat: A Karim, Rajab Ali

Fall of wickets: 1-12; 2-30; 3-132; 4-167; 5-188; 6-195; 7-206

Bowling				
McDermott	3	0	12	1
Reifel	7	1	18	2
McGrath	10	0	44	1
Warne	10	0	25	1
S Waugh	7	0	43	0
M Waugh	5	0	23	0
Bevan	8	0	34	2

Overs: 50

Result: Australia won by 97 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Mark Waugh

The Daily Star readers' poll

A slice of bad luck in an otherwise wonderful run — West Indies lost to India to bring out the first blench in The Daily Star readers' poll. But, dear readers, you are not to blame as the Caribbeans came up with some horrific cricket. So keep your fingers crossed for the rest of the tourney.

Today's predicted winners: Pakistan

WC STANDINGS

ISLAMABAD, Feb 23 (AFP)						
Group	P	W	L	NR	T	Pts
Sri Lanka	3	3	0	0	0	6
India	2	2	0	0	0	4
West Indies	3	1	2	0	0	2
Australia	2	1	1	0	0	2
Kenya	2	0	2	0	0	0
Zimbabwe	2	0	2	0	0	0

(+Sri Lanka awarded two points against Australia and the West Indies after they forfeited their matches in Colombo)

Group B						
South Africa	2	2	0	0	0	4
New Zealand	3	2	1	0	0	4
England	2	2	1	0	0	4
Holland	2	0	2	0	0	0
UAE	2	0	2	0	0	0
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0	0

Lara's 'humble submission'

GWALIOR, India, Feb 23: Star batsman Brian Lara hailed World Cup rival Sachin Tendulkar as the best in the world here today, reports AFP.

The West Indian, who holds the world record individual score for Test and first-class cricket, said: "He is a very good batsman, perhaps he is the best in the world now."

"If he remains consistent, he will go down in history as one of the best batsmen ever to grace the game."

Lara's comments came a day after India's Tendulkar upstaged him in a key World Cup match between India and the West Indies, scoring a superb 70 against the West Indian's pally two.

Tendulkar also made 127 not out against Kenya in his opening match.

Lara, speaking at a chat show organised by the students of the Scindia school here, added: "I admire any good performance, and Sachin was very good on Wednesday."

Lara, widely regarded as the biggest batting talent around before the tournament, scored 375 runs against England, two years ago to claim the best individual Test score and then made 501 in the English county championship against Durham a few weeks later.

Swallowing the stars!

NEW DELHI, Feb 23 (Reuters): Fancy drinking a "Shane Warne Googly" or eating "Azharuddin's Fantasy"? Hotels, restaurants and bars in cricket-crazy India were cashing in on the big names in the World Cup to drum up business, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported today.

The drink named after Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne was a concoction of gin and orange juice and the dish billed as Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin's Fantasy was a mushroom speciality.

A "Donald's Rider" drawing its name from South African fast bowler Allan Donald, turned out to be gin and lime, while "Sachin's Starter" was a boneless chicken dish called after Indian batting star Sachin Tendulkar.

Murali still in limbo

ISLAMABAD, Feb 23: Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan remains under threat of being called for throwing after cricket's world governing body said Thursday it would not clear his controversial bowling action, reports AFP.

International Cricket Council chief executive David Richardson, speaking from the ICC headquarters in London, denied reports the bowler had been given a clean bill of health prior to World Cup.

He added: The Sri Lankans did ask the ICC to appoint an independent panel to review him and then tell the world. This was in January.

"But that would be tantamount to instructing an umpire not to call. We don't instruct to call or not to call."

The off-spinner's career was thrown into question last year when he was called for throwing 14 times by two umpires during Sri Lanka's tour of Australia.

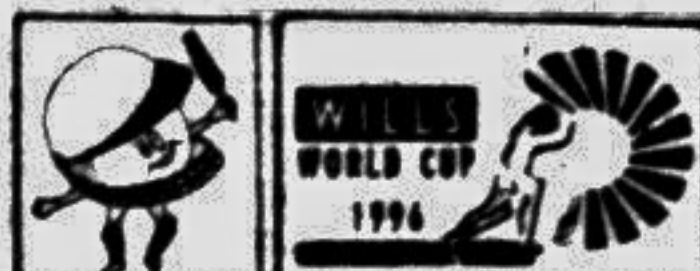
The Sri Lankans asked for a ruling before the World Cup but Richardson said they had been "made aware that if they chose him for the World Cup it was their risk."

Muralitharan's dilemma is that the ICC cannot meddle in the running of individual cricket matches. Its officials say this would be comparable to FIFA football chiefs bypassing referees to handing out red and yellow cards during games.

The throwing law, which says a bowler's arm should not straggle during the final stages of a delivery, has widely been considered both difficult to interpret and a matter of individual judgement.

ROQUIBUL ON THE ROCKER

Windies' Eid gift for Azhar



Defending a reasonably small target, Ambrose gave West Indies a great start by casting opener Jadeja and Sidhu very early, only to see in total despair the dropping of Tendulkar, the wicket they wanted most, when he was on 12 by Chanderpaul and on 24 by wicketkeeper Browne; the second being the easiest of catches at any level of cricket. This could very well be a turning point of the match. Great batsmen do not offer too many chances. Sachin did not move and knocked up 70 odd valuable runs before being run out. Captain Azhar (32) and Tendulkar set the Indian run-chase in right earnest with Vinod Kambli (33 n.o.) and cool Mongia (24 n.o.) completing the not-too-difficult job with their disciplined batting.

Away in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the dark horse in the competition outplayed underdogs Zimbabwe by five wickets. After losing Kahantharam and Jayasuriya cheaply it was Avinda de Silva (51) and Gurusinghe (67) all the way. They absolutely tore apart the Zimbabwe bowling with their electrifying batting and set up a new Sri Lankan record for any wicket scoring 172 runs. As if to catch a plane, the Lankan batsmen finished the match in just 38 overs.

Over at Faisalabad, the story was same as in Colombo. Bowlers of favourites South Africa proved too mean, their fielding was brilliant and arrogant captain Hansie Cronje's 78 in 64 balls proved a nightmare for the Kiwis. The South Africans, in handing the Kiwis a humiliating defeat with 13 overs to spare, confirmed their berth in the quarter finals in style.

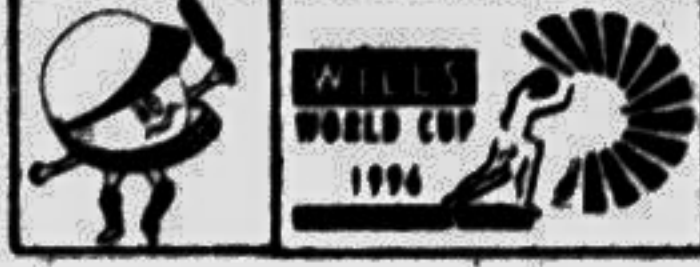
Aided by in-form Graeme Hick's brilliant 104 n.o. and Graham Thorpe's 89, three finalists England set up an imposing target of 279 for Holland at Peshawar. However, the ICC qualifiers gave them a real

run for their money and lost by only 49 runs. The Dutch closing score of 230 for 5 is the best so far among the three qualifiers. Well done Holland!

Hot favourites Australia began their campaign on a good note beating minnows Kenya by 97 runs, but not quite so easily as Visakhapatnam yesterday. After sending the Aussies to bat, the keen Kenyans had the game under their control till the 15th over and restricted their opponents to 52 for 2. However, Captain Maurice Odumbe should have continued a further 10 more overs with his medium pacers as the ball was still hard and shiny, the wicket was seaming a bit with varied bounces and the batsmen were struggling in timing the ball. Introduction of spinners of not that class from both ends allowed the great Waugh brothers to settle quickly. Taking full advantage of the situation, the twins not only put up a World Cup record partnership (207) but did it in brisk pace to help Australia amass a huge total of 304 for seven. Mark Waugh posted a brilliant 130 and Steve an equally good 82. Dropping Mark in two successive deliveries before he reached the magical three-figures may have cost the Kenyans 50 odd runs. The Kenyan medium pacers Rajab Ali and Suji bowled very well to share five wickets between them.

Nonetheless, Kenya charged bravely in their pursuit. Captain Maurice Odumbe (50) and opener Otieno (85) batted superbly. Otieno missed out on making the first 100 for the minnows as he retired due to a cramp and returned later but without his early rhythm and tempo. The Aussie captain once again showed his maturity by introducing part-time left-arm spinner Bevan who picked up two wickets. Warne and Reifel proved too difficult to be hit around. It was good start for Australia and an equally good match for Kenya.

Hick's illustrious admirer



RAWALPINDI, Feb 23 (AFP): World Cup stroke player Graeme Hick was once called a "flat-track bully." Now he is being hailed "a classic and a graceful batsman."

The accolade came from former Pakistan captain Zaheer Abbas — even before the Englishman's undefeated 104 not against Holland on Thursday.

"Hick is a natural stroke player. He is simply a great batsman. He is God gifted. He has natural timing and plays copy-book cricket," said Zaheer.

"He is a player who is born for cricket."

The "bully" tag, from former New Zealand player John Bracewell, was made in the days when Hick, while carving up attacks at first-class level, was struggling to acclimatise to international level.

The Zimbabwean-born 29-year-old — who once hit 405 not out for Worcestershire against Somerset — has had a fractured cracker, dropped repeatedly as the doubts kept resurfacing. Genuine pace, it was argued, always undid him.

But he returned to the side against the West Indies last year with an undefeated 118 and then added 141 against the South Africans to nail the critics at last.

Skipper, intriguingly, may have played a major part in his rehabilitation, the player's suspect footwork improved by the exercise.

Zaheer argues Hick is among the top stroke-makers in cricket today, bracketing him with Salim Malik and Amir Sohail of Pakistan, Sachin Tendulkar and

Azharuddin of India, West Indian Brian Lara, Australian Mark Waugh.

"They are all fine players and have all shots," he said. "Lara is a classic player. Tendulkar is a player of timing. If Salim Malik gets going, an art of batting looks pretty."



GRAEME HICK

"But it is treat to watch Hick play his strokes. He hits his strokes with elegance. He has a grace."

Zaheer, who scored over 5,000 runs in 78 Tests and whose all-time idols were Rohan Kanhai and Barry Richards, uses the word with caution. It is not to be wasted in just any old batsman.

"The art of stroke-play is a way of communication between stroke players and cricket lovers," he lyricises. "Perfect stroke-play touches the heart of a cricket fan, as a lover's message touches the heart of the beloved."

"A stroke-player is a man who hits the ball which is stopped by other batsman. The word stroke-player itself is a big word. Using this word for a batsman itself is a big compliment."

Hick may appreciate the compliment and the poetry.

but his England captain Mike Atherton is more interested in his runs just now.

Hick currently averages 189 in this tournament, after an innings of 85 in the first game against the United Arab Emirates (scored with a high strain and only ended when Atherton, as his runner, got himself run out).

He is the only batsman in the struggling England line-up that South Africa will fear when the teams meet in Rawalpindi on Sunday.

Hadlee's money on South Africa

NEW DELHI, Feb 21: Former New Zealand all-rounder Sir Richard Hadlee said today South Africa appeared to be definite contenders to reach the World Cup final, reports Reuters.

Hadlee said in an article in the Indian Express newspaper that he was impressed with South Africa's batting, bowling and fielding in their five-wicket victory against New Zealand in a Group B match at Faisalabad, Pakistan, on Tuesday.

The South Africa display was quite brilliant and they look to be definite contenders for a place in the final in this World Cup," he wrote.

"Tight, accurate bowling was backed up by some of the best fielding I have ever seen in a one-day match."

"It was a thoroughly disciplined display in the field, made even more brilliant because they were prepared to commit themselves to everything that came their way, even if it meant diving on an uneven surface."

He singled out Jonty Rhodes for particular praise in the field. "He is simply the best."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Shaffer

ACROSS

1 Un-returned 41 Of that 20 Penny- 21 City in 22 P.D.Q. on 23 Pre- science, 27 Bush 28 Get — 34 Compared 37 Take 38 Recover 42 Conversa- 44 Dieter 45 Baby carriage 46 Bit of victory 48 Listening device 49 Pay with plastic 53 Just out

DOWN

1 Fore's opposite 2 Intimidate 3 Freudian concept 4 Spielberg or Bochoch 5 Green 6 London of Kansas 7 Hermal 8 Meat tenderizer? 9 Arizona 10 — 11 Whipool 12 Speck

Solution time: 27 min.

CRYPTOQUIP

ATHB EF HBTRRG ASE
GFSH SEURUEG OUR?
OSG VAUVFNV
Saturday's Cryptquip: WHEN HUGO CIRCUS CATS GET LAID OFF, THEY ALWAYS LAND ON THEIR FEET.

Today's Cryptquip clue: A equals C

The Cryptquip 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