

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Chris Cairns

(New Zealand's star all-rounder)

"Everybody can hit sixes. It's just a matter of backing yourself to do it regularly. I've never had a problem backing myself."

"If the ball is there to be hit, I just try to give it a whack."

On his ability to belt sixes.

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:	Thai Farmers	Kawasaki Verd	Al-Har
2. The 1974 Asian Games were held in	Deli	Rhein	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	Zaraws	Dukarwala	Mahar

Name:

Class:

Roll No:

School Address:

Phone: (if any)

The Daily Star readers' poll

Dear readers, we're pretty sure you didn't have much difficulty in predicting Pakistan's emphatic triumph over UAE yesterday. Still full marks to you. Keep up the good work.

Today's predicted winners: 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)

Arjuna receives good luck bat

COLOMBO, Feb 24: A giant bat with more than one million signatures on it and wishing good luck to Sri Lankan cricketers was given to skipper Arjuna Ranatunga Tuesday a day before their World Cup opener against Zimbabwe, reports AFP.

Sri Lanka's Board of Control for Cricket president Ana Puchinewwa presented the 22-foot (5.6 metres) wooden replica that had been taken around the country for six weeks to collect fans signatures.

"We wanted to get the fans involved in the game and that is why we thought this signature campaign," said a spokesman for Coca Cola which is sponsoring the event.

Australia and the West Indies pulled out of their matches here leaving only Zimbabwe and Kenya to play in Sri Lanka.

Goran, Becker storm into semis

ANTWERP, Belgium, Feb 24: Goran Ivanisevic gained a revenge win over Italian Renzo Furlan in the quarterfinals of the European Community tennis championship on Friday in his chase for a third consecutive tournament victory, reports Reuter.

But the third-seeded Croat, who extended his recent winning streak to 13 matches, now faces the formidable task of having to beat Australian Open champion Boris Becker in the semifinals if he wants to add the Antwerp title to those he won in Zagreb and Dubai.

Becker, who missed Germany's Davis Cup match against Switzerland and last week's Dubai Open because of inflamed leg ligaments and a back problem, produced almost flawless tennis to cruise past Spaniard Francisco Clavet 6-3, 6-3.

But he said he would have to raise his game further against Ivanisevic.

Ivanisevic defeated Furlan 6-4, 7-6, 6-2 to avenge his third round defeat at the hands of the Italian in last month's Australian Open.

The WC quips & quotes

NEW DELHI, Feb 24 (Reuter): A week is a long time in World Cup cricket.

After the opening salvoes in the sixth World Cup, Indian and Pakistani commentators combined to criticise the new expanded format.

Kenya, Holland and the United Arab Emirates have been included for the first time in the one-day tournament and the early performances of the UAE, in particular, incurred the wrath of the subcontinent's leading cricket writers.

One dissenting voice was former Australian captain Ian Chappell. "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," he wrote in a newspaper column.

Today, it appeared that highly creditable performances by Kenyans and the Dutch over the past week had won over the local scribblers.

The Times of India devoted

the bottom columns of its front page to a bylined story by Rahul Celly headlined "watch out, these minnows may strike back one day."

Dutchmen Tim de Leede, Van Noortwijk and Bas Zuidenberg displayed some lusty batting which may have given a moment or two of worry to the English at Peshawar, Celly wrote.

"And considering Holland's enviable record in international sport, be it football, hockey or even tennis here it wouldn't be too much to expect them to be a force to reckon with 10 years from now."

"Kenya, by the looks of it, are very likely to go the West Indian way of explosive cricket."

Celly said India had been minnows at the 1983 World Cup, having shown no previous ability to adapt to the one-day game, but had gone on against all the odds to upset the West Indies in the final.

"The minnows, then, are

the future," he concluded.

The minnows theme was also picked up by R. Mohan in the Hindu, who also praised both the Netherlands and Kenya.

"They will not be minnows for long," Mohan wrote, describing Kenya as the team of the future.

The Kenyans, with their natural loose-limbed ways, possess the fielding levels which are standard in one-day cricket these days.

"They have the batting which might take a while to fall into place. But it will."

"If only the Kenyans can call upon another popular racial stereotype and find young men capable of emulating their cousins, who live in the Caribbean and till not so long ago seemed to come off an endless assembly line of pace bowlers."

"May be that will be the day the Kenyans will truly arrive on the world stage."

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