

Column One

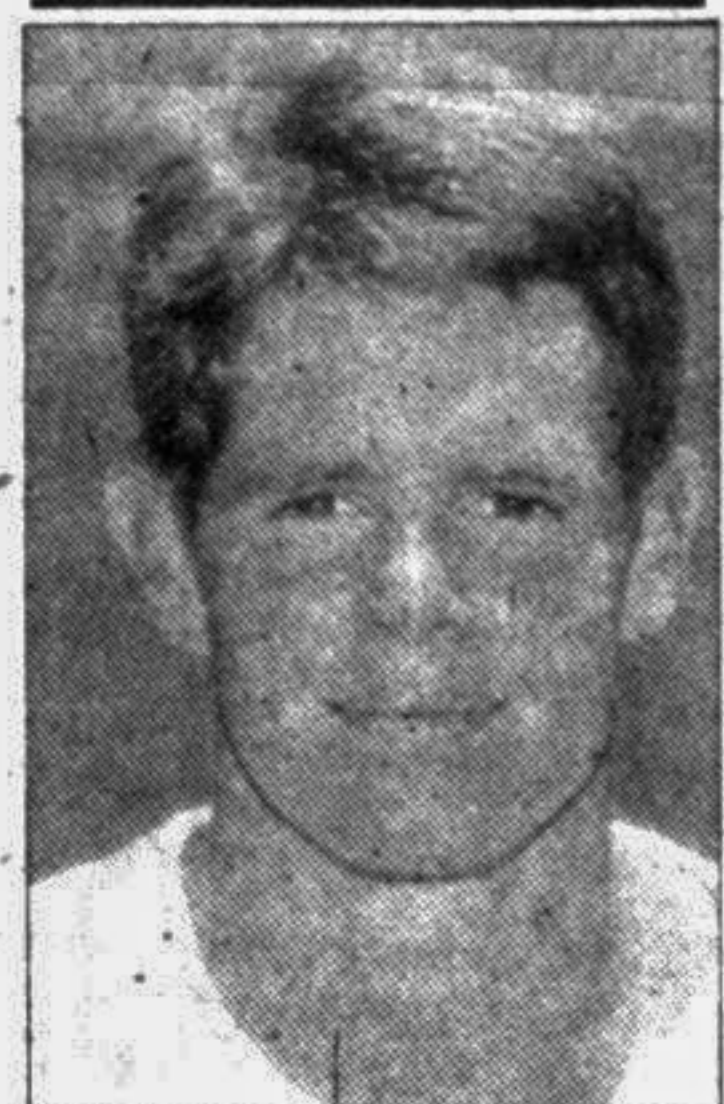
DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

HAT the Pakistani selectors are taking the stick for dropping Anisur Rahman from the team that faced South Africa on Thursday. It did look like they really needed a fifth bowler of his calibre; a point coming to the fore when Amir Sohail had to replace Rashid Latif behind the stumps.

Selectors have been, over the days, called many names. Mohinder Amarnath, the Indian cricketer, called his selectors, 'a bunch of jokers'. English big-mouth Ian Botham was not to be outdone. Botham called the English selectors 'gin-soaked doctors'.

SPORTS TALK



Shaun Pollock

With African pace sensation Shaun Pollock, I bet there'll be a few additions to the English dictionary.

With African pace sensation Shaun Pollock, I bet there'll be a few additions to the English dictionary.

With African pace sensation Shaun Pollock, I bet there'll be a few additions to the English dictionary.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-27

Tick the Correct Answer

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options for the Sports Whizz Kid competition.

Form for entering name, class, roll number, and school address for the competition.

The Daily Star readers' poll

Sorry, dear readers. Luck failed you not once but twice yesterday when both your predictions went wrong.

TODAY'S PREDICTED WINNERS Match at Nagpur: Australia Match at Lahore: UAE

Peel turns back the clock

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 29: The Minister of Sports shed suit and tie and turned back the clock, leading powerful Santos to a 6-2 victory in scrummage game, reports AFP.

But it hardly seemed that way when he took the field. Peel showed flashes of his old form, distributing pinpoint passes, scoring two goals — one on a penalty kick — and hitting the post with a diving header in a 40-minute scrummage.



HIGH FIVE: South African teenage bowling sensation Paul Adams (L) celebrates capturing his maiden World Cup wicket of Salim Malik with teammate Daryl Cullinan during their crucial match against Pakistan in Karachi yesterday.

Sohail ploughs the sands

Champs suffer slugfest



KARACHI, Feb 29: Miracle worker Hansie Cronje produced a personal masterpiece here today as his South African side pulled the rug from under the feet of Pakistan, the World Cup holders and hosts, reports AFP.

Cronje inspired a five-wicket win by dismissing two batsmen in his first over, catching Pakistan century-maker Amir Sohail running out danger man Inzamamul Haq and then scoring an unbeaten 45.

It was the perfect way to answer Pakistani criticism of his side before the game. It also ensured that the South Africans, with four wins out of four, will end at the top of Group B and earn themselves a plum quarterfinal tie in Karachi.

Ironically, the South Africans, renowned for their out-cricketer, produced their worst performance to date in the field as Pakistan made 242 for six.

But Cronje just kept dragging his side back into the game.



H CRONJE... m-o-m

The Pakistani openers, choosing to bat, produced a text-book one-day start, harrying the fielders as they sprinted to 50 by the 11th over.

But the South African captain then brought himself on, bowling his medium-pace seamers to snap up Saeed Anwar and Ijaz Ahmed in his first over to put his side on top. Inzamamul Haq, however,

smashed Allan Donald out of the attack as the home supporters found their voice again. Cronje switched tack, brought spinner Paul Adams and Brian McMillan into the front line, and the scoring rate slowed.

The South African captain had to begin the game without star fielder Jonny Rhodes but his next exploit was as good as the injured player could have served up.

Danger-man Inzamam, on 23, hesitated in mid-pitch trying to steal a quick single, turned all the speed of an ocean-going tanker and Cronje jetted in from short mid-wicket to hit the stumps.

Sohail put on 77 with Salim Malik to re-establish the innings but the left-handed opener, suffering from cramp by the end of his innings and needing a runner, could not increase the pace as only 66 came off the last ten overs.

Three wickets fell in that phase, Adams getting Malik caught behind off a top edge. The South Africans produced a carbon-copy start to their innings, storming past 50 within seven overs.

But Waqar Younis removed Andrew Hudson and Brian McMillan in quick succession to make it 53 for two.

Waqar, however, took some hefty punishment, as did leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed whose first over went for 16, as Pakistan strove for a new breakthrough.

Young off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq turned the game again with two quick wickets. But Cronje, who rejected suggestions by Pakistan manager Intikhab Alam before the game that his side was short of batting depth, kept his cool, even when Daryl Cullinan was bowled for 65 by returning Waqar.

Cronje, joined by Shaun Pollock steered his side home with, over five overs to spare. Pollock ended unbeaten on 20. Cronje said: 'We got wickets at regular intervals which pegged them back when Saeed Anwar and Amir Sohail began well.'

'We were happy with their total in the end and we always thought we had a chance. The batters played very positively. He added: 'Jonny Rhodes is always worth 15 runs in the field but we have a strong squad. We have enjoyed playing in Pakistan, the people have been friendly and the facilities good, and we are looking forward to coming back here.'

Waqar replied: 'I must congratulate the South African team. They outplayed us today but we will back, definitely. We will be back with a vengeance. I didn't bowl well and Waqar bowled well but gave away too many runs. Probably the next game we will come out with a different strategy.'

SCOREBOARD World Cup Group B score-

board of the match between Pakistan and South Africa in Karachi Thursday.

Table showing match statistics for Pakistan vs South Africa, including bowlers, batsmen, and extras.

Table showing match statistics for South Africa vs Pakistan, including bowlers, batsmen, and extras.



SOHAIL... 111

Table showing match statistics for South Africa vs Pakistan, including bowlers, batsmen, and extras.

India, SL set to clash



NEW DELHI, Feb 29: World Cup hosts India and Sri Lanka put the smiles and handshakes behind them here today as they got set for their crunch encounter here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Sri Lanka skipper Arjuna Ranatunga said India and Pakistan's backing for his nation during the match boycott crisis was a "grand gesture" — but warned immediately there would be no return favours on the field.

'That was between the officials, this one is the real thing, between the cricketers. We will be tough and I expect India, too will be the same,' he said.

'This is the World Cup, not a beach game.' Indian counterpart Mohammad Azharuddin echoed the tough talking, saying: 'We will go flat out for victory, that's for sure.'

India and Pakistan refused to bow to pressure from Australia and the West Indies to shift their matches from Colombo after 87 people were killed in a terrorist bomb blast

just before the tournament. They also sent a combined team to play a solidarity-match against the Sri Lankans in Colombo on February 13. The match, played under tight security, went off without a hitch.

But that was then. Now, both India and Sri Lanka, grouped with Australia and the West Indies, are desperate to win a key match that will earn the winner an easier ride in the next round.

All four teams are keen to finish among the top two to prevent a hazardous quarter final against the big guns from the other half, Pakistan and South Africa.

The Sri Lankans are better placed with full points from three matches — including the two forfeited by Australia and the West Indies — and a relatively easy game in hand against minnows Kenya.

Both Australia and India have two wins each from three games, which leaves Mohammad Azharuddin's men needing to beat both Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in their last two league matches to have a chance to finish among the top two.

His Sri Lankan counterpart Arjuna Ranatunga appeared more relaxed — he was just

happy to be where all the action was.

'These last two weeks have been very frustrating. With both Australia and West Indies not coming to Colombo, it was nets and more nets for us,' the portly 32-year-old said. 'We were desperate for a game in the middle.'

The Sri Lankans took their frustration out on hapless Zimbabwe, thrashing them by six wickets in Colombo on February 21 when the only runfire came from the bats of Aravinda de Silva (91) and Asanka Gurusinha (87).

'It was a good start,' Ranatunga said, but warned the match against India would be a different ball game altogether. 'India at home is a class outfit. We've had some rough times against them on previous tours of India. They have looked invincible.'

'But we are a vastly improved team now and have proved that in the last year. No one will take us lightly any more,' Ranatunga said.

Sri Lanka stunned Pakistan in both the Test and one-day series in August, won the Champions Trophy in Sharjah in October and made Mark Taylor's formidable Australian sweat during a controversial tour Down Under.

Premier Div cricket league begins today

The six-team Premier Division cricket super league begins at the Dhaka Stadium today, reports UNB.

Joint holders Mohammedan SC, who have a comfortable solo lead with 20 points from 11 outings at the end of the 12-team first phase, will take on Wari Club, the bottom club of the elite group in the super league opener.

Wari Club was the only team which inflicted a 3-wicket defeat on Mohammedan SC in the first phase.

Other four teams: Victory Day champions Bangladesh Biman, co-holders Abahani KC, youthful Brothers Union and Kalabagan KC.

Biman, Abahani and Brothers Union are in the second position with 16 points each while Kalabagan KC have 14 and Wari Club 10 points.

All super league matches will be held at the Dhaka Stadium.

FIXTURES

- Mar 2: Biman vs Kalabagan Mar 3: AKC vs BU Mar 4: MSC vs Kalabagan Mar 5: Biman vs BU Mar 6: AKC vs Wari Mar 7: MSC vs BU Mar 8: Biman vs AKC Mar 9: Kalabagan vs Wari Mar 10: MSC vs AKC Mar 11: Biman vs Wari Mar 12: BU vs Kalabagan Mar 14: AKC vs Kalabagan Mar 15: BU vs Wari Mar 16: MSC vs Biman

IM chess on

The third United Insurance International Masters chess tournament began at the NSC chess room yesterday with top seed and local IM Ziaur Rahman off to a good start beating compatriot Adnan Faisal in 26 moves.

Eight other players, including third seed Rahul Shetty of India, earned full points after winning their inaugural matches.

Rahul Shetty, who needs one more norm to earn his International Master title, beat Tanima Parveen of Bangladesh in the 36th move.

In the other matches of the day, Vishal Shereen of India defeated Ruhul Qudus of Bangladesh. Saifuddin Labib beat Arman Motir, Shawkat Hossain Pallab beat Motiur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman beat Tabir Rahman, Ali Anjad Mirza beat Anisuzzaman Mullah, Enamul Hossain Rajib beat Amir Hossain and Mahfuzur Rahman Imon beat Abdullah Al Rakib.

Shahadat Hossain Rajin drew with Saidul Islam Masum in the another fixture.

Seven more matches were in progress till filing the report.

Thirty four players are taking part in the 11-round Swiss league competition, a regular international chess meet in the country.

Nagpur tie runs risk

NAGPUR, India, Feb 29: Local citizens are planning to disrupt Friday's World Cup match between Australia and Zimbabwe here to protest official apathy towards cricket fans who died in a stadium wall collapse in November, reports AFP.

'We will make our presence felt at the stadium tomorrow,' a local social worker Madhukar Rao Wasnik said. 'We may even disrupt the game.'

'All we want is that cricket officials here should build a memorial to honour the 10 fans who were killed on November 26 during one-day international between India and New Zealand.'

'It was a gruesome tragedy, unprecedented in the annals of Indian sport. Is it wrong to remember those killed?' Wasnik told AFP by telephone.

Vidharbha Cricket Association (VCA) officials have ruled out the construction of a memorial, but insisted that the main entrance to the VCA Stadium is being renamed the 'memorial gate'.

'There is no plan to build anything for the dead fans. I don't think it's needed,' said VCA official Dorai Rajan. 'We are all sorry for what happened that day, but making memorials is not the answer.'

He also said tight security in and around the stadium will take care of any protests. 'I don't anticipate any problems,' Rajan said.

The new 10,000-seater stand, where the tragedy took place, has been renovated for Friday's match, but very few people are buying tickets.

'There is hardly any enthusiasm for the game,' Rajan said. 'We have a capacity of around 40,000, but not more than 5,000 people will turn up. The sale of tickets is very low.'

Rajan could not say how many tickets had been picked up for the new stand.

The VCA Stadium was cleared to host a World Cup match after an enquiry conducted by the state government of Maharashtra, where Nagpur is situated, said the wall collapsed because of overcrowding and not for any fault in construction.

Windies date with an incubus Unbelievable, unthinkable



PUNE, India, Feb 29: Cricketing infants Kenya scored an unbelievable 73-run victory over two-time champion West Indies Thursday in the biggest upset of World Cup history, reports agencies.

Batting first in their Group A match, World Cup debutants Kenya were all out for 166 in 49.3 overs, a target that appeared fairly simple for the mighty Caribbeans.

Maurice Odumbe, who is leading the non-Test minnows at their first World Cup, said after doing a lap of honour in front of 5,000 fans at the Nehru Stadium: 'It's like winning the World Cup. It's a dream come true.'

Kenya, West Indies and Zimbabwe all have two points from four games, and any one could now join Sri Lanka, Australia and India in the quarter-finals.

All three have tough final matches — Zimbabwe and West Indies play Australia, while Kenya travel Kandy to take on Sri Lanka. West Indies take on Australia on Jaipur on Monday. Kenya play Sri Lanka on March 6.

The defeat added to the woes of the beleaguered West Indies captain, already under attack from his predecessor Vivian Richards for lacking leadership qualities.

The dejected Richardson said: 'I am very, very disappointed.'

'My congratulations to Kenya for winning a very important match. We did not play the way we should have. I am very, very disappointed. I have



Kenyan skipper Maurice Odumbe surveys the damage after hitting his stumps following West Indian paceman Ian Bishop's delivery during their World Cup Group A match in Pune, India yesterday.

'West Indies are our idols, and to beat an idol is a great thing. We came to the World Cup with a promise that we could play. I think we proved it today.'

'We have created history and I think the future is bright. The turning point was when we got Brian Lara. It has been said that when Lara goes, the West Indies look shaky. That's what happened today. We put a little extra pressure and it helped,' Odumbe said.

His West Indies counterpart Richie Richardson could only confess his bitter disappointment at the pathetic batting display by his team.

Odumbe played a captain's role, taking three wickets for 15 runs from 10 steady overs of off-spin. Seamer Rajab Ali grabbed three for 17 — including the prized scalp of Brian Lara. Ali sent his teammates into wild jubilation by bowling last man Cameron Cuffy.

None of the West Indies batsmen could settle against the tight bowling backed by outstanding fielding.

Lara struggled to make eight, surviving a run out chance on four. Left-hander Shivnarine Chanderpaul's sedate 19 was the top score.

Just 5,000 spectators were at hand to applaud a lap of honour by the Kenyans around the Nehru Stadium to celebrate their finest hour.

And the unexpected victory threw open the race for the last quarter-final place from the six-team group.

nothing more to add to that.'

His bowlers sent down 14 wides and 13 no balls in 35 extras, which were the largest contributor to Kenya's modest total after Richardson won the toss and elected to field.

Richardson himself began the slide, making just five before being bowled by Rajab Ali in the fourth over.

The procession back to the pavilion did not spare even Lara, whose 375 in Tests and 501 in first-class cricket are world batting records.

Richards on Wednesday called for Lara to be made captain, saying that one reason in the decline of West Indian cricket was the 'lack of leadership.'

'Richardson is not doing too well and he seems to have allowed things to deteriorate,' Richards wrote in the Times of India.

The master batsman, who led the West Indians during their eighties, wrote that Richardson's deputy Lara had 'everything to be a good captain.'

The defeat came after fast bowler Courtney Walsh and spinner Roger Harper scalped three wickets each to keep the Kenyan score down to 166.

Walsh himself was a major offender in giving extras to Kenya, sending down three wides and six no-balls. Fellow paceman Cuffy had five no balls and as many wides in his first World Cup match.

Premier strike bowler

Curtly Ambrose, who took two for 21, bowled five wides.

Harper, the lanky off-spinner, was the pick of the West Indian bowlers, conceding just 15 runs in his 10-over spell.

Only three other times a qualifier has beaten a Test match playing country in the World Cup. In 1979, Sri Lanka beat India by 47 runs in England. Then Zimbabwe beat Australia by 13 runs in Trent Bridge, England in 1983 and Zimbabwe beat England by nine runs in Australia in 1992.

In the current World Cup, West Indies could now lose a place in the quarterfinal to Zimbabwe or Kenya. Zimbabwe, which has one victory from three matches and still has to play Australia and India while Kenya could upset Sri Lanka in the last of the league matches, on March 6.

SCOREBOARD

World Cup Group A scoreboard between West Indies and Kenya in Pune Thursday:

Table showing batting and bowling statistics for Kenya vs West Indies.

Table showing batting and bowling statistics for West Indies vs Kenya.

Result: Kenya won by 73 runs.

Craig on a appalling assignment

BRISBANE, Feb 29: Repatriated fast bowler Craig McDermott said today he doubted Australia's cricket tour of Sri Lanka in August would go ahead, reports AFP.

McDermott, forced home from the World Cup with a calf muscle injury, said that violence on the island did not appear to have eased since Australia forfeited its opening World Cup match against Sri Lanka in Colombo.

He said that if things did not improve dramatically in the next few months, Australia would boycott Sri Lanka again.

'If the tour was to go in a month's time I'd say it would be going ahead, things haven't improved there, that's for sure,' said McDermott, who was the target of a bomb threat at his family home in the leadup to the World Cup.

'They weren't even letting ground staff into the ground, that's how strict it was. You can't play cricket under those conditions.'

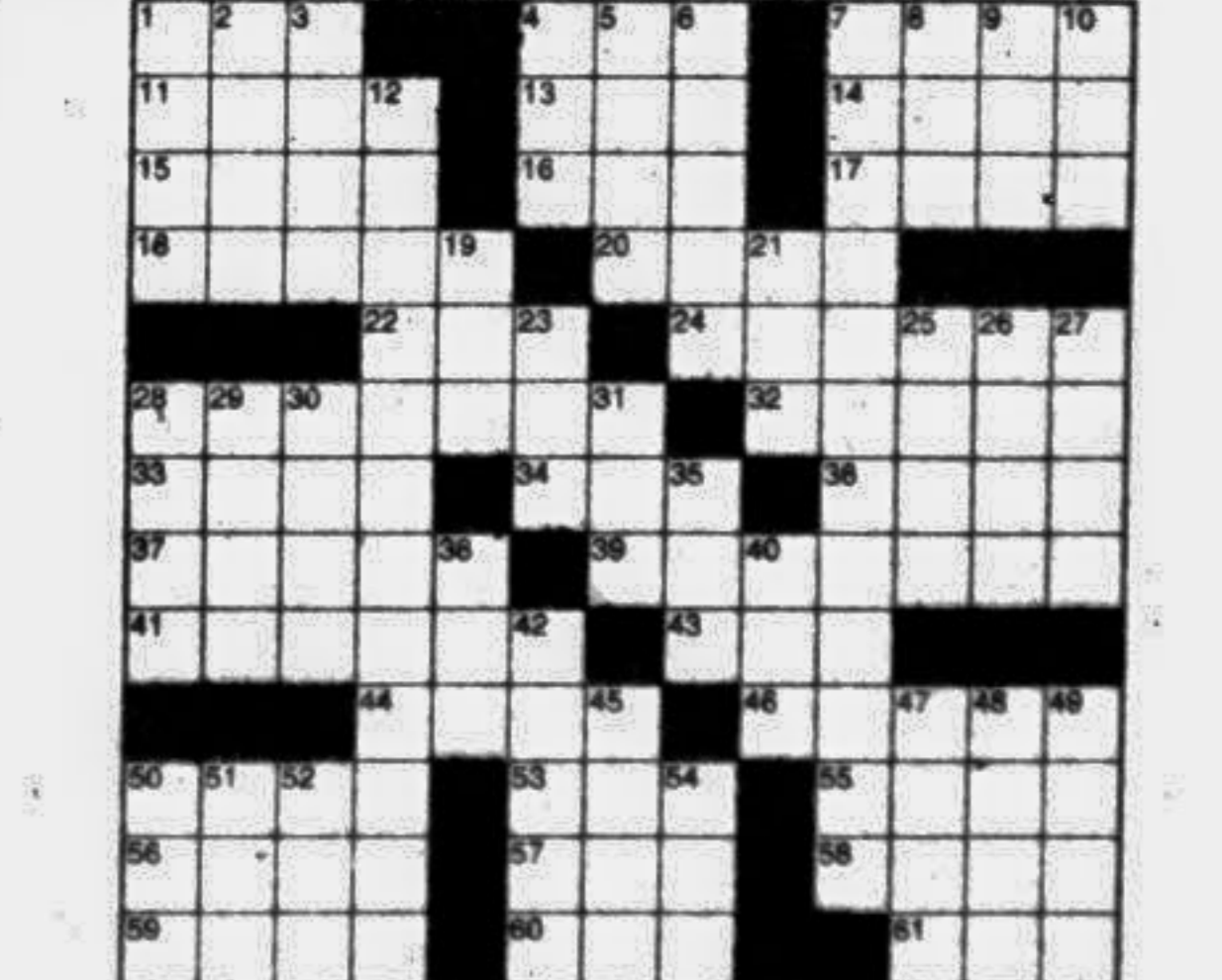
McDermott will have surgery this week, which will rule him out of the rest of the Australian cricket season.

'It is taking the opportunity to repair minor damage in his left knee while recovering from the calf injury.'

'There's plenty of grey hair but I'm only 30. I'd like to still be around after the next 25 Test matches. It's a big ask but I believe I can do it,' he said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.



CRYPTOQUIP

E Y M K F M L R F : M B K Y W T F Y S T I L Q H F T W H E T R Y S T C Y L H V F I L T M V O L T I Y S C Y L V F Saturday's Cryptquip: EMPLOYMENT AGENCY SMUGLY ASSERTS THAT IT PUTS PEOPLE IN THEIR PLACES.

Today's Cryptquip clue: C equals F

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 locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.