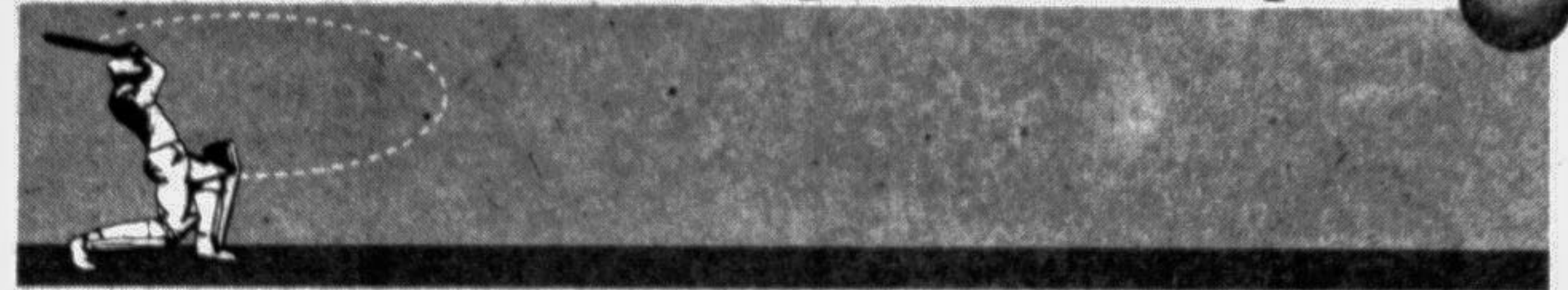


The World Cup with Philips



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Arif rebuts report

KARACHI, Feb 29: Pakistan cricket boss Arif Ali Abbasi today tried to halt a brewing World Cup controversy by denying an umpire had been asked to stand down from a match after a complaint by the defending champions, reports AFP.

Abbasi, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive, denied Pakistan had objected to Zimbabwean Ian Robinson standing for today's Group B game against South Africa here. Abbasi said Robinson's absence might be the fault of "travel agents in India."

He rejected reports that said the Pakistan team had objected. Abbasi said: "This has been misreported. We know for a fact that Pakistan had not refused to play under Robinson."

But Pakistan manager Intikhab Alam added to the confusion by saying: "It's a matter of confidence. A team should have confidence in the umpire. We don't want to comment further."

Robinson, who according to the national news agency was accused of cheating by former Pakistan Test captain Salim Malik last year, was replaced by West Indian umpire Steve Bucknor for today's game.

Abbasi, who is also the treasurer of World Cup organisers PILCOM, added: "It might be a mistake of travel agents in India. What happened was that instead of Robinson, Bucknor travelled. It's just a human error."

He stressed neither the PCB, its Indian counterpart nor the International Cricket Council (ICC) had any complaints about Robinson and said he could officiate in New Zealand game against Pakistan later in the tournament.

In last year's incident, Malik accused Robinson of tampering with the ball during the third Test against Zimbabwe in Harare. Malik alleged Robinson had made the ball wet when it was handed to him between overs.

Robinson and fellow umpire Steve Randall of Australia took the matter up with West Indian match referee Jackie Hendricks who fined Malik and suspended him for one Test.

It was the first time in Test cricket that an umpire had been accused of tampering with the ball.

TODAY'S VENUES

LAHORE: Situated on the Grand Trunk Road connects Kabul to Calcutta. This capital city is said to be 2000 years old.

Till today it is a thriving city where Mughal, Gothic and Victorian styles blend to create breathtaking venues and sights.

The historic city, once the seat of power in undivided medieval India, is the capital of the Pakistani province of Punjab. The renovated Gaddafi Stadium making the ideal setting for the World Cup final on March 17. The Stadium, with newly-installed floodlights, will host today's Holland-UAE match.

NAGPUR: Five big lakes, orange orchards, eighty beautiful parks, and an unsurpassed handloom industry Nagpur. The Orange City thrives on its diversity.

A part of the Maratha empire till 1875, today Nagpur houses one of the oldest textile mills innumerable central government offices and the Air Force Maintenance Command Headquarters.

Nagpur is famous for its fertile soil, cotton crop and lip-smacking oranges. The city has an abundance of tourist spots — Ramtek and Khindri Tank, Navegaon Lake, Tadoba National Park, Pench Dam — all well connected by bus and within 70 kms from the city.

The summer capital off the western state of Maharashtra. The Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium came under a cloud when a wall collapsed during the India-New Zealand international on November 26, killing 10 fans and injuring 70.

A government inquiry later cleared the 35,000-capacity stadium for the World Cup. Has hosted both Tests and one-dayers. Venue of the today's match between Australia and Zimbabwe.

Liverpool in FA Cup qtrs

LONDON, Feb 29: The fifth round of the English FA Cup was all but completed on Wednesday without the whiff of an upset as the last giant-killers all lost to Premier league teams, reports Reuter.

Championship-chasing Liverpool strode into the quarter-finals with a 2-1 home win over First Division Charlton and there were replay wins for Southampton who beat Second Division Swindon 2-0, Wimbledon who beat First Division Huddersfield 3-1 and Chelsea who thumped First Division Grimsby 4-1.

The full-blooded Taylor



NAGPUR, India, Feb 29: Australia's bowling crisis deepened today as seamer Paul Reiffel was all but ruled out of the World Cup clash with Zimbabwe, reports AFP.

Captain Mark Taylor said Reiffel, a man ideally suited for slow Asian wickets, would undergo a fitness test on Friday morning just before the start of the match in Nagpur.

But he held out little hope of the 29-year-old Victorian taking the field.

"Paul pulled his hamstring in Bombay before Tuesday's game against India, and still looks in some bother. He could only bowl a couple of deliveries at the nets today," Taylor said.

With fast bowler Craig McDermott already sent home

with a torn calf muscle and his replacement Jason Gillespie arriving only late today, Australia were left with just 12 players for Friday's match.

Taylor, however, put a brave face on the problem. "We beat India without Craig and Paul, so it's not too much of a problem. We would obviously like to have 14 fit players, but injuries are part of the game and must be taken in stride," he said.

Australia are expected to retain the same team that defeated India by 16 runs, with opener Michael Slater again relegated to the bench.

Australia, regarded as the strongest contenders to win the World Cup, will take no liberties with off-form Zimbabwe.

"If we don't perform against Zimbabwe, we could be beaten," Taylor said. "That is the character of the World Cup and any one-day international."

Australia are currently second in Group A behind leaders Sri Lanka, having won both their matches against Kenya and India after forfeiting the game in Colombo for security reasons.

Zimbabwe, on the other hand, have just one win — against lowly Kenya — from three matches, and face the uphill task of defeating both Australia and India to qualify for the quarterfinals.

"We haven't been able to get our act together in this tournament," conceded Zimbabwe skipper Andy Flower. "We have a much better side than the results show."

Zimbabwe, beaten by the West Indies and Sri Lanka in their first two matches, struggled to overtake Kenya's 134 in Patna on Tuesday after losing five wickets.

The only redeeming feature for Zimbabwe has been Paul Strang's leg spin. He took four

wickets against the West Indies and followed it up with a career-best, five for 21 against Kenya.

Strang will be looking for another bagful of wickets before his model and mentor Shane Warne, who schooled him in the nuances of leg-spin bowling in Australia last year.

TEAMS
AUSTRALIA (from): Mark Taylor (capt), Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Steve Waugh, Stuart Law, Michael Bevan, Shane Lee, Ian Haly, Share Warne, Glenn McGrath, Damien Fleming, Paul Reiffel, Michael Slater.

ZIMBABWE (from): Andy Flower (capt), Grant Flower, Andy Walker, Guy Whittall, Alistair Campbell, Sean Davies, Craig Evans, Charles Lock, Heath Streak, Paul Strang, Bryan Strang, Stephen Peall, Eddo Brandes, Henry Olongo.

Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Steve Dunne (New Zealand). Match referee: Clive Lloyd (West Indies).

works in a timber company in Bulawayo and says that if he ever becomes a full-time professional, it will be in his native Zimbabwe and not overseas.

In fact, he has turned down offers to play Sheffield Shield cricket in Australia, where he was sought after when he toured there last winter to play in the triangular World Series Cup.

Although he is not a tall man, Strang gets a lot of bounce from the pitch, thanks to his high action. The bounce factor was obvious in the leg-break which the West Indian skipper Richie Richardson edged to slip in that first game.

At one stage, Strang took three wickets in a span of seven balls.

Leg-spinners are not plentiful in Zimbabwe and Strang, as a boy, had to look abroad for a role model.

"We had no television in Zimbabwe in those days. So my father sent me tapes of the Pakistani, Abdul Qadir and I played them over and over again."

"Then when I went to Australia, last year, I spent a lot of time chatting to Shane Warne and he taught me plenty. Shane is a great guy... very helpful... doesn't keep anything close to his chest when you seek advice," he said.

Hampshire, Zimbabwe's English coach, believes Strang would make a big name for himself if he got more exposure. That, however, would probably need a move abroad.

On Friday, however, he will get a big chance to impress in front of the world cameras, with Warne, who is bowling quite brilliantly despite the less-than-flattering figures, providing the perfect yardstick.

Strang should not expect too much advice from the great man before the game, however. Australia's batsmen are hardly likely to allow that.



MARK TAYLOR



ANDY FLOWER

Ascent of an apprentice

ever — Pakistan's Mushtaq Ahmed and Zimbabwe coach John Hampshire to the force-suggest he will soon earn his membership to the world's most select and mysterious club.

Strang, in fact, probably deserved the man-of-the-match award against the West Indies as well, adding a knock of 22 notout to his four victims.

So far, the apprentice — Paul Strang — has produced most of the magic.

Strang, a bubbling 25-year-old leg-spinner from Bulawayo, already boasts figures of four for 40 against the West Indies, a national record for the tournament of five for 21 against Kenya and a man of the match award.

His model and mentor, Shane Warne, has two wickets from two matches. The Zimbabwean, however, would not presume a comparison. Strang knows a real sorcerer when he knows one.

All the predictions, however...

Convention, however, ruled the prize should go to the winning side and Curtly Ambrose walked off with the 1,000 pound cheque.

"It was my best day in international cricket," said Strang, one of ten amateurs in the current Zimbabwe squad and whose brother Bryan also plays in the side.

A graduate in economics, he



PAUL STRANG



Action from a doubles match of the Beximco 10th Bangladesh International junior tennis championship played yesterday at the Ramna Tennis Complex.

Meeting of the minnows today

LAHORE, Feb 29: Cash-strapped Holland will bid for their first-ever World Cup victory here on Friday as they shape up against rival minnows the United Arab Emirates, reports AFP.

The Dutch, desperate to put up a good performance to add weight to their demands for more financial help from the International Cricket Council, will be determined to build on previous tournament performances.

The Emirates, however, will be just as keen to repeat their ICC Trophy victory over Holland after receiving the worst press of the World Cup, their batting described as pop-gun.

Steve Lubbers' Dutch side may have lost all their three games but they can point to an eight-wicket haul against New Zealand and an impressive chasing total of 230 against England. Even their backs-to-the-wall display against Pakistan won admiration.

The Emirates, in contrast, have lost four times, beginning with a defeat by 169 runs against South Africa, an eight-wicket reverse against England and one by nine wickets against Pakistan.

But their last outing against New Zealand at Faisalabad gave them their wickets, three best total so far — 167 for nine — and they also took eight wickets, three more than in the previous three matches.

Sultan Zarawani's men, relying heavily on opening bowler Johanne Samarasekera, who also managed an undeleated 47 last time out, will hope they can at last silence the carpers, who have argued the team has devalued the competition by their presence.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: (from) Sultan Zarawani (capt), Saeed Al-Salfar, Vijay Mehra, Saleem Raza, Shahzad Aftab, Shaikat Dukarwali, Ganesh Mylvaganam, Syed Ajjaz Aseel, Mazhar Hussein, Arshad Ateeq, Muhammad Aslam, Johanne Samarasekera, Imtiaz Abbasi, Ishaq Mohammed.

HOLLAND: (from) Steven Lubbers (capt), Roland Leffevre, Nolan Clarke, Tim de Leeds, Reinout Sholte, Brik Gouka, Floris Jansen, Klaas Jan Van Norrwijk, Flavian Aponso, Paul Jan Bakker, Peter Cantrell, Marcel Schewe, Robert Van Oosterom, Bas Zuidereit.

NEW DELHI, Feb 29: Sri Lanka, already qualified for the World Cup knockout stage, are eager for revenge over Australia and West Indies, the two sides who forfeited first round matches against them rather than travel to Colombo, reports Reuter.

It's not meeting them, but beating them. That will be the ideal thing," Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga said today.

The two teams angered Sri Lanka by pulling out of their scheduled matches because of security fears after more than

ROQUIBUL ON THE ROCKER

SA sweep Pakistan out



South African captain Hansie Cronje led from the front to outclass reigning champions Pakistan by five wickets in Karachi and in the process virtually confirmed the top slot in Group B which will also enable them to play their quarterfinal match on the Pakistani soil, much to their liking.

What was expected to be a real charged up contest, turned out to be an easy win for South Africa in the end.

Centurian Aamir Sohail (111) and Saeed Anwar (25) gave Pakistan a wonderful start of 52 runs in 14 overs after captain Wasim Akram elected to bat on a slow but flat batting wicket.

Despite South African captain Cronje giving his side a great break by sending back Saeed Anwar and Ijaz Ahmed in the same over, Pakistan managed to score 100 by the 22nd over. At this stage, a total of 200 plus was very much on the card.

Salim Malik and Aamir Sohail put up a good partnership of 77 runs in 17 over. After Ijazam (23) was run out in a mixup with Aamir Sohail, they were never allowed to give a real charge by the South

Africans. Backed by their usual brilliant fielding, the South African seam bowlers, except for Donald, showed great skill in adapting themselves to the slow wicket and switched onto slow full pitched bowling.

Paul Adams, the young unorthodox left-arm spinner, lived up to the expectation of his captain in his maiden World Cup appearance and did a terrific job of returning with the match figure of one for 42 from ten overs.

The Pakistanis were restricted to 242 for six in their stipulated 50 overs.

Aamir got a good hundred but not before he was left twice by the South African keeper, the only blemish in their outcries. Salim Malik scored a useful 40 and skipper Akram (32 n.o.) did well during the slog overs to push the Pakistanis score.

With Waqar, Akram and Mushtaq at their disposal, Pakistan had a every reason to defend the reasonably good target but the South Africans had different ideas to frustrate the defending World Cup champions. They did their homework and implemented it with great aplomb. They not only took the full advantage of field restrictions during the first 15 overs but also adapted a successful "sweepshot" strategy against the spinners which totally unsettled the Pakistanis. And

captain Cronje, who plays spin very well, gave a nice balance to South African batting dropping himself down in the order. Their 100 in the 14th over and 200 in the 35th over only speaks of the night execution of the plan.

Pakistani bowlers, although not up to the mark, had their success with Waqar and Saqlain. With South Africa at 125 for four, Waqar raised a glimmer of hope when he removed Cullinan. But a solid 78-run fifth wicket partnership between a cool, collected Cronje and Cullinan followed by another unbroken 40-runs for the sixth wicket with young Pollock (24 n.o.) saw South Africa romp home in only 45.2 overs.

Other than Saqlain (2/38), none of the Pakistani bowlers bowled with imagination. Besides, they conceded too many no balls and wides.

The lack of depth in the Pak bowling attack was quite noticeable and the absence of an extra specialist bowler was very much felt. Instead of keeping six specialist batsmen in the line up, they should have opted for another seamer which could have given more bites to their attack.

At the end, it was an well deserved victory for the South Africans, who outwitted the Pakistanis in every department.

Ranatunga for revenge



NEW DELHI, Feb 29: Sri Lanka, already qualified for the World Cup knockout stage, are eager for revenge over Australia and West Indies, the two sides who forfeited first round matches against them rather than travel to Colombo, reports Reuter.

It's not meeting them, but beating them. That will be the ideal thing," Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga said today.

The two teams angered Sri Lanka by pulling out of their scheduled matches because of security fears after more than

ran was no-balled for throwing. Debate over Muralitharan's action has continued but Ranatunga said the matter was over.

Murali played against Zimbabwe and there was no problem. The issue is settled," said the 32-year-old veteran of four World Cups.

When Australia and West Indies pulled out, India and Pakistan sent a joint team to play a friendly in Colombo ahead of the World Cup in what was billed as a show of solidarity with Sri Lanka.

Asked if he believed the whole issue pointed to something of an "east-west divide" between cricketing nations, Ranatunga said: "It is a controversial topic — but in a way, the blast also seems a mere excuse."

Acme Div II cricket

East End Club and Nirman Eleven won their respective Acme Second Division cricket super league matches which commenced in the capital yesterday.

East End Club recorded a big nine-wicket win over Nawabganj Evergreen at the Dhanmondi Club ground while Nirman Boys defeated Rainbow Athletics Club by four wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

NAWABGANJ EVERGREEN: 134 in 36 overs (Hafiz 34, Saif 29, Abir 4/22). **EAST END CLUB:** 136 for one in 29.5 overs (Nobin 74 n.o, Titu 21)

RAINBOW AC: 190 in 38.2 overs (Maruf 56 n.o, Naser 35, Mustafa 26, Bappi 1/0). **NIRMAN XI:** 193 for six in 33.2 overs (Sajal 58 n.o, Firoj 41, Ripon 35; Pankaj 2/15)

Beximco jr tennis

Foreigners to the fore

Sports Reporter

Witoonpanich Bhee and Nawawangse Chai of Thailand, and Indians Harsh Mankad and Anod Wakalkar moved into the semifinals of the Beximco 10th Bangladesh International junior tennis championship by winning their respective quarterfinals at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

In the quarterfinals held in front of a small number of local crowd, top seed Bhee overcame Indian Amandeep Singh 6-3, 6-1 while his compatriot Chai defeated Rohan Wadnra 6-0, 6-4. In the other matches, Indian Mankad recorded a 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 win over Australian Cremens Wiederman and his country mate Wakalkar outplayed HP Tsang of Chinese Taipei 6-2, 6-2.

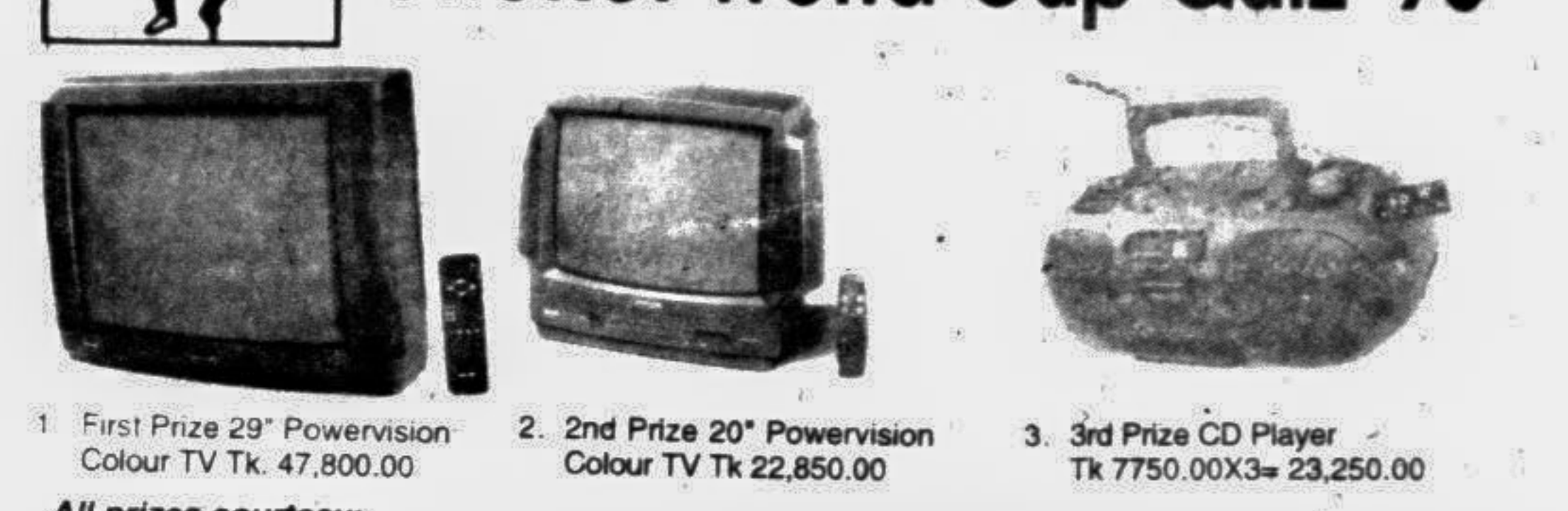
In the semis, billed for this morning, Bhee will take on Mankad while Chai will face Wakalkar at the same venue.

In the girls' group, Niroj and P Watoonpanich from Thailand reached the semis along with M Streurer of Austria and Kazakhstan's Selyutina Irina.

In the quarters, Niroj trounced local Rawshan Kabir 6-0, 6-0. Streurer overpowered South Korean Choon Hee Chou 6-0, 6-2. Watoonpanich routed Kirgystan's Tatiana 6-1, 6-0 and Irina outgunned Jan Di Kim of South Korea 6-1, 6-0.

The Daily Star PHILIPS

Cricket World Cup Quiz '96



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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 4-28, 1996 for Quiz 1 and from Feb 27-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 2: 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 with 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: 1209.

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. Participant's 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. Incomplete forms will not be considered.

Quiz 2 : Bumper Round

Read the information and rules carefully. Tick (✓) the correct answer.

- The first "duck" in the World Cup was by H R Shah E D Solkar A Knott
- In the WC, the first over was bowled by V Holder M Lal J Snow
- In the 1975 WC, the Sri Lankans were led by D Mendis B Warnapura B Tarnakon
- In 1979 WC, the playing Chappell was Chris Ian Greg
- The spinner who won two M-o-M awards in the 1983 WC was L Gomes D Underwood A Qadir
- Australia won the 1987 World Cup beating England in the final by 7 runs 17 runs 27 runs
- The maximum wides and no-balls bowled in the 1992 WC was by A Donald W Akram W Benjamin

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. Send as many entries as you like.