

The World Cup with Philips



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Sports Reporter

DHAKA WANDERERS: 223 for 8 (Kiron 50, Munirul Huq 45).
AGRANI BANK: 166 in 43.5 overs (Suru 46, Azam Iqbal 37, Totam 4/28)

Dhaka Wanderers made an impressive start in the Premier relegation league defeating Agrani Bank by 57 runs on the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Sent in to bat by Agrani skipper Dipu Roy Chowdhury, Wanderers raced on to amass a fighting 223 with opener Kiron hammering a brilliant 80 off 110 balls.

After a disastrous start of 61/3 in 16.3 overs, Wanderers' Kiron, who held the innings together, shared an invaluable 96 runs for the fourth wicket with Pakistani Munirul Huq (45) before he was dismissed by discarded national off-spinner Shariful Huq Plabon. In his marathon innings Kiron cracked seven hits across the rope.

Sagor Abbas, the other Pakistani in the Wanderers ranks, was the other notable run-getter for the eventual winners with a valuable 35.

In reply, Agrani Bank, who were promoted to the Premier Division along with Wanderers last year, could muster only 116 in the face of some fired-up bowling from Totam.

The young right-arm seamer finished with a telling analysis of 10-2-28-4. He was well supported by new-ball bowler Shuvro and Sagor Abbas, who evenly shared four wickets.

It was Wanderers' fourth win from 12 outings and they now share the second slot with Agrani Bank behind leaders GMCC, who have collected 12 points from as many matches.

Botham to beef up England

LONDON, Mar 2: Former Test all-rounder Ian Botham has put himself forward as the man to reverse England's slide into one of the also-rans of world cricket, reports Reuter.

Botham, who played 102 Test matches, scoring 5,200 runs and taking 383 wickets, said on a television sports quiz programme he would be keen to take charge of the national team.

"I would like to have a go at managing the side, I have said before, I would like to be involved," he said.

"Anyone with a bit of passion would like to have a go. We have quality players like Hick, Thorpe, Smith and Atherton but they are not gelling."

England had a miserable winter tour of South Africa, losing the Test series 1-0 and suffering a 6-1 hammering in the one-day internationals.

They have also made a wretched start to their World Cup campaign. An opening-match defeat by outsiders New Zealand was followed by unconvincing victories over the United Arab Emirates and the Netherlands and another beating by South Africa.

Botham, now 40, performed countless swashbuckling feats in a first-class career spanning 20 years but has frequently been at odds with the cricket establishment, criticising the English game's rulers for not making use of younger men who are more in touch with the players.

Taylor applauds Kenya's feat

JAIPUR, India, March 2: Australian captain Mark Taylor offered his batting helmet to giant-killing Kenyan counterpart Maurice Odumbe today, admitting: "We can't match you, reports AFP."

Taylor, whose side take on the West Indies on Monday after they were defeated by the Africans in one of the all-time great shocks, said: "I don't think we can bowl the West Indies out for 93."

Taylor was left in awe of Kenya's stunning 73-run triumph in Pune on Thursday, during which off-spinner Odumbe took 3-15 from 10 overs.

"It's not everyday that a side bowls out the West Indians for such a low score. The Kenyans did very well," he said.

But Taylor said he was not going to take the West Indies lightly even though Australia is assured of a place in the quarter-finals.

"Each match is a new start and it's very important to perform every time you go on the field," he said.

Australia share top spot in the six-team Group A with Sri Lanka.

If Australia finish at the top of the group they will travel to Pakistan for the quarter-finals. A second or third spot will keep them in India.

The West Indies, on the other hand, must defeat the In-form Australians to stay in the race.

Pak-England tie today



KARACHI, Mar 2: England and Pakistan clash on Sunday for the first time since the 1992 ball-tampering row but both sides insist the trends of the past are over, reports Agence.



WASIM AKRAM

"What happened before is in the past and I don't think there will be any problem between the sides," said Pakistan captain Wasim Akram.

England skipper Mike Atherton said, "I don't think there will be any undue tension between the sides on Sunday."

"Wasim Akram and I are two captains and we are good mates from our time together at Lancashire. We will be looking to foster good relations between the two sides."

Meanwhile, the defending champions, still smarting a five-wicket defeat at the hands of South Africa, refuted suggestion they would lose to England and New Zealand in order to stay in Pakistan for their quarter-finals.

"I have been misquoted," coach Intikhab Alam said of a newspaper article. "We have a moral duty to play fair and square."

Alam was quoted in the Karachi-based newspaper The Dawn saying, "We can lose both the game, the format has been designed like that."

"At this stage, we have with us options of picking and choosing our venue for the quarter-final, and if we decide losing both games we can play at Faisalabad. I don't see any harm in such a proposition."

Testing time for Richie



JAIPUR, India, Mar 2: Richie Richardson's captaincy will be under scrutiny as his West Indies team battle for a World Cup quarter-final place in their last Group A match against Australia on Monday, reports Reuter.

A sequence of chequered performances in recent months, culminating in a sensational defeat by tournament minnows Kenya on Thursday, has cast doubt on Richardson's powers of motivation, tactical qualities and ability to lead from the front.

The West Indian skipper, who has maintained dignity through the troubled spell, has found his problems compounded by a marked decline in his once accomplished batting.

Richardson's side are confronted by the prospect of a scramble to reach the knockout stage after only one win, against Zimbabwe, in their first four group games. They forfeited their game against Sri Lanka, citing safety fears, and also lost to India.

They are level on two points with Kenya and Zimbabwe but hold fourth place ahead of those two sides in the six-team group by virtue of a better net run rate.

Victory over Australia would almost certainly put West Indies into the last eight, but defeat might mean the last qualifying place in Group A being decided by run rate.

West Indies' current net run rate is -0.27. Kenya have 0.49 and Zimbabwe are on 0.96. The figures are worked out by deducting the overall average runs per over conceded from the average runs per over scored.

Richardson's squad arrived in Jaipur on Saturday to be greeted by a downpour and an overcast sky, but may have been reassured by a report on the pitch.

"It is a bald wicket properly covered and absolutely dry," groundsman Hemendra Surana told Reuters.

"It should help spinners right from the first over," he said. "But it comes slow. There's enough time to kill the spin or wait for it. It is an easy

Alam was reported saying, "Pakistan's loss to South Africa meant they will likely travel to India for their quarter-final match."

"We are happy to go to India," said Skipper Wasim Akram.

"It is good we had a bad game at the beginning, we can now put our house in order," he said.

Pakistan is expected to make two changes — off spinner Saqlain Mushtaq will make room for medium paceman Aaqib Javed while veteran batsman Javed Miandad returns to the side at the expense of Ramiz Raja.

Miandad confirmed a minor injury forced him to miss the South Africa match and not a reported disagreement with the team management.

Miandad said, "Every match is important, especially in the World Cup. How can one think of giving points to any of the teams? It's a one-day game and you can't plan."

The England match will be Miandad's last international outing in front of his home crowd and Akram suggested he might honour the 38-year-old batsman by asking him to lead the team out.

"Pakistan, however, isn't the only team facing problems. Despite qualifying for the quarter-final, controversy and injuries have plagued England."

The visitors are trying desperately to regroup under troubled captain Michael Atherton, who compounded his team's worries with his personal play.

While seam bowler Peter Martin may miss Sunday's match after suffering a recurrence of a long-standing back injury.

Martin was forced to miss Friday's practice game against the Karachi City Cricket Association (KCCA) at the Gymkhana Club which England lost by five wickets to deepen the gloom on top of their chequered form in the early tournament games.

Team manager Ray Illingworth said, "Peter has made the problem since he was 18 and it strikes him occasionally."

Neil Fairbrother is also rated as a slight doubt for Sunday's match after tweaking a hamstring while batting. The Lancashire player was able to field, however, and should be fit.

Illingworth scotched suggestions wicketkeeper Jack Russell would be dropped to

make way for an extra batsman. Russell, who along with Graham Thorpe, batted for the KCCA side, made 25 from 36 balls and afterwards Illingworth said: "Jack will definitely play on Sunday."

Robin Smith, who has yet to play in this World Cup following groin and calf injuries, did his prospects of selection little good, making just 24 after

opening the innings. Illingworth said afterwards: "The defeat isn't disastrous as the main thing was to get all seven batsmen some time in the middle, which we have done."

Pakistan have one doubt, with wicket-keeper Rashid Latif still nursing a badly bruised finger.

The 28-year-old Latif had to go off against South Africa after damaging the finger while fielding a powerful throw of Saad Anwar.

"He was given treatment today. We had an X-ray yesterday and it's nothing is broken but it is badly bruised. We will try to give him treatment tomorrow and he will be all right," said Intikhab Alam.

TEAMS
PAKISTAN: Wasim Akram (Captain), Aamir Sohail, Saad Anwar, Ijaz Ahmed, Javed Miandad, Salim Malik, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Ramiz Raja, Rashid Latif, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed, Ataur Rehman, Mushtaq Ahmed, Saqlain Mushtaq.

ENGLANDS: Mike Atherton (Captain), Alec Stewart, Robin Smith, Graeme Hick, Graham Thorpe, Neil Fairbrother, Jack Russell, Dermot Reeve, Dominic Cork, Phillip DeFreitas, Neil Smith, Richard Illingworth, Daren Gough, Peter Martin.

They suffered a 34-run defeat against England during the 1987 World Cup and lost by five wickets to India during the one-day series on their 1994 tour.

West Indies may recall pace bowler and useful lower order batsman Ottis Gibson instead of fast bowler Cameron Cuffey, who had a moderate game against Kenya.

Security has been tightened at the stadium as a precaution after a bomb blast in Jaipur during Republic Day celebrations in January.

Sniffer dogs and police with metal detectors are checking for bombs. "Wherever they find a metal, they are digging," a cricket official said.

Memorandum for a change in WC format

NAGPUR, India, Mar 2: Zimbabwe called for wholesale changes to the World Cup format after an eight-wicket drubbing against top seeds Australia on Thursday, reports AFP.

Zimbabwean manager Babu Maman said improvements were needed if the tournament was to remain a major draw as well as encourage emerging nations to take part.

"At the moment the tournament is not a true reflection of the teams, who ever wins the World Cup," Maman said.

"All teams should get a chance to play each other in the competition. I do not know how that can be done but it is for the organisers to sit down and work out a formula."

Two pools of six teams in this tournament has led to a number of one-sided matches in the early stage of the competition, reflected in poor crowds at many of the games.

Holland and the United Arab Emirates in Group B has been on the end of several heavy defeats while Kenya and Test nation Zimbabwe have given slightly better accounts of themselves in Group A.

Maman said three groups of four or four groups of three teams would create a more competitive environment for the pool matches with the top teams being seeded.

"This World Cup has been great for non-Test playing nations. It is good experience for them. But the format has to be looked at and improved," Maman said.

With the top sides going into a knockout stage for the main event, Maman suggested plate or bowl competitions would keep the remaining countries interested in the competition for longer.

Australian manager Bob Simpson was reluctant to criticise the current system, saying: "I don't think there is a need, at this stage of the tournament. It is kicking along quite well."

TODAY'S VENUE

KARACHI: Karachi is the largest city in Pakistan, and has come a long way in purpose and size. Once being a sleepy village with a population of 8000, it is now the centre of commerce and industry with an estimated population of 10 million. Almost everywhere you look you will see historical buildings preserved to honour the founding father of this city — Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The Flagstaff House, Wazar Mansion, Chhatra Palace and Mazari are some of these buildings, which are definitely worth a closer look.

The port city is Pakistan's financial capital. The 50,000-capacity National Stadium owned by the Pakistan Cricket Board, will hold today's match between Pakistan and England.

Acme Div II cricket

Kathalbagan Cricket Club earned an impressive nine-wicket victory over East End Club in their Acme Second Division cricket super league encounter at the Mirpur Outer Stadium yesterday.

BRIEF SCORES

EAST END CLUB: 93 in 33.3 overs (Sayem 24, Rashidul 4/8)

KATHALBAGAN CC: 96 for one in 19.2 overs (Mithu 47 n.o., Farid 32 n.o.)

Beximco jr tennis

Thailand's Navawongse Chalrwin won the doubles final of the Beximco 10th Bangladesh International junior tennis championships when he won both the boys' singles and doubles finals at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Second seeded Chal won his first ever singles title when he outplayed Indian prodigy Harsh Mankad 6-1, 6-4.

Chal, pairing up with top seeded countryman Witoonpachit Bhee, also won the doubles final defeating the Indian duo of Bhaskar Chowdhury and Rohan Wahedra 6-3, 6-4.

Meanwhile Kazakhstan's Selyutina Irina won the girls' singles title defeating Thai girl Marissa Niroj in the final 7-6 (7-3), 6-1.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain witnessed the finals as the chief guest and gave away the trophies.

DOUBLE DELIGHT... Navawongse Chal of Thailand on his way to a double crown at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

— Star photo

Miandad clears the air



ISLAMABAD, Mar 2: Pakistan batsman Javed Miandad spoke out here on Saturday to deny speculation that he had walked out on the team before its World Cup encounter with South Africa, reports AFP.

But Miandad, after confirming that injury and illness had been behind his absence, then hinted he was unhappy with his role in the side.

Miandad, the World Cup's record run-getter, said: "I had a family problem as well as a back problem. I didn't want to take a chance. If something had happened, I would have been out of the tournament."

The 38-year-old, a veteran of all six World Cups and who returned for the tournament after a two-year retirement, had originally said he had been forced to miss Thursday's Group B game with a stomach bug, while team captain Wasim Akram quit it down to a strained back muscle.

Sources close to the team suggested a third reason, arguing there had been a confrontation between player and management because Miandad was not happy playing at number six.

Asked on Saturday if he was happy in that position, Miandad answered: "That's a different story. I have told them about my availability. I have played in every position in the top order. It's up to the captain which number he wants."

There has been a lot of discussion in Pakistan's past and I wouldn't put it past them now, especially since Wasim didn't captain the side very well."

But he also argued the player should be promoted up the order.

"I would be hurt if I was batting at number six. He should definitely be batting at three," he said. "The number three should be the sheet anchor of the team around which it revolves."

The Muslim, a local Islamabad daily, meanwhile, printed an opinion piece under the headline "Miandad back to his old tricks", arguing: "It was just a matter of time that Miandad would revert to old ways of causing some kind of tension in the Pakistani camp or creating differences in the team."

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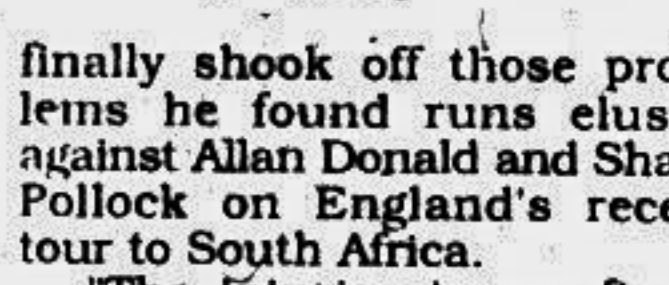
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Alec aching for fortune



KARACHI, Mar 2: England vice-captain Alec Stewart believes he has the skill and experience to get back among the runs again after a long lean spell, reports Reuter.

"I've not made a big score yet (in the World Cup) but I have felt comfortable at the crease and that is important," said Stewart who was England's top scorer in their last Group B match against Pakistan on Sunday.

"I'd never take my place for granted and I'd like to think I'm judged on results. You just do your best and hope that it is good enough, but when you have played 70 one-day internationals and 50 Tests you should have the experience and record behind you. It is almost two years since Stewart notched up his last Test century, against New Zealand at Lord's, and in that time his career has been blighted by injury and a run of poor scores."

Stewart suffered five separate injuries to his right index finger between October 1994 and July 1995, and when he

finally shook off those problems he found runs elusive against Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock on England's recent tour to South Africa.

The injuries to my finger meant I didn't play cricket consistently for 14 months. It was stop-start and I wasn't able

to get into the swing," he said. "In South Africa I didn't play as fluently as I would like in the Test matches, but I felt I played quite well in the one-day internationals."

Stewart is happy to take over behind the stumps if England decide to strengthen their top order for Sunday's match by bringing in Robin Smith and dropping wicket-keeper Jack Russell.

"We're always picking from a squad of fourteen and I'm happy to keep wicket. After all, I've probably kept in 30 of the last 40 one-day internationals I've played."

Jack's not played one-day internationals for a while before this winter, although I'm the first to praise him as the best keeper in world cricket and his batting is improving all the time."

He had an exceptional tour of South Africa, both keeping and with the bat, but it could be we could make a change not through any fault of his but through the deficiencies of others."

England have had a wretched World Cup so far, losing to New Zealand and South Africa and winning only against minnows the United Arab Emirates and the Netherlands.



ALEC STEWART

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2. 2nd Prize 20" Powervision Colour TV Tk. 22,850.00
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Competition Information and Rules

Information

- 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 on Feb 4, 1996 for Quiz 1 and from Feb 27, March 15, 1996 for Quiz 2 which will be a Bumper Round, in the Sports Page.
- For the Quiz Competitions the prizes will be as follows:

Rules

- 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.
- 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.
- Participants are to put a tick (N) mark in the box alongside the correct answer to the question. A person may send as many entries as one pleases.
- 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.
- 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, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka: 1205.
- 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.
- Winners will be decided on the basis of correct entries drawn out from the box.
- 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 rescind any and all dates of the Quiz competitions under any circumstances.
- 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.
- Any decision of the Daily Star in the context 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.
- In complete forms will not be considered.

Quiz 2 : Bumper Round Ends March 15, 1996

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

- The first "duck" in the World Cup was by HR Shah ED Sokar A Knott
- In the WC, the first over was bowled by V Holder M Lai J Snow
- In the 1975 WC, the Sri Lankans were led by D Mendis B Warnapura B Tannekdon
- In