

The World Cup with Philips

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Ranatunga's realisation

CALCUTTA, Mar 12: The exit of in-form South Africa from the World Cup prompted Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga to warn his team against complacency as they prepared for the semifinal against India on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Sri Lanka's batsmen have set the tournament alight with their dashing strokeplay, tearing England to shreds in last weekend's quarterfinal, and Ranatunga is anxious that his team remain in top gear for the day-night showpiece at Calcutta's Eden Gardens stadium.

"It doesn't matter how well you've played in the past, if you play badly on a particular day that's it," said Ranatunga.

He believes Sri Lanka need to learn from South Africa's quarterfinal defeat against West Indies on Monday that no team can afford to relax for a minute.

"Look at South Africa. They've been playing really well and suddenly they're out of the competition. It'll be a very tough game (against India)," he said.

The bad news for India is that Ranatunga is not about to start preaching caution to openers Sanath Jayasuriya and Romesh Kaluwitharana, the architects of Sri Lanka's successful smash-and-grab tactics in the first 15 overs.

"That's the way they normally bat. We don't want to change their style. We're not worried about everyone failing. We've seven top-class batsmen so someone will get runs."

"It is probably the biggest game in our history. We have never even been in the World Cup quarterfinals before. But now we're in the semifinals and that means we're one of the top four in the world today. If we can take another step, it will be a great achievement for a small country."

Calcutta to come to a standstill

CALCUTTA, Mar 12: The Indian city of Calcutta is bracing itself for total shutdown during the World Cup semifinal clash against Sri Lanka on Wednesday, reports AFP.

West Bengal's Marxist government has all but declared an unofficial holiday. Even the city's metro trains are due to grind to a halt during the day-night match, officials said today.

"There will be a riot if we force employees to work during the match," said a spokesman from Calcutta Tramways company.

The city's stock exchange, India's third largest, is also expected to close transactions before the game.

Political parties have suspended planned actions, hundreds of junior schools declared a holiday while mass absences from work - with the odd employer joining in - are being predicted.

"Thank God, it is a day-night match. I can finish my work in the morning and slip into Eden Gardens," added Hansavardhan Neotia, chief executive of Gujarat Ambuja Cement.

"I will be there to cheer India to victory," said Deepak Khaitan, head of the Williamson Magor group of bluechip companies.

Earlier this month several parents' associations unsuccessfully urged the All India Board of Secondary Examinations to put off school exams until the end of the Cup.

Betting on the result is also rife while the local media is also hoping to cash in. Daily newspapers have hiked their print-orders by a quarter because of rising sales.

No switching of WC finale

KARACHI, Mar 12: Pakistan cricket boss Arif Ali Abbasi here today dismissed speculation the World Cup final might be shifted away from Lahore, reports AFP.

The rumours began following a report in a Pakistan newspaper but Abbasi, the Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive, said: "There's no chance of shifting the final."

He did admit, however, that a possible move had been discussed by the organisers following an accommodation crisis in the city.

"There was talk, yes, within PLOCOM, but by the time the crunch comes the accommodation should be available," he said.

The Urdu daily Jang reported that an offer of six million dollars was made to move the March 17 finale to another venue. Abbasi said the offer had not been taken seriously.

Among those affected by the accommodation shortage are 72 overs as guests and their wives, including International Cricket Conference members due to meet here on March 18, and 110 guests from India

MATCH ANALYSIS

Difficult to beat

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan



GLENN Turner's boys at most turned the tables on Australia Monday. The M A Chidambaram Stadium at Madras was full to the brim for a treat (they never dream of New Zealand were never a



STEVE WAUGH

fancied team in this tournament. Yet when they surprised their ancestors at Ahmedabad on February 14 many among their critics raised eyebrows. They finished third in their

group and that took them to Madras for the quarterfinal match against the pre-tournament favourites Australia.

The wicket held nothing in particular and the New Zealanders held no secret weapon. Danny Morrison and Gavin Larsen - two of their experienced campaigners - were conspicuous by their absence. That made their attack ordinary, not that at any stage of the tournament they could boast of an effective bowling attack.

As usual they lost three quick wickets to the Aussie speed merchants and a most total that could be easily overhauled was in sight.

But the normally unassuming figure of Chris Harris, pushed up the ladder as a gambler, stroled on to the wicket and joined his captain Lee Germon. To the Australians, the end was in sight but Harris had a date with destiny. As the shadows lengthened, Harris' shots started reaching all corners of the ground and he raced to his hundred in 96 balls - an unbelievable feat from a player who is normally regarded a bowler. New Zealand should have reached a target past 300 but the later batsmen miserably failed to drive home the advantage.

Taylor in particular was having a bad tournament. Once again he went cheaply to Patel who opened as he did in 1992. But this strong Australian outfit was full of all-rounders and

a quick wicket now and then did not really matter. Shane Warne pushed up to accelerate the scoring rate did his bit and that was good leadership by Taylor. Mark Waugh with his third ton in the tourney proved that he was way ahead of Tendulkar and Lara as a leading batsman. Brother Steve followed with an unbeaten half-century and with Law set up on easy victory for Australia.

The strength of these Australians lay in their resilience, their self-confidence and their capacity to reorganise themselves in any hostile condition. They will be really hard to beat.



CHRIS HARRIS

Where's the pied piper of Calcutta?

CALCUTTA, Mar 12: Stray rats are causing the organisers of a cricket World Cup semifinal match between India and Sri Lanka to be played in this sports crazy east Indian metropolis on Wednesday, reports AP.

The rats have burrowed right under the cricket pitch in the Eden Gardens, and ground keepers are confused about how to get them out before the day-and-night match begins.

The rats have already chewed up the wire that connects a tiny TV camera placed on the stump, and refuse to budget from the pitch area. The burrows were discovered when a TV crew tried to test the camera that gives a close-up view of the pitch. When it didn't work, the crew checked the wire and found it had been chewed. Further investigation led the ground staff to the burrows.

The only way out is to seal the burrows with cement or something until the match is over," said one ground worker.

The cricket ground is next to a park in Calcutta's city center where tens of thousands of rats live and are led by Hindus, who believe the animal is the steed, or vehicle, of the god Ganesh.

"We only pray that the rats will go away or stay inside their burrows until the match is over," said the ground worker, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hadlee's hunch

NEW DELHI, Mar 12: Former New Zealand all-rounder Richard Hadlee said today he believed Australia would win the World Cup because they were able to respond in a united, organised and professional manner when it mattered most, reports Reuter.

Australia play West Indies in a semifinal clash in Mohali, India, on Thursday after coming through a stern test against New Zealand in Madras.

The New Zealanders piled up a challenging total of 26 for nine off their 50 overs in Monday's quarter final, but Australia, spurred on by a Mark Waugh century, managed to win with 13 balls to spare.

Hadlee said in a column in the Indian Express that New Zealand had put up a spirited fight but at the end of the day experience, talent and mental toughness came through when it mattered.

"I tend to think that the Australians will go on to win the World Cup because when it matters most they respond in a united, organised and professional manner," he said.

Day an ideal diplomat

CALCUTTA, Mar 12: Coach Day Whatmore, a Sri Lankan in Australian clothing, could have a huge peacemaking role to play in the World Cup climax in a grudge final between the two sides, reports AFP.

Whatmore, Colombo-born but Australian-bred and for whom the played seven Test, had just taken charge of the tournament dark hours when a series of rows exploded during last year's tour of Australia.

The former Victorian batsman will be keen to try and keep any bitterness out of the equation. If Australia and Sri Lanka, with one hurdle against India to go, make it to Lahore on March 17.

Mike's real test Saturday

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Mar 12: Nearly one year after his release from prison, Mike Tyson will finally show the world here on Saturday if he still has what it takes to be a champion, reports AFP.

Tyson will fight Britain's Frank Bruno for the World Boxing Council heavyweight crown. The former undisputed champion's six million-dollar payday is five times what Bruno will receive for the bout.

Fifty weeks ago, in the damp chill of a March 25 dawn, Tyson walked from the Indian Youth Centre a free man after serving 1,095 days for the rape of a 17-year-old Washington, a beauty pageant contestant.

"I thought prison was supposed to wise you up and make you a better man. He is getting wise, in and out of the ring," Bruno said. "After prison, I thought he would be a much wiser man. But this prison thing has affected him very badly."

Tyson, who stopped Bruno in the fifth round of a 1989 U-fc defence, said his restraint in the face of such criticism shows improvement since his imprisonment. "The old Mike Tyson would have made statements that were undignified," Tyson said.

The Calcutta chronicle

From Tapan Majumder in Calcutta



Africa's appealant. Exactly this proved to be the case.

Some pundits were not too hopeful about Pakistan just before the World Cup. The internal squabbling, indiscipline, injuries to the great Wasim and Waqar, and recent indifferent form - all these factors made Pakistan a weaker side. Surely, that indomitable spirit was not there. This Pakistan is not the same team which we knew before.

Now the Cup fever in Calcutta reaches crescendo. The countdown to the semifinals has begun just after India's emphatic victory over Pakistan on Saturday.

Meanwhile, both India and Sri Lanka arrived in the city amidst choking security Monday afternoon. Both the teams had a feel of the Eden under the floodlights, though they seemed to reserve their best for the semifinal.

A notable absentee at the nets was Indian opener Navjot Singh Sidhu. The hamstring injury which forced him to take a runner in the latter part of his innings in Harare, kept him out of practice.

While batting at the nets

Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga is oozing confidence. He is delighted at the way they are playing. Their cricketers are really believing they can beat India again.

But can they? After defeat in Mohali, the Indians have beaten the combination, which they were lacking initially, away from home in a very close contest. Sri Lanka is a very good side, yet they would find it too difficult to do the double, with a particular crowd cheering for the home team.

Meanwhile, cricket market is still going in the city. It is expected that the Calcutta market will be selling tickets at over 10 times their original prices.

Topsy-turvy roads to semis



Atherton said: "They play the first 15 overs like the last 15". That approach, indeed, has been the major innovation of the tournament and no side has been able to cope with the mayhem caused by their pinch-hitters.

ISLAMABAD, Mar 12 (AFP): The West Indies and Sri Lanka, the World Cup's loosest cannons, go into the semifinals with anxiety and chaos on their minds.

Both sides - in vastly contrasting ways - have majored on just those qualities this tournament.

The Australians and Indians, meanwhile, have looked to impose order and pattern on their games but will be sorely tested to police their unpredictable opponents on Wednesday and Thursday.

Mohammad Azharuddin's India - who, like Australia, go into their game with the psychological disadvantage of having lost to their opponents in the group stages - try first against Sri Lanka in Calcutta.

No team has yet managed to keep Arjuna Ranatunga's anarchic batsmen in check yet. Michael Atherton was the last man to admit defeat, when his English side were mauled with almost 10 overs to spare after another Sri Lankan sprint start.

Logic suggested that it was

India conceded an extraordinary 43 runs off their first three overs to Romesh Kaluwitharana and Sanath Jayasuriya during their last encounter.

Mahesh Prabhakar, who saw two overs go for 32, now sits shell-shocked on the Indian team sidelines.

Australia, the pre-tournament favourites, have as tough an assignment against Richie Richardson's men as Sri Lanka from the Caribbean. It is hard to predict what they will do next themselves.

Most of the chaos shown by the West Indies has been targeted towards the batsmen.

The team went into the tournament driven by internal dissension, after the defeat to the qualifiers of Kenya, the board decided to try and help the team management pick up morale by sacking the lot of them.

Logic suggested that it was

his bowler, who was replaced after losing in Jaipur but changed (that time on Tuesday) after New Zealand hammered 286 runs off the attack.

He said: "Our bowlers bowled too many four balls and we will have to play better to win the World Cup."

As a result, with their bowling looking vulnerable, will be studying the match videos of the Karachi quarterfinal with interest.

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WILLS WORLD CUP DIARY

ISLAMABAD, Mar 12 (AFP): World Cup diary today:

WE CAN TAKE THE PRESSURE, SAYS TAYLOR

Mark Taylor today claimed Australia's hard-fought victory over New Zealand in the quarterfinals would act in the team's favour. He argued his side by overhauling a huge target of 286, had proved it could perform under pressure without panicking.

"We are over a hurdle," said the Australian captain. "It was a tough chase and we are a more positive side for the win." At 127 for three, Australia's chances of following South Africa out of the Cup looked high but Steve Waugh joined his brother and stage a controlled partnership that only ended when the exhausted Mark, succumbing more to exhaustion than good bowling, was finally dismissed for 110.

KIWI CONSOLATION

New Zealand captain Lee Germon said there was a silver lining to his side's defeat to Australia in the quarterfinals.

New Zealand didn't rate in the top seven when the competition started so hopefully we will have more of a rating now," he said.

NOT ENOUGH PADS ...

New Zealand team boss Glenn Turner was left wishing he had had a few spare sets of pads after his team's Madras defeat to Australia after the underdogs won huge support from the crowd. "We're just disappointed the team could not capitalise on the crowd support," he said. "The crowd here was fantastic for us... but unfortunately they could not pad up for us."

...NOT ENOUGH BALLS

Tournament organisers failed to provide new balls for the quarterfinal match between Australia and New Zealand, it was revealed after the game.

New Zealand coach Glenn Turner explained the match umpires' decision to change a ball late in the match by saying: "The seam was split to start with, because the balls were playing with wear seconds. It was surprising that balls were not provided for the quarterfinals."

He added: "We have given our remaining balls to the Australians in case they need them later on." Shortly before the match umpires and players realised there were no balls available and went rummaging through practice kits to find suitable substitutes.

NO A GRADES FROM CLASS B

There can be no discussion over which World Cup qualifying group was the tougher to get through. All four semifinalists began the competition in Group A, while the top four from the B pool - South Africa, Pakistan, New Zealand and England - were all knocked out in the quarters.

Cricket sans Shepherd?



DAVID SHEPHERD

at 22 yards (metres) and at 100 miles per hour (160 kilometres per hour) - is the first requisite of the job.

A background in the game also helps.

The important thing is to understand the players. And to have been a former professional, he argues. Then there is the secret ingredient, particularly when 40,000 baying fans and 11 imploring crick-

ets crank up the pressure. You have to deal with it as well as you can," says Shepherd. "You need to be mentally strong. Humour has to come into it."

Shepherd is strong on the stuff. He is not married, he says, though he has been living with his girlfriend for 20 years. "My friends ask me when I'm going to get married and I tell them: we should not rush things."



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But he has no problems with the game's new technology - "There is a place for it" and predicts more radical changes to come, perhaps even hand-held video cameras.

But it is, perhaps, his adherence to one of the oldest traditions of all that has become his hallmark. Cricketing lore says the "Nelson" - a score of 111 or any multiple of that figure - is lucky. To ward off misfortune, simply skip from one leg to the other, making sure to keep just one leg on the floor at a time.

The superstitious Shepherd never seems to miss one of his dance inviting a roar of recognition from knowledgeable crowds all over the world. "I keep score as I go along and I always know when the 111 is up," he says. "It's become a habit."

The Daily Star PHILIPS

Cricket World Cup Quiz '96

Advertisement for Philips Transcom Electronics Ltd. featuring a television set and promotional text.

Competition Information and Rules

- Information: The Daily Star-Philips World Cup Quiz is a series of 2 (two) Quiz Competitions on World Cup Cricket. Set 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 sets) Turbo Base Two-in-One.
Quiz 2: Bumper Round: 1st Prize Powervision 28" Colour TV, 2nd Prize Powervision 20" Colour TV, 3rd Prize (three sets) 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 on the original form printed in the Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
3. Participants are to post their entries in the box alongside the correct answer to each question. A person may send as many entries as s/he pleases.
4. Each entry form should be clearly completed with a ball point pen. Participants must address letters to: Daily Star Quiz '96, c/o The Daily Star, 10, Chittre Street, Dhaka. Each entry form must bear the name and signature of the participant.
5. All entries must reach the office of the Daily Star on or before the closing date mentioned on the entry form. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Quiz 1" or "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. 9, Dharmamandi K/A, Dhaka: 1205.
6. Entries will be placed in a sealed box for the lucky draw to be held in public presence of invited guests and Quiz participants. It will be a notified date.
7. Winners will be decided on the basis of correct entries. If two or more participants have the same number of correct entries, a random draw will be held to decide the winner. In case of a tie, the draw will be held on the same date and time.
8. The Daily Star will be responsible for the conduct, execution and administration of the quiz competition. It will be responsible for the collection of prizes and the distribution of the prizes.
9. All participants are to abide by all rules, restrictions and guide lines as may be issued from time to time by the Daily Star. Participants must be of legal age and must be a resident of Bangladesh.
10. Any disputes, claims, or objections of the participants concerning the quiz competition, shall be decided by the Daily Star.
11. In compliance with the rules and regulations.

Quiz 2: Bumper Round Ends March 15, 1996

Form for Quiz 2: Bumper Round. Read the information and rules carefully. Tick (X) the correct answer.
1. The first 'duck' in the World Cup was by: H R Shah, E D Sedha, A K Nott, V H Heale, J Snow.
2. In the WC, the first over was bowled by: D Mendis, B Viswanath, A Tarekwar, Chris, Gaur.
3. In the 1975 WC the Sri Lankans were led by: D Mendis, Chris, Gaur.
4. In 1975 WC, the playing Chappell was: Chris, Gaur.
5. The spinner who won two M-A-M awards in the 1983 WC was: I. Gomes, D. Lendenwood, A. Quade.
6. Australia won the 1987 World Cup beating England in the final by: 7 runs, 27 runs.
7. The maximum wicket and no-ball's bowled in the 1992 WC was by: A.D. Nand, W. Akmal, M. Wasim.
NAME: ADDRESS: FATHER'S NAME: OCCUPATION: SIGNATURE: DATE:
Write with a ball point pen in clear Block letters. Cut along the dotted lines and mail to: Drop in the Quiz Box in The Daily Star, Sea 143, every day.