

The World Cup with Philips



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Leeward Islands lift Red Stripe Cup

POINTE-A-PIERRE, Trinidad, Mar 13: They were delayed by dogged tail-end resistance and needed the second new ball to get rid of the last two wickets, reports AP.

But the Leeward Islands players completed victory over Trinidad and Tobago by 73 runs, 50 minutes into the fifth and last day of the final of the Red Stripe Cup, to become the new cricket champions of the West Indies Tuesday.

The home team, always up against it after the Leewards amassed a first innings total of 400 on the opening day, resumed Tuesday at 204 for eight wickets. They needed to score 301 in their second innings to win but made only 227 as fast bowlers Kenny Benjamin and Hamesh Anthony claimed the last two wickets, with two runs of each other with the second new ball.

It was the Leewards' third championship in the past seven seasons and was a turn about in form from the qualifying rounds where Trinidad and Tobago won four of their five matches, including a nine wickets triumph away from home over the Leewards.

It was the first year the Cup was decided by a final between the two top teams from the round-robin matches, a copy of the Australian format.

The West Indies Cricket Board of Control said it made the change to boost interest in a tournament that has frequently been diminished by the absence of the leading players away on duty with the West Indies team.

This season, the World Cup in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka has been followed live on television and diverted public attention from the Red Stripe Cup matches.

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Of rumours & the alarm



ISLAMABAD, Mar 13 (AFP): It was always odds-on that Wasim Akram would end up being accused of gambling away the World Cup once Pakistan had been knocked out of the tournament.

Not because there is any truth in the allegations — indeed, there is not a shred of solid evidence to suggest the captain wagered against his own men.

A long history of sporting scandals, however, counted against him, as well as the team's fanatic following that cannot accept Pakistan can be beaten in a fair contest — particularly by the old enemy from India.

Wasim's mistake was to get injured during the final group game against New Zealand. That kept him out of the quarterfinals. When his side lost in Bangalore, the conspiracy theorists were ready.

The evil Wasim, so the charge sheet reads, masterminded the whole thing back in Lahore. A fake injury, while batting, visit to the bookies and Pakistan's fate was sealed.

Absurd? Completely. But Pakistan's World Cup campaign had begun under a match-fixing cloud and its own supporters seem determined to make sure it ends under one as well.

The team had gone into the tournament with Australian accusations still hovering that former Pakistan skipper Salim Malik tried to bribe three of their players to throw a game two years ago.

When Shane Warne, Tim May and Mark Waugh decided against travelling to Pakistan to give evidence to an inquiry,

Malik was declared innocent and the whole matter swept under the carpet by a relieved world cricketing community.

The Malik affair was not an isolated case, however. Rumours of match-fixing emerged in Zimbabwe last year when Pakistan's huge favourites, managed to lose to the home side by an innings.

Manager Intikhab Alam was sacked along with Malik after that tour, but no specific reference to gambling were made.

Players Rashid Latif and Basit Ali, both in their mid-

and Australian Allan Border accused Pakistan's Mushtaq Mohammed of offering him 750,000 dollars to throw a game in England in 1993.

Mushtaq said he had been joking. Those incidents, added to further evidence of huge, underground gambling operations in Asia affecting all sporting contests, make it inevitable that anyone can be accused.

With virtually all gambling illegal in India and Pakistan, a shade network of cricketing bookies has emerged, based in Bombay. Big international matches are reported to attract millions of dollars in bets from both syndicates and street-level punters.

The operation is so well organised that it even has offshore bases in the United Arab Emirates that can pay out winners in hard currencies.

Another Australian batsman, Dean Jones, said he was offered 50,000 dollars by an Indian bookmaker for inside information during a tour of Sri Lanka in 1992.

Cricket is not alone. There are on-going investigations into match-fixing in football as well, after revelations of a betting ring in Malaysia and Singapore. Former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, meanwhile, is being probed over suggestions that Asian match-fixing money is bleeding across the Europe.

Ironically, it is the Pakistan press, rather than any foreign finger-pointers, that has led the way with the latest Wasim allegations, producing feverish speculation based on no evidence.

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Disgraceful delight!

LAHORE, Pakistan, Mar 13: Crowds here today rushed out onto the streets to celebrate India's disgraceful exit from the World Cup following crowd trouble, reports AFP.

Jubilant fans chanted that Pakistan's defeat to India in the quarter-finals had been avenged as they let off firecrackers, handing out sweets and chocolates as confectionery stalls suddenly opened up late in the evening.

Young people mounted on motorcycles dashed through the streets, blowing their horns in celebration.

India's defeat will mean the side will now miss the final due to be staged here on March 17.

"Indians will not be allowed in Lahore," one man said in a call to a local newspaper.

BCCI's ticket sale disrupted

CHANDIGARH, Mar 13: I.S. Bindra president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday night said that the board despite the RBI clearance cannot sell the tickets for the Wills World Cup final at Lahore for want of travel clearance from the External Affairs Ministry, reports PTI.

Bindra told PTI here that the BCCI was unable to sell 1500 tickets, costing 150 dollars each, as the spectators were yet to get travel clearance from the centre as well as the Pakistan authorities.

He said the External Affairs Ministry has been requested to take up with the issue with the Pakistan authorities for granting permission to spectators to travel by road from Wagah border.

As all flights were booked and the waiting list touched an all time high of 1,500, Bindra said "the ministry has been alternatively requested to arrange for a special train or at least five additional flights to Lahore so that 1500 ticket holders could reach Lahore for the final."

"It would be futile to sell the tickets without ensuring travel arrangements for the spectators," he added.

Becker blown away

INDIAN WELLS, Calif, Mar 13: Australian Open champion Boris Becker failed to solve the swirling winds Tuesday and was upset by Spain's Carlos Costa 6-3, 7-5 in a second-round match of the 2.2 million dollars Champions Cup, reports AP.

Becker's fellow German, Steffi Graf, had no such problem in earning a berth in the semifinals of the 550,000 dollars Evert Cup by beating Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 6-4, 6-1.

The tournaments are running concurrently at the Hyatt Grand Champions Resort through the weekend. The women's final will be played Saturday and the men's final a day later.

Graf, top-seeded in the women's tournament, needed 66 minutes to eliminate the ninth-seeded Coetzer. It was a replay of the final two years ago, when Graf defeated Coetzer 6-0, 6-4.

Graf referred to her 6-3, 7-5 win over Julie Halard-Decugis of France on Monday.

Karim butted back!

PARIS, Mar 13: A minor league football player who head-butted a referee has been banned from the sport for ten years, reports AFP.

Karim Cherqui broke the referee's nose when he attacked him during a Piccardie Cup match last February.

His club Saint-Leu-D'Esserent have been stripped of six points in the local championship.

Euro U-21 soccer Hungary beat Scotland

BUDAPEST, Mar 13: Hungarian substitute Gabor Zavadszky hit a late winner as they beat 10-man Scotland 2-1 in the first leg of the European under-21 championship quarterfinal here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Zavadszky sent the 15,000 crowd into celebrations with an 80th minute winner. Earlier Scotland's Stephen Glass equalised in the 35th minute following Karoly Szanyo's opener from the spot in the 14th minute.

ROQUIBUL ON THE ROCKER

Sri Lanka worthy winners



Sri Lanka could have walked off a winner in a manliest manner but a disgraceful ending due to violence by the partisan Indian crowd at Eden Gardens last night put them through to the Wills World Cup final in a most unconvincing way.

But one must not feel hesitate to give the Sri Lankans a big hand for their brilliant fighting spirit in all respect. I must pay all credit to the Lankan spinners who took full advantage of a wicket which turned out slow and viciously turning with the progress of the game.

The Indians had the control over the match as long Tendulkar was there with Manjrekar. The departure of Sachin inflicted a dramatic middle-order collapse with the Indian batsmen, who failed to apply their scenes required in such turning wicket, nibbling playing some rash shots.

And the Indian's, who are cruising comfortably against the fighting Lankan total, lost their way conceding seven wickets with the addition of

22 runs in 12 overs before the fanatic Calcutta supporters jumped into the action in a most unsporting manner to prolong an imminent Indian defeat.

Among the Lankan spinners, who dominated the bat, Sanath Jayasuriya did the same trick as Jimmy Adams had done on the other day against South Africa bowling over the wicket and spotting the bowlers foot mark which made life hell for the Indian batsmen.

The Indians were hardly seen to go on toe the back-foot. Instead they tried to tend with their front foot to adore their own doom while playing across against the turning ball. At this point I must say that had they relied on playing more on the backfoot it would have been a different story.

Earlier, after a disastrous start, the Sri Lankans managed to get a fighting score at the end on a surprisingly slow Eden Garden wicket.

The two Sri Lankan pinch hitting openers perished in the first over top edging to the third man. Both seemed to get carried away in their style but should have realised that they were setting a target but not chasing after being put into bat by Azharuddin.

Gurusinha, who should have

been sticking around and give support to De Silva who was really going great guns, suddenly had an unnecessary rush of blood and hold out at mid on.

The highlight of the Sri Lankan innings was the tremulous attacking batting by Aravinda De Silva who beat the water-tight Indian fielding with great timing and placements.

Captain Arjuna Ranatunga and Mahanama exhibited a very sensible batting with Tilakaratne and Vas chipping in useful contributions.

Sachin Tendulkar, known for his high class batting ability, did one better with the ball restricting a potential Sri Lankan slug-feast after Srinath had dream first spell. All credit goes to Azhar for his intelligent handling of bowlers and high class example of fielding.

Something must be said about the wicket and I for once would hate to see such a turning wicket prepared for one-day matches.

The decision of Azhar to send Sri Lankans to bat first seems no doubt, but I believe the Sri Lankans would have done the same if they had won the toss.

S Africa sans a genius



ISLAMABAD, Mar 13: Neither the Mandela magic nor the power of the laptop could save outster South Africa from one glaring World Cup weakness - the absence of genius, reports AFP.

Coach Hans Woolmer and captain Bob Crowler plotted the perfect campaign. Their bowlers were widely recognised as world-class and their fielding as standard-setting. They fully deserved their title of tournament co-favourites with Australia.

Yet one piece of the jigsaw was missing and there was nothing the side could do about it.

A Brian Lara, a Sachin Tendulkar or a Mark Waugh

would have made this the greatest side in history.

Both England captain Michael Atherton and Pakistan coach Intikhab Alam had already thrown doubt on the side's batting.

While Atherton's suggestion that Cronje's "Afrikaner mentality" would count against his side was as naive as it was wrong, he was half right on the first point.

Gary Kirsten and Andrew Hudson are a more than useful opening partnership. Daryll Cullinan is better than his statistics show and Hansie Cronje is as forceful as any number five. Brian McMillan, despite a poor tournament, can still lay claim to the title of the best all-rounder in the game.

But none of them have got close - despite Kirsten's World Cup record of 188

against the United Arab Emirates - to matching the frightening array of scores racked up by the likes of Lara.

The West Indian's match-winning 111 underlined the point during the quarterfinal in Karachi. "Brian Lara was the difference," Cronje said afterwards.

If the South Africans were left hollow-eyed by defeat, so were most of cricket followers everywhere.

There had been something relentless about the side's unbeaten march through Group B. Victory in the quarterfinals seemed inevitable.

President Mandela's good-will message to the team - "Your performances so far have been an inspiration and you are role models for sports people in the new South Africa" - seemed the perfect prologue to a trip to Lahore and the March 17 final.

Glenn goes the other way



CHANDIGARH, India, Mar 13: Wounded Aussie paceman Glenn McGrath will be praying for a little Dennis Lillee magic here on Thursday as he faces a make-or-break World Cup bowling, reports AFP.

The "pigeon" to his friends because of his skinny legs - knows he has been targeted as a weak link by semifinal opponents the West Indies.

Pinch-hitter Courtney Browne, in particular, is likely to attack him from the first ball of the game, with Brian Lara next in line.

McGrath, denied the support of injured pace partner Craig McDermott, has been struggling all tournament, regularly going for live an over and managed just four wickets in five games.

His right-arm is tailor-made to appeal to the subcontinent, particularly if he can continue to stray short. New Zealand Chris Harris showed the 26-year-old what to expect by regularly

swinging through the line and dumping him in the stands during the quarterfinal game at Madras.

McGrath, who as a boy hero-worshipped Lillee, will not be complaining about his isolated position as head of the Australian attack. "I always

prefer the number one bowling position," he said earlier in the tournament.

But the New South Welshman is well aware of the devastation threatened by West Indian batsman Brian Lara in particular - even if he hates India's Sachin Tendulkar even more highly.

"They're both good players," he says. "Lara will put the bad ball away. Whereas Sachin will put any ball away."

McGrath, who made his debut in 1993 before coming of age last year against the West Indies after an earlier McDermott mishap, has enjoyed just one good day at the office so far, when he took one wicket for 12 off eight over against the Zimbabweans.

He has his captain's full support - "He has been our best bowler for the past 12 to 18 months," says Mark Taylor - but he knows he must lead the line after poor showings in the last two games have given in Australian attack a vulnerable look.

The line between success and failure, of course, is precariously thin. McGrath began the crunch match against India with three maidens, then put down Tendulkar off a sharp return chance above his head.

Had he caught that, things might have been different. Now he is under pressure, and in Lara's sights.

Glenn McGrath

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Cricket in land of morons



FALLS CHURCH, Virginia, Mar 13 (AP): It is 3am, the snow is gently falling, and the most civilized people in this Washington suburb have long settled for the night. But if you want to find a soul-searching, good-time cricket party in America, this is the time to venture out.

It was probably easier to stumble across a speakeasy during Prohibition than it has been to find a place in the United States to watch the one of the world's premier sporting events. More than 6,000 miles (9,600 kilometres) from the snows of a northern Virginia, the World Cup is underway in sunny India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, and for about 100 cricket devotees, Inka's Sports Bar is the only place to be on this Friday night.

The thing is, we just love cricket," said Sonny Desai, who frequently interrupts his sentences to join in the boisterous cheering and chanting that accompanies every score by India in the game being shown live on the big screen. "Any team playing, we love to watch."

Cricket is so far off the American sports wall that the World Cup doesn't even qualify for ESPN, a cable station known for putting on sports not commonly seen on US television. Combine that with the time difference between Falls Church and Bombay, and

this particular World Cup has become quite an effort to follow for the Indians, Pakistanis, West Indians, British, Australians, Sri Lankans and South Africans in the diverse DC area.

"Over here, people don't know about this game," said Amar Desai, Sonny's cousin, as he cheers another "six" - cricket's rough equivalent of a home run - by superstar Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar. They got other things here. It's too hard to explain to them about this game.

"Virtually deprived of any cricket viewing since his arrival from India three years ago, Amar Desai is in sports heaven at Inka's, where admission is \$10 to watch the games on satellite that start before midnight, and lasts 15 to watch the ones that start as late as 4 am. He boasts of having played against Tendulkar when he lived in India, and how heart sick he is that he now has such trouble following the game he loves.

"I keep up when I call my parents," he said. "I ask them what's going on and they brief me. I always keep in touch with this game. I always do."

Ironically, the owner of Inka's was as ignorant as most Americans about cricket until he started showing the matches. Phillip Perezporos is a native of Peru who usually features soccer games from South America on his dish, but he admits that the cricket experiment has been a big hit.

"I'm still learning the rules," Perezporos said. "I've found out now, it's very close

to baseball."

Those are daring words in the midst of a cricket crowd. A good cricket-baseball debate can heat up for hours.

"Newspapers, all they talk about is baseball, which is a very, very, very poor cousin of cricket," said Rajiv Savharwal, a computer programmer who drove 30 miles (48 kilometers) from Beltsville, Maryland to watch the match. "Well, actually, a rich cousin."

The Daily Star PHILIPS Cricket World Cup Quiz '96



1. First Prize 29" Powervision Colour TV Tk 47,800.00 2. 2nd Prize 20" Powervision Colour TV Tk 22,850.00 3. 3rd Prize CD Player Tk 7750.00X3 = 23,250.00

All prizes courtesy: Transcom Electronics Ltd. Official Licensee of PHILIPS Electronics N.V. for Lighting products, Radio and TV Sets.

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 from Feb 4-6, 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:
1st Prize: Powervision 21" Colour TV
2nd Prize (three sets): Turbo Bass Two-in-One
3rd Prize (three sets): CD Player
...
11. In complete forms will not be considered.

Quiz 2: Bumper Round Ends March 15, 1996

Read the information and rules carefully. Tick (✓) the correct answer.
1. The first 'duck' in the World Cup was by H R Shah [] E D Solkar [] A Knott []
2. In the WC, the first over was bowled by V Holder [] M Lal [] J Snow []
3. In the 1975 WC, the Sri Lankans were led by D Mendis [] B Waranapura [] B Tannekoon []
4. In 1979 WC, the playing Chappell was Chris [] Ian [] Greg []
5. The spinner who won two M-O-M awards in the 1983 WC was L Gomes [] D Underwood [] A Qadir []
6. Australia won the 1987 World Cup beating England in the final by 7 runs [] 17 runs [] 27 runs []
7. 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.