

The World Cup with Philips



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SL leave Calcutta

NEW DELHI, Mar 14: Sri Lanka's cricket team left Calcutta amid tight security this morning to fly to the Pakistani city of Lahore to prepare for Sunday's World Cup final, reports Reuter.

The team... left early in the morning for the airport escorted by several security vehicles," the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

It quoted police sources as saying there were no incidents during the journey to the airport.

PTI said heavy security surrounded the Indian and Sri Lankan teams during their stay in Calcutta.

"Special security personnel have been guarding the hotel where both teams were lodged," it said.

The agency said some Indian players had already left the city for their homes while others were staying in their rooms until travel arrangements could be made.

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT although Prince Kanjitsinhji, a cricketer fit to be ranked amongst the top players of the world, never played for India, the National Cricket Championship of India (begun in 1934-35) is named the Ranji Trophy.

He was an Indian who played 15 times for England against Australia between 1896-1902. He did a lot to raise the prestige of Indians in the cricketing world.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

SPORTS WHIZZ KID competition-29

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Mar 15, 1996)

- 1. In the first round of World Cup 1996 Zimbabwean leg-spinner Paul Strang captured...

Name: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any)

SPORTS TALK

Arjuna Ranatunga

(Sri Lankan skipper)

"I guess it was a good toss to lose."

After Sri Lanka's semifinal victory over India, India's captain Md Azharuddin won the toss and had asked Sri Lanka to bat first. That decision proved a bad one.

Suprianto sent packing

BIRMINGHAM, England, Mar 14: Top seed and former world champion Joko Suprianto was beaten in the second round of the all-England badminton championships on Wednesday.

The Indonesian, who also ceded in the second round a year ago, lost 15-11, 15-2 to little-known Chinese Lin Li-wen, who is ranked only number five in his own country.

Lin has appeared only once before at the championships, in 1993 when he lost in the first round.

Why find a scapegoat?

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan



Easier said than done.

Lot of discussions have been held by cricket-lovers and lot of abuse hurled at Azharuddin for his decision to bat last on the newly-laid turf at the Eden Gardens Wednesday. Perhaps, most critic believed an Indian win had their batted first. But let us not forget some of the facts that come handy. First, in his pitch report, former Test star and commentator Ravi Shastri clearly said the pitch had no grass on it, was slow and was expected to take turn later in the day. He also emphasised the most important point: It was a brand new strip and no match had been played on it. In other words the pitch was an unknown quantity. So, it was only natural that Azhar would invite his opponent to play on it first. Moreover, records showed that Eden was a happy hunting ground for India. To top it all they had two very intelligent spinners in the team - Kumble and Ashish Kapoor and two slow medium pacers in Mahanama and Jadhava. Ashish Kapoor was particularly included keeping in view the five left-handers in the Lanka team. One should not also for-

get that Ranatunga himself expressed his desire to bat last on this wicket had he won the toss. So, why should all fingers point to Azhar for putting the Lankans into bat?



ROSHAN MAHANAMA

As the Lankans lost their openers in four balls of the first over did not everybody think that Azhar had done the right thing by putting the Lankans in? When Gurusinha was caught by Kumble off Sri-nath at 35, a small total for the islanders was visualized. But a little fighter by the name of Aravinda de Silva had some other ideas in his mind.

Fresh from his exploits against the Kenyans, De Silva played one of the finest innings of his illustrious career. At no stage of his innings in the face of tremendous pressure did he give the impression that he was in a rescue mission? Instead, he went on to play his natural strokes all around the wicket that reduced the Indian bowling to club level. His was an innings worth all the troubles to see. The Lankan middle-order held brilliantly and took their total to a very comfortable position. Mahanama, Ranatunga, Tillekaratne and Vaas contributing generously, under the circumstances.

It had been acknowledged by critics that bowling was not Lanka's forte. Sp, what held India from overtaking the Lankan total with their strong batting line-up? On a wicket where Kapoor and the highly rated Kumble could not succeed, part-timer like Jaya suriya accounted for Tendulkar, Manjrekar and Jadhava, the last two were bowled round their legs.

Let's face facts. On this particular day Sri Lanka played better than India and that's why they won. Give them their due. Why try to find scapegoats?

I can see the smiling face of Sir Richard Hadlee. His predictions about Sri Lanka winning the World Cup are almost through.

Azharuddin in an abyss



penalty.

Sri Lankan manager Duleep Mendis confirmed diplomatically that it had been a good toss to lose, adding, "Frankly, the boys were surprised when Azharuddin asked us to bat first. Past records have shown that it is difficult to bat second at the Eden Gardens because of the heavy layer of smog and the wicket.

during 1991-1993. But he saved his captaincy and career with a monumental 182 against Graham Gooch's Englishmen in the first Test at the Eden Gardens in January 1993.

Since then India have been unbeaten at home in both Test and one-day series, making Azharuddin India's most successful cricket captain.

Intriguingly, there are already rumours the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) are to reconsider their appointment of Azharuddin as captain for forthcoming one-day tournaments in Sharjah and Singapore and a tour of England.



MD AZHARUDDIN

"I did not realise how true that was till we saw Sanath (Jayasuriya) turn the ball square."

Azharuddin had batted first, and won all the three previous day night internationals under lights at the Eden Gardens.

The euphoria over last week's quarterfinal win over arch-rivals Pakistan was forgotten on Wednesday. Lady luck, however, which has smiled on Azharuddin since 1993, could rescue him again.

He was on the verge of being axed after India suffered heavy defeats on the tours of Australia - including the World Cup - and South Africa

the captain, a Muslim, announced early in the World Cup that he was divorcing his wife in favour of Indian actress Sangeeta Bijlani. Although he has pleaded for his privacy to be respected, the affair has prompted considerable debate around the country.

Others feel his style of leadership is not tough enough, but the only real alternative, Sachin Tendulkar, is still just 22 years old.

The reluctance to burden their best batsman with extra responsibilities may mean the selectors relieve Azharuddin in the short-term.

But like his Pakistan counterpart Wasim Akram, whose house was stormed by angry fans after the quarterfinal loss to India, he is discovering that home defeats on the sub-continent in a high-profile tournament demand instant scapegoats.

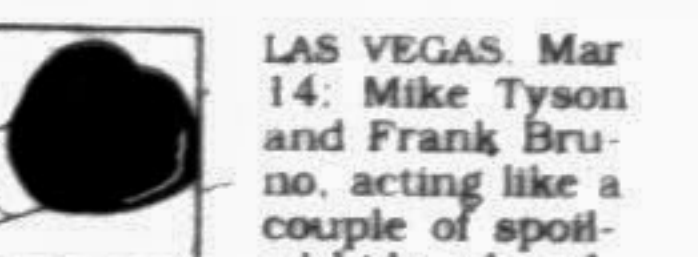
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Tyson, Bruno try off-ring tussle



LAS VEGAS, Mar 14: Mike Tyson and Frank Bruno, acting like a couple of spoiled kids, played a waiting game with one another Wednesday before appearing for their final prefight news conference.

Bruno arrived at the hotel showroom first, but refused to take his place on the dais until Tyson arrived. They went to the dais at the same time, and the news conference started 47 minutes late.

On Monday, Tyson cancelled some interviews and on Tuesday he called off a public workout. Bruno did not appear at any of his scheduled interviews on Tuesday.

Tyson went to Los Angeles the night before a news conference on March 6, but returned to Las Vegas when he learnt Bruno would not appear. Bruno was then talked into going to Los Angeles, where he was told Tyson had left.

"I'm a professional and I'm doing it the news conference," Bruno said.

Bruno, who will defend the WBC heavyweight championship against Tyson and

Saturday night at the MGM Grand Garden, has complained that he is not being shown the respect due a champion.

The champion from Britain is unhappy about his purse of 6 million dollars compared with the 30 million dollars Tyson will make.

"I'm not happy in some ways with the promotion," Bruno said. One of his complaints was that his suite is not on the top floor of the hotel.

Once the news conference began, it was about 43 minutes before Tyson was introduced, and he talked for 16 seconds. Then Bruno talked for 32 seconds.

There then was a 20-minute question-and-answer period dominated by promoter Don King.

"I'm fit and ferocious," Tyson said. "That's all I have to say. I'm ready to get it on."

Tyson was a 10-1 favourite. He also was a 10-1 choice when he stopped Bruno in the fifth round in defense of the undisputed championship in 1986.

Asked if he might bet on himself, Bruno said, "I don't involve myself in betting because my money is too hard to get."

Subaru drivers maintain lead



Subaru Impreza 555 drivers Colin McRae, Kenneth Eriksson and Piero Liatti have maintained total control of the Rally of Thailand finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively, says a press release.

Colin McRae, leading the 555 Subaru World Rally Team in the opening round of the 1996 Asia Pacific Championship in the Rally of Thailand, dominated from the outset, never once losing control of the leaderboard.

Italian soccer chief's plan

MILAN, Italy, Mar 14: Italian football president Antonio Matarrese called a special meeting for Thursday and Friday to discuss Sunday's planned players' strike, reports AFP.

Matarrese has invited the president of the national Olympic committee Mario Pescante, the president of the coach's association Angelo Vicchini, and lawyer Sergio Campana, who announced the proposed strike.

AUSSIE-WINDIES SCORECARD

Scoreboard in the World Cup semifinal between Australia and West Indies at Mohali Thursday.

Table with columns: AUSTRALIA, M Waugh lbw b Ambrose, M Taylor b Bishop, R Ponting lbw b Ambrose, S Waugh b Bishop, S Law run out, M Bevan c Richardson b Harper, I Healy run out, P Reffel run out, S Waite not out, Extras (lb-11; w-5; nb-2), Total (for eight), wickets-50 overs, Did not bat: G McGrath, D Fleming.

Table with columns: Bowling, Ambrose, Bishop, Walsh, Gibson, Harper, Adams.

Table with columns: WEST INDIES, Chanderpaul c Fleming, McGrath, Browne c and b Warne, Lara b S Waugh, Richardson not out, Harper lbw b McGrath, Gibson c Healy b Warne, Adams lbw b Warne, Arthurton c Healy b Fleming, Bishop lbw b Warne, Ambrose run out, Walsh b Fleming, Bevan c and b Warne, Extras (lb-4; nb-2; w-2), Total.

Table with columns: Fall of wickets, 1-0; 2-7; 3-8; 4-15; 5-53; 6-171; 7-186; 8-207.

Table with columns: Bowling, McGrath, Fleming, Warne, M Waugh, S Waugh, Reffel, Bevan, Law.

Result: Australia won by five runs. Man-of-the-match: Shane Warne.

Pak delight in Indian plight

ISLAMABAD, Mar 14: India's controversial exit from the World Cup following crowd trouble dominated the front pages in Pakistan here on Thursday.

"Disgraceful Indians" ran the banner headline in the daily newspaper The News, the story of India's abandoned semifinal against Sri Lanka in Calcutta taking up the top third of the page and relegating news of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's latest political meetings to a few paragraphs.

The nation ran four separate front page articles on the controversial end to the game, reporting Pakistani glee over the result under the headline "Pakistan celebrates Lankan triumph".

It also dedicated half an inside page to Wednesday's incidents which saw the 110,000 Eden Gardens crowd hurl missiles, bottles and rocks on to the pitch as India, chasing 250 for eight, slumped to 121 for eight.

A comment piece accused the Indians, who had asked for a slow pitch from their groundmen to try and hamper Sri Lanka's batsmen, of using "sleight of hand" to try and reach the final. It called the Indian tactics a "miserable game plan".

Islamabad daily The Muslim's front page headline ran, "Calcutta mob on rampage as Lankans thrash India".

It reported, "It was the most gloomy, sad and disgraceful end to a cricket match in the game's otherwise great history."

It will take a long time and a lot from India and its masses to undo the damage they have done to the game and to their image.

Muster falters

INDIAN WELLS, California, Mar 14: Austrian Thomas Muster lost his first match since reclaiming the world number one ranking when he fell in straight sets to unseeded Romanian Adrian Panait in the Champions Cup men's tennis tournament on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Panait, ranked 40th in the world, defeated Muster 6-3, 7-5 in a second-round match that was halted for three hours and 47 minutes by rain.

Top seed Pete Sampras, who conceded the world number one spot to Muster in the rankings released on Monday, reached the third round without hitting a ball when Spain's Alex Corretja withdrew injured.

Third-seeded American Andre Agassi also shrugged off a rain delay to beat 19-year-old Dutchman Sjeng Schalken 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.

This was the second time this year that Muster had grabbed the number one ranking and then failed in his next ATP Tour match. He lost his opening match in Dubai shortly after he became the first Austrian to reach number one.

Eden falls from grace



It is this instant global exposure which has elevated Wednesday's events above arguably worse incidents on the sub-continent in the last three decades, and Pakistan-India-Lanka Organising Committee (PILCOM) convenor Jagmohan Dalmiya already fears the worst.

"It will be difficult to get a big game in Calcutta again," said Dalmiya, also the secretary of the Indian Cricket Board of Control.

The city's image has been tarnished. It's extremely sad. This incident will have far-reaching consequences.

"It has completely baffled me. I could never imagine that this kind of incident could take place in Calcutta which is known for its cricketing knowledge and sporting behaviour."

Match referee Clive Lloyd and the umpires were left with no alternative but to award the semifinal to Sri Lanka, and Lloyd's report to the International Cricket Council (ICC) could easily recommend stiff punishment.

Lloyd was particularly concerned by the inaction of the security forces on duty, who generally performed on a par with India's middle-order batsmen.

"I asked for an additional force and told them to mingle with the crowd but I don't know if they were really there," said Lloyd. "I am very disappointed."

Calcutta hosted the 1987 World Cup final between Australia and England, and is credited with numerous attendance records including the four highest one-day crowds of all time.

Only the MCG in Melbourne compares for size and Wednesday's attendance may well have set a new high, although exact figures of paying spectators are notoriously elusive.

But while visiting countries complain about the amount which can accompany the players on to the field, the real danger to Eden Gardens' future is more likely to come from inside India.

Seventeen different local associations have staged matches on Indian soil during this World Cup, and half a dozen have now erected floodlights in the hope of attracting more matches in future.

Many will view an excuse to remove Calcutta from the equation, even on a temporary basis, as hard to resist. The consequences of Wednesday's events may haunt Eden lovers for some time.

Press pummels India



Indian Express. "It is impossible today to be an Indian and not be ashamed."

"The Hindustan Times described the crowd rioting as a 'sorry spectacle' and a 'blot' on India's cricket reputation."

"The historic Eden Gardens, once regarded as a pilgrimage site for cricket enthusiasts, is today a synonym for ridicule," the Pioneer said.

"We have lost matches before... But never has the nation had reason for collective ignominy on this scale," it added. "It is not about losing. We lost to a better side."

"India's real defeat was not on the field, but in the stands. Eden Gardens will no longer feature as the world's second-most sacrosanct cricket arena after Lord's."

"All that India can do to atone for Calcutta's sins is to rise to a man and cheer Sri Lanka on to a splendid victory in Lahore," the Pioneer said.

The Indian Express said it could be some time before the World Cup returns to the sub-continent.

It will now be a long time before the world's most cricket-crazed region wins another vote at the International Cricket Conference to stage a World Cup," the daily said.

"Was it in the same city that people lined the streets in millions to greet the first South African team to visit India in 1991" the newspaper asked.

"Somewhere during the intervening years, Calcutta lost its soul and character and the loser today is all of India."

"This 'black Wednesday,' Calcuttans may have lost the affections of the entire cricketing world."

The Calcutta-based Statesman called it "one of the blackest days in the history of Indian cricket."

In a column in the Indian Express, former Indian star Kapil Dev expressed disappointment with the Calcutta crowd.

"I always thought that they were really a fantastic and sporting crowd with a lot of knowledge about the game," he wrote. "But they behaved differently today and it is shameful."

Editorial writers found no fig leaf to cover the naked fan fury at Eden Gardens.

The Daily Star PHILIPS Cricket World Cup Quiz '96



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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 from Feb 4-25, 1996 for Quiz 1 and from Feb 27-March 20, 1996 for Quiz 2 which will be a Bumper Round in the Sports Page.

Quiz 2: Bumper Round

- 1. The first 'duck' in the World Cup was by H R Shah, E D Solkar, A Knott.

Name: Address: 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.