

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

That Dr W. G. Grace of England is regarded as the father of cricket. Born in 1848 on the 8th of July, William revolutionized the art of batting, and with his flair, skill and bearing became the first truly great hero of the sport.

Until 1860 first class cricket in England was a remarkably unorganized affair. As a matter of fact, when the Australian international team wanted fixtures in England they had to advertise in the newspapers for teams to play against.

Such was Grace's reputation that by 1875 a county championship was begun, the first official Test matches between England and Australia instituted and several record-breaking crowds attended.

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-30

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Mar 22, 1996)

- 1. How many wickets did West Indian fast bowler Curtly Ambrose take in the World Cup '96?
2. Where will the next cricket World Cup be held?
3. Who scored the first hundred in World Cup '96?
4. Who was the man-of-the-match in the 1975 World Cup final?
5. The present South African cricket captain is

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

SPORTS TALK



Farook Engineer

(Former Indian wicket-keeper)

I think the West Indies will win if they just play sensibly but they are not known to be very sensible.

Commenting during the break of the World Cup semifinal between West Indies and Australia, West Indies needed only 208 to win but fell five runs short.

Zhaoying on course for All-England crown

BIRMINGHAM, England, Mar 16: Ye Zhaoying, who has captured three of the five major titles in the past ten months, moved within one win of a fourth when she reached the final of the All-England Championships, reports AFP.

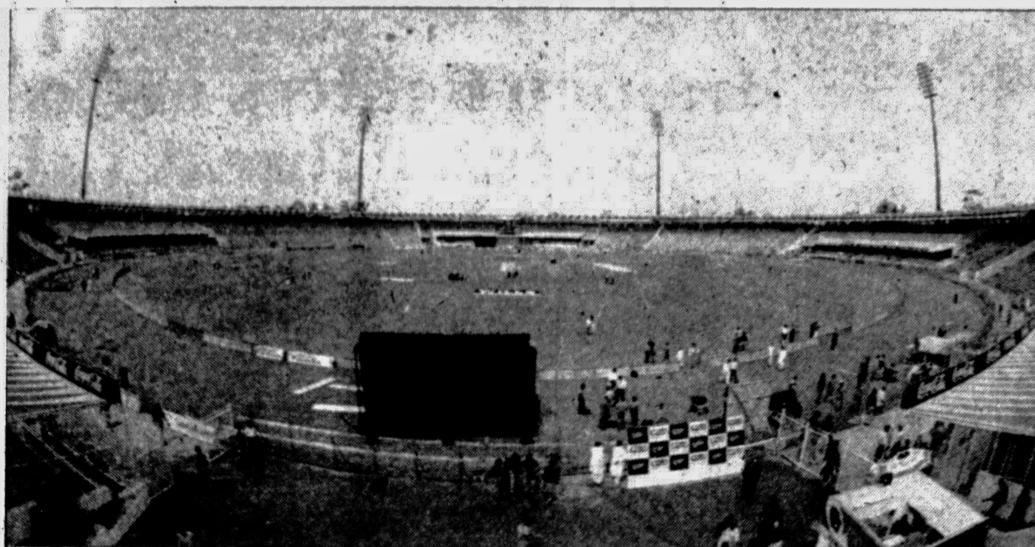
Ye, who has taken over as world number-one from Olympic champion Susi Susanti after winning the world, World Cup and World Grand Prix titles, overcame hard-working South Korean Kim Ji-Hyun 11-6, 7-11, 11-5.

Meanwhile Poul-erik hoyer-Larsen, the Dane who unexpectedly captured the All-England title last year, answered those who said he was a one-title wonder by reaching the final again.

Hoyer turned in one of the most brilliant performances of his career to score a 15-3, 15-6 win over South Korean world silver medalist Park Sung-Woo.

Hoyer's opponent in the final will be Rashid-Shareef, the Commonwealth sidekick from Malaysia whose impressive 15-8, 15-5 victory over South Korean Lee Kwan-Jin enabled him to emulate the achievement of his brother Misbun Sidek who reached the All-England final ten years ago.

The other semifinal saw the continued demise of Susanti, the queen of badminton for the best part of four years, but now suffering defeats regularly.



SET FOR A GRAND FINALE: The picturesque Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore looks in great shape for the biggest occasion in its history — the final of the Sixth World Cup today.

Captains reach consensus



LAHORE, Mar 16: Rival captains Mark Taylor and Arjuna Ranatunga buried past differences here today to renew calls for calm before the World Cup storm, report agencies.

Taylor, whose Australian team have been painted as villains ever since refusing to play in Sri Lanka, repeated



ARJUNA RANATUNAGA

there was no longer any tensions between the sides on the eve of the tournament final. Sri Lankan Ranatunga, meanwhile, put his signature to the peace pact on Friday by saying, "This is not about revenge, revenge is not a word that should be used in sport."

echoed by man-in-the-middle Dav Whatmore, a former Australian Test cricketer now coaching Sri Lanka — came as emotions threatened to boil over.

Taylor said on his arrival in Lahore, "I want to say here and now this is a game of cricket. I'm sure Sri Lanka, like us, want a clean game."

The Australian captain, whose team forfeited their earlier group match against Sri Lanka because of security worries following a massive terrorist bombing, made it clear that last year's bitter clashes between the two sides were also forgotten.

Relations deteriorated when Sri Lanka were accused, then cleared, of ball-tampering while touring Australia. Their off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan was later called for throwing, taking relations to a new low.

But Taylor pointed out, "By the end of the tour there was no tension," he said. "The two sides got together after the Adelaide Test and we shared a drink and had a good chat for about one-and-a-half hours."

The teams' efforts on Friday and Saturday to reduce temperatures comes after Sri Lanka's semifinal against India was ended by crowd riots, as a 110,000-strong Calcutta crowd went on the rampage as their side headed towards inevitable defeat.

The 1987 winners and 1975 finalists — the best-drilled side the world — the Sri Lankans, in their first final. The most dangerous and the most attacking.

Ranatunga's tactic will look to his batsmen to create disorder as Taylor tries to retain his side's pattern, as he managed to do in tightest semifinal ever, when his men beat the West Indies by five runs following a brilliant rearguard action.

Sunday's sides both have a fine array of potential match-



MARK TAYLOR

winner — Waugh and Mark Waugh to the fore in the Australian camp, while Sri Lanka will lean on destructive batsmen Sanath Jayasuriya and Aravinda de Silva.

Crucially, however, Australia are an all-round side while Sri Lanka's trump cards are all batsmen.

CHRONOLOGY OF WC FINALS

LAHORE, Mar 16 (Reuters): Australia and Sri Lanka will be contesting cricket's sixth World Cup final on Sunday.

The previous five finals have all been won by the team batting first.

1975, Lord's: West Indies 291-8 (60 overs); Australia 274 all out (58.4). West Indies won by 17 runs.

1979, Lord's: West Indies 286-9 (60 overs); England 194 all out (51). West Indies won by 92 runs.

1983, Lord's: India 183 all out (54.4 overs); West Indies 140 all out (52). India won by 43 runs.

1987, Calcutta: Australia 253-5 (50 overs); England 246-8 (50). Australia won by 7 runs.

1992, Melbourne: Pakistan 249-6 (50 overs); England 227 all out (49.2). Pakistan won by 22 runs.

TODAY'S VENUE

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

Still 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 with newly-installed floodlights, will host today's World Cup cricket final between Sri Lanka and Australia.

The India Cup starts soon!

NEW DELHI, Mar 16: An Indian official on Saturday compared the upcoming general elections with the cricket World Cup, and urged political parties to field their best batsman and bowlers, reports AFP.

"For India, the World Cup is over," said Election Commissioner MS Gill, a sports enthusiast, referring to Wednesday's disgraceful exit in Calcutta of the home team in the semifinals against Sri Lanka.

"But the India Cup is about to start," he said, referring to parliamentary polls involving some 550 million voters expected in April or May.

"We hope good teams (political parties) will participate, whose best batsmen and bowlers will fight hard to win and will also play fair," Gill said.

Gill, who witnessed the ugly crowd behaviour at Calcutta, said: "I hope the political parties would be good winners, good losers and sportspersons."

"Like the World Cup, here too we will have three umpires," he added. "We will also look for the man-of-the-match. Our decision (on the dates for) the general elections will come shortly."

Chief election commissioner TN Seshan, who is assisted by two election commissioners, has often compared himself to a soccer referee, and threatened to blow the whistle whenever violence erupts during polling.

Bevo: Matured & motivated



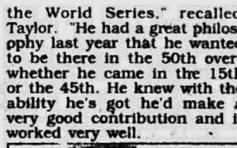
LAHORE, Pakistan, Mar 16: English cricket has not enjoyed the best of World Cups, but if Australia win the tournament on Sunday at least one county side will be entitled to a share of the credit, reports Reuter.

Some English county bowlers may qualify as "pie-throwers" in the immortal words of Rodney Marsh, yet as far as Michael Bevan is concerned they have given his career a lift just when he needed it most.

Bevan will return to Yorkshire in the coming season having re-established himself in Australia's plans, initially in the World Series competition when he was dismissed only twice in 10 innings and most recently in the World Cup semifinal against West Indies where he scored a crucial 69.

Captain Mark Taylor is among those who believe the left-hander has taken huge strides in the past 12 months since being dropped during the 1994-95 Ashes series, and predicts Yorkshire can expect a good return on their investment this year.

"Bevo was just awesome in



MICHAEL BEVAN

Yet until the semifinal in Mohali, Bevan had been buried deep in a very strong Australian batting order and had faced only a few dozen competitive deliveries in the space a month.

His bowling, though, has been a key part of the Australian strategy throughout

and Taylor believes he has become a much more mature player in recent times.

"I think going over to Yorkshire made him a senior player. If you look at his New South Wales record a couple of years ago, he used to always make a hundred when Taylor, Slater, (Mark) Waugh and (Steve) Waugh weren't playing. When we came back he'd fail every time.

"He made six or seven first-class hundreds in the space of a year and I never saw one of them, yet when we went away he made runs every time. He needed the responsibility, but now he's more comfortable among better players.

Bevan agrees totally. "Yorkshire came at the perfect time for me. I hadn't had such a good season at home and it gave me a chance to get among the runs.

"You play a lot over there and I'm happy getting as many hits as possible."

Sri Lanka will already know what to expect after watching the West Indians reduce Australia to 15 for four, then let them off the hook. Just in case they have forgotten, Bevan is happy to remind them.

"I have an appetite for runs. I like as much batting as possible," he said after completing his final net of the tournament on Saturday. "I wouldn't exactly say I like hard work, but I just like scoring runs."

Taylor's team riding high



LAHORE, Mar 16: Confident Australian skipper Mark Taylor hinted here today his side were clear favourites to beat Sri Lanka in the World Cup final because of their all-round strength and versatility, report agencies.

Taylor said before Sunday's Cup climax: "We have prove we can win the game chasing or defending a total.

"We have to make sure we put a good solid game together. If we do that we will be a hard side to beat."

"We are sticking with the same line-up that got us to the final," Taylor said after practice at the Gaddafi Stadium today.

Taylor stressed it would take more than one man to win the final.

"To win the World Cup, you have to have an all-round side.



MARK WAUGH

If you are looking for a Lara, Tendulkar or Waugh to win the game for you, you are not going

to win," he said.

Their line-up is also packed with men who can both bat and bowl. Taylor and Ricky Pointing are the only batsman in the side's top six that have not been called on to bowl, while the Waugh brothers and Michael Bevan have regularly contributed with the ball.

Sri Lanka, however, are regarded as explosive batsmen who prefer chasing runs and whose bowling is limited to a containing role.

Taylor admitted great respect for the Sri Lankan batting which has destroyed several bowling attacks with dynamic starts.

"If they make 120 off the first 15 overs we will have a problem, they can set a very high target. They also bat right down to seven, eight and nine."

Leg-spinner Shane Warne was an influential figure with four for 36 in Australia's dramatic fightback against the West Indians, but Taylor stressed the win had been a team effort.

Ranatunga meets Taylor's men

by Tawfiq Aziz Khan



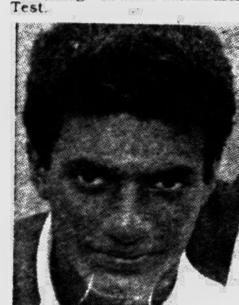
ARJUNA Ranatunga's long wait for Taylor's men ends today. The Aussies literally escaped from the Caribbean to show up on time at the Gaddafi Stadium for the final showdown.

For Mark Taylor it will be the end of a long journey, the course of which, has been meticulously charted over the years. Since he took over from Border in 1994, this will be his first big event in international cricket. His first Test as captain gives him no inspiration as he picked up a 'pair' at Karachi, but he has come a long way to be known as a brilliant tactician and an efficient opener.

The scandal involving Salim Malik after almost a year after it was supposed to have been conspired, and subsequent refusal of the ACB to send Tim May and Shane Warne to appear before the investigation had raised doubts about the truthfulness of the allegation. Perhaps it was done to cow down the Pakistanis before their trip to Australia in a three-Test series in which Pakistan were beaten 2-1.

Then they picked on Sri Lanka. First it was the ball tampering for which the ICC had to apologise and then the Muralitharan episode. Both these events should be seen in the light of the coming World Cup which was to be played in the sub-continent and the Sri Lankans to be in the same

group with Australia. Muralitharan was a regular bowler of the team and had passed the critical eyes of top umpires of the world. But umpire D B Hair of Australia called him seven times for throwing in the Melbourne Test.



MURALITHARAN

It was more than sufficient to destroy a bowler. Normally, calling for throwing or chucking is done by the leg umpire. The matter did not end there. After the match the Australian Cricket Board declined to allow the Sri Lankans to speak to umpire Hair (even though the ICC raised no objection) to discover exactly what his objections were to Muralitharan's bowling action." (Widener Cricket Monthly, Feb 1996).

Between the Test matches the Benson & Hedges World Series Cup (WSC) was played among Australia, West Indies and Sri Lanka, all belonging to the same group in the World Cup. This was a good exercise

for all the teams. Australia won the final against Sri Lanka convincingly, with some additional help. The year was particularly fruitful for Australia as she won four Test series at home and away including victory against the West Indies.

So, the Aussies will be taking the field today against a side which have been playing in the World Cup since 1975 but the best they could turn in was a sixth place in 1979. Australians must be flying very high after their eventful wins against New Zealand and the West Indies. They lost only one match to West Indies, but it should be a different day today.

Arjuna Ranatunga and his men must be in high spirits after their achievement so far. They are the only unbeaten outfit, in this tournament. Their dramatic win against India at the Eden Gardens was no flash in the pan. The way they have approached each and every game, points towards the maturity of the leadership and the coming of age of all the players. The victory at Sharjah last year against the mighty West Indies lifted their morale and level of game to new heights. So far their approach to the match from the reverse order has worked, except in the match against India. If they apply the same tactic and get away with it then their bowlers, who may not be the world beaters, will have some respite to bail their team out.

As a team from this region, they will have all the support from the stands today and millions watching on television will join them.

Daily Star dream team

Sports Reporter



WORLD Cup fever seems to have spread around the country like an epidemic. Everywhere you go, you cannot miss that — excitable buzz. All that expectation and anticipation battled up in every cricket-lover's heart. Will the Lankans be able to lift the trophy, or will the Aussies snatch it from their grasp? — this is the question circling the minds of all of us today. And every conversation seems to be centred on the quadrennial event.

But, unfortunately, the sixth World Cup comes to an end today. When the victorious captain lifts the trophy at Lahore this evening, the curtain will fall on the great sporting extravaganza. And with it will subside the fever it has caused amongst us.

However, before the temperature can drop too far, we at the Daily Star would like to present you with The Daily Star Dream Team — a selection of eleven of the top players of the world who have excelled throughout the five weeks.

The selection was completed after a series of long, and sometimes heated (for we all like to put in our favourite players), discussions between the members of the Sports Desk. Only the players' performances in the tournament, and not the reputations, were taken into account. See if your opinion matches with ours.

Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka) — left-hand opener/left-arm spin bowler. The nightmare of any bowling attack, Jayasuriya has revolutionised the art of opening throughout the World Cup he has blitzed past every opponent. A true example of his prowess — a 43-ball 82 against England. In the semifinals he proved his worth as a frontline bowler. The official player-of-the-tournament, he would be a prized possession of any team.

Sachin Tendulkar (India) — right-hand opener/right-arm 'variety' bowler India's batting maestro, that is the young genius, that is the young genius, he blazes the grounds alive with his blistering batting. The highest scorer of the competition so far, Tendulkar has hit two centuries and three half-centuries. A cheeky bowler too — India's most economical — he would be an ideal partner

for Jayasuriya with his combination of impulsive strokeplay and solid defense.

Mark Waugh (Australia) — right-hand opener or middle-order/right-arm off-spin. No one is better suited to take on the attack if the openers fail than Mark Waugh. The most stylish player in the world today he has hit three centuries in the tourney so far. His now regular off-spin would also add team's strength. Although Brian Lara was a candidate for this vital No. 3 slot, Waugh beat him for form.

Aravinda de Silva (Sri Lanka) — right-hand middle-order/right arm off-spin. A magnificent strokeplayer, De Silva never fails to impress. He has got runs consistently this time around and has carried Sri Lanka's hopes whenever the opening failed. Like Tendulkar, he can both attack and defend and can bowl a bit too. Beat Hansie Cronje to the spot.

Steve Waugh (Australia) — right-hand middle-order/right-arm medium-

for some time now. He is equally capable in standing back to pacers as he is apt in standing up to the spinners. His ability to turn up the heat with the willow towards the end of the innings makes him an obvious choice.

Chaminda Vaas (Sri Lanka) — left-hand lower order/left-arm fast-medium bowler. This may come as a surprise selection but, let's face it, it has not been a pacer's World Cup and Vaas has done well for himself despite the odds. However, Wasim Akram's lack of form has a lot to do with his inclusion. At the end, it was actually his superior batting abilities that put him over a number of other candidates.

Shane Warne (Australia) — right-hand lower-order/right-arm wrist spin. Undoubtedly the best leg-spinner in the world today, his ability to spin the ball surpasses any other. And he even had his flipper going in the semis. Although Anil Kumble was considered for the role, Warne beat him to it by far. And any way, we did not need another medium pacer in the team, did we?

Waqaar Younis (Pakistan) — right-hand lower-order/right-arm fast bowler. A devastating bowler in his own right, Waqaar, on his day, can demolish any opposition line-up. Although a little expensive, he has returned with wickets from every match with the right captaincy, he can be the team's main strike bowler.

Curtly Ambrose (West Indies) — left-hand lower order/right-arm fast bowler. The most economical bowler of the tourney so far, he has also taken ten wickets. Ambrose coming in from 30-years away is still one of the most fearful sights for any batsman. He and Waqaar would make a awesome strike force.

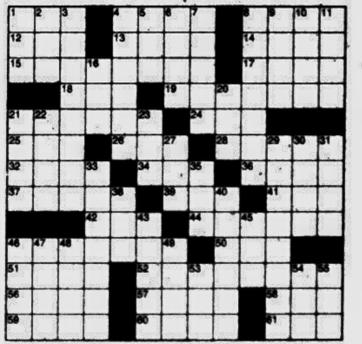
Calcuttans say sorry

NEW DELHI, Mar 16: Around 13,000 people from Calcutta have signed a letter of apology to Sri Lanka's cricketers after a crowd riot cut short the World Cup semifinal against India, reports AFP.

The Telegraph daily newspaper today said the letter, expressing contrition for Wednesday's hooliganism which ended with the game being awarded to Sri Lanka, would be delivered to captain Arjuna Ranatunga before the final between Sri Lanka and Australia in Lahore on Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

NOY CYF PUXEOPUVKFE
EUVYEPUC FUE DUEN
NK VYUXC NOY
EKDN EYVV
Yesterday's Cryptogram: IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED — TRY AND READ YOUR DIRECTIONS.
Today's Cryptogram clue: V equals L.
The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Give letters, short words and words using an apostrophe single you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.