Lahore. It cost the father-son

duo two lakh taka including

return and venue-to-venue

flights, hostels, city transport,

game tickets, etc. Not a bad

deal through an agent,

admitted a content Kassam;

his son hardly ever speaking

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

HAT this is perhaps the longest period since independence that the country has been without any sports activities. The Premier cricket (championship and relegation) leagues and Yamaha First Division cricket league has remained suspended since March 9. The National Athletics Championship has been deferred. The Dhaka Stadium, Mirpur Stadium, grounds at Dhanmondi and City Club premises, wooden floor gymnasium, MSC facilities: tennis complex and other games venues wear a desolate look. Almost all the foreign cricketers have been released by the local clubs. The arenas appear appear eerie, they are empty and are yearning for ac-

Why this emptiness? Don't ask me. I prefer to keep sports clean of politics.

TALK SPORTS



Monica Seles

(American tennis superstar) "The first one is always very special. But this one is, in a way, special too."

On winning a Grand Slam title (the Australian Open) after her comeback.

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHiZZ KID competition-31 V Tick the Correct Answer

(C		on close 29, 199	es: 8 p.m 6)	
1.	In the 1996 World Cup, Sri Lankar Aravinda de Silva won the man-of the-match awards			
	3 times	4 times	5 times	
2.	Former Wimbledon champion Pa Cash is			
	Swedish	English	Australian	
3.	Tyson regained the WBC heavy weight crown defeating Bruno Bowe Buster			
4	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH	ni Metrono	The state of the s	

league champions are Mohammedan SC | Biman | Ansars Number of centuries scored in 1996 World Cup were 16

Name:.....

Class Roll No

School Address:

Phone; (if any)

Steffi starts

in style

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida,

Mar 23: Steffi Graf launched

her defence of the Lipton

championships here on Friday

with a 6-1, 7-5 victory over

Sandra Cacic in the second

round of the 4.1 million-dollar

fresh from victory in the Evert

Cup in Indian Wells, California,

last week, had a first round

tournament of the year, but so

far she has shown no ill-effects

from surgery to remove bone

spurs in her left foot in

lost its marquee match-up ear-

lier this week when co-num-

ber one Monica Seles with-

drew with a sore left shoulder.

Seles and Graf would have

been seeded to meet in the fi-

Huber defeated Jolene Watanabe of the United States.

6-3, 6-7 (8-10), 6-1, fifth seed Kimiko Date of Japan downed

Barbara Schett of Austria, 6-3,

7-5, and eighth seed Lindsay

Davenport of the United

States breezed past Laura,

round action, 12th seed

Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine defeated Guillaume Raoux of

France, 6-4, 6-4 Chile's

Marcelo Rios, seeded 13th

after reaching the final of the

Champions Cup at Indian Well's

last week' beat Katol Kucera of

the former world number one

who is retiring at the end of

the year defeated Spanish vet-

eran Emilio Sanchez 6-7, (6-

8) 63 62 in a first-round

Stefan Edberg of Sweden

Slovakia 6-4, 6-2

Among the men in second

Golarsa of Italy, 6-1, 6-2.

In other matches on Friday. third-seeded German Anke

The women's competition

The Evert Cup was her first

Graf, who arrived in Florida

event, reports AFP.

December.

Victoria at the close.

Jones on 57. Earlier paceman David Saker destroyed Queensland's

figures of 7-32 off 18.2 overs.

of playing in the final. Blewett made 106 and

Darren Lehmann scored 82 in a 186-run partnership. But the Blues' World Cup

McGrath 2-56.

outright results.

out-of-form batsmen Sherwin Campbell and Keith Arthurton, last bowler Cameron Cuffy and wicketkeeper Courtney Browne.

Barbados, Mar 23:

West Indies have

dropped four of

their World Cup.

squad for the op-

ening one-day internationals

against New Zealand, starting

in Jamaica on Tuesday, reports

With former skipper Richie

Richardson declaring himself

unavailable and all-rounder

Ottis Gibson ruled out with a

groin injury, six members of

the squad which reached the

World Cup semifinals earlier

this month are missing from

the 13-man squad announced

The players dropped are

Lankans stick

to winning

combination

Lanka have retained the same

14-member squad that won

the World Cup last week for

next month's Singer Cup tri-

angular tournament in

Singapore, the cricket board

other teams that will take part

in the round robin tournament

April 1 to 5. The final will be

be retained for a subsequent

series of matches in the West

Indies and in California in the

TEAM

Aravinda de Silva (vice cap-

tain), Roshan Mahanama, Ha-

shan Tillekeratne, Asanka

Gurusinghe, Sanath Jayasuriya.

Romesh Kaluwitharana (wick-

etkeeper), Chaminda Vaas,

Kumar Dharmasena, Pramodya

Wickremsinghe, Mutthiah Mu-

ralitharan, Ravindra Push-

pakumara, Upul Chandana,

Arjuna Ranatunga (captain)

The same squad is likely to

India and Pakistan are the

said, reports AP.

played on April 7.

United States.

COLOMBO, Mar 23: Sri

on Friday.

Two uncapped players, wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs and all-rounder Laurie Williams, have been brought into the squad selected for the first three of five one-day matches. Three batsmen ignored for

the World Cup, Phil Simmons, Stuart Williams and Philo Wallace have been recalled. Jamaican Laurie Williams, a

fast-medium bowler, captured 20 wickets in four Red Stripe Cup matches this season at an



PHIL SIMMONS

average of 17.55 apiece. The recall of Stuart Williams and Simmons was widely expected after both batsmen enjoyed a prolific 1996 Red Stripe Cup season.

Simmons, a veteran of over 100 one-day internationals. topped the batting averages (72.62) with 581 runs. Williams hit 495 runs at an average of 61.87.

Wallace, a surprise omission from the World Cup party, has finally been given another opportunity at international level after playing 10 one-day internationals in Sharjah (1991) and Pakistan and Australia

4 WI World Cuppers axed (1991-92) in the World Series

> After Tuesday's opening match in Kingston the teams move on to Port of Spain. Trinidad, for the next two matches on March 29 and 30. The fourth match is in Georgetown, Guyana, on April 3 and the final clash at St Vincent on April 6.

SQUAD

Courtney Walsh (captain), Stuart Williams, Shivnarine Chanderpaul. Philo Wallace. Brian Lara. Phil Simmons. Jimmy Adams, Roland Holder Ridley Jacobs. Roger Harper, Ian Bishop, Curtly Ambrose, Laurie Williams.

Six-a-side cricket Biman may go to Bangkok

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Biman along with another local club is expected to take part in a six-aside cricket tournament to be held in Bangkok from March 27 to April 1.

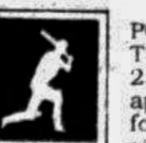
This was disclosed yesterday by Ali Ahsan Babu, the cricket manager of Bangladesh Biman, who further added that the team is expected to leave for Bangkok on March 25.

Biman apart, another outfit named Commonwealth Club, an unknown factor in local sports, will also take part in the six-day meet.

It was also learnt that national skipper Akram Khan. Aminul Islam Bulbul, Enamul Haq Moni, Imrul Hamid Partha, Athar Ali Khan will feature, in the so-called Commonwealth Club.

However, the tour to Bangkok may be postponed if the on-going Premier cricket league, suspended for the last 15 days due to the prevailing restive political situation, resumes within the next couple of days.

Lara states the facts



Marvan Atapattu.

PORT OF SPAIN. Trainidad, Mar 23: Brian Lara apologised Friday for verbally abu-

sing the West Indian team's physiotherapist following last week's World Cup semifinal loss, the latest in a series of controversial incidents involving the star batsman, reports AP.

"I am very sorry over what happened and I am also very disappointed in myself." Lara was quoted in the Trinidad Guardian newspaper.

Reports out of Barbados say Lara hurled insults, including profanities and racial slurs. against Australian-born Denis

Sheffield Shield Victoria take charge

MELBOURNE, Mar 23: Defending champions Queensland's chances of playing in this season's Sheffield Shield cricket final were rocked by Victoria on the opening day of their final round match here today, reports AFP.

Needing points to secure a place in next weekend's final against South Australia, the Queenslanders were on the verge of being overtaken by

Victoria bowled out Queensland for 142 and then matched it at 142 for one with Warren Ayres on 61 and Dean

innings, grabbing career best In Sydney, a superb century

by Greg Blewett steered Shield leaders South Australia to a strong 290 for six against New South Wales, who must win outright here to have a chance

stars triggered a late collapse with all-rounder Shane Lee taking 2-49 and Glenn In Hobart, Tasmania were

274 for four at stumps against Western Australia with both holding chances of playing in the final with

Captain David Boon, lefthander Michael Divenuto and opener Jamie Cox notched up half centuries for Tasmania with Boon not out 51 at the

Waight on the flight from Bombay, India, to London last The tirade followed the

West Indies five-run loss to Australia on March 14 and began in the Bombay International Airport. Before boarding the plane,

Lara began speaking at the top of his voice, complete with expletives. The reports said team man-

ager Wes Hall, coach Andy Roberts and captain Richie Richardson * already had



BRIAN LARA boarded the plane and did not hear Lara's outburst. Other

members of the team reportedly said nothing.

Nadia's political godfather!

BUCHAREST, Mar 23: The charismatic leader of Romania's ruling party wants to play godfather at star gymnast Nadia Comaneci's celebrity wedding next month. the private news agency Mediafax reported on Friday reports Reuter.

It said Adrian Nastase, executive president of the Party of Social Democracy (PDSR). would be godfather at Nadia's wedding on April 27.

The PDSR's press office declined to confirm the re-

Comaneci, 33, the first gymnast to get a perfect 10 at the Montreal Olympics, has said she wants to return home for her wedding to Olympic gold winner US gymnast Bart Conner, which will coincide with local elections.

The wedding is due to take place on April 27 in a sprawling marble-lined palace erected by late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Waight Two weeks ago, Richardson resigned as captain and the West Indies Cricket Board of Control hired a new coach, both effective at the end of the World Cup tour. Hall's contract with the team also ended with the end of the tour.

Later, on the flight, Waight

decided to have a word with

Lara, only to be confronted

with louder and more vehe-

ment verbal abuse. The reports

quote Lara as saying he had

succeeded in gotting rid of

Hall, Roberts and Richardson

and would do the same to

"I don't think I handled myself in the right manner. especially while wearing the West Indies blazer." Lara told the Guardian.

"I had had a few drinks and might have said some things which I should not have. "It's not every day you find

yourself five runs away from a World Cup final. Maybe I took it too seriously Lara, holder of the world record Test score, has been

embroiled in controversy over the past year Late last year, Lara withdraw from the West Indies

team's tour of Australia.

Graveney clears Illy's path LONDON, Mar 23: David

Graveney has pulled out of the fight with Ray Illingworth for the England chairman of selectors' job - less than 24 hours after Lord's confirmed him as challenger, reports Reuter. His decision on Friday left Illingworth to continue, now

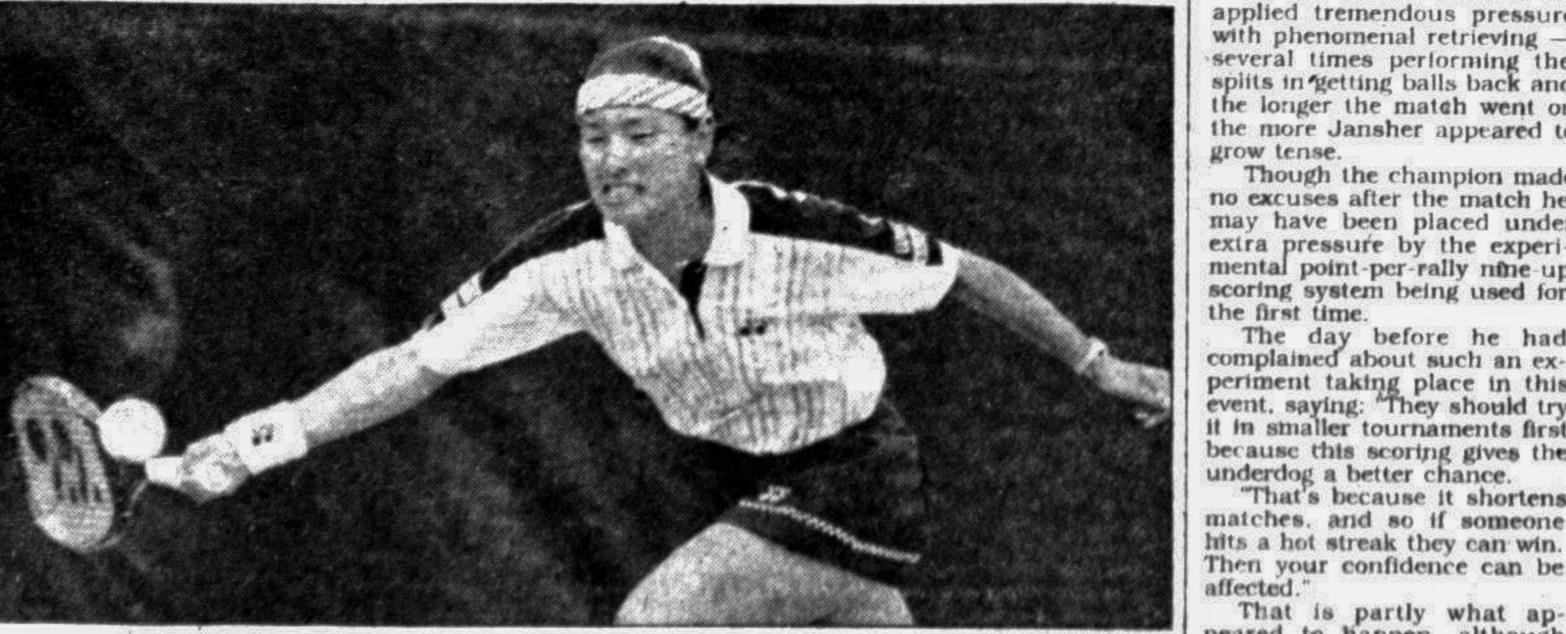
unopposed, as England chair Graveney has effectively

been forced to choose between his existing paid post as secretary of the cricketers' association, the players' union, and the chance to land English cricket's top job. In a statement the crick

eters' association said there would be "unacceptable difficulties" for the association if Graveney took on both jobs and he had been instructed to withdraw from the proposed election.

In a terse statement Graveney said that he "accepted the instruction.

Graveney's backers, led by country champions Warwick shire, had insisted that the former Gloucestershire captain's union responsibilities would not affect the way he run the England set-up.



Kimiko Date of Japan plays a forehand return against Barbara Schett of Austria in their second round match of the Lipton Championships in Key Biscayne on Mar 22. Date won 6-3, - AFP/UNB photo

Tennis squad off to KL

Sports Reporter

A four-member Bangladesh tennis team left the capital yesterday to take part in the ITF Malaysian international junior tennis championship, scheduled to begin in Kuala Lumpur from Monday.

In the week-long meet, a regular event of the ITF world junior-ranking circuit, the Bangladesh contingent includes three players and an of-

Faheem Ahsan Romi, Faisal Safiullah and Rahat Kamal are playing members while Mohammed Shahidullah will be the manager. More than 100 players

from 22 nations will feature in

the tourney.

Prabhakar, Kambli dropped

NEW DELHI, Mar 23: India's cricket selectors on Saturday penalised experienced all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar and batsman Vinod Kambli for their poor World Cup form by dropping them for two limited-overs triangulars 'next month, reports AFP.

The duo were replaced by uncapped batsmen Vikram Rathore and Rahul Dravid for the Singer Cup in Singapore from April 1-7 and the Shariah Cup in the United Arab Emirates from April 11-19.

Another casualty from the World Cup squad was seamer Salil Ankola, who made way for another new ball bowler Prashant Vaidya.

Chief selector Gundappa Vishwanath said Prabhakar. Kambli and Ankola were dropped after faring poorly in the World Cup in which India lost in the semi finals to eventual champions Sri Lanka.

Former Test batsman Sandeep Patil takes over as manager from Ajit Wadekar, whose four-year them expired after the World Cup.

India play arch-rivals Pakistan and world champions Sri Lanka in the Singer Cup, Singapore's first international fix-

The Sharjah line-up is India, Pakistan and South Africa. who will make their first appearance at the desert venue.

SQUAD

Mohammad Azharuddin (capt), Sachin Tendulkar, Navjot Sidhu, Ajay Jadeja. Rahul Dravid, Vikram Rathore, Sanjay Manjrekar, Nayan Mongia, Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Prashant Vaidya, Anil Kumble, Venkatapathy Raju, Ashish Kapoor.

Manager: Sandeep Patil.

Doordarshan reaps rich from WC

NEW DELHI, Mar 23; Doordarshan earned a net revenue of over Rs 25 crore from commercials aired during 236 hours of World Cup cricket telecast on its channels, reports PTI.

The quarterfinal match between India and Pakistan in Bangalore recorded the highest-ever rating, since the introduction of Doordarshan Audience Research Rating (DARR) - 72.2 on DD's Channel One and 78.8 on DD-2, according to a DD press release.

The national network telecast live two and even three matches simultaneously and Doordarshan earned, according to preliminary estimates, Rs 25.30 cores from commer-

A total of 236 hours were devoted by Doordarshan for the live telecast of the Wills World Cup matches and an additional 13 hours of high-

Harris humbles Jansher

LONDON, Mar 23: World champion Jansher Khan was beaten for the first time for two years on the PSA World Circuit when he went down in five games to world number six Del Harris in the Supper Series final, reports AFP.

The great Pakistani had beaten the Englishman in four games to achieve a record of seven World Open titles in Cairo in November, but this time looked both lethargic and error-prone and was beaten 9-4, 8-10, 8-10, 9-6, 9-6,

This sensational result occurred after Harris appeared to have missed his chance of causing an upset by fluffing a backhand drive at 8-6 in the second game and losing the chance for a two-game lead. In the fourth however he

applied tremendous pressure with phenomenal retrieving several times performing the splits in getting balls back and the longer the match went on the more Jansher appeared to grow tense. Though the champion made

no excuses after the match he may have been placed under extra pressure by the experimental point-per-rally nine-up scoring system being used for the first time. The day before he had complained about such an ex-

periment taking place in this event, saying: "They should try it in smaller tournaments first because this scoring gives the underdog a better chance. "That's because it shortens matches, and so if someone hits a hot streak they can win.

affected." That is partly what appeared to happen, although Harris also deserves credit for setting out to force the pace of the rallies from the beginning and keeping that pace high.

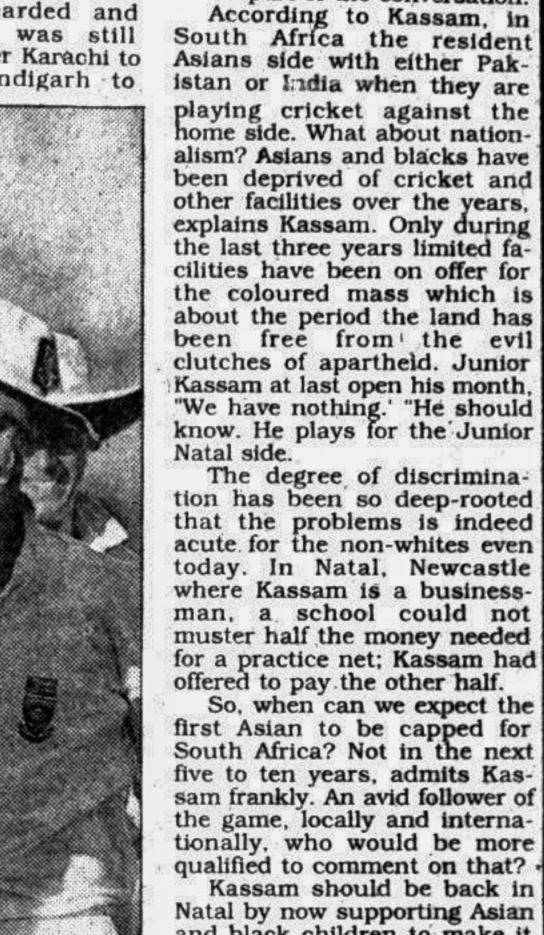
Apartheid reversed!

Nizamuddin Ahmed back from Karachi



RUDGING alongside me at Delhi's Indira Gandhi Airport on our flight to Lahore, the Gujarat-origin South African, sporting a French cut, surprised me, "In South Africa we are jumping for India and Pakistan"; his

eyes widening at the prospect of startling me. He was not disappointed. For a South African having travelled all the way to the sub-continent only to watch the World Cup along with his teenager cricketer son, Rustam Kassam would be expected to back Cronje and his men. Little wonder that in spite of South Africa's ouster in the quarters, bearded and balding Kassam was still carrying along; after Karachi to Calcutta to Chandigarh to



The South Africans in white. - Star file photo

clutches of apartheid. Junior Kassam at last open his month, "We have nothing." "He should know. He plays for the Junior Natal side. The degree of discrimination has been so deep-rooted that the problems is indeed acute for the non-whites even today. In Natal, Newcastle where Kassam is a businessman, a school could not

offered to pay the other half. So, when can we expect the first Asian to be capped for South Africa? Not in the next five to ten years, admits Kassam frankly. An avid follower of the game, locally and internationally, who would be more qualified to comment on that?

Kassam should be back in Natal by now supporting Asian and black children to make it to big league circket. "We are now treating the whites like they treated us before. Soon it will be apartheid reversed," added Kassam as a parting re-

Foes fight it out today Matsubara's lack of form, Al Dossary, who helped Saudi



PUR. Mar 23: Casualties are Japan's main worry in their preparations for the

semifinals of the Asian Olympics football qualifying finals Sunday, reports AFP.

defender Hideto Suzuki and striker Sotaro Yasunaga have sustained slight injuries, but head coach Akira Nishino is hoping for their speedy recovery against Gulf giants Saudi

Maezono - Japan's attacking midfielder - had given punch and direction to his team's attacks on his return when they demolished Oman, 4-1 and edged United Arab Emirates 1-0.

Shoji Jo and Hidetoshi Nakata up front — injured his thigh on Wednesday in the matchagainst the UAE. Without the hardworking Maezono, striker Hidetoshi Nakata must assume the role of

maturity. Japan's attacks have also been compromised since top striker Takafumi Ogura was injured last month and ruled out

Striker Sotaro Yasunaga dislocated his shoulder but his team is betting on him recovering for Sunday's match even With Yasunaga and Maezono Japan's attacks may lose their sting in their crucial match against Saudi Arabia, who destroyed Kazakhstan 4-0 on Thursday. Japan need a fully fit strik-

erforce to face Saudi Arabia, who have improved over the past three games but still lack the Japanese's speed. "Japan are fast, rushing up to attack and charging back

when they lose their ball. Tight

defence, good teamwork and tactics," observed Saudi head coach Ivo Wortmann. "Players from the Gulf states finals berth. do not have the speed unlike Japan said South Korea." he

said. Even hattrick star Objed Ihara named Asian booter-

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 23: Japanese central defender Masami Ihara Friday was named the 1995 Asian footballer-of-the-year by the Asian Football Confederation, reports

Ihara, 28, beat Thailand striker Natipong Stritong and Oman teenager Amor Al Kathiri to clinch the annual award, but was unable to attend the ceremony as he was in Japan preparing for the J-League.

Ihara had a vintage year home and away and is now the most-capped player in Japanese football.

Arabia demolish a dispirited Kazakhstan, missed three chances, he said. "We can't afford to miss such chances against Japan,"

Wortmann warned, adding Saudi Arabia still needed to polish up their attacks and scoring. For Iraqi head Coach Anwar Jassam, it will be do-or-die for

against a more polished South Korean side Sunday. Iraq edged Oman 1-0 Wednesday to book their semi-

his team when they play

"We respect Korea's swift and effective raids at the goalmouth," said an Iraqi team official, adding Iraq must have a tight defence and be able to launch fast counter-attacks to

Korea, who ended China's Atlanta hopes on Thursday with a 3-0 victory, are anticipating a tough battle against the Iraqis Sunday, a team whom they have not beaten in

chances," said head coach Anatoli Bychovets, adding: "They will be tougher than the

injuries during their earlier two matches, Korean Football Association manager Kim Won Dong said.

Cricket World Cup Quiz '96



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Read the information and rules co	refully. Tick	N) the correct	answer.
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 Snaw
In the 1975 WC, the Sri Lankans were led by	D Mendis	B Warnagura	B Tannekoon
In 1979 WC, the playing Chappell was	Chris	lan] Greg
The spinner who won two M-o-M awards in the 1983 WC was	L Gomes	D Underwood	A Qadir
Australia won the 1987 World Cup beating England in the linal by	7 runs	17 runs	27 runs
The maximum wides and no-balls bowled in the 1992 WC was by	A Donald	W Akram	W Benjamin
NAME		AGE	
U)DRESS			17.2.6-
ATHERS NAME		LEPHONE : (if any)	
CCUPATION:	IGNATURE		MR.

Write with a ball point pen in clear Block letters. Cut along the dotted lines and mail to or thop in the Quiz Box in The Daily Star. Send as many entries as you like. For rules please see previous issues.

but through his eyes com-municated that he was very much part of the conversation.

KUALA LUM-

Skipper Masakiyo Maezono,

However, Maezono - who as playmaker, feeds the ball to

attacking fielder although he my lack Maezono's vision and

of the qualifying finals.

if he is not in the final line-up. injured and striker Yoshika

of-the-year

recent years. "We are not taking any

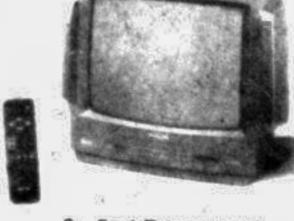
Chinese team." China were unable to put a fight Thursday after sustaining

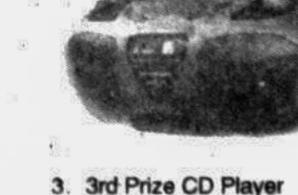
China were pushed to the limit to check Kazakhstan in their first match on March 17, Kin said.

First Prize 29" Powervision

Quiz 2: Bumper Round

All prizes courtesy:





3. 3rd Prize CD Player