

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT Olympia in Greece is the place where the Olympic spirit was born and, since the revival of the Olympic Games by Pierre de Coubertin in 1896, it is a spirit which has spread throughout the world and become a universal value. Since 1936, the sacred flame has been lit at Olympia for every one of the four-yearly Games, and has been carried to the farthest countries of the world.

For the Atlanta Games this year, the flame was lit at Olympia this week. It will travel to the different continents and make the grand entry at the Olympic Stadium on July 19.

SPORTS

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-32

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. April 5, 1996)

- In the 1996 World Cup, Zimbabwe were led by:

Andy Flower	Grant Flower	Robert Flower
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- The first century in the 1996 World Cup was scored by:

Mahesh Ashok	Lee Germon	Adam Parore
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- The 1996 European soccer championship will be held in:

Denmark	Germany	England
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- Sri Lankan cricket team is sponsored by:

Panasonic	Sony	Singer
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- In the Singer Cup Pakistan will be led by:

Sabir Malik	Aamir Sohail	Imtiaz Ahmed
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Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (if any) _____

Singapore show opens today



SINGAPORE, Mar 31: Sri Lankan cricket captain Arjuna Ranatunga is telling his team to forget they are the world champions when they face a confident Pakistan in the Singer Cup opener at the Padang ground here Monday, reports AFP.

"It is good to be world champions, but on the other hand it puts pressure on the players," said the 33-year-old Ranatunga, who led his side to a fairy-tale victory over Australia in the World Cup final at Lahore just two weeks ago.

The Lankans' strategy to conquer the pressure of expectations was to set aside their status as holders of cricket's most prestigious prize and get on with the game positively, playing every match as hard as they always do. "It is history. It is over. The

one can take it away from us," he stressed.

Sri Lanka, who joined the ranks of Test-playing nations barely 15 years ago, are here with the same squad that lifted the World Cup after a dream run through the tournament on the sub-continent.

They beat Mohammad Azharuddin's Indian side twice in the Cup - including a fiery Calcutta semifinal disrupted by crowd trouble - and remained the only unbeaten team in the whole tournament.

They did not have to face defending champions Pakistan, who were knocked out in the quarterfinal by bitter rivals India to immense disappointment and anger among Pakistani fans.

"People were upset because they were really banking on us to win. But things have cooled down a lot," said Aamir Sohail, who replaced injured Wasim Akram in the hot-seat as captain of the Pakistan team.

He is advising his own teammates to forget that the Lankans are the world champions when they take the field Monday.

"After winning the World Cup, Sri Lanka's morale is going to be high," Sohail said. "But for us it is going to be the same. We will be playing Sri Lanka and not the world champions. We are confident."

Pakistan will put Sri Lanka in if Sohail wins the toss on a hard-looking pitch expected to assist their pacemen led by Waqar Younis, said Pakistan manager Intikhab Alam.

The organisers were meanwhile, worried over prospects of rain disrupting play. The forecast doesn't look very good, said Joe Grimberg, president of the Singapore Cricket Association.

India, who arrive here Tuesday, will play Sri Lanka the following day. They take on Pakistan on Friday, followed by the final on Sunday.

Winner of the round-robin tournament, which brings top-

TODAY'S MATCH

Sri Lanka-Pakistan
(The Padang, Singapore)
From 7:30 am BST
Live on Star Sports

class cricket to Southeast Asia for the first time, will take home 30,000 dollars.

The tournament will be beamed live by satellite to an estimated television audience of 500 million people.

The tournament has the sanction of the International Cricket Council although the depth of the boundary just believed to be shorter than most grounds.

"There may be a lot of lost balls," Sohail said, referring to the possibility that players may hit sixes clearing the Padang and falling on two busy adjacent streets.

The Padang is an open ground with no fencing. Spectators sit in temporary low-rise stands.

TEAMS

SRI LANKA: (from) Arjuna Ranatunga (capt), Aravinda Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Muttiah Muralitharan, Hashan Tillekaranne, Kumara Dharmasena.



AAMIR SOHAIL

Asanka Gurusinha, Sanath Jayasuriya, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Chaminda Vaas, Pramodaya Wickremasinghe, Upul Chandana, Marwan Sattaputa.

PAKISTAN: (from) Aamir Sohail (capt), Saeed Anwar, Rameez Raja, Ijaz Ahmed, Salim Malik, Basit Ali, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Rashid Latif, Aaqib Javed, Ataur Rehman, Muhammad Akram, Mushtaq Ahmed, Saqlain Mushtaq, Waqar Younis.

Karnaphuli Ltd offers prize money

A Bangladeshi business house, Karnaphuli Limited, will sponsor the "man-of-the-match" and "man-of-the-series" awards for the three-nation Singer Cup Cricket tournament which begins today in Singapore, reports UNB.

The man-of-the-match will be selected jointly by the managers of two participating teams while the man-of-the-series chosen by a commentators' panel of the World Tel, said a press release here yesterday.

The panel of commentators comprises Sunil Gavaskar, Ian Chappel, Tony Greg, Ravi Shastri, Ranjit Fernando and Iftekhar Ahmed.

Karnataka win Ranji trophy

MADRAS, Mar 31: Karnataka won the Ranji trophy by virtue of their 250-run first innings lead when the five-day final ended in a draw today.

Scores: Karnataka 620-8 (declared) and 277-6 (declared), Avinash Vaidya 61, Sujith Somasunder 53; Tamil Nadu 370 and 31-3.

Cricket can diffuse their dispute

SINGAPORE, Mar 31: Pakistani cricketer Aamir Sohail today said a lot of "tension" between India and Pakistan could be "diffused" if there was more cricket between the two neighbours, reports PTI.

"If we have more cricket between the two countries... a lot of tension could be diffused. It is just a matter of playing more often," Sohail, who is leading the Pakistan team in the Singer Cup tournament beginning here tomorrow, told a joint press conference with Sri Lankan skipper Arjuna Ranatunga here.

On the India-Pakistan World Cup quarterfinal at Bangalore, Sohail said crowd pressure had nothing to do with their defeat. "We did not play well, India played well. It is silly to say the crowd was not supportive," the left-handed opening batsman, who has so far accumulated 2,681 runs from 85 one-dayers said.

"The crowds do not matter as much as playing conditions like wickets and ground. Cricket is cricket. It is just another game," the 30-year-old, who replaced an injured Wasim Akram as skipper, said.

Asked to comment on the hostile crowd behaviour back home, Sohail said the Pakistani people wanted the team to retain the Cup. But when we lost, the crowd was upset.

However, things have cooled down a lot now.

Coming back to the Singer tournament, he said "The pressure now was on Sri Lanka to carry on their reputation as champions. We have to play positive cricket. Let us see how they take the pressure."

But Ranatunga, who also addressed the joint press conference, retorted "We kept the pressure at home. There is no World Cup hangover, everything is locked in the cupboard at home."

WEST INDIES

5 Williams c Fleming b Larsen 4
Chanderpaul lbw b Larsen 1
Lara not out 146
Simmons lbw b Larsen 47
Adams not out 24
Extras (fb-3) 3
Total (for 8 wickets 50 overs) 225
Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-104; 3-105; 4-113; 5-178; 6-197; 7-205; 8-215

BOWLING O M R W
Ambrose 10 0 33 1 (w-1, nb-1)
Walsh 9 2 37 0 (w-1)
Simmons 10 1 35 1 (w-1)
Williams 2 0 18 0
Adams 9 0 44 1 (w-3)
Harper 10 0 45 2

WEST INDIES

Patel not out 5
Extras (fb-1, lb-6, w-6, nb-1) 14
Total (for 8 wickets 50 overs) 219
Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-104; 3-105; 4-113; 5-178; 6-197; 7-205; 8-215

BOWLING O M R W
Patel 10 0 45 0
Larsen 8 4 3 26 3
Astle 8 0 43 0
Harris 8 1 37 0
Thompson 4 0 24 0
Twose 3 0 19 0
Cairns 4 0 28 0
Result: West Indies won by seven wickets

Man-of-the-match: Brian Lara

Fourth match: Guyana, April 3
Fifth match: St Vincent, April 6

Torch taken to the road

ANCIENT OLYMPIA, Greece, Mar 31: The Olympic flame begins a circuitous 26,000 km (16,000-mile) journey for Greece to Atlanta today, starting with relay runners bearing it through villages near this ancient Greek sanctuary, reports Reuter.

By mid-July it will be nearing the southeastern US city which is hosting the Summer Games in this centenary year of the modern Olympics. The Games, originally staged in 776 BC in ancient Olympia, were revived in Greece in 1896.

The flame was lit on Saturday in a ceremony watched by US First Lady Hillary Clinton and a boisterous crowd of 15,000 tourists who converged on the pagan ruins here.

The Olympic torch, ignited by the sun's rays using a con-



A RANATUNGA

World Cup is gone," the portly Ranatunga said. "We have put it in the cupboard at home. Treat us just like any other side."

India and Pakistan, who are looking at the 70,000 US dollars Singer Cup as an opportunity to settle World Cup scores, had as good a chance of winning here, Ranatunga said.

But whatever the outcome of the triangular tournament, the tag of world champions will stay with the Lankans for the next three years and "no

Lara relieves sensation

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Mar 31: Brian Lara transformed the third limited overs international between West Indies and New Zealand on Saturday with his eighth one-day international century, reports Reuter.

The gitted little left-hander delighted his home crowd with a scintillating, undefeated 146 from 131 balls as West Indies eventually cruised to victory by seven wickets with 4.2 overs to spare. They now lead the five-match series 2-1.

Lara came to the wicket after West Indies had lost Stuart Williams (4) and Shivnarine Chanderpaul (1) with just six runs on the board.

He added 110 with Phil Simmons (47) for the third wicket and an unbroken 117 for the fourth wicket with Jimmy Adams (24 not out) to take their team to an ultimately untroubled victory.

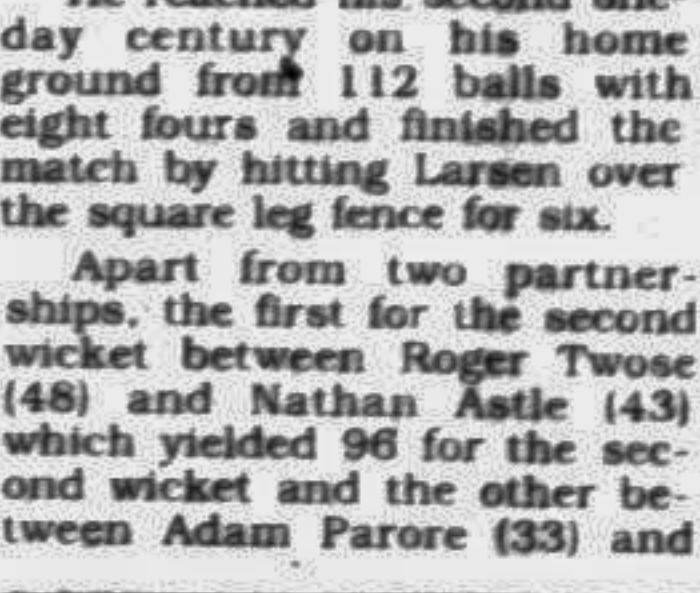
Simmons struck four boundaries in his 69-ball innings before he was adjudged lbw by umpire Steve Bucknor off medium-pacer Gavin Larsen, who was the pick of the New Zealand bowlers with three for 26 from 8.4 overs.

Simmons and Lara took charge with some excellent stroke play which had New Zealand skipper Lee Germon regularly switching his bowlers in a vain effort to stem the onslaught.

None seemed to have any answer to the pair. Lara raced to his second 50 in just 50 balls, bringing the mark up with a lofted drive over mid-wicket off Chris Cairns which landed in the Jeffrey Stollmeyer Stand.

He reached his second one-day century on his home ground from 112 balls with eight fours and finished the match by hitting Larsen over the square leg fence for six.

Apart from two partnerships, the first for the second wicket between Roger Twose (48) and Nathan Astle (43) which yielded 96 for the second wicket and the other between Adam Parore (33) and



BRIAN LARA, m-o-m

Cricket leagues resume April 5

Sports Reporter

The two tier Senior Division cricket leagues, the Premier and the First Division, will resume on April 5 after a long recess due to just-ended political impasse that crippled the whole nation for the last three weeks.

According to a press release issued by the league committee last evening, both the super league and the relegation league will resume simultaneously at different city venues.

On the resuming day, joint-holders Abahant Kirra Chakra, almost out of the league race, will take on Bangladesh Biman in the lone Premier super league match at the Dhaka Stadium.

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Veto against a victor

COLOMBO, Mar 31: Sri Lanka's cricket board president Ana Panchihewa Sunday lost elections to the top post despite the country's World Cup win this month, reports AFP.

Panchihewa, who also heads the Sri Lanka company which bottles Coka Cola, attempted to lead the board of control for cricket for a second one-year term but was replaced by outsider Upali Dharmadasa at Sunday's annual general meeting.

Dharmadasa, a leading businessman, polled 63 against Panchihewa's 58, officials said. Some 100 cricket clubs and associations vote to elect office bearers to the cricket board every year.

Alvarez duffs Guardia up

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Mar 31: Undefeated Nicaraguan Rosendo Alvarez unleashed a barrage of unanswered punches to knock out Colombia's Kevin Guardia and retain his World Boxing Association strawweight title on Saturday, reports Reuter.



ANOTHER PEARL IN HER CROWN: World number one Steffi Graf proudly holds aloft the Lipton Championships trophy after winning the final against her American challenger Chanda Rubin in Biscayne, Florida, on March 30. The never-fading gritty German stooped the American teenager 6-1, 6-3.

Graf too good for Rubin

KEY BISCAIYNE, Florida, Mar 31: Top seed Steffi Graf claimed her record fifth Lipton Championships title on Saturday with a decisive 6-1, 6-3 victory over sixth-seeded American Chanda Rubin, reports Reuter.

The win marked Graf's third consecutive Lipton crown - she also won in 1987 and 1988 - and near second title in as many tournaments this year.

"I think that's pretty unique feeling winning a tournament so many times," said Graf, who collected 210,000 dollars for her 55-minute drubbing of Rubin.

"Playing the best player and beating them, sometimes it probably gives you a better high afterwards," the German star admitted after racking up her 97th career title with such ease. Sure, I think I would have had probably a better feeling if I won it in a tougher match.

The 20-year-old Rubin was chasing her first WTA Tour title but still came away with the biggest payday of her career with the 105,000 dollars runner-up prize.

Today third seed Andre Agassi defends his men's title against the bullet serves of

sixth seed Goran Ivanisevic, who upset second seed Pete Sampras in Friday's semifinals.

But on Saturday, Centre Court belonged to Graf, something she made Rubin keenly aware of from the opening bell.

Expect for a momentary lapse in which Graf allowed Rubin to break her serve in the sixth game of the second set - the only break point she offered the American - the world number one was in peak form.

"I didn't expect to be going out there, going for it as well as I did today. I rarely make a mistake," said Graf who also won the Indian Wells title two weeks ago in her first tournament since December foot surgery.

Graf was near perfect in the first set, a single double-fault her only unforced error. She was nearly as sharp in the second set, raising her record to 4-0 against Rubin without surrendering more than four games in any match to the American.

"I was a little bit nervous," said Rubin, whose ranking will rise to a career high of seventh in the world for reaching the final. "That wasn't the main thing through. Her game is oppressive."

Rubin calmed her nerves somewhat in the second set, closing out the third game with three aces and breaking Graf in the sixth.

The American even held a game point with a chance to take the lead in the seventh game. But Graf, instead broke Rubin's serve and rolled on to victory.

"I thought maybe she'd be a bit nervous into the final of such a big tournament," Graf said.

"I could sense she was a bit tentative. I think she felt she needed to produce great shots," added Graf, the player who produced all the great shots.

Kenyan sets up world mark

MILAN, Mar 31: World cross country champion Paul Tergat set a world half-marathon best on Saturday when he clocked 58 minutes 51 seconds for the 21.097-km race, reports Reuter.

Tergat broke the previous mark of 59:51 set by compatriot Moses Tanui on March 3, 1993, also in the Stramilano event.

Kenyans took the first four places with Josephat Kipronto second in 59:46, Andrew Masai third and James Songkok fourth.

ing champions Borussia Dortmund 1-0 to go top of the table on Saturday.

A superb goal from German international midfielder Mehmet Scholl in the 38th minute steered the record Bundesliga champions to a crucial victory in an intense top-of-the-table clash before a capacity 63,000 crowd.

Bayern now have a two-point lead over second-placed Dortmund but have played one more game than their arch-rivals.

The only negative part of the evening for the Bavarians came at the end when Scholl struck a Dortmund player in the face in front of millions of television viewers. But the incident followed the final whistle and the referee appeared to take no action.

After the match Scholl said that he was sorry about the incident in which he struck Dortmund's Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat.

"I will apologize. I did not

Excitement engulfs Europe

TURIN, Italy, Mar 31: Champions Juventus cut AC Milan's lead in the Italian First Division to five points on Saturday, taking advantage of an error by goalkeeper Luca Bucci to beat Parma 1-0, report agencies.

Bucci appeared to have saved a typical curling free kick by Italy's Alessandro Del Piero in the 63rd minute. But after soaring high, Bucci failed to get rid of the ball before his momentum took him back into his goal and the linesman was quick to signal the score.

Parma produced one of their best performances for weeks but still slumped to their fourth consecutive defeat. The UEFA Cup holders, now fifth in Serie A 13 points behind Milan.

In Munich, Bayern Munich struck a major psychological blow in the German league title race when they beat reigning

mean it to be bad," he said.

But Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said: "I think it's sad when a top player like Scholl loses his nerve."

Bayern trainer Otto Rehhagel added: "He is a top player but he has a lot to learn. He shouldn't have done that... if he wants to be a real world-class player, he must know class on and off the pitch."

With third-placed Borussia Muenchengladbach 10 points behind Dortmund despite a 2-0 victory at struggling Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday, the title race is a two-club affair.

Meanwhile, in the Spanish league, Real Madrid did arch-rivals Barcelona and unexpected favour on Saturday when they beat leaders Atletico 2-1 away in a thrilling Madrid derby in which both sides were reduced to ten men.

The result leaves Atletico just five points ahead of Barcelona, who won 1-0 at Albacete, and eight ahead of third-placed Valencia, who play away at Tenerife today.

Real are still two points away from a UEFA Cup place, despite jumping from eighth to sixth.

In London Queen's Park Rangers stirred up the English Premier league relegation pot with a 3-0 home win over Southampton, only their second in 13 matches, on Saturday.

Rangers, who went in front with a first goal for the club by left back Rufus Brevet in the 23rd minute, moved off the foot of the table with 27 points and Bolton Wanderers - held 1-1 at home by Manchester City - returned to the bottom.

Winger Ruel Fox scored twice as Tottenham Hotspur, at sixth the highest placed team in action, came from behind to beat third-from-bottom Coventry 3-1 at home to keep a UEFA Cup place firmly in their sights.

Meanwhile, Manchester United, Liverpool and Aston Villa, who occupy three of the top four places, and 10th-placed Chelsea are involved in the FA Cup semifinals today.



Tottenham Hotspurs' Dean Austin (R) and Peter Ndlovu of Coventry locked in an aerial tussle for the possession of the ball during their English Premiership match at White Hart Lane, London, on March 30. Tottenham won 3-1.

Shocking!

MARSEILLE, France, Mar 31: The president of a French soccer club was shot dead and the coach wounded when four gunmen opened fire during a fifth division match in the southern town of Hyeres on Saturday, police said, reports Reuter.

The unnamed club president from the Corsican town of Calvi, which was playing against Hyeres, was believed to have been the victim of a gangland feud.

Roland Courbis, 43-year-old former coach of First Division soccer clubs Toulon and Bordeaux, was seriously wounded.