

Lanka to host ODI tri-series in Aug

COLOMBO, June 4: Sri Lanka will host a three-nation series against Australia and India in August ahead of a three Test series against Australia. Cricket officials said today, reports AFP.

The opening one-day international will be between Australia and Sri Lanka on August 22 at a new cricket stadium in Galle, 72 miles (112 kilometres) south of Colombo.

On the following day, India will play Australia and on August 25 the hosts will play a day-night match against India at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. The finals will be on August 31 under lights.

After, Australia will stay to play three Test matches against Sri Lanka.

ITINERARY

Aug. 22:	Australia v Sri Lanka at Galle.
Aug. 23:	India v Sri Lanka at Galle.
Aug. 25:	Sri Lanka v India at Colombo.
Aug. 26:	Sri Lanka v Australia at Colombo.
Aug. 28:	India v Australia at Colombo.
Aug. 29:	India v Sri Lanka at Colombo.
Aug. 31:	Final at Colombo.
Sept. 9-13:	First Test at Kandy.
Sept. 22-26:	Second Test at Galle.
Sept 29-Oct 3:	Third Test at Colombo.

Ronaldo buys a Ferrari

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 4 (AP): Soccer star Ronaldo is cheering himself up at the wheel of a 320,000 dollar Ferrari.

The Brazilian bought the red sports car after breaking up with girlfriend Suzana Werner and being ruled out of Saturday's exhibition match against the Netherlands because of a leg injury.

"I am going to treat this car with the same affection that I treat a soccer ball," Ronaldo told reporters after buying the car in Sao Paulo. He later drove it to his hometown of Rio.

"I already have one in Italy, but don't have time to go around in it and the weather is cold. In Rio, it's hot and you've got the beach. I'm going to take advantage."

The 355F-1 Berlinetta has a top speed of 295 kph (183 mph). "I love speed," added the 22-year-old Brazilian. "But I will have to drive carefully in Rio."

Donald v Shoaib: A fight by fire

From page 13

It has rained in Nottingham for the past two days.

Only when the skies cleared on Friday morning and the ground started to dry out did the South Africans have to leave the indoor facilities and finish their practice session in the nets on the outfield. Pakistan were due to train later in the day.

South Africa will be seeking an improved contribution from the top order after only two batsmen, Jacques Kallis and Herschelle Gibbs, scored half-centuries in the first round.

Cronje said: "On a couple of occasions the wicket did a little bit and you can't blame the batters for that. But there were certainly one or two occasions when we didn't score the runs we wanted to and that is something we have addressed."

After carrying only two points forward from their group games, South Africa have to win two of their three Super Six games to have a realistic chance of reaching the semifinals and Pakistan are set to pose the toughest test in their assignment.

"They're hitting some form now and they're very much a form side," Cronje said. "When they are on form it is almost impossible to stop them. You cannot allow them to play with any sort of flair or freedom."

"But we have a good record against them and hopefully we can maintain that."

Bits & pieces

From page 13

The number of security men was increased from 350 to 400 for the game. Ground officials said they estimated they could get protection to all players within eight seconds.

TO AVOID STUMP THEFT

LONDON, June 4 (AFP): Ground officials, fearing that fans could steal stumps containing expensive mini television cameras, have got around the problem by replacing them with normal stumps towards the end of matches.

The cameras, introduced more than eight years ago in Australia, cost more than 5,000 pounds (8,000 dollars) apiece.

TOP SECRET

MANCHESTER, England, June 4 (AFP): World Cup organisers are refusing to divulge details of special security measures being prepared for India's high-tension Super Six encounter with Pakistan at Old Trafford on Tuesday.

Talks have been going on with police to make sure players are given protection from pitch invasions. The two sides have traditionally been rivals, with military clashes on their disputed Kashmir border raising tensions further before the game.



HOPEFULLY NOT : A banner at the National Parade Square asks the question whether we'll ever lose to Kenya again specially after the heroics against Pakistan.

— Star photo by AKM Mohsin

Target English shirt

LONDON, June 4: Gavin Hamilton trooped off from the luxurious surroundings of the Grange in Edinburgh in the knowledge that his World Cup exploits with Scotland could now win him an England call-up.

Many now believe the Yorkshire all-rounder is ready for international recognition for England, both at one-day and Test level against New Zealand later this summer.

Hamilton's aggregate World Cup total of 217 was higher than any English batsman achieved and the man who was ignored by the selectors is making a strong case for inclusion.

He is still eligible to represent England and was in their original squad for the World Cup before it was whittled down to 15 and after being left out he opted to join up with the minnows from north of the border.

"To play in a Test match is what I am in cricket to do," said the 24-year-old, who averaged more than 50 with the bat during Scotland's five-game losing streak.

"All I want to play at the highest possible level and I have made one step up by playing in the World Cup, a Test call would be another."

"But I am not getting worried about receiving a call and it won't dominate my thoughts."

"I just want one big month with Yorkshire get a lot of runs and a few wickets and see what happens after that."

"At the moment Yorkshire are playing so well that I will have a fight on my hands just to get into their side, let alone England."

Hamilton has carried a nation on his back during a torrid campaign, during which he was the only consistent run scorer.

It is not difficult to imagine the problems Scotland would have encountered if he had not

been available to coach Jim Love but the amiable all-rounder shrugs them off with ease.

He even believes that being chosen for the World Cup's whipping boys could have benefited him.

"There were a couple of close lbw calls that didn't go my way as well. So I could easily have been taking 10 wickets instead of three."

"It has also been an education bowling against better players and I don't feel there are any problems on that score."

So now it is back south to Yorkshire and a side who have begun to challenge for the PPP County Championship and are unbeaten at the top of the new CGU National League.

The men he leaves behind must pick up the pieces for their NatWest Cup tie against Surrey later this month.

With Hamilton and Northamptonshire seamer John Blain, who finished the tournament with 10 wickets, back at their counties, the Scottish cupboard is looking rather bare.

But Hamilton feels the experiences of the last three weeks are something that can only benefit the country of his birth.

"If it was a big step up from county standard for me, imagine the difference for the rest of the guys who have only been playing club cricket," he said.

"People talk about there being a problem with technique but I don't see it like that."

"My technique hasn't altered all that much since I have been in England but there is slightly more maturity when you are looking a shot selection."

"It might look pretty grim at the moment but the I'm certain the squad will go back to their clubs better players than when they left."

"I was expecting it to be hard and it lived up to expectations."

And, although he only mustered three wickets with the

ball, Hamilton is confident that his prowess with the bat has not overshadowed what has always been the strongest part of his game.

"In the first game against Australia, I had two dropped catches and I thought I bowled OK throughout," he said.

"There were a couple of close lbw calls that didn't go my way as well. So I could easily have been taking 10 wickets instead of three."

"It has also been an education bowling against better players and I don't feel there are any problems on that score."

So now it is back south to Yorkshire and a side who have begun to challenge for the PPP County Championship and are unbeaten at the top of the new CGU National League.

The men he leaves behind must pick up the pieces for their NatWest Cup tie against Surrey later this month.

With Hamilton and Northamptonshire seamer John Blain, who finished the tournament with 10 wickets, back at their counties, the Scottish cupboard is looking rather bare.

But Hamilton feels the experiences of the last three weeks are something that can only benefit the country of his birth.

"If it was a big step up from county standard for me, imagine the difference for the rest of the guys who have only been playing club cricket," he said.

"People talk about there being a problem with technique but I don't see it like that."

"My technique hasn't altered all that much since I have been in England but there is slightly more maturity when you are looking a shot selection."

"It might look pretty grim at the moment but the I'm certain the squad will go back to their clubs better players than when they left."

"I was expecting it to be hard and it lived up to expectations."

And, although he only mustered three wickets with the

Bicknells rock Kent

LONDON, June 4: Kent were destroyed by the Bicknell brothers as second-placed Surrey reduced the hosts to 47 for seven in the County Championship clash at Tunbridge Wells on Thursday, reports AFP.

Darren Bicknell made the top score of 51 as Surrey's first innings yielded 271, and younger brother Martin then took three for 23 as Kent wobbled.

They were five for two after Martin Bicknell removed openers Trevor Ward and Robert Key, both without scoring, and Kent's problems deepened when Alex Tudor claimed David Fulton (5) -- Darren Bicknell taking the catch -- and Alan Wells (2) to leave them at nine for four.

Sixteen from Andrew Symonds barely helped Kent's cause before he was caught and bowled for Martin Bicknell's other victim, while Tudor finished with three for 15 after Matthew Walker also fell to him.

Derbyshire duo Robin Weston (24 not out) and Matthew Cassar (29 not out) combined to stop the wickets tumbling after their first innings appeared to be going the same way as Yorkshire's at Derby.

The visitors were skittled out for 117; Dominic Cork (three for 19) and Phil DeFreitas (four for 37) doing the damage, before Chris Silverwood and Matthew Hoggard each struck twice to reduce Derbyshire to 24 for four in reply.

But Weston and Cassar, with 47 between them, prevented another collapse and Cork's men had made 71 for four by the close to trail by 46 runs.

Slipshod fielding cost county champions Leicestershire dear at Grace Road where Glamorganshire reached 99 without loss off 35 overs before rain brought an early close.

With the first day washed out, Leicestershire put the visitors to bat but dropped three catches. Steve James (38 not out) was dropped twice, before scoring and on six, and Alun Evans (46) was put down when he had made 18 as the home side struggled to make the breakthrough they needed.

Alan Mullally missed out on the action for the champions because he is still suffering from the after-effects of England's exit from the World Cup.

Faul Grayson's unbeaten century helped Essex get over the disappointment of losing the opening day against Hampshire to rain. He made 144, and Stuart Law added 56, as the home side reached 327 for seven at Ilford.

Somerset clocked up 300 for nine from the 75.1 overs possible from the first two rain-sodden days at the Riverside against Durham -- a fine recovery after they were 126 for seven at one stage.

A pre-tournament 125 between Rob Turner (95) and Matthew Bulbeck (76 not out) steered the visitors into a strong position before they declared.

A third-wicket stand of 94 between Tim Robinson (61) and Paul Johnson (61) helped Nottinghamshire out of a tight spot after they had lost Matthew Downman and captain Jason Gallian to be 40 for two.

But four wickets for Devon Malcolm kept the total down, and Notts finished on 220 before Northants made 20 for no loss by the close.

Richards for

From page 16

and see what he is doing and get positive vibes from him. Every time you ask him to put his hand up, he's there performing. We need more like Ridley Jacobs."

On Powell, who was a late inclusion in West Indies squad, Richards said he was a young player keen to learn.

He is positive, he is young and he is a talent to work with. We have got to get him into the international set-up quickly, and the same with other young players with his attitude and talent.

"We've got Brian Lara who is only 30 and has plenty of cricket left, and Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who certainly has the temperament. Now it's time for some young players to stand up and be counted."

Ranatunga says

From page 16

stables outside the Sri Lanka cricket board offices but after seeing that there were no players they were promptly withdrawn by the authorities for much needed traffic duties elsewhere in the capital.

There were no fans to greet the returning team and the officials. In 1996, the 35-kilometre stretch from the airport to the city was packed with hundreds of thousands of fans.

Sri Lanka's cricket chief Thilanga Samathipala said his bitterly fought elections in March had taken away their focus from cricket and had affected the team "to some extent."

Samathipala had earlier gone on record saying that a challenge to his presidency as the head of the Board of Control for Cricket from a close relative of President Chandrika Kumaratunga had thrown management in disarray.

Samathipala defeated Clifford Ratwatte, a relative of President Kumaratunga, at a controversial election that was later challenged in court. A final ruling is yet to be made.

Just before the team left for England, the cricket board arranged a three-day "motivation session" for the team to re-focus on the game with the help of a Pakistani psychologist.

However, Sri Lanka's miserable World Cup campaign with an unconvincing 45-run win over Group A minnows Kenya on Sunday.

Sri Lanka had earlier lost to England, South Africa and India and won against Zimbabwe.

Heads held high

From page 16

Naimur Rahman

"The first win against a Test-playing country was great," said Naimur Rahman.

"I remembered my Baba. He loved cricket. He was my greatest inspiration," he said as his reaction after defeating Pakistan. Naimur's father passed away in July, 1997.

Without giving away his immediate plans with regard to domestic cricket, the flourishing batsman said, "I will continue to play good cricket."

About his World Cup team, Naimur said, "The spirit was very high. Everyone contributed something to batting, bowling or fielding in every match."

Did the fact that there was no coach in the last match have any effect on the team spirit? "No! Because this was a matter, off the field. Our work is on the field and that we have to do," he said.

World Cup stats: Played: 5, Runs: 114, HS: 45, Ave: 22.80, Wickets: 2

Minhazul Abedin

Minhazul Abedin, who has seen it all, was 'not really excited' when he expressed his feelings about going to Bangladesh after defeating Pakistan.

"I am feeling normal," he said.

He was sure that the reception at Dhaka would 'not be comparable' to the one after the ICC triumph in 1997.

"ICC was very different. That was Bangladesh's first-ever success in cricket," said Minhazul, who almost missed the World Cup bus because of some selection faux pas.

About his fifty against Scotland, a match which many acknowledge was single-handedly won by him, the soft-spoken former captain said, "That was our first victory in a World Cup match. We enjoyed that very much."

Commenting on the win against Pakistan, he said, "It was unexpected. We did not expect to win."

"Positive approach was always on our mind. We always thought positively. And that was why the result was positive". Minhazul summed up the tour.

About his approach to his game Minhazul said, "The fighting spirit was always on the ground."

He was not going to mention anyone particular for his success, saying "Everyone has contributed."

Minhazul dedicated the success to all the players 'who were determined to do well in this World Cup'.

World Cup stats: Played: 4, Runs: 140, HS: 68 no, Half-century: 2, Ave: 70, Wickets: 4

Neyamur Rashid

"I am definitely feeling great to be going back home after this magnificent tour. We are going back with a little more than our expectations. I seek the blessing of you all so that we may continue to sustain the run of success," began the man who did not lose a World Cup match.

About winning the only match he played, a smiling Neyamur said, "I consider myself very lucky that I was not the soldier of a beaten side. Moreover, my jersey number is seven. I told (them) before the match that since I am very lucky we might even win this match (against Pakistan). And it was true," said Neyamur in good jest.

About his future plans, he said, "I will continue to remain in touch with cricket as long as I can to play for the Bangladesh team."

Pakistan is presently a very good side. Their performance in the World Cup is something exceptional. They were the only unbeaten side in the World Cup. Beating them was great and it will help us gain Test status' was how the tall, handsome cricketer summarised his feelings after defeating Pakistan.

World Cup stats: Played: 1, Runs: 1, HS: 1, Ave: 1

A relishing prospect

NOTTINGHAM, England, June 4: South Africa coach Bob Woolmer, who has masterminded his team's development into a major cricket power, has a task to relish in their World Cup Super Six match against Pakistan on Saturday, reports Reuters.

It is a confrontation between the two teams with the best records in the group stage, an occasion that would grace the final, but with the South Africans having to negotiate an awkward assignment.

The pre-tournament favourites have carried forward only two points from the first round for their victory over fellow qualifiers India, making two wins out of three in the Super Sixes a priority.

Woolmer, man of vision, innovative methods and dedicated to the team ethic, has acknowledged it will be tough, but beating Pakistan at Trent Bridge would provide a useful psychological boost apart from two priceless points.

South Africa's four wins out of five in Group A owed much to the all-rounders providing batting strength in depth. Only two players in the top order have hit a half-century, Jacques Kallis with 96 against India and Herschelle Gibbs with 60 against England.

Woolmer said after his team's upset defeat by Zimbabwe at the weekend: "We have just got to be very positive about it. Hopefully our top six are storing it up for the Super Sixes and the rest of the tournament."

Lance Klusener has epitomised the resilience of South Africa's lower order, notably in answering a crisis with an unbeaten 52 against Sri Lanka, then by providing timely late runs against England with 48 not out.

With 164 runs and 13 wickets, Klusener is the tournament's leading all-rounder, though Pakistan captain Wasim Akram may ultimately run him close.

Wasim has bowled beautifully, particularly in the closing stages of Australia's run chase in a key group B game, and he forms a potent new-ball pairing with Shoaib Akhtar, the fastest bowler in the tournament.

With Saqlain Mushtaq capturing 12 wickets, the third highest haul in the competition, to underline his reputation as the world's best off-spinner, Pakistan can attack on a variety of fronts whereas South Africa have relied almost exclusively on five right-arm pace bowlers.

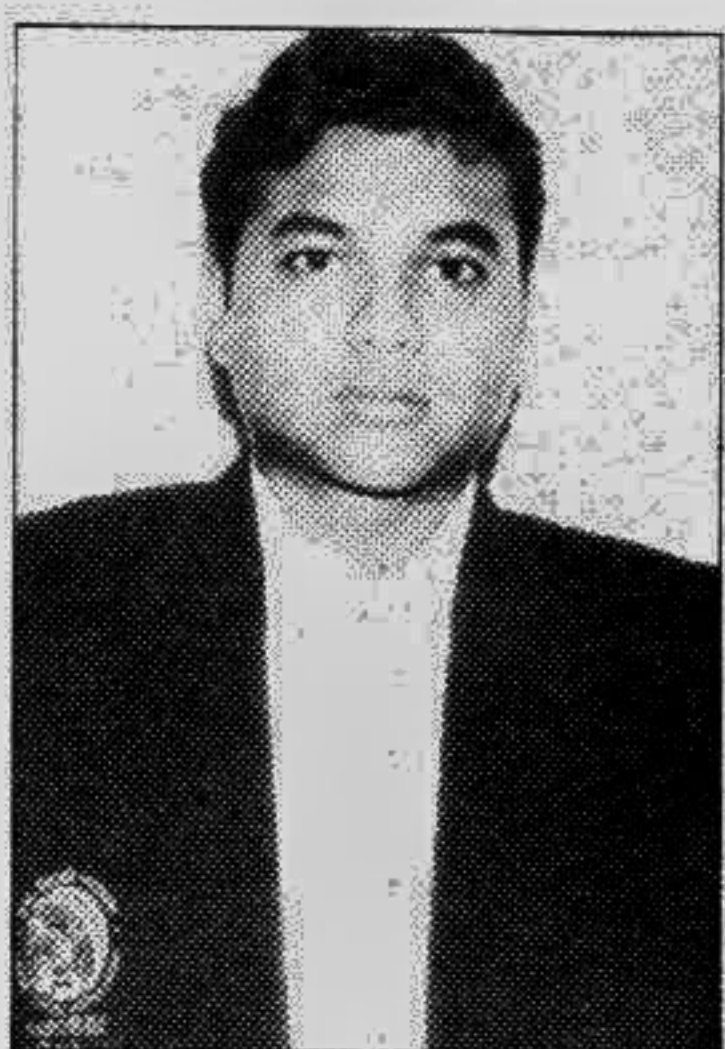
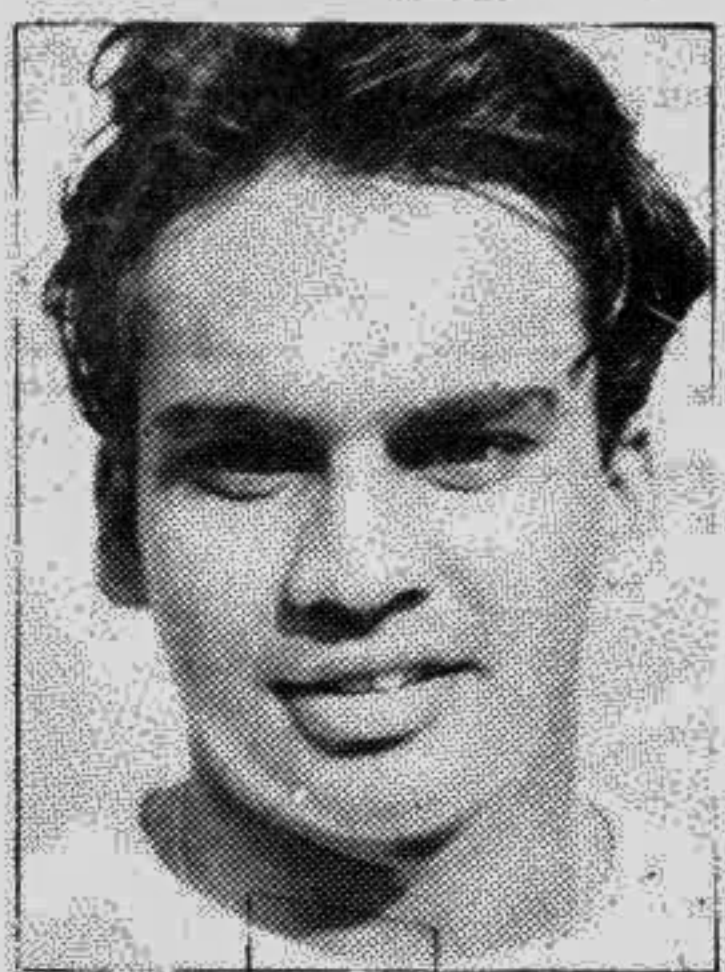
Woolmer said after his team's upset defeat by Zimbabwe at the weekend: "We have just got to be very positive about it. Hopefully our top six are storing it up for the Super Sixes and the rest of the tournament."

Lance Klusener has epitomised the resilience of South Africa's lower order, notably in answering a crisis with an unbeaten 52 against Sri Lanka, then by providing timely late runs against England with 48 not out.

With 164 runs and 13 wickets, Klusener is the tournament's leading all-rounder, though Pakistan captain Wasim Akram may ultimately run him close.

Wasim has bowled beautifully, particularly in the closing stages of Australia's run chase in a key group B game, and he forms a potent new-ball pairing with Shoaib Akhtar, the fastest bowler in the tournament.

With Saqlain Mushtaq capturing 12 wickets, the third highest haul in the competition, to underline his reputation as the world's best off-spinner, Pakistan can attack on a variety of fronts whereas South Africa have relied almost exclusively on five right-arm pace bowlers.



Bookies held

AHMEDABAD, India, June 4 (Reuters/Internet): Ninety people have been arrested in India's western state of Gujarat on charges of illegal bookmaking during the World Cup cricket tournament, police said on Friday.

"On prior information we carried out raids at different places in Gujarat and arrested 90 people on charges of betting in the World Cup," the state's home (interior) minister, Haren Pandya, told Reuters.

He said cash worth 800,000 rupees (\$18,648) was seized from the illegal bookmakers.

Betting is illegal in India except on horse racing, but wagers on cricket are common and involve millions of rupees.

Seventy of the people accused were caught in the main city of Ahmedabad, the city's police chief P.C. Pandey said.

"We tapped telephonic conversations between the bookies in Ahmedabad before raiding their premises," Pandey told Reuters. He said police seized documents containing details of betting.

Police arrested eight people near Calcutta in the eastern state of West Bengal last week on charges linked to betting on cricket. They seized mobile telephones, laptop computers, televisions and cash alleged to have been used in the operation.

positive vibes from him. Every time you ask him to put his hand up, he's there performing. We need more like Ridley Jacobs."

On Powell, who was a late inclusion in West Indies squad, Richards said he was a young player keen to learn.

He is positive, he is young and he is a talent to work with. We have got to get him into the international set-up quickly, and the same with other young players with his attitude and talent.

"We've got Brian Lara who is only 30 and has plenty of cricket left, and Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who certainly has the temperament. Now it's time for some young players to stand up and be counted."



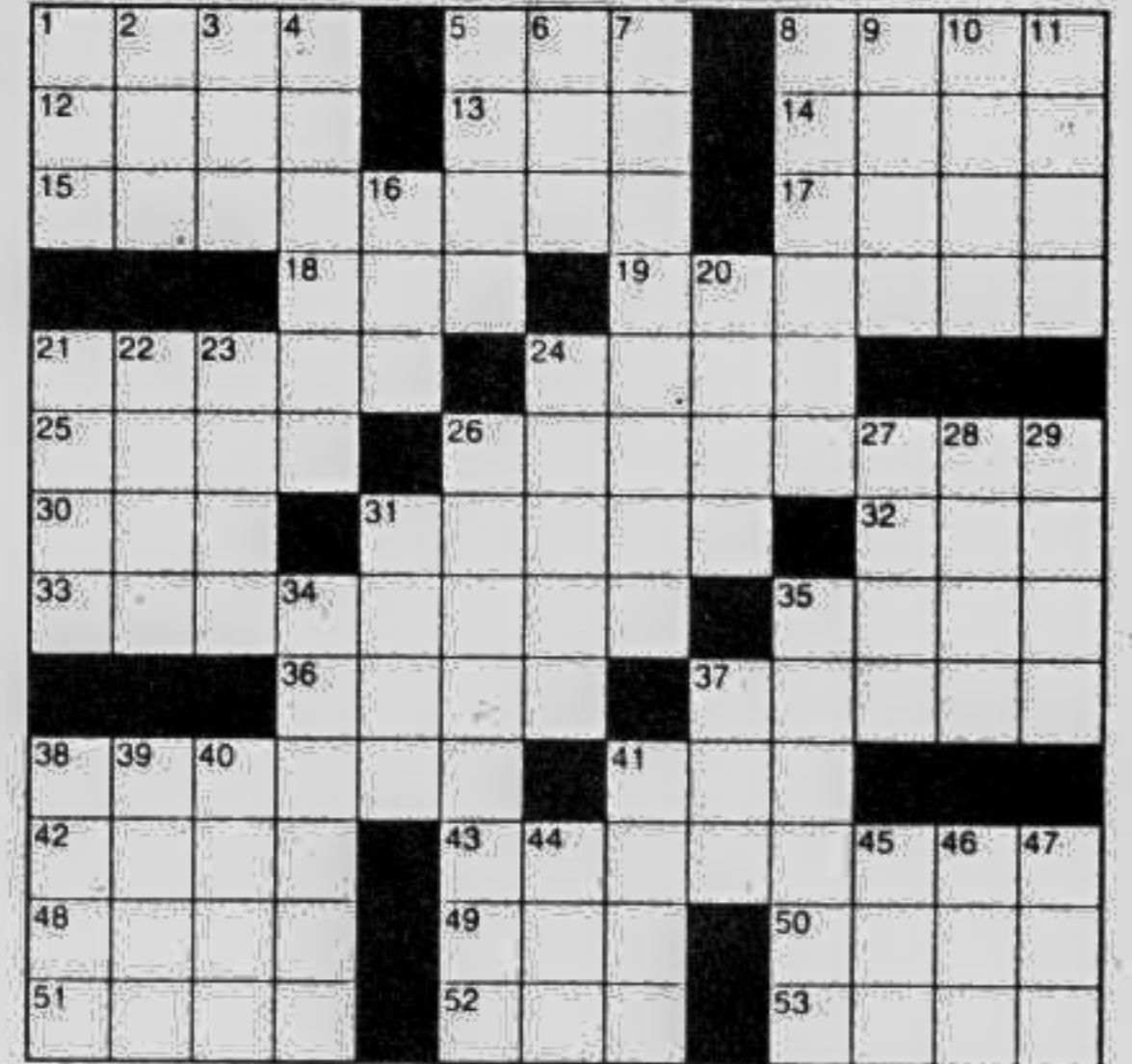
BOB WOOLMER



Sri Lanka cricket team manager Duleep Mendis answering to a query during a press conference after the squad's return to Colombo from the World Cup yesterday. —AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	house	Rank: abbr.	21 Wheels of fortune?
1 N'Djamena's land	41 Feathery	2 With it	22 On
5 Seasaw	42 Peasant	3 Devoured	23 Heavy
6 quorum	43 One	4 Part	24 reading
8 Spill the beans	44 without secrets	5 Mini-branch	24 David of "Just Shoot Me"
12 Pocket bread	48 Weevil's target	6 Armed conflict	26 Dressing ingredient
13 Ashen	49 Charged particle	7 Like some bathing suits	27 Great Lake
14 Tra trail	50 Taking a day off	8 Thrives	28 Lends a hand
15 Where to roast chestnuts	51 Calista's character	9 Easter	29 Lovers' quarrel
17 Actor Sharif	52 Cover	10 Jai follower	31 Took to the pool
18 Joke	53 Yemen's capital	11 Vamp of silents	34 Just about
19 Fear, plus	DOWN	16 Send elec. capital	35 Law-
21 House paint type	1 Coast Guard	20 Williams or Aaron	35 Lovers' bailiwick
24 Thailand, once	1 Believe — Not!	25 International waters	37 Swindle
25 "Believe — Not!"	26 International waters	30 Mid-May honoree	38 Swedish pop quartet
26 International waters	30 Mid-May honoree	31 Negligent	39 Put one over on
31 Negligent	32 Tea	32 Tea	40 Bakery item
32 Tea	33 Dentist's directive	33 Dentist's directive	41 Flex
33 Dentist's directive	34 Just about	34 Just about	44 South side dish
34 Just about	35 Verdi opera	35 Verdi opera	45 Eccentric
35 Verdi opera	36 Roof feature	36 Roof feature	46 Flamenco cheer
36 Roof feature	37 Summit	37 Summit	47 Barbie's beau
37 Summit	38 Triangular	38 Triangular	



CRYPTOQUIP

BARCCYQYD BAJD-FH
ARCCYQYD BAJD-FH
QWBOA W HOAYC YP
PIJA-GJBA W SYFVGQE
Yesterday's Cryptogram: IN AWFUL SNOW,
STORMS, THE DAIRY FARMER WOULD ALWAYS
LOSE HIS WHEY.

Today's Cryptogram clue: O equals C
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. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.