The Caribbeans consolidate at Edgbaston

- A. M. Chowdhury

West Indies took a firm grip on the current series by winning the fourth Test at Edgbaston by a very convincing margin of seven wickets. Throughout the whole proceedings they always looked like winning except in about an hour after lunch on the fourth day. When England closed their second innings at 255, West Indies needed only 152 to win with all the time in the world. But DeFraitas, the spearhead of the current English attack, seemed to have given throbbing heart-beats in the West Indian camp when he took three quick wickets in the span of seven balls with only 24 runs on the board. It seemed the target of 152 was big enough and England was very much in the game. With Simmons, Haynes and Richardson dismissed cheaply the task looked fairly difficult. But putting all speculations to the wind the grand-master of the West Indian batting put up a display of superb concentration; cutting down his natural instinct for stroke making. Richards proved once again that his standing as the world's premier batsman is yet not in doubts. He, with Hopper giving very able support, steered the West Indian side to a convincing victory having added 133 runs without being separated. It was quite befitting to the occasion that Richards decided to hit the only six of the match as the

cut short by a day. Winning the toss Richards asked Gooch to take first strike when play started an hour and a quarter after the scheduled time. England finished the day at 184 for 9 and all the batsmen except Gooch struggled on a pitch which was rather slow but with unpredictable bounce. Gooch played an innings of 45 with a lot of determination and courage though he was missed at second slip off the first ball of the day. One wonders what would have been the England total had that catch been taken.

winning shot. A grand 'finale'

to the Test match, which was

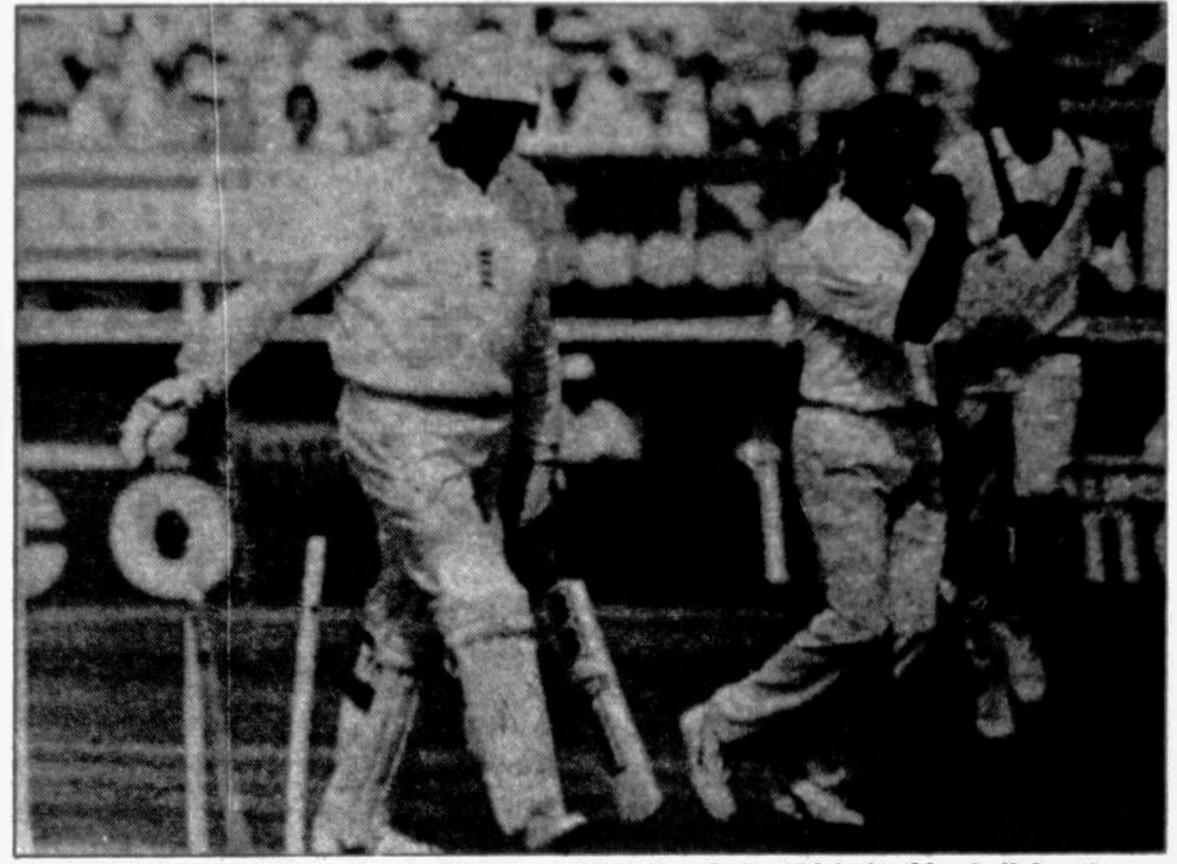
Morris, Gooch's 16th opening partner in Test ericket, called in because of Smith's injury. could hardly get going. Hick, who compiled 19 and for a moment looked like to have over come his trauma, was

now, had got used to: playing with determination in moments of crisis.

England survived for only 10 balls next morning, adding only 4 more runs to their overnight total of 184; the

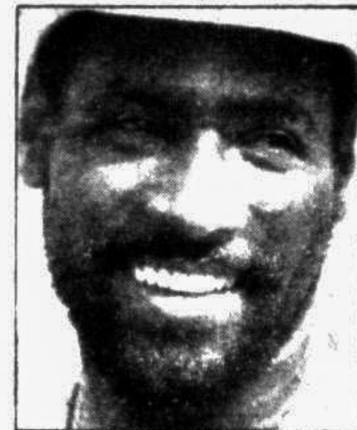
Richards' claim for the honour for his superb batting in the second innings or Lewis' claim for good alround performance.

England fought back on the third morning. Chris Lewis frustrating West Indian hopes



England Captain Graham Gooch (L) is bowled by West Indies' Malcolm Marshall for 45 on July 25 during their fourth Test match at Edgbaston. Windies won the Test on July 28 by seven wickets to go 2-1 up in the 5-Test series. The second Test at Lord's was drawn. AFP photo

again a disappointment. Ramprakash with 29, seemed to perform a role which he, by



VIV RICHARDS

whole innings lasting for only 70.4 overs. Marshall born the haul mark of a great artist and his figure of 12,4-1-33-4 clearly bear testimony to the quality and incisiveness of his bowling.

was delighted to see Richardson leading his side to a first innings lead of 65 at stumps (253 for 4) remaining unbeaten with 103. It was Richardson's first century in England (13th in his Test career), compiled with 13 fours in about 4 hours batting. The innings must have been of high quality since the judicator adjudged Richardson to be the man of the match ignoring

The full house at Edgbaston

of a big first innings lead by claiming 5 wickets for only 16 runs (overnight he had 1 for 95) and thereby restricting the total to 292. West Indies earned a lead of 104. But the Edgbaston crowd could hardly believe their eyes when, at the end of the day, they saw England reeling at 156 for 8. Patterson was the main wrecker with 5 English wickets in his bag.

At the start of the fourth day West Indies was set for an easy victory; England's lead being only 52 and 2 wickets to fall. But Lewis (65) and Pringle (45) succeeded in adding 92 for the 9th wicket and the England lead stood at 151, a

target which the Caribbeans could be expected to reach easily. They did reach it, but not without making a few hearts of their supporters beat rapidly for some time. At one stage they were 24 for 3. Richards steered them to safety, ably supported by

Hooper. The result at Edgbaston was quite just if one considers the different phases of the match. The West Indian bowlers did very well to restrict the England first innings to 188. Marshall (4 for 33) was ably supported by Ambrose (3 for 64), Walsh (2 for 43) and Patterson (1 for 39). The vul-nerability of the English batting against good sustained in-cisive fast bowling was clearly exposed. In taking a first innings lead the West Indian batting line up showed their determination and application. Richardson's ton, made in not too easy conditions, earned praise from one and all and was their mainstay. The contributions of Stmmons (28) Haynes (32), Hooper (31), Richards (22) and Logie (28) may not look very impressive figures but clearly prove their eagerness to build up a substantial lead. Despite Lewis' brilliant outburst on the third morning the lead of 104 was healthy enough. In England's second innings the pace of Patterson (5 for 81) dictated the terms; Marshall (2 for 53), Ambrose (2 for 42) and Walsh (1 for 20) gave good support. The fragility of English batting was once again exposed. But for the rear-guard action of Lewis and Pringle the story would have been dismal. The lack of penetration of the English bowling, of course DeFraitas with the new ball excepted, gave little trouble to the West Indian batsmen in the second innings once Richards and Hooper steadied the innings after the early shock. Hooper and Richards clearly proved that they have learnt their lesson from

The England side looks beset with problems. Gooch has yet to find a stable opening partner this summer. Hick,

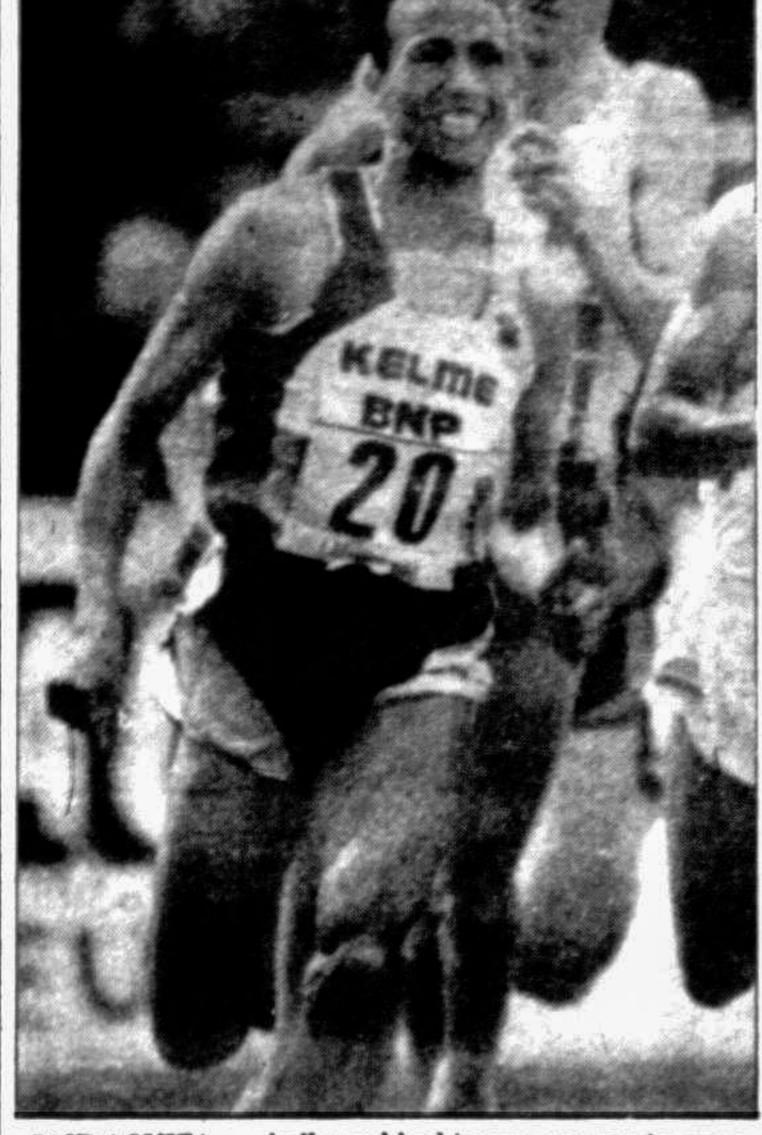
Headingly.

Ambrose's attack (so far he has fallen to him six times out of his seven outings), is yet to prove that he is good at Test level as well. Lamb (9 and 25) averages only 8.4 in the four Tests and he must be wondering what to do. The return of Robin Smith, if of course he regains fitness, would definitely be welcome. Only Gooch averaging 64.6, and Smith, averaging 64.25, seem to have some answer to the Caribbean four-pronged pace attack. Ramprakash. averaging 23.7, is the other batsman, who may be said to have shown courage and technique in dealing with the Caribbean attack. But he is yet to get on top of the attack. English selectors must be wondering about all over the counties and find some remedial measures. Lewis' return to Test cricket at Edgbaston had been eventful and his all round ability must have given some comforting thought to the England camp. His support to DeFraitas, no doubt the best of the English bowlers, has improved the situation in the bowling department, but it lacks penetrative power. Pringle and Illingworth do not look like posing too may problems for the West Indians. Augmentation in the bowling would be a priority for the English selectors. West Indies, with 2-1 lead in the series and only one Test to go, must be said to be in the driving seat. They are likely to drive home the advantage acquired through determined efforts after Headingly and the confidence thus gained would

unable to find any answer to

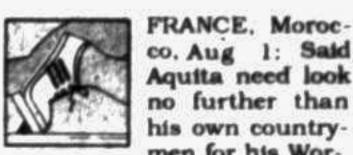
The pitch at the Oval, the venue for the last encounter, is known for its benignity to batsmen. If it lives up to its reputation England would find it difficult to run through the West Indian batting twice. A draw or a West Indian victory is the most likely result one would venture to predict. England's attempt at levelling the series would require some out of the ordinary performances. But I would rather put my money on the Caribbeans.

rather be hard to crack.



SAID AOUITA - challenged by his younger country men.

Aouita to lead Moroccan pack FRANCE, Moroc-



no further than his own countrymen for his Wor-

ld Championship challengers, reports Reuter. A pack of the Moroccan

quadruple world recordholder's younger rivals all have their eyes on the 1.500 and 5,000 metres crowns in Tokyo next month.

As usual, Aquita is keeping everyone guessing about which events he plans to run. " have nt decided yet. I'll be running on August 3 and 7 in Monte Carlo and Zurich. Then I'll make a final decisions", he

Also competing in Zurich will be Khalid Shiekh, a mountain man from Mideast in the high atlas who won major cross-country races in 1990 at Aix-les-Bains and this year in

Skah said he will go for the 5,000-10,000 double in Japan For the the simple reason that am the best over these two distances.

His personal best over the shorter distance is 13 minutes nine seconds compared with Aquita's world mark of 12.58.39.

"I am capable of doing 5,000 metres in less than 13 minutes and the 10,000 in less than 27 minutes", Skag

Two other Moroccans, Brahim Boutayeband Mohammad Isengar, have clocked 13.10 and 1308. Aguita, out of action for sev-

eral months after an operation on his calf muscles in June last year, said he was in top form "In Tokyo I will get a gold

medal whatever distance I run," he said. "People who say I am finished and they will beat me in Tokyo will have to run over my body to win.

Moroccan team doctor Abderrahamn Meziane said: Said is back on form and improving his performances daily. He will create surprises

Aquita himself is very confident, although his performances in his most recent meetings in St Denis and Nice in France were disappointing. "I am the first athlete in the

world to hold so many records. I have upset athletic standards by setting records for the 1,500;00;3,000 and 5,000 metres," he said proudly.

He said he was not afraid of the younger Moroccans who have been inspired by his example. He thinks they lack experience of top-class competition.

"The Tokyo places will be tactical, infernal and suicidal. And only the best can win,"

Powell steals the show



ly. Aug 1: American Mike Powell leapt to a wind- assisted 8.73-metre long

jump victory in an international athletics meeting on Wednesday and then said there could have been a world record in better weather, reports Reuter.

"I wouldn't have been surprised with nine metres if the weather had stayed good", said Powell, who won after Olympic champion Carl Lewis decided not to take part, complaining of back pains.

Powell, 27, made his opening leap of 8.73 metres with a 2.60 metre per second wind behind him.

The jump is the best in the world this year but, because of the wind speed, Lesis's 8.64 metre leap in New York last month remains the official

In his only other valid jump, the 1.90-metre tall Powell leapt 8.71 metres with a windassisted 3.50.

Powell said that, like Lewis. he had set his mind on breaking fellow-American Bob Beamon's 23-year-old world record of 8.90 metres at this ski resort, 2,000 metres above sea level.

But after a sunny start. winds blew rain across Sestriere midway throughout the meeting.

Powell, who got tremendous support from the crowd which had boomed the announcement of Lewis's withdrawal, said he was upset that Lewis did not compete. "If he'd been in it there might have been a world

since last Thursday.

"I felt cold and was scared of hurting myself out there" he added. Larry Myricks, bronze medalist at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, was second with a leap of 8.33 metres and fellow American Llewellyn Starks third with 8.31.

DRECHSLER WINS

women's event.

Michael Johnson won the 200 metres, his sole event at month's World Championships in Tokyo, in 20.50 seconds with fellow American Danny Everett second in 20.73.

Jamaican Merlene Ottey, 31, won her double duel with 22-year-old Irina Sergeyeva of the Soviet Union.

record", Powell said. "Any other day I would have been fine," said Lewis, who had been practising in Sestriere

German former world record holder Heike Drechsler had the help of a wind of 1.8 metres per second, inside the accepted two metres, when she made the year's best leap of 7.37 metres to win the

Leroy Burrell, who set a world record of 9.90 seconds last month, battled ahead wind of 3.40 metres per second to win the men's 100 metres in 10.30 seconds, ahead of fellow American Dennis Mitchell (10.40) and European champion Linford Christie of Britain

Congrats, Special Olympians!

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL, Minnesota: Every athlete from around the world who participated in Special Olympics International contests here finished a winner. according to games officials and dignitaries who celebrated with the athletes at

the closing ceremonies.

"Hopefully, the light which has been sparked in the hearts and souls of every one of those special Olympians that will fan out all across this world, will inspire others to become involved in Special Olympics," Senator Edward Kennedy told the more than 6,000 athletes at the closing ceremonies on

Kennedy, with the Olympic torch still burning brightly behind him, hailed the Special Olympics athletes gathered before him on the grounds of the Minnesota

state capital: "Everyone is inspired...... by all..... of those who came here to encourage those special Olympians who were involved in the sports activi-

He thanked the corporate and individual sponsors, the volunteers, the teachers, and the parents, saying, "To all of those who have made this a memorable week, our congratulations. But most of all, (our congratulations go) to the special Olympians themselves," he emphasized.

A SAFE JOURNEY

"A safe journey," he wished the athletes. "And may you always feel that the Special Olympics has been a part of your life, and that you will give something back to others like you have received here in this magnificent twin cities."

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of Senator Kennedy and the late President John F. Kennedy, founded the games in the early 1960s. The Kennedys' championship of the mentally retarded stems from the fact that their late sister, Rosemary, was mentally retarded.

Special Olympics International chairman Sar-gent Shriver, instrumental in the Games ever since his wife conceived of sports as a way of improving the lives of the mentally handicapped, also praised the athletes.

"Special Olympics athletes are astounding the world with their athletic abilities, and their records," Shriver said, "They are also uniting the world. Imagine," he exclaimed, "The northern and the southern Irish have played together as one team. The Arabs and the Jews have cheered one another. Whites have befriended blacks, and blacks, whites," he

"The communists and the capitalists have enjoyed one another, competed against one another, and remain friends. That's the way the whole world should be! That's the way Special Olympics is.

"I have lived to see the triumph of the mentally handicapped. They have taught us the wonders we can achieve with them, and through them. And with the values they teach us, we can truly change the world," Shriver noted.

THE OLYMPICS

The Olympics torch was extinguished and passed to a representative of Austria,

which will host the 1993 Winter Special Olympics, as 45-piece orchestra, under the direction of Philip Brunelle, performed composer Dan Kallman's 'Special Olympics celebration,' and then played 'Fanfare for the common man, or the theme song from the movie 'Charlots of Fire.' Herald trumpeters played long horns on the giant, second story portico of the state house.

As an 800-member choir of Special Olympics International volunteers sang, white doves were released and a giant fountain rose, reflecting a myriad of coloured lights. The orchestra performed the 'Olympic theme and march,' Candede, and Walk to the garden.' The ceremonies ended with a blazing explosion of colourful fireworks.

The festivities and the grounds were enveloped in pageantry: From the athletes' team uniforms to the Hollywood entertainers, from the 'dancing water' fountain to the thousands of meters of brilliant ribbons, and from the electric-tinted balloons to the silver-coloured drill team, there was colour.

Special Olympians lingered after the fireworks, dancing to the music still coming from the loudspeakers, smiling through tears, exchanging addresses and promising to write to one another.

Shriver said that more than 18,500 people attended the 1991 Games here. They must recognize that the goal of Special Olympics, which has always been, 'Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt,' was met by every single athlete, from every continent on the globe. They were all winners. — USIS

Becker, Stich for Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Aug 1: Wimbledon champion Michael Stich and world number one Boris Becker have both confirmed they will play in next year's Australian Open championship, tournament organisers said yesterday, reports Reuter. The championships, to be

held from January 13-26, would carry record prize money of 6.2 million Australian dollars (4.8 million U.S dollars). Tennis Australia President Geoff Pollard said at a media launch at Melbourne's National Tennis Centre. The world's top five men,

Becker, Stefan Edberg, Stich, Ivan Lendl and Jim Courier, have all given verbal commitments to play although entries do not close until December, Pollard said. Prize money is 20 per cent higher than this year's tour-

dollars (290,000 US dollars) each for the singles champi-Women's world number one Monica Seles, who missed Wimbledon and the recent

nament and includes 360,000

Federation Cup, could not be contacted, Pollard said.

Shooting results

JAKARTA, Aug 1: Indonesia and the Philippines bagged one gold medal each here on the sixth day of the 16th Southeast Asia Shooting Association (SEASA) but not enough to shake Taiwan from the top position, reports AFP.

Only Rajaola scored 563 in the women's 25 metre (yard) sport pistol to give the host nation its fifth gold of the tournament but low scores by her two compatriots denied them the team gold medal.

The team gold went to the Philippine's trio of Susan Aguado, Celinia de Castro and Lourdes de Castro who combined to score 1,642.

As Taiwan is virtually assured of the overall championship title with their 14 golds, the battle in the remaining events will be for the second spot between the Philippines and Indonesia. with six and five golds respec-

Seven countries are taking part in this annual tournament. Thailand, the defending champions have sent a small delegation of six to the tournament.

Following are the Medals' tally (gold, silver, bronze, total):

Taiwan 2 16 4 18 Philippines Indonesia 8 21 Malaysta 6 12 Hong Kong 0 0 Thailand

TENNIS TIDBITS

Cherkasov trounces Chang



BROOKLINE, Mass, Aug 1: Top seed Andre Cherkasov of the Soviet Union trounced Albert Chang of Canada 6-1, 6-1 Wednesday if the second round of the dirs 200,000 US Pro Tennis Championships at Longwood Cricket club, reports AP.

Cherkasov, 21, allowed Chang a third game service break before closing out the first set. Chang, 20, then won the first game of the second set, but Cherkasov reeled off six for the match.

"I felt good and need the work," Cherkasov Cherkasov

In other matches, fourth seed Ronald Agenor of Haiti overcame early sluggishness on the way to a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Andrew Sznajder of Canada. And seventh seed Andres Gomez of Ecuador beat Yevgeny

Kafelnikov of the Soviet union 6-4, 4-6, 6-2. Agenor lost service in the opening game of the match and trailed 3-1 early on before rallying to score breaks of his own

in the sixth and 10th games. Agneor won four consecutive games at the start of the second set and played out the set to advance into the third round.

Bonking Becker

ERLIN, Aug 1: Boris Becker might not have won Wimble-D don but he is assured of a place in history, report agen-

This time it is not for his tennis, but for introducing a new

word into the German dictionary. The word is 'bonk', a word of English derivation which describes the act of sexual intercourse. It first impinged on the German consciousness after Becker

was called 'Bonking Boris' by the tabloids in London after his 1987 defeat at Wimbledon was attributed to an over-active sex It has since then taken on in a big way in Germany and now

it is the best selling dictionary there.

Tauziat in fine form

ANB DIEGO, California, Aug 1 : Sixth-seed Nathalie Tauziat of France put her disastrous Federation Cup form behind her here on Wednesday to reach the third round of the 225,000 dollar women's tennis tournament with a straight-sets victory over American opponent Alysia May. report AFP.

France crashed out to qualifiers Poland in the first round of the Federation Cup in Nottingham, raced to a 6-3, 6-4 victory. Japan's Akiko Kijimuta fought hard but was beaten in three sets by Australian Anne Minter who emerged a 6-3, 5-7, 7-5

Tauziat, who lost both her singles and the doubles when

Third-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland also had to go three sets against American Kimberly Po

Pan-American Games begin in Havana from today For hosts Cuba, national honour is at stake

HAVANA, Aug 1: Cuba is staking its national honour on the 11th edition of a 39-nation sports festival which in the past has earned the title of Pandemonium games, reports

The Pan American Games in this time-warp capital and the southern city of Santiago open Friday and wind up August 18. The Cubans, facing drastic

shortages of building materials and almost everything else, have made huge efforts to avoid the Havana event becoming another Pandemonium More than 8,000 citizens joined elite worker brigades

and other teams to help Finish

the installations on time, offi-

cials said. Cuba's top athletes joined in high-jumper Javier Sotomayor pushed wheel barrows of cement, runner Roberto Hernandez dug holes and 400meters start Ana Quirot handed out tools.

Cuba's communist leader Fidel Castro urged the work teams on, stressing that the Games were "an international commitment, a sacred commitment we have to honour . . and we are a country of

honour." More than 20 new installations - including a 35,000 capacity Olympic stadium -- have been built and more than 40 upgraded.

The sports complexes con-

trast sharply with Havana's seedy but charming collection of apartment buildings. churches and colonial villas in pale shades of ochre, grey and

A treasure trove of American cars from the 1950's trundle through the streets adding to the capital's timewarp atmosphere.

These games, a key event for smaller western hemisphere countries who seldom win Olympic medlas, have a history of problems. During the first edition at

Buenos Aires in 1951 storm force winds damaged some facilities and organisers had to postpone the competitions for

Guatemala City and then Rio de Janeiro withdrew from holding games in 1959 after the chosen host-city. Cleveland, ran out of money. Chicago finally hosted it. In 1975 Mexico City

stepped in to stage the event only 10 months before the scheduled date after both the Chilean capital, Santiago, and Sao Paulo had pulled out. American athletes still

chuckle about the 1983 Games in Caracas. Team members were given keys to their rooms only to find they did not need them. The rooms had no Indianapolis helped feed

Olympic Association wrote in its official report: "There was a shortage of rooms, a lack of equipment

and the transportation system

was chaotic."

conditions and the Canadian

There are few things that could please Castro more than organising better Games than his ideological enemy, the United States.

There were some positive

reactions from the first

American athletes to stay in

the village. They've done a great job of putting everything they have

the games reputation in 1988, behind the Games, said hockey athletes criticised the living player Drew Stone.