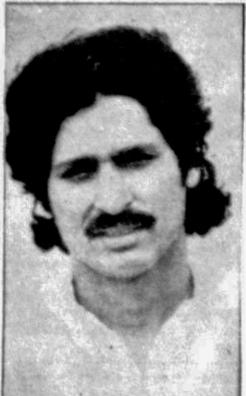


# Windies puncture Pak pride

MELBOURNE, Feb 23: The West Indies opened their World Cup cricket campaign with an emphatic 10-wicket victory over Pakistan here Sunday, reports AFP.

In reply to Pakistan's 220 for two, the West Indies had no difficulty in surpassing the target with Desmond Haynes and Brian Lara mastering the underfamiliar Pakistan bowling attack.

They put on 175 in 37 overs before man-of-the-match Lara retired hurt when a full-pitched delivery from Wasim Akram slammed into his foot.



**RAMEEZ RAJA** ..... 102 n.o  
Lara had faced 101 balls from which he made 88 with half the runs coming from boundaries.

The West Indies innings was a matter of statistics, with the 100 coming in 90 minutes from just 136 balls and Lara bringing up his half century in the next over of 63 balls.

Haynes' innings had been steadier, but he caught up with Lara to register his half century just five minutes later.

He had faced 83 balls and West Indies were 113 without loss at the 25-over halfway mark.

While Lara's strokeplay had been more fluent, Haynes had shown more caution before he faltered in reaching his 50 with a stroke that brought him the single he needed but could have cost him his wicket.

He casually pushed at a ball from occasional left-arm spinner Aamer Sohail and was fortunate not to be caught.

The ball looped over Sohail, who ran back to take the easy catch and appeared to have it when it popped out of his hands. The incident highlighted Pakistan's slack fielding.

## Abahani thrash Victoria 3-0

Abahani Krira Chakra defeated Victoria Sporting Club three-nil in the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The title-aspirants, who dominated the proceedings, shot into the lead in the third minute of the match when 'hit specialist' Jumman Lussai scored from a penalty corner.

Salauddin Tisa scored a fine field goal in the next minute to double the margin. Zahid Hossain completed the tally for the winners with a 45th field goal.

Abahani registered their ninth consecutive victory to top the points table with 18 points. Victoria remain at four from nine matches.

Moslem of Victoria was shown the green card.

In the first match of the day, Bangladesh Railway and Police split points in a goalless draw.

## Skipper Rizvi is Bima's hero

Sadharan Bima skipper Rizvi played a fine unbeaten innings of 96 to help his side record a huge 128-run victory against Young Pegasus in the relegation league of the Milnars First Division cricket league at The Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Put into bat, Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha made a modest 187 for seven wickets from their stipulated 45 overs. Number four batsman Rizvi played 114 balls and sent the ball six times to the fence to provide 'the fulcrum of the Bima innings with an unbeaten 96.

Opener Obayed was the only other notable scorer with 23.

Majed, Kafi, Liton and Mahmud of Pegasus took one wicket apiece.

Pegasus, in their turn, were all out for 61. Liton (8r) was the only Pegasus batsman to reach the double figures with 14. Bima's Kishore bagged three wickets for 21.

Litu and Nakib took two wickets apiece at the cost of three and eight runs only.



Brian Lara grimaces as he is assisted from the field after a yorker from Pakistan's Wasim Akram struck his foot during the World Cup match yesterday in Melbourne. West Indies won by 10 wickets. — AFP photo

Their bowling looked unimpressive throughout in the absence of skipper Imran Khan, who had to pull out on match morning with a shoulder injury.

Even at this early stage of the tournament, Pakistan's depleted bowling appears to threaten their title claims.

They are greatly weakened by the absence of Waqar Younis, regarded as the world's best bowler, and while he recovers from the stress fracture in his back, Pakistan will be struggling to contain the World Cup's top batsmen.

Haynes, who remained not out 93 from 144 balls, and captain Richie Richardson, unbeaten on 20, brought up the 200 from 260 balls.

The West Indies finally reached their target of 221 without loss with 19 balls to spare to become the third team in the history of the World Cup competition to score a 10-wicket victory.

The two previous occasions

shoulder complaint and needed to be rested to prevent any further trouble, but he was expected to be available for Thursday's match in Hobart against Zimbabwe.

"He's got some sort of shoulder injury, it's niggling injury," Miandad said.

"We thought it better that he get some more rest, but he'll be right to play against Zimbabwe."

"We can't afford to rest him now."

Miandad said losing Imran on top of the loss of Waqar Younis with a back injury early last week and put unwelcome pressure on his strike bowler Wasim Akram and opening partner Aaqib Javed.

"He said that, on Sunday's showing the West Indies must be considered one of the favourites to take the title."

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Cup cricket match between West Indies and Pakistan on Sunday:

PAKISTAN				
Rameez Raja not out				102
Aamer Sohail c				
Logie b Benjamin				23
Inzamam-ul-Haq c				
Hooper b Harper				27
Javed Miandad not out				57
Extras: (1b 3lb 5w 2ns)				11
Total: (two wickets - 50 overs)				220
Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-97, Did not bat: Salim Malik, Ijaz Ahmed, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Iqbal Sikander, Wasim Haider, Aaqib Javed.				
Bowling				
Marshall	10	1	53	0
Ambrose	10	0	40	0
Benjamin	10	0	49	1
Hooper	10	0	41	0
Harper	10	0	33	1

WEST INDIES				
Haynes not out				93
Lara ret hurt				88
Richardson not out				20
Extras: (b2, lb8, w7, nb2)				20
Total: (no wicket - 46.5 overs)				221
Did not bat: C Hooper, K Arthurton, G Logie, R Harper, M Marshall, D Williams, C Ambrose, W Benjamin.				
Bowling				
Wasim Akram	10	0	37	0
Aaqib Javed	8.5	0	42	0
Wasim Haider	8	0	42	0
Ijaz Ahmed	6	1	29	0
Iqbal Sikander	8	1	26	0
Aamer Sohail	6	0	35	0

Man-of-the-match: Brian Lara

Result: West Indies won by 10 wickets.

# Lankans win in a run feast

NEW PLYMOUTH, New Zealand, Feb 23: Sri Lanka's cricketers lashed a record-breaking 313 for seven to beat Zimbabwe by three wickets in a World Cup run feast at picturesque Pukekura Park on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Sri Lanka, facing Zimbabwe's 312 for four from 50 overs, made the highest winning total by a team batting second in World Cup history.

The Sri Lankans, who got home with four balls to spare, eclipsed West Indies' 276 for three, scored in a 60 overs Cup match against Australia at



**ARJUNA RANATUNGA** . 88 n.o  
Lord's in 1983.

There were few bowlers to emerge with credit but numerous batting heroes, none more than deposed Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga and Zimbabwe's wicketkeeper-batsman Andy Flower, whose 115 not out earned him the man-of-the-match award.

The burly, left-handed Ranatunga hit a whirlwind 88 not out and led the charge when Sri Lanka required more than nine runs an over from the last 13 overs. He clubbed one six and nine fours in his 62-ball innings.

Athula Samarasekera and Roshan Mahanama gave Sri Lanka every chance of reaching their target with an electrifying opening stand of 128.

However, 44-year-old John Traicos, the oldest man in the tournament, put the brakes on with a stint of one for 33 in 10

overs with his off-spinners. He also picked up the vital wicket of Samarasekera for 75.

With the tempo checked, pressure went on the Sri Lankans and they quickly lost the key wickets of Aravinda De Silva and Asanka Gurusinha.

But Ranatunga, aided by a quickfire 32 from Sanath Jayasuriya and the lower middle order, put the innings back on track, until with three overs left Sri Lanka needed 25.

Ten runs in the 48th over and two Ranatunga boundaries in the penultimate over ensured the win.

Such an outcome had seemed improbable at the end of Zimbabwe's innings.

Sri Lanka must have regretted putting in Zimbabwe, who used a good batting pitch to beat their previous World Cup best of 240 against Australia in 1983.



Zimbabwe's Wayne James (L) falls to the ground whilst trying to run out Sri Lanka's Arjuna Ranatunga (C) during the World Cup match yesterday in New Plymouth. Sri Lanka won by three wickets. — AFP photo

The innings was built around Flower, who batted through the 50 overs, a rapid 52 by Kevin Arnott and a dynamic 83 not out off just 45 balls at the end of the innings by Andy Waller.

Waller and Flower's fifth wicket stand of 145 in just under 13 overs was a World Cup record, beating the 139 put on by West Indians Viv Richards and Collis King against England in the 1979 final.

Waller reached his 50 off 32 balls by hitting a delivery from Gurusinha over the ground's surrounding trees and into a nearby duck pond. In all, he hit nine fours and three sixes.

Earlier, the left-handed Flower received good support from Arnott, who hit his 52 off just 56 balls.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Cup cricket match between

ZIMBABWE				
Flower not out				115
James c Tilkekeratne				17
b Wickremasinghe				
Pycroft c Ramanasayake				5
b Gurusinha				
Houghton c Tilkekeratne				10
b Gurusinha				
Arnott c Tilkekeratne				52
b Wickremasinghe				83
Waller not out				53
Extras: (lb6, b2, w13, nb9)				30
Total: (four wickets - 50 overs)				312
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-57, 3-82, 4-167.				
Did not bat: K Duers, I Butchart, E Brandes, M Jarvis, J Traicos.				
Bowling				
O	M	R	W	
Ramasayake	10	0	59	0
Gurusinha	10	0	72	2
Kalpage	10	0	51	0
Jayasuriya	3	0	18	0

SRI LANKA				
Mahurana c Arnott				59
b Brandes				
Samarasekera c Duers				75
b Traicos				
De Silva c Houghton				14
b Brandes				5
Gurusinha run out				88
Ranatunga not out				
Jayasuriya c Flower				32
b Houghton				18
Tilkekeratne b Jarvis				
Kalpage c Duers b				11
Brandes				
Ramasayake not out				10
Extras: (lb5, w5)				1
Total: (seven wickets - 49.2 overs)				313
Did not bat: K Wijegunawardene, P Wickre-masinghe.				
Fall of wickets: 1-128, 2-144, 3-155, 4-167, 5-212, 6-273, 7-309.				
Bowling				
O	M	R	W	
Jarvis	9.2	0	61	1
Brandes	10	0	70	3
Duers	10	0	72	0
Butchart	8	0	53	0
Traicos	10	1	33	1
Houghton	2	0	19	1

Man-of-the-match: Andy Flower

Result: Sri Lanka won by three wickets.

## STANDINGS

Standings after Sunday's matches in the World Cup cricket (played, won, loss, tie, no result, points)

England	1	-	2	
New Zealand	1	-	2	
Sri Lanka	1	-	2	
West Indies	1	-	2	
Australia	1	-	0	
India	1	-	0	
Pakistan	1	-	0	
Zimbabwe	1	-	0	
South Africa	-	-	-	

# Gooch pleased with his attack

PERTH, Feb 23: England cricket captain Graham Gooch believes the strength-in-depth of his

team's bowlers will give it an edge over its rivals in the World Cup, reports AP.

Gooch said the versatility of the team's attack was the key to England's nine-run victory over India in Perth on Saturday night.

"The flexibility of the attack is quite an advantage," Gooch said Sunday. "If someone has an off day, then we have got someone of quality to come in as a replacement."

"We've got six front-line bowlers and we have used most of them in the past few matches."

England has won its last seven limited-overs matches and is one of the form teams of the nine-nation World Cup, which continues through March 25.

Defending champion Aus-

tralia lost its opener to New Zealand on Saturday, a result that did not surprise Gooch.

He said his recent experiences in New Zealand where

their own medium-pace bowlers," he said. "We saw a lot of that over there during our two-month trip. To be honest, that type of bowling is very difficult for the batsmen to put away."

Gooch said he still rated the Australians as the team to beat.

"Australia remain as the tournament favourites in my book," he said.

England next faces the West Indies in Melbourne on Thursday night and the Caribbean team could be without batsman Brian Lara.

Lara was forced to retire hurt during the West Indies' 10-wicket victory over Pakistan in Melbourne on Sunday.

He was taken to Epworth Hospital for a precautionary X-ray of a badly bruised toe.

"We will simply have to wait and see how he is in a couple of days," said West Indies team manager Deryck Murray.

## Econo jr TT

Sports Reporter

Eight more matches of the Econo junior table tennis league-92 were decided yesterday at the National Coaching Centre.

Biman, Azimpur Young Star, Armanitola Sabuj, Armanitola Kishore Club, Ansars and Azimpur Young Boys recorded straight-set 3-0 victories over their respective opponents, namely, Swamibag TTS, Kalpataru Club, Victoria Sporting Club, Azimpur Vintage, Armanitola Juniors and Surja Tarun Club while Ajax SC and Officers' Club lost to Swamibag Boys and Armanitola Boys Club by 3-1, 3-2 sets respectively.

## Nat'l junior volleyball

Sports Reporter

The final round of the Rahma Food national junior volleyball championship began yesterday with State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka formally inaugurating the five-day long meet at the Outer Stadium volleyball court.

Nine teams, split into two groups, are participating. Two top teams from each group will qualify for the semifinals.

## Nissan tennis

Sports Reporter

Fifty-five matches were decided on the second day of the fifth Nissan Cup tennis championships played simultaneously at the Gulshan Club and Ramna Tennis Complex courts yesterday.

Ten first round matches in the men's singles, six ties in the men's doubles and six matches in the women's singles were played. In the boys' under-12 category, 16 second round matches were settled and another 16 games of the boys' under-16 group were decided.

In the men's singles, Khaled Saaluddin beat Jahan Reza, Ruman beat Lefevre, Stow beat Mashur Rahman, Asmatullah beat Beynon, Stefan Bonora beat Suman and Asifuzzaman beat Ozaki.

## Tomba looks to a rich future

LES MENEURES, France, Feb 23: A busy and rich future is ahead for Alberto Tomba, reports AP.

The 25-year-old Italian skier will shoot for more gold medals in the World Championships in Morioka, Japan, next year and in the 1994 Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway.

## Bata handball

Sports Reporter

Three more matches of the Bata women's handball league were decided yesterday with Bangladesh Ansars posting victory by a record margin against T&T High School at the Dhaka wooden-floor gymnasium.

In the first match of the day, Maghbazar Girl's High School outplayed Rajarbagh Police Lines High School by 19-2 goals to.

Ayesha scored fourteen goals for the winners with Afroza and Yasmeen adding four and one respectively while Taslima and Shahana netted one goal each for the losers.

BJMC beat Bangladesh Rifles High School by 47 goals to 19 in the second match. Sheela Ahmed and Akherin were the main goal-getters for BJMC with 19 and 10 respectively. Besides, Shaheen scored eight and Jharna seven for the winners. For Rifles School, Tahmina, Helena and Salma netted six, four and one goal respectively.

## Ivanisevic faces Edberg in final

STUTTGART, Feb 23: Goran Ivanisevic, sporting a new Mohican haircut, beat Russian Alexander Volkov yesterday to go into the final of the Stuttgart Classic against holder Stefan Edberg, reports Reuter.

The seventh seeded Croatian, who came from one set behind to dump world number one Jim Courier in the quarter-finals, won his semifinal 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Edberg beat Czechoslovak Petr Korda 6-4, 6-4 in 93 minutes and said: "The main thing is I won, it's really tough playing against (Korda). He does the wildest things, both good and bad."

The Swede, until two weeks ago the worlds top ranked player, can expect similar bursts of good and bad from Ivanisevic.

Ivanisevic's powerful service was his main weapon in defeating both Courier and Volkov although he could not escape some double faults at crucial moments.

But Edberg, normally about as close as any one can get to perfection in serving, will need a steadier first serve, against the Croatian if he wants to retain his title.

Volkov, who knocked out former number one Ivan Lendl and fifth-seeded Frenchman Guy Forget on his way to the semifinals, said before his match: "I'm not following my self - There's still a long way to go - to the very top."

# S Africa to bid for next World Cup

PERTH, Feb 23: South Africa will bid for the right to stage the next cricket World Cup, the executive officer of the United Cricket Board of South Africa said here today, reports AFP.

Dr Ali Bacher made the announcement during a brief stopover en route to Sydney.

Australia and South Africa will clash at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday in a World Cup engagement, the first match between the two countries for more than two decades.

Bacher said South Africa had the necessary facilities for a World Cup tournament.

"We have seven grounds with lighting and the stadiums have been modernised and equipped" he said. "I believe South Africa should be given the opportunity to stage this prestigious event."

Bacher also said he was hoping to meet the Australian Cricket Board's chief executive, David Richards, in Melbourne.

The time might be appropriate then to make a formal announcement about when we will have official links at the international level between the two countries," Bacher added.

Pressed to be specific about dates for a Test series between the countries, Bacher said: "We have come to arrangements,

but I would like to talk to Richards first."

Bacher predicted that young players from the overwhelmingly black South African Townships would make a growing contribution to the international standing of South African cricket.

"There is tremendous potential there, and in the second half of this decade they will come through on merit."