

# Rain can't rob India again

HAMILTON, Mar 7: India collected two vital points when they beat Zimbabwe by 55 runs in their rain-affected World Cup cricket match today, reports Reuters.

The Indians, who lost by one run to Australia in another rain hit game last weekend, enjoyed better fortune this time, climbing from sixth to third in the table.

When rain, which delayed the start by three hours, ended the match, too, Zimbabwe were 104 for one from 19.1 overs in reply to India's 203 for seven from 32 overs.

India won by 55 runs, the margin being determined by revised totals from the highest scoring 19 overs — India 159 and Zimbabwe 104.

Zimbabwe had been well placed to win when the rain finished their challenge, India, after 19.1 overs, had been 106 for three — just two runs better and two wickets worse off.

Man-of-the-match was India's emerging star Sachin Tendulkar who, just one month short of his 19th birthday, hit a glorious 81 to take his international one day total past 1000 runs.

Zimbabwe's reply was led by left hander Andy Flower, who was sitting comfortably on 43 off 56 balls, having just been joined by the big hitting Andy Walker.

Flower and opener Ali Shah, who was bowled by Tendulkar for 31, each hit three fours, while Walker struck two.

Zimbabwe, with a little help from sloppy Indian fielding, were pressing for their first win in five games when rain cut short the spirited attempt.

Zimbabwe captain David Houghton said: "We had wickets in hand, we were looking pretty comfortable."

"It was a bit tough for us. This was our big chance, unfortunately we got done again," Zimbabwe lost to New Zealand in Napier on Tuesday in another rain-hit match.

India's captain Mohammad Azharuddin agreed the Cup rules for games affected by rain were far from perfect.

"We lost against Australia in Brisbane because we didn't have those three overs. It's a strange rule."

India's innings against Australia was reduced from 50 to 47 overs after a shower but the target went down by only one run.

Under the rules relating to interruptions for bad weather, the totals are revised on the basis of the highest scoring overs of the side batting first.

Azharuddin said India were starting to play well and he expressed confidence about their remaining three games.

"I think we are playing to



Man-of-the-match TENDULKAR... 1000 runs

start of Zimbabwe's innings and the nervous Indians hurried to ensure 15 overs were bowled the minimum to get a result.

In the process, they yielded 17 extras including five wides and one bye. Several misfields in the slippery conditions gave the Zimbabweans boundaries when they should have been singles.

The sides actually started to make for the shelter of the pavilion after 11 overs the fielders reluctantly and the batsmen with gusto before the rain stopped and allowed play to continue.

Zimbabwe resumed with a new lease on life and hit India all around the field as well as running singles deftly.

India's innings had an unruffled feel to it with Tendulkar, Sanjay Manjrekar and Kris Srikanth making up for the loss of two early wickets Kapil Dev for 10 when the total was 23 and Azharuddin for 12 when they were 43 in the ninth over.

The helmetless opener Srikanth, sometimes threatening to blast Zimbabwe out of the park, fell to Mark Barmister for 32 off 32 balls which included five fours.

This brought in Manjrekar, who put on 99 in 90 balls with Tendulkar before being caught at long off by Kevin Dueres off the off-spin of John Traicos.

Traicos who represented

South Africa in their last official Test in 1970 against Australia, ended with three for 35.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard in the rain reduced World Cup cricket match between India and Zimbabwe today:

**INDIA**

Srikanth b Barmister 32  
Kapil Dev lbw b Brandes 10  
Azharuddin c Flower b Barmister 12  
Tendulkar c Campbell b Barmister 81  
Manjrekar c Dueres b Traicos 34

## CUP STANDINGS

World Cup cricket standings (Tabulate under played, won, lost, no result, points, net run-rate):

New Zealand	4	4	0	0	8	1.08
England	4	3	0	1	7	0.65
India	5	2	2	1	5	0.54
Sri Lanka	5	2	2	1	5	-0.17
South Africa	4	2	2	0	4	0.05
West Indies	4	2	2	0	4	-0.10
Australia	5	2	3	0	4	-0.26
Pakistan	4	1	2	1	3	-0.03
Zimbabwe	5	0	5	0	0	-1.26

(Note: Net run-rate is difference between batting and bowling rates. Under competition rules, runs scored in no result matches are not included in run-rate.)

## Lamb is still unfit to play

MELBOURNE, Mar 7: England batsman Allan Lamb still is troubled by a nagging hamstring injury and will miss Monday's World Cup match against Sri Lanka at the Eastern Oval in Ballarat, team officials said Saturday.

England coach Mickey Stewart said Lamb would have further treatment on his right thigh throughout the weekend, but would not predict when the dashing middle-order right-hander would be ready to resume playing.

Lamb has been unable to take the field since injuring his hamstring three weeks ago in a one-day match against New Zealand in Christchurch.

He was expected to resume playing against Pakistan in Adelaide on March 1, but suffered a recurrence of the injury before the match.

"He's going to have a manipulation on his leg today," Stewart said.

But it's still too early to say when he would be ready to play. "We have to wait and see."

"He was close to playing in Adelaide, he had two testing days beforehand and just before the game he felt a twinge in his thigh from the last ball he fielded."

Stewart said before the start of the nine-nation tournament that his team had a goal of winning six of its eight first round matches, but said Saturday that five victories should be enough.

"Although you would like to win all of your games, we had a target of winning six of eight matches but, as it is, five may be enough to get through," Stewart said.

Following Monday's match against Sri Lanka, England will take on South Africa on March 12 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, New Zealand on March 15 in Wellington and Zimbabwe in Albany on March 18.

England have seven points from their four matches to date.

# Aussies beat Lanka to sustain hopes

ADELAIDE, Mar 7: Holders Australia at last found some World Cup cricket form to stay in contention for a semifinal berth with an emphatic seven-wicket victory over Sri Lanka today, reports Reuters.

The Australians, who had to win after losing three of their first four round-robin matches, were never troubled in their chase after Sri Lanka's modest 189 for nine and made it with six overs to spare on an easy-paced Adelaide Oval pitch.

The victory was particularly sweet for opener Geoff Marsh, who scored a solid 60 to justify his recall after his poor form in the tournament saw him dropped for last Thursday's humiliating eight-wicket defeat by England.

Marsh figured in an opening stand of 120 with fellow Western Australian Tom Moody, who hit 57 to add to the half-century he scored against England.

All-rounder Mark Waugh, who struck two huge sixes in a swashbuckling 26 in a promotion to number three, and the relentless David Boon, on 27 not out, finished off the openers' good work.

Captain Allan Border, who had gambled by putting Sri Lanka in to bat after winning the toss, got the best possible start when in-form batsman Roshan Mahanama was run out in a mix-up for a quick single when the score was only eight.

Vice-captain Asanka Gurusinha went soon afterwards and though captain Aravinda De Silva propped up the innings with a solid 62, it was Border, with one wicket, and off-spinner Peter Taylor, with two for 24, who put a clamp on Sri Lanka's innings.

Border, who had said that a defeat would be the end of the world decided the Australians needed to try something out of the ordinary to get their confidence back.

He used medium-pace Steve Waugh to open the attack with Craig McDermott and made the rare move of bowling 10 overs of his left-

arm spin, snaring one wicket for 40 runs.

De Silva's 51-fourth-wicket stand with in-form Arjuna Ranatunga took the score to 123 but when he went to Taylor, after never looking comfortable, the innings stalled and then wickets fell as Sri Lanka tried in vain to pick up the run-rate.

Border said the Australians had to win the two points but every one of the last three matches would be vital to their survival in the tournament.

"I think it's going to be a long jam for that fourth spot,"



ARAVINDA DE SILVA

according to De Silva.

"I think if we play well, we'll always stand a chance. Unfortunately Australia played better than us today," he said.

Australia started their run chase slowly and some brilliant Sri Lankan fielding combined with tight bowling by paceman Pramodaya Wickremasinghe kept the score down to only 16 runs after nine overs.

But in the 10th over, Marsh, who had looked anything but comfortable, suddenly cut loose, hitting nine runs of Chamapala Ranunayake.

It was the turning point, he and Moody hitting another 25 runs in the next three overs, when both batsmen reached their half-centuries in the 27th over, the score was 110 and the game was virtually Australia's.

Wickremasinghe, who bowled a good line and length throughout, took two late wickets, one to dismiss Moody

caught in the deep by Mahanama, and the second, again caught by Mahanama, to end a rampant innings by Mark Waugh.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard in the World Cup cricket match between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Adelaide Oval today:

**SRI LANKA**

Mahanama run out 7  
Samarasekera c Healy b Taylor 34  
Gurusinha lbw b Whitney 5  
De Silva c Moody b McDermott 62  
Ranatunga c Jones b Taylor 23  
Jayasuriya lbw b Border 15  
Tillekeratne run out 5  
Kulapuge run out 14  
Ranunayake run out 5  
Anurasi not out 4  
Extras: (b-3, lb-6, w-5, nb-1) 15  
Total: (nine wickets - 50 overs) 189  
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-28, 3-72, 4-123, 5-151, 6-163, 7-166, 8-182, 9-189.

Did not bat: P Wickremasinghe

**Bowling:** O M R W  
McDermott 10 0 28 1  
S Waugh 7 0 34 1  
Whitney 10 3 26 1  
Moody 3 0 18 0  
Taylor 10 0 34 2  
Border 10 0 40 1

**AUSTRALIA**

Marsh c Anurasi b Kulapuge 60  
Moody c Mahanama b Wickremasinghe 57  
M Waugh c Mahanama b Wickremasinghe 26  
Boon not out 27  
Jones not out 12  
Extras: (b-2, nb-3, w-3) 8  
Total: (three wickets - 44 overs) 190  
Fall of wickets: 1-120, 2-130, 3-165.  
Did not bat: A Border, S Waugh, I Healy, P Taylor, C McDermott, M Whitney.

**Bowling:** O M R W  
Wickremasinghe 10 3 29 2  
Ranunayake 9 1 44 0  
Anurasi 10 0 43 0  
Gurusinha 6 0 20 0  
Ranatunga 1 0 11 0  
Kulapuge 8 0 41 1

Result: Australia won by seven wickets. Man-of-the-match: Tom Moody.

# Imran may bat at No 3

BRISBANE, Mar 7: Imran Khan may promote himself to number three in the Pakistan batting order for the World Cup cricket match against South Africa on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Imran, envisaging an even more influential role than usual, has already stated he would prefer to open the bowling "to settle things down early on", and on Saturday he said he might bat at number three.

"When you go in at number six it's often a bit late to do anything," the Pakistan captain said.

Imran, who will play against the South Africans despite having to take pain-killers to dull a nagging shoulder injury, feels he needs to open the attack because of Wasim Akram's lack of control and penetration in Cup games.

Imran bowled for the first time in the series in Pakistan's fourth-round match against India on Wednesday.

"I thought I would have to struggle more than I did. So I won't hesitate to use pain-killers again tomorrow, if necessary," he said.

Pakistan management is also concerned about the fitness of top-order batsman Rameez Raja. They will not name the team until Sunday morning.

"This will be a crucial match and we must start clicking because one-day cricket needs team combination to win," Imran said.

Pakistan has won one match, lost two and drawn one for three points, while South Africa improved to two wins, two losses with a 64-run win over former champions West Indies in Christchurch, New Zealand, on Thursday.

"This has put us under increased expectations from fans at home. They love to win," Wessels said.

Sunday's encounter will be something of a return home for Kepler Wessels when he leads South Africa on to the Gabba Ground.

Sheffield Shield during his years on exile while his native South Africa was barred from international sport.

"It's nice to be back," the South African captain said as he gazed round the attractive ground after his team's net practice.

But there will be little room for sentimentality when play begins in a match vital for both sides seeking to keep alive their hopes of qualifying for the semifinals.

South Africa have worry over Peter Kirsten, leading run-scorer in the tournament so far who pulled a calf muscle in their defeat of West Indies on Thursday and is not certain of playing.

"I'll have some more physiotherapy during the day and then we'll make a decision," Kirsten said on Saturday.

Apart from being a vital part of their batting line-up, Kirsten is also a useful off-spin bowler.

Kirsten said although the injury was improving, they doubted he would bowl.

Wessels took a different view. "Kirsten will have to be 100 per cent fit to be able to play, so if he plays and is called on to bowl, he will bowl."

The loser of the match is almost certain to miss the tournament semifinals.

"If I can get runs at the Gabba tomorrow it will mean a lot to me," South African captain Kepler Wessels said Saturday.



IMRAN KHAN

# Botham turns royal avenger

LONDON, Mar 7: An overweight and over-the-hill cricketer has come to the rescue of his country and queen, reports AP.

Ian Botham, ridiculed by British newspapers a few weeks ago as better suited to performing on a pantomime stage than a playing field, almost single-handedly led England to victory over host Australia in a World Cup cricket match.

But, to Britain's infamous tabloids, it was much more than a cricket triumph — it was a royal avenging.

The tabloids — have raged in recent weeks against Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, who broke protocol by putting his arm around Queen Elizabeth II during her February trip to Australia.

Keating also has been attacked by London newspapers for saying England deserted Australia, a member of the British Commonwealth, during World War II.

So when Botham took the wickets of four Australians in just seven balls Thursday, and then scored 53 runs to lead England to an eight-wicket victory in Sydney, the tabloids reacted with glee.

"Royal avenger Botham stuffs the Aussies," the Daily Star screamed in a front-page headline. "It was Rule Britannia all the way as Botham turned royal avenger."

The Today newspaper added, "Cricketer hero Ian Botham gave Australia a right royal thrashing yesterday, shattering the ego of a nation which snubbed his sovereign."

Botham's heroics were even more dramatic because he had been written off in recent years as a faded star who relied more on reputation than talent.

Once the heart of the English cricket team, the 36-year-old Botham has been struggling to regain his place on the national squad while spending much of his time raising money for charity and performing on the stage.

He arrived in Australia late because he was acting in Jack and the Beanstalk in Bournemouth, England. Overweight and out of shape, he was ridiculed for playing golf instead of taking extra batting practice.

The Sun, another tabloid, warned in late January: "If Botham doesn't knuckle down, he should be sent home to rehearse for the next pantomime season."

But all was forgotten Friday, and the Sun aimed its ire at Keating. It loosely employed the cricket term gooley, a deceptive type of toss similar to a breaking pitch in baseball, to ridicule the Australian Prime Minister.

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IAN BOTHAM

## Graf's nude photo published

FRANKFURT, Mar 7: A photograph of Steffi Graf sunbathing in the nude at her Florida home, a snapshot that drew a verbal blasting by the 1988 Grand Slam winner, has been published by a German magazine, reports AP.

The Munich-based Bunte, a news and lifestyle magazine, printed what it said was a photo of Graf lounging by a swimming pool at her private Polo Club home in Boca Raton.

Graf is playing in the Virginia Slims of Florida women's tournament being held at the Polo Club.

The hazy picture shows two unidentified women, one sitting in a lounge chair and another on a lawn cot looking skyward and holding what appears to be a red towel in an attempt to cover up.

Bunte said the seated person in the picture was Graf's 47-year-old mother, Heidi.

The photos were published late Thursday, a day after Graf blasted what she said was a photo taken of her from a helicopter 10 days before.

"He only got my back, thank God," Graf said.

Graf, a frequent target of the lurid German popular press, denounced what she said was an invasion of her privacy.

"The people doing that, I think they should be really punished," she said Thursday. "They have no right to do those kind of things. ... If you're not able to do whatever you want at your home, I think that's pretty sick."

In the photo, the pool is surrounded by palm trees and a blue and pink inflated boat is floating on the water. Bunte described the photograph as a "Tele-glance into paradise."

"Only the sun kisses Steffi Graf, 22, under the palms at pool side," the magazine said.

The photos had little effect on the player's game. Graf, top-seeded in the tournament, routed Japan's Maoko Sawamatsu 6-0, 6-1, Wednesday in the third round of play.

# Kiwis anxious to clinch semis berth

AUCKLAND, Mar 7: New Zealand cricket captain Martin Crowe wants his team to clinch their spot in the semifinals of the World Cup on Sunday to avoid the possible onset of nerves, reports AP.

New Zealand would be certain of a semifinal place in the nine-nation tournament if it defeats the two-time champion West Indies at Eden Park on Sunday.

Crowe is anxious to avoid the pressure of going into the final three matches of the first round chasing "just one more win."

The New Zealand captain said he had instructed his team, which has a perfect 4-0 record, to treat the match identically to their previous games.

"We want to win every game, but we don't want to put pressure on ourselves by saying we've got to win one more," Crowe said Saturday.

"You could end up trying so hard just to win one game."

"We are trying to adopt the attitude that whatever the challenge, we're welcoming it because we'll need all the

tough experience we can get if war going to be there at the end of the tournament."

"We're just staying on our toes really, and we can afford to be confident because of the

that have been prepared for a slow pace.

"I think we are playing well, no doubt about that," he said.

The Kiwis (pitchers) haven't come into it really, except that we've stuck to a game plan which has been based around the slow-mediums.

While the work of his medium-pace bowlers will be crucial Sunday, Crowe wants his batsmen to concentrate on building a big total.

"With the two new balls we face, I think it's important to get a partnership early on when we are batting," he said.

West Indies manager Deryck Murray said his team was unperturbed at the prospect of another slow Eden Park wicket.

"We're playing at different venues in the preliminary rounds so we have to adapt to different conditions," Murray said.

"I'm aware from my playing days what the wicket will be like."

He said he expected opener Desmond Haynes to play despite a painful bruised finger that forced him to retire briefly while batting against South Africa on Thursday.

"He got hit on it three times but I don't see why he can't play," he said.

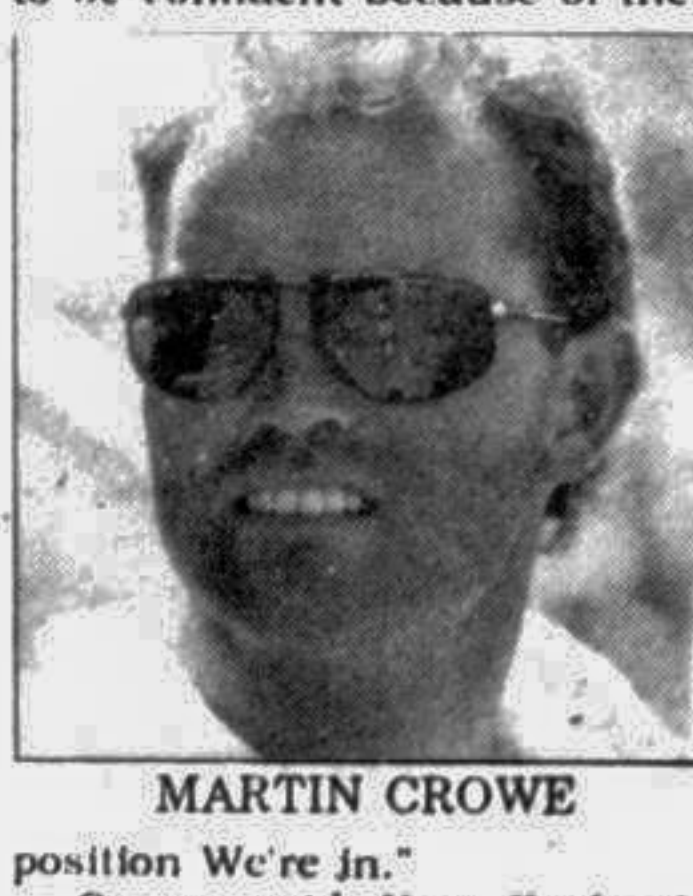
New Zealand wicketkeeper Ian Smith will play after last match against Zimbabwe.

Opener John Wright, who has missed two games with a shoulder injury, is fit and likely to start the innings with Mark Greatbatch, which would mean omitting dashing opener Rod Latham.

The West Indies has a 2-2 record and desperately needs a win to stay in contention for the semifinals. The top four teams at the end of the first round will contest the semis.

**NEW ZEALAND (from):** Martin Crowe (Captain), John Wright, Rod Latham, Andrew Jones, Ken Rutherford, Chris Harris, Mark Greatbatch, Ian Smith, Dipak Patel, Chris Cairns, Gavin Larsen, Willie Watson, Danny Morrison, Murphy Su'a.

**WEST INDIES (from):** Richie Richardson (captain), Desmond Haynes, Brian Lara, Carl Hooper, Keith Arthurton, Gus Logie, Malcolm Marshall, David Williams, Curtly Ambrose, Roger Harper, Anderson Cummins, Winston Benjamin, Phil Simmons, Patrick Patterson.



MARTIN CROWE