

# Kiwis first into semifinals

AUCKLAND, Mar 8: New Zealand, led by an audacious 67 from Mark Greatbatch and a grandiose 81 from captain Martin Crowe, beat West Indies by five wickets on Sunday, virtually assuring their berth in the World Cup cricket semifinals, reports Reuter.

Greatbatch's 77-ball innings was followed by a supremely confident 81 from Crowe as New Zealand overhauled West Indies' modest total of 203 for seven with 1.3 of their 50 overs to spare.

New Zealand's progress was interrupted when West Indian fast bowler Winston Benjamin complained of missiles being thrown at him from the rowdy terraces stand at Eden Park.

Play was halted briefly, and extra police and security guards ringed the boundary during the rest of the match. About 12 spectators were ejected from the ground by police following scuffles.

West Indies, who have won the World Cup twice, are now struggling to reach the last four of the competition. They have four points from five matches and three more round-robin games to play.

New Zealand, recording their fifth victory in five matches, have never looked so confident.

West Indies started slowly against a New Zealand attack made up mainly of slow-medium seamers, but their pinpoint accuracy has frustrated opponents to throwing away wickets.

Chris Harris, with two for 32, and Gavin Larsen, with two for 41, played key roles but it was the offspin of Dipak Patel that really shackled the West Indians, his 10 overs costing only 19 runs.

Greatbatch, again beginning the batting instead of regular opener John Wright, who missed the last two games through injury, provided a repeat of the flying start that had stunned South Africa last weekend.

During his assault he had angry words with West Indian fast bowler Curtly Ambrose shortly after smashing him for a straight six.

The left-hander continued his battering until Rod Latham, quiet at the non-striking end, edged an Anderson Cummins ball to wicketkeeper David Williams with the score on 67.

Andrew Jones, looking uncomfortable against the pacemen, scored just 10 before he edged a catch to Williams, this time off the bowling of Benjamin.

Benjamin struck again three balls later to remove Greatbatch. With the score at 100 for three, West Indies were back in with a chance but they had not counted on the



Man-of-the-match Martin Crowe hits out on his way to scoring 81 not out against the West Indies during yesterday's World Cup match at Eden Park. — AFP photo

confidence of Crowe. Despite losing the wickets of Chris Harris and Ken Rutherford, Crowe treated the pace attack with contempt, striking 12 fours in his run-a-ball unbeaten innings.

"It's a captain's job to lead from the front and that's what I felt I had to do," Crowe said after the match.

The West Indian fielding fell apart in the last 30 minutes, with three or four run-out opportunities missed as the 30,000-strong crowd roared every New Zealand run.

Crowe, whose season got off to a miserable start with crushing defeats against England, said at the start of the Cup he hoped New Zealand could reach the semifinals.

"Now I'm fairly sure we are in the semifinals. Sure I think we can reach the final," he said after New Zealand's first one-day victory over West Indies since 1980.

"We want to win eight out of eight," Crowe added, indicating New Zealand would not let up once they clinched their place in the semifinals.

West Indian captain Ritchie Richardson paid tribute to the New Zealanders. "They're hungry and enthusiastic," he said. Richardson said his side had simply not scored enough runs, and victories in the remaining three round-robin matches against India, Sri Lanka and Australia were vital for their qualification chances.

West Indies, who have four points from five matches, batted in humid conditions in which Desmond Haynes and Brian Lara struggled to score off medium pacer Willie Watson and Patel, gathering 39 runs from the first 15 overs.

New Zealand at a corresponding stage were 76 for one.

However, Haynes and Lara put together a valuable 65-run partnership before the former was athletically caught and bowled by Chris Harris.

Lara went on to score 52, a patient 118-ball innings, before he was second man out with the total 95.

Shortly afterwards, Carl Hooper launched an enormous drive off Patel and Greatbatch held a catch on the

boundary from the steeping hit.

"I thought it was never going to come down. It's the highest catch I've ever taken," he said later.

Richardson, looking uncomfortable as the ball swung widely in the heavy conditions, scored 29 before he edged a Watson Delivery to wicketkeeper Ian Smith.

Gus Logie was bowled by a Harris inswinger for three and West Indies, struggling at 142 for five, were further jolted when Malcolm Marshall was bowled by Gavin Larsen at 156.

However, wicketkeeper David Williams smashed five fours in a 24-ball innings of 32 not out as he and Arthurton (40) hammered 45 in 35 deliveries.

Pace bowler Danny Morrison suffered a strained groin, and Crowe said he would probably be out of action for a week.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Cup cricket match between New Zealand and West Indies today.

WEST INDIES			
Haynes c and b Harris	22		
Lara c Rutherford b Larsen	52		
Richardson c Smith	29		
b Watson	29		
Hooper c Greatbatch b Patel	2		
Arthurton b Morrison	40		
Logie b Harris	3		
Marshall b Larsen	32		
Benjamin not out	2		
Extras: (lb-8, w-7, nb-1)	16		
Total: (Seven wickets - 50 overs)	203		
Fall of wickets: 1-65, 2-95, 3-100, 4-136, 5-142, 6-156, 7-201.			
Did not bat: C Ambrose, A Cummins.			
Bowling: O M R W			
Morrison	9	1	33
Patel	10	2	19
Watson	10	2	56
Larsen	10	0	41
Harris	10	2	32
Latham	1	0	14

NEW ZEALAND			
Greatbatch c Haynes	63		
b Benjamin	63		
Latham c Williams	14		
b Cummins	14		
Jones c Williams	10		
b Benjamin	10		
Crowe not out	81		
Rutherford c Williams	8		
b Ambrose	8		
Harris c Williams	7		
b Cummins	7		
Patel not out	10		
Extras: (lb-7, w-5, nb-1)	13		
Total: (five wickets - 48.3 overs)	206		
Fall of wickets: 1-67, 2-97, 3-100, 4-135, 5-174.			
Did not bat: G. Larsen, I. Smith, D. Morrison, W. Watson.			
Bowling: O M R W			
Ambrose	10	1	41
Marshall	9	1	35
Cummins	10	0	53
Benjamin	9.3	3	34
Hooper	10	0	36

Result: New Zealand won by five wickets.

### CUP STANDINGS

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

New Zealand	5	0	0	100.86
England	4	3	0	70.65
South Africa	5	3	0	60.12
India	5	2	1	50.80
Sri Lanka	5	2	1	50.17
West Indies	5	2	3	40.12
Australia	5	2	0	40.25
Pakistan	5	1	3	30.14
Zimbabwe	5	0	5	0.126

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

### Aaqib hospitalised

BRISBANE, Mar 8: Pakistan fast bowler Aaqib Javed suffered a head injury during Sunday's World Cup cricket match against South Africa and was taken to hospital for x-rays, officials said, reports AP.

Aaqib was struck on the head by a ball thrown to him by wicket-keeper Moin Khan.

He slumped to the ground in pain and had to be helped from the Brisbane Cricket Ground after completing his over.

Officials said Aaqib had a possible fractured skull and would undergo precautionary x-rays.

Aaqib will spend the night in hospital and will not play any further part in the match — leaving Pakistan with only 10 batsmen.

Aaqib bowled seven overs in the match, taking one wicket for 36.

Aaqib, 20, was born at Shekura and plays in Pakistan for PACO club. A right-arm, medium-fast bowler, he made his first-class debut at the age of 14.

There was no immediate news on the seriousness of his injury.

### Border misses O'Donnell

ADELAIDE, Australia, Mar 8: Australian cricket captain Allan Border has pinpointed the absence of all-rounder Simon O'Donnell as one of the reasons behind his team's poor World Cup form, reports AP.

O'Donnell was left out of the 14-man Australian team after being sidelined with a series of injuries and then struggling to recover his touch.

Defending champions Australia have won only two of their first five matches in the World Cup and are struggling to reach the semifinals.

O'Donnell's only involvement in the nine-nation tournament has been as a television commentator.

Border said he would have liked to have O'Donnell available as Australia search for a balanced combination.

"It's a real shame that he just couldn't get it together when the selectors were sitting down," Border said.

"He's done a fantastic job for us (in the past)."

But Border said the Australian selectors had faced a difficult task when deciding whether to include O'Donnell.

"His form was ordinary and we weren't exactly sure how he was going to come up as a bowler," Border said.

"The way the competition is, you can't really carry someone — or that was the feeling."

"He would have been a bit of a risk, but as it turned out he would have been real handy."

"I still get the feeling we just lack something with our bowling."

Australia kept its semifinal hopes alive by defeating Sri Lanka by seven wickets in Adelaide on Saturday.

They next face Pakistan in a day-night match in Perth on Wednesday.

### Illingworth on stand-by

BALLARAT, Australia, Mar 8: England have put spin bowler Richard Illingworth on standby for Monday's World Cup cricket match against Sri Lanka at Eastern Oval, reports AP.

Unbeaten England have only used 12 players during their first four matches of the nine-nation tournament, but are likely to call on Illingworth as it comes to cement as semifinal spot.

Spinner Phil Tufnel has a stomach ailment and paceman Chris Lewis has a strained side. Batsman Allan Lamb still is sidelined by a hamstring injury.

Illingworth was given an extended session in the nets on Sunday by coach Micky Stewart.

"We'll see how things are in the morning once the pitch is finished, and then decide whether the ball will turn on this surface," Stewart said.

"There are one or two players we have to make sure are fit and available — and that will dictate our side."

England want to make sure Illingworth, Lamb and pace bowler Gladstone Small, who has managed one game, have some match practice between now and the semifinals.

England have seven points from their four matches.

# Pakistan rue rain, rules

BRISBANE, Mar 8: Rain handed South Africa a World Cup cricket victory they perhaps did not fully deserve after a brave effort by Pakistan today, reports Reuter.

A heavy downpour drove the players from the field when Pakistan had scored 74 for two from 21.3 overs in reply to South Africa's 211 from the full 50.

When they returned, Pakistan faced a revised target of 194 from a total of 26 overs, but in spite of a thrilling effort

Donald sent down seven wickets in his five-over spell.

When the players went off, there were 17 extras on the board, 15 of them from wides. It detracted from some otherwise fine bowling, with the batsmen frequently playing and missing.

Openers Aamir Sohail and Zahid Fazal survived to put 50 on the board but then both fell at that total. Aamir for 23 and Zahid for 11.

South Africa had earlier recovered from a middle order collapse, thanks to a 71-run sixth wicket partnership in 78 balls between Hansie Cronje

and Brian McMillan.

They rescued the innings after South Africa appeared to have thrown away an early advantage earned by opener Andrew Hudson, who stroked eight boundaries in a stylish 54.

South Africa lost an early wicket after they had been put in to bat when captain Kepler Wessels, who scored a century for Australia in his debut Test here in the 1982-83 ashes series, edged a catch to wicket-

keeper Moin Khan. South Africa lost four wickets while adding only 29 runs in the space of 10 overs before Cronje, with an unbeaten 47 from 53 balls, and McMillan (33) took them to their highest total in the tournament so far.

Both sides were hit by injury. South Africa lost star batsman Peter Kirsten through a pulled calf muscle and Pakistan were without Javed Miandad, Rameez Raja and Wasim Haider.

Scoreboard in the World Cup cricket match between



Jonty Rhodes (R) dives for the wickets to run out Inzamamul Haq as wicket-keeper David Richardson (L) looks on during yesterday's World Cup match in Brisbane. — AFP photo

they lost by 20 runs after finishing on 173 for eight.

After an hour's delay, Imran Khan (34) and Inzamamul Haq (48) flung their bats at almost every ball and put on 85 at breakneck speed but both perished in the run chase.

Their whirling partnership was ended in spectacular style when Inzamamul was run out by Jonty Rhodes, who raced in from gully with the ball and launched himself with a dive to smash down all three stumps.

The win was South Africa's third from five matches and puts them strongly in contention for a semifinal berth.

Pakistan, with only three points from five games, look certain to miss out.

After Inzamamul and Imran had gone, the following batsmen attempted to keep the runs flowing but the target was too demanding and wickets fell rapidly.

In the excitement, and having to cope with a wet ball, the normally superb South African fielders dropped two steeping catches in the deep.

But Rhodes, arguably the most exciting fielder in the tournament, made amends for one of them by racing backwards for 30 metres and tumbling over as he took the ball with outstretched hands to dismiss Ijaz Ahmed.

When the last over started, Pakistan were still 25 runs short and it was an impossible task.

South Africa's fast bowlers had earlier appeared intent on handing the match to Pakistan on a plate.

Allan Donald was the main transgressor. The first ball of his opening over was a wide outside the off-stump, his third was wide down the leg and went for four, and the next was another wide down the leg side.

Meyrick Pringle, taking the second over, was little better, sending down two wides.

After two overs, Pakistan had 10 runs on the board, eight from wides and one from a leg bye.

The bowlers' accuracy improved, but only marginally as

and Brian McMillan.

They rescued the innings after South Africa appeared to have thrown away an early advantage earned by opener Andrew Hudson, who stroked eight boundaries in a stylish 54.

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### SOUTH AFRICA

Hudson c Ijaz b Imran	54
Wessels c Moin Khan b Aaqib	7
Rushmer c Soaif b Mushtaq	35
Kuiper c Moin Khan b Imran	5
Rhodes lbw b Sikander	5
Cronje on out	47
McMillan b Akram	35
Richardson b Akram	5
Snell not out	1
Extras: (lb-8, w-9, nb-2)	19
Total: (seven wickets - 50 overs)	211
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-98, 3-110, 4-111, 5-127, 6-198, 7-207.	
Did not bat: M Pringle, A Donald.	

Bowling: O M R W			
Wassim Akram	10	0	42
Aaqib Javed	7	1	36
Imran Khan	10	0	34
Iqbal Sikander	8	0	30
Ijaz Ahmed	7	0	26
Mushtaq Ahmed	8	1	35

PAKISTAN			
Aamir Sohail b Snell	23		
Zahid Fazal c Richardson	11		
b McMillan	11		
Inzamamul Haq run out	48		
Imran Khan c Richardson	34		
b McMillan	34		
Salim Malik c Donald	12		
b Kuiper	12		
Wasim Akram c Snell	9		
b Kuiper	9		
Ijaz Ahmed c Rhodes	6		
b Kuiper	6		
Moin Khan not out	5		
Mushtaq Ahmed run out	4		
Iqbal Sikander not out	1		
Extras: (lb-2, w-17, nb-1)	20		
Total (eight wickets - 36 overs)	173		
Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-50, 3-133, 4-134, 5-156, 6-157, 7-163, 8-170.			
Did not bat: Aaqib Javed.			