

# Sport

## Brilliant England defy all odds

MELBOURNE, Mar 12: Brilliant innings by Alec Stewart and Neil Fairbrother swept England to a thrilling three-wicket World Cup cricket victory over South Africa today, reports Reuter.

England's win with one ball remaining, in the face of injury and a rain-reduced innings, secured their place in the semifinals alongside New Zealand.

After South Africa, put in to bat, had made 236 for four in their 50 overs, England were set a revised target of 226 from 41 overs following a 20-minute break for rain.

They were set on their way by an inspired 77 from 88 balls by Stewart, captain for the day because of a hamstring injury to Graham Gooch.

After Stewart was run out, Fairbrother took charge with a breathtaking 75 not out from only 83 balls.

Chris Lewis weighed in with a breezy 33 off 22 deliveries and it was his 50 partnership with Fairbrother in 37 balls which clinched England's win in front of a 25,000 crowd in the vast stadium where the final will be held on March 25.

England began the last over needing just two to win and a single off the third ball by Fairbrother levelled the scores.

But then Derek Pringle was caught by Adrian Kuiper at mid-wicket and it was left to Phillip DeFreitas to hoick the ball over the close-in fielders for the winning run.



ALEC STEWART



FAIRBROTHER

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The day-night match, at the Melbourne Cricket Ground exposed and added to England's injury problems.

Already without captain Gooch and Allan Lamb through hamstring trouble, England had seamers Dermot Reeve and DeFreitas leave the field.

Added to that, paceman Lewis was unable to bowl because of a side strain.

So dire is England's injury problem that they had already obtained permission for non-squad member Paul Pritchard of Essex, playing a season in Sydney, to be on stand-by as substitute, and he went on to replace DeFreitas.

Reeve injured his buttock when he slipped while bowling and DeFreitas left the field after completing his 10 overs because of a continuing groin and hamstring injury.

England had looked to be heading for a comfortable win before the rain arrived with Stewart and Botham bringing up the 50 in the 11th over.

But after the break for rain, Botham (22) and Robin Smith (0) were dismissed by Brian McMillan in the space of three balls.

Paceman Richard Snell plunged England deeper in trouble by dismissing Graeme Hick for one in the following over.

Stewart continued undaunted and the 100 came up in the 23rd over.

Once again superb fielding was a hallmark of the South African play and yet again it was the exuberant Johny Rhodes who ended Stewart's brilliant innings.

Diving in the gully, Rhodes threw the ball while still on his knees to the bowler's end be-

fore Stewart could complete a quick single.

Fairbrother continued to attack the bowling with some thrilling stroke play and reached his 50 off 60 balls.

Reeve contributed 10 before being superbly caught by McMillan running away from the wicket and diving to take the ball.

It was only the stand between Fairbrother and Lewis that brought the run-rate re-

which the batsman gratefully lashed to the boundary while Reeve tumbled over his own feet in the follow through, landed heavily and was forced to leave the field with a bruised buttock.

Hick completed the over for him and in his next induced Hudson into giving a simple return catch.

Hudson's 79, his second half-century of the tournament, came from 115 balls and contained seven boundaries.

Peter Kirsten, South Africa's most consistent batsman so far, started in blazing fashion with a six straight back over left-arm spinner Richard Illingworth's head.

But it was a short-lived attack. When he had made 11, Kirsten chipped a ball from DeFreitas high to square leg but straight to Smith.

Wessels' controlling innings ended soon after, his 85 coming from 126 deliveries and containing six boundaries.

But although Wessels' side produced their best batting performance so far, it was still not enough to deny the rampant England batsmen.

South Africa now need to beat India in their final match on Sunday to ensure a semifinal place.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard in the World Cup day-night cricket match between England and South Africa today:

**SOUTH AFRICA**

Wessels c Smith b Hick	85
Hudson c and b Hick	79
Kirsten c Smith b DeFreitas	11
Rhodes run out	18
Kuiper not out	13
Cronje not out	13
Extras: (b-4 lb-4 w-4 nb-3)	15
Total: (four wickets- 50 overs)	236

Fall of wickets: 1-151, 2-170, 3-201, 4-204.

Did not bat: R Snell, B McMillan, D Richardson, M Pringle, A Donald.

**Bowling**

O	M	R	W		
Pringle	9	2	34	0	
DeFreitas	10	1	41	1	
Botham	8	0	37	0	
Small	2	0	14	0	
Illingworth	10	0	43	0	
Reeve	2	4	15	0	
Hick	8	2	0	44	2

**ENGLAND**

Stewart run out	77
Botham b McMillan	22
Smith c Richardson b McMillan	0
Hick c Richardson b Snell	1
Fairbrother not out	75
Reeve c McMillan b Snell	10
Lewis run out	33
Pringle c Kuiper b Snell	1
DeFreitas not out	1
Extras: (b-3, w-1, nb-2)	6
Total: (seven wickets-40.5 overs)	226

Fall of wickets: 1-63, 2-63, 3-64, 4-132, 5-166, 6-216, 7-225.

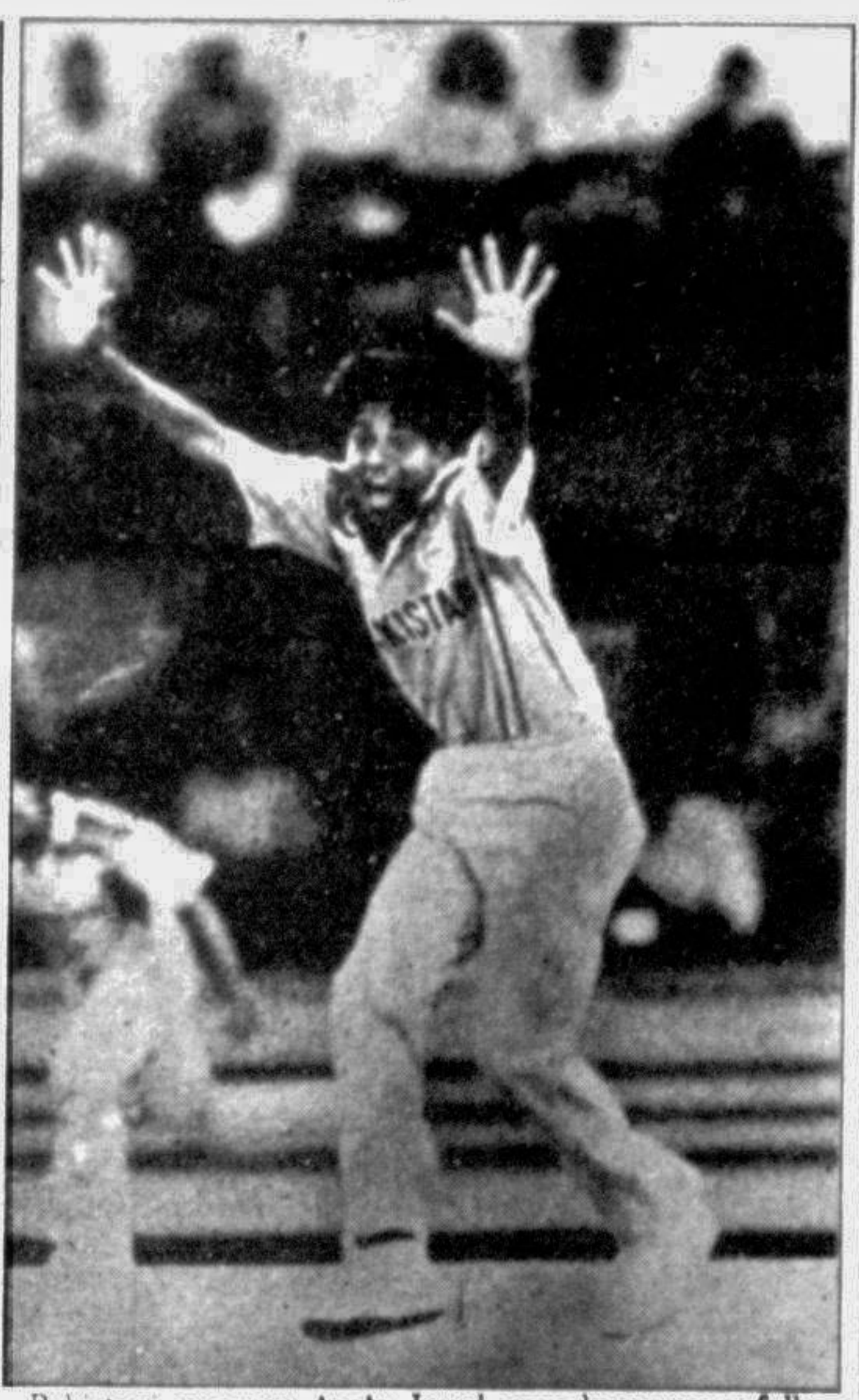
Did not bat: R Illingworth, G Small.

**Bowling**

O	M	R	W		
Donald	9	1	43	0	
Pringle	8	0	44	0	
Snell	7	5	0	42	3
McMillan	8	1	39	2	
Kuiper	4	0	32	0	
Cronje	3	0	14	0	
Kirsten	1	0	9	0	

Result: England won by three wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Alec Stewart.



Pakistani paceman Anqob Javed appeals unsuccessfully for an lbw against Australian David Boon in the crucial World Cup match at Perth on Wednesday. Pakistan won by 48 runs. —AFP photo

## BU's sweet revenge

**Sports Reporter**

Fine left-arm spin bowling by Arup Bhattacharya and solid batting by opener Nurul Abedin Nobel helped Brothers Union to exact sweet revenge against the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club in the Navana Premier Division super league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The reigning champions restricted GMCC to 150 and then crossed the total for the loss of our wickets to record a comfortable six-wicket victory.

Sent in to bat, the GMCC batsmen, with the only exception of Anisuzzaman Bhuiyan Pika who completed his second successive half-century, found the going tough against the accurate Brothers attack. Pika played 112 balls and struck two fours to score 55 before being snapped up by Nadir Shah off Arup, the southpaw all-rounder from West Bengal. Sri Lankan

Sharath and stumper Nasir Ahmed Nasu were the other notable scorers with 19 and 17 respectively.

Arup snared four GMCC batsmen for 17 runs. Saad, Fernando, Shamsul and Sumon took one wicket apiece as GMCC were all out for 150 in 42.1 overs.

Brothers, boosted by a fine opening partnership of 62 runs between Halim Shah and Nobel, made light of the inadequate GMCC challenge. Nobel was the architect of the easy win with a typically aggressive knock of 60 off 77 balls, including six fours. Halim Shah made 32 and Shovon not out 12 as Brothers posted 154 for four in 33.3 overs to walk away with an easy win.

GMCC's Chandan was the most successful bowler claiming two for 19.

**TODAY'S MATCH**

Abahani vs Bangladesh Biman (Dhaka Stadium)

## Abahani's narrow win

**Sports Reporter**

Abahani Kirra Chakra, for the first time since the arrival of the Russian players, gave hints of fallibility as the reigning champions carved out a narrow one nil victory against Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in yesterday's First Division football league match at the Mirpur Stadium.

Abahani, who had no reason to take the game lightly after Rahmatganj's spirited display against mighty Mohammedans, appeared rather off colour and out of touch. The thin score line cannot be attributed to poor marksmanship only as only a few positive chances were created in the run of the play.

Abahani bungled two opportunities in the first half before Rumi found the net for them in the 28th minute, when Zhukov freed the forward into the box and the striker scored his sixth goal with a placed shot 1-0.

Star striker Aslam wasted two chances in the second half and although Rahmatganj never really stretched their opponents Abahani in the end thanked their stars for getting away with full points despite a lackluster performance.

Abahani who are yet to drop a point collected 22 points from eleven matches while Rahmatganj remained at nine from eleven outings.

Adamjee Sports Club earned full points at the cost of hap-

## Neither can afford to lose

BERRI, Mar 12: The two-time champions West Indies team can forget all about a third World Cup title if they don't beat Sri Lanka in this sleepy South Australian town on Friday, reports AP.

Sri Lanka can forget their ambition of making the World Cup semis for the first time if they do not win.

Both teams are on the fringe of the semifinal race in the nine-nation tournament with the West Indies on six points and Sri Lanka on five.

West Indies manager Deryck Murray said Thursday that winning matches in smaller towns under unfamiliar conditions showed a team's credibility.

Murray believes the team that wins the World Cup will do so through adaptability and stamina as much as skill.

"At the end of the tourna-

ment, whichever team wins can really claim that they have won a tournament, which was as much a test of character, stamina and adaptability as it was of cricket skills," said Murray, whose team travelled 12 hours and on three different planes to get here from Wellington, New Zealand.

Although the Berri Memorial Oval pitch looks slowish and its outfield spongy, the West Indies will obviously start as favourites because of their 10-1 record against the Sri Lankans.

But Sri Lankan manager Ranjit Fernando said his men pinpointed Friday's match as a "potential win" before the tournament started.

"We're very positive. We've got nothing to lose," Fernando said. "We're confident we should be able to make something out of this game, and the one against Pakistan."

Murray said the West Indies' destiny rested with their own performance.

"We really are not trying to look at too many of the permutations," he said.

"If we win tomorrow and against Australia on Wednesday we'll qualify for the semifinals, no fooling around with net run-rates or who did what."

Murray said paceman Malcolm Marshall's ankle injury had improved but would not commit himself on whether

the veteran would play.

Sri Lanka are likely to call up top-order batsman Chandika Hathurusinghe at the expense of Sanath Jayasuriya, with vice-captain Asanka Gurusinha dropping down the order.

## Brothers sign up 3 Iraqis

**Sports Reporter**

Federation Cup champions Brothers Union, currently placed second along with Mohammedan Sporting Club, three points behind leaders Abahani Kirra Chakra in the First Division football league, yesterday signed up three Iraqi players to strengthen their challenge for the championship.

The three — strikers Saad Abdul Wahid and Saad Abdul Raheem and stopper-back Sheikh Ibrahim — arrived in the city yesterday and by late evening the club officials had completed their registration formalities with the Bangladesh Football Federation and the Dhaka metropolis Football association who run the league.

The three are expected to make their debut for the Gopibagh side in their next game against lowly Agrani Bank Tomorrow, Sunday.

Saad Wahid is reported to have played for champion Iraqi Club Al-Rashid while Saad Raheem played for Al-Jawara Club. The other player in the trio, Ibrahim, is reported to have played for Iraq in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico and represented his country in that meet against hosts Mexico and Belgium. Before coming to Dhaka he played for the Iraqi Airways team, a leading side in the national league.

less Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation in the yesterday's first match.

Adamjee beat BJMC two nil with Yusuf scoring both the goals in the first half.

Adamjee took their collection to ten from eleven matches while BJMC who remain at two from eleven outings now seem to be destined for relegation.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

Dhanmondi vs War (1.30 pm)

Mohammedans vs Victoria (3.30pm)

## Rupali relegated

**Sports Reporter**

Lalmatia outplayed Rupali Bank by nine wickets to dislodge the bankers from the Navana Premier Division cricket league yesterday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Rupali were sent hurtling to certain relegation as they were booked for a paltry 106 after, choosing to bat first. Left-arm paceman of Lalmatia ripped through the Rupali batting like hot knife through butter with figures of four 19.

Lower order batsman Prince was the only Rupali batsman to offer any resistance with an unbeaten 24.

Anwar was the sole casualty as Lalmatia chased and attained the small target in 22.3 overs. Utam and Shahid remained unbeaten on 48 and 23.



Brothers Union's Iraqi footballers seen completing their formalities at the DAMFA office yesterday. —Star photos

## Indians fail to halt Kiwis

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Mar 12: In some of the worst playing conditions imaginable, New Zealand's power hitter Mark Greatbatch slammed India out of World Cup cricket semifinal contention here today, reports AFP.

The Kiwis recorded their sixth straight win in the tournament after India, winning the toss, scored 230 for six only for New Zealand to pass the target with 231 for six in 46.1 overs.

Cold southerly winds howled into Carisbrook Park, sending autumn temperatures tumbling below 10 degrees Celsius (50 Fahrenheit) and, at one point, dumping hail on the shivering players.

Sightscreens crashed over, high balls were rendered uncatchable in the swirling conditions and bowlers on both sides found it impossible to control the movement of their deliveries.

But it was all just a minor irritation to Greatbatch, whose man-of-the-match innings of 73 guaranteed New Zealand a solid platform from which to comfortably chase the Indians.

New Zealand captain Martin Crowe said later it had been difficult in the buffeting conditions.

"We just got down to business and it was quite an entertaining match," he said.

He said he did not think India had set them such a big total with 230 at the small Carisbrook ground.

"I felt that we did pretty well with our bowling and our fielding in those conditions."

"I knew India would struggle a bit with the coldness of the situation."

"I thought if we capitalised on the first 15 overs and got some momentum going, then we were going to be okay."

Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin said it had been "really cold" in the field.

"We didn't score enough runs, we didn't get a good start."

India got off to a stuttering start when, in the second over, Kris Srikkanth holed out to Rod Latham on the boundary for a duck.

Ajay Jadeja, on 13, retired hurt soon after with a badly pulled hamstring. His injury appeared serious and he played no further part in the game.

It summoned 18-year-old batting wonder Sachin Tendulkar to the crease and he went on to make his highest one-day international score of 84.

At the halfway mark India were 82 for one. Azharuddin was content to play the anchor role while Tendulkar cranked up the scoring rate.

Crowe even had to take Gavin Larsen off after conceding 11 runs in his fifth over.

India were well poised to lift the tempo and launch an attack — after 30 overs they were 110 for one and scoring at 3.6 per over.

Tendulkar got his 50 off 69 balls, including three boundaries.

Azharuddin and Tendulkar were cashing in against the slower bowlers in the middle

of the innings.

Azharuddin brought up his half century from 97 balls with a six over long on and three boundaries.

But in Patel's last over he went for another big hit through midwicket and was caught by Greatbatch for 55.

Tendulkar went soon after caught behind by Ian Smith off the economical Chris Harris, the top wicket taker in the World Cup with 13.

New Zealand's batsmen were undaunted by the free-

point outside the leading quartet, play their last match against the improving South Africa in Adelaide on Sunday.

**SCOREBOARD**

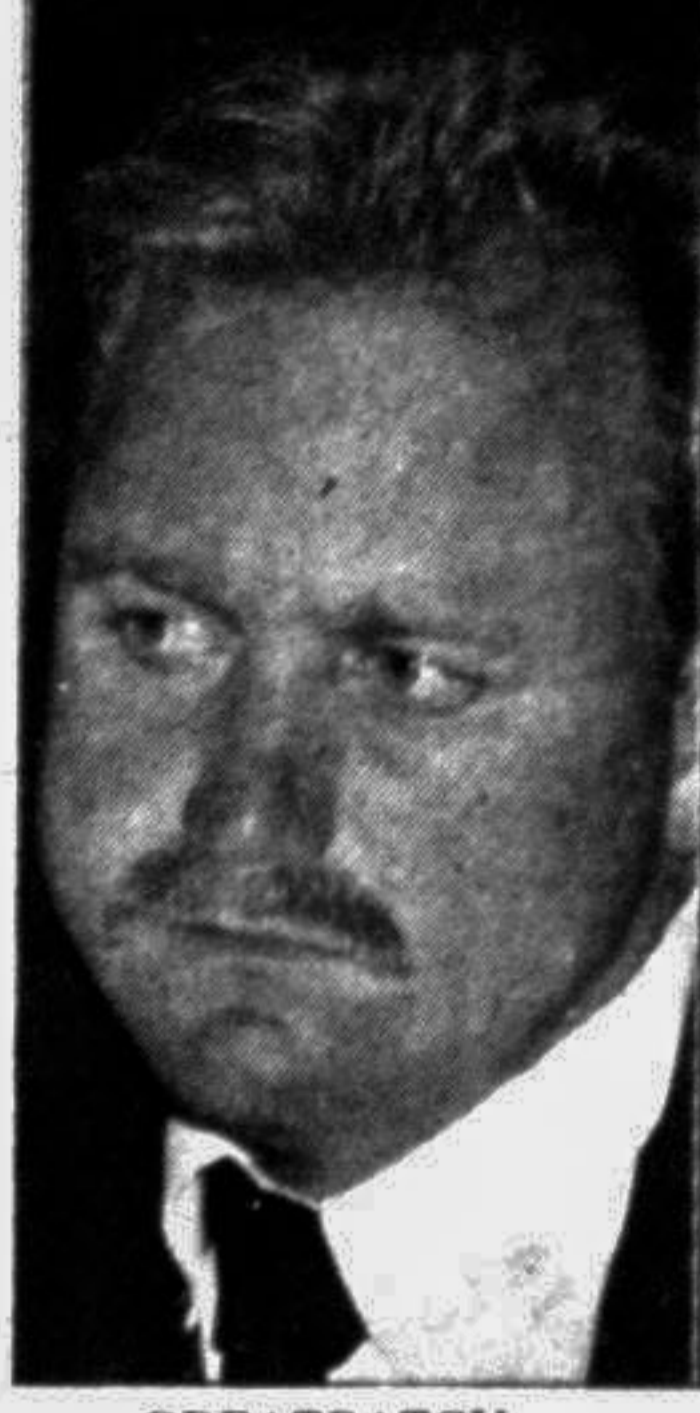
Scoreboard in the World Cup cricket match between New Zealand and India at the Carisbrook Ground today:

**INDIA**

Jadeja retired hurt	13
Srikkanth c Latham	0
b Patel	0
Azharuddin c Greatbatch b Patel	55
Tendulkar c Smith b Harris	84
Manjrekar c and b Harris	18
Kapil Dev c Larsen b Harris	33
Banerjee c Greatbatch b Watson	11
More not out	2
Srinath not out	4
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-4, nb-1)	10
Total (six wickets-50 overs)	230
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-149, 3-166, 4-201, 5-222, 6-223.	
Did not bat: M Prabhakar, V Raju.	

**Bowling**

O	M	R	W	
Cairns	8	1	40	0
Patel	10	0	29	2
Watson	10	1	34	1
Larsen	9	0	43	0
Harris	9	0	55	3
Latham	4	0	24	0



GREATBATCH



TENDULKAR

**NEW ZEALAND**

Greatbatch c Banerjee b Raju	73
Latham b Prabhakar	8
Jones not out	67
Crowe run out	26
Smith c sub (Amre) b Prabhakar	9
Rutherford lbw b Raju	21
Harris b Prabhakar	4
Cairns not out	4
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, w-4, nb-8)	19
Total: (six wickets-47.1 overs)	231
Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-118, 3-162, 4-172, 5-206, 6-225.	
Did not bat: D Patel, G Larsen, W Watson.	

**Bowling**

O	M	R	W		
Kapil Dev	10	0	55	0	
Prabhakar	10	0	46	3	
Banerjee	6	1	40	0	
Srinath	9	0	35	0	
Raju	10	0	38	2	
Tendulkar	1	0	2	0	
Srikkanth	1	1	0	8	0

Result: New Zealand won by four wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Mark Greatbatch.

## Milnars league decider today

**Sports Reporter**

The last match of the Milnars First Division cricket super league between Uddy Club and Victoria Sporting Club to decide the championship will be held today at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Uddy, who won their three super league encounters, are a step ahead of Victoria, who have collected four points from three matches.

Both teams managed 16 points from the ten team first league, which concluded last month.

Roqibul Hassan will lead Victoria while his son, Sajid, will play for Uddy Club.

Victoria lost to Uddy Club in the first league encounter.

Should Uddy lose today, the teams will meet again in a play-off to decide the title.

## 'We were too flat': Border

PERTH, Mar 12: Australia's dream of defending the World Cup cricket title they won in Calcutta in 1987 died Wednesday night when the Australians were beaten by 48 runs by Pakistan at the WACA Ground, reports AP.

The defeat left Australia in eighth position in the nine-nation championship after losing four of their first six matches. Barring a mathematical miracle, the Australians will not make the semifinals.

Australian captain Allan Border blamed his team's demise on a gruelling summer schedule and a lack of preparation.

Border believes the Test series against India and the triangular World Series tournament drained the Australian team's intensity before the first ball was bowled in the World Cup.

"I think that is it. I don't think there is any chance for us now," Border said.

"It would be a travesty if we did sneak into the semifinals and the only thing for us to do is to try and salvage something from the next two matches."

Australia began the tournament as a red-hot favourite, but Border said the players were not mentally toned-in to their task.

"I don't like to make excuses, but there was a flatness to our preparation and we didn't go into the Cup full of beans," he said.

"We just didn't hit our straps (top form) with bat or ball."

"Everyone is flat and they just couldn't produce the good cricket we have been producing over the past four years."

Australia next face

Zimbabwe in Hobart on Saturday, while Pakistan play Sri Lanka in Perth on Sunday with renewed hope of making the semis.

Captain Imran Khan believes Pakistan will still require some good fortune to advance.

"We have an outside chance, but we have got to win our last two matches against Sri Lanka and then New Zealand," Imran said.

"It is very difficult and there

## Aussie failure won't hurt gates

PERTH, Mar 12: Three players were fined Wednesday night after a series of niggling incidents during the World Cup cricket match between Australia and Pakistan at the WACA Ground, reports AP.

Pakistan duo Aamir Sohail and Moin Khan and Australian fast bowler Mike Whitney became the first players in the tournament to breach the new International Code of Conduct rules.

Each was fined \$200 and severely reprimanded after incidents marred the match, which Pakistan won by 48 runs to virtually end Australia's hopes of defending their championship.

All the charges were heard by the Code of Conduct Commissioner, former Western Australian Sheffield Shield captain Wally Langdon.

Moin and Whitney were reported by South African umpire Karl Liebenberg and his Indian counterpart Piloos Reporter during an acrimonious close to the match.

The two players became embroiled in a heated exchange in the final over and moved toward each other before being separated by the umpires and teammates.

Sohail was reported by Liebenberg for dissent after disputing the official's decision to turn down an appeal against Australian batsman David Boon.

## CUP STANDINGS

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

New Zealand	6	5	0	0	12	0.76
England	6	5	0	1	11	0.89
South Africa	7	4	3	0	8	0.14
West Indies	6	3	3	0	6	-0.02
India	7	2	4	1	5	0.18
Pakistan	6	2	3	1	5	0.10
Sri Lanka	6	2	3	1	5	-0.57
Australia	6	2	4	0	4	-0.38
Zimbabwe	6	0	6	0	0	-1.12

[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.]

## Kasparov's title

LINARES, Mar 12: With one match to play, world chess champion Garry Kasparov spent Thursday finishing the paperwork on the car he was awarded for topping a world-class field in the 10th Linares International Chess Tournament, reports AP.