

# Windies closer to semis

**BERRI, Australia, Mar 13:** A turning century by Phil Simmons and an impressive all-round bowling display moved West Indies to the brink of the World Cup cricket semifinals with a 91-run win over a disjointed Sri Lanka today, reports Reuter.

Simmons, helped by three dropped catches, made 110, his second and highest one-day international century as West Indies scored 268 for eight in their 50 overs.

At one stage they seemed poised for 300 but in the event it mattered little.

Sri Lanka, after a bright start from Athula Samarasekera with 40 in 41 balls, collapsed from 80 to one to 99 for four, then lost five wickets for 19 runs before closing at 177 for nine off 50 overs.

The result ended Sri Lanka's dreams of a first appearance in a World Cup semifinal but left West Indies well-placed in the clutch of teams behind runaway leaders New Zealand and England.

Victory over their tortured hosts, Australia, at Melbourne next Wednesday, will ensure qualification but West Indies could even scrape in if defeated.

Carl Hooper, with a tight bowling spell and fine fielding, Keith Arthurton (40) and Desmond Haynes (38) also did well in a West Indies side that is running nicely into form.

Sri Lanka, however, playing their most successful World Cup campaign, bowled and fielded loosely while their batting wilted in the 38 degree centigrade heat.

Downcast Sri Lanka captain Aravinda De Silva said, "We deserved to lose, we played very badly. We gave away too many runs early on. We fielded badly and I don't think we bowled too well either."

West Indies skipper Richie Richardson was also disappointed in his side's performance, saying: "The guys were a little relaxed. We have to guard against that when playing a team that is not so strong. I want us to play hard and grind them into the ground."

Put in to bat, the West

Indians began with Haynes cracking a four through the covers, only for fellow opener Brian Lara to give a return catch for one.

That was Simmons' cue to enter and the Sri Lankans to begin offering charity.

The tall, erect right-hander, who nearly lost his life when a delivery from Gloucestershire fast bowler David Lawrence fractured his skull at Bristol four years ago, was dropped at six and twice at 47.

Richardson, meanwhile, was unluckily run out when a



PHIL SIMMONS...man-of-the-match

drive by Simmons was deflected from bowler Arjuna Ranatunga's hand on to the stumps.

Unflustered, Simmons reached 50 in 78 balls and his century 41 balls later, being out after nine fours and two sixes for 110 in 125 deliveries.

The Sri Lankans captured five wickets for 31 runs to stem the flow, only for Winston Benjamin's lively 24 off 20 balls to restore the balance.

Samarasekera began as if he would win the match on his own but when, having tamed curly Ambrose and Benjamin, he fell to Carl Hooper's off-spin, there was little else.

Hooper went on to take two for 19 in 10 overs as Sri Lanka slipped to 99 for four and then, having revived, lost four wickets for nine runs as the game slipped away.

Richardson said, "We won the first two World Cups and back home they think we should have won the last two."

But De Silva was not overly

impressed with their chances in this Cup, saying: "If a side plays very well, it will be hard for them."

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup cricket match between West Indies and Sri Lanka today:

WEST INDIES	
Haynes c Tilakaratne b Ranatunga	38
Lara c and b Ramanayake	1
Simmons c Wickremasinghe b Hathurusinghe	110
Richardson run out	8
Arthurton c Tilakaratne b Hathurusinghe	40
Logie b Anurastr	0
Hooper c Gurusinha b Hathurusinghe	12
Ambrose not out	15
Benjamin not out	24
Extras: (lb-9, w-3, nb-6)	18
Total: (eight wickets-50 overs)	268

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-72, 3-103, 4-197, 5-199, 6-219, 7-223, 8-228.

Did not bat: A Cummins.	
Bowling: O M R W	
Wickremasinghe	7 0 30 0
Ramanayake	7 1 17 1
Anurastr	10 0 46 1
Gurusinha	1 0 10 0
Ranatunga	7 0 35 1
Kalpage	10 0 64 0
Hathurusinghe	8 0 57 4

**SRI LANKA**  
Mahanama c Arthurton b Cummins 11 |

Samarasekera lbw b Hooper 40 |

Hathurusinghe run out De Silva c and b Hooper 11 |

Ranatunga c Benjamin b Arthurton 24 |

Gurusinha c Richardson b Ambrose 10 |

Tilakaratne b Ambrose Kalpage not out 3 |

Ramanayake b Arthurton Anurastr b Benjamin 3 |

Wickremasinghe not out 21 |

Extras: (lb-8, w-14, nb-2) 24 |

Total: (nine wickets-50 overs) 177 |

Fall of wickets: 1-56, 2-80, 3-86, 4-99, 5-130, 6-135, 7-137, 8-139, 9-149.

**Bowling:** O M R W  
Ambrose 10 2 24 2  
Benjamin 10 0 34 1  
Cummins 9 0 49 1  
Hooper 10 1 19 2  
Arthurton 10 0 40 2  
Simmons 1 0 3 0

Result: West Indies won by 91 runs



Ian Botham has his middle stump shattered by South African McMillan during Thursday's World Cup match in Melbourne. McMillan's ball destroyed the "stump cam" — television camera mounted inside the wicket. —AFP photo

### LEADING PERFORMERS

SYDNEY, Mar 13: Following are the leading individual performances in the World Cup cricket after Friday's match:

**BATTING:** Tabulate under batsman, country, matches, innings, not out, highest score, runs, average:

	M	I	NO	HS	R	Ave
M D Crowe (NZ)	6	6	1	100	289	144.50
N H Fairbrother (Eng)	5	4	2	75	175	87.50
P N Kirsten (S Africa)	6	6	2	90	315	78.75
A Ranatunga (S Lanka)	6	6	2	88	255	63.75
Javed Miandad (Pak)	5	5	1	89	235	58.75
A H Jones (NZ)	6	6	2	67	221	55.25
A Flower (Zimb)	6	6	2	115	210	54.75
M J Greatbatch (Ind)	4	4	1	73	219	54.75
S R Tendulkar (NZ)	6	6	1	84	269	53.80
B M McMillan (S Africa)	4	4	2	33	104	52.00

**BOWLING:** (Tabulate under bowler, country, overs, maidens, runs, wickets, average) — minimum 5 wickets:

	O	M	R	W	Ave
D A Reeve (Eng)	28.4	4	95	8	11.87
C Z Harris (NZ)	50.1	4	213	13	16.38
I T Botham (Eng)	58	5	170	10	17.00
C C Lewis (Eng)	35.4	3	124	7	17.71
M Prabhakar (India)	52	4	212	11	19.27
P N Kirsten (S Africa)	18	1	97	5	19.40
Wasim Akram (Pak)	50.2	2	180	8	22.50
P A DeFreitas (Eng)	51	8	182	8	22.75
B M McMillan (S Africa)	58	7	231	10	23.10
A C Cummins (WI)	49	0	208	9	23.11

**CATCHES:** K C Wessels (S Africa) 6

D A Reeve (Eng) 5

**WICKETKEEPERS:** (Tabulate under catches, stumpings, total):

	C	St	Tot
D J Richardson (S Africa)	11	1	12
D Williams (WI)	9	2	11
I A Healy (Aust)	7	-	7
Moin Khan (Pak)	7	-	7
K S More (India)	6	1	7
A J Stewart (Eng)	7	-	7
H P Tilakaratne (S Lanka)	6	1	7
I D Smith (NZ)	5	-	5
A Flower (Zimb)	3	-	3

## Imran lauds Aaqib

PERTH, Mar 13: Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan Friday named young pace bowler Aaqib Javed as the player most responsible for keeping his team in contention for the World Cup, reports AP.

Pakistan's usually-potent attack has been hampered throughout the tournament by

Imran believes Aaqib matured into a key member of the three-pronged Pakistan pace attack during the Sharjah tournament in the United Arab Emirates late last year.

Aaqib captured seven for 37, including a hat-trick made up entirely of lbw decisions, in the final against arch-rivals India.

"People in Australia might not understand the atmosphere of an India-Pakistan final, but there was a lot of pressure on both teams," Imran said.

Aaqib also played a major role on Wednesday in almost certainly ending Australia's dream of defending the World Cup title it won in 1987.

Aaqib took three for 23 and his first six overs cost only 11 runs as Pakistan beat Australia by 48 runs in Perth.

The victory kept alive Pakistan's slim hopes of qualifying for the semifinals by advancing the team's World Cup record to five points from six matches.

Pakistan needs a number of results to go its way -- and needs to win its final two matches -- to have any chance of making the semis.

"We have to win our final two matches," Imran said. "It is too difficult to weigh-up all the other pros and cons."

"Some teams have to lose here, and others win there. It is difficult enough to worry about matters you can control, let alone others you can't control."

Pakistan faces Sri Lanka in Perth on Sunday and then plays New Zealand in Christchurch next Wednesday.

# Houghton has no illusions

**HOBART, Australia, Mar 13:** Zimbabwe expect Australia to come out with all guns blazing in their World Cup cricket match here Saturday, reports AFP.

Captain David Houghton is under no illusion that the Cup defenders' almost certain failure to qualify for the semi-finals will mean an easy match.

"Australia will bounce back," Houghton said Friday. "Their players are just too professional to let themselves down and drop their bundles."

"I expect possibly our toughest match of the series so far," Houghton, overall, is pleased with his team's performances in the tournament's six matches so far despite their failure to post a win yet.

"Our performances have gone pretty much as I thought before we arrived in Australia," he said. "I thought Sri Lanka, India and even New Zealand might have been within reach of us."

"As it turned out," I'm not that far wrong. With a bit of luck we could have beaten both Sri Lanka and India."

"We scored 312 against Sri Lanka and should never have lost, while against India we were virtually ruled out of the result when rain interrupted play."

"So overall the campaign could have been a success with a bit of luck."

Houghton said the overall improvement of his bowlers had been the biggest positive aspect on the minnows of world cricket who are attempting to win Test status.

"If we played Sri Lanka again now I don't think they would score anything like the runs they did against us," he said.

"Our bowlers have learned so much and that was our weakest link before the series. It's all just a benefit from playing against this class of opposition over a concerted period."

"It has brought all our players alone, specially someone like young keeper batsman



DAVID HOUGHTON

Andy Flower. He really has gone ahead in leaps and bounds.

"So you could say I'm pleased with the way things have gone and we'll be in there

trying till the last."

After Saturday's game against Australia on the picturesque ground in the capital of Tasmania, Zimbabwe finish their campaign against the West Indies next Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Australia are still grappling with the faint hope of qualifying for the semifinals.

Wins against Zimbabwe and West Indies in Melbourne next Wednesday would put the Australians on eight points and a likely tie for fourth place.

But to qualify, Australia must win both games convincingly to boost their net run rate, the statistical device used to separate teams on equal points.

### CUP STANDINGS

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

New Zealand	6	6	0	12	0.76
England	6	5	0	11	0.80
West Indies	7	4	3	0	0.26
South Africa	7	4	3	0	0.14
India	7	2	4	1	5.18
Pakistan	6	2	3	1	5.10
Sri Lanka	7	2	4	1	5.78
Australia	6	2	4	0	4.38
Zimbabwe	6	0	6	0	0.12

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.

## Border out to salvage pride

**HOBART, Australia, Mar 13:** Australia will be hoping to restore their cricket pride when they face winless Zimbabwe in a World Cup match on Saturday at Bellerive Oval, reports AP.

Australia have won only two of their six World Cup matches to date and have virtually no chance of qualifying for the semifinals.

Australian captain Allan Border has been the subject of widespread criticism and said Friday that his team would be out to rebuild their image.

"We want to show some semblance of the sort of form that we are capable of," Border said.

He said he was aware there was a slim chance that Australia could make the semifinals, but that possibility hinged on the outcome of

other fixtures and Australia winning their remaining matches by massive totals.

"I'm not really thinking of the possibility of making the semifinals, to be quite honest," Border said.

"I think that would be rather far-fetched to even think about it."

"If we do make it that will be great, but we don't really deserve to be there."

Border's own play has yielded just 30 runs in six matches at an average of six. He said Wednesday night's loss to Pakistan had demoralised the Australian team.

"We wanted to play in the semifinals of the World Cup. We did not consider not being a part of it," he said.

"Our preparation before each match has been very good and we didn't do anything different to what we had done over the past four or five years."

"It's just that we haven't put it together — and that's the disappointing aspect."

Spinner Peter Taylor is likely to return to the team to meet Zimbabwe as a replacement for out-of-touch pacesman Bruce Reid.

Wicketkeeper Ian Healy's hamstring injury has been of concern, but Border said he definitely would play.

"He's not 100 per cent fit, but he's good enough to get by," Border said. "I think that it is important to have your best wicketkeeper playing."

Zimbabwe also have been hit by injuries.

Malcolm Jarvis, the team's left-arm opening bowler, is likely to miss the match with a growing strain and Kevin Duers in on standby.

Batsmen Andy Flower, Kevin Arnott and Wayne James, who are all nursing bad injuries, have been declared fit.

## Lamb likely to play at last

**WELLINGTON, Mar 13:** England batsman Allan Lamb is set to make his first appearance of the cricket World Cup on Sunday in an intriguing showdown against New Zealand that should decide who finishes top of the round-robin standings, reports Reuter.

Lamb has been kept on the sidelines by a hamstring injury sustained at the end of England's recent tour of New Zealand but captain Graham Gooch said: "Lamb's alright for Sunday so that's good for the side."

Gooch, nursing a torn hamstring which prevented him playing against South Africa on Thursday, has all but ruled himself out of the clash with New Zealand.

"I'll take it easy Friday and Saturday," Gooch said. "There is no point in playing and risking injury when we are already through to the semifinals and we still have to play Zimbabwe."

Second-placed England, despite mounting injury problems, will be seeking to repeat the sort of comprehensive thrashing inflicted on New Zealand during the six-week tour just before the World Cup.

"We are looking for 10 out of 10 wins," New Zealand captain Martin Crowe said on Thursday after a comfortable victory over 1983 Cup winners India in the icy winds of the southern city of Dunedin.

Hours after the New Zealand victory, England seized a thrilling win with one ball to spare against South

Africa in Melbourne, clinching a semifinal place.

However, England's attack looked more like a hospital casualty ward line-up. Chris Lewis was unable to bowl in Melbourne because of a side injury. Dermot Reeve injured his buttock when he slipped while bowling and Phillip DeFreitas went off after completing his 10 overs.

Kepler Wessels, captain of the South African team that has been beaten by both England and New Zealand, tips England as the stronger of the two.

"If I had to pick between the two teams I'd rate England much higher than New Zealand," he said after Thursday's defeat.

New Zealand may not have England's depth in batting or bowling, but they have discovered unlikely match-winners in the form of opener Mark Greatbatch, who has scored three whirlwind half-centuries, and seam bowler Chris Harris, who has taken 13 wickets.

New Zealand's other has been Crowe, who has rediscovered his elegant batting form and brought innovative tactics to the unbalanced team, such as opening the bowling with off-spinner Dipak Patel.

"Perhaps they didn't try anything different," said Crowe whose own captaincy in the tournament has been characterised by inspired innovation.

He pointed to his tactic of using off-spinner Dipak Patel as the opening bowler. "We played Patel in a nothing-to-lose attitude," he said.

Azharuddin declined to attend the traditional post-match news conference. Baig initially said he was feeling unwell but agreed he was "emotionally down."

India play their final game against South Africa in Adelaide on Sunday.

ISF tries to get Dutch coach

AMSTERDAM, Mar 13: The Israeli Soccer Federation said Thursday it is trying to sign Dutch national team coach Rinus Michels after his contract expires this summer, reports AP.

## Kiwis surprised at success

**WELLINGTON, Mar 13:** New Zealand cricket coach Warren Lees Friday admitted surprise at his team's surge to the semifinals of the nine-nation World Cup tournament, reports AP.

New Zealand went into the tournament as a rank underdog after losing a three-Test series against England and suffering a 3-0 loss to England in a limited-overs series.

Three weeks later, the Kiwis boast a 6-0 World Cup record and are certain semifinalists, along with England.

"It has been a bit surprising," Lees said Friday, although he never believed New Zealand's pre-tournament ranking of seventh was accurate.

The reason New Zealand were so underestimated, he said, was that everyone also underestimated England, which face New Zealand in a battle between unbeaten teams in Wellington on Sunday.

"Everyone misread the England team. They are a very good side," Lees said.

He said the Kiwis took stock after their defeats by England, analysed opposing sides and decided to be innovative.

### IOC team to visit SA Mar 28-31

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Mar 13: International Olympic Committee (IOC) vice president Keba Mbaye of Senegal will lead a delegation to South Africa from March 28 to 31, IOC said on Thursday.

In a brief statement the IOC said the mission of the delegation will be to meet the highest political and sports authorities as well as the National Olympic Committee.

No further details were immediately available.

Mbaye, chairman of the IOC's apartheid commission led a fact finding delegation to South Africa last year, before the republic was readmitted to the Olympic movement as reward for its dismantling of apartheid.

South Africa has accepted an invitation to compete in this year's Barcelona Olympics its first appearance at the games since 1960.

But the IOC has said that only those sports with a unified, non-racial constitution under the auspices of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa will be allowed to take part.

The wave of public support that followed the team's initial upset win over favourites Australia also buoyed the Kiwis, but now is beginning to create pressure, Lees said.

"We didn't feel any pressure in the first couple of games," he said. "Against Australia, people were saying if we only lost by 30 it would be respectable."

"We are getting further down the track now and it is not always easy to focus, we are a relatively inexperienced team and it's difficult for one or two of the younger players."

"I keep telling them they are only as good as their last game."

While the media has focussed on outstanding batting or bowling performances in the tournament, Lees sees the quality of fielding as a key factor in putting teams in semifinal contention.