

### ROAD TO SEMIFINALS

SYDNEY, Mar 19: How New Zealand, England, South Africa and Pakistan made it to the semi-finals of cricket's fifth World Cup:

**NEW ZEALAND:**

- Beat Australia by 37 runs, Auckland, Feb 22 (NZ 248-6, 50 overs, Aus 211.48.1 overs)
- Beat Sri Lanka by six wickets, Hamilton, Feb 25 (SL 206-9, 50 overs, NZ 210-4, 48.2 overs)
- Beat South Africa by seven wickets, Auckland, Feb 29 (SA 190-7, 50 overs, NZ 191-3, 34.3 overs)
- Beat Zimbabwe on run rate, Napier, March 3 (NZ 162-3, 20.5 overs, Zim 105-7, 18 overs)
- Beat West Indies by five wickets, Auckland, March 8 (WI 203-7, 50 overs, NZ 206-5, 48.3 overs)
- Beat India by four wickets, Dunedin, March 12 (Ind 230-6, 50 overs, NZ 231-6, 47.1 overs)
- Beat England by seven wickets, Wellington, March 15 (Eng 200-8, 50 overs, NZ 201-3, 41 overs)
- Lost to Pakistan by seven wickets, Christchurch, March 18 (NZ 166, 48.2 overs, Pak 167 for three, 44.4 overs)

**ENGLAND:**

- Beat India by nine runs, Perth, Feb 22 (Eng 236-9, 50 overs, Ind 227, 49.2 overs)
- Beat West Indies by six wickets, Melbourne Feb 27 (WI 157, 49.2 overs, Eng 160-4, 39.5 overs)
- No result against Pakistan due to rain, Adelaide, March 1 (Pak 74, 40.2 overs, Eng 24-1, 8 overs)
- Beat Australia by eight wickets, Sydney, March 5 (Aus 171, 49 overs, Eng 173-2, 40.5 overs)
- Beat Sri Lanka by 106 runs, Ballarat, March 9 (Eng 280-6, 50 overs, SL 174, 44 overs)
- Beat South Africa on run rate, Melbourne, March 12 (SA 236-4, 50 overs, Eng 226-7, 40.5 overs)
- Lost to New Zealand, Wellington, March 15 (Eng 200-8, 50 overs, NZ 201-3, 41 overs)
- Lost to Zimbabwe by nine runs, Albury, March 18 (Zim 134, 46.1 overs, Eng 125, 49.1 overs)

**SOUTH AFRICA:**

- Beat Australia by nine wickets, Sydney, Feb 26 (Aus 170-9, 49 overs, SA 171-1, 46.5 overs)
- Lost to New Zealand by seven wickets, Auckland, Feb 29 (SA 190-7, 50 overs, NZ 191-3, 34.3 overs)
- Lost to Sri Lanka by three wickets, Wellington, March 2 (SA 195, 50 overs, SL 199-7, 49.5 overs)
- Beat West Indies by 64 runs, Christchurch, March 5 (SA 200-8, 50 overs, WI 136, 38.4 overs)
- Beat Pakistan on run rate, Brisbane, March 8 (SA 211-7, 50 overs, Pak 173-8, 36 overs)
- Beat Zimbabwe by seven wickets, Canberra, March 10 (Zim 163, 48.3 overs, SA 164-3, 45.1 overs)
- Lost to England on run rate, Melbourne, March 12 (SA 236-4, 50 overs, England 226-7, 40.5 overs)
- Beat India by six wickets, Adelaide, March 15 (Ind 180-6, 30 overs, SA 181-4, 29.1 overs)

**PAKISTAN:**

- Lost to West Indies by 10 wickets, Melbourne, Feb 23 (Pak 220-2, 50 overs, 221-0, 46.5 overs)
- Beat Zimbabwe by 53 runs, Hobart, Feb 27 (Pak 254-4, 50 overs, Zim 201-7, 50 overs)
- No result against England, Adelaide, March 1 due to rain (Pak 74, 40.2 overs, Eng 24-1, 8 overs)
- Lost to India by 43 runs, Sydney, March 4 (Ind 216-7, 49 overs, Pak 173, 48.1 overs)
- Lost to South Africa on run rate, Brisbane, March 8 (SA 211-7, 50 overs, Pak 173-8, 36 overs)
- Beat Australia by 48 runs, Perth, March 11 (Pak 220-9, 50 overs, Aus 172, 45.2 overs)
- Beat Sri Lanka by four wickets, Perth, March 15 (SL 212-6, 50 overs, Pak 216-6, 49.1 overs)
- Beat New Zealand by seven wickets, Christchurch, March 18 (NZ 166, 48.2 overs, Pak 167-3, 44.4 overs)

# The fun has only just begun



SYDNEY, Mar 19: As hosts Australia trudged off after a thumping, but inconsequential, World Cup win over the West Indies the giant electronic scoreboard at the Melbourne Cricket Ground flashed a simple message — "quit", reports AFP.

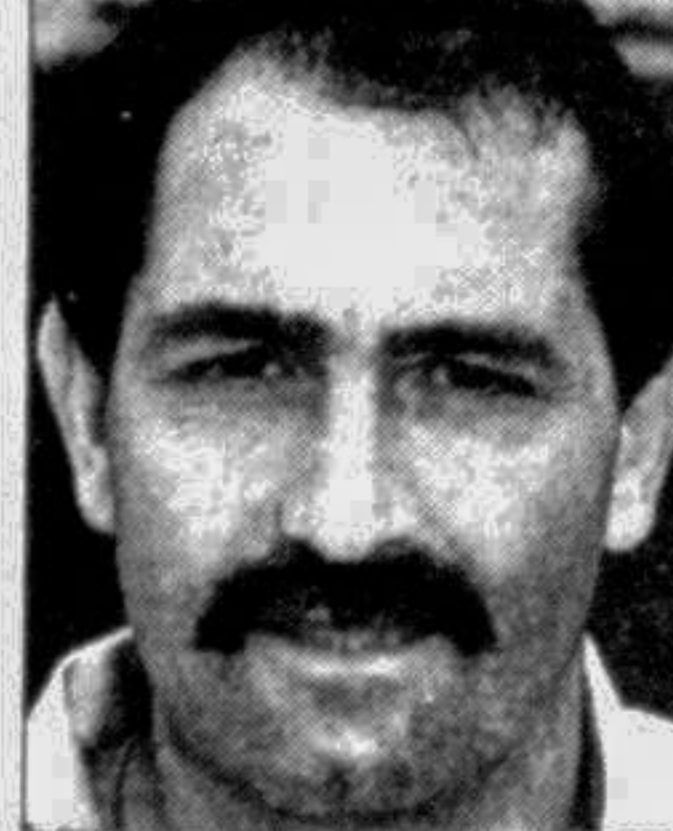
Whether it was a computer



IMRAN KHAN



MARTIN CROWE



GRAHAM GOOCH



KEPLER WESSELS

malfunction or an anti-smoking message to counter the cigarette sponsors of the event remain unclear, but many at the huge concrete bowl felt that it was Allan Border and his men should do after the favoured home team crashed out of the game's premier one-day competition.

It summed the mood of a disconsolate nation as four weeks of enthralling, and often nerve-wrecking league contests left the defending champions out in the cold and gave unfancied opponents a shot at the title.

What was expected to be the most open tournament ever after the induction of a ninth team in South Africa and a new round-robin league instead of two groups, turned out just that as reputations took a beating and unlikely heroes emerged.

Nothing illustrated the topsy-turvy nature of the competition better than the events of Super Wednesday when the

two pool leaders New Zealand and mighty England were humbled — the latter by minnows Zimbabwe — and left Australia bemoaning a belated victory.

In an amazing turnaround in fortunes, the underestimated Kiwis rose like a phoenix to head the standings while none of the previous champions — Australia, West Indies and

move ahead on a superior net run rate of 0.20 against Pakistan's 0.16.

The pragmatic Border, a veteran of 241 one-day internationals behind him, hit the nail on the head when he said his team did not deserve to qualify for the semi-finals.

"We did nothing right from the start and only a miracle would have seen us through."

Crowe, who broke conventions — and bats — to inspire his side's remarkable recovery from an English rout in both the Test and one-day series preceding the Cup, must be a strong contender to win a sleek sports car as the man-of-the-series.

A bold gamble to pack the attack with slow medium trundlers and give the new ball

### LEADING PERFORMERS

SYDNEY, Mar 19: Leading individual performances in the World Cup after Wednesday's final preliminary matches:

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

	M	I	NO	HS	R	Ave
M D Crowe (NZ)	8	8	5	100	365	121.66
P N Kirsten (S Africa)	7	7	2	90	399	79.80
Rameez Raja (Pak)	6	6	2	119	297	74.25
N H Fairbrother (Eng)	6	5	2	75	195	65.00
Javed Miandad (Pak)	7	7	1	89	320	53.33
D C Boon (Aus)	8	8	1	100	368	52.57
A Ranatunga (Sri)	7	7	2	88	262	52.40
B M McMillan (S African)	4	4	2	33	104	52.00
A H Jones (NZ)	8	8	2	78	301	50.16
M J Greatbatch (NZ)	6	6	1	73	296	49.33
K C Wesels (S Africa)	8	8	2	85	296	49.33

BOWLING (Overs, maidens, runs, wickets, average) — minimum 5 wickets:

	O	M	R	W	Ave
D A Reeve (Eng)	31.4	4	104	8	13.00
I T Botham (Eng)	72	7	212	14	15.14
C C Lewis (Eng)	35.4	3	124	7	17.71
C Z Harris (NZ)	62.1	4	270	15	18.00
Wasim Akram (Pak)	69.4	2	249	13	19.15
P N Kirsten (S Africa)	18	1	97	5	19.40
U C Haturusinge (Sri)	17	0	97	5	19.40
M Prabhakar (India)	57.1	5	245	12	20.41
A C Cummins (WI)	59	1	246	12	20.50
Mushtaq Ahmed (Pak)	58	2	230	11	20.90

CATCHES:

K C Wesels (S Africa)	7
N H Fairbrother (Eng)	6
A R Border (Aus)	5
C L Cairns (NZ)	5
P A DeFrettas (Eng)	5
D A Reeve (Eng)	5

WICKETKEEPERS (Tabulate under catches, stumpings, total):

D Williams (WI)	11	3	14
D J Richardson (S Africa)	11	1	12
I A Healy (Aus)	9	-	9
Moin Khan (Pak)	7	2	9
A J Stewart (Eng)	7	1	8
A Flower (Zimb)	6	1	7
K S More (India)	6	1	7
H P Tillekeratne (Sri)	6	1	7
I D Smith (NZ)	5	-	5

### England hope to regroup

SYDNEY, Mar 19: England cricket captain Graham Gooch said his team needs to regroup before Sunday's World Cup semifinal against South Africa at the Sydney Cricket Ground, reports AP.

England lost its final two first-round matches to New Zealand and Zimbabwe after clinching its place in the semifinals.

"We've had a couple of hiccups this week but we know we're got to put that right in front of a full house at the SCG," Gooch said Thursday.

"Our aim was to reach the semifinals and if we play well now we've got a good chance of winning the World Cup."

England was embarrassed Wednesday by witless Zimbabwe in Albury.

"It was obviously very disappointing to lose to a minor side, but the conditions were not easy for batting," Gooch said.

"They bowled well at the end and put us under pressure. We've now got to get our house in order for the semifinal."

Gooch said England had not yet decided on its lineup to face South Africa.

"Buffice to say we've got problems, but we've got a few days to sort things out," he said.

England took Thursday off but will practise on Friday morning, Gooch said.

### S AFRICANS RELAXED

South African coach Mike Procter said he believes momentum will favour his team.

Procter said his players are feeling a lot more relaxed following the overwhelming "Yes" vote for continued political reform in the crucial referendum at home.

"The guys are a lot more relaxed. The last couple of days there had been a bit of tension with the fact we had heard the referendum might swing the other way," Procter said.

"I think the result has given everyone a lift and I think mentally we will be as well prepared as we can be."

Procter said his players felt comfortable at the SCG, where they defeated Australia three weeks ago.

"We enjoy the SCG, we've beaten Australia there and it has got a lovely atmosphere," he said.

### Zimbabwe would struggle in Tests, feels Gooch

SYDNEY, Mar 19: Zimbabwe would struggle if granted full Test-playing status at July's International Cricket Council meeting in London, England captain Graham Gooch said Thursday, reports AP.

The World Cup also rans upset England by nine runs in Albury on Wednesday for only their second win against a Test nation. The first came in a 1983 World Cup decision over

Australia in a Nottingham, England.

Gooch said he doubts whether the African nation could hold its own or develop into a capable opponent.

"I have not played against them enough but I would have thought they would struggle," Gooch said. "They have no first-class cricket system and it's going to be very difficult for them."

Zimbabwean cricket risks further decay following the readmittance of South Africa to the game last November and the republic's "Yes" vote in Tuesday's referendum to continue non-racial reform.

"We could lose our young guys to South Africa," Zimbabwe coach Don Topley said after the win over England. "They won't be content to play against Malawi, Mozambique and smaller countries like that."

"They want to play Test cricket and we have to be able to keep them."

England Cup batsman Graeme Hick grew up in Zimbabwe but took English citizenship to pursue a Test career.

Topley, who played for English county side Essex under Gooch, said his aim during the World Cup campaign was to prove that Zimbabwe could compete.

### Crowe would rather play S Africa than Pakistan

WELLINGTON, Mar 19: New Zealand cricket captain Martin Crowe said today he would have preferred not to play Pakistan in the World Cup semifinal, reports AFP.

He said he would rather have played the more "predictable" South African team on the slow wicket at Eden Park in Auckland on Saturday.

Pakistan qualified for the semis Wednesday by beating New Zealand, thanks to Australia's defeat of the West Indies.

Crowe said the Kiwis would return to the basics of their game.

New Zealand went into the Wednesday match feeling flat and didn't appear interested until it was too late.

The loss, Crowe said, was enough of a setback to get New Zealand out of the cruising mode.

Crowe said the Pakistanis were dangerous because they were improving.

"We deserve to be in the finals if we beat them."

"I think it's going to be a really tough game but we will play better at Eden Park."

He admitted to admiring the manner in which Pakistan captain Imran Khan controlled his team.

"I admire Imran because

### Pringle, Reeve doubtful

SYDNEY, Mar 19: England's all-rounders, the key elements in their World Cup cricket success, are the main injury worries ahead of Sunday's semifinal against South Africa, reports Reuter.

Coach Mickey Stewart said: "Derek Pringle, particularly, is a long way off being cricket fit."

Pringle has a torn rib cartilage, while fellow pace bowler all-rounder Dermot Reeve has a painful spur on his hip and is a second unlikely starter for Sunday.

"Derek and Dermot both feel slightly better but we'll have to see if either or them are in a state to be considered for the semifinal," Stewart said.

Chris Lewis' side strain has improved only marginally, and Stewart said: "We didn't play him yesterday (against Zimbabwe) to get him into the best possible nick for the semifinal."

### Capriati upsets Seles

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida, Mar 19: Jennifer Capriati, ended one of the most impressive streaks in women's tennis on Wednesday when she upset world number one Monica Seles in the quarter-finals of the 2.8 million-dollar Lipton International Players Championships, reports Reuter.

Capriati's victory put her into the semifinals against Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, the fourth seed from Spain, who advance with a 6-1, 6-3 win over South African Amanda Coetzer.

The other semifinal will have second seed Steffi Graf against longtime rival Gabriela Sabatini, the third seed.

Chang, 21, battled back in both sets to continue his mastery over the 20-year-old Sampras.

### Arambagh beat Police

Sports Reporter

The First Division football league resumed yesterday with Arambagh Krira Sangstha beating Police Athletic Club by a solitary goal at the Dhaka Stadium.

Shamim netted the all-important goal for Arambagh in the 35th minute of the first half.

### Dhanmondi School win Nirman title

Sports Reporter

Dhanmondi Government Boys High School yesterday won the Dhaka zonal championship of the Nirman school cricket tournament outplaying BCSIR High School by 111 runs at the Dhaka Stadium.

Sent in to bat Dhanmondi, aided by a fine half-century from their skipper, rattled up a huge 233 for nine wickets from their quota of forty overs. Captain Choyon's 56, made off 61 balls, was followed by a useful 39 from Bappi and an unbeaten, 29 by Rumanan.

BCSIR skipper Ishtiaq was not to lag far behind the exemplary exploits of his counterpart and he tried his best by claiming four Dhanmondi wickets for 32 runs. Chapal and Zia took two wickets apiece.

Any hope of high drama in this juvenile cricket confrontation evaporated as soon as the BCSIR openers were dismissed for blobs. Sakib tried to tinker the damage with a patient 30 but as tinker is always a tinker and never quite a repair, the BCSIR innings fell apart in just 31 overs with Sadi and skipper Ishtiaq trying to delay the inevitable with 13 each. BCSIR folded at 122.

Dhanmondi skipper Choyon was in the thick of action with the ball also, taking two for 16. Moudud and Tanver backed him quite well bagging two scalps each. Babu, Nayem, Shatabdi and Rumanan picked up one each.

Former President of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board KZ Islam who is also the chairman of Nirman International Limited, the sponsors of the tournament, was present as the chief guest and gave away the prizes among the winners.

### Hockey resumes

Sports Reporter

The Green Delta First Division hockey league resumes today with War Club taking on Bangladesh Railways at 1:45 pm and defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra facing Ajax Sports Club at 3:15 pm at the Hockey Stadium.

### Boon considers knee surgery

MELBOURNE, Mar 19: Opener David Boon, Australia's most successful batsman in the cricket World Cup, is facing knee surgery, reports Reuter.

Boon, who hit centuries in his team's opener and final round-robin games, against New Zealand and West Indies, may have to undergo corrective surgery for a damaged right knee, which has troubled him for most of the season.

Boon said he had wanted to visit a Melbourne specialist who restructured his left knee two years ago, but discovered he was out of the country on business.

The right-hander, who was the mainstay in Australia's failed attempt to retain the World Cup, said he expected to undergo operation soon which could leave him out of action for about six weeks.

Boon said he still hoped to be fit in time for Australia's tour of Sri Lanka in August.



Dhanmondi Govt High School, winners of the Dhaka zone Nirman schools cricket championship, seen with KZ Islam, chairman of Nirman International, sponsors of the meet, after yesterday's final at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

### Border rues approach

MELBOURNE, Mar 19: Australia lacked preparation for the cricket World Cup and that probably cost the holders a semifinal place, according to captain Allan Border, reports Reuter.

Australia were eliminated when they finished fifth in the nine-team standings, Pakistan having qualified for the fourth and final spot by trouncing previously unbeaten leaders New Zealand on Wednesday.

Border, whose team beat West Indies in their last game to end a point behind Pakistan, said: "We didn't prepare, we just kept playing a specific pattern; we didn't prepare anything at all."

"In that respect (New Zealand captain) Martin Crowe was one up on us there."

"They caught us on the hop, the Kiwis, and caught us napping, and it's amazing one loss could set you off on a bad streak," the Australian captain said in a reference to his side's defeat by New Zealand in the

opening Cup match.

Australia's defence of the trophy crumbled at the end of a season in which they played a total of 18 limited over internationals within 15 weeks.

The Australians had 10 matches in the triangular World Series competition, which also featured India and West Indies, followed by eight World Cup games.

With five Tests against India as well, Australia's cause might have been better served with a reduced World Series tournament.

Border applauded the round-robin format used for the World Cup and hoped it would be adopted for future tournaments.

For the first time in Cup history, each team played all the other sides. In the four previous editions of the competition, teams were divided into two groups of four.

"I think it's the fairer indication with every team playing each other," Border said. "That's the right way to play it."

### Brazil may miss '94 Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 19: Three times winners Brazil could miss the 1994 World Cup if FIFA suspend them from international soccer over a legal row with top club Flamengo, Brazilian Football Federation (CBF) chief Ricardo Teixeira said, reports Reuter.

"We may have to suspend the CBF," world soccer's governing body FIFA told Brazil's soccer authorities in a fax message.

"This will be the end of Brazilian soccer," said Teixeira, son-in-law of FIFA President Joao Havelange.

It will be the end of international games for the national team and the Brazilian clubs playing in the Libertadores Cup (South American club championship) will have to pull out.

"If FIFA punish us, that will be the end of the matter," Teixeira said if a ban continued until next year, Brazil would miss the qualifying rounds for the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

Flamengo angered FIFA by taking the unprecedented step of suing them in a Swiss court to try to reverse an international ban imposed on the Rio De Janeiro Club last year.

"We have to inform you that (Flamengo) has initiated proceedings at a court of law in Zurich," the fax sent on Tuesday and signed by FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said.

"We take a very serious view of this case, considering that it is the first time any legal action has ever been taken against FIFA. Bearing in mind the gravity of the situation, we may have to suspend the CBF."

The row began last year

### BFF calls up 55

The Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday selected 55 players from the current football league and different tournaments for the preliminary camp to select a national under-16 team for the fifth Asian Youth under-16 tournament, reports BSS.

The Group Three qualifying round of the tournament will be held at Rajshahi from May 1 to 10.

Pakistan, India, Nepal, Maldives and hosts Bangladesh will take part in the group.

### Richards' lament

LONDON, Mar 19: Former West Indies' captain Viv Richards said on Thursday he believed some of his former team mates did not want him to play in the current cricket World Cup, reports Reuter.

Richards, 39, who retired from Test cricket after last year's England tour, said he had been available for the Cup and had been prepared to play in the Red Stripe domestic competition this year in order to qualify.

"The trouble was I heard mutterings and whispers that some people in position of responsibility in the team, and on the West Indian board did not want me anyway, so I could see no point at the age of 39 in trying to prove myself all over again," Richards said in a column in the Daily Telegraph.

"Sadly there are members of the West Indian Board I used to respect a lot but I do not now."

Richards said he was worried about the future of West Indian cricket.

"Our facilities are inferior," he said. "It is dangerous to assume we will always, automatically, produce natural cricketers in the West Indies. We must spend money nurturing them."

West Indies, who won the inaugural Cup in 1975 and successfully defended it four years later, failed to qualify for the semifinals of this year's competition.