

Sport

# India back in contention

**SHARJAH, Apr 9:** Defending champions India crushed Sri Lanka by eight wickets in a one-day international here Sunday to improve their chances of qualifying for the Asia Cup final, reports AFP.

Stung by Friday's reverse against arch-rivals Pakistan, the Indians lifted their all-round game to outplay the Sri Lankans in a match they had to win to stay in the competition.

They put on a dazzling display in the field to restrict the Sri Lankans to 202 for nine in the 50 overs after Arjuna Ranatunga had won the toss and elected to bat.

The Indians then raced to victory in the 34th over, fired by an unbeaten 112 off 105 balls from master batsman Sachin Tendulkar and his 161-run stand for the first wicket with Manoj Prabhakar (60) in 27.4 overs.

India finished the round-robin preliminary league, also involving Bangladesh, with two wins and a loss. They must await the result of Tuesday's clash between Pakistan and Sri Lanka to know if they will play the final on April 14 — they go through if Pakistan win.

Tendulkar cracked 15 boundaries and six while compiling his fifth one-day century, and fittingly scored the winning runs — a powerful hook off a no-ball from Chamapaka Ramanayake which raced to the fine leg fence.

Tendulkar kept one end going after left-arm spinner Sanath Jayasuriya removed Prabhakar and Navjot Sindhoo. Javagal Srinath, promoted to bolster the run-rate, was unbeaten on 14 at close.

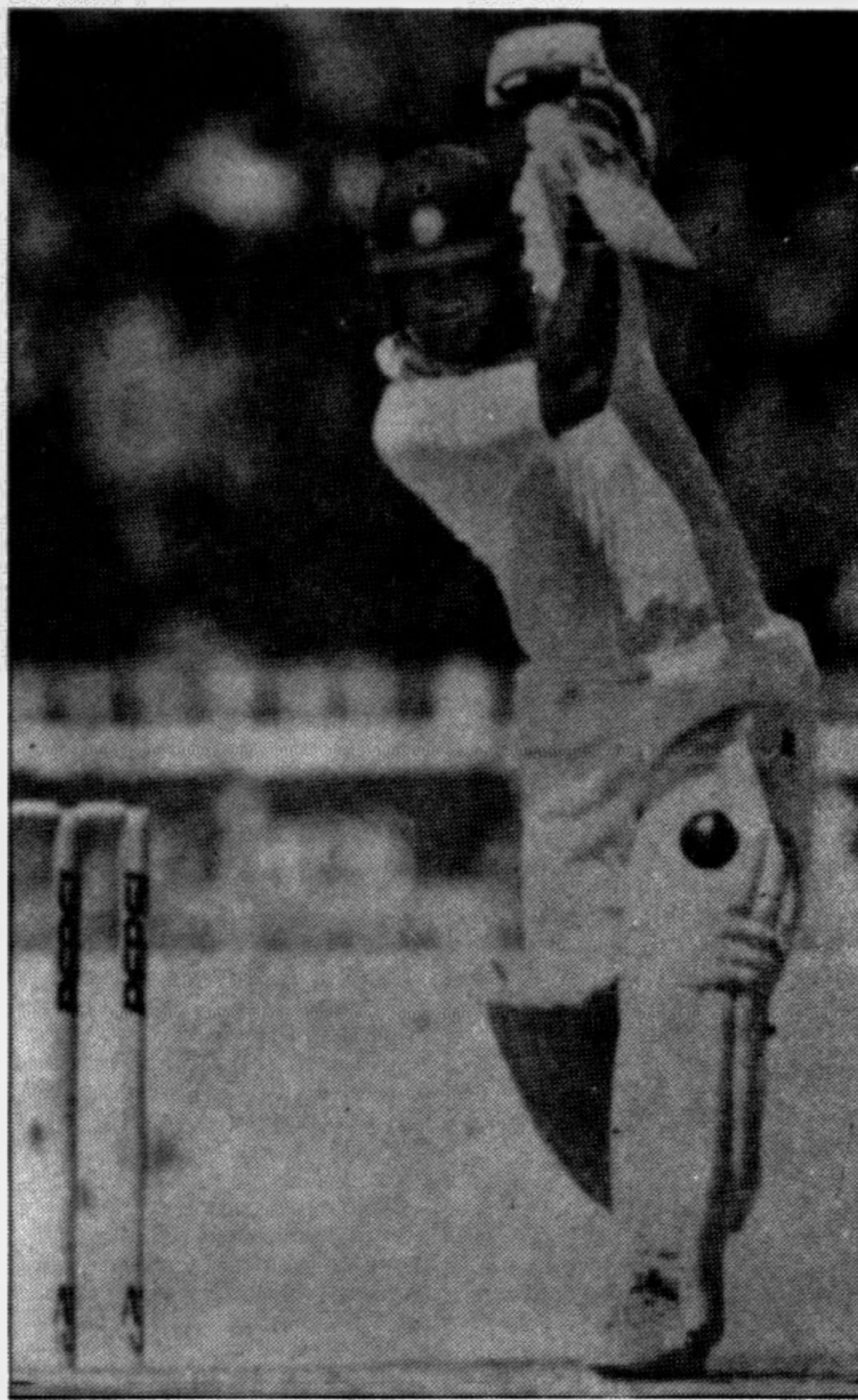
Earlier, the Indians made two run outs. Ajay Jadeja and Tendulkar took catches and seamer Venkatesh Prasad grabbed three wickets to set Sri Lanka back.

The two catches marked India's improved display in the field which stopped the Sri Lankans from building a huge score on an easy-paced wicket.

The Sri Lankans added to their troubles by reckless batting, in which left-hander Hashan Tillekaratne top-scored with 48. Seven batsmen fell below the 20-run mark.

The Sri Lankans, who were reduced to 113 for six in the 27th over, were rescued by a 71-run stand for the seventh wicket between Tillekaratne and Kumar Dharmasena, who made 30.

Total (including extras)		202	Extras (lb 1 w 11 nb 1)		17
Fall of wickets: 1-25 (2.60)			Total (including extras)		206
3-70 (4.76), 5-105 (6.11), 7-184 (8.19), 9-199		167	Fall of wickets: 1-161 (2-)		
<b>Bowling:</b>		<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Prabhakar	10	1	51	1	
Srinath	10	1	35	2	
Prasad	10	0	37	3	
Kumble	10	0	37	1	
Kapoor	10	0	30	0	
Overs: 50					
<b>INDIA</b>					
Prabhakar c Tillekaratne					
b Jayasuriya	60				
Tendulkar not out	112				
Sindhoo c and b Jayasuriya	3				
Srinath not out	11				
Extras: 33.1					
<b>Result: India won by eight wickets.</b>					
<b>Man-of-the-match: Sachin Tendulkar.</b>					



Indian opening batsman Sachin Tendulkar makes a fluent on-drive during yesterday's Pepsi Asia Cup league match against Sri Lanka in Sharjah. The prolific Indian right hander hammered a majestic unbeaten 112, his fourth one-day century, to propel his country to a convincing eighth-wicket win.

## Tendulkar's feat

**SHARJAH, Apr 9:** Indian star batsman Sachin Tendulkar became the eighth Indian batsman to complete 3,000 runs in one-day internationals, reports BSS.

The stylish Indian batsman achieved the feat when he reached 93 during his unbeaten 112-run knock against Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup at Sharjah today.

It was the 92nd innings of his 95th one-day international. The Indian eight batsmen, who completed the 3,000 runs in one-day internationals, are: (tabulate as matches, innings, not outs, runs, average and highest score)

	M	I	NO	Runs	Avg	HS
M Azharuddin	195	178	34	5198	36.09	108
K Srikanth	146	145	4	4092	29.02	123
Kapil Dev	224	198	39	3783	23.86	175
D Vengsarkar	129	120	19	3508	34.73	105
Navjot Sindhoo	89	86	7	3364	42.58	134
Ravi Shastri	150	128	21	3180	29.04	109
Sunil Gavaskar	108	102	14	3092	35.13	103
Sachin Tendulkar	95	92	10	3019	36.81	115

# Bagan bring Abahani down

**CALCUTTA, Apr 9:** Title aspirants Mohun Bagan turned up their game in the second session to quell Abahani Kirra Chakra of Bangladesh 2-0 in a Group-B League match of the Capstan 10th All-Airlines Gold Cup football tournament at the floodlit Salt Lake Stadium today, reports PTI.

After a goalless opening session, Mohun Bagan struck two goals in quick succession through substitutes Nigerian Chibuzor and Biswajit Mohuri to seal the fate to their outstation opponents in a match which picked up only after the breather.

Striker Chibuzor climaxed a combined move with a neat pass from inside the box in the fifth minute of the second session while the other substitute Biswajit Mohuri clinched the issue 15 minutes later, capitalising on a defensive lapse.

Abahani, playing their first match in the tournament, could not find their rhythm as mispasses and poor marksmanship punctuated most of their moves.

Nepal Sports Development Authority will take on Air India while East Bengal clash with another strong contenders Mohammedan Sporting in Group-B league matches tomorrow.

After a lacklustre first half striker Chibuzor did the star turn for his team immediately after the interval when he blasted in from close following a combined attack.

Bernard and Satyajit Chatterjee worked in tandem to break through the Abahani defence before passing to an unmarked Chibuzor inside the box who made no mistake.

Chibuzor, who joined the action in the second session, pepped up the Mohun Bagan firing line with his searing runs and kept the rival de-

fenders on tenterhooks.

The other second half substitute Biswajit Mohuri, who replaced Ranjan Choudhury, consolidated the position for Mohun Bagan when he placed the ball home from inside the box, taking full advantage of a defensive lapse. Abahani's stopper Munna was largely responsible for gifting away the goal.

The two quick goals spurred the home team to fire from all cylinders and they could have added another goal to their kitty with Chibuzor to their kitty with all the defenders caught on the wrong foot.

The Dhaka outfit launched

into the offensive straightaway with a few flashy raids but seemed to lose their direction midway through the opening session as most of their movers fell through before posing any dangers.

The local giants, who also played much below par in the slow-paced first session, could have shot into the lead in the tenth minute of the contest. But Stayajit Chatterjee made a mess of what could have been an easy scoring opportunity.

The nippy Chatterjee outwitted Abahani stopper Munna with deft footwork but his left-footer from inside the box went wide with none of the defenders in position.



Pakistan all rounder Wasim Akram executes a square drive while Bangladesh wicketkeeper Khaled Masud looks on during their Asia Cup limited overs match at the Sharjah Stadium in the UAE on April 8. Akram was later declared man-of-the-match for his knock of 30 not out and two wickets for 25.

## Moin to miss rest of Asia Cup

**SHARJAH, Apr 9:** Pakistan captain and wicketkeeper Moin Khan will miss the rest of the Asia Cup as he has fallen ill with chicken pox, reports BSS.

The illness was diagnosed at the Al-Zahra Hospital after the Bangladesh-Pakistan match on Saturday. Moin was advised complete isolation and bed rest for a week. Pakistan team manager Selim Altaf said.

Saeed Anwar will lead the team in the last robin league match against Sri Lanka on April 11.

Rashid Latif, who retired from international cricket last month was the other international-class keeper in Pakistan.

Selim Altaf said in the Pakistan team, the only other player who keeps wicket in an emergency is Aamir Sohail who has a back-problem.

Pakistan have won both their matches played against India and Bangladesh.

## Nantes widen lead

**PARIS, Apr 9:** Nantes, France's unbeaten league leaders, were comfortable 2-0 winners over bottom club Sochaux on Saturday night, but Paris St Germain's dismal week continued with another defeat here, reports AFP.

Nantes widened the gap at the top to 12 points after the win, secured by Japhet N'Doram and French international striker Nicolas Ouedec, as second-placed Lyon drew 1-1 with Leans on Friday night.

With six matches to play, Nantes are almost certain to replace PSG as champions — only the mathematics prevents them being crowned already.

PSG coach Luis Fernandez paid the price for resting all but two of the side who lost 1-0 to AC Milan in the European Cup semifinal, first leg at the Parc des Princes on Wednesday night.

The reduced strength squad went down 3-2 to Nice.

PSG started brightly and even took the lead through Pascal Nouma, but poor defensive work saw the visitors put three past reserve keeper Luc Borrelli — the first an own goal — before Brazilian Rai salvaged some Parisian pride with a last minute strike.

Despite the goal, the home crowd who had been baying for star strikers George Weah and David Ginola to take the pitch, responded by whistling their team off the pitch.

Fernandez defended his team selection, saying: "It wasn't a B team, they had all played in the championship before, but tonight we just weren't there."

But he admitted the title was already destined for Nantes.

"The other players need time to rest. There's no point going all out in this championship. There's still the French Cup, the League Cup and the chance of going to Milan and winning. That's my aim."

Olympique Marseille, who went into receivership on Friday, showed their fighting spirit by going top of the Second Division thanks to Irish international striker Tony Cascarino.

The Irishman's header opened the scoring in a 2-1 win over Nimes which put Marseille ahead of Guingamp on goal average.

However, unless the club is rescued soon from its financial crisis, French rules mean that it cannot be promoted to the First Division, wherever it may finish at the end of the season.

## British soccer hits new low

**LONDON, Apr 9:** An English pro soccer player has tested positive for the amphetamine "speed" and the Football Association may take disciplinary action if he took it for performance-enhancing reasons, a press report said Sunday, reports AP.

The player has not been identified but the Mail on Sunday quotes FA spokesman Mike Parry as saying he will be if disciplinary action is thought necessary.

"We have had a positive test for an amphetamine. The results have been passed on to the player," Parry is quoted as saying.

The player now faces a meeting with his club, the Players' Football Association and the FA, who will determine whether he will become the first English player to be banned for drug abuse.

"If, following the meeting, the FA decide this is a disciplinary offense, at that stage we would reveal the player's name," Parry is quoted as saying.

"We cannot say at this stage whether it has been taken to improve performance or not."

Speed is used socially as well as to enhance performance. Amphetamines can be taken to increase energy or accelerate weight loss.

# Steve Waugh strikes vital blows Lara leads Windies' reply

**Sports Reporter**

Richardson, opening the batting for only the 10th time in 133 Test innings, took 55 minutes and 40 balls to get off the mark. But on Lara's arrival, he too played more freely.

The 33-year-old Antiguan had moved to 37 with his sixth four when he sliced left-arm fast bowler Brendon Julian to Steve Waugh at gully 10 minutes before the break.

Finishing with 263 scalps from 72 Tests, the 32-year-old Jamaica-born paceman pulled ahead of Joel Garner, the giant Barbados fast bowler, whose 58 Tests yielded 259 wickets. But he is still a long way from catching fast bowler Malcolm Marshall (376) and off-spinner Lance Gibbs (309).

It was also a memorable day for Boon. His 21 that lasted an hour and contained four fours carried him to exactly 7,000 runs in his 99th Test for Australia.

In a hostile spell of bowling, Walsh claimed the wickets of Michael Slater and Mark Waugh in the space of four balls in the second full over after lunch, setting the tone for the remainder of the post-lunch period.

Kenny Benjamin at the lower end had not given the kind of support necessary and Steve Waugh, dropped at 15 by Curtly Ambrose, and short third-man off the same bowler, had spoiled his figures.

This did not stop Benjamin or Walsh from repeatedly pitching short and all the Australian batsmen who spent time in the middle during the session were tormented.

Boon and Steve Waugh, the only pair which looked promising, apart from Slater and opening partner Mark Taylor, were parted by Walsh's rise in the wicket-taking chart.

Then Benjamin had Waugh bowled off the inside-edge, before Winston Benjamin and Ian Healy caught at long leg by Walsh.

Greg Blewett became Winston Benjamin's second victim when he gloved a shot ball going down the leg side to wicketkeeper Junior Murray, then first ball after the tea break.

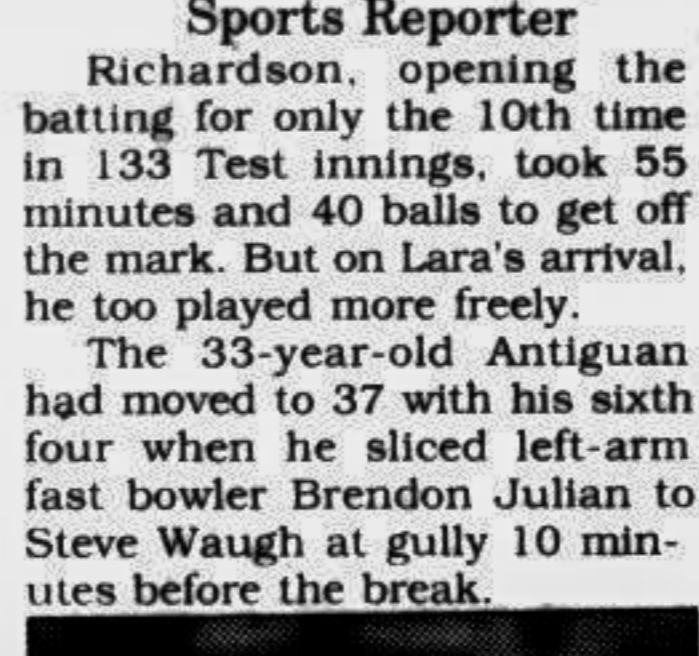
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The left-hander had made 37, including five fours. The West Indies had won the toss.



Steve Waugh, bowling in a Test match after nearly a year, put Australia back in the game by claiming two quick wickets against the West Indies at St Johns, Antigua yesterday.

According to radio reports monitored in Dhaka late last night, the home team had made 201 for five when rain stopped play about half an hour before tea on the second day of the second cricket Test.

Keith Arthurton with five and wicketkeeper Junior Murray with nine were at the crease.

Resuming at 121 for two after lunch, the West Indies were progressing happily until Steve Waugh claimed the prize wicket of Brian Lara, having the left-hander caught brilliantly by David Boon for 88, punctuated with 15 hits to the fence.

One run later Waugh sent back Carl Hooper for 11 with the scoreboard reading 187 for five.

Earlier, Shane Warne had accounted for the dependable Jimmy Adams who made 22.

An earlier AP report from St Johns said: A dazzling, unbeaten half-century by star left-hander Brian Lara inspired the West Indies to 121 for two by lunch Sunday.

Lara was on 56 at a run-a-ball and fellow left-hander Jimmy Adams on one as the West Indies, resuming from 14 without loss overnight, built a strong reply to Australia's first innings of 216.

Lara was fully in command in his first innings on the ground since his world-record 375 against England almost a year ago.

He strode to the wicket to a resounding reception from the crowd of about 8,000 at the dismissal of opener Stuart Williams.

Williams was caught at short midwicket by David Boon off leg-spinner Shane Warne for 16 when the score was 34.

Lara immediately stamped his authority on proceedings. He hit pacer Glenn McGrath for successive off-side fours and found the boundary with incredible ease.

He and captain Richie Richardson counter-attacked in a run-a-minute second wicket stand of 72.

When Walsh extracted David Boon's off-stump in an inspirational spell of eight overs that helped restrict Australia to 168 for six at the tea break, it was his 260th Test wicket for West Indies.

Finishing with 263 scalps from 72 Tests, the 32-year-old Jamaica-born paceman pulled ahead of Joel Garner, the giant Barbados fast bowler, whose 58 Tests yielded 259 wickets. But he is still a long way from catching fast bowler Malcolm Marshall (376) and off-spinner Lance Gibbs (309).

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## Haynes goes to law

**BRIDGETOWN, Apr 9:** Desmond Haynes started legal action here Saturday against the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) which ruled him ineligible for selection in the current Test series against Australia, reports AFP.

The Barbados and West Indies opening batsman failed to meet a ruling that players must play in all five matches of this year's Red Stripe Cup, the West Indies four-day first class championship. To be eligible for selection.

"We had no option but to take the matter to court after protracted dialogue with the WICBC," said Theodore Walcott, lawyer for Haynes, 39.

He said Haynes, whose 116 Tests for the West Indies include 16 centuries, was disappointed at not being allowed to play the Australians at home.

WICBC president Captain Peter Short said he was unable to comment before the court hearing.

Haynes, who holds the world record for the most runs, 8,649, and the most centuries, 17, in 239 one-day internationals, opted out of the Caribbean side's tour of India last year and signed a two-year contract with Western Province, the South African first-class team.

He returned home on January 8, two days after the start of Barbados' opening match of the Red Stripe Cup in Jamaica.

Haynes had asked for dispensation from the grounds of "exceptional circumstances" saying family commitments and travel arrangements from South Africa had led to his late arrival.

A WICBC rule that prevented Haynes from playing in the final of the Shell-Sandals Trophy, the West Indies one-day limited-overs competition, after he missed the second round, is also being challenged.

Doctors and nurses battled through the tropical heat to save the lives of three fans with serious head injuries. Three of the injured were women — one sprawled unconscious on a stretcher.

Police said fans started streaming into the stadium more than seven hours before Sierra Leone's Leone Star and Black Stars of Ghana were to play their second-leg match in the preliminary round of the African Cup-Winners' Cup.

Thousands of fans had already taken their places inside the stadium when the main gate came down on hundreds of others scrambling for tickets outside, witnesses said.

With thousands more surging to get in, emergency workers said they feared there would be even more injuries if soccer officials did not halt ticket sales.

## 40 hurt in football stadium mishap

**PREETOWN, Apr 9:** At least 40 fans were injured, many seriously, when the main gate collapsed on hundreds of soccer fans packing a stadium in Sierra Leone's capital for an African Cup-Winners' Cup match on Saturday, witnesses said, reports Reuter.

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## US grapplers clinch World Cup

**CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. Apr 9:** Dominic Black decimated Rustem Kelehsaev in the 198-pound classification and the United States defeated Russia 20-18 to capture the World Cup of freestyle wrestling championship, reports AP.

The Americans won five of the first seven matches, with Zeke Jones (114), Terry Brands (125), Tom Brands (136), Dave Schultz (163) and Kevin Jackson (180) all winning by decision to set up Black's clinching victory.

The United States finished the World Cup with 5-0 match record and 10 team points. Russia (4-1, 8 points) was second and Turkey (3-2, 6 points) third.

Iran finished fourth, followed by Canada and Japan.

The United States topped Japan and Russia downed Iran earlier Saturday to set up the championship match.

The Americans got a pin from Bruce Baumgartner in the 286-pound division in winning eight of 10 matches against Japan.

Russia had no trouble with Iran, winning nine of 10 matches, including pins by Viatcheslav Senik at 125 and Rustem Kelehsaev at 180.</