

Column One SPORTS TALK



**Chris Cairns**  
(New Zealand's star all-rounder)  
Everybody can hit sixes. It's a matter of backing yourself to do it regularly. I've never had a problem backing myself.  
If the ball is there to be hit, I just try to give it a whack.  
On his ability to belt sixes.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN  
Sports WHIZZ KID competition-27  
Tick the Correct Answer  
(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Feb 23, 1996)

- 1. Asian Club football champions are:  
Tha Farmers Kawasaki Verdy Al-Haz
- 2. The 1974 Asian Games were held in:  
Doha Tehran Islamabad
- 3. The present West Indian cricket vice-captain is:  
Courtney Walsh Brian Lara Roger Harper
- 4. Tennis prodigy Martina Hingis is a:  
Swiss Czech Polish
- 5. The name of the captain of the UAE cricket team is:  
Saeed Anwar

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

The Daily Star readers' poll

Dear readers, we're pretty sure you didn't have much difficulty in predicting Pakistan's emphatic triumph over UAE yesterday. Still, still marks to you. Keep up the good work.  
Today's predicted winners: South Africa.

Arjuna receives good luck bat

COLOMBO, Feb 24: A giant bat with more than one million signatures on it and wishing good luck to Sri Lanka cricketers was given to skipper Arjuna Ranatunga Tuesday a day before their World Cup opener against Zimbabwe, reports AFP.  
Sri Lanka's Board of Control for Cricket presented the 22-foot (5.6 metres) wooden replica that had been taken around the country for six weeks to collect fans' signatures.  
"We wanted to get the fans involved in the game and that is why we thought this signature campaign," said a spokesman for Coca Cola which is sponsoring the event.  
Australia and the West Indies pulled out of their matches here leaving only Zimbabwe and Kenya to play in Sri Lanka.

Goran, Becker storm into semis

ANTWERP, Belgium, Feb 24: Goran Ivanisevic gained a revenge win over Italian Renzo Furlan in the quarterfinals of the European Community tennis championship on Friday in his chase for a third consecutive tournament victory, reports Reuters.  
But the third-seeded Croat, who extended his recent winning streak to 13 matches, now faces the formidable task of having to beat Australian Open champion Boris Becker in the semifinals if he wants to add the Antwerp title to those he won in Zagreb and Dubai.  
Becker, who missed Germany's Davis Cup match against Switzerland and last week's Dubai Open because of inflamed leg ligaments and a back problem, produced almost flawless tennis to cruise past Spaniard Francisco Clavet 6-3, 6-3.  
But he said he would have to raise his game further against Ivanisevic.  
Ivanisevic defeated Furlan 4-6, 7-6, 6-2 to avenge his third round defeat at the hands of the Italian in last month's Australian Open.

Champs' cameo campaign



**GUJRANWALA, Pakistan.** Feb 24: Three wicket wizard Mushtaq Ahmed and fiery strike bowler Waqar Younis gave Pakistan the perfect World Cup start here today with a clinical nine-wicket humiliation of the United Arab Emirates, reports AFP.

The rain restricted performance, albeit against the weakest outfit of the tournament, instantly dismissed all talk of Pakistan's off the field problems.

Now all the headlines will focus on how the most talented side in the world, who rattled off the runs with 15 overs to spare, can be stopped from retaining their title.

The day had begun well for the Emirates, the game cut reduced to a 33-over shootout by overnight rain. That should have given them an outside chance of causing a stir after massive defeats to South Africa and England.

Their puff-pastry cricket, however, proved to the taste of Wasim Akram's team.

Only Saleem Raza — ironically a Lahore-born Pakistani in Emirates camouflage — put up any resistance at all, producing the shot of the tournament in the process.

Premeditating the blow, he found Wasim Akram's delivery pitching perfectly for him to swing the ball way out of the ground at square leg.

It was hard to decide who was more astonished, the bowler or batsman. Raza had spent the first few overs playing and missing at Waqar's express outswingers.

Raza, however, after a few more slogs that trusted more to luck than science, chopped under an Aqib Javed delivery that ended in the hands of Javed Miandad — playing in a record sixth World Cup in a row — and the sound of shattering woodwork began.

Azhar Saeed ran himself out, shocked by an unexpected sharp Pakistani fielding display, then Ganesh Mylvaganam, also unable to put a bat on Waqar, failed to read a Mushtaq Ahmed googly and lost his middle stump. His scoring rate of 13 off 50 balls said it all.

Four wickets then fell for 14 runs as Mushtaq took over. The Emirates hotchpotch of Asian imports simply could not read the leg spinner's variations.

Another googly saw the end of Muhammad Aslam, who shaped to cut what he thought was a leg spinner, and Maszar Hussain failed hope fully and drove into the hands of Waqar at mid off. At 54 for five in the 20 overs, the crowd settled back to watch a demonstration.

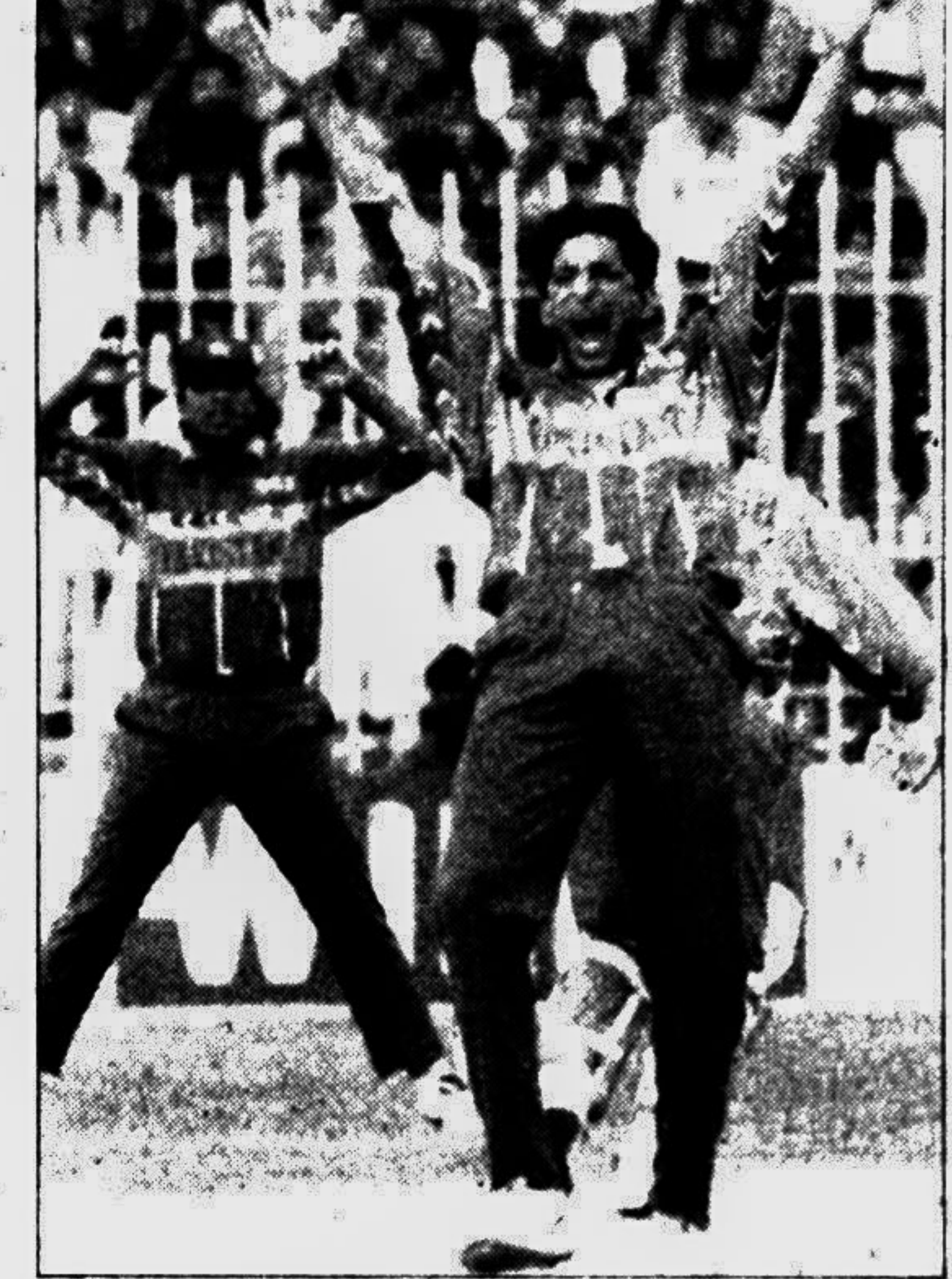
Wasim, varying his pace, chipped in with a wonderful slower ball and a yorker to take two wickets and Waqar brushed off a six from Shaikat Dukarwala to settle Johannes Samarasckera's stumps for his only run.

The demoralised Emirates side, who had admitted before the game that their chances of victory were nil, saw Johannes Samarasckera's first ball flicked away for four by Aamir Sohail.

The bowler provided the only excitement of the second session with a fine in swinger five balls later to castle Sohail but from then on it was one-way traffic. Samarasckera, the Emirates' only bowler of note, lost his line completely — he

produced one ten ball over including three wides and a non ball — as Pakistan, with a 105-run partnership from Ijaz Ahmed (50 not out) and Saeed Anwar (40 not out), cantered home.

Despite the lopsided victory skipper Wasim Akram said: "I thought the boys looked really



**WASIM ON THE WARPATH:** Pakistan skipper Wasim Akram vociferously appeals for an LBW against UAE opener Ganesh Mylvaganam while burly Inzamam-ul-Haq joins in from first slip during the world champions' Group 'B' opener in Gujranwala, Pakistan, yesterday. Pakistan nailed the minnows down by 9 wickets. — AFP/UNB photo

**SCOREBOARD**  
World Cup scorecard from Group B match between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates here on Saturday:  
**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**  
G Mylvaganam b Mushtaq 13  
S Raza c Miandad b Aaqib 22  
A Saeed run out 1

**PAKISTAN**  
Aamir Sohail b Samarasckera 5  
Saeed Anwar not out 40  
Ijaz Ahmed not out 50  
Extras: (lb-1, w-12, nb-4) 17  
Total: (1 wkt, 18 overs) 112  
Did not bat: Salim Malik, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Javed Miandad, Wasim Akram, Rashid Latif, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Aaqib Javed  
Fall of wickets: 1-27; 2-40; 3-47; 4-53; 5-54; 6-70; 7-80; 8-108; 9-109  
Bowling: O M R W  
Mushtaq Ahmed 7 1 25 2  
Waqar Younis 7 0 33 1  
Aaqib Javed 6 0 18 2  
Mushtaq Ahmed 7 0 16 3  
Aamir Sohail 6 1 16 0

**MUSHTAQ ... m-o-m**  
sharp, really keen today.  
"We looked good in the field and batted professionally. It's a good sign for the tournament ahead."  
Mushtaq Ahmed, declared the man-of-the-match, added: "Pakistan can defend the World Cup — definitely. I did well and the googly worked."

The WC quips & quotes

**NEW DELHI, Feb 24 (Reuters):** A week is a long time in World Cup cricket.

After the opening salvoes in the sixth World Cup, Indian and Pakistani commentators combined to criticise the new expanded format.

Kenya, Holland and the United Arab Emirates have been included for the first time in the one-day tournament and the early performances of the UAE, in particular, incurred the wrath of the subcontinent's leading cricket writers.

One dissenting voice was former Australian captain Ian Chappell. "Why should we expand the World Cup and have 12 teams? For the same reason that we no longer have Test cricket only being played by Australia and England," he wrote in a newspaper column.

Today, it appeared that highly creditable performances by Kenyans and the Dutch over the past week had won over the local scribblers.

The Times of India devoted the bottom columns of its front page to a bylined story by Rahul Celly headlined "watch out, these minnows may strike back one day."

"Dutchmen Tim de Leede, Van Noortwijk and Bas Zitterdient displayed some lusty batting which may have given a moment or two of worry to the English at Peshawar," Celly wrote.

"And considering Holland's enviable record in international sport, be it football, hockey or even tennis it wouldn't be too much to expect them to be a force to reckon with 10 years from now."

"Kenya, by the looks of it, are very likely to go the West Indian way of explosive cricket," Celly said India had been minnows at the 1983 World Cup, having shown no previous ability to adapt to the one-day game, but had gone on against all the odds to upset the West Indies in the final.

"The minnows, then, are the future," he concluded.

The minnows theme was also picked up by R. Mohan in the Hindu, who also praised both the Netherlands and Kenya.

"They will not be minnows for long," Mohan wrote, describing Kenya as the team of the future.

SA-ENGLAND MATCH-FILE

ISLAMABAD, Feb 24 (AFP): Match file of South Africa's World Cup clash with England on Sunday:

**Group B:** (Pakistan, New Zealand, South Africa, England, Holland and the United Arab Emirates).

**Strengths and weaknesses:** South Africa's bowling and fielding performance against the New Zealanders was breathtaking and set the standard for the rest of the tournament. The batting is said to be unimaginative, but the point has yet to be proved as no side has been able to test it.

England's batting line-up is beginning to show signs of form but the strike bowling looks moribund on flat wickets and the fielding at best competent and at worst, horrible.

**Men to watch (subject to selection):** Brian McMillan has yet to bat in anger in the Cup so far, but his slip catching and pace bowling, with the odd run out thrown in, have marked him out as the hub of the South African side.

Graeme Hick has been carrying the England batting albatross single-handedly since the side arrived at the tournament. His current average of 189 speaks for itself — particularly since his one dismissal in two outings was not his fault and largely the work of his captain Mike Atherton, who was acting as his runner.

**Cup head-to-head:** England 2, South Africa 0. England beat them four years ago both in their group encounter, with Andrew Hudson's 79 being cancelled out by a 77 from Alex Stewart and an undefeated 75 from Neil Fairbrother, but also in a semifinal rendered farcical by a rain rule which robbed the South Africans of a chance of victory. That day Hick scored 83 and Hudson 46.

**Previous records:** England losing finalists in 1979, 1987 and 1992. South Africa — losing semi — finalists in 1992.

**Form book:** South Africa, thrashed England 6-1 at home in a one-day series just before the Cup. Since then they have got stronger and stronger and England worse and worse.

**WC STANDINGS**  
ISLAMABAD, Feb 24 (AFP): World Cup standings after Saturday's match between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates in Group B (top four from each group qualify; played, won, lost, no result, tied, points):

**Group A**

	P	W	L	N	R	T	Pts
Sri Lanka	3	3	0	0	0	6	6
India	2	2	0	0	0	4	4
West Indies	3	1	2	0	0	2	2
Australia	2	1	0	0	0	2	2
Kenya	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Zimbabwe	2	0	2	0	0	0	0

**Group B**

	P	W	L	N	R	T	Pts
South Africa	2	2	0	0	0	4	4
New Zealand	3	2	1	0	0	4	4
England	3	2	1	0	0	4	4
Pakistan	1	1	0	0	0	2	2
Holland	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
UAE	3	0	3	0	0	0	0

**TODAY'S VENUE**  
RAWALPINDI: The name Rawalpindi came about as being the site where the Rawals, a wandering tribe, had settled. The area was eventually lost to the Sikhs, who in turn surrendered to the British. When the British took over, Rawalpindi was chosen as the cantonment town. In 1959 Rawalpindi was chosen as the interim capital of Pakistan until Islamabad was completed.

A major military cantonment, it is 20km away from the national capital of Islamabad. The small 15,000-seater Pindi.

Club ground is a regular centre for international matches and will host three World Cup games along with today's match: South Africa v England.

Journalists denied access

BOMBAY, Feb 24: Navjot Singh Sidhu did not attend the Indian World Cup squad's net at the Bombay Gymkhana here yesterday because of a sore throat, reports PTI.

All the other 13 members took part in the three-hour practice session held in the afternoon.

They Gymkhana managing committee has imposed a ban on reporters and photographers from entering its premises to talk to the Indian team members or shoot pictures much to the consternation of the journalists covering the mega event.

Gymkhana secretary Capt. Saldanha told PTI that the restrictions were in vogue even when the Australians had practised there after forfeiting their opening fixture against Sri Lanka on February 17.

Ex-Pak snooker champ shot at

KARACHI, Feb 24: Pakistan's former national snooker champion Naveen Parvati was shot at and critically injured early Saturday in an ambush by unidentified gunmen, police said, reports AFP.

Hooded attackers opened fire on 24-year-old Parvati while he was driving home with his fiancée Sangeeta from a late night party in the city's southern posh seaside Clifton area, family sources said.

Parvati was seriously wounded in the abdomen and hospitalised while Sangeeta escaped unhurt. The snooker player's mother said she was

ROQUIBUL ON THE ROCKER

Clash of odd customers



World champions Pakistan got off to a flying start in defending their title with a thumping nine-wicket victory over lowly rated UAE in Gujranwala yesterday.

In spite of the fact that Pakistan was pitted against a much weaker side in the tournament, they wrapped up the match in an absolutely clinical and professional style. They fielded brilliantly, bowled very accurately and showed enough consistency in their batting.

On the other hand, UAE once again failed to show any sign of improvement in their performance. Their batting, dubbed as their main plus point, failed to click once again, and one should not forget that one-day cricket is a game of batsmen.

Overnight heavy rain threatened the game to be played yesterday, but thanks to the enormous efforts of the groundsmen that made a reduced 33-over contest possible. Putting UAE into bat first by the Pakistan captain Wasim

Akram after winning the toss was quite sensible.

A shortened match of 33 overs may sound to some as a sort of "slog overs" contest, but in reality it is a 198-ball match not to speak of the no balls and wides. This is what I thought the UAE batsmen failed to realise along with the fact that they were up against arguably the best fast bowling pair in the world backed by top fast-medium pacer Aaqib Javed and leggie Mushtaq Ahmed. What they should have done was to apply the basics, play to the pace of the fast deliveries and not go after them and pick up the ones and twos and hit the odd loose balls.

This could have helped UAE, not losing wickets at regular intervals but putting up a respectable total around 150. Hitting a couple of sixes against world class bowlers is indeed a great achievement but at the end of the day, it all trickles down to how many runs the team has scored.

All the Pakistani bowlers bowled with a superb control and Mustaq, the man-of-the-match, not only picked up his 100th ODI wicket but returned with the match figure of 3 for 16 from his seven overs to prove his class and a possible

match winner for his country in the future matches.

Set to score 110 runs to win, opener Saeed Anwar (40 n.o) and one down Ijaz Ahmed (50 n.o) completed the job in just 18 overs with their true professional batting.

The weak UAE bowling, although had an early success, offered too many wickets to the batsmen and bowled plenty of no balls and wides. Their only wicket taker Samarasckera may go into the record book having to bowl twelve deliveries to complete an over!

This win no doubt will be a good morale booster for Pakistan in defending their title as their cricket has been going through a very bad patch during the last five months.

I shall be failing in my duties if I do not mention the great sight of Miandad on the mini screen, one of the world's great and Pakistan's all time greatest batsman. In making his sixth consecutive World Cup appearance (a record in the history of the World Cup).

I only wish him a success in helping Pakistan in its cause which he has been successfully doing for the last twenty years or so and bids farewell to cricket with his head high.

Illy to end experiment



RAWALPINDI, Feb 24 (Reuters): England team manager Ray Illingworth wants captain Mike Atherton to abandon the experiment of batting in the middle-order and return to his opening berth.

Atherton first dropped down to number four and then number five for the matches against the United Arab Emirates and the Netherlands to split up the left-handers in England's line-up.

But he managed only 20 against the UAE and 10 against the Netherlands and Illingworth, speaking as the side arrived in Rawalpindi on Friday ahead of Sunday's clash with South Africa, said it was time for the experiment to stop.

"We'll be having a meeting tonight to discuss the next match and we will talk about whether Mike should go back up the order," he said.

"Mike is happy to bat in the middle-order, but against an attack which includes some of the best seamers in the world he should open the innings."

Atherton, England's leading batsman for the past two years, has scored just 33 runs from three innings in the tournament and although he remains outwardly confident that the barren run will end soon, Illingworth would like to see his captain back at the top of the order.

"Mike's not unduly concerned but he needs to get out of the habit of not scoring runs," said Illingworth.

"I'm not criticising him, but he missed out in the latter stages of the (recent) South African tour and even the best player in the world needs runs in the middle."

Illingworth said he felt Atherton had developed a slight technical flaw in his batting outside the off-stump.

Mike knows about the problem which started in South Africa, but the net pitches have not been very good for him to work on it as they have been slow, low turners. What he needs is some good practice against seam bowling.

Illingworth said all-rounder Dominic Cork would not be given a cortisone injection in his injured right knee. Cork picked up the injury during England's week of practice in Lahore before the tournament and he has barely been able to work on his bowling in between matches.

The injection was suggested as a possible remedy, but Illingworth said, "The team doctor Philip Bell indicated that if Dominic had the injection, it would be at least a week before he could play again, which is longer than the gap between matches."

"We think he should be okay without one and he is happy with that," Illingworth said the team to face South Africa would be selected after practice on Saturday.

He acknowledged South Africa were a good team but said England were confident they could win.

"They have impressed in the field even more so than Australia, and all their bowlers can field which helps. But they might lack in batting and we hope to get into them."

"It would be very pleasant to beat them after losing the one-day series 6-1 out there last month as it would get things back on an even keel."

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Adams, Atherton's headache



RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Feb 24: South Africa's teenage spinner Paul Adams, who tormented England on their recent tour to the Republic, is likely to be back in action against Mike Atherton's men in their World Cup Group B match on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Atherton has been playing down the threat posed by Adams and insists England can bounce back from a run of mediocre form in one-day matches to beat the highly-fancied South African team.

"We know they are a competitive side, a very good fielding unit who bowl tightly, but I think their batting is suspect and, as with any side, if you get two or three wickets you can put them under pressure," he said.

The England skipper said Adams would pose a threat only if the pitch at the Pindi Stadium turned.

"If they ball turns Paul Adams will be a decent bowler, but if there is no turn he'll be there to be whacked just like anyone else," said Atherton.

Adams, 19, who will make his World Cup debut if he plays on Sunday, was a key member of the South African side that crushed England 6-1 in the one-day series in the republic last month.

Atherton, whose gutsy batting in South Africa was one of

the few aspects his team could take pride in from the tour, maintains that nothing should be read into last month's.

"There is no psychological problem playing South Africa, even though we lost 6-1 in the one-day series. That's got no relevance to the World Cup," he said.

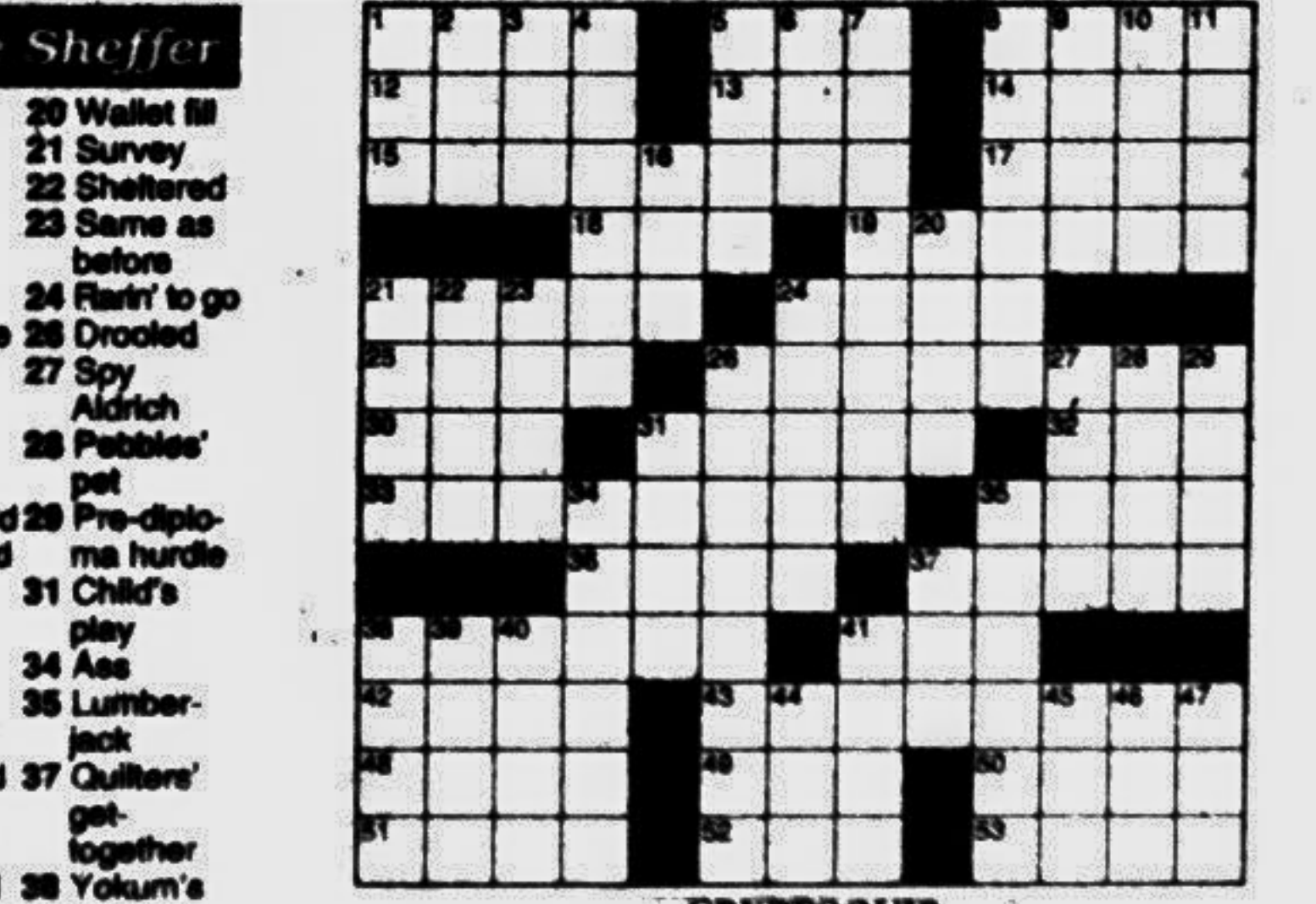
"These are different conditions. This is a different scenario and we are looking to turning the tables."

South Africa are not impressed by England's chequered performances in the Cup so far.

"Whether they have got their act together is very doubtful, looking at what they have been doing here," South African coach Bob Woolmer told reporters.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Enthusias- 36 Musical 53 Tear
  - 5 Cleo's 38 Home 54 DOWN
  - 9 Near-black 1 Repe.
  - 10 Very close, 2 Ma.
  - 11 Where the 38 Cheese 3 Guy's date 24 Ruled 27 Spy 28 Pottles' pet
  - 12 Office 38 Crack- 4 Straight- 5 At the 26 Pottles' pet
  - 13 Kids' card 41 St. Bernard's 6 Depressed 7 Can, 31 Child's
  - 14 Lotion 42 Eager 43 Trailor 48 Rock 8 Long-vowel 35 Lumber-jack
  - 15 Fance 48 Rock 8 Long-vowel 35 Lumber-jack
  - 17 Arrive 49 Previous to 9 Billions and 37 Quilts' get-together
  - 18 Festive 49 Previous to 9 Billions and 37 Quilts' get-together
  - 19 Alphabet- 50 "go 10 Where all roads lead 38 Yolum's creator
  - 21 House 51 Juror 10 Where all roads lead 38 Yolum's creator
  - 22 Nevada 52 Margery 16 Perched 38 "The Morning Watch" writer
  - 23 Automaker 53 Solution time: 24 mins. 40 Pay head 41 Recognized
  - 24 Honor with 54 OVI SLEEPY 42 Mound 43
  - 25 Movie 55 WAITED HERE 43 MOUND 43
  - 26 Manner-arts 56 CAVATORTI 44 You 44
  - 27 Screen 57 OPERA 45 Lonesome 45
  - 28 Cowboy 58 PRINCE 46 Ce- 46
  - 29 Tom 59 ASH PLANT 47 This club, appropriate



**CRYPTOQUIP**  
IPF FLFE VKEF AKEF  
BJE HJLF TIBZEV  
VZQPI ZV ITWZUQ T  
QJJS VFAJUS HJJW  
Yesterday's Cryptogram: CARE TO REALLY CUT YOUR UTILITY BILL? BUY SCISSORS.  
Today's Cryptogram clue: Q equals G  
The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to