BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 28: Ricardo Powell, a 20year-old all-rounder who has yet to play a one-day match for his native Jamaica, will replace Carl Hooper on the West Indies squad in the cricket World Cup in England, reports AP.

Hooper, 32, unexpectedly announced his retirement from international cricket on Saturday during the series of seven one-day internationals against Australia. He had been on the West Indies team since

Powell is an attacking middle-order batsman, an off-spin bowler and brilliant fielder. But he has only played six first-class matches and has no experience in England.

"We will obviously miss Carl, who is an outstanding cricketer and had vast experience, not least playing for Kent in the English county championship for many years," manager Clive Lloyd said. "But this is a chance for Powell to show his worth in the biggest tournament in world cricket."

Powell, who is from the rural area of St. Elizabeth in southern Jamaica, said Monday he was surprised by the board's choice but felt ready to

"If I play to the best of my ability I know I can make an impression," he said.

Experts were impressed by Powell's aggressive batting in the regional Busta Cup competition, during which he scored 246 runs in three matches, including a career-best 114 against eventual champions Barbados at the Kensington Oval in that country.

The innings, his first century in first-class cricket, contained 17 boundaries and three sixes and impressed many including Everton Weekes, one of the region's great batsmen. "He has all the shots,"

Weekes said after the match. Powell also picked up five wickets bowling his off spinners, which made him a suitable replacement for Hooper, a similar type of cricketer.

Powell was a prolific runscorer in the Headley Cup, the leading competition for rural schools in Jamaica, and was voted MVP in the 1998 West Indies Nortel Youth tournament in Trinidad and Tobago, when he captained Jamaica.

The team is scheduled to leave for the tournament on May 2 and will play in a preliminary group with Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Pakistan and Scotland. The other group comprises England, India, Kenya, South Africa, Sri

The top three teams from each group advance to the second round, the so-called Super Sixes, that will determine the semifinalists.

Lanka and Zimbabwe.

The World Cup opens with a match between defending champions Sri Lanka and England at Lord's in London on May 14 and ends with the final at the same venue June 20.

Celtic-Rangers clash sparks security fears

GLASGOW, Apr 28: Celtic and Rangers security officers will meet later this week to finalise arrangements ahead of potentially one of the most hostile Old Firm derbies in the fixture's long history, reports

Rangers have the opportunity to seal the Scottish Premier League title at their rivals' home Parkhead for the first time ever if they claim victory on Sunday, an outcome with huge safety implications.

Already the Scottish Premier League have stressed there is no prospect of the trophy presentation being made to Rangers at Celtic Park; that would wait until their following

home game with Hearts. Now Rangers security officer Lawrence McIntyre has raised the issue of where players not involved in the action should sit amid fears they might be

subject to abuse if based in the main stand. His Celtic counterpart George Douglas on Tuesday confirmed that given the sensitive nature of an already highprofile fixture, special arrangements might well need to

be made in conjunction with the police. He said: "We will be having a formal meeting with police in which security at the match

will be discussed and the agenda of what we will be covering at that meeting is fairly full. "It has happened before that players from the opposing side have been seated in the away

section, but I cannot speak for the police who may have their own views on what should happen on the day this time. matches and brings its own

The Old Firm game is quite different from all other pressures, but both clubs are well-rehearsed regarding the operation which needs to be put in place and every issue will be addressed."

Mutola's 1000m record ratified

MONACO, Apr 28: Mozam-bique's Maria Mutola had her 1000m indoor world record ratified by the sports world gov-erning body IAAF on Tuesday, reports AFP.

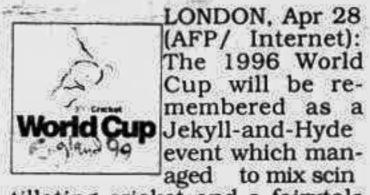
Mutola, the outdoor African and Commonwealth 800m champion, clocked 2min 30.94sec on February 25 at the Globen Galan meeting in Stockholm.

Germany's Nicole Rieger-Humbert women's world indoor pole vault record of 4.56m set at the same meeting was also rati-



JUST LANDED! The new media centre at Lord's Cricket Ground in London, named 'Spaceship,' was unveiled on April 27. The 5.8 million pounds structure will accommodate 250 pressmen. - AFP photo

Of a Lankan fairytale



tillating cricket and a fairytale finale with unprecedented con-Sri Lanka's first triumph,

beating Australia in the final by seven wickets thanks to Aravinda de Silva's undefeated 107, offered a superb sporting

Sadly, however, that high point was more than matched by the tournament's many lows. The event ran into trouble before a ball had been bowled.

Shortly before the 12 teams congregated in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, a massive explosion in the centre of Colombo killed around 90 peo-

Australia and the West Indies responded to the bombing, blamed on Tamil separatists, by refusing to play there.

Their hosts first tried to assure them by offering massive military security. When that failed, they bitterly ridiculed them, with national politicians all but accusing the Australians in particular of cowardice. Finally, both Australia and

forfeit the games, virtually guaranteeing Sri Lanka a place in the quarterfinals in the pro-

the West Indies were forced to

The tournament never really recovered. The format didn't help.

A lengthy first round merely eliminated four sides - Zimbabwe, Kenya and the hugely outclassed United Arab Emirates and Holland.

At least there was some sensational batting, on admittedly friendly tracks. Sachin Tendulkar and Mark

Waugh, seen as the top two batsmen in the world, put on a real show.

World Cup Cup seven years

high quality out-cricket a

priority if they are to be a

and fielding up to top-notch

standard, and that is the key in

restricting your opponents.

strict a side to scoring between

225 and 230 only. We always

have the batsmen who can score

the semifinals of the 1992

World Cup in Australia and New

Zealand when they finished top

of the nine-team qualifying

table after winning seven of

their eight matches. They lost

The former New Zealand

captain said the 1999 World Cup

was the most open for some

time but put Australia and

South Africa as favourites:

without counting out his own

Stephen Fleming, hard-hitting

batsman Craig McMillan and

all-rounder Chris Cairns back

from major injuries which kept

them out of the bulk of home

World Cup warned West In-dian cricket au-

must upgrade security at their

grounds significantly if they

hope to stage the World Cup in

Waugh was reacting to ugly scenes here on Sunday when the

final one-day international

was stopped for 45 minutes by

bottle-throwing spectators an-

gered at the controversial run-

win Campbell.

out of West Indies opener Sher-

The Australian skipper claimed the issue of player

safety had reached crisis point and it was time for the game's

not restricted to matches in the

Caribbean. There had been

similar incidents in Australia,

the sub-continent and New

rupted one-day games in

But crowd trouble which dis-

Waugh said the problem was

administrators to act.

Zealand in recent years.

BRIDGETOWN,

Barbados, Apr 28

(Reuters): Aus-

tralia's captain

Steve Waugh has

thoriti es they

New Zealand have skipper

to Pakistan in the semifinals.

Crowe took his country to

"The ideal would be to re-

then we'll do well," Crowe said.

"If we can get our bowling

success, reports Reuters.

that.'

nation.

WELLINGTON,

Apr 28: Martin

Crowe, who led

New Zealand in

their best World

ago, says the 1996

squad must make

innings of 127 not out (v Kenya). 70 (v West Indies), 90 (v Australia) and 137 (v Sri Lanka). The Australian riposted with his first three knocks of 130 (v Kenyal, 126 (v India) and 76 not

out (v Zimbabwe). The spectacle was also helped by Kenya's startling defeat of the West Indies, dismissed for 93 while chasing 166, and by Sri Lanka's revolutionary approach to the game. Convention had it that one-

SL'S SCHEDULE Group A Round One

May 14 England, Lord's May 19 South Africa, Northampton May 22 Zimbabwe, Worces-

May 26 India, Taunton May 30 Kenya, Southampton



day innings began slowly and gradually accelerated. Sri Lanka, exploiting new

rules restricting the number of out-fielders during the first 15 overs, turned that idea on its

Against India, openers Sanath Jayasuriya and Romesh Kaluwitharna put on 43 in three overs. Against Kenya, the same duo scored 83 off 40 balls as the team recorded 398 off 50 overs. And Jayasuriya later hit 82 against England at two runs a

The World Cup had never seen anything like it. The real business, however, The Indian opened with four

one-day internationals against

India and South Africa in the

the first Indian one-dayer,

Cairns suffered a hamstring in-

jury in the first South Africa

MARTIN CROWE

match and McMillan had a

hand injury which ruled him

out of the second half of the

against India 3-1 and lost to

South Africa 3-2, showing signs

they could be a potent force in

and 106 in the first two South

Guyana and Barbados in the

past week meant the spotlight

was firmly fixed on the

Caribbean which is due to host

its first World Cup in eight

a safe place, I've always enjoyed

playing cricket here and the

crowds have been fantastic, but

their reputation has been

tainted today," Waugh said after

put their hand up and take re-

sponsibility because if they are

hoping to hold the World Cup

here in eight or nine years then

obviously things have got to

something happening with

spectators running on the pitch.

You can't do that in any other

what's happened in the last

couple of games, it makes you

wonder what are you playing

Clive Lloyd said because of the

intimate nature of the smaller

West Indies team manager

professional sport.

cricket for."

"Every second game there's

"I'm just so disappointed at

"Someone's going to have to

"I thought Barbados would be

Opener Nathan Astle hit 92

New Zealand won the series

South African series.

the World Cup.

years' time.

Sunday's game.

change.

Fleming injured his groin in

southern summer.

began in the quarter-finals with the unexpected demise of the South Africans. The only unbeaten side with five wins from the preliminary stage, they crashed to Richie Richardson's West Indians and a Brian Lara century.

Soon only Australia, the West Indies, Sri Lanka and India - who had beaten Pakistan in a contest preceded by threats of violence from radical Indian Hindus against Wasim Akram's team - were left standing.

One semi-final was to prove a classic, the other a disaster. Australia, reduced to 15 for four before struggling to 207 for eight, managed to defeat the West Indies in Chandigarh by five runs with three balls to spare.

A flabbergasted Richardson. heading for retirement, saw his men collapse from 165 for two to 203 all out, man-of-thematch Shane Warne grabbing four for 36.

That classic confrontation, however, was overshadowed by the game in Calcutta.

The match was awarded to Sri Lanka after 110,000 fans in Eden Gardens, realising India were heading for certain defeat. rioted and began hurling projectiles onto the pitch. That night, effigies of Mo-

hammad Azharuddin, the In-

dian captain, were burned in the streets. He - like Wasim Akram who was blamed for Pakistan's exit ended the tournament in hiding

from his own supporters. Fortunately, that fate did not befall the captain of the other host nation.

Arjuna Ranatunga was instead feted as a national hero after the seven-wicket defeat of he Australians in the Gaddafi stadium in Lahore.

Ranatunga - whose undefeated 47 that night gave him a tournament average of 120 and his side, deserved their success, if only for their thrilling reinvention of one-day batting. Crowe on Kiwi chances

African matches and Roger

Twose had several innings in

the 60s and 70s which secured

his potentially shaky hold on a

Allott, while not spectacular in

either Test series, was aggres-

sive and a match-winner in the

one-dayers, especially against

Crowe said the big responsi-

bilities of the World Cup would

rest on Cairns with the new ball

and his middle order batting.

Gavin Larsen with his miserly

slow medium bowling near the

end of the first 15 overs in

which fielding restrictions ap-

ply, and Chris Harris, a one-day

specialist with his unorthodox

right-arm leg cutters and vigor-

innings in a one-day interna-

tional, someone has done a

good anchoring job and hit a

good 70-odd, and that will fall

on Fleming and Twose after

Astle. Matt Horne and

McMillan have hopefully given

dark horses at World Cups and

taking them lightly is a risky

group including Scotland and

Bangladesh, they will certainly

be disappointed not to be among

the top three qualifying for the

Caribbean grounds and the fact

crowds were much closer to the

players than at many other venues around the world, secu-

rity in the West Indies needed to be among the best of all cricket

Lloyd said authorities

should constantly broadcast

reminder messages to fans to

ensure they understand violent

and disruptive behaviour would

Board (WICB) is yet to make an

official comment about Sun-day's crowd trouble which

started when Barbadian Camp-

bell was run out after colliding

with Australian bowler Bren-

The capacity crowd of 15,000

showered the playing area with bottles and rubbish, prompting

Waugh to lead his players back

turn to continue the match.

don Julian in mid-pitch.

to the dressing rooms.

The West Indies Cricket

New Zealand are perennial

In a first-round six-team

us a blazing start," Crowe said.

"If you look at a winning

South Africa.

ous batting.

business.

second stage.

nations.

not be tolerated.

Left-arm fast bowler Geoff

middle order one-day place.

'Spaceship' unveiled

LONDON, Apr 28: The traditional hub of world cricket took on a futuristic look Tuesday when Lord's officials launched the modern media centre. dubbed the "spaceship", reports

The 5.8 million pound (9.3 million dollars) facility was unveiled by Marylebone Cricket Club president Tony Lewis less than two weeks before the World Cup opens at the ground with a match between England and defending titlist Sri Lanka.

The oval-shaped building stands 15 metres (yards) above the pitch at the Nursery End and supplants the existing facility in a unique mix with the more stately architecture at St John's Wood.

Lord's will also be the venue for the World Cup final on June 20, the fourth time the championship final has been held at the ground.

Thomas Lord established the ground in 1814 and the MCC moved in 1866. The MCC was cricket's world governing body until 1968 and still maintains its headquarters at Lord's.

The usually ultra-conservative MCC, which broke more than a century of tradition by admitting women after a landmark vote of its 17,000 members this year, built the new facility in conjunction with NatWest Bank.

Some people may not like something of such distinctive style," Lewis said. "But we love

Bevan, Pollock top ODI ratings

UNDATED: Michael Bevan and Shaun Pollock are the new number one batsman and bowler in the Pricewaterhouse-Coopers One Day Ratings, updated after 65 one-day internationals played this year, says a media release on the internet Tuesday.

Bevan has averaged 102.2 with the bat in 1999 and takes over from Sachin Tendulkar who missed two series for India. Pollock replaces Saglain Mushtag at number one.

The one-day ratings pu more emphasis on players' recent form than performances earlier in their careers.

In the batting, there have been big climbs for Adam Gilchrist (up 15 to 5th) and Lance Klusener (up 30 to 9th) Those surprised at Klusener's rise will be interested that he has averaged 88.6 with the bat this year, scoring at about a run

Graeme Hick (11th), Inzamamul Haq (14th) and Darren Lehmann (20th) have also moved up significantly in 1999. Brian Lara has dropped by almost 100 points since Jan-

uary, but his very high rating from previous years means that he holds on to third place. In the bowling, Azhar Mahmood's combination of wickets

and economy has lifted him to third in the bowling (Mahmood has been one of the most economical ODI bowlers over the last twelve months). Glenn McGrath, who has

been set back by injury for much of the last two years, is up 12 places to 10th. Other bowlers heading for the top are Adam. Dale (20th), Alan Mullally (33rd), Merv Dillon (39th) and Shoaib Akhtar (41st). All of these bowlers are still qualifying for their full ratings (which they will achieve after playing 40 matches).

Hodgson yet happy

MILAN, Italy, Apr 28 (Reuters/ Internet): English coach Roy Hodgson feels a little embarrassed to be back at Inter Milan but insists the move was dictated by extraordinary circumstances.

"This is a strange, extraordinary situation," Hodgson said after Inter brought him back to the San Siro on Tuesday to work alongside Luciano Castellini, the club's third coach of the season.

"I'm a bit embarrassed but I'm here as a friend of the club to lend a hand," he told Gazzetta dello Sport. "I'm happy to be back and hope to get as many points as possible and maybe reach a play-off place for the UEFA Cup.'

Inter have had a terrible sea-

son and are ninth in Serie A and out of all cup competitions. They sacked coach Luigi Simoni in December and replaced him with Romanian Mircea Lucescu who in turned stepped down last month after a 4-0 defeat at relegation-threatened Waugh words for Windies Sampdoria.

Goalkeeping coach Castellini took over but will step aside in the close season to make way for former Juventus boss Marcello Lippi.

"I'm at Lippi's complete disposal," said Hodgson, who coached Inter from 1995-97, stepping down after the Italian gaints lost the 1997 UEFA Cup final to Germany's Schalke 04.
"I'm here for Inter and the future of Inter is called Lippi," he added.

The decision of Inter president Massimo Moratti to recall Hodgson was greeted by surprise and humour in Italy. "It's just not possible. If this news is true than it must mean

side Venezia. But Inter star Ronaldo, speaking from Barcelona where he is due to play for Brazil on Wednesday night against his former Spanish club, praised Moratti for making a bold move

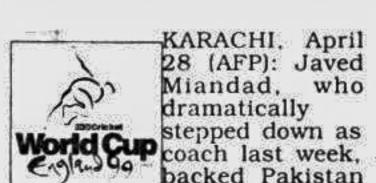
gone mad," said Maurizio Zam-

parini, chairman of Serie A

He was subsequently told by "I don't know the English the Barbados police commis-sioner that the Australian coach personally but I've heard he's the right man to clean up our house," Ronaldo said. "It's players' safety could not be guaranteed if they did not rethe right solution at a difficult moment."

at a critical moment.

Miandad: Change of heart



backed Pakistan as "hot" favourites

for the Cricket World Cup as the squad left without him for England on Tuesday. Miandad, 43, who has cited family commitments for his resignation, said he wished the

team "good luck" but added he would be available to help if the team needed him. His exit came after the Pakistan cricket bosses hired South African Richard Pybus as technical coach, a move Miandad saw as "an attempt to iso-

late and embarrass him."

sources close to the veteran

cricketer said. Miandad however sought to dispel the impression that he had problems with senior players including skipper Wasim Akram, saying, "it is time to forget the issue."

"I do not have any problems with any of the players. Otherwise my combination with Wasim and the boys would not have won matches. Even now I will be available to help whenever the boys need me." said Miandad.

"I wish all of you best of luck. And I want to tell you that I will be available any time you need me during the world cup," he

Miandad was confident of the team's talent.

"Our team has proved itself to be one of the favourites for the world cup through its excellent performance in recent times. It has the weaponry of

ence." the morale of the team to level

the series against India and win



JAVED MIANDAD

the triangular Asian Test Championship and the Sharjah His resignation on April 21

I think Pakistan has a better chance than South Africa and Australia but they just have to stick to the pattern we set for the World Cup and that is all,"

left fans stunned.

is now behind us. The Pakistan Cricket

Board's council is to meet on May 1 and 2 when it is expected to decide what to do about the resignation.

Pak exuberance untainted



world Cup listan inc.
England on Tuesday as one of the favourites for the World Cup wasim Ak sisting his team's chances will

> fixing row. The tournament favourites arrived at Manchester Airport 24 hours before a commission investigating the claims holds its final hearing in Lahore.

> But despite the disruption to his team's preparations for the tournament, which begins next month, a bullish Wasim was quick to play down concerns of team morale being affected. "The match-fixing issue

> doesn't matter to the Pakistan cricket team," he said. "We have been winning for the last three months, not just against India but also Sri Lanka and England. As for any other concerns apart from cricket, we are not bothered about it.

"I think the Pakistan team is sick of the allegations that have been going on for the last year and a half.

"So we just decided in the end we will not be bothered by the allegations and we will just get on, play our cricket and enjoy our cricket.

"That has been our motto for " the last three or four months and everything has been going well for us.

"We are tough boys and the best thing about us is we want to work hard, do well and have consistency in our side."

Wasim was careful not to overplay his team's excellent chances of winning the tournament but is happy they are rated good enough to take the trophy home with them.

We have been winning for the last three months but in England it's a different ball game altogether," he said. "It's nice to be the favourites.

the first two or three. I think England all have good sides.

WASIM AKRAM

can win the World Cup, any

team. Pakistan is up there with

those teams so let's see what

B for the tournament along

with 1987 champions Aus-

tralia, two-times winners West

Indies, New Zealand and debu-

tants Bangladesh and Scotland.

three warm-up matches before

taking on the West Indies in

their first match at Bristol on

he believed Pakistan will face

Vice captain Moin Khan said

The Pakistanis will play

Pakistan are placed in Group

"We are very happy that the cricket team has become a winning combination as demonstrated during their last three victories in three separate and successive tournaments," Hus-

"This is our biggest-ever success in cricket in the last seven years since we won the World

very hopeful. ...We feel that the team which has left for England today is a team which is unified, a team which is disciplined and a

Anwar, Shahid Afridi, Wajahatullah Wasti, Salim Malik,

Ijaz Ahmad, Inzamam-ul-Haq. Azhar Mahmood, Mushtaq Ahmad, Waqar Younis, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Akhtar, Yousaf Yohanna, Abdul Raz-



(AFP/ Internet): A judicial commission investigating World Cup legations in Pakistan cricket

postponed hear ings on Wednesday and its findings may now be delayed until after the World Cup, officials

Former captains, Rashid Latif and Aamir Sohail and Javed Miandad sought adjournment citing personal reasons, the registrar of Lahore High Court, Abdus Salam Khawar told the news agency. No proceedings were held and the judge, Malik Qayyum,

adjourned the hearing to a date to be fixed later, Khawar said. "Apparently it seems difficult to complete the findings until the World Cup is over," he

added.

Wasim Akram-led 15-member squad left for England on

sion for the postponement saying his mother was sick. Latif also cited similar reasons, the registrar said. Only former manager Intikhab Alam was present.

"Now it is for the judge to decide whether he thinks the commission has enough substance to finalise its findings or it should cross-examine more witnesses," Khawar said.

PCB legal advisor Sibtain Fazli said if the proceedings were held during the World Cup. the judge would hold the hearings "in camera" so that performance of the players was not affected. The match-fixing allega-

tions cropped up four years ago

when Australian players Shane

Warne, Tim May and Mark

Waugh accused Salim Malik of

offering them bribes to perform poorly during the 1994-95 tour of Pakistan.

Skipper Akram, star batsmen Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed, bowlers Mushtag Ahmed and Waqar Younis -- all members of present the World Cup squad -- were implicated in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) interim report last year for their alleged involvement in bribery.

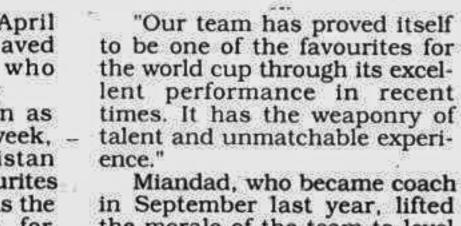
The players have denied the allegations.

Around 50 witnesses, including present and former players, cricket officials and alleged bookies have already appeared before the commission which started its investigation in September last year.

Sources said the commission wanted to wrap up the inquiry quickly but the busy schedule of the judge and the cricket team's hectic tours delayed the final lindings.



Roy Hodgson (C), Italian giants Inter Milan's new interim coach, talking with his players (L-R) goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca, striker Ivan Zamorano, an unidentified booter and defender Fabio Galante during a training session at Inter's Appiano Gentile base on April - AFP photo



change in strategy could prove

disastrous. "I will strictly advise against any new techniques for the

But he warned any new

"They just have to make sure that they play the full 50 overs. Once they do that and set a respectable total, our bowlers will

do the rest," he added. "Bowlers like Wasim, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Akhtar, Waqar Younis and Mushtaq Ahmed can bowl the side out

twice in 50 overs." Miandad scored 8,032 runs in 124 Tests-during his 21-year career starting in 1975, and played in all six World Cup tournaments so far.

"I have always served my country. I was born as a cricketer and will die as a cricketer as cricket is in my blood, he

Meanwhile, Information and Sports Minister Mushahid Hussain said he had a good meeting with Miandad when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif gave a reception for the team last week. But he would not say if efforts had been made to try to persuade Miandad to change his mind.

"It was unfortunate what happened regarding that episode (Miandad's resignation)," he said. "But we hope that

that we finish well on top in the

first phase and then do the best

in the Super Six stage," Moin

number of fans were earlier

present to see off the team at

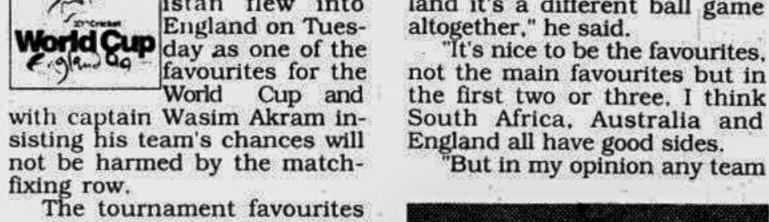
Minister Mushahid Hussain

said from Lahore he hoped Pak-

PCB officials and a large

Information and Sports

LONDON, Apr 28 no problem in the first stage. "Our team is very confident. (AFP/ Reuters/ "We will have to make sure



South Africa, Australia and "But in my opinion any team

istan would win the World Cup despite last week's resignation of coach Javed Miandad. "The team is working very hard ... It has a fighting spirit and killer instinct and we hope that this will also be evident during the World Cup," he told.

Lahore airport.

sain said.

Cup in Australia in 1992. So we are very optimistic and we are

team which has no groupings. "So we feel it is paramount at this moment that the team must demonstrate unity, cohesion and discipline. This is essential if we are to have a good performance in the World Cup." Squad: Wasim Akram (captain), Moin Khan, Saeed

No more probe before WC

Tuesday to participate in the May 14-June 16 World Cup matches.

Miandad, who resigned as coach requested the commis-

May 16.