

JOYPURHAT, May 3: Rajshahi moved into the semifinals of the Biman Cup under-14 national football champion-ship outplaying Patuakhali 4-0 at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half 2-0.

Al-Mamun struck twice in the 9th and 40th minutes while Aziz and Mamun scored in the 12th and 60th minutes respec-

tively. In the day's other match, a brilliant hattrick by Zahidul Hasan Dalim enabled Narayanganj to crush Faridpur 7-1.

Dalim scored the first hattrick in the final round of the national juvenile soccer meet scoring in the 8th, 39th and 45th minutes.

Jasim netted two goals while Jitu and Russel scored the remaining goals.

Sharif scored a consolation goal for Faridpur in the 56th minute.

Neer Ltd storm into final



Neer Limited romped into the final of the Uttara Finance Office Football League with a 3-O win over Dhaka City Cornoration in the first semilinal

yesterday, reports APB. The winners led the first half by the same margin at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. Mizaii netted two goals in

the 19th and 39th minutes while Zahid scored in the 25th minute. Janata Bank will take on

Neptune Spinning Mills in the second semifinal at the same venue today at 4.00 pm.

Riazuddin hits double ton

ANZ Grindlays National School Cricket

A double century by Riazuddin guided Shaheed Abu Taleb High to a huge 108-run victory over North Kalshi High in a match of the ANZ Grindlays Bank 17th national schools cricket tournament at the Orient Club ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Shaheed Abu Taleb batted first and amassed 309 for eight in stipulated 35 overs with Riazuddin making 208 with 26 fours and 12 sixes.

In reply, North Kalshi were all out for 201 in 24.2 overs with Babu scoring 88.

In the day's other fixtures. Segun Bagicha High, Ganabhaban Govt High and Banani Model High won their respective matches at different city venues.

At the Uttara Friends Club ground, Segun Bagicha School defeated T&T High School by 100 runs.

Segun Bagicha High School made 184 in 31.4 overs.

T&T High were all out for 84 in 19.3 overs. At the Kalabagan ground,

Ganabhaban High earned a facile 63-run victory over Dhanmondi Govt Boys High. Ganabhaban Govt High scored 292 for nine in 35 overs.

Dhanmondi Govt were all out for 229 in 29.5 overs. At the Mohammadpur Ei-

dgah ground, Banani Model High beat Motifheel Model High by two wickets.

Motijheel Model reached 179 in 29.4 overs. Banani Model collected 182 for eight in 27

Trigon Champions Jimmy Connors'

RICHMOND, May 3: Twotime defending champion Jimmy Connors defeated longtime rival John McEnroe 6-1, 6-2 on Sunday in the final of the Trigon Champions senior tennis tournament, reports AP.

The victory was Connors' sixth in nine meetings with McEnroe on the Worldwide Senior Tennis Circuit and followed his recent win in the BTI Champions in Raleigh, North Carolina.

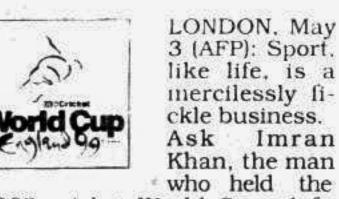
"I haven't played in any tournaments in four months and obviously there's work to be done," McEnroe said. "He was prepared. I wasn't."

The tournament was the third event this season on the dlrs 3.6 million tour. Connors earned dlrs 150,000 for the vic-

Inter-service hockey

Bangladesh Air Force defeated Bangladesh Navy team 3-0 in the second match of interservice hockey championship at Moulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports BSS.

Rajshahi enter No-hopers hopped to glory



3 (AFP): Sport. like life, is a mercilessly fickle business. Ask Imran Khan, the man who held the 1992 cricket World Cup aloft.

Ask Kepler Wessels, the man who did not. Pakistan's triumph was, to a

large extent, based on three key ingredients -- a late return to top form ... rain ... and a controversial rain rule.

That rule made a farce of several games and cruelly washed out the chances of South Africa of reaching the final in their debut appearance in the competition.

Imran Khan's volatile, unpredictable but hugely talented side looked certain to be eliminated from the nine-team competition, held in Australia and New Zealand and the first to feature coloured clothing, after an appalling start which saw them win just one of their first five games.

Somehow, however, he managed to turn the team's fortunes around. They won the next three and scraped into the semifinals ahead of Australia by one point.

That crucial single point had been gifted to them earlier by the Adelaide storm clouds. Bowled out for 74 by England, Pakistan were saved from defeat when the umpires were forced to call off the game as rain pelted the ground.

They then found their form just in time to beat New Zealand by four wickets in the semifinals and then dispatch England by 22 runs in the final, Wasim Akram and Mushtaq Ahmed claiming three wickets apiece.

By then, the despondent South Africans, who had beaten Pakistan in the first round. were on their way home, cheated of chance to win their semi-final against England.

With previous rules favouring sides batting second in rainaffected matches, the organisers had devised a complicated system for revising run targets -- without realising they had created a monster hugely in favour of sides batting first.

On March 22 in Sydney, South Africa, chasing England's 252 for six off 45 overs, had just moved into top gear and needed 22 off 13 balls for victory when the rain forced the players off.

Twelve minutes were lost

Semifinalists: 1979, 1983, 1987

Winners: 1992

Group matches

1979

1983

Semifinal

1987

Played 3, won 1, lost 2

Played 4, won 2, lost 2

Mohammad 57 not)

51, Hendrick 12-6-15-4)

Played 7, won 3, lost 4

Alwis 59, Sarfraz Nawaz 3-40)

186 (Hadlee 3-20, Coney 3-28)

224 (Wettimuny 50, Abdul Qadir 5-44)

2 (Richards 80 not, Gomes 50 not)

3-42), England 221 (Abdul Qadir 4-31)

Pakistan 247-3 (Ramiz Raja 113, Salim Malik 88)

(Ranatunga, Mendis 58, Abdul Qadir 3-40)

70, Imran Khan 58, McDermott 5-44)

Played 10, won 6, lost 3, abandoned 1

Zimbabwe 201-7 (Akram 3-21)

(Haynes 93 not, Lara 88 not, retired hurt)

(Salim Yousuf 56, Walsh 4-40)

Played 7, won 5, lost 2

Group matches

34, Benjamin 3-69)

Preliminary round

Semifinal

off 16 overs)

1992

Zealand 250 (Coney 51, Mudassar Nazar 3-43)

Group matches

Group matches

LONDON, May 3 (AFP): Pakistan's World Cup track record:

Leeds, June 7 - Australia bt Pakistan by 73 runs. Australia 278-8

(Edwards 80 not), Pakistan 205 (Majid Khan 65, Asif Iqbal 53,

Birmingham, June 11 - West Indies bt Pakistan by 1 wkt. Pakistan

266-7 (Majid Khan 60, Mushtaq Mohammad 55, Wasim Raja 58),

Nottingham, England, June 14 - Pakistan bt Sri Lanka by 192

runs. Pakistan 330-6 (Sadiq Mohammad 74, Majid Khan 84.

Zaheer Abbas 97, B. Warnapura 3-42), Sri Lanka 138 (Imran Khan

Leeds, June 9 - Pakistan bt Canada by 8 wickets. Canada 139 for 9

(Sarfraz Nawaz 3-26, Asif Iqbal 3-28) Pakistan 140-2 (Sadiq

Nottingham, England, June 13, 14 - Pakistan bt Australia by 89

runs. Pakistan 286-7 (Majid Khan 61, Asif lqbal 61, Cosier 3-54),

Australia 197 (Hilditch 72, Majid Khan 3-53, Sikander Bakht 3-34)

Leeds, June 16 - England bt Pakistan by 14 runs. England 165-9

(Sikander Bakht 3-32, Majid Khan 3-27), Palostam 151 (Asif Iqbal

Oval, London, June 20 - West Indies bt Pakistan by 43 runs. West

Indies 293-6 (Greenidge 73, Haynes 65, Asif Iqbal 4-56), Pakistan

Swansea, Wales, June 9 - Pakistan bt Sri Lanka by 50 runs.

Pakistan 338-5 (Mohsin Khan 82, Zaheer Abbas 82, Javed Miandad 72, Imran Khan 56 not), Sri Lanka 288-9, (Kuruppu 72, de

Birmingham, June 11, 12 - New Zealand bt Pakistan by 52 runs.

New Zealand 238-9 (Rashid Khan 3-47, Abdul Qadir 4-21), Pakistan

Lord's, London, June 13 - England bt Pakistan by 8 wkts. Pakistan

Leeds, June 16 - Pakistan bt Sri Lanka by 11 runs. Pakistan 235-7

(Imran Khan 102 not, Shahid Mahboob 77, de Mel 5-39), Sri Lanka

Manchester, June 18 - England bt Pakistan by 7 wkts. Pakistan

Nottingham, June 20 - Pakistan bt New Zealand by 11 runs.

Oval, London, June 22 - West Indies bt Pakistan by 8 wkts.

Pakistan 184-8 (Mohsin Khan 70, Marshall 3-28), West Indies 188-

9 (Athey 86, Gatting 60, Imran Khan 4-37, Abdul Qadir 3-31),

Faisalabad, Pakistan, October 25 - Pakistan bt Sri Lanka by 113

Indies 258-7 (Richardson 110, Richards 67, Imran Khan 3-57,

Wasim Akram 3-45), Pakistan 230-9 (Ramiz Raja 70, Patterson 3-

Lahore, November 4 - Australia bt Pakistan by 18 runs. Australia

267-8 (Boon 65, Imran Khan 3-36), Pakistan 249 (Javed Miandad

Melbourne, February 23 - West Indies bt Pakistan by 10 wkts.

Pakistan 220-2 (Raja 102 not, Miandad 57 not), West Indies 221-0

Hobart, Australia, February 27 - Pakistan beat Zimbabwe by 53

runs. Pakistan 254-4 (Sohail 114, Miandad 89, Butchart 3-57),

Adelaide, March 1 - Pakistan v England abandoned, Pakistan 74

(Pringle 3-8, Botham 2-12), England 24-1 (after target revised to 63

Sydney, March 4 - India bt Pakistan by 43 runs. India 216-7

Pakistan 261-3 (Zaheer Abbas 103 not, Imran Khan 79 not), New

232 (Javed Miandad 67), England 233-3 (Fowler 69, Tavare 58)

193-8 (Zaheer Abbas 83 not), England 199-2 (Fowler 78 not)

250 (Majid Khan 81, Zaheer Abbas 93, Croft 3-29, Richards 3-52)

West Indies 267-9 (Lloyd 53, Murray 61 not, Sarfraz Nawaz 4-44)

1975-1996: Played 37, won 21, lost 15, no result 1

Eliminated before semifinals: 1975, 1996

and the South Africa target was revised to 22 off seven balls. But by the time the players had got back into their positions, more time had elapsed and a new target was announced - 22 runs off a single delivery.

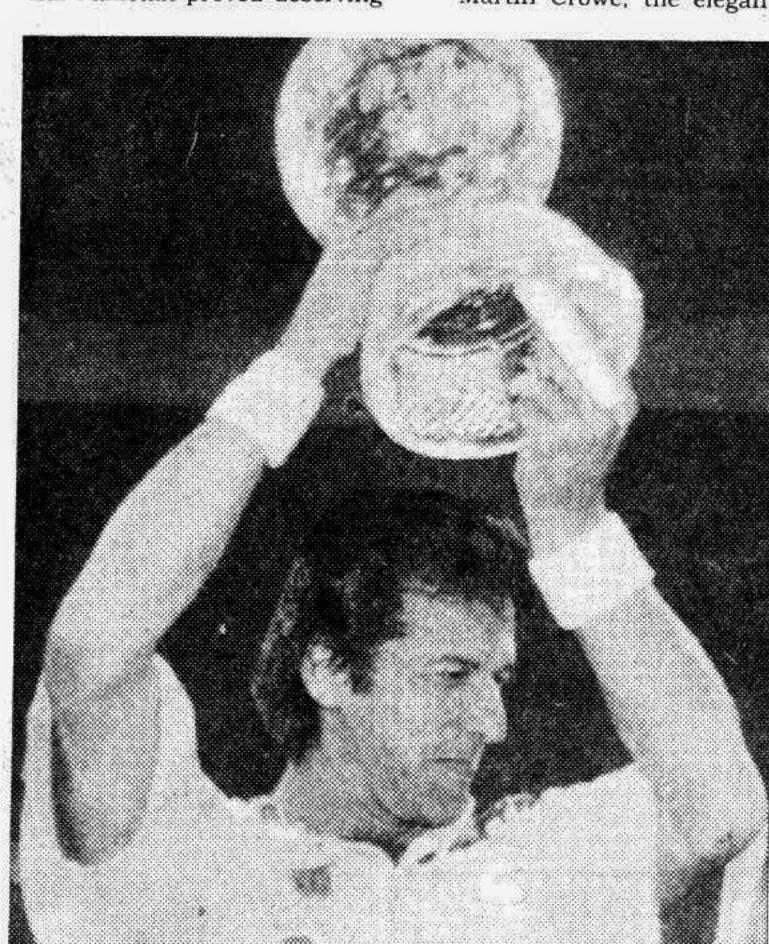
Thus a thrilling contest was reduced to farce, at the same time destroying South African dreams following 21 years of apartheid-induced isolation. For many, however, mercu-

rial Pakistan proved deserving

This was a side which seemed capable of beating anybody on one day - and losing to them on the next.

Wasim finished the tournament with 16 wickets at 18.38 runs apiece. Mushtaq boasted 14 at 19.14. Miandad, meanwhile, averaged 62.43 from nine visits to the crease.

The individual star of the tournament, however, was a New Zealander. Martin Crowe, the elegant



Imran Khan with the 1992 World Cup. — Star file photo

winners despite their good for-

The side was packed deep with outrageous talent besides Imran Khan, pace bowler Wasim Akram and leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed. The batting was as exciting, with Javed Miandad the cornerstone and surrounded by such stroke players as Ijaz Ahmed, Aamir Sohail, Rameez Raja and Inzamamul Hag.

right-hander, scored 456 runs at an extraordinary average of 114 in nine matches. That included knocks of 100

not out against Australia, 74 not out against Zimbabwe, 81 not out against the West Indies, 73 not out against England and 91 out of New Zealand score of 262 in the semifinal. One man, however, does not

make a team, as Pakistan

Roundtable on cricket held

Bangladesh has a bright prospect in cricket and it would be achieved gradually, ministers, cricketers, journalists said in the city yesterday, reports

"But we need more commitment in cricketers, more infrastructure and logistic support at regional and district level and more local tournaments, they said at a roundtable discussion on "Bangladesh in World Cup: prospects," organ-ised by the Daily Manobjamin at its office.

Presided over by the Editor of the Manobjamin Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, the discussion was participated by State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives and President of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saber Hossain Chowdhury, BCB vice pres-ident Tanvir Haider, BCB member and former captain of Bangladesh team Raquibul Hassan, former national cricketer Dipu Roy Chowdhury, Se-nior sports journalists — Masud Ahmed Rumi of BSS and Dilu Khondker of the daily Ittefaq. Sports-in charge of the daily Manobjamin Shahidul Azam moderated the discussion.

They appreciated the role of media in popularising and improving the standard of the game in the country.

Shalimar Print Saree handball from today

Sports Reporter The Shalimar Print Saree Inter-Division Women's Handball Tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Women Sports Federation, will get under way at the Sultana Kamal Women Sports Complex this morning. Two teams each from five Divisions--Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Rajshahi--

will take part in the two-day long meet State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the tournament today at 10 am.

Army b'ball begins today

The annual basketball championship of the Bangla-

desh Army begins at the Rangpur Cantonment today, reports BSS.

TRACK RECORD TRACK RECORD

(Tendulkar 54 not out, Mushtaq 3-59), Pakistan 173 (Sohail 62) Brisbane, March 8 - South Africa bt Pakistan by 20 runs. South Africa 211-7 (Hudson 54), Pakistan 173-8 (after set 193 in 36, Kuiper 3-40).

Perth, Australia, March 11 - Pakistan bt, Australia by 48 runs. Pakistan 220-9 (Sohail 76, S. Waugh 3-36), Australia 172 (Aaqib 3-21, Mushtaq 3-41)

Perth, Australia, March 15 - Pakistan bt Sri Lanka by 4 wkts. Sri Lanka 212-6, Pakistan 216-6 (Miandad 57, Malik 51) Christchurch, March 18 - Pakistan bt New Zealand by 7 wkts. New Zealand 166 (Wasim Akram 4-32), Pakistan 167-3 (Rameez Raja

Auckland, March 21 - Pakistan bt New Zealand by 4 wkts. New Zealand 262-7 (Rutherford 50, Crowe 91), Pakistan 264-6 (Izamamul-Haq 60, Miandad 57 not) Final

119 not, Javed Miandad 30, Morrison 3-42)

Melbourne, March 25 - Pakistan bt England by 22 runs, Pakistan 249-6 (Imran Khan 70, Javed Miandad 58, Pringle 3-22), England 227 (Fairbrother 62. Wasim Akram 3-49, Mushtaq Ahmed 3-41)

Played 6, won 4, lost 2

Group matches

Semifinal

Gujranwala, Pakistan, February 24 - Pakistan bt United Arab Emirates by 9 wkts. United Arab Emirates 109-9 (Mushtaq Ahmed 3-16), Pakistan 112-1 (Ijaz Ahmed 50 not) Lahore, February 26 - Pakistan bt Holland by 8 wkts. Holland 145-

7 (Aponso 58, Waqar Younis 4-26), Pakistan 151-2 (Saeed Anwar 83 Karachi, February 29 - South Africa bt Pakistan by 5 wkts. Pakistan 242-6 (Aamir Sohail 111), South Africa 243-5 (Cullinan 65. Waqar Younis 3-50)

Karachi, March 3 - Pakistan bt England by 7 wkts. England 249-9 (R. Smith 75, Atherton 66, Thorpe 52 not, Mushtaq Ahmed 3-53), Pakistan 250-3 (Saeed Anwar 71, Ijaz Ahmed 70, Inzamam-ul-Haq

53 not) Lahore, March 6 - Pakistan bt New Zealand by 46 runs. Pakistan

281-5 (Aamir Sohail 50, Saeed Anwar 62, Salim Malik 55 not). New Zealand 235 Quarterfinals

Bangalore, India, March 9 - India bt Pakistan by 39 runs. India 287-8 (Sidhu 93), Pakistan 248-9 (Aamer Sohail 55, Prasad 3-10)

AGAINST OTHERS

v Australia: Played 4, won 2 (1979, 1992), lost 2 (1975, 1987) v England: Played 8, won 4 (1987 x2, 1992, 1996), lost 3 (1979, 1983 x2), abandoned 1 v India: Played 2, lost 2 (1992, 1996) v New Zealand: Played 5, won 4 (1983, 1992 x2, 1996), lost 1 (1983)

v South Africa: Played 2, lost 2 (1992, 1996) v Sri Lanka: Played 6, won 6 (1975, 1983 x2, 1987 x2, 1992) v West Indies: Played 6, won 1 (1987), lost 5 (1975, 1979, 1983, 1987,

v Zimbabwe: Played 1, won 1 (1992) Others: v Canada: Played 1, won 1 (1979), v UAE: Played 1, won 1 (1996). v Holland: Played 1, won 1 (1996)



American Venus Williams proudly shows her Hamburg Open trophy after winning the final against Mary Pierce of France on May 2. Williams won 6-0, 6-3. — AFP photo

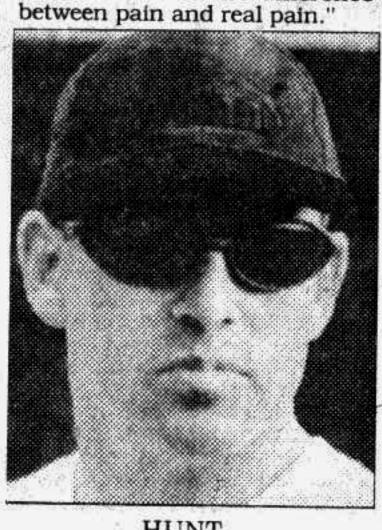
Hunt's spicy fitness recipe

Charles Randall



UNDATED, May 3: Rob Hunt, the Australian fitness advisor and physiotherapist Bangladesh have bro-

ught in for the World Cup, eased himself more comfortably in his pavilion chair and said: "The hardest thing to teach these fellows is the difference



HUNT

Hunt was discussing his Bangladesh charges during Saturday's warm-up game in the sunshine at Finchampstead, a lovely ground in Berkshire flanked on one side by a ninefoot high beech hedge stretching for about a quarter of a mile -

and all hand-trimmed. Hunt, by taking on the Bangladesh job, had entered a different culture - a culture which, in his view, would have to change as preparations stag-gered into a third week after the initial shock chill. The Australian was determined that acclimatisation would mean more than simply turning up

> rooms on the Watford bypass. He surprised his gentlemannered players by demand-ing more pride and passion, with no easy options" and no short cuts in training.

the radiators in their hotel

'They've responded generally quite well," he said with a sigh before turning to the subject of pain. "They just couldn't grasp the concept that muscle soreness is part and parcel of fitness as opposed to injury pain."

Bangladesh travel to Chelmsford today for the final run-up to the tournament. In the field against the club players of Finchampstead they looked enthusiastic enough under the captaincy of Aminul Islam, but not a group of Muslim fitness machines, with Akram Khan, 32, impressing as a rollicking batsman in the Falstaff mode. Others, in physio jargon, looked a little "lardy".

Whatever Hunt's exhortations, Akram Khan remained quite simply the best batsman. as Finchampstead discovered when he struck 65 off 56 balls. Bangladesh's thin credibility as

because there are a lot of good

teams out here and that is why

we have beefed up our bowling

of experience with guys who

have played county cricket

here, and I hope that we will be

Lloyd are intent on creating the

team spirit which saw them

fight back to a Test series draw

with Australia after a dismal

have relied on individual flair,

but now you will see a very dif-

series defeat in South Africa.

ferent team," Lara added.

Lara and manager Clive

"In the past, the West Indies

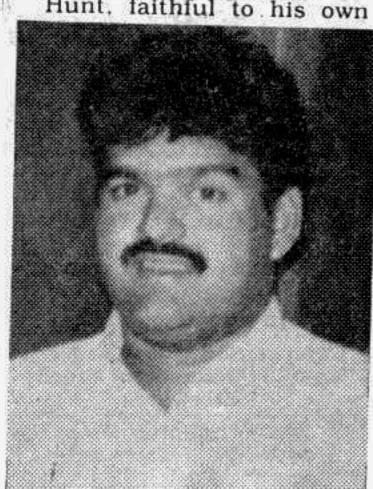
in the final on June 20."

"But what we do have is a lot

competitors in the World Cup could depend on this distinctive figure, who achieved hero status among his country's 120 million population as captain in the ICC Trophy triumph two

years ago. Even in England the players, all full-timers or students. found that they had an exalted status among a significant

group Bangladeshi-run High Street Indian restaurants. Hunt, faithful to his own



tournaments being held in Eng-

attack," he said.

World Cup

team's World Cup rivals that he will be back to his dynamic best by the time the tournament starts later this month.

has been sidelined with a wrist injury and was not able to play in the one-day matches against Australia at the end of the recent Test series in the

dies' first World Cup match against Pakistan on May 16. "The wrist is a bit temperamental but it will be okay," said

"I was able to play through the recent Test series against Australia (in the Caribbean) but I just could not get through the

one-dayers," he added. injury when he was struck on the arm during his team's tour of South Africa earlier this year, missed the last three games of the seven-match lim-

The wrist is fine now," said Lara at a news conference at Gatwick Airport.

two weeks and then I will be ready to play without risking It has been a few weeks

Indies World Cup squad is capa-

tained the trophy in 1979, both



"This is a huge event of great importance, and we will be looking to have a whole team atmosphere rather than looking at one or two people to per-

"If we can win here we might see the game take off again back

"It has been a difficult couple of years, and if you look at our recent past, it is not a great surprise why the game has suf-

"But this tournament will give us a great lift, and by having the whole team united and doing well, we could see it take off again". Lara believes that the main

threat to glory comes from "inconsistent teams" such as Pakistan and England, as well as pre-tournament favourites South Africa. "South Africa are the main threat because they are a great

one-day side," he said. "But I would have to say that the inconsistent teams like Pakistan and England are the ones I am most worried about, because you don't have to be the best team to win the World Cup,

you just have to be the best on that day. On all-rounder Carl Hooper's sudden retirement from international cricket and withdrawal from their Cup squad recently, Lara said: "We need to be realistic about what's hap-

pened with Carl. "He's an experienced player but his absence gives a chance for a youngster to show his credentials. We've picked 15 players and they are all competing

for a place. "The World Cup is not a tournament to bring someone to just for the experience.

For West Indies to win the Cup, much will depend on the performances of veteran fast bowlers Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose.

"They have been written off so many times but they have always come back. They know about playing in England at this time of year and the conditions will be perfect for them,"

Lara said. The West Indians received a startling reception at Gatwick airport when two girls promoting their sponsors, a Caribbean lager, stripped naked as the players filed through an ar-

rivals corridor. Lara said afterwards: "It was a bit glamorous but the recep-

The legacy of 1966

dropping his recognised

goalscorer Jimmy Greaves for

versy Ramsey's players revered

him, team spirit was never in

question and his faith was re-

paid on that gloriously sunny

Suffolk with his wife Vicky

from his World Cup bonus and

wife, football and my country.

"I only ever wanted to be a

Sir Alf, who was born on

winner. And I was. How many

January 22, 1920 in Dagenham,

years in 1950 and 1951, making

226 appearances for the club be-

fore finally moving into man-

peated his playing feat and led the unfashionable Suffolk club

to Second and First Division

success in the 1961 and 1962

seasons - still their only

At Portman Road, he re-

agement with Ipswich in 1955.

and to the country.

people can say that?"

fore joining Tottenham.

Sir Alf bought a house in

afternoon on June 30, 1966.

dimmed.

Hurst in the quarterfinals.



LONDON, May 3 (AFP): Sir Alf Ramsey's unique ability to motivate his players was never better

demonstrated than during the 1966 World Cup final against West Germany which earned him a permanent place in English football's hall of fame. As England's players sat awaiting extra-time after Wolfgang Weber's last-minute goal had made the score 2-2 and

seemingly robbed them of vic-

tory. Alf Ramsey strode out

purposefully on to the Wembley "Look at them," he insisted, pointing at the German players in one of the simplest but most effective battle cries. "They're finished!"

Ramsey added: "You've beaten them once. Now go out and do it again.' The response from his devoted players was immediate and overwhelming. Even more

than 32 years on, almost every English schoolboy knows vividly what happened next. Geoff Hurst's two extra-time goals, the first controversially off the crossbar, the second as spectators started to invade the pitch when he completed his hat-trick ensured lasting fame not only for the striker but also

for Sir Alf, who was knighted

the following year. Bobby Moore lifting the World Cup for the only time in the nation's history remains England's proudest sporting achievement, one of those few moments in life which everyone always proudly remembers where they were when it happened. Even before the tournament

and determined never to shy

away from tough decisions,

started, Sir Alf had proudly League Championship. proclaimed that his side of Then in May 1963, he was "wingless wonders," nicknamed appointed as England manager, due to his innovative 4-3-3 with the World Cup victory beformation, would win the World ing the highlight of an 11-year He may have been autocratic

However, having again put together a side capable of winning the World Cup in 1970 in

Mexico, his England team wilted in the heat of Leon when seemingly coasting at 2-0 up in

tion was acceptable."

3-2 in extra-time and Sir Alf was criticised for his substitutions of Bobby Charlton by Colin Bell in stead of the overrun Terry Cooper and goalscorer Martin Peters by defender Norman Hunter.

ous reign came to an ignominious conclusion as England failed to beat Poland and their goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski to qualify for the 1974 finals.

his fierce pride in steering England to glory in 1966 never Ramsey had never endeared He has previously said: "I love three things in life - my "To this day, my over-riding memory of my life in football is the joy I brought to my team

His record as England manager had spoken for itself with an enviable 69 victories, 27 draws and just 17 defeats.

Essex, made his professional debut for Southampton in 1946, winning the first of his 32 England caps three years later be-He played as a right-back in the Spurs team which won the Second Division and First Division titles in consecutive

Looking back on his England manager days, Sir Alf said: "People say I was something special, perhaps I was. But to me. I've always been so ordinary. I've never wanted to be anything else," he once re-

West Ham striker Hurst vintheir quarter-final against West dicated that decision, scoring Germany. the winner against Argentina The Germans hit back to win in the quarterfinal and famously becoming the only man to score a hat-trick in the final. Despite the Greaves contro-

Three years later, his glori-

himself to his employers, the Football Association (FA), especially with his opposition to the commercialisation of the England shirt and he was dismissed in 1974, with their FA insisting that he was "too stubborn and set in his ways."

But it was the last time that Sir Alf was ever officially acknowledged by the FA, even being ignored as a guest of honour during the Euro 96 celebrations. He spent a short stint at Birmingham City in 1977 yet although he still remains the yardstick by which all England managers are judged, he was ul-

The memories remain, though, for a celebrated player and manager who always insisted he was just an ordinary man and who celebrated World Cup victory with a cup of tea in front of the fire with his wife and daughter.

timately lost to the game for-

flected.

AKRAM KHAN mantra of togetherness, has had to accompany them for a nightly spice overdose. When he returns to Melbourne, he will probably never eat another Courtesy: The Electronic Telegraph

West Indies mean business 3(Reuters/AFP We will have to play well

/Internet): West Indies captain Brian Lara on Monday warned his

The West Indies superstar

Caribbean. Lara said he has been told he will be ready to start West In-

Lara on arrival with his squad for the tournament starting on

Lara, who suffered the wrist

ited overs series against Australia.

"I've been told just to rest for injury again. I will be ready for the first game and I am desperate to get on with it.

since I've played now. I am looking to get back to batting the way I was before the injury stopped me from playing". Lara believes that the West

ble of lifting the trophy they last won in 1979. West Indies won the inaugural World Cup in 1975 and re-

BRIAN LARA