

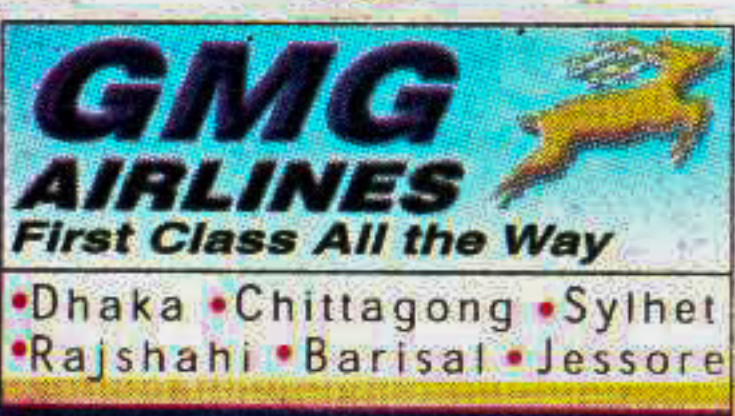


**Today's Prediction:**  
**120 million people have their fingers crossed.**



NASTY NASH: Australian batsman Ricky Ponting is surprised by a Dion Nash bouncer at Cardiff yesterday. —AFP photo

## BITS & PIECES



**LEICESTER, May 20 (AFP):** The Zimbabwe team bus was stoned by Indian supporters infuriated by Wednesday's dramatic three-run defeat in the cricket World Cup. British media reports said on Thursday, "They left a few dents." Zimbabwe team manager Malcolm Jarvis was quoted as saying in the Daily Mail.

At the end of the match, two Zimbabwe players, Neil Johnson and Eddo Brandes, were jostled as spectators invaded the pitch at the Grace Road ground. "People were trying to take stumps away from them (the players) and it was a bit of a melee, but no-one was hurt," said Jarvis, a former Test player as well as soldier in the

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## Pinch-hitting in sick bed

**CARDIFF, May 20:** The 1996 World Cup saw a new, exotic cricketing term coined - the pinch-hitter. 1999 looks set to become the year of the "pinch-blocker", reports AFP.

Sri Lankan opener Sanath Jayasuriya all but re-invented the game three years ago. He thrived on the flat, true wickets of the Indian sub-continent, where the ball rarely deviates through the air or off the pitch.

Jayasuriya flung his bat in a wide, straight arc and fielders, forced by new rules to crowd the infield rather than mass along the boundary, trudged back to retrieve the ball from the packed stands.

A virtual unknown, the square-shouldered Jayasuriya was to become the player of the tournament, scoring so fast - 82 off 44 balls against England in Faisalabad and the 43 he helped post in the first three overs against India in New Delhi - that games were over before they had begun.

Sri Lanka won the trophy

and one-day cricket, they said, would never be the same again. Three years on, Jayasuriya is averaging 17 after two innings. The defending champion



JAYASURIYA

ons have lost their opening two games and face an early exit from the tournament.

Pinch-hitters - a term originally stolen from baseball - are

As many strategists had forecast, the combination of England's early-summer cloud-cover and moist wickets and a white ball which darts about in the air more than its red cousin are proving a bowler's delight. Jayasuriya and the clones spawned by his success - Adam Gilchrist of Australia, Mark Boucher of South Africa, Shahid Afridi of Pakistan and England's Nick Knight - are pinch-hitting, pinch-missing, pinch-edging and pinch-walking back to the pavilion.

Gilchrist, who scored 154 off 129 balls against Sri Lanka in Melbourne in February, scored six in his one outing. Boucher is averaging 17.5 from two. Knight has been dropped from the team altogether.

Afridi, statistically the only player in the world to hit more than a run a ball, has one score of 11.

Nasser Hussain of England may represent the 1999 breed to replace them; batsmen who be-

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# Bangladesh v Windies: Davids v Goliaths

**DUBLIN, May 20:** Bangladesh take on the West Indies in the World Cup here on Friday after being told by their coach that it is time for them to play cricket as well as they talk it, reports AFP.

Gordon Greenidge, the former West Indian star, said he could provide the players with stacks of inside information on their group B opponents.

But once the toss had been made, it was up to them to make use of it.

Greenidge said: "The boys are forever talking about doing it but when they get the opportunity, they seem to forget what they've been talking about."

"We have tried to install some positive thinking and cricket knowledge into the guys and also to apply ourselves in terms of the game, but it just doesn't seem to be working."

"For some reason, we seem to

stop playing cricket and do a lot of crazy things out in the middle."

Few people know the West Indies than Greenidge, who took up coaching Bangladesh after being ignored for a similar assignment at home.

The Barbadian, now 48, was

pressure," he said. "They are known to choke at times."

Greenidge should know. He was playing when the West Indies caved in for 140, chasing India's modest 183 in the 1983 World Cup final at Lord's.

They also suffered the greatest giant-killing in World Cup

wickets. "It was not very good, not the way we wanted to start our World Cup history," he said.

Greenidge himself has had a chequered career with Bangladesh. He was made an honorary citizen when Bangladesh won the ICC Trophy in 1997 to qualify for their first World Cup.

But he was sacked a year later after a row with cricket officials, only to be reinstated just before the tournament.

The West Indies skipper Brian Lara, meanwhile, had problems of his own as middle-order batsman and left-arm spinner Keith Arthurton was ruled out of Friday's match due to a sprained ankle.

His absence means the team, who lost to Pakistan by 27 runs in their first match, will have

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Seize the moment, AKTEL it.

a member of the team which won the first two World Cups and were finalists in the third. He retired in 1991 after scoring more than 7,500 Test and 5,000 one-day runs.

The best way to beat the West Indies is to put them under

history when losing to minnows Kenya in India in 1996.

Greenidge, however, sees little hope of Bangladesh pulling off an upset if they play like they did against New Zealand on Monday when they were bowled out for 116 to lose by six

**HSBC**   
*Wishes*  
**Good Luck to the Bangladesh Cricket team**

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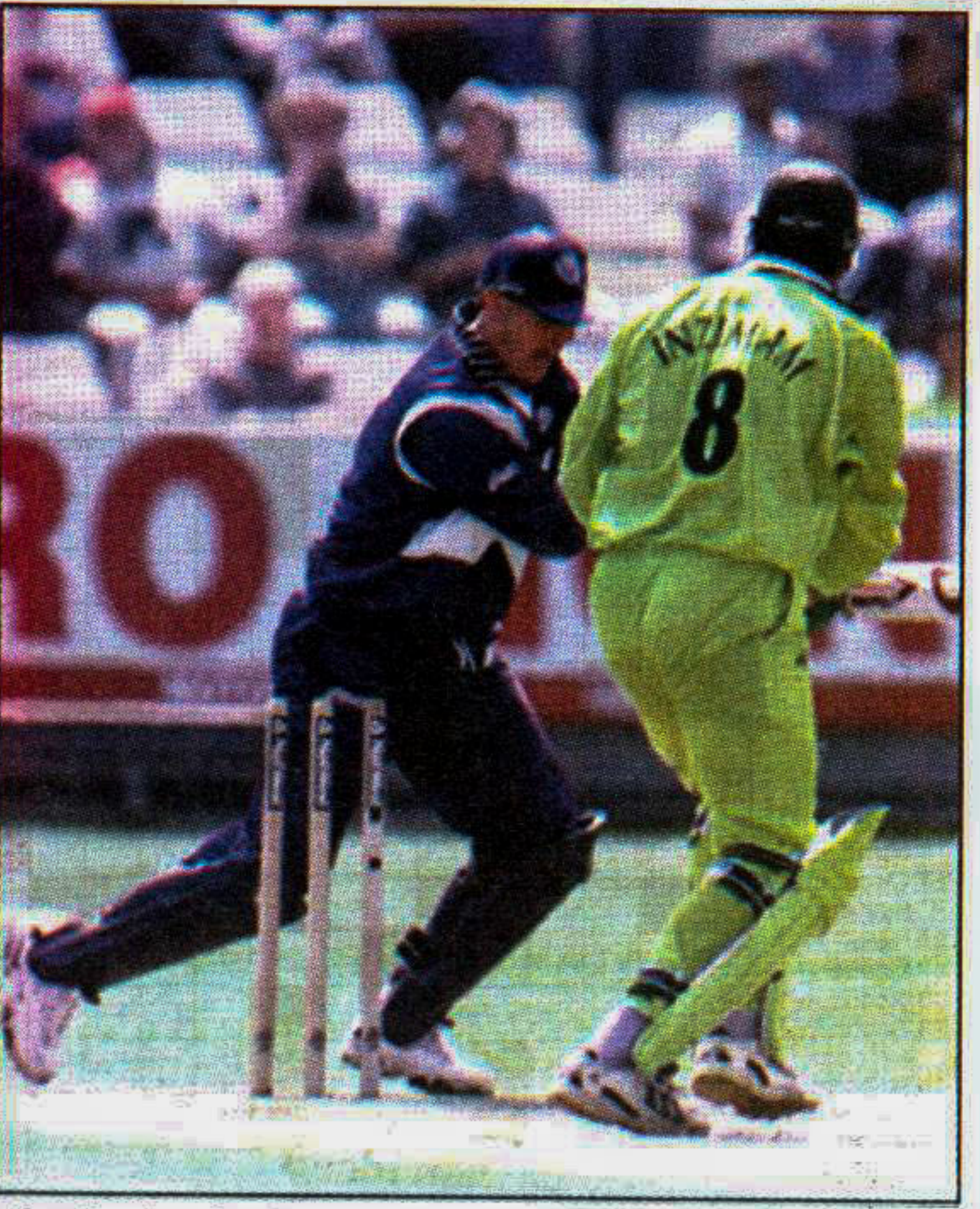
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ASIATIC MCL



Alec Davis, the Scotland wicket-keeper, stumps Pakistan's star batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq. —AFP photo



## PAKISTAN-SCOTLAND SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Pakistan innings against Scotland at Chester-Le-Street yesterday:

PAKISTAN	R	B	4	6
Saeed Anwar c Davies b Asim Butt	6	24	0	0
Shahid Afridi run out (Stanger)	7	9	1	0
Abdur Razaq lbw b Brinkley	12	52	0	0
Inzamam-ul-Haq st Davies b Dyer	12	50	0	0
Salim Malik lbw b Hamilton	0	3	0	0
Yousuf Youhana not out	81	119	6	0
Moin Khan c Brinkley b Hamilton	47	41	5	0
Wasim Akram not out	37	19	2	2
Extras: (b-5, lb-6, w-33, nb-15)	59			
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs)	261			

Did not bat: Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Akhtar, Azhar Mahmood.

Fall of wkts: 1-21 (Shahid Afridi, 3.6 ov); 2-35 (Saeed Anwar, 7.5 ov); 3-55 (Abdur Razaq, 15.6 ov); 4-58 (Salim Malik, 16.6 ov); 5-92 (Inzamam-ul-Haq, 26.4 ov); 6-195 (Moin Khan, 44.4 ov).

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Blain	7	0	49	0 (6nb, 6w)
Asim Butt	9	1	55	1 (2nb, 9w)
Hamilton	10	1	36	2 (2nb, 6w)
Brinkley	10	0	29	1 (6w)
Dyer	9	0	48	1
Stanger	5	0	33	0 (3nb, 1w)

Umpires: DB Cowie (NZ) and ID Robinson (Zim).  
TV Umpire: JH Hampshire.  
Match Referee: PJP Burge (Aus).

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