

Sport

BU, F'ganj in group finals

Brothers Union and Farashganj Sporting Club moved into respective group finals of the 15th Pedrollo Federation Cup football tournament, winning their semifinal matches yesterday, reports APB.

Brothers beat Prantik Krira Chakra 3-2 in the semifinal match of Group-C at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Prantik led the first half 1-0.

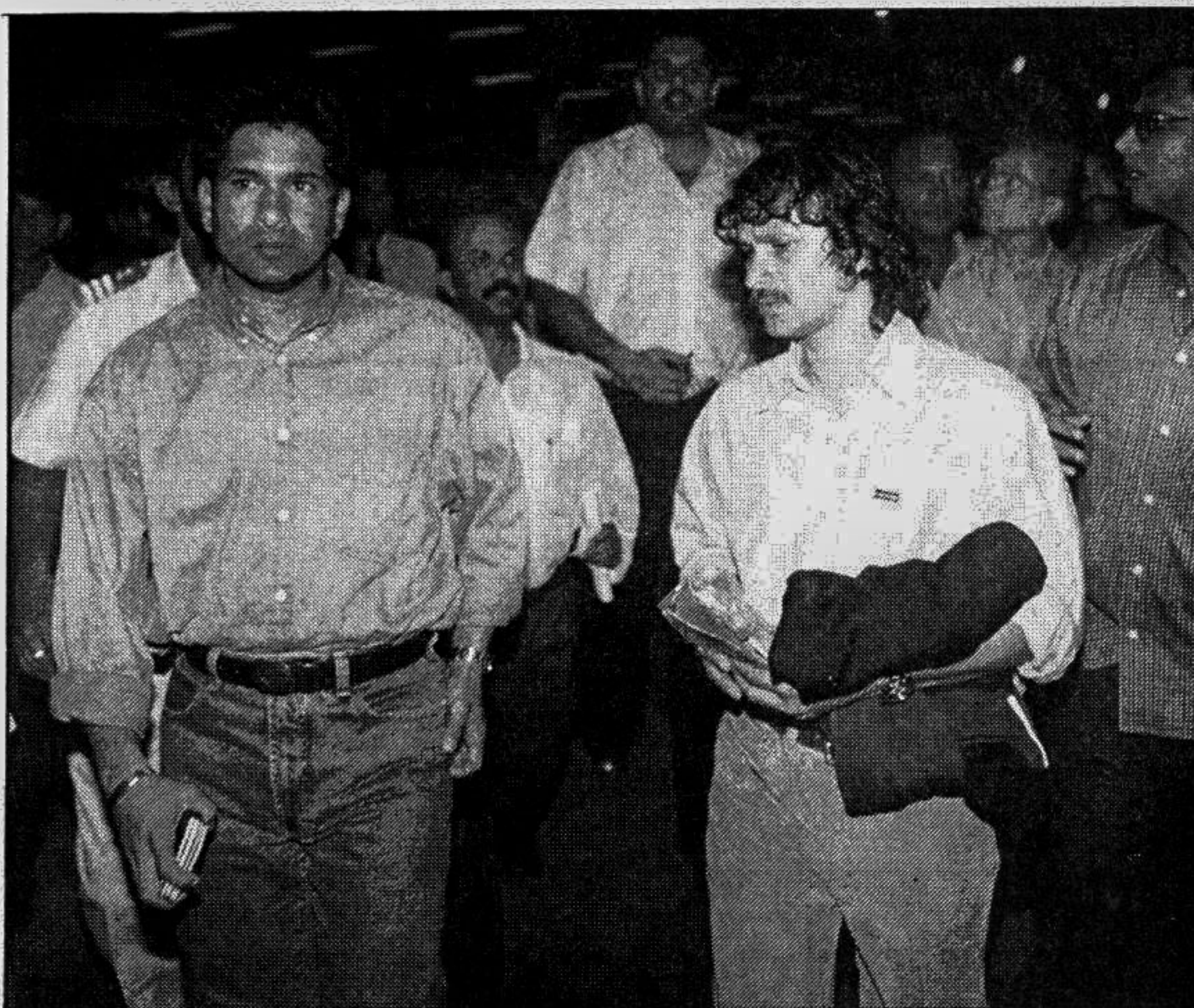
Jamal, Palash and Anwar netted one goal each for the winners. Hanif and Karim found the net in either half for the losers.

Brothers Union will face Shantinagar Club in the Group C final on Saturday at 2:30 pm.

Azmal scored two goals as Farashganj defeated services champions Bangladesh Army in the Group-D semifinal 3-1 in the day's other match at the same venue.

Azmal struck in the 40th and 70th minutes while Safur scored the other in the 26th minute for the winners while Rashid scored in the 4th minute for the vanquished.

Farashganj will take on Dhanmondi Club in the group final on Saturday at 4:30 pm.



Indian star batsman Sachin Tendulkar (L) is received by elder brother Ajit at Bombay Airport on May 19. — AFP photo

Nakata hot favourite

KUALA LUMPUR, May 20: Japan's Hidetoshi Nakata could win the Asian player of the year award for a second straight time next week after being named on a the final shortlist of four players, reports AFP.

The Italian-based international is on the list with Iran's Ali Daei, Jassem Al Houwaidi of Kuwait and China's Fan Zhiyi.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said Nakata's performances with Perugia had made him a frontrunner.

"Nakata has with his performances to date in Italy shown that Asia's best can compete with the best world has to offer," said an AFC statement. "All four had a great 1998," it added.

The AFC award presentation ceremony is to be made next Tuesday.

Daei, who plays for Bayern Munich in Germany, played an integral part in Iran's historic win over United States at last year's World Cup finals.

He was the second highest goalscorer at the Bangkok Asian Games where Iran won the gold medal.

WC STANDINGS

LONDON, May 20 (AFP): World Cup Group A table after Wednesday's matches.

Played	Won	Lost	No Result	Points
S Africa	2	2	0	0
England	2	2	0	0
Zimbabwe	2	2	0	0
Sri Lanka	2	0	2	0
India	2	0	2	0
Kenya	2	0	2	0

Hyundai to become 2002 WC sponsor

SEOUL, May 20: Hyundai Motors Co said Thursday it will provide FIFA with 2,500 cars for official use during the 2002 World Cup to be hosted by Japan and South Korea, reports AP.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter arrived in Seoul on Thursday to sign a corporate sponsorship deal that will give Korea's largest automaker the exclusive right to use the 2002 World Cup logo in its advertising.

AUSSIE-NZ SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Australian innings against New Zealand at Cardiff yesterday:

	R	B	4	6
AUSTRALIA				
ME Waugh lbw b Allott	2	5	0	0
AC Gilchrist c Astle b Allott	14	28	1	0
RT Ponting c Harris b Astle	47	88	4	0
DS Lehmann c Astle b Harris	76	94	8	0
SR Waugh c Astle b Harris	7	18	0	0
MG Bevan b Allott	21	32	1	0
S Lee run out (Nash)	2	8	0	0
SK Warne b Allott	15	14	2	0
DW Fleming not out	8	11	0	0
AC Dale not out	3	5	0	0
Extras: (lb-10; w-5; nb-3)	18			
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)	213			
Did not bat: GD McGrath.				
Fall of wickets: 1-7(ME Waugh, 2.1 ov); 2-32 (Gilchrist 8.1 ov); 3-126 (Ponting, 30.6 ov); 4-149 (SR Waugh, 35.5 ov); 5-172 (Lehmann, 41.4 ov); 6-175 (Lee, 43.4 ov); 7-192 (Bevan, 46.2 ov); 8-204 (Warne, 48.3 ov).				

Bowler: Allott 10, Nash 8, Cairns 7, Larsen 10, Harris 10, Astle 5. O M R W. 10 0 37 4 (2nb, 2w) 0 (1nb, 2w) 0 (1w) 2 1

Umpires: Javed Akhtar (Pak) and DR Shepherd (Eng). TV Umpire: RE Koertzen (SA). Match Referee: R Subba Row (Eng).

Hail Henry

From page 16

little interest in the colonial era sport. That changed in the past four years when four players, led by Olunga, earned international colors.

The trend started by Olunga, who replaced Matabeleland in domestic first-class cricket, saw two other pace bowlers, Mpumelelo Mbangwa and Everton Matambazanga, and batsman Trevor Maalondo break into international ranks since 1995.

Mbangwa, 22, Olunga's Matabeleland teammate, is also a member of the current World Cup side.

Olunga's debut marked Zimbabwe's first-ever Test victory, against Pakistan, at Harare in the first Test of the 1994-95 series, but Olunga's world was in tatters.

Called for chucking, the young bowler faced a lost future. "I was only 18 then and badly shattered," he said.

He then went to former Australian Test cricketer Dennis Lillee's pace bowling clinics in India and Australia.

"Lillee's guidance changed my life," said Olunga, who made a successful comeback to international cricket within a year and has never again been no-balled for chucking.

Lillee helped him remodel his bowling action, he said.

On Wednesday, a stroke of captain's genius from Alistair Campbell transformed a one-day disaster into the best cricketing day of Olunga's life.

Earlier in India's innings Olunga had bowled disastrously.

In a three-over spell he gave away 17 runs, which included six wides and a no-ball.

The wides were incredibly wide, several of them drifting way outside the popping crease as he bowled like an excited schoolboy.

Olunga blamed his poor performance on trying too hard to bowl straight. "I'm best when I'm bowling flat out and in that last over it was all or nothing, I had to rise to the occasion."

Campbell said he had a gut feeling that Olunga could do the business in a desperate situation with India needing just nine runs from the last two overs with three wickets left.

"I had no qualms about giving Henry the ball because he has done the business for me in that situation before," he said.

Olunga's match-winning over began with a single before left-hander Robin Singh, batting fluently, scooped a shot to Campbell at mid-off, where he took a sharp catch at knee height.

Zimbabwe panicked on the next ball, giving away an over-throw and two runs came off the fourth. But from the fifth Olunga smashed Javagal Srinath's stumps and with his sixth he rapped Venkatesh Prasad on the pads.

Umpire David Willey immediately raised his finger and the tiny Zimbabwean contingent in the 5,000 crowd went wild.

His heroics are unlikely to change Olunga's life in the short term. He is one of only 18 professional cricketers in Zimbabwe but is far from being a rich man.

"I make a living out of it, but only because I'm single. It's really hard for the players with a wife and kids."

The stage still beckons, he says.

Hosts take a time-out

LONDON, May 20 (Internet report): England will report for training at the Oval quietly confident they can build on their impressive start against World Cup favourites South Africa in Saturday's crunch Group A match.

The South Africans underlined their pre-tournament billing with a magnificent 89-run victory over Sri Lanka on Wednesday having been restricted to a lowly 199 for nine at Northampton, emphasising the task England face if they are to claim a priceless victory.

But after virtually all the players took advantage of England's relaxed attitude to their commitments between matches and returned to their families, they will report on Thursday with renewed vigour to overcome a South African side they have beaten only twice in their last 12 meetings.

"Saturday is a massive game for us," stressed fast bowler Darren Gough, whose career-best figures of six for 46 enabled England to complete a memorable Test series triumph over South Africa at Headingley last summer.

"People will be watching to see how England perform against the best one-day team in the world. If we could beat them and win three out of three, it gives us a chance of getting a clean sweep."

Just as importantly, with both England and South Africa now favourites to progress from Group A after winning both their opening matches, points gained against fellow qualifiers are carried forward into the Super Sixes.

Gough stressed: "It probably won't knock one of the teams out but it is a chance to carry those points into the next stage, which could be very important."

There will be a few nerves before that game, but it will be the same for them playing against England. We beat them in a Test series, and they know we are a hard side and competitive."

Yet despite the obvious attractions of Saturday's match, for reasons best known to the World Cup organisers, they scheduled it in direct opposition to the FA Cup Final.

"It might be difficult getting the interest the Cup final has," accepted Gough.

"I'm sure we'll still have a full house at the Oval, and that's all that matters to the players - we're playing for England in a World Cup match, and there will be lots of people cheering us on."

All-rounder Adam Holoake is likely to return to the England side for the Saturday's clash.

Holoake was dropped for spinner Robert Croft against

Kenya on Tuesday after occasional spinner Graeme Hick could not bowl because of a stiff neck.

"We thought we needed a spin option and this turned out to be justified," England spokesman Brian Morgan told Sky Sport Thursday. Croft bowled his full 10 overs for 32 runs, taking one wicket in the nine-wicket victory in Canterbury.

England physiotherapist Wayne Morton will check Hick's fitness over the next 24 hours but the signs are he will be fit to bowl as well as bat.

"That would give the opportunity to tinker with the side," Murgatroyd said.

The Oval, home of Holoake's Surrey club, is traditionally a seamer's wicket with good bounce, suiting Holoake better than Croft. "The Oval is likely to be a truer pitch than we have encountered so far," Murgatroyd said.

The England side are unlikely to make other changes to the World Cup side, which performed well in their first two matches, beating Sri Lanka and Kenya decisively.

Stewart has indicated he would prefer not to change a winning formula, which will mean no place for Nick Knight who has lost out to Nasser Hussain as the captain's opening partner.

Hussain scored an unbeaten 88 at Canterbury after sharing a 50-run partnership with Stewart against Sri Lanka.

But Murgatroyd said: "It is quite likely that everyone will get a game at some point."

Battling batting

From page 16

last couple of games."

Ranatunga, who is serving a suspended six-match suspension for his onfield demonstration at the beginning of the year in Australia, refused to comment on the umpiring, which marred the game.

South African vice-captain Shaun Pollock was controversially given out by the third umpire Ken Palmer, who was also asked to adjudicate on Daryll Cullinan's dismissal.

Pollock appeared to hit the ball into the ground before it hit Ranatunga on the shin and popped up to Muttiah Muralitharan, who appealed for a caught and bowled.

Cullinan was caught on the boundary by Chaminda Vaas, who threw the ball in before stepping over the boundary.

"I didn't see anything at all. I just took my eyes off. I was trying to protect my head," Ranatunga said of Pollock's dismissal.

"I am not concerned. It's up to the authority to give the decisions."

Venezuela ride on Urdaneta

PORTO VIEJO, May 20: Striker Gabriel Urdaneta scored a goal in each half as Venezuela beat Ecuador 2-0 in a friendly for a rare international win on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Venezuela dominated an Ecuador team deprived of foreign-based stars such as Alex Aguinaga, based in Mexico, and prolific goalscorer Ivan Kaviedes, based in Italy.

Venezuela is the only South American country where soccer is not the national sport, baseball and boxing both winning in popularity. The Venezuelans failed to win any of their 18 matches in the qualifying competition for the last World Cup.



Shane Warne watching the proceedings of the Australia-New Zealand match from the players' balcony at Cardiff, Wales yesterday. — Internet photo

Ali honoured

NEW YORK, May 20: Muhammad Ali would not let rain deter him from getting an honorary degree at Columbia University, reports AP.

The former heavyweight champion was among those honoured Wednesday at Columbia's 245th commencement exercises.

Though Ali was described by the university as "the greatest boxer of all time, and one of the best athletes of the century," his efforts as a humanitarian also were cited.

"He has committed most of his time to helping the poor and underprivileged," said the Columbia statement.

US NBA commissioner David Stern was at the ceremony as a trustee of the university.

Smith sees favourites by the bookies, England could beat them to glory.

"South Africa are a very tough side and they play a very hard game, but they are not invincible."

"England have world-class players who can dominate any attack. I think they will prove a lot of people wrong."

"If we continue to play as we have been we will get to the final and once we are there I would back us to win it."

Pinch-hitting

From page 13

gin with survival on their minds, then accelerate the scoring as the pitch dries out and the sun breaks through.

Hussain, the man who ousted Knight from the England team, pleaded last week: "Please don't call me a pinch-blower ... I will be seeking to make match-winning contributions of my own."

But the term may yet stick. His softly-softly approach saw him put on an opening stand of 50 with Alec Stewart against Sri Lanka, who the start England needed, then helped him to 88 not out against Kenya.

The tournament hosts, declared no-hopers before the event, have two wins out of two and set fair for the next round.

Unless the weather changes, and the pitches dry out, technique is likely to continue its dominance over bowlers.

Ironically, however, "pinch-blowers" are nothing new. English one-day cricket has always been played like this.

The dash for runs always came in the last 10 overs, not the first 15.

It is a "back to the future" innovation, based more on short memories than new strategies. Cricket will never be the same again. Again.

Bits & pieces

From page 13

elite SAS regiment.

BOTHAM STILL FEELS THE PAIN

LONDON, May 29 (AFP): Former England great Ian Botham is still grimacing from the pain of losing the 1992 World Cup final to Pakistan — and he blames then captain Graham Gooch for the failure.

"We were the best team by a league in that World Cup, but we were burnt out," England's greatest ever all-rounder said.

"We'd had a hard tour of New Zealand and the idea of having a rest in the two weeks before the World Cup, we were made to play stupid and meaningless games of cricket among ourselves."

WARNE BLESSED WITH A SON

CARDIFF, May 20 (AFP): Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne became a father for the second time on Thursday when his wife Simone gave birth to a son.

Warne told reporters in Cardiff where Australia were playing New Zealand in the World Cup that baby Jackson was born in Melbourne on Thursday morning, weighing a healthy 3.486 kilograms (seven pounds 11 ounces).

"I'm over the moon," Warne said. "Everything went well. Mother and son are doing well."

The dotting father announced the arrival of Jackson to spectators at Cardiff by hanging a banner from the team's balcony which read: "Well done Sirong. Welcome to the world Jackson. Love Dad & Brooke and all the lads."

MARSHALL TO BE OPERATED ON

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, May 20 (AFP): West Indies coach Malcolm Marshall will have exploratory abdominal surgery in Birmingham, England, on Saturday.

The West Indies Cricket Board said Marshall, 41, has had a stomach complaint for several months and has been advised by doctors to undergo surgery.

He will be away from the West Indies World Cup team for an unspecified period.

"He's had a complaint for some time and has been seeing doctors for some time. I think since the South Africa tour or a little before," chief executive Stephen Camacho said on Wednesday.

NORTHAMPTON, England, May 20 (AFP): Britain's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said on Thursday it had received complaints over an aircraft carrying pro-Tamil banners hovering overhead during Wednesday's cricket World Cup match between Sri Lanka and South Africa.

A two-seater aircraft circled the Wantage Road ground for an hour in the first session, trailing the messages: "Killing Tamils is just not cricket."

The aircraft returned after lunch with another banner reading: South Africa, we Tamils support you."

TAMIL AIRCRAFT

SMITH SEES

From page 16

favourites by the bookies, England could beat them to glory.

"South Africa are a very tough side and they play a very hard game, but they are not invincible."

"England have world-class players who can dominate any attack. I think they will prove a lot of people wrong."

"If we continue to play as we have been we will get to the final and once we are there I would back us to win it."

Bangladesh v Windies

From page

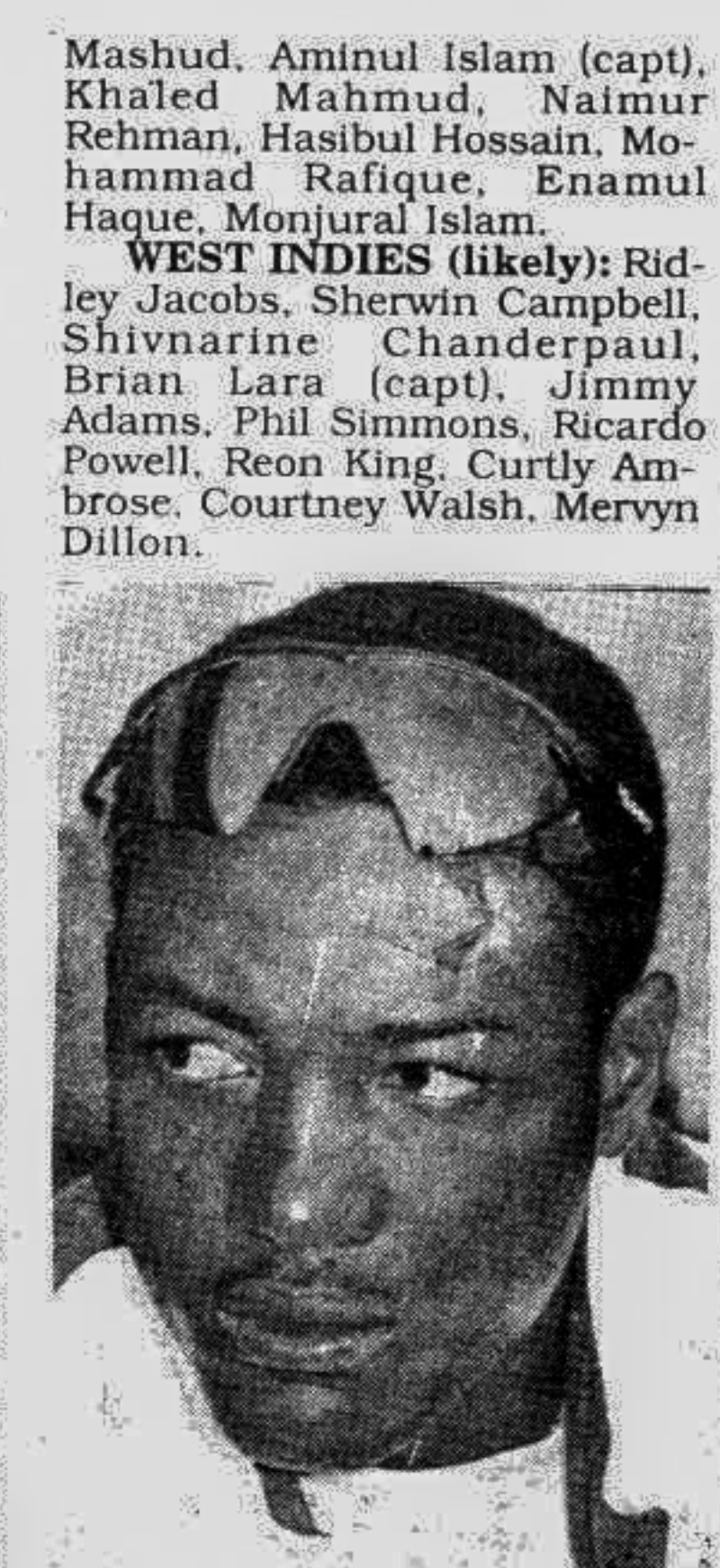
to include an extra bowler at the expense of an all-rounder.

Lara, the cornerstone of the West Indian batting, is himself under pressure to perform, making just 11 against Pakistan before getting out to a loose shot.

SQUADS

BANGLADESH (likely): Shahriyar Hossain, Mehrab Hossain, Akram Khan, Khaled Mashud, Aminul Islam (capt), Khaled Mahmud, Naimur Rahman, Hasibul Hossain, Mohammad Rafique, Enamul Haque, Monjurul Islam.

WEST INDIES (likely): Ridley Jacobs, Sherwin Campbell, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Brian Lara (capt), Jimmy Adams, Phil Simmons, Ricardo Powell, Reon King, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Mervyn Dillon.



AMINUL ISLAM

BRIAN LARA

HEAD-TO-HEAD

The teams have never met before at Test or one-day level, with Bangladesh making their World Cup debut here.

Players to watch:

Bangladesh: Hasibul Hossain. The only player to come out of the six-wicket defeat to New Zealand with credit. He took one for 31 off his ten overs of lively right-arm medium-fast, then cracked 16 out of his side's 116 while batting at number 10.

West Indies: Mervyn Dillon. The obituaries written in honour of West Indian fast bowling may be premature if he keeps improving. Against Pakistan, he took three for 29 off 10 overs. Showed fine control while hurrying all the batsmen.

Venue:

Dublin. A small but beautiful ground, surrounded by beech trees, Ireland just missed out on the qualifying tournament. Hansie Cronje and Steve Waugh have spent a summer in Ireland helping to promote the game. Capacity: 4,000.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

LEICESTER, May 20 (Reuters): Henry Olunga's date with destiny powered Zimbabwe to a thrilling three-run victory over India in Group A of the World Cup on Wednesday.

The paceman, brought back on to bowl in a last-gasp measure as India looked headed for victory, smashed through their tail with three wickets in five balls to give unfancied Zimbabwe their second qualifying group win and every chance of going through to the "Super Six" stage of the tournament.

"I think I had a meeting with destiny today," said the 22-year-old Olunga, the first black cricketer to represent Zimbabwe, who turned down a place at drama school in London to pursue his cricketing career.

"At the end (tearfully) Stuart Carlisle came up to me and said, 'this could be your chance to make history', so I went for it," he said.

India, chasing Zimbabwe's 252 for nine, had looked on course to win before Olunga's dramatic intervention.

Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin said his team's failure could not be blamed on the sad events before play started, when their top batsman Sachin Tendulkar had to fly home to Bombay suddenly following the death of his father.

"We had the game in our hands but we let it go. The pressure is on us now. We have got to play well and win our next three matches," he said.

With India chasing nine runs from the last two overs, captain Alistair Campbell took the surprising decision to give the ball to Olunga despite a disastrous spell earlier of three overs littered with wickets.

The dreadlocked Olunga, playing only his eighth international, had Robin Singh caught for 35 with his second ball, then bowled Javagal Srinath with his fifth and trapped last man Venkatesh Prasad leg before to pull off a shock win over the 1983 World Cup champions.

Olunga was engulfed by delighted teammates as Prasad was given out.

He said he was astonished to be asked to bowl by captain Alistair Campbell as India chased the final runs.

"I didn't expect to get a bowl. I thought we had given up by that time and I only had a minute to warm up," said Olunga, who bowled the last over flat out.

Campbell also seemed bemused at the success of his bowling change. "I don't know why I did it. I just had a gut feeling that Henry had had a bad day and that he would really go for it."



Edris Taher, manager Emirates (Bangladesh) conducts the first round draw of the Emirates World Cup quiz held at the airlines' office in the city yesterday. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Caviot 45 Hose "before" 17 Work unit

5 "Sis boom 49 Sox-at- 19 Teen's

8 Strong, event 3 Swampy woe

12 Met 52 Tied 4 Process 22 Attack dive

13 Away from 53 Compete 25 Praiseful 24 Crane

14 "Zip" — melody 54 Al Hirschfeld's 6 Uruguayan 26 Mickey Mouse's original name

15 "Mr. Mom" 55 "Bird thou never —" 7 Rope fiber 8 The way we were? 27 Oscar contenders

16 Couch potato, 56 Informal-maybe 9 Dashboard device 29 "Hail" to Caesar 30 Spelldown

18 Springer's domain? 57 Check 10 Relinquish 33 Say it isn't so 36 Second 38 Lawbreaker

20 Indivisible 11 They're good for

21 Lowers the lights 40 Comedian

23 "Golly!" 42 "That's a relief!"

24 Birthplace 43 Gad about

28 Impale 44 Pinatubo

31 Fuss 45 Outpouring

32 Tolerated 46 Last writes?

35 Bacterium 47 Low pinochle card

37 Safe and sound 48 Line of fashion? 50 Central

39 AAA job 41 Language

42 Word with therapy

Solution time: 26 min.

TODAY'S ANSWERS

MINUTE MATURE ADIAGIO
DECAUS RAGLAN
GIAE S RAGLIS
BOA ERAS LEAP
EUGENIENESCO
GRIP ELMO SEX
TIS EERO
AMA HERB POPE
RADORER OTRICCI
BERETS YEARS

Yesterday's answer

CRYPTOQUIP

I K S J H I W L Q B W C H S J
G V Q L Y P I H B D Y D V R P L V D C
P R G D B A P K B S D A Q S J
H B B P G H L D

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I'M TOLD THAT THE TRUE REASON WOLFMAN WEARS GLASSES IS HE'S FURSHIGHTED.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: L equals M

The Cryptoquip 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 locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.