

Bitse & pieces

From page 13

IMRAN ON INZY
LONDON, May 24: Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan admires Inzamamul Haq's prowess with the bat, but don't ask him to bat with the sluggish slugger who plundered 81 runs as Pakistan beat Australia Sunday, reports AP.

"His running between the wickets is appalling and yesterday he was involved in three moments of absolute chaos," Imran wrote in a Monday newspaper column.

Inzamam finally ran himself out at Headingley — the 29th time he has squandered his wicket that way in one-day internationals.

"I have seen plenty of big men play cricket who are not quick between the wickets, but Inzamam does not appear to grasp even the basics of running and calling," Imran said.

Yesterday at Headingley we saw the very best and the very worst of this big player who looks as if he does not know what he is doing half the time."

HOSTS TURN TO BULL

LONDON, May 24: Worried that Saturday's hammering by South Africa could sap player morale, England team managers have enlisted sports psychologist Steve Bull to keep the World Cup host team's hopes up, reports AP.

"It's important for the management to ensure the spirits remain high as I'm sure they will do," said chairman of selectors David Graveney.

After restricting South Africa to 225 for seven in their 50 overs, England crumpled to 103 all out in reply, slumping to their first defeat of the 12-nation tournament.

"It was a hammering," was Graveney's blunt assessment of the performance. "We'll assess the effect of this game, but we haven't been knocked out of the tournament as a result of losing that match. We played well up until that point and we had our moments in that game too."

Pakistan not so quick

LEEDS, England, May 24: Pakistan might have the quickest bowler in world cricket in the form of 23-year-old pace-man Shaib Akhtar but as a team, it doesn't bowl its overs quickly enough, reports AP.

Pakistan edged Australia by 10 runs in a World Cup thriller Sunday at Headingley, but match referee Raman Subba Row fined the team 20 per cent of its match winnings for not getting through its 50 overs quickly enough.

It was the second time in three games that Pakistan have been fined for a slow over rate, following a similar penalty after their first game against the West Indies at Bristol.

On Sunday, Pakistan bowled four overs after the stipulated duration of the match.

"What can you do," Row said. "They bowl short and still end up winning."

Olonga points at

From page 16
bit - but hasn't done it for a long time.

You have got the bowlers who can bat like Robert Croft but they are not in the same class as Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher or Lance Klusener.

The England bowling is superb but the weakness is their batting and we will have that in the back of our minds going into the game, when we are going to give it everything."

Olonga added: "It's a must win game for us as our last match is against South Africa who are a phenomenal side who will bowl out any team and defend any score."

"But England have also got to win. They are in the same boat as us. All the pressure is on England and I would hate to be in their shoes with all the expectations of the nation on their shoulders."

"If we lose then coming to the World Cup would still have given us a lot of positive points and things we have learnt."

"But we are still thinking that we can get that one win which will take us into the Super Six and we are capable of beating England."

"What we have to do is knock down a few things. When our batting has done well, the bowling has failed and vice-versa. We have got to put everything together at the same time."

Olonga believes it is vital for the development of cricket in Zimbabwe that they qualify for the Super Six.

He said, "I've said to the guys that we shouldn't be looking at the size of the giant we are trying to kill - but instead at the size of the reward for killing it."

"If we qualify for the Super Six it will increase the interest in the game hugely back home. It is already the one sport that is doing well in Zimbabwe and got the interest of people."

"But there are a lot of kids who want to get involved in it and can't afford to buy the kit and can't afford to look upon cricket as a future career."

"If we do well here it will provide huge impetus and the big need is on the development side of the game."

"We need sponsorship, support from corporate companies. Then we might open doors for more people to take it up as a full-time career as I have done."

Confident

From page 13
and the days of us just turning up to make up the numbers and hoping not to lose too badly are definitely a thing of the past."

"Our guys have come to grips with the fact that they are a Test-playing country, fully-fledged professional cricketers who go out expecting to win their fair share of games."

"That has been the big turnaround for us in the past year and we are looking to get the third win, that we think we have need to qualify for the Super Six, against England."



West Indian players are jubilant after the fall of Dion Nash (not in picture) yesterday. — AFP photo

NZ-WINDIES SCOREBOARD

From page 13

Scoreboard of the New Zealand innings against West Indies at Southampton yesterday:

	R	B	4	6
M Horne c Lara b Walsh	2	21	0	0
N Astle c Jacobs b Ambrose	2	6	0	0
C McMillan c Jacobs b Simmons	32	78	1	0
S Fleming c Jacobs b King	0	17	0	0
R Twose c Williams b King	0	12	0	0
C Cairns c Lara b Dillon	23	40	2	0
A Farouz c Jacobs b Dillon	23	41	4	0
C Harris c Campbell b Dillon	30	50	2	0
D Nash c Williams b Dillon	1	10	0	0
G Larsen c Jacobs b Simmons	14	18	2	0
G Allott not out	0	2	0	0
Extras: (lb-6, w-17, nb-6)	29			
Total: (All out in 48.1 overs)	156			

Fall of wkts: 1-2 (Astle, 1.6 ov); 2-13 (Horne, 4.5 ov); 3-22 (Fleming, 10.3 ov); 4-31 (Twose, 16.4 ov); 5-59 (McMillan, 25.1 ov); 6-75 (Cairns, 30.5 ov); 7-125 (Parore, 40.3 ov); 8-130 (Nash, 42.5 ov); 9-155 (Larsen, 47.4 ov); 10-156 (Harris, 48.1 ov).

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Walsh	10	1	23	1 (4-nb, 2-w)
Ambrose	10	0	19	1 (2-w)
King	10	1	29	2 (1-nb, 5-w)
Simmons	9	2	33	2 (1-nb, 4-w)
Dillon	9.1	0	46	4 (3-w)

Toss: West Indies. Umpires: Javed Akhtar (Pak) and S Venkataraghavan (Ind). TV Umpire: JH Hampshire. Match Referee: RS Madugalle (SL).

BATTING, BOWLING SO FAR

LONDON, May 24 (Reuters): Top batting and bowling performances at the World Cup tournament after Sunday's matches (*denotes not out):

BATTING

140* — Sachin Tendulkar (India) v Kenya, May 23, Bristol.

104 — Rahul Dravid (India) v Kenya, May 23, Bristol.

97 — Saurav Ganguly (India) v South Africa, May 15, Hove.

96 — Jacques Kallis (South Africa) v India, May 15, Hove.

88* — Nasser Hussain (England) v Kenya, May 18, Canterbury.

81 — Alec Stewart (England) v Sri Lanka, May 14, Lord's.

81 — Younis Youhana (Pakistan) v Scotland, May 20, Durham.

81 — Inzamamul Haq (Pakistan) v Australia, May 23, Leeds.

80* — Roger Twose (New Zealand) v Australia, May 20, Cardiff.

77 — Shivnarine Chanderpaul (West Indies) v Pakistan, May 16, Bristol.

76 — Darren Lehmann (Australia) v New Zealand, May 20, Cardiff.

76 — Gavin Hamilton (Scotland) v Pakistan, May 20, Durham.

73* — Graeme Hick (England) v Sri Lanka, May 14, Lord's.

71 — Steve Tikolo (Kenya) v England, May 18, Canterbury.

69 — Andy Flower (Zimbabwe) v India, May 19, Leicester.

67 — Mark Waugh (Australia) v Scotland, May 16, Worcester.

64 — Mehrab Hossain (Bangladesh) v West Indies, May 21, Dublin.

61 — Graeme Hick (England) v Kenya, May 18, Canterbury.

61 — Michael Bevan (Australia) v Pakistan, May 23, Leeds.

60 — Herschelle Gibbs (South Africa) v England, May 22, Lord's.

60 — Chris Cairns (New Zealand) v Australia, May 20, Cardiff.

57* — Allan Donald (South Africa) v England, May 22, The Oval.

4 for 25 — Courtney Walsh (West Indies) v Bangladesh, May 21, Dublin.

4 for 34 — Darren Gough (England) v Kenya, May 18, Canterbury.

4 for 37 — Alan Mullally (England) v Sri Lanka, May 14, Lord's.

4 for 37 — Geoff Allott (New Zealand) v Australia, May 20, Cardiff.

4 for 40 — Wasim Akram (Pakistan) v Australia, May 23, Leeds.

4 for 42 — Neil Johnson (Zimbabwe) v Kenya, May 15, Taunton.

3 for 11 — Shoaib Akhtar (Pakistan) v Scotland, May 20, Durham.

3 for 19 — Gavin Larsen (New Zealand) v Bangladesh, May 17, Chelmsford.

3 for 21 — Lance Klusener (South Africa) v Sri Lanka, May 19, Northampton.

3 for 22 — Henry Olonga (Zimbabwe) v India, May 19, Leicester.

3 for 23 — Wasim Akram (Pakistan) v Scotland, May 20, Durham.

3 for 25 — Muttiah Muralitharan (Sri Lanka) v South Africa, May 19, Northampton.

3 for 26 — Jacques Kallis (South Africa) v Sri Lanka, May 19, Northampton.

3 for 28 — Courtney Walsh (West Indies) v Pakistan, May 16, Bristol.

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