

## Bitse & pieces

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into three figures soon.

**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 crumbled 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. "Well, 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 Shoaib 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 cessation of the match.

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

## Olonga points at

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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 bowlers are superb but the weakness in 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 defeat 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 knuckle down on 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

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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 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

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

| NEW ZEALAND                    | 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 Farore 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  | M   | R | W  |
|---------|-----|---|----|
| Walsh   | 10  | 1 | 23 |
| Ambrose | 10  | 0 | 19 |
| King    | 10  | 1 | 29 |
| Simmons | 9   | 2 | 33 |
| Dillon  | 9.1 | 0 | 46 |

Toss: West Indies.  
Umpires: Javed Akhtar (Pak) and S Venkatraghavan (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.  
88 — Alec Stewart (England) v Sri Lanka, May 14, Lord's.  
81 — Yousuf 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 23, Bristol.  
73\* — Graeme Hick (England) v Sri Lanka, May 20, Durham.  
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.

**BOWLING**  
4 for 17 — 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.  
4 for 56 — Debashish Mohanty (India) v Kenya, May 23, Bristol.  
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.  
3 for 29 — Mervyn Dillon (West Indies) v Pakistan, May 16, Bristol.  
3 for 30 — Geoff Allott (New Zealand) v Bangladesh, May 17, Chelmsford.  
3 for 30 — Reon King (West Indies) v Bangladesh, May 21, Dublin.  
3 for 30 — Pramodya Wickremasinghe (Sri Lanka) v Zimbabwe, May 22, Worcester.



England's Graham Thorpe (L) and Nasser Hussain honing their batting skills in the nets at Trentbridge yesterday. — AFP photo

## Hosts in tricky

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A third victory for England - they have already beaten Sri Lanka and Kenya - would all but see them safe. Zimbabwe, victors over Kenya and India, are in a similar position.

Stewart look certain to reshape his seam attack on Tuesday by dropping Angus Fraser in favour of all-rounder Ian Austin.

Fraser - playing his first and perhaps his last World Cup game at the age of 33 - lacked penetration against South Africa as his 10 wicket-less overs went for 54. The inclusion of Austin will also lengthen England's batting.

Off spinner Robert Croft, meanwhile, may make way for Adam Hoolioake, a batsman and fifth seamer, again to beef up the batting.

Zimbabwe will look to the in-form Flower brothers, Grant and Andy, to anchor the batting. Pace bowler Henry Olonga, rapidly becoming a cult figure here, will lead the attack while leg spinner Paul Strang will hope to exploit England's notorious weakness against spin.

Zimbabwe also seem certain to retain their faith in veteran Eddo Brandes.

The 36-year-old seamer, more than anyone, seems to hold the key to his side's England jinx.

A chicken-farmer by trade, he boasts a one-day hat-trick against England, as well as figures of four for 21 in Zimbabwe's victory over England in the 1992 World Cup, their only meeting in the event.

## SQUADS

**ENGLAND (probable):** Alec Stewart (capt), Nasser Hussain, Graeme Hick, Graham Thorpe, Neil Fairbrother, Andrew Flintoff, Adam Hoolioake, Mark Ealham, Ian Austin, Darren Gough, Alan Mullally.

**ZIMBABWE (probable):** Neil Johnson, Grant Flower, Paul Strang, Murray Goodwin, Andy Flower, Alistair Campbell (capt), Guy Whittall, Stuart Carlisle, Heath Streak, Eddo Brandes, Henry Olonga.

## India rejoices

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innings that would be a special tribute to his father.

"That he translated his dream into reality speaks of Tendulkar's resolve. It also speaks of Tendulkar's genius as a batsman. If India can get out of the mess, it will require the genius of Tendulkar to do so."

Newspapers carried Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's effusive message to Tendulkar in which he described him as the pride of nearly a billion people.

Vajpayee took time off from his preoccupation with the elections to pen a late night message on Sunday to underscore the widespread belief that Tendulkar was a model to emulate.

"Not only did you not let the deep personal loss caused by your father's sudden demise deter you but you actually used it as an inspiration to scale yet another summit in cricketing excellence," Vajpayee said.

For the moment at least, Indians seemed to have forgiven captain Mohammad Azharuddin.

In an Internet poll conducted by the Times of India group's site at the weekend, 62 per cent of voters said they wanted Azharuddin replaced as captain midway through the World Cup.

## Clever punter!

LONDON, May 24: A die-hard Manchester United supporter stands to win 157,000 pounds (230,000 dollars) if his favourite team wins Wednesday's European Cup final, but if they lose, his bet is worth twice as much, reports AFP.

The punter, a businessman in his 50s from Staffordshire, placed two 2.50 pound bets on two 14-event accumulators in November.

The first 13 selections on each bet were winners and now anxiously waits to see if will win 314,000 pounds for a Bayern Munich victory or 157,000 if Manchester United win.

"Apart from being the perfect bet, this wager will test the moral scruples of the punter," said Graham Sharpe of book-makers William Hill.

The punter, a Manchester United supporter for 30 years, has already correctly picked Australia to win cricket's Ashes at odds of 4/11, Manchester United to win the English Premiership at 11/8 and Michael Owen as the Premiership top scorer at 4/1.

## Tale of a true Bangladeshi

From Nizamuddin Ahmed  
EDINBURGH, May 24: Yousuf Rahman Babu, former Bangladeshi cricketer star, is simply elated.

He is here with his wife. He has flown from New York to Edinburgh via London to see the boys, some of who were tiny toddlers when he scored that famous 78 against the visiting MCC at the Dhaka Stadium.

"It was January 6 and 7 in the year 1977," said he with his characteristic wide smile. So how old was Minhazul when you were playing? "He just got in when I gave up. Good replacement, wasn't it?" he quipped.

Narrating his feeling about being able to see Bangladesh in the World Cup, Yousuf said, "Ask the nation how they feel. If they are excited, I am too."

## MAKE-SHIFT CARNIVAL

A 20-man strong band of Scottish bagpipers and drummers played Highland tunes to set the stage for Edinburgh's first World Cup match.

Joyous shouts of 'Bangladesh, Bangladesh', backed by another band of make-shift instruments was more of a clamour, but in terms of fun and merrymaking, it came out tops.

In fact, the entire set-up was make-shift. The press box, again a tent put this time more along the line of the wickets, the commentary box, the stands, the scoreboards, even the toilets were all temporary.

Bangladesh flags gave the Grange Cricket Club ground an aura of festivity. Ominously, there was not a single Scotland flag in the gallery.

## Akhtar warned privately

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HEADINGLEY, May 24: Pakistan paceman Shoaib Akhtar was given a private warning from match referee Raman Subba Row after clashing with Australian batsmen during their World Cup match here on Sunday, reports AP.

Akhtar, regarded as the quickest bowler in the world, was involved in several incidents, exchanging words with Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting during the Australian innings. Pakistan won the game by 10 runs.

Subba Row said, "Nobody has been officially reported."

"Umpire Rudi Koertzen doesn't want any official action taken against Shoaib Akhtar, but he's about to get an unofficial rocket from me," he said.

There was a shouting match going on out there and words were spoken."

Captain Wasim Akram was forced to intervene after Akhtar appeared to stand in the way of the Australian batsmen as they were trying to complete a run.

Wasim said, "He's a very fast bowler, so you have to calm him down. I spoke to the umpire myself, I said 'relax and let me have a go at him'."

Australia captain Waugh, meanwhile, was making no complaints, saying, "I play the game hard out in the middle, so I'll leave it to whoever makes the judgements."

## 'Cricketcide'

NEW DELHI, May 24: An angry cricket fan stabbed an Indian shopkeeper to death for switching off his television during a World Cup match featuring India, the Press Trust of India said on Monday, reports AFP.

A group of people in the eastern Indian state of Orissa were watching the live telecast of the India-Kenya encounter on Sunday outside a shop when the owner decided to call it a day.

The cricket fans protested the move and an argument started, one of them stabbed the shopkeeper, who died later in hospital.

## Scots finally get a sponsor

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EDINBURGH, May 24: As the only team going into the cricket World Cup without a financial sponsor, Scotland have felt like outsiders in more sense than one - but not any longer, reports AFP.

The Tartan no-hopes, 1,000-1 with the bookmakers to win the event and already halfway through their campaign, have finally secured a "five-figure" deal with a leading media company.

The sum, believed to be nearer 10,000 pounds (16,500 US dollars) than 90,000 pounds (163,350 US dollars), is a welcome relief for the Scots whose only form of commercial support until now came in the form of a delivery of 1,500 nutrition bars.

Coach Jim Love said he hoped the money would encourage the development of cricket in Scotland, where it is regarded as a minority sport.

## Proteas on Dutch

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finals as they did three years ago in India and Pakistan, but have had to settle for staging a first round game.

For the one-off match the Amstelvel club has erected a special stand to cater for an expected crowd of around 5,000 in a country where cricket is one of the larger minority sports.

The South Africans again have the upper hand in terms of experience of the ground.

For Kenya the location is new, but they in the South African side will fondly remember last year's 83-run victory over the Dutch, particularly opener Gary Kirsten who scored an unbeaten century in that game.

## Tendulkar the best

LONDON, May 24 (Internet report): India captain Mohammad Azharuddin paid tribute to Sachin Tendulkar after his superb unbeaten 140 contribution to India's World Cup win over Kenya, saying: "He is the best player in the world."

Tendulkar, who dedicated his century to his late father, Ramesh, flew straight back to Britain after the cremation, and left his team-mates in awe with his accomplished batting performance.

Azharuddin said: "We all support him at this difficult time and wish him the very best."

"He keeps making runs and making the country proud. "It was nice to win after two close defeats and we can now look forward to the rest of our games with confidence."

Tendulkar treated a capacity Indian-dominated 8,500 crowd at Bristol to a succession of glorious strokes in an innings that took his team to a 94-run victory.

Tendulkar said: "When I went home, the first question my mother asked was 'why am I here?'."

"She said my father would have wanted me to carry on playing in the competition and that is why I have come back quickly."

"This was a special hundred for me and I would like to dedicate it to my father."

"I would also like to thank my mother, two brothers, sister and all my countrymen who

have supported me. "It was difficult to keep my father's death out of my mind, but I tried my best. "It's very hard to express



what I felt when I reached my hundred, but I looked up to the skies and I did it for my father, my country and the team.

"I would not say it was my best innings, but it meant something very special."

Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid also set record stands for the tournament of 237 which powered India to an imposing total of 329 for two.

## Dwelling on boycott

MELBOURNE, May 24 (Reuters/Internet): Australia's cricketers will consider boycotting matches if their players aren't protected during future World Cup matches, a players spokesman said on Monday.

Australian Cricketers' Association president Tim May said the players were so upset at the lax security arrangements at the tournament in England that they were considering a walkout.

"I don't think there's any doubt that we are getting closer to that stage," May told Australian television on Monday.

The players are going to say 'that's it, we are not going to go on to this ground'."

Australian captain Steve Waugh has lodged three separate complaints about security during the World Cup.

He contacted the International Cricket Council after his players were jostled by unruly spectators during Australia's win over Scotland last week.

He lodged a second complaint after a fan tried to steal Mark Waugh's cap following Australia's defeat by New Zealand in Cardiff.

The latest incident occurred during Sunday's 10-run loss to Pakistan when thousands of mostly Pakistan fans invaded the Headingley pitch.

May, a former test spinner, described the security arrangements as "totally and absolutely irresponsible" and called on the tournament organisers to fix the problem before someone was injured.

## Minhaz saves the blushes

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strokes on a pitch that was drenched from the world play.

Make-shift opener, Khaled Masud gave Bangladesh the all too familiar usual shaky start as he holed out at third man to Philip, trying to pull across a rising Blain bomber, Masud, out for naught, was Bangladesh's new find at the top.

Mehrab Hossain was impatient, and he eventually gave a leading edge to long-on to give Dyer enough time to hold on to a high catch. He was out on three.

Skipper Aminul Islam was a bit unlucky to have been given out lbw to Blain, for the ball was on the rise and had struck him sufficiently high to get the benefit of doubt. However that lbw decision reduced his side to three for 13. His zero did not ring any of the bells for his predecessor Akram, who also went for a duck.

Akram Khan, rather shaky in all the three games, lost his way again and nudged a simple catch to first slip, giving Philip his second catch.

Faruque Ahmed, another of the three former captains' playing and making World Cup debuts, appeared initially to have understood that the rot was eating, but he too went cheaply by allowing Blain to rattle the stumps.

In led Minhazul to lay bricks on a sagging foundation. He had the right mason as a partner in Naimur. The sixth-wicket pair put on a handsome display of true grit to squirm out of the Scottish grapple.

The pair pumped in 69 runs in 89 minutes to elevate Bangladesh from the deep gorge of the highlands. Naimur hit five fours in his 58-ball stay at the crease, scoring a very creditable 36 before mistiming a Stanger delivery, only to give catch at mid-on off the bowling of Brinkley. The sixth wicket was broken at 95.

Minhazul was more boisterous in scoring his unbeaten 68 than came off a very responsible 118-ball vigil. On the way, he clobbered six fours and several other magnificent shots in his customary flowing style. Minhazul's 50 came in 104 balls.

taking Bangladesh to 158 for eight.

The seventh wicket stand vanished in a flash with Khaled Mahmud undone by Dyer.

Minhazul then built an arch over his previous wall with the help of Enamul Haque. A 37-run eighth wicket partnership rode Bangladesh to 133 and to some respectability.

It was enough to wind up the lively band of Bangladeshis, clad in national colours and led by two 'tigers', attired appropriately, that had apparently never given up hope.

Hasibul Hussain then paired with Minhazul for the ninth wicket to extract a very useful 31 runs.

In Minhazul's last battle, he found Manjurul Islam in the bunker. They came out to bludge through the final overs to carry Bangladesh to 185 without any further damage. The tenth pair put on 21 runs.

Blain finished with four wickets at the expense of 37 runs. But, a Lahore-born cricketer of Pakistani origin, took 2 for 24. Dyer 2 for 26 and costly Brinkley one for 4.

## Sunny says

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LONDON, May 24: Former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar on Sunday blamed India's inability to cope with pressure for their current plight at the World Cup and warned the team can have no excuses if they don't perform after the return of its best performer Sachin Tendulkar, reports PTL.

India's excuses will run out today, Tendulkar is back from Mumbai after his father's death. If the world's brightest batsman cannot make the difference for his country, it's team's stay may be a short one indeed," the legendary batsman told the Times here.

India's poor nine months leading up to the World Cup has hardly emboldened the side. The rest of the winter was spent as a distinctly second best side to Pakistan, he said.

Gavaskar warned if India were to make an exit next Saturday (at the league stage), there may be a crash. "There is so much hype and hope. If they do well sky is the limit for Indian cricket. If India don't do well, there is a huge boom at the moment, but I fear a crash would happen."

In an obvious criticism of Indian strategies, he said only those teams, which had captains, bowlers, and stewards coming up with tactical innovations were doing well.

"In this, India is finding itself being overwhelmed," he said and felt there were certain traits in Indian cricket that naturally inhibited their limited-over style.

"To a large extent the Indian temperament is non-confrontational."

It's a temperament that doesn't encourage you to take the aggressive step forward," he said.

Gavaskar said