

Sport

Bits & pieces

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batted first all three times, but also remain unbeaten.

England, meanwhile, are perhaps the luckiest side of the event so far.

Alec Stewart — who lost all five tosses in the recent Ashes series — has won all four of his World Cup tosses. He has put the opposition in each time and led his side to three wins out of four.

"I've been practising with the coin," he says.

BRAVE PUNTER

DARWIN, Australia, May 26 (AFP): Australia's slim chance of winning the World Cup has not stopped one punter risking 10,000 dollars (6,600 US) on Steve Waugh's team.

A spokesman for Darwin Allsports said today his staff were amazed at the bet, which was made after Australia's odds blew out to 10 to one following their loss to Pakistan earlier this week.

"He stands to win 100,000 dollars from us, but boy we reckon it's a pretty brave bet," spokesman Andrew Penders said.

After the bet was placed Australia's odds shortened to 8-1 while South Africa were still favourites at 13-10, ahead of Pakistan at 23-10.

MARSHAL STABLE

BIRMINGHAM, England, May 26: West Indies coach Malcolm Marshall is in stable condition after a major abdominal surgery here, the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) said today, reports AFP.

WICB chiefs said that the former fast bowling ace was expected to stay in hospital for at least 10 days.

Marshall is "recovering from his operation and is in a stable condition," the WICB said.

Manager Clive Lloyd will continue as coach of the West Indian World Cup squad in Marshall's absence.

Security call, yet

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is unlikely to introduce emergency legislation to combat pitch invasions.

A Home Office spokesman said: "Given the existing legislative programme, it does not appear feasible. There is not enough time in the legislative programme."

Australia's captain Steve Waugh has led the calls for tough action to be taken and India captain Mohammad Azharuddin has warned some one could get killed.

World Cup organisers are holding a meeting on Thursday with police and cricket ground safety officers at the Edgbaston ground where England meet India in a first round match on Saturday. Home Office officials will not attend the meeting.

The British Home Office is responsible for public order. In relative terms the incidents are not a major threat to public order like the numerous incidents of hooliganism which tarnished English soccer's reputation for much of the 1970s and 1980s.

Organisers stressed on Wednesday that they had been working on plans for security for two years and said "investigations were still open" with the Home Office about legislation.

World Cup events manager Michael Browning said earlier this week: "We are taking this very seriously. It is not enough for the players to be safe; they have to feel safe as well. Clearly they don't feel safe at the moment."

Birmingham has been chosen as the venue because of its location in central England, not because it is hosting the England-India game. Safety officers are not concerned about the behaviour of fans during games which has largely been good.

Bookies held

CALCUTTA, India, May 26 (Reuters/ Internet): Indian police have arrested 11 people over their alleged involvement in betting on World Cup matches, officials said on Wednesday.

Eight people were arrested in Barrackpur, 30 kms from the eastern city of Calcutta, while allegedly settling claims for bets during the group B match between New Zealand and West Indies, police said.

Police seized 14 mobile phones, two laptop computers, cash cards, television sets and 16,000 rupees (\$375) from them.

The bookies were earning millions of rupees from bets placed in every match in the World Cup, a police official said.

The official said that they were alerted by local people who spotted a group of strangers with mobile telephones on Tuesday.

"Mobile phones are very unusual for this area," district magistrate Arun Mishra said.

In New Delhi, police arrested three people on Tuesday for alleged betting on cricket matches and seized nine mobile phones along with 15,000 rupees of stake money, news agency Press Trust of India reported.

Betting is illegal in India, except on horse racing. Many Indians bet regularly, often in large amounts placed on trust.

Most of the business is conducted via telephone and bets are accepted only from people introduced by reliable friends.

A police officer in Barrackpur said they were investigating the links of local bookies with other bookies in Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Bangalore, and possible links with bigger operators abroad.

TOP 10 ODI SCORERS

Score	Batsman	Country	Against	Venue	Date
194	S Anwar	Pakistan	India	Madras	May 21, 1997
189*	V Richards	West Indies	England	Old Trafford	May 31, 1984
188*	G Kirsten	South Africa	UAE	Rawalpindi	Feb 16, 1996
183	S Ganguly	India	Sri Lanka	Taunton	May 26, 1999
181	V Richards	West Indies	Sri Lanka	Karachi	Oct 13, 1987
175*	Kapil Dev	India	Zimbabwe	Trent Bridge	June 18, 1983
171*	G Turner	New Zealand	East Africa	Edgbaston	June 7, 1975
169*	D Calaghan	South Africa	New Zealand	Pretoria	Dec 11, 1994
169	B Lara	West Indies	Sri Lanka	Sharjah	Oct 16, 1995
167*	R Smith	England	Australia	Edgbaston	May 21, 1993

RECORD PARTNERSHIPS (Any wicket)

Score	Batsman	Country	Against	Venue	Date
252	S Tendulkar/S Ganguly (India)	Sri Lanka	Colombo	Taunton	July 7, 1998
318	S Ganguly/R David (India)	Sri Lanka	Taunton	May 26, 1999	May 23, 1999
237*	R Dravid/S Tendulkar (India)	Kenya	Cuttack	Colombo	Apr 9, 1998
223	M Azharuddin/A Jadeja (India)	Zimbabwe	Colombo	Edgbaston	Aug 17, 1997
154	M Azharuddin/A Jadeja (India)	Pakistan	Sharjah	Old Trafford	Oct 21, 1991
119	R Richardson/J Dujon (WI)	Zimbabwe	Nairobi	Trent Bridge	Oct 16, 1997
126*	T Odoyo/T Sujit (WI)	South Africa	Port Elizabeth	June 18, 1983	Apr 4, 1994
106*	P Reiffel/S Warne (Australia)	England	Old Trafford	Edgbaston	May 31, 1984

— (Compiled by Hasan Masood)

Computer incentive!

Sports Reporter

IMART Computer Technology Limited will give away a "Gateway" brand computer to every Bangladeshi batsman scoring a century in the cricket World Cup, says a press release.

Calculation curse

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West Indies will be endeavouring to do the same against Scotland, although captain Brian Lara was trying to look at the Australia game more positively.

"We know that if we win our last two games we will go through and we are concentrating on doing that," he said.

New Zealand, despite their heavy defeat by Lara's side on Monday, have a good run rate and look assured of progress if they can avoid a disaster against Pakistan. A narrow defeat and then a straightforward win over Scotland in their final game will probably be enough regardless of what happens at Old Trafford.

England's victory over Zimbabwe on Tuesday made them favourites to join South Africa in the second round — although it is not yet certain.

Zimbabwe, India and Sri Lanka could be battling it out for third spot and one of them could advance with just four points.

However, if Zimbabwe were to pull off a surprise victory over their southern African neighbours in their final game they would still not be assured of a place even with six points.

That situation would need India to beat Sri Lanka and England — or Sri Lanka to beat India and Kenya.

Then the top four would all have six points and would be split by run rate.

If in the unlikely event of any teams having an identical run rate (to two decimal places) then the decision is made on wickets taken per balls bowled.

Finally, six teams will go through to the second round (of course carrying with them only the points won against fellow-qualifiers).

And then we will have to go through the whole thing again to decide the four semifinalists.

Aussie guns

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A team. We feel good about what's to come.

"Even when we lost I felt good about it after the game. We were none for one chasing 275. A lot of sides would have got bowled out for a 100 in that situation.

"To come back and nearly win showed a lot of character," he said, paying tribute to the batsmen who took Australia to within 10 runs of victory in a thrilling match against Pakistan.

And then we will have to go through the whole thing again to decide the four semifinalists.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

London, May 26 (Reuters): World Cup cumulative results and standings after Tuesday's match:

GROUP A

May 14 : England beat Sri Lanka by 8 wickets Lord's.
May 15 : South Africa beat India by 4 wickets Hove.
May 18 : Zimbabwe beat Kenya by 5 wickets Taunton.
May 19 : England beat Kenya by 9 wickets Canterbury.
South Africa beat Sri Lanka by 89 runs Northampton.

May 22

South Africa beat England by 122 runs The Oval.
May 23 : Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 4 wickets Worcester.

May 25

India beat Kenya by 94 runs Bristol.
England beat Zimbabwe by seven wickets Nottingham.

GROUP B

May 16 : Australia beat Scotland by 6 wickets Worcester.
Pakistan beat West Indies by 27 runs Bristol.

May 17

New Zealand beat Bangladesh by 6 wickets Chelmsford.

May 20

New Zealand beat Australia by 5 wickets Cardiff.
Pakistan beat Scotland by 94 runs Chester-le-Street.

May 21

West Indies beat Bangladesh by 7 wickets Dublin.

May 24

West Indies beat New Zealand by 7 wickets Southampton.
Bangladesh beat Scotland by 22 runs Edinburgh.

Team

P W L T NR Pts Net Run Rate

South Africa 3 3 0 0 0 6 +1.50

England 4 3 1 0 0 6 -0.08

Zimbabwe 4 2 2 0 0 4 -0.24

India 3 1 2 0 0 2 +0.66

Sri Lanka 3 1 2 0 0 2 -0.60

Kenya 3 0 3 0 0 0 -1.43

GROUP C

May 16 : Australia beat Scotland by 6 wickets Worcester.

Pakistan beat West Indies by 27 runs Bristol.

May 17

New Zealand beat Bangladesh by 6 wickets Chelmsford.

May 20

New Zealand beat Australia by 5 wickets Cardiff.

May 21

West Indies beat Bangladesh by 7 wickets Dublin.

May 24

West Indies beat New Zealand by 7 wickets Southampton.
Bangladesh beat Scotland by 22 runs Edinburgh.

Team

P W L T NR Pts Net Run Rate

Pakistan 3 3 0 0 0 6 +0.84

West Indies 3 2 1 0 0 4 +0.08

New Zealand 3 2 1 0 0 4 +0.42

Australia 3 1 2 0 0 2 -0.05

Bangladesh 3 1 2 0 0 2 -0.38

Scotland 3 0 3 0 0 0 -0.88

BATTING, BOWLING SO FAR

London, May 26 (Reuters): Top batting and bowling performances at the cricket World Cup after Tuesday's match between England and Zimbabwe (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.