

BRIEF RESULTS

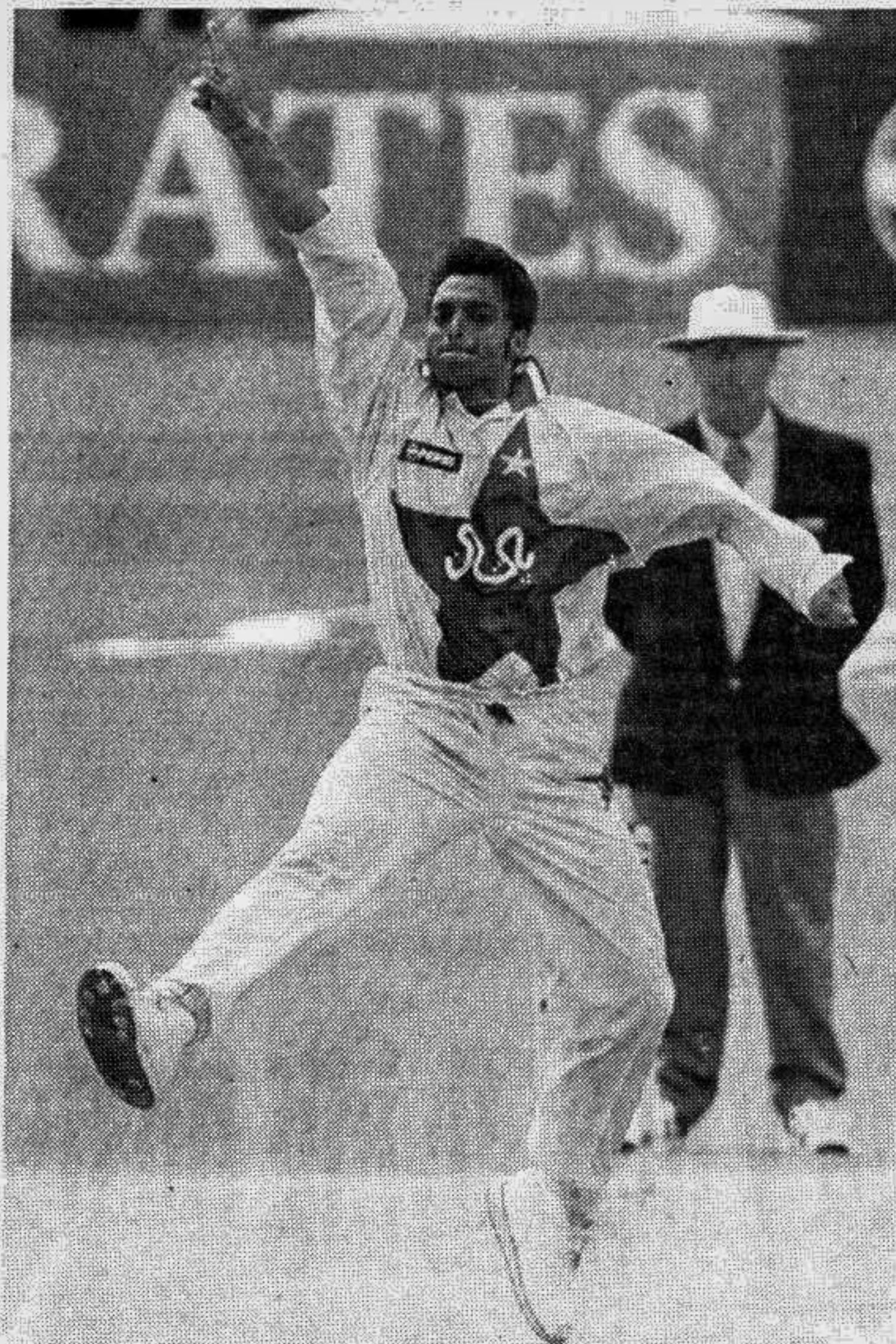
LONDON, May 28 (Reuters): World Cup cricket cumulative results and standings after Thursday's matches.

GROUP A									
May 14:	England	beat	Sri Lanka	by 8 wickets	(Lord's).				
May 15:	South Africa	beat	India	by 4 wickets	(Hove).				
	Zimbabwe	beat	Kenya	by 5 wickets	(Taunton).				
May 18:	England	beat	Kenya	by 9 wickets	(Canterbury).				
May 19:	South Africa	beat	Sri Lanka	by 89 runs	(Northampton).				
	Zimbabwe	beat	India	by 3 runs	(Leicester).				
May 22:	South Africa	beat	England	by 122 runs	(The Oval).				
	Sri Lanka	beat	Zimbabwe	by 4 wickets	(Worcester).				
May 23:	India	beat	Kenya	by 94 runs	(Bristol).				
May 25:	England	beat	Zimbabwe	by 7 wickets	(Nottingham).				
May 26:	India	beat	Sri Lanka	by 157 runs	(Taunton).				
	South Africa	beat	Kenya	by 7 wickets	(Amstelveen).				

Team	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	Net run rate
South Africa	4	4	0	0	0	8	+1.32
England	4	3	1	0	0	6	+0.08
Zimbabwe	4	2	2	0	0	4	-0.24
India	4	2	2	0	0	4	+1.29
Sri Lanka	4	1	3	0	0	2	-1.24
Kenya	4	0	4	0	0	0	-1.27

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 23:	Pakistan	beat	Australia	by 10 runs	(Leeds).				
May 24:	West Indies	beat	New Zealand	by 7 wickets	(Southampton).				
	Bangladesh	beat	Scotland	by 22 runs	(Edinburgh).				
May 27:	West Indies	beat	Scotland	by 8 wickets	(Leicester).				
	Australia	beat	Bangladesh	by 7 wickets	(Chester-le-Street).				

Team	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	Net run rate
Pakistan	3	3	0	0	0	6	+0.84
West Indies	4	3	1	0	0	6	+0.88
New Zealand	3	2	1	0	0	4	+0.42
Australia	4	2	2	0	0	4	+0.77
Bangladesh	4	1	3	0	0	2	-1.04
Scotland	4	0	4	0	0	0	-1.58



Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar is exultant after claiming a New Zealand wicket yesterday. — Internet photo

Minhaz sick

LONDON, May 28: The most successful Bangladesh World Cup player Minhazul Abedin has been suffering from fever and two others — captain Aminul Islam and opener Mehrab Hossain received minor injuries, official sources said today, reports BSS.

The experienced Minhaz, who was dropped against New Zealand on May 17, hit two half-centuries — one each against Scotland and Australia. Aminul Islam received a leg injury against Australia and Mehrab was also injured during the match.

Manager Tanvir Mazharul Islam hoped that all the three important players would be fit by tomorrow.

He indicated that at least two players would be changed against Pakistan at Northampton on May 31.

Defeated, not disgraced

From page 13

chals. Batting is not Bangladesh's problem if the World Cup is any guide. They began nervously with 116 against New Zealand on a difficult pitch but then scored 170 plus in their remaining three games, batting first each time.

Minhajul Abedin, restored to the Cup squad by popular demand shortly before the tournament started, has scored two half centuries and proved a match for Australia's best on Thursday.

Mehrab Hossain has recorded innings of 64 and 42 but the team has not been supported by its bowlers. Bangladesh's frontline bowling is medium pace, and that's at its most hostile.

Islam said there's plenty of up-and-coming talent at home. "We have got some good fast bowlers at home. They're too young at the moment but they're coming along."

Bangladesh's team has not been helped during the World Cup by uninspired training from coach Gordon Greenidge.

The former West Indies opener, a hero in Bangladesh two years ago when he guided them to Cup qualification, is now a controversial figure and his cause has not been helped by frank and critical comments about the qualities of his players.

In net practice this week before the Australia game Bangladeshi players drifted around the field, aimlessly kicking a football. Greenidge is expected to leave when his contract expires next month.

Greenidge about to be axed?

From page 13

In line with the decision, the Bangladesh team had to refuse many invitations by friends and well-wishers. But, on Friday, the cricketers for some unknown reason gave in to a private party at Manchester.

Such developments will not help the Bangladesh cause, according to another BCB high-up, requesting anonymity because he did not want to upset anyone while on a tour.

All will be revealed in good time, he said.

Smashing Strang!

From page 16

man. "So we'll go back to our usual batting order tomorrow." Leg-spinner Adam Huckle and off-spinner Andy Whittall may come in to the Zimbabwe side, shifting the balance of the attack away from seam.

Houghton said: "A change of personnel, a change of attitude in the field might be the tonic we need."

Zimbabwe have an almost fully fit squad to choose from, the exception being pace bowler Eddo Brandes.

He suffered a bad muscle spasm during practice on the day before Saturday's match against Sri Lanka, since when his condition has not improved and he did not take part in today's net session.

Moody matters

From page 16

which the World Cup squad was to be chosen but his man of the match performance in Western Australia's Sheffield Shield final win over Queensland, coupled with his experience of English conditions, forced the selectors into a rethink.

When the final 15-man squad was named, Moody was in.

Had Australia been more successful in their opening matches, Moody could easily have been ignored for the whole tournament.

On Thursday he grabbed his chance with both bat and ball and now will be difficult to ignore.

Steve never says over

From page 16

the day. "We are now only 15 runs or three overs behind them in the theory," Waugh said.

"Our aim at first was to win in 30 overs, but after being 80 for no wicket we readjusted it to try and win in 20. It's the best batting record I've seen so far."

A comprehensive win on Sunday would definitely take Australia through to the final side.

But Waugh is aware that New Zealand may also be drawn into the run rate equation, in the tightest of groups, should Australia lose to the West Indies.

"I see New Zealand coming into this equation, particularly if they don't beat Pakistan," he said.

Hungry India v high-flying hosts

From page 13

fine inswinging yorker, excelled against Kenya with four for 34 and also took two wickets against South Africa and Zimbabwe while keeping the runs down.

Mullally said he was unworried by India.

"I like to focus on how we are going to win," Mullally said. "I don't go to bed thinking Tendulkar is going to smash 150 tomorrow."

"India are a very good team but I'm more interested in what we are doing."

England's emphatic wins

HEAD-TO-HEAD

The two met in the Champions Trophy at Sharjah last month, India winning both matches by 20 runs and nine runs. The conditions, however, were very different from those in England. The two have not played a Test match in the past year.

WORLD CUP RESULTS TO DATE

ENGLAND: Beat Sri Lanka by eight wickets, beat Kenya by nine wickets, lost to South Africa by 122 runs, beat Zimbabwe by seven wickets.

INDIA: Lost to South Africa by four wickets, lost to Zimbabwe by three runs, beat Kenya by 94 runs, beat Sri Lanka by 157 runs.

WORLD CUP

England have won three of their four World Cup meetings. India's lone victory came in the 1983 semi-final at Old Trafford, and went on to win the final against the West Indies.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

ENGLAND: Graham Thorpe. The accomplished Surrey left-hander hit top form with an unbeaten 62 against Zimbabwe. Uses his feet well against spin and drives fluently on both sides of the wickets. Also a very safe slip catcher.

INDIA: Rahul Dravid. A year ago he was not considered suitable for one-day cricket because of his cramped style. He now has to successive centuries against Kenya and Sri Lanka. Put on a world record one-day stand of 318 with Saurav Ganguly against Sri Lanka. A good player against the moving ball.

VENUE

Edgbaston. Home of county side Warwickshire and a regular Test centre. The ground where Brian Lara made 501 not out against Durham in 1994, the highest individual score in first-class cricket. Will also host a Super Six second round match on June 10 and a semifinal on June 17. Capacity: 17,000. (AFP).

BATTING, BOWLING SO FAR

LONDON, May 28 (Reuters/Internet): Top batting and bowling performances at the cricket World Cup after Thursday's matches (* denotes not out):

- BATTING**
- 183 — Saurav Ganguly (India) v Sri Lanka, May 26, Taunton.
 - 142* — Rahul Dravid (India) v Sri Lanka, May 26, Taunton.
 - 140* — Sachin Tendulkar (India) v Kenya, May 23, Bristol.
 - 104* — Rahul Dravid (India) v South Africa, 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* — Yusuf Youhana (Pakistan) v Australia, May 20, Durham.
 - 81 — Inzamam-ul-Haq (Pakistan) v Australia, May 23, Leeds.
 - 80* — Roger Twose (New Zealand) v Australia, May 20, Cardiff.
 - 80* — Ridley Jacobs (West Indies) v New Zealand, May 24, Southampton.
 - 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.

- BOWLING**
- 5 for 21 — Lance Klusener (South Africa) v Kenya, May 26, Amstelveen.
 - 5 for 31 — Robin Singh (India) v Sri Lanka, May 26, Worcester.
 - 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 Sri Lanka, 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 37 — John Blair (Scotland) v Bangladesh, May 24, Edinburgh.
 - 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 7 — Courtney Walsh (West Indies) v Scotland, May 27, Leicester.
 - 3 for 11 — Shoaib Akhtar (Pakistan) v Scotland, May 20, Durham.

over Sri Lanka. Kenya and Zimbabwe, however, have also been due to batsmen Nasser Hussain and Graeme Hick.

Hussain, a last-minute inclusion in the squad, made 88 not out against Kenya and an unbeaten 53 against Zimbabwe.

Big-hitting Hick made 73 not out against Sri Lanka and an unbeaten 61 against Kenya.

India won both their matches against England in the Champions Trophy at Sharjah last month but the English conditions will make for a very different match here.

Skipper Mohammad Azharuddin said India were determined to win rather than risk having to rely on calculations to get through.

"I hate this business of run-rates and want to avoid it," he said. "The best way in cricket is to win."

His side were boosted by the return of wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia, who missed the previous game against Sri Lanka because of a bruised left wrist.

SQUADS

ENGLAND (Probable): Alec Stewart (capt), Nasser Hussain, Graeme Hick, Graham Thorpe, Neil Fairbrother, Andrew Flintoff, Adam Hogg, Mark Ealham, Angus Fraser, Darren Gough, Alan Mullally.

INDIA (probable): Saurav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Mohammad Azharuddin (capt), Ajay Jadeja, Robin Singh, Nayan Mongia, Javagal Srinath, Anil Kumble, Debashish Mohanty, Venkatesh Prasad.

No love lost yet

EDGBASTON, England, May 28: Indian cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin refused to comment over his country's Kashmir dispute with Pakistan here today but said there would be no spill-over at the World Cup, reports AFP.

The Indian captain said: "Who am I to speak on it?"

"We have good relations with Pakistani players. I expect it to stay that way."

Tension remains high in both countries following clashes on the border of the disputed Kashmir region. Two Indian fighter jets crashed on Thursday, at least one of which was shot down.

India and Pakistan are both likely to qualify for the second round of the World Cup and look set to meet in a game between June 4-13.

Poor political relations between the neighbours have restricted sporting contacts recently.

But early this year Pakistan played their first Test series in India for 11 years, despite threats to their safety by Hindu fundamentalists.

The series, drawn 1-1, passed off peacefully.

Despite the political backdrop, the two teams have long enjoyed good relations. They have continued to play each other regularly at neutral venues.

Ntini goes to jail



EAST LONDON, South Africa, May 28: A court today jailed disgraced South African cricketer Makhaya Ntini for six years after he was convicted of rape, reports AFP.

"Lots of doctor and lawyers have gone to jail for transgression of the law and I must send out a direct message that this (rape) will not be tolerated," he told the court in the coastal city of East London.

Ntini could have faced the mandatory 10-year sentence the prosecution requested, but Rossouw said he believed the victim had not been hurt.



MAKHAYA NTINI

Ntini was spotted by Border development programme staff when they held a mini-cricket clinic in Mdingi black township near King William's Town in eastern Cape province in 1993. He was immediately selected for the Border U-15 team.

He advanced to the Border U-19 squad in 1994-95 and in 1995 was selected for the South African Schools XI on their tour of England and India. He made his debut for Border against England in their 1995-96 tour.

He was later selected for the South African A team and his big break came when he replaced injured Boland player Roger Telemachus on South Africa's tour of Australia in 1997/98.

He was selected to represent South Africa on their tour of England last summer. A loss of form saw him excluded from the South African team that destroyed the West Indies during their tour of South Africa in December and January, and the squad's recent successful tour of New Zealand.

However, he had been selected for the World Cup squad before his conviction.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Samoa
- 2 studier
- 3 Blood:
- 4 prefix
- 5 Bush
- 6 league?
- 7 Gilpin of "Fraser"
- 8 Improved, cheesewise
- 9 Corcovado
- 10 Sports
- 11 Journalist
- 12 Rice
- 13 Moreover
- 14 Blood:
- 15 Bouncing-ball game
- 16 Vision
- 17 Gaffer's goal
- 18 Golfer
- 19 Middleclop
- 20 Fiendish
- 21 With 40
- 22 Across, noted Mus
- 23 leader
- 24 Influrige
- 25 Fuss
- 26 Sarajevo
- 27 Citizens
- 28 Wield
- 29 Miller's
- 30 "All My —"

DOWN

- 1 behind
- 2 Fuel stat.
- 3 2 Away
- 4 Altar con-
- 5 stellation
- 6 Lifeboat
- 7 Auditorium
- 8 "Buenos"
- 9 "Zounds!"
- 10 Handy-
- 11 Abe's bill
- 12 Emanation
- 13 "Young Frankenstein"
- 14 Sluggish
- 15 Seed
- 16 Williams
- 17 1990s
- 18 Youngster
- 19 Caesar's
- 20 "I love"
- 21 Strike-breaker
- 22 Villain of Shakespeare
- 23 Prairie
- 24 Dutch
- 25 portraitist
- 26 "Buenos"
- 27 Writer
- 28 Fleming
- 29 Bear's "gotcha"
- 30 Manage
- 31 Dressing
- 32 ingredient
- 33 Affirmative
- 34 action
- 35 Sans
- 36 shade
- 37 Bleacher
- 38 Float
- 39 gently
- 40 Nastase
- 41 of tennis
- 42 "Show Boat"
- 43 composer
- 44 It's
- 45 measured
- 46 in calories
- 47 Wish
- 48 otherwise
- 49 Past
- 50 Without
- 51 further ado
- 52 Hosp.
- 53 VIPS

Solution time: 24 mins.

SOAK GBS ILKA
EUPHORIA NOON
LOCAL BLAKE
BASIS TWIG
TRIS TRILOGY
GAL TRACY ROB
BL MESH LAMED
CANINE WIT
ALOG CHARISMA
SPUR TAXATION
TONE SPY EROS

Yesterday's answer

CRYPTOQUIP

Y X PDK OQDO ZTN

UNLDWZDPO GTJNO

GVLNWP SJPO UL VYWLK

OT TNXLN TDOQSLDV

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HAVE YOU EVER FOUND THAT WATERMELON FARMERS WERE OFTEN REAL SEELY? Today's Cryptoquip clue: S 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.

Soul-searching

LONDON, May 28 (Internet report): Scotland captain George Salmond believes his country's World Cup debut has come too late for their senior batsmen to develop into accomplished top-class players.

The Scots were beaten by eight wickets by the West Indies at Leicester today, with the minnows bowled out for 68 — the second-lowest total in the tournament's history.

The Windies reached 70 for two off 10.1 overs as they raced to their third victory in a row but as they celebrated the simplest of wins Scotland were beginning a post-mortem into their display.

Salmond said: "The bowling has been good in the tournament, we've got good bowlers. I think we knew that was our strength coming in but our techniques aren't good enough against the good bowlers."

"We need to have our Under-16 and Under-19 teams playing against top players."

"It's a little too late for us in our late 20s and early 30s to change dramatically for the better. We were just banking on our experience and temperaments but our problems have been badly shown up."

Scotland have lost all four of their World Cup ties now but at least they competed in their previous three matches.

Their last was a different story, though, and coming so soon after Monday's defeat to Bangladesh in Edinburgh this was a bitter pill to swallow.

Salmond said: "I hope we put in a good performance against New Zealand, otherwise any re-

quests for higher-profile matches will be hard to justify. "We had Australia A touring Scotland last year, we've got South Africa A this year. We



GEORGE SALMOND

need to play against the top teams to see where our weaknesses are.

"To come in against the best teams in the world given limited practice against top nations is very, very difficult. We're jumping up 10 leagues and it's like one step forward, two steps back."

"There are a lot of guys hurting after that. It's not great to come off having been bowled out for 68 when you're representing Scotland but we've got to do something to remember the World Cup by against New

Zealand."

He added: "With hindsight we might have bowled first but we looked at the wicket and felt that it wasn't going to get any better."

"Our best batting performance of the tournament was against Australia, when we batted first, and bowling first hadn't really worked out for us in our last two games."

"We decided to try and get a few on the board and try to put the pressure on them by nipping a couple out early on but it didn't work out that way."

West Indies captain Brian Lara, who joined his teammates in a game of football on the Grace Road outfield after the victory, was left praising another improved performance, particularly from his bowlers.

Courtney Walsh picked up the man of the match award after taking three for seven, while Curtly Ambrose recorded figures of 10-4-8-2 — the most miserly in this summer's tournament so far.

Lara said: "The bowlers bowled well and I'm very pleased. Every game we play the team is playing with better with more confidence and I'm quite happy with how things are going."

"I was going to bat first. I thought it was a dry track with a lot of runs in it but their batting was limited."

"But the more success you have, the more focused and competitive you become and the more camaraderie there is in your squad. I think that's very evident in our team at the moment."

Crunch match

CHESTER-LE-STREET, England, May 28 (AP): Australia's seven-wicket thrashing of World Cup rookies Bangladesh was their first step in getting back into contention for the tournament. The critical step, defeating the West Indies on Sunday, won't be so easy.

Inspired by recalled all-rounder Tom Moody, who snared three for 25 off 10 overs as Australia restricted Bangladesh to 178 for seven and then blazed the fastest ever World Cup 50, the Aussies reached 181 for three to overhaul the target in less than 20 overs.

The 33-year-old West Australian, left out of the starting lineup for Australia's first three World Cup matches despite his vast experience in English conditions, will now play a vital part in Australia's make or break game against the West Indies.

"It's just good to get an opportunity," he said after belting 56 off 29 balls, including racing to 50 in 28 balls to break the record set by India's Kapil Dev, who scored the previous fastest World Cup half century off 30 balls.

"I hope we can carry this momentum on to the next game," he said. "Hopefully we can get through the West Indies and go beyond that."

Sunday's match at Old Trafford is a must win for both teams. West Indies has a better net run-rate from four games, including three wins and a loss, while Australia has a two and two record.

To edge the West Indies for a Super Six spot, Australia must win in either of two ways: by at least 15 runs or by bowling the West Indies out in less than 47 overs.

To add to the equation, New Zealand have two wins and a loss from three games and was due to play Group B leaders