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Scots for a cheer

LONDON, May 30 (Internet report): Scotland's World Cup roadshow comes to an end in Edinburgh tomorrow with many lessons learned but no victory to show for their efforts.

Coach Jim Love is unlikely to see his side break their duck against New Zealand - who were anxiously awaiting the outcome of the Australia-West Indies tussle at Old Trafford today to establish exactly what is required to take them through to the Super Sixes.

But Love has so many lofty ambitions and, after seeing his side routed for 68 by the West Indies on Thursday, will be anxious that there is no repeat of the humiliation.

"That defeat and the one by Bangladesh were probably the two worst days I have had in the job," said Love, who took the unprecedented step of dropping both openers - Bruce Patterson and Iain Philip - for the Windies mauling.

"We have said all along that

there was a possibility of getting hammered by someone but we have to be big enough and strong enough to fight our way back from that."

New Zealand are a useful side and have already beaten Australia but they won't pose us the same kind of problems the West Indies did.

"I am looking for us to go out on a positive note and give our supporters something to cheer."

In all-rounder Gavin Hamilton, Scotland at least have one of the stars of the competition.

But the Yorkshire player may be required by England later this summer and his appearances for the Scots could be at an end.

So Love now has to look to the next generation of Scottish stars to take his country forward - possibly as a one-day international nation in their own right.

"After this competition, we have to sit down and have a re-

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Manchester on red alert

LONDON, May 30 (Internet report): England's shock exit from the Cricket World Cup guaranteed a meeting between India and Pakistan in the Super Six stage of the tournament next month.

A defeat for the host nation at Edgbaston means the two nations will meet over the next nine days, at the same time as a border confrontation continues to flare between the Asian neighbours.

World Cup officials today dismissed any suggestion that the match, set to take place at Old Trafford, Manchester on June 8, would have to be abandoned.

Marshall in touch

LONDON, May 30 (AFP): West Indian cricket World Cup coach Malcolm Marshall may have been sidelined by surgery but that has not stopped him issuing tactical tips from his hospital bed.

Doctors said Marshall was making "excellent progress" after having a tumour removed from his colon and he hoped to rejoin the West Indies team later in the summer.

End of England, end of Lloyd

LONDON, May 30 (Internet report): David Lloyd admitted England's exit from the World Cup at the hands of India today had provided a painful end to his career as national coach.

India won by 63 runs at Edgbaston to leave England unable to reach the second stage of the tournament for the first time despite having won three of their five group games.

Defeat, when it mattered most, against group winners South Africa and India brought down the curtain on Lloyd's tenure as England coach.

"It's very sad, this is hurting like stink, I can promise you," he groaned. "We didn't want to be the tournament in this way and we have not played well enough in two crucial games."

"In the next two or three days we will get the backlash from that."

"But I know that we have worked damned hard. It's disappointing, yes, but there's a platform for someone who comes into the job to say right, take my jacket off, roll my sleeves up and we will take ourselves forward."

Lloyd also insisted that despite England's exit, the country could take heart from the next generation of players coming through.

"We have got an under-19 team which won the World Cup and an 'A' team which hasn't been beaten for six years.

"The next challenge to us is to get the senior side on an even keel and winning matches, and then the Test series (against New Zealand)."

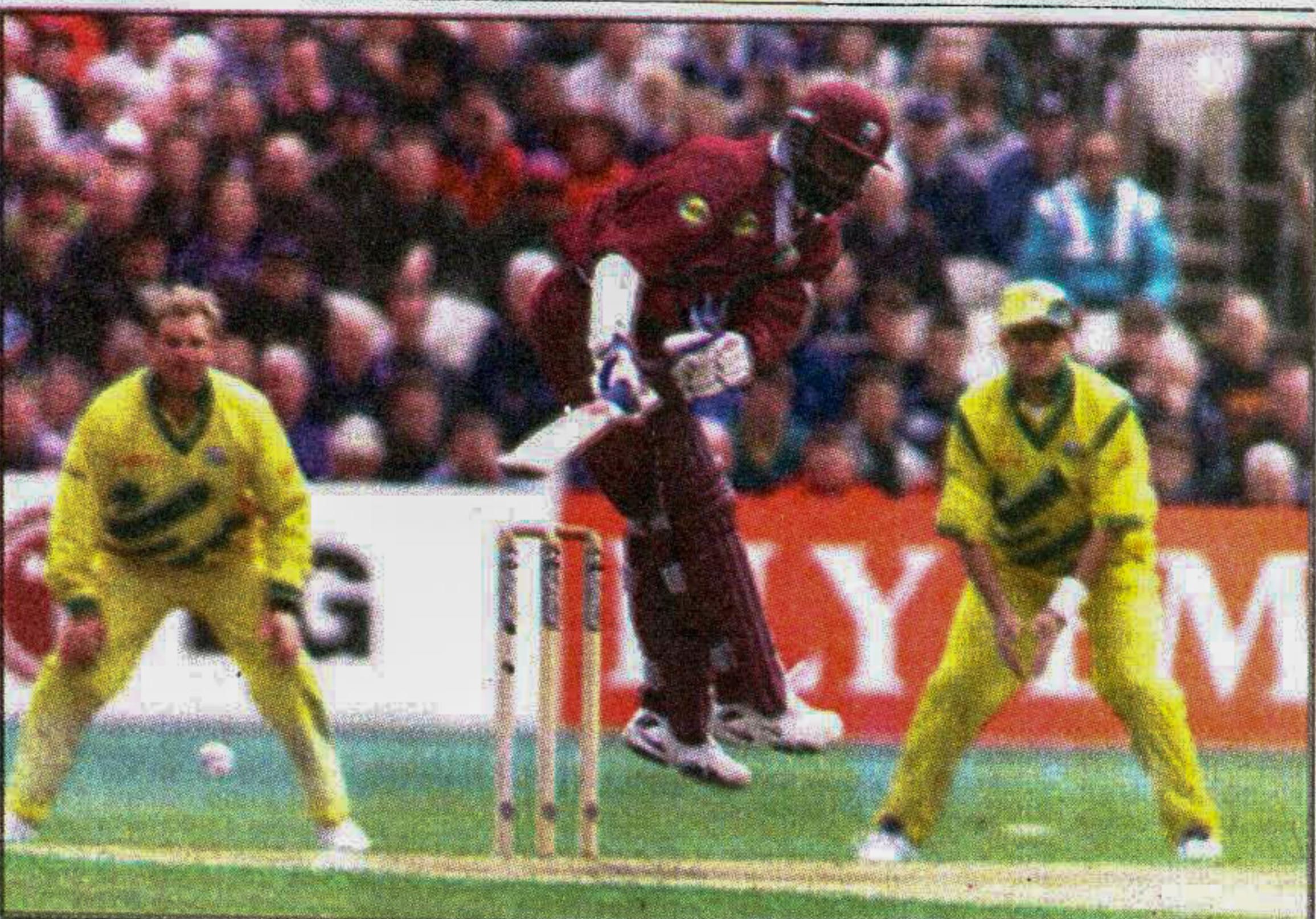
"We have been striving for that for some time and whoever comes into this job will have something in place."

"I can't see any major dismantling of the system of coaching or management, because it's exactly the same as all the other top nations."

Lloyd added: "Someone will come in and have a big challenge but I have always said this is the best job in cricket."

"I have been fortunate that I have been involved in it for three or four years."

"I've thoroughly enjoyed it and would have loved better results, but you don't win every time and you have got to be philosophical about that."



West Indies captain Brian Lara is forced to jump while negotiating with a rising delivery — AFP photo



West Indies opener Ridley Jacobs on-drives during his diligent 49 against Australia at Old Trafford yesterday.

— Internet photo

Kiwis plan in peace

EDINBURGH, May 30 : New Zealand's World Cup cricketers look sure to spend much of Sunday glued to the television rather than practising in the nets before their crucial game against Scotland here on Monday, reports AFP.

Special branch officers in the city, which has large Pakistani and Indian communities, will consult security chiefs in MI5, the Home Office and Foreign Office for information on any potential flash points.

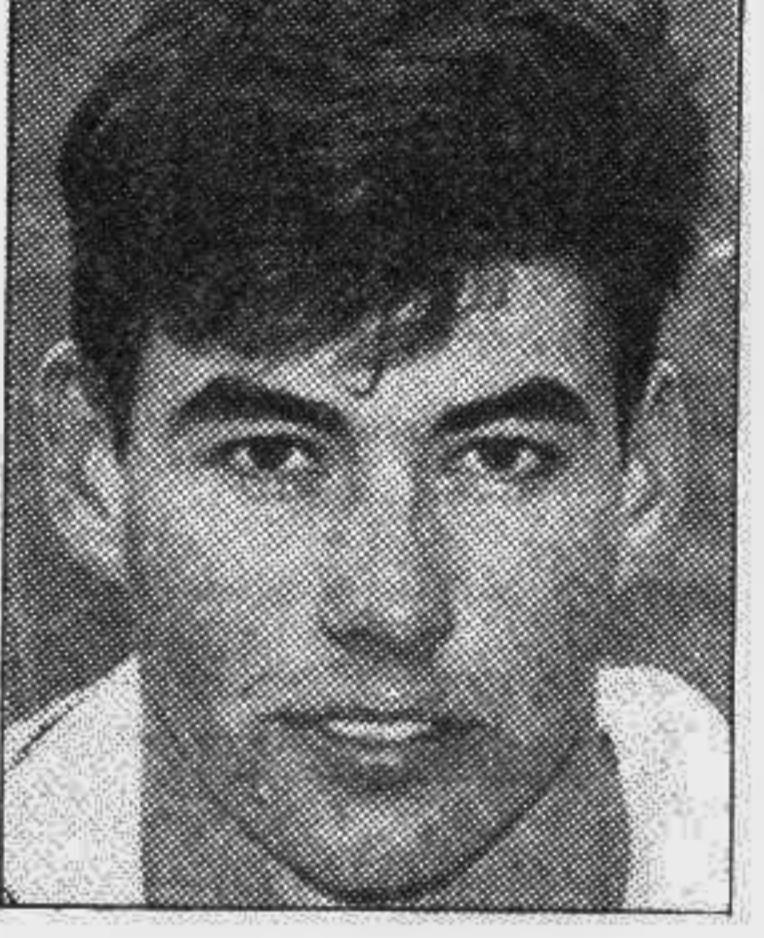
A spokesman for Greater Manchester Police said: "Given the current state of relations between the two Asian nuclear powers so low, organisers will have to deal with thousands of impassioned Pakistani and Indian fans watching the game together in a fence-free stadium."

The clash comes after India's victory over England today secured them second place in Group A of the 12-nation tournament. They will play the winners of Group B — virtually guaranteed to be Pakistan — in Manchester a week on Tuesday.

Their chances of reaching the second round from group B will depend on their winning the final game against the Scots - but also on the result of Australia's televised game with the West Indies at Old Trafford on Sunday.

A West Indies' victory, followed by the Kiwis' almost certain win over the Scottish amateurs 24 hours later, will see New Zealand grab the third qualifying place.

But an Australian win would lead to a scenario of Australia, New Zealand and the West Indies all ending equal on six points with three wins each, just behind Pakistan who have eight with a game to go.



STEPHEN FLEMING



GEORGE SALMON

The two with the highest run rates would then qualify with Pakistan.

Stephen Fleming's New Zealanders will know by Sunday evening after the Australia-West Indies encounter whether

they need to simply beat the Scots or to hammer them to ensure they scrape through on run rate.

"The beauty of it is that we will know what targets we will need going into our last game," Flem-

ing said. "But if we get to the Super Six stage we need more runs from the top order, pure and simple."

Fleming admitted his side were totally outplayed in losing by 62 to runs to Pakistan on Friday and was looking for a change of form from openers Nathan Astle and Matthew Horne.

"Both of our openers have had problems with the ball and the pace of some of the attacks," said Fleming.

"Scotland have a couple of good seam bowlers but it's time that we all got our eye in with the bat."

Scotland in their maiden World Cup appearance should be looking forward to end their campaign on a happy note especially after the humiliating loss to the West Indies.

All-rounder Gavin Hamilton, easily one of the top stars of the tournament, promised a fight

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HEAD TO HEAD

Scotland are not recognised at either Test or one-day level. This is also their World Cup debut.

WORLD CUP RESULTS TO DATE

Scotland: Lost to Australia by six wickets, lost to Pakistan by 94 runs, lost to Bangladesh by 22 runs, lost to the West Indies by eight wickets.

New Zealand: Beat Bangladesh by six wickets, beat Australia by five wickets, lost to the West Indies by seven wickets, lost to Pakistan by 62 runs.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

New Zealand: Geoff Allott. One of the finds of the tournament. He came here with a reputation for being fast but wild and better suited to Tests than one-dayers. But he has been consistently successful, taking 12 wickets for 170. His four for 64 off 10 overs was a shade expensive - the price for the wicket-taking threat he provides.

Scotland: Gavin Hamilton. As his captain George Salmon admits, Hamilton has turned Scotland into a one-man team. The all-rounder from English county side Yorkshire, he has made 197 runs in four games at an average of 65.6. His bowling, however, while economical, has only earned him two wickets, during a spell of 10 overs costing 36 runs against Pakistan. One for the future - probably in English colours.

VENUE

Edinburgh. The ground, created in the middle of last century, has been renovated to the tune of half a million pounds (around 750,000 US dollars) for the World Cup.

Capacity: 5,000. (AFP)

Doctoring on Pak pace?

LONDON, May 30 : The controversial issue of ball tampering was back in the headlines on Sunday as media reports pointed a finger of suspicion at leading cricketer Pakistan's contenders Pakistan, reports AFP.

The Sunday Times reported that there were "suggestions" that Pakistan, unbeaten in the tournament and regarded as the most naturally gifted team in the event, might have resorted to illegal methods.

Those claims, however, were rejected by Pakistan.

The newspaper article, under the headline "Spotlight shines on Shoaib", quoted an unnamed Australian player as saying: "They are great bowlers but other sides have great bowlers too."

"They cannot swing it as prodigiously. When you play as players you can see what they will go to great things."

Television commentator and former player Tony Greig told the newspaper that Pakistan's players appeared to be trying to tamper with the ball during their 10-run win over Australia in group B at Headingly on May 23.

"There is no doubt they gave

somehow lacked," said Sanjiv Ailawadi, a Delhi-based merchant banker.

It was very different to the month after India were beaten by Zimbabwe, their second successive defeat.

"When they lost to Zimbabwe we were very disappointed. But then cricket is an uncertain game. Four years ago Sri Lanka were on a roll and look at them today, they have already crashed out of the tournament," said Ailawadi, shouting over the noise of fire crackers being set off in the street.

K. Ranjith, an executive at a leading mutual fund in Bombay said: "I think India was stung after the Zimbabwe loss. It looks like the team is determined to do something. They have got back the momentum at the right time and this should take them forward."

Bhutani said English captain Alec Stewart was to blame for his team's defeat.

"I knew if the game was resumed today we would win, the pressure was on England. Stewart

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Australian fast bowler Glenn McGrath appeals successfully for a leg before decision against Jimmy Adams.

— AFP photo

Complex cricket

LONDON, May 30 (AFP) : Cricket was difficult enough to understand before the World Cup. It has now become incomprehensible - and that's official.

Steve Waugh admitted earlier in the tournament he did not understand the scoring adjustments for rain-affected games, as worked out by the well-received but little understood Duckworth/Lewis system.

On Saturday, meanwhile, Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell announced he was delighted with his side's shock victory over mighty South Africa. But he had no idea whether it meant his side had qualified for the second round (it had).

He might have been able to work it out if he had received an official communiqué to help him - or perhaps not.

With the South Africans already qualified, the communiqué explained, two teams out of Zimbabwe, England and India, who were all in action on

Saturday, would qualify.

Put another way, it said, if South Africa were to lose to Zimbabwe by 32 runs and India beat England, Zimbabwe would go through. But if South Africa were to lose to Zimbabwe by 32 runs and India beat England, then qualifications would depend on the margin by which India beat England. Unless South Africa were to lose to Zimbabwe and England beat India, in which case the three qualifiers would be South Africa, England and Zimbabwe.

What they forgot to explain was what would happen if the England game against India at Edgbaston, which resumed on Sunday after being interrupted on Sunday, were to be rained off. But that's another story.

For those still determined to understand the tournament rules, they state:

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Better now than later

CHELMSFORD, England, May 30 : South African coach Bob Woolmer succeeded here on Sunday in finding some consolation from his side's shock defeat to Zimbabwe, reports AFP.

Woolmer admitted his side had performed badly during Saturday's 48-run reverse, which robbed them of their unbroken record but did not stop them qualifying for the second round after four wins out of five in group A.

"We played badly. We bowled badly - we fielded pretty well - and we batted pretty badly," said Woolmer.

"I do not think our focus was as sharp as it should have been. We just did not play as well as we should have done."

But he added: "I am pleased it has happened now. It would have been terrible if it had happened in the semi-final."

That would evoke the memory of the 1996 World Cup, when South Africa won all five league games and looked the best side in the event only to miss out on the final after crashing out in their first knock-out game.

Saturday's defeat, however, could cost the South Africans dear in the long run.

With Super Six sides retaining the points won against fellow qualifiers during the first



round, Hansie Cronje's men will begin the second phase with two points rather than four.

Had they beaten Zimbabwe, they would have begun the second round needing just one win from three games to be sure of reaching the semi-finals.

Indians go partying

NEW DELHI, May 30 (Reuters/Internet) : Jubilant cricket fans celebrated throughout the country as India notched up their third successive win in the World Cup, beating hosts England on Sunday to earn a place in the next round.

It was a spelling performance. They have bounced back from the threat of elimination to the prospect of lifting the Cup, just like Pakistan did in the World Cup in 1992," said Manmohan Bhutani, an avid fan.

India won their rain-hit final qualifying group match by 63 runs as England, chasing India's 232 for eight, were dismissed for 169 in 45.2 overs.

India go through from their group along with South Africa and Zimbabwe while England are eliminated.

"It's fantastic. They have washed off their previous sins. Finally we have some aggressive players in the field, something that we always wanted but