Elegant left-hander. Aged 25.

Highly impressive at the World

Cup, his best a 183 against Sri

Lanka. Currently averaging

58.33. Only God, according to

teammate Rahul Dravid, is

stronger on the off side. Also

not frightened to hit in the air.

Can also bowl useful medium-

paced seam and has a knack of

breaking dangerous partner-

ships. A permanent fixture in

Compact right-hander. Aged

26. Regarded as the closest ver-

sion to a modern-day Don

Bradman. The sport's top

money earner. Returned early from his father's funeral to

score 140 not out - his 22nd

one-day century — against Kenya. Sees the ball early, hits

it late and hits it savagely. His

fourth-ball dimsissal for 0

against Australia, however, has

re-opened the debate - should

he open or come in at number

Classical right-hander. Aged

26. The tournament's highest

scorer with 371 runs in six in-

nings. Scored two centuries

followed by a half-century.

Rarely takes risks, sticking to

hitting the ball on the ground.

Only managed to cement his

place in the one-day side last

year after accusations he could

not scored quickly or rotate the

Mohammad Azharuddin (capt)

36. India's most successful cap-

tain of all time but fighting for

survival after a dreadful tour-

nament, despite his crossing

9,000 one-day runs. In five in-

nings here, his top score is 26,

against England. His argument

that he should not be held re-

sponsible for India's poor show-

ing has raised eyebrows. Says

the selectors may sack him but

Busy, inventive right-han-

der. Aged 28. Cannot get in In-

dia's Test side but plays a key

role in the one-day game, up-

ping the scoring rate late on.

Made 100 not out in the defeat

against Australia. Some critics

wanted him installed as cap-

tain before the World Cup. The

Pugnacious all-rounder, left-

hand bat, right arm medium

pacer. Aged 35. His five for 31 is

the third-best bowling perfor-

mance in the cup and he threw

the bat for 75 in a hopeless

cause against Australia. But he

is still struggling to become an automatic choice, regarded as a

'bits-and-pieces' player rather

Wristy right-hander. Aged

Saurav Ganguly

the team.

four?

strike.

Points: 9

he will not resign.

team's best fielder.

Points: 6

Robin Singh

Points: 4

Ajay Jadeja

Points: 8

Rahul Dravid

Points: 8

Sachin Tendulkar

From page 13

agant swing and movement of the seam. Batsmen aren't great fans either. It seems that the white balls become less than white

toward the end of innings, mak-

ing them difficult to see in

murky conditions. In the 44th over of South Africa's Super Six clash with Pakistan, batsman Lance Klusener asked for a cleaner ball because he could not see the old one.

Bowler Shoaib Akhtar tossed the old ball to umpire David Shepherd in undisguised disgust and then sent a 91-miles (147 kilometres) per hour deliv-ery fizzing past Klusener's out-

side edge with the replacement.
"It is always difficult at the end of the innings to have another ball to bowl with which you are not used to," Pakistan team manager Zafar Altaf said, explaining Akhtar's anger.

"But if the batsmen complained they were not seeing the ball and the umpires agreed then the umpires have a duty of care towards the batsmen."

Klusener brushed off the incident. "I just asked for a whiter ball," he said.

FINDLAY'S FINDINGS KINGSTOWN, St Vincent,

June 7: Only five members of West Indies' World Cup squad lived up to expectations, a leading official said on Sunday. reports Reuters. Mike Findlay, chairman of

West Indies' selection panel, said he was disappointed with the performance of the team, except for wicketkeeper batsman Ridley Jacobs and fast bowlers Courtney Walsh, Curtly Ambrose, Reon King and Mervyn Dillon. "None of the other players

really lived up to expectations.' West Indies failed to qualify for the second round of the tournament after losing to Australia in their final group

Findlay said he was keen to see team manager Clive Lloyd's report to find out what went wrong.

"I am still to hear from the management the reasons for the poor performance," Findlay said, adding that it was clear there was a need for more quality, all-round players for the limited overs game.

Hopeful Houghton

From page 16 in Zimbabwe.

This is the first time Zimbabwe have progressed to the second round of a World Cup tournament and have a good chance of making it to the semifinal.

Houghton said he was looking at the Super Six league as an opportunity to beat some leading cricket-playing nations.

That's "our main aim. A semifinal place will be an icing on the cake," he said. "We're well perched for a place in the semifinals but I've told the boys to go out and win a Super Six league match."

"I'm sure there won't be much work done in offices back, home on the days Zimbabwe plays its Super Six matches," he

African Nations' Cup scores

CAIRO, June 7: Eight countries reached next year's African Nations' Cup finals over the weekend but Liberia's hopes hang in the balance after George Weah missed their match with Uganda because of a flight mix-up, reports Reuters.

The AC Milan Italian championship winner failed to make a flight connection from Nigeria and arrived in Kampala only in time to see Uganda clinch the points with a late winner from Philip Ssozi. Weah had been playing a charity match in Nigeria.

The 1-0 victory lifted Uganda into second place in qualifying Group Seven but they could still be overhauled by both Algeria and Liberia on the final day of the qualifying matches on June 20.

Meanwhile, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, the Ivory Coast, Morocco, South Africa and Zambia all made sure of their places in the finals next January, which are to be co-hosted by Ghana and Nige-

The eight join the two cohosts, holders Egypt and Tunisia, who had already qualified in April, in the 16-team field for the tournament, which starts on January 23.

The remaining places will be settled from an absorbing finale to Groups Two. Three and Seven. There is also a special play-off group still to come, in-volving Zimbabwe and the run-

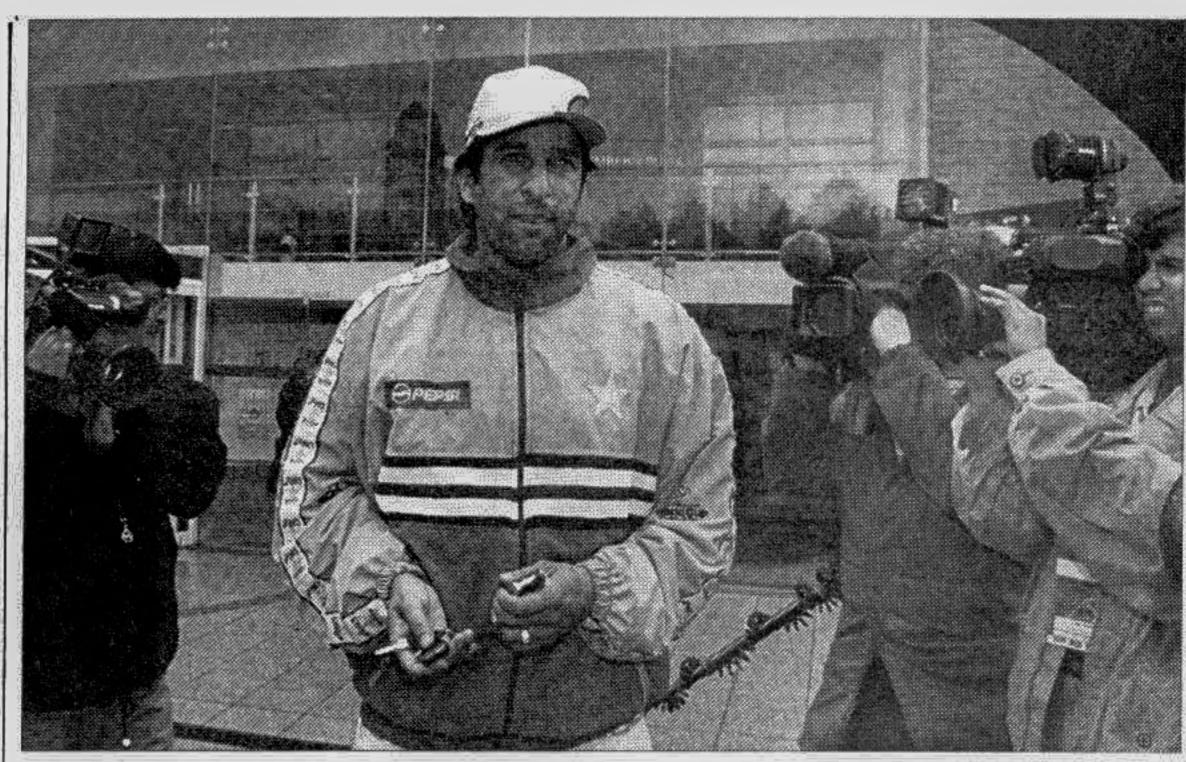
ners-up in groups one and five. Mali beat Congo 3-1 in Bamako on Sunday in the battle for the runners-up place in Group Three but the Congolese are better placed to qualify for their first appearance in the fi-nals since 1992.

Congo are a point behind Mali in the standings after the weekend but play their final match at home to winless Namibia on June 20, while Mali must travel to neighbouring

Ivory Coast on the same day. The Ivorians qualified on Saturday with a late equaliser in their match in Windhoek against Namibia. Striker Modibo Hamed Diallo, based in France with Le Havre, got an 87th minute goal to secure a draw.

Algeria were beaten 2-0 by Tunisia in Tunis on Sunday but are favoured to grab the runners-up qualifying place. They have a home game to come against Uganda while Liberia host Tunisia in Monrovia the

same day. Both sides have to win but Algeria have a better goal difterence.



Pakistan captain Wasim Akram leaves the Old Trafford ground after his team's practice - AFP photo session was rained off yesterday.

ZIMBABWE-NEW ZEALAND SCOREBOARD

| | F | rom page | 13 | | |
|---|---------------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Cairns | 6.3 | 2 | 24 | 3 | (1-nb, 3-w |
| Harris | 4 | 0 | 12 | 7.111/ | |
| Astle | 9 | 0 | 25 | | |
| NEW ZEALA | ND | R | В | 4 | i |
| M Horne Ibw | b G Whittall | 35 | 35 | 6 | i |
| N Astle c Stre | ak b Olonga | | 28 | 6 4 0 | į. |
| C McMillan II | | | 9 | 0 | |
| S Fleming no | t out | 9 | 17 | 1 | |
| R Twose not o | out | 0 | 5 | 0 | (|
| Extras: (lb-1, | | 5 | | | |
| Total: (For 3 | | | 70 | 5/50696F 5V | 2000000 |
| To bat: C Cai | rns, A Parore | , C Harris | , G Larsen, | D Nash | ı, G Allott. |
| Fall of wkts: | 1-58 (Horne | e. 8.6 ov |); 2-59 (Ast | tle, 9.6 | ov); 3-65 |
| (McMillan, 12 | 2.3 OV) | | 1200 | 41 | F() |
| Bowler | Ş | M | R | 6 5 | W. |
| Johnson | ခ္ | Ö | 21 | SE) | 0 (1-nb |
| Streak G Whittall | 5 | Ŏ | 25 | | |
| \$23.00 pt 10.00 pt 10 | 3 | Ų | .9 | N . | 100 |
| Olonga Result: No res | _##. ## | = 1. | 14 | | 1 (3-nb) |
| Man-of-the-n | | | | | |
| Points: New 2 | | | Ķ | | |
| | | moanwe 1 | (B) | | |
| Thee Limbon | | | | | |
| Toss: Zimbab | | and S We | nkataradk | won II- | (d) |
| Umpires: DL TV Umpire: R | Orchard (SA) | and S Ve | enkataragha | avan (In | ıd). |

Match Referee: PJP Burge (Aus).

HEAD-TO-HEAD

From page 13

Pakistan's first Test series on Indian soil in 12 years in February ended in a 1-1 deadlock. Pakistan overcame Sachin Tendulkar's 136 to win the first Test at Madras by 12 runs. India drew level in the second at New Delhi through Anil Kumble's 10wicket haul in the second innings. Both Kumble and Pakistani off spinner Saqlain Mushtaq claimed 20 wickets in the two Tests. Pakistan also won a third Test, part of the inaugural Asian Test championship, at Calcutta.

In one-dayers. Pakistan have won nine of the last 10 since September.

In April, Pakistan won a triangular one-day series in India, defeating the hosts in the final. Ten days later they beat India again in another three-team tournament to win the Sharjah THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF THE

1999 WORLD CUP RESULTS

India: Group stage: Lost to South Africa by 4 wickets, lost to Zimbabwe by 3 runs, bt Sri Lanka by 157 runs, bt Kenya by 94 runs, bt England by 63 runs. Super Six: Lost to Australia by 77

Pakistan: Group stage: Bt New Zealand by 62 runs, bt Australia by 10 runs, bt the West Indies by 27 runs, bt Scotland by 94 runs, lost to Bangladesh by 62 runs. Super Six: Lost to South Africa by 3 wickets.

PREVIOUS WORLD CUPS

India have beaten Pakistan in both their World Cup meetings. In 1992, the margin was 43 runs in Sydney. India made 216 for seven, Tendulkar making 54 not out, and bowled out Pakistan for 173. In 1996 India won a high-scoring quarterfinal by 39 runs at Bangalore. Pakistan, chasing 287 for eight, made 248 for nine after an opening stand of 84 in 13 overs between Aamer Sohail and Saeed Anwar.

VENUE

Old Trafford, Manchester. It is England's second largest cricket venue after Lord's and has been used for Test matches since 1884. It entered the record books in 1956 when Jim Laker took all 10 wickets against Australia, a feat emulated by India's Anil Kumble against Pakistan earlier this year. Will also host the first semifinal on June 16. Capacity: 21,000 (AFP)

London, June 7 (India

They say success is a matter

Abroad News Service): It's all a

of timing. There is no knowing

why success is bestowed on cer-

tain ventures while some simi-

lar ones crash. But for sheer bad

timing nothing could have

matched the release of the song

the last Monday in May, the

discs stayed on the shelves with

no takers at all. Only a few days

back England had been

knocked out of the World Cup,

which meant that the country

suddenly became the ideal neu-

tral host as six nations went

into the super cross-league

stay on the shelves unless the

Zimbabweans, who were re-

ported to be coming over in

truckloads to watch their team

in the super league, if you be-

lieved their tough talking coach

Dave Houghton, take an inter-

est in the song. The odds on

Zimbabwe winning the World

Cup may be better than those on

the disc making the top of the

THE LAW IS AN ASS

he will be more than willing to

exploit it. The Australians who

are viewed as cricket's new im-

perialists were thought to be in

breach of the game's ethics

when they resorted to a go-slow

in their batting in the match

erning the Super Six are such it

would have benefited Australia

if the West Indies were to qual-

ify rather than New Zealand.

And so the Aussies did their

best to boost the net run rate of

New Zealand, their trans-

Tasman rivals with whom

there is little love lost, were

more than equal to the task of

The competition rules gov-

against the West Indies.

the West Indies.

Give a man a loophole and

The discs will continue to

known as the Super Six.

Due to hit music stores on

matter of timing.

on the World Cup.

overcoming the hurdles placed

in their path by their 'friendly

neighbours'. They blitzed Scot-

land in double quick time to get

to the Super Six ahead of the

back captain of the Kiwis, paid

a left-handed compliment to

the Aussies by saying he would

have done the same had his

team been in Australia's posi-

tion. He certainly would have,

but the world would then have

come to the conclusion that the

Kiwis were doing this only to get

even with the Aussies for the in-

famous underarm ball (the

'mollygrubber') bowled at them

by Travor Chappel at the bid-

ding of his more famous

SECURITY NIGHTMARE

getting ready to descend on

Manchester for the clash of the

World Cup, organisers were

huddled with police, Scotland

Yard, the Home Office and, pre-

ing out large sums of money for

additional security at Old Traf-

ford as 22,000 Indian and Pak-

istani fans get in and mingle in

cricket's egalitarian atmo-

sphere as opposed to the divided terraces of the football world.

second look at pitch invasion

after the game, which is some-

thing of a tradition in England.

They will try their best to pre-

vent the invasion at least at Old

Best & the worst

From page 16

fully, despite threats by Hindu

militants to break the legs of

Pakistani players with iron

each other well and have gone

out of their way to stress their

friendship.

The current teams know

The organisers were taking a

The World Cup will be fork-

As the subcontinentals were

brother Greg.

sumably, MI 6.

Stephen Fleming, the laid

West Indies on the run rate.

Lloyd's advice LONDON, June 7: England's cricket hierarchy, meeting on Monday to discuss the vacant national coach's job, have been advised to make a temporary Africa's Bob Woolmer becomes

available, reports AFP. Outgoing England coach David Lloyd said Leicestershire's Jack Birkenshaw, 58, should be given the role on an interim basis until the younger man was ready to take over.

Birkenshaw has guided Leicestershire to two county championship titles in the last three seasons, but might be considered too old for the national job in the long-term.

But Lloyd, who stepped aside after England's World Cup exit to start work as a TV commentator, thinks Birkenshaw could keep the coach's seat warm until Woolmer, 51, is refreshed and available.

In his column in the Daily Telegraph, Lloyd said: "Bob badly needs a rest, and I know where he is coming from on that score. "If Birkenshaw could be sec-

onded from Leicestershire for the winter tour to South Africa and be in close contact with Woolmer over there, he could hand over at the start of our domestic season in the year 2000.

"So Bob gets his rest, Jack keeps Leicestershire, England have a coach in the interim who knows the ropes."

Lloyd has made it clear that he believes only a native Englishman can provide the passion and commitment the job requires and suggested foreignborn coaches would be motivated primarily by money.

Chandrika

From page 16

questioned whether the incumbent administrators were capable of demanding discipline from the players when their own behaviour and motives were in question.

"We as a responsible body of professionals engaged in various fields, but who are lovers of the game, call upon your Excellency to reconstitute the cricket board with immediate effect and set up an interim administrative body," the letter said.

Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga last week apologised for the team's early exit from the tournament.

"I wish to express my pro-found regret to you all for the debacle of the Sri Lanka team at the World Cup," Ranatunga said in an open letter addressed to cricket fans in the country.

Trafford. But Surrey got it right

when they requested the crowd

not to come in before the play-

ers and the umpires left the

pitch. Not that too many wild

they are mentally preparing to

run off the field even as the

batsmen of the last wicket

stand are together at the crease.

The 100-yard sprint has been

an occupational hazard for

BOYCOTT ON THE BALL

ment when Geoffrey Boycott is

around. The Queen may not

pick him for a knighthood, but

amused with stories of his own

throws more light on how much

Boycott thinks of himself. "The

third rate spinner was chair-

man of the TCCB cricket com-

mittee. The batsman with the

outstanding playing record was.

And what does he think of

Ian Botham? "When it comes to

rushing in with mouth open

and brain in neutral, even

Lloyd cannot beat Ian Botham,

who could hardly wait to adver-

tise his own inability to mark,

read and inwardly digest any-

Reviewers think his egocen-tricity, his lack of loyalty and

his preoccupation with money

make Boycott less than a role

would-be a runaway best-seller

he might have come to know his

book is on discount offer at

most stores and that they stand

in row upon row without at-

tracting too much interest even

from browsers. But then Boy-

cott can blame the poor sales on

a third rate cricket team which

let him down by not getting to

the super league of the World

If Boycott thought his book

of course, Geoffrey Boycott."

he keeps the cricket world

His latest book 'On Cricket'

There is never a dull mo-

them in the World Cup.

Players are talking of how

lans listened.

greatness.

thing."

model.

Cup.

captain Steve Waugh is unlikely to bowl again in the cricket World Cup after an injury scare, team officials said today, reports AFP.

All-rounder Waugh, 34, last week, aggravated a groin strain during his side's Super Six win over India at The Oval on Fri-

The injury-prone skipper has been forced to bowl more than expected during the World Cup, taking three wickets for 55 in 18 overs with his medium pace, in an attempt to shore up his side's fragile bowling.

Coach Geoff Marsh, however, said the captain's groin problem was unlikely to be a major setback.

He argued the team's bowlers were now running into form, with specialists Glenn McGrath, Damien Fleming, Paul Reiffel and Shane Warne backed up by all-rounder Tom Moody. Australia take on Zimbabwe

at Lord's on Wednesday, then South Africa at Headingley on Sunday. They need to win both games to give themselves a good chance of reaching the semi-fi-

Waugh's bowling has declined in recent years due to shoulder trouble. He was also out of action for a month at the start of the year with hamstring problems.

Australia's attack looked weak during the first round of appointment until South | the tournament but McGrath's returning form — he has taken eight wickets in the last two games, including five for 14 against the West Indies - and the inclusion of Moody as a reliable fifth seamer has turned the crisis around.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

LONDON, June 7 (AFP): Who said what during the first round of the 1999 cricket World Cup:

"I believe South Africa have the best fielder there has ever been in Jonty." England's Nasser Hussain on Jonty

Rhodes. "My father would have wanted me to go back. My mother told me the same thing go back and play for India." Sachin Tendulkar after returning early from his father's funeral in Bombay to rejoin his Indian team-mates.

"We should win this one but we should not be over-confident." Scotland's George Salmond before losing to Bangladesh.

"This is amazing. I'm speechless. I'm expecting our honourable prime minister to declare some kind of prize for us." Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam after victory over Pakistan.

"For appeals like that umpires should have yellow and red cards. That was a yellow card appeal." Television commentator Michael Holding after a hopeful Anil Kumble appeal against England. "I don't know about morals,

I'm here to win the World Cup. They make the rules, we have to do as we see fit." Steve Waugh on his team's go-slow batting against the West Indies. "The only serious contender

for the world's thinnest book is 'The Australian Guide to Cricketing Charity'." The Daily Telegaph's Martin Johnson. "We played badly. We bowled badly - we fielded pretty well -

and we batted pretty badly." South African coach Bob Woolmer after losing to Zimbabwe. "You know you are in trou-

ble when you get long-lost friends ringing you up to tell you to keep your chin up. My mum even rang to tell me to do something about my technique." Australian opener Adam Gilchrist.

African Champs' It's all about timing League draw held

CAIRO, June 7: ASEC Abidjan have been handed a taxing start away to Esperance of Tunisia in defence of their African Champions' League crown, reports Reuters.

ASEC were drawn with last year's African Cup Winners' Cup winners Esperance, St Louisienne of Reunion and last year's Champions' League runners-up Dynamos of Zimbabwe in Group A.

Raja Casablanca, 1997 champions, were seeded in group B and play Egypt's Al-Ahli, Hearts of Oak of Ghana and the winners of the qualifying round match between Shooting Stars of Nigeria and Congo's Daring Club Motema Pembe.

Al-Ahli and Esperance have also lifted the most coveted club prize on the continent. The group winners meet in the two-leg final in November and December.

ASEC Abidjan were convincing qualifiers for the last eight despite a major overhaul of their team in which coach Jean-Marc Guillou has turned to the club's youth centre for players. -

They beat Esperance 3-1 in the African Super Cup match in Abidjan in February. The two teams could meet again before their match in Tunis in late August because both are playing in a four-team tournament in South Africa next month. South African club Orlando

Pirates, cleared by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) of using an unregistered player in the first round, drew ASM Sangarendi of Guinea in the Cup Winners' Cup quarterfinals.

Morocco's Royal Armed Forces meet Africa Sports of Ivory Coast in the pick of the

CAF Cup holders CS Sfaxien faced the possibility of disqualification after bribery allegations against two officials but will be allowed to continue the defence of their title.

Steve won't bowl LONDON, June 7: Australian Captain Steve Waugh is unlikely DIATINGS DIATINGS DIATINGS

MANCHESTER, England, than a genuine all-rounder. June 7 (AFP): Indian and Pak-Points: 5 istani players' information:

INDIA

Nayan Mongia Enthusiastic wicketkeeper and right-hand batsman. Aged 29. India received a scare earlier in the tournament when he bruised his hand and could not keep against Kenya and Sri Lanka. But he was back against England. He is a safe 'keeper. but the Indians would have liked him to score more runs. Points: 6

Anil Kumble

Right-arm leg-spinner. Aged 28. One of the disappointments for India at the World Cup. He has managed six wickets in five matches and went for 49 runs without success against Australia on Friday. Is bowling too short to trouble the top players. Is missing the helpful wickets at home. Points: 4

Javagal Srinath

Right-arm fast-medium bowler. Aged 29. Has led India's attack capably, works up good pace and finds movement in helpful conditions. Has taken eight wickets in six matches but the tally could have been more with a bit of luck. Bowled impressively against Australia, beating the bat often without success

Points: 7

Venkatesh Prasad

Right-arm swing bowler. Aged 28. Another World Cup failure, like his Karnataka team-mate Kumble, with just four wickets. He was expected to benefit most by the heavy English conditions, but has failed to make an impression with the white ball. Was hammered for 60 runs off 10 overs by Australia, allowing them to set a big score. Points: 4

Debashish Mohanty

Right-arm seamer. Aged 23. A last-minute inclusion in the team, he has proved to be surprisingly successful. Played his first match in the key group encounter against England and set up India's win with the wickets of Alec Stewart and Graeme Hick in three balls. Faced a tougher task against Australia, taking one for 47 in seven overs. Ideal conditions for his style of bowling, but inexperience is showing

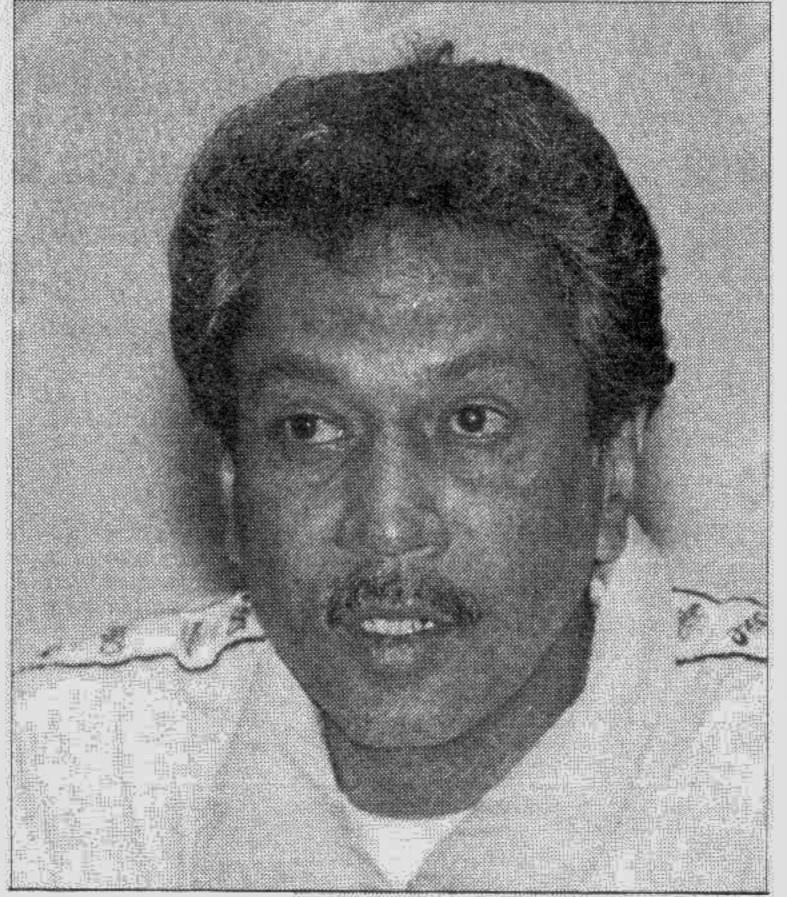
Points: 6 Team total: 67

PAKISTAN Saced Anwar

Left-hand opener. Aged 30. Regarded as the top batsman in the team. Boasts the world record one-day score of 194, but has failed to come good in the World Cup. His best in six matches is 28 against New Zealand. But skipper Wasim Akram says Anwar is bound to come good in the important matches later in the tourna-

ment. Points: 5

Wajahatullah Wasti Right-hand opener. Aged 24.



Disappointed India cricket coach Anshuman Gaekwad talks to newsmen at the team's hotel in Manchester after the cancellation of net practice due to rain yesterday. - AFP photo

cut hands 19 Hunt

2 Way back 22 Wall

illegally

climber

umphed

26 Tempes-

tuous

32 Purplish

33 Cantab's

rival

34 Triangle

36 Off the

39 Video

r ON 42 Stared

40 Goneril's

mouthed

48 Fuss

and

50 - Aviv

51 Illustra-

feathers

books?

the clock

21 Energy

24 Tri-

30 Aloof

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

hairpiece

cian's job

44 Particular

d'oeuvre

47 Hungar-

vesse

52 Historic

53 Payable

55 Commo-

tion

56 Match-

less?

57 Handed

54 Stage

period

direction

43 Musi-

45 Hors

49 1492

DOWN

1 Remote

3 Heckle

and

e.g.

4 Inces-

5 Dissuade

6 Booster

cable

8 Entreat

9 Cubic

11 Angry

SPOTTING AGED 46 Ever-

Solution time: 26 mins.

BEHALFETRI

Yesterday's answer

7 Suitable

measure

kingdom

17 Harald V's 38 Under

10 Corroded

Jeckle.

ACROSS 38 Linger

1 Notorious 41 Bad

6 Exemplar

patience

9 Moment

12 Desert

plant

music-

maker

14 Seaman

15 Man of

many

words

16 Electric

18 Pre-

20 Raw

21 Sundial

23 Wade

generator

college

student

materials

notation

opponent

24 Songbirds

25 Currier's

partner

missile

29 Arcane

31 Canine

coat?

35 Brownish

yellow

League

school

37 lvy

27 Tell's

13 Luau

A dour batsman who made his international debut earlier this year against India. Has played only two matches in the World Cup, making nine against Australia and 17 against South Africa. May get another game as the more attacking Shahid Afridi, his main rival for the opener's spot, is also not in good

form.

Abdul Razzag

Points: 5

All-rounder, right-hand batsman and right-arm seamer. Aged 19. A surprise success. Has prospered in the pinch-hitter's role at number three, making 60 against Australia, 33 against New Zealand and 30 against South Africa. He has also taken six wickets with a best of three for 38 against Scotland. Points: 7

Ijaz Ahmed

Right-hand batsman. Aged 30. A hard-hitting player, he has enjoyed mixed success, making 51 against New Zealand and 36 against the West Indies but collecting two ducks as well. Likes to go over the top, but has been hampered by the moving white ball. A man for the big occasion, his team is waiting for him to strike in the later matches.

Inzamamul Haq

Points: 6

Right-hand batsman. Aged 29. The burly 6ft 2ins player has been Pakistan's mainstay with 171 runs in six matches. including 81 against Australia. But his poor running between the wickets has cost the team dear. The team management is willing to ignore his blunders he has been run out eight times in 19 World Cup matches and been blamed for the fall of as many of his teammates wickets - as long as he keeps getting

Points: 8 Yousuf Youhana

Right-hand batsman. Aged 24. One of the promising batsmen in the side, he has had a profitable World Cup but is now struggling with hamstring problem. Has made 161 runs in four matches with an average of 53.66. Does not hesitate to go over the top, otherwise is a copybook batsman.

Points: 8

Moin Khan Wicketkeeper and righthand batsman. Aged 28. The Pakistani vice-captain has been in terrific form with the bat, making 189 runs in the "slog" overs. His best of 63 off 58 balls against South Africa helped Pakistan recover from 118 for five to 220 for seven. Shores up the lower order.

Points: 9 Wasim Akram (capt)

All-rounder. Left-hand batsman and left-arm fast bowler. His inspiring captaincy has lifted the team, who are now regarded as title favourites. The only bowler to take 350 wickets in both Test and oneday cricket, he has shone with his hard-hitting batting in the early matches. Has also taken 10 wickets. Points: 8

Azhar Mahmood

All rounder. Right hand batsman and right-arm seamer. Aged 24. One of the more promising cricketers in Pakistan, has impressed with both bat and ball. Scored 37 and then took three for 48 against the West Indies to win the man-ofthe-match award. He also took three for 38 against New Zealand and three for 24 against South Africa. Points: 7

Saqlain Mushtaq Off spinner and right-hand

batsman. Aged 22. Regarded as the best one-day bowler in the world. Has taken 13 wickets from six matches with a best of five for 35 against Bangladesh. Bowls excellent floaters and slower balls. His stint with English county Surrey has given him experience of local conditions.

Shoaib Akhtar

Points: 8

Right-arm fast bowler. Aged 23. The fastest bowler in the world and a sensation at the World Cup. Has been timed at 95 miles an hour here. Has taken 10 wickets in six matches. But his end-of-innings control has been questioned after the defeat against South Africa.

Points: 7 Team total: 78

28 Same old 38 39 40

CRYPTOQUIP

OYTGKY UKWFAWFR IEPD-

HPRFY, W'U OYM HPKWLWPFL TKYFIE MGPLM. DPAY

Today's Cryptoquip clue: R equals G 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.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN IT RAINS, THEY SAY NEW YORKERS ARE LIKELY TO WEAR CITY SLICKERS.