

Bits & pieces

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, making 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 delivery flizzing past Klusener's outside 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 game.

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 semi-finals.

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 semi-finals 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 said.

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 Nigeria.

The eight join the two co-hosts, 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, involving Zimbabwe and the runners-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 finals since 1992.
 The Ivorians qualified on Saturday with a late equaliser in their match in Windhoek against Namibia. Striker Modibo Hamane Diallo, based in France with L'Hercule, 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 difference.



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

ZIMBABWE-NEW ZEALAND SCOREBOARD

From page 13

Cairns	6.3	2	24	3 (1-nb, 3-w)
Harris	9	0	12	1
Astle	4	0	25	1

NEW ZEALAND	R	B	4	6
M Horne lbw b G Whittall	35	35	6	0
N Astle c Streak b Olunga	20	28	4	0
C McMillan lbw b Streak	1	9	0	0
S Fleming not out	9	17	1	0
R Tiose not out	0	5	0	0
Extras: (lb-1, nb-4)	5			
Total: (For 3 wickets in 15 overs)	70			
To bat: C Cairns, A Parore, C Harris, G Larsen, D Nash, G Allott.				
Fall of wickets: 1-58 (Horne, 8.6 ov); 2-59 (Astle, 9.6 ov); 3-65 (McMillan, 12.3 ov)				

Zimbabwe	O	M	R	W
Johnson	3	0	21	0 (1-nb)
Streak	5	0	25	1
G Whittall	3	0	9	1
Olonga	4	1	14	1 (3-nb)

Result: No result.
Man-of-the-match: No award.
Points: New Zealand 1, Zimbabwe 1.
 Toss: Zimbabwe.
 Umpires: DL Orchard (SA) and S Venkataraghavan (Ind).
 TV Umpire: RE Koertzen (SA).
 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 10-wicket 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 Cup.

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 runs.
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 quarter-final 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)

It's all about timing

London, June 7 (India Abroad News Service): It's all a matter of timing.
 They say success is a matter of timing. There is no knowing why success is bestowed on certain ventures while some similar ones crash. But for sheer bad timing nothing could have matched the release of the song on the World Cup.
 Due to hit music stores on 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 neutral host as six nations went to the disc making the top of the charts.

The discs will continue to stay on the shelves unless the Zimbabweans, who were reported to be coming over in truckloads to watch their team in the super league, if you believed their tough talking coach Dave Houghton. The odds on Zimbabwe winning the World Cup may be better than those on the disc making the top of the charts.

THE LAW IS AN ASS
 Give a man a loophole and he will be more than willing to exploit it. The Australians who are viewed as cricket's new imperialists were thought to be in breach of the game's ethics when they resorted to a go-slow in their batting in the match against the West Indies.
 The competition rules governing the Super Six are such that it would have benefited Australia if the West Indies were to qualify rather than New Zealand. And so the Aussies did their best to boost the net run rate of the West Indies.

The current teams know each other well and have gone out of their way to stress their friendship.
 The organizers were taking a second look at pitch invasion after the game, which is something of a tradition in England. They will try their best to prevent the invasion at least at Old

Trafford. But Surrey got it right when they requested the crowd not to come in before the players and the umpires left the pitch. Not that too many wild fans listened.
 Players are talking of how 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 them in the World Cup.

BOYCOTT ON THE BALL
 There is never a dull moment when Geoffrey Boycott is around. The Queen may not pick him for a knighthood, but he keeps the cricket world amused with stories of his own greatness.
 His latest book 'On Cricket' throws more light on how much Boycott thinks of himself. "The third rate spinner was chairman of the PCB cricket committee. The batsman with the outstanding playing record was, of course, Geoffrey Boycott."

SECURITY NIGHTMARE
 As the subcontinentals were getting ready to descend on Manchester for the clash of the World Cup, organisers were huddled with police, Scotland Yard, the Home Office and, presumably, MI 6.
 The World Cup will be forking out large sums of money for additional security at Old Trafford as 22,000 Indian and Pakistani fans get in and mingle in cricket's egalitarian atmosphere as opposed to the divided terraces of the football world.

Best & the worst
 From page 16
 fully, despite threats by Hindu militants to break the legs of Pakistani players with iron bars.
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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 appointment until South 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.

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 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 moral 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 Charities." **The Daily Telegraph'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 trouble 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.**

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 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.
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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-finals.

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.
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African Champs' 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 the squad. The 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 Sangaredi of Guinea in the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finals.
 Morocco's Royal Armed Forces meet Africa Sports of Ivory Coast in the pick of the ties.

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

PLAYER PROFILES

MANCHESTER, England, June 7 (AFP): Indian and Pakistani players' information:

INDIA
Saurav Ganguly
 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 partnerships. A permanent fixture in the team.
 Points: 8

Sachin Tendulkar
 Compact right-hander. Aged 26. Regarded as the closest version 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 dismissal for 0 against Australia, however, has re-opened the debate — should he open or come in at number four?
 Points: 8

Rahul Dravid
 Classical right-hander. Aged 26. The tournament's highest scorer with 371 runs in six innings. 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 score quickly or rotate the strike.
 Points: 9

Mohammad Azharuddin (capt)
 Wristy right-hander. Aged 36. India's most successful captain of all time but fighting for survival after a dreadful tournament, despite his crossing 9,000 one-day runs. In five innings here, his top score is 26, against England. His argument that he should not be held responsible for India's poor showing has raised eyebrows. Says the selectors may sack him but he will not resign.
 Points: 4

Ajay Jadeja
 Busy, inventive right-hander. Aged 28. Cannot get in India's Test side but plays a key role in the one-day game, upping the scoring rate late on. Made 100 not out in the defeat against Australia. Some critics wanted him installed as captain before the World Cup. The team's best fielder.
 Points: 6

Robin Singh
 Putnacous all-rounder, left-hand bat, right arm medium pacer. Aged 35. His five for 31 is the third-best bowling performance 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 than a genuine all-rounder.
 Points: 5

Wajahatullah Wasti
 Right-hand opener. Aged 24.

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

Saeed 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 tournament.
 Points: 5

Wasim Akram (capt)