



## Australia is back from mop under!

Breaking Boundaries.

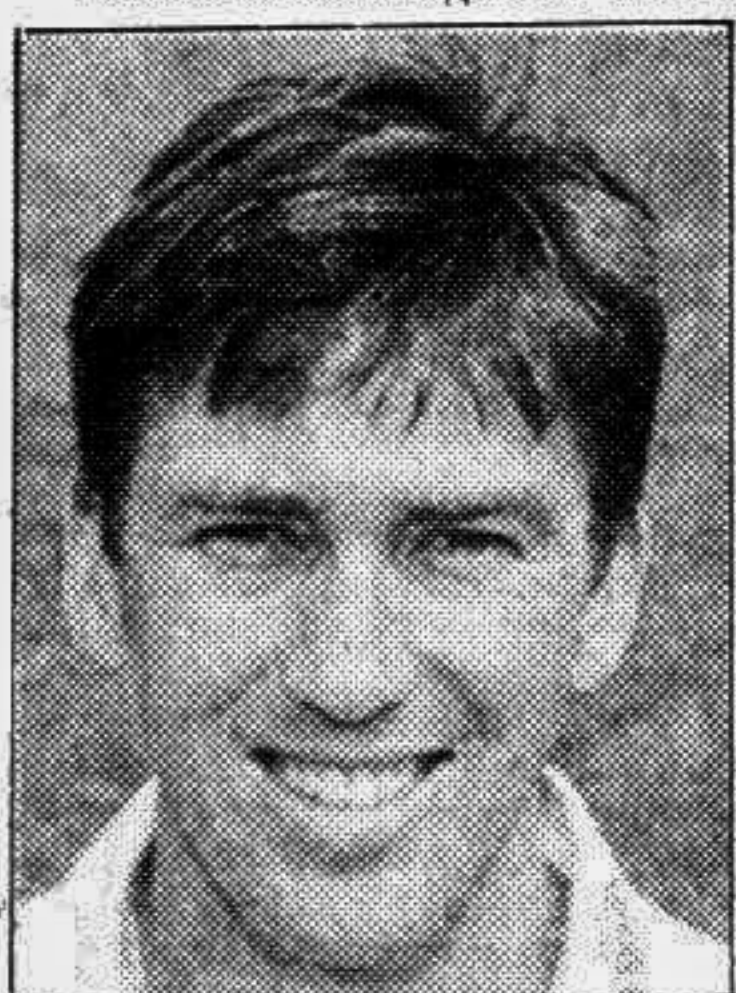


MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT POSSIBLE

## Waiting for African dish

LONDON, June 8 (Reuters/Internet report): Australian enforcer Glenn McGrath sets his sights on the vulnerable Zimbabwe top-order batting on Wednesday at the ground where he destroyed England two years ago.

McGrath took eight for 38 in



GLENN McGRATH

the 1997 Lord's test, an exhibition of high class fast bowling which seized the initiative back from England who had won the first Test and had high hopes of reclaiming the Ashes.

Instead Australia went on to win the series and McGrath entered the pantheon of great Australian fast bowlers in the line stretching back through Dennis Lillee, Ray Lindwall to Fred Spofforth.

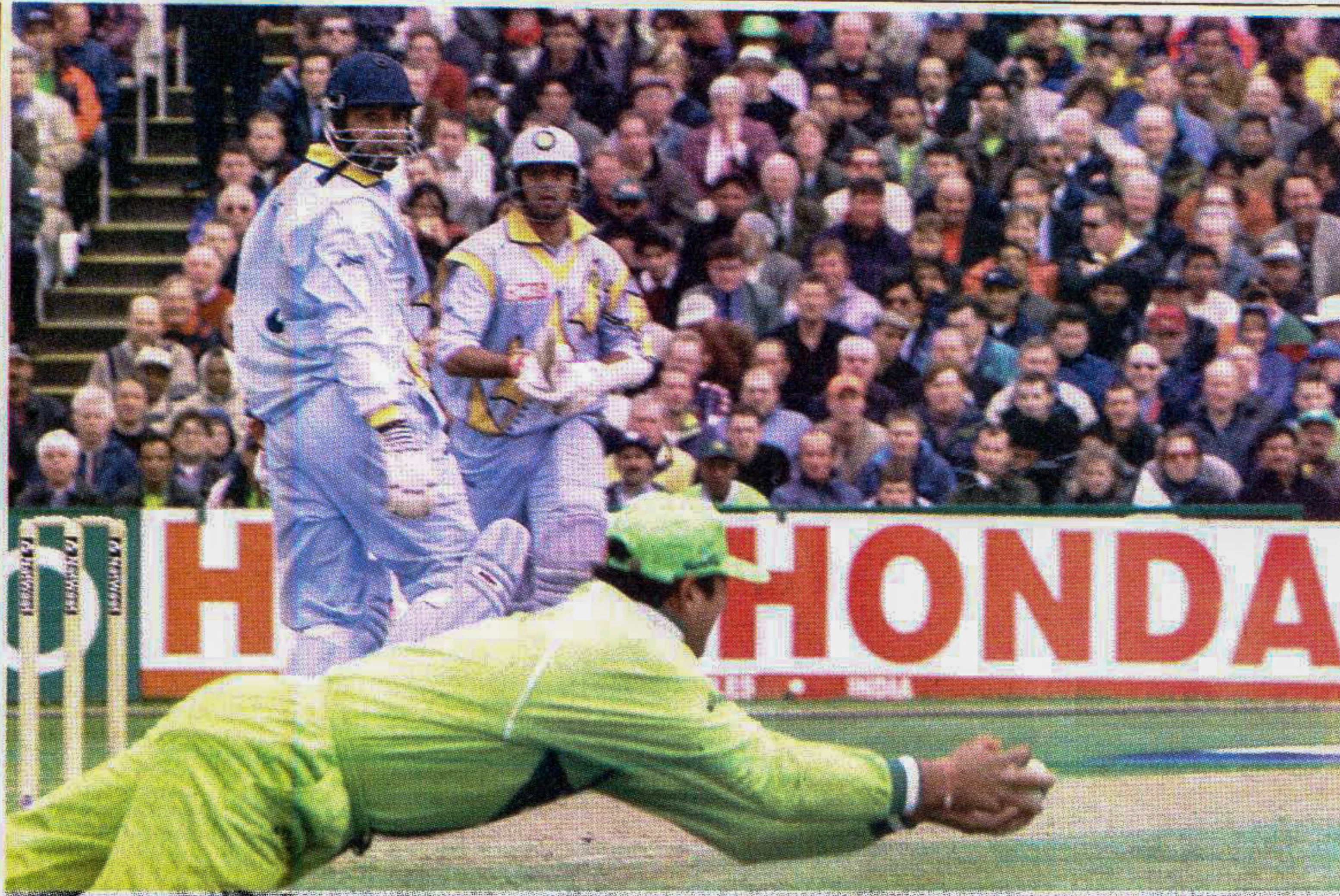
McGrath looked out of sorts at the beginning of Australia's World Cup campaign after performing further heroics in the Caribbean.

Then, given the new ball after bowling first change in the early games, he produced the delivery of the tournament to bowl Brian Lara in the win over West Indies.

He followed up by dismissing Sachin Tendulkar for a duck in the victory over India and Australia are once again serious contenders to lift the World Cup for a second time.

"I have been improving every game," McGrath said. "The

See page 14



DAMN GOOD CATCH: Inzamamul Haq dives to his right to take a wonderful catch to dismiss Indian batsman Ajay Jadeja. — AFP photo

## It's so far so good

From Nizamuddin Ahmed in Manchester

OLD TRAFFORD, June 8: There were police everywhere. This was England's biggest security operation for an international match, including football.

The India-Pakistan match here also called for the highest number of security personnel to be drafted in for a match between two countries.

That, however, did not stop touts from selling tickets in the black-market. Although the police chief in Manchester announced that 'stopping ticket touts' was part of his security plans, buying and selling continued at two times the face value within yards of the anxious security staff.

The match began under conditions that were cold, windy and generally unpleasant. But the 22,000 crowd, divided though they were in other aspects, were unanimous in their love for the game and were thankful that the match was played at all considering the heavy rains over the past two days.

The mixed crowd of India or Pakistan bias could not be segregated as tickets were randomly sold prior to anybody having the knowledge that the two not-so-friendly neighbours would meet in the World Cup at this venue and in this match. That also had its silver lining, with Pakistani and Indian supporters, most likely British citizens in disguise, waving their own flags amidst each other.

They were noisy too, but not as acoustically insane as in Sharjah. Or, as some maintain unfortunately, at Dhaka. It was

amazing how the entire stadium transformed into a sea of green and white at the sign of any Indian debacle.

Conversely, the whole lot seemed to wave in addition a blaze of saffron to celebrate any Indian glory. This was when India were batting after winning the toss. If there were any English cricket fans in the crowd who came to watch a simulation of the Kashmir clashes, they were characteristically quiet. It was just as well that Mohammad Azharuddin decided to make Pakistan field on an outfield that was soggy and slippery from overnight rain.

Perhaps he also did his homework well. For this was the ground where Lancashire, the hosts, scored 372 for five against Gloucestershire in the 1990 NatWest trophy. Home to Lancashire since 1857, Viv Richards scored his unbeaten 189 against England in a 1984 ODI series on this wicket.

Inzamam-ul-Haq overcame his bruised finger and Ijaz Ahmed his disturbing ankle, injured against South Africa last Saturday, to maintain their place in the team. Wajahatullah Wasti and Yousuf Youhana, nursing hamstring injury, made room for Salim Malik and Shahid Afridi, as Pakistan made two changes from their losing line-up against Cronje and Co.

Saurav Ganguly sprained his ankle at the nets and, after failing a fitness test this morning, he vacated his place for Sadagopan Ramesh.

## Houghton hopes for Aussie upset

LONDON, June 8 (Internet report): Zimbabwe coach David Houghton is banking on a belated repeat dose of victory against Australia as his side bid to make sure of a World Cup semi-final berth at Lord's tomorrow.

A Super Six win over the Aussies would clinch a last four place for Houghton's team and leave Steve Waugh and Co on the verge of elimination from the tournament.

But, as Houghton readily points out, his country have not beaten Australia since the last time the World Cup was held in England.

Then, in 1983, they got the better of them by 13 runs at Trent Bridge, before going on to lose later in the competition to the same opposition at Southampton.

Houghton has mixed feelings about that match at Nottingham 16 years ago when, as a rookie wicketkeeper-batsman

he made nought on his debut but ended up celebrating a famous win.

He is now intent on some continued modern day giant-killing though, as his team look to build on the opportunity they made for themselves when they crucially beat South Africa at Chelmsford in the current World Cup.

"The way I see it we have beaten two pre-tournament favourites (South Africa and India)," said Houghton.

"If things go the way we want, hopefully we can take another couple of teams down as well."

"We've not beaten Australia since my first game in 1983 but we've had some very close games with them."

Houghton, famed during this World Cup for his pre-match psychological warfare, did not miss the chance to put some

See page 14

## Titans v enfant-terribles

LONDON, June 8: Giant-killing Zimbabwe will call on the memory of 1983 when they took on Australia in the cricket World Cup here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Alistair Campbell's side, on the brink of making the semi-finals, have already produced one of the shocks of this tournament by beating South Africa in the first round.

Victory against Australia at Lord's in the second would assure them a place in the last four for the first time in their history.

But the form guide does not invite optimism.

Zimbabwe have lost 10 of their last 11 games against their opponents, as well as their last five World Cup encounters.

The first meeting between the sides, however, in 1983 at Trent Bridge, produced one of the greatest upsets in the history of the tournament as the African team, fully amateur at that stage, won by 13 runs.

Zimbabwe skipper Alistair Campbell, fresh from stealing a point against New Zealand after the weather washed out their

Super Six game at Headingley, said: "Australia are going to be a tough nut to crack."

"It's going to be a tough match but we beat South Africa and if we can do that, we can beat anyone."

Coach David Houghton, who

camp.

His five for 14 against the West Indies in their final group game ensured Australia sneaked into the Super Six second stage on run rate.

Then he removed Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and

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played in the 1983 game and who spent the early part of this World Cup accusing his players of playing like schoolboys before they struck form, added: "It's all been based on teamwork and team support."

"We don't have any world class individual players, so we're not relying on one or two pieces of individual brilliance."

Australia, however, appear to be running into ominous form at just the right time, with Glenn McGrath's performances transforming the mood in the

Mohammad Azharuddin in a devastating opening spell that decided the game against India at the Oval.

That good news, however, has been tempered by niggles to leg spinner Shane Warne - he struggled with a neck and shoulder strain against India and was thrashed for 49 off 6.2 overs - and a groin problem for skipper Steve Waugh.

He expects to play as a batsman but not to feature with the ball.

See page 14

## Spirit of '83

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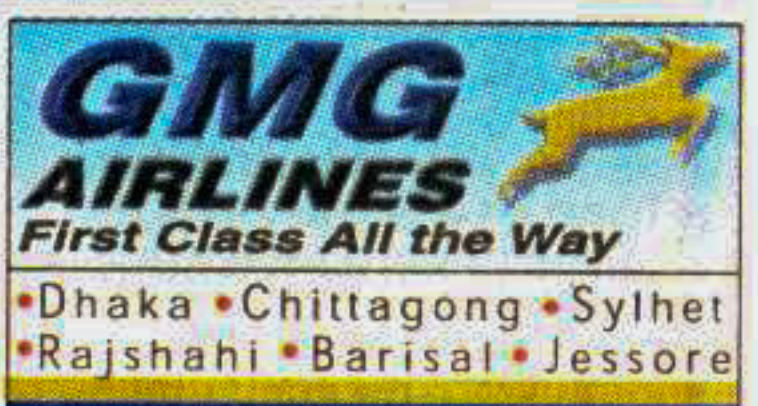
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See page 16



Indian opener Sadgopan Ramesh's middle stump is unsettled by a Abdul Razzaq delivery yesterday. — AFP photo

## BITS & PIECES



LONDON, June 8 (AFP): Australian World Cup skipper Steve Waugh would like just one thing after spending an entire career bowling in pain -- one day in Courtney Walsh's body.

"I'd like to go in someone else's body just for a couple of days and see what it actually feels like to feel good when you're bowling," the all-rounder said, after revealing he might not bowl for the rest of the tournament because of an aggravated groin injury.

Courtney Walsh seems to be the most resilient of anyone. He's bowled non-stop for the last 13 or 14 years without injury. It would be good to have his body for a day.

Pace bowler Walsh, two years older than the 34-year-old Waugh, is expected to break the world record for Test wickets in the coming months. He has 423 to Kapil Dev's 434.

Waugh, who has taken three wickets for 55 in 18 overs at the World Cup, told the Australian Associated Press: "It's not as if my body's breaking down -- it's

See page 14

World Cup  
England 99

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## INDIA-PAKISTAN SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Indian innings in the Super Six match against Pakistan at Old Trafford yesterday:

INDIA	Runs	Balls	4s	6s
S Tendulkar c Saqlain b Azhar	45	65	5	-
Mahmood	20	31	2	-
S Ramesh b Abdul Razzaq	61	90	4	-
R Dravid c Shahid Afridi b Wasim Akram	6	14	-	-
A Jadeja c Inzamam-ul-Haq b Azhar Mahmood	59	76	3	1
M Azharuddin c Ijaz Ahmed b Wasim Akram	16	21	-	1
R Singh c Wasim Akram b Shoaib Akhtar	6	4	-	-
N Mongia not out	14	-	-	-
Extras (1-b, 3-lb, 8-w, 2-nb)	22	-	-	-
Total (For six wickets in 50 overs)	227	-	-	-
Fall of wickets: 1-37; (37 Ramesh 48 mins); 2-95; (58 Tendulkar, 43 mins); 3-107 (12 Jadeja, 15 mins); 4-158 (51 Dravid, 60 mins); 5-218 (60 Azharuddin, 37 mins); 6-227 (9 Singh, 7 mins).	-	-	-	-
Did not bat: A Kumble, J Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, D Mohanty	-	-	-	-
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Wasim Akram	10	0	27	2
Shoaib Akhtar	10	0	54	1
Abdul Razzaq	10	0	40	1
Azhar Mahmood	10	0	35	2
Saqlain	10	0	67	0
Toss: India	-	-	-	-
Umpires: Steve Bucknor, David Shepherd	-	-	-	-

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