

# Kallis scare



AFP, Cape Town

South African star batsman Jacques Kallis Monday went to have a bruised toe x-rayed, less than a week before the hosts' 2003 Cricket World Cup opener against the West Indies, the squad's physiotherapist said.

"His toe is heavily bruised and there is a lot of swelling," said Shane Jabaar at training in Bellville outside Cape Town.

Jabaar said the X-ray showed no break, but that Kallis might have to sit out a warm-up match Tuesday against a local squad in the scenic mountain town of Paarl.

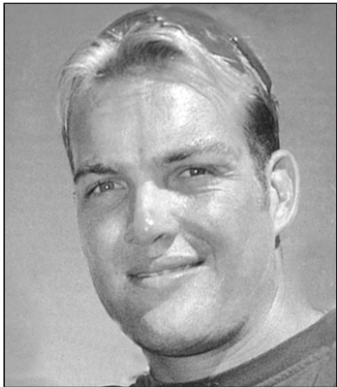
Kallis, also a talented pace bowler and a superb catcher at slip, drove the ball onto his left big toe during net practice Sunday.

"We'll see how it responds to treatment, but at this stage it is far too early to say whether he'll play or not tomorrow (Tuesday)," Jabaar

told the SAPA news agency.

Although Kallis too was certain to be fit for the opening game, the timing of the injury is particularly poor.

Kallis, who has moved down the



JACQUES KALLIS

order from his normal number three position to fourth, is just one of five specialist batsmen selected for the World Cup.

Not one of those specialists made an impression as the top order folded completely as South Africa limped to 155 all out in a 40 over warm-up match against Western Province on Saturday.

Six days before South Africa's opener match against the West Indies at Newlands in Cape Town Sunday, Kallis' injury was not the only concern.

Two of the remaining four specialist batsmen Herschelle Gibbs and Jonty Rhodes have shoulder injuries but both are expected to be passed fit.

Gibbs bruised his deltoid muscle while attempting a hook and Rhodes merely overdid the throwing routine following a lengthy break from cricket.

Kallis pushed his Test batting average above 50 during his recent run of successes and his one-day average is a healthy 44.04. He has eight centuries and 42 fifties in 162 innings.

He has also taken 164 wickets at an average of 29.73.

## Pivotal position

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Sri Lanka clash with Stephen Fleming's New Zealanders in their opening match on February 10 at Bloemfontein. Other teams in the group are South Africa, the West Indies, Kenya, Bangladesh and Canada.

Only the top three teams make it to the Super Six.

Sri Lanka need a boost in confidence on hard and bouncy pitches, for they have won just two of their 11 matches on their last two tours of South Africa under Jayasuriya's captaincy.

But Sri Lanka posted a couple of memorable wins under him last year, clinching a triangular series in Morocco and then sharing the Champions Trophy at home with India following the rain-hit final.

Jayasuriya may not be as authoritative as his predecessor, Ranatunga, but has still managed to mould a young side into a fighting outfit.

The man from Matara is the most successful Sri Lankan captain, having led his team to a record nine successive Test victories at home last year.

Sri Lanka's problems begin on tours as their batsmen often falter against fast bowling on pacy and bowlers wickets.

This is true of most of the batsmen from the sub-continent where pitches are slow and the ball does not rise above the knee-height.

Sri Lanka will look to Jayasuriya to show them the way, for the captain has it him to succeed on any surface.

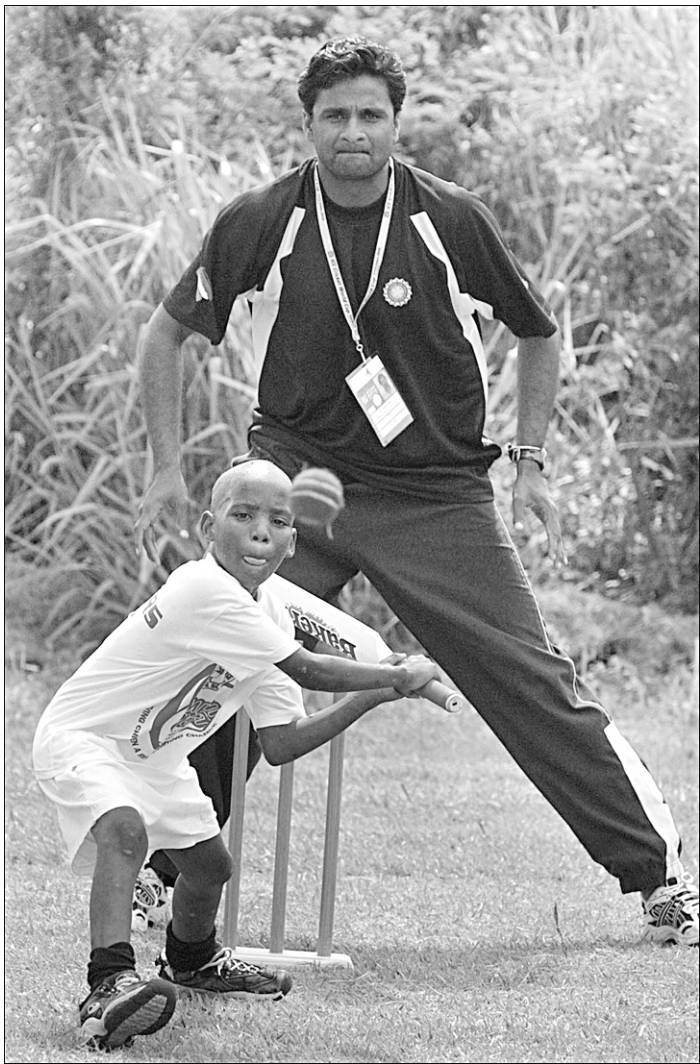


PHOTO: AFP

Indian paceman Javagal Srinath takes part in a coaching clinic for underprivileged youngsters at the Umlazi Comtech Secondary School in Umlazi township some 35 kilometres north of Durban on February 3.

# Eng, Aus wait together



AFP, London

English and Australian cricket chiefs were expected to call on the sport's governing body Tuesday to switch their World Cup matches in Zimbabwe to South Africa.

Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) chief executive Tim May and Australian Cricket Board (ACB) boss James Sutherland have been briefed by Australia's High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, Jonathan Brown, in Johannesburg.

They were understood to have decided to call on the International Cricket Council to switch the fixture after being told that Bulawayo was not a safe venue for their team's February 24 one-day.

And England Professional Cricketers' Association managing director Richard Bevan said Tuesday a significant breakthrough was expected over the next 36

hours.

He predicted the England Cricket Board would appeal to the ICC on security grounds against staging their Feb 13 match in Harare.

"I am certain that they are leading us in the direction of trying to get the games relocated," he told BBC Radio.

"I don't want to pre-empt the decision because, at the end of the day, they may still decide it is not something they want to take to review - although I doubt that."

"I believe by Wednesday night we will be in a better position and we can start getting back to cricket in the news rather than the politics."

New Zealand have also threatened to boycott their match in Nairobi and have urged the ICC to switch the game to South Africa.

ACB chief executive Sutherland said Australia had pulled out of matches before on safety grounds.

"We've done that before in the last 12 months and I think that should be an indication that we're prepared to do it here and now," he said.

Australia abandoned a tour of Zimbabwe because of safety concerns last year.

Any side who scratch matches during the six-week tournament face losing group points as well as financial repercussions.

The ICC have twice passed Zimbabwe safe for six matches but continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis. They can relocate matches at four to five days' notice, meaning next Sunday will be their final chance.

## Rusedski gets Aussie coach

AFP, London

Britain's number two Greg Rusedski has named Spain-based Australian Maricar Reid as his new coach and set his sights on a March return to action after foot surgery, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) announced on Tuesday.

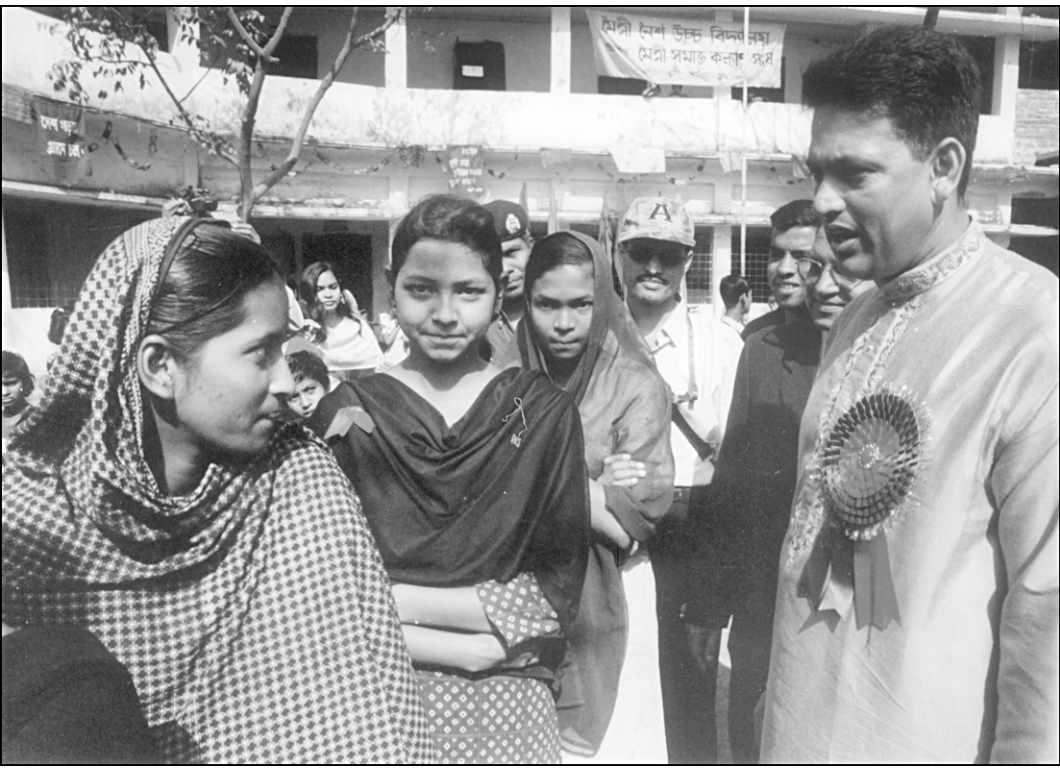


PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haque Milon talking to some participants during the annual sports competition of Moitree Night School at the Faridabad High School ground yesterday. The Moitree Night School is an institution for underprivileged children.

## Namibia sail

INTERNET, Krugersdorp

Namibia cruised to a comfortable six-wicket win in their World Cup lead-up match against Gauteng here on Monday.

Stephan Swanepoel hit a run-a-ball 46 as Namibia easily swallowed up Gauteng's small total of 126 all out.

Gauteng won the toss and started promisingly, putting on 36 for the first wicket.

But Namibia's Bjorn Kotze was been the chief destroyer, taking four wickets for 26.

Only a dogged 37 not out from former Test player Clive Eksteen saved the South African first-class side's face as they slumped to 58 for eight at one stage.

There was brief hope for Gauteng when Namibia opener Riaan Walters was out for two.

But Swanpoel and Andries Burger steadied Namibia and captain Daniel Keulder also weighed in with an unbeaten 34.

Namibia's first World Cup match is against Zimbabwe in Harare on 10 February.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**GAUTENG:** 126 all out in 42.4 overs (Eksteen 37 n.o.; B Kotze 4-26)

**NAMIBIA:** 127-4 in 23.3 overs (Swanepoel 46)

**Result: Namibia won by six wickets.**

## WC warm-ups

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**GAUTENG:** 123 in 30 overs (Razzak 3/25, Akram 1/16)

**Result: Pakistanis won by 24 runs on Duckworth-Lewis method after Gauteng was asked to chase 148 for victory.**

**Indians v KwaZulu-Natal**

Venue: City Oval, Pietermaritzburg

**INDIANS:** 265-7 in 50 overs (Dravid 66, Yuvraj 66, Tendulkar 47)

**KWAZULU-NATAL:** 69-2 in 18 overs

**Result: No result due to play being called off because of bad light.**

**England XI v Eastern Province**

Venue: Motherwell, Port Elizabeth

**EP:** 173-9 in 50 overs (Caddick 2/26)

**ENGLAND XI:** 177-5 in 40 overs (Collingwood 78, Stewart 55; Hayward 3/42)

**Result: England XI won by five wickets**

**Sri Lankans v Griqualand West**

Venue: De Beers Diamond Oval, Kimberly

**GW:** 163-8 in 50 overs

**SRI LANKANS:** 111-3 in 36 overs

**Result: Match in progress**

**Australians v North West**

Venue: North West Cricket Stadium, Potchefstroom

**AUSTRALIANS:** 280 all out in 50 overs (Lehmann 64, Martyn 40)

**NORTH WEST:** 86-5 in 22 overs

**Result: Match in progress**

**South Africans v Boland**

Venue: Boland Bank Park

**BOLAND:** 205-9 in 50 overs (Boje 2/16, Pollock 2/42)

**Result: Match in progress**

**Netherlands v Western Province**

Venue: Langa, Cape Town

**NETHERLANDS:** 130 all out in 45.4 overs (B Zuidereit 29)

**WP:** 133-0 in 25.3 overs

## White dilemma

FROM PAGE 13

Zimbabwe in Harare on February 13.

The England players have called for the match to be moved to South Africa, where the bulk of the event's 54 matches are taking place.

New Zealand, meanwhile, have refused to play Kenya in Nairobi on February 21 on safety grounds.

And the Australian government on Monday stepped up its campaign to force the cancellation of Australia's match in Bulawayo on Feb 24.

England captain Nasser Hussain has hinted England could boycott the Zimbabwe match if the ICC does not call it off.

"We are hoping the ICC make a decision and our board help us with our decision," he said.

"We have issued our statement about an urgent review and we are hoping that things are going on behind the scenes back in England and around the world.

"We want to know what people think about us, there is no point going to play a game of cricket for England in Zimbabwe if people don't want us to."

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed insisted on Sunday that his organisation could not be held responsible if any demonstrators were hurt, in Zimbabwe.

"What we are doing in Zimbabwe - running cricket matches - is perfectly legal, and we will do that to the highest possible standard in terms of safety and security," said Speed.

"They're not demonstrating against us holding cricket matches, they're demonstrating about economic and political issues."

Officials in Bulawayo, which hosts three matches, have posted an around-the-clock guard on the wicket.

The move follows threats that an anti-government group has threatened to make the pitch unplayable for Zimbabwe's three World Cup fixtures.



PHOTO: STAR

Scene from the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National Chess Championship preliminary phase matches yesterday.

# Bacher feels sad



INTERNET, Johannesburg

World Cup cricket tournament director Dr Ali Bacher has reacted with 'extreme disappointment' to New Zealand's refusal to play their fixtures in Kenya and has warned they might face penalties.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) announced on Friday they intended pulling out of their two scheduled games in Kenya next month because of fears for the security of their players in the East African country.

NZC chief executive Martin Snedden said: "The information received by the ICC security delegation to Kenya made it clear there is a tangible terrorist threat in Nairobi and the Board has seen nothing which changes that."



DR ALI BACHER

be moved to South Africa.

"We are extremely disappointed, but we respect their wisdom on the

decision," Bacher told Radio 702.

"The ICC has taken a decision that any side who refuses to play in a country which in their opinion is safe, will forfeit its points and the game will not be replayed, I repeat not be replayed in South Africa."

"It now means that there will be 52 matches instead of 54 which still makes this the biggest ICC World Cup and we are confident of hosting a great event."

The ICC had rejected pleas from England and New Zealand players to shift matches from Kenya and Zimbabwe to South Africa, where security plans are at a more advanced stage.

Eight matches were scheduled for the two African countries, with pressure now building on England to pull out of their fixture in Zimbabwe.

Kenya have denounced New Zealand's refusal to play their World

Cup fixture in Nairobi.

Sharad Ghai, chairman of the Kenya Cricket Association's organising committee, warned the decision will jeopardise sporting links between the countries.

He dismissed the Kiwi withdrawal as "a slap in the face for our government and the sporting fraternity".

"We will consult the Kenya National Sports Council and come to a firm decision on what to do," he said.

"We will not take this lying down because the image they have is that there is so much insecurity in Kenya that there are people walking with guns on the streets."

"We have sent word to the South Africa security chief, who helped to upgrade the security, to speak to the New Zealanders and give them a true account of what is happening."

## RU athletics

OUR CORRESPONDENT

A two-day long inter-hall athletic competition of Rajshahi University ended yesterday at the varsity ground.

150 students took part in 38 events of the meet. Munujan Hall and Motherbox Hall top of the winners' list.

Vice Chancellor Professor Faisal Islam Faruki distributed prizes as chief guest.

## Valero, Widjaja advance

AFP, Hyderabad

Christina Torrens Valero of Spain was among the seeded players to win first round matches in the WTA Indian Open tournament here on Monday.

The sixth-seeded Spaniard scored a 7-5, 6-0 win over Korean Mi-Ra Jeon and was joined in the second round by seventh seed Angelique Widjaja of Indonesia and eighth-seeded Silvija Talaja of Croatia.

Valero's match was not as easy as the scoreline suggests, the first set proving competitive.

Both players decided to play from the baseline early on as the opening set dragged on for close to an hour with the players trading breaks on a regular basis.

## Magic fingers

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when Muralitharan weaved a magic spell around them to finish with 7-30 off 10 overs. It seemed that the Indians had forgotten how to play off-spin.

Muralitharan, widely credited along with Pakistan's Saqlain Mushtaq with the revival of off-spin, is also an enigma for umpires - especially Australian.

In Australia, he has grabbed headlines as much for his skill as for his bowling action. He keeps stressing that uniformity is an exception rather than a rule in the world of cricket umpiring.

Australians believe he chucks. The rest of the world feels he does not, for he has never been called for throwing outside Australia.

Muralitharan has taken the criticism in his stride and continued to move from strength to strength in both Tests and one-dayers.

He is the only match-winner in the Sri Lankan side woefully short of quality pacemen. He can turn a match on its head even on a slightly helpful track, making batsmen struggle for each run.

Muralitharan knows a trick or two more than many of his contemporary spinners, having an amazing skill to drift the ball away from right-handers with the same action.

He has been carrying the bowling responsibilities on his shoulders for nearly a decade, but without losing his guile and wiles. He is still Sri Lanka's trump card.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Players of Renaissance who became champions in the Bangladesh Bank Open Bridge Tournament that ran from January 17-26. They defeated the host club by 49.5 IMPs.