



A choir decked out in the colours of the South African national flag is pictured during a rehearsal of the opening ceremony of the World Cup at Newlands Cricket Stadium on February 3.

Kallis racing against time

South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis will undergo another fitness test Thursday to determine whether his injured toe would allow him to bowl in the opening World Cup match, coach Eric Simons said Wednesday.

Simons said he might only be selected as batsman in the first Cricket World Cup match against West Indies at Newlands Sunday, meaning South Africa's bowling attack might have to be reshuffled.

Kallis is suffering from a badly bruised toe that has prevented him from bowling since Sunday.

Although the 27-year-old Capetonian is confident he would be able to bowl against the West Indies, team physiotherapist Shane Jabaar said he would be given a fitness test Thursday morning, the local news agency SAPA reported.

"The bruising is fading slowly but the toe has improved by about 60 percent. We'll assess it tomorrow morning and I'll probably give Jacques a mini fitness test before the match," Jabaar said.

ECB seeks

FROM PAGE 13
The Harare match but has been forced to back-track after the players expressed their concern over both the security situation and the morality of playing in Zimbabwe.

New Zealand are currently refusing to play their match in Nairobi and have urged the ICC to switch that 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.

UCBSA President Percy Sonn said he "was not surprised" by the request but believed it was England's right to decide whether they should play in Zimbabwe or not.

"I can't say I'm surprised. If they don't want to play there it's their right to use the rules. Let's see what the outcome is," he told AFP.

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

Any side which pulls out of matches during the six-week tournament faces losing group points as well as suffering financial repercussions.

1992 revisited

FROM PAGE 13
Imran and star batsman Javed Miandad.

Earlier in the tournament England had bowled out Pakistan for just 74 before rain robbed them of a victory which would have ultimately prevented Imran's men reaching the final.

But in front of an 87,000 capacity crowd at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Imran top-scored with 72 after winning the toss as Pakistan made 249 for six.

England saw pinch-hitter opener Botham, go for nought, caught behind off Wasim Akram as they declined to 69 for four. Neil Fairbrother and Allan Lamb steadied the innings before Imran brought back Wasim who bowled Lamb and new batsman Chris Lewis in successive balls.

England took the match into the last over where, appropriately the inspirational Imran took the last wicket as Pakistan won by 22 runs and in an emotional awards ceremony dedicated the victory to his late mother and the cancer hospital he was funding in Lahore.

It was a grand triumph, especially as they had been without injured fast bowler Waqar Younis for the entire tournament.

Meanwhile Gooch was left to reflect on playing in three World Cup finals and being on the losing side every time.

Bond has to disperse 'em

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003
AFP, Johannesburg

New Zealand will look to a pacy policeman to control run-riots from rampaging batsmen in the World Cup in South Africa.

He is Shane Bond, a 27-year-old Christchurch cop who has been bowling fast and learning faster for the past couple of years to ensure stroke-makers do not cause mayhem on cricket fields.

Bond is comparatively new to international cricket as he has figured in just eight Tests and 18 one-dayers, but making rapid strides towards stardom.

"I admire him (Bond) as a cricketer," said India captain Sourav Ganguly whose team faced the Bond fury on a recent tour of New Zealand.

"He has the ability to succeed on any surface. He was the key to New Zealand's success in Test series. His presence strengthens the side," he said.

New Zealand clinched the two-Test series 2-0 against India, with Bond playing a major role with 12 wickets.

Bond is the quickest bowler in the team and is likely to prove a big asset on hard and bouncy South African tracks. He is accurate too, for being quick alone is not enough.

to unsettle the best in the biggest one-day tournament.

Bond rose from virtual anonymity to international fame on the tour of Australia two seasons ago. The responsibility of opening the attack against a formidable batting line-up was thrust upon him after Dion Nash had broken down.

had finally landed on the scene. When Bond arrived in the West Indies, he had earned the right to share the new ball. He never let his captain Stephen Fleming down in a two-Test series, grabbing 12 wickets in three innings to play a significant role in New Zealand's maiden series victory in the Caribbean.

It was then never easy to forget the New Zealand fast bowler, who finished with seven wickets in the Barbados Test, including five in the second innings, as the West Indies crashed to their fourth defeat in 70 years at the Kensington Oval.

Bond is the new face of New Zealand cricket, which has learnt to give the best teams a run for their money in both Tests and one-dayers.

Fast and accurate bowlers, experts say, are expected to play a key role in making their team's fortunes in South Africa.

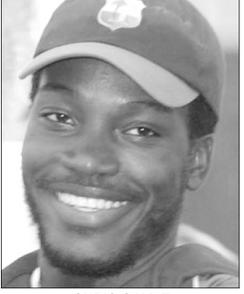
The star parade will be long, from Glenn McGrath to Wasim Akram to Shaun Pollock, but Bond will be the last bowler to be intimidated or overawed by big names.

Bond said when he was a kid, he had wanted two things in life -- one was to play cricket for New Zealand and the other was to become a policeman.

Batsmen and law-breakers beware! Bond has become both.

That was the opening Bond needed to establish himself as one of the strike bowlers in the team. New Zealand drew a tough three-Test series and then went on to qualify for a triangular one-day series final against South Africa, with Bond consistently grabbing the headlines.

He captured 21 wickets and was named player of one-day series. He



SHANE BOND

Gayle: under cover

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003
AFP, Johannesburg

When the West Indies bat at the World Cup, all the talk will be of Brian Lara -- and that suits opener Chris Gayle just fine.

The stylish 23-year-old left-hander has been the model of consistency in recent months and Carl Hooper's team will be looking to him to continue the devastating form he showed in India.

He hit three centuries in his country's 4-3 one-day series win, to provide the foundation of an assault on the World Cup.

Gayle hit 140, 103 and 101 in India, but such clinical hitting wasn't always the Gayle way as his early days at the top level highlighted an erratic manner as well as a suspect technique.

He had a tendency to shuffle slowly across his crease which made him easy prey for the seamers who had him lurching forlornly outside the off-stump.

But the seeds of a new-found

patience bore fruit in the Caribbean last year when he hit 204 in the second Test against New Zealand in Grenada although it was a sign of maturity that the score left him far from pleased -- he had Lara's Test world record score of 375 in his

"I missed out on a number of opportunities to make big scores in previous matches, but it is time for me to make up for all that lost time and try not to look back, only look forward," he said.

"I guess at the start of my career I lacked the experience.

"As time passes and you play more matches, you get to learn much more from playing and from the senior players in the team. This along with hard work is what brings the results in the end."

All the hard work has paid off -- Gayle is a regular in both Test and one-day teams.

His record stands at 2,150 runs from 62 matches and a healthy average of almost 37.

Furthermore, Gayle is also a more-than-useful right-arm off-break bowler with 51 wickets to his name in limited overs.

With southern African conditions suiting him -- he has scored two 50s in Zimbabwe and hit his maiden one-day ton against Kenya -- it could be that the West Indies may not have to pin all their hopes on Lara over the next six weeks.

sights at the time. Gayle confessed that impetuous youth had got the better of him in the past.



Members of Titas House, who became champions in the Comilla Cadet College inter-house annual athletics meet, receive their trophy from Officiating Commander of 33 Infantry Division Brigadier General Masud Uddin Chowdhury (C) at the college playground on February 4.

Shoaib almost got Saeed out of World Cup

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Pakistan batsman Saeed Anwar thought his World Cup was over before it had even begun after being hit by a swinging delivery from teammate Shoaib Akhtar.

Anwar, only just back into the team after a string of injuries, told Reuters on Wednesday: "I thought I was in real trouble -- I thought the left elbow was broken. I was immediately sick and felt nauseous.

"It was a swinging delivery in the nets and reared up a bit off the surface. A few deliveries had already gone over my head. It was the most painful blow I have ever had."

Opening batsman Anwar, in his third -- "and absolutely the last" -- World Cup, is still hoping to be fit for Pakistan's opening Group A match against Australia on February 11.

"I really want to play against the Aussies," he said. He was still icing the injury every two hours on Wednesday, two days after being struck and rushed to hospital.

The 34-year-old left-hander, the holder of the world record one-day score of 194, has just been recalled to the team after a long spell in the wilderness in an attempt to bolster Pakistan's batting.

He has undergone knee and wrist surgery over the last year. Shoaib, challenging Australia's Brett Lee as the fastest bowler in the world, was unofficially timed bowling at 100.04mph (161kph) last year.

Anwar is not the first batsman to have his World Cup hopes endangered by a teammate. England spinner Ashley Giles almost missed the tournament after having his wrist broken by Steve Harmison in a net session in Australia in November.

Victoria halt

FROM PAGE 13

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Masum b Wasim	42			
Rabby lbw b Razzak	8			
Sajid lbw b Wasim	8			
R Hanif c Nuruzzaman b Sabbir	25			
Jewel c Saiful b Sabbir	15			
Karim c Rafiqul b Sabbir	9			
Nadim lbw b Manzarul	5			
Saju st Salim b Sabbir	5			
Kamal b Manzarul	8			
Lucky lbw b Razzak	6			
Topu not out	4			
Extras: (lb-4, nb-1, w-5)	10			
Total: (All out in 47.4 overs)	145			
Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-62, 3-67, 4-106, 5-106, 6-111, 7-122, 8-130, 9-136.				

Result: Victoria 10 wickets in 47.4 overs.

City Club v Young Pergasus

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Faruque c Imroz b Shahjada	13			
Moniruzzaman c Fahad b Shahjada	5			
Mazharul c Russell b Rezwam	9			
Rajin c Russell b Wahid	68			
Hussain c Russell b Wahid	10			
Hasan not out	30			
Jamaluddin run out	0			
Alamgir not out	17			
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, nb-4, w-40)	51			
Total: (for 6 wks in 50 overs)	253			
Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-53, 3-166, 4-189, 5-214, 6-216.				

Result: City Club won by 97 runs.

YOUNG PEGASUS

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Rezaul c Rajib b Nazmul	19			
Junayed run out	0			
Rashed run out	13			
Fahad c & b Jamaluddin	16			
Nirala not out	55			
Rezwam c Faruque b Hussain	17			
Khokon run out	23			
Tanveer not out	0			
Extras: (b-2, lb-2, nb-6, w-3)	13			
Total: (For 6 wks in 50 overs)	156			
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-32, 3-41, 4-69, 5-106, 6-149.				

Result: City Club won by 97 runs.

Aussie players

FROM PAGE 13
World Cup technical committee on Thursday.

The International Cricket Council committee comprises six men, but they can make a decision by majority vote, which is expected to happen in one session.

If their request is rejected, England would forfeit the match, a move that would leave them with only a slim chance of reaching the next round.

If the request is upheld Zimbabwe can appeal.

Lara looks to World Cup

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003
AFP, Johannesburg

Brian Lara has pledged to make up for lost time at the World Cup starting with the opening match against the hosts South Africa in Cape Town on Sunday and put behind him the last few miserable months when his place in the tournament had been put in jeopardy by a bout of hepatitis.

The majestic 32-year-old left-hander will be playing in his fourth World Cup and is keen to erase the disappointment of the last tournament in England in 1999 when he captained a team which failed to get beyond the first round.

It was also a disaster for his own form. In five innings, his highest score was 36 -- a miserable return for a man who holds the world records for Test and first class scores, 375 and 501.

However, only a fool would write Lara off. His one-day international record boasts 7,549 runs with an average of 42.64 as well as 15 centuries and 48 half-centuries.

Lara believes he is fully-fit to resume battle after being laid low with hepatitis after the ICC Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka last year which ruled him out of the tours to India and Bangladesh.



BRIAN LARA

"I'm feeling well at present and I think we have a very good chance at the World Cup," he said.

"I think our performances in India and Bangladesh (where both one-day series were won) proves the

youngsters are coming through and a good team performance is necessary in the World Cup.

"I am medically fit and ready to go out there in the middle. We have a good team and can bring home the trophy," said Lara who has beaten off calls for him to be dropped from the team.

The run-king will also go into the tournament, where the Windies will be looking to win their third World Cup after triumphs in 1975 and 1979, also with a clear slate after being cleared of any suspicion of match-fixing last year.

Furthermore, he wants to remind the world that he is still a player for the big occasion.

He may have had a poor 1999 tournament, but he was instrumental in taking the West Indies to the semi-finals in 1996 despite having suffered a humiliating defeat to Kenya in the group stages.

In the quarter-finals, he hit 111 off 94 balls as the West Indies defeated the heavily favoured South Africans -- the same opponents they face when the 2003 finals get underway in Cape Town on Sunday.

Cairns could be the Kiwi

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003
AFP, Johannesburg

If Chris Cairns can keep body and soul together, paying particular attention to his knees, then New Zealand should be able to start planning for at least a semifinal appearance at the World Cup.

After a nine-month lay-off from the international scene, the 32-year-old returned to the Black Caps squad for the final three one-dayers against India recently but only as a batsman.

"I'm still working on my bowling, so I'm still looking at an all-round role," said Cairns who hopes to bowl again when the Kiwis open up their World Cup campaign against Sri Lanka in Bloemfontein on February 10.

"I'm working towards giving (captain) Stephen Fleming the option of me as a bowler."

In a country which struggles to find a regular supply of top flight cricketers, Cairns is a crucial part

of the Kiwi set-up as he has shown



CHRIS CAIRNS

time after time, able to turn a game almost single-handed.

In 1998-99, he hit a 75-ball century with six sixes against India, the fastest ever by a New Zealander -- for good measure he also chipped in with three wickets.

Since his debut against England in Wellington in 1990-91, Cairns has

played 154 matches notching up 3,663 runs and taking 154 wickets.

At the 1999 World Cup in England, he played having shaken off a calf injury and took 12 wickets as his side reached the semi-finals where he hit an unbeaten 44 in the defeat to Pakistan.

A big match performer, Cairns hit 60 as the Kiwis beat eventual champions Australia in their opening match.

He enjoyed English conditions that summer -- later bowling his country to their first ever Test win at Lord's and then snatching five wickets and hitting 80 runs as they won the final Test and the series.

Things got better in 2000-01 when he was named the top all-rounder in the world after claiming his best Test figures of 7-27 against the West Indies and joining father Lance as the only Kiwi to have taken 10 wickets in a Test.

And just to show that he has the temperament for the one-day showpiece -- he smashed a century as New Zealand beat India to win the 2000 ICC Trophy.

Zim don't want the 'grace'

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003
AFP, Perth

Zimbabwe cricket coach Geoff Marsh said Wednesday he does not want his side to advance to the late

stages of the World Cup on the back of points awarded against countries not prepared to play in the strife-torn country.

"The last thing you want is to get points from a forfeit in a World Cup," Marsh told The West Australian newspaper from Zimbabwe.

Marsh, a Western Australian and

former Australian opening batting star, coached the Australian side to their World Cup triumph four years ago.

He has been coaching in Zimbabwe for the past six months.

"We would be very disappointed to get points from forfeits," Marsh told the paper.

He made his comments as England and Australia looked increasingly likely to abandon World Cup matches in Zimbabwe as doubts grew about the host country's capacity to maintain safety and security at venues in Harare and Bulawayo.

New Zealand is currently in dispute with the International Cricket Council (ICC) over its match against Kenya in Nairobi on February 21, which it wants moved on security grounds.

Decisions were expected to be made by the England and Australian controlling bodies in the next few days.

The 14-nation showpiece, being staged mainly in South Africa, begins Sunday, with England scheduled to meet Zimbabwe in Harare February 13 and Australia drawn to play Zimbabwe in Bulawayo February 24.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer has urged the ICC to transfer Australia's game to South Africa.



Captain of Business School, which retained the title of the annual cricket competition of Bhuyian Academy, receives the trophy from the founder principal of the academy AKM Mozammel Haque Bhuiyan at the Dhanmondi Club ground recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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