City surprise Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani Krira Chakra tasted their first defeat in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League when City Club handed them a four-wicket defeat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterdav

One-down Moniruzzaman scored a patient half-century to help the Mirpur club, chasing 205 in 50 overs, reach home in the 47th over with four wickets in hand.

Monir, a product of BKSP, scored 63 off 100 balls with five

boundaries Opener Faruque Ahmed gave good support with a 73-ball 49 that included seven fours.

Earlier, in-form Mehrab Hossain top-scored with 69 off 95 balls as Abahani were restricted to 205 for eight in 50 overs after being put

Right-arm seamer Tareq Aziz Khan and Pakistani left-arm slow bowler Mohammad Hussain captured two wickets each for City.

City Club increased their tally to 18 points and joined Abahani, Mohammedan and Uttara Sporting Club in the crowded second spot in the league standings

YOUNG PEGASUS VKALABAGANKC

Away at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Young Pegasus posted their first win with a 31-run victory over Kalabagan Krira Chakra.

Batting first, Pegasus scored 247-9 in the allotted 50 overs with one-down Murad Khan hammering highest 76 off 98 balls.

Kalabagan were bowled out for 216 in 46.2 overs. Opener Ziaur Rahman scored 50 off 82 balls.

It was Kalabagan's fourt straight

DEV SQUAD VORIENT SC Elsewhere, the Development

Squad (Under-19) of Bangladesh Cricket Board shocked Orient Sporting Club by 51 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Put into bat, the youngsters put on a fighting 234 in 49.3 overs. In reply, Orient, who stole the

limelight after defeating Biman and Mohammedan in their first two outings, were restricted to 183 for nine in 50 overs It was Orient's second defeat in

four matches.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboards of the three GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League matches played at different city venues yesterday: Abahani v City Club

Venue: Bangabandhu National

Meniab ibw b H	ussam			bЭ
T Mahmud c Ka	dir b Ta	req	3	35
Akram run out				32
Asadullah Ibw b	Hussa	in		28
Neeyamur c Jar	naludd	in b A	lamo	gir '
Mukhter run out				4
Arman b Tareq				12
Russell not out				1
Extras: (lb-4, nb	-2, w-7)		13
Total: (For 8 wkt	s in 50	overs	s) 20)5
Fall of wickets:	1-40,	2-114	1, 3-1	28
4-186, 5-188, 6-	188, 7-	204,	8-20	5.
Bowler	0	M	R	W
Tareq	10	2	43	2
Alamgir	10	0	35	1
Saifullah	10	1	35	1
Rezaul	2	0	22	(

Sajjadul c Tareq b Saifullah

3 24 Hussain 0 42 CITY CLUB Faruque b Mehrab

Hussain c Tareq b Russell Moniruzzaman c Mukhter b Arman Mazharul c Alamgir b Arman 23 Rajin run out 23 Kadir not out Jamaluddin Ibw b Russell Alamgir not out Extras: (lb-9, nb-1, w-10) Total: (For 6 wkts in 46.4 overs) 208 Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-96, 3-148, 4-159, 5-179, 6-200.

100,0 170,0 200.						
Bowler	0	M	R	W		
Alamgir	9.4	0	43	0		
Russell	7	0	37	2		
Suja	8	0	33	0		
Neeyamur	2	0	14	0		
Arman	10	1	38	2		
Mehrab	2	0	8	1		
Tareq	8	0	26	0		
Result: City wickets.	Club	won	by	four		
Kalabagan K	C v You	ına P	edas	SIIS		

Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium YOUNG PEGASUS

100NO1 EGAGGG	
Imroz b Robin	8
Sumon c Imran b Robin	14
Murad b Tanna	76
Fahad c Ziaur b Zakir	38
Nirala c Rahman b Tanna	28
Tanveer b Robin	41
Rezwan c Nahidul b Tanna	10
Rashed Ibw b Sharfuddowla	3
Kumar not out	3
Shahjada st Rahman b Sharfuddowla	1
Extras: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs) 2	247
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-57, 3-14	3, 4-
172, 5-186, 6-225, 7-241, 8-24	3, 9-
247.	
Bowler O M R	w

10

Imran	7	0	22	0		
Tanna	9	1	58	3		
Khairul	5	0	25	0		
KALABAGAN K	C					
Tanna b Kumar				13		
Ziaur b Rashed				50		
Sohag c Kumar b Shahjada						
Nahidul c & b Kamal						
Shaid st Niral b M	lurad			4		
Khairul b Rezwar	า			2		
Zakir b Murad				13		
Imran run out				20		
Rahman c Nirala	b Sha	hiad	а	14		
Sharfuddowla c Nirala b Shahjada 4						
			Ju			

Robin not out				8	Bowler	0	M	R	
Extras: (lb-13, w	-9)			22	Lucky	9	0	37	
Total: (All out in 4	16.2 ov	ers)	2	16	Kamal	5	0	25	
Fall of wickets: 1	1-19, 2	-58, i	3-132	2, 4-	Saju	8.3	2	26	
141, 5-147, 6-1	58, 7-1	69, 8	8-200	, 9-	Jewel	10	0	60	
200.					R Hanif	10	0	45	
Bowler	0	M	R	W	Topu	7	0	38	
Kumar	8	0	44	1	ORIENTSC				
Shahjada	9.2	0	37	3	Hossain c Sag	jir b Ziauı	r		
Rashed	9	0	35	1	Masroor c Nay	eem b Z	iaur		,
Murad	8	0	47	2	Jewel c Nayee	em b Araf	at		1
Rezwan	7	0	22	1	Sajjad c Sagir	b Tariqul			
Kamaluddin	4	0	18	1	R Hanif st Sag	ir b Ashic	1		73
Result: Young	Pega	sus	won	by	Nadeem c Ena	amul b As	shiq		3



City Club captain Faruque Ahmed in action against Abahani during their GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League fixture at the Bangabandhu

National Stadium yesterday.	
31 runs BCB Dev Squad v Orient SC Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket St BCB DEV SQUAD	
Sagir run out	21
Nayeem Ibw b Kamal	0
Nazimuddin c Nadeem b Jewe	-
Ashig b Jewel	35
Riyad Ibw b Topu	19
Kafi c Sajjad b Jewel	16
Arafat run out	23
Bashar b Jewel	20
Rahman c & b Jewel	2
Enamul cR Hanif b Saju	7
Tariqul not out	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-18)	21
Total: (All out in 49.3 overs)	234
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-69, 3-1	
146, 5-172, 6-183, 7-225, 8-2	225, 9
230.	

Mithu run out				6		
Kamal run out				0		
Topu not out				22		
Saju run out				6		
Lucky not out				1		
Extras: (b-3, lb-1	1, nb-5	. w-8)	17		
Total: (For 9 wkt				33		
Fall of wickets:						
71, 5-133, 6-13						
167.	•					
Bowler	0	M	R	W		
Ziaur	9	0	28	2		
Tariqul	6	0	30	1		
Bashar	8	0	44	0		
Arafat	10	1	28	1		
Enamul	10	0	26	0		
Ashiq	7	0	23	2		
Result: Development Squad won						
h F.4	-	•				

by 51 runs.

Politics banned | AFRICAN TREATS

Champions Australia continue to watch the situation intently, although they are still preparing to play their February 24 match against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo.

Half of Zimbabwe's 14 million people face food shortages while main opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai is currently on trial facing a possible death sentence on a charge of trying to kill Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe.

Planned opposition protests around matches scheduled to be held in Zimbabwe have fuelled fears for players' and fans' safety.

The World Cup still has to deal with one other boycott threat, with New Zealand refusing to travel to play Kenya in Nairobi on February 21, again over security worries.

Welcome world

"I am thankful to the people of South Africa for embracing this great moment. It will be the largest sporting event and the biggest cricket tournament that has ever taken

Tight security was in operation at the three-million-dollar ceremony, which featured 4,700 performers, some of whom who had been rehearsing for over a year and

Most of the crowd arrived a full two hours before the start of the ceremony and braved the fierce Cape winds which blew through the stadium which will also host the opening game of the tournament on Sunday between South Africa and the West Indies

A 32-ton stage was placed over the pitch area for the event while the wicket for Sunday's day-nighter was covered by agricultural matting aimed at keeping the grass beneath healthy enough for the first game in the World Cup which will last until March 23 when the final is played in Johannesburg.

Six-shooter

FROM PAGE 13 game, having already bagged 92 wickets in 167 matches.

Add to these his fielding skills and one gets a highly useful allrounder. He is outstanding in the

inner ring with a safe pair of hands. And it is the presence of allrounders. like Astle. that makes New Zealand tough customers in the World Cup

0 42

0 42

FROM PAGE 13

true taste of the new South Africa during the opening ceremony.

The two-hour programme, compiled by famous choreographer Doug Jack might not have impressed everyone but it was a spectacular event without doubt and South Africans want the end to be spectacular too.

A 16-meter long fibreglass bat has been placed outside the stadium for cricket fans to sign on it.

But the locals are not ready to accept anything other then the coveted Cup on home soil after two near misses.

The message is clean and simple anywhere you go: "Dear Polly (Shaun Pollock) we'll get them here. It's up to you to send them back", read a giant billboard of South African Airline at the Johannesburg Airport.

LG STANDS OUT

The World Cup almost came to a standstill because of the International Cricket Council (ICC)'s policy of ambush marketing. The corporate sponsors have fought a long battle with the Indian team in their bid for not allowing their rivals in the showpiece event. Then England, Australia and New Zealand took the game to a political whirlpool by refusing to play in Zimbabwe and Kenya for what they called 'security reasons'.

But after all the uncertainties, the lovely game finally got its way with the West Indies and South Africa kicking off the World Cup yesterday.

Although corporate interest is still running high, at least LG, the Indiabased co-sponsor of the tournament, deserves a big hand for a noble cause. They assembled 12 out of the 14 team captains including Bangladesh skipper Khaled Mashud at a reception at Victoria Waterfront where they met 14 HIV positive men and women who were sporting white T-shirts with 'Save our lives' written in front of them. On the back of the T-shirts were pictures of South Africa's undisputed leader Nelson Mandela.

It was a moving encounter with the leaders of the cricket world embracing those unfortunate individuals and showing unreserved compassion for

Head to Head

FROM PAGE 13 Total matches 52

Sri Lanka wins 22; New Zealand wins 27; Tied/No Result 3

FORM GUIDE

AFP, Bloemfontein

Results from the last ten one-day internationals played by Sri Lanka and New Zealand ahead of their World Cup Group B fixture here on Monday:

SRI LANKA (won 2 lost 8) Jan 21, 2003 Jan 17, 2003 Jan 15, 2003 Jan 13, 2003 Jan 9, 2003 Dec 22, 2002 Dec 20, 2002 Dec 17, 2002 Dec 6, 2002 Dec 4, 2002

Jan 14, 2003

Jan 11, 2003

Jan 8, 2003

Jan 4, 2003

Jan 1, 2003

Dec 29, 2002

Dec 26, 2002

Sept 23, 2002

Sept 15, 2002

June 16, 2002

lost to Australia by 9 wickets lost to England by 19 runs lost to Australia by 4 wickets beat England by 31 runs beat Australia by 79 runs lost to Australia by 142 runs lost to England by 95 runs lost to England by 43 runs

lost to South Africa by 6 wickets lost to South Africa by 8 wickets NEW ZEALAND (won 6 lost 4) beat India by 6 wickets lost to India by 1 wicket lost to India by 2 wickets beat India by 7 wickets beat India by 5 wickets beat India by 35 runs beat India by 3 wickets

beat Bangladesh by 167 runs

lost to Australia by 164 runs

lost to West Indies by 4 wickets

Adelaide Brisbane Sydney Sydney Perth Perth Brisbane Bloemfontein Kimberley Hamilton

Melbourne

Auckland Wellington Queenstown Christchurch Napier Auckland Colombo Colombo St Vincent

That's a hoax!

FROM PAGE 16 boycott the match they will forfeit the tournament points and the ECB will

suffer financial penalties for failing to honourits contractual commitments. There are also fears Zimbabwe could retaliate by calling off a scheduled tour of England this summer, a

move which would bankrupt English "There are a lot of implications in all

of this," Lamb said. "We need to take sufficient time to reach the best decision in the wider interests of the game. "That process will continue but hope we can reach a conclusion today

because I can appreciate that everyone wants to know where they stand." Lamb did not however rule out the discussions with the players dragging on into Monday. "My hope is that can be concluded during the course of the day and we

can make clear what the decision is later on today but we will take as long as is necessary to reach the right decision." England's cricketers have been under pressure from the British gov-

ernment for months to boycott Zimbabwe on moral grounds because of the policies of President Robert Mugabe Some of the players have sug-

gested that they share these concerns as well as being worried about secu-

All at stake

FROM PAGE 16

cricket World Cups while three sets of brothers could play in a World Cup match for the first time if Namibia field Deon and Biorn Kotze and Louis and Sarel Burger opposite Andy and Grant Flower.

LINE-UPs

ZIMBABWE - from Heath Streak (capt), Dion Ebrahim, Mark Vermeulen, Gary Ervine, Andy Flower, Grant Flower, Craig Wishart, Guy Whittall, Tatenda Taibu, Andy Blignaut, Travis Friend, Brian Murphy, Douglas Hondo, Henry Olonga, Douglas Marillier. NAMIBIA - from Deon Kotze (capt),

Andries Burger, Louis Burger, Sarel Burger, Morne Karg, Danie Keulder, Bjorn Kotze, Lennie Louw, Gavin Murgatroyd, Gerrie Snyman, Stefan Swanepoel, Burton van Rooi, Melt van Schoor, Rudie van Vuuren, Riaan Walters.

Umpires: David Orchard (Rsa) and Simon Taufel (Aus) TV umpire: Darrell Hair (Aus) Match referee: Wasim Raja (Pak)

SPORTS REPORTER

IM Enamul Hossain Rajib of Biman and Khandakar Aminul Islam of Ansars were jointly leading the points table with 4.5 points each at the end of the fifth round of the Shahjalal Bank international rating chess tournament at the NSC Chess Room yesterday.

Rating chess

Shafiq Ahmed of Sonali Bank, Moniruzzaman Khan of Anushilan and Ranodev Dasgupta were in the second place with 4 points each.

In the round, Raiib checkmated Amir Hossain, Amin beat Saifuddin Lavlu. Shafiq outwitted Golam Mostafa, Monir overcame SA Zaker and Ranodev beat Aminul Islam.

The sixth round starts today at 3:00 pm at the same venue.

Seles to defend Qatar title

American Monica Seles was itching to launch her campaign for a second successive WTA Qatar Open title this week in this highly strung city which hosts one of the biggest American airbases in the Persian

Al-Udeid air base - just a few kilometres away from the Khalifa Tennis Complex - is likely to be the nerve centre of any American-led attack on Iraq.

But short of a war, nothing seems to have the potential to deter the top seeded Seles, ranked No 9 in the world, from strutting her stuff in the 170,000-dollar event which also features another American great, Martina Navratilova, in the doubles.

Seles was an early bird in Doha after a small break in Dubai following her recent three-set loss to compatriot Lindsay Davenport in the final of the Tokyo Pan-Pacific Open.

"I'm not worried about the war. I'm here to play tennis and defend my title," said Séles. Navratilova was expected to fly

in early Sunday. Importantly, the US embassy in Doha has already issued an advisory appealing to all Americans here to be ready to leave at short notice. Standing between the businesslike Seles and an encore are the

likes of second seed Russian Anastasia Myskina, Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria and last year's runner-up Tamarine Tanasugarn of **Thailand** Fading stars Frenchwoman Mary Pierce, a two-time Grand Slam winner, and 1994 Wimbledon cham-

pion Conchita Martinez of Spain will also be trying their luck in what happens to be the third edition of the tournament. The now-retired Martina Hingis lifted the maiden trophy in 2001.

Band of brothers FROM PAGE 16

They qualified for the World Cup by reaching the final of the ICC Trophy

Canada two years ago. Kotze's men went to Canada as rank outsiders, and returned to a hero's welcome from 1,000 jubilant fans at Windhoek airport after narrowly losing out in the final to the

Netherlands World Cup boss Ali Bacher of South Africa said then the Namibian cricketers were the biggest thing to happen to that country since Olympic sprinter Frankie

Fredericks. Captain Kotze, however, stressed his team was not here at the World Cup just to make up the

"Every time we step onto the field we are going out there to win," he

"We went to Canada as massive underdogs, but came through due to our commitment. If we have one strength, it's our team spirit and togetherness."

It was no empty boast as Namibia warmed up for their biggest cricket test by winning both their practice matches against South African provincial teams.

That is more than what both India and Pakistan achieved in the run-up to cricket's showpiece, which opens later on Saturday.

"Its a big moment for the team as most of us have only seen the World Cup on television," team manager Francois Erasmus said.

"We have really been encouraged by the support of people back home. We have nothing to lose, so the boys will just go out there, enjoy themselves and play good cricket.' Win or lose, Namibia are set for a memorable World Cup debut.

Enemy No. 1 FROM PAGE 16

Pakistan and Craig McMillan of New Warne also has a lot of praise for

South African cricketers. He rates Jacques Kallis as the world's best all-rounder, says the South Africans match Australia in aggression and reckons Brian McMillan is the best sledger he has

Warne, who will quit one-day cricket after the World Cup, still hopes South African fans will give him a rousing farewell "Hopefully they will be a bit more

thoughtful and a bit nicer to me," he says.
"Wherever my last game is hopefully the final - they will clap and

every heard.

not heckle me.

Bring on Pakistan

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Australia coach John Buchanan has played down the significance of his side's recent successes against Pakistan as the two teams prepare for their World Cup opener at The Wanderers on Tuesday.

After losing a three-match series of one-day internationals to Pakistan last June, Australia went unbeaten through a limited-overs series against Wagar Younis' side in Kenya and then won 3-0 in the test series that followed. Those Test victories included two

two days, but despite those wins. Buchanan said there would be no complacency among his players in what is a re-run of the 1999 World Cup final, which Australia won by eight wickets. Yes, our record against them recently is good, but past or even

by an innings, one of them inside

when you play Pakistan," Buchanan told the news agency on Sunday. "They have one or two individuals who can turn it on with other

current form counts for very little

players then feeding of them, and that can make them a formidable

Buchanan believes the Johannesburg showdown between the two sides could hold significance for the Super Six stage of the tournament which follows the group

matches. "If we can win this match and both sides qualify for the Super Sixes, then we will take the four points we would get through with us, so a win is pretty important," he said.

"The game is also a chance to see where we are at in terms of our preparations and, while I am hoping to win, it would also be nice to get a good hard game under our belts early in the tournament too," he added. Pakistan coach Richard Pybus

echoed Buchanan's thoughts when he said Australia's dominance in recent head-to-head matches meant little coming into the Group A encounter "When we played them late last vear we were without Inzamamul

this is pretty much the strongest squad Pakistan can put out," said Pybus.

Hag. Yousuf Youhana. Saeed

Anwar and Wasim Akram, but now

really count." Both sides have injury problems, though, with Pakistan opener Anwar

still to practise since sustaining a blow to his left elbow from a Shoaib Akhtar delivery in the nets last Tuesday. Australia, already without suspended batsman Darren Lehmann who is serving the last match of a

five-game ban, will also be monitoring the progress of fellow middleorder batsman Michael Bevan as he recovers from a torn groin muscle. Ian Harvey, a very effective 'bits-

and-pieces' player, has a slight back strain, although it is not serious. Another poser for both line-ups

on Tuesday will be which bowlers should take the new ball. Pakistan have four options in

Shoaib, Wasim, Waqar and young fast bowler Mohammad Sami while Australia, with Jason Gillespie and Glenn McGrath both fit again, have to decide whether to retain Brett Lee as their opening bowler.

Lee was hugely impressive when spearheading Australia's attack in the recent triangular oneday series against England and Sri Lanka, ending up as the player of

India doesn't spook him

ICC Cricket VI South AFRICA 2003 ICC Cricket World Cup

INTERNET, Cape Town

Pakistan wicketkeeper Rashid Latif says it does not matter if his side lose to India in the World Cup. They face their neighbours and

Group A rivals on 1 March, and

although Latif realises the signifi-

cance of the grudge match he believes winning the World Cup is more important. "We're obviously focused on beating India, because of the traditional rivalry," the 34-year-old said.

win the World Cup, our defeat to them won't really matter. "There was a lot of pressure in the past when we used to play regularly, but that has lessened in

recent years because we haven't

"But if we lose to India and then

really faced each other that often." "To many cricket fans around the world this will be the showcase match of the tournament. So of course we'll want to win, but the rest is in God's hands."

His comments may surprise the legion of passionate Pakistan

while in 1999 we were beaten again but still reached the final. Latif. who has competed with Moin Khan over the last 10 years for the role of Pakistan keeper, was a key figure in exposing the match-

supporters, but Latif added that

losing to India in past World Cups

has had little bearing on his side's

ended up winning the tournament.

"We lost to India in 1992 and

eventual final position

Meanwhile, Pakistan spinmerchant Saqlain Mushtaq believes his side have eradicated memories of recent poor one-day perfor-

fixing scandals of the 1990s.

look to the future," said Saqlain who was involved in 4-1 series defeat to "We've endured a bad patch, but it's up to us to put it out of our minds."

"We need to forget the past and

"The squad are mentally prepared for the task ahead." Pakistan face Australia in their opening match on 11 February.

Their group also includes England, Namibia, Netherlands, Zimbabwe as well as India

Akram ambition

and that's the goal I have set for myself," he said. "I am not concerned who the

man of the final is this time, but I want to see Pakistan in the final "And if we achieve that. I think I will retire from cricket as probably the most satisfied cricketer who achieved everything in the game.

Wasim refused to predict Pakistan's opponent in the final, but

"But at the same time they must

said he was expecting Australia, South Africa and the West Indies as the other semi-finalists. "I think South Africa have a huge home advantage," he said.

be under tremendous pressure as it is being projected here as if they have already won the tournament. have seen teams succumbing under such needless pressure. Wasim said he saw his role as

the team's mentor and inspirational leader in this tournament. "The boys look at me for inspiration and guidance," he said. "This gives me added motivation to perform better than before. I am geared

up and feel more charged up than maybe in the last few months. Wasim, however, downplayed the key match against arch-rivals India on March 1, the first clash between the two warring neigh-

"I know it is being billed as an explosive match, but for us, it is going to be just another game," he "We will play as hard as we have

played before and although we have

not beaten them in the World Cup,

bours since May, 2000.

we have enjoyed excellent success against them in the last few years. "I believe now we have all the tools to break the jinx this time."

King Viv

on the experimental side. That's how new eras in cricket begin."

Ponting's squad, Richards added, set benchmarks that the current West Indian squad were now hoping to attain, particularly in all-round fitness levels.

While stopping short of the grandiose statements made by West Indies Cricket Board president Wes Hall who claimed this Windies World Cup squad was the best prepared team ever to leave the Caribbean Richards was hopeful of a successful tournament.

Waugh legacy

"When I first got here I think the intimidation of being here, the intimidation of the level got to me a little," he said. "It took a while to get over that. Now I feel I'm in the position to fully use the gifts that were given to me. "There was a bit of technical

work done, but a lot of mental

improvement to my game. I guess like the rest of this team, I feel confident of going head-to-head with anyone in the world." According to Hayden, the biggest challenges facing Australia at this World Cup come in the next week. The match against Pakistan at the Wanderers ground and the ensuing encounter with India at

rate as the toughest Australia face over the tournament, he said. "The beauty of the World Cup is that you have to be on top of your game every game," Hayden added. 'One slip up and it could be all over. That's why I think those first two matches are so important - not just

for us to get off to a good start in the

tournament, but also because of the

quality of the opposition.

Centurion's SuperSport Park could

for error. If the tracks are slow and a little low like they might be, then we'll really have to be switched on out Hayden, like the rest of the

"There's not a whole lot of margin

Australian squad, has tried gamely not to allow the Zimbabwean security situation distract him from his World Cup preparations. That hasn't always been easy, with almost daily briefing sessions on safety standards and potential hazards. Whether Australia's pool match in Bulawayo will proceed remains uncertain. But travel to Zimbabwe or not, Hayden believes the Australians' talent, drive and persistence - all traits associated with the Waugh twins - could drive the squad to victory. "There certainly seems to be a lot

of information, but that doesn't make the game any less fun than when we used to play in the backyard at Kingaroy," he said. "The world we live in has

changed, and that has crept into

cricket. We can't just adopt the

realistic about these things.

"Also the World Cup is unique

Ctg cricket **CU CORRESPONDENT**

Pre-Cadet Talent School defeated Haji Mohammad Mohsin Government High School by 84 runs in the Siraj Memorial Inter-School Cricket League held at the Dampara Police Lines ground vesterday

School made 234 for nine in 39.4 overs. Tailender Rony top-scored with 43 it included seven fours and one big six Aziz of Haji Mohammad Mohsin Government High School claimed

Batting first, Pre Cadet Talent

and Mohiuddun took three and two wickets respectively.
In reply Haji Mohammad Mohsin Government High School were all

out for 150 in 28.3 overs.

FROM PAGE 16

four wickets for 53 runs while Adnan

Institution recorded a nine-wicket victory against Sun Shine Grammar Presidential

Earlier, on Friday, Al Zaber

the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said he is a keen follower of cricket and has pinned his hopes on the Pakistan team winning the event. "One has a lot of hope," he said

Musharraf, who is also the patron of

after inaugurating the national cricket academy in the eastern city of Lahore. Musharraf last month promised lucrative cash prizes for players who

helped win the world title for The eighth World Cup started with a colourful opening ceremony in Cape Town, South Africa, on

Saturday.

Walsh **FROM PAGE 16**

"But the squad for the most part has remained focussed and I believe that they can do a good job once they play consistent cricket." Walsh believes the recent one-

day series win in India suggest the

West Indies are improving all the

"Certainly the confidence and morale of the team has been lifted since the Asian tour, where they rebounded admirably," he said. "The team began to rally in the

last Test match and never looked back and went on to win the very exciting one-day series. That's no mean feat in India and has to be used as a benchmark. That one-day series victory has done the team a world of good.

Risk for FROM PAGE 13

bowling," Cairns said. "With my mental make-up I love being in the game, I feed off both aspects so it is frustrating."

Sri Lanka also boast a potent

assortment of quick-scoring bats-

man, led by veteran captain Sanath

Jayasuriya and the exciting Mahela

"I'm excited but I do wish I had my

Jayawardene, but Muralitharan's bowling remains their biggest asset. Sri Lanka have beaten New Zealand 13 of the last 16 times they have played since May 1997, with the Kiwis managing a rare win in April last year when Muralitharan

took five for nine from 10 overs. SRI LANKA (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (capt), Marvan Atapattu, Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara, Aravinda De Silva Russel Arnold, Jehan Mubarak, Avishka Gunawardena, Hashan Tillekeratne, Muttiah Muralitharan, Chaminda Vaas. Dilhara Fernando Pulasthi Gunaratne, Prabath Nissanka, Charitha Buddhika

NEW ZEALAND (from): Stephen Fleming (capt), Andre Adams, Nathan Astle, Shane Bond, Chris Cairns, Chris Harris, Brendon McCullum, Craig McMillan, Kyle Mills, Jacob Oram, Matthew Sinclair, Scott Styris, Daryl Tuffey, Daniel Vettori, Lou Vincent Umpires: Steve Bucknor (WIs) and

Neil Mallender (Eng) TV umpire: Russel Tiffin (Zim) Match referee: Mike Procter (Rsa)

ostrich mentality. We have to be

showcased African scenes