

All at stake

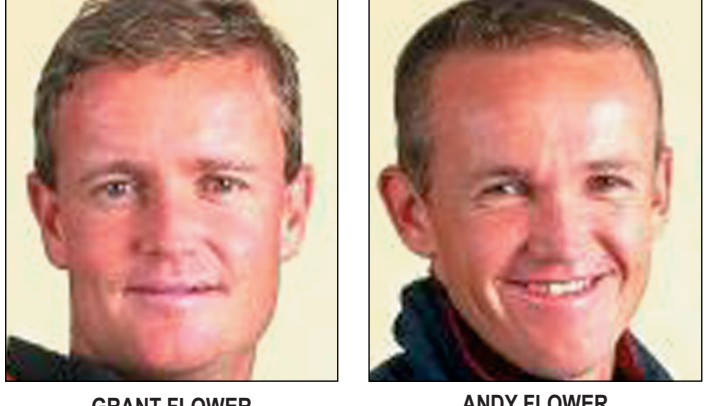
REUTERS, Harare Zimbabwe host Namibia on Monday in a World Cup match of minimal sporting importance but of massive significance to the tournament.

HEAD TO HEAD Zimbabwe v Namibia. Table with columns for date, result, and venue. Includes a note: 'NAMIBIA: No statistics available as Namibia are not Test-playing nation.'

allowed to hosts its six World Cup matches. England's players, who lost an appeal to have their Harare game switched to South Africa over security concerns, will also be keen observers of the Group A game they are due to play in the Zimbabwean capital on Thursday.

Flowers to bloom

Brothers Andy and Grant Flower aim to put their years of experience to good use by inspiring Zimbabwe to reach the later stages of the World Cup.



being usurped by Heath Streak and Tatenda Taibu respectively and now he concentrates on his batting which is paying off.

Walsh's prediction

Former fast-bowling stalwart Courtney Walsh is excited about the West Indies' chances of winning the World Cup.

Presidential praise

President Pervez Musharraf said at the weekend he has high hopes Pakistan team would win the Cricket World Cup if the country's players put in a collective effort.

will surely also boost the television audience. Heath Streak's home team seem certain to win the game handsomely against their World Cup debutant opponents, perhaps serving up the odd tournament record on the way.

for the first time, four teams from the continent would play in the sport's showpiece event. Zimbabwe, however, are unlikely to show them any mercy.

There remains, however, plenty of know-how Andy Flower has already crossed 200 one-dayers even if Zimbabwe's younger players have yet to make their mark.

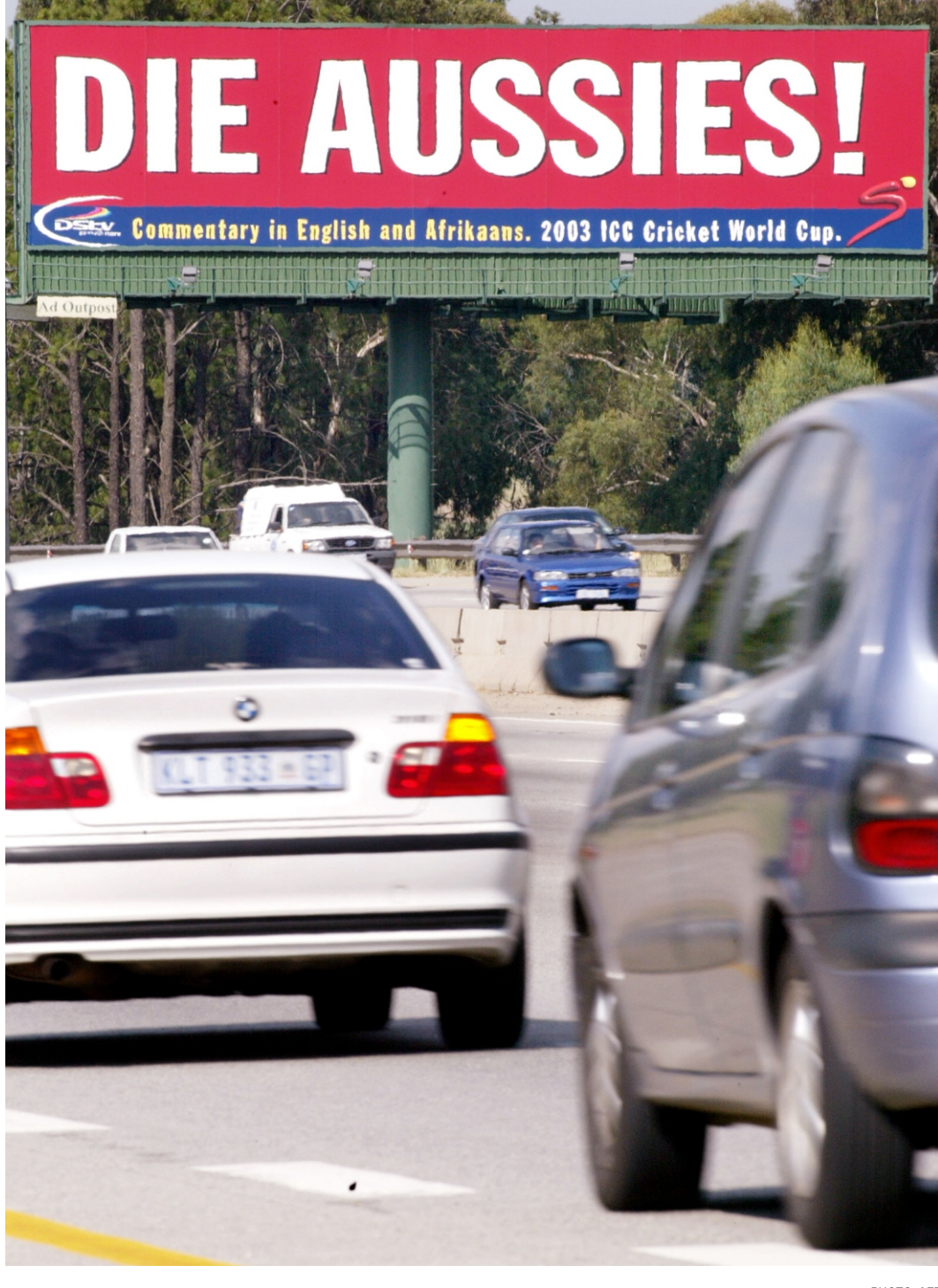
Band of brothers AFP, Johannesburg It's going to be a family affair at the Harare Sports Club on Monday when first-timers Namibia begin their World Cup campaign against hosts Zimbabwe.

That's a hoax! AFP, London English cricket supremo Tim Lamb confirmed Sunday that the England players had received what he described as a "hoax" threat of reprisals if they played their scheduled World Cup game in Zimbabwe.

England captain Nasser Hussain autographs on the back of a South African boy after taking part in an official photo session aboard a South African Navy ship in Cape Town on February 8.



SEEKING DIVINE BLESSINGS: Snehasis Ganguly (R), the elder brother of India captain Saurav, attends a prayer session to wish their national team well in the World Cup in Kolkata yesterday.



DON'T WORRY MATES! A billboard, hoisted on the M1 motorway in Cape Town, shows 'Die Aussies' written on it on February 8. 'Die' is 'the' in local Afrikaans language.

Band of brothers

And that's not all that is unique about the Namibian team. When opening bowler Rudi van Vuuren sends down his first delivery on Monday, he will create history as the first man to play in both the rugby and cricket World Cups.

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King Viv speaking

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Waugh legacy

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do. There's always been a good ethos in the Australian team, and I think people who don't have that are weeded out early. There is no room for bad attitudes in this team.

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Enemy No. 1

AFP, Johannesburg Australia's champion spinner Shane Warne wants South Africa to reach the World Cup final - so that it makes it easier for his team to retain the title.

Akram ambition

AFP, Cape Town Pakistani all-rounder Wasim Akram said on Saturday he was fired up to take the field in Tuesday's key World Cup clash against defending champions Australia.