



## Shame on you

AL-AMIN, from Durban

The Editor and staff of The Mercury wish all Muslim readers Eid Mubarak, read the English daily in Durban in its February 12 edition.

But the Bangladesh supporters were hardly in festive spirit as they watched team sink like the Titanic at the Kingsmead ground on Tuesday night.

And no sooner had had the Canadians completed a famous 60-run victory, a group of 50 expatriates just vanished without a trace. Such was their frustration they did not want to exchange pleasantries with players at the Holiday Inn the following morning.

For others like the nearly 20 youths the defeat came at price. They all feared they might lose their jobs for going to the ground.

"We work in the Pakistani restaurant and our owner said that we might all sacked if went to the ground during working hours," said Salam.

While millions back home celebrated second biggest festival in the Muslim calendar, their was only shock and dismay on the faces of the players, Bangladesh Cricket Board officials including president Ali Asghar as they tried to piece together what went wrong.

Instead of observing the day in the usual manner the morning began with a close-door meeting between Asghar and the team management. Elsewhere the cricketers sneaked on to the team bus for an early departure to Pietermaritzburg, to play their second World Cup match against Sri Lanka on February 14.

Although skipper Khaled Mashud promised to do better in their next five games, but there was nothing to suggest his shaky teammates could raise their level.

The BCB chief made it clear after the meeting that this is as bad as it gets.

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PHOTO: AFP

YOU'VE BEEN A VERY BAD BOY! Umpire David Shepherd (C) explains to Pakistan skipper Waqar Younis (R) why he is being banned from finishing his last over against Australia on February 11.

## Red Letter Day

AL-AMIN, from Durban

Canada and Bangladesh cannot be anything but contrasting when it comes to cricket. In one nation it is followed with passion while it struggles to establish itself in another.

"I don't know whether an NHL game has been going on now. If that is the case then nobody would care about our memorable victory against Bangladesh in a World Cup match," said Canadian captain Joseph Harris at a press briefing after the match.

An engineer by profession, the 35-year-old said that his team would treasure the victory as the greatest moment of their lives even if most Canadians remain unaware of happenings at Kingsmead on Tuesday night.

The Madras-born leader of a multi-national cricket team had every reason to celebrate their first victory in one-day international. The team comprising mostly amateurs came to South Africa with no outdoor practice for the last five months.

"Our practice mostly confined to indoors and of course on weekend

days. It was tough for us to practice together since everybody had his own job. Most of the cricketers came here on leave without pay. I do not know whether their owners will consider the success as worth paying," said the top-order batsman.

Harris said that the victory was a dream come true for his present team since they were only playing their first one-day international. Canada's last appearance in the World Cup was in 1979 where they lost all their matches.

Their meagre total of 45 against hosts England still remains the lowest score in a World Cup match.

The Canadians have returned to the big stage with certain targets to achieve.

Harris said with victory against Bangladesh half had been realised.

"I'm not going to disclose the other target since it's a secret," said the witty Canadian captain obviously referring to their next match against Kenya.

Although ice hockey and baseball has taken over as major sports in the North American nation, cricket

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## Waqar sorry

AFP, Johannesburg

Pakistan skipper Waqar Younis issued a public apology to Andrew Symonds after he bowled two beamers at the Australian batsman as his side slipped to an 82-run defeat in their World Cup opener at the Wanderers here on Tuesday.

Waqar was ordered out of the attack by angry umpire David Shepherd after the incident which happened in the final over of the Australian innings in which Symonds smashed a match-winning unbeaten 143 in his side's massive 310-8.

"I tried a yorker first but it slipped out of my hand and I was warned by the umpire," said a contrite Waqar.

"But the next ball popped out as well. There was nothing intentional in it and I apologise for it."

Man-of-the-match Symonds accepted the apology.

"First I thought it would blow off my top but there are no hard feelings," he said.

Australian captain Ricky Ponting revealed how the shock of Shane Warne's drug test failure inspired the world champions to their win.

"Shane addressed the whole team on Monday night and told us about the drugs test and I am glad that we came out of this match with flying colours after so much pressure," said Ponting.

sure," said Ponting. "Everyone in the team has been very supportive of Shane and we all felt for him."

The 33-year-old Warne, playing in his last World Cup, was withdrawn from the team after it was revealed that he had tested positive for a banned substance after he had taken a diuretic used to control his weight.

"The guys were told to put the issue out of their minds and I am happy with their performance. It was shocking to hear about Shane but I think what he did was out of naivete."

"I hope that he will not be ruled out of the World Cup completely." Left-arm spinner Brad Hogg was chosen to replace Warne and responded with three wickets while Ian Harvey, who was a late call-up to the squad after Shane Watson pulled out last month, took four wickets as Pakistan were all out for 228.

"It was a great comeback because it was hard to score freely but Symonds played the best one-day innings I have ever seen," said Ponting.

Symonds said he was cautious through his innings but hit the big balls.

"I was worried about the next ball throughout the innings but am happy that I made such an impact on the team's win," he said.

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## Latif's U-turn

AFP, Johannesburg

Pakistan's World Cup wicketkeeper Rashid Latif on Thursday dropped threats to sue the Australian team after they had accused him of making a racist remark.

Latif, who was cleared of the charge by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday, said he had a change of heart about taking legal action.

"I said it in the heat of the moment, but I don't think it is worth it to pursue the case," Latif said.

The 34-year-old had said on Wednesday he would take the entire Australian team to court after Adam Gilchrist reported him to the ICC for an alleged racial insult during Tuesday's World Cup clash.

It is understood that the Pakistan Cricket Board and the team management advised Latif not to go for legal action and consider the matter closed.

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## Tigers caged by Canada

AL-AMIN from Kingsmead

Bangladesh's cricket hit rock bottom on Tuesday when they lost to Canada by 60 runs in their World Cup opener at Kingsmead in Durban.

It was inexplicable batting that saw Bangladesh being shot out for 120 runs in 28 overs presenting Canada a famous first victory in one-day internationals, that too against a Test side.

Favourites on paper before going into the match, Bangladesh did well to restrict the part-timers of Canada to 180 after being asked to bowl first. For Canada, Ian Billcliff was the main scorer with 42, playing the seaming ball better than any of

the Bangladesh batsmen.

The panic-button was pressed the moment Bangladesh began to chase the modest target under lights and succumbed to a defeat which seemed impossible just hours earlier.

The slide started when in-form opener Al-Shahriar tried to force a delivery pitched outside the off towards the on-side only to find substitute fielder Abdool Samad who took a simple catch at mid on with the score at 33 in 6.2 overs.

Out-of-form Habibul Bashar and Hanann Sarkar perished nibbling at deliveries on the off-stump.

Bashar scored a duck while Hannan played some enterprising

shots in his 25 off 35 balls. Sanwar Hossain equalled the innings high of 25 before he too threw his wicket away attempting an irresponsible sweep shot.

With Sanwar and Alok Kapali playing confidently, Bangladesh had looked well on course at 106 in 20.5 overs. But like a bolt from the blue when Sanwar instead of rotating the strike, which he was doing so well in company with a composed Kapali, went for that expensive shot only to be adjudged leg before.

Kapali was unfortunate to depart in the same manner although television replays suggested that the incoming delivery from man of the

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FORM GUIDE			
Kenya	v	Canada	
AFP, Cape Town			
Form guide for recent matches ahead of their World Cup clash at Newlands here on Saturday:			
Kenya (won 0 lost 9)			
Feb 12 2003	lost to South Africa by 10 wickets	Potchefstroom	
Dec 15 2002	lost to Zimbabwe by 9 wickets	Bulawayo	
Dec 11 2002	lost to Zimbabwe by 47 runs	Kwekwe	
Dec 8 2002	No Result	Harare	
Sept 17 2002	lost to West Indies by 29 runs	Colombo	
Sept 20 2002	lost to South Africa by 176 runs	Colombo	
Sept 5 2002	lost to Australia by 5 wickets	Nairobi	
Sept 2 2002	lost to Australia by 8 wickets	Nairobi	
Sept 1 2002	lost to Pakistan by 7 wickets	Nairobi	
Aug 29 2002	lost to Pakistan by 4 wickets	Nairobi	
Canada (won 1)			
Feb 11 2003	beat Bangladesh by 60 runs	Durban	
No other matches - Canada qualified via ICC Trophy			
No head-to-heads, Canada are not Test playing nation			

## End of Rhodes

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa's Jonty Rhodes confirmed he was quitting international cricket on Friday, but told his fans not to feel sorry for him.

The 33-year-old Rhodes, forced out of the World Cup because of a

broken hand, said that he would be playing for Gloucestershire in the English county championship from April.

"It's time to get back to the real world," said the player who broke a bone in his right hand in the World

Cup match against Kenya in Potchefstroom on Wednesday.

"Don't cry for me -- I've had a great ride. It is not quite the script I envisaged but I see it as a blessing that I have played in 245 one-day internationals and participated in four World Cups."

South Africa's ace fielder said he had always planned to retire after the World Cup.

"Unless something (injury) happens further down the line in the team, and hopefully that won't be the case, that'll be it," he said.

Rhodes, 33, has signed a one-season contract to play for Gloucestershire but he said his first-class career in South Africa was over.

He had told KwaZulu-Natal, his provincial team, that he would not be available next season.

Rhodes, whose spectacular diving stops at backward point and brisk batting made him one of the world's most recognised cricketers, said injury was "part and parcel" of the game.

Although he had two pins inserted in the fifth metacarpal bone of his right hand after being injured against Kenya, he had hoped to be kept in the South African squad with a chance of playing in the later stages of the World Cup but said he accepted the decision by the selectors that he should be replaced by Graeme Smith.

"I was excited when the specialist told me the pins would be coming out in two-and-a-half weeks," he said.

"It would be painful but there would be an opportunity to play. But from the team's point of view the section is wide open and they couldn't afford to play an under-strength side in the hope that I would be ready by the Sri Lankan match on March 3."

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## Another Austin act?

AFP, Cape Town

Deadlocked apprentice plumber Austin Codrington, whose five-wicket burst sparked his country's sensational World Cup win over Bangladesh, hopes a repeat performance will land him a professional contract.

The 27-year-old seamer has been inundated with congratulations since his match-winning figures of 5-27 handed Bangladesh their 27th consecutive one-day defeat at Durban on Tuesday.

But, so far, no offer of a full-time contract has accompanied the good wishes.

"I would love to play cricket full time. It has always been my dream to see if I can make it. It hasn't happened so far but you never know -- if I can play well again against Kenya, then hopefully it might lead to something," he said.

"I will be trying to take five wickets again and I will be going out 100 per cent."

Codrington indulged in celebratory jumps of joy every time he took a wicket at Kingsmead, which was not surprising -- having played cricket ever since he was a child, he had never taken five wickets before.

"I don't think it was a question of luck. I have worked really hard on my bowling and I thought I deserved it. Before the World Cup, we all trained six days a week to make sure we were ready."

"I also spent a month in Trinidad to get used to playing outdoors, on good wickets," added Codrington who moved to Toronto from his native Jamaica seven years ago.

He plays Saturdays and Sundays for his local club, Overseas CC, but the fixture list features just 16 games every season which runs from May to September.

However, the wickets are only suitable from mid-June which means early season match-ups have to be played on matting while, in the winter,

everyone moves to the virtual hibernation of indoor nets as the rest of the nation exercises its passion for ice hockey.

Saturday's match, like their first, will be a day-nighter under the lights of Newlands as Canada, who qualified by finishing in third spot in the ICC Trophy in 2001, look to continue their dream run in what is only their second appearance at a World Cup.

After that, the serious business will begin when they face Sri Lanka, South Africa, New Zealand as well as the West Indies which will be an intriguing clash with so many of the team hailing from the Caribbean.

To add a little more spice to that February 23 match is the fact that Canada are coached by ex-West Indies Test batsman Gus Logie.

Meanwhile, Kenya, who were crushed in their opener by South Africa by ten wickets, desperately need a win to revive their flagging morale as well as any outside chance they have of making it to the next stage.

### LINE-UPS

**KENYA** (from): Steve Tikolo (captain), Maurice Odumbe, Asif Karim, Alpesh Vadher, Ravindu Shah, Hitesh Modi, Brijal Patel, Martin Suji, Tony Suji, Thomas Oduyo, Kennedy Otieno, Joseph Angara, Peter Ongondo, David Obuya, Collins Obuya

**CANADA** (from): Joseph Harris (captain), Ashish Bagai, Ian Billcliff, Desmond Chumney, Austin Codrington, John Davison, Nicholas de Groot, Nicholas Ifil, Davis Joseph, Ishwar Maraj, Ashish Patel, Abdool Samad, Fazil Sattaur, Barry Seebaran, Sanjayan Thuraisingam

**Umpires:** Nadeem Ghauri (Pak) and AVI Jayaprakash (Ind)

**TV umpire:** Kevan Barbour (Zim)

**Referee:** Ranjan Madugalle (Sri)



PHOTO: INTERNET

REMEMBER THE MOMENTS I CREATED! A sombre Jonty Rhodes speaks at a media conference in Johannesburg yesterday after he was ruled out of the World Cup.



CHRIS CAIRNS