



READY TO PUT BANGLADESH IN A SPIN! New Zealand spinner Daniel Vettori bowling during practice at Johannesburg on February 22.

## Time for Kiwi hammering?

AFP, Kimberley

New Zealand resume their World Cup campaign on Wednesday against Bangladesh here after enduring an embarrassing break from action that involved a brawl in a night club.

Eight days after defeating co-hosts South Africa in Johannesburg, Stephen Fleming's men get down to business in a mad scramble to make the Super Sixes from group B.

Kenya's shock win over Sri Lanka earlier on Monday further complicated the race, leaving New Zealand to win both their remaining matches against Bangladesh and Canada to stay in contention.

"This is a very important game," Fleming said.

"The long break has been good for us but we are leaving nothing to chance because we need to improve our run-rate besides putting four more points on the board."

An incident in a Durban nightclub last week left all-rounder Chris Cairns with cuts and bruises to his face on the day the Kiwis were supposed to be playing Kenya in Nairobi but boycotted the game due to security concerns.

Cairns is expected to be fit to play and Fleming insisted his team had got over the incident.

"Whatever happened off the field is behind us and we are focussed for our last two games," he said, adding the win over South Africa was just the morale booster his team needed.

"We're feeling confident and convinced that we can come out of the first round well," said the New Zealand captain, who smashed a match-winning century against

Shaun Pollock's home team.

The Black Caps, who lost to Sri Lanka in their first game but defeated the West Indies, have relatively easier outings against the weakest teams in the group.

They must, however, hope Sri Lanka lose to both West Indies and South Africa to allow them to carry extra points in the Super Sixes.

Bangladesh, meanwhile, are determined to put up a better show after losing three games while the fourth against the West Indies was washed out.

"It has been a disappointing show by our team but I hope the boys pull up their socks and end the tournament on a high note," captain Khaled Mashud said.

"We know we hardly have a chance against New Zealand but we must fight all the way."

LINE-UPS

**FORM GUIDE**

Bangladesh **v** New Zealand

AFP, Kimberley

Form guide for New Zealand and Bangladesh ahead of their World Cup Group B clash here on Wednesday:

<b>New Zealand</b> (won 6 lost 4)	Nairobi Wanderers
Feb 21 2003 v Kenya forfeited	Port Elizabeth Bloemfontein
Feb 16 2003 beat South Africa by 9 wickets	Hamilton Auckland
Feb 12 2003 beat West Indies by 20 runs	Wellington Queenstown
Feb 10, 2003 lost to Sri Lanka by 47 runs	Christchurch Napier
Jan 14, 2003 beat India by 6 wickets	
Jan 11, 2003 lost to India by 1 wicket	
Jan 8, 2003 lost to India by 2 wickets	
Jan 4, 2003 beat India by 7 wickets	
Jan 1, 2003 beat India by 5 wickets	
Dec 29, 2002 beat India by 35 runs	

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PHOTO: AFP

Do you hear the Lion's 500th roar?

## 500 and going

AFP, Paarl

Pakistan's Wasim Akram became the first bowler to take 500 one-day wickets when he bowled the Netherlands' Nick Statham in the World Cup Pool A game at Boland Park here on Tuesday.

Wasim forced Statham to play the ball on to his stumps with a trademark in-swinging delivery.

The left-handed fast bowler reached the landmark in his 354th match and the next best

on the all-time list is his captain Waqar Younis, who has 412 wickets in 259 appearances before Tuesday's game.

The left-arter, playing his fifth and last World Cup, is the only bowler to have taken over 400 wickets in both forms of the game.

Only Sri Lankan Muthiah Muralitharan, India's Anil Kumble and Javagal Srinath have taken 300 or more wickets in limited-over internationals.

West Indian Courtney Walsh

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## Point to ponder

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Kenya's cricket coach Sandeep Patil on Tuesday insisted his team was ready to step into the Test arena after producing their second giant-killing feat in the World Cup.

Kenya, who upset the West Indies in the 1996 edition of cricket's showpiece, stunned Sri Lanka by 53 runs at home in Nairobi on Monday to throw open the race for the Super Sixes.

Patil, a former Indian Test batsman who has coached Kenya for the last five years, said the victory indicated his team was maturing to join the big league as the 11th Test-playing nation.

"I think we are getting there," Patil told AFP ahead of Saturday's game against Bangladesh at the Wanderers here.

"To tell you the truth, if Bangladesh can play Test cricket, there is no reason why we can't."

"I think we are as good as them, if not better. Our time will come,"

Bangladesh, who were granted Test status in 2000, have been clearly out of their depth in the big league and many critics have questioned their elevation.

The tiny South Asian nation has lost 16 of the 17 Tests it has played, 11 of them by an innings. The only escape was at home when rain denied Zimbabwe certain victory.



SANDEEP PATIL

Bangladesh have also lost 27 of their last 29 one-day internationals, bad weather again preventing a clean sweep.

The International Cricket Council (ICC), which is considering Kenya's application for Test status, does not want them to go Bangladesh's way.

"The experience of Bangladesh has shown that we need to be very careful before admitting teams to Test status because it is totally different game," ICC's development manager Andrew Eade told BBC Online.

"When Bangladesh were admitted, all the indicators were there that they would quickly come up to speed."

"But we threw them in there a little bit early and it showed there is a big difference between Test and one-day cricket."

Eade said it could take Kenya up to three years to gain Test status, and Patil was willing to wait

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### Quips & Quotes

AFP, Johannesburg

Who's saying what at the World Cup:

"I am so happy. Now I just want to become the best spinner in Kenya."

Collins Obuya whose five-wicket haul set up Kenya's stunning win over Sri Lanka.

"This was one of the worst matches of my life. We played like amateurs, not the professionals which we are supposed to be."

Sri Lanka skipper Sanath Jayasuriya on his team's 53-run defeat in Nairobi.

"If Bangladesh can play Test cricket, then so can we."

Kenya coach Sandeep Patil insisting that if his team were granted Test match status, then they would fare no worse than the Asians who have lost 16 of their 17 games.

"I back ourselves to win. The batting appears to be

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## Cop and a cricketer

Shane Bond is a unique combination. He is a policeman and a quality fast bowler. But balancing two careers has been a challenge, admits the 27-year-old.

Bond shot to fame during the tri-series in Australia where he claimed an amazing 20 wickets. He impressed everybody with his speed, ability to reverse swing the new ball very late and deliver a deadly yorker.

Not since the departure of the great Sir Richard Hadlee, has any New Zealand bowler managed to revive the dying art. For too long New Zealand has prided itself on its all-round ability.

It is not surprising that the mild-mannered Kiwi quickly joined Australia's Brett Lee and Pakistani Shoaib Akhtar as the next generation fast bowlers.

Bond spoke **DAILY STAR SPORT'S AL-AMIN** after a training session at the De Beers Diamond Oval in Kimberley on Monday.

**Daily Star Sport (DSS):** You started your career at the age of 26. Did it mean that cricket was not your priority when you were a boy?

**Shane Bond (SB):** Actually I wanted to do two things when I grew up, firstly to play for New Zealand and also to be a policeman. When I was around 18 to 24, I was not real quick. I probably bowled at Darryl Tuffey's pace. So, I went to the police course then I played after being a policeman and bowled faster for some reason. That's why I decided to give cricket another go and it clicked.

**DSS:** It is often said that fast bowling can be learned. Did you bowl fast at a tender age or had to learn the art the hard way?

**SB:** I had back problems when I was younger but as I grew older I became stronger and more matured and it helped me bowl quicker.

**DSS:** You had been considered a fast bowling prospect. Why did it take so long to win a New Zealand cap?

**SB:** I was always considered as a fast bowler growing up but once I walked into the fast-class level I did not stand out in those days. Then the selectors picked me because I offered something different for the team. And I think they were always

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## All's not lost for Lankans

AFP, Johannesburg

Former champions Sri Lanka woke up on Tuesday still recovering from a stunning World Cup loss to Kenya, but coach Dav Whatmore insisted all was not yet lost.

Kenya's shock 53-run win at home in Nairobi on Monday halted the unbeaten run by Sanath Jayasuriya's men in the tournament and threw open the race for the Super Sixes.

Five of the seven teams in Pool B South Africa, West Indies, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Kenya have a chance of taking the three available spots into the next round.

The Sri Lankans will have to beat both the West Indies and South Africa in their remaining matches to qualify, a task Whatmore said was difficult but not impossible.

"Let's get back to playing cricket and be patient for the next few days to really assess what effect the bad result against Kenya will have on us," Whatmore said.

"It's quite simple really. We have to go out there and win our remaining two matches."

Whatmore, a former Australian and Lancashire batsman who coached Sri Lanka to the World Cup title in 1996, said he had not lost faith in his team.

"There is no room left to move and we have to refocus on our target," he said. "But I have complete faith in the boys and am sure they can do it."

Until Kenya came along, Sri Lanka were cruising with a 47-run win over New Zealand before mak-

ing quick work of Canada by nine wickets and Bangladesh by ten.

"The big wins in the last two games had not given the middle order any batting and probably the lack of match practice told in the end," said the coach.

Sri Lanka, who restricted Kenya



DAV WHATMORE

to 210-9, were shot out for 157 with five overs to spare.

Little known leg-spinner Collins Obuya exploited the rusty Sri Lankan line-up with figures of 5-24, the ninth best return in World Cup history.

"It was a very encouraging victory for Kenya," Whatmore said. "They were very enthusiastic and deserved to win."

Skipper Jayasuriya said the remaining matches were a test his team had to pass.

"This is going to be a real test of

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## Oh boy! It's all Obuyas

REUTERS, Nairobi

Kenya leg spinner Collins Obuya made a name for himself on Monday.

How long he will stick to that name remains to be seen but on February 24, 2003, in Nairobi, he was unquestionably Collins Obuya and, without doubt, took five for 24 against Sri Lanka to engineer one of the cricket World Cup's greatest shocks.

The 21-year-old Obuya, whose bowling analysis was the ninth best in World Cup history, is one of three brothers in Kenya's World Cup squad.

In their time, all three have played under different names.

The eldest, Kennedy Otieno (Obuya), top-scored with 60 in Kenya's innings of 210 for nine. He

later took two catches off his brother's bowling.

Kennedy, who was first capped in the 1996 World Cup, has always preferred to be known by his second



COLLINS OBUYA

name rather than his family name, as is often the case among Kenyans although there are no hard and fast rules.

David Oluoch Obuya, the third brother and like Kennedy a wicketkeeper-batsman did not play in Monday's game.

When he followed Kennedy into the national side, he decided to be known by his father's name, Obuya.

Collins Obuya, meanwhile, was at one stage known as Collins Omondi, the latter his second name.

The Kenya Cricket Association (KCA), bombarded with questions from scorers and statisticians and journalists about who exactly was who, later intervened by suggesting all should be called Obuya.

Two out of three cannot be bad.

## African treats

AL-AMIN from Kimberley

It seems that Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud has suddenly gone back into a shell having stamped his authority in various team matters throughout the competition.

Sources close to the squad say that the team management has decided to put a lid on the freedom Mashud had enjoyed thus far.

Giving more fuel to the rumour, Mashud is now refusing to talk to the press unless it is an official media briefing.

"You will have to take permission from the manager if you want to speak to me", said Mashud when approached yesterday. The usually jovial wicket keeper even refused to explain the four changes made to the Bangladesh team for the New Zealand game.

"I can't tell you about the changes since I'm not entitled to talk on that issue. I will only speak if the manager tells me to," Mashud said after the official press conference.

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Shane Bond

PHOTO: STAR FILE