Orange disorder plotted



PHOTO: STAR FILE

AFP, Bulawayo

Zimbabwe hope their own trailblazing history doesn't come back to haunt them when they face the Netherlands here on Friday to keep their fading World Cup dream

When they played their first ever World Cup in 1983, they beat the Australians and now, as a Testplaying nation themselves, they are in the position of being moving targets.

After beating Namibia and claiming the four points when England forfeited their scheduled game in Harare, Heath Streak's side have since lost consecutive matches to India and Australia.

If Zimbabwe do lose, it would make the outcome of their final match against Pakistan here next Tuesday academic as far as they are concerned.

Streak knows that the Dutchmen. who have lost their four World Cup matches, will be looking at the example of Kenya for inspiration following the Africans' shock win over Sri Lanka.

"We don't know the meaning of the word 'complacent'," said Streak who gave his team the day off after their defeat against Australia and they responded by getting up at 4.30

in the morning to go fishing.

On Wednesday, their training session was interrupted twice by rain and the unsettled weather over the Matabeleland bush could lead to a no result on Friday which would be just as demoralising as defeat.

Zimbabwe's squad are all fit, except Grant Flower, who is still nursing his spinning finger with four stitches inserted after a fielding

He will probably play, but only as

a batsman and field outside the realm of the specialists where he is usually to be found.

The Dutch, although not expected to rival the victory of the Australians here, have at least imitated the world champions in one respect by delaying their arrival for a

Netherlands skipper Roland Lefebvre is hoping his team can pull

FORM GUIDE Zimbabwe VNetherland

AFP, Bulawayo

Form guide for Zimbabwe v Netherlands ahead their World Cup Pool A match here on Friday:

Zimbabwe (won 4 lost 5 NR 1) Feb 24 2003

Nov 27 2002

lost to Australia by 7 wickets Bulawayo lost to India by 83 runs beat England (match forfeited)Harare beat Namibia by 86 runs Harare Bulawayo beat Kenya by 9 wickets beat Kenya by 47 runs Kwekwe v Kenya NR Harare lost to Pakistan by 70 runs Harare lost to Pakistan by 8 wickets Harare lost to Pakistan by 48 runs Harare

Pak pride at stake

AFP, Islamabad

Andy Flower

Buoyancy and bravado have replaced cricket-mad Pakistanis' dismay at their team's lackluster performance in the World Cup as they look to their first clash with arch-rival India in two and a half

"If Pakistani players are true Muslims they will have to win this match because India is our enemy," said Raja Mehrban, 45, a taxi driver in the capital Islamabad.

The South Asian giants' cricketers have not met since June 2000, when New Delhi banned bilateral cricket matches in protest at Islamabad's alleged support of a 14-

It's beyond cricket for 'em

AFP, Centurion

dow panes and war.

Last-ball sixes, frog-like jumps, fading light, potatoes, broken win-

One-day cricket matches between India and Pakistan have seen it all and Saturday's highvoltage World Cup clash here promises more.

Millions of hearts sank in India when Pakistani batsman Javed Miandad smashed Chetan Sharma's last delivery for the winning six in the Australasia Cup final at Sharjah in 1986.

The nightmare still haunts the Indian paceman, who recently said he was fortunate the fans did not burn or stone houses in those days.

'The players have no problem with each other, but fans do not see it that way," Pakistani veteran Wasim Akram said. "For them only a victory will do.' Clearly, fans in India and

Pakistan have not learnt to accept defeat sportingly despite 85 onedayers between the two since 1978. Players thus can't afford to put a

foot wrong or make a wrong move. Trouble began in the second match itself between the two teams.

Indian captain Bishan Bedi forfeited the game in Sahiwal, Pakistan even though his team needed just 23 to win with eight wickets in hand to protest four

successive bouncers by Sarfraz Nawaz against tiny Gundappa Vishwanath.

Success brings instant fame as Miandad discovered in 1986. Lesser-known Indians Rajesh Chauhan and Hrishikesh Kanitkar also had their brief moments of glory for carving out victories over But the flipside is that players

houses are not safe from the fury of

Pakistani cricketers felt the heat after losing their last two World Cup matches against India. Allegations of match-fixing and reports of Wasim's home in Lahore being stoned soured two excellent games.

This even after Pakistan had gone on to reach the final in 1999 while India were knocked out in the Super Sixes.

When India were forced to bat in fading light in Sharjah and lost, angry cricket board officials immediately branded the desert venue as being pro-Pakistani and refused to play there for two years.

Fading light, however, did not deter India from doing the unexpected at Dhaka in 1998 when they successfully chased the then highest total of 315 to win the

Pigeon has landed!

AFP, Potchefstroom

Glenn McGrath recorded the best ever bowling figures in the history of the World Cup here on Thursday and then said it was all down to his teammates.

The 33-year-old paceman took 7-15 as world champions Australia crushed Namibia by 256 runs in their Group A clash at North West Stadium, the biggest ever winning margin in one-day internationals. "I am very happy," said McGrath

SEE PAGE 15

Van Vuuren into records

AFP, Potchefstroom

Namibia's seam bowler Rudi van Vuuren entered the record books after conceding 92 runs against Australia in the World Cup here on Thursday.

Van Vuuren's 0-92 in 10 overs was the second most expensive figures in World Cup history and the

fourth in all one-day internationals. He also became the only bowler to give away so may runs without taking a wicket.

Van Vuuren's 10th over cost 28 runs, the highest in the World Cup, surpassing the 26 runs conceded by Canada's Barry Seebaran against the West Indies last Sunday.

Most expensive figures in oneday internationals:

M Snedden (Nzl) 12-1-105-2 v England, Oval, 1983 A De Mel (Sri) 10-0-97-1 v West Indies, Karachi, 1987-88 S Jayasuriya (Sri) 10-0-94-3 v Pakistan, Nairobi, 1996-97 R van Vuuren (Nam) 10-0-92-0 v

Australia, Potchefstroom, 2003 Wagar Younis (Pak) 10-0-86-2 v Sri Lanka, Benoni, 1997-98 Kumaran (Ind) 10-0-86-0 v

Pakistan, Dhaka, 1999-2000 Most runs conceded in an over: 30 - Aamir Sohail (Pak) v Sri Lanka

Singapore, 1995-96 30 - C Harris (Nzl) v Sri Lanka, Sharjah, 2000-01 28 - S Jayasuriya (Sri) v Pakistan

Nairobi, 1996-97 28 - C Drum (NzI)v India, Hyderabad, 1999-2000 28 - Enamul Haque (Ban) v Pakistan, Dhaka, 2001-02 28 - R. van Vuuren (Nam) Australia, Potchefstroom, 2003



Kotze reached double figures with

ten while the top score was 15 in the

Andy Bichel took two wickets

Brett Lee chipped in with one while

wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist got in

BIGGEST MARGINS

Australia's 256-run victory over

Namibia in the World Cup here on

Thursday was the highest winning

margin in the history of one-day

245 runs - SL beat Ind, Sharjah,

List of top winning margins:

256 runs: Aus beat Nam,

on the act by taking six catches

AFP, Potchefstroom

internationals:

P'stroom, 2003

2000-01

HIS HIGHNESS! Glenn McGrath appeals for leg before against Gavin Murgatroyd of Namibia at Potchefstroom yesterday.

Namibia numbed

extras column.

AFP, Potchefstroom

Australia's Glenn McGrath claimed the best ever World Cup bowling figures of 7-15 here on Thursday as the world champions crushed Namibia by 256 runs on a day when the cricket record books were re-

McGrath led the way as the Australians dismissed the Namibians for just 45 runs in 14 overs to clinch their 11th successive one-day international triumph and equal the record set by the West Indies in 1985.

Australia had piled up 301-6 off their 50 overs before bowling out Namibia to record the biggest winning margin in one-day international history, bettering Sri Lanka's 245-run win against India in Sharjah three years ago.
Once the 33-year-old McGrath

had got rid of opener Jan Burger with the fourth ball of the innings, the result was never in doubt as his seven-over spell eventually beat the previous best World Cup figures of 7-51 by West Indian Winston Davis. For Namibia, only captain Deon

233 runs - Pak beat BD, Dhaka, 1999-00 232 runs - Aus beat SL. Adelaide

1984-85 224 runs - Aus beat Pak, Nairobi,



PHOTO: STAR FILE



PRAYING FOR THE BEST: England captain Nasser Hussain rues a mis-field against India at Durban on February 26.

Kiwi stars fined

Star all-rounder Chris Cairns and another player, Brendon McCullum, were Thursday fined by administrating authority New Zealand Cricket (NZC) for their behaviour in a Durban nightclub last week.

ne two were among a group of 11 Blacks Caps at the Tiger Tiger nightclub where several, while drunk, pulled off their shirts and did hakas or Maori war dances.

They were asked to leave and outside the club Cairns was punched to the ground and was briefly unconscious

NZC chief executive Martin Snedden said in a statement that team protocols and procedures were inadequate.

"Behaviour exhibited by some of the players at the Tiger Tiger nightwas unacceptable and should not be allowed either by the players or team management to

McCullum had admitted misconduct and had apologised. They had each been fined 500 NZ (250 US) dollars. The other players at the club

were reprimanded "and the players

as a whole have been reminded of

their responsibilities to act professionally off the field Among those reprimanded was captain Stephen Fleming, Most of the squad was present other than

Nathan Astle, Chris Harris, Mathew nclair and Shane Bond. NZC was severely embarrassed here over the incident as it occurred at the same time the Black Caps should have been playing Kenya in

cotted because of security fears. Sports commentators particularly singled out Cairns because he has spent much of the last year on full pay but injured.

Kenya, but which they had boy-



Chris Cairns

PHOTO: STAR FILE

AFP, Durban

Saurav Ganguly

India captain Saurav Ganguly said his side will be going all out for a World Cup victory against archrivals Pakistan at Centurion on Saturday, even though he believed his team were already in the Super

Ganguly's men all but booked their place in the tournament's second phase with an 82-run Pool A win over England here under the Kingsmead floodlights on Wednesday.

"Yes, I think so," replied Ganguly when asked if his team were through to the Super Sixes.

"But we need to go with as many points as possible. The next game is important because we need to carry points through. Under tournament rules, teams

second round. "We need to win the game against Pakistan as that will make it easier for us to qualify for the semifi-

take the points gained against their

Super Six rivals, during the group

phase, through with them into the

nals," added the India skipper who also used the afterglow of victory to turn on pundits who had been severely critical of India following their nine-wicket group defeat by reigning champions Australia on February 15. Ganguly's house in Calcutta was

stoned as the cricket-crazy Indian public turned on their heroes but the left-handed batsman threw a few verbal rocks back at his detractors. "Some of them are very immature. People say what they want. But

millions listen to them and a couple,

I'm not going to name them, are just

India's win against England was spearheaded by paceman Ashish Nehra. The 23-year-old left-arm paceman took six for 23, the thirdbest return in World Cup history.

His career-best analysis, and best of the competition so far, was all the more impressive as Nehra was a major injury doubt for the

SEE PAGE 14

Bring on Pakistan | Mission Impossible

AFP, Durban

England captain Nasser Hussain insisted his side could beat reigning champions Australia in Port Elizabeth on Sunday and keep their World Cup hopes alive. An 82-run defeat by India here

Wednesday under the Kingsmead

lights left England's hopes of mov-

ing out of Pool A and progressing to the Super Sixes hanging by a thread. Australia, unbeaten at the tournament so far have looked every inch World Cup favourites and England have yet to record a oneday victory against them in their last

13 attempts. But Hussain said his side had learned from their gruelling and unsuccessful pre-World Cup tour of Australia. "We came within five runs of beating Australia last time we played them in Melbourne in

Januarv. "We've played Australia a lot, we know their strengths and weaknesses. We know they are the best side in the world but let's just go out

there and try to beat them after that it's down to the mathematicians," said Hussain in a reference to the hardfought qualifying battle which sees several sides still in with a chance of going through to the second phase. However, England's perfor-

lot harder. After losing the toss England had to bat second and chased a total of 251 for victory.

mance in Durban made their task a

But they were undone by Ashish Nehra's brilliant spell of pace bowling, the left-armer's career-best six for 23 the third most successful haul in World Cup history

Hussain paid tribute to Nehra and fellow left-armer Zaheer Khan although he added that winning the toss had been important for Sauray Ganguly just as it had been for him in Saturday's Cape Town daynighter when England, bowling second, thrashed Pakistan by 112

"The two left-armers bowled **SEE PAGE 14**

BEST AND WORST

REUTERS, Johannesburg

The best and the worst from the 2003 Cricket World Cup:

THE BEST BALL

A three-way tie. Zimbabwe's Grant Flower, bowling his left-arm spin wide of the crease, tempted Sachin Tendulkar half forward before the ball turned and clipped the off bail. "I got one to turn for a change." he said. Tendulkar's 81. however, won the Pool A match in Harare for India.

England's James Anderson, exploiting Cape Town's evening conditions, swung a yorker from leg stump to off to bowl Yousuf Youhana first ball. The 20-yearold's previous delivery dismissed Inzamamul Haq. Anderson's four for 29 set up a shock win over

When left-armer Chaminda Vaas had Bangladesh's Ehsanul Hague caught at second slip with a ball angled across the batsman,

unprecedented first hattrick from the first three balls of an international match.

the Sri Lankan completed an

THE BEST INNINGS

Canada's John Davison, an off spinner who bats at nine for South Australia, hit the fastest century (8x4, 6x6) in World Cup history with a 67-baller against West Indies. He completed it with a towering six off Mervyn Dillon. "I had no idea (it was the fastest cup hundred)...it sent a shiver down my spine." he said. Four days earlier, Canada had been bowled out for 36 by Sri Lanka. Stephen Fleming's 134 not out off 132 deliveries was also worthy of mention, helping New Zealand to beat South Africa. "I've waited a long time for an innings like that,"

THE BEST CATCH Vasbert Drakes, to end Davison's

remarkable innings of 111. **SEE PAGE 14**

Win toss, match is yours

AFP, Durban

India's 82-run World Cup Pool A victory against England here under the Kingsmead floodlights on Wednesday prompted many to ask: 'Are day-night matches decided by the spin of a coin?'

Early evidence suggests that pace bowlers in the side fielding second have a huge and seemingly unfair advantage as extra evening moisture in the air aids swing and livens up the pitch resulting in a big change in conditions between

India captain Saurav Ganguly won the toss and chose to bat on Wednesday; his opposite number Nasser Hussain had better luck with the coin at Newlands a ground notorious for favouring teams batting first on Saturday where England thrashed Pakistan by 112

Although day-nighters account

for only 10 of the World Cup's 54 matches they include some key fixtures including two Super Six encounters and a floodlit semi-fina at Kingsmead on March 20.

"There is no doubt that under lights the pace bowlers have an edge," Ganguly said.

"In day-night games the toss is

Against Pakistan, England paceman James Anderson wreaked havoc with four for 29; against England, India left-arm quick Ashish Nehra topped that display with six for 23, the third best return in World Cup history.

England captain Nasser Hussain, while paying tribute to Nehra's performance said: "Conditions did alter, the ball did start to zip off. That's not an excuse. We were lucky at Cape Town and unlucky

today. "But it's how you use the condit