Woolmer for

day matches

Former South Africa coach Bob Woolmer has joined the debate about World Cup day-night

matches, saying cricket's chiefs should review whether to continue

"It would seem, judging by the few games that have been played

under lights, that the bias is too

much weighted towards the side

batting first, at least at the SA (South African) venues," he wrote

in Friday's Business Day newspa-

"The subject of day-night cricket during a World Cup will now have to be put firmly on the

agenda for the next International

Cricket Council (ICC) playing

On Thursday, Pakistan captain

Waqar Younis urged World Cup organisers to re-think plans of

staging the second semifinal in

Durban on March 20 as a day-night

match, arguing that evening conditions helped bowlers swing and seam the ball.

He said teams winning the toss

would always bat first to get the

best of the conditions, adding: "I

would say any team which wins the

toss has won the match 75 percent

(of the time) and that is grossly

Ali Bacher, however, said the statis-

tics did not bear out that opinion

could affect whether the ball

can work against sides bowling second by making it hard to grip the ball.

At some grounds, evening dew

and added that wind changes

World Cup executive director

REUTERS, Johannesburg

staging them.

affairs committee.

SPÖRT

English League Cup Dream final on the cards



AFP, Cardiff

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier is tipping star striker Michael Owen to give Manchester United a history lesson here on

Owen's late double at the Millennium Stadium sank Arsenal in the 2001 FA Cup final and Houllier believes the England forward can repeat his matchwinning performance against United in the League (Worthington) Cup final.

Owen's clinical finish laid the foundations for Liverpool's 2-0 UEFA Cup win over Auxerre and, more importantly, was the first time he had scored in consecutive matches in four months.

For Houllier, that was simply a taste of things to come. "He's a biggame player," said the Liverpool manager. "I have no doubt about that and I know he never disappoints me in finals.

Owen put his league drought behind him by taking his season's tally to 18 goals against Auxerre, and Houllier could not have been

"I know also that the older he gets the better he gets," the Liverpool manager said. "He's only 23 and already a great finisher - but look at Alan Shearer and the way he's playing now at his age.

"He has got better, he's more mature and composed, but Michael is already a tremendous finisher, that's all I can say about

United will delay a decision on their starting line-up until the last minute to give Ryan Giggs every chance to prove he is fit for an emotional appearance in his home-town on the 12th anniversary of his Manchester United want to play in Cardiff but he is very doubtful." Giggs himself admitted he faced

a struggle to be fit.

"I had a similar kind of injury with Wales which settled down quite quickly afterwards. Hopefully this one will too but I am



RYAN GIGGS

debut.

Giggs has been the subject of some hostile criticism from the club's fans this season but his brace the 3-0 win over Juventus in midweek was a timely reminder of the Welsh winger's match winning

MICHAEL OWEN

Giggs played for only 40 minutes in Turin having been doubtful for the match with a thigh strain.

"His two goals put us in the driving seat against Juventus,' United boss Alex Ferguson acknowledged. "The trouble is that a thigh problem is not an easy one. But we'll give him a chance. He'll running out of days.

"I really want to play because it is my home city and all my family are going to be there. It is a great stadium in a great setting."

United are expected to be with-out Wes Brown (hamstring) but Paul Scholes, who missed last weekend's draw with Bolton and the Juventus match with a groin injury, has a good chance of being available for selection.

Liverpool are sweating on the availability of Swiss defender Stephane Henchoz and England striker Emile Heskey.

Sunday: Arsenal v Charlton (1500 GMT)

Lightning Lee

The turning point for Lee came as recently as the start of the 2002-03 domestic season when he was dropped from the side that played England in the first two Tests of the Ashes series.

Instead he went and played state cricket, took a bucketful of wickets and has never looked back

"It is amazing what a couple of wickets can do," Lee reflected.
"After I was dropped I went back to play for New South Wales, had two really good games and that boosted my confidence right up.

"My body felt fine and once my



Cricket World Cup 2003 **Preliminary Round** Australia vs England Live at 1:45 pm

ESPN

Taking Guard Day 22 WC Cricket Talk Show Live at 1:00 pm **English Premier Football League** Arsenal vs Charlton Athletic Live at 5:55 pm Follow Through Day 22 WC Cricket Programme Live at 10:00 pm

> **STAR Sports** Taking Guard Day 22 WC Cricket Talk Show Live at 1:00 pm Follow Through Day 21 WC Cricket Programme Live at 10:00 pm Primera Liga Betis vs Sevilla Live at 1:30 am (Monday)



The Baily Star Win attractive prizes Competition closes at 8 pm March 7, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the Shahjalal Bank International Rating

Lovlu

2. New Zealand beat South Africa in a World Cup Group B match

3. How m_lany rups did Bangladesh score against

South Africa in the World Cup Group B match? 108

4. Bangladesh lost to Canada in the World Cup Group B match

Class..... Roll No..... School Address

confidence was up, well, that is the combination that every fast bowler

combination after the last time In the second final of the triseries in Australia in late January, Lee was given the new ball in the absence of Jason Gillespie and

England know all about that

Glenn McGrath and responded with an awesome performance that won the match for Australia. Lee removed openers Nick Knight and Marcus Trescothick and then, with England apparently closing on victory, he returned at the death to dismiss Andrew

Flintoff, Ian Blackwell and Andrew Caddick to seal an amazing win for the home side. "I had always wanted to win a game for Australia, to be the man right at the end who would pick up

a couple of wickets," he said. "I felt it was a pretty good chance for me to step up and I was lucky that Ricky Ponting put his faith in me by giving me the ball.

From there it was a case of me trying to back that faith up.

"That is the best game of cricket I have played for Australia, it is something I treasure and I will The question now is whether Lee will get the new ball alongside

Glenn McGrath on Sunday, as Jason Gillespie is expected to shake off a sore right Achilles to play. Even when all three were in the same side, against India at Centurion two weeks ago, Lee got

the new ball and justified it by removing both openers. Now, with his confidence run

ng high, he wants it again. "Since I have played for Australia I have had to get used to being first change and that has been a new role for me.

"I worked out that role but all through my club and first-class career I opened the bowling and if I am lucky enough to get the brand new ball I'll grab it with both

Proteas picking up

really let themselves down against the Canadians was in their fielding as five catches were spilled.

The performance prompted further speculation over how much the South Africans were missing fielding ace and team talisman Jonty Rhodes, who was axed from the squad less than a week into the tournament after breaking a bone in his hand during the victory over

Simons admitted that South Africa were keen to tidy up their fielding.

"We had a long meeting and one of the challenges we set ourselves was to pick up in the fielding department. It wasn't so much the dropped catches the guys feel more that there wasn't that 'spark'.

"Everyone has to pick up in that department so that we can pick up in the batting and bowling departments as well," Simons said.

The South African coach also singled out Sri Lankan left-arm seamer Chaminda Vaas as a key threat to his side's hopes. The hosts have flown in Western Province left-arm seamer Charl Willoughby as a net bowler over the weekend in a bid to prepare themselves for challenge Vaas will pose.

Vaas is in tremendous form, taking a hat-trick with the first three balls of the match against Bangladesh and is the tournament's top wicket-taker.

"He (Vaas) is a key factor. He's done exceptionally well in the

"We haven't faced someone who swings the ball like he does so it's good to get someone like Charl to come in and prepare us. (Muttiah) Muralitharan is obviously a threat as well but we want to prepare ourselves as well as possible," Simons said.

Unrepentant Hooper

FROM PAGE 16

on a ground where sides batting first have now won 15 out of 19 day-night internationals.

"I don't think batting in the evening was a factor, we just batted poorly today," Hooper

"I thought we should have got 228 but we didn't come through. We lost wickets at valuable times and no-one did we needed someone to stick around which didn't happen.'

Nor did he blame bad luck for the loss of two points in a rainedout game against Bangladesh at Benoni which could prove the tantalising difference between qualifying and going home after

Hooper said his team only had themselves to blame for their almost certain exit.

"At the beginning of the day it was in our hands to do it," he said. "But we've lost it. That's it, I

think we're out. It was close in the end but a miss is as near as a mile. However, cricket's a funny game and results could go our way.

"We're very disappointing but you can't really put these sort of things into words. I honestly thought we'd do much better than this," he said.

"To be knocked out in this manner is hard but cricket's about life and you just have to

Only if two of South Africa, New Zealand and Kenya slip up between Saturday and Monday can West Indies get back into the reckoning when they play their final match against Kenya in Kimberley Tuesday.

Hooper made light of the injury suffered by batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan, who was felled by a short-pitched ball from Dilhara Fernando when he had

He was taken off on a stretcher, had treatment and X-rays at a nearby hospital and returned to take West Indies close to victory with an unbeaten 46. "I've seen some injuries over the past 13 or 14 years. Once he was up and saying he was fine, it was a case of 'let's get on with it'."

Premiership preview **Gunners look** to cash in

AFP, London

With Manchester United preoccupied by the small matter of a League Cup final against Liverpool, Arsenal can take a huge step towards retaining their Premiership title this weekend.

After a disappointing display in their Champions League goalless draw against Ajax in midweek, Arsene Wenger's side will be keen to get back to winning ways against Charlton at Highbury on Sunday.

Victory would extend Arsenal's

lead over United to eight points

with nine games to play but the Gunners will have to make do without two of Wenger's automatic Skipper Patrick Vieira is suspended while England left-back Ashley Cole is beginning at least three weeks of recuperation after

an unexpected hernia operation on Cameroon defender Lauren is also suspended but the Gunners could welcome back Freddie Ljungberg to the fold for the first

The Swede, inspirational in the title run-in last season, has been dogged by a combination of illness and injuries, including an Achilles

But after a reserves outing in midweek, he now seems ready for a return to the team. "I'm a bit fed up hopefully it will work out this

Behind the top two, competition for a place in the top four and the associated spot in next season's Champions League is becoming increasingly cut-throat.

Keane planning early goodbye

Manchester United's toughtackling midfielder Roy Keane has given a big hint he may retire sooner than expected because of his serious injury problems, the Sun reported on Saturday.

The 31-year-old has already quit the international scene with the Republic of Ireland in an attempt to extend his playing career with United. However Keane fears the hip

and knee troubles which have dogged him in recent years could still force him to end his career sooner rather than later. Ahead of Sunday's League Cup

final against Liverpool, Keane said: "I haven't got a clue how much have had it could well be before the three years I have left on my con-"Seriously, all I can do physically is look at the next match because injuries take their toll in

the end. They catch up with you. I

just feel good that I am in this final

because I could be looking to leave football sooner rather than later. "I'm 31 now and people say I could play into my mid-thirties but that's nonsense talk. I think it is sooner rather than later that I will be looking to leave it. I think it will be very, very unrealistic that I will be playing in my mid-thirties."

Harper to quit

had resigned as coach at English County side Leicestershire after 10

The three-year contract of manager Ricky Skerritt also comes to an end at the conclusion of the World Cup, but unlike Harper, he applied for the job and is on the

AFRICAN TREATS FROM PAGE 16

ended up with just one.

It all started in the second over when Akram floored Kenyan opener Ravindu Shah at first slip off Baisya. The right-hander, who was

batting on one, went on to score 37. Mahmud haplessly watched dangerman Steve Tikolo being dropped off successive deliveries in the 24th over first by Sanwar at mid-wicket and then Mashud. The Kenyan captain was on 4 at the time. He scored 26.

Mashud also dropped Hitesh Modi when the left-hander was on

Streak starts FROM PAGE 16

said Lefebvre whose team has now lost all five of their World Cup He was concerned about several

niggling injuries ahead of their final match against Namibia in Bloemfontein on Monday. "But we have the benefit of knowing we played well under the

circumstances here," he said after

his team were forced to chase 301. "To try and get 300 runs was very difficult. But we did our best and I'm happy we did quite well. We have had a good World Cup and enjoyed ourselves.'

A long lean English streak

ICC Cricket World Cup at times, humiliation against the world champions of the one-day game.

REUTERS, Port Elizabeth

No England team has triumphed over Australia since January 17, 1999, a barren run of 1,506 days, 215 weeks and 13 weeks, and now they must try and beat a side coming off a record-breaking 256-run triumph over Namibia in a World Cup Pool A match at St George's Park on Sunday.

England's last triumph happened when emerging fast bowler James Anderson had not long completed his school exams and Australia's one-day all-rounder Shane Lee was the best known cricketer in his family.

Nasser Hussain had not begun his spell as England captain and Fat Boy Slim was number one in the British popular music charts when a Graeme Hick hundred brought England victory under the lights at the Sydney Cricket

Australia on Sunday and, since that January day in 1999, 48 different players have pulled on the royal blue shirt of England. England's 67-run victory in Melbourne was their second win in three matches against Australia

ICC Cricket World Cup
South Africa 2003

World champions Australia will

confirm their place as one of the greatest sides of all time on Sunday if they beat England to record a

12th successive one-day interna-

Victory in their final World Cup group game in Port Elizabeth will take them past the 11 wins in a row

achieved by Clive Lloyd's West

Indies team who set the standard from June 1984 to February 1985.

However, the world champions

insist that the record is not on their

minds, they are just concentrating

on beating the old enemy for the

"Record-breaking is the sign of

good team," said skipper Řicky

"It shows we have some brilliant individuals and it's nice to

have created records but it's not all

between the two teams, Ponting's

reputation as a skipper is in its infancy while West Indian Lloyd

won two world titles in 1975 and

1979 and even hit a match-winning

smashed 17 one-day tons which remained a record until it was

Clijsters cruises

Belgium's Kim Clijsters withstood

the test of playing two matches

here Friday, advancing to the semi-finals of the 585,000-dollar

WTA State Farm Classic without

Zimbabwe's Cara Black 6-2, 6-3 in

a match halted by rain Thursday and finished Friday morning, then

disptahced American Laura

Granville 6-3, 6-3 in an afternoon

Clijsters, the only seed remaining in the event, faces a Saturday

match-up with American Meghann Shaughnessy for a berth in Sunday's final. Shaughnessy downed Italy's Francesca

Japan's Ai Sugiyama and

American Alexandra Stevenson

eliminated the only other seeds to book a date in the other semi-final.

Second seed Clijsters ousted

surpassed by Sachin Tendulkar.

The West Indies boasted a solid opening pair in Desmond Haynes and Gordon Greenidge Haynes

century in the first final at Lord's.

When it comes to comparisons

AFP, Johannesburg

13th time in a row.

we think about.

AFP, Scottsdale

dropping a set.

quarter-final.

Schiavone 6-2, 6-1.

Only four members of Alec

Stewart's side from that match

have a chance of playing against

but, since then, the team have suffered a barren run of defeat and,

England went into that 1999 match having just been exposed to the pace of Brett Lee, who opened the bowling for the Bradman XI two weeks earlier to give the batsmen an early glimpse of the man who would be their chief destroyer on their next Ashes tour.

The closest England have come to victory since then was their fiverun defeat in Melbourne during their second final of the triangular series in January. But an inspired and hostile last

spell from Lee applied the finishing touch to England's reply just as an elusive win was beckoning. Earlier that month, England also came close in Hobart but, once

again, fell short when it seemed victory was in sight. "We have got one game left and we came within five runs of beating

Australia last time," said Hussain. "But whoever wins this World Cup is going to have to beat them (Australia) so Sunday is a good enough time to do it. We have played against them a lot recently so we know their strengths and

So far in this tournament, Australia have dominated every match they have played, with no side coming as close to beating them as England managed to do in

Aussies history bound

Into the middle order was future

boasted a one-day strike rate of

captain Richie Richardson. When

he was out, there was no respite as next in was Viv Richards who

Gus Logie often appeared next

Where the West Indies had Jeff

although his figures never did him justice as his solitary one-day

Dujon behind the stumps, the Australians boast Adam Gilchrist,

who held six catches against

Namibia in Potcheftsroom on

"The record hasn't come up at all here. Maybe it's because it has

been over two series and there have

peen a whole lot of issues in

it is certainly not a focus for the

In the bowling stakes, the West Indies relied on Roger Harper as a spinner while Brad Hogg is seizing his chance filling in for the banned

For pacemen, the Caribbean kings could call on Malcolm

"The record would be nice, but

between," said the vice-captain.

century illustrates.

That fact should give England

to avert a second successive firstround exit at the World Cup.

Coach Duncan Fletcher has challenged his England team to shake off their long losing run and demonstrate their improving abilities in the crunch clash.

Zimbabwe increased the pressure on England when beating Holland by 99 runs in Bulawayo. They are now level with

Hussain's side on 12 points in Pool But despite their damaging 82-run defeat against India in Durban on Wednesday, Fletcher believes

his side are progressing nicely in

the tournament and could become

a force if they can triumph in Port

"I think we have to watch how

they play," said Fletcher. "You can only improve your own game if you play against better players and we got better and better in Australia and showed that

the players are prepared to learn. "We have got to make sure, though, that we become the masters instead of the students and this

is a chance to change that. "We had a chat after we arrived in Port Elizabeth from the airport on Thursday and went straight to the team room before unpacking and I said to the guys this is the time and we have to prove we can compete and beat Australia this is an ideal opportunity to do that.

Marshall, Michael Holding and Joel

Garner while Australians Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and Brett

Lee all strike fear into 21st-century

McGrath clinched a personal record against the hapless Namibians with the best ever

World Cup bowling figures of 7-15,

ironically bettering the 7-51 of West Indies' Winston Davis against

The 2003 Australians are not

Interestingly, Richards, part of

"They are highly professional

"Everyone we played at that

"When great teams come along,

time went and did their homework

they're going to leave a mark for

everybody's favourites here, being

roundly condemned as arrogant in

that great West Indies team of 20

and you've got to have the same

mental toughness," said Richards.

years ago, is having none of it.

and came up with strategies.

some quarters.

Australia in the 1983 tournament.

Arthurs in semis

AFP, Copenhagen

Australia's Wayne Arthurs maintained his fine recent form with a come-from-behind win over Swedish veteran Magnus Norman in the quarter-finals of the Copenhagen ATP tournament Friday.

Arthurs, the number two seed and ranked 87th in the world, was playing Norman for the first time and he was edged out 9-7 in the first

set tie-break. But growing in confidence behind his trademark service game, the Davis cupper got back on level terms and then clinched a semi-

final berth 6-4 in the deciding set. "I let myself down in the tiebreak, being 6-2 up," said Arthurs. I didn't serve as well as yesterday, my rhythm wasn't quite there. I was a little bit frustrated in the beginning

He next plays he dangerous Slovak Karol Kucera, the number three seed who confirmed his return to form after a series of injuries with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Michel Kratochvil of Switzerland.



Winners of the annual indoor sports and cultural competition of Willes Little Flower Higher Secondary School are seen with the guests and teachers during the prize-giving ceremony at the school premises yesterday.

16 Drunkard beginning 24 Calculator

CRYPTOQUIP

JΧ EHL ZYSU SYHIKQYK

ZRJ IEGK

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals L

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Jayasuriya knew

FROM PAGE 16

before slipping up against Canada. Defeat by West Indies would have left Sri Lanka needing to beat South Africa in their final group game to make the next stage but they will now probably make it even if they lose to the hosts.

"That is a good situation for us now but we need to beat South Africa as well because it will help us in the Super Sixes," Jayasuriya said.

NZ hit by

FROM PAGE 16 thumb during fielding practice and

was taken to a hand specialist who has reduced the dislocation," said New Zealand Cricket medical coordinator Warren Frost. "He should make a full recovery

strained his hamstring while diving full stretch to field a ball. "We will be able to give a clearer diagnosis as to how severe the strain is in the next 24-36 hours."

in five to ten days, while Kyle

New Zealand need to bear Canada on Monday to maintain their hopes of reaching the Super

1 Sacrocancele 33 A wholo 52 Tidy sanct 53 Coaster story? 35 Saga 9 Chic, to DOWN **36** Cow Austin

32 Aye

palace?

37 Suppli-

38 Mayberry

barber

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

Powers

12 Rose's

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State

e.g.

star

24 Socces

25 Litmus

30 Pac.

31 Em-

legend

reddene

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counter

ployee's Christmas

part

19 "An

14 "— been 40 A wood-**15** Emotional 42 Meadow 43 "Alfie" burden 17 Matlock's field 18 Haiku.

device 49 Jason's American in Paris" 21 Playartist David

Solution time: 25 mins.

fiber 6 Tiny actress particle Martin 7 Ashen 48 Listening 8 Israeli money 9 There've been two in A.D.

10 Racetrack

39 Guide 40 Gymnast 41 Rorschach picture 44 Dander 45 Right

37 Luau bowlful

By Eugene Sheffer

11 Moist in

20 Actor

21 Sir's

22 Plav

mate

23 Material

for book

covers

26 It rises

27 Hostel

28 Simple

loaves

denizen

31 Alcatraz

35 Destroys

the morr

Wallach

51 Build a

1 Upstager

2 Kyoto

sash

3 Abner's

adjective

4 Cried like

a puppy

angle

46 Born

47 Danson

JXXYMKQF ARK Yesterday's Cryptoquip: 1 DON'T LIKE HUGE MAMMALS FOUND IN AFRICAN LAKES, I GUESS LW HILLO-CRITICAL