

# Saurav not so happy

INTERNET, Cape Town

Saurav Ganguly drew positives and negatives from his team's six-wicket victory over Kenya on Friday.

The India captain was delighted to have made his 21st one-day century - an unbeaten 107 - under the lights of Newlands in Cape Town.

And he also praised a 'blinder' of an innings from Yuvraj Singh, who added a quickfire 58 to chase down Kenya's 225-6.

"He is a match winner day in, day out and he has won games from nowhere, I am very happy for him," reflected Ganguly, following their 118-run unbroken stand for the fifth

wicket.

"When he bats he takes the pressure off you, he takes singles and keeps on hitting boundaries.

"He made my job easier and I knew if I could hang around until the end then we would win the game.

"We had to keep the required run rate at six because once it goes to seven it is difficult."

But Ganguly was critical of India's efforts in the field, where they dropped four catches and were guilty of sloppy errors.

"We didn't do a good job in the field but that happens," he said, admitting that his side will have to get

their 'intensity' back if they are to progress.

"We were lucky and we will have to pick up our intensity level from now on because we have two tough games ahead against Sri Lanka and New Zealand."

Ganguly said that the three early wickets of Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Mohammed Kaif had piled on the pressure.

"We were in a bit of trouble with three wickets down.

"But I thought that Yuvraj Singh played a blinder to keep the run-rate going."

Ganguly's 120-ball knock, which

included 11 fours and two sixes, guided his side away from a potential banana skin at 24 for three.

"Kenya are not the strongest of sides but this is the World Cup," he said.

"From that point of view it felt very good to score a hundred."

Ganguly admitted some concern that the ball swung once again under lights on the very day that India's appeal to get the second semi-final in Durban, on March 20, reverted to a day game was turned down.

"It did swing around a bit and it was easier to bat on first," he conceded.

## Murphy loss for Zim

AFP, Bloemfontein

Zimbabwe's World Cup injury jinx struck again on Saturday when leg-spinner Brian Murphy tore a calf muscle - while bowling in the nets.

Murphy picked up his injury in the innings break of his team's Super Six match against New Zealand at Goodyear Park and was unable to take the field, his place taken first by Henry Olonga and then Travis Friend.

It was the second time in 24 hours that their plans had been hit by a freak accident. On Friday, batsman Mark Vermeulen suffered a hairline fracture of the skull when he was felled by a Friend delivery in the nets.

## Symonds passed fit

INTERNET, Centurion

All-rounder Andrew Symonds, the man who smashed an incredible undefeated 143 against Pakistan in the Baggy Green's opening game of the World Cup, remains part of Australia's plans after scans on his injured groin cleared him of major damage.

The Queenslander was forced out of Australia's crushing 96-run win over Sri Lanka at Centurion on Friday by the groin strain, with his place taken by Victorian all-rounder Ian Harvey.

But scans on the morning of the game gave Symonds the all-clear to remain in South Africa, and while he will continue to undergo intensive treatment with team Physiotherapist Errol Alcott, he is unlikely to return for Tuesday's Super Six clash against New Zealand.

Symonds was the last man chosen for Australia's 15-man World Cup squad, and only played in the opening match against Pakistan because of injury to Michael Bevan and Darren Lehmann's suspension.

But Symonds grabbed his chance with both hands to help guide Australia past 300 on the way to a handsome win, and in his only other stint at the crease since then, has also notched a half-century.



PHOTO: AFP

FAST AND FURIOUS: Australia's Brett Lee celebrates dismissing Sri Lanka's Russell Arnold at Centurion on Friday.

# Bodyline Brett

AFP, Johannesburg

When Brett Lee sent Sanath Jayasuriya to hospital on Friday, he opened up another front in Australia's relentless World Cup campaign.

The message was clear - target the skipper and the rest will follow.

Chasing 320 to win, Jayasuriya retired hurt after being hit on the forearm with a 150kmh special and before they had time to recover, they were shaking at 48-4 on their way to a 96-run defeat.

X-rays did not reveal a fracture but a chipped bone in the thumb kept Jayasuriya out of the rest of the

game and possibly the rest of the tournament.

Jayasuriya said that besides the bruised forearm, he also had a fracture in his left thumb which was caused by another hit a few balls earlier.

"It's quite badly bruised and there is a fracture as well," the Sri Lankan captain said.

Lee is used to the role as a strike weapon.

As recently as October, Pakistan's Abdul Razzaq suffered a fractured wrist and was out for six weeks after coming off worst against him in a Test match in

Sharjah.

Now, next in the firing line will be Stephen Fleming, the skipper of New Zealand who face the world champions at Port Elizabeth on Tuesday.

"We need to put pressure on Stephen Fleming. He made a sensational century against South Africa," said Ponting.

"Fleming is playing well at the top of the order. Ne Zealand have played some good cricket and we have a rivalry with them."

SEE PAGE 14

## Pak soup-up imminent

AFP, Johannesburg

Pakistan's chief selector Wasim Bari on Saturday threatened to overhaul the national team after they were knocked out in the first round of the World Cup.

"A rebuilding process is imminent and some new players are bound to be introduced after what happened in South Africa," Bari told AFP by telephone from Karachi.

"New players will unfortunately take more time to mature so it could be a mix of new and a few senior players."

With coach Richard Pybus already deciding to quit, captain Waqar Younis also appears to be on his way out with sources suggesting that pace legend Wasim Akram was once again eyeing the job despite having had three spells in charge of the team.

Since 1998, Pakistan has appointed 10 different coaches for the national team, six captains and as many managers.

That should not come as a surprise since the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) itself was headed by four different people between 1998 and 1999 when Tauqir Zia took over.

Former captain Imran Khan, who led Pakistan's World Cup triumph in 1992, warned the worst was not over yet.

"We will go down further if we don't change the domestic system and don't find early replacements for the seniors," Imran said from Islamabad.

"I would suggest that Wasim should stay on for another year and we should have a home grown coach," suggested Imran.

Newspaper reports in Pakistan speculated that the Zia, the PCB chairman, too will be replaced by another serving army general, Muneer Hafeez, and that former star Javed Miandad will return as coach.

Other reports said that wicketkeeper Moin Khan, who was sacked as captain in 2001, will be given back the job.

"We need to be consistent," said former captain Intikhab Alam. "You can't build a house if you keep replacing the bricks."

# Respect us

INTERNET, Cape Town

Kenyan skipper Steve Tikolo however believed his side's battling performance proved they deserved their place in the Super Six.

Tikolo was been hurt by comments in some quarters suggesting that Kenya had been lucky to advance to the latter stages of the World Cup.

"Obviously the performance is there for them to see," he said.

Kenya's surprise progress has been aided partly by the four points they gained when New Zealand refused to play their group match in Nairobi due to security concerns.

However, they also caused the upset of the World Cup so far by defeating Sri Lanka.

"The critics have been talking about us getting the four points from New Zealand. But they are

forgetting that we had to win three games to get to the Super Sixes," Tikolo said.

"So you know it is painful to hear those kind of remarks.

But again we are trying and hopefully we will shut our critics up."

Tikolo admitted the team had sensed victory after the Indians were 11 for two.

"We know what type of batsmen Sachin and Sehwag are. When we got them out we believed we had a chance to win, if we were to get another quick wicket," he said.

Tikolo said the Kenyan cricket association has been clamouring to play more games against established sides for the last three or four years, but its pleased to have met with lukewarm response from the ICC.

"It's up to the ICC to recognise that Kenya needs to play more

cricket," Tikolo said.

"On the Test issue, the performance is there for them to see. I believe we again proved ourselves so it is up to the ICC."

Tikolo said: "We don't want to compare ourselves to Bangladesh. But having said that, we have a better side and we hope ICC will look into that."

The possibility remains that India and Kenya could meet again in the semi-finals for that match at Kingsmead.

Tikolo added that he hoped Kenya's display at the World Cup would increase the popularity of the game in his country.

"We need to spread the game all over the country and get more players coming and taking it to the schools. I am hoping our performance in the World Cup will open doors," he said.



PHOTO: AFP

AIR SUJI : Kenyan Tony Suji throws the ball at the stumps against India at Cape Town on Friday.



PHOTO: STAR FILE

Vivian Richards

# Australia the team to beat

INTERNET, Johannesburg

Vivian Richards has stopped ringing the fate of the West Indians as they make preparations to fly back to the Caribbean isles over this weekend.

As chairman of the selection committee for the West Indies Cricket Board, Richards is looking forward to going back and planning for the series against Australia.

"They are the team to beat. Good luck to anyone up against them because they are the champions and they have played like champions throughout the World Cup," he said.

The West Indians beat South Africa in a nail-biting finish in the Cup opener but lost narrowly to New Zealand and Sri Lanka and were forced to share points with Bangladesh when the match was

rained off.

They played their last match against Kenya on Monday at Kimberley and beat the African nation convincingly. However, Kenya had already qualified for the Super Sixes and the West Indies were already ruled out of the second phase.

"Well, what can you say?" he says as he shrugs his shoulders. "These things happen all the time."

The chairman of the selection committee is planning to visit Sun City before he heads back to hometown Antigua and gets back to the drawing board.

He reiterated Australia's chances, stating, "Anything can happen in the one-day game and that's the only thing that the other teams can hope for while playing against Australia."

# India buck the trend

INTERNET, Johannesburg

India's successful chase against Kenya at Newlands bucked the trend of day-night matches in this World Cup.

The six-wicket win, achieved after initial struggles against the swinging ball under the lights, was only the second time in eight day-night matches the side batting second has won.

Saurav Ganguly's unbeaten hundred, his 21st in one-day internationals, and an undefeated half-century from Yuvraj Singh averted an embarrassing defeat for the Indians and prevented Kenya immediately confirming a place in the semi-finals.

Concerns have been expressed about the change in conditions when the sun goes down and artificial light is employed.

Five times the side batting first have won, with Sri Lanka's contest against South Africa in Durban on

Monday finishing in a tie.

Such have been the reservations about floodlit matches in South Africa, in fact, that the Indian board appealed to the World Cup organisers before Friday's match to switch the second semi-final to a day match.

There are fears that as things stand the toss of a coin could decide the last-four match at Kingsmead on March 20.

But tournament director Dr Ali Bacher rejected the request after talking the matter over with his fellow committee members.

In response to the Indian cricket board president Jagmohan Dalmiya's letter, the committee found: "There is no justification from a results point of view for changing the nature of the fixture."

"There is parity in terms of results between sides batting first and those batting second (at Kingsmead).

"As a matter of record, there have been 16 day-night one-day internationals played at Durban since South Africa's readmission to world cricket in 1991-1992."

"Of these, seven have been won by the side batting first and seven won by the team batting second."

"There has been one wash-out and the tied match between South Africa and Sri Lanka earlier this week. Cricket World Cup 2003 believe that this could not represent a fairer equation in terms of results."

Bacher cited the fact the fixture list was compiled in October 2001 and that no team expressed claims for re-scheduling before the Indian cricket board's correspondence.

He also suggested that day-nighters are the most popular

SEE PAGE 14

## England in no rush

INTERNET, London

It is expected to be at least a month before Nasser Hussain's successor as England one-day captain is revealed.

Hussain, 35 later this month, resigned from his leadership of the one-day side following World Cup elimination but he is likely to retain the Test captaincy.

However, the process of deciding upon the new man by the England and Wales Cricket Board will not be started in the near future.

The International Teams Management Board, chaired by Dennis Amiss and including coach Duncan Fletcher, chairman of selectors David Graveney and Geoff Miller will make their decision before informing ECB chairman David Morgan.

That is not likely to happen for

SEE PAGE 14