



PRACTICING SWIMMING STROKES? The Kenyan cricket team stretching at Bloemfontein yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

## Kenya on a mission



HEAD TO HEAD

Zimbabwe v Kenya

AFP, Bloemfontein

Recent head-to-head record of matches between Zimbabwe and Kenya ahead of their World Cup Super Six match at Goodyear Park here on Wednesday.

Dec 15 2002	Zimbabwe won by 9 wickets	Bulawayo
Dec 11 2002	Zimbabwe won by 47 runs	Kwekwe
Dec 8 2002	No Result	Harare
Sept 25 1999	Zimbabwe won by 3 wickets	Nairobi
May 15 1999	Zimbabwe won by 5 wickets	Taunton
Mar 27 1999	Zimbabwe won by 202 runs	Dhaka
Mar 23 1999	Zimbabwe won by 64 runs	Dhaka
Mar 19 1999	Zimbabwe won by 133 runs	Dhaka
Oct 19 1997	Zimbabwe won by 82 runs	Nairobi
Oct 18 1997	Zimbabwe won by 83 runs	Nairobi

AFP, Bloemfontein

Kenya coach Sandeep Patil blasted his team's critics on Monday and insisted his unheralded side will prove they are worth their place in the World Cup Super Sixes.

Kenya face Zimbabwe here on Wednesday knowing that a win will virtually assure them of a semifinal spot and that would deliver a hammer blow to those who believe their presence in the second phase has made a mockery of the tournament.

"A lot of people seem unhappy that we're still involved," said Patil in a reference to the way Kenya were gifted four points when New Zealand forfeited their February 21 match in Nairobi.

"It's not just down to luck.

We've played some good cricket. By reaching the Super Six, which was one of our goals, we've taken half a step forward. But another win would be one more half step and the icing on the cake.

"Every game is a big game for us," said Patil, a member of India's 1983 World Cup winning team.

He added that for Kenya just reaching this stage was a triumph in itself.

"Going into this tournament we'd played just 18 one-day internationals in four years."

Kenya have never beaten Zimbabwe in 14 one-day internationals, their fellow Africans winning 12 with two no-results. But Patil is not too concerned, having

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## Asghar's removal demanded

SPORTS REPORTER

The suspended directors of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have urged the government to immediately remove Board president Ali Asghar and his advisory council to save the game from further ignominy.

The aggrieved directors also threatened to reveal the internal chaos of the BCB to the game's ruling body ICC (International Cricket Council) if the government failed to take a positive step in putting cricket back on the right track after a disastrous World Cup campaign.

"To save Bangladesh's cricket from further ignominy and ultimate demise, it is our fervent appeal to the honourable Sports Minister that he immediately removes the appointed president and disbands the so-called Advisory Council," said a statement from the directors which was circulated among the reporters

during a media conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

In a rare public briefing since a High Court ruling suspended the activities of the 30-member Board of Directors and gave Ali Asghar the absolute authority to run the BCB, 15 rebel directors assembled to make their voice heard.

The 15, who have been associated with local cricket for a long time in different capacities said that they haven't gathered for any political leverage. Rather conscience forced them to stand up against the present BCB set-up at this moment of national crisis.

"We have kept silent thus far for the interest of the game. Besides, we did not want to disturb the national team's preparation for the World Cup despite our fears that cricket was destined to suffer at the hands of some unworthy and inefficient people," said Mubassar Hossain who spoke on behalf of the group.

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DEMANDING JUSTICE: Mubassar Hossain (R), one of the suspended directors of the BCB, makes a point at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. At left is Enayet Hossain Siraj, another one of the suspended directors.

PHOTO: STAR



Andy Flower

PHOTO: STAR FILE

## Flower set to bow out

AFP, Bloemfontein

Zimbabwe batsman Andy Flower told the news agency on Tuesday he will retire from international cricket as soon as his team's World Cup campaign comes to an end.

And he insisted that he has no regrets about the black armband protest he staged, along with teammate Henry Olonga, to register his anger at the deteriorating conditions in his strife-torn country.

"I have no regrets about what I have done at this tournament," said the 34-year-old batsman.

"The only thing I regret is getting run out when I had made 37 in the last match against New Zealand."

That incident contributed to his

team's six wicket defeat which meant Wednesday's Super Six clash with Kenya at Goodyear Park here has become a must-win situation if Zimbabwe are to have any hope of reaching the semi-finals.

Flower, who has come under intense pressure to abandon his anti-Robert Mugabe protest, also said he will play once again for Essex in the English county championship later this year.

Furthermore, he revealed that wife Rebecca, children, Jamie, four, Sam, two and one-month-old Danielle had already left for England.

"I always find it strange when people say they have no regrets

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## Wake up or perish

AFP, Johannesburg

Sri Lankan coach Dav Whatmore lashed out at his World Cup squad on Tuesday, saying they had no one but themselves to blame for facing an early flight home.

"It is difficult to have sympathy for the boys when they play like that," Whatmore thundered a day after Sri Lanka crashed to a humiliating 183-run defeat by India at the Wanderers on Monday.

The 1996 champions have all but bowed out of the tournament after losing their first two Super Sixes matches against reigning champions Australia and India.

Sanath Jayasuriya's men must

now not only win by a big margin against Zimbabwe at East London on Saturday, but also hope the results of the other matches go their way.

If New Zealand beat either Australia or India, and Kenya defeat Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka may as well not play their last game.

"It's a problem of our own making," said Whatmore, the former Australian Test batsman who guided the Islanders to their World Cup triumph seven years ago.

"The boys got themselves into this situation and now they must

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DISCONSOLATE: Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya (R) and coach Dav Whatmore (L) at a press conference.

PHOTO: AFP

## Sanath was right

INTERNET, Johannesburg

Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya claims he made the right decision in putting India in to bat in their Super Six match despite suffering a 183-run defeat.

Openers Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag put on a stand of 153 after being invited to take first strike, setting India up for a total of 292 for six.

And Jayasuriya placed the lion's share of the blame on his bowlers even though five batsmen were dismissed for ducks as Sri Lanka crumbled to 109 all out their second lowest World Cup score ever.

"We did not bowl well and did

not bat well either. It was a very disappointing game for us," said Jayasuriya.

"I think I was right to ask India to bat in the morning because there was bounce in the wicket, but except for Chaminda Vaas none of the bowlers did their job.

"If we had bowled in the right areas we would have taken more wickets early. But we bowled all over the place and they got runs.

"When our turn came to bat, we just could not get going because the Indians bowled the right length.

"Chasing a big score we needed

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Steve Tikolo

PHOTO: INTERNET

### Quips & Quotes

AFP, Johannesburg

Who's saying what at the World Cup:

"On a bright and sunny Monday morning at the Wanderers, the Indians went hunting and returned with eleven Lankan lions and five ducks."

Times of India headline after India's win over Sri Lanka had put them in the World Cup semi-finals.

"I would love to talk to you guys but I am not allowed to. You can guess who has got the power to prevent me from speaking."

Zimbabwe Henry Olonga on being prevented from discussing his anti-Robert Mugabe protest.

"A lot of people seem unhappy that we're still involved. It's not just down to luck. We've played some good cricket."

Kenya coach Sandeep Patil answering his team's critics.

"This is my last World Cup so I

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## Name is Bond, Shane Bond

AFP, Port Elizabeth

Shane Bond's decision to take leave of absence from the New Zealand police force paid dividends on Tuesday when his 6-23 helped restrict Australia to 208-9 off their 50 overs in their World Cup Super Six clash.

But despite recording the best ever figures by a New Zealand bowler in the history of the one-day game, he will not get carried away his brief career as a policeman has taught him to keep his feet on the ground.

"I did 18 months on the street and dealing with dead bodies and victims of crime teaches you a lot about humility," said the 27-year-old Christchurch cop who has been bowling fast and learning faster for the past couple of years making up for lost time.

Being a part of cricket's

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HANDS UP! New Zealand's Shane Bond appeals against Australia in Port Elizabeth yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Olonga raring to go

REUTERS, Bloemfontein

Henry Olonga is itching to let fly for Zimbabwe in their World Cup Super Six match against Kenya in Bloemfontein but is unsure whether he will get the chance.

Zimbabwe's quickest bowler took a match-winning six wickets for 28 the last time the teams met in Bulawayo in December.

His involvement in the World Cup, however, has amounted to bowling three overs in his one appearance and then carrying the drinks tray.

"I had a great game against Kenya last time and I'd love to have another crack at them," Olonga told Reuters on Tuesday.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity of playing against them again, but it's not up to me."

Olonga's 18 deliveries were against Namibia in Zimbabwe's first match of the tournament in Harare on February 10.

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## Tikolo vows to topple odds

AFP, Bloemfontein

Kenya captain Steve Tikolo insisted that history would count for nothing when his side took on Zimbabwe in their Super Six match here at Goodyear Park on Wednesday.

Victory against their fellow Africans would take unfancied Kenya into the semifinals of the World Cup.

But they have not beaten Zimbabwe in any of the country's 14 previous one-day encounters,

their opponents winning 12 with two no-results.

"We've never beaten Zimbabwe but this is a different tournament," Tikolo told reporters here on Tuesday.

"And we'd never beaten Sri Lanka either," chipped in Kenya coach Sandeep Patil referring to his team's most impressive victory of the World Cup so far.

Tikolo added that the performance of the non-Test nation had

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