# The Pally Star

# Victoria too good for MSC

Bowler

Bowler

Hasibul

Enamul

Naimur

Fahim

SMahmud

Monir

Saiful

0 Μ

8 1 22

9 2

10 3 28

9 0

0 16

O M R

0 28

0 30 0

0 15

0 36

5 0

6

6 0 40 0

6

4

5

Result: Victoria SC won by eight wickets.

Young Pegasus v Surjo Tarun

10 0

# Cricket

### **SPORTS REPORTER**

Leaders Victoria Sporting Club crossed a major hurdle in defense of their title when they thrashed Mohammedan Sporting Club by eight wickets in a crucial GrameenPhone Premier League match at the BKSP ground in Savar vesterday. vesterday.

The eagerly anticipated clash of the two powerful teams turned into a mismatch after Victoria raced to their target of 185 in 32.2 overs for the loss of only two wickets.

The holders never looked back once their Pakistani opener Wasim Nayeem got going after the bowlers had restricted Mohammedan to a modest 184-7 in 50 overs.

With the skies looking ominous, Nayeem scored a blazing unbeaten 92 off 85 balls to make sure Victoria finish the chase before rain could spoil the party.

Wasim shared 123 runs for the second wicket with Mohammed Salim, who scored an equally impressive 61 off80 balls.

The young wicketkeeper from Khulna has been a consistent per-former this season both with the bat and the wicketkeeping gloves. Selim, who won the best wicket-keeper award in the National League, produced yet another solid performance while batting at num-ber three.

He struck four boundaries and a couple of sixes before being dis-missed by off-spinner Fahim Muntasir, leaving Victoria 38 runs away from a convincing win.

But Wasim was not ready to resign until the Mohammedan demolition was completed. The strongly built right-hander ham-mered a dozen boundaries and a six to leave no one in doubt who the man-of-the-match should be.

It Victoria's tenth win from 12 games. They have 56 points on completion of the first phase.

Only City Club, the surprise package of this years league, have a realistic chance of finishing on equal points with Victoria provided they win their next two games against Brothers Union and Uttara Sporting Club.

For Mohammedan, who had formed the most impressive team on paper, it was another disappointing outing.

Their batting never took off against the tidy Victoria bowling attack once they were put into bat. Experienced batsman Javed Omar, batting in the unfamiliar number four position, top-scored for Mohammedan with a 60-ball 34.

Opener Nafis Iqbal struggled to make 29 off 62 balls. Skipper Minhazul Abedin also made 29 and veteran left-arm spinner Enamul Hoque was the other notable scorer

## with 20 The defeat, their fourth in 11 games, left Mohammedan with 42

Mushfiq points and plenty of work to do. Razzak Mohammedan's defeat have Nuruzzaman 4 however opened the door for their bitter rivals Abahani. With two more Sabbir first phase games against Indira Road and Orients SC in hand, the popular Dhanmondi club have a Manzarul VICTORIA oright chance to leapfrog their votijheel opponents in the table. Wasim not out Parvez lbw b Monir With the battle lines for the Super

Salim c Anwar b Fahim Six already drawn, traditional giants like Bangladesh Biman, Brothers Union, Surjo Tarun and Kalabagan Azam not out Extras: (b-4, lb-6, nb-2, w-1) are struggling for survival in the bottom half. Total: (For 2 wkts in 32.3 overs) 185 Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-147.

Surjo Tarun suffered a 51-run defeat against Young Pegasus in the other match of the day at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium to remain last with Bangladesh Biman.

Pegusus scored 231 for eight in their stipulated 50 overs. Tarun in reply were 156 for nine in 38.4 overs when rain stopped play. According to parabola method, Tarun needed to score 207 at that stage.

#### **SCOREBOARD**

Scorecards of the two GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League matches yesterday: Victoria SC v Mohammedan SC Venue: BKSP MOHAMMEDAN SC		Venus: FCS YOUNG PEGASUS					
		Rakibul b Na		16			
		Junayed c & b Ilyas				54	
		Fahad c Saqu	ł	61			
Nafees lbw b Razzak	29	Murad st Dhi	manł	o Obay	yed	18	
Fahim c Sabbir b Saiful	2	Nirala c Nasi	b Ilya	is		2	
Aftab run out	14	Rezanul c Na	sirbN	Jazmu	ıl	29	
Javed c Nuruzzaman b Sabbir	34	Tanvir b Naz	mul			17	
Naimur c Azam b Sabbir	29	Jamil st Dhin		MAkh	ter	3	
SMahmudc&bManzarul	5	Shahzada no				9	
Minhazul not out	29	Rezaul not ou	ıt			5	
Enamul c Nuruzzaman b Mushfiq	20	Extras: (b-3, l		,		17	
Anwarnotout	8	Total: (For 8 v	vkts ir	150 ov	ers)	231	
Extras: (b-6, lb-4, nb-2, w-2)	14	Fall of wid					
Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 1	84	4-147, 5-187, Bowler	0-211	,7-210 <b>M</b>	5, 6-2. R	10. W	
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-28, 3-	54, 4-		v				
116, 5-123, 6-124, 7-161.		Momin	9	3	41	0	

#### **POINTS TABLE**

Teams	М	W	L	Т	Point
1. Victoria SC	12	10	2	0	56
2. City Club	10	8	2	0	44
3. Mohammedan	11	7	4	0	42
4. Abahani KC	10	7	3	0	38
5. Indira Road	10	6	4	0	32
6. Uttara SC	11	6	5	0	32
7. Y Pegasus	11	5	6	0	30
8. Orient SC	10	4	6	0	24
9. Brothers	10	4	6	0	20
10. Kalabagan	10	3	7	0	18
11. Biman	11	2	9	0	12
12. Surjo Tarun	11	2	9	0	12
13. Development Squad	11	5	6	0	(
Note:					

\* Top six teams qualify for the Super Six phase.

#### Obayed 7 0 35 2 37 2 SURJOTARUN 41 Dhiman c sub b Jamil 9 Saquib c Nirala b Jamil 5 92 Jubaver run out 22 8 Nasir b jamil 5 61

10 1

8 1

6 0

Nazmul

Rafiqul

MAkhter

Ilyas

1

1

1

0

11

W

0

1

Bowler

Iamil

Murad

Karim

Kamal

Rezanul

Shahzada

7.4

10

3

5

26 0

13

30

MAkhter not out 72 Sohel b Kamal 0 Obayed st Nirala b kamal 10 Ilyas c Nirala b Karim 0 Nazmul st Nirala b Rezanul 2 Rafiqul c Nirala b Shahzada 4 0 Momin not out Extras: (b-1, lb-8, nb-2, w-16) 27 Total: (For 9 wkts in 38.4 overs) 156

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-17, 3-23, 4-81, 5-84, 6-116, 7-125, 8-134, 9-M R W 0

0 31

12

1 25

0 19

0 27

8 0 33

5 0

56

39

21

33

3

2

0

1

1 3 0 League 1 Abahani KC v Indira Road KC

2 Venue: FCS 1 Kalabagan KC v Orient SC Venue: BKSP Result: Young Pegasus won by 51

# **BFF** names squads

## **Football**

#### **SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday simultaneously announced two squads for the 2nd Asian Cup preliminary round and ninth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games.

The BFF kept five players so that the strongest possible team could play in both events. It is only because of the tight schedule.

A 15-member Under-23 side will defend their SAF Games title in Islamabad from March 29 to April 4. Elsewhere, the 15-member national side battle Laos and hosts Hong in the Group D preliminary round matches on March 27 and

Five national team players goalkeeper Biplab Bhattachariya, defenders Amit Khan Shuvro, Parvez Babu and forwards Saifur Rahman Moni and Mehdi Hasan Uzzal, will join the Islamabadbound Under-23 squad after their Hong Kong mission.

before the last robin league match

Though they will miss BRAC University defeated Daffodil University by 174 runs in the sec-ond day of the AIUB-Pepsi Cup Bangladesh's SAF Games opener against Afghanistan on March 29, but will be able to reinforce the side cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Club ground yester-

# **Marat leads** the board

Sport

## **SPORTS REPORTER**

GM Marat Dzhumaev of Uzbekistan maintained his solo lead with 7 of the sixth United Insurance & United Leasing Grand Masters chess tournament at the NSC yesterday. GM Ziaur Rahman and GM Sergey Tiviakov of Netherlands

were in second position with 6.5 points each while GM Alxei Barsov in third position with 6 points.

In the eighth round games, Dzhumaev drew with GM Niaz Murshed. Zia beat IM Vakhidov Tahir of Uzbekistan, Barsov beat IM Abdullah Al Rakib, GM Alexander Goloshchapov beat IM Reefat bin Sattar, GM Jordi Magem Badals drew with IM Neelotpal Das of India and FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed drew with FM Taibur Rahman.



GrameenPhone Premier Cricket

NATIONAL TEAM: Biplab

ICC Cricket World Cup South Africa 2003

#### AFP, Johannesburg

Kenya, inspired by middle-aged spinner Asif Karim, gave defending champions Australia a major fright on Saturday and then warned India to expect the same shock treatment when they clash in the World Cup semifinals on Thursday.

The 39-year-old Karim got rid of skipper Ricky Ponting, Darren Lehmann and Brad Hogg to finish with figures of 3-7 in their Kingsmead day-night Super Six clash.

And although the African minnows went down to a five-wicket defeat, acting skipper Hitesh Modi warned India that they are planning a huge upset when they meet at the same venue in the semifinal.

"India should watch out. We have nothing to lose and if we believe in ourselves, we can do it," said Modi.

Karim came out of retirement to play in the World Cup having quit after the last tournament in 1999.

"It was a wonderful day. There was turn in the wicket for me and by the grace of God I did well," Karim said at the end of an emotional day at the World Cup which also saw Shaun Pollock sacked as South African skipper and Zimbabwe fast bowler Henry Olonga quitting international

them to 3-3, by removing Kennedy Otieno, Brijal Patel and David Obuya. Ravindu Shah and skipper Steve

Bangladesh GM Niaz Murshed (L) and GM Marat Dzhumaev of Uzbekistan during their eighth round fixture of the

sixth United Insurance and United Leasing Grand Masters chess tournament at the NSC yesterday.

DHAKA MONDAY MARCH 17, 2003

NIAZ

Tikolo then added 79 for the fourth wicket with Shah reaching 46 and Tikolo, 51.

Aus given a test by Karim

Sri Lanka predicted they will dethrone mighty Australia in their semifinal at Port Elizabeth after they had clinched their last four spot with a 74-run win over imbabwe at East London.

"I think on that pitch we can win it," said Jayasuriya.

The St George's Park wicket at Port Elizabeth is the slowest in the tournament and is expected to be a playground for Sri Lanka's spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan.

Meanwhile, South Africa are expected to name Western ovince batsman Graeme Smith as their new skipper following the sacking of Pollock, who paid the price for his country's dismal campaign which saw them eliminated in the first round.

Also making an exit was Olonga, who called time on his international career claiming he was being threatened for his anti-Robert Mugabe protest.

He has gone into exile saving it's unsafe for him to return to Zimbabwe.

His annoucement came on the same day that teammate Andy Flower, who had joined him in his black armband protest against CObuya Mugabe, played his final game for Karim his country. On the field at East London, Sri Lanka made 256-5 with Marvan Atapattu making an unbeaten 103 before Zimbabwe were bowled out

when he was given out lbw to Aravinda de Silva despite getting an inside edge having made 38. "For the last 13 years it has been

PHOTO: STAR

an honour and a privilege to represent my country. The decision to bring my international career to an end has been a difficult and sad one to make," Flower said as he joined Olonga in exile.

**SCOREBOARD** 

Scoreboard of the World Cup Super Six day-night match between Australia and Kenya at Kingsmead on Saturday:

KENYA: 174 for eight in 50 overs (S Tikolo 51, R Shah 46, H Modi 39; B Lee 3-14, D Lehmann 2-22, A Bichel 2-42)

#### AUSTRALIA

Gilchrist c D Obuya b Ongondo 67 Hayden c sub (Angara) b Ongondo 20 Ponting lbw b Karim 18

0	
Symonds not out	33
Lehmann c D Obuya b Karim	2
Hogg c and b Karim	0
Harveynotout	28
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, w-4, nb-1)	10
Total: (For 5 wkts in 31.2 overs)	178
Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-98, 3	-109,

4-117, 5-117 М R Bowler 0 M Suji 3 0 36 0 44 Ongondo 10 T Suji 2 0 24 8 0 62

0

2

0

FROM PAGE 13

I'm a victim

crash last year, received a life ban from cricket in 2000 after being leadership on the back of the team's shock first round World found guilty of corruption charges.

**Pollock sacked** FROM PAGE 13 Pollock denied he had lost the Johannesburg Star newspaper

knives"

Bangladesh.

both retired from international cricket.

on March 28 for Sharjah to play in a tri-

nation series with Sri Lanka and

the late Hansie Cronje three years ago.

Captaincy record of Shaun Pollock

who was sacked as South African

Tests: 26 matches, won 14, lost 5,

drawn 7. Success percentage: 53.85

One-day internationals: 90

matches, won 57, lost 30, tied 3,

Success percentage: 63.33 per

advice he got from the tourna-ment's Event Technical

Committee and the instruction the

Union wrote to him following his

statement before the Zimbabwe

Group A match against Namibia in

team officials, he had simulta-

neously released to the media at

the Zimbabwe-Sri Lanka match at

Buffalo Park the same statement,

Harare last month.

match.

CAPTAINPOLLOCK

AFP, Johannesburg

skipper on Saturday:

Appointed:April2000

Sacked: March 2003

percent

cent

The South Africans are due to leave

#### Bhattachariya, Titumeer Chowdhury, Rajani Kanta Barman, Hasan Al-Mamun, saifur rahman Moni, Mustafa Anwar parvez, Amit Khan Shuvro, Maksudul Alam Bulbul, Mehdi Hasan Uzzal, Matiur Rahman Munna, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Abdul Qayum Sentu, Zulfiqar Mahmud Mintu, Mohammad Arman and Arif Khan

UNDER-23 SQUAD: Aminul Haq, Atiqul Islam Tareq, Mahmudul Hasan, Mohammad Sujon, Papel Mahmud, Firoz Mahmud Hossain Tito, Shamsher Alam, Monwar Hossain, Azmal Hossain Bidyut, Rezaul Karim Liton, Ariful Kabir Farhad, Rokonuzzaman Kanchan, Saiful Islam, Faisal Mahmud and

# **AIUB-Pepsi Cup cricket**

Khokon Das

20

Indian

FROM PAGE 13

Outlook.

magazine.

"Everyone joins in realising how

much fun it is getting food from

outside, celebrating, bursting

crackers, cheering India," one

woman fan was quoted as saying in

ing out on the latest fad.

Kenyans

FROM PAGE 13

Some others simply fear miss-

"Everywhere, people are asking

each other about the score. So now

I watch, even though I don't know

anything about the game," a

mother-of-four from Delhi told the

Earlier, the Africans had to

the fourth over to reduce them to 3-

the fourth ball of his second over when he felled Kennedy Otieno

with a rising delivery and the ball

Otineo lay writhing in pain before he was taken off the field

and rushed to hospital where X-

rays revealed no fracture but only a

and David Obuya was yorked off

Ravindu Shah and skipper Steve

Australian skipper Ricky

Tikolo then added 79 for the fourth

wicket with Shah reaching 46 and

Ponting said the workout was a

good build-up for their semifinal

against Sri Lanka in Port Elizabeth

Port Elizabeth already so we know

man and he has said it should be a

better wicket than it has been so we

the conditions," he said.

are looking forward to it.'

"We've played two matches at

"I have spoken to the grounds-

Next ball, Brijal Patel was

dislodged the bails.

bruised elbow

Tikolo, 51.

on Tuesday.

Lee began the destruction with

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Pollock, who said he had never been a person who "shies away from responsibility", explained: "With Hansie's demise, there was talk of him having too much power and free rein and they didn't want to give that same power to me.

"They (the United Cricket Board of South Africa) were very worried about the fact of what had happened.

"I'm not saying I wasn't allowed to do my job, but the style and approach was to make sure the captain didn't have too much power.

Pollock suggested he had not had the full backing of both the media and convenor of selectors Omar Henry

"It's not an ideal situation when your captaincy is up for debate a lot of the time in the papers.

"Before Omar Henry was made convenor of selectors there was a comment he wasn't sure I was the best captain.'

Pollock, who inadvertently confirmed Western Province batsman Graeme Smith as his successor, said he hoped the new skipper was given complete support. "That's the way I hope they approach with it Graeme, I hope they give him full backing."

Quips & Quotes

"India should watch out. We have

nothing to lose and if we believe in

FROM PAGE 13

ourselves, we can do it.

Streak.

Cup exit. "I don't think I have been sacked on the back of the World Cup. Over my tenure there has been a bit of criticism about the way I've handled certain issues and

my management style. But I had the players' respect. He insisted the decision by senior players, Allan Donald, Jonty Rhodes and Herschelle Gibbs to

dedicate the country's World Cup campaign to Cronje had not caused a split in the team. "A lot of those issues were

blown out of proportion," Pollock said. "I don't know where the report came there was a rift in the camp

"It's not an ideal situation going into a World Cup. But you can understand the players' feelings."

Pollock's sacking was announced on Saturday night after he himself had been informed earlier in the day.

"I just want to say I did not resign as I felt that would be the soft option. I was informed by Omar Henry that my services as captain would no longer be required and I accept that decision.

"Despite not being captain, I'm 100 per cent committed to South African cricket. I don't see myself ever captaining again.

against powerful Maldives on Apr reported many high-ranking ligures wanted Pollock out and also suggested

Hasanuzzaman Bablu and Althere would be a "night of the long Haj Golam Dastgir Chowdhury are coach and manager of the national It said that Lance Klusener and team in Hong Kong while Shafiqul Nicky Boje would also be forced to join Islam Manik and Shafiquzzaman will accompany the Under-23 side Pollock on the sidelines besides Allan to Islamabad SAF Games as coach Donald and Jonty Rhodes, who have and manager.

# Officials

FROM PAGE 13

Pakistan before joining India for India and Kenya at Durban on another three-nation tournament in March 20. Simon Taufel of Australia is the TV umpire while Sri South Africa will also play two Tests Lankan Asoka de Silva will be the in Bangladesh before going to England. fourth umpire. Mike Procter is the Pollock took over as captain from match referee.

David Richardson, ICC general manager-cricket said: "These appointments reflect the consistently high standards of decision making and match management achieved over the course of the tournament.

"All officials have been assessed on a match-by-match basis, and the eight umpires selected for the finals are the men who have performed best in the opinion of the captains, match referees and the

to win by five wickets. Officials for the final at The Adam Gilchrist hit a blistering Wanderers on March 23 will be 67 off 43 balls to send the champiannounced after the second semions on their way.

Streak

#### FROM PAGE 13

untenable. The stand I took earlier in the World Cup has undoubtedly had repercussions that have

personal life," Olonga added. "I believe that if I were to continue to play for Zimbabwe in the "This is in contravention of the

midst of the prevailing crisis I would do so only by neglecting the voice of my conscience.

"I would also be condoning the grotesque human rights violations that have been perpetrated and snapped up in the slips by continue to be perpetrated against Australian captain Ricky Ponting my fellow countrymen. the last ball of the over.

"The ZCU is also disappointed that while Olonga had seemingly Andy Flower will play county cricket for Essex later this year and followed the provision of his conhad already moved his wife and tract regarding making public statements and handed in his three children to the safer environment of England. retirement news release to the

Meanwhile, another senior player Guy Whittall also quit the game on Sunday to concentrate on his family's ranching business in Zimbabwe.

albeit embargoed until after the Zimbabwe selector Andy Pycroft also resigned his post "Even when he was advised by earlier during the tournament in the team manager against includ protest at not being consulted ing political sentiments in his when the team was picked to play the first Super Sixes match against New Zealand.

cricket and going into exile.

Batting first, BRAC made 254 for Chasing 175 to win under the eight in the stipulated 40 overs. Opener Rezwanul scored team lights of Kingsmead, Australia reached their target in just 31.2 ighest 110. Anisur made 36 and overs with Adam Gilchrist hitting a Ragibul 25. Shafiul took 4 wickets for 27 while Shahriar grabbed 3 for blistering 67.

Earlier, the Africans had to In reply, Daffodil were all out for recover from a Brett Lee hat-trick in 80 runs. Žahidul picked 4 wickets for 17 and Moniruzzaman 3 for 6. the fourth over, which reduced

# Barry

FROM PAGE 13 I don't think they ever will. In Kenva, cricket is very much a Nairobi game.

"It's all very well saying you want to spread the game internationally but Kenyan cricket is going to require massive investment by the ICC.

"And that's a problem when vou've got established countries like Zimbabwe and West Indies. who need financial support, falling through the cracks. It's a big ICC decision.

Richards gave Kenya little chance of producing an upset by beating India in their semifinal day-night match here at Kingsmead on Thursday.

"It only takes one good ball to get rid of a good batsman and Kenya are capable of bowling six good balls," he said.

ecover from early damage caused by Brett Lee, who took a hattrick in "But I'm not sure they can sustain it."

> Richards was equally pessimistic about the future of South African cricket following the hosts' first round exit.

"What I'd like to see happen and what I think will happen are two different things

"But it's not going to be a cricketing decision," said Richards in what appeared to be a thinly veiled attack on the policy of 'trans-

formation' designed to promote non-white cricketers.

Richards, widely regarded as the most gifted batsman of his generation, said deposed captain Shaun Pollock could not be held solely responsible for South Africa's early departure from the World Cup.

"It's very sad to blame one person and I think it's equally wrong to blame the coach he hasn't been in the job very long," he said.

"If the set-up is not producing the players then there's not a lot they can do. And some of the players are not of international standard.'

Result: Australia won by five wickets Man-of-the-match:AsifKarim Toss: Australia Umpires: Billy Bowden (Nzl) and SteveBucknor (WIs)

8.2

Andy Flower's 13-year interna-TV umpire: Asoka De Silva (Sri) tional career ended controversially Match referee: Mike Procter (Rsa)

## SUPER SIXES STANDINGS

AFP, Johannesburg

for 182

Final standings in the World Cup Super Sixes after Saturday's matches (played, won, lost, tied/no result, points carried forward, total points):						
Australia	5	5	0	0	12	24
India	5	4	1	0	8	20
Kenya	5	3	2	0	10	14
Sri Lanka	5	2	3	0	7.5	11.5
New Zealand	5	1	4	0	4	8
Zimbabwe	5	0	5	0	3.5	3.5
Note: Teams carried forward 4 points from the preliminary round for winning against fellow qualifiers, one point for winning against non- qualifiers and half the points for a tie or no-result. Top four teams quali- fied for semifinals.						

# **SUPER SIX CLIPS**

Cup.

**REUTERS**, Johannesburg

The best and worst from the 2003 cricket World Cup Super Sixes:

#### THE BEST BALL

Shane Bond bowled Australia's Ian Harvey with such a perfect leg cutter that the batsman was still looking to square leg in search of his shot as his middle stump hit the ground. Bond took a New Zealand best of six for 23 at Port Elizabeth and removed Ricky Ponting for the sixth time in their six meetings and still ended up on the wrong end of a 96-run defeat.

#### THE BEST SHOT

Kenya's Ravindu Shah had just seen Brett Lee send Kennedy Otieno to hospital on his way to Australia's first World Cup hat-trick without conceding a run when he forced the quick bowler through point for a textbook boundary. In case anybody missed it, Shah repeated the shot next ball, making 46 in all.

#### THE BEST QUOTE (S)

"They gave us a bath" -- Sri Lanka coach Dav Whatmore after the 20 96-run defeat against Australia.

"We weren't on the same park today" -- Whatmore after the 83run defeat against India. "I'm really low right now" Whatmore after Kenya beat Zimbabwe to reach the semifinals. "Go India!" -- Whatmore as India beat New Zealand to keep Sri Lanka in the

#### THE WORST INNINGS/THE WORST SHOT

One and the same. Nathan Astle came to the crease against India at Centurion with the score on nought for one in a must-win game. First ball he aimed across a full-length delivery from leftarmer Zaheer Khan and fell lbw to make it nought for two. New Zealand were bowled out for 146 and duly headed home.

#### **THEWORST DROP**

In the same game, Shane Bond took two quick wickets and Jacob Oram removed Sachin Tendulkar to reduce India to 21 for three. Rahul Dravid, the last senior batsman, then edged a single through the slips. Back on strike, he snicked Bond again to wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum, who spilled a chance he would catch 19 times out of

Saturday which Zimbabwe lost by "He sounded reasonably clear statement.

#### Kenya's Hitesh Modi predicting a rough time for India in Thursday's semifinal.

"On that pitch we can win it. It's a pitch which will suit us and we will be playing hard cricket.

Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya looking to Muttiah Muralitharan to spin his team to victory against Australia in the semifinal at Port Elizabeth on Tuesday.

"I didn't think any team could challenge Australia at the start of the tournament they were untouchable. But after watching India's performances over the past few weeks, I think Saurav Ganguly's team now have a very good chance of winning the final in Johannesburg.'

Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan backing India for the World Cup.

FROM PAGE 13 74 runs.

about what was going to happen, if it all went well, and was staying positive," the source said. England remains Olonga's most

likely final destination, as long as political asylum is granted, the paper said.

Earlier the Zimbabwean fast bowler made a retirement statement:

"I have been receiving threatening e-mails since the protests which I believe have made it dangerous for me to return to Žimbabwe," Olonga, 26, said.

"It is with great sadness that I am officially announcing my retirement from international cricket," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) on Sunday issued a statement condemning Olonga's conduct.

"The Union notes with regret announcement, Olonga did not state that he had already released that in announcing his official retirement from international the statement

#### **Olonga** on the run cricket, Olonga has, in a clear act of affected both my career and my continued insubordination, gone on to yet again use the platform of the World Cup to make a political

final