### The Daily Star

# Sport

they were handed a nine-wicket

thrashing by Australia and the way

captain Sauray Ganguly and coach

John Wright had rallied the

team to reach the final, they would

not be pushovers.

moment," he said.

Australian bowlers.

round of the World Cup.

tion," he said.

all these superb wins.

definitely deserves this distinc-

"It is his positive approach... which has helped India to achieve

It was there that his career ran

ran into trouble at a Sydney bar.

ally turned from poacher to game-

When Australia wanted a new

squeaky-clean Test vice-captain

16 consecutive one-day interna-

Kumble mounted an unlikely fightback, sharing 52 runs for the ninth wicket and staying on through an interruption caused by a power failure to clinch victory.

1998 Coca Cola Cup tri-series, Sharjah: Two inter-linked matches, with a Tendulkar theme to both.

Australia won the final league match by 26 runs, India getting past New Zealand to the final on net run rate, then India won the final by six wickets.

In the first game, Australia scored 284 for seven and it looked they would win comfortably to help New Zealand qualify. But Tendulkar scored a 131-ball 143, (5x6, 9x4) before a sandstorm swept through the ground. India fell short of the revised target of 276 but went past the 237 needed to eliminate the Kiwis.

Tendulkar returned two days later, on his 25th birthday, to hit 134, again from 131 deliveries, as India chased down

Australia's 272. Leg-spinner Shane Warne, struggling with a shoulder injury since the preceding 1-2 test series defeat, conceded 61 runs from 10 overs as Tendulkar launched into him.

1999: World Cup Super Six, The Oval: Australia won by 77 runs.

Both the eventual champions and India had gone into the Super Sixes without a point, making a win crucial for both

Australia, asked to bat, rattled up 282 for six after Indian pacemen squandered some early life in the pitch due to rain in the morning. India, in reply, were all out for 205 in 48.2 overs.

Mark Waugh top-scored with a classy 83, but he was completely overshadowed by McGrath, who destroyed the top order with an exemplary opening spell of pace and late movement. He accounted for the top two batsmen in his first two overs, having both Tendulkar, for an eight-ball duck, and Rahul Dravid (two off six deliveries) edging catches to wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist. He also dismissed captain Mohammad Azharuddin for three to all but end the contest in the seventh over, after Damien Fleming had chipped in by bowling Saurav Ganguly (8) at the other end. India, reduced to 4-17, were never in the hunt despite Ajay Jadeja's 100 not out and Robin



Singh's 75.

### ICC Cricket World Cup South Africa 2003

### **REUTERS,** Johannesburg

Saurav Ganguly, who captains India's one-day side for the 100th time in Sunday's World Cup final, has been described as arrogant, aloof and impulsive. One former player also argued

point to just four centuries in four last month that he was not good years. Hé has never reached three enough to play for the team. figures against Australia, South But even his fiercest critics Africa, Pakistan or West Indies.

would grudgingly recognise Ganguly's contribution if he leads India to their second World Cup title after all-rounder Kapil Dev in 1983.

The 30-year-old is used to criticism, be it centred on his character or his technique On Thursday, having scored 111

not out against Kenya to guide his team to Sunday's final at The Wanderers against Australia, he was given only a few moments to savour his achievement before being asked about his lack of attacking off-side shots.

"At times I have played below potential," he conceded.

"Lots of bowlers don't give me much room. They started bowling a bit on my body. Initially I struggled, but I am a better player now off my pads.

Ganguly, at his best, is a fine, fluent driver of the ball.

October 2000, after Tendulkar quit His 8,696 one-day runs and 22 following a 3-0 test series rout in centuries suggest he can play. His Australia. Test average of 40.59, some three would fail because he was a loner runs less than his one-day average.

lacking in team spirit, a view strengthened after a difficult stint with English county Lancashire. He was dubbed "Lord Snooty" and reportedly once asked former England captain Michael

Atherton to look after his sweater. Australia captain Steve Waugh is not a fan either. He was furious when Ganguly repeatedly and provocatively turned up late for the toss during the 2001 Indian Test series.

But Ganguly has won other friends, particularly among his teammates.

He has often pleaded with the selectors to show faith in such youngsters as off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif and left-arm pacemen Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra, all at some point criticised for poor attitude.

Sanjay Manjrekar, another former India player turned pundit, feels Ganguly has not been fully understood.

"It has taken everyone a while to get used to the personality of Saurav Ganguly," he said. "He is like no one before him.

"Indians in particular have found it hard to accept someone who does not mind speaking his mind all the time.

"But he has picked and backed talent in the last two years which is paying dividends now.

Victory on Sunday would go Ganguly took over as captain in some way to silencing the doubters. A century from the "Prince of Calcutta" might shut them up Critics predicted he completely.

AFP, Colombo

sion here Saturday.

Jayasuriya said.

Australia.

held in England.

Sri Lankan cricket captain Sanath

Jayasuriya quit as captain of the national side, he made the

announcement over state televi-

"I have tendered my resigna-

tion to the minister of sports (Johnston Fernando). With my

decision I have given the selectors

to opt for a new captain with the

2007 World Cup in mind,"

Sanath Jayasuriya and the Sri

Lankan team returned home on

Friday after an unsuccessful run in the World Cup in South Africa. The

team was knocked out in the semi-

final on Tuesday by cup favorites

Jayasuriya took over the helm of

There was no immediate

The sports minister was quoted

in the state-owned Daily News here Saturday as having asked Jayasuriya to continue in the cap-

taincy despite Sri Lanka's failure in the World Cup.

response from the Fernando.

the Sri Lankan team after its disas-trous show in the 1999 World Cup,



Of unforgettables FROM PAGE 10 Kumble manufact on unlikely Ganguly on a mission Captain Sanath steps down Steps down India

# ICC Cricket World Cup South Africa 2003

### **REUTERS,** Karachi

India's cricketers have received support from an unexpected quarter as they prepare to battle Australia in Sunday's World Cup final arch-rivals Pakistan.

Pakistan's new captain, Rashid Latif, said on Friday India deserved to win the tournament in South Africa for the way they had fought themselves back into contention.

"Everybody is saying Australia will win the final." he said

"I agree the way they have been playing they start off as favourites. But I think India deserve to win the World Cup.

"Purely for the way they have fought back after their dismal performance against the Aussies at Centurion five weeks ago.

Latif said if one took into account how Indian fans had reacted angrily over India's early poor form in the World Cup when

# **Prince vs punter**

FROM PAGE 10 India supremo Jagmohan Dalmiya into problems when he was involved in a night-club incident in as well as the ability to inspire and unify a side which is always at the mercy of regional rivalries.

Sunday's match will mark his 100th one-day international as captain an impressive statistic in cricket-crazy India where pressure from fans often means the easiest way for officials to save their own skins is to sack the skipper at the first sign of trouble.

one-day skipper to replace Waugh in 2002 it was Ponting, not Ganguly's steel shows in the way he has been determined to carry on in the job despite the stoning of his family home in Adam Gilchrist, whom the Australian selectors chose. Calcutta after India went down to a nine-wicket thrashing against Australia in a first round match last Sunday's final with a world record month.

Calcutta also has significance tional victories behind them, no for Ponting, nicknamed Punter by one in Australia has had cause to his teammates after his link for a bet on the greyhounds. regret placing their faith in a punter.

FROM PAGE 10

## **Battle Within Battle**

keeper.

Kenya in the semifinal will testify. had done with Pakistani speedster But the hard-hitting Gilchrist at the top of the order will be a different proposition altogether. The

Shoaib Akhtar. Lee will be hoping to get the little champion out early to keep the Indians on the backfoot. The first 15 overs of the Indian innings promises exhilarating cricket.

Saurav Ganguly v Glenn McGrath If spared by Lee, India could still

suited to his aggressive style. The left-hander trying to smash the left-arm pace of Zaheer out of the

Australian wicketkeeper is one of the most exciting batsmen in the modern game. Few can tear an attack to shreds like he does and the even-paced Wanderers wicket will be ideally

due to fire.'

### **Elusive tickets**

FROM PAGE 10

Among the visitors for Sunday's final will be Indian sports minister Vikram Verma, accompanied by leading politicians like Arun Jaitley and Pramod Mahajan.

Air India is sending a plane from its VIP fleet, normally reserved for the President and Prime Minister, to fly back the Indian team, irrespective whether it wins or loses.

"If the team wins, the plane will "I think it is going to be one hell fly to New Delhi where a reception of a match. Australia are the reignis planned with President Abdul ing champions but I think the Kalaam and Prime Minister Atal Indians are playing their best and Behari Vajpayee," said Rajiv most balanced cricket at the Shukla, an Indian cricket official

"And with Sachin Tendulkar in and member of parliament. such magnificent form, I think he is "Otherwise Bombay will be the more than a match for the first stop to drop players residing there before going to New Delhi."

The 34-year-old Latif was The cricket fever gripping this appointed Pakistan captain this South African metropolis is in week in place of the deposed sharp contrast to the atmosphere Waqar Younis after Pakistan failed two weeks ago when tickets for the to move beyond the preliminary Super Six matches were freely "Tendulkar is on course to be available after the hosts bowed out the player of the tournament and in the first round.

> There was so little interest in the tournament after South Africa were knocked out that the country's President Thabo Mbeki was forced to join World Cup organisers in appealing to local fans to continue supporting the tourna-

### **Only Aussie**

FROM PAGE 10 him.

998 and a year later his chances of Tendulkar has scored 669 runs at becoming an Australia captain 66.90 in the World Cup in southern looked even more remote when he Africa, breaking the World Cup But Ponting, who hails from unfashionable Tasmania, eventurecord he set in 1996.

"Sometimes Plans A and B go out the window and you don't want

to be relying on Plan C, which is that he gets bored hitting boundaries, runs himself out, or one of his team mates runs him out," Warne wrote.

Australia's paceman Brett Lee And with his side going into will test Tendulkar with shortpitched bowling at The Wanderers in Johannesburg, wrote Warne, Australia's leading wicket-taker in both forms of the game.

"This means fast, hostile, shortpitched deliveries to see if he wants to try to hook," Warne wrote.

"Knowing Sachin the way I do, he loves the big occasion and will probably duck them while he sums up the conditions.

"Then again, he might try to make a statement and take the Aussies on. It will be fascinating viewing."

Warne added: "As for our batting, we probably haven't played as well as we would like, but our guys like the big occasion and some are

# **Chappell's guideline**

(Harbhajan Singh).

sharing 43 wickets.

owdown.

also puts him in the top bracket.

Yet there is always a rider, as

former India Test player

Krishnamachari Srikkanth under-

lined when questioning Ganguly's right to make the final eleven.

pitched bowling are well docu

Those wanting to question Ganguly's Test credentials can also

Those wanting to doubt his

World Cup success, meanwhile, stress that his three centuries at the

2003 World Cup have come against

Namibia and Kenya, while his

average against Test-nation oppo-nents is 17.16.

Calcutta printer, Ganguly was criticised at the start of his interna-

after playing one one-day game as a teenager in Australia 11 years ago.

four years before returning for the

Test tour of England in 1996 and

scoring centuries in his first two

one-dayers later that year by then

captain Sachin Tendulkar, the pair

forming an enduring one-day

He was promoted to open in

tional career for lack of humility.

The articulate son of a wealthy

He was banished from the side

Ganguly had to wait for another

mented.

Tests.

partnership.

His problems with short-

# ICC Cricket World Cup

### AFP, New Delhi

India captain Saurav Ganguly should rise above "superstitions and quirks" and include spinner Anil Rumble against Australia in the World Cup final, former Australian skipper Ian Chappell said Saturday.

"It's the Aussie batting that India must keep under control and to do so they need an extra frontline bowler in their line-up," Chappell wrote in his column in the Hindustan Times ahead of Sunday's final at Johannesburg.

"My choice would be Anil Kumble and I would even be tempted to open the bowling with the highly competitive leg-spinner who has troubled both Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Havden (Australian openers) at times."

Kumble, with 308 wickets in 241 one-dayers, has virtually been

down against defending champi-

reduced to the role of a spectator in the ongoing competition in South Africa. He has figured in just three against the quicks as the experienced leggie enjoys bowling with close catchers around the bat. of his team's 10 matches. Ganguly's team won nine of

those games with just four specialist bowlers three pacemen (Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra) and one spinner superstitions and quirks. India hardly felt the absence of a

fifth regular bowler in their previ-ous matches as the trio of speedsters did remarkably well by Chappell, however, felt India

Chappell said India could seize would require an extra specialist bowler in order to stop the rampaging Australian batsmen in the final "So far in this World Cup, India have been predictable almost to that.

the point of being paranoid with their selection, but they need to change that pattern for the final another masterly and major contri-"At the very least, I'd have Indian success," he said Kumble primed and ready to go

early if Gilchrist does start well

"It is this type of innovative captaincy that has brought New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming success against Australia. But, I'm not sure such enterprise is in Ganguly's make-up, given his

"If he (Ganguly) wants to grab World Cup glory he has to suppress those inhibiting tendencies for a day and be prepared to 'look outside the box

the initiative only if their bowlers restricted Australia to a total of around 225 since they had the batsmen to complete the job after

"If Australia score more than 250, India will be relying heavily on bution from Sachin Tendulkar. As always, Tendulkar is the key to

Woolmer's money on Australia **INTERNET,** Cape Town

Former South African cricket coach Bob Woolmer believes that, although India will be powerful force in a few years' time, the World Cup final is most likely to be won by Australia

"Any team can be beaten," Woolmer told The Cape Times on Friday. "But it is unlikely. Australia have

been very powerful, awesome, almost bullying people into sub-

Despite a few vulnerable

moments, Australia are unbeaten

in the competition. India lost to

Australia in the group stages, but

have since notched up ten consec

us now with a taste of what they are

going to be like in a few years'

oolmer continued

"Certainly, India have provided

mission.

utive victories.

WC Cricket Final Australia vs India Live at 1:45 pm

ESPN Taking Guard Final WC Cricket Programme Live at 1:00 pm **English Premier Football League** Liverpool vs Leeds United Live at 7:55 pm Arsenal vs Everton Live at 10:00 pm Primera Liga Real Madrid vs Deportivo Live at 1:30 am (Monday) S Taking WC R Foll WC Cricket Programme

Live at 10:00 pm



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at 1:30 am (Monday)	and dependable batsman Rahul
TAR Sports	Dravid, who sustained a finger injury in Thursday's semifinal win
g Guard Final Preview	over Kenya, will be ready to face
Cricket Programme	Australia.
Repeat at 7:30 am	"He's fit, he just had a sore
llow Through Final	finger," Ganguly said.
Crickot Programmo	

Australia great Ian Chappell advised Ganguly in a newspaper column to recall leg-spinner Anil Kumble who has spent most of the tournament on the sidelines.

But Ganguly said he was tempted to stand by his pace trio Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra whose combined tally of 49 wickets have done so much to get India to the final.

"We'll see on the day. At the present moment the wicket looks a bit damp. It would be a difficult task for me to leave anyone out," he said

AFP, Johannesburg

March 18 2003

March 15 2003

March 11 2003

March72003

March 2 2003

Feb 27 2003

Feb 24 2003

Feb 20 2003

Feb 15 2003

Feb 11 2003

March 20 2003

March 14 2003

March 10 2003

March72003

March 1 2003

Feb 26 2003

Feb 23 2003

**INDIA** (won 9 lost 1)

AUSTRALIA (won 10 lost 0)

**FORM GUIDE** 

Form guide for Australia and India ahead of the World Cup final at Wanderers here on Sunday:

beat Kenya by 5 wickets

beat Sri Lanka by 96 runs

beat England by 2 wickets

beat Namibia by 256 runs

beat India by 9 wickets

beat Pakistan by 82 runs

beat Kenya by 91 runs

beat Sri Lanka by 183 runs

beat Kenya by 6 wickets

beat Pakistan by 6 wickets

beat England by 82 runs

beat Namibia by 181 runs

beat Zimbabwe by 7 wickets

beat Sri Lanka by 48 runs (D/L) Port Elizabeth

beat New Zealand by 96 runs Port Elizabeth

beat Netherlands by 75 runs Potchefstroom

beat New Zealand by 7 wickets Centurion

# **Final showdown**

against Australia," said Chappell.

FROM PAGE 10

ons Australia.

of the World Cup victory in 1983 special moment. But at the end of had been an inspiration to the the day we've got to be on the winning side. That means more present side. than anything," Ganguly told reporters ahead of Sunday's show-

"It was a long time back, 20 years ago, but I hope we can repeat the performance. It definitely meant a lot to cricket in India after they won in 1983," he said.

He added that wicketkeeper Ganguly added the current team were well aware of what another win would mean now. who sustained a finger Thursday's semifinal win 'After the Kenya game, we got into nya, will be ready to face a huddle and said well done. "We realised we were just one fit, he just had a sore

game away from becoming world champions and we must give everything we have."

India have won eight games on the trot since they lost to Australia by 9 wickets on February 15 in a group match, and Ganguly said it was important the team maintained its preparation routine.

"It's better to be relaxed and stick to what has brought us here."

Australia have won a world record 16 successive one-day matches going into the final. Back in 2001 their 16-game Test winning streak was ended by India. Ganguly, when asked if he

believed in 'karma' (fate), said he

Durban

Centurion

Bulawayo

Centurion

Kingsmead

Wanderers

Newlands

Centurion

Pietermaritzburg

Durban

Iohannesburg

Port Elizabeth

Potchefstroom

And Ganguly said the memory

did not, and simply replied: "I hope we can do it again.

India, as well as their fanatical fans back home, will also have plenty of neutral support with cricket fans around the world desperate to see someone topple the all-conquering Aussies.

# **ROAD TO FINAL**

### FROM PAGE 10 **AUSTRALIA**

Australia 128-1 in 22.2 overs; A Gilchrist 48, M Hayden 45 not out) Feb 20: beat the Netherlands by 75 runs (revised target) at Potchefstroom (Australia 170-2 in 36 overs; D Martyn 67; and the Netherlands 122 in 30.2 overs; A Bichel 3-13)

Feb 24: beat Zimbabwe by seven wickets in Bulawayo (Zimbabwe 246-9 in 50 overs; A Flower 62, A Blignaut 54; and Australia 248-3 in 47.3 overs; A Gilchrist 61, D Lehmann 56 not out, D Martyn 50 not out)

Feb 27: beat Namibia by 256 runs at Potchefstroom (Australia 301-6 in 50 overs; M Hayden 88, A Symonds 59, D Lehmann 50 not out; and Namibia 45; G McGrath 7-

Mar 2: beat England by two wickets at Port Elizabeth (England 204-8 in 50 overs; A Bichel 7-20; and Australia 208-8 in 49.4 overs; M Bevan 74 not out; A Caddick 4-35)

Mar 7: beat Sri Lanka by 96 runs at Centurion (Australia 319-5 in 50 overs; R Ponting 114, A Gilchrist 99, D Martyn 52; and Sri Lanka 223 in 47.4 overs; A De Silva 92)

Mar 11: beat New Zealand by 96 runs at Port Elizabeth (Australia 208-9 in 50 overs; A Bichel 64, M Bevan 56; S Bond 6-23; and New Zealand 112 in 30.1 overs; B Lee 5

Mar 15: beat Kenya by five wickets at Durban (Kenya 174-8 in 50 overs; S Tikolo 51; B Lee 3-14; and

Mar 18: beat Sri Lanka by 48 runs (D/L method) at Port Elizabeth (Australia 212-7 in 50 overs; A Symonds 91 not out; C Vaas 3-34; and Sri Lanka 123-7; B Lee 3-35, B Hogg 2-30)

But Ganguly said an Australian defeat itself would not be good for cricket.

"You've got to give credit to them. It would be wrong for any of us to say it's bad for the game if they win. It's up to all of us to raise the standards of the game."

### FROM PAGE 10 INDIA

128-1 in 22.2 overs)

Feb 19: beat Zimbabwe by 83 runs in Harare (India 255-7 in 50 overs; S Tendulkar 81; and Zimbabwe 172 in 44.4 overs; S Ganguly 3-22)

Feb 23: beat Namibia by 181 runs at Pietermaritzburg (India 311-2 in 50 overs; S Tendulkar 152, Ganguly 112 not out; and Namibia 130 in 42.3 overs; Y Singh 4-6) Feb 26: beat England by 82 runs at Durban (India 250-9 in 50 overs; R Dravid 62, S Tendulkar 50; and

England 168 in 45.3 overs; A Flintoff 64; A Nehra 6-23) Mar 1: beat Pakistan by six wickets at Centurion (Pakistan

India 276-4 in 45.4 overs; S Tendulkar 98, Y Singh 50) Mar 7: beat Kenya by six wickets in Cape Town (Kenya 225-6 in 50 overs; K Otieno 79; and India 226-4 in 47.5 overs; S Ganguly 107 not

runs in Johannesburg (India 292-6 in 50 overs; S Tendulkar 97, V Sehwag 66; and Sri Lanka 109 in 23 overs; J Srinath 4-35, A Nehra 4-35)

Mar 14: beat New Zealand by seven wickets at Centurion (New Zealand 146 in 45.1 overs; Z Khan 4-42; and India 150-3 in 40.4 overs; M Kaif 68 not out, R Dravid 53 not

Mar 20: beat Kenya by 91 runs at Durban (India 270-4 in 50 overs; S Ganguly 111 not out, S Tendulkar 83; T Odoyo 1-45; and Kenya 179 in 46.2 overs; S Tikolo 56; Zaheer Khan 3-14, A Nehra 2-11)

be stung by Glenn McGrath, one of the finest pace bowlers in the modground will be a treat for the fans ern game.

It will rest on Ganguly, the eleant left-hander, to build the innings should Tendulkar or Virender Sehwag make an early exit. Symonds

Ganguly is only second behind Tendulkar in the list of leading scorers at this World Cup with 441 runs and three centuries. Nehra.

McGrath may have been overshadowed by Lee's spectacular strikes, but the lanky bowler has shown his versatility and outstanding skills by picking up 18 wickets in this tournament.

When Ganguly is on song, he is a delight to watch and a nightmare for bowlers. McGrath will use his considerable guile to keep the Indian captain in check.

### Zaheer Khan v Adam Gilchrist

ACROSS

1 Vegan's

kingdom

12 Atmos-

phere

mative

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base

15 Journey

weight

16 Corra

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run" 26 Winter-

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**33** Solo

34 Agent 35 Distant

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The left-arm seamer has been one of the surprises of India's campaign with 18 wickets so far, equalling Roger Binny's Indian record in 1983 which helped Kapil Dev's men win the title.

Zaheer is not only bowling fast but maintains a good line and length as his three for 14 against

Javagal Srinath v Andrew The veteran seamer has been a

captain's delight in his fourth and last World Cup, picking up 16 wick-ets and leading the Indian charge with the young Zaheer and Ashish

"I don't want those two to feel this old man can't bowl," said the 33-year-old Srinath who was persuaded out of retirement by Ganguly to spearhead the pace attack.

Srinath's experience will come in handy when Symonds blasts away down the order. The Queensland batsman has been a revelation in the tournament. His selection was slammed by the home media because of his indifferent form leading up to the World Cup.

But he silenced the critics with powerful knocks of 143 against Pakistan at the Wanderers on February 11 and an unbeaten 91 in the semi-final against Sri Lanka when Australia were down to 51-3.

Srinath and India know Symonds could be the man to remove early if Australia are to be restricted. final.'

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer 41 "Golden 3 La Scala 21 Grecian Girls" role solo vessel no-no 45 Bat a gna 5 — Mahal 47 Function-45 Bat a gnat 4 A 23 Dizzying place of designs 8 Dead Sea business 24 Benefit canceling from kev 49 Noble's 5 ... whose sowing 25 Frat-party title patrons 13 Altar affir-50 Present become supplies 26 Wax 51 Crumpet this? eater's 6 Lime (Pref.) quaff 27 The drink 52 Harvest-7 Yellow yoke's on er's narcissus them 8 Sir's collection 28 South 53 Calendar counter-American quota rodent part 54 Pitch 9 Fuel-32 Romano's 55 Hamilton TV combusbills brother tion chemicals 33 Colonel DOWN 10 Oktober-Mustard, 1 One side fest e.g. 35 PETA order of the SATs 11 Stake target 36 Boss 19 Modern-2 Conti-(Abbr.) time drink nental day coin evidence 38 External 39 "Sesame Solution time: 24 mins. Street" curmudgeon 42 Tortoise's rival 43 Press 44 Bavarian range 45 Bashful 46 Teensy 48 Overwhelming

amount

### **Tourney 'too long** FROM PAGE 10

### how long the World Cup would be.

"When I told him 44 days, he said 'Ali, that's going to an event of biblical proportions.' He was right.

Kenya, Canada, the Netherlands and Namibia were the four minnow teams which took part in the 54-match tournament along with the 10 Test-playing nations.

But Bacher was pleased the tournament, which began on February 8 with the opening ceremony in Cape Town, will end with what he believed was going to be a "dream final."

"The two best teams in the tournament have qualified for the final.

"The Australians have appeared invincible while the Indians have some wonderful players like Sachin Tendulkar who is a genius.

"There will be a full house of 30,000 at the Wanderers and a billion people watching on television. It's going to be an awesome

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### UVXLPA IPUMMUVS Wν O ZOPMRI. CA CWIIW UB "XLBI BOA VW IW PLSB."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT SANTA REALLY DREADS IS GOING UP AND DOWN CHIMNEYS. MUST BE CLAUS-TROPHOBIA. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals R

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.

273-7 in 50 overs; S Anwar 101; and out, Y Singh 58 not out) Mar 10: beat Sri Lanka by 183

Australia 178-5 in 31.2 overs; A Gilchrist 67; A Karim 3-7) out)