



South Africa's Peter Kirsten takes evasive action as New Zealand's Dipak Patel tries to make the catch during yesterday's World Cup match in Auckland. —AFP photo

Great match for Greatbatch as Kiwis march on at S Africa's cost

AUCKLAND, Feb 29: New Zealand, fired by an explosive 68 from opener Mark Greatbatch, trounced South Africa by seven wickets in their World Cup cricket match on Saturday, reports Reuter.

the pitch. South Africa won the toss and decided to bat but little else went right after that. The innings was held together by the prolific-scoring Kirsten with an outstanding 90.

against India late last year. New Zealand's attack again bowled tightly, none more so than medium-pace Gavin Larsen, who had figures of none for 29 from his 10 overs, and Watson with two for 30 from his 10.

The New Zealanders have now won their first three matches in the tournament and head the standings two points clear of England, who face Pakistan in Adelaide on Sunday.

New Zealand captain Martin Crowe again used his tactic of opening the bowling with off-spinner Dipak Patel and the move paid off handsomely.

Crowe said it was a great victory for New Zealand because they did everything they set out to, but he was surprised at the ease of the victory.

Brilliant New Zealand fielding and tight bowling on a slow pitch contained South Africa to 190 for seven in their 50 overs and the co-hosts swept home at 191 for three in 34.3 overs.

South Africa's vaunted pace attack, which led them to a win over Cup holders Australia on Wednesday, was shown no respect at all with both Brian McMillan, Richard Snell clubbed by Greatbatch for sixes.

Greatbatch played down his role. "I was just looking to get the lads away to a good start."

New Zealand were spurred to success by the emotion-charged Eden Park crowd chanting "Kiwis, Kiwis, Kiwis" in rugby-style.

It was impossible for Greatbatch to last at that pace, and in the 18th over, with the total on 114, he was bowled by the gentle off-spin of Peter Kirsten, the seventh South African bowler to be used.

He said New Zealand were still not certain they could make a semifinal berth even though they needed to win just two of their last five matches, which include minnows Zimbabwe.

Greatbatch, a makeshift opener only playing because of an injury to John Wright, smashed the hapless South African bowlers to all parts of the ground, including one huge hit on to the roof of the tall north stand.

South African captain Kepler Wessels said after the match that he had expected a tough game.

He said he was happy to play as an opener but would bat in any position as long as he was in the team.

The South African bowlers will want to forget this game. McMillan's first three overs cost 21 and he was replaced by Snell, who went for 24 from his first three and finished with one for 56 off seven overs.

Like their batsmen, they failed to come to terms with the lower, slower bounce of

the final, to be played over 13 frames in two sessions, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3.

CUP STANDINGS

League table after Saturday's matches in the World Cup cricket tournament:

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tie/No result	Points
New Zealand	3	3	0	0	6
England	2	2	0	0	4
West Indies	3	2	1	0	4
Sri Lanka	3	1	1	1	3
South Africa	2	1	1	0	2
Pakistan	2	1	1	0	2
India	2	1	1	0	2
Australia	2	2	0	0	4
Zimbabwe	3	3	0	0	6

Lankans not to rush Labrooy

MACKAY, Australia, Feb 29: Sri Lanka will not thrust replacement paceman Graeme Labrooy into their World Cup cricket match against South Africa in Wellington on Monday despite being short of front line fast-medium bowlers, reports Reuter.

Sri Lankan team manager Ranjit Fernando said yesterday although Labrooy was due to arrive in Brisbane from Colombo on Saturday to replace injured fast bowler Ramesh Ratnayake, he would remain there to practice.

He (Labrooy) will not join us in Wellington, he said. "He will be too tired for a further trip. He'll stay in Brisbane and practise."

Fernando said Labrooy, 27, would link up with the team in Adelaide on Tuesday, ahead of the match against Australia in that city on Saturday week.

Ratnayake injured his right shoulder in a practice match earlier this month and is due to return to Sri Lanka today. Labrooy last played first class cricket in January when he was called on to replace Ratnayake, then also out with a shoulder injury, during Sri Lanka's tour of Pakistan.

Fernando said Labrooy was not selected for the original 14-man touring party for the World Cup because he was not considered good enough.

Labrooy has taken 42 wickets at an average of 40.50 in his 41 limited-over internationals.

The injury to Ratnayake leaves Sri Lanka with just three medium-fast or fast-medium bowlers, Champaka Ramanayake, Pramodaya Wickremasinghe and Kapila Wijegunawardene.

Windies too good for the minnows

BRISBANE, Feb 29: West Indies recorded their second win of the nine-nation World Cup, routing minnows Zimbabwe by 75 runs at the Gabba here Saturday, reports AFP.

Sent in to bat by Zimbabwe skipper David Houghton, West Indies piled up 284 for eight in 50 overs, getting useful batting practice for the tougher matches ahead.

Even against a West Indian side without fast bowler Curtly Ambrose, who was rested, Zimbabwe could only manage 189 for seven in reply, with Ali Shah making an unbeaten 60 and Houghton contributing 55.

The main danger for the West Indies came not from the opponents but the uncertain weather which threatened to interrupt the match.

Light rain stopped the game for five minutes midway through the West Indian innings and came again as the players were walking off the field for lunch.

Luckily for the West Indians, the rain kept away when Zimbabwe batted in the afternoon, even though the skies remained overcast through the day.

The easy victory took the West Indies to four points from three matches. They had previously beaten Pakistan in their first match, but lost to England in their second.

For Zimbabwe, the only non-Test playing nation in the World Cup, it was their third straight loss of the tournament.

Brian Lara top-scored with 72 and skipper Richie Richardson and Carl Hooper also hit half-centuries as the

West Indians went for further runs in the slog overs, with Keith Arthurton striking 26 before Winston Benjamin was bowled off the final delivery.

In their innings, Zimbabwe slumped to 64 for four by the 25th over with Winston Benjamin claiming two wickets and Patrick Patterson and Carl Hooper one each.

To add to their problems, opener Kevin Arnott was forced to retire hurt for 16 after being hit on the fingers by a quicker delivery from Anderson Cummins.

But Houghton and Shah saved Zimbabwe from embarrassment with a defiant stand of 68 for the fifth wicket.

Houghton, who slammed a century against New Zealand in the 1987 World Cup, hit three boundaries before lofting Hooper to Patterson at long-off.

After his captain's departure in the 39th over, left-handed Shah kept the innings going without support from the other end.

Benjamin, who was omitted for the recent World Series one-day competition in

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Police top Japan Cup judo

The male judokas from Bangladesh Police beat off the challenge from the Bangladesh Ansars women to top the medals table in the 10th Japan Cup judo championships that concluded yesterday at the National Coaching Centre gymnasium.

The national champion police judokas, who had collected three golds on the opening day Friday, grabbed another four golds and a silver to emerge champions in the two-day meet which was

jointly organized by the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation (BJKF) and the Japanese embassy in Dhaka.

Karate display today

A four-member karate delegation from Japan arrived in the city yesterday. Hasanuzzaman Moni, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation, received the guests at the Zia International Airport.

Bima beat Ajax

Sadharan Bima Krita Sangtha beat Ajax Sports Club by 18 runs in the Milnars First Division relegation league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Sunrise reach Pioneer final

Sunrise Sporting Club moved into the final of the Janata Bank Pioneer football league beating Nawab Kaira Juba Sangha by three goals to nil in the first semifinal held at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Nirman cricket

Khilgon Govt High School and Armanitola High School won their respective matches of the Dhaka zonal championship of the ninth Nirman schools cricket competition at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Medals table

Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze
B Police	7	1	0
B Ansars	4	5	2
Janata Bank	1	0	0
VDP	0	4	0
Bakerganj	0	1	2
Chaudanga	0	1	0
Mymensingh	0	0	1
BTMC	0	0	1
Muktijoddha	0	0	1
Jhalakati	0	0	1

In connection with the visit of the delegation, sponsored by the Japanese embassy in Dhaka, an exhibition match and coaching camp will be held at the Abahani Club ground indoor gymnasium, Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, today.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda will attend as the chief guest.

They will meet the winners of the second semifinal scheduled for today between Govt Printing Press S & RC and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha (fns) in the final next week.

Mattur Rahman put Sunrise ahead in the 23rd minute while Shamim doubled the margin soon afterwards.

Shahnewaz completed the tally for the winners in the 50th minute.

Sunrise skipper Sujjan invited the yellow card for rough play from R Alam, the referee.

The two finalists of the Pioneer football will earn promotion to next year's Third Division league.

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