



No matter how the Kenyans play, a win is what they need today.

Breaking Boundaries.



MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT POSSIBLE

Chelmsford sports red-green attire

From Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed in Essex

Bangladeshis in Britain took advantage of their World Cup qualification to fly the red-and-green flag on their vehicles as they raced to the Chelmsford ground here on Monday. In an aberration of English street behaviour, car drivers honked their horns when they passed another sporting a Bangladesh flag.

The stadium at Chelmsford was drenched in green and red colours with thousands of loyal fans turning up for the match against New Zealand. By a sweeping estimation, about 80-90 per cent of the crowd at Chelmsford were Bangladeshis. The flags were waved at any bit of excitement during the Bangladesh innings that included singles from misfielding. If they were disappointed by the paltry Bangladesh score they did not show it. Rather, every appeal by the Bangladesh fielders were backed by enthusiastic Bangladesh supporters had their face painted, one had his hair dyed green and a red spot on his forehead. Some carried

banners, including one that said Joy Bangla.

SIGH OF RELIEF

Wife of Khalid Masud, the Bangladesh wicketkeeper, was able to watch the Chelmsford match in full honour and dignity. There were earlier reports that some players of the Bangladesh had their tickets withdrawn and this was causing some unhappiness in the squad. A delighted BCB official informed this correspondent this morning that the matter was taken care of and that the ladies were enjoying the match.

NICKNAMES COME EASY

Non-Bangladesh journalists of very many big-name newspapers and agencies were in a riddle at the Chelmsford ground Monday trying to identify Bangladesh players on the ground, let alone spell their names. Some were clearly impressed with the nicknames of the Bangladesh cricketers, not that they were able to pronounce them.

See page 14



Aminul Islam, the Bangladesh captain, plays with his bats face open during yesterday's match against New Zealand at Chelmsford. —AFP photo

Concern for cricket

WORCESTER, England, May 17 (Reuters/Internet): Australian captain Steve Waugh said that crowd pitch invasions were "damaging the cricket World Cup and reiterated his warning that a player will soon be seriously injured."

Waugh was speaking after his team had beaten Scotland by six wickets in their opening match at Worcester's Leaky New Road ground, deep in rural middle England.

The noisy 5,200 crowd had been well-behaved but two male streakers -- allowed to parade their wares unchallenged for three minutes -- and a post-match invasion which saw several players mobbed left Waugh worried for his safety.

"We weren't actually threatened but I was jostled and the fans shouldn't have access to the players like that," said Waugh, who ended the game in the middle on 49 not out.

"I've made the point before and I don't know what you have to say to have something done about it."

"I'm sick of saying it but someone is going to get seriously injured soon."

Waugh is particularly sensitive on this issue following trouble that marred Australia's recent one-day series in the West Indies, when he was almost hit by a bottle thrown

from the stands.

He said after riots in Guyana and Barbados that he feared for his life and although there was no comparison with what was a generally good-spirited invasion on Sunday, he said some action had to be taken.

The Scottish fans were great and I thought it was a really good atmosphere," said Waugh. "But if you can get two streakers running around for three minutes and no-one caring, it is not a great advertisement for the game."

"They were on there, running around without a problem. There was no-one within any distance of them. Then, after the game, all the fans were on the field," he said.

"It shouldn't happen. At the captains' meeting they assured us that security would be the highest priority. It obviously isn't."

Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin was among several players mobbed after Saturday's game against South Africa while Sunday's other match in Bristol between West Indies and Pakistan also ended with the crowd pouring onto the playing area.

World Cup organisers said on Sunday they would ask all the host counties to review their stewarding in the light of the problems at Worcester.

Hosts riding higher

CANTERBURY, England, May 17: Cricket World Cup hosts England take on rank outsiders Kenya here on Tuesday convinced they are at last beginning to win over the nation -- and even its football fans, reports AFP.

Alec Stewart's side, written off as no-hopers before the tournament by the local media, silenced the critics with a comfortable win over defending champions Sri Lanka in the tournament opener.

Now, the selectors hope, the fans are beginning to sit up and take notice.

Team manager David Graveney said: "It was crucial we won the first one. I hope the quality of our performance at Lord's will get the whole country behind us."

English newspapers are still full of Manchester United but the cricket, despite its low-profile promotion, is beginning to make inroads as the football season winds down. Cricket officials hope the World Cup may win back soccer-made youngsters who had drifted away from the sport.

England, meanwhile, look set to avoid the temptation to experiment with their line-up against Kenya.

That will mean seamer Angus Fraser missing out again to the 'bits-and-pieces' skills of Ian Austin, while attacking opening batsman Nick Knight

will be sidelined again by the steadier Nasser Hussain. Coach David Lloyd said England would treat the game as seriously as any other.



ALEC STEWART

"I can assure everybody we won't be taking this one for granted. It's another stepping stone," he said.

England's preparations have been ruffled by one incident, however. Adam Hollioake, the side's former one-day captain before he made way for Stewart, has been rapped after making a gesture at some fans during a warm-up match last week.

Kenya, who pulled off the

greatest shock in World Cup history three years ago by beating the West Indies, say they are still adjusting to English conditions after losing their first game against Zimbabwe by five wickets.

Captain Asif Karim -- who has also played David Cup tennis for his country -- said: "We don't know the best way to approach games here yet -- eight of the squad have never been to England before."

His team's total of 229 for seven, built around some flamboyant Caribbean-style batting against Zimbabwe indicated they should not be lightly dismissed.

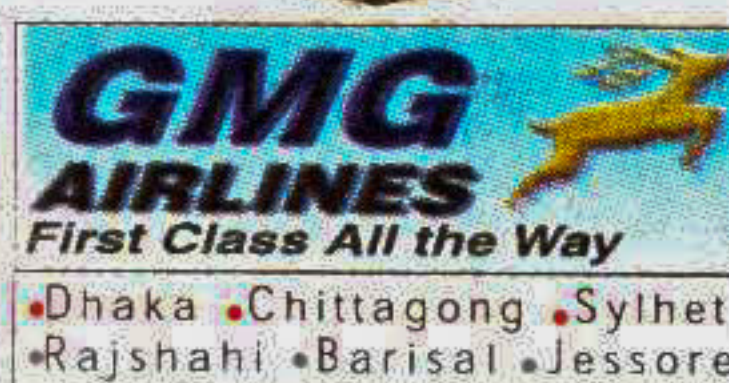
The teams have never met before officially and did not cross paths when Kenya made their World Cup debut.

SQUADS

ENGLAND (likely): Alec Stewart (capt), Nasser Hussain, Graeme Hick, Graham Thorpe, Neil Fairbrother, Andrew Flintoff, Adam Hollioake, Mark Ealham, Ian Austin, Darren Gough, Alan Mullally.

KENYA (likely): Kennedy Otieno, Ravindu Shah, Steve Tikolo, Maurice Odumbe, Hitesh Modi, Thomas Odoyo, Alpesh Vadher, Asif Karim (capt), Tony Suji, Martin Suji, James Kamande.

BITS & PIECES



LONDON, May 17 (AP): Celebrity chef Ainsley Harriott committed a major blunder by putting a recipe for duck onto the menu in a World Cup programme feature.

The television chef is a former head chef at Lord's, the traditional home of cricket, and should have realised that superstitious cricketers consider duck -- another term for a score of zero -- a very bad omen.

INDIAN FAN FREED

HOVE, England, May 17 (AP): A fan who ran onto the field and grabbed Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin after India's four-wicket loss to South Africa on Saturday has been released from police custody.

The man, who appeared to be intoxicated, was apprehended by security staff at Hove and then handed over to police. But he was later released, according to British media reports Sunday.

Azharuddin was outraged after the incident and called for

See page 14

Onus on Austin

LONDON, May 17 (Internet report): Ian Austin will again play a pivotal role in an expected unchanged England line-up on Tuesday as they seek to continue their World Cup momentum against underdogs Kenya in Canterbury.

The Lancashire all-rounder was arguably the pick of the attack during the three warm-up matches, conceding just nine runs in his opening six overs against Essex at Chelmsford and claiming two for eight from as many overs against Hampshire at Southampton.

Those performances and his miserly economy rate persuaded England to use Austin as Darren Gough's new ball partner during Friday's eight-wicket victory over holders Sri Lanka at Lord's.

But for once, Austin failed to deliver and conceded 22 runs in his opening eight-over spell to prompt questions about the wisdom in overlooking Middlesex's Angus Fraser on his home ground.

But Fraser, who has been struggling with a minor knee injury throughout the build-up programme, is unlikely to feature against Kenya as England keep faith with the side which helped the hosts get their World Cup challenge off to a flying start.

"Having Austin opening the bowling helps us out because it means Alan Mullally can come on first change and our opponents are well into their overs by then," explained coach David Lloyd.

"It was something we did a lot at Lancashire with Austin

and Peter Martin opening and Wasim coming on after that -- having a Test bowler coming on at that stage helps keep things tight."

Mullally certainly responded and claimed four for 37, but Lloyd is concerned England do not suffer another attack of nerves again on Tuesday when victory will lay a firm foundation for qualification to



IAN AUSTIN

the Super Sixes.

"One of the first notes I made on Friday was that we had made a very nervous start, although being the characters they are, all the bowlers denied it when I asked them," said Lloyd.

"It was a big game for us and it was difficult taking the tension away from the players. We all knew how important it was to get off to a good start, but having played their first match they will be all the better for it."

BANGLADESH-NZ SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Bangladesh innings against New Zealand at Chelmsford on Monday:

BANGLADESH	R	B	4	6
Shahriar Hossain lbw b Allott	0	3	0	0
Mehrab Hossain lbw b Allott	2	4	0	0
Akram Khan c & b Larsen	16	33	2	0
*Aminul Islam b Cairns	15	41	2	0
Khaled Mashud b Larsen	4	15	0	0
Naimur Rahman lbw b Larsen	18	51	0	0
Khaled Mahmud c Twose b Cairns	3	7	0	0
Mohammad Rafique lbw b Cairns	0	1	0	0
Enamul Hoque b Harris	19	41	3	0
Hasibul Hussain c Horne b Allott	16	28	1	1
Manjurul Islam not out	6	6	0	0
Extras: (lb-4, w-5, nb-8)	17			
Total: (All out in 37.4 overs)	116			

Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Shahriar Hossain, 0.3 ov); 2-7 (Mehrab Hossain, 2.3 ov); 3-38 (Khaled Mashud, 17.2 ov); 4-38 (Akram Khan, 13.3 ov); 5-46 (Khaled Mashud, 17.2 ov); 6-49 (Khaled Mahmud, 18.6 ov); 7-51 (Mohammad Rafique, 20.1 ov); 8-85 (Naimur Rahman, 29.5 ov); 9-96 (Enamul Hoque, 33.5 ov); 10-116 Hasibul Hussain, 37.4 ov).

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Allott	8.4	0	30	3 (1nb, 3w)
Nash	10	1	30	0 (1nb)
Cairns	7	1	19	3 (1nb, 1w)
Larsen	10	0	19	3 (1nb, 1w)
Harris	2	0	14	1

Umpires: ID Robinson (Zim) and S Venkataraghavan (Ind).
TV Umpire: DR Shepherd.
Match Referee: PJP Burge (Aus).



ON CLOUD NINE: Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, runs towards skipper Wasim Akram after running out West Indian Mervyn Dillon at Bristol on May 16. —AFP photo



Seize the moment, AKTEL it.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Kenya do not yet have Test status. Nor have the sides ever met in the one-day format. Kenya made their World Cup debut in 1996 but the sides did not meet.

Players to watch

England: Graeme Hick. The Zimbabwe-born batsman is in ominous form after scoring 73 not out against Sri Lanka in the World Cup opener. In England's last warm-up game against Hampshire, he made 65 not out. Worse still, he seems to relish the medium-pace bowling Kenya rely on.

Kenya: Ravindu Shah. A stylish right-handed batsman, he made 37 as an opener against Zimbabwe in the team's first World Cup outing. He showed his pedigree last year when making 70 against India. He has only played eight one-day internationals but is already averaging almost 35. He has previously played in South Africa, India, Malaysia and Namibia.

Venue

Canterbury. The home of county side Kent. It is famous for the huge lime tree within the boundary: if a ball hits it, the batting side get a four. A significant slope on one side of the St Lawrence ground adds to its character. Locals fondly remember the Cowdreys -- Colin, the England batsman, and his two sons Chris and Graham all played here.



Spinner Robert Croft stretching with teammates during a practice session of the England squad at Saint Lawrence, Canterbury yesterday. —AFP photo