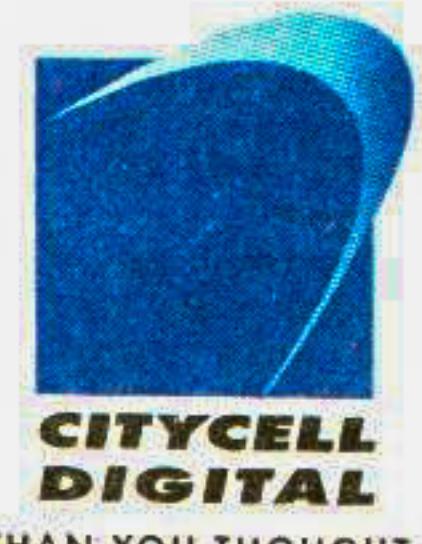




Jayasuriya the bull - raging or aging?

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Ian Austin(C) being congratulated by England teammates after getting the wicket of Kenyan opener Kenedy Otiemo. —AFP photo

Sri Lanka v South Africa: entertainers v professionals

NORTHAMPTON, England, May 18 : There will be a special edge to the World Cup match between defending champions Sri Lanka and South Africa, the favourites to dethrone them, in Northampton on Wednesday, reports AFP.

South Africa will not talk of revenge but they are looking for justice.

Many of their players believe they were the team that should have won the event in 1996. And they also feel they were robbed of a fair chance of the trophy in 1992.

South African captain Hansie Cronje, however, said the past was no longer relevant.

"I have said all along that it is important that we play well in our first three games. Sri Lanka is a big game for us," he said.

As World Cup novices in 1992, South Africa lost in the semi-final when a controversial rain rule turned the game into a farce. They had earlier gone down to Sri Lanka by three wickets in Wellington.

In 1996, the two sides dominated their groups but never met. While Sri Lanka went on to win, the impressive South Africans, with five wins out of five, suffered a shock defeat against the West Indies in the quarter-finals.

Since then, South Africa and Sri Lanka have met in five tournaments.

South Africa have won four quadrangular events in Kenya in 1996-97 and Pakistan in 1997-98, a triangular in South Africa in 1997-98 and the 'mini World Cup' in Bangladesh in 1998-99.

Sri Lanka, with three wins in their last eight outings against Cronje's men, won a triangular tournament in England in 1998.

Cronje said the four-wicket win over India at Hove on Saturday had strengthened his team's confidence.

"There was not too much tension in the chase," he said. "There was more when we were bowling. We were a little bit nervous in the first game of a World Cup and the Indian

batsmen played really well. "We needed to calm it down. When it came to the chase we paced it well and the guys kept their cool."

Sri Lankan skipper Arjuna Ranatunga responded: "We respect South Africa as one of the top teams but what is important is how we play."

He admitted the team needed a lift after an eight-wicket defeat against England in the tournament opener at Lord's. "We have to bounce back," he said.

The Sri Lankan captain said the toss had been vital at Lord's and could play a big role in Northampton if overcast con-

ditions continued.

South African coach Bob Woolmer hinted there could be changes in the South African team. He did not elaborate, but with the pitch looking well-grassed, fast bowler Steve Elworthy could come into contention at the expense of left-arm spinner Nicky Boje.

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NORTHAMPTON, England, May 17 : The last time Jacques Kallis came up against Sri Lanka's spin king Muttiah Muralitharan, the South African all-rounder almost gave his coach a heart-attack, reports AFP.

Instead of seeing off Sri Lanka's dangerman with prudent pushes and prods, as instructed, Kallis hit him out of the ground on the way to a century in the 'mini World Cup' semi-final in Dhaka last October.

"The idea was to try to score four runs an over against Muralitharan and attack the other bowlers," said coach Bob Woolmer.

"But Jacques played superbly and took the attack to him so effectively that he went for eight an over."

In a rain-reduced match, Muralitharan bowled only six of his quota of eight overs and cost 48 runs.

Kallis - nicknamed "Dozy" because he often seems to drift off into his own world and not listen to his team-mates or coach - slammed 113 not out off 100 balls, with three of five sixes coming off the lynch-pin of the Sri Lankan attack.

Kallis was named man of the match, then scooped the award in the final as well, this time with his swing bowling as he took five for 30 against the West Indies.

Kallis started the 1999 World Cup in fine style on Saturday, taking yet another man-of-the-match award as he scored 96 in the four-wicket win against India in Hove.

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Stylish Kenyan batsman Ravindu Shah playing a lofted drive at Kent yesterday. —Internet photo

Deliver De Silva

NORTHAMPTON, England, May 18 : Aravinda de Silva carries a heavy burden of expectation as Sri Lanka enter a critical phase of their World Cup defence with a Group A match against South Africa on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

As Sri Lanka's most accomplished batsman, particularly in English conditions, de Silva is the man who can play the big innings that will give his side their best chance of toppling the South Africans.

Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga, whose side lost to England by eight wickets in the opening match at Lord's last Friday, has acknowledged they must win one of their next two games.

After playing pre-tournament favourites South Africa, Sri Lanka face Zimbabwe at Worcester on Saturday, with India and Kenya respectively providing the opposition in their last two group games.

De Silva was held back to number five when England made early inroads after

putting the Cup holders in to bat, then lasted for just six balls before falling to Alan Mullally without scoring.

The scorer of more runs in limited overs internationals - 8,020 in 255 matches - than any other Sri Lankan, de Silva has the technique to combat seaming pitches so typical of early summer in England.

De Silva's skills were honed during an outstanding season with Kent in 1995 when he scored 1,661 runs in 15 county championships fixtures, as well as playing one of the best innings in a domestic one-day final at Lord's - 112 off 95 balls in a losing cause against Lancashire.

On the evidence of their performance against England, Sri Lanka need a big total to defend against South Africa. The title holders looked ponderous in the field and their pace attack lacked a cutting edge in their opening match.

They face a South African side who underlined their all-

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Application absent

From Nizamuddin Ahmed in Essex

he quipped. He conceded that "We have a lot of work to do".

Replying to a question by this correspondent, what would be the one-line advice he has for the Bangladesh players before the next match against West Indies, whom he knows well, Gordon said, "Play positive cricket".

A Bangladeshi journalist



DEFEAT DOESN'T DAMPEN THEIR SPIRITS: Expatriate Bangladeshis create a party atmosphere at Essex on May 17 despite their team's poor showing against New Zealand.

—Internet photo

journalists.

At the press briefing, where he arrived ten minutes after captain Aminul Islam, coach Gordon Grenidge looked distraught because, according to him, the Bangladesh once again failed to apply their cricket knowledge.

Grenidge admitted that Bangladesh performance was not good and said, "there was no reason why the team should not have scored 220-230 runs".

"What was need was application. No body did it. We talk about it every time, but it is forgotten. It was necessary to re-bowl the innnings after the two wickets fell, but nobody did it. Somebody should have scored fifty on this wicket and batted for fifty overs," said Grenidge in one breath.

Things could have been different if the way they (New Zealand) batted and if we had had 180-200 runs on the board.

"It is for the players to apply themselves on the field. Unfortunately, we do not have ear plugs like the South Africans."

The Kiwi captain however praised the efforts of the Bangladeshi bowlers, who he thought "did very well".

"They (two who impressed him) should be interesting on a seaming wicket," was the only accolade Bangladesh could take from the match other than the losers' purse of \$3000.



KENYA-ENGLAND SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Kenyan innings against England at Canterbury on Tuesday :

KENYA	R	B	4	6
+K Otiemo c Thorpe b Austin	0	8	0	0
Ravindu Shah c Stewart b Gough	46	80	4	0
S Tikolo c Gough b Ealham	71	107	8	0
M Odumbe b Gough	6	13	0	0
H Modi run out (Fairbrother)	5	11	1	0
A Vadher b Croft	6	19	1	0
T Odoyo not out	34	32	3	1
*Asif Karim b Ealham	9	17	1	0
A Suji b Gough	4	5	0	0
Mohammad Sheikh b Gough	7	6	1	0
MA Suji run out (Thorpe)	0	3	0	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-6, nb-3)	15			
Total : (All out in 49.4 overs)	203			
Fall of wkt's: 1-7 (Otiemo, 3.5 ov); 2-107 (Ravindu Shah, 26.3 ov); 3-115 (Odumbe, 28.6 ov); 4-130 (Modi, 33.1 ov); 5-142 (Vadher, 37.5 ov); 6-150 (Tikolo, 40.1 ov); 7-181 (Asif Karim, 45.4 ov); 8-186 (A Suji, 46.4 ov); 9-202 (Mohammad Sheikh, 48.5 ov); 10-203 (MA Suji 49.4 ov)				

Bowler O M R W

Gough	10	1	34	4 (1nb, 2w)
Austin	9.4	0	41	1 (2w)
Mullally	10	0	41	0 (2nb, 2w)
Ealham	10	0	49	
Croft	10	1	32	1

Umpires: KT Francis (SL) and RE Koertzen (SA)

TV Umpire: DB Cowie (NZ)

Match Referee: Talat Ali (Pak)

