



Jayasuriya the bull - raging or aging?

Breaking Boundaries.



MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT POSSIBLE



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

batmen 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.

SQUADS

SOUTH AFRICA (likely): Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Mark Boucher, Jacques Kallis, Jonty Rhodes, Darryl Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (capt), Shaun Pollock, Lance Klusener, Allan Sees page-14



Seize the moment, AKTEL it.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Their last Test encounter saw South Africa win both games in a home series in March last year. The South Africans have also come out best in recent one-day clashes - but only just. They won 2 out of three games in a triangular tournament in April last year, lost badly to Sri Lanka in a similar event in England in August but then beat them again on their way to winning the 'mini World Cup' in Dhaka in October.

World Cup: The teams have only played once, in 1992, when Sri Lanka won, thanks to half-centuries by Roshan Mahanama and Arjuna Ranatunga. They did not meet in 1996, when South Africa were regarded as the team of the tournament but went out in the quarter-finals, while Sri Lanka won the trophy.

Players to watch: South Africa: Jacques Kallis. The 23-year-old from Cape Town, regarded as one of the world's top all-rounders, scored 96 in his team's opening win against India. In the last encounter between the two sides, in October, he made 113 not out off 100 balls.

Sri Lanka: Aravinda de Silva. One of the heroes of 1996, when he scored an undefeated century in the World Cup against Australia, he owes his side some runs after making a duck in the first game of this tournament against England. Struggling for form after picking up a hip injury at the start of the year.

Northampton. This is one of several grounds, like The Oval and Trent Bridge, with a football connection. Northampton Town once played first division football here in the 1960s. Pakistan and Bangladesh also play here on May 31. Capacity: 7,000.

BITS & PIECES



LONDON, May 18 (AP): After the furore created with his first newspaper column for Britain's The Times newspaper last Friday, Australian cricketer Shane Warne used his second column to convince his critics he's only human.

The rigour of being a high-profile international cricketer is starting to take its toll on the leg-spinner, who'll this week miss the birth of his second child because of cricket commitments.

The Australian vice-captain came under fire Friday for a scathing attack on Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga in his column. On Sunday he was cautioned for making a middle-finger gesture to fans who were taunting him at Worcester.

His wife, Simone, is due to give birth on Thursday - the same day the 29-year-old bowler will be doing battle with arch-rivals New Zealand in Cardiff, Wales.

In his column in Tuesday's Times - his first focused on how cricket would be better off without Ranatunga - Warne lamented lost time with his family.

Although Warne, who was fined and handed a suspended two-match ban by the International Cricket Council for bringing cricket into disrepute with his first column, says he is familiar with the situation he'll face Thursday.

"When Brooke (the couple's 19-month-old daughter) was born, I was playing in the third Test match against England at Old Trafford (Manchester)," he said.

"It's obviously hard for Simone to be alone at a time like this," he writes. "But being away now reminds me that cricket is a sport - to be enjoyed and played hard - but it's not everything."

SPICY BREAKFAST

LEICESTER, England, May 18 (Reuters): You can keep your cornflakes but where are the green pickles?

Indian cricketers at the World Cup are turning up their See page-14

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 topping the South Africans.

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-

Application absent

From Nizamuddin Ahmed in Essex

Bangladesh coach Gordon Greenidge made an aberration of his usual practice of ducking the press on May 17.

The former Caribbean cricketer opted to appear in post-match press session soon after the 6-wicket defeat against New Zealand at the Chelmsford ground, much to the surprise of Bangladeshi

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 Greenidge looked distraught because, according to him, the Bangladesh team again failed to apply their cricket knowledge.

Greenidge 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 needed was application. No body did it. We talk about it every time, but it is forgotten. It was necessary to rebuild the innings after the two wickets fell, but nobody did it. Somebody should have scored fifty on this wicket and batted for fifty overs," said Greenidge 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."

next to me quipped, "We have heard this same literature many times".

Aminul Islam meanwhile admitted he did not bat well and neither did Akram Khan. Despite the defeat, the Bangladesh captain exuded confidence and said that "we will do well against the West Indies at Dublin".

On the other hand, Kiwi captain Fleming was happy with the win and the "pretty good day" with "two points in the bag". He underlined the "pretty good job" of his seam bowlers and expressed to do well against their local opponents - the Australians - in their next match at Cardiff.

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 Otieno 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 Vadhier b Croft	6	19	1	0
T Odoyo not out	34	32	3	1
*Aasif Karim b Ealham	9	17	1	0
A Suji b Gough	4	5	0	0
Mohammed 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 wickets: 1-7 (Otieno, 3.5 ov); 2-107 (Ravindu Shah, 26.3 ov); 3-115 (Odumbe, 28.6 ov); 4-130 (Modi, 33.1 ov); 5-142 (Vadhier, 37.5 ov); 6-150 (Tikolo, 40.1 ov); 7-181 (Aasif Karim, 45.4 ov); 8-186 (A Suji, 46.4 ov); 9-202 (Mohammed 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	2
Croft	10	1	32	1

Umpires: KT Francis (SL) and RE Koertzen (SA)
TV Umpire: DB Cowie (NZ)
Match Referee: Talat Ali (Pak)



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