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Breaking Boundaries.



MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT POSSIBLE

Bangladesh earn some respect

From Nizamuddin Ahmed at Dublin

MAY 21: Clontarf Cricket Stadium is some fifteen minutes drive from Dublin city centre. This being just a small club, where rugby rules, facilities are very much wanting for an international cricket match. The Press Box in a tent with six openings covered with transparent plastic. Outside, the high wind rattled the large tent and there are fears of being swept away.

Not unlikely, considering the wet weather with which the day started. For once, well more than once, the weatherman seemed to have got it right. Showers were predicted throughout the day with occasional sunny breaks. ICC announced a delayed 11.15 am start, but that was followed by another downpour. Both teams came on to the field at around 11 am to limer up. The sun finally smiled on the sparse crowd soon after.

In contrast to Chelmsford, the crowd here was predominantly non-Bangladeshi. Fewer flags, lesser support. Bangladesh Betar commentator Shamim Ashraf managed to

convince the hosts the need to fly a flag of the Asian nation as there was none. Finally, the red and green flag was flown on the same mast as that of the West Indians; the rugby club flag would not come down.

Bangladesh won the toss and, with the weather promised to be threatening, Aminul Islam elected to bat. But, opinion was divided whether he should have made the West Indies bat and let his bowlers take advantage of the windy conditions.

About a hundred Bangladeshis intermingled with the near by 3000 strong crowd when the match got off to a late start at 11.30. It was very windy and the umpires were having difficulty in keeping the balls on the stumps.

Walsh and Dillon opening the attack for the Caribbean did not appear to unnerve the Bangladeshi openers, Shahriar Hossain and Mehrab Hossain. Both the batsman began by muddling the ball until Shahriar failed to get out of the way of a rising delivery from Walsh. Campbell made no mis-

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Bangladesh batsman Akram Khan cuts one to the fence.

- AFP photo

Licensed to kill

LONDON, May 21 (AFP) : While all the hype during South Africa's World Cup build-up centred around established stars like Jonty Rhodes, Allan Donald and Jacques Kallis, few were taking much notice of Lance Klusener.

Yet privately the South African squad - almost to a man - would single out the ultra-competitive all-rounder as the key figure in their campaign.

And on Wednesday it was the 27-year-old who stole into the limelight against reigning champions Sri Lanka with a powerful 52 of 43 balls and three wickets for 21 runs during a 89-run victory on Wednesday.

Klusener clubbed 22 off the last five balls - including sixes of the last two - to help South Africa recover from a precarious 122 for eight and post 199 for nine.

And England, who face South Africa at the Oval on Saturday, should beware - because Klusener says he is only just getting into his stride.

"I'm feeling more and more confident - and one-day cricket is all about confidence," he says.

Klusener, nicknamed 'Zulu' because he speaks the language fluently after growing up in the rural KwaZulu-Natal area, has a growing reputation as an international cricket hitman.

Wielding an ultra-heavy three-pound bat, the powerful all-rounder has become a spe-

cialist in last-over heroics.

Against the West Indies last season, when South Africa needed 12 off the last over, Klusener cracked Neil McGarrell for six which set up a last-ball win.

In Napier in March, South Africa needed four off the last delivery against New Zealand. Klusener smashed a low full toss from Dion Nash for six over long-on.

He wants to make up for lost time in England, from where he returned home midway during the 1998 tour with a heel injury. "Hopefully I can make amends for letting the guys down last time," he says.

Klusener, who bats left-handed and bowls right-handed, has followed an unconventional path to the top.

An average opening batsman at school, he became a regular bowler when he played country districts cricket in Natal. Word got about that a fearsome fast bowler was operating on the country circuit, and he was invited to try out with the Natal provincial team.

In his first Test match, Klusener took eight for 64 in the second innings against India in Calcutta. In his fourth Test, he made a century off 100 balls against the same opponents in Cape Town.

Although he hasn't been able to repeat those performances at Test level, Klusener has become renowned as a big occasion one-day player.

Lesson planned for Lord's

LONDON, May 21 (Reuters/Internet): Surrey cricket club plan to show their London rivals at Lord's how to stage a cricket carnival on Saturday when England meet South Africa at the Oval.

England's opening match against Sri Lanka was billed as a sell-out but dozens of the best seats at Lord's were left empty after members refused to pay for them. This time tickets unclaimed by Surrey members have been sold to the public.

"We wrote to the members in March telling them they had until April 12 to claim their tickets... On Saturday there will be a packed house," Surrey's

chief executive Paul Sheldon said.

The Oval, a green oasis behind one of London's busiest road intersections, has always played second fiddle to Lord's, in wealthy St John's Wood north of the river Thames.

But it has none of the snobishness of cricket's "headquarters" where old school ties abound and women were admitted as members only recently - and then grudgingly.

The Surrey club has increased its capacity by 2,000 to 18,500 in time for Saturday's plum tie. Dozens of police will be drafted in, stretching the

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Hot shots v hopeful hosts

LONDON, May 21 : "Stay calm" is South Africa's motto in the 1999 cricket World Cup. Their equanimity will be tested again at the Oval on Saturday when they meet England in the tournament's biggest match so far, reports AFP.

The unbeaten South Africans, whose status as favourites was enhanced when closest rivals Australia were beaten by New Zealand in Cardiff, have already had to overcome several challenges to their character.

In both their group A matches there have been times, according to skipper Hansie Cronje, "when we could easily have lost our way."

South Africa lost both

tosses, against India and Sri Lanka, and both times made bad starts.

self. What's happened is in the past. You have got to stay calm and try and get on with winning



Seize the moment, AKTEL it.

Against Sri Lanka, a seaming wicket, poor strokes and some dubious umpiring decisions combined to see them slump to 122 for eight.

The theme was echoed by Bob Woolmer, who said: "Whatever happens, it is important that the players remain calm. That's the way you win games. You have to ride out these

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BITS & PIECES



First Class All the Way

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CHESTER-LE-STREET, England, May 21 (Reuters): Scotland bowling coach Graham Dillie was unhappy with the umpiring of his team's game against Pakistan which saw them dismissed for a World Cup record 33 wickets as well as 15 no balls on Thursday.

"Something's got to give," said the former England fast bowler. "Whether it's a directive to umpires to be more lenient outside the off stump or something, I don't know."

"But if the best bowlers in the world are having difficulty controlling the ball then something's wrong."

Bowlers have been punished in the tournament for any ball straying down the leg side and umpires have also been tougher than usual on off side deliveries. Scotland's extras total of 59

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Hick can have his birthday big

LONDON, May 20 : Graeme Hick, 134 not out, will face his sternest World Cup test to date when facing South Africa at the Oval on Saturday, reports AFP.

England's number three, desperate to establish himself as an automatic selection after a see-saw career, has yet to be dismissed in the tournament after making 73 against Sri Lanka and 61 against Kenya.

Add his final warm-up game before the tournament, against English county Hampshire, and the hard-hitting Zimbabwean-born player can boast 199 runs without losing his wicket.

South Africa's pace battery of Shaun Pollock, Allan Donald, Jacques Kallis and Lance Klusener, however, are likely to pose a far greater threat.

Their dismissal on Wednesday of defending champions Sri Lanka for 110, the lowest score of the tournament to date, underlined their mastery of English conditions.

"Graeme is on fire at the moment," says his captain Alec Stewart. "He is showing what a world-class player he really is, just as he's been doing over the last 12 months."

Hick - who will be 33 the day after the South African game - knows, however, that England's selectors have short memories and long knives.

Since making his debut in 1991, he has been in and out of the team.

His recent run of fine form - he also scored three one-day hundreds in four innings at the start of the year, compiling scores of 108, 66 not out, 126 not out and 109 against Australia and Sri Lanka - could be forgotten if he does not continue to shine.

The admiration of Hick's elegant, languid power has long been matched by deep-rooted suspicions of his lack of footwork which, critics say, makes him vulnerable to pace bowling.



West Indians players celebrating the dismissal of Shahriar Hossain.

- AFP photo



BANGLADESH-WINDIES SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Bangladesh innings against west Indies at Dublin yesterday:

BANGLADESH	R	B	4	6
Shahriar Hossain c Campbell b Walsh	64	5	0	0
Mehrab Hossain c Chanderpaul b Simmons	64	129	4	1
Akram Khan c Lara b Dillon	4	18	0	0
Aminul Islam c Jacobs b King	5	24	0	0
Minhajul Abedin c Jacobs b King	5	20	0	0
Naimur Rahman lbw b Walsh	45	72	4	0
Khaled Mahmud c Bryan b Walsh	13	15	0	0
Khaled Mahmud b King	4	6	0	0
Enamul Hoque c Lara b Walsh	1	3	0	0
Hasibul Hussain b Bryan	0	2	0	0
Manjurul Islam not out	38			
Extras (lb-8, w-25, nb-5)	182			
Total: (All out in 49.2 overs)				

Fall of wickets: 1-8 (Shahriar Hossain, 2.1 ov); 2-29 (Akram Khan, 9.6 ov); 3-39 (Aminul Islam, 16.3 ov); 4-55 (Minhajul Abedin, 22.2 ov); 5-139 (Mehrab Hossain, 42.3 ov); 6-159 (Naimur Rahman, 44.3 ov); 7-167 (Khaled Mahmud, 45.6 ov); 8-180 (Khaled Mahmud, 48.1 ov); 9-182 (Enamul Hoque, 48.4 ov); 10-182 (Hasibul Hussain, 49.2 ov).

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Walsh	10	0	25	4 (4nb, 1w)
Dillon	10	0	43	1 (6w)
Bryan	9.2	0	30	1 (11w)
King	10	1	30	3 (3w)
Simmons	10	0	46	1 (1nb, 4w)

Umpires: KT Francis (SL) and DB Hair (Aus).
TV Umpire: G Sharp (Eng).
Match Referee: RS Madugalle (SL).



South African players, wearing T-shirts urging support to their bid for the soccer World Cup in 2006, net-practise at The Oval yesterday.

- AFP photo