

DHAKA TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

# Inside four camps

From Nizamuddin Ahmed

MANCHESTER, June 14: Pakistan are happy but not complacent, and New Zealand think they are in with a chance as the two teams prepare for Wednesday's semi-final clash at Old Trafford.

Away at Birmingham, news is that Australia are bubbling with confidence and South Africa realise the cost of Jacques Kallis's absence. The mercurial all-rounder, who missed out on Sunday's Super Six defeat to Australia, will return when the two teams meet back-to-back to feature in Thursday's semi-final at Edgbaston.

Super Six toppers Pakistan are not so fortunate with Younis Youhana, who was nursing a hamstring injury. They will risk the semi-final without the star batsman but said coach Mushtaq Mohammad: "We may have to play Younis if we reach the final."

Admitting that their match was "an easier game than the other one", Mushtaq revealed that Youhana may have played if their semi-final opponents were either Australia or South Africa.

Pakistan beat New Zealand easily in a group match by 62 runs at Derby and their supporters can only pray that complacency does not ruin the chances of Asia's lone ambassadors.

Pakistan must be haunted by their Super Six defeat to out-of-form India on this Tuesday ground at Old Trafford last Tuesday as

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**Pakistan fairly pleased**

LONDON, June 14: Pakistan reclaimed the tag of cricket World Cup favourites on Monday as they looked forward to their dream semi-final against New Zealand.

Hansie Cronje's South Africans, in contrast, toppled as tournament top dogs after losing a thriller to Australia, were left licking their wounds, knowing they had missed the perfect chance to take a stranglehold of the competition.

Pakistan, who take on the Kiwis in the first semi-final on Wednesday at Old Trafford, were being quoted by British bookmakers at 13-8 to take the title.

Australia and South Africa, who play again in the second semi on Thursday at Edgbaston, were at 11-5 and New Zealand 15-2.

Pakistan coach Mushtaq Mohammad admitted on Monday: "I don't want to sound complacent, but it is obvious to everyone we have an easier game than the other one."

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COMETH THE HOUR COMETH THE WAUGH! Australian skipper Steve Waugh executing a trademark square drive during his match-winning ton against South Africa. — AFP photo



AUSSIES REVEL: Jubilant Australian fans enjoying themselves at Headingley on June 13. — AFP photo

## BITS & PIECES

LONDON, June 14 (Reuters/Internet): Lance Klusener's heavyweight bat and cavalier approach have combined to make him the World Cup's leading six hitter after the first two rounds.

Klusener, whose ferocious late order hitting has been a vital ingredient of South Africa's smooth passage into the semi-finals, has cleared the boundary nine times.

He leads by one from India's Saurav Ganguly, the tournament's top scorer who hit seven of his sixes in his exhilarating innings of 183 against defending champions Sri Lanka.

### 6s CLUB

Lance Klusener (South Africa) 9  
Saurav Ganguly (India) 8  
Moin Khan (Pakistan) 6  
Wasim Akram (Pakistan) 5  
Steve Waugh (Australia) 5  
Chris Cairns (New Zealand) 5

### GOLDEN DUCK SKIPPERS

LONDON, June 14 (Reuters/Internet): Three captains were among the 20 players to suffer the embarrassment of a golden duck during the first two rounds of the World Cup.

England's Alec Stewart, Zimbabwe's Alastair Campbell and Aminul Islam of Bangladesh were out first ball, helping to swell the funds of a sporting charity. The National Westminster Bank is paying 100 pounds (160 dollars) for every World Cup duck to the Primary Club which works to provide sport and recreational opportunities for blind and partially sighted people.

Pakistan's Ijaz Ahmed holds the unwanted World Cup record of being the only player to have

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# World Waugh One

LEEDS, England, June 14: Steve Waugh has warned rivals to beware of the ever-improving Australian side after their dramatic five-wicket victory over South Africa Sunday to enter the World Cup semifinals, reports AP.

Waugh's unbeaten 120 lifted his team from a precarious position.

It was the first time — if South Africa had won the last Super Six match.

"We are two games away from what we came here to do," said Waugh. "I am not going to get too carried away yet."

Waugh and his South African counterpart Hansie Cronje both said Sunday's win

had given Australia an edge going on.

The 34-year-old batsman, who went to the crease with Australia reeling at 48 for three, rated his innings "up there" among his best.

"Given the circumstances, I rate it higher than any other innings I've played."

"I knew I could play that sort of innings in one-day cricket... it's been a while coming. I suppose hundreds don't come that often when you bat at No. 5 and 6."

"It's something you work for all your career... that situation (where) you put yourself on the line and if you come out on top you're good enough."

Waugh's 110-ball knock of 120 not out included two sixes and 10 boundaries and upstaged

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### Youhana to miss semis

OLD TRAFFORD, England, June 14: Pakistan's in-form batsman Younis Youhana has been ruled out of the World Cup semi-final against New Zealand.

Waugh said the victory over South Africa, Australia's fifth consecutive win in this tournament, has to be put into perspective.

"It's good for us psychologically, but it doesn't count for too much," Waugh said. "You have to be aware if you lose the next game you're out."

Waugh said criticism of his batting was the major motivation for his second one-day century. His first coming three years ago with an unbeaten 102 against Sri Lanka at Melbourne on Thursday.

Waugh's win eliminated Zimbabwe, who would have made the semifinals — for the

first time — if South Africa had won the last Super Six match.

"We are two games away from what we came here to do," said Waugh. "I am not going to get too carried away yet."

Waugh said Sunday's win put Australia under pressure because they now had to beat South Africa twice to reach the final.

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