

## Bits &amp; pieces

From page 16  
throwing contest. "It was all very professional," he said. "The other lads thought it was hilarious and the locals couldn't believe it. I got nothing for it - except haggis for lunch," he said.

## FLIP FOR ZIMBABWE

HARARE, June 16 (AP): Going within a whisker of a first ever World Cup semifinal was a big boost for Zimbabwean cricket.

David Houghton's team is out only because Australia beat South Africa in the final Super Six and it had an inferior run-rate to New Zealand.

Bearing in mind host England and two-time titlists the West Indies didn't even make it to the Super Sixes, it was a great performance by a nation considered the weakest of the nine Test playing teams.

But an editorial in the national daily, The Herald, while congratulating the team, called for more to be done to attract more home grown players, especially from the majority black population.

Of Zimbabwe's 12.7 million people, only 70,000 are whites, with 20,000 Asians and 40,000 of mixed race. Yet whites constitute 90 per cent of first class cricketers.

The Herald noted that the only two good batsmen to enter the Zimbabwe line up had grown up and matured in other countries - Neil Johnson (South Africa) and Murray Goodwin (Australia).

"While everyone is pleased they decided to come home to the land of their birth, it would be folly to rely on a continual flow of child emigrants returning home," said the Herald.

"A lot more still needs to be done especially in ensuring that the national team reflects the racial mix of the Zimbabwean nation."

The Herald said that the team's success had attracted more people to the game by watching on TV.

"There is a lot more interest in the game," it said. "Many who have never watched a cricket match in their lives before were glued to their television screens on the days Zimbabwe played."

## THE OFFICIALS

LONDON, June 16 (AP): Steve Bucknor of the West Indies and England's David Shepherd will umpire the World Cup final at Lord's on Sunday.

The third umpire is to be India's Srinivas Venkataraman and Ranjan Madugalle of Sri Lanka will be the match referee.

## Low on confidence

From page 16

"I wasn't sure who to shout for in the end," another South African supporter whispered sheepishly after Sunday's game, fearful of his admiration for the enemy being overheard in this unblinkingly one-eyed society.

Victory last Sunday would have sent Australia packing from the tournament. Now South Africa have it all to do again and with their morale damaged by defeat.

The cricketing mood in the country since then has been unusually gloomy.

## Perfect day for cricket

From page 16

one that Fleming was too late to tackle was pitched at 92 mph.

The Old Trafford pitch is known to be a heaven for spinners, but it also has encouragement for the seam bowlers. Pakistan, unfortunately for the Kiwis, has a large store of both. And so it was. All the Pakistani bowlers, with the exception of Shahid Afridi, seemed to gain from the well-worn wicket.

Contrary to earlier BBC reports late last evening, Salim Malik was not recalled into the side and Wajahatullah Wasti found his place safe. This was as per Wasim's announcement after yesterday's nets that the team would be announced this morning.

Roger Twose, who was unlucky to find Ijaz's stretched-out right hand after the gully fielder flew to his right, had moments that was not right in cricket's daily routine. In the 25th over, Twose kicked the dust after Moin Khan made a failed stumping attempt. He did, of course, apologise immediately to the wicket-keeper. Later, he stopped Shaobai in his track as something got in his eyes and was only relieved by the help of his captain, his running mate at the time.

This being cricket, one never knows what lies in store. New Zealand may be rewarded for their cautious approach for they finished in the vicinity of 240, always a big ask if the inconsistency of the Pakistani batsmen takes over. And, for certain, if the Kiwi bowlers get the movement that the wicket promised all day.

## Kallis' stomach may upset SA

From page 16  
risk he and the selectors would take.

"It's painful batting as well. He's still in some discomfort especially with cross bat shots."

"I've told the selectors it's a risk to play him, that he could break down even though it's a one-day international, there is a risk of doing further damage to the muscles."

"There are only two more games at most - obviously that comes into it - so I suppose they will put that into the pot when they make that decision."

"He had his appendix removed in September 1997. It could be related to that, but a stomach strain is a stomach strain."

From page 16

## Back on Waugh-path

From page 13  
hopefully we can rectify that. "Good teams have to play well under pressure - that's what makes a good team, winning the big points."

services of key all-rounder Jacques Kallis at Headingley and he had a gentle work-out in the Edgbaston nets yesterday.

Kallis has a stomach injury, which is not muscular but

re-ports Reuters.

There is rarely much to separate the two southern hemisphere rivals in ability as their classic encounter last Sunday showed when Australia successfully chased 272 for victory, winning with two balls to spare.

Australia will be greatly buoyed by that win, their fifth in succession following qualifying round defeats to New Zealand and Pakistan which threatened their progress into the second round.

But two crucial factors could have a bearing on the outcome at Edgbaston.

Firstly, they did not need to win on Sunday, having already qualified for the semifinals, and ultimately could not match Australia's backs to the wall desperation.

Second, they should have Jacques Kallis back in their line-up.

The absence of the talented all-rounder hurt South Africa badly at Headingley. His replacement, left arm spinner Nicky Boje, gave away one run in his first over and then was savaged for 28 off his next two.

Hansie Cronje was forced to bowl seven overs and went for 50 runs.

That came after Lance Klusener and Allan Donald had conceded just 16 in eight overs to pile the pressure on Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting.

"We knew we had to get after the fifth bowler," said Waugh who ended unbeaten on 120.

Cronje agreed. "Once they'd started hitting Nicky and I it was difficult for the others to come back," he said.

Woolmer said he hoped he would be fully recovered from his abdominal problem.

He's very important to us and he'll probably play even if he's not 100 per cent," said Woolmer.

Australia are also likely to make one change, recalling bowler finger victim Darren Lehmann for Damien Martyn.

But their biggest weapon could be a psychological one.

Both sides have tried to play down the relevance of last Sunday's match but the steely determination shown by Waugh reminded the South Africans they do not have a monopoly on the highly professional approach.

"They are the two best sides in cricket today and I think it will be another great match," said Woolmer who retires as coach after the tournament.

It would have been nice to have put them on the plane home on Sunday but that's history and the lads are very keen to redress the balance.

Both teams have high skill levels, are strongly mentally and physically very fit. The difference on Sunday was Steve Waugh who was magnificent."

Points: 7

## Hansie Cronje (capt)

Right-hand batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler. Aged 29. Rated by South African cricket boss Ali Bacher as the best captain in contemporary cricket. Normally a punishing middle-order batsman and change bowler. He has had a wretched tournament with the bat, averaging 14, but a pugnacious 39 off 22 balls - which included two successive sixes - and two wickets with his slippery medium-pace against New Zealand showed what he can do.

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## Bruised Brijesh

Right-hand batsman, right-arm fast bowler. Aged 27. Often the spearhead after a hesitant start, has found a form after coming to terms with the white, swinging ball. The breakthrough came with five wickets for 14 against the West Indies, including the ball of the tournament, a leg-cutter to Brian Lara that took the top of his stump. He has already notched up 15 wickets.

Points: 6

## Jonty Rhodes

Right-hand batsman. Aged 29. The world's best fielder - he is estimated to save around 30 runs an innings - and a handy batsman in the slog overs, where he keeps the scoreboard moving with cheeky singles interspersed with lofted pulls to leg. A far better player since overhauling his technique and learning to play straighter. His best so far has been 39 not out, but a strike-rate of 92.91 underlines his more impressive.

Points: 7

## Woolmer wary

From page 16  
the law of averages - we've beaten them so many times in big matches, it must be their turn."

During the tri-nation series in Australia last year, South Africa won six games in a row before losing both finals to the hosts.

Waugh was reminded of the semi-final three years ago in India when Australia fought back from the brink to defeat the West Indies by five runs.

"I reckon there is something in our blood that gives us that hunger and desire to come through as winners," he said.

Waugh is relishing his spell as skipper and believes his style is helping to relax the players and get the best out of them in this World Cup.

He said: "This is my third or fourth time as captain. This time the players wanted me and asked the Pakistan Board to appoint me. I refused at first and it's a long story that I am not going to start to go into now!"

"But the boys know I am a relaxed captain who can get the best out of them. They respond to me and we help each other on and off the field instead of being sick of the sight of each other."

Waugh has managed to claim four man-of-the-match awards.

Points: 9

## Goodbye on Wasim's mind

From page 16  
He also feels he is now at the peak of his captaincy powers.

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## Looking at Lord's

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markable late developers. He was drafted into South Africa's one-day side last year and then called up as a late replacement for the tour of England.

Elworthy showed that he had not neglected his batting entirely with a Test debut 48 on that tour, and helped South Africa clinch this year's series against New Zealand with eight wickets in his second Test appearance.

But it is in this World Cup that the seamer has come into his own, conceding just over three runs an over with his nagging line and picking up 10 wickets.

His performance in the Super Six thriller against Australia on Sunday was typical, removing opener Adam Gilchrist and number four Damien Martyn in his 10 overs.

Points: 8

## Jacques Kallis

Right-hand batsman, right-arm fast-medium swing bowler. Aged 23. One of the world's few genuine all-rounders. Returns for the semi-final after missing the previous game with a stomach muscle strain. His absence, according to the captain, cost him two players - a batsman and a bowler. Averaging 51.80 with the bat, besides taking seven wickets. He goes into the match voted as this year best young cricketer of the year.

Points: 8

## Daryl Cullinan

Right-hand batsman. Aged 32. A gifted batsman finally hit World Cup form against Australia with 50 before falling to Shane Warne, the leg spinner who has regularly snapped up his wicket. Steve Waugh is likely to call up Warne again as soon as Cullinan arrives at the

Team total: 83

## Counting on Kallis

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 16: South Africa are hoping the Kallis effect will tilt Thursday's mouthwatering World Cup semifinal against Australia in their favour, re-ports Reuters.

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## Fiercest foes face to face

From page 13  
coming the only side to win a series against them since Cronje had become captain in 1994.

Cronje, five years younger than his rival, has the additional problem of struggling to find his own form with the bat at number five.

If he is as tough as teak, then Waugh is cast in steel.