



ALL QUIET ON THE TRANSFER FRONT: Officials sit idle as no cricketer turned up for inter-club transfers in the morning of the third and final day at the National Sports Council yesterday.

## Darren's Judgement Day

### Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Australian Darren Lehmann will receive no special consideration just because he could miss crucial games at the World Cup when International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee Clive Lloyd decides Saturday the penalty to impose for his racist comment.

Lehmann reportedly referred to Sri Lankan players as "black" in a two-word obscenity shouted by him when entering the Australian dressing room after being marginally run out in a tri-nation series one-day clash with Sri Lanka in Brisbane Wednesday.

Lehmann, 33 next month, could face a ban of up to eight one-day matches if found guilty, threatening his participation in the World Cup, cricket's four-yearly showpiece, starting in South Africa and Zimbabwe next month.

Lloyd, a former West Indies captain, will adjudicate when the ICC charge against Lehmann is heard in Adelaide, South Australia, Saturday.

Lloyd, who led one of the greatest teams in the sport's history, said all players knew the risk they took if they breached the code of conduct.

That Lehmann could miss a number of important games in the

World Cup was irrelevant to the hearing.

"I really can't think 'Well, we have the World Cup coming up,'" he told Melbourne radio station 3AW.

"They knew that before. Anyone who transgresses now knows they can lose big time."

He said he had no qualms about being a one-man jury in the case.

"This is probably the highest level (offence) we've had at this time, but it's no problem," Lloyd said. "I'll be able to handle it."

He said he and the Sri Lankans had already accepted Lehmann's apology and would have taken no further action had the ICC not charged him after Lloyd had considered the case closed.

Lloyd said he had never heard similar racist comments during his long career.

"It's not something I've encountered while playing," Lloyd said.

"I think as cricketers ... we have to guard against such things."

"We are ambassadors for our country, and the game really. The game has gone through quite a dramatic period over the past couple of years, so we have to guard against those things."

Lehmann is captain of the South Australian state side and one of Australia's most experienced batsmen.

He is understood to have been bitterly disappointed by his dismissal in a match marking his return

after a lengthy absence through illness.

Australian coach John Buchanan said Friday there would be no long-term repercussions for Lehmann's career as a consequence of the controversy.

"Darren has fought his way back into the side and obviously he's had a couple of setbacks ... it's not ideal, but I can't see it jeopardising his future career," Buchanan said.

Buchanan said Lehmann regretted his outburst.

"Nobody condones the language. But from our point of view the important part was that Darren made the apology as quickly as he possibly could, a written apology as well ... he addressed the issue at the time and in the appropriate way."

"We thought the matter was handled, but the ICC weren't satisfied with that, and they have laid the charge."

"The ICC have chosen to do that, they are the power of cricket so that is their choice, that is the way they have decided to go."

Buchanan said he hoped the controversy would not destabilise the Australians leading into the tri-nation series finals and the World Cup.

"Any issue has the potential to destabilise the team," he said.

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In the women's draw, second seed Venus Williams and former world number one Lindsay Davenport advanced safely after overcoming low-ranked opponents.

Williams beat German world number 69 Anca Barna 6-1, 6-4 and ninth seed Davenport downing Russia's Tatiana Panova 6-2, 6-1.

Williams will now meet Nicole Pratt on Sunday after the Australian kept up the good showing by the host nation's women players to knock out Argentinian 23rd seed Paola Suarez 7-5, 6-4.

Williams admitted afterwards that her knock of raising her game had rescued her as she grappled with her serve against Barna, who was left ruined the fact that she could only convert two of 12 break points.

"In the first set I was playing really well, sticking to my game plan," said Williams.

"I think in the second set she lifted the level of her game. She started getting a lot of balls over the net."

"I kind of started missing. But at 4-1 I decided to miss a lot less than I had and it helped," Williams said.

"It was a little hot out there. It

quarterfinals.

"I remember a lot from that match last year," Hantuchova said. "I can't say that it was a breakthrough - I didn't beat her. But that match gave me a lot of confidence."

"I was very close to beating her and I'm hoping to get to play her and do a little better than I did last year. That match gave me a lot of confidence for the whole year."

Hantuchova earlier this week bristled at being compared to Russian glamour-girl Kournikova, who bowed out in the second round and is now languishing in 42nd place on the world rankings.

"I'm a totally different person to her," Hantuchova said. "I think I'm proving with my results that tennis remains for me my number one priority," she added.

Hantuchova acknowledged she is likely to create a stir in the media regardless of how she plays.

"I just think it's something that people are always going to talk about. As long as they can talk about my tennis as much as they do about these things, I will be happy."

## Andre tames

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"It was a little hot out there. It

wouldn't have been extremely nice to go to a third set but I was willing to do whatever it takes."

There were no such problems for Davenport, who will meet fifth seed Justin Henin-Hardenne in the last 16 on Sunday. Henin-Hardenne overwhelmed Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia 6-2, 6-0 in her third round match.

Davenport extended her winning record over 24th-seeded Panova to four straight wins in flawless fashion, keeping the stocky Russian on the back foot with a series of weighty forehand winners.

The 26-year-old Californian had laboured through her second round match against Iroda Tulyaganova on Wednesday, being taken to three sets by Uzbekistan's Asian Games gold medallist.

But she looked a different proposition altogether against Panova, ruthlessly dictating play.

"It was a great match for me to play," Davenport said. "I played exactly the way I wanted to play, which was attacking a lot of balls and going for my shots. Today they were falling in."

Sunday's fourth round pits Davenport against Henin-Hardenne for the first time since they met in Zurich last October, when the Belgian accused the American of gamsmanship in faking an injury on her way to defeat.

Davenport said she would not be bearing a grudge against an opponent she has never lost.

"I laughed about it a little bit because I won the first set, and then I got hurt, so I wasn't quite sure why she thought I would fake it," recalled Davenport. "It's definitely something I'm not known for."

In the men's draw, Escude's compatriot Sébastien Grosjean booked his place in the next round with a straight sets defeat of Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentti. Grosjean, seeded 12, beat his 24th seeded opponent 6-1, 6-3, 6-3.

Spanish eighth seed Albert Costa was upset by compatriot Felix Mantilla, losing 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3.

Unseeded Mark Philippoussis' dreams of winning a Grand Slam title in his hometown were put on hold for another year at least when he was downed by Sargis Sargsian, the Armenian winning 5-7, 7-5, 6-0, 6-4.

Despite his knock, England failed to capitalise fully on a fine start to their innings, which had reached 151 for two wickets at the end of the 30th over.

The Sri Lankans were able to apply the brakes to the scoring rate,

even without champion off-spin bowler Muttiah Muralitharan, sidelined with injury.

Veteran batsman Alec Stewart gave Knight fine support, hitting 51



Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia hits a return against Samantha Stosur of Australia yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Kenya remains a worry

Bacher has no problem about Zim

### ICC Cricket World Cup

SOUTH AFRICA 2003

REUTERS/AFP, Johannesburg

World Cup organiser Ali Bacher on Thursday allayed security concerns over games being played in Zimbabwe but said he would travel there shortly to check the situation.

Bacher, executive director of the World Cup organising committee, said he had met South African police for a three-hour briefing about six weeks ago, and was assured that similar security measures would be taken by Zimbabwe's police.

"During that meeting I was told that our police and the Zimbabwe police are in close regular contact and that we can expect that what's going on in Zimbabwe will be a safe and secure World Cup during that period in February," Bacher told reporters.

But he said he would travel to Zimbabwe soon for an update on the situation there.

"I'm going up there within the next 10 days, just to get a feel of what the situation is," he said.

He however mentioned the two World Cup matches scheduled to be played in Kenya next month could

still be moved out of the country due to safety concerns.

"We're not contemplating any of the matches being moved but, in the event of a worst-case scenario, we have the structures and the capacity to accommodate any changes if ruled by the International Cricket Council (ICC)," Bacher told Reuters.

Bacher added however he believed although the majority of South Africans felt that "the political direction in Zimbabwe must change", the situation there would not have an influence on the World Cup.

"What's happened in Zimbabwe will not in our view undermine what we believe will be a wonderful event for South Africa, Africa and international cricket."

South African skipper Shaun Pollock said "it would be very disappointing if it (the situation in Zimbabwe) did put a damper on the event."

"It would be very sad if it did have an impact on teams who would take up points from certain games and other sides who might end up going through to the top six, not because they deserved to be there, but because other teams didn't get their points from a game because they

refused to play."

Critics of President Robert Mugabe have been calling for a boycott of the six World Cup matches to be played in Zimbabwe in February and March in protest of the alleged human rights abuses committed by his government.

Only a deterioration in the security situation there was likely to stop the six matches from going ahead.

This week the English and Wales Cricket Board decided to proceed with their fixture in Zimbabwe on February 13 despite pressure from the British government to boycott the match.

The Australian government said Thursday it had all but given up its effort to persuade the Australian team to boycott their match in Zimbabwe.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) have also set up a committee to monitor the security situation there.

A Zimbabwean coalition of civic and political groups on Thursday vowed to hold widespread anti-government demonstrations ahead of the World Cup matches.

## Eng dash SL hopes

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rate mounting, Sri Lanka lost their last four wickets for six runs.

In the England innings, specialist one-day batsman Nick Knight was on fire again.

Knight, 33, slammed 88 from 112 balls in a knock embracing one six and two fours to take his average in seven hits in the competition to 73.3 from an aggregate of 440 runs.

Despite his knock, England failed to capitalise fully on a fine start to their innings, which had reached 151 for two wickets at the end of the 30th over.

The Sri Lankans were able to apply the brakes to the scoring rate,

even without champion off-spin bowler Muttiah Muralitharan, sidelined with injury.

Veteran batsman Alec Stewart gave Knight fine support, hitting 51

from 59 balls.

Marcus Trescothick and Knight again gave England a sound start, punching a confident 56 in the opening 10 overs.

Trescothick was the dominant partner, hammering 39 from 42 balls, with six sweetly-timed boundaries.

He fell when paceman Chamila Gamage swung a ball through his defences to scatter the stumps.

Knight and Michael Vaughan added 58 from 66 deliveries before Vaughan (28 from 34 balls, with three fours) was trapped by fast bowler Dilshan Fernando.

Skipper Nasser Hussain joined Knight in a third-wicket stand of 41 from 63 balls.

Hussain (18 from 35 balls) was contained by the Sri Lankan bowlers, and appeared angry when



PHOTO: COURTESY  
Chief of Army Staff and president of Kurmitola Golf Club Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury inaugurates the Aga Khan Gold Cup Golf Tournament at the KGC yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY  
Man-of-the-match: Andy Caddick.  
Next match: Australia v England, Jan 19.



PHOTO: STAR  
Winners of the GrameenPhone International Junior Tennis Championships pose with their trophies at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

## Khulna double celebration

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