

Bevan's WC begins today

Buchanan backs Eng

AFP, Potchefstroom

Michael Bevan hopes to make a belated appearance at the World Cup when defending champions Australia take on minnows Namibia in a Pool A match here on Thursday.

The left-hander has not had a chance to bat, bowl or take a catch in the four matches so far which Australia won easily to become the first team to book a place in the Super Sixes.

Victories over Namibia and England at Port Elizabeth on Sunday will see Australia end the preliminary league as the only side with an all-win record.

Bevan was padded up to come in next when Darren Lehmann and Damien Martyn hit half-centuries to guide the champions home by seven wickets against Zimbabwe at Bulawayo on Monday.

The one-day specialist could, however, get his chance to bat on Thursday after captain Ricky Ponting indicated he may elevate Bevan from his customary number six place in the order against Namibia.

"We'll have to think about that, for sure," Ponting said after the Zimbabwe romp.

"Another game has gone by without Bevo having a hit. That was the only thing that was disappointing to come out of the game. We've played four games and he hasn't had a bat yet, so we'll have to look at that."

Bevan though was not worried at having to cool his heels in the pavilion.

"There's no doubt I'll get my opportunity to play a batting role soon," he said.

"Batting at number six gives me the opportunity to bat in a number of different situations and I'm sure I'll be at the crease at some stage."

"The top order is performing extremely well and that is helping us win games."

This is not the first time that Bevan has had nothing to do.

During the 1996 World Cup in the Indian sub-continent, he did not get to bat till the semifinals, but the lack of match practice was not a hindrance.

As Australia were reduced to 15-4 by the West Indies in the semifinal at Mohali in northern India, Bevan stepped in to hit 69 and guide his



PHOTO: AFP

**TOLD YOU NOT TO PLAY WITH US!** The Australian team doctor attends coach John Buchanan (on the ground) who hurt himself while playing during practice at Potchefstroom yesterday.

team to a competitive 207.

The West Indies fell short by five runs and in the final against Sri Lanka in Lahore, Bevan contributed an unbeaten 36 off 49 balls but could not save his side from defeat.

Besides trying to find some work for Bevan, the Australian captain was also worried at his bowlers' inability to stop runs in the slog overs after Zimbabwe recovered from 142-6 to 246-9.

Brett Lee and Jason Gillespie bore the brunt of a powerful assault from Andy Blythe and plundered eight boundaries and two sixes in 54 off 28 balls.

"We didn't bowl well at the end," Ponting said.

"Brett was not at his best then. We've got some work to do there. It has been a bit of a problem of ours

over the last couple of years, bowling at the death.

"We've got to go away and work on that and make sure it's a bit sharper the next time we play."

Meanwhile, Namibia, playing their first World Cup, are still recovering from a 181-run battering by India on Sunday in which Sachin Tendulkar and Saurav Ganguly hit centuries.

Namibian captain Deon Kotze brushed aside the prospect of another heavy defeat, saying his team was excited at the chance to play against the best team in the world.

"It can't get better than this," Kotze said.

SEE PAGE 14

FORM GUIDE		
Australia		Namibia
AFP, Potchefstroom		
Form guide for Australia and Namibia ahead of their World Cup Group A game at North West Stadium here on Thursday:		
<b>Australia</b> (won 10 lost 0)		
Feb 24 2003	beat Zimbabwe by 7 wickets	Bulawayo
Feb 20 2003	beat Netherlands by 75 runs	Potchefstroom
Feb 15 2003	beat India by 9 wickets	Centurion
Feb 11 2003	beat Pakistan by 82 runs	Johannesburg
Jan 25 2003	beat England by 5 runs	Melbourne
Jan 23 2003	beat England by 10 wickets	Sydney
Jan 21 2003	beat Sri Lanka by 9 wickets	Melbourne
Jan 19 2003	beat England by 4 wickets	Adelaide
Jan 15 2003	beat Sri Lanka by 4 wickets	Brisbane
Jan 11 2003	beat England by 7 runs	Hobart
		SEE PAGE 14

# ACU upset by upset

AFP, Johannesburg

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday said its Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) had asked for additional tapes of Kenya's shock World Cup win over Sri Lanka due to an equipment "confusion".

A source had told AFP earlier on Wednesday the ACU had sought the tapes of Monday's game in Nairobi in which Kenya upset 1996 champions Sri Lanka by 53 runs.

"Yes, the tapes have been asked for," the source said. "I believe it is the first match in this World Cup where the tapes have been summoned."

An ICC statement later in the day said the ACU had requested the tapes because "there was some confusion about the availability of the necessary recording equip-

ment."

"As is widely known the Anti-Corruption Unit receives a tape of all matches at the ICC Cricket World Cup 2003 as part of its standard operational procedures," the statement said.

"On arrival at the Nairobi Gymkhana Club, there was some confusion about the availability of the necessary recording equipment for the ACU to obtain match footage in the usual manner."

"As a result a request was made for the producers of the game coverage to provide additional copies of the same footage. All of this took place before the start of the game."

"At the end of the game an ACU representative collected tapes in the usual manner and was provided with two additional copies of the same footage from the producers of

the game coverage.

"The ACU took all four tapes away from the ground."

ICC official Brendan McClements added: "As it has at all ICC Cricket World Cup 2003 games, the ACU obtained tapes at the conclusion of the game between Kenya and Sri Lanka."

"This is not unusual, this is standard practice for the ACU."

The ACU, formed two years ago after the match-fixing scandal broke, promised in its initial report that it would ensure a corruption-free World Cup.

The ACU has also said that a random selection of matches will be reviewed routinely and the Sri Lanka

SEE PAGE 14

# A lot to play for

REUTERS, Cape Town

Sri Lanka and West Indies are set for a major World Cup showdown on Friday, both sides struggling for form and well aware that defeat would probably end their hopes in the tournament.

The winners of the day-nighter at Newlands could well finish top of Pool B, while the losers risk failing to qualify for the Super Sixes.

The stakes have been made even higher by Sri Lanka's loss to Kenya in their last game, while West Indies had to recover from a poor start before beating tournament minnows Canada.

"If we had any thoughts or complacency about how tough it's going to be for the next couple of weeks, I think the game against Canada was a good wake-up call for us," said

West Indies captain Carl Hooper.

"If we thought for a minute that it was going to be a piece of cake to beat Sri Lanka...then maybe we should sit down and check our attitudes and the way we are approaching the one-day game."

West Indies made a flying start to the World Cup when they upset South Africa in the tournament opener in Cape Town, Brian Lara paving the way with a masterful century.

But they have largely struggled since then, losing to New Zealand, missing out on valuable points when their match against struggling Bangladesh was rained out before beating Canada.

Victory over the Canadians was hastened by lightning-fast fifties from Lara and opener Wavell Hinds,

SEE PAGE 14

# Anwar, Elahi dope-tested

INTERNET, Paarl

Saeed Anwar and Saleem Elahi became the first two Pakistanis to undergo a random dope test here under the new regimen introduced by the ICC.

The urine samples of the two Pakistani batsmen were taken immediately after the side won its fixture against Holland by the ICC panel of doctors. The result of the tests is likely to come within a week.

The entire Pakistan team was tested for banned substances by the PCB's panel of doctors, and each of the players was found negative after examination by an IOC-approved clinic at Penang (Malaysia).

The Pakistan team management was told on the morning of the match that random tests would be

SEE PAGE 14

# Education first

REUTERS, Potchefstroom

Namibia batsman Jan-Berry Burger hopes that his impressive performances at this World Cup will pave the way for a career in cricket, not only after he completes his education.

The 21-year-old, popularly known as JB, is studying for a qualification in human resource management but, away from the textbooks, he has been one of the shining lights of the tournament among the part-timers with 154 runs in four matches.

"I would definitely like to make a career out of cricket, that is in the forefront of my mind," the right-hander told Reuters on Tuesday, as Namibia prepared for their Pool A match against world champions Australia on Thursday.

"If I perform well, then there may be opportunities. You never know,

and I have contacts in England through our coach Dougie Brown and Bob Woolmer who could help me."

"That means if I wanted to go there I could but, at the moment, I am going to concentrate on my studies and we will wait and see what happens from there," he added.

JB would certainly find an appreciative audience if he played in England as it was against Nasser Hussain's side that he produced an inspired 85 that, for a while, gave Namibia hope of causing the biggest shock of the World Cup.

That innings in Port Elizabeth, against the likes of Andy Caddick, Andrew Flintoff, Craig White and the fast-emerging James Anderson, confirmed what he had shown in

SEE PAGE 14



PHOTO: STAR FILE

Steve Tikolo

# Kenya's Test status by '06

INTERNET, Nairobi

Following on from Kenya's Collins Obuya inspired win over Sri Lanka in Nairobi on Wednesday comes the news that Steve Tikolo's African minnows could be playing Test match cricket within three years.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is working with Kenya, who defeated Sri Lanka by 53 runs in its World Cup Pool B match on Monday, to make it a Test-playing nation by 2006.

"There is a proposal on the table and if that goes ahead Kenya will be playing Test cricket in three years," the ICC's Development Manager Andrew Eade told the BBC Sport website.

"We want the Kenyan Cricket Association (KCA) to defer their application for three years on the proviso we would work closely with them and provide funding to establish the longer game."

"Kenya are undoubtedly the strongest non-Test country by playing standards. But there are development and infrastructure issues that need to be worked on."

Kenya would be the 13th Test nation after Bangladesh was admit

SEE PAGE 14

# Waqar wants improvement

INTERNET, Paarl

Pakistan skipper Waqar Younis admitted that rapid improvements were necessary before their high-profile showdown with India at the weekend.

Pakistan completed a comfortable 97 run victory over the Netherlands but a lackluster performance by the middle order and an unacceptable 40 sundries took the gloss off their win.

This current Pakistan team, despite being hailed as more talented by Wasim, are struggling to match the achievements of their winning compatriots 11 years ago.

Only man-of-the-match Yousuf Youhana surpassed 50, while Waqar was also disappointed to have given away 40 extras.

It is perhaps a sad reflection on the batting line-up that a bowler, Shoaib Akhtar, tops the averages.

"We should have got 300 on that wicket," Waqar said. "And then we didn't bowl that well giving away so many easy runs was a worry."



WAQAR YOUNIS

"Perhaps we were a little lethargic playing against a weaker side but there are a few things we've got to improve on and talk about in the next few days."

But Waqar paid tribute to Wasim Akram who became the first bowler to take 500 ODI wickets.

"I just want to salute him. It is an outstanding achievement for him and for Pakistani cricket. I don't see anybody else bettering his achievement," said Waqar.

He also expressed his faith in Inzamam-ul Haq, whose previous two innings have lasted a combined three balls with no runs, and said he believed the prolific batsman still had had a huge role to play in the World Cup.

"He is one of our best players and has performed brilliantly for Pakistan in the past," added Waqar.

"Hopefully, he will get some more runs in the next game against India."

But the omens still look worrying for Pakistan as they prepare to face arch-rivals India, a team they have never beaten in a World Cup.

Can the batsmen regain their form under pressure?

Will Shoaib and Wasim take early wickets, and will the secondary bowlers stop a tide of runs being scored?

If not, Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly and co may send Pakistan home early where they can expect a torrent of abuse from both press and fans alike.



PHOTO: STAR FILE

Jan-Berry Burger