

AFTERSHOCK

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) came under fire from all quarters after the country's dreadful showing in the World Cup in South Africa.

The anger and disappointment of the cricket-mad public was evident when a group of agitated fans gathered in front of the BCB office at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday afternoon and burnt an effigy of Board president and ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party lawmaker Ali Asghar.

Players, coaches and organisers of the game meanwhile, were unanimous in the opinion that the BCB should be held responsible for the forgettable performance which saw the Tigers lose five of their six matches including defeats against non-Test playing nations Canada and Kenya.

Former Bangladesh coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury thought the total planning for the World Cup was wrong.

"You have seen that we didn't have a set batting order in the World Cup. That shows how poor our preparation was from a technical point of view. It is obvious that the team manage-

ment had little idea about what the side's composition should be," said Jalal adding that the BCB people who formed the team and planned their training for the World Cup must account for the failure.

"I don't want to blame everybody. I just want to say that there



ALI ASGHAR

are some influential people in the BCB who are looking after the technical aspects and they couldn't assess what was required to perform well in the competition."

Former BCB vice-president and one of the pioneer organisers of cricket in the country Raisuddin Ahmed also pointed fingers at the Board for its selec-

tion policy.

"Our performance could have been better had the selectors included some experienced players in the team instead of taking all those youngsters who failed to respond to pressure and collapsed," said Raisuddin.

Former national captain Rouqibul Hassan criticized the decision to call on ex-national coach and West Indies great Godron Greenidge as a batting consultant during the preparation-tour of Namibia.

"The BCB should have had a batting consultant long before the Namibia trip. It would've been better had the board gone for some former Bangladesh batsmen to do the job rather than bringing in Greenidge with so little time left."

Rouqibul also came down hard on the team management for failing to inject enough confidence among the players.

"None of our players looked confident on the field as they were not assured of their places in the squad for the next match. That's a very important thing because one would never feel confident unless you give him regular exposure," said Rouqibul.

Big win not enough even

AFP, Benoni

Stephen Fleming's New Zealand go into Monday's World Cup match against Canada knowing even a huge win in their last league outing may not secure them a place in the Super Sixes.

Even as the Kiwis take on the minnows, their attention will be focussed on another key game the same day between Sri Lanka and South Africa under the Kingsmead lights at Durban.

And the Black Caps received a big boost when it was confirmed

that Nathan Astle will play in the match, but two key players will sit out due to injuries.

Batsman Lou Vincent and seamer Kyle Mills, who were injured during training last week, are certain to miss the early part of the Super Sixes if New Zealand qualify.

Vincent dislocated his left thumb and Mills suffered a torn hamstring, but Astle is back in place of Matthew Sinclair after missing the last game due to a side strain.

New Zealand chairman of selec-

tors Richard Hadlee said choosing the playing eleven was made easier because of the injuries to Mills and Vincent.

"We had only thirteen players to choose from so selecting the side was pretty straight forward," Hadlee said.

"Astle, who is one of our most experienced and well performed one-day batsmen, has come in to the team in place of Mathew Sinclair.

"This is tough on Mathew because during the game against Bangladesh the need to bolster our run rate meant some players were elevated above him in the batting order and he was denied his opportunity.

"However, this is a must win game for us and one where we must continue to improve our run rate.

"Therefore we have picked what we consider is the most effective combination to achieve this objective."

Fleming warned his team against taking it easy against Canada, who have improved after being shot out for one-day cricket's lowest total of 36 against Sri Lanka.

New Zealand are almost certain to field first if they win the toss to



Stephen Fleming

PHOTO: STAR FILE

FORM GUIDE
New Zealand v Canada

BENONI, AFP
Form guide for New Zealand and Canada who meet in a World Cup Group B match at Willowmoore Park here on Monday:

New Zealand (won 6 lost 4)

Feb 26 2003	beat Bangladesh by seven wickets	Kimberley
Feb 21 2003	v Kenya forfeited	Nairobi
Feb 16 2003	beat South Africa by 9 wickets	Wanderers
Feb 12 2003	beat West Indies by 20 runs	Port Elizabeth
Feb 10, 2003	lost to Sri Lanka by 47 runs	Bloemfontein

SEE PAGE 14



PHOTO: STAR FILE

Saurav Ganguly

We're heroes

AFP, Johannesburg

After defeating arch-rivals Pakistan, Saurav Ganguly's India will return home as heroes even if they did not win another game at the World Cup.

But Ganguly insists Saturday's rousing six-wicket win at Centurion was the perfect launching pad to move ahead in the tournament when the Super Six stage starts next Friday.

"Beating Pakistan does not mean we have won the World Cup," the Indian captain said on Sunday. "A lot of work remains to be done and we don't want to be caught napping."

"This was a big win not because of the celebrations but because of our future in the World Cup."

Sachin Tendulkar overcame the pain barrier and smashed 98 off 75 balls as India surpassed Pakistan's 273-7 with 26 deliveries to spare at the SuperSport Park.

It maintained India's all-win record over Pakistan at the World Cup and lifted them to second place in Pool A behind reigning champions Australia.

SEE PAGE 14

We're shattered

AFP, Johannesburg

Pakistan captain Waqar Younis admitted on Sunday his team will find it difficult to recover from the stunning World Cup defeat to India.

"It will not be easy to lift the team after losing to India," Waqar said a day after his side crashed to a six-wicket humiliation at Centurion on Saturday.

Pakistan, stranded on eight points from five games, must not only defeat Zimbabwe handsomely at Bulawayo on Tuesday but hope Australia do not stumble against England at Port Elizabeth later on Sunday to stay in contention for the Super Sixes.

That will leave Pakistan, Zimbabwe and England tied on 12 points each with net run-rates determining the third qualifier from Pool A behind Australia and India.

When Pakistan won the World Cup in 1992, they made it to the semifinals only after Australia brushed aside the West Indies in their last league match.

"I hate to go through the back

door," the Pakistani captain said.

"We are just not playing good cricket and it is frustrating," said Waqar, who may not be retained as captain after the World Cup.

"At the moment I am more concerned about my team, what happens afterwards will be dealt with later."

India joined defending champions Australia in the Super Sixes after Sachin Tendulkar smashed a superb 98 off 75 balls to steer his team towards Pakistan's challenging 273-7.

"India played much better cricket than us and Sachin took the game away from us," said Waqar, who dismissed Virender Sehwag and rival captain Saurav Ganguly off successive deliveries to raise Pakistan's hopes.

"When we got Tendulkar we thought there was a chance but Rahul Dravid and Yuvraj Singh played very sensibly."

Dravid and Yuvraj held their nerves and put on an unbroken 99 for the fifth wicket to guide their

SEE PAGE 14

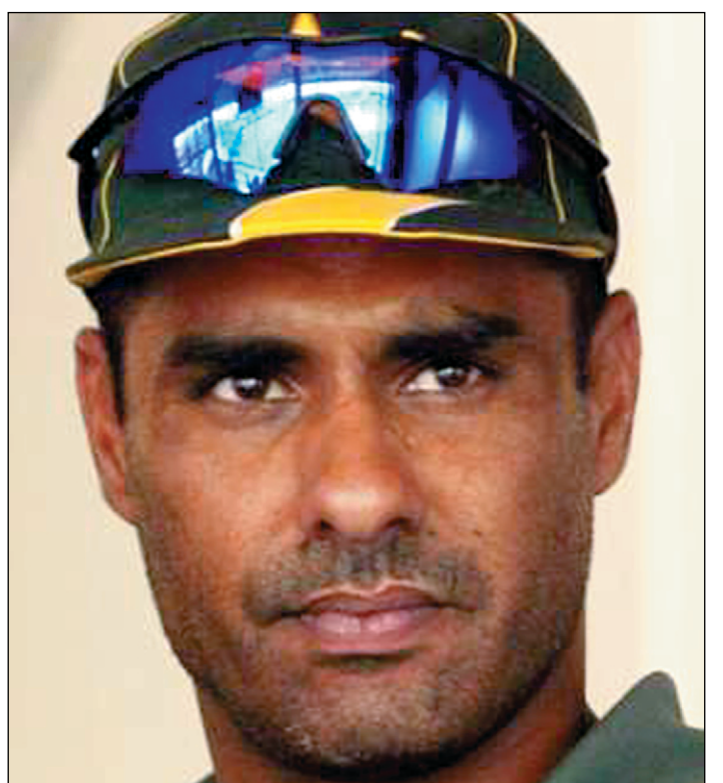


PHOTO: STAR FILE

Waqar Younis

Mission Skip Ignominy

AFP, Bloemfontein

While the World Cup giants talk of the Super Six, Namibia and Netherlands are thinking only of surviving the embarrassment of the Pool A wooden spoon.

With five heavy defeats each, both sides are desperate to clinch their first World Cup win and Monday's match at Goodyear Park is their last opportunity to break their ducks.

"We have been very competitive against the top sides in terms of fielding and bowling and we have just got to keep the same disciplines," said Namibia skipper Deon Kotze.

"The biggest mistake would be to think that we have done the hard work and relax against the Dutch."

The Namibians must bounce back from the 256-run mauling they received at the hands of the Australians in Potchefstroom last week a record defeat in the history of the World Cup.

But they showed against England that they do have players who can take the game to the opposition in that game, they were even ahead on run-rate as the skies darkened over Port Elizabeth before they were eventually beaten by 55 runs, easily

SEE PAGE 14

FORM GUIDE
Netherlands v Namibia

BLOEMFONTEIN, AFP
Form guide for Namibia v Netherlands ahead of their World Cup Group A match at Goodyear Park here on Monday:

Namibia (won 0 lost 5)

Feb 27 2003	lost to Australia by 256 runs	Potchefstroom
Feb 23 2003	lost to India by 181 runs	Pietermaritzburg
Feb 17 2003	lost to England by 55 runs	Port Elizabeth
Feb 16 2003	lost to Pakistan by 171 runs	Kimberley
Feb 10 2003	lost to Zimbabwe by 86 runs	Harare

Netherlands (won 0 lost 7)

Feb 28 2003	lost to Zimbabwe by 99 runs	Bulawayo
Feb 25 2003	lost to Pakistan by 97 runs	Paarl

7-up Bichel

AFP, Port Elizabeth

Australian paceman Andy Bichel stepped out of the shadows to grab the World Cup limelight here on Sunday when he took 7-20 against England to record the second best ever figures in the history of the tournament.

Bichel was selected to play instead of the injured Jason Gillespie and answered his country's call with a devastating performance with the ball which gave him second place on the all-time World Cup list, just behind teammate Glenn McGrath who set the record of 7-15 against Namibia in Potchefstroom on February 27.

On the all-time one-day list, Sri Lanka's Chaminda Vaas still leads the way with 8-19 against Zimbabwe in Colombo in 2001/02.

SEE PAGE 14

Crisis turned into drama

AFP, Johannesburg

Two years after a cash crisis and player rebellion threatened to rip apart the already flimsy fabric of Kenyan cricket, the team is celebrating its greatest ever achievement.

Two successive victories over 1996 champions Sri Lanka and hapless Bangladesh have put them through to the Super Sixes.

But it's been a tortuous journey. Back in February 2001, the team was self-destructing.

Eleven players, accused of indiscipline, were sacked and a proposed tour of India and Bangladesh was called off.

Amongst the rebels were former skipper Maurice Odumbe, whose 52 runs and four wickets helped his side beat Bangladesh by 32 runs at the Wanderers on Saturday, and

opening batsmen Ravindu Shah and Kennedy Otieno.

The chairman of the Kenyan Cricket Association (KCA) Jimmy Rayani accused the players of holding the country to ransom.

"Cricket is our livelihood and they cannot deny us the game," recalled the 33-year-old Odumbe who was skipper at the time, but who has twice been removed from his post after various fallouts with the authorities.

"It was inappropriate for them to terminate our contracts."

After a five-week stalemate with insults and accusations being mutually traded, the players returned to the fold after agreeing to pay increases of between 40 and 100 percent.

"We had plenty of sleepless nights over those months but we were happy to have the new

arrangements," said Otieno.

Problems always seem to bubble beneath the surface of Kenyan cricket.

In October 2001, Odumbe fell foul of the authorities again when he was suspended from playing in his team's 70-run win against India in Port Elizabeth for criticising an umpire.

To make matters worse, team manager Mehmood Quraishy, who is still in charge of the team, suffered a heart attack and had to undergo bypass surgery.

Into 2002 and the Kenyan city of Mombasa was rocked by a terrorist bomb which left 17 people dead.

One of the minor knock-on effects was a doubt over Kenya's planned hosting of two World Cup

SEE PAGE 14

Shocking

AFP, Ahmedabad

A Muslim teenager was shot dead when celebrations of India's victory over arch-rivals Pakistan in the cricket World Cup turned violent in riot-torn Gujarat, police said Sunday.

Thousands of cricket fans rushed the streets here after India defeated Pakistan by six wickets late Saturday in South Africa, but the revelry quickly turned violent, with young men looting electronics shops and vandalising cars.

In the western Indian state's commercial capital Ahmedabad, groups of Hindus and Muslims threw stones at one another in communally sensitive areas, police said.

"The police opened fire in the city's Shahpur to disperse rioting mobs. One person was caught in the line of fire and succumbed to his injury later in the night," said police official Satish Verma.

SEE PAGE 14

Buchanan against day-night semi

REUTERS, Port Elizabeth

Australia coach John Buchanan would prefer to avoid a day-night semifinal in Durban if his side progress from the World Cup Super Sixes, because he believes the toss would be too much of a factor.

But, although many commentators say that evening conditions and dew can offer bowlers more seam and swing movement, Buchanan argues that history indicates sides batting second in Durban win the majority of games.

"From my knowledge of the facts, when we came here last year, about 70 percent of international matches in Durban are won by sides batting second," Buchanan said.

"That is generally because the ball seems to do a bit more during



JOHN BUCHANAN

the day then at night. If it is still and the weather conditions are normal, dew can settle.

"That means the ball moves around less and spinners become less effective so it is easier to bat second."

Buchanan's own coaching experience bears out his claims. In April 2000, his Australia side were thrashed by six wickets under the Durban lights after setting South Africa 241 to win.

Last March, Australia gained some revenge, winning by eight wickets chasing 268.

"That is the history," said

SEE PAGE 14

Presidential praise

AFP, Nairobi

Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki on Saturday congratulated the national cricket team following their victory over Bangladesh and their entry into the Super Sixes of the World Cup.

"Kenya's qualification for the World Cup Super Six stage is historic," said Kibaki in a statement.

"The national team has made a good impression of the country in international sports and I wish them the best in the forthcoming matches," he added.

Kenya Cricket Association World Cup organising committee chairman Sharad Ghai was elated.

"It is unbelievable that we have made history," Ghai told AFP.

"We are now requesting more support and exposure for our team from the Test-playing nations," said Ghai.

SEE PAGE 14



PHOTO: AFP

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: Kenyan players go on a lap of honour after upsetting Bangladesh at the Wanderers.