



PHOTO: AFP

Kenya captain Steve Tikolo (R) celebrates the wicket of Dutch batsman Bas Zuiderent (not in picture) with Nehemiah Odhiambo during their WC warm-up game in Trelawny on Thursday.

Eng A win

FROM PAGE 17
Yardy after the match.
"There was nothing wrong with the pitch. Our batsmen just did not play well," admitted Tushar.
The final match on Sunday now turns into a mere formality.
SCORES IN BRIEF
BANGLADESH A: 177 all out in 45.5 overs (Mehrab 0, Junaed 6, Nazimuddin 58, Tushar 43, Nadif 3, Sahagir 3, Forhad 6, Manzarul 20, Dollar 12, Nazmul 8 not out, Enamul 1, extras 17; Broad 3-33, Kirtley 1-18, Gidman 5-42, Yardy 1-32).
ENGLAND A: 180-4 in 36.5 overs (Carberry 0, Jefferson 40, Compton 64, Prior 34, Gidman 21 not out, Yardy 5 not out, extras 16; Dollar 1-37, Manzarul 1-34, Forhad 2-36).
RESULT: England A won by six wickets.

Sean shines

FROM PAGE 17
mainstay of Bermuda's 136 after they'd collapsed to 31 for four inside 15 overs following skipper Irving Romaine's decision to bat.
Pace bowler Anthony Ireland did the damage with an opening spell of three wickets for 10 runs in six overs, including catching Glamorgan's David Hemp for nought off his own bowling. He finished with three for 22 in eight overs.
Bermuda gave themselves hope when Vusi Sibanda was caught and bowled by Kevin Hurdle for two before Duffin, Zimbabwe's other opener, was held in the slips by Clay Smith off Saleem Mukkuddem for one.
But, ultimately, Bermuda's bowlers did not have enough runs to play with.
Zimbabwe's next match is in Jamaica where they play Ireland on March 15 in a Group D also featuring hosts West Indies and Pakistan.
Bermuda, in Group B, play Sri Lanka in Trinidad on March 15 before facing India and Bangladesh.
SCORES IN BRIEF
BERMUDA: 136 all out in 50 overs (Tucker 52; Ireland 3-22)
ZIMBABWE: 137 for 4 in 29 overs (Williams 72 n o)
Result: Zimbabwe won by six wickets.

Dark night

FROM PAGE 20
adding a second after Moussa Dembele had seen his penalty saved by Shay Given.
"The tie is very finely poised because they've got two away goals so a 2-0 win will see them go through," Dyer said.
"But we've got the pace to frighten them and I fully expect us to cause them problems in the second leg."
Robbie Keane score twice as Tottenham beat Sporting Braga 3-2 in Portugal.
The Irish international had opened the scoring in the 57th minute before Steed Malbranque doubled the lead in the 72nd.
Paulo Jorge and Ze Carlos then pulled the Portuguese back level before Keane found the target again in injury time to put Spurs in sight of the quarterfinals.
France, whose Champions League interest ended when both Lyon and Lille were knocked out on Wednesday, salvaged some pride when Lens and PSG defeated Bayer Leverkusen and Benfica 2-1 respectively.
However, the German and Portuguese clubs will be confident of overturning the deficits at home in next week's second legs.

Tikolo stars for Kenya

AFP, Daniel Town



Kenya captain Steve Tikolo stole the show with an impressive all-round display which gave his side a nine-run victory over the Netherlands in a World Cup warm-up match here Thursday.
First, Tikolo revived his side's innings with a vital half-century that lifted them to 274 for five from their allocation of 50 overs.
The 35-year-old Tikolo then returned to claim five wickets for 48 runs from 10 overs and trigger a collapse with his clever off-spin that restricted the Netherlands to 265 for nine in their 50 overs.
The Netherlands were within reach of victory, when they cruised to 215 for three in the 44th over, but things fell apart, and they lost six wickets for 49 runs in the space of 36 balls.
Darron Reekers hit seven boundaries in the top score of 75 from 105 balls and Bas Zuiderent made 65 off 91 balls which included five fours and one six.
They had set things up for the

Netherlands with an opening stand of 142, but Tikolo got the breakthrough, when he had Reekers caught at backward point in the 30th over.
The Netherlands wobbled to 169 for three, when two wickets fell in the space of six balls.
Zuiderent was caught at deep mid-wicket off Peter Ongondo in the 34th over, and Alex Kervezee was run out for a duck, when he failed to beat Collins Obuya's direct hit at the bowler's end.
Ryan ten Doeschate revived the Dutch side's chances with 50 off 46 balls which included two fours and one six.
He put on 46 for the fourth wicket with Daan van Bunge, and the Netherlands seemed to be back on track only to throw it all away with some ill-advised strokes.
Kenya dipped to 21 for three inside the first five overs, after Reekers and Mark Jonkman put them under early pressure with accurate swing bowling on a helpful Trelawny Stadium pitch.
The pair added 104 for the fourth wicket and played some handsome

strokes, both sides of the wicket.
Three wickets, all to van Bunge, in the space of 30 balls set Kenya back on 141 for six.
Thomas Odoyo, whose 73 from 49 balls was the top score, added a crucial 62 for the seventh wicket with Collins Obuya, who was caught at mid-on off Peter Borren for 33.
Odoyo then took the attack to the Netherlands bowlers, and collected three fours and four sixes in a late flurry to beef-up the total of the African side before he was dismissed off the last ball of the innings, caught at mid-on off Dutch captain Luuk van Troost.
Van Bunge was the Netherlands' most successful bowler with three for 41 from 10 overs, and Jonkman took two for 26 from 5.1 overs.
BRIEF SCORES
KENYA: 274-7 off 50 overs (Odoyo 73, Tikolo 51; Daan van Bunge 3-41)
NETHERLANDS: 265-9 off 50 overs (Reekers 75, Zuiderent 65, ten Doeschate 50; S. Tikolo 5-48).
Result: Kenya won by nine runs.

Akhtar going thru' hell

AFP, Islamabad



Disgruntled Pakistan paceman Shoaib Akhtar Thursday said his failure to make it to the World Cup in the Caribbean had caused him great pain.
"I am going through hell. I can't describe it in words what it means to miss an event like the World Cup," Akhtar told AFP, a week after he was withdrawn from Pakistan's squad on fitness grounds.
The 31-year-old paceman failed to recover from knee and hamstring injuries which ruled him out of the mega event starting with a match between Pakistan and the West Indies in Jamaica on March 13.
"I have been waiting for this event for two years and to play in a cricket-loving region like the Caribbean was my dream. Not being able to play in the World Cup is like taking all my dreams away."

Akhtar said he had played only one match in the West Indies in 2000 and was anxious to play because every fast bowler wanted to do well in the Caribbean, which is known as a fast bowlers' paradise.
"I am badly missing the atmosphere," he added.
Akhtar's new-ball partner Mohammad Asif was also pulled out of the 15-man squad due to an elbow injury, badly hitting Pakistan's chances in the World Cup.
The Pakistan Cricket Board claimed that the duo were withdrawn on fitness grounds.
But several newspapers last month reported that private tests, carried out while Akhtar and Asif were having their injuries reassessed in England, revealed they still had banned substances in their systems.
Pakistan had to withdraw them from the Champions Trophy in India in October last year after both tested positive for banned steroid nandrolone.
Akhtar was subsequently

banned for two years and Asif for one year by an anti-doping tribunal in November. A month later both were exonerated by an appeal committee on the grounds that they did not take the substances knowingly.
The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) challenged the ban overturn in the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which is yet to announce a date for the hearing.
Akhtar said it was not new that people doubted his injury.
"I have always played to the best of my abilities but people have doubted my integrity. My injuries are always doubted as if I am feigning it and I always had to prove that I am unfit."
"People don't understand. Why would I not the play the game I love? I wanted to be in the Caribbean and I wanted to help my team win but unfortunately my injury forced me to miss the big event and the chance will never come again," he said.

Tamim 'faces

FROM PAGE 17
world's fastest bowlers, Shane Bond, to make 46 from 48 balls and help the Tigers to a famous two-wicket win here over New Zealand in a World Cup warm-up match.
"I was not facing the name. I was facing the ball," said Tamim on how he coped with the Bond menace.
"I came to the World Cup with my mind made up. I told myself I have to be strong and brave. I just have to play my natural game and do what I know I can do."
Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar, who made 57 on Thursday to lead his team to a second win of the week, this time against Scotland, believes players like Tamim and all-rounder Mashrafe Bin Mortuza, a relative veteran at the age of 24, will be key to their campaign.
"Before we came here for the World Cup nobody gave us a chance," said Habibul.
"That's fine for people to say, but we are looking at getting to the second round. With Tamim and Mortazza playing so well, this is a great boost for the World Cup. Their contributions were brilliant."

Sheva ambushed?

FROM PAGE 20
the deteriorating relationship between Mourinho and Chelsea's billionaire Russian owner Roman Abramovich.
"It is no secret that I was more on the wish list of Mr Abramovich than the coach's," Shevchenko said. "But Mourinho was very positive and happy with me in the transfer talks. Then a few months ago I suddenly became a target for him because he was having a spat with the chairman."
He also admitted he was struggling to adapt to life in London. "I am here in body, but not in spirit. In January I wouldn't have been opposed to being sent out on loan, but that is not an issue any more."
He said he felt he was less comfortable in the Chelsea tactical setup than at Milan, where he was the undisputed target man.
"At Chelsea everyone is responsible for joining in the attacking moves, which is a plus point, but for me personally it is very hard for me to make an impression," he said.

Hosts' happy

FROM PAGE 17
midfielder James -- after playing with Nigerian forward Junior in the first game, looked better in the second session. However, Khaled was outstanding at the Farashganj goal to frustrate them.
The goalkeeper was in line when Junior, who netted twice on his Dhaka debut last week, received a Faisal cross and fired inside from the box in the 48th minute. He then pulled off a diving save to parry substitute Mamun's long-range drive just after the hour mark.
Farashganj's only chance came in the 76th minute but Idris Mutubi's dashing solo run bore no fruit as Oranges keeper Mohammed Ali rushed out of his line to snatch the ball from the feet of the Ugandan forward.
TEAMS
Farashganj: Khaled, Aurup, Jamal, Faisal, Riad, Liton (Mamun), Kabir, Amirul (Rony), Khokon, Idris and Robin.
Brothers: Ali, Shuvra, Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Lajuk (Rony), James, Rintu (Shakil), Jalal (Mamun), Faisal, Junior and Manju.

Easy win for Irish

AFP, Port-of-Spain

Paceman Dave Langford-Smith grabbed four wickets as debutants Ireland thrashed Canada by seven wickets in a World Cup warm-up match here on Thursday.
Ireland virtually wrapped up their last practice game when they dismissed Canada for a paltry 115 in less than 33 overs, with Langford-Smith (4-41) doing the maximum damage.
The Canadian total was too small to put pressure on Ireland, who scored 116-3 to emerge winners with more than 23 overs to spare.
"We bowled in good areas and were rewarded. It was good to be in a position like we were after bowling," said Irish skipper Trent Johnston.
"Langford-Smith worked very hard after a tournament in Kenya. He is running in well, bowling well and his confidence is sky-high after getting seven or eight wickets in the first two games."
Irish opener Jeremy Bray was the match's top scorer with 41, while Andre Botha contributed an unbeaten 22.
The Canadian batsmen earlier faltered against Langford-Smith, with opener Geoff Barnett (27), Kaiser Ali (17) and Ashif Mulla (11) only reaching double-figures.
"It sure is a big disappointment. They bowled in good areas and never allowed us to play shots. I think our preparations, minus Thursday's outing, for the World Cup are pretty well," said Canadian captain John Davison.
Langford-Smith, who took three wickets against South Africa in the opening practice game, was well-supported by Kyle McCallan who grabbed two scalps for no run.

BRIEF SCORES
CANADA: 115 in 32.5 overs (Geoff Barnett 27, Kaiser Ali 17, Ashif Mulla 11; Dave Langford-Smith 4-41, Kyle McCallan 2-0).
IRELAND: 116-3 in 26.5 overs (Jeremy Bray 41, Andre Botha 22 not out).
Result: Ireland win by seven wickets.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17
Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex. In the other matches, Bhashantek High School beat Bir Sheshthra Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles School 11-3, BAF Shaheen School defeated Scholastica 15-9, Willes Little Flower beat Rahmatullah Model High School 9-2, Narinda Government High School edged past Mirpur Bangla High School 10-9. Bir Sheshthra Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles School and College, however won their second match against South Point 8-3.
In the girls' event, SOS Shishu Pally outclassed Kallanyur Girls School 11-1. Sunnydale beat BIS 15-4 and Ahmed Bawani Academy beat Bhashantek 5-4.

BAF HOCKEY

BAF Base Zahurul Haque team clinched the title of the inter-base hockey competition of the Bangladesh Air Force with a 6-5 victory over Air Headquarters Unit team in the tiebreaker. The regulation ended 1-1.

Hitzfeld urged

FROM PAGE 20
has so much energy and passion again that it would be a pity if he stops.
"I notice he is enjoying the role again, which is the main thing."
But the general, who won the Champions League with Dortmund in 1997 and Bayern in 2001, is adamant his decision is final.
"You should never say never, but my decision is certain. I will not continue."
Whether or not he can be persuaded remains to be seen.

2003: Ponting

FROM PAGE 20
over, the two were unconquered until the end with Ponting finishing with a magnum opus 144. Martyn, with that broken finger, went unnoticed with his 84-ball 88. But his skipper, who took charge right from the word go, struck as many as eight sixes in his innings. He was ferocious on the cut and the pull but his flicks to mid-wicket were disdainful as well. Most of his runs were from airy shots as the Indians took cover.
Harbhajan Singh captured both the wickets to fall as the men from Down Under scored 359-2 in 50 overs (most impressively, in 205 minutes of batting). Several batting records (individual and team) were broken that evening in Johannesburg.
The next 50 overs were a mere blur as the target was unattainable once Sachin Tendulkar fell to Glenn McGrath early in the piece.
Virender Sehwag blitzed his way to 82 but as all the Australian bowlers chipped in with wickets, thanks to some great outfield catches and they won by 125 runs. Ricky Ponting and his men took charge of the World Cup with thunders in the background.
Come April 28 a similar background could be expected in the Caribbean and so can a magnificent World Cup be on the offing.

Lara sounds warning

AFP, Kingston



Record-breaking Brian Lara delivered the news all bowlers feared on Friday -- he intends to keep playing into his 40s.
The 37-year-old West Indies skipper has already announced he will quit one-day internationals once the World Cup has finished, but insists he still has unfinished business.
"I'm only 37 -- a lot of players stretch their careers into their 40s, and I just think there's a lot of work to do to get West Indies cricket back on track," said Lara.
"I think Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath had the luxury of bowling out at the top of their game, but also of leaving a team that was the best in the world."
"That's an ideal situation, though, and unfortunately it's not the same with me. Now is not the time to talk about details such as the infrastructure of the game and funding -- that will come later -- but all I can do is play my part on the field."
Lara has been the backbone and inspiration for a West Indies side that has struggled in recent times.
In an international career which has spread over 16 years, he has 11,953 Test runs to his name and 34

centuries as well as the world record Test score of 400.
Now he sees his task as two-fold -- spark a renaissance of West Indies cricket and to captain the first home nation to win a World Cup.
"What we have to do is create a greater number of matchwinners and spread the responsibility," Lara told Sport magazine.
"Over the years, we have depended on three or four individuals, but we need to develop a larger group of players who can pull us through to a World Cup win, because the team that wins is going to be a team of players who can get them out of trouble if they lose their core performers."
"Australia have matchwinners throughout their line-up -- any team that wants to compete with Australia will have to have that strength in depth."
"I'm quietly confident we can win it, and I think the players are confident of their ability to perform at such a huge event."
"We know that the host nations haven't had a great record when it comes to winning, but we know the whole West Indian experience is very unique and we're going to play on the fact that we're accustomed to it."
"Let's just say I'm confident that we are going to have a very good World Cup."
Lara still believes that Australia, despite the world champions' recent

slump, will start the seven-week long tournament as favourites.
"Australia are favourites, and understandably so, but in the one-day game that doesn't guarantee anything," he said.
"They're not invincible, as we saw with England in the recent triangular series. I don't think they're guaranteed to get any further than the semi-finals, which is still two big, big matches away from winning the final."
Lara believes England should not be underestimated as they will be buoyed by their recent tri-nations win over the Aussies.
"The fact they took something away from the Australian tour, even if it wasn't the Ashes... well, it augurs well for the World Cup," he said.
"They beat Australia in Australia, so they'll go into the World Cup with huge confidence. If Kevin Pietersen can return and Michael Vaughan is back and fully fit, England are capable of competing with and beating the very best in the world. You'd be stupid to ever write them off."
"They have players in their team capable of dismantling any team in the world -- Pietersen, Flintoff, Panesar."

Sehwag promises runs

AFP, Montego Bay



Swashbuckling opener Virender Sehwag has promised to justify captain Rahul Dravid's backing with a bucketful of runs for India at the World Cup.
Chairman of selectors Dilip Vengsarkar said last week the struggling 28-year-old had been picked for the World Cup after Dravid insisted on his inclusion for the showpiece event.
A grateful Sehwag says he is determined to prove his worth when India open their campaign against Bangladesh in Trinidad on March 17.
"The backing I've received from Dravid has been a huge morale booster," Sehwag told reporters ahead of Friday's final warm-up match against the West Indies here.
"I now want to justify the faith in me and live up to the expectations."
Sehwag was included despite scoring just 273 runs in 15 one-dayers, including an unimpressive 19 off 23 balls against Sri Lanka a day before the squad was picked on

February 12.
However he appeared to regain form with a typically aggressive 46 in the final match against the Sri Lankans five days later.
"I was confident of staging a comeback and the time I spent away from international cricket helped me get my focus back," he said.
"I did a lot of meditation."
"I'm quite happy with my form now. It's getting better and better with every session in the nets. I want to stay longer at the crease."
Sehwag, the only Indian to compile a triple century in Test cricket, has scored 4,833 runs from 167 one-dayers with seven centuries.
He is also a useful off-spin bowler with 72 one-day wickets, giving Dravid an option of an additional spinner.
Sehwag said he was not concerned over being removed as vice-captain on the tour of South Africa in December-January because of his poor form.
"I was not expecting the vice-captaincy when it was given to me, nor was I disappointed when it was taken away," he said.
Senior pro Sachin Tendulkar, who voluntarily stepped down as

India captain in 2000 to concentrate on his batting, was elevated as vice-captain to David for the World Cup.
Anti-climatic
FROM PAGE 20
are suspended after being sent off in last Saturday's 2-1 turbulent defeat at Sevilla.
Real medical officials added Roberto Carlos and current World Player of the Year Fabio Cannavaro to their injured list, which also included David Beckham and Jose Antonio Reyes.
There are also question marks over the fitness of Mahamadou Diarra, Sergio Ramos and Miguel Torres, with the trio ending the match in Munich battered and bruised.
Almost unnoticed among all the commotion about the historic derby, league leaders Sevilla travel to relegation-threatened Gimnastic Tarragona on Sunday.
It would be a big upset if Sevilla did not consolidate pole position although they will be without their suspended defender Aitor Ocio.

Tigers' prep perfect

FROM PAGE 17
Shakib Al Hasan (45 off 55, 6x4) but on 19 (26 balls; 2x4) he tried to turn for a two but collapsed onto the pitch in agony and had to retire hurt.
"The medic at the ground saw him and he has been given two pain-killing injections. He will be going for an MRI on Friday morning and then we will be able to know the nature and extent of his injury," informed Bangladesh team operations manager Ali Asif Khan.
"The injury happened when I turned for that second run. The pain was excruciating and I couldn't move. But now I'm feeling a lot better," said Aftab after the match.
Bangladesh are due to leave Barbados for Jamaica today to attend the World Cup opening ceremony.
SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the World Cup second warm-up match between Scotland and Bangladesh at the Three Ws Oval in Barbados on

Thursday:					
SCOTLAND					
Watts lbw b Razzak	28				
Haq run out					
Poonia c Shakib b Baishya	32				
Watson c Aftab b Razzak	5				
Hamilton b Razzak	9				
McCallum c Baishya b Mortaza	19				
Brown b Rafique	3				
Smith c Rahim b Shakib	9				
Wright lbw b Rafique	8				
Blain not out	13				
Rogers not out	7				
Extras: (lb-7, w-6, nb-1)	14				
Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs)	152				
Did not bat: Hoffmann, Lyons					
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-58, 3-73, 4-82, 5-89, 6-96, 7-112, 8-122, 9-130.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Mortaza	10	0	35	1	
Rasel	5	0	20	0	
Baishya	5	0	24	1	
Razzak	10	0	25	3	
Rafique	10	3	16	2	
Shakib	10	2	25	1	
BANGLADESH					
Iqbal c Hamilton b Blain	7				

Nafees c Rogers b Hoffmann	0				
Aftab retired hurt	19				
Shakib c McCallum b Brown	45				
Bashar not out	53				
Ashraful not out	27				
Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-2)	5				
Total: (For 3 wkts 34.1 overs)	156				
Did not bat: Rahim, Rafique, Mortaza, Omer, Rasel, Baishya, Razzak.					
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-7, 3-108.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Hoffmann	6	1	19	1	
Blain	6	0	33	1	
Rogers	5.1	0	30	0	
Wright	5	1	14	0	
Haq	4	1	14	0	
Lyons	4	0	25	0	
Brown	4	1	19	1	
Result: Bangladesh won by 7 wickets.					
Toss: Bangladesh					
Umpires: M Benson (England) and S Taufel (Australia)					

Clash of the titans

FROM PAGE 20
"At least we have the advantage of the first leg being away but it will be hard and perhaps it is the tactics of Italian teams which do not suit us and they play defensively and with pragmatism. They give their all until the final seconds and wait for an error from their opponents."
Bayern defender Willy Sagnol was happy they had not drawn London club Chelsea. "The worst draw would be to play against Chelsea," he said, adding like Bayern, Milan had not been in top form this season, and that the loss of Andriy Shevchenko had been a blow.
PSV Eindhoven, who ousted Arsenal in the last 16, now play another English club Liverpool with the first leg at their Philips stadium.
Should Chelsea and Liverpool win their last eight clashes, they would meet in the semi-final in late April and early May.
Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon told Britain's Sky Sports television: "We are glad to be here and it's a good draw and it

keeps the English clubs away from each other for the next round. You would rather be away for the second leg but overall we are happy with the draw."
Valencia coach Quique Sanchez Flores told the club's website: "It will be very difficult but, with Liverpool, they (Chelsea) are the opponents who resemble us the most."
However Flores was happy with how the draw had fallen, adding: "The best thing is to play (the first leg) away which could be very important."
Manchester United chief executive David Gill said: "I think it's a fantastic draw but every team is going to be a tough draw. Playing in Europe is about playing European teams."
"A club of our stature should be in there for the last stages."
Liverpool secretary Bryce Morrison, dreaming of a Liverpool versus Manchester United final, said: "It would be an amazing final."

Dunga leaves

FROM PAGE 20
as he was with Gremio," Dunga said.
"I prefer him to float around and get lots of touches of the ball, rather than just staying on one side of the field, which is a characteristic he has acquired at Barcelona."
Dunga also brushed aside speculation that Ronaldinho was disillusioned at being left on the bench and was considering quitting Brazil.
"I don't believe he doesn't want to play for the national team," said Dunga. "That's not something I'm taking into consideration."
The squad included other regulars such as Kaka, Robinho, Diego, Elano and Gilberto Silva but there was no place for Inter Milan striker Adriano who has been picked only once by Dunga.
Uncapped right back Ilsinho and midfielder Josue, who play for Brazilian champions Sao Paulo, were also included.
Brazil have played six matches under Dunga, suffering their first defeat against Portugal last month.
They thrashed Chile 5-0 in their last meeting in a World Cup qualifier in September 2005 and beat Ghana 3-0 in the second round at last year's World Cup.