



Pakistan players observe a minute's silence in memory of their late coach Bob Woolmer whose picture is displayed on the big screen just before their Group D World Cup encounter against Zimbabwe at Sabina Park in Kingston yesterday.

Tikolo hopes for an upset

AFP, Gros Islet

Kenya captain Steve Tikolo believes his side can deny England a place in the World Cup Super Eights when the sides go head-to-head for a qualification spot on Saturday despite his side's 148-run defeat by New Zealand.

The Black Caps are assured of a place in the second phase as the only side currently in Group C with two wins following their six-wicket success first time out against England.

England and Kenya, who have both beaten Canada, now face a winner-takes-all clash this weekend.

Tikolo, who four years ago saw his side beat 1996 champions Sri Lanka on their way to the semi-finals, said Kenya could upset the odds against an England side that looked far from convincing in a 51-run win against Canada.

"Our chances are good," said Kenya's star batsman.

"All teams in this competition are here to win their matches. Our chances are good if we do the basic things right."

But he admitted Kenya would have to up their game after what he said was a "disappointing" performance against New Zealand where the match was effectively over at the half-way stage after the Black Caps had piled up 331 for seven -- a record for a one-day international at the Beausejour Cricket Ground.

"We know we are capable of doing better but credit to the New Zealanders, they played a good game," Tikolo said. "In the field, we dropped a number of catches and missed run-out chances."

"If we would have taken those, it would have been a different story. New Zealand wouldn't have got 331. Our running between the wickets wasn't as good as it should be and obviously batting wise up front we need to get a start," added Tikolo who only managed seven as Kenya were bowled out for 183 with four balls to spare.

One bright spot for the Africans was the form of opener Ravindu Shah, who made 71 off 89 balls with two sixes and eight fours before he

Pick ready to quit

REUTERS, Gros Islet

Canada coach Andy Pick will leave his post after their final World Cup Group C match against New Zealand on Thursday.

Briton Pick signed a one-year deal with Canada 11 months ago but hoped he could then secure a longer contract.

"Circumstances have conspired against us," Pick told Reuters on Tuesday.

"They offered me a two-year contract because they have got funding for that from the (world governing body) ICC. I'd asked for a three-year contract but until they receive funding for a third year they've been reluctant to commit."

Pick is returning to his old job as England's under-19 coach and expects to start work in April.

Canada have already been eliminated from the World Cup after defeats by Kenya and England.

Minnows' final

AFP, St Kitts



Scotland face fellow World Cup minnows Netherlands here on Thursday determined to avoid the wooden-spoon in Group A which has predictably been dominated by Australia and South Africa.

Both lost by embarrassing margins to world number one South Africa and two-time defending champions Australia, but the Scots hope to be in the ascendancy when it comes to the sport's second tier.

"The big thing for us is Holland and we have got to go out and show we are one of the top associate teams," said stand-in captain Ryan Watson.

Scotland lost to Australia by 221 runs but batted to their set plans against South Africa, scoring their

highest World Cup score of 186-8, a performance which gave them renewed confidence ahead of their final match of the 2007 tournament.

"Holland are a strong side who have run us close a few times. It's a big game and a slightly different pressure playing them because we are almost expected to win -- and that is something we have to take on board," said Watson after the seven-wicket loss to South Africa.

Watson, who stood in for regular captain Craig Wright who was attending a family funeral in Scotland, said his team must improve their fielding if they were to achieve their first ever World Cup win.

"South Africa were magnificent in the field, and those are the sorts of standards we have to go and achieve if we're going to win against the Netherlands," said Watson.

South African captain Graeme Smith praised the Scotland team, saying they were the better of the two associate sides in Group A.

Scotland outlasted the Netherlands by two runs when they last competed in the World Cricket League in Kenya earlier this year.

The Dutch and Scottish have one thing in common -- both have former Australian first-class cricketers as their coaches. The Scots have Peter Drinnen and the Dutch have Peter Cantrell -- both from Queensland.

The Netherlands, mauled by 221 runs by South Africa and by 229 runs by Australia, hoped to improve their current form.

Captain Luuk van Troost said it would be a happy ending if they beat their fellow associates.

"We are looking to win that game and if we do it would be a consolation for us," said Troost, whose team has only one World Cup win -- against Namibia -- in the 2003 World Cup held in South Africa.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

3rd time lucky

AFP, Gros Islet

Daniel Vettori hopes his emergence as a world-class off-spinner can help propel New Zealand to a first World Cup title.

The 28-year-old left-arter is playing in his third World Cup but has yet to leave his mark on the competition.

After taking 2-45 on Tuesday to help the Black Caps to a 148-run win over Kenya and into the Super Eights, Vettori stressed that he has a major role to play in the Caribbean.

"I'm probably a better bowler now than I was in 1999 and 2003 and a lot more is expected of me," said Vettori after taking his career one-day tally to 189 wickets.

"Shane Bond and myself are the strike bowlers and we both have to live up to it if we want to do well."

Vettori believes he has the variety to trouble the tournament's batsmen.

"I bowled a lot of arm balls today (Tuesday) because the conditions were quite slippery," he said.

"It was hard to get turn on the ball and against teams like this, they try to slog you first and block later, so you try and get it under the bat."

"I'm struggling to buy a decision at the moment but the team are coming along quite nicely and it's two out of two," added Vettori referring to wins over England and Kenya which have guaranteed the Black Caps a place in the Super Eights.

Afridi regrets being banned

REUTERS, Kingston

Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi said he regretted his actions that led to a four-match ban and subsequently forced him to miss his team's first two games of the World Cup.

Afridi, 27, is set to return from the ban in the penultimate Group D match on Wednesday against Zimbabwe at Sabina Park.

Whereas Zimbabwe need to win to keep their hopes of World Cup progression alive, it is a dead match for Pakistan after they were eliminated following the shock defeat to debutants Ireland on Saturday and West Indies the previous Tuesday.

Afridi was banned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for reacting to a heckler after being dismissed in South Africa by prodding him with his bat.

"I was very disappointed when the ICC banned me for four games as I thought maybe two games," Afridi told Reuters. "But now I am wondering why I did this thing in South Africa."

"I obviously regret it. You feel it now because I missed those games against West Indies and Ireland. I came to the World Cup with a very good aim but it's all changed now."

Afridi still holds the record for the quickest century in one-day internationals, when reaching three figures off 37 balls against Sri Lanka in 1996. He was 16 and in his first ODI innings (second match).

This potential threat was a reason why the late Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer, whose death on Sunday rocked the cricket world, was disappointed Afridi was unavailable.

Afridi said he was totally dejected when Ireland won by three wickets on Saturday, sending

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Kiwis fly into Super 8

AFP, Gros Islet



New Zealand booked their place in the World Cup Super Eights with a 183-run win over Kenya here Tuesday.

Victory left New Zealand with two wins from its first two matches, assuring the Black Caps of one of the two qualifying spots out of Group C.

Kenya and England, the only other teams that can win two games in this group, play each other on Saturday.

New Zealand's total of 331 for seven was a record score in the 12 one-day internationals played at the Beausejour Cricket Ground.

In reply Kenya, who collapsed to 29 for four, were bowled out for 183 although they took the match to the last over.

Ross Taylor's 85 led the way for the Black Caps while Craig McMillan hammered 71 off just 48 balls with five sixes and three fours to take the team past the 300 mark.

There were fifties too from Scott Styris (63) and skipper Stephen Fleming (60).

New Zealand's total surpassed Pakistan's 303 for six against the West Indies here in 2005.

McMillan, who made 71 off just 48 balls with five sixes and three fours, took New Zealand past the 300 mark with some typically blazing hitting.

New Zealand had been nought for one after opener Lou Vincent suffered his second successive duck of the tournament, after making nought in the six-wicket win against England, when he edged Thomas Oduyo to Kenya captain Steve Tikolo at second slip.

Kenya's slump, however, was far worse.

Paceman Michael Mason, in for off-spinner Jeetan Patel, had David Oduyo lbw with a yorker for one and then fellow opener Maurice Ouma (four) was run out by Vincent's direct hit from the covers.

Two wickets were then lost for three runs.

First Tikolo skied Mason to Daniel Vettori at mid-off and then Kenya, in a sign this wasn't their day, lost Tanmay Mishra when the batsman was dropped by wicket-keeper Brendon McCullum off left-arm quick James Franklin only for first slip Fleming to catch the rebound.

Ravindu Shah made a stylish 71 and Thomas Oduyo an entertaining 42 but the duo were only delaying the inevitable.

Earlier, the Kiwis fought back through Fleming and Taylor.

However, Taylor was dropped on seven when he turned Peter Ongondo to the on-side and a diving Mishra at square leg just failed to hold what would have been a spectacular

one-handed catch.

In front of a sparse crowd, Fleming went on to make an assured 60 off just 61 balls with three sixes and seven fours.

However, his innings ended farcically when he ran himself out

going for a non-existent single after Taylor flicked Jimmy Kamande backward of square leg to Collins Obuya.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

NEW ZEALAND V KENYA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup Group C match between New Zealand and Kenya at Beausejour Cricket Ground in St Lucia on Tuesday:						
NEW ZEALAND	R	M	B	4s	6s	
Vincent c Tikolo b Oduyo	0	3	4	0	0	
Fleming run out	60	93	61	7	3	
Taylor c & b Tikolo	85	146	107	8	1	
Styris c Mishra b Onyango	63	92	62	3	3	
McMillan c Tikolo b Ongondo	71	64	48	3	5	
Oram b Oduyo	3	5	6	0	0	
McCullum c Varaiya b Ongondo	6	13	9	0	0	
Vettori not out	14	7	7	2	0	
Franklin not out	0	1	0	0	0	
Extras: (lb-3, w-21, nb-5)	29					
Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs)	331					

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



PHOTO: INTERNET

New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor hits to the on-side during his 85 against Kenya in a Group C World Cup match at the Beausejour ground in St Lucia on Tuesday.

Smith leads from front

AFP, St Kitts



Captain Graeme Smith just missed out his first World Cup century but still led South Africa to a seven-wicket win over Scotland and into the World Cup Super Eights on Tuesday.

Left-handed opener Smith smashed an attractive 65-ball 91 as the world number one team made short shrift of Scotland who were left with the consolation of having reached their highest World Cup score of 186-8.

The win, wrapped up in the 24th over, may have looked like easy for the Proteas, but they failed to bowl out Scotland inside 50 overs which could be a worry for them in the second round.

Smith went on the attack from the outset, reaching his fifty off just 36 balls with ten boundaries.

His previous best World Cup score of 67 was made against the Netherlands last week.

Fellow opener AB de Villiers, who scored 62, made up for his nought against the Netherlands by hitting two consecutive sixes off left-arm spinner Glenn Rogers before holing out in the same over. He also hit nine fours.

"That was a clinical win and that's

exactly what the coach asked for," said the 23-year-old de Villiers.

"We've had a couple of dodgy warm-up games, it was better against the Netherlands (a 221-run win) and it was clinical today (Tuesday)."

"We've had a couple of good nets, we're taking it ball by ball and I'm enjoying myself."

Ashwell Prince, promoted to number three to get practice, seemed to get distracted by a 25-minute rain break and was caught for 21.

After the break, Smith, in a hurry to reach his hundred, also lost his wicket to off-spinner Majid Haq who finished with 2-43.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



PHOTO: AFP

South Africa captain Graeme Smith lofts the ball during a Group A World Cup match against Scotland at Warner Park in St Kitts on Tuesday.