Star SPORT

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Hayden powers Aussies

AFP, *Basseterre*

ICC Cricket World Cup WEST INDIES 2007

Defending champions Australia rode on opener Matthew Hayden's fastest World Cup hundred to beat world number one South Africa by 83 runs in a Group A match at Warner Park here on Saturday.

Hayden hit his 100 off just 66 balls while Michael Clarke (92) and skipper Ricky Ponting (91) joined the run feast as Australia piled up their highest World Cup score of 377-6 after being put in to bat.

South Africa were cruising along at 184-1 in reply after 25 overs on the back of a robust opening stand of 160 between captain Graeme Smith (74) and AB de Villiers (92) before they were bowled out for 294 in 48 overs.

The win gave two extra points to the defending champions in the next round Super Eights and extra confidence in their bid to achieve hattrick of World Cup titles.

Smith and De Villiers gave the Australian bowlers no respite before they collapsed to lose their last nine wickets for 74 runs.

De Villiers showed his intentions by sending Nathan Bracken's fourth ball of the innings to the ropes before going on to complete his half-century off 47 deliveries.

The 23-year-old De Villiers hit three successive boundaries off Andrew Symonds before failing to beat Clarke's direct hit at the striker's end from deep square-leg while returning for a second run.

He hit 14 boundaries and two well-timed sixes during his 70-ball knock which set the foundation, but once Smith returned to the pavilion with cramps, their innings faltered.

Left-arm spinner Brad Hogg accounted for Herschelle Gibbs (17) before Glenn McGrath removed Ashwell Prince (one) to trigger a middle-order collapse.

Paceman Shaun Tait came into his own with wickets of Mark Boucher (22) and Justin Kemp (one) to shake the Proteas before Hogg dismissed the returning Smith and Jacques Kallis (48).

Hogg finished with 3-60.

Earlier, Hayden hit 101 and put on 106 for the first wicket with Adam Gilchrist (42) to set the tone for a high-scoring contest at the compact Warner Park ground.

The 35-year-old Hayden beating the previous best quickest World Cup century off 67 balls which was set by Canada's John Davison against the West Indies at Centurion in 2003.

He achieved the record with a six off Smith.

"We had the right conditions here for a big total, it's a small ground and a very good wicket," said Hayden who finally fell to a sharp Gibbs catch off Kallis' bowling after hitting 14 boundaries and four big sixes.

The South Africans were sloppy in the field, twice dropping Clarke to add to their bowling problems. Spearhead Shaun Pollock went for 83 runs in his 10 wicketless overs, while Makhaya Ntini went for 68 in his nine with one wicket.

Hayden was the more aggressive of the two openers, hitting Pollock for a boundary and two sixes in the fifth over to bring up Australia's 50.

Gilchrist hit six boundaries and a six in his run-a-ball knock.

Clarke in the company of his

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SOUTH AFRICA V AUSTRALIA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup Group A match between Australia and South Africa at Warner Park in St Kitts on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA	R	M	B	4s	6s
Gilchrist c Gibbs b Langeveldt	42	66	42	6	1
Hayden c Gibbs b Kallis	101	107	68	14	4
Ponting c De Villiers b Ntini	91	132	91	8	2
Clarke run out	92	102	75	7	4
Symonds b Hall	18	23	13	2	0
Hussey c Kallis b Hall	5	3	3	1	0
Watson not out	14	9	9	2	0
Extras: (lb-4, w-9, nb-1)	14				
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs)	377				

Did not bat: Hogg, Bracken, Tait, McGrath.

Fall of wickets: 1-106, 2-167, 3-328, 4-347, 5-353, 6-377.

Bowler	O	M	R	W	Econ
Pollock	10	0	83	0	8.30

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PHOTO: AFP

England opener Ed Joyce watches the ball go to third-man during their Group C World Cup match against Kenya at Beausejour in Gros Islet on Saturday.

Joyce steers England

AFP, *Gros Islet*

ICC Cricket World Cup WEST INDIES 2007

Ed Joyce's 75 helped see England to a seven-wicket victory in the winner-takes-all clash against Kenya here Saturday that booked their place in the Super Eight phase of the World Cup.

England, set 178 to win in a match reduced by rain to 43 overs per side, finished on 178 for three at the Beausejour Cricket Ground, with 10 overs to spare.

They now face shock second round qualifiers Ireland, the country Dublin-born Joyce used to represent, in their opening Super Eight clash on Friday in Providence, Guyana.

Joyce and Kevin Pietersen, who was dropped on seven before making 56 not out, put on for 103 for the third wicket after England had wobbled at 52 for two. Paul Collingwood was unbeaten on 18.

Both England and Kenya knew a victory would see them join Group C winners New Zealand in the second stage of the World Cup.

England had an early setback when captain Michael Vaughan was brilliantly caught for one, by a diving Collins Obuya at backward point, after a Peter Ongondo delivery got 'big' on the batsman.

Ian Bell, who'd almost run himself out on 15, fell for 16 when he lofted Thomas Odoyo straight to substitute fieldsman Rajesh Bhudia at mid-off.

Pietersen then settled England nerves by getting off the mark first ball with an off-driven four against Thomas Odoyo.

Joyce, 28, cut Odoyo's fellow seamer Lameck Onyango for four and, two balls later, pulled the seamer for six.

Pietersen was then dropped off left-arm spinner Hiren Varaiya's first ball by wicket-keeper Maurice Ouma after the bowler had taken the outside edge as the South African-born batsman pushed forward.

Joyce, who only made his England debut against Ireland in Belfast in June, completed a 59-ball fifty with seven boundaries in all.

It was Joyce's fourth score of fifty or more at this level in 15 matches.

Pietersen, England's best one-day batsman, who swept Varaiya for six, reached his half-century in 54 balls with six fours.

Joyce took England to the brink of victory before he was bowled by Kenya captain Steve Tikolo's 'doosra' to leave his side 155 for three.

Earlier, Andrew Flintoff marked his England return with two wickets as Kenya were bowled out for 177.

Kenya captain Steve Tikolo top scored with 76 in an innings where no other batsman made more than Jimmy Kamande's 17.

Flintoff's Lancashire teammate James Anderson led England's attack with two for 27. Paul Collingwood took two for 33 and Flintoff two for 35.

This was Flintoff's first match since he was stripped of the vice-captaincy and dropped from England's 51-run victory against Canada on Sunday after being one of six players fined for late night dirking following the six-wicket defeat by New Zealand.

Tikolo decided to bat first on winning the toss despite the overnight rain which may have freshened the pitch.

Anderson, swinging the ball at a lively pace, made an early breakthrough when Ravindu Shah was bowled off stump for four by a delivery that kept low.

He struck again when Ouma (13) tried to loft him over mid-on only to be caught there by Collingwood.

With Kenya 99 four off 23 overs, Vaughan switched from pace to the left-arm spin of Monty Panesar.

Three balls later England had another wicket. Non-striker Collins Obuya was run out by a distance after a Tikolo-inspired mix-up when Ravi Bopara threw from short third man to Panesar.

Fast bowler Flintoff got in on the act when Odoyo was lbw for four, Kenya 112 for six in the 26th over.

Tikolo, who completed a 58-ball fifty with seven fours, should have been out to Flintoff on 52 when a miscued drive was dropped by Joyce at mid-on.

But with Tikolo playing a lone hand this did not ultimately prove to be a costly error.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup Group C match between England and Kenya at the Beausejour Cricket Ground in St Lucia on Saturday:

KENYA	
Ouma c Collingwood b Anderson	13
Shah b Anderson	4
Suji c Vaughan b Mahmood	14
Tikolo b Flintoff	76
Mishra b Collingwood	0
Obuya run out	10
Odoyo lbw b Flintoff	4
Kamande b Collingwood	17
Onyango run out	10
Ongondo run out	3
Varaiya not out	4
Extras: (lb-8, w-6, nb-8)	22
Total: (All out in 43 overs)	177

Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-35, 3-73, 4-74, 5-99, 6-112, 7-151, 8-165, 9-170, 10-177.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	9	0	27	2
Mahmood	9	0	39	1
Flintoff	9	0	35	2
Bopara	1	0	7	0
Collingwood	7	0	33	2
Panesar	8	0	28	0
ENGLAND				
Joyce b Tikolo				75

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Ed feels strange

REUTERS, *Gros Islet*

England opener Ed Joyce said it would be strange to face his former Ireland team mates in the World Cup second stage following his match-winning contribution against Kenya on Saturday.

His 75 in the final Group C game helped England to a seven-wicket win which put them into the Super Eights and eliminated the Africans.

Dublin-born Joyce played for Ireland in the ICC Trophy for minor cricket nations between 2001 and 2005 and his performances were key in helping them reach this tournament.

However, the left-hander switched to England in 2006 in the hope of playing tests and more one-day series.

Ironically his first one-day cap was against Ireland in June last year and he will now face them again in Guyana next Friday after Ireland's surprise qualification following a shock win over Pakistan.

"It's obviously a bit of a strange one being an Irishman," he told a news conference. "But my first game for England was against Ireland so hopefully I've got that out of my system."

Joyce, who scored 66 in Sunday's win over Canada after a duck against New Zealand, was pleased with his return to form.

"I'm just pretty happy with the way I'm playing at the moment," he said. "I've got two fifties in the last two games so hopefully I can just continue on against Ireland."

England will now be hoping for some inside knowledge from Joyce heading into their first Super Eight game.

"I know the Irish players pretty well," he said. "There will probably be a bit of banter but I haven't got any of their numbers. They haven't been dishing them out to me so maybe they are playing it cool."

PHOTO: STAR

(L-R) Mohammed Harun, Deepak Sharma, Milton and Romel, who finished the 'Grameenphone Activate Bangladesh -- Challenge of the Longest Beach-2007' walkathon ahead of the pack, show V-signs at the Cox's Bazar sea beach yesterday.

Walkathon ends, fun part today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Cox's Bazar*

The 525 participants completed the country's longest walkathon, 'Grameenphone Activate Bangladesh -- Challenge of the Longest Beach-2007', at the Cox's Bazar sea beach yesterday.

The pack, carrying the national flag, was welcomed by celebrities on conclusion of the three-day 100-km challenge at the Laboni point in the popular tourist resort. Famous actor Afzal Hossain and Channel i director Abdul Mukit Majumder were among the reception party.

The event, however, will be rounded off this morning with another fun 10-km walk, beach sports including volleyball, cricket, kabaddi and a cultural show.

The walkathon began on Friday at the Teknaf beach with a view to focus a positive image of Cox's Bazar, the longest unbroken sea beach in the world.

Having rested at camps in Shamlapur and Inani, the participants began the third and final leg of the walk yesterday morning.

The Activate Bangladesh and MAA Consortium organised the event with Channel i, Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and Radio Today as their strategic partners.

Chairman of Activate Bangladesh Maj Gen (retd) Anwar Hossain, celebrities and advertising moguls Asaduzzaman Noor, Aly Zaker, Afzal Hossain and Channel i managing director Faridur Reza Sagar spoke while welcoming the walkers.

There was, however, dissatisfaction among the winners as the organisers -- who had declared earlier at a press conference that the first ten competitors would be rewarded -- decided to retreat from their position.

Chief coordinator of Activate Bangladesh Anupam Hossain explained that they withdrew the awards to discourage participators coming to the event with competition in mind.

Mohammed Harun, Deepak Sharma, Milton and Romel -- all from Cox's Bazar -- clinched the first four places.

Ponting hails 'big win'

AFP, *Basseterre*

ICC Cricket World Cup WEST INDIES 2007

Australia captain Ricky Ponting believes his team's impressive 83-run victory over bitter rivals South Africa could be the key to securing a third successive World Cup title.

"It's a big win for us and we now move on," said Ponting after his team's win which meant they carry an extra two points in the Super Eights.

"We have been saying how important it is and we are delighted to be taking those points and a pretty healthy run rate through with us as well."

Man-of-the-match Matthew Hayden hit the fastest century in World Cup history with a 66-ball ton, while Michael Clarke (92) and Ponting (91) guided Australia to 377-6, their highest total in the competition's history.

In reply, South Africa raced to a 160-run opening stand between AB de Villiers (92) and captain Graeme Smith (74) before being bowled out for 294 with two overs to spare.

"I expected them to play that way. I've been confident all week that our batters would do a good job. I knew they'd make a big score, they've already played a couple of games and knew the conditions well, so I knew we'd post a big total," said Ponting after another run festival at the compact Warner Park ground.

"We've been excited about this game and we have gone and played a really good game," added Ponting, whose team now face the West Indies at Antigua on Tuesday in the opening match of the second round Super Eights series.

"They are a very dangerous team, they are on home soil, they should know these conditions very well and they have great crowd support from all over the Caribbean.

"It starts now. It's recovery day Sunday and we make sure we get our game right for Tuesday. Every step you take in this tournament becomes more and more exciting."

Ponting said it was important to strike a blow against South Africa who deposed his team as world number one on the eve of the tournament.

"The last few times we have been challenged, we haven't performed at our best, but we really

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Hayden, Gibbs made St Kitts citizens

INTERNET, *undated*

Hard-hitting Australian opener Matthew Hayden and South African Herschelle Gibbs were awarded honorary citizenship of St Kitts and Nevis for their exceptional batting display in the ongoing World Cup here.

While Hayden smashed the fastest hundred in World Cup with his 66-ball 101 against South Africa in the final group A clash yesterday (Saturday), Gibbs became the first in the history of ODI cricket to hit six sixes in an over in the game against the Netherlands here.

Hayden and Gibbs received the honour from Prime Minister of the twin islands Denzil Douglas at Warner Park following Australia's 83-run win yesterday.

"It's a tremendous honour. We have had a great couple of weeks here. We've enjoyed our stay here and it is a bit of bonus," Hayden told reporters after being conferred with the citizenship.

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PHOTO: AFP

Germany striker Kevin Kuranyi (2nd R) gets the better of a Czech Republic defender to head in his second goal in their Euro 2008 qualifier at the Toyota-Arena in Prague on Saturday.

ENGLAND IN DEEP TROUBLE

Kuranyi masters Czechs

AP, *London*

UEFA EURO2008 Austria-Switzerland

Kevin Kuranyi scored two goals Saturday to put Germany in control of their European Championship qualifying group after a 2-1 victory at the Czech Republic, and Nicolas Anelka kept France on course with the goal in a 1-0 victory at Lithuania.

Israel held struggling England to a 0-0 draw and European champions Greece lost their lead and tumbled 4-1 to visiting Turkey.

In a meeting of two nations level on points at the top of Group D, Germany moved three ahead of the Czechs as Kuranyi scored with two headers in Prague. Milan Baros replied for the Czechs, who are now tied for second with Ireland, who edged Wales 1-0.

Not considered for last year's World Cup by France coach Raymond Domenech, Anelka scored a solo goal in the 73rd minute in Vilnius, dribbling through the middle and shooting from outside the area.

The victory kept the World Cup runners-up level on points with Scotland at the top of Group B, while Ukraine moved ahead of idle Italy and into third place.

The Scots beat Georgia 2-1 at Hampden Park on Craig Beattie's 89th-minute goal and Ukraine posted a routine 2-0 victory at the Faeroe Islands with strikes from Volodymyr Yezerskiy (20th) and Oleg Gusiev (57th).

The results mean that Italy now have five points to make up on Scotland and France, and are two behind Ukraine. The world champions host Scotland on Wednesday.

England wasted chances in Tel Aviv and have not won or scored in Group E in three games. Jamie Carragher's header hit the bar and England haven't won in five games -- the team's worst series of results in 26 years.

England stay level on points with Israel but five behind group leaders Croatia, who beat Macedonia 2-1, and three behind Russia, who won 2-0 at Estonia.

"Disappointed, frustrated," England manager Steve McClaren said. "To dominate the game like that, to have the chances that we did and not to score, it's disappointing and not good enough. We should have won that game."

Croatia came from behind to beat Macedonia, who went ahead through Goce Sedloski in the 38th minute. Darijo Srna equalised in the 58th minute and, after Sedloski had been sent off for a second yellow card in the 68th, Eduardo da Silva scored Croatia's winner with 2 minutes to go.

Two goals in 12 second-half minutes by Alexander Kerzhakov gave Russia a 2-0 victory at Estonia.

Croatia now have 13 points, followed by Russia with 11, England and Israel with eight, and Macedonia with seven.

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Eng captain concedes tough week

AFP, *Gros Islet*

Michael Vaughan looked back at the end of the World Cup group stages and admitted he had a "week he didn't want to have".

But the one consolation for the England captain was that his team had advanced beyond the first phase of the World Cup for the first time since 1996.

There are no survivors in the current England squad from the one beaten by Sri Lanka 11 years ago in the quarter-finals but a seven-wicket win against Kenya here Saturday saw Vaughan's men into the Super Eights in the Caribbean.

It was a win achieved against an extraordinary backdrop of off-field drama.

First England had to cope with the fall-out that saw Andrew Flintoff stripped of the vice-captaincy and dropped from the team that beat Canada last Sunday.

Then came the news that Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer had been murdered.

The former England batsman, who'd been in charge of county side Warwickshire, was a familiar

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