



South Africa fast bowler Morne Morkel is delighted after trapping New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor in front during their Super Eights tie at Kingsmead in Durban on Wednesday.



Sachin Tendulkar

(Indian cricket superstar)
"One-day cricket puts a lot of pressure and there are more chances of injury. So, one-day cricket is what I may stop playing before Tests."

What to WATCH

ESPN
ICC World Twenty20
Australia v Sri Lanka
Live from 1:45pm
Bangladesh v Pakistan
Live from 5:45pm
South Africa v India
Live from 9:45pm

Proteas bring Kiwis down

AFP, Durban

ICC WORLD TWENTY20 SOUTH AFRICA 2007
Justin Kemp blasted 89 not out off 56 balls after Morne Morkel claimed 4-17 as South Africa thrashed New Zealand by six wickets in the Twenty20 world championships here on Wednesday.

Pakistan are the first team to make the last four in the 12-nation tournament after beating Sri Lanka and Australia in Group F.

The second spot from the group will go to the winner of Thursday's crucial tie between Australia and Sri Lanka in Cape Town.

It was New Zealand's only defeat in three matches of the Super Eights and left them level with South Africa on two wins each.

Both teams will advance to the semifinals from Group E if India lose

to England here later on Wednesday.

If India win and also beat South Africa in their last match on Thursday, a three-way tie will be decided on net run-rates.

England, who lost their first two matches, have been knocked out of the semi-final race.

Pakistan are the first team to make the last four in the 12-nation tournament after beating Sri Lanka and Australia in Group F.

The second spot from the group will go to the winner of Thursday's crucial tie between Australia and Sri Lanka in Cape Town.

It was New Zealand's only defeat in three matches of the Super Eights and left them level with South Africa on two wins each.

Both teams will advance to the semifinals from Group E if India lose

fourth wicket with Mark Boucher (23) and an undefeated 48 for the fifth with Shaun Pollock, who remained unbeaten on 16.

The South African blitz came after two wickets had fallen for 17 runs and a third batsman, Herschelle Gibbs, was dismissed in the eighth over with the total at 45.

The emphatic win was set up by 22-year-old fast bowler Morne Morkel who ensured that New Zealand lost wickets at regular intervals.

Morkel narrowly missed becoming the first Twenty20 bowler to claim five wickets when his penultimate ball which clean bowled Gillespie was declared a

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Ricky blow for Aussies

May miss India tour

AFP, Durban

ICC WORLD TWENTY20 SOUTH AFRICA 2007
Australian captain Ricky Ponting will miss the rest of the Twenty20 world championships due to injury and is doubtful for the upcoming tour of India, team officials said.

Ponting suffered a hamstring strain while batting during Australia's six-wicket loss to Pakistan at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Tuesday night.

Ponting's injury, which did not allow him to field against Pakistan, comes ahead of Australia's must-win clash against Sri Lanka in Cape Town on Thursday.

The winners will qualify for the semifinals along with Pakistan from Group F, while the loser will crash out of the tournament.

Team physiotherapist Alex Kountouris said Ponting's injury could keep him out of the game for four weeks, making him an unlikely starter for the seven-match one-day series in India starting on September 29.

"Over the next three to five days we will have a much better indication of where it's heading, so we will know whether he will have to go home or be able to go to India," Kountouris told reporters.

"Hopefully, he will take some part in the series in India. The best-case scenario is a couple of

weeks. The worst case scenario is four weeks."

Kountouris said Ponting strained his hamstring while running between the wickets against Pakistan.

"He just took off for a run and felt it a bit," the physiotherapist said.

"He was stretching his left leg because he was not sure if there was a problem. I don't think he has had a hamstring strain before."

"He wasn't really sure what it feels like."

Ponting, who won the ICC's player of the year award for the second successive year, arrived in South Africa just two days before

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Dhoni must be protected

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

Athletes constantly make deals with themselves. To be a state champion, the runner tells himself, I must invest 'X' hours, to be an international champion 'Y' hours. Leadership has its own trade-offs. Indian captains agree to see less of their children. Watch their hair turn white. Live with daily dissections of their character. Find their patience stretched (and sponsorships swell). It is all worth it. Till a point comes when it is not.

It gets too much. And captains limp away, even after winning a series.

Rahul Dravid probably had enough. The high-anxiety world of Indian cricket can slowly suffocate a captain, and the incessant stress can alter a man. A cricketer of patient calm, Dravid became tetchy, especially with some media.

In moments of introspection, perhaps he recognised this, disliked his new reflection, and figured the deal was not worth it any more.

All athletes are confronted by pressure, and Dravid's record as batsman is proof he wears it well. But perhaps this particular pressure of leading India, which is almost proudly portrayed as "the toughest job in cricket/sport/India", is becoming so throttling that the very life-cycle of the Indian captain will inevitably shorten. There is no insulation against the daily hysteria: instead of contemplating strategy, captains are being interrupted by officials, saying: "The team shirts have not come".

A former Australian captain says, "Ponting faces one-million times the pressure an Indian captain does". It helps that Ponting is not impeded by officials but in fact protected. The Indian captain, almost none who have been groomed because no one knows how, is hurled into the deep end without so much as an inflatable armband. Eventually, most sink. In no other organisation is a leader so absent of support. In England, it is alleged, an official was planting questions at press conferences designed to embarrass Dravid. In his second captaincy, Tendulkar's frustration was etched painfully on his face.

Dravid apparently lacked the requisite personality to lead India, a nice fellow but absent of the precise virtues (thick skin, boldness, communication skills), or vices (arrogance), for this job. Perhaps. But what do we do? Clive Ganeshay, the finest captain we can remember?

Ganeshay was an appealing leader, but to presume only a specific type of person can flourish as a leader because the Indian cricketing environment is so unique limits the job to very few men. Perhaps more than finding the right personality type, it is about creating the right environment.

Australia's last three captains, Mark Taylor, Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting own dissimilar personalities, but it has scarcely mattered. They have all been allowed to be themselves.

Ponting is the new one-day captain; Tendulkar is possibly the next Test captain. But it is pointless if the BCCI merely appoints them and

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Lost & Confused: Part II

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh missed another chance of turning the table on formidable Sri Lanka to keep their hopes alive for a semifinal spot in the ICC World Twenty20 Championship and the culprits were none other than the batsmen.

Cricket-lovers were glued to their television sets last night with high hopes, relishing yet another victory after the bowlers restricted the vaunted Sri Lankan batting to only 147 runs, but the batsmen shattered their hopes again after being bowled out for 83 to suffer an embarrassing 64-run defeat.

One stat can give a clear picture of Bangladesh batsmen's madness in their chase as their innings was

wrapped up with 4.1 overs to spare – believe it or not.

This latest format of cricket of which doesn't necessarily mean that one doesn't apply proper judgment and calculated approach while batting to chase down a total against a rich bowling attack.

Bangladesh captain himself could have been the perfect example of this kind of stupidity as the right-hander lost his way, though it was nothing new in his career, after a brilliant match-winning 61-run knock against the West Indies. The way he skied left-arm pacer Chaminda Vaas to covers simply sunk his side.

It looked that Bangladesh batsmen went for the kill rather than achieving a target and thus in the form Aftab Ahmed carved three sensational fours in the first six balls of his innings but lasted less than two overs at the crease.

It seemed that Bangladesh were confused at deciding on the right pace for an innings in the meet as against South Africa, in their last group match, they were senselessly aggressive and frenzied in the extreme while against Australia,

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

McGrath keen on Twenty20

AFP, Sydney

Retired Australian paceman Glenn McGrath Wednesday said he was keen to be involved in Twenty20 cricket in India, but wouldn't want it to overtake the longer forms of the game.

McGrath, who retired after Australia won their third World Cup in April, is in training for next year's Indian Premier League Twenty20 provincial competition, a move he is excited about.

"People coming to watch the game are probably not your mainstream cricket fans so it's bringing more people to the game, which is great," he told Australian press agency AAP.

But he said he would hate to see the shortest form of the game overshadow the five-day Test match or the 50-over one-day game.

"The effect it will have on Test cricket or one-day cricket, hopefully it won't be negative," McGrath said.

He said the higher run-rates of Twenty20 cricket could broaden the sport's appeal but the shortest form also had the potential to overtake traditional formats in places like the US where cricket lacks a strong foothold.

"I would hate to see it take the spot of Test cricket and one-day cricket," McGrath said.

"Hopefully there is room for all three forms of the game but we'll

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



Bangladesh batsman Shakib Al Hasan looks back at his disturbed castle during the Super Eights tie against Sri Lanka at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Tuesday.

Ad

AccessTEL
THE BROADBAND COMPANY
www.accesstel.net

TODAY'S MATCHES

Teams	Time	Venue
Australia v Sri Lanka	2:00pm	Cape Town
Bangladesh v Pakistan	6:00pm	Cape Town

Ad