

# Morkel inspires SA win

AFP, Bridgetown

Albie Morkel's quickfire 40 helped take South Africa to a 13-run win in their opening Super Eight match against New Zealand at the World Twenty20 here on Thursday.

Morkel's innings at the Kensington Oval lasted just 18 balls but still featured five sixes and helped South Africa pile up a total of 170 for four.

Together with AB de Villiers, who finished on 47 not out, he shared a stand of 72 in six overs as they built on a solid foundation laid by the top order.

De Villiers faced 39 balls with two sixes and a four.

New Zealand's reply suffered an early setback when dangerman Brendon McCullum was brilliantly caught in the first over by a diving Herschelle Gibbs in the covers off Charl Langeveldt.

And they rarely looked like threatening South Africa's score, finishing on 157 for seven.

Number three batsman Martin Guptill might have gone for nought when he edged the bowler just short of Johan Botha at backward point.

Guptill eventually fell to off-spinner Roelof

van der Merwe, for 18 when he holed out in the deep to Albie Morkel.

And 51 for two was transformed into 67 for three when Jesse Ryder, on the charge, was beaten in the flight by Botha and chipped a catch to de Villiers at mid-off to end an innings of 33.

Botha certainly justified his inclusion with two wickets for 23 runs in three overs.

Gibbs then took another excellent catch as Ross Taylor (19) flicked Morne Morkel on the legside and New Zealand were 87 for four in the 13th over.

Gareth Hopkins uppercut Langeveldt for six high over third man but, two balls later, Scott Styris struck the seamer straight to Gibbs at midwicket.

The Black Caps required 36 from 12 balls and then 27 from six.

South Africa captain Graeme Smith then brought on Albie Morkel for his only over of the match and he was promptly hoisted over deep square leg by New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori.

However, Albie Morkel kept his head and the target became an impossible 22 off three balls.

Earlier, the all-rounder was equally adept at striking left-arm spinner Vettori over long-off for six or depositing paceman Tim Southee for three sixes in an over.

South Africa, who won the toss, saw Smith open alongside Jacques Kallis.

The pair shared a first wicket stand of 40, featuring some well struck boundaries, before Smith holed out to deep midwicket for 14.

And 40 for one became 55 for two when Kallis, who made 31, was brilliantly caught by a diving Southee at third man after uppercutting Oram.

Gibbs, recalled in place of Loots Bosman, looked in good touch while making 30 before he top-edged a sweep off Nathan McCullum to Brendon McCullum.

Both Group E rivals continue their bid for a semi-final spot here on Saturday when New Zealand face defending champions Pakistan and South Africa play England, who beat Pakistan by six wickets earlier on Thursday.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 170 for 4 in 20 overs (Kallis 31, Smith 14, Gibbs 30, De Villiers 47 not out, A Morkel 40)

**NEW ZEALAND:** 157 for 7 in 20 overs (Ryder 33, Guptill 18, Taylor 19, Hopkins 18, N McCullum 26 not out; Langeveldt 2-39, M Morkel 2-27, Botha 2-23)

**Result:** South Africa won by 13 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Albie Morkel.

# More trouble for Modi S'pore thrash

AFP, New Delhi



Suspended Indian Premier League boss Lalit Modi faced further trouble on Friday after it emerged he tried to divide world cricket by proposing a parallel event in England.

The plan, revealed by England's cricket chief Giles Clarke in an email to Indian officials, involved English county sides playing an IPL-style tournament featuring the world's top stars.

Modi held a secret meeting with officials from three unnamed counties in New Delhi on March 31 to discuss the proposal without the knowledge of the concerned boards, according to the email.

A statement by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said it had asked Modi to explain the move, which was "detrimental to Indian cricket, English cricket and world cricket at large".

In the five-page notice to Modi, BCCI secretary N. Srinivasan listed the details of the plan, which included attracting counties to the parallel league by offering them huge sums of money.

"You have allegedly discussed this as a commercial proposition... that the IPL would guarantee each county a minimum of three-five million dollars per annum plus a staging fee of 1.5 million dollars," Srinivasan wrote to Modi.

He said that under the alleged deal, returns would be shared 80:20 between the franchisees

and the counties, with a player model based on the IPL.

"You have allegedly planted a seed of thought of players' revolt if the governing bodies of respective cricket boards do not allow them to participate in this extended version of IPL."

Srinivasan added the plan not only challenged the authority of the BCCI and the England Cricket Board, but that both governing bodies would be "forced to watch helplessly while the game and the power of administration are hijacked."

Modi had been given 15 days to answer the charge, Srinivasan wrote.

Modi, 46, was removed as head of the glitzy IPL last week pending an internal BCCI probe into allegations of corruption, tax evasion and money-laundering that sparked a federal tax investigation.

He was also stood down as a BCCI vice-president and as chairman of the T20 Champions League, a separate club tournament organised jointly by India, Australia and South Africa.

Modi is already under a 15-day deadline, which ends on Monday, to reply to the corruption charges.

The IPL, owned by the BCCI and based on the shortened, made-for-television Twenty20 format and modelled partly on English football's Premier League, has attracted the sport's top international stars.

The IPL's brand value is estimated to be around four billion dollars after just three editions.

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hand Yuhari failed to make it three for himself when he hit the match's only penalty stroke straight at the opposition keeper. But they got a fifth through Johnson Sivalingam on the 67th minute when he beat the goalkeeper with an angular shot from the left side.

Earlier in the day, the first match of the championship between Oman and Hong Kong ended in a 1-1 draw. Hong Kong took a 26th minute lead through Arif Ali from a penalty corner. But Oman came back through a field-goal from Samir in the 47th minute.

The second game between Sri Lanka and Chinese Taipei ended 3-3 after the first half had finished 2-2. It was a closely contested affair as the Lankans took the lead twice only to find Taipei equalise.

And Taipei then took a 3-2 lead early in the second half but as was the nature of the match, Sri Lanka found a deserved equaliser on the 64th minute to share the spoils.

There are no matches in the championship today. Bangladesh will take on Thailand tomorrow in their first match.

AFP, Bridgetown

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori gave his side a stark warning to improve their performance or forget about reaching the semifinals of the World Twenty20.

The Black Caps suffered their first loss of this tournament when they began the second round Super Eights with a 13-run loss to South Africa that was more comprehensive than the raw result suggests.

New Zealand's attack was hammered by man-of-the-match Albie Morkel, who struck five sixes in an innings that lasted just 18 balls.

Together with AB de Villiers, who finished on 47 not out, he shared a stand of 72 in six overs towards the end of the innings as South Africa scored 170 for four at the Kensington Oval here on Thursday.

"It's the nature of Twenty20 that you can't get it right every time but there are crucial situations that you have to get right and this time it was the last four or five overs," Vettori said.

Having previously defeated Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in the group phase, Vettori's men will now probably need to beat both defending champions Pakistan and England if they are to reach the last four.

"Today (Thursday) wasn't what I expected or what I want and we have to improve pretty quickly going into two must-win games now," left-arm spinner Vettori added.

Against South Africa, several top order batsmen got starts but none could go on to play the significant innings required if New Zealand were to enjoy a successful run chase.

"It's the nature of the format that your four overs can be brilliant one day and pretty tough the next and we are hoping for a quick turnaround from some of the guys' performances today," Vettori said. "It's hard to know what turns it round but hopefully we can adapt pretty quickly."

"It was probably the last five overs where we weren't good enough. It's a very small ground and when you have a destructive hitter like Albie Morkel it's a very bad combination if you miss," he explained.

Meanwhile Vettori refused to attribute New Zealand's poor display against South Africa to an inability to cope with a more lively pitch than the one they were used to in Guyana.

"It's certainly not a quick wicket so it still suited us and we weren't bothered by the wicket being drastically different to Guyana. But in Twenty20 you have to be almost perfect and we weren't."



South Africa all-rounder Albie Morkel drives down the ground during their World Twenty20 game against New Zealand at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Thursday.

# Vettori warns teammates

AFP, Bridgetown

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## Fielding

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he still been on the field himself.

However, while such a display by an England or Australian side would have led to widespread condemnation and extra practice, Waqar has enough experience of Pakistan at international tournaments to know that there is still time for his inconsistent yet gifted side to turn things around.

"We're not out of the tournament, so we don't really have to worry about that," he said.

New Zealand, well beaten in a 13-run loss to South Africa here on Thursday, are Pakistan's next opponents and captain Shahid Afridi said his side would have to up their game against the Black Caps on Saturday.

"We missed our opportunities (against England) and you can't afford to miss opportunities," Afridi said. "We are working hard but right now I don't know why we are missing opportunities."

England held Pakistan to 147 for nine before Kevin Pietersen, also the beneficiary of two dropped catches, saw his side home with an unbeaten 73.

"You must give Kevin Pietersen credit for the way he played - he battled like a champion and took the game away from us," Waqar said.

"I thought 147 was a decent total, maybe 15 runs short - but with our bowling attack, I thought we could have managed it."

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

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Masud picked up four wickets for Bandhu Ekadash.

**DIVISIONAL KARATE** Khulna dominated the Electra 4th Divisional Karate Championship held at the Khulna Stadium Gymnasium.

In the men's Kumite, Monirul and Rafiqul won gold in the 55kg and 67kg respectively while in the Kata, Hanif won gold.

Faruq (Jessore), Montu and Sultan (Bagerhat) also won in the men's events while Jessore's Karima won two gold medals in the women's events.

Six districts took part in the meet.

# Yadav's rapid rise

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The sporting graduation did not trigger excitement at Yadav's home.

"My father had no interest in the game. All he told me was that I should do something in life so that I earn a decent living. They are people with modest dreams," he said.

During Yadav's first season in 2008, he was drafted by Air India. By the time the season ended, he was in the Central Zone team. In 2009, in a Duleep Trophy game against South Zone, he beat two of the country's technically best-equipped batsmen, Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman, for sheer pace in a spell of 5/76.

The national selectors ticked his name for future reference, while Delhi Daredevils talent scouts included him in the squad. But an injury during a warm-up game before IPL 2 in South Africa resulted in a six-month break from the game. He returned in 2010 to a modest season, at the end of which he was picked for the Board President's XI team that played South Africa.

It was in the just-concluded IPL 3 that Yadav really got noticed. He wasn't among the top wicket-takers, but his pace caught everyone's eyes.

A national selector who picked Yadav as Praveen's replacement said, "We didn't want a 120-125 kph kind of bowler. We wanted someone who could surprise the batsmen. Yadav a great bouncer and a yorker that he can bowl at 140 kph."

Gandhe is confident that his ward is ready for the big league and can be national team regular. Yadav, in contrast, is still a man of modest dreams. "My father has to work really hard in the mines all day. My dream is to make his life comfortable. Maybe I will bring him to Nagpur. Cricket will help me to do that," he said.



Serbia's Ana Ivanovic returns a ball to Russia's Nadia Petrova during their match of the Rome Open at the Foro Italico in Rome on Thursday. Ivanovic won 6-2, 7-5.

## Russel firmly

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the margin in the 72nd minute with Rony heading Morocco winger Jamal Nakhli's corner home.

## TEAMS

**SHEIKH RUSSEL:** Mamun Khan, Zahirul Islam, Ramjan Ali, Abass Inusha, Rajon Mia, Khokon Das (Sunny), Aminul Islam, Rony, Samir Omari and Jamal Nakhli.

**BEANIBAZAR:** Sultan Ahmed, Ashrafur Karim, Mosheul Kabir, Abid Hossain, Ujjal Khan, Khalid Saifullah, Rashed Ahmed (Jayed Ahmed), Shohel Rana (Ashiqur Rahman), Toufiq Hasan (Jewel Rana) and M Masum.

**Yellow cards:** Mosheul (Beanibazar)

**Referee:** Mizanur Rahman

## Tennis

AFP, Rome

Former world number one Ana Ivanovic continued her return to form at the clay court Rome Open at the Foro Italico here on Thursday as she took her third successive seed's scalp.

The Serbian beauty beat 13th seed Nadia Petrova 6-2, 7-5 to reach Friday's semi-finals following victories over ninth seed Viktorija Azarenka and fifth seed Elena Dementieva.

Two years ago Ivanovic had climbed to the top of the world rankings and also won the French Open but her star has fallen far since then and she currently sits at number 58.

"This is all behind me now and I think every player in one way or another goes through a tough time and I think it is not how many times you fall but how many times you get back up," she said.

"This tournament and these victories that I have had this week mean a lot to me because I have put in so much work, not only in the last months but also the last year, and it was just not happening."

"Now I am just so happy to be back on track." Petrova paid for a tide of unforced errors - she racked up 32 by the end - and gave up victory with a forehand into the tramlines.

World number one Serena Williams had few problems in dismissing Russia's Maria Kirilenko 6-1, 6-4.

But she was denied a semi-final against her sister after an out-of-sorts Venus was crushed 6-0, 6-1 by seventh seed Jelena Jankovic.

Serena, who had not played since winning the Australian Open in January, looked set for a particularly short afternoon as she took 10 of the first 11 games against her 37th ranked opponent, who had taken her to three sets as a teenager at Roland Garros six years ago.

But Kirilenko rallied to win three games in a row as Serena's forehead went to pot.

"That just boils down a little bit to match

# SA fined for slow over-rate

AFP, Bridgetown

South Africa have been fined for a slow over-rate during their 13-run win against New Zealand in the World Twenty20 Super Eights, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Thursday.

Match referee Alan Hurst imposed the fines after South Africa were ruled to be one over short of their target at the end of the match, at the Kensington Oval here on Thursday, when time allowedances were taken into consideration.

Teams are allowed an hour and 20 minutes to bowl their full 20 overs in a Twenty20 international although officials will allow some leeway for stoppages caused by incidents such as balls being hit way into the crowd and players who require on-field treatment for injuries.

South Africa could be seen rushing towards the end of New Zealand's innings, seemingly aware a fine might be looming, but they failed to escape punishment from former Australia fast bowler Hurst.

Under ICC regulations, players are fined 10 percent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time, with the captain fined double that amount.

Consequently, South Africa captain Graeme Smith was fined 20 percent of his match fee and his players received 10 percent fines.

If Smith, as captain, is guilty of two further similar over-rate offences in Twenty20 internationals over the next 12 months he will, under the ICC's code of conduct, receive a one-match suspension.

Thursday's penalty was, said the ICC, accepted by South Africa "without contest" so there was no need for a hearing.

## Much wrong

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the season's curtain-raising Federation Cup title.

However his team started to slip due to the non-cooperation of the club management and the unpaid wages of the players, he alleged when handing in his resignation on Wednesday.

Some senior players went to Maruful to try to change his mind about leaving the club in the middle of the season. The players were reportedly successful in convincing him but the team management took no steps to change Maruful's mind.

"We did not expect him to leave the way he did and obviously we are not feeling good," said goalkeeper Aminul Haque.

"Might be he left with a lot of pain on his mind," said Zahid Hasan Emily. "He helped me a lot to overcome my bad patch and his departure really shocked me."

"It is true he left and now we have to look forward to playing better in the next matches and we should concentrate on our own performance," said defender Wali Faisal adding that he had left.

"There is actually no management which is very important to win a league title and I believe like the players, the officials also need commitment and things cannot run the way they have been running," said a player preferring anonymity. While the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) repeatedly appeals to the clubs to bring professionalism in their activities, the current state of one of the country's premier clubs reflect very well, the pale picture in this regard.

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## SA prepare

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England's success in the Twenty20 Indian Premier League with the Chennai Super Kings.

However, since making his Test debut against Australia at Cape Town in March 2009 his form has dipped so much that Morkel has not even been selected for the one-day leg of South Africa's tour of the West Indies tour which follows the World Twenty20.

Morkel's lone Test appearance did see him make a century and he also scored a half century against a modest Zimbabwe attack but Thursday's innings was his second best in all international formats in 15 months.

"It was nice to perform for your country and I was pleased to come in and play an innings under pressure during a World Cup," Morkel said.

"But I've never really felt out of form the whole season so it's just been about trying to get a start and once you get a performance you hope for a rolling effect so hopefully this can carry on."

The 27-year-old, ranked 26 in the world, had already shocked world number two Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark in the previous round.