



**RISING STAR:** South Africa spinner Imran Tahir exults after picking up one of his four wickets against West Indies on his international debut at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Afridi calls for more

AFP, Hambantota



Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi believes his team still have shortcomings to overcome ahead of their crunch World Cup clash against Sri Lanka. Pakistan overcame early hiccups to post a challenging 317-7 against Kenya before Afridi took centre stage with 5-16 to bundle out their out-classed opponents for 112 to record a 205-victory in Wednesday's opener.

"It's a good start but we shouldn't be 100 per cent satisfied, there is a lot of work ahead of us still," said the captain.

Pakistan lost openers Mohammad Hafeez (nine) and Ahmed Shahzad (one) inside seven overs with just 16 on the board against Kenya.

"Whether in batting or bowling you need a positive start. But since the ball was sticking to the pitch a little, it wasn't easy. I hope my openers don't repeat those mistakes," said Afridi.

Younis Khan (50) and Kamran Akmal (55) put on a solid 98 for the third wicket, before Misbahul Haq (65) and Umar Akmal (71) provided a flourish during their quickfire 118-run stand, racking up 71 in the batting powerplay.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

## Proteas overpower WI

AFP, New Delhi

Debutant leg-spinner Imran Tahir snared four wickets and AB de Villiers struck 107 not out as South Africa coasted to a seven-wicket win over the West Indies in the World Cup on Thursday.

Tahir (4-41) and off-spinner Johan Botha (2-48) shared six wickets to help South Africa bowl out the West Indies for 222 off 47.3 overs before de Villiers slammed his 10th one-day century to seal the fate of their rivals.

JP Duminy (42 not out) hit the winning run as South Africa reached the target with 43 balls to spare in their opening day-night Group B clash at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium.

De Villiers put on 119 runs for the third wicket with captain Graeme Smith (45) after South Africa had been reduced to 20-2 following the dismissal of Hashim Amla (14) and Jacques Kallis (four) in the space of five runs.

Amla was caught by wicketkeeper Devon Thomas off paceman Kumar Roach and Kallis offered a catch in the slips after misjudging a delivery from left-arm spinner Sulieman Benn.

De Villiers remained calm despite the twin setback, to his half-century with a six off part-time spinner Chris Gayle and carting Benn for another that sailed over long-off.

Tahir and Botha earlier justified the decision of Smith to field three specialist spinners on a ground which was hosting its first international in a year after being banned for a dangerous playing surface.

Darren Bravo led the West Indies fightback with an 82-ball 73 while his older half-brother Dwayne chipped in with a 37-ball 40 with three sixes and a four after the Caribbean side were put in to bat.

Bravo also shared 111 runs for the second wicket with opener Devon Smith after Gayle was dismissed by Botha off the third ball of the innings.

Botha (2-48) struck again in the 24th over, just when Bravo and Devon Smith were threatening to put up a huge partnership.

Tahir, 31, picked up his first wicket in one-day internationals in his third over when he caught Devon Smith (36) off his own bowling and celebrated it by kissing the South African badge on his shirt.

The Pakistan-born bowler picked up another wicket in his next over when he had the veteran Ramnaresh Sarwan (two) trapped lbw.

Sarwan asked for a review of the decision but replays showed the ball would have hit the top of the middle stump.

He was not to be denied for long though, removing Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Devon Thomas with his guile and precision before Dale Steyn (3-24) sent back Pollard, Sammy and Benn in a quick three-wicket burst.

West Indies' misery was compounded by a freak injury to Dwayne Bravo who fell in his follow-through, hurting his left knee.

He bowled just 2.1 overs and did not take further part in the match.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**WEST INDIES:** 222 all out in 47.3 overs (Smith 36, Bravo 73, Chanderpaul 31, Bravo 40, Thomas 15; Botha 2-48, Steyn 3-24, Tahir 4-41)

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 223 for 3 in 42.5 overs (Amla 14, Smith 45, De Villiers 107 not out, Duminy 45 not out; Benn 1-51, Roach 1-42, Pollard 1-37)

**Result:** South Africa won by 7 wickets.

**Man-of-the-match:** AB de Villiers.



## AUSTRALIA V NEW ZEALAND: NAGPUR

# Border tension

AFP, Nagpur



Allan Border has warned Australia to beware the threat of a New Zealand side riding a wave of emotion when the trans-Tasman rivals meet in a World Cup clash here on Friday overshadowed by the devastating Christchurch earthquake.

New Zealand's 15-man squad Tuesday desperately scrambled for news of loved ones caught up in the 6.3 magnitude quake which has left at least 98 dead, with the team admitting to being left shocked and numbed.

Former Australia captain Border, a World Cup winner in 1987, said the tragedy would give the Black Caps additional motivation.

"They're a side that tend to lift against Australia and given the recent events in Christchurch, they've got the added incentive to do well," Border told foxsports.com.au.

"Not that that should make that much difference, but you've got that incentive in the back of your mind to lift for the sake of your countrymen. They're a dangerous opponent, there's no doubt about that."

The Black Caps have seen physio Dayle Shackel return home for a week to leave then relying on Australian support staff here Friday.

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori said a win for his side over Australia could lift national spirits.

"The greatest thing we can do for a lot of people is to win the game against Australia. I think that will bring a bit of light relief to some people going through tough times," he said.

The fixture has been given an added edge by being designated this year's Chappell-Hadlee Trophy match as it is the only chance Australia and New Zealand have to play each other in 2010/11.

The trophy, named for the contributions of Australia's Chappell family and New Zealand's Hadlee clan to their respective national teams, is currently held by Australia after

a 3-2 series win last year in New Zealand.

Australia captain Ricky Ponting goes into the match having been reprimanded by the International Cricket Council (ICC) after smashing a television set in a fit of fury after being run out during the champions' 91-run tournament opening win over Zimbabwe in Ahmedabad on Monday.

Australia, bidding for an unprecedented fourth successive title and fifth in all, looked awkward against Zimbabwe left-arm spinner Ray Price in an otherwise convincing victory that stretched their unbeaten run in World Cup matches to 24 straight games dating back to 1999.

"We know that spin factor will be a big one in this tournament. We know these conditions and know how to play in India or Sri Lanka," Ponting said.

But Australia are without Michael Hussey, one of their best batsmen against spin, after doubts over his fitness following a hamstring injury saw the left-hander left at home.

With New Zealand boasting two fine slow bowlers in Vettori and Nathan McCullum, he would have been a valuable asset against the Black Caps.

"Hopefully it won't come back and hurt us at all," Ponting said of Hussey's controversial omission.

"We've got what we've got now. We understand that Mike was disappointed not to be in this squad in the first place... The medicos and our selectors felt he wasn't fit enough to come away on the tour."

For New Zealand, who thrashed Kenya in their opener, the match promises to be a stern test of their World Cup ambitions but Vettori is confident his inconsistent side can raise their game.

"If we are going to do well over here, we are going to have to beat the likes of Australia," said Vettori, who backed the Black Caps top order, which includes powerful hitters such as Brendon McCullum and Jesse Ryder, to propel New Zealand to what would be a first World Cup crown.

### AUSTRALIA V NEW ZEALAND

Matches: 124

Australia win: 84

New Zealand win: 34

No result/Abandoned: 6

First meeting: March 30, 1974,

Dunedin -- Australia won by 7 wickets

Last meeting: March 13, 2010,

Wellington -- New Zealand won by 51



Australian captain Ricky Ponting throws the ball during a training session at Nagpur yesterday, ahead of today's World Cup match against New Zealand.

PHOTO: AFP

## Krejza comes back to where it all began

AFP, Nagpur

From forgotten man to World Cup starter, Australian off-spinner Jason Krejza will return to the scene of his greatest triumph when the reigning champions face New Zealand on Friday.

It was in Nagpur where the 28-year-old took eight wickets for 215 runs in India's first innings in his debut Test in November 2008.

He finished with 12 wickets in the match. Of Australian players, only swing specialist Bob Massie has enjoyed better figures on Test debut.

But the game also left Krejza with the unwanted record of conceding more runs (358) than anyone in their debut Test and, to make matters worse, Australia lost the

match by 172 runs.

He was dropped after only his second Test, against South Africa in Perth a month after his debut, where he finished with unflattering match figures of 1-204 in another Australian defeat as the Proteas, batting last, made 414 for four to win by six wickets.

It seemed he was destined to be regarded as an expensive luxury and during the past two seasons Krejza has often been left out of the Tasmania state side.

But injuries to spin rivals Nathan Hauritz, Xavier Doherty and Stephen O'Keefe saw him make his one-day international debut in Perth earlier this month in the final match of Australia's 6-1 series thrashing of England.

"I never gave up hope, I just knew I was going to be a better bowler," he said before his ODI debut.

## Ricky's box broke it!

AFP, Nagpur

Australia captain Ricky Ponting said it was his box, employed to protect a batsman's most sensitive area, and not his bat which damaged a World Cup dressing room television set.

Ponting accepted an International Cricket Council reprimand after he reacted angrily to being run out in his team's 91-run win over Zimbabwe in Ahmedabad on Monday.

But he insisted on Thursday that the incident had been blown wildly out of proportion.

"Just to clarify, the television wasn't hit by me with my bat at all, it was hit by my box that I'd thrown down at the end of cricket kit," said Ponting.

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