

## Kirsten happy that India chased

AFP, Bangalore

India coach Gary Kirsten believes India passed a crucial World Cup test by batting second and claiming a five-wicket win over Ireland.

India had batted first in their first two games, racking up 370 and 338 against Bangladesh and England before skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni opted to field against Ireland.

"It was important that we chased and got used to batting second and getting to understand what to do in different situations," said Kirsten, whose team sit on top of Group B.

"Two points is everything and we will face different challenges in different games, we don't want to have easy games all the way through."

India next face rock-bottom Netherlands in New Delhi on Wednesday where Yuvraj Singh will be looking for a repeat of his all-round success against Ireland.

Yuvraj became the first player to take five wickets and hit 50 runs in the same World Cup match.

"Yuvraj did well all round," added Kirsten. "He has been working hard on his cricket and wants to contribute with bat and ball. I am pleased with the way he went about his batting."

## Ireland move up rankings

AFP, New Delhi

Minnows Ireland have leapfrogged Zimbabwe in the one-day international rankings after their stunning World Cup win over England, the International Cricket Council said Monday.

The sensational victory in Bangalore last Wednesday earned Ireland, a second-tier, or Associate Member of the ICC, enough points to move into 10th position in the rankings.

Zimbabwe are a full member of the ICC with Test and one-day international status but are currently inactive in Tests.

Australia remain the top-ranked side, with World Cup joint hosts India in second place. Sri Lanka are up to third place.



**TIMBER:** Kenya batsman Thomas Odoyo plays and misses only to be clean bowled by Canada's Harvir Baidwan during their World Cup match at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Tweeting the World Cup

AFP, New Delhi

Desperate appeals in the aftermath of the New Zealand earthquake, cheeky match predictions or just reporting the day-to-day minutiae of a very long tournament.

From New Delhi to Chennai, Bangalore to Mohali, as well as diversions to Colombo and Dhaka, players kicking their heels in hotel lobbies or airport departure lounges are thriving in a TwitterWorld Cup.

New Zealand's Scott Styris confounded the system's reputation for tedious detail by posting a moving tribute to the victims of February's Christchurch quake.

"Quite a numb and flat feeling in the squad. Training tough," wrote Styris.

Unlike some cricket boards, who have seen players use Twitter to vent their anger over being dropped or to break team news before a stage-managed announcement, New Zealand are laid back about the phenomenon.

"The players can't bring the game into disrepute nor should they breach team protocol. As long as they don't do either of those two things I don't see any reason why they can't use Twitter," said players' representative Heath Mills.

"I'd like to think it wouldn't go as far as us having to ban players from doing things in this country."

The England and Wales Cricket Board may be to differ.

Dedicated tweeter Kevin Pietersen last year used his account to blast his axing from England's one-day squad.

Earlier in the World Cup he told his fans he was pondering another tattoo and on Monday he said he was saddened and devastated at having to pull out of the tournament because he needs a hernia operation.

"Sad to leave India.. Love the people & the hospitality!! Alvida doston [Goodbye friends]," he wrote on his Twitter account.

"I fly home tonight. Out of the WC & IPL.. Absolutely devastated!!" he said.

West Indian star Chris Gayle, a former national captain, even managed to tweet under fire when the team bus was stoned by angry fans in Dhaka after Bangladesh had been humiliated in a nine-wicket loss.

"This is some ....Bangladesh stoning our bus!!! Freaking glass Break!!! This is crap, can't believe..what next, bullets!!!"

Former spin wizard Shane Warne may not be playing but he's keeping a high profile.

The Australian correctly predicted that England and India would tie their game in Bangalore.

"Looking forward to the game between India and England -- should be a cracker. My prediction -- a tie!"

Just after the game had finished, Warne tweeted again: "Before u think there was something untoward re prediction of a tie, thought it was going to be a cracker -- tie was tongue in cheek, but right."

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## Canada the better Associate

REUTERS, New Delhi

Canada overcame some early jitters with the bat to eventually win the battle of the Associates by beating

Kenya by five wickets and register their first win in the World Cup at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium here on Monday.

Right-handed batsman Jimmy Hansra (70) and captain Ashish Bagai (64 not out) stitched together a 132-run partnership for the fourth wicket that sealed the Group A match for the North Americans.

The duo consolidated hard after Canada were reduced to 48 for three and batted intelligently thereafter to

wrest the control back in their hands, helped in part by a few dropped catches.

Paceman Henry Osinde took four wickets as Canada shot out the Africans for a paltry 198 runs after they opted to bat on winning the toss.

### SCOREBOARD

#### KENYA

Ouma c Baidwan b Osinde	0
Waters b Osinde	2
C Obuya b Baidwan	31
D Obuya c Bagai b Osinde	2
Tikolo lbw b Cheema	12
Mishra c Surkari b Davison	51
Kamande c Bagai b Rao	22
Odoyo b Baidwan	51
Odhiambo b Osinde	4
Otieno c Hansra b Cheema	8

#### Canada not out

Extras: (lb-4, w-10)	14
Total: (All out in 50 overs)	198
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-7, 3-21, 4-41, 5-57, 6-109, 7-166, 8-171, 9-193, 10-198.	

#### Bowler

O	M	R	W	
Osinde	10	2	26	4
Baidwan	10	1	41	2
Desai	3	0	20	0
Cheema	9	1	30	2
Hansra	3	0	15	0
Rao	10	0	36	1
Davison	5	0	26	1

#### Kenya not out

Extras: (b-1, w-11, nb-1)	13
Total: (For 5 wks in 45.3 overs)	199
Did not bat: Baidwan, Desai, Osinde, Balaji.	
Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-37, 3-48, 4-180, 5-186.	

#### Bowler

O	M	R	W	
Odoyo	5	1	18	0
Etiemo	8.3	0	45	1
Odhiambo	10	0	45	2
Ngoche	10	2	26	1
Kamande	5	0	25	0
Obuya	2	0	15	0
Tikolo	5	1	24	0

Result: Canada won by five wickets.  
Man-of-the-match: Henry Osinde.



The players of Kuwait Under-23 football team train at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. They will take on their Bangladesh counterparts in a Pre-Olympic Qualifier at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow.

PHOTO: STAR

## Rubic hopes for better result

SPORTS REPORTER

Croat coach Robert Rubic has promised that the Bangladesh U-23 football side will put up a good show at home against their Kuwaiti counterparts in the Pre-Olympic Qualifiers.

Bangladesh, who suffered a 2-0 reverse in their away game, must win this match and that too with better goal margin in order to qualify for the next round.

"It is a very important match for me and the players. Everything is possible in the second match. They [Kuwait] are the absolute favourites in this match in regards to technique and tactics but I have faith in my players and they are fully motivated to put up a good show," said Rubic before the start of practice at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Rubic, under whom the U-23 side lost all three matches in the Asian Games, said that ball possession was a problem in the away defeat as his charges could not run enough and he worked on that area in training.

The Croat plans of not allowing open space for their opponents to shoot on target and try to make most of the corners and set-pieces they may get in the match on March 9 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Bangladesh took up a defensive strategy in the away match as per the

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### EDEXCEL exams

O/A level January 2011 results on Thursday 10 March 2011 at 4 pm

IGCSE/A level May/June 2011 registration continues until 13 March 2011

British Council offices will remain open on Friday 11 March to accept exams registration and fees in cash only.

For result and registration: [www.britishcouncil.org/bangladesh](http://www.britishcouncil.org/bangladesh)

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### SPORTS POLL

#### WEEKLY QUESTION

Who will be Bangladesh's highest run-scorer?

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