



# SPORT



## ENGLAND VS SOUTH AFRICA

# Morgan relishing pressure; Du Plessis the lack of it

AFP, London

South Africa captain Faf du Plessis tried to ease the pressure on his team on the eve of the World Cup by insisting they did not have to play like "Superman" to enjoy success at the tournament.

The Proteas will launch the World Cup against hosts and favourites England at the Oval on Thursday as they begin their latest bid to put decades of disappointment at the event behind them.

South Africa have won only one of seven World Cup knockout matches, against Sri Lanka in the quarterfinals in 2015, since making their tournament debut in 1992.

"Whether we come into this tournament as favourites or as underdogs, you still have to go out on the park and play cricket and perform to win a World Cup," Du Plessis told reporters at the Oval on Wednesday.

"Learning from myself that I can speak of in the past, you perhaps feel like you have to do more. You know, you have to be a Superman on the day. You're trying to win a World Cup. For me, that's not what we need to do."

"We are a good cricket team. Our results have proven that. We need to stay present in the fact that what we have got on our team is good enough to beat any team on the



(L) England captain Eoin Morgan gives some pointers to fast bowler Jofra Archer while (R) South Africa captain Faf du Plessis was also enthusiastically pointing to something during their respective training sessions at The Oval in London yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

day and trust that, not go away thinking 'today I need to be the man that scores 180 off 60 balls' because that doesn't give us results."

South Africa will be without Steyn for Thursday's match after the veteran quick was ruled out with a shoulder injury sustained playing in the Indian Premier League.

"It's a big loss to our team," said Du Plessis. "We did expect it when we picked the squad, Dale was about 60

percent when the squad was picked so it was anticipated. A fit Dale Steyn makes our bowling attack a very strong one."

Du Plessis' opposite number, England captain Eoin Morgan, is someone who would be relishing the prospect of delivering the World Cup to England for the first time. He feels winning a home World Cup could do wonders for cricket in the sport's birthplace.

England are top of the one-day international rankings

and favourites to lift a trophy they have never yet won in its 44-year-history -- a far cry from their woeful first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

"It would mean a huge amount. The World Cup alone raises the profile of the game and is a platform for every young kid in this country to have a hero or have the inspiration to pick up a ball or a bat," Morgan told reporters at the Oval on Wednesday.

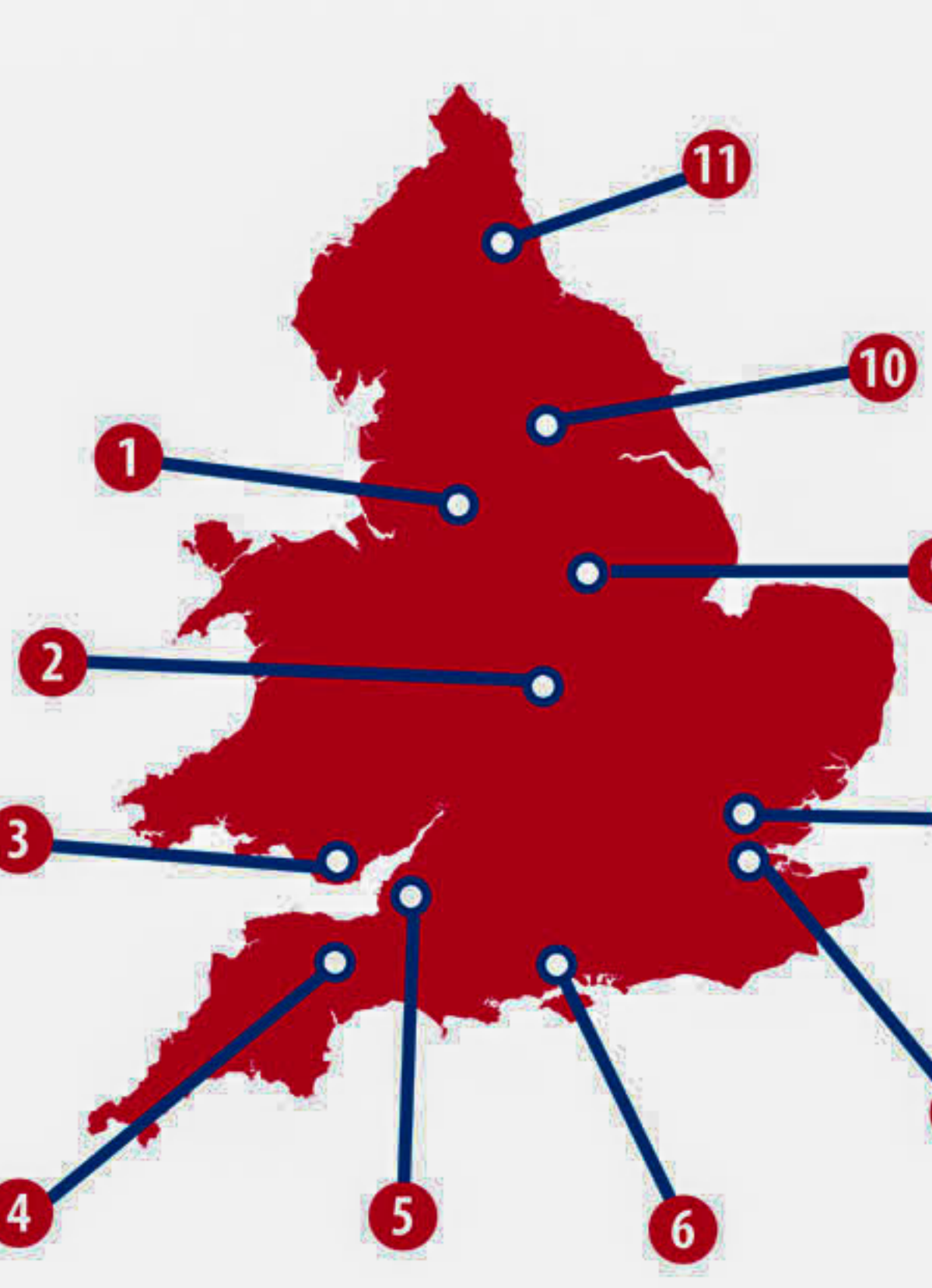
"To go on and win it, I couldn't imagine what that would do," the former Ireland batsman added.

England may have suffered several injury scares in recent weeks, including his own dislocated finger, but Morgan said all of his 15-man squad were available to face the Proteas at the Oval.

"I'm good and the team are very well. We've no injury concerns and we have a full bill of health for tomorrow," he said.



## FIXTURES



- 1 OLD TRAFFORD
- 2 EDGECASTON
- 3 SOPHIA GARDENS
- 4 COUNTY GROUND
- 5 BRISTOL COUNTY
- 6 ROSE BOWL
- 7 THE OVAL
- 8 LORD'S
- 9 TRENT BRIDGE
- 10 HEADINGLEY
- 11 RIVERSIDE GROUND

DATE	MATCH	VENUE	TIME
May 30	England v South Africa	London	3:30pm
May 31	Pakistan v West Indies	Nottingham	3:30pm
June 1	New Zealand v Sri Lanka	Cardiff	3:30pm
June 1	Afghanistan v Australia	Bristol	6:30pm
June 2	<b>Bangladesh v South Africa</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
June 3	England v Pakistan	Nottingham	3:30pm
June 4	Afghanistan v Sri Lanka	Cardiff	3:30pm
June 5	India v South Africa	Southampton	3:30pm
June 5	<b>Bangladesh v New Zealand</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
June 6	Australia v West Indies	Nottingham	3:30pm
June 7	Pakistan v Sri Lanka	Bristol	3:30pm
June 8	<b>England v Bangladesh</b>	<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
June 8	Afghanistan v New Zealand	Taunton	6:30pm
June 9	Australia v India	London	3:30pm
June 10	South Africa v West Indies	Southampton	3:30pm
June 11	<b>Bangladesh v Sri Lanka</b>	<b>Bristol</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
June 12	Australia v Pakistan	Taunton	3:30pm
June 13	India v New Zealand	Nottingham	3:30pm
June 14	England v West Indies	Southampton	3:30pm
June 15	Australia v Sri Lanka	London	3:30pm
June 15	Afghanistan v South Africa	Cardiff	6:30pm
June 16	India v Pakistan	Manchester	3:30pm
June 17	<b>Bangladesh v West Indies</b>	<b>Taunton</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
June 18	Afghanistan v England	Manchester	3:30pm
June 19	New Zealand v South Africa	Birmingham	3:30pm
June 20	<b>Australia v Bangladesh</b>	<b>Nottingham</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
June 21	England v Sri Lanka	Leeds	3:30pm
June 22	Afghanistan v India	Southampton	3:30pm
June 22	New Zealand v West Indies	Manchester	6:30pm
June 23	Pakistan v South Africa	London	3:30pm
June 24	<b>Afghanistan v Bangladesh</b>	<b>Southampton</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
June 25	England v Australia	London	3:30pm
June 26	New Zealand v Pakistan	Birmingham	3:30pm
June 27	India v West Indies	Manchester	3:30pm
June 28	South Africa v Sri Lanka	Chester-le-Street	3:30pm
June 29	Afghanistan v Pakistan	Leeds	3:30pm
June 29	Australia v New Zealand	London	6:30pm
June 30	England v India	Birmingham	3:30pm
July 1	Sri Lanka v West Indies	Chester-le-Street	3:30pm
July 2	<b>Bangladesh v India</b>	<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
July 3	England v New Zealand	Chester-le-Street	3:30pm
July 4	Afghanistan v West Indies	Leeds	3:30pm
July 5	<b>Bangladesh v Pakistan</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
July 6	India v Sri Lanka	Leeds	3:30pm
July 6	Australia v South Africa	Manchester	6:30pm
<b>JULY 9</b>	<b>FIRST SEMIFINAL</b>	<b>MANCHESTER</b>	<b>3:30PM</b>
<b>JULY 11</b>	<b>SECOND SEMIFINAL</b>	<b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	<b>3:30PM</b>
<b>JULY 14</b>	<b>FINAL</b>	<b>LONDON</b>	<b>3:30PM</b>

(DATES AND TIMES ARE BANGLADESH STANDARD)