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PHOTO: AFP

**I'M THE BEST:** Sri Lanka paceman Farveez Maharooof is ecstatic after dismissing yet another West Indies batsman during their final Champions Trophy qualifying match at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai yesterday. Maharooof took 6-14 which is a Champions Trophy record.



## Did U Know?

Women's weightlifting made its debut at the Olympic Games in Sydney, 2000.

## What to WATCH

### BTV & SET Max

ICC Champions Trophy

India v England

Live at 2:45 pm

### ESPN

English Premier Football League

Newcastle United v Bolton Wanderers

Live at 8:55 pm

### STAR Sports

Primera Liga

Real Betis v Deportivo

Live at 12:55 am (Monday)

## Maharooof mauls WI



AFP, Mumbai

Farveez Maharooof returned the best figures in Champions Trophy history as Sri Lanka decimated the West Indies by nine wickets in the final qualifying match here on Saturday.

The 22-year-old seamer picked up a career-best 6-14 after a destructive opening spell by veteran Chaminda Vaas as the West Indies were skittled out for 80 in the day-night match at the Brabourne Stadium.

Sri Lanka cantered home in the 14th over as the first session was extended by seven minutes to facilitate a quick finish with Sanath Jayasuriya unbeaten on 45 and captain Mahela Jayawardene on 34.

The duo played the West Indian attack after opener Upul Tharanga, who made centuries in the previous two games, was clean bowled off the first ball by Fidel Edwards.

The emphatic win enabled Sri Lanka to top the qualifying round and join South Africa, Pakistan and New Zealand in Group B of the main

tournament starting on Sunday.

The West Indies, who have also qualified at the expense of minnows Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, will face world champions Australia, England and hosts India in group A.

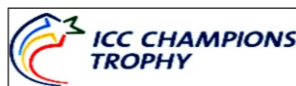
Two teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals.

Maharooof, bowling a tidy line on the slow wicket, not only surpassed his personal best of 4-20 against India in 2005 but also recorded the best figures ever in the five editions of the biennial Champions Trophy so far.

The young seamer's effort surpassed Pakistani Shahid Afridi's 5-11 against England at Edgbaston in the previous tournament in 2004.

West Indian captain Brian Lara's decision to bat backfired as Vaas claimed two wickets in his first two overs before Maharooof continued the sensational collapse.

Four of the top eight batsmen failed to score as the West Indians were shot out for their poorest total against Sri Lanka, well below their previous low of 145 in Sharjah in 1999.



## TROPHY TREATS

SPORTS REPORTER from Jaipur

Opener Shahriar Nafees holds the very encouraging record of a thirty up average in both version of the game and his unbeaten 123 against Zimbabwe on Friday gave him a boost to maintain the run.

But the 20-year old Bangladesh vice-captain was however more concerned with team achievement rather than the personal success.

"The most important thing is to me is what my team has done. I am happy with my second hundred because the team won the match. That is important," said the left-hander who was adjudged man of

The West Indian total was boosted by the 17 extras Sri Lanka conceded, including 10 no-balls and two wides, that turned out to be the second largest contribution after Wavell Hinds' 28.

The West Indies never recovered after losing the in-form Chris Gayle off the fourth ball of the match, caught behind by a diving wicket-keeper Kumar Sangakkara off Vaas.

Gayle, who hit an unbeaten century in the previous match against Bangladesh, failed to get off the mark.

New man Ramnaresh Sarwan survived a confident leg-before appeal first ball, but fell in similar fashion in Vaas' second over without scoring.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul hit Lasith Malinga for two consecutive boundaries before the bowler took revenge by forcing an edge to Sangakkara.

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## Bowlers rule the roost

SPORTS REPORTER

Epyllion rode on a four-wicket haul by Enamul Haque to register a massive nine-wicket victory over Raju Fish Culture in the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday.

The day saw all the teams that batted first being all out for totals that were just above the 100-mark.

Sylhet duo Enamul Haque and Taposh Baisya shared six wickets as the left-arm spinner Haque took 4 for 19 to receive the man-of-the-match award, while the discarded Tigers seamer took two for 13.

Young right-handed opener Gazi Salahuddin struck 68 while his partner Nazmus Sadat scored 36 to clinch the win in only 15.3 overs after Raju Fish were bowled out for a meagre 106 in 49 overs.

Veteran batsman Sazzadul Hasan scored 37 for the little-known team.

Away at the Fatullah Stadium, Partex won handsomely by seven wickets as they confidently chased down a small target set by their

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## Tigers sign out



BISHWAJIT ROY from Jaipur

Bangladesh signed out from their ICC Champions Trophy campaign with a convincing 101-run victory against lowly Zimbabwe at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Friday in a match, which had turned into a face-saving battle for them.

The question was how the team has summed up their performance in the big tournament where they came with high hopes of making a second round berth, a wish that evaporated following their heart-breaking ten-wicket defeat against West Indies at the same venue.

If however, the Tiger's performance in the fifth version of the tournament is compared with their previous three appearances then one might find some improvement in the graph as they recorded their first victory and displayed some character against Sri Lanka in the first match.

But the reality was that Bangladesh struggled with the

same old problems, especially in batting as the lack of consistency and mental toughness showed up throughout the tournament.

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore and captain Habibul Bashar were in contrasting moods while speaking at the post match briefing after their success against the Zimbabweans whom they will meet again at home in the five-match one-day series in the middle of the next month.

Whatmore appeared in the briefing with a gloomy face while Bashar looked a relieved man as the under pressure skipper not only won the match but also scored some runs.

"I'm still disappointed by the second match performance against West Indies. It is nice that we won the match today and that it came convincingly. But I think the team was a few runs short which was not good because four batsmen stayed in the dressing room," said a frustrated Whatmore.

He however expressed his optimism over the attitude of his young charges and didn't heist to throw some punches to his veterans saying that he has no doubt that the

young blood bought a more aggressive outlook and fearless approach.

"It's not a criticism of the older guys because I am very much aware with the fact that they've done a lot for Bangladesh cricket. But the younger guys seem to play with a lot less pressure. They play for the day for the moment and they have some skill and a strong desire. Now they have to show they can continue it against the bigger teams" explained Whatmore.

On the other hand, 33-year Bangladesh skipper, who himself has come under scrutiny of his coach as one of most experienced player due to his lazy approach in the field, said that he was a relieved man after the victory.

"Yes, we came here to play in the main competition that's why there is no scope to enthuse with the victory against Zimbabwe. But the win definitely revived me because if we lost the match its impact would be immense for us," said Bashar.

"What I told time and again is that we are a much better side than Zimbabwe that's why there was a challenge to win the match with a

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