



## Did U Know?

The ICC Champions Trophy is a mini World Cup held every two years with the 10 Test-playing nations, plus Kenya and the United States of America taking part this time.

## What to WATCH

**BTV**  
ICC Champions Trophy  
India vs Kenya  
Live at 3:15 pm

**Sony**  
ICC Champions Trophy  
India vs Kenya  
Live at 3:15 pm

**ESPN**  
English Premier Football League  
Aston Villa vs Chelsea  
Live at 5:40 pm  
Man United vs Bolton Wanderers  
Live at 7:55 pm  
Portsmouth vs Crystal Palace  
Live at 10:10 pm  
Primera Liga  
Barcelona vs Sevilla  
Live at 2:00 am (Sunday)

**STAR Sports**  
English Premier Football League  
Arsenal vs Fulham  
Live at 7:55 pm  
US Open Tennis  
Men's Singles Semifinals  
Live at 10:00 pm

## TALK TURKEY



**Arjuna Ranatunga**  
(Former Sri Lankan cricket skipper)

"This is a farce. It is a joke to leave out Murali and give an award to Shane Warne. People will have doubts about (the credibility) of the ICC. The performance of Murali in the past year was far ahead of Warne."

## Dravid a team man

BBC ONLINE, London

India are likely to continue swapping their wicketkeeper, with Rahul Dravid saying he is happy to take the role.

Arun of six losses in eight games was halted when Dinesh Karthik was handed a debut behind the stumps as India beat England by 23 runs at Lord's.

Preparing to face Kenya on Saturday, Dravid said: "We will decide the day before the game our team and strategy."

"I'm used to doing both (keeping wicket and batting) so whatever the team requires I'm happy to do."

Dravid was on Tuesday named international player of the year at the ICC Awards ceremony, after hitting three Test double centuries in the last year.

He has kept wicket in 71 of his 240 one-day matches, but has struggled this year until he was relieved of the gloves and hit 51 in the last NatWest Challenge match.

Captain Sourav Ganguly also

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

## Abdullah, Eva sprint to glory

### Athletics

#### SPORTS REPORTER

Abu Abdullah and Ishrat Jahan Eva extended their reign as the country's sprint monarchs when they grabbed the 200m men's and women's golds on the opening day of the Ninth Summer Athletics Championships yesterday.

Abdullah of Bangladesh Army, who won the national men's 200m sprint last April, clocked 21.60 seconds at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

He outran two BKSP athletes

Tanjil Akram and Imran Hossain Bhuiyan who finished with 22.20 and 22.30 secs respectively.

The 16-year-old Eva, who also owns the national 100-metre title, won her second 200m title with a time of 25.10. The BKSP track star was followed by BJMC's Khurshida Khatun who had to settle for silver in 26.70. Najmunnahar Laboni of Rajshahi took bronze in 28.40.

Now Abdullah and Eva will be hoping to complete a sprint double when they line-up for today's 100 metres trials in the afternoon.

The services teams dominated the men's events with Bangladesh Army making it a 1-2-3 in the marathon after Hemyaet Kazai took gold in

SEE PAGE 14 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

WELL DONE: Former champion sprinter Golam Ambia (L) congratulates Summer Athletics 200m winners

## Wright's spin theory

### ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY ENGLAND 2004

AFP, London

India coach John Wright is backing spinners Harbhajan Singh and Anil Kumble to have a major impact during the Champions Trophy in England.

India, co-holders of the trophy after 2002's washed-out final against Sri Lanka in Colombo, begin the defence of their title against Kenya at the Rose Bowl in Southampton on Saturday.

And while many sides, India included, will be expecting much from their pace attacks, the Asian giants know they can count on two of the best slow bowlers in the game today.

On Sunday, in the final match of India's warm-up series against

England at Lord's, off-spinner Harbhajan took a masterful three for 28 in 10 overs to end the hosts' hopes of a 3-0 clean sweep.

Meanwhile leg-spinner Kumble, whose ability to mix fast, flat deliveries with googlies makes him an

awkward opponent, kept things tight in a spell of 10 overs for 36 runs.

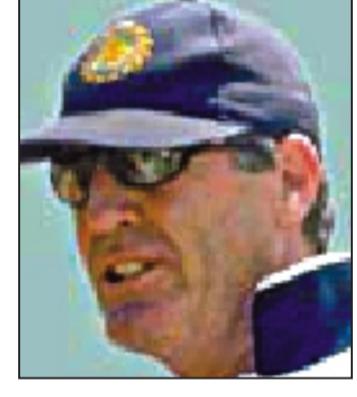
The Lord's pitch was labelled "sub-continent" by England captain Michael Vaughan and if the current hot, dry spell continues the India pair could be a huge threat.

Both men have fine one-day international records with Kumble taking 321 wickets at just over 30 runs each in 259 matches and Harbhajan 113 wickets in 88 matches at a touch above 28 apiece.

Harbhajan shot to fame in 2001 when, as a then 20-year-old and in the absence of the injured Kumble, now 33, he took an astonishing 32 wickets in the three home Tests against Australia.

His haul was a highlight in one of the all-time great cricket campaigns as India came from behind to win the series 2-1, a result that ended Australia's world record run of 16 consecutive Test wins.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5



JOHN WRIGHT

## India suffer Balaji blow

### ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY ENGLAND 2004

CRICINFO/REUTERS, London

The Indian team suffered another setback as Laksmipathy Balaji was ruled out of the ICC Champions Trophy with an abdominal injury. He will return to India shortly. The team management has sought a replacement.

Balaji has been in good form of late, taking two for 37 against England in a warm-up game and three for 27 against Pakistan.

Balaji has become the second Indian to drop out, after Sachin Tendulkar's tennis elbow did not recover in time. Speaking to reporters at the indoor nets at the Rose

Bowl, Sourav Ganguly said: "There's a problem with Balaji and we've asked for a replacement. He had a problem with his abdomen [muscle] this morning and we've

asked for a replacement. We have not asked for anyone specific, we've just left it to the selectors."

Balaji's problem cropped up in London during the NatWest Challenge. He experienced some muscle pain in the abdomen, and was treated for it.

"He had an injection in London on the 7th and we hoped he would recover, but the injury has not responded since then," said Ganguly. While he did not take any names, Ganguly suggested that the replacement could be someone who did well in India's recent A-tours.

"It could be someone who has done well on the A-tours, and we don't know about Zaheer Khan's fitness."

If Zaheer was fit he would most likely be the selectors' first choice. Otherwise, the selectors could go for Amit Bhandari or Shubh Sankar P. a. u. l. ,

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



LAKSMIPATHY BALAJI

## Rain ruins BD warm-up

#### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's final warm-up match ahead of their Champions Trophy commitments against a Warwickshire XI was abandoned because of rain after just two overs of play at the Walmley CC Ground in Birmingham yesterday.

Bangladesh had reached 12 for one in the two overs bowled after deciding to bat first. Opener Mohammad Ashraful (3) was the man out.

The Tigers play their first Champions Trophy fixture against South Africa tomorrow (Sunday) at Edgbaston. Their second and last Pool B game is against the West Indies at the Rose Bowl in Hampshire on September 15 (Wednesday).

## Schools b'ball

#### SPORTS REPORTER

Green Herald recorded a 121-18 victory over St Jude's School in the boys' competition of the AKTEL School Basketball tournament at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Green Herald's Raja inspired the 103-point win shooting 59 points while Kinor scored second highest 17.

St Gregory's also registered a similar win when they dumped Udayan School 107-6 with Pankaj leading their way with 28 points.

In the other two boys' matches, St Joseph's beat Sunnydale 67-37 and Sunbeams defeated Bangladesh International Tutorial 41-32.

In the girls' group, Sunnydale defeated Dhanmondi Tutorial 20-13.

## Oh! No Panyangara

REUTERS, London

Zimbabwe seamer Tinashe Panyangara bowled seven wides in a 13-ball first over of the ICC Champions Trophy Pool D match against England at Edgbaston, Birmingham on Friday.

The start of the game was delayed by nearly four hours because of heavy rain.

Zimbabwe have come into the tournament with an inexperienced squad after 15 leading players boycotted the national side because of allegations of discrimination in team selection.

## Nat'l cycling

#### SPORTS REPORTER

The First National Summer Cycling and Junior and School Cycling Championships will begin in Dhaka on September 14.

The two-day meet will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

In all 18 events will be staged with services and district teams taking part.

## Mosaddek, Lokman re-elected

#### SPORTS REPORTER

Mosaddek Ali Falu and Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan were unanimously re-elected president and general secretary of Mohammad Sporting Club at its annual general meeting yesterday.

There were no notable changes in the club's 40-member executive committee.

The AGM also elected Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda as the chairman of its governing body, replacing Nitol Group chairman Matlub Ahmed.

Water Resources Minister Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed and Advisor for Commerce Ministry Barkatullah Bhulu were elected vice-presidents of the 13-member governing body that also includes the club president and general secretary.

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was named member-secretary.

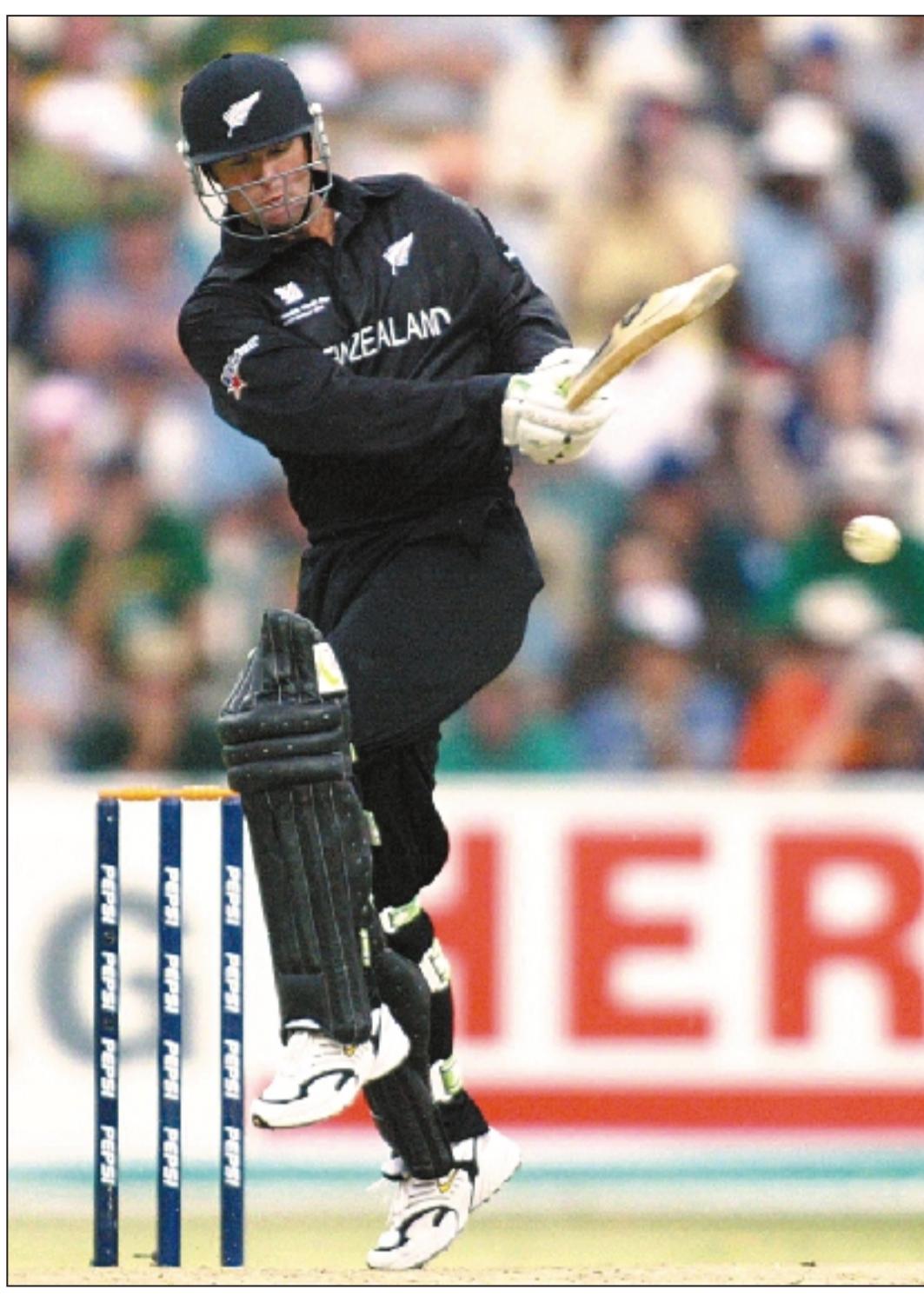


PHOTO: INTERNET

ASTLE ASSAULT: Nathan Astle pulls while balancing on one leg during his unbeaten 145 against the USA at The Oval yesterday.

## USA bashed baseball-style

### ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY ENGLAND 2004

AFP, London

Nathan Astle's 145 not out steered New Zealand to a record 347 for four after the USA took two shock early wickets at The Oval here on Friday.

In the ICC Champions Trophy Pool A opener, New Zealand hit the highest score in the tournament's history, beating South Africa's 316 for five against Kenya in Colombo in 2002.

New Yorker Leon Romero caught Black Caps skipper Stephen Fleming for 15 then had Hamish Marshall caught off his fourth delivery to leave New Zealand shocked at 43 for two.

But after surviving a strong lbw appeal on 32, opener Astle swiftly restored Kiwi superiority with Scott Styris, the partnership hitting 163 off

166 balls before some very sloppy bowling saw 110 runs come off the last five overs and Craig McMillan reach 64 not out with seven sixes and two fours off 27 balls.

Before a spartan crowd, New Zealand were at full strength but the Americans had to do without right-arm quick Naseer Islam, out with a pulled groin muscle.

Tournament outsiders USA qualified for the Trophy via winning the ICC Six Nations Challenge in Dubai in February and March.

Following a 90-minute rain delay, USA captain Richard Staple's side took to the field after winning the toss.

On the third ball of the sixth over, Fleming cut 42-year-old right-arm medium-pacer Charles Reid past the slips for a boundary and drove him through mid-wicket for another four next ball.

But with the last delivery of the over, the left-hander miscued a shot to provide Romero with an easy

catch at point to leave New Zealand 25 for one.

Opener Astle soon found himself partnering Styris when Marshall went for 11, the right-hander carving a shot to third man.

Jignesh Desai, Romero's only fellow American-born player in the USA line-up, gave the vocal USA supporters plenty to cheer with his catch that left New Zealand 43 for two after 12.4 overs.

Astle was lucky to survive an lbw appeal following a delivery from 42-year-old Clayton Lambert, who made five Test and 11 one-day appearances for West Indies. Umpire Billy Doctrove gave not out but television replays showed the ball would have struck the stumps.

The USA fielded sluggishly, several times failing to prevent a four when stopping the ball at the boundary rope.

Exploiting the gaps in the USA

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

## No American standing

REUTERS, New York

Sweden's Joachim Johansson left Andy Roddick shell-shocked after beating the defending champion in five sets on Thursday to reach the US Open semifinals.

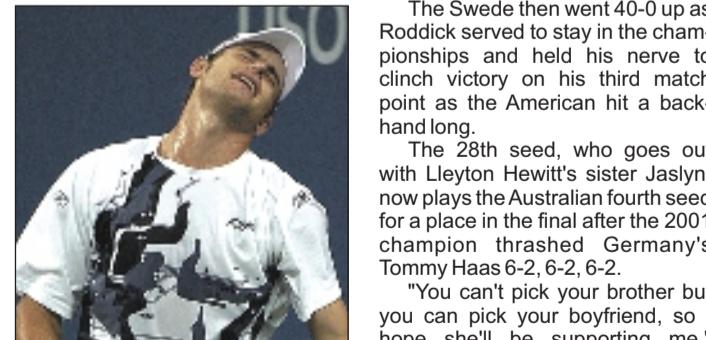
After Andre Agassi's hopes were ended by Roger Federer earlier in the day, Roddick was left to fly the American flag but he lost 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 2-6, 6-4 in an explosive match featuring 64 aces.

It is the first time since 1986 that no American has reached the last four of the men's event here.

Second seed Roddick, who blazed through his four previous matches without losing a set, fell two sets behind as the 6-foot-6 Johansson let rip with lethal serves

and forehands.

Roddick, who cracked 34 aces to Johansson's 30, hit back to win the next two sets and with the fans going crazy he looked ready to pull



ANDY RODDICK

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1