



Sir Pelham Warner of England was the first cricketer to be knighted by the British Monarchy. Sir Neville Cardus was the first cricket writer to be knighted.



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

TEN Sports
ICC Champions Trophy
India vs Pakistan
Live at 3:15 pm

ESPN
Football Extra
Live at 9:00 am

English Premier Football League
Southampton vs Newcastle United
Live at 6:55 pm

Chelsea vs Tottenham Hotspur
Live at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports
English Premier Football League
Birmingham City vs Charlton Athletic
Live at 7:55 pm

Star Whizz Kid

OMPETITION 21

Tick the correct answers, post

The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 24, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the first gold medal in the Athens Olympics?

Du	Galkina	Devers
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- Who became Asia Cup cricket champs?

India	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
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- Who clinched the Cincinnati Masters tennis title?

Federer	Henman	Agassi
---------	--------	--------
- Who lifted the 25th nat'l hockey crown?

Usha	MSC	Bangladesh
Army		

Name

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address

Phone: (If any)



Arjuna Ranatunga
(Former Sri Lanka cricket captain)
"I still feel that Bangladesh got the Test status too early but at the beginning, they performed very well. But everything is going radically in the wrong direction now."



LEFT WITH NO ANSWER: (R) Bangladesh cricket captain Rajin Saleh and (L) teammates Mohammad Rafique (L), Khaled Mahmud (2nd from L), selector Athar Ali Khan (3rd from L) and BCB chief executive Macky Dudhia wait dejectedly at Zia International Airport's VIP Lounge upon their arrival from England, where they had a disastrous ICC Champions Trophy campaign.



PHOTO: STAR

Cricketers return



SPORTS REPORTER

A battered and bruised Bangladesh cricket team returned home yesterday but coach Dav Whatmore was the significant absentee.

The 50-year-old Australian was reported to have taken a two-day leave to work as a commentator for the ICC Champions Trophy match between England and Sri Lanka at the Rose Bowl in Southampton that went into the second day on Saturday.

With Whatmore being allowed to

enjoy a leave after two heavy defeats against South African and West Indies in the Trophy, poor Bangladesh captain Rajin Saleh had to bear the brunt of a pensive media after the team arrived in Dhaka at nine in the morning.

"It was definitely a painful tour where we batted badly and bowled poorly," said Rajin facing a volley of questions on why the batting blues continued.

The Tigers crashed to 93 against South Africa in their first Pool B game at Edgbaston and limped to 131 in their next fixture against West Indies, who roped to a 138-run victory at the Rose Bowl.

The 23-year-old also admitted that his brief stint as captain in the absence of injured Habibul Bashar had opened his eyes.

"Honestly speaking to encounter the press is as tough as to go out in the middle and face a hostile fast bowler. It was even harder at Edgbaston," said the right-hander, whose contribution in two games was a mere seven runs.

Interestingly, it was the second solo press encounter for the gritty cricketer from Sylhet following Whatmore's absence threw him into the deep end after the game against South Africa.

Rajin however will have to appear again at the management office of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) in Gulshan along with his coach for an X-ray report of the tour. The Board in its previous meeting decided that the selectors, c o a c h

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PHOTO: AFP

IN FULL SWING: South Africa opener Herschelle Gibbs (L) and England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff bat their way to scoring centuries during their Champions Trophy matches in England yesterday.

Fiery Flintoff



AFP, Southampton

Andrew Flintoff blasted a typically aggressive century to help England recover to 251-7 against Sri Lanka in the ICC Champions Trophy at the Rose Bowl here on Saturday.

Heavy rain washed out much of the first day so that when England resumed their innings in bright sunshine, Flintoff and Marcus Trescothick had plenty of work to do to build on the overnight 118-3 and with only 18 overs remaining.

Trescothick added only two to his overnight 64 before he was run out backing up by Tillegaratne Dilshan to plunge England into more trouble

at 123-4.

But it was then that the powerful Flintoff began to dominate a stand of 94 with Paul Collingwood which wrenched the initiative from the Sri Lankan grasp.

Flintoff reached his 50 in a comparatively sedate 70 balls and then accelerated to his century only 19 balls later.

Along the way the massive 'Freddie' hit three sixes and nine fours.

Collingwood made a useful 39 before lifting Chaminda Vaas to deep mid-wicket where Mahela Jayawardene judged the catch to perfection, but by then England were into their stride.

With Geraint Jones happy to let him have the strike, Flintoff took control with 33 more added in two overs as Sri Lanka were powerless to intervene.

Vaas, Sri Lanka's most experi-

enced bowler, was entrusted with the last over and soon after Flintoff had reached his century, got the giant Lancastrian to edge a slower delivery into his stumps.

Alex Wharf was run out next ball before the innings ended and with England now in a powerful position.

Vaas finished with two for 51 but the most economical of the bowlers was Farveez Maharoof whose ten overs cost him only 19.

Sri Lanka were left with 252 to beat England and earn a semifinal place against Australia next week but as they began their reply the sunshine gave way to heavy clouds and with the threat of more rain.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the England innings in the ICC Champions Trophy Pool D match against Sri Lanka at the

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Inzy calls for calm

AFP, Birmingham

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq brushed aside security fears ahead of his side's winner-take-all Champions Trophy match against India at Edgbaston here Sunday, saying he anticipated a "lovely atmosphere" at the 21,000 sell-out game.

Organisers have drafted in 480 stewards compared to the 300 who would normally supervise a Test match, with police numbers boosted from 30 to 130.

During the 2001 triangular one-day international series the England-Pakistan match at Edgbaston was interrupted towards the end by a pitch invasion of mainly Pakistan supporters.

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Pele's 1958 shirt put on sale

REUTERS, London

The shirt worn by 17-year-old Pele when he scored two goals for Brazil in the 1958 World Cup final against Sweden is set to raise up to 100,000 pounds when it is sold at auction next week.

The blue, short-sleeved, v-necked shirt with Pele's number 10 on the back will be sold at Christie's in London on Tuesday.

Although Brazil usually wears yellow shirts, they played in their change colour of blue in the 1958 final so as not to clash with Sweden.

The number 10 shirt Pele wore in the 1970 World Cup final was sold for a record 157,750 pounds at Christie's in March 2002 to a telephone bidder.

Among the other items for sale is the shirt worn by Roberto Baggio of Italy when he missed a penalty in the shootout in the 1994 World Cup final against Brazil in Pasadena.

So too is the England shirt Paul Gascoigne wore in the 1990 World Cup semifinal against West Germany and an FA Cup winners medal from 1906.

Return to Athens again

AFP, Athens

Some 70,000 spectators filled the Athens Olympic stadium to watch the densely choreographed and emotionally-charged opening ceremony of the 12th Paralympics, the world's premier competition for disabled athletes.

The Games begin on Saturday and will last twelve days, ending on September 28.

Following the Greek national anthem, the four-hour extravaganza of light, sound and symbolism

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Indo-Pak clash today

They may have the edge: Wright



CRICINFO/AFP, Birmingham

India coach John Wright has suggested that Pakistan may hold a slight edge over India as the two teams prepare for their crucial ICC Champions Trophy Pool C game at Edgbaston on Sunday.

"We'll have to play better than we have been in the last two matches against them," said Wright. "Everyone realises it, and that is a healthy sign. We all know we have to raise our game because Pakistan are a dangerous side. They are a well-balanced side and may have a slight edge. We have to win and do something special. The boys are very aware."

However, spin wizard Harbhajan

Singh insists people shouldn't get swept along by the hype.

"Of course it is a big game, but people -- media and fans -- make it bigger than it really is," said the mercurial off-spinner ahead of the Edgbaston match which will decide who goes into the semifinals of the tournament.

"They think it is more than cricket, but it isn't. It is just another game. People back home expect us to win every game we play against Pakistan, so there is huge pressure there."

"They don't look at it as just a game," Harbhajan told the BBC.

Despite India winning the historic Test and one-day series played in Pakistan earlier this year, it is the Pakistanis who have held the upper hand in recent meetings winning one-day clashes at the Asia Cup and in the Netherlands.

Harbhajan believes a lot of that improvement is down to the

methodical approach of coach Bob Woolmer who replaced Javed Miandad in the hot-seat.

"They are an improved side with their new coach. They have been playing good cricket," he said.

"We will have to play good cricket to beat them. But if we play to our potential we can beat any team in the world, not just Pakistan."

"We have done that in the past, not just once but many times. We are a good side and anyone who watches cricket knows that."

"If we beat Pakistan we will have a very good chance of getting to the final, and then who knows?"

Meanwhile, Woolmer remained more tight-lipped about his game plan ahead of the encounter. "I have a plan, but why should I tell you? You'll tell the world," he quipped.

"The weather conditions, pitch conditions. These factors will influence the playing XI."

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Kind Gilchrist



BISHWAJIT ROY, from London

Australian vice-captain Adam Gilchrist can be described as a friend of Bangladesh because he is not frustrated by the way the Tigers have performed in their last two one-day competitions.

"It's a common trend that people don't want to take account of the good results when a team is struggling. I think it is totally unfair," said the 33-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman while talking with a few Bangladeshi reporters at the Royal Garden Hotel lobby here on Friday.

The devastating left-hander and arguably the most exciting member of the all-conquering Australian side offered words of encouragement to

the battered Bangladesh team that bowed out of the ICC Champions



ADAM GILCHRIST

Trophy last week after conceding crushing defeats against South Africa and West Indies.

"Bangladesh had some good

series, they even played tremendous cricket in Australia. What's wrong if they played one or two bad series? Even top teams sometimes face such difficult periods," said Gilchrist.

"If I am not wrong Bangladesh beat Australia in the Under-19 World Cup. It is a clear indication of the real potentiality in the country. You just need five to six years to become established as a competitive side on the world stage," he said.

Gilchrist believes that a generation of players will come through within five years.

"Participation of people in Bangladesh is excellent and I saw there was a huge interest in the game in your country. People love the game and played the game everywhere, so there is no reason to think otherwise," he hoped.

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TROPHY TREATS



BISHWAJIT ROY, from Birmingham

India and Pakistan both have stars in numbers but for once an Englishman hogged the spotlight when the two Asian giants renew their rivalry in the ICC Champions Trophy at Edgbaston in Birmingham today.

The name of the gentleman is Bob Woolmer, who has just taken over a highly talented but temperamental Pakistan team after he shot to fame with South Africa.

"He is a dangerous tactician. India should have a close look on his work outs if they want to keep the winning habit against Pakistan," commented one Indian journalist during the teams indoor practice session yesterday.

There are reasons because the former England cricketer led Pakistan to victory against their bitter neighbours in the Asia Cup.

The Indian reporters were also excited with the down to the earth approach of Woolmer, who redefined coaching while working with Hansie Cronje.

"Look at him he is always open to discussion. But unfortunately Indian coach John Wright tries to keep his cards close to his chest," observed the same reporter.

But Wright's tight-lipped approach has brought India great success including a series victory over their old foes earlier this year.

MISSING SACHIN

Everybody knows a match without Sachin Tendulkar is not the same

even though Indian captain Sourav Ganguly won't admit it.

Hundreds of thousands of cricket crazy fans were coming to terms with the fact that the man widely regarded a demi-god back home will be the missing ingredient.

"You know he is like a God to us. Whatever he scores it is a treat to watch. Sadly, it is not the same without him," said taxi driver Ranadhir Singh who is one of the lucky persons to get a ticket for the biggest match of the mini World Cup.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere before one of cricket's fiercest rivalries unfolds in the English city is electric. Apart from the mad rush for tickets, everywhere you go Indian

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PHOTO: AFP

PARADING TURKMENISTAN STYLE: Members of the Turkmenistan contingent march past during the opening ceremony of the 12th Paralympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Athens on Friday.