



**Did U Know?**  
Ellis Edgar Achong, who played for West Indies in 1930s, is the only player of Chinese origin in the history of cricket.

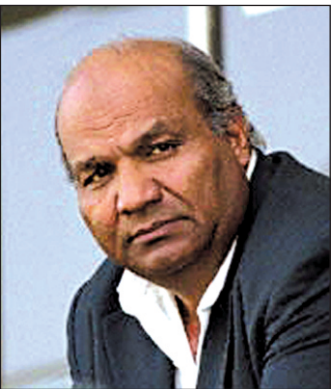


**BTV**  
ICC Champions Trophy  
England vs West Indies (Final)  
Live at 3:15 pm

**TEN Sports**  
ICC Champions Trophy  
England vs West Indies (Final)  
Live at 3:15 pm

**ESPN**  
English Premier Football League  
Chelsea vs Middlesbrough  
Live at 5:40 pm  
Arsenal vs Man City  
Live at 7:55 pm  
Bolton Wanderers vs Birmingham City  
Live at 10:10 pm

**STAR Sports**  
English Premier Football League  
Man United vs Tottenham Hotspur  
Live at 7:55 pm  
Primera Liga  
Real Madrid vs Bilbao  
Live at 12:00 am (Sunday)



**Intikhab Alam**  
(Pakistan's former cricket captain and coach)  
"I am amazed at Woolmer, to me he is the most over-rated coach."

**Star Whizz Kid**  
**OMPETITION 21**

Tick the correct answers, post

**The Daily Star**

**Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 1, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards**

1. Who won the first gold medal in the Athens Olympics?

Du Galkina Devers

2. Who became Asia Cup cricket champs?

India Pakistan Sri Lanka

3. Who clinched the Cincinnati Masters tennis tie?

Federer Henman Agassi

4. Who lifted the 25th natl hockey crown?

Usha MSC Bangladesh Army

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## Final of 'outsiders'



REUTERS, London

England have never won a major international limited-overs title while West Indian World Cup glory days date back to 1975 and 1979.

Neither team will need much motivating for Saturday's ICC Champions Trophy final.

It is hard to separate two teams who began the 12-team competition as outside bets, with England ranked sixth in the world and their opponents seventh.

The hosts, indeed, have long been accused of ineptitude at the one-day game.

While their Test match stock has risen dramatically under coach Duncan Fletcher, their limited-overs outings have provoked derision rather than respect.

Often the team has been bloated with 'bits-and-pieces' all-rounders who have failed to convince with either bat or ball.

On Saturday, however, Michael Vaughan will lead out a side similar to his Test line-up which has won 10 matches out of 11 this year.

England's semifinal victory over World Cup holders Australia, who had beaten them in their last 14 matches, was both the performance and the shock of the tournament.

Vaughan, the personification of England's problems of adapting to one-dayers, came of age at Edgbaston with a career-best 86.

"Most people who are struggling would find it even more difficult against Australia," said Fletcher. "It just shows his character."

Strike bowler Steve Harmison, however, ranked the world's top bowler this year, and Andy Flintoff, the world's leading all-rounder, failed to fire. Both will be determined to put that right on Saturday.

Harmison's clash with Brian Lara may hold the key.

The West Indies captain was hit in the neck by a 91 mph (146.4 kph) lifter from Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar in the semis and Harmison will want to shake him up as well.

Asked about Lara's perceived vulnerability to short-pitched bowl-

ing, Fletcher would only say with a smile: "We'll discuss that at our team meeting."

West Indies coach Gus Logie responded: "I have no indication of what England's tactics will be. We have our own gameplan.

"Brian will want to play and I am not going to stand in his way. His injury is just bruising.

"England's form has certainly turned around. It's hard to see us as favourites. But we are quietly confident that we can deliver. Nobody gave us a ghost of a chance of reaching the final."

PROBABLE TEAMS
ENGLAND: Marcus Trescothick, Vikram Solanki, Michael Vaughan (captain), Andrew Strauss, Andrew Flintoff, Paul Collingwood, Geraint Jones, Ashley Giles, Alex Wharf, Darren Gough, Steve Harmison.
WEST INDIES: Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Brian Lara (captain), Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Ricardo Powell, Dwayne Bravo, Courtney Browne, Ryan Hinds, Ian Bradshaw, Corey Collymore.

Both teams can lay claim to the psychological edge.

West Indies won two matches to one against England in a recent one-day triangular event. England, though, drew 2-2 in the Caribbean this year after thrashing their hosts in the Tests.

Fletcher, rarely drawn out of his dour demeanour, is upbeat.

"Their batting is very experienced, with players like Sarwan, Lara, Chanderpaul and Gayle. They have played a lot of one-day cricket, that's their strength.

"But the way we beat Australia must give the players tremendous belief. I don't think people have appreciated how well we have played. They have only talked about how the other side were rubbish or on the way down. We felt we weren't given the credit we deserved."

An England success would mean they would have beaten Sri Lanka, Australia and West Indies, who boast six World Cups between them.

"It would be tremendous for English cricket," said Fletcher.



PHOTOS: INTERNET

THEY WILL HAVE TO COME GOOD: West Indies captain Brian Lara (L) and his England opposite number Michael Vaughan bats in the nets during their respective practice sessions yesterday ahead of today's ICC Champions Trophy final.

## TROPHY TREATS

BISHWAJIT ROY, from London

The mighty Australians will not be there when the ICC Champions Trophy final takes place at the Oval on Saturday but their minds will not be far from it.

And it was pretty obvious which team they were backing. The pace trio of Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath and Brett Lee thought the West Indies had four times the better chance than hosts England.

"We want the West Indies to win the title although England have had a good summer. Our sixth sense says West Indies," quipped McGrath as his two pace partners lent support to that forecast at the Royal Garden Hotel on Friday.

### SABINA HARMISON'S INSPIRATION

England fast bowler Stephen Harmison wants to bring back the haunting memories of Sabina Park for the West Indies in Saturday's final.

The lanky fast bowler had knocked out the Caribbean batting line-up earlier this year in a Test match at the historic venue in Jamaica with a seven-wicket haul and he wants to take inspiration from that feat.

The 26-year old, who has developed into a fearsome fast bowler over the last 12 months, however targeted West Indies captain Brian Lara as his prized wicket.

"Like any other bowler, it is always a special taste to take the wicket of the world's greatest batsman (Lara). It will fantastic if I can take the wicket of Lara in the final," said Harmison.

Harmison was also conscious of the fact that it has to be a team effort if England want to win the trophy.

"Many people want to focus on Freddy (Andrew Flintoff) and myself. But we have to play as a team if we want to win the tournament."

### ASIANS ATA LOSS

After the India-Pakistan group match at Edgbaston, all the tickets for the final were sold out and most were bought by the members of the Asian community here who thought Pakistan will be there.

But the West Indies' semifinal victory over the Pakistanis meant that the Asians were now returning the tickets while English supporters were desperately looking to get one.

"We were confident that Pakistan will play in the final and that's why I had bought three tickets for the match. But now we are not inter-

ested in this final. We want to sell the tickets but it is very difficult to do that in the black market because of police vigilance," said Abed Ali, a Pakistani supporter.

### CAN'T IGNORE BANGLADESH!

In the pre-final press conference of the England team at the Oval on Friday morning, captain Michael Vaughan was responding to queries from reporter regarding his team's strategy and target against the West Indies.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, one English journalist asked the England skipper: "What is the future of Bangladesh's cricket?"

The 30-year old batsman did not disappoint him although it was an irrelevant question in this particular press conference.

"I think Bangladesh have to go a long way to settle their position on the international stage. They can take the example of Sri Lanka's 1996 World Cup victory," said Vaughan with his usual smile.

The journalist did not look too satisfied with the answer as he obviously expected something more.

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## FUTURO-III on

Monilal promises youth academy



SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad have changed their plan to participate in the ANFA Cup in Nepal and instead they will now travel to India to play in the prestigious IFA Shield.

Muktijoddha are expected to leave Dhaka on September 29 for the IFA Shield which begins in Kolkata on October 1. It was learned that the Reds will play their first match on the opening day.

The Federation Cup champions have invited three guest footballers from National League champions Brothers Union for the trip. They are defenders Titu and Rajani and recently concluded National Football League's man-of-the-tournament Arman Mia.

Brothers have already started preparation for the Barduloi Trophy in Assam, India, later in October.

## Muktijoddha change mind

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## Flintoff seeks perfect finish

REUTERS, London

All-rounder Andrew Flintoff will seek to cap his perfect year on Saturday with a match-winning performance in the ICC Champions Trophy final against the West Indies.

England coach Duncan Fletcher says Flintoff has been the key to the team's resurgence.

"Andrew has been a huge part of it with his runs and all-round ability," he said.

"He balances the side and adds a huge dimension."

The 26-year-old, whose career at one stage looked under threat due to an inability to curb both his appetite and his weight, has scored eight half-centuries in his last eight Tests.

Two of those were converted into centuries, including his career-best 167 against West Indies at Edgbaston in August. England have won their last seven Tests, whitewashing both New Zealand and West Indies.

"Flintoff has been the main man for England batting or bowling, the livewire of the team," West Indies captain Brian Lara said on Friday.

Flintoff's one-day batting has been as impressive, with three hundreds and a 99 in his last seven one-day internationals.

That led to him being named the International Cricket Council's one-day player of the year meant he was included as the only Englishman in their limited-overs world XI.

He was also named player of the year in England by the Professional Cricketers' Association this month, as well as becoming a father for the first time.

### NOTICE

Dear Whizz Kids due to some technical difficulties the draw of Competition-216 could not take place last night. It will now be held on October 1, 2004.



PHOTO: AFP

PCB Patron's XI's Riaz Afridi is about to slog against Zimbabwe on the second day of their four-day tour match at Lahore yesterday. The tourists reached 187-4 at stumps in reply to the hosts' 529-9. Afridi hit 66 off 53 balls.

## CCL begins October 15

SPORTS REPORTER

The 2004-05 domestic cricket season kicks off with the Grameen-Phone second Corporate Cricket League (CCL) from October 15.

After the inaugural tournament in 2003-04, which was also held this year in April-May, was a huge success, the organisers have decided to increase the number of teams. 12 teams participated last year.

The tournament committee, which has decided to ban last year's participants BADC, will allow three or four new entries.

Interested corporate houses have been requested to submit Tk 25,000 as entry fee by September 30.

## Footballers' transfers to be delayed

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will have to delay their plans to stage the footballers' transfers for the season 2004-05 in October.

The Premier League clubs have opposed the idea of an October transfer when they met Metropolis Football League Committee on Thursday night.

The club representatives have asked for confirmation about getting possession of the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) for the Dhaka League scheduled for March 2005.

They said that if the National Sports Council (NSC) officially guaranteed them the ground, the clubs would go for the transfers in December. They would also agree to an early transfer only if the NSC confirmed the issue within this month.

The BFF is expected to get possession of the BNS in March.

The league committee also decided not to hand over tokens to the players in October.

## School b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

St Gregory's set up a final clash against BKSP in the boys' competition of the AKTEL School Basketball Tournament defeating St Nicholas at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Pankaj shot highest 32 points while Pulak and Nafis 25 and 24 respectively in Gregory's comprehensive 112-73 win in the second semifinal. Subrata scored 27 points for the losers.

In the day's other match with only academic interest, Scholastica girls beat Dhanmondi Tutorial 61-6.

Maple Leaf will play unbeaten Sunbeams in the girls' final tomorrow.

## Aussie series under cloud



AFP, New Delhi

Australia's cricketers, who fly into India on Saturday, will not know before next week whether they will play the four-Test series due to a fresh delay in the imbroglio over TV rights.

The Supreme Court Friday put off a hearing till Monday on a petition filed by Zee Telefilms over the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) decision to cancel telecast rights which the network insists were awarded to it for the next four years.

The BCCI, fearing a threat to the Australian series which begins on October 6, had cancelled the rights worth 308 million dollars last week following Zee's legal battle with pan-Asian network ESPN-Star Sports in the Bombay High Court.

Zee, however, cried foul at the BCCI decision and asked the Supreme Court to stop the cricket board from awarding the telecast rights to another channel until the Court has decided on the firm's petition.

BCCI officials are worried that with the first Test at Bangalore less than two weeks away, any further delay by the Supreme Court in

## Nedved says bye

AFP, Prague

Juventus star Pavel Nedved has told the Czech Republic football federation he has retired at the age of 32 from international soccer after winning 83 caps.

Nedved, the 2003 European Player of the Year and Czech national captain, pulled out of a World Cup qualifier in Holland the Czechs lost 2-0 two weeks ago because he was still recovering from the knee injury he sustained in their Euro 2004 semi-final defeat to eventual champions Greece.

He said then he would continue playing for his country.

But the man who successfully replaced Zinedine Zidane at Juventus in 2001 had second thoughts.

Nedved said his decision followed the barrage of criticism he endured after his decision not to play against the Netherlands, while continuing to play for his club.

"Given that my previous press release didn't end renewed speculation as to the state of my health and my continuing presence in the national team, I've decided to end my career with the Czech national team," said Nedved.

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