



Did U Know?

Dwayne Bravo of West Indies scored 112 not out from 124 balls in the Champions Trophy match against England at the Sardar Patel Stadium on the October 28, 2006. It was his maiden ODI century.



Tom Moody
(Sri Lanka cricket coach)
"If, as a player, you are in any doubt about any medication you want to take, you pick up the phone and ask. It's not that difficult."

What to WATCH

ESPN
Sportscenter India
Live at 8:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Man City v Middlesbrough
Live at 1:55 am

Double boost for England

REUTERS, Ahmedabad

England gained a double boost on Saturday, beating West Indies by three wickets in the Champions Trophy and giving captain Andrew Flintoff his first international bowl since June.

The 28-year-old all-rounder looked comfortable as he produced five overs in two spells, returning figures of nought for 27 in a timely bowling appearance ahead of England's Ashes defence in Australia.

Flintoff, who underwent surgery after suffering an ankle injury in June, had not bowled since the home Test series against Sri Lanka.

"I was not at full tilt, I was at 80 or 85 per cent, but I was pleased with it," Flintoff told a news conference.

"I was confident it would be fine. I had bowled in the nets and it has been fine all trip so I was not surprised."

"But in some ways it is a little bit of a relief as well that I have bowled in a game."

Flintoff was England's most successful bowler when he claimed 24 wickets in last year's 2-1 Ashes victory that ended 18 years of Australian domination in the series. The Lancastrian also scored 402 runs in the five Tests.

His bowling will be important in Australia especially as the tourists are without the injured Simon Jones, another bowling hero of the 2005 Ashes.

The first Test in Brisbane begins on November 23.

No sign of Dalmiya

CRICINFO, undated

For the third time in a row Jagmohan Dalmiya, former president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), failed to appear before the board's disciplinary committee.

The committee, which met on Sunday morning at the Punjab Cricket Association stadium at Mohali, decided to proceed ex parte in the matter.

On the two previous occasions, Dalmiya had sought the intervention of the civil court in Kolkata allowing him to defer his appearance before the committee.

However, in its latest ruling the court had directed Dalmiya to submit his detailed reply by October 24 to appear before the committee seven days thereafter.

Despite Dalmiya's absence, the

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Selectors spring no surprise

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

There was no surprise when the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday unveiled the list of 23 probables for the upcoming home series against Zimbabwe.

The Faruque Ahmed-led selection panel kept their faith in the old guard that included opener Javed Omar, who was ignored for the ICC (International Cricket Council) Champions Trophy in India, as they believed that the team was on the right track.

"I think there is no scope for us to drop anybody or bring any new face into the team right at the moment because the present lot is doing fine," said chief selector Faruque.

He however said that there was a chance to see one or two cricketers playing the series from outside the preliminary list.

"We will even try players from outside the list if needed because

we will definitely take the home advantage. We will announce two different squads for warm-up and Twenty20 games where most of the players are likely to come from outside the list. We will try our best to find a real combination before the World Cup," he explained.

Zimbabwe will arrive in Dhaka on November 23 to play a Twenty20 match and a five-match one-day

SQUAD

Habibul Bashar (captain), Shahriar Nafees (vice-captain), Khaled Mashud, Javed Omar, Mohammad Rafique, Mohammad Ashraful, Rajin Saleh, Mashrafee Bin Mortaza, Aftab Ahmed, Tushar Imran, Manjul Islam Rana, Shahadat Hossain, Abdur Razzak, Syed Rasel, Nafis Iqbal, Alok Kapali, Enamul Haque, Tapash Baisya, Nazmul Hossain, Mushfiqur Rahim, Sakib Al Hasan, Forhad Reza and Mehrab Hossain.

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England win at last

ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY

AFP, Ahmedabad

Kevin Pietersen ruined Chris Gayle's party with an explosive 90 not out as England stunned the West Indies by three wickets in the Champions Trophy here on Saturday.

The big-hitting batsman's 10th half-century under pressure helped England surpass the West Indies' challenging total of 272-4 with nine balls to spare in a day-night match neither team feared to lose.

The West Indies had already qualified for the semifinals with two wins in as many matches in the four-team group, while England were out of contention after losing their first two games against India and Australia.

South Africa and New Zealand are the other sides in the last four.

The last semifinalists will be decided after the India-Australia game at Mohali on Sunday.

England owed their consolation win ahead of next month's Ashes series to Pietersen, who smashed one six and nine fours off 86 balls in a stunning display of aggressive batting.

Pietersen upstaged man-of-the-

match Gayle, who hammered a solid 101 for his 14th century to help his team set a stiff target and then grabbed three big wickets with his off-spin.

Gayle also added 174 for the second wicket with Dwayne Bravo, who remained unbeaten with 112 for his maiden century. Gayle hit 10 fours and one six and Bravo one six and 14 fours.

Pietersen posed the main threat to the West Indies' total after left-handed opener Andrew Strauss had given England a blazing start with a 47-ball 50.

England raced to 82 in less than 12 overs, thanks to Strauss and Ian Bell (50) before Pietersen finished the job in style under lights.

England's early flourish had ended after Gayle was pressed into the attack as the off-spinner bowled Strauss with his third delivery before dismissing Flintoff (25) and Paul Collingwood in the space of three balls.

Flintoff, who earlier returned as a bowler in one-day internationals for the first time in six months, had been looking dangerous before he holed out to Jerome Taylor at the long-on boundary while attempting a big shot.

All-rounder Collingwood fell for a first-ball duck, caught by Bravo in the slips before Pietersen steered his team to victory.

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