



## 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."



### 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 3 and to appear before the committee seven days thereafter.

Despite Dalmiya's absence, the

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# Selectors spring no surprise



SPORTS REPORTER

There was no surprise when the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday unveiled the list of 23 probabilities 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

international series against the Tigers.

The BCB, which retained Shahriar Nafees as Habibul Bashar's deputy for this series also, asked the selected players to report to coach Dav Whatmore at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur October 31 at 9:00am.

It would be a crucial series for Bashar's boys because it would give them an opportunity to avenge their 3-2 defeat away in Zimbabwe earlier this year. Besides, the series in all probability would be the last serious competitive fixture before the Tigers head for next year's World Cup in the West Indies.

"We beat Zimbabwe convincingly in the ICC Champions Trophy (by 101 runs) but we lost the series against them on their home soil. Now we have a point to prove in our own backyard. So, it's a very crucial series for us," said Faruque.

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## SQUAD

Habibul Bashar (captain), Shahriar Nafees (vice-captain), Khaled Mashud, Javed Omar, Mohammad Rafique, Mohammad Ashraful, Rajin Saleh, Mashrafe Bin Mortuza, Aftab Ahmed, Tushar Imran, Manjarul 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.

# England win at last



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 to his team to victory.

The afternoon belonged to Gayle

and Bravo as they never looked under pressure against England's pace-spin combination on a good batting wicket.

The 23-year-old Bravo initially outscored Gayle, reaching his half-century off 60 balls with 10 fours before his senior partner dominated the England attack with handsome shots on both sides of the wicket.

Gayle, 27, curbed his strokes in the first part of his knock as he completed his half-century off 80 balls. He exploded with a flurry of boundaries immediately after reaching his fifty.

He took 47 more balls to complete his second hundred of the tournament after having made an unbeaten 104 against Bangladesh at Jaipur in the qualifying round.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Champions Trophy Group A match between England and the West Indies at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad on Saturday:

**WEST INDIES:** 272 for 4 in 50 overs (Gayle 101, Bravo 112 not out, Sarwan 29; Mahmood 2-44)

### ENGLAND

Strauss b Gayle 50  
Bell run out 50  
Flintoff c Taylor b Gayle 25  
Collingwood c Smith b Gayle 0

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PHOTO: AFP

England batsman Kevin Pietersen (L) is being congratulated by West Indian captain Brian Lara after their ICC Champions Trophy match in Ahmedabad on Saturday. Pietersen struck a swashbuckling 90 not out to lead England to a three-wicket win.



PHOTO: AFP

Dashing India opener Virender Sehwag flicks the ball during his fine knock of 65 against Australia in their do-or-die ICC Champions Trophy match at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali on Sunday.

## Gilly's 400th dismissal

REUTERS, Mohali

Australian wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist claimed his 400th victim in the Champions Trophy Group A tie against India on Sunday, cementing his position as the one-day game's leading gloveman.

The 34-year-old Gilchrist caught Sachin Tendulkar for 10 off pace-man Glenn McGrath to reach the milestone.

Gilchrist, playing in his 245th match, has now claimed 355 catches and 45 stumpings.

South African stumper Mark Boucher lies second with 331 victims from 223 games, including 18 stumpings.

## McGrath far from retiring

AFP, Sydney

Glenn McGrath says he may be getting towards the end of his cricket career but he still has a lot to offer the Australian team for next month's Ashes series against England.

Test cricket's greatest wicket-taking paceman may be turning 37 next February, but he has hit out at his detractors who are questioning his form after coming back from eight months out of the game to care for his ill wife.

McGrath has been relegated to first-change bowler behind Brett Lee and Nathan Bracken in the one-day team for the Champions' Trophy in India and he has yet to find the rhythm and incisiveness that has long been his calling card.

McGrath, who has taken 542 wickets in 119 Tests with 136 of those wickets coming against England, Sunday fired back at his critics, particularly former Australian Test players and now cricket commentators Ian Chappell, Jeff Thomson and Geoff Lawson. "The same people seem to question my form leading into the start of every season," McGrath wrote in his column in The Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

"They question my place in the team and whether I will see out the year. If they keep saying it year after year, I guess the chances are they will eventually be proved right.

"I've been around long enough to know that every year is different and you don't have to be a rocket scientist to work out that if you don't perform in this team, you get replaced.

"We have a lot of good young bowlers coming through in Australian cricket and the time will come when I won't be around or have to make way for someone like Mitchell Johnson.

"Obviously, I'm getting closer to the end of my career than the start, but I still feel I have a lot to offer the team. I still feel that I can contribute.

"Guys like (New Zealand's) Richard Hadlee and (West Indies') Courtney Walsh bowled until they were 38 or 39 and were continuing to produce.

"But the older you get, the more people point out that every series could be your last. I've never thought that way."

# Aussies cruise into semis

## Curtain falls on Asian contenders



AFP, Mohali

Favourites Australia knocked Asia's last hope India out of the Champions Trophy with a six-wicket win here on Sunday to take their place in the semifinals.

Veteran Glenn McGrath claimed 2-34 from 10 overs as India were restricted to 249-8 after electing to bat, despite half-centuries from Virender Sehwag (65) and captain Rahul Dravid (52).

The world champions cruised past the target in the 46th over of the day-night international with opener Shane Watson making 50, skipper Ricky Ponting 58 and Damien Martyn an unbeaten 73.

Australia topped group A ahead of the West Indies on net run-rate and will clash with trans-Tasman rivals New Zealand in the first semifinal here on November 1.

Group B champions South Africa will meet holders West Indies in the second semifinal in Jaipur on November 2.

India's defeat meant none of the Asian teams made it to the semifinals of a major International Cricket Council event for the first time since the inaugural World Cup in 1975.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka were also beaten in the league stage and Bangladesh failed to get past the qualifying round despite the tournament being held in familiar sub-continental conditions.

A sell-out crowd of around 45,000 at the Punjab Cricket Association stadium watched the impressive Australian progress in an event they have never won despite being the reigning World Cup champions.

Adam Gilchrist and Watson provided a rollicking start by smashing 61 for the opening wicket by the ninth over.

Seamer Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, who replaced the injured Ajit Agarkar, made the breakthrough when Gilchrist slashed a short ball to Suresh Raina at point.

But there was no relief for the Indians as Ponting added 50 for the second wicket with Watson and 74 for the third with Martyn.

Watson was trapped leg-before by Dinesh Mongia and Ponting was caught in the slips by Sachin Tendulkar off Sreesanth, but Australia's superiority lifted them to an easy win.

India, who were 186-3 after 40 overs, were restricted to 63 runs in the last 10 overs despite Mahendra Dhoni's typically aggressive 28 off 23 balls.

McGrath led the spot-on Australian attack, ably supported by Brett Lee and Nathan Bracken who

finished with two wickets apiece.

Sehwag contributed 31 in an opening stand of 46 with Tendulkar, who made an uninspiring 10 before edging McGrath to wicket-keeper Gilchrist in the 10th over.

Dravid reached his 72nd half-century in the 41st over by pulling Lee for his sixth boundary but holed out to Michael Clark at mid-wicket off the next delivery.

Lee struck again in his next over by bowling Mohammad Kaif for 30 before Bracken removed Raina for 13 and Dhoni off the last ball of the innings.

India replaced the injured duo of Yuvraj Singh and Agarkar with Kaif and Sreesanth. The hosts also went in with an additional batsman in Mongia in place of left-arm seamer Rudra Pratap Singh.

Australia played the same side that beat England in Jaipur on October 21.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Champions Trophy Group A match between Australia and India at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium on Sunday:

**INDIA**  
Sehwag lbw b Johnson 65  
Tendulkar c Gilchrist b McGrath 10

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# 'It's good to have it now'



AFP, Ahmedabad

West Indies captain Brian Lara said Saturday his team's surprise three-wicket defeat against England in the Champions Trophy was a blessing in disguise.

"If you have to have a hiccup, I think this is a good time to have it," said Lara after his side's first defeat in three Group A matches.

The West Indies had already qualified for the semifinals with two victories in the first two matches against India and world champions Australia. They will now take on South Africa in the semifinal at Jaipur on November 2.

"We are going to move on in a very positive manner. Even if we had won today it would have been a do-or-die situation in the next game, so we know what we have to do (against South Africa)," said Lara.

The West Indies posted a challenging 272-4 after electing to bat, with left-handed opener Chris Gayle (101) scoring his 14th century in one-day internationals and Dwayne Bravo (112 not out) his first.

"The fact that we got two century-makers and a good total on the board

mean the guys are going to gain a lot of confidence. Ian Bradshaw, one of our strike bowlers, is going to come back in the next match."

Left-arm fast bowler Bradshaw, who grabbed three wickets in his team's win over India here on Thursday, was rested against England.

"If one of the top-four batsmen gets a big score, we are going to get a good total. Gayle did that. Chanderpaul got a half-century (against India) and Bravo took the opportunity today. It is going to boost our confidence," said Lara.

The West Indies captain was all praise for Kevin Pietersen, saying the England batsman was instrumental in his team's first victory in three matches.

"He (Pietersen) batted very well. He stayed there till the end and it showed that he has the commitment and the resolve to do it," he said.

Big-hitting Pietersen smashed a rapidfire 90 not out off just 86 balls with the help of one six and nine fours to ensure his team successfully chase a stiff target under lights.

England skipper Andrew Flintoff also lauded Pietersen, saying he played a big role in the victory.

"He was fantastic. We wanted someone to bat through and win a game. When Kevin went in, we had a bit of a wobble. We lost two quick wickets and then he steadied the ship," said Flintoff.

"He batted well with lower-order batsmen. His class came through. He paced his innings well. He played as we know he can. If he carries on playing like that, obviously the team is going to be stronger."

Flintoff said he was pleased with his bowling performance after coming off an ankle surgery.

"In some ways it is a bit of a relief that I have bowled in a game," said Flintoff, who last bowled in a one-day international in April against India.

"I bowled five overs in two spells. I was not at full tilt, but 80 or 85 per cent. I was pleased with it, to be honest. I was confident it would be fine."

The England captain said he was pleased with his team's performance although they were not in contention for a place in the semifinals after losing the first two matches against India and Australia in the four-team group.

"We were playing for pride and pride is a huge thing. It is bigger than any cup. The team's pride and personal pride was at stake," he said.

"It was an important game for the team, an important part of our development as a team. We went into it treating it as a big game."

England's next big assignment is the Ashes series starting at Brisbane next month.