

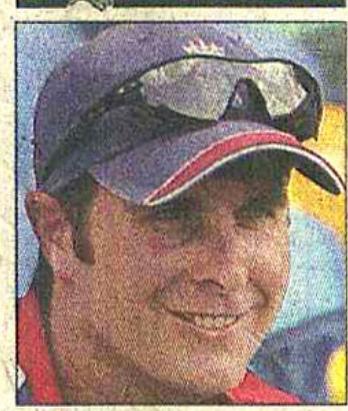


Bangladesh pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza celebrates his wicket of West Indies opener Devon Smith (L) with an excited captain Habibul Bashar during their World Cup Super Eights match at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Thursday.

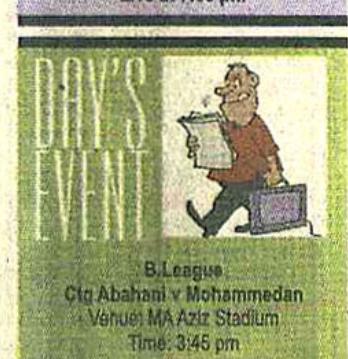


Did U Know?

The Kensington Oval at Bridgetown in Barbados will hold the grand final of the Cricket World Cup 2007 on April 28. The venue, affectionately called "the Mecca of Caribbean cricket", is steeped in history as it was the venue for the first Test in the Caribbean in 1930.



Michael Vaughan
(England cricket captain)
"I won't be retiring from one-day cricket. I am not stupid."



AUSTRALIA V NEW ZEALAND

Cracker of a match

APP, St George's



New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming insists he won't copy Sri Lanka's controversial tactics and rest key bowlers for Friday's World Cup clash against champions Australia.

Both sides, whose match at Grenada's National Stadium is their last in the Super Eights, are already through to the semifinals and won't face each other in the last four.

Sri Lanka, in a similar position to New Zealand, omitted left-arm quick Chaminda Vaas and off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran from a side that suffered a seven-wicket defeat against Australia on Monday in Grenada.

Mahela Jayawardene, the Sri Lanka captain, defended the decision on the grounds of rest and injury-prevention.

But it also had the effect of denying Australia's batsmen a fresh look at Sri Lanka's two senior

bowlers ahead of a possible meeting in the April 28 final in Barbados.

However, Fleming insisted New Zealand wouldn't compromise their chances of making it four straight one-day international wins against Australia after a 3-0 Chappell-Hadlee triumph on home soil in February.

"We'll go in with the best possible team bar injury scares," said Fleming in a clear indication that strike fast bowler Shane Bond would play.

"If someone needs to be rested from an injury point of view we'll be cautious with that."

"We want to continue where we left off against Australia in New Zealand. They're a tough side if they get on top of you and they've got a point to prove."

New Zealand bounced back from defeat by Sri Lanka, their only loss in the tournament so far, with a five-wicket victory against South Africa in Grenada on Saturday.

Now, barring an extraordinarily huge win against Australia which would see them change places in the table, they will face Sri Lanka in the first semifinal in Jamaica on Tuesday.

Australia are set to take on South Africa in the other semifinal in St Lucia on Wednesday.

"It's a great opportunity before the semifinals start to maintain the standards we had against South Africa," Fleming explained.

"Part of the selection (against Australia) is looking forward to Sri Lanka and assessing what conditions we'll get in Jamaica and Barbados and just make sure the team picked for Australia covers those bases."

Australia, defending a 26-game unbeaten record at the World Cup, face a key decision over all-rounder Shane Watson.

The pace bowler whose presence gives Australia a genuine fifth option in their attack, sustained a calf strain while bowling against Bangladesh in Antigua on March 31 and has missed his side's last three matches.

If he doesn't take the field against New Zealand that will place a huge question mark over his participation in the rest of the tournament.

New Zealand have never won a World Cup, or even reached the

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Reds blank Brothers



SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijodhda came alive in the second half as Brahim Bozziber and Saiful Islam Moni complimented each other to score a goal apiece in their 2-0 win over Brothers Union in yesterday's B. League clash of the titans at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The victory, their fourth in seven matches, helped the Reds join Abahani at second place with 14 points and stay on the heels of leaders Sheikh Russel, who now have the benefit of just one point.

Brothers, however, stayed among the bottom half after two defeats. The defending two-time Premiership champions, who have dropped ten points so far to remain on eight points from six outings, have a tough task to bounce back in the race.

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Russel	7	4	3	0	10	2	15
Muktijodhda	7	4	2	1	13	4	14
Abahani	6	4	2	0	7	1	14
Ctg Mohammad	6	3	2	1	5	2	11
Arambagh	6	3	1	2	8	5	10
Mohammedan	6	2	2	2	9	4	8
Brothers	6	2	2	2	8	7	8
Khulna Abahani	6	2	0	4	7	10	6
Farashganj	6	1	3	2	4	7	6
Ctg Abahani	7	1	0	6	2	15	3
Rahmatganj	7	0	1	6	2	18	1

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centre-back Jewel Rana denied Moni and Munna from converting early chances while Alfaz shot the ball wide from a difficult angle as the Reds built pressure in the first half-hour.

Moroccan midfielder Brahim then forced a fine save by Mohammed Ali at the Brothers goal before Muktijodhda defence was tested for the first time. Two minutes from the short whistle, Brothers' Nigerian striker Junior beat goalkeeper Titumir with a cross from the left but fullback Titu cleared the ball from the goalmouth to deny Faisal a shot.

Nayemuddin made one change shortly before the break, replacing forward Manju with midfielder Mamun in a bid to pack the midfield. The play succeeded as the Oranges created a number of chances in the early second period.

Rintu almost caught Titumir napping with a 40-yarder but the Muktijodhda keeper managed to keep the ball out. Tapu then came in for Faisal to strengthen the attack and the substitute striker almost scored with a header on a

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Hayden's catch

INTERNET, undated



Matthew Hayden on Wednesday had the ultimate sporting day: he watched England get smashed on television then caught a 136kg marlin.

Hayden, Adam Gilchrist and Ricky Ponting were among a group of players who went fishing off Grenada.

The players thought watching England get thumped by South Africa on the fishing boat's television would be the highlight of their day... until the marlin struck.

Hayden was asleep when the marlin hit and woke to the sound of a wildly hissing ratchet.

The players watched in awe as the fish leapt twice out of the water before the boat as an exhausted Hayden hauled it in after a 25-minute duel.

"Marlin attract a lot of attention, especially big marlin," Hayden said.

"We had about 80 people there to greet us when we got to shore.

"It was just magnificent. My arms are sore. I might have to get a massage later this afternoon."

The landing of the marlin

prompted a brief celebration, with a bottle of Moet being cracked open and Hayden had a quick swig as he posed with the fish before it was sent away to local charity houses.

World Society for the Protection of Animals spokesman Jordan Burke raised concerns about the catch.

"The capture of marlin is often a long and protracted ordeal for the fish. That's why we not only oppose it, but all sports fishing," Burke said.

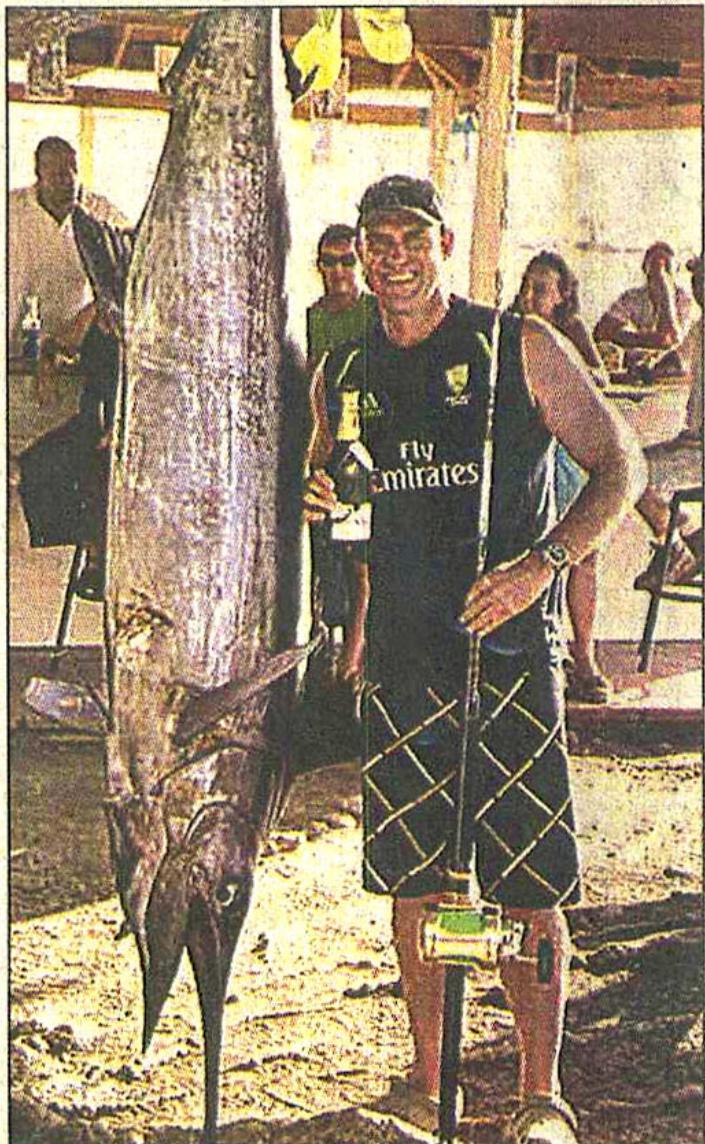
In New South Wales there is a two-bag limit for striped marlin, while not releasing black marlin is illegal.

Photos of the marlin became a curiosity piece at the hotel shared by teams by the Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and Sri Lanka World Cup squads.

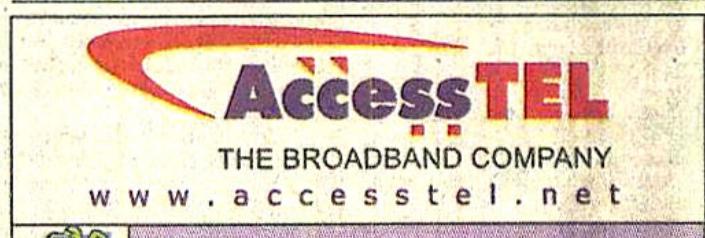
Sri Lanka coach "Long Tom" Moody came over to inspect it after Ricky Ponting told him "the fish was big as yours".

The landing of the giant fish capped a memorable tournament for Hayden, who has been one of the Cup's leading run-scorers and was granted honorary citizenship of St Kitts for scoring the event's fastest century.

He was also given a greyhound by an St Kitts resident for the same achievement. He will fly home soon after the tournament ends to join wife Kellie for the birth of their third child.



Australia player Matthew Hayden displays a 136kg marlin he caught off the Grenada coast on a fishing trip with teammates on Tuesday.



TODAY'S MATCH

Team Time Venue

Australia v New Zealand 7:30 pm Grenada

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