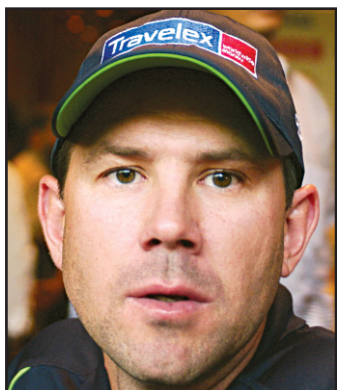




Did U Know?

Women's handball was introduced first in Olympic Games at the Montreal Games in 1976.



Ricky Ponting

(Australia cricket captain)
"Our top order has been diabolical, even in the practice games here ... when you don't respect this game it gets up and bites you."
After losing to Zimbabwe in their ICC World Twenty20 Championship opener.



ESPN

ICC World Twenty20
New Zealand v India
Live from 1:45pm
Bangladesh v Australia
Live from 5:45pm
South Africa v England
Live from 9:45pm
STAR Sports
English Premier League
Manchester City v Aston Villa
Live from 8:55pm

Lalbagh does it in style

SPORTS REPORTER

Lalbagh came from behind to beat Gazirchat 3-2 in the Third Division Football League at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Gazirchat took a 2-0 lead when Akhtaruzzaman and Imran Ali scored in the 13th and 23rd minutes but Imran Hossain struck twice for the Lalbagh club in the 41st and 44th minutes to level the score.

Mohammad Sanwar netted the match-winner in the 54th minute. Dhaka Junior blanked City United 2-0 at the Birshrestha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Stadium. Arif and Saidur Rahman scored for the winners in the 10th and 66th minutes respectively.

In the day's other match, also at the same venue, Government Printing Press played out a 1-1 draw with Kasaituli Samaj Kalyan Parisad.

Bulbul scored for the Printing Press in the 10th minute while Ahmed restored parity for Kasaituli Samaj Kalyan Parisad in the 53rd minute.

PCB announces similar tourney

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan Cricket Board on Saturday announced that it will launch its franchised version of the Champions League Twenty20 cricket in October next year.

PCB Chairman Naseem Ashraf said the Pakistan Premier League, featuring six teams, would be launched immediately after the ICC Champions Trophy to be hosted in the country.

Ashraf said the Pakistan League would be a franchised part of the Champions League, which was announced by the Indian Cricket Board earlier this week with Australia, South Africa and England as participating partner boards.

Ashraf said the top two teams from the Pakistan Premier League would take part in the Champions League to be launched by 2009.

"Each of the six teams will feature four foreign players, four local players of the region and under-21 players whose services

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Dhoni's no to bowl-out

AFP, Durban



Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni wants the bowl-out rule abolished despite defeating archrivals Pakistan in that fashion in the Twenty20 world championships.

"I don't want to see a cricket match decided on a bowl-out," he said. "The team plays so hard to get a result and it should always be decided on the field."

India and Pakistan were involved in a bowl-out at the Kingsmead on Friday night after the archrivals played a heart-stopping tie.

With Pakistan needing one run to overtake India's 141-9, Misbah-ul Haq was run out off the last ball of the innings to leave his team on 141-7.

In the bowl-out, Pakistan's Yasir Arafat, Umar Gul and Shahid Afridi failed to hit the stumps at the other end.

Indian bowlers Virender Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh and Robin Uthappa hit the wicket each time to give their team a 3-0 win.

"It really amuses you, winning a cricket match 3-0," said Dhoni. "It doesn't happen every time, but it is in the record books now."

"I can tell my friends, when I was captain my team won 3-0."

Both Pakistan and India qualified for the Super Eights round after ousting Scotland from the race.

The narrow loss continued Pakistan's jinx of having never beaten India in a World Cup or world championship match, and Dhoni hoped his team will continue the trend.

"We might have to play them again in this tournament but, if we do,

we would like to keep that record going," the Indian captain said.

"I never take pressure, whether it's India-Pakistan or any other game. As for my players they responded well. They were determined. They were focused. The intensity was good."

A sell-out crowd at the Kingsmead watched a slugfest between the two teams that swung from one corner to the other before the match ended with the scores level.

Pakistan appeared on course to victory when they restricted India to 141-9 after captain Shoaib Malik had won the toss and elected to field in overcast conditions.

But India hit back to reduce Pakistan to 103-6 in the 18th over, leaving the batting side needing a challenging 39 to win off the remaining 14 balls in the low-scoring match.

The seventh-wicket pair of Yasir Arafat and Misbah swung the game Pakistan's way by adding 38 off the next 13 balls, but failed to complete the crucial winning run.

Misbah, who made 53 off 35 balls, patted the last ball from Shanathakumaran Sreesanth and ran but failed to beat the throw from the infield to the bowler, who broke the wickets.

Left-arm seamer Irfan Pathan, returning to the Indian team after nine months, took 2-20 in his four overs.

For Pakistan, seamer Mohammad Asif returned the second-best figures in Twenty20 cricket to restrict India to 141-9 in the first session.

Asif used the heavy conditions to wreck India's top order with 4-18, second behind New Zealander Mark Gillespie's 4-7 against Kenya earlier in the week.



HIP, HIP HOORAY! An airborne Yuvraj Singh leads the Indian celebrations after their side blanked Pakistan in bowl-out in their ICC World Twenty20 Championship match at Kingsmead in Durban on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Jayasuriya jolts Kiwis

AFP, Johannesburg



Sanath Jayasuriya hit a second successive half-century as Sri Lanka warmed up for the next round of the ICC World Twenty20 Championship with a seven-wicket romp over New Zealand here on Saturday.

The veteran left-hander, who made 88 off 44 balls against Kenya on Friday, blasted 61 off 44 as Sri Lanka surpassed Kiwis 164-7 with seven balls to spare at the Wanderers.

Jayasuriya, the eldest player in the 12-nation event aged 38, gave his team a flying start by posting 82 for the first wicket with Upul Tharanga (37) off only 45 balls.

Jayasuriya, who hit six boundaries and three sixes, fell in the 18th over with just seven needed for victory and was named man-of-the-match for the second day in a row.

Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene followed his 65 against Kenya with 35 not out off 18 balls with four boundaries and a six.

It was the perfect practice match for Sri Lanka, who begin their Super Eights campaign against Asian rivals Pakistan here on Monday.

New Zealand, who have also qualified for the next round from Group C at the expense of Kenya, clash with India at the same venue on Sunday.

Earlier, New Zealand's innings revolved around Ross Taylor's 62 off 44 balls after captain Daniel Vettori won the toss and elected to take first strike.

Jacob Oram remained unbeaten on 33 off 19 balls as the Kiwis hit 46 runs in the last five overs.

Dilhara Fernando claimed 2-40, but left-arm Gayan Wijekoon was hammered for 50 runs in his four overs to allow New Zealand to set a 8.5-run target.

New Zealand lost openers Brendon McCullum and Lou Vincent to fast bowler Fernando by the sixth over with the total at 25.

Taylor and Peter Fulton revived the innings by smashing 70 runs off 37 balls for the third wicket to lift the Kiwis to 95 for two.

Sri Lanka hit back with three wickets in the space of seven runs as Fulton holed out against Wijekoon, Scott Styris was trapped leg-before by Jayasuriya and Craig McMillan ran himself out.

Oram helped Taylor add 51 off 36 balls for the sixth wicket.

SCOREBOARD	
Scoreboard of the Twenty20 World Championships match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at the Wanderers on Saturday:	
NEW ZEALAND	
McCullum c Malinga b Fernando	10
Vincent c Silva b Fernando	14
Fulton c Malinga b Wijekoon	25
Taylor c Sangakkara b Malinga	62
Styris lbw b Jayasuriya	2
McMillan run out	2
Oram not out	33
Vettori run out	3
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-10)	13
Total: (For seven wkts in 20 overs)	164

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Academy sees no headway

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is awaiting the lease of their 'home of cricket' from the National Sports Council (NSC) to start work of the two-storied building for the much-needed Grameenphone National Cricket Academy (NCA).

Chairman of the BCB's game development committee Lt Col M Abdul Latif Khan (retd) had announced last month that they would start work by mid-September but said yesterday that it is still held back because they haven't received confirmation to have the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on lease for a certain period of time.

"We could not start it by mid-September because we are yet to get the lease of the stadium for thirty years but hopefully it will be finalised this month. We will float the tender within a week once the formalities are completed. We desperately need the full-fledged academy," Latif admitted.

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Pakistan forgot about it

CRICINFO, undated



Shoaib Malik has admitted Pakistan had been unaware that their match against India would be decided on the basis of a bowl-out in case of a tie.

"When the match ended in a tie, only then we came to know that this (bowl out) would happen," Dhoni said. "The team plays so hard to get a result and it should always be decided on the field."

Dhoni wasn't expecting the match to end with a football scoreline of 3-0. "It really amuses you. Winning a cricket match 3-0, it doesn't happen every time," he said. "But it is in the record books now. I can tell my friends, when I was captain my team won 3-0."

The choice of using three slow bowlers for the bowl-out, including two part-timers, Dhoni said, was made based on the players' performance at bowl-outs during team practice. "Whatever they (the bowlers) did, they were picked for that. They had practised a lot for such an eventuality," he said. "Actually, Rohit Sharma is the best when it comes to bowl-out, he has a 100% record - but since he was not playing we had to rely on the other specialists."

Meanwhile, Mahendra Singh Dhoni said he doesn't want to see

matches ending in a bowl-out though the concept helped him win his first international match as captain.

"I won't want to see a cricket match decided on a bowl out," Dhoni said. "The team plays so hard to get a result and it should always be decided on the field."

As for the pressure of a match against archrivals Pakistan, he said, "I never take pressure whether it's India-Pakistan or any other game." He also had words of praise for his teammates' performance in the crunch match. "As for my players they responded well. They were determined. They were focused. The intensity was good."

Dhoni praised his bowlers for defending a low total. "We needed a good start with the ball. The bowlers kept getting wickets at regular intervals. In the end, they managed to push the run-rate up to 12 per over and that is not easy." He also

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PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka opener Sanath Jayasuriya, who scored 61 off 44 balls, here goes on the defensive against New Zealand fast bowler Chris Martin (not in picture) during their ICC World Twenty20 Championship match at the Wanderers in Johannesburg yesterday.

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TODAY'S MATCHES

Team	Time	Venue
New Zealand v India	1:45pm	Johannesburg
Bangladesh v Australia	5:45pm	Cape Town
South Africa v England	9:45pm	Cape Town

C T20 WC SUPER EIGHTS SCHEDULE

DATE	MATCH	VENUE	TIME
Sept 16	New Zealand v India	Johannesburg	1400
Sept 16	Australia v Bangladesh	Cape Town	1800
Sept 16	South Africa v England	Cape Town	2200
Sept 17	Pakistan v Sri Lanka	Johannesburg	2200
Sept 18	New Zealand v England	Durban	1400
Sept 18	Australia v Pakistan	Johannesburg	1800
Sept 18	Bangladesh v Sri Lanka	Johannesburg	2200
Sept 19	South Africa v New Zealand	Durban	1800
Sept 19	England v India	Durban	2200
Sept 20	Australia v Sri Lanka	Cape Town	1400
Sept 20	Bangladesh v Pakistan	Cape Town	1800
Sept 20	South Africa v India	Durban	2200
SEMIFINALS			
Sept 22	E2 v F1	Cape Town	1700
Sept 22	E1 v F2	Durban	2200
FINAL			
Sept 24		Johannesburg	1800
GROUPINGS			
GROUP E: South Africa (A1), England (B2), New Zealand (C1) and India (D2)			
GROUP F: Bangladesh (A2), Australia (B1), Sri Lanka (C2) and Pakistan (D1)			
The seeded teams in the preliminary round retained their first or second places, irrespective of whether they finished first or second in their group, unless they were knocked out by the third team. For example, Bangladesh took the second spot from the West Indies in Group A. India, who topped Group D, retained their second place because Pakistan were the top seeded team in the group.			
(All times are Bangladesh Standard Time. Satellite television channel ESPN will show all the matches live)			