

# SPORT

## Tears of a clown

A day after the death of his step-father, and a day after it was revealed that Ronaldinho could be slapped with a 12-match ban for a brutal kick on Germio's Kleber, the bucked-tooth wonder shook off all his troubles with a sensational performance in the Brazilian top flight. Ronaldinho opened the scoring for Mineiro with a curling shot from outside the box and the player appeared moved after the goal. He celebrated by kneeling down and apparently prayed briefly, without a back



# 'IT'S PARTY TIME!'

West Indies players are doing a Gangnam after their famous victory against Sri Lanka in the World T20 final at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

BISHWAJIT ROY From Colombo



The long wait was over for West Indies. They were once the mighty West Indies, proud owners and creators of a formidable legacy, but over the last decade and a half have been a shadow of their former selves. Since their second ODI World Cup triumph during the glory days in 1979, their only ICC multinational tournament silverware was the 2004 Champions Trophy in England. But as cricket lovers the world over would love to see more often, the joys of Caribbean cricket took centre stage in the cricket world yesterday when the West Indies beat Sri Lanka, the home team, by 36 runs to win the ICC World Twenty20 at the R Premadasa International Stadium in Colombo.

The men from the Caribbean silenced the exuberant home crowds, who were all set to celebrate Sri Lanka's first success in a global competition since the 1996 World Cup triumph. Instead, the popular Gangnam-style dance by the West Indies players started once Sri Lankan skipper Mahela Jayawardene was dismissed leaving his team to score 78 runs from 7.5 overs. The performance was repeated at the fall of each wicket thereafter.

"This is the best moment for us. The Caribbean people were craving this day for long. We know how to enjoy the party, the Caribbean people know how to enjoy the party. So, West Indies are T20 champions. This is a great moment, nothing else," said an excited Darren Sammy, who as usually charmed the press conference by inserting jokes in every answer.

"The key factor is we have self belief -- the reason for this success. This is a big step towards the right direction for West Indies cricket," he added when asked about the reason behind his team's success.

On the other hand it was another 'final' disappointment for the Lankans as they failed for the fourth time in a world tournament final.

There were no fireworks from Chris Gayle and Kieron Pollard, but an inspired Marlon Samuels who hit a 56-ball 78 with three fours and two sixes -- took them to a competitive 137 for six from the seemingly hopeless position of 32 for two after ten overs. Captain Sammy's 15-ball 26 after Samuel's departure was also a vital hand.

"This is a great achievement. It's now party time. I can't explain my emotions right now. I had to wait for a partnership and target Malinga, which finally clicked," said man-of-the-final Marlon Samuels.

On the other hand, the Sri Lanka skipper said that their failure in the last four finals hurt them a lot but he praised his team's performance in the tournament.

"We made a few mistakes in the crucial moments. We started well but lost the momentum in the last seven-eight overs of the West Indies innings and we also failed to make a good start in the batting. Actually, it was not our day," said Mahela, who announced that he is stepping down as T20 captain and will assess his future plans for the other two formats after the Australia series in December this year.

It was the first T20 victory for West Indies against Sri Lanka in their fifth attempt and obviously nothing could have been sweeter for the much-loved team. It was their night, and the cricket world will hope that the party has just started, off the cricket field and on it.

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## Aussie women keep title

AFP, Colombo

Australia successfully defended their women's World Twenty20 title following an exciting four-run win over arch-rivals England in the final on Sunday.

Jess Cameron hit the highest score of 45 in any World Twenty20 final to help Australia to 142-4 in their 20 overs before the champions restricted England to 138-9 at Premadasa Stadium.

Spinners Jess Jonassen (3-25) and Lisa Stahlekar (2-16) shared the spoils as England found the going hard on a spin-friendly pitch.

Seamer Julie Hunter grabbed 2-36 to finish as tournament's best bowler with 11 wickets.

But it was all-rounder Stahlekar, also scoring 23 not out, who set up the win with the wicket of England's premier batter Charlotte Edwards for 28 in the eighth over to make the chase difficult for the 2009 champions.

England had pinned their hopes on Edwards who had hit a brilliant half-century in England's seven-wicket win over Australia in the group phase.

England needed 16 off the last over but Danielle Hazell (16 not out) managed 11, leaving the Australian players jubilant.

Australian captain Jodie Fields said her team's hard work opening wicket in Australia's had paid off.

### WI-SL SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES	R	B	4	6
Charles c Kulasekara b Mathews	0	5	0	0
Gayle lbw b A Mendis	3	16	0	0
Samuels c J Mendis b Dananjaya	78	56	3	6
Bravo lbw b A Mendis	19	19	0	1
Pollard c Dananjaya b A Mendis	2	4	0	0
Russell lbw b A Mendis	0	1	0	0
Sammy not out	26	15	3	0
Ramdin not out	4	4	0	0
Extras: (lb-2, w-3)	5			
Total: (For 6 wickets in 20 overs)	137			
Did not bat: Narine, Rampaul, Badree.				
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-14, 3-73, 4-87, 5-87, 6-108.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mathews	4	1	11	1
Kulasekara	3	0	22	0
Malinga	4	0	54	0
A Mendis	4	0	12	4
Dananjaya	3	0	16	1
J Mendis	2	0	20	0
SRI LANKA	R	B	4	6
Jayawardene c Sammy b Narine	33	36	2	0
Dilshan b Rampaul	0	3	0	0
Sangakkara c Pollard b Badree	22	26	2	0
Mathews b Sammy	1	5	0	0
J Mendis run out	3	3	0	0
Perera run out	3	5	0	0
Thirimanne c Charles b Sammy	4	7	0	0
Kulasekara c Badree b Narine	26	13	3	1
Malinga c Bravo b Narine	5	13	0	0
A Mendis c Bravo b Samuels	1	2	0	0
Dananjaya not out	0	0	0	0
Extras: (lb-2, nb-1)	3			
Total: (All out in 18.4 overs)	101			
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-48, 3-51, 4-60, 5-61, 6-64, 7-69, 8-96, 9-100.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Badree	4	0	24	1
Rampaul	3	0	31	1
Samuels	4	0	15	1
Gayle	2	0	14	0
Narine	3.4	0	9	3
Sammy	2	0	6	2

## Academy delayed till March

SPORTS REPORTER

The ongoing talent hunt programme to find recruits for the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) academy in Sylhet will be completed this month but the BFF will have to wait for another four months to make the academy functional, provided the project is approved by the ministry of finance.

That means the BFF football academy will not be

## Gentleman's agreement with Pybus

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday expressed their disappointment over Richard Pybus's failure to sign a deal with the board regarding his tenure as the head coach of the national team.

BCB officials expressed their concern after the leading Bengali daily Prothom Alo claimed that the deal between Pybus and the board, which took place in June, was not agreed upon 'on paper'. The board's cricket operations committee held a meeting yesterday, in order to address the situation.

"We made a gentleman's agreement with him [Pybus]. He was supposed to

gradually agree to the terms and conditions. And honestly speaking, we are shocked that he still didn't sign the contract. We feel that he has done his job more on a part-time basis rather than full-time," said Jalal Yunus, chairman of BCB's media committee.

Pybus, who left the country last week, is yet to inform the BCB regarding his return. "He has been asked to come to Bangladesh and sign the contract as soon as possible as there might be legal complications otherwise," said Yunus.

Yunus further stated that the BCB was concerned about the players' performance and that they wanted the coach to plan an early national camp. "As of now, our main aim is to start the national camp for the players. For that

we'll need Pybus to send us a training programme as soon as possible. Our immediate concern is the West Indies tour," added Yunus.

The Englishman was appointed the national team's coach in early May, after Stuart Law resigned due to personal reasons.

In other staff-related decisions, the national team's spin-consultant, Saqlain Mushtaq's tenure has been extended till December. The spinner had initially joined the national team in July on a three month contract. This means that the spinner will remain throughout the upcoming series against the West Indies which is scheduled to take place in November.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the Pioneer Football League in a colourful ceremony at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## PM declares open Pioneer League

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated the 21st edition of the Pioneer Football League during a festive afternoon at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The 81-team Dhaka (North & South) City Corporation Pioneer Football league will start tomorrow at nine different venues.

During her welcome speech, the Prime Minister said, "I inaugurated the Pioneer Football League in 1997 at the historic Paltan Maidan and this time I am happy to declare the Pioneer League open again at the new-look Bangabandhu National Stadium."

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Australia cricketers celebrate after winning the women's ICC Twenty20 World Cup final against England at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: AFP

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