

Woolmer stands by minnows

AFF, Kingston

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer believes non-Test playing nations should be at the World Cup despite a series of humiliating results here.

Three of the four heaviest defeats in the history of the World Cup came in the first three days of the 2007 tournament.

Sri Lanka beat Bermuda by 243 runs, South Africa romped to a 221-run win against the Netherlands, in a match reduced to 40 overs each because of rain, while Scotland lost by 202 runs to Australia.

But Woolmer, whose Pakistan side were facing Ireland on Saturday, insists that the Associate member sides, comprised of mostly amateur players, will only improve by being exposed to top level competition.

"My view is that the World Cup is a wonderful incentive for these countries to improve their cricket internally and help grow the game worldwide," Woolmer wrote in his www.cricinfo.com column.

"Ultimately, it's only when the players in those countries are playing regular top-class cricket and are paid professionally that they will start to make inroads into the Full Member nations.

Luuk sees

FROM PAGE 20
West Indian great Sir Gary Sobers was the first to reach the landmark playing for Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan at Swansea in 1968 with Malcolm Nash the bowler taking the punishment.

Former India all-rounder Ravi Shastri then equalled the feat against Raj Tilak for Bombay against Baroda in 1984.

However, both those achievements came in first-class matches, not international one-dayers.

Van Troost admitted it was embarrassing being captain as Gibbs unleashed all of his firepower.

"What can you say?" I told Daan after the third ball, "try to bowl a quicker one" and he said, "I just did."

"There were a few good balls in it and a few shit balls. It's terrible to be a captain in that situation. The last couple of overs I didn't know where to put my players any more, or where to bowl, I thought I'll take the last over, someone's got to do it. Nightmare for a captain."

In all South Africa hit 18 sixes, another record.

When asked how van Bunge reacted in the dressing room, van Troost replied: "He had some flash-backs. He started laughing as he was sitting in the dressing-room. Serious!

"What can we say? It's a night-mare. We can hide in our rooms or take the positives out of it, and show against Australia (their next opponents on Sunday) that we can play better than today (Friday)," said van Troost.

"They totally outplayed us, I was quite happy with the start actually (when they removed opener AB de Villiers for nought), but after that they were cruising. After we came off everyone was very negative."

Rana laid

FROM PAGE 17
matches for Bangladesh.

Coach Jalal Ahmed and Abahani officials Sajjadul Islam Bobby also attended burial.

Bangladesh Cricket Board, Bangladesh Football Federation, Bangladesh Hockey Federation, Bangladesh Chess Federation, City Club, Brothers Union, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and Bangladesh Sports Journalist Association has expressed their condolences and deep shock at the untimely death of Rana and Setu.

The national cricketers in Port of Spain, chess players and school cricketers in different part of the country took part in a minute's silence before their respective games began.

Styris, Oram

FROM PAGE 20				
Did not bat: Anderson, Panesar.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Franklin	9	0	43	2
Bond	10	1	19	2
Oram	6	0	25	1
Patel	8	0	42	0
Vettori	10	0	53	0
Styris	7	0	25	2

NEW ZEALAND				
Vincent c Nixon b Anderson				
Fleming c Joyce b Anderson				
Taylor c Flintoff b Plunkett				
Styris not out				
McMillan c Dalrymple b Panesar				
Oram not out				
Extras: (b-2, lb-11, w-11, nb-2)				
Total: (For 4 wkts in 41 overs)				
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-3, 3-19, 4-72.				
Did not bat: McCullum, Vettori, Franklin, Bond, Patel.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	8	0	39	2
Plunkett	7	0	43	1
Flintoff	8	1	17	0
Collingwood	3	0	20	0
Panesar	10	0	47	1
Dalrymple	4	0	29	0
Pietersen	1	0	2	0
Result: New Zealand won by six wickets.				
Man-of-the-match: Scott Styris.				
Toss: New Zealand				
Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (RSA) and Asad Rauf (PAK)				
TV umpire: Peter Parker (AUS)				
Match referee: Mike Procter (RSA)				



PHOTO: AFP

TALKING ABOUT GIBBS? Australian batsmen Michael Hussey (C) and Andrew Symonds (2nd from R) wait for their turn to bat during a training session in Saint Kitts and Nevis on Friday.

LOCAL SNIPPET

SPORTS REPORTER

Badda High School clinched the zonal final of Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School Cricket competition at the East End ground yesterday.

Hasan Ahmed struck an unbeaten 119 to power Badda to a seven-wicket victory after Mugdapara were bowled out for 197 runs in 45.2 overs. Badda reached the target in 35.5 overs losing only 3 wickets.

Earlier, pace duo Mohammad Shaon and Delwar Hossain ripped open the Mugdapara top-order as they shared the first five wickets. Shaon took two while Delwar picked up three wickets.

Badda lost three quick wickets themselves but Hasan, coming in at number four, struck 17 boundaries and three sixes in his stunning knock that took him 108-balls to compose.

NATIONAL WOMEN CHESS

International Woman Master Rani Hamid won the national women's chess competition for a record seventeenth time after she defeated Sharmin Sultana 2-1 in the championship play-off game at the federation chess room.

Hamid rallied from behind after

having conceded the first game to Sultana but then won the next two games to clinch the tournament.

Shamima Akhter finished on third position.

INTER CLUB TENNIS

Dhaka Club will play host to the second Dhaka Bank Independence Day inter-club tennis competition from March 19.

All the leading clubs will take part in the tournament which is expected to be inaugurated by Dhaka Club officials.

NATIONAL KARATE

Four hundred players from 36 organisations will take part in the Navana Group 20th National Karate competition at the Chittagong Rifles Club from March 22.

The three-day competition will conclude on March 24.

UNDER-20 BASKETBALL

BKSP won the inaugural under-20 basketball competition when they beat Green Herald 68-66 at their basketball court in Savar.

Shetu scored 22 points for BKSP. In the third-place deciding match, Chittagong Basketball Training Centre beat St Gregory 68-51 earlier.

Muktijoddha beat

FROM PAGE 17
It was however Mohammedan, having four points to their account, who put on a spirited display and created more opportunities than their opponents and they were frustrated by Muktijoddha's second goalkeeper Titumir Chowdhury who salvaged his side at least on two occasions.

Creative but now a bit burly, midfielder Arman Miah however was about to draw the first blood for Muktijoddha in the very second minute, but his powerful right-footer from 40 yards narrowly missed the target.

Mohammedan however took some time to find the rhythm and their Nigerian recruit Emeka almost put one home, but the unmarked forward's header on his compatriot Paul's cross just flew away in the 22nd minute.

The Motijheel outfit then kept their opponents under constant threat from the right flank thanks to impressive performance by Zahid Hossain and Zumratul Hossain Mithu but Nakib, Emeka and Paul missed several opportunities to

cash in on the surge.

Trailing by 1-0, Mohammedan went all out in the second half to level the score and Paul unleashed a right-footed salvo in the 58th minute, but Titumir splendidly fisted the danger away.

Muktijoddha however left the field with dissatisfaction as Saiful Islam received a red card in the dying moments of the match due to hurling abuse towards referee Ramkrishna Ghosh.

Red card: Saiful Islam (Muktijoddha).
Yellow cards: Rajani, Motiur Munna, Ibrahim Bozziber and Alfaz (Muktijoddha), Biplob and Paul (Mohammedan).

TEAMS

MUKTIJODDHA: Titumir, Rajani, Hasan Al Mamun, Titoo, Saiful, Arman (Biddiut), Arman Aziz, Motiur Munna, Ibrahim, Alfaz (Kanchan) and Moni.

MOHAMMEDAN: Himel, Zahid, Arif, Peter Odafé, Biplob, Ripon, Emeka, Chibuike, Mithu, Nakib (Forhad) and Paul.
Referee: Ramkrishna Ghosh.

Thanks to the wives

AFF, Kingston



Without them, Ireland may not have managed their thrilling last ball World Cup tie against Zimbabwe.

Irish girls all, Vanessa is the wife of skipper Trent Johnston, Geraldine is married to batsman Jeremy Bray, who made an unbeaten 115 in Thursday's match, while Maebh met Dave Langford-Smith when the bowler travelled to Ireland to attend Bray's wedding.

The common link? Johnston, Bray and Langford-Smith are all Australian.

Johnston met Vanessa when he was playing club cricket in Leinster but then moved to Sydney.

However, the couple returned to Ireland where Johnston was entitled to an Irish passport through marriage.

He then announced himself as an international player when he took two wickets in Ireland's famous win over the West Indies two years ago.

"Ireland is home now. I love the lifestyle -- the weather's different but the people are just as laid back," Johnston told the Sunday Tribune newspaper.

Bray was Australian player of the year at under-19 level and played youth tests for his country.

He played for New South Wales but went to Ireland when girlfriend, Geraldine, returned to care for her seriously ill father.

Langford-Smith arrived in Ireland for Bray's wedding and met Maebh.

"We went home for our honey-moon in December 2005 and after a few weeks I started to feel homesick-- for Ireland," said the bowler.

The trio's odyssey enjoyed a glorious stopping-off point here on Thursday with Ireland's last ball tie in the country's first World Cup match.

"We have played quite a few games which have gone to the last ball or the last over," said man-of-the-match Bray, the 12th opening batsman to carry his bat in a World Cup game.

"But the skipper has always told us to keep fighting and fighting even when our backs are to the wall."

Bray said he was looking forward to taking on Pakistan in the next match here on Saturday.

"They are a fantastic side but it's one-day cricket. If we play to our ability and they have an off-day, anything can happen."

personnel prepare to tackle the imposing challenge of Ricky Ponting's reigning champions at the World Cup, they can at least reflect that their forefathers once defeated the Australians in the sphere of cricket.

Granted, we have to roll back the years until 1882, on Saturday, July 29, when a large crowd convened at Raeburn Place in Edinburgh to witness a meeting between Leslie Balfour-Melville's hosts and William Murdoch's tourists, but the occasion is worth celebrating, not least because, exactly a month later, the majority of these same Australians were involved in one of the most significant acts in sporting history when they beat England at The Oval and proved the catalysts for a subsequent 125 years of ferocious Ashes rivalry.

Born in Edinburgh in 1854, Leslie Melville Balfour-Melville -- so good they named him twice -- was in the words of the current Cricket Scotland historian, Neil Leitch: "Our equivalent of W G Grace or, perhaps more accurately, C B Fry."

INTERNET, undated



Indeed there is a decent argument for saying he was the greatest sporting figure ever produced by his nation.

"He excelled in every game he turned his hand to," continues Leitch, "and had perfect hand-eye co-ordination and balance, which meant he strode like a colossus across the scene in the later half of the 19th century."

In February, 1872, at the age of 17 years and 10 months, he turned out for Scotland's rugby collective against England in the second meeting between the now-traditional rivals; he also triumphed in the Scottish Lawn Tennis Championship in 1879, in addition to securing the British Amateur Golf title in 1895 and became a Scottish billiards champion in the 1880s. He was also a distinguished ice skater, curler, distance athlete and long-jumper.

In the summer of '82, however, his energies were concentrated solely on cricket and, while opportunities for international fixtures were rare, he was the natural choice to lead the Scots as they strove to gain revenge for an innings loss against the Australians at the same venue on July 27 and 28.

On a grey morning, the touring party, perhaps arrogantly, elected to bat after winning the toss, and there was little sign of the drama in store, as they advanced to 46 for 0 with George Palmer and Tom Garrett surviving an early onslaught from Peter Thompson, prior to Robert Macnair entering the attack and sparking a collapse, which increasingly thrilled the voluble crowd.

SOUTH AFRICA V NETHERLANDS SCOREBOARD

FROM PAGE 20					
NETHERLANDS					
Zuiderent b Pollock	1	3	10	0	0
Reekers run out	4	2	6	1	0
Kervezee c Pollock b Langeveldt	17	34	52	2	0
Ten Doeschate run out	57	119	74	8	1
Van Bunge lbw b Hall	5	20	16	1	0
Szwarczynski lbw b Smith	12	28	31	2	0
De Leede b Kemp	21	36	36	2	0
Borren run out	2	13	6	0	0
Van Troost c Smith b Kemp	5	10	6	1	0
Stelling not out	1	3	4	0	0
Extras: (lb-4, w-2, nb-1)	7				
Total: (For 9 wickets in 40 overs) 132					
Did not bat: Smits					
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-6, 3-33, 4-47, 5-72, 6-114, 7-124, 8-131, 9-132.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	Econ
Pollock	6	3	4	1	0.66
Nel	6	1	19	0	3.16
Langeveldt	6	0	22	1	3.66
Hall	6	1	15	1	2.50
Smith	8	0	32	1	4.00
Kallis	4	0	18	0	4.50
Kemp	4	0	18	2	4.50
Result: South Africa won by 221 runs.					
Man-of-the-match: Herschelle Gibbs.					
Toss: Netherlands					
Umpires: M Benson (England) and A Hill (New Zealand)					
TV umpire: S Bucknor					
Match referee: R Madugalle (Sri Lanka)					

GIBBS'S ROUTE TO 36

AFF, Basseterre

Ball-by-ball guide to how South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs hit six sixes in an over in the World Cup match against the Netherlands at Warner Park here on Friday:

30th over bowled by Daan van Bunge:
1st ball: Gibbs charges down track and hits ball over long on
2nd ball: Sends ball over long off
3rd ball: Another over long off
4th ball: Full toss over deep midwicket
5th ball: Over long off again
6th ball: The record clinched with a hit over deep midwicket

RUNS FLOW APLENTY

AFF, Basseterre

Highest World Cup totals after South Africa hit 353-3 off 40 overs in a rain-restricted Group A match against Netherlands at Warner Park here on Friday:

Team	Total	Overs	Opponent	Venue	Year
Sri Lanka	398-5	50	Ken	Kandy	1996
India	373-6	50	SL	Taunton	1999
West Indies	360-4	50	SL	Karachi	1987
Australia	359-2	50	Ind	Johannesburg	2003
South Africa	353-3	40	Ned	Basseterre	2007
Zimbabwe	340-2	50	Nam	Harare	2003
Pakistan	338-5	60	SL	Swansea	1983
Australia	334-6	50	SCO	Basseterre	2007
England	334-4	60	Ind	Lord's	1975
England	333-9	60	SL	Taunton	1983

main threat to beat India and he's trying to put us off our game."

McGrath said Australia's on-field behaviour was no worse than any other sides.

"It's fine to say that but at the end of the day I think the Indian team does it as well as every other team."

The Age cricket columnist Greg Baum said that after 20 years of reaching out in cricket, Australia and India seem as philosophically remote from one another as ever and perhaps the gap can never be bridged.

"As ever in slanging matches, no one wins. Gavaskar's lament about Australia is an old one. Doubtlessly, it is heartfelt, for he was a stickler for the game's proprieties," Baum wrote.

"Still, his attack is problematic. Gavaskar is chairman of the ICC's cricket committee. Perception matters; Australia will remain suspicious that one powerful voice at the ICC is intractably against it.

"Gavaskar invoked the late Hookes' name needlessly, carelessly and tactlessly. It did not belong in this dialogue."

"The comments in themselves are very disappointing when he's mentioning David Hookes and you really feel for Hookes's family."

"With it being the World Cup I think Sunny sees Australia as the

it."

The Age said the Australian players are anxious not to turn the feud into a World Cup distraction, but have found it hard to conceal their dismay, which has been conveyed to International Cricket Council chief executive Malcolm Speed.

Australia and India are seeded to meet in a potentially volatile Super Eight match in Antigua on March 31, a repeat of the 2003 World Cup final that has been given extra heat since Gavaskar escalated his attack on Ricky Ponting's team.

Veteran paceman Glenn McGrath said Gavaskar's standing with Australian cricket could be damaged and, although he was entitled to his opinion about the team's conduct, the Hookes' analogy was "crossing the line".

"It's very disrespectful. Sunny was an amazing cricketer, but I think this time he's gone beyond," McGrath told a Sydney radio station.

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