

Tributes flow in

BBC ONLINE, undated

Tributes from the cricketing world have poured in for Pakistan coach and ex-England Test player Bob Woolmer.

Woolmer, 58, was found unconscious in his hotel room on Sunday during the World Cup in the West Indies and later died in hospital.

"It's a sad day for the sport and the cricketing fraternity," said ex-West Indies fast bowler Michael Holding.

England captain Michael Vaughan added: "We know how much impact he's had on the game. He will be greatly missed."

The cause of death is not yet known but a heart attack is suspected.

Pakistan exited the World Cup on Saturday after their surprise defeat by Ireland.

Holding added: "This is totally unexpected. I knew he was upset and under intense pressure but no-one could have foreseen this. I send my condolences to his family."

"My first tour was to England and we go back many years as cricketers and friends. I valued his company."

Woolmer made his Test debut for England against Australia in July 1975 and his coaching career also saw him take charge of South Africa and Warwickshire.

England and Wales Cricket Board chief executive David Collier said: "The passing of Bob Woolmer in Jamaica casts a sad shadow over the 2007 Cricket World Cup."

"Bob was one of the world's greatest coaches and as a player his innings of 149 in the series in 1975, and lasting more than eight hours against Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson, demonstrated not only how talented a player Bob was but also his pride in wearing the

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Did U Know?

John MacBryan of England in his only Test appearance at Old Trafford neither batted, bowled nor took a catch.



Habibul Bashar

(Bangladesh cricket captain)
"As a team, we have put up a good show. This means a lot and now we can hope to go into the second round. We have a young team and we fielded well. I hope they continue."
After beating India in the World Cup.



BTV & SET Max
ICC World Cup 2007
South Africa v Scotland
Live at 7:30 pm
New Zealand v Kenya
Live at 7:30 pm



B.League
Arambagh v Ctg Abahani (4:45 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
National Cricket League
Day Three (Four-day)
Barisal v Sylhet
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

Bob Woolmer: 1948-2007



REUTERS, Port of Spain



Bob Woolmer's death at 58 deprives cricket of one of its most innovative thinkers who became a pioneer in

introducing modern technology into a centuries-old game.

The Pakistan coach was declared dead in hospital on Sunday after he was found unconscious in his hotel room in Kingston, Jamaica.

His team had crashed out of the World Cup less than 24 hours earlier after losing to debutants Ireland.

Ironically, part of his duties in a previous job had been to help develop the game in countries which did not play the game at elite Test level. One of them was Ireland.

Born in Kanpur, India on May 14, 1948, Woolmer became one of the world's leading coaches on the back of a solid playing career in English county and Test cricket.

A respected all-rounder at first-class level who played for Kent and South African provinces Natal and

Western Province, Woolmer also played 19 Tests and six one-day internationals for England between 1975 and 1981.

He was one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year in 1976, and he scored three Test centuries at an average of 33.09.

Woolmer bowled medium paced swingers and was an elegant right-handed batsman with a free-flowing, fluent flourish.

But it was as a coach, after his career petered out having joined the Kerry Packer breakaway cricketing revolution during the late 1970s, that Woolmer would leave a far greater mark on the game.

He soon became recognised as one of the more free-thinking coaches, a reputation he earned first with Warwickshire and then confirmed during his five years at the helm of the South African national team.

Woolmer almost single-handedly popularised the reverse sweep and his coaching methods required players to think beyond the accepted boundaries of the game. He was one of the first coaches to take a laptop computer into the dressing room.

His attention to detail was com-

plete. To improve his wicketkeepers, for example, he would study the way football goalkeepers moved and pass on his findings.

Warwickshire won three of the four domestic trophies on offer in England in 1994, the same year Woolmer left the county to take up the reins with South Africa.

South Africa were whitewashed 6-0 in their first series with Woolmer as coach, a one-day tournament in Pakistan that also featured Australia.

But by the time Woolmer resigned as South Africa coach after the 1999 World Cup, the team had won 83 of their 117 one-day internationals they played under his guidance -- a winning percentage of 72.80 -- and 10 of the 15 Test series they contested.

At the World Cup in England in 1999, Woolmer almost guided his side to the final but a bizarre run-out in the semi with eventual winners Australia robbed his side of victory when the scores were tied.

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'Just another victory'

CRICINFO, undated



Bangladesh's stunning victory against India in their World Cup opener saw them shed their minnows status and

gives them a serious chance to make it the Super 8s ahead of their heavy-weight neighbours. But one man, Dav Whatmore, the Bangladesh coach, is not ready to uncork the champagne as yet. Feet firmly on the ground, Whatmore, who spoke exclusively to Cricinfo, wants his young tigers to learn to get into the winning habit.

Can you talk about your feelings at the moment?

I am very happy. We had a good start to the tournament, but that's just a game, it is one win. It is a big win, but one win and gives us a good chance to progress.

It is not a surprise the victory, right?

Why? No, it wasn't a surprise. But it was a difficult thing to do, but the boys responded really well. It's a

result of a number of things, but for the public it is a small upset, isn't it?

The mental make-up of the Bangladesh teams looks full of confidence. It must've taken you a long time to arrive at this point?

At the moment the confidence is up, yeah. Teams come in and out of feeling confident. It has taken a while, but we've had to play teams that were below, our associates as well. That has helped us to get the confidence up when you play and win. These games (World Cup) are a bigger test, but it helps when you come into bigger matches having won in the past.

In the past, too, you have scored similar victories, but they proved to be more of the isolated kind. So, how do you ensure that you carry forward this winning rhythm and not suffer any jolts?

That's right. There've been very much so isolated, just spasmodic victories. We can't expect the Bangladesh cricket team to be known anything other than the minnows unless you start to put more wins together. We've been saying that for a while, this is nothing new. We beat New Zealand in a

practice match (World Cup warm-up). I know it was only a practice match, but it was a very important one for us, very important for New



DAV WHATMORE

Zealand. So, we are getting to the point where we are getting a little bit more consistent but we have to continue in that way.

Do you get hurt when Bangladesh are still put in the bracket of minnows?

Not really because it might help us to win us some games as, well, people take us lightly.

And the youngsters, like Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim, Saqibul, Syed Rasul, to name a few, just don't give the feeling about them being the rookies they are supposed to be. Is it something new?

It all depends on the make-up of the individual. If the individual is a little bit stronger and puts that a little percentage of arrogance it helps to overcome the mental stress early on. These are all different players but they are pretty shrewd in their heads.

What about Mashrafe Mortaza: he is proving to be a matchwinner consistently?

Mashrafe Mortaza has been managed really well. He had two major reconstructions in his very

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Hannan leads Barisal battle

SPORTS REPORTER

Hannan Sarker's blazing 95 was not enough for Barisal to remove Sylhet from the driving of the last match of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League after the second day's play at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

The ex-national opener smashed 16 boundaries during his 86-ball knock as Barisal scored 184-4 in their first innings before stumps were drawn for the day, still 224 runs behind Sylhet's first innings total.

Sylhet captain Alok Kapali, who scored 141, also shone with his leg-spin by grabbing a couple of wickets for 48 in 14 overs.

Earlier, Saif Mahmud took his overnight score to 90 and Hasibul Hossain hit an unbeaten 61 off 67 balls as Sylhet amassed 408 in their first innings after resuming the day on 288-5.

BRIEF SCORES

SYLHET: First innings 408 all out in 125.5 overs (Imtiaz 29, Rahman 4)

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AFP, Lahore



Grief washed away anger on the streets of Pakistan Monday as the country reeled from the death of cricket coach

Bob Woolmer a day after the national team's humiliating exit from the World Cup.

On Sunday protesters in the city of Multan had shouted slogans against Woolmer and skipper Inzamamul Haq after Saturday's loss to Ireland, while others in Hyderabad city reportedly held mock burials for the team.

But by Monday supporters had changed their tune and were saying that Woolmer's huge commitment -- and his disappointment about the team's World Cup failure -- may have led to his death in Jamaica at the age of 58.

"Bob Woolmer's death has

saddened us. He took the responsibility for the team's defeat very seriously and that led to his death," cricket fan Munir Akhtar Langah told AFP in Multan.

The president of Multan Cricket Club, Maulvi Sultan Alam Ansari, said internal politics and not Woolmer were to blame for Pakistan's defeats, adding: "He performed his duties with devotion and honesty."

Private television channels meanwhile erased vitriolic text messages left by viewers on Sunday before news of Woolmer's death had come through.

"We have deleted all the earlier SMS and public reaction, after Woolmer's death," Ather Vigar Azeem, a producer for a sports programme on HUM TV, told AFP.

"Pakistanis are emotional people," said Irfan Ahmed, a cricket fan and a student of University of Karachi's mass communication department.

"They were very angry at the weekend and were passing all kinds

of SMS messages against Woolmer and Inzi, but they have changed their view within 24 hours," he said.

An earlier SMS message which spread like wildfire here said: "Pakistan cricket has died. Maulana (prayer leader) Inzamamul Haq will lead the funeral prayers after Pakistan's last match on March 21 against Zimbabwe."

Woolmer, a former England batsman, was largely treated with goodwill in this cricket-obsessed Muslim nation of 150 million people, despite concerns about having a foreign coach.

However he began to come under fire after Pakistan's notorious forfeit of the Oval Test against England last August, followed by a doping scandal involving fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif.

President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz led tributes to him late Sunday.

The foreign ministry followed

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Inzamam bids ODIs bye Gives up captaincy

AFP, Kingston



Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq on Sunday announced his retirement from one-day cricket after his team's

humiliating exit from the World Cup and the death of coach Bob Woolmer.

He also said he would give up the captaincy after playing his last one-day against Zimbabwe on Wednesday, a match he and the team have dedicated to Woolmer, who died here after the team were bundled out of the tournament by Ireland.

"I have talked with my father on the phone and have decided to retire from one-day cricket after the Zimbabwe match," Inzamam told reporters.

"Leading Pakistan was a great honour and these last three years have been the most memorable for me. On the same side, the World Cup debacle this time have been the worst days of my career," he said.

"I wanted to go on a high but this was not in my fate."

Inzamam's press conference was attended by the entire Pakistan team, still in obvious grief and shock after the death of Woolmer, who was pronounced dead after being found unconscious in his hotel room Sunday.

The 37-year-old Pakistan captain made 36 and one respectively in the 54-run defeat against the West Indies and the three-wicket upset loss to Ireland that ended their World Cup campaign. Zimbabwe will be their last Cup match.

"We will play the last match for our coach, who was not only a great coach but a great human being and a personal friend," the star said. "We can never overcome the tragedy and would always remember the man."

Woolmer, who was 58, was a former England Test batsman and

highly respected coach. But he presided over arguably the greatest shock in the history of the sport, when the Irish part-timers beat Pakistan on Saturday.

Inzamam said he had talked with Woolmer about announcing his decision to retire from the one-day game.

"A lot of people may think that this was not the right time to announce retirement but I discussed it with Woolmer, who agreed with me," he said.

"I will be willing to serve Pakistan cricket in any capacity and would be playing Test cricket, if needed, as a player."

He has played 377 matches, scoring 11,702 runs with ten hundreds and 83 fifties. He has also played 129 Tests for Pakistan.

Inzamam was also part of the Pakistan team that won the World Cup in 1992.

The burly batsman hit the headlines with his fiery 37-ball 60 against New Zealand in the semi-final and then a robust 30-ball 42 in the final against England to help Pakistan to their only World Cup title.

"I have played to the best (of my) abilities and never compromised on the team's betterment. I thank my fans for their utmost support and apologise to them on a poor show in the World Cup," he said.

"I want to be remembered as an honest player, someone who takes pride in playing for my country, and would always be available to help Pakistan cricket's cause."



PHOTO: AFP

A downcast Inzamamul Haq addresses a press conference where he announced his retirement from ODIs at the team hotel in Kingston on Sunday.

Sri Lanka A in driving seat

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A bowlers toiled on the first day of the first four-day Test against their Sri Lankan counterparts as Thilan Samaraweera and Malinda Warnapura slammed hundreds at the Colts Cricket Club Ground in Colombo yesterday.

The home team finished the day on 335-2 with Test cricketer Samaraweera batting on 129, accompanied by Warnapura on 177.

The visitors, inspired by the Tigers' success against India in the World Cup, got off to a bright start after Sri Lanka A had decided to bat first.

Nazmul Hossain dismissed openers Michael Vandort (10) and Mahela Udawatte (5) with 22 runs on board but 30-year old Samaraweera, a veteran of 39 Tests and 17 ODIs, paired with Warnapura to take away the early Bangladesh initiatives without further damage.

The two shared 313 runs for the unbroken third wicket with Samaraweera smacking ten boundaries in 232 balls while 27-year old

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Kiwis very serious

AFP, Gros Islet



New Zealand coach John Bracewell has promised his side will treat their match against

Kenya with the same importance as they did their opening World Cup win over England.

Black Caps captain Stephen Fleming spoke after the team's six-wicket success of now having a "game in hand" leading into the second stage, Super Eight phase for which New Zealand and England are favourites to qualify from a Group C also featuring Canada.

But Bracewell said that Kenya's seven-wicket win over Canada last week meant New Zealand couldn't let up when they played the surprise semi-finalists of four years ago on Tuesday.

"We've got two points to carry through should England qualify. That's the importance of the Kenyan match. We have to win that just in

case it's Kenya who qualify because they are the other team with two points in the bag."

While England coach Duncan Fletcher has talked of his side needing four wins to get to the semi-finals in the Caribbean, Bracewell said he was not yet prepared to look

that far ahead.

"For us it's game by game because rhythm is quite an important thing in any tournament on getting on a roll," the former New Zealand off-spinner explained.

Bracewell, who said he hoped to

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TODAY'S MATCHES		
Team	Time	Venue
South Africa v Scotland	7:30 pm	St Kitts & Nevis
New Zealand v Kenya	7:30 pm	St Lucia