



Did U Know?

Wally Hammond of England became the first batsman to score a Test triple century and he did it against New Zealand in 1933.



Gus Logie

(Bermuda cricket coach)
"It (India v Bangladesh) was a fascinating game of cricket as Bangladesh showed what can be achieved with commitment and hard work."



BTv & SET Max

ICC World Cup 2007
Sri Lanka v Bangladesh
Live at 7:30 pm
Zimbabwe v Pakistan
Live at 8:30 pm



B.League
Sk Russel v Rahmatganj (4:45 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
National Cricket League
Day Four (Four-day)
Barisal v Sylhet
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

Barisal take lead

SPORTS REPORTER

A brilliant unbeaten 186 by Raqibul Hasan guided Barisal as they strongly bounced back against Sylhet on the third day of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

The right-hander took his overnight score of 47 to a big hundred to put his side on top after the end of the day's play as Barisal took an important 73-run first innings lead.

Resuming the day on 184-4, Barisal finished at 481-6.

Raqibul, who smashed 17 boundaries during his 382-ball essay, got good support from wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Shahin to frustrate the Sylhet bowlers after contributing to the 167-run for the fifth wicket stand. Shahin made 65 off 195 deliveries that was laced by eight boundaries.

Ariful Haque was unbeaten with 61 off 94 balls.

BRIEF SCORES

SYLHET: First innings - 408 all out in 125.5 overs.

BARISAL: First innings 481-6 in 146 overs (overnight 184-4) (Imran 8, Hannan 95, Faruque 6, Raqibul 186 not out, Humayun 0, Shahin 65, Salahuddin 15, Ariful 61 not out, extras 45; Rashedur 2-50, Kapali 2-113, Nabil 2-112).

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Wanderers Club beat Uttara Sporting Club by four wickets in the lone match of Kai-Altech First Division League at the BKSP ground yesterday.

Opting to bowl first, Wanderers bowled out Uttara for only 177 runs in 47.1 overs and then notched up the target in 46.4 overs losing six wickets in the process.

Habibur Rahman (44*) and

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'Win this one for Bob'

AFP, Kingston



The colourful and controversial Inzamamul Haq brings the curtain down on his one-day career here on Wednesday as Pakistan end their tragedy-hit World Cup with a match against Zimbabwe.

Professionally shattered by the defeat against Ireland and personally devastated by the sudden death of coach Bob Woolmer in the aftermath of the loss, the 37-year-old is left playing only for pride.

Ironically, a much-needed victory for his team would also have the knock-on effect of putting his tormentors Ireland into the second round Super Eights.

Inzamam has told his mis-firing team that they owe it to Woolmer's memory to win in style on Wednesday.

"He was always helpful to the players and his feelings were with them," said Inzamam.

"He was a very good coach but a super human being. Because of this he had a lot of respect from the team.

"After the match against Ireland he was upset but he said to me and to all the players that these things happen in cricket. He was brave and

knew how to handle the situation when everybody was feeling down.

"He will be well remembered. Now we are in trouble because we are out of the World Cup. But over the last three years our win ratio has been very high."

Inzamam has played 377 one-day matches over a 15-year career, scoring 11,702 runs at 39.53 including 10 hundreds and 83 fifties.

He was part of the 1992 World Cup winning team famously sparking his side into the final with a blistering 60 from 37 balls in the semifinal against New Zealand.

Younis Khan, the man widely expected to take over from Inzamam as skipper, said that the whole team is still shocked by the events of the weekend.

"Every Pakistani wanted us to do well at this World Cup and we are very sorry we let them down," Younis told www.bigstarcricet.com.

"After we beat West Indies at home everybody expected us to win the first match against them here and we should have won it."

Zimbabwe, who arrived at the World Cup in another state of crisis after disposing of all their senior players, have one point in Group D to their name following their last ball tie against Ireland.

Monday's defeat against the West Indies means that only victory against Pakistan will be enough to keep them in the competition.

Even if they achieve that, they

would then have to hope that Brian Lara's side defeat Ireland in the last group game to leave second round qualification to be calculated on run rates.

"We were trying for a win (against the West Indies) to put us in a better position to reach the Super Eights, but I thought the guys fought well which was good, so we will have to get it in our next game," said Zimbabwe's 21-year-old skipper Prosper Utseya.

SQUAD

PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (captain), Azhar Mahmood, Danish Kaneria, Imran Nazir, Kamran Akmal, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Sami, Mohammad Yousof, Navedul Hasan, Rao Iftikhar, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Malik, Umar Gul, Yasir Arafat, Younis Khan.

ZIMBABWE (from): Prosper Utseya (captain), Gary Brent, Justice Chibhabha, Elton Chigumbura, Keith Dabengwa, Terry Duffin, Anthony Ireland, Friday Kasten, Stuart Matsikenyeri, Christopher Mpofu, Tawanda Mupariwa, Edward Rainsford, Vusumuzi Sibanda, Brendon Taylor, Sean Williams.

Umpires: Brian Jerling and Simon Taufel.

Woolmer remembered

AFP, Kingston



Pakistani cricketers Monday joined the cricket world in mourning the death of their coach Bob Woolmer, remembered

as a fatherly figure by captain Inzamamul Haq and his teammates.

"Woolmer was a fatherly figure to all of us and we have lost our greatest supporter," said Inzamam of the 58-year-old coach who died on Sunday after being found unconscious in his hotel room in Jamaica.

Since joining the Pakistan team in July 2004, Woolmer had dug deep in transforming an inconsistent and split Pakistan team into a united fighting unit.

"We owe him a great salute and would like to do anything his family wants from us," said Inzamam, who also pledged to carry the coffin of the late coach to South Africa where his last rites will be held.

Pakistan were dumped out of the World Cup after losing their second match to outsiders Ireland by three wickets on Saturday, a defeat which

badly hurt Woolmer.

"We had two tragic events in the last two days. We had yet to cope with the defeat and our ouster from the World Cup -- then a bigger tragedy came about," said Inzamam.

Inzamam on Sunday announced he would retire from one-day cricket after the one-day against Zimbabwe on Wednesday -- a match dedicated to the coach -- before Pakistan team head back home.

Vice-captain Younis Khan told AFP he had a friendly relationship with Woolmer.

"He was a friend of all the players. I used to call his wife, Gill, mom so he used to tease her that I am their third son," reminisced Younis, who in the last 18 months has lost his father, sister and two brothers in a series of tragedies.

"I know how it feels when you lose your close ones. Bob used to help each and every player and he has left a big void in Pakistan cricket," said Younis, who is now expected to take over as captain from Inzamam.

All-rounder Shahid Afridi, banned from the first two matches

for violating the ICC (International Cricket Council) code of conduct, said Woolmer was like a father to him.

"Bob always treated me and other players as his sons. He would help any player who was in difficulty and he was the best coach under whom I have played," said Afridi.

Another all-rounder Azhar Mahmood said Bob was accessible to all players.

"He used to follow my county performance even when I was not in the Pakistan team. I owe him a great deal and we can never repay his help and services to us," said Mahmood.

Pakistan's assistant manager, Asad Mustafa, said players had been left shell-shocked by the news of Woolmer's death.

"I used to deal all his travel arrangements, so he was close to me and would talk with a big smile all the time. We will not be able to overcome this loss," said Mustafa.



PHOTO: TIGERCRIKET.COM

ANOTHER STEP: Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal (R) goes through his paces in a running ladder while assistant coach Salahuddin (L) shows Aftab Ahmed how to do it during a training session at the University of West Indies ground on Monday.

Batsmen give in

SPORTS REPORTER

A disappointing batting performance saw Bangladesh A struggling against Sri Lanka A after the end of the second day of the first four-day at the Colts Cricket Club Ground in Colombo yesterday.

Follow-on was in the tourists' sight as they were reduced to 123-6, short by 424 runs from the hosts' first innings score, before stumps were drawn for the day with Mahmudullah Riyad (22) and out-of-favour Khaled Mashud (6) battling for survival.

Most of Bangladesh A batsmen got starts in reply to the home team's mammoth first innings total of 547 but they failed to convert it to big scores.

There was no single wrecker as part-time off-spinner Jehan Mubarak took two wickets while right-arm paceman Akalanka Ganegama, left-arm medium Sujeewa de Silva and Upul Chandana captured one each. Nadif Chowdhury fell victim of a run out for 17.

Earlier Malinda Warnapura converted his overnight hundred to a double as the 27-year old left-hander smashed 242 off 367 balls that contained 28 fours and two sixes while his more celebrated partner Thilan Samaraweera made 162 off 281 balls that featured 13 boundaries.

Discarded Lankan all-rounder Upul Chandana then came up with his hard-hitting exhibition to smack a 46-ball 50 with the help of three fours and as many sixes as Sri Lanka A declared their first innings on 547-6.

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Dimas steers Arambagh to third place

SPORTS REPORTER

Kenyan striker Nico Dimas celebrated his Dhaka debut with a brace to help second-from-bottom Arambagh climb up to the third place in the B. League with a 2-0 win over visiting Chittagong Abahani 2-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

With Dimas being inspirational, Arambagh raised early hopes but Moloy head the ball onto the cross-bar after a cross by the Kenyan after 11 minutes.

Three minutes later, Dimas's volley from the edge of the penalty area came off goalkeeper Kamal's grip, allowing Ugandan attacker Dominic to push the ball back to the path of Dimas who effortlessly put the ball into the open net.

Arambagh sealed their first victory on the hour when Dimas drove the ball home after a pass from midfielder Ridon.

Arambagh stretched their tally to four points after three rounds while Abahani from the port city, who won their second round match at home, slumped to their second away defeat to stick to three points.

Sheikh Russel, who take on Rahmatganj today in a Dhaka derby in the last match of the third week, have a golden chance to take solo lead if they can even earn one point.

AFP, Basseterre



Bob Woolmer's tragic death, Inzamamul Haq's retirement as a one-day player and the team's disastrous World

Cup has left Pakistan with a host of problems as they seek to regain their place as a serious cricket force. The squad arrived in the Caribbean against a background of turmoil.

Last August's infamous forfeited Test match against England and the doping scandal which engulfed Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif had already eaten away at Pakistan's credibility.

The humiliating World Cup exit at the hands of Ireland's part-timers and the sad loss of Woolmer have left the game's rulers with plenty to ponder.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Naseem Ashraf, whose job is also on the line, has promised

a complete overhaul of the sport.

"We maintained a short-term option for the World Cup, but now a comprehensive new structure and plan will be launched for the development of Pakistan cricket," Ashraf said.

However, Ashraf, a former first-class cricketer who took over in October last year, has been accused of failing to come up with a new PCB constitution.

"Pakistan cricket has been run on an ad-hoc basis since 1999 and an ad-hoc set up is a cancer for any set up. We had a ad-hoc body when we fared poorly in the last World Cup and now we see abysmal results in 2007," said Sirajul Islam Bukhari, secretary of the Karachi Cricket Association.

Former captain Imran Khan has been critical of a process which allows the Pakistan president, who is also the patron of the PCB, to appoint the head of the cricket body.

"The recent mess in Pakistan cricket is to be blamed on the patron who appoints the cricket chief," said Imran.

Since the Oval forfeit and

Inzamam's ban for the Champions Trophy held in India in October, controversies have shrouded Pakistan cricket.

Younis Khan refused to lead the team for the Trophy, saying he did not want to be a dummy captain. Mohammad Yousuf replaced him.

The following day the then-PCB chairman Shahryar Khan was forced to resign and barely hours after taking charge Ashraf reinstated Younis as captain.

Two days later, Pakistan cricket was plunged into a doping crisis as their spearheads Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif tested positive for nandrolone.

Akhtar was banned for two years and Asif for one year but their bans were controversially lifted on appeal, a decision widely criticised by the cricket world and challenged by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Pakistan named the doping tainted duo in their 15-man World Cup in the hope that they would

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Freddie no alcoholic

AFP, Gros Islet



Andrew Flintoff has denied having a drink problem after losing the England vice-captaincy at the World Cup after a night of

boozing antics saw him dropped for the match against Canada.

Flintoff, the star of England's 2005 Ashes success, was one of six players fined following a late-night drinking session after the six-wicket defeat by New Zealand on Friday.

His alcohol-fuelled exploits then culminated in him being helped to shore after falling off a pedalo.

"Sometimes I have the capacity to go a bit further than maybe I should do. It's something I'm aware of and it's something I'm saying won't happen again," Flintoff told reporters.

"I'm getting older and I've got more responsibilities as a player and a person," the 29-year-old married father of two added.

"It was foolish what I did and I'm embarrassed about it -- I can't apologise enough to everyone it's affected over these past few days."

He added: "I'm not a teenager any more, and I've got responsibilities on and off the field."

Flintoff has received several warnings about his off-field behaviour in the past, most recently while captaining England during their 5-0 Ashes thrashing in Australia when Michael Vaughan was injured.

But he said being dropped meant he would, unlike previous occasions, make good on his promises to change his ways.

"Being left out for a game for England and experiencing these feelings I've experienced for the past couple of days, I never want them again."

Flintoff was one of six players -- the others were James Anderson, Ian Bell, Jon Lewis, Paul Nixon and Liam Plunkett -- fined for staying out drinking at a nightclub near England's team hotel.

And while Flintoff -- who after Monday's news conference was cheered and applauded by England fans staying at the hotel -- said he wasn't about to give up drink, he vowed to be more selective when it came to alcohol.

"The thing that happened in the

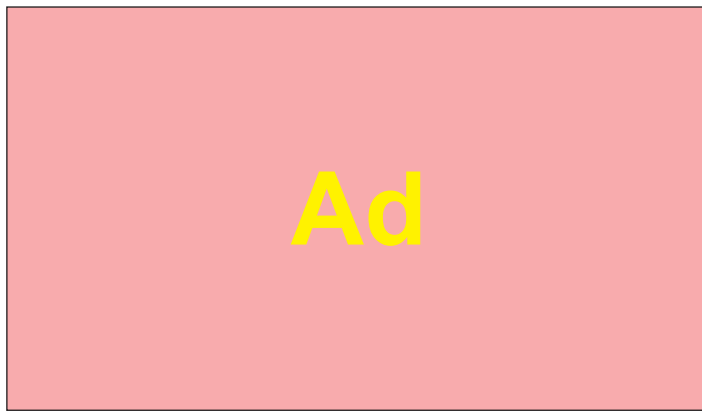
nightclub was the wrong place, wrong time," Flintoff explained.

"I'm not going to say I'm going to have an alcohol-free trip and a glass of wine with my dinner is one thing and the events of Friday night is another.

"It's not going to happen again, I can assure everyone of that. It's not doing anybody any favours, not myself, not the team, not anybody."

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TODAY'S MATCHES		
Team	Time	Venue
Sri Lanka v Bangladesh	7:30 pm	Trinidad & Tobago
Zimbabwe v Pakistan	8:30 pm	Jamaica



LOU TAKES THE PLUNGE: Kenya all-rounder Thomas Odoyo (R) is ecstatic after removing New Zealand opener Lou Vincent in their Group C World Cup match at the Beausejour in St Lucia yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET