

## Selectors quit & president follows?

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's chief cricket selector and the rest of the national selection committee have resigned following the national team's humiliating exit from the World Cup, a statement said Tuesday.

However the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) would not comment on newspaper reports that PCB chairman Naseem Ashraf had tendered his resignation to President Pervez Musharraf.

Protests erupted in several Pakistani cities after the team lost to outsiders Ireland on Saturday. Coach Bob Woolmer, who apologised for the defeat, died on Sunday in Jamaica.

A PCB statement said chief selector Wasim Bari had tendered his resignation and those of the rest of the national selection committee to the board.

The resignation notice stated "that the committee's tenure was up to the 2007 World Cup and that it shares responsibility for the team's performance in the World Cup," the statement said.

"Our team has not performed well and for this reason the entire selection committee has resigned," Bari told private AAJ television.

"I had sent the resignations two days ago to the PCB, but the chairman was touring interior Sindh (province). I spoke to him briefly," he said.

Bari told the television station he had "heard about" Ashraf's resignation -- which several newspapers here reported without giving a source -- but could not confirm it.

Captain Inzamamul Haq on Sunday announced he would retire from one-day cricket after the game against Zimbabwe on Wednesday -- a match dedicated to the coach -- before Pakistan return home.

## Pakistan eye

FROM PAGE 17  
clear second dope tests. They were finally withdrawn hours before the team's departure for the Caribbean on fitness grounds.

"The whole build-up was poor and created fears that Pakistan might not do well in the World Cup. Now heads must roll to bring Pakistan cricket back on track," said former captain and chief executive Rameez Raja.

Pakistan has time to pick up the pieces.

They do not have a major assignment until the Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa in September this year. They also host South Africa in October before welcoming Australia next year.

Younis is likely to take over as captain from Inzamam and Pakistan has depth of talent in reserves to get back on top of their game.

However, finding a new coach could prove difficult.

"Bob's greatest strength was that the atmosphere in the changing room was harmonious. The team was well rallied together and that was to his credit," said Imran.

There were reports that the PCB has contacted former New Zealand opener and ex-Indian coach John Wright to take the job after the World Cup.

## Effigies get

FROM PAGE 20  
"Obviously, there is a huge exposure in the media," he said. "They compete with each other for space, eye-balls."

"It is probably a trend which is going to be there and is probably going to get worse. It is not for me to say whether it is right or wrong."

"There are people who make these decisions on what to put on air, what to write or what sort of lines to take. We have to accept it and learn to cope with it."

India has a history of boorish fan behaviour.

Before the last World Cup, crowds attacked batsman and Jamaican police deputy commissioner.

"I understand that Mrs. Woolmer has given permission for a post-mortem and therefore that will be conducted either later today (Monday) or tomorrow at the very latest," Shields said on Sky Sports News. "After that, the results of the post-mortem will be made available to the police and then we can speak to the family and the Pakistani officials to advise them what is happening."

Woolmer, 58, was found unconscious in his hotel room in Jamaica yesterday morning and later pronounced dead. Reports have alleged Woolmer suffered from diabetes and had recently experienced breathing difficulties.

It was about 10:45 Jamaica time yesterday morning when a housekeeper let herself into the room and found Bob unconscious. A nurse was called and a doctor very soon after that and he was rushed to the University of West Indies Hospital, which is about 10 minutes away, where he was pronounced dead at around 12 noon.

Shields' understanding is that at no stage did Woolmer regain consciousness. "As far as I know, he didn't. He was unconscious and may even have been dead when he was found but that's yet to be confirmed. That'll be part of the post-mortem, to discover exactly what time he died."

Anirban Krira Chakra defeated Sylhet Mohammedan Sporting Club by 67 runs to lift the Sylhet zone title of the BCB Club Cup Challenge at the local stadium.

David said it was not fair to discuss whether Woolmer had to deal with excessive pressure in his job, lavishing praise on him as "a man of cricket".

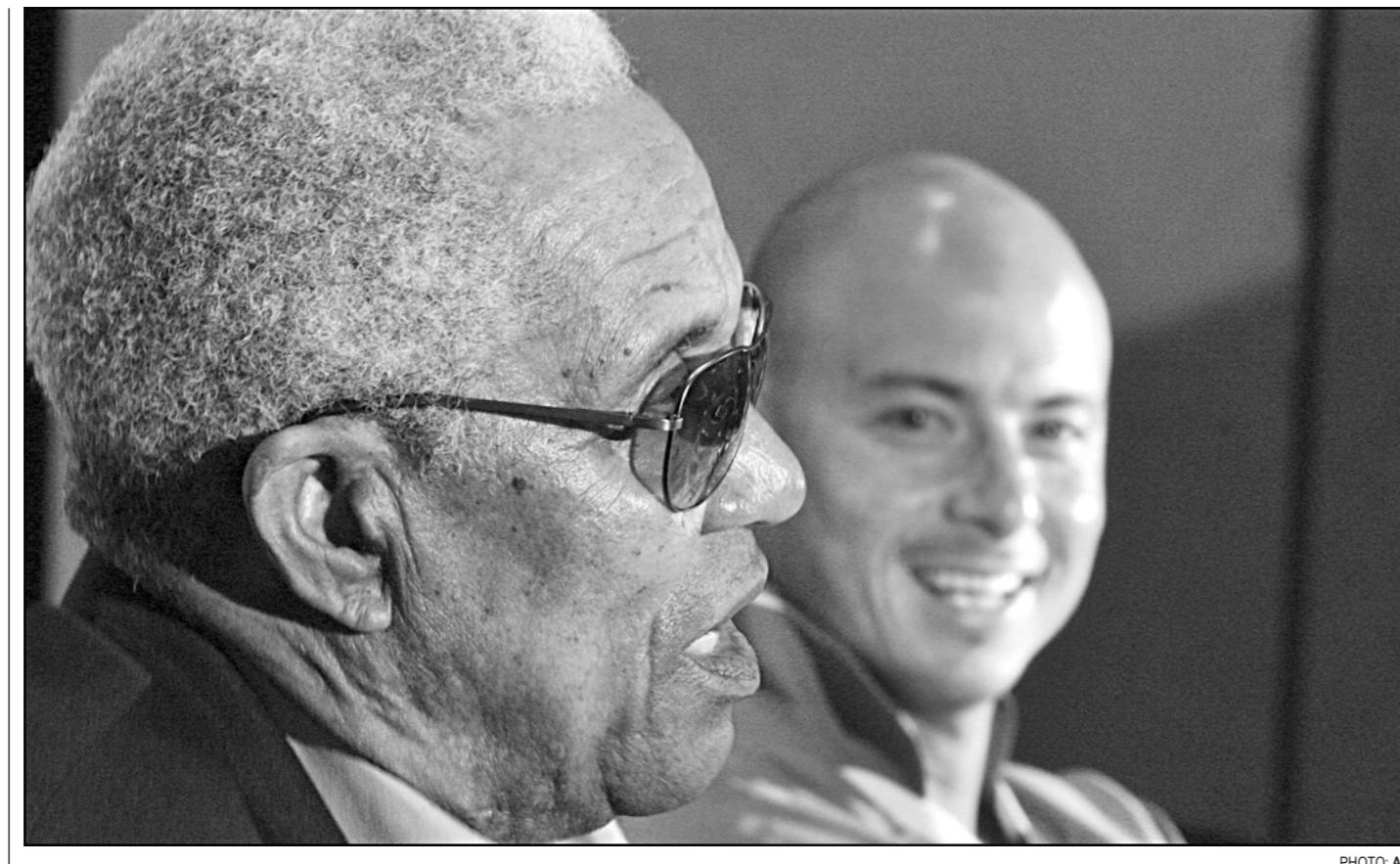


PHOTO: AFP  
IN MY DAYS... South African batsman Herschelle Gibbs (R) smiles as West Indian cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers recalls his six sixes at a ceremony in St Kitts and Nevis on Monday.

## Gibbs, Sobers recall 6 feats

AFP, Basseterre



West Indian cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers and South African Herschelle Gibbs remembered their feats of six sixes in an over during a charity function here on Monday.

Gibbs became the first man to hit six sixes in an over in one-day cricket during South Africa's Group A match against the Netherlands at Warner Park on Friday.

His historic feat cost leading drinks firm Johnnie Walker one million dollars had announced they would donate the money to charity in honour of the first player to register the landmark.

"Gibbs' feat was a wonderful achievement and more cherish is the fact that it going to help enhance charity," said Gibbs, who hit six sixes in an over in a first-class match for Nottinghamshire against

Glamorgan at Swansea in 1968. The donation will help Habitat for Humanity in Trinidad to build 70 houses for 500 homeless people, one cause Gibbs said he was happy to contribute.

"It's a huge privilege to have helped a noble cause, more so getting this honour in the presence of a man who did the feat first, a true legend of the game. I am satisfied to give smiles to people," said Gibbs, who recorded his feat against leg-spinner Dan van Bunge.

Sobers said South African players were after his records.

"(Jacques) Kallis toppled my all-round record, but as they say, the records are meant to be broken and if they are for the enhancement of charity they are more welcoming," said Sobers, a world class all-rounder.

Remembering his six sixes feat, Sobers said his was different from that of Gibbs.

"There was no pressure and we wanted some quick runs in that match. I used to follow (former West

Indian great) Lord Constantine's saying that 'if you want quick runs hit in the air where there would be no one to catch you'.

"I decided it (to hit six sixes) after the fifth ball which was a doubt but the umpire cleared it as six."

Gibbs created history in a different arena. The World Cup is a different category. What is the common thing is that Gibbs put St Kitts on the map as I did to Glamorgan and I keep reminding them that nobody knew Glamorgan before my feat."

Sobers, who held the record of highest Test innings with 365 which stayed until Brian Lara (376) broke that record in 1994, laughed off thefeat.

"Wherever I have gone since 1968 people recognised me by saying that he is the man who hit six sixes and it left me thinking that it was the only thing I have done in cricket."

"The media gives disproportionate coverage to cricket and it goes a long way in raising expectations. They praise the team sky high when it wins... sometimes things go wrong."

"The media gives disproportionate coverage to cricket and it goes a long way in raising expectations. They praise the team sky high when it wins... sometimes things go wrong."

"India's World Cup-frenzy has been fuelled by television channels and media outlets touting the team as favourites. Since their arrival in the Caribbean last month, India's every move has been tracked minute-by-minute."

"Smith is not convinced that Australia will treat veteran seamer Shaun Pollock with caution in the game in order to preserve wickets."

"Smith disagreed that South Africa, who displaced Australia from the world number one spot last month, were nervous before the clash."

"Smith was targeted by the Australians when South Africa toured in 2005-2006 and he paid a heavy price."

But he knows that victory over Ricky Ponting's two-time defending champions is crucial if South Africa are to go on and win a first World Cup title.

"The top two teams will qualify for the next round Super Eight."

## Smith easy on barrage

AFP, Basseterre



South Africa captain Graeme Smith insists he won't be rattled by the Australian verbal barrage which will surely come his way when the two bitter rivals meet on Saturday.

The winner of the World Cup Group A game at Warner Park will not only take a vital two extra points into the Super Eights but also a huge psychological edge over a fellow favourite for the title.

Smith was targeted by the Australians when South Africa toured in 2005-2006 and he paid a heavy price.

His side lost the Test series 2-0 while he managed just 155 runs in six Test innings and 166 runs in his eight one-day innings.

"The Australia game is on everyone's mind, it is the big one everyone is looking forward to," said

Smith who is adamant that he is a more relaxed player now than he was on that tour.

"I'm a lot more experienced and comfortable with things. I went through a bad patch and I think once you go through a bad patch and get out of it you don't put as much pressure on yourself."

"I am a lot more relaxed than I was in Australia."

Smith disagreed that South Africa, who displaced Australia from the world number one spot last month, were nervous before the clash.

"Smith is not convinced that Australia will treat veteran seamer Shaun Pollock with caution in the game in order to preserve wickets."

"Smith disagreed that South Africa, who displaced Australia from the world number one spot last month, were nervous before the clash."

"Smith was targeted by the Australians when South Africa toured in 2005-2006 and he paid a heavy price."

But he knows that victory over Ricky Ponting's two-time defending champions is crucial if South Africa are to go on and win a first World Cup title.

"With one or two big teams perhaps not going through (to the Super Eights), it does put more

emphasis on our last group game for us to take those points through," said the captain.

"If we do well in these next two games then yes, with some of those top teams not going through, that semifinal begins to look a lot closer."

Smith is not convinced that Australia will treat veteran seamer Shaun Pollock with caution in the game in order to preserve wickets.

"That's not really the Australian way, to defend people out," he said.

"If they are thinking that way, then maybe we have one or two positives over them. But I doubt they will look at it like that. They have a really aggressive top-order batting line-up."

Scotland and the Netherlands, who have yet to win any points in Group A, play each other on March 22.

The top two teams will qualify for the next round Super Eight.

"With one or two big teams perhaps not going through (to the Super Eights), it does put more

emphasis on our last group game for us to take those points through," said the captain.

"If we do well in these next two games then yes, with some of those top teams not going through, that semifinal begins to look a lot closer."

Smith was targeted by the Australians when South Africa toured in 2005-2006 and he paid a heavy price.

But he knows that victory over Ricky Ponting's two-time defending champions is crucial if South Africa are to go on and win a first World Cup title.

"The top two teams will qualify for the next round Super Eight."

"With one or two big teams perhaps not going through (to the Super Eights), it does put more

emphasis on our last group game for us to take those points through," said the captain.

"If we do well in these next two games then yes, with some of those top teams not going through, that semifinal begins to look a lot closer."

Smith is not convinced that Australia will treat veteran seamer Shaun Pollock with caution in the game in order to preserve wickets.

"That's not really the Australian way, to defend people out," he said.

"If they are thinking that way, then maybe we have one or two positives over them. But I doubt they will look at it like that. They have a really aggressive top-order batting line-up."

Scotland and the Netherlands, who have yet to win any points in Group A, play each other on March 22.

The top two teams will qualify for the next round Super Eight.

"With one or two big teams perhaps not going through (to the Super Eights), it does put more

emphasis on our last group game for us to take those points through," said the captain.

"If we do well in these next two games then yes, with some of those top teams not going through, that semifinal begins to look a lot closer."

Smith was targeted by the Australians when South Africa toured in 2005-2006 and he paid a heavy price.

But he knows that victory over Ricky Ponting's two-time defending champions is crucial if South Africa are to go on and win a first World Cup title.

"The top two teams will qualify for the next round Super Eight."

"With one or two big teams perhaps not going through (to the Super Eights), it does put more

emphasis on our last group game for us to take those points through," said the captain.

"If we do well in these next two games then yes, with some of those top teams not going through, that semifinal begins to look a lot closer."

Smith is not convinced that Australia will treat veteran seamer Shaun Pollock with caution in the game in order to preserve wickets.

"That's not really the Australian way, to defend people out," he said.

"If they are thinking that way, then maybe we have one or two positives over them. But I doubt they will look at it like that. They have a really aggressive top-order batting line-up."

Scotland and the Netherlands, who have yet to win any points in Group A, play each other on March 22.

The top two teams will qualify for the next round Super Eight.

"With one or two big teams perhaps not going through (to the Super Eights), it does put more

emphasis on our last group game for us to take those points through," said the captain.

"If we do well in these next two games then yes, with some of those top teams not going through, that semifinal begins to look a lot closer."

Smith was targeted by the Australians when South Africa toured in 2005-2006 and he paid a heavy price.

But he knows that victory over Ricky Ponting's two-time defending champions is crucial if South Africa are to go on and win a first World Cup title.

"The top two teams will qualify for the next round Super Eight."

"With one or two big teams perhaps not going through (to the Super Eights), it does put more

emphasis on our last group game for us to take those points through," said the captain.

"If we do well in these next two games then yes, with some of those top teams not going through, that semifinal begins to look a lot closer."

Smith is not convinced that Australia will treat veteran seamer Shaun Pollock with caution in the game in order to preserve wickets.

"That's not really the Australian way, to defend people out," he said.

"If they are thinking that way, then maybe we have one or two positives over them. But I doubt they will look at it like that. They have a really aggressive top-order batting line-up."

Scotland and the Netherlands, who have yet to