



Did U Know?

The lowest score in an innings of a Test by any team is 26 by New Zealand against England at Auckland in 1955.

What to WATCH

BTV & SET Max

ICC World Cup 2007
Australia v South Africa
Live at 7:30 pm
England v Kenya
Live at 7:30 pm
ZEE Sports
Euro 2008 Qualifiers
Lithuania v France
Live at 11:00 pm
Israel v England
Live at 12:30 am (Sunday)
Czech Republic v Germany
Live at 2:00 am (Sunday)

Nakib to hang his boots today

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib will end to an illustrious 18-year career when he will make his final appearance in a competitive football match during today's Abahani-Mohammedan match in the B. League.



IMTIAZ AHMED NAKIB

The Mohammedan skipper, who has played 13 years for the black and whites, acknowledged the club's contribution to his career while talking at a press conference yesterday.

"Mohammedan have had been a great support. They have also honoured me a lot, especially by choosing me to wear the captain's armband in the inaugural professional league," said Nakib who began with Badia Jagarani but first played in the top flight of domestic football for Mohammedan in 1989.

Nakib, a winger's dream as a specialist in air, is also dubbed best in headwork after his predecessor Sheikh Mohammed Aslam.

"It was my individual decision. The club had requested me to stay but I think it is time. I cannot hold the position for long because the

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It was someone Woolmer knew

AFP, Kingston



Pakistan's cricket coach Bob Woolmer was strangled in his hotel room and probably knew his killer, Jamaican police said

Friday, in a crime that rocked the sport's World Cup showpiece and sent shockwaves around the cricket world.

The International Cricket Council insisted the World Cup would go on after police confirmed Woolmer was murdered, amid swirling rumours of possible links to match-fixing gangs that have flourished in the game's dark underbelly.

Woolmer, 58, was found unconscious in his hotel room Sunday and declared dead in hospital, a day after Pakistan's shock defeat to minnows Ireland saw the 1992 World Cup winners crash out of this year's competition.

"It seems difficult to believe at

this stage it was a complete stranger," Jamaica's deputy police commissioner Mark Shields told BBC radio in London.

"It is imperative that we keep an open mind but I have to say at this stage it looks as if it may be somebody somehow linked to him, because clearly he let somebody into his hotel room and it may be that he knew who that person was."

He said that police were probing video recordings from the hotel's closed circuit television cameras but had yet to find anything suspicious.

Shields also "unequivocally" dismissed rumours that arrests had been made. "That's nonsense, as far as I'm concerned," he said.

Pakistan's players gave statements to police and were fingerprinted before leaving for Montego Bay, where they were to stay for two days before returning home.

Pakistan said it was rushing a senior diplomat from Washington to liaise with the police there.

Jamaican police spokesman Karl Angell told a press conference

Thursday that Woolmer had been the victim of foul play.

"The pathologist report states that Mr. Woolmer's death was due to asphyxia as a result of manual strangulation," Angell said.

Shields suggested more than one person may have been involved and said there were no signs of forced entry to Woolmer's room.

"Bob was a large man and therefore it would have taken some significant force to subdue him and cause strangulation, but we do not know at this stage how many people were in the room," he said.

There were calls for the World Cup to be called off, but ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said the game of cricket "cannot be put off by a cowardly criminal act."

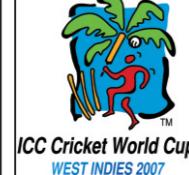
"The best way to do that is for the teams that remain in the tournament to play out a great World Cup, something that will help put the smile back on the face of our great sport," he said in a statement.

There was speculation that the

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Cup to go on

AFP, Kingston



Shock waves from the murder of Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer reverberated through international cricket Friday but organisers insisted that the World Cup must go on.

Woolmer's death by strangulation a day after his team were knocked out of cricket's showpiece has stunned the sport's leaders and has become a diplomatic incident amid rumours of involvement by match-fixing gangs.

Pakistan said it was rushing an envoy to Jamaica to liaise with police there. But the International Cricket Council (ICC) decided against halting the tournament.

"What we must all do now is to show how resolute the game is by proving ourselves strong enough to move on from what has happened," ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said in a statement.

"The best way to do that is for the teams that remain in the tournament to play out a great World Cup, something that will help put the smile back on the face of our great sport."

"By doing that we will demonstrate that cricket cannot be put off by a cowardly criminal act," he said.

"If the players and officials of all the competing teams can do that, then it would be a fitting tribute to Bob Woolmer and the contribution he has made to our sport as a fine player and an outstanding coach at all levels."

Australia backed the plan to carry on.

"With the news from the Jamaican police today, our thoughts

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at this time are very much with the Woolmer family," a spokesman for Cricket Australia said.

"This is naturally a distressing time for everyone involved in cricket. We must now allow the relevant authorities appropriate time and space to deal with their investigation into the circumstances surrounding Bob Woolmer's death."

Asked if Cricket Australia supported the decision to not abandon the tournament, he replied: "Absolutely."

Woolmer received more tributes from around the world.

"Our hearts go out to his family and we hope that the investigation can get to the bottom of his murder so the perpetrators can be punished," he added.

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PHOTO: TIGERCRICKET.COM

UNAIDS director Dr Karen Sealy (L) and UNICEF special envoy to the Caribbean Karin Sham Poo (2nd from L) decorate the AIDS awareness ribbon on captain Habibul Bashar and his deputy Shahriar Nafees at the team's hotel before the ICC Cricket World Cup field visit on Thursday.

Giants out to heal wounds



SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani will be under pressure to produce their first win in the B. League when the biggest money spenders of the season face their perennial foes Mohammedan Sporting Club today.

Millions of fans of the two heavyweights, however, will miss the opportunity to watch the game as there would be no live coverage from the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

While the sky-blues – surprisingly second-from-bottom with two points after as many matches – have failed to deliver the goods under guidance of Argentine coach Diego Cruciani and drawn both their previous matches, Mohammedan have had a decent run with a bunch of rookies under local coach Shafiqul Islam Manik.

Tigers given tight security

TIGERCRICKET.COM, undated

The news of Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer's death has continued to haunt people everywhere and the Bangladeshi players have been no exception.

"The pathologist report states that Mr. Woolmer's death was due to asphyxia as a result of manual strangulation," Angell said.

Shields suggested more than one person may have been involved and said there were no signs of forced entry to Woolmer's room.

"Bob was a large man and therefore it would have taken some significant force to subdue him and cause strangulation, but we do not know at this stage how many people were in the room," he said.

Whether it has got any relation to the tragedy or not, security, however, has been tightened and strengthened at the Hilton. There is a steady gathering of fans at the hotel lobby throughout the day but since Thursday no one except the hotel guests have been allowed to enter the open terrace overlooking the Queen's Park Savannah, previously a popular place for chatting and mingling with players.

Outsiders are also being refrained from getting into the elevators if unaccompanied by a guest.

Khulna Abahani shock Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna Abahani pulled off the biggest upset of the B. League so far when they crushed Brothers Union 4-2 yesterday in their first visit to the capital.

Brothers had an eye on regaining the lead and for the first time fielded all four foreigners but Syed Nayemuddin's side were in for a shock when they resumed after a week's rest, going behind after four minutes at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

A left-flank corner by Kabir saw Piku push the ball home with the lower part of his body after being left unmarked by the Oranges' baseline.

The home defenders were again caught napping when Mamun's through set Tajul inside the box and the port city player went past Jewel Rana to double the lead with a low drive in the 33rd minute.

Debutant Ghanaian player Enoch brought Brothers back when he scored from a scramble i8nside.

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Cricketers on AIDS mission

TIGERCRICKET.COM, undated

Cricketers have always been ambassadors for human causes. With the games' most high profile event taking place in a region that has its fair share of socio-economic problems, the cricket World Cup has provided the International Cricket Council (ICC) with an opportunity to address one of the most significant threats to the present generation, the spread of HIV/AIDS.

And who better than the cricketers of different countries, hero-worshipped across the globe, to come to your doorsteps with the message 'let's bowl out AIDS'?

The Bangladeshi team did not have training in the morning on Thursday. They don't normally practice in the morning after a match day but skipper Habibul Bashar and his deputy Shahriar

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PHOTO: AFP

Aus wait on Symonds

AFP, Basseterre



Defending champions Australia hope explosive all-rounder Andrew Symonds recovers fully from arm surgery to give them the edge in their World Cup Group A match against South Africa.

Saturday's game is the most eagerly anticipated clash in the first round pitting the two-time defending champions against the world number one with a crucial extra two points on offer for the winners going into the Super Eights.

Adding spice to the contest is the bitter rivalry between the two.

"We are approaching this as big a game, as a semi-final or a final. Symonds is ultra-important. He wouldn't be here if we didn't know how big a player he's going to be for us through this World Cup," said Australia skipper Ricky Ponting.

The 31-year-old all-rounder has progressed well after last month's

surgery and Australia were ready to wait for his return until the morning of the crucial match.

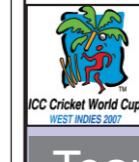
"We are hoping we can get him to 100 percent or near enough to that, and he can get out onto the field and let out all the frustration," said Ponting.

Symonds' replacement Brad

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TODAY'S MATCHES

Team	Time	Venue
Australia v South Africa	7:30 pm	St Kitts & Nevis
England v Kenya	7:30 pm	St Lucia

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