



Did U Know?

Bermuda hold the dubious distinction of being bowled out for the lowest total in the 2007 World Cup so far. They were all out for 78 in their group match against Sri Lanka at Port of Spain on March 15.

TALK TURKEY



Kapil Dev
(India's 1983 World Cup winning captain)
"It is shameful that we have to rely on Bermuda to stay in the tournament. I hope that does not happen because Bangladesh deserve to go into the second round since they had also defeated India."

After losing to Sri Lanka in the World Cup.

Martin in for Tuffey

BBC ONLINE, undated

New Zealand have been allowed to replace injured paceman Daryl Tuffey with Chris Martin for the remainder of the World Cup.

Tuffey injured his right arm in the match against Canada and was not able to continue in the tournament.

The International Cricket Council approved the replacement after a medical report confirmed a "serious injury" to Tuffey's right bicep.

Martin, 32, has played nine one-day matches for New Zealand.

His last one-day match was against Sri Lanka in January 2006.

Tuffey, 28, played just one match for the Black Caps in the Caribbean, taking 4-0 off six overs in the 114-run win over Canada in St Lucia.

New Zealand won all three of their matches in group C to book their safe passage through to the Super 8s.

Tuffey has had surgery on his right arm before and missed two years, mainly because of injury, before returning for the Chappell-Hadlee one-day series in New Zealand last month.

Team manager Lindsay Crocker said: "It's the same arm but a slightly different injury. It's in the bicep itself rather than the attachment of the bicep muscle to the shoulder."

Meanwhile, New Zealand have fitness concerns over two other players.

Fast bowler Mark Gillespie is yet to feature in this World Cup because of a shoulder problem caused by a viral infection and has until Sunday to prove his fitness.

And batsman Ross Taylor, who sustained a hamstring injury making 85 against Kenya on Tuesday, will also be given more time to prove his fitness ahead of New Zealand's opening Super 8 match against the West Indies in Antigua on Thursday.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Sonargaon Cricketers will take on Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Independence Cup cricket final at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium today.

Sonargaon romped to the final with an all-win record as they defeated Mohammedan by 52 runs and managed a 22-run victory over Victoria Sporting Club. Mohammedan confirmed their final birth with a six-wicket success against Victoria in the last match of the three-team league.

DIVI CRICKET

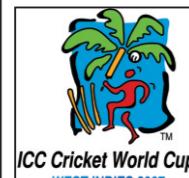
Gazi Tank finished on top of Group B in the Kai-Altech First Division Cricket League with a massive 159-run victory against Jatrabari Krira Chakra at the Dhaka University ground.

A blazing 104 by Niaz Mashed guided Gazi Tank to 306-5 in the stipulated 50 overs. Niaz smashed 18 fours and four sixes in his 75-ball essay while Sanjay contributed 89. In reply, Jatrabari were bundled

One week on, no clue

Pak players in the clear for now

AFP, undated



One week after the strangled death of Pakistan's cricket coach Bob Woolmer, Jamaican police reported no arrests or conclusive leads, and stressed that team members were not under suspicion at this time.

Investigators believe Woolmer probably knew his killer, or killers, as there was no sign of forced entry in the Kingston hotel room where the 58-year-old coach was found unconscious on Sunday before he was declared dead in hospital.

But they declared the Pakistani team in the clear, at least for the time being, and allowed them to leave the Caribbean island.

"All of the camp are very, very down," said Dalawar

Chaudhry, who is employed by the team to provide hospitality during their time in Britain.

"I have had a word with all the boys and they have lost someone very near and dear to them. A father figure has been lost... They haven't been sleeping well. It's been a very emotional time," Chaudhry said.

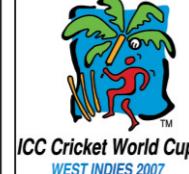
Nagging rumours of match-fixing in connection with Woolmer's death have cast a further shadow over the sport and the World Cup, which officials insisted had to go on despite the killing.

"Of course it's one of our lines of inquiry," Shields said of the speculation the criminal gangs involved in match-fixing rackets may have been involved in the killing, either because Woolmer was about to

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India realise, at last

AFP, Port of Spain



India only have themselves to blame for their World Cup problems, for they lacked courage and conviction to excel at the biggest one-day stage.

They had batting superstars in Sachin Tendulkar, skipper Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly and Virender Sehwag, but took just one match to realise that big names alone are not enough to win important matches.

What mattered was performance but India could only under-perform

in big games against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, with Dravid also conceding his side did not deserve to be in the next round.

Coach Greg Chappell's "Vision 2007" promised more, but delivered little.

It was in a shambles after his team's 69-run defeat against Sri Lanka in the must-win match here on Friday which left them needing a miracle win by Bermuda over Bangladesh on Sunday to progress.

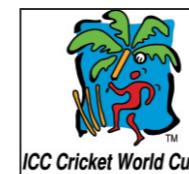
India could beat only Bermuda in the four-team group in what was their worst Cup performance since the 1979 edition in England. They were the champions in 1983, semi-finalists in 1987 and 1996, and runners-up in 2003.

India looked flat and uninspiring in the field, although the coach and

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Leaving Jamaica

REUTERS, Kingston



Pakistan's World Cup nightmare in Jamaica was finally over on Saturday evening when they left Montego Bay for home – but only after their plane had been delayed an hour.

The team left after a week of mourning, police questioning and white-hot media speculation over the murder of their coach Bob Woolmer seven days earlier following a stunning defeat by supposed no-hoppers Ireland.

For a group which had been the subject of such scrutiny for a week, they appeared relaxed and almost carefree as they quit the island for the long journey home via the Jamaican capital and then London.

Frustratingly for them, extra security checks delayed their flight for 60 minutes but the Pakistan team took the hold-up with resigned good humour as they awaited take-off.

They had been through far, far worse during the previous week.

All the players were dressed in western clothing, with the exception of batsman Mohammed Yousuf, who was impeccably dressed in a traditional beige shalwar kameez.

Spinner Danish Kaneria wore a red sports cap, blue denims, a white short-sleeved designer shirt and white training shoes while all-rounder Shahid Afridi opted for



IN OUR MEMORIES FOREVER: Members of Bengal Tiger keep a vigil commemorating Manzurul Islam, Bob Woolmer and Sajjadul Hasan Shetu in front of Raju Bhaskar (sculpture) at the TSC of the Dhaka University yesterday. They also observed a minute's silence in respect for the two Bangladeshi cricketers and the Pakistan coach.

Vandort repairs early damage

SPORTS REPORTER

Sri Lanka A recovered from early blows and consolidated their position on the first day of the second and final four-dayer against Bangladesh A at the Colombo Cricket Club ground in Colombo yesterday, thanks to a century by Michael Vandort.

Left-handed Vandort, who came in to bat at number three, made an anchoring 114 off 205 balls as the home team reached 296-5 when stumps were drawn for the day.

Right-arm seamer Mohammad Sharif hit the inroads for the Bangladeshis by removing Kanchana Gunawardene (10) after visiting skipper Tushar Imran decided to bowl first. His new ball partner Nazmul Hossain then dismissed Mahela Udawatte (19) as the hosts were reduced to 39-2.

But Test duo Vandort and Chamara Kapugedera (38) took away the early initiatives as they shared a 64-run stand for the third wicket before Kapugedera was caught by Nadir Chowdhury or Sharif.

Test cap Jehan Mubarak then frustrated the touring attack with a solid 55 during a 128-run stand with Vandort, who was out next – bowled by left-arm spinner Enamul Haque – after hitting ten fours and one six.

Mubarak was also sent back by another left-arm in similar fashion after hitting five boundaries.

Kaushal Silva (39) and veteran international all-rounder Upul Chandana (9) were at the crease.

Sharif captured two wickets while Nazmul, Mehrab and Enamul picked up one wicket each.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka A: First innings 296-5 in 90 overs (Gunawardene 10, Udawatte 19, Vandort 114, Kapugedera 38, Mubarak 55, Silva 39 n.o., Chandana 9 n.o, extras 12; Nazmul 1-45, Sharif 2-36, Enamul 1-67, Mehrab 1-21).

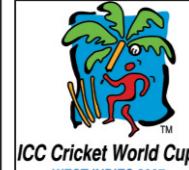


PHOTO: AFP

Just-retired Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq (L) and teammate Shahid Afridi gets off a bus in Montego Bay on Saturday.

Tigers feel at home

TANEEM AHMED

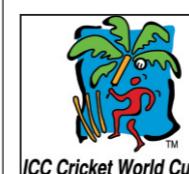


The owner of our bed and breakfast dropped us a 10-minute walk away from the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain. As we walked past the Police Training College towards the ground a police car came out of the academy and stopped suddenly beside us right under the St. James gate. The officer in the passenger seat had an 'I am a big-shot' feel to him, and his driver was a big Trini with a serious look. To our discomfort the driver waved at us to come close to the vehicle. "What is the name of that young opener of your team?" he asked with a serious tone. My wife Tahseen answered, "Tamim Iqbal". To our relief, both of them gave us a big smile with thumbs up and said, "He will be a good player."

Unfortunately, four-year-old Mezbah was missing, and we were also missing our local Trini supporter "Mr. Bunga Bunga". But as I mentioned before, the last game

'Losing Bob hurts more'

AFP, Kingston



Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq said Saturday he wanted to forget the traumatic World Cup campaign which saw coach Bob Woolmer murdered and his team knocked out in the first round.

"It's been a tournament which I and millions of Pakistan supporters would like to forget, but it won't be as easy as it looks," Inzamam told AFP by telephone from Montego Bay where the Pakistan team is staying before they leave for home later Saturday.

Pakistan lost their opening match to the West Indies by 54 runs before suffering the ignominy of a three-wicket defeat at the hands of debutants Ireland to crash out of the World Cup.

The following day, Woolmer died and his death has since become the subject of a murder investigation. The Pakistan team has been finger-printed and has had to provide DNA samples.

Inzamam, who also announced his retirement from one-day cricket and relinquished the captaincy of the national team, said the suffering had become unbearable.

"We failed to reach the second round and lost a great mentor who was also an inspirational figure in the dressing room. I feel Bob's loss much more than our elimination.

"My heart goes out to his family and I want to assure them on behalf of the team and entire nation that in this tough time we are right behind them. I will leave the Caribbean for the last time (as a player) with a very heavy heart."

Inzamam said the team was in a good frame of mind when they came to the Caribbean despite a poor build-up during which they lost key fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif due to fitness problems.

"When I landed here, I had high hopes but things changed and became so tragic that we are still struggling to cope with them. Most of the guys are still in a state of shock and when I try to talk to them, I can see their blank faces.

"They are physically with me but mentally."

Inzamam, second behind India's Sachin Tendulkar (14,847 runs from 384) on the all-time one-day run list with 11,739 runs in 378 internationals, said his team was still a good side despite their early elimination.

"I still believe my team was good enough but we just couldn't click. I am disappointed that we failed to live up to our supporters' expectations and also for Bob who gave his heart and soul throughout his three years as coach, hoping that we could fulfil his dream of winning the World Cup."

Inzamam believes Pakistan cricket can recover from the World Cup trauma.

"Pakistan cricket is strong and I don't believe it is in a crisis. In fact, I believe we will get stronger from here because we have good cricketing

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