

Sri Lanka A clinch Test series 2-0

SPORTS REPORTER

Nadif Chowdhury returned among runs but his 75 was not good enough for Bangladesh A to avoid a series whitewash against their Sri Lankan counterparts as the visitors suffered a 101-run defeat in the second and final four-day at the Colombo Cricket Club ground yesterday.

Resuming the day on 16 without loss, the second string Bangladesh side were all out for 239 in their second innings, an identical total to the first essay, while chasing 341 to win.

Bangladesh A lost the four-day Test series 2-0 as they went down heavily in the first game by 283 runs. Two sides will now be involved in a three-match one-day series with first game on March 31 at the Colts Cricket Club ground.

Needing 325 runs to square the series on the final day, opens Jahurul Islam and Mehrab Hossain made a confident start before right-arm off-break Jehan Mubarak took a return catch of Jahurul (21) to break the 60-run stand.

But it was veteran leg-spinner Upul Chandana who virtually killed the Bangladesh hopes claiming the scalps of Mehrab (20), Nazimuddin (6) and captain Tushar Imran, who made a first ball duck, in the span of five runs as the tourists were reduced to 76-4.

Mahmudullah Riyad (24) joined Nadif to repair the damage briefly before slow left-arm bowler Rangana Herath ripped open the middle order by picking up three wickets. Herath trapped Riyad leg before and also dismissed top-scorer Nadif in a similar fashion. He then clean bowled Sahagir Hossain for one.

Mohammad Sharif once again

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Did U Know?

Former Pakistan left-handed fast bowler Wasim Akram holds the distinction of playing most number of World Cup matches, 38.



Talk Turkey



Mahela Jayawardene

(Sri Lankan cricket captain)
"That 1996 side was an amazing team. They created new waves in one-day cricket. They did a brilliant job. For us, it is all about just taking one game at a time."

On comparisons with the 1996 World Cup winning team.

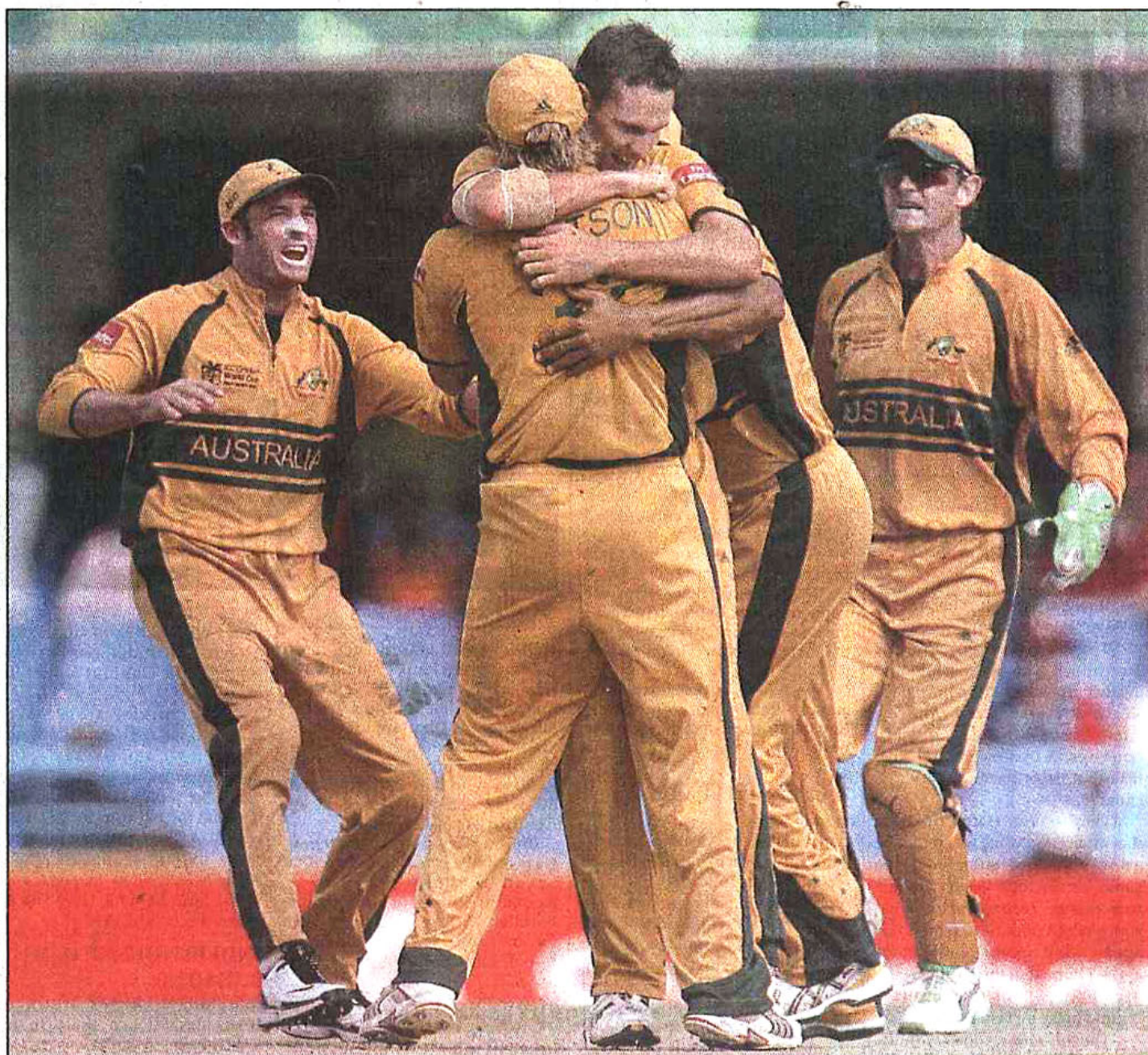


What to Watch

BTV & SET Max
ICC World Cup
West Indies v New Zealand
Live at 7:30 pm



NCL One-Day Competition
Rajshahi v Barisal
Venue: BKSP
Dhaka v Sylhet
Venue: Fathullah Cricket Stadium
Chittagong v Khulna
Venue: Dharmendi Cricket Stadium



Australia speedster Shaun Tait (C) is hugged by teammate Shane Watson after taking the wicket of the West Indies opener Shivnarine Chanderpaul during the World Cup Super Eight match at the Sir Vivian Richards stadium in St. John's on Wednesday.

Not coming now boss!

REUTERS, Georgetown



Never mind the form and confidence of his players going in to the Cricket World Cup second stage this week, the Irish manager's big concern was that all his men could get time off from their day jobs to compete.

Ireland, playing their first World Cup, shocked the cricket world when they defeated 1992 winners Pakistan with a three-wicket victory in Jamaica in the group stage on March 17. That win as good as

sealed their passage to the last eight.

Whereas the other seven teams in the Super Eights are 100 per cent professional, Ireland's team boast a farmer, a teacher, delivery drivers, a salesman and more.

"Once we had it confirmed we were through I had to ring home to speak to all the players' employers and confirm that they could give the players another month off," manager Roy Torrens told Reuters at the team's hotel in Georgetown.

"I wouldn't have liked to own the business that said 'no'. Given the euphoria in the country at the moment regarding the cricket team and the profile that the players are getting, I would have been

very surprised if any had refused.

"We were fortunate that quite a few of the players' employers were actually out in Jamaica supporting the team and it wasn't a difficult question to ask. But you have to do these things and go through the proper channels."

Three of Ireland's players are professional with Eoin Morgan at Middlesex, Niall O'Brien -- man-of-the-match against Pakistan -- contracted to Northamptonshire and fast bowler Boyd Rankin is to play at Derbyshire this year.

The counties were more than happy to accept Ireland's request, Torrens said, because they were happier for them to be playing

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

From India with love

INTERNET, Vadodara

Rajen Thakkar, an interior designer of Indian city Vadodara who is an avid cricket lover, had made a wooden replica of the Cricket World Cup for gifting the Indian cricket team. But with the Men in Blue not even making it to the Super Eight, he is now sending it to Dhaka, to await the Bangladesh team's return home.

The 33-year-old says this was not only his way of expressing anger with Team India's miserable run at the World Cup but also to commend Bangladesh's historic surge in this World Cup.

The Indian team's meek submission is a shame for the nation. We were proud of Team India and we told ourselves that they would at least reach the semifinals. I especially made this replica to boost their morale. This inglorious exit has made us decide that we will cheer every run scored by

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

2nd autopsy ordered on Woolmer's body

ICC, ex-players doubt murder

AGENCIES, undated



A second autopsy will be performed on the body of Pakistan cricket coach Bob Woolmer to ward off any speculation that the initial examination may have been bungled, British media reported Wednesday.

Deputy police commissioner Mark Shields was quoted by British newspapers as saying that a fresh post-mortem had been ordered to counter possible claims from defence lawyers in the event of an arrest.

"If we arrest someone and charge them, the defence counsel will want a second post-mortem," Shields told the Times.

Jamaica police could not immediately be contacted to confirm the reports and it was not clear when the second autopsy would take place. A news conference was scheduled for later Wednesday.

Woolmer's naked body was found in his room at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston on March 18, one day after Pakistan were dumped out of the World Cup by minnows Ireland.

Kingston pathologist Ere Seshiah later ruled that Woolmer was killed by "manual strangulation," sparking a murder hunt that has rocked the cricket world and led to speculation about match-fixing in the sport.

However a whispering campaign has gathered pace suggesting that the initial post-mortem was flawed, and that Woolmer may have broken a bone in his neck by falling heavily against a bathroom sink instead of being throttled.

Allegations have been levelled by former Test players and International Cricket Council officials that Woolmer died of natural causes.

Asked to comment on the speculation on Monday, Shields said he was confident that Woolmer was murdered, citing evidence from the crime scene not yet disclosed to the public which supported the initial findings.

"There is very clear evidence of murder," Shields told reporters.

Police on Tuesday issued a fresh appeal for information about Woolmer's killing, setting up a 24-hour international hotline as they try to track down every guest and visitor at the Pegasus in the 72 hours before Woolmer's death.

The appeal came amid speculation that the investigative trail into Woolmer's killing has gone cold, and the crime may take months to solve.

Shields said Tuesday that all lines of enquiry remained open, and dismissed claims from Pakistan's team spokesman Pervez Mir that the shell-shocked squad had been eliminated from the murder investigation.

"That's a pretty inaccurate statement, because nobody at this stage can be ruled out of the inquiry," said Shields, who last

week said Woolmer was probably murdered by someone he knew.

The returning Pakistan players said they had been told not to talk about the Woolmer murder investigation.

"The police did ask us a few questions but these were normal inquiries. We have been asked by the PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board) not to speak much on the issue," Afridi told waiting media. He added: "Just pray for us."

Akmal refused to talk specifically about Woolmer's murder but said: "We all loved Bob. He was like a father to all of us."

Meanwhile, PCB officials also suspect that the death of Woolmer was due to natural causes and that the Jamaican police acted hastily by declaring it a murder.

A senior official of the board, who asked not to be identified, said they had received information that there could have been mistakes in the first autopsy on Woolmer's body.

"We believe that the autopsy by the pathologist may have had error counts and they (police) are now considering having a second autopsy to confirm the cause of death," the official told Reuters.

"The feedback we have got is there are some contradictions in the version of events after Woolmer's body was found unconscious. But we will get a clearer picture after our manager briefs the board on what took place there," he said.

Woolmer, 58, was found uncon-

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Go to hell, say fans

AFP, Karachi



Angry fans told Pakistani cricketers to "go to hell" as they returned home Wednesday, still reeling from the murder of coach Bob Woolmer and their humiliating World Cup exit.

Dashing all-rounder Shahid Afridi, spinner Danish Kaneria, wicket keeper Kamran Akmal and paceman Mohammad Sami were heckled by a crowd of around 100 people after they touched down at Karachi international airport.

"Why have you come back?" one fan shouted as the players were protected by dozens of uniformed police, while another supporter bellowed "Go to hell" at Afridi, an AFP reporter said.

When Kaneria tried to leave the arrivals lounge the crowd shouted

"Shame on you" and he went back inside, before asking for police protection to help him leave, witnesses said.

Speaking briefly to the media before being driven away, Afridi said that all the Pakistani players were feeling "disturbed" after the events of the past two weeks.

Pakistan were dumped out of the World Cup by minnows Ireland on March 18. A day later Woolmer's strangled body was found in his room on the 12th floor of the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston.

Asked about the inquiry into the

murder of Woolmer, Afridi said: "The police did ask us a few questions but these were normal inquiries. We have been asked by the PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board) not to speak much on the issue."

He added: "Just pray for us."

Akmal, who was going to take a connecting flight to Lahore, refused to talk specifically about Woolmer's murder but paid tribute to him.

"I don't want to say much on this issue but we all loved Bob. He was a nice coach and a nice person."

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

Arambagh's second win



SPORTS REPORTER

Second half goals by striking pair Nico Dimas and Mujibur Rahman Ritu inspired Arambagh to their second successive win in the B. League when they blanked Dhaka rivals Farashganj 2-0 yesterday.

Arambagh, who recorded their first victory in the previous round against touring Chittagong Abahani with a brace from Kenyan debutant Dimas, had to wait for exactly an hour to go ahead at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Dimas showed exquisite control with the ball when he picked up a long pass from Ugandan midfielder Dominic and dodged past two rival defenders before breaking the deadlock with a low drive inside from the box for his third league goal after.

Ritu sealed the victory 16 minutes later when the substitute finished a counter attack with a tremendous grounder just inside from the area.

Arambagh maintained third place with seven points from four games while Farashganj, who have played a game less, remained on four points at the end of the fourth

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Russel	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
Muktijoddha	4	2	1	1	5	2	7
Arambagh	4	2	1	1	4	1	7
Khulna AKC	4	2	0	2	6	5	6
Abahani	3	1	2	0	1	0	5
Brothers	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Farashganj	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Citg MSC	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
MSC	4	1	1	2	2	3	4
Citg Abahani	4	1	0	3	2	8	3
Rahmatganj	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

SCORERS

Hattrick: Alfaz (Muktijoddha) v Rahmatganj
3 goals: Younes (Russel), Alfaz (Mukti), Dimas (Arambagh)
2 goals: Junior (BU), Yusuf (Citg MSC), Prashanta (Khulna Abahani), Enock (Brothers)
1 goal: Manju (BU), Mamun, Pikul, Tajul, Ashikul (Khulna Abahani), Bulbul (Russel), Zahid, Nakib (Mohammedan), Dhiman, Khokon (Citg Abahani), Idnis (Farashganj), Moni, Arman Aziz (Mukti), Nayan, Ighir, Amin Rana, Pappu (Russel), Joy (Abahani), Hanif (RMFS), Ritu (Arambagh)

Antigua charms Tigers

TIGERCRIKET.COM, St John's



It is a totally different kind of atmosphere that the Bangladesh team are set to experience as they count the

days to their first encounter of the World Cup Super Eight stage, against Australia, on Saturday.

In Trinidad the Tigers virtually lived under the glare of admiration and warmth and in close proximity with the fans. The Hilton's lobby in Port of Spain was an unofficial fan

zone and the Bangladesh players were greeted, applauded and encouraged not only by their fellow countrymen but also by supporters of other nations and the neutral cricket lovers. Whether it was at the Queen's Park Oval or the hotel, the fans were always there. Here in Antigua, it is a bit different.

Trinidad is the commercial hub of the Caribbean and the team's hotel was very close to Port of Spain's business district and most happening places. Antigua, on the other hand, is a tourist paradise with astonishing natural beauty. The team's address here is the Rex Halcyon Cove, a resort on Dickenson Bay. Only the sandy

beach separates the Halcyon Cove from the clear green waters of the sea. It is also a little far from the centre of St. John's although people one meets here will tell that no place is too far in Antigua!

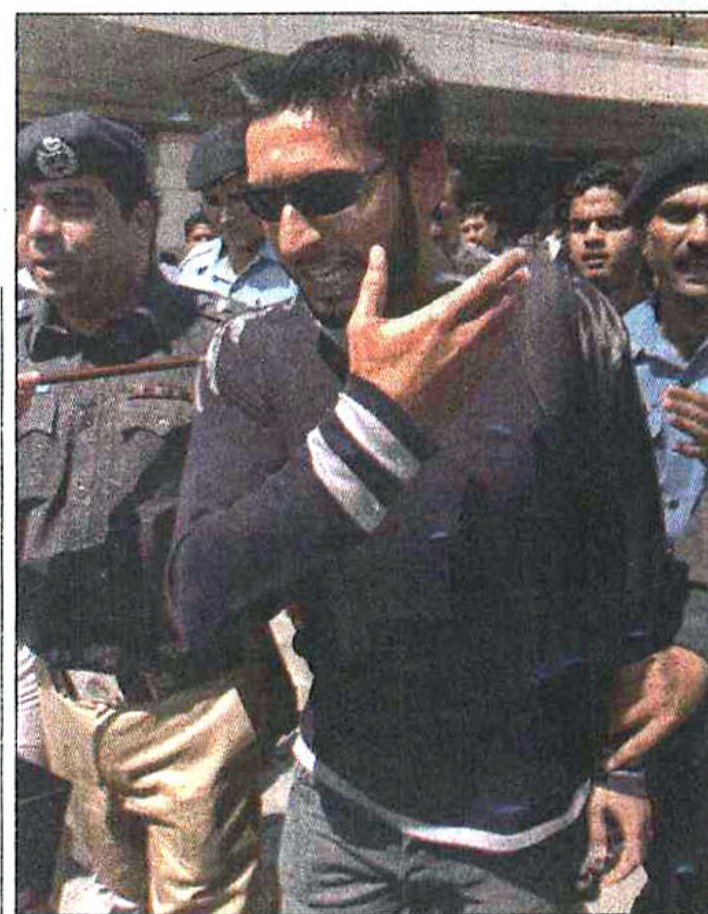
The resort's boarders are mainly holidaymakers preferring the peace and serenity but for the cricket team, it can get a touch too tedious. And also the chance of finding the 'Bangla Army' in all its glory following the team to the hotel here is highly unlikely.

"This is a very laidback place compared to Trinidad. It is absolutely beautiful but there is not much you can do other than enjoy

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar (L) enjoys the view with computer analyst Nasir Ahmed near the beach in front of Halcyon Cove in St. John's on Tuesday.



Pakistan player Shahid Afridi is being escorted by local police as he gestures after angry reactions from the crowd upon arrival at the Karachi airport on Wednesday.

AccessTEL
THE BROADBAND COMPANY
www.accesstel.net

TODAY'S MATCH

Team	Time	Venue
West Indies v New Zealand	7:30 pm	Antigua