

Pakistan not cleared yet

AFP Kingston



Detectives investigating the murder of cricket coach Bob Woolmer on Tuesday denied claims that Pakistan's squad had been ruled out of the inquiry as potential suspects.

Deputy Police Commissioner Mark Shields said comments made by Pakistan spokesman Pervaiz Mir that detectives had cleared team members of any involvement in Woolmer's death were "inaccurate."

Speaking before Pakistan's players flew home after a stop-over in London on Tuesday, Mir told reporters that Jamaican police had confirmed the Pakistan team were "not suspects" in Woolmer's murder.

But Shields dismissed Mir's claims in an interview with the BBC later Tuesday. "That's a pretty inaccurate statement, because nobody at this stage can be ruled out of the inquiry," Shields said.

Woolmer's strangled body was found in his room on the 12th floor of the Jamaican Pegasus Hotel in Kingston on March 18.

The 58-year-old former England

international was later declared to have been murdered in "evil and extraordinary" circumstances, probably by someone he knew, detectives said.

But police have so far failed to reveal any significant breakthroughs as they hunt for Woolmer's killer or killers, and on Tuesday made an international appeal for witnesses to come forward.

Detectives were trying to track down anyone who stayed or visited at the hotel in the days leading up to Woolmer's death, Shields said.

"What I need to do is to identify everybody in the hotel from Friday through to Sunday when Bob's body was found, in an effort to establish everybody's movements during that period of time," he told me.

"Not just as suspects but as potential witnesses -- people who may have heard something, seen something within the hotel that raised their suspicions, so that so far they haven't come forward with.

Shields urged any cricket fans or tourists who had since returned to their home countries to dial the international hotline (+1-876-927-5000) or contact their local police.

The new appeal comes amid speculation that they investigative trail into Woolmer's killing has gone cold, and may take months or

even years to resolve.

However Shields said he was not concerned by the pace of the investigation and said he would not seek to speed up processing of key forensic tests or analysis of security camera footage.

He said it was unclear when toxicology tests carried out on Woolmer's body, which have been ongoing for over a week, would be completed.

"I spoke to the leader of the forensic laboratory this morning," Shields said. "She assured me she will work as quickly as they can. I asked her how long will it take and she answered 'When it's ready.'

"I have to respect their professionalism and wait until they tell me when they have the results."

Woolmer's death in the aftermath of Pakistan's sensational defeat and World Cup exit at the hands of Ireland has sent shockwaves around the cricket world.

The murder has triggered frenzied conspiracy theories about match-fixing with several former players speculating Woolmer had been killed to prevent him from speaking out.

Friends and family of the coach have expressed scepticism over the theories however, saying Woolmer had not mentioned anything to

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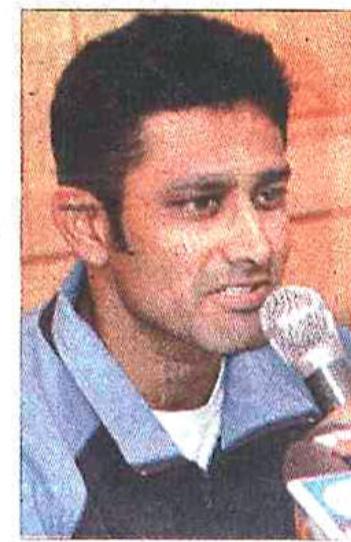
PHOTO: AFP

Dancers perform during the World Cup Super Eights match between Australia and West Indies at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in St John's on Tuesday.

Kumble has had enough of ODIs

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi



ANIL KUMBLE
achieve the feat after Englishman Jim Laker.

Kumble will return home with the rest of the World Cup squad on Thursday.

India's next international assignment is a three-week tour of Bangladesh in May comprising two Tests and three one-day internationals.

ODI PROFILE
BATTING
Mat Inns NO Runs HS Ave Ct
271 135 47 938 26 10.53 85
BOWLING
M Balls Runs Wkt BB Ave Econ Swkts
27114496 10412 3376/12 30.89 4.20 2
FIRST ODI: v Sri Lanka at Sharjah Apr 25, 1990
LAST ODI: v Bermuda Port of Spain Mar 19, 2007

BCCI cautious about report

BIPIN DANI, from Mumbai

It is a classic case of being third time cautious. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has ensured this time that manager Sanjay Jagdale's confidential report is not leaked.

Previously the BCCI has been subjected to a lot of criticism owing to the fact that the confidential reports, e-mail, and SMS prepared by Team India coach Greg Chappell and the team manager (Chetan Desai) were leaked to the media. While Greg Chappell's e-mail resulted in Saurav Ganguly losing his captaincy and place in the Indian team, Desai's confidential report resulted in war of words with skipper Rahul Dravid.

Speaking to this scribe over his mobile from Rajkot, the BCCI honorary secretary Niranjan Shah said, "the reports will not be leaked this time. We have instructed them (Chappell and Jagdale) to bring hand-written reports at the BCCI meeting to be held in Mumbai on 6th April". It has been learnt that the trio- Dravid, Chappell and Jagdale- have been summoned at 10 in the morning before the Working Committee members meet in the noon.

The BCCI may seek opinion of former cricketers whether to have a three-member selection panel as against current five. It is however also speculated that the meeting called is just to quell the media and public anger and no wholesale changes may be made in Team India.

Guyana to prove them wrong

AFP, Georgetown



Guyana will put on a World Cup to remember despite a catalogue of problems with the brand new Providence Stadium here, the local organising committee chief executive Karan Singh said Tuesday.

"We will show the negative people that we will have top class cricket here," said Singh on the eve of the first-ever match at the newly built ground between South Africa and Sri Lanka in the Super Eights on Wednesday.

Singh refuted suggestions that there will be potential chaos because the stadium was still not ready despite years of planning at the only World Cup ground on the South America mainland.

"There is absolutely no truth in those statements. They are destroying the morale of the Guyanese people. Their negative agenda is not consistent with the celebration of cricket in Guyana," Singh told the Guyana Chronicle.

"If there was anything wrong, I would be the one they would tell. Everyone involved is preparing for the first ball to be bowled."

Monday's heavy rain left the ground soggy but workers were busy trying to get the facilities ready for practice on Tuesday.

'A top innings'

AFP, St John's



Australia coach John Buchanan said Matthew Hayden had played one of the "top innings" of his career after the opener's 158 left the reigning champions handily placed in their opening World Cup Super Eight clash against the West Indies.

Hayden -- who was dropped from the one-day team after the 2005 tour of England for the best

topped fellow Queenslander Andrew Symonds 143 not out against Pakistan four years ago in Johannesburg, was the cornerstone of his side's 332 for six in the first major match staged at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

But rain, which had fallen steadily during the Australia innings, meant hosts West Indies were unable to start their reply and they will now have 50 overs on Wednesday's reserve day to chase the 323 they need for victory.

Hayden -- who was dropped from the one-day team after the 2005 tour of England for the best

part of a year -- needed 18 balls to get off the mark in overcast conditions before smashing the bowlers in a 143 ball-innings featuring four sixes and 14 fours.

The 35-year-old left-hander was carrying on from his century in Australia's previous match, an 83-run win against world number one South Africa in St Kitts on Saturday. But this innings was played on a far larger outfield and on a livelier pitch.

"I think it was one of his top innings, not necessarily because of the scoreline, although that's a pretty significant score in one-day cricket but because of the adjustment he made coming from St Kitts," said Buchanan.

"It was a wicket significantly different, a ground significantly different, and a bowling attack significantly different."

"We were looking for a platform from him and he gave us exactly that. I rate that very highly amongst the innings I've seen."

Assessing the match situation Buchanan, whose team are bidding for a hat-trick of titles after their 1999 and 2003 World Cup triumphs and who have won all three of their previous fixtures at this tournament, said: "I think we've got our noses in front. It's always nice to have that score on the board. But it is a two-day one-day game and we've got a lot of work to do to tomorrow to defend that total."

Defending seemingly improbable totals has proved a problem for Australia in one-day cricket during recent times.

The four highest scores to win batting second in one-day interna

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AUSTRALIA V WEST INDIES SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Australia innings against the World Cup Super Eights match against West Indies at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium at North Sound in Antigua on Tuesday:

AUSTRALIA

	R	M	B	4s	6s
Adam Gilchrist c Denesh Ramdin b Daren Powell	7	21	9	0	0
Matthew Hayden c Marlon Samuels b Dwayne Bravo	158	216	143	14	4
Ricky Ponting run out (Rammal Sarwan)	35	46	36	4	1
Michael Clarke lbw b Dwayne Bravo	41	71	47	4	0
Andrew Symonds c Denesh Ramdin b Marlon Samuels	13	22	18	1	0
Mike Hussey b Daren Powell	9	20	18	1	0
Shane Watson not out	33	45	26	3	1
Brad Hogg not out	5	13	6	0	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-9, w-8, nb-3)	21				
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs)	322				
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-76, 3-174, 4-208, 5-234, 6-297					
Did not bat: Nathan Bracken, Shaun Tait, Glenn McGrath					

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Brazil scrape past Ghana

AFP, Stockholm



Cricket banking on Shields

AFP, Kingston



The man entrusted with unravelling the Bob Woolmer murder mystery is a British detective used to battling Eastern European gangsters and who once helped foil a plot to kidnap Victoria Beckham.

Mark Shields, 47, first arrived in the Caribbean in the early 2000s as part of an independent team sent to investigate allegations of a shoot-to-kill policy in the Jamaican police force.

The 6ft 6in (1.98 metre) Scotland Yard detective made such an impression he was subsequently hired by the Jamaican government as a deputy police commissioner with a brief to help counter violent crime and 'Yardie' gangs.

Shields is now heading the investigation into the murder of Pakistani cricket coach Woolmer, who was found strangled in his room at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on March 18.

"I enjoy it because 99.999 per cent of the people are warm, friendly and congratulatory in terms of what we're doing. I get an immense amount of encouragement from that, because it is a challenging job."

Shields joined his local police force in southeast England as a 17-year-old and rapidly rose through the ranks.

By the age of 28 he was the head of the Special Branch in London's financial district, placed in charge of installing the "Ring of Steel" surveillance network designed to protect the British capital's centre of finance.

From there he was transferred to the National Criminal Intelligence Service, working in Germany to monitor Eastern European crime gangs and Swiss financial institutions used by money-launderers.

"I ran sources of intelligence that gave us lots of good intelligence about Russian organised crime, money laundering, all sorts of things, running heroin through Eastern Europe and into the UK," Shields later said.

"I went into some of the deepest, darkest places in Eastern Europe to visit people in prisons who'd been arrested."

When he returned from his stint in Germany, Shields worked as a divisional commander in the English seaside town of Clacton before transferring to Scotland Yard as a detective superintendent.

In 2002 he helped foil a plot to kidnap the wife of England football star David Beckham before heading to Jamaica shortly afterwards.

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Ghana's Laryea Kingston (C) is under pressure from Brazil's Daniel Alves (L) and Mineiro during their friendly match in Solna, Sweden on Tuesday. Brazil won the game with 1-0.