



Did U Know?

Alec Bedser, the former England fast bowler, is the only bowler to dismiss Sir Donald Bradman for a duck on more than one occasion.



Brian Lara

(West Indies cricket captain)
"For me over my 15 or 16 years of playing international cricket, Tests and one-day internationals, Wasim Akram is definitely the most outstanding bowler I've ever faced."



BTV & SET Max

ICC World Cup 2007
(Super Eights)
Australia v Bangladesh
Live at 7:30 pm

ESPN

English Premier Football League
Liverpool v Arsenal
Live at 5:40 pm
Man United v Blackburn Rovers
Live at 7:55 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League
West Ham v Middlesbrough
Live at 7:55 pm
Watford v Chelsea
Live at 9:10 pm
Primera Liga
Barcelona v Deportivo
Live at 2:00 am (Sunday)



B.League
Muktijoddha v Ctg Abahani (4:45 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
National Cricket League
(One-Day)
Rajshahi v Sylhet
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
Dhaka v Chittagong
Venue: BKSP
Barisal v Khulna
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

McGrath issues warning

AFP, St John's



World Cup title.

The reigning champions, winners in 1999 and 2003, as well as 1987, have won their last 22 World Cup matches and fast bowler McGrath cannot see a reason for that run to end out in Caribbean.

"I don't say anything I don't believe," said McGrath who is renowned for making predictions regarding series and tournament outcomes.

"If we go and play the way we have I can't really see any team getting close to us. In any Australian sport it seems that attitude is carried right across the board."

Before Australia's 2005 tour of England, McGrath predicted they would retain the Ashes 5-0. In the end they surrendered them 2-1.

But having seen Australia thrash hosts West Indies by 103 runs here on Wednesday, McGrath was in no mood to tone down his comments regarding Australia's prospects.

"We've been so successful over such a long time, we know how to win, what we've to do," said the veteran pacer.

"When you walk on the field you just have to look around you, the guys that are walking with you. There are some amazing players, some of the greats of all time. It does give you a lot of confidence."

McGrath, the most successful fast bowler in the history of Test cricket with 563 wickets, retired from the five-day game after Australia's 5-0 Ashes thrashing of England earlier this year.

This tournament represents McGrath's farewell to top-class cricket. But before he bows out there is every chance the 37-year-old New South Wales bowler will rewrite the record books yet again.

McGrath heads into Saturday's Super Eights game against Bangladesh here at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium just one wicket away from equalling Pakistan great Wasim Akram's record of 55 World Cup wickets.

If he does tie left-arm pace legend Akram, he will have reached the milestone in five fewer World Cup matches (33 compared to Akram's 38).

"Guys like Akram are sort of heroes of mine," McGrath said. "He is known as one of the best bowlers of all time."

"To finally go past him, if I get a couple of more wickets, that would be something special."

"It's nice to get little milestones along the way but they are not the be-all and end-all."

Despite his form -- he took three

for 31 against the West Indies -- McGrath said he'd no regrets about his decision to retire and so spend more time with his wife Jane, who has suffered several bouts of cancer, and their children.

"If it was just about playing, I think I could continue all the time," he added.

"It's everything else that goes with it. The travel, the training, you name it, the time away from Jane and the kids."

"So I've been lucky enough to have 14 years at the top level so it's my turn to move on."

Not many will give Bangladesh, who caused one of this World Cup's biggest upsets by beating India, much of a chance at the weekend.

Then again even fewer people fancied their prospects two years ago when -- against an Australia side rated 1-500 to win -- inspired by a hundred from Mohammad Ashraful they beat the world champions by five wickets in Cardiff.

The most stunning victory in one-day international cricket history saw McGrath's 10 wicketless overs cost 43 runs.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (probable): Adam Gilchrist (wk), Matthew Hayden, Ricky Ponting (capt), Michael

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



PHOTO: AFP

IRELAND 1, JOYCE 0: Lanky Ireland seamer Boyd Rankin (L) is ecstatic after taking the wicket of England opener Ed Joyce who left a straight one during their World Cup Super Eights match at Guyana National Stadium in Georgetown on Friday.

BD A play first one-day today

SPORTS REPORTER

Smarting from heavy defeats in the Test (four-day) series, Bangladesh A play their first one-day match against Sri Lanka A at the Colts Cricket Club ground in Colombo today.

Tushar Imran's men have to try hard to restore the pride in the three-match series as they lost both the unofficial Tests to the home team by huge margins.

The second and third games are scheduled for April 2 and 4 respectively at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo.

PCB wants fast trial

AFP, Islamabad

The Pakistan Cricket Board Thursday called on Jamaican authorities to complete the probe into the murder of coach Bob Woolmer as quickly as possible following reports that it may take months to resolve the mystery.

"The PCB is perturbed to know that the ongoing investigations regarding Bob Woolmer's death in Jamaica will take several months as stated by the Jamaican authorities," the board's chairman Nasim Ashraf said.

Woolmer was found strangled in his room at the Pegasus Hotel on March 18, one day after Pakistan were dramatically dumped out of the World Cup in a shock defeat to minnows Ireland.

The killing has sparked one of the most complex murder investigations in Jamaican history and has triggered speculation about possible links to match-fixing and illegal betting in cricket.

Around 50 officers are now attempting to track down hundreds of potential witnesses who

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

'Time up for Tendulkar'

AFP, New Delhi



Former Australian captain Ian Chappell on Friday suggested what millions of Indians had been dread-

ing to hear -- the great Sachin Tendulkar should hang up his boots.

Chappell, whose younger brother Greg could be sacked as India's coach next week following the team's first round exit from the World Cup, said Tendulkar was past his prime and must retire.

"At the moment he looks like a player trying to eke out a career; build on a glittering array of statistics," the senior Chappell wrote in the Mumbai-based Mid-Day newspaper.

"If he really is playing for that reason and not to help win as many matches as he can for India then he is wasting his time and should retire immediately."

Tendulkar, one-day cricket's most successful batsman, managed only 64 runs in three World Cup matches, falling for seven against Bangladesh and clean bowled for zero against Sri Lanka.

India's stunning loss to Bangladesh and the subsequent defeat to Sri Lanka saw the 1983 champions and 2003 finalists crash out of the tournament in their worst World Cup performance since 1979.

India's cricket chiefs will meet in Mumbai on April 6 and 7 to discuss the World Cup debacle and decide if coach Greg Chappell's two-year tenure is to be extended.

Ian Chappell said Tendulkar, who turns 34 next month, must decide soon if he wanted to continue or end

a brilliant 18-year career that has seen him score a record 35 Test and 41 one-day centuries.

He compared the Indian to another ageing veteran, 37-year-old West Indian captain Brian Lara, who is Test cricket's leading batsman with 11,953 runs from 131 matches.

"When you think that for a decade Lara and Tendulkar went head to head in a wonderful battle of stroke play to establish who was the best batsman in the world, they are now worlds apart in effectiveness," Chappell wrote.

"The amazing thing about Lara's brilliant career is the fact that he hasn't changed his style at all over 17 years."

"This is a credit to his technique

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Kumble makes it official



AFP, Bangalore

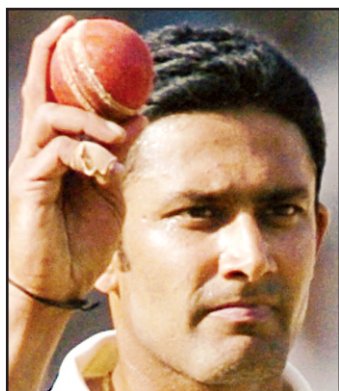
India's most successful bowler, Anil Kumble, officially announced his retirement from one-day cricket on Friday, but said he will remain available for Test matches.

"It's been a long, 17-year journey at the international level," Kumble told reporters here. "I may be over with one-dayers but I am definitely going to play Test cricket."

The 36-year-old leg-spinner had said in February that the World Cup would be his last one-day assignment and informed team-mates of his decision soon after India's campaign ended in the tournament. The Indians, who were knocked

out in the first round after losing to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in group B of the preliminary league,

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



ANIL KUMBLE

A much-needed closure

AFP, Cape Town

Murdered Pakistan cricket coach Bob Woolmer is to be bid a final farewell at a public memorial service in Cape Town next Wednesday, organisers said.

The event is to be held at the Wynberg Boy's high school, with speakers to include former South African cricketer Allan Donald, and Tim Noakes of the Sport Science Institute of South Africa with whom Woolmer co-authored a book on the art and science of cricket.

"The service will be led by Reverend Jerome Francis who was coached by Bob from the age of 11," said a statement issued on behalf of Woolmer's family.

There will be a separate designated area for close friends of the Woolmer family who live in the Cape Town area.

Woolmer, also a former coach of South Africa, was found strangled

SEE PAGE 18 COL 7

Hayden struts back

CRICINFO, undated



WEST INDIES 2007

WEST INDIES 2007

When Matthew Hayden was dropped from Australia's one-day side after the 2005 Ashes tour, it seemed the end of the road had been reached for a batsman who, for a short but blistering period in the early 2000s,

was the most powerful player in the game. Many have presented better techniques or shown greater deftness of touches, but none had carried themselves quite like Hayden, a prize-fighter who wielded his bat much as Muhammad Ali used to wield a right fist.

At the end of that series Hayden had been found out. He was a bully, albeit a mighty effective one. His successes and failures against, in particular, Matthew Hoggard became the stuff of playground

legend. The weakling who had once been swung over midwicket for fun was now weaving and bending and ducking between the legs, and showing up a mighty player for the lumpen and ponderous individual he had become. When, at The Oval, in the dying hours of that Ashes contest, Hayden scored an agonisingly slow and determined Test century, it seemed to be the last twitch of a fallen Goliath.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

THE BROADBAND COMPANY
www.accesstel.net

TODAY'S MATCH

Team	Time	Venue
Australia v Bangladesh	7:30 pm	Antigua

Ad

Ad

Ad