



STILL NOT ENOUGH: Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal (L) makes an unsuccessful attempt to reach the crease as New Zealand wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum whips off the bails to complete a stumping during their Super Eights match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in St John's on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP



## Did U Know?

The first ball in the World Cup history was bowled by India's Madan Lal to England's Denis Amis at Lord's on June 7, 1975.



### Danish Kaneria

(Pakistan leg-spinner)  
"He is a fantastic timer of the ball. He sees the ball from my hand and reads it so well which is the sign of a great player. I wanted to trap him but he was thinking ahead of me."

On West Indies superstar Brian Lara.

## What to WATCH

### BTV & SET Max

ICC World Cup 2007  
(Super Eights)  
Ireland v South Africa

Live at 7:30 pm

### TEN Sports

UEFA Champions League  
PSV Eindhoven v Liverpool

Live at 12:00 am (Wednesday)



B.League  
Arambagh v Brothers Union (4:45 pm)

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

## Basics-man moves atop

AFP, St John's



Bowl straight and move the ball away late from the batsman have been instructions handed down by generations of cricket coaches to pace bowlers.

But few have followed them quite so thoroughly as Australia's Glenn McGrath who on Saturday beat Wasim Akram's record of 55 World Cup wickets.

"Wasim Akram was one of the best bowlers of all time so to go past him is something pretty special," said McGrath who took his career tournament record to 57 wickets with figures of 3-16 in the 10-wicket win over Bangladesh.

The New South Welshman, who will retire from international cricket after the World Cup, has been renowned throughout his career for his remorseless accuracy and fondness for publicly targeting opponents' key batsmen.

Yet away from the field, the 37-year-old is said to be a much quieter, reserved man.

Born in the country town of Dubbo, New South Wales, McGrath lived in a caravan when he first came to Sydney to try to make it in state cricket.

He soon worked out a method that would help him become the most successful fast bowler in Test history.

Realising he would never be as fast as a Dennis Lillee or Jeff Thomson, McGrath settled instead for the disciplines of line and length.

Although not the quickest, McGrath was soon developing the ability to move the ball away at a sufficiently sharp pace to trouble the world's best batsmen.

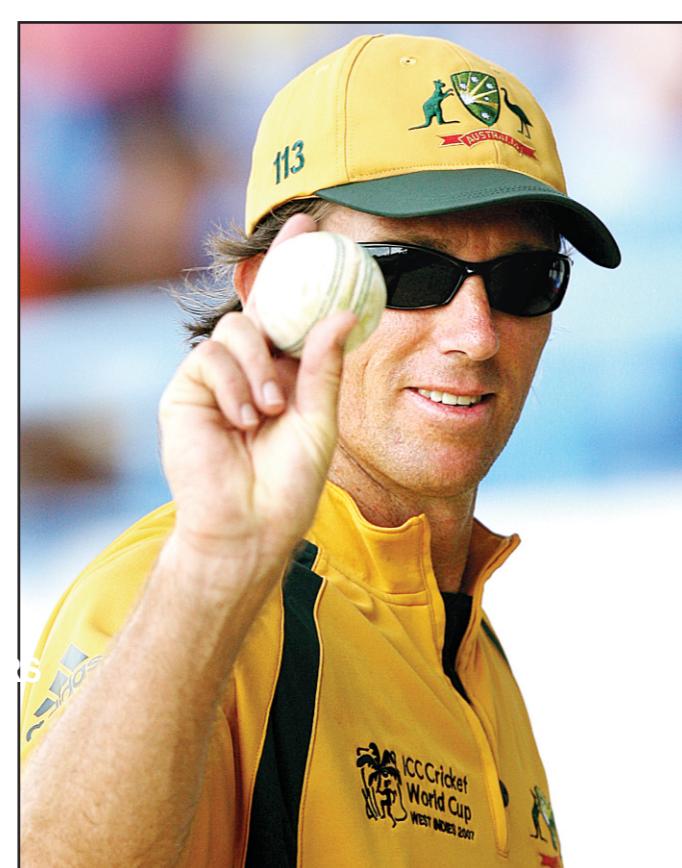


PHOTO: AFP

Australian fast bowler Glenn McGrath displays the match ball as he leaves the field after his record-breaking exploits against Bangladesh in their Super 8 encounter at the Sir Vivian Richards stadium in St John's on Saturday.

## Akram hails McGrath

AFP, undated



Pakistan bowling great Wasim Akram Sunday hailed Australian paceman Glenn McGrath's feat of breaking his World Cup record of most wickets, saying he wanted to congratulate his all-time favourite.

"I just want to pass on my best wishes and say 'mate you deserve all the records that cricket offers.' I am relieved that a bowler of McGrath's calibre has broken my record," Wasim told AFP by tele-

phone from Singapore.

McGrath overhauled Wasim's World Cup record of 55 during his three for 16 in world champions Australia's 10-wicket thrashing of Bangladesh at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Saturday.

Wasim, who now works as commentator for the ESPN-Star channel, still holds the record of most wickets in one-day cricket history with 502, a tally McGrath will not pass as he will retire after the World Cup.

The 37-year-old McGrath, who retired from Test cricket early this year with 563 wickets, has 367 one-day victims in 244 matches.

Wasim said McGrath is an all-

time great bowler.

"I consider McGrath and (former West Indies star) Malcolm Marshall as two all-time greats and I think they were a cut above the rest. McGrath is the complete bowler physically and mentally."

"He has the cunning for all batsmen and the way he executes his plans is great. You become his fan once you see him bowl and I have had the privilege of playing alongside this great man."

Wasim said players like McGrath make the Australian side world-beaters.

"Australia look miles ahead of the other teams simply because they have players of McGrath's

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## Tapash injury not serious

TIGERCRICKET.COM, ST. JOHN'S

Bangladesh team physio Paul Close confirmed that there was no fracture on Tapash Baisya's ankle.

The right-arm paceman, who had sprained his ankle during the match against Australia on Saturday, did not practise on Sunday but Paul Close was confident that Baisya would recover soon.

"We have received the X-ray report and it has confirmed that there was no fracture. He will undergo an aggressive rehabilitation programme and our target is to get him fit before the match against South Africa," said Close.

## SL A clinch one-day series too

SPORTS REPORTER

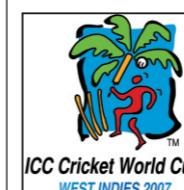
An unbeaten hundred by Malinda Warna pura ensured Sri Lanka A's one-day series victory against Bangladesh A with one match in hand when they inflicted a six-wicket defeat on the visitors in the second game at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

The home team, which earlier outplayed their opponents 2-0 in the four-day series, took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match

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## Minnows matches huge: SA

AFP, Georgetown



South Africa will treat their next World Cup Super Eights matches against Ireland and Bangladesh as "huge" games which could clear the way to the semifinals, according to coach Mickey Arthur.

The Proteas have two points in the second round, courtesy of a narrow one-wicket win over Sri Lanka. They could leave Guyana with six points in the bag to get ready for crucial matches against the West Indies and New Zealand in Grenada.

South Africa will then lock horns with a steady, but unspectacular England, in their last Super Eights match in Barbados.

But Arthur has warned against complacency against Ireland and Bangladesh, two teams South Africa would normally be expected to roll over.

"They are huge games because when you sit down and make plans for the rest of the tournament, they are both 'banker' games and, with

games like that, there comes an added pressure," Arthur said ahead of Tuesday's fixture against Ireland at Providence.

"If things go well, we would also hope to work a little bit on our net run-rate because, in the event of two teams finishing with the same number of points after the Super Eights, they will be divided by their overall run rate."

"But first prize is to leave Guyana with six points -- if we can do that I'll be a very happy man," said Arthur, whose team were given an early shock by debutants Ireland in a warm-up match in Trinidad last month.

Irish skipper Trent Johnston (4-40) and Dave Langford-Smith (3-30) reduced South Africa to 91-8 before Andrew Hall (67 not out) and Robin Peterson (29) added 85 for the ninth wicket to help their team post 192.

Ireland then batted well and were cruising towards the target with 139-4 before being bowled out for 157.

Since that great escape against Ireland, the South Africa middle order has yet to fire and came a cropper in their last Group A match against Australia which they lost by 83 runs.

They were also let down by the middle order against Sri Lanka, almost losing the match from a well-set 206-5 with Sri Lanka paceman Lasith Malinga recording a unique four-in-four-ball feat before the Proteas sneaked through.

It was a tense win which Arthur admitted had "taken quite a few years off my life."

"At five wickets down with four runs needed to win, I started packing away the kit bags, but then it suddenly became very hectic. It was always going to take something extremely special to derail us from there and Malinga certainly nearly delivered it," Arthur said.

And a semifinal place is already on Arthur's mind.

"Based on current form I wouldn't mind staying away from Australia in the semifinals," said the coach.

"Right now I firmly believe the last four teams will be Australia, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and South Africa based on what I have seen but we still have an awful lot of work to do to be sure of our place."

World number one South Africa are hoping their pace spearheads Shaun Pollock and Makhaya Ntini

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## Dhaka, Rajshahi stay alive

7 tons mark penultimate round

SPORTS REPORTER



The penultimate round of the limited-overs ISPAHANI MIRZAPORE TEA 8th National Cricket League was marked by record number of centuries as seven batsmen reached three-digit figures in high-scoring encounters.

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Mehrab Hossain Opee, Alok Kapali, Mahbulul Karim, Dhaman Ghosh, Junaid Siddique, Anisur Rahman and Nasiruddin Faruque scripted hundreds to their names on a terrifying day for the bowlers.

Dhaka survived a scare to manage an exciting two-run victory over Khulna at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium to make tomorrow's last-round game against

Rajshahi at the same venue a virtual final.

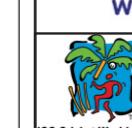
The title will be decided in the last round as Rajshahi's winning streak was snapped by Chittagong at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium while Barisal registered their second win with a four-wicket victory over Sylhet at BKSP.

### DHAKA-KHULNA

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TODAY'S MATCH

| Team                   | Time    | Venue  |
|------------------------|---------|--------|
| Ireland v South Africa | 7:30 pm | Guyana |

Ad