



## Did U Know?

India's Abbas Ali Baig was the first batsman to hit a century on debut Test against England in 1959.

## What to WATCH

### BTV & SET Max

ICC World Cup 2007

(Super Eights)

Bangladesh v South Africa

Live at 7:30 pm

ESPN

English Premier Football League

Chelsea v Tottenham

Live at 5:40 pm

Arsenal v West Ham

Live at 7:55 pm

Primera Liga

Zaragoza v Barcelona

Live at 12:30 am (Sunday)

Bilbao v Valencia

Live at 2:00 am (Sunday)

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League

Reading v Liverpool

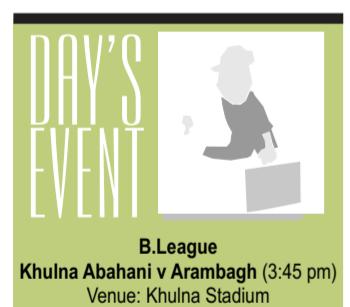
Live at 7:55 pm

Portsmouth v Man United

Live at 10:10 pm



**Inzamamul Haq**  
(Former Pakistan cricket captain)  
"I just feel that when you have one captain the players are also comfortable in both formats of the game as they know their captain's style and thinking. It is not easy adjusting for players to playing under different captains in different forms of the game."



**Lankans prepare new venue**

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka is building a new international cricket stadium in the island's arid southern province, Sri Lanka Cricket said on Friday.

The new stadium in Ranna village in the southern district of Hambantota, which is also the home constituency of President Mahinda Rajapakse, will host international matches.

Initial work on the stadium, 238 kilometres (149 miles) from Colombo, is due to be completed by the end of next year, Sri Lanka Cricket secretary K. Mathivanan told AFP.

"We have not worked out the total costs yet," he said, adding construction tenders had been called.

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## Whatmore issue to be discussed

AFP, Dhaka

Bangladesh cricket chiefs will convene an emergency meeting next week to discuss Dav Whatmore's future after he joined the race to succeed Greg Chappell as new coach of India, an official said.

"We've convened an emergency meeting of the board on April 10 when we will discuss the Dav Whatmore issue," Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Mahbub Anam said of the emergency meeting that was originally summoned to discuss the BCB-Cricket Australia consultancy deal.

"We have read some of his interviews in the media. Before the meeting, we will talk to him about these interviews and reports. And then we will discuss all the issues in the meeting," he added.

Whatmore has emerged among the frontrunners to succeed fellow Australian Greg Chappell as coach of India, one of the hottest and toughest jobs in cricket.

"I'm definitely interested," Whatmore told Thursday's Times of India. Whatmore's contract with Bangladesh expires after the World Cup.

Chappell quit his job following India's disastrous World Cup. Whatmore, who coached Sri Lanka to World Cup victory in 1996, has earned respect in Bangladesh after his young team pulled off a string of victories against some of the world's top teams, including a memorable defeat of India in the Caribbean.

As a result, the team won a place in the second round of the ongoing World Cup, which triggered celebrations all over the cricket-mad south Asian country.

"It was a tremendous performance," said Prince.

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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh pace bowler Shahadat Hossain (R) is on his delivery stride as coach Dav Whatmore watches during a training session at the Providence Stadium in Georgetown on Thursday.

## Proteas eye 'two points' in sterile Cup: Gilchrist

AFP, Georgetown

**ICC Cricket World Cup WEST INDIES 2007**



boost their chances of making it to the last four.

"Two points, that's the most important thing. There's a lot of rain, but we are hoping to get enough overs to complete a match and get two points," said Prince.

The South African batsman said he still expected a tough game despite Bangladesh's big defeats in the second round.

"The Bangladeshi batsmen looked very positive in the matches I have watched and I am sure they will try and put our bowlers under pressure. So, I don't think it is going to be an easy game at all," said Prince.

"They have beaten India, so they obviously have got something there. We are expecting a tough match and are expecting the batsmen to come at us."

The Bangladeshi batsmen looked very impressive against India, with teenager Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan all making half-centuries to help their team surpass India's total of 191 with five wickets to spare.

Their top-order batsmen could not repeat their performance after the India match, but South Africa have more or less solved their problems ahead of the big Super Eights matches.

Graeme Smith's side have already earned four points by beating Sri Lanka and debutants Ireland, while Bangladesh have yet to open their account.

South Africa were keen to maintain their momentum, with middle-order batsman Ashwell Prince saying that it was important to get two points (against Bangladesh) to

"The fact that our top order is

batting so well that the guys in the middle order haven't had much time to bat -- myself, Justin Kemp and Mark Boucher have had very little time in the middle," said Prince.

Prince made the most of the opportunity in the last match against Ireland, scoring a solid 47 not out to guide his team to a seven-wicket victory with man-of-the-match Kallis (66).

"Every time we had batted first, they (top-order batsmen) batted most of the overs up. So, that's one of the reasons why I am glad I got the opportunity in the last match," said Prince.

"Even though it was getting a little bit dark, I didn't want to go off the field as I wanted some batting practice."

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## The sinner that tasted the salt

### Cricket

DR NIZAMUDDIN AHMED

Imagine a worker, okay imagine a highly paid employee, all right the highest paid member of staff of (say) the Partex Group announcing in the midst of its high-profile AGM under the LIVE gaze of the media that he was considering shifting to (say) Grameenphone because they were bigger and better. What the Mir Zafar did not say was that their pay was even higher.

Some have said it is because organisers haven't "let it flow" that crowds have been so small.

For example, spectators are allowed to bring conch shells and other musical instruments, which have long contributed to the atmosphere of cricket in the Caribbean, into grounds but they have to get written permission beforehand from the local organising committee.

Only 9,000 people turned up at the 19,000 capacity Sir Vivian Richards Stadium here for the first day of Australia's rain-interrupted 103-run win against hosts West Indies last Tuesday for what was one of the showpiece games of the tournament.

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to Greg Chappell -- a failed marriage, but that's another story. While the name of Sri Lanka's Tom Moody (till now the most successful of the lot and how quietly so) has been mentioned every time Greg sank deeper into controversies, Dav's eager-beaver reputation did not carry well with the Indian media.

The question is whether, when a World Cup is going on and we are a participating team, and when the remaining matches against England, West Indies and Ireland are our best chances to redeem our depleted pride in the tournament, should Dav Whatmore have looked at another woman?

While some (including Dav) may want to attribute Bangladesh's five-wicket World Cup win against India as the outcome of the coach's genius, they seem to forget that we were immediately battered successively by Sri Lanka (by 198 runs) on March 21, Australia (10 wickets) on March 31 and New Zealand (9 wickets) on April 2 in the same tournament, presumably as a result of the same coach's mastermind.

It's almost like the classic tale when a woman questions a debauched married guy about to leave his wife what guarantee was there that he would not do the same thing to her in two years time? Whatever the answer, they get married and to a great extent live unhappily ever after. But that's India's choice now.

For the second time during his contract Bangladesh cricket coach Dav Whatmore has uttered that he would like to coach India. The first time he was rejected and India decided to wed its cricketing future

we played on that day.

Dav has opened his door even to English-speaking teams (in case his proposal to India falls flat) by saying that he had a successful stint with the Lancashire cricketers. Dav says

he is comfortable with cricketers who do not speak English, but as the coach he should know better that every player in the Bangladesh ODI and Test squads can read the Times of India. Which is where he laid bare his wanton desire.

Bangladesh cricketers looking up at him as a father figure can only be devastated. Is that why they are faring so poorly since the Indian win? There should be an inquiry, or will it be an inquest? As I have said before, a coach must be ready and willing to sniff the bouquet as well as taking the lion's share of the brick-bats (DS April 21, 2006).

However much he flaunts his coaching ability at the expense of Bangladesh, Dav may well be reminded that India will NOT want a coach who can beat them; they want a coach who can beat the others.

There is no reason why a paid person who can hit his charge below the belt during an ongoing tournament should be given any respect or respite. And this is not the first time.

His greed and ingratitude have given rise to the insanity in him. Or else, how can a fighter pilot in mid-flight radio ground that he has applied for citizenship of an enemy country? Cricket is war Dav, and Dav says

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## SA don't worry Shakib

AFP, Georgetown

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The 20-year-old Hasan comes up against an attack which boasts Shaun Pollock, Makhaya Ntini, Jacques Kallis and Andrew Hall.

But he insists that that quartet as well as South Africa's world number one status does not impress him.

"Why worry, when I have faced Australian and New Zealand bowlers? Why would I worry about the South Africans?" said Hasan.

Hasan said he has watched every South African bowler on



SHAKIB AL HASAN

television and was looking forward to facing them for the first time.

"I just want to play my natural game and will treat every ball on merit. They (South Africans) are good bowlers who bowl line and length and I have watched them since the 1999 World Cup," said

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## Dravid likely to stay

Shastri might be manager

### Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The first day of the BCCI's World Cup review meeting saw two strong possibilities emerging: Rahul Dravid is likely to stay on as India captain, and Ravi Shastri could be the team manager for next month's tour of Bangladesh, for which there will be no coach.

The decision regarding Shastri was revealed by Kris Srikkanth in the evening, soon after he emerged from the meeting of former captains, to a television channel. It is understood that Shastri has sought a day's time to respond.

Dravid's decision, revealed by sources in the BCCI, sets at rest speculation that he would give up the captaincy following the decision of Greg Chappell to not extend his contract as India coach.

In any case, the board had no alternative; handing the captaincy to Sachin Tendulkar would be seen in

## BTS win by five wickets

SPORTS REPORTER

Boira Tarun Sangha of Khulna hammered Anirban Krira Chakra by five wickets in the final round of the BCB Club Cup Challenge at the

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## TODAY'S MATCH