



## 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," he said.

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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, St John's

Australia star Adam Gilchrist has described the atmosphere for World Cup matches as "sterile" and said it was disappointing that so many matches are being played in front of meagre crowds.

"Just talking to the locals, they are very aware of it and very excited for it to be here, but that's not translating into big numbers in the grounds which is disappointing as a player," said Gilchrist.

"You come to the Caribbean to experience that unique atmosphere that is Caribbean cricket but there is certainly an element of the sterile feel about it," the double World Cup-winner added.

"I don't know whether that's because the administration hasn't let it flow or whether people just aren't turning up."

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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## The sinner that tasted the salt



### 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.

What do you think Partex or for that matter Grameenphone would do under this situation? The former would sack him immediately, before lunch was served, and the latter would close its doors to him forever because he would not spare a thought to mete out the same treatment to them.

It's almost like the classic tale when a woman questions a debauch 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

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 depleting 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. On March 17 we would have beaten India even if they were coached by Dav Whatmore and us by Greg Chappell. That's how much better 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 brickbats (DS April 21, 2006).

However much he may flaunt 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 the

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## SA don't worry Shakib

AFP, Georgetown



### ICC Cricket World Cup WEST INDIES 2007

array of talent when the two sides clash in the World Cup on Saturday.

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



### 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

many quarters as a step back, though he appears to have the support of a large number of current India players.

In his interaction with the BCCI top brass today, Dravid is believed to have made three suggestions to improve the setup: a streamlined selection process, better team management with the appointment of a full-time team manager and a full-time media manager.


He said that the team left for the World Cup with high hopes but failed to do well, and accepted responsibility on the team's behalf for the poor performance which led to the early exit.

## 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		
Team	Time	Venue
Bangladesh v South Africa	7:30 pm	Guyana