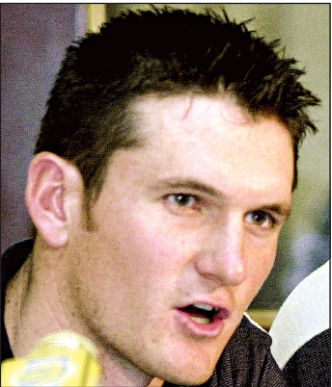




Did U Know?

Scott Styris of New Zealand scored 111 not out in the World Cup Super Eights match against Sri Lanka at the National Cricket Stadium in Grenada on April 12. It was his fourth century, second against Sri Lanka.



Graeme Smith

(South Africa cricket captain)
"It's sad to see him go. He's been an unbelievable performer for the West Indies and has got them out of trouble plenty of times."
While paying tribute to his West Indies counterpart Brian Lara.



BTV & SET Max

ICC World Cup 2007
(Super Eights)
South Africa v New Zealand
Live at 7:30 pm
Bangladesh v Ireland
Live at 7:30 pm (Sunday)

ESPN

English Premier Football League
Manchester City v Liverpool
Live at 7:55 pm
FA Cup
(Semifinal)
Watford v Man United
Live at 10:25 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League
Manchester City v Liverpool
Live at 7:55 pm
Primera Liga
Racing v Real Madrid
Live at 12:00 am (Sunday)
Real Betis v Real Sociedad
Live at 2:00 am (Sunday)



B.League

Abahani v Farashganj (4:45 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

NEW ZEALAND V SOUTH AFRICA

To bat or not to bat

AFP, St George's



Rival captains Stephen Fleming and Graeme Smith will face a dilemma if they win the toss when New Zealand and South Africa meet in a crucial World Cup Super Eights match at the Grenada National Stadium Saturday.

Both will be tempted to send their opponents in to take advantage of expected early life in the pitch but both have had their tactics backfire spectacularly after calling correctly in recent matches.

The two results in the newly rebuilt stadium will not have helped them make up their minds.

South Africa hammered a massive 356 for four when they were sent in by West Indies Tuesday, winning by 67 runs, while New Zealand made a disastrous start after Fleming decided to bat against Sri Lanka Thursday, going on to lose by six wickets.

Both of South Africa's defeats in

the tournament came after Smith opted to field first when they lost by 83 runs against Australia and when they suffered a shock 67-run setback against Bangladesh.

The pitch for the New Zealand-Sri Lanka match was slower and drier than it was when South Africa played two days earlier, adding to the uncertainty for the captains.

New Zealand were pace-setters in the Super Eights phase, winning their first four matches and topping the table on run rate before they lost against Sri Lanka.

But they have a tough run-in, with the match against South Africa followed by a clash with defending champions Australia here on April 20, which could mean they get stuck on eight points.

"We have had a good run so far at the tournament," said Fleming.

"Against Sri Lanka was the first time we were really tested and put under pressure and we didn't come through. It is disappointing but we are a better side than that."

South Africa, meanwhile, will move to eight points if they win Saturday but because they have the worst run rate of the semifinal contenders they will probably need to

win their final match against England in Barbados Tuesday to ensure they do not risk being squeezed out in the event of a tie on points.

South Africa's batting was spectacular against the West Indies, with opener AB de Villiers making an explosive 146, backed up by half-centuries by Jacques Kallis, Herschelle Gibbs and Mark Boucher.

But there have been question marks about the South African bowling, with opening pair Shaun Pollock and Makhaya Ntini yet to make significant inroads at the start of an innings.

New Zealand's Shane Bond is the fastest bowler at the World Cup and his strike bowling was a key element of his team's success in the opening weeks.

For the rest, New Zealand have steady seam bowlers and the left-arm spin of Daniel Vettori.

It is likely that off-spinner Jeetan Patel will come into the side in place of seamer Mark Gillespie.

Fleming said it had been a 50-50 decision between the two bowlers.

Given the way the Sri Lanka

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Australia fast bowler Shaun Tait (C) exchanges high-fives with teammates after taking the wicket of Ireland batsman Niall O'Brien (R) during their World Cup Super Eights match at the Kensington Oval ground in Bridgetown on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Greg feared after Tigers loss

PTI, Melbourne

Former India coach Greg Chappell has admitted fearing for his safety after the side lost to minnows Bangladesh, which eventually led to their ouster from the cricket World Cup.

Chappell, who was in a Brisbane motel last night, admitted having security fears after the twin incidents of India's shocking defeat to Bangladesh and the murder of Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer in a Kingston hotel, the 'Herald Sun' reported on Thursday.

In what was probably Chappell's first interview since returning from India, it was also indicated that BCCI's bid to rope in the former Australian captain as a consultant may go in vain and Chappell might

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Younis refuses captaincy



AFP, Islamabad

Veteran batsman Younis Khan said Friday he had rejected an offer to become Pakistan captain, saying he was "very disappointed" with the furious public reaction to the team's World Cup exit.

Khan was deputy for nearly two years to Inzamam-ul-Haq, who resigned after the shock first-round loss to minnows Ireland sent them tumbling out of the tournament.

"I make an effort to play for the glory of my country with total commitment. I am very disappointed the way we were greeted when we returned from the World Cup," Khan told the Urdu-language Express newspaper.

"It is not a pleasant thing if

threatening calls are made to players' homes, their effigies are burned, the players' pictures are blackened and put on donkeys. How can I lead the team under these circumstances?"

Khan told Geo television separately that he had been offered the captaincy, but had turned it down for personal reasons.

"I have declined the offer to captain the Pakistan team," he told the private station in an interview aired on Friday.

"I have a family and I am recently married and I want to spend more and more time with them," he explained.

"I accept being a captain is a hard job in Pakistan. You are alone at the top and there is no one to support you if you fail. I can never enjoy being a captain."

He said he also wanted to step

down as vice-captain, although he was still keen to play for his country.

"It is not charming for me, I was looking for an opportunity where I could relieve myself of the responsibility as vice-captain also," he said.

Khan denied his decision was linked to the poor World Cup showing, which was followed a day later by the mysterious murder of coach Bob Woolmer.

"Even if we had won the World Cup, I would still have refused captaincy and step down as vice captain to give myself time to be with my family," he said.

Khan said there were four to five senior players in the team including fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, all-rounder Shahid Afridi, and batsmen Mohammad Yousuf and

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Sports adviser unhappy at Mirpur works

SPORTS REPORTER

Youth and Sports adviser Tapan Chowdhury yesterday expressed his displeasure over the incomplete renovation works at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

In a surprise visit to the Mirpur venue in the afternoon, Tapan, who is also the National Sports Council chairman, cast his doubts on whether the ongoing construction works would be over by the time India arrive here to play their series against Bangladesh, sources said.

India are due to reach Dhaka on

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TODAY'S MATCH

Team	Time	Venue
South Africa v New Zealand	7:30 pm	Grenada

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