

Woolmer killer from outside Jamaica

PTI, London

The modus operandi of Bob Woolmer's murderer has convinced the Jamaican Police that the killer came from outside the Caribbean country.

Mark Shields, Jamaica's deputy commissioner and the chief investigator in the case, told BBC Panorama programme that on March 18, nine murder cases had been registered across the country.

"But the difference between Bob Woolmer's murder and most of these is that Jamaican killers tend to use knives or guns. The fact that Bob Woolmer was strangled has led the police here to conclude that his killer came from outside Jamaica," Shields reasoned.

Meanwhile, Pakistan team's media manager in the World Cup, PJ Mir, told the programme that Woolmer felt players were focusing more on religion than their game. He went on to claim that Woolmer could have even invited a fatwah had he gone public with his feelings.

Recalling an incident, Mir said, "A CD was being played which was a Tablighi CD and Bob, who was sitting behind me, said 'why don't you tell them to stop? If they want to listen to that they could on their iPods or personal devices', and he thought that he shouldn't be subjected to all that and I agreed with Bob."

Manikganj Academy Div II champs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Manikganj Cricket Academy clinched the second division cricket league title with a two-wicket victory over Modern Club at the Manikganj Government High School playground yesterday.

The Academy scored 116-8 in 25.3 overs in reply to Modern's 115 all out in 14.5 overs.

'ICC too professional'

PTI, Mumbai

The Cricket Board today took another dig at the degree of professionalism shown by the International Cricket Council by sarcastically saying the ICC was perhaps "too professional" which resulted in the shambolic ending to the World Cup final on Saturday.

"The ICC keeps reminding us (BCCI) that we need to be more professional in our functioning. But the entire world has seen the way the World Cup final was conducted. May be the problem is they (ICC) are too professional (for their own good)," said BCCI Secretary Niranjan Shah from London.

Shah witnessed first hand the farcical ending of the final on a rain-ruined day when five ICC-appointed and contracted officials could not decipher the rules governing a truncated ODI that resulted in the match continuing well after it should have been declared in Australia's favour.

Shah reiterated that the BCCI might take up the matter of taking to task the ICC's officials, especially its Chief Executive Malcolm Speed, at next month's meeting in London.

"I did say to the Australian reporter that the ICC has too many employees and is tied down by bureaucracy," he said.

Spaniards up

FROM PAGE 20

Former German international striker Klaus Allofs hasn't given up the ghost yet.

"It's not over yet and we have to take the game to Espanyol and play with the bit between our teeth," said Allofs.

"There is no point sitting back, we must attack from first whistle to last."

Spanish newspaper Marca may have written 'It smells like an all-Spanish final' but there have been enough amazing comebacks in European football to say that there may yet be another twist in the tournament.



Did U Know?

Sanath Jayasuriya of Sri Lanka scored 63 runs from 67 balls in the World Cup final against Australia at Kensington Oval in Barbados on April 28. It took his aggregate to 12,005 runs, and made him the second player to achieve this milestone.

Aussies bleeding youngsters



AFP, Sydney

Fresh from a record third World Cup victory, Australia's cricket authorities Tuesday turned their attention to replacing several retiring stars with young talent.

Four spinners aiming for the key spot left vacant by Shane Warne's retirement from the Australian Test team were named in Cricket Australia's list of 25 contracted players for the 2007-08 season.

They are World Cup star Brad Hogg, youngster Dan Cullen, veteran Stuart MacGill and 22-year-old Cullen Bailey, who has claimed 54 wickets in 17 first-class matches at an average of 41.51.

Bailey was one of six new names on the list. The others are batsmen Chris Rogers and Adam Voges, swing bowler Ben Hilfenhaus and all-rounders James Hopes and Cameron White.

Glenn McGrath, Warne, Damien Martyn and Justin Langer retired, while seamer Michael Kasprovicz and batsman Simon

Katich were cut from the list.

Chief selector Andrew Hilditch said Australia faced a great challenge in the wake of the retirements.

"This list of players still represents a very experienced group but also includes some exciting young talent that will ensure our reign as champions in both Test and one-day cricket can continue," he said.

"The retirement of Shane Warne is a significant issue for Australian cricket.

"While he is obviously irreplaceable, we are pleased that we have experienced spinners in Stuart MacGill, who has a great Test record, and Brad Hogg, who has just finished a highly successful World Cup.

"We will also look to Cullen Bailey and Dan Cullen to continue with their exciting development and realise their potential."

The retirement of veteran pacer McGrath also left "a huge hole," he said, but the new squad had exciting fast-bowling talent in Shaun Tait, Mitchell Johnson and Ben Hilfenhaus, who has joined the list for the first time.

Malinga 'sexiest man in cricket'

PTI, Colombo

They were not good enough with the bat or the ball and now it turns out that the Men in Blue are not good looking enough either to feature in a "Sexiest Men in Cricket" poll.

Neither did Mahendra Singh Dhoni's long locks, nor Rahul Dravid's charming looks impressed the fans, who, instead, chose Sri Lanka slinger Lasith Malinga for his blond-streaked hair and tattooed arms, in a contest conducted by Barbados magazine.

"With his eye-catching, blond-streaked curly hairdo, eyebrow ring and tattooed biceps, the unique 25-year-old strikes 'Easy' as the type who would be up for anything... And anywhere," was how the magazine described the flamboyant pacer, a local daily said today.

With a disarming smile, charming New Zealand left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori is almost a regular in

"While it is still going to be a challenging time for Australian cricket, we consider it to be a very exciting one and are really confident that the group we have picked can help us to continue our dominance of world cricket.

"I don't want to underestimate the impact of (retirements of) the big players, I mean they have just been such great players, they will be a huge loss. It will be harder to win Test matches without them, that is just reality.

"But we have been planning -- it had to happen at some stage and we hope we have got the planning right."

The full list of contracted players for 2007-08: Cullen Bailey, Nathan Bracken, Stuart Clark, Michael Clarke, Daniel Cullen, Adam Gilchrist, Jason Gillespie, Brad Haddin, Matthew Hayden, Ben Hilfenhaus, Brad Hodge, Brad Hogg, James Hopes, Michael Hussey, Phil Jaques, Mitchell Johnson, Brett Lee, Stuart MacGill, Ricky Ponting, Chris Rogers, Andrew Symonds, Shaun Tait, Adam Voges, Shane Watson, Cameron White.

SL stars stranded in London

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's World Cup cricketers are stranded in London after their scheduled flight home was cancelled following Tamil Tiger rebel air raids in Colombo, officials said on Tuesday.

The players were booked on Emirates Airlines for the return journey from London via Dubai, but the airline has since pulled out of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka Cricket, which had organised elaborate plans to welcome the cricketers who reached the final in the Caribbean, said it was uncertain when the team would return home.

"There are 22 in the national contingent and we are trying to find seats to get them all home this week," Sri Lanka Cricket spokesman Samantha Algama told AFP.

Emirates and Hong Kong's flag carrier Cathay Pacific indefinitely suspended their flights to Sri Lanka following Sunday's air raids by Tamil Tigers near the capital's international airport.

The guerrillas used two light aircraft to bomb two fuel depots near Colombo.

Singapore Airlines said it would only fly in to the Bandaranaika International Airport -- which shares a runway with the Sri Lankan air force -- during daylight hours.

Sri Lanka took to Australia in Saturday's final in Barbados.

Klose agrees Bayern terms

AFP, Berlin

Germany international striker Miroslav Klose has agreed terms to leave Werder Bremen for defending Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich either this summer or next, say reports in the German press.

The 28-year-old, the top-scorer at last year's World Cup, has long been a Bayern target and Munich's daily newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung quoted "a reliable source" who confirmed it was a done deal.

Klose got into hot water last week when he met with Bayern officials in a Hanover hotel, a move which forced the veteran international to apologise to the club and its fans.

Bremen's bosses have repeatedly insisted they will only allow Klose to switch to Bayern when his contract expires in 2008.

But according to Sueddeutsche Zeitung, Bayern, who could sign Klose on a free transfer next year, want to force Bremen's hand by offering 15 million for the striker who has scored 33 goals in 67 internationals.

The same paper reported the transfer to Bayern of Italian international Luca Toni, under contract at Fiorentina, has also been finalised.

Italian sports paper the Gazzetta dello Sports announced on Saturday Toni has agreed terms with Bayern for a contract giving him 5.5 million euro a year.

The agent of the World Cup winning striker insists "nothing has been finalised".

Real foresee Liga glory

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid, without a trophy since their last championship success in 2003, believe they can finally end their drought and take this season's Liga crown if they can see off rivals Sevilla on Sunday.

A win at a packed Santiago Bernabeu stadium could propel Real to the top of the table if leaders Barcelona, stuttering on their travels recently, fail to win at basement side Real Sociedad.

Barca are two points clear of Real and one clear of Sevilla going into the final six games of the season, and the Madrid giants are on a roll after thrashing Athletic Bilbao away at the weekend to stay right in the hunt.

"Everything's perfect. We are playing better than Barca and Sevilla and we are capable of winning the title," Real's Brazilian midfielder Emerson told Tuesday's Marca magazine.

"We are really up for it. The team is convinced we can win the league," added club chairman Ramon Calderon.

Forecasting that Barca might slip up at Real Sociedad, Marca's headline blared in reference to Real that "they already see themselves as leaders" -- assuming Sevilla can be sent packing.

Umpires

FROM PAGE 17

the remaining two games on May 12 (Mirpur) and 15 (Chittagong).

Australian Daryl Harper and West Indies Billy Doctrove will officiate the two Tests.

Another Sri Lankan, Roshan Mahanama, has been named match referee for the whole series.

Akhter Uddin Shaheen has been named third umpire for the one-day series while Enamul Haque performs the same duty for the First Test at Chittagong (May 18-22) and Nadir Shah for the second Test at Mirpur (May 25-29).

Huge bill on closing ceremony

CRICINFO, undated



The closing ceremony of the World Cup cost taxpayers in Barbados more than US\$750,000.

Investigation by the Midweek Nation have revealed that the fee charged by artistic director Peter Minshall of Trinidad and Tobago was US\$500,000, covering pan players, carnival puppets, Moko jumbies, Bele dancers and field performers. The majority of this sum, as indicated by documentation obtained through Minshall's business entity, The Callaloo Company, went toward performers and crew (US\$200,000) and puppet manufacture (US\$75,000). The breakdown of the costs also included large sums for auditions, training, costume manufacture and shipping crates.

The cultural presentation, which lasted about 45 minutes, was seen by television audiences for fewer than 15 minutes. Additionally, because of the late start, the extravaganza was viewed by fans at Kensington Oval in relative darkness.

The cost attached to the cultural

presentation has sparked controversy, with many questioning whether top Barbadian artistic directors and production experts had been considered for this stage of the country's biggest ever international event.

Further investigations by the Midweek Nation have also revealed that local organisers entered into an arrangement with a Miami-based company called ACT Productions Inc., located at 1688 Meridian Avenue, Suite 400, Miami Beach, Florida, to look after the technical side of the presentation.

In correspondence sent to Dr Allyson Leacock, consultant executive producer for Saturday's cultural finale, ACT Production Inc.'s management producer Bruce Orosz settled on a fee of US\$270,204, with a requirement that local authorities deposited US\$202,653 up front.

Among the areas for which the charges applied were pre-production (site inspection and show-planning), provision of lighting system, band location lighting package, production crew, television lighting engineering, air travel, insurance and legal fees. The highest individual quotation of US\$79,300 went toward the lighting system.

The Midweek Nation has also

discovered that prior to the reopening of Kensington Oval, a foreign company got the contract in September 2006 to provide cleaning services at the Fontabelle, St Michael facility. Cleanevent International Pty Ltd., based in South Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, was paid BDS\$18 700 by the Barbados LOC, World Cup Barbados Inc., via wire transfer to the Australian and New Zealand Banking Group Limited. Sources indicated that company then subcontracted local entities to do the work at the Oval under the direction of its representative, Paul "Digga" Barrett.

This sort of arrangement, it has been revealed, was repeated at other stadia across the region where countries were divided into "precincts" under the management of other Cleanevent representatives.

Efforts over the past two days to contact Leacock for comment on the logistics of the cultural presentation proved futile. Yesterday chief executive officer of World Cup Barbados Inc., Stephen Alleyne, declined immediate comment, indicating that a media conference would be held to deal with issues related to the tournament.

WI contract row worsens



CRICINFO, undated

The dispute between the West Indies board (WICB) and the players took another twist yesterday when Bruce Aanesen, the WICB's chief executive, said that it was prepared to replace any players who refused to sign the four contracts.

On April 22, the WICB and WIPA, the players association, failed to agree on the status of the forthcoming tour to England and referred the matter to arbitration.

WIPA believes that the board constantly refused to discuss the matter until the last minute in a deliberate attempt to force players to sign contracts pending the ruling of the arbitrator. This would seem to be supported by evidence that Ken Gordon, the WICB's president, refused to agree to meetings, or even to discuss the matter, for six weeks after board officials had repeatedly indicated that they agreed with WIPA's assessment of the situation.

Every tour since a Memorandum of Understanding was signed

between the two parties last year has gone to arbitration, and in every instance, the players have won.

"We are going ahead with the tour and we are preparing contracts for the players to sign," Aanesen said. "All the documents have been submitted to [the arbitrator]. He says he needs time to study them and that he doesn't believe there is any way that they can have this arbitration prior to the team leaving on the eighth."

"We are going to announce the team on Wednesday and we are in the process of preparing the contracts for the players to sign and we will see where we go from there, but we believe we are fully within our rights. We have players also on retainer contracts and as part of those retainer contracts our legal people have confirmed to us that the people who have those retainer contracts cannot refuse to go on tour."

"If there are any players selected for the tour who do not have retainer contracts, if they refuse to sign the contract, it just means they don't want to go on the tour, so then we move to the next set of players until we get a team of 15, that's our position."

No 'no-confidence'

FROM PAGE 17

moments of the final, where Sri Lanka were forced to bat out three overs in near-darkness, after they had initially accepted an offer of bad light and the Australians had celebrated their win, could have been easily avoided. "Had there not been so many people involved in making decisions at the time, and just one person who knew the rules properly, this situation could easily have been avoided," said the official. "After all it is the World Cup final, the biggest stage in cricket, run by the ICC, and at the end of the day the whole of the cricket world looks bad when something like this happens."

However, another board official dismissed the suggestion that the BCCI is, at the moment at least, looking at tabling a no-confidence

motion. "If he [Shah] made those comments, then they are his individual opinion," he said. "There has been no discussion among senior members and office bearers of the BCCI about tabling any such motion."

While Cricinfo could not reach Shah for comment on Wednesday morning, the Times of India has quoted him as saying, "The ICC keeps reminding us that we need to be more professional in our functioning. But the entire world has seen how the World Cup final was conducted. Maybe the problem is that they [the ICC] are too professional."

It is understood that there are several members of the Indian board who are unhappy especially with the functioning of Malcolm

Speed, the chief executive of the ICC, and that this latest brouhaha is centered around his behaviour and actions. For some time now there has been a growing belief in the BCCI that Speed has been autocratic in his decision-making, and has not given the Asian-bloc, which accounts for a sizeable chunk of the ICC's financial clout, its due.

Tabling a no-confidence motion, however, would not help their cause in this case as Speed is not an elected office-bearer of the ICC but a paid employee with a fixed term. If the BCCI does decide to press for a no-confidence motion, they are sure to have the votes of Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh, but it is difficult to see them winning over any of the other nations in support of their petition.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	40 Greek consonants	DOWN	20 Wooden shoe passenger
1 Numbers rackety	41 Okla. money	1 Mid-May holidays	23 Albanian
5 Scenery chews	42 Okla. city	2 Drive the getaway car, maybe	44 Quelled one's grief
8 Lean-to	43 High arcing shot	3 Frat-party garb	45 Eye layer
12 Reed instrument	45 Fair of half	4 Got wind of	46 Volcanic outflow
13 Kyoto summer-bummer	47 Sitr choreography	5 "Gee whiz!"	48 Eye layer
14 Bleachers on	48 Curving outward	6 Honest politician	49 Broker's advice
15 Moviegoers' mecca	49 Moviegoers' sides	7 Heterogeneous	50 Way out
17 Met tune	54 Finished	8 Walk arrogantly	53 Marie's hubby
18 Van Gogh's "Night"	55 Guitar's kin	9 Diviner of old Rome	
19 Overwhelm	56 Sandwich shop	10 Beelzebub's field	
21 Snow White's protector	57 Cerumnous	11 Unhearing	
22 Reservoir	58 Kennedy or Koppel	16 Incite to action	
23 Restroom, for short	59 Seaman		
26 Speck			
28 Profundity			
31 Larger than life			
33 Existed			
35 Ca-boose's place			
36 Praise			
38 Marginalia			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15				16				17		
18						19	20			
			21			22				
23	24	25		26		27	28		29	30
31			32		33		34		35	
36					37		38		39	40
			41			42		43		44
45	46					47		48	49	50
51						52	53			
54						55			56	
57						58			59	

CRYPTOQUIP

ST WTVTH SWR ARHX Q RYS

FCYTVY GV SWR QOYGV RYY,

FCXQR UR YWTKP WCAR

CVVOCK YSTVX CUCHPY.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF YOU'VE COMPOSED A POEM PRAISING YOUR FAVORITE PERFUME, CALL IT "ODE DE COLOGNE."

Today's Cryptquip Clue: V equals N