

## Bob privately cremated

AFP, Cape Town

Slain Pakistani cricket team coach Bob Woolmer was on Friday cremated during a private family function in Cape Town, the family said.

"Yes, my father was cremated this morning (Friday). The service was held at Doves (parlour) in Salt River at 11am (0900 GMT)," Woolmer's son, Dale, told AFP.

"It was private and only family members attended," he said.

The body of Woolmer, who is believed to have been poisoned while at World Cup in Jamaica, arrived in South Africa last Sunday, six weeks after his corpse was discovered in a Jamaican hotel room.

A public memorial service for the 58-year-old former South African coach, whose widow Gill lives in Cape Town's Pinelands neighbourhood, was held in the city last month.

Woolmer, who was born in Kanpur, India, was found dead in his Kingston hotel room on March 18, the day after Pakistan crashed out of the cricket World Cup in an upset loss to Ireland.

**Mourinho paints**

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The England midfielder is determined to end the season with a flourish in a bid to say a heartfelt thanks to Mourinho.

Cole said: "Jose showed faith in me, even with players like Shaun Wright-Phillips and Salomon Kalou on the bench who had done well in recent matches, and now I just want to pay him back with my performances."

"One of the first steps on the ladder for me was making my first appearance back in the side but the hard work starts now."

"I am really excited about the end of the season. But for me the task is to get fully match fit and you only get that from playing matches. There is simply no substitute."

"You just want to show desire every day, even when you're injured. Many people didn't expect me to be playing again this season but I wanted to prove them wrong, to come back and help the lads."

"It's been a tough season but hopefully I can put it all behind me and get back to doing what I love."

**Riyad keeps**

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before decisions.

Right-handed batsman Nawela struck a patient 70 off 199 balls but the likes of Nisal Randika (34) and Prashantha De Silva (31) made sure the islanders had their lead.

Bangladesh Academy's left-handed opener Imrul Kayes (5) was the only man to fall as captain Mehrab Hossain was unbeaten on 18 while Nazimuddin partnered him with 11.

**MU on the brink**

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and Paul Dickov in a bid to give home fans a goal to cheer but it made no difference.

City's last chance came when Brown was penalised for a collision with Ball. Vassell drove his penalty down the middle but van der Sar, diving the wrong way, managed to save the shot with his legs.

That save surely means United's four year wait to regain the title is over.

**Fergie wants**

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Bridge on Wednesday - a prospect he would relish.

"We've got a great chance now obviously and I'm hopeful Arsenal will do us a favour," he said. "A draw would be fine. Hopefully we can get the result we want."

"I won't watch the match. I was supposed to go to Spain but that might be cancelled so if it's a good day I'll go for a game of golf."

"But if we have to go to Chelsea and do it, I will look forward to it."

Ferguson saluted his players' courage as they produced the perfect response to their Champions League exit against AC Milan in midweek.

"What you saw today was human courage," he said. "Coming back from Wednesday night and having to get through the travel and lack of rest, the players have shown fantastic courage."

"City never actually tried to beat us. They were happy at 1-0, but towards the end they got the penalty kick. We got through it. It wasn't a great performance but derby games are like that."

**Barton reported**

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newspaper on Thursday as saying he was upset by the cowardice shown by Barton, who has one England cap, having played against Spain in February.

"The fact that I look like the Elephant Man and will not be able to play again this season is bad enough but what I find most shocking is that he (Barton) struck me first from behind and then repeatedly when I was down on the ground," Dabo said.



PHOTO: AFP

Victoria Azarenka of Belarus prepares a forehand towards Argentine Gisela Dulko during their Estoril Open match in Lisbon on Saturday.

## Djokovic into semis

Tennis

AFP, Estoril

matches. I have to somehow be at 100 percent to try and beat him."

Djokovic needed five match points to finally stake his claim on the semi-finals in his Estoril appearance.

The youngster says he will need all of his energies to push for the final.

"It was good to win a tough one, but it's a minus for tomorrow," said the world number five. "I hope to recover as much as possible."

"There was a lot of tension in the match and my movement was not so good, it led to unforced errors. Conditions are tough here and I need all of my strength when I play Tommy."

"It was a tough match for me, she's a good player," said Safarova, 30th in the world and winner in Estoril in 2005. "She played a huge topspin to my backhand that was hard to return."

"I hope to wait for my chance to hit winners. I'm just happy to win and reach the semifinals."

Gasquet overcame a slow start to advance past crafty American veteran Vince Spadea 6-3, 6-4.

Mathieu, ranked 42nd and winner of a title last week in Casablanca, had his own struggle before overcoming Argentine Juan Monaco 6-4, 6-4, 6-1.

The young pair will meet for the second time this season following a January quarter-final in Sydney with the score standing at 2-0 in Gasquet's favour.

"I didn't know his game, so it was difficult for me at the start," said the winner.

"He was in the Top 20 a few years ago and is a dangerous player."

"I began badly and was lucky to win this match in straight sets. It will be tough to play a countryman in the semifinals."

"We are good friends and know each other's game well. It will be anyone's match."

Among the women the number three Lucie Safarova was the last seed standing in the semifinals.

## LOCAL SNIPS

SPORTS REPORTER

Barnet, Table Tennis

Academy, Ekota SS, Palic Group, Sports World, HBRI and South East Club won their opening matches on the inaugural day of AB Bank Dhabka Table Tennis League at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

Barnet, Academy, Ekota, Palic and Sports World won in straight sets against United University, Ranjan Club, Mansur Sporting, Jagarani KC and Molany Club.

Bangladesh Table Tennis

Federation president Abu

Solaiman Chowdhury and AB Bank senior vice-president RQM Forkan were present during the opening ceremony.

AFC FESTIVAL

Baddha Akota Samaj Kalyan and

Khelaghara Samaj Kalyan and

Shyamali

will play the final of the Kai-Altech Second Division League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium today.

With both sides having earned

their place into next year's First

Division, the match is a mere

formality. Baddha was on top of

Group A while Khelaghara was

Group B champions.

PRESIDENT CUP GOLF

Azam Chowdhury clinched the

GrameenPhone President Cup golf tournament.

He was handed the trophy in a prize-giving ceremony held at a local hotel by Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam.

Brigadier General S Anam Khan, Major General F Kabir and MK Yum were the other winners of this prestigious tournament.

AFC FESTIVAL

Bangladesh dubbed the Maldives 5-0 in the AFC Festival of Football

Bangladesh at BKSP.

Results of the day's other

matches:

Tajikistan 8 Bhutan 0

Iran 5 Maldives 1

Uzbekistan 4 Sri Lanka 0

Tajikistan 4 Sri Lanka 0

Iran 3 Bangladesh 1

Tajikistan 3 Turkmenistan 0

Pakistan 2 beat Bhutan 0

Nepal 2 Uzbekistan 0

Pakistan 2 Turkmenistan 1

India 1 Nepal 0

Bhutan 1 Maldives 1

Nepal 1 Kyrgyzstan 1

India 0 Kyrgyzstan 0

India 0 Sri Lanka 0

Pakistan 0 Iran 0

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