

'Woolmer was not strangled'

PTI, Agence France Presse

A top British pathologist has concluded that Bob Woolmer was not strangled, a disclosure which has further strengthened the theory that the Pakistan cricket coach died of natural causes during the World Cup.

With the police yet to make a breakthrough in the sensational case, a Jamaican lawmaker has urged the police to explain the basis of their belief that Woolmer had been murdered and prove it beyond doubt to stop what has become a "global embarrassment" for the Caribbean nation.

A report in leading British daily "The Times" claimed that top British Home Office pathologist Dr Nat Carey has examined Woolmer's post-mortem report, photographs and other materials after which he arrived at the conclusion that the burly Englishman was not strangled, as claimed by Jamaican Police.

According to Dr Carey, the death was not from asphyxiation due to strangulation.

The original post-mortem claimed Woolmer's broken neck bone strengthened the strangulation case but it was later pointed out that it could well have been a result of Woolmer's fall.

Jamaican newspaper Gleaner claimed the Scotland Yard sleuths, who assisted Jamaican Police in the probe, also believed that Woolmer died of natural cause.

...The Scotland Yard report specifically said Woolmer died of heart failure, contradicting earlier reports by the investigative arm of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and local pathologist Dr Ere Seshiah, who had conducted a post-mortem on Woolmer's body," it said.

ICC must be modern: FICA

BBC ONLINE, undated

Cricket's governing body has been urged to modernise by leading cricketers who say they have lost confidence in it.

In a survey by the Federation of International Cricketers' Associations (FICA), 56 per cent doubted the International Cricket Council's (ICC) ability to govern the game or organise World Cups.

A staggering 89 per cent of international players rated the recent World Cup in the Caribbean as average or worse.

FICA chief executive Tim May said: "There has been growing dissatisfaction regarding the governance of our game."

He added: "An independent review will determine what is the best and most applicable structure for cricket's international governing body."

"We strongly believe that the present structure...is outdated and not in the best interests of the game."

FICA's World Cup survey showed 64 per cent of players believe the same tournament structure -- four groups of four, followed by Super 8s -- should be retained for the next World Cup.

But 87 per cent felt the competition was too long, with the survey concluding that "The death of Bob Woolmer, the early exit of India and Pakistan, the long and laborious Super 8s, the lack of exciting matches, the rain-affected final, the unfortunate umpire/referee error at the final, and the long periods that players had at their disposal between matches all affected the players' opinion."

May says the ICC should take the blame for the organisational problems and the controversy surrounding Darrell Hair, its anti-doping policy and Zimbabwe.

The governing body appears has acted swiftly on the former Australia star's criticism of its committees, which used to be made up of nominated representatives from each Test-playing country and leading Associate Member countries.

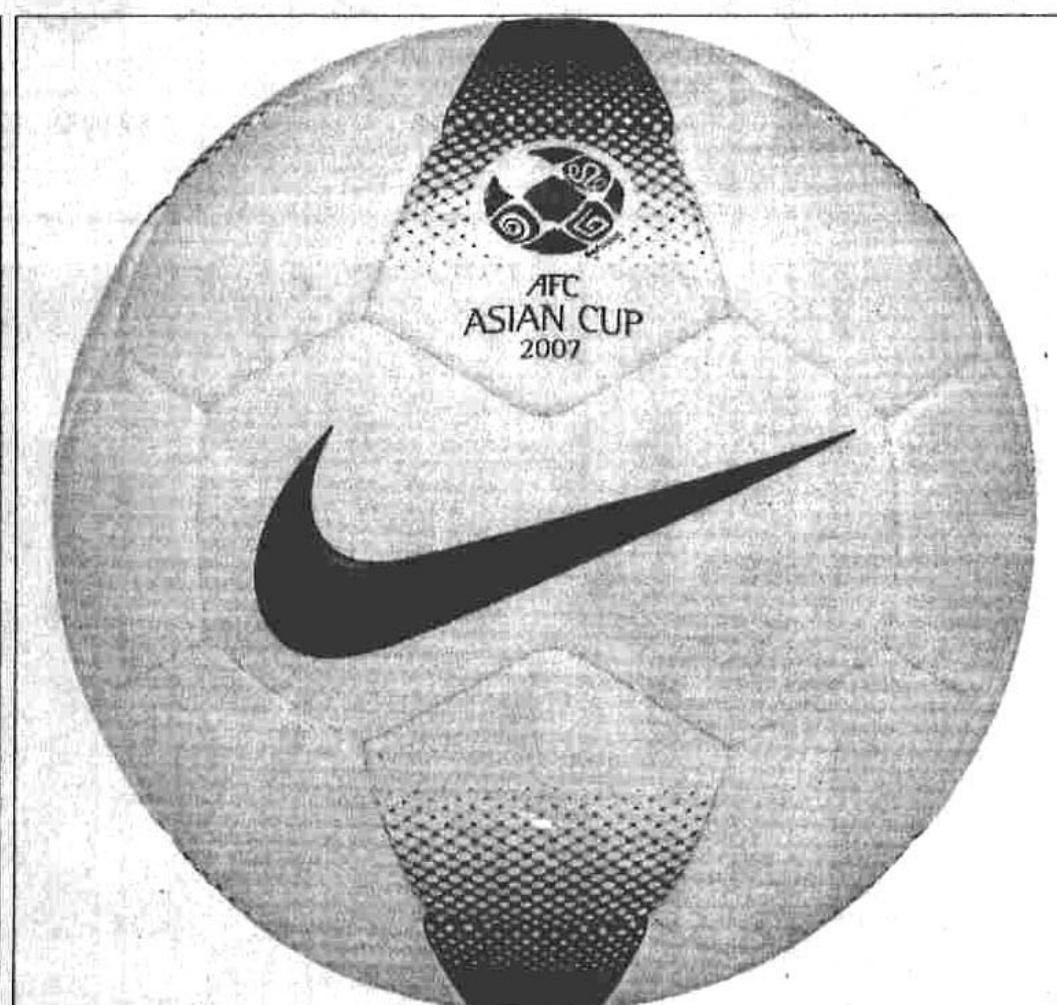
Scalping

FROM PAGE 20
"The order is ridiculously over the top. It means I will never be out of a police station and I'll never have my passport for more than five minutes."

"If they wanted to order me to stay away from the cup final, then fair enough, but why infringe on my life and my family life for three years?"

Roberts has pulled off an extraordinary array of streaks.

They include the last Super Bowl, the Wimbledon men's final, the Tour de France, the UEFA Cup final, the rugby union World Cup final, the French Open, the Ryder Cup, the London Marathon, the Winter Olympics curling event, the World Snooker Championships, the Commonwealth Games, the International Synchronised Swimming Championships, Royal Ascot, the Grand National, Mr Universe, Britain's National Lottery, the Pamplona Running of the Bulls -- and even dog show Crufts.



A picture released on Tuesday by the Asian Football Confederation shows the official match ball for the AFC Asian Cup 2007 which has been launched by Nike, marking the first time ever when a ball has been launched specifically for any football competition in Asia.

BKSP ride on Towhidul treble

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Towhidul slammed a hattrick to help BKSP thrash Tangail 8-0 in their final round match of the Western Union National Youth Football Championship here yesterday.

The winners led the first half 4-0 at the Sathkira Stadium with Towhidul scoring one but the striker completed his treble in the last ten minutes with goals in the 80 and 89 minutes.

Sabbir netted twice while Sabuj, Rabiu and man-of-the-match Manikone each.

Flintoff in doubt for first Test

AFP, London

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff faces a battle to be fit for the first Test against the West Indies this week following a recurrence of the ankle problems which have dogged his career.

Flintoff felt discomfort in his left ankle, which has been operated on twice in the last three years, while bowling nine overs for Lancashire against Hampshire over the weekend and has forced to have a scan, the result of which will determine if he is able to play a full part in this week's opening Test.

"We'll probably know more after I've run around and done what I need to do at practice, but I'm hopeful for Thursday," Flintoff said.

"Sometimes when it's the ankle the alarm bells start ringing a little bit, but I'm still hopeful."

The operation was on the back and on the inside and this is more on the outside. I had a bit of discomfort in the same sort of area in the winter so it's not something completely new.

"I had a couple of twinges in Australia. It's something we have been aware of and something that has niggled away but it did get a bit worse last Friday. I struggled to play through it on Friday and we'll have to wait and see how it settles down, but fingers crossed it will be all right."

It would be a huge frustration for Flintoff if he were unable to take his place in England's line-up for their first match under new coach Peter Moores.

Flintoff's status as one of the world's best all-rounders has come under scrutiny of late. He scored only two half-centuries during the Ashes tour of Australia and has passed 50 only once in his last 28 one-day international innings for England.

It is one of the reasons why the selectors chose Andrew Strauss to lead the side this week in the absence of injured captain Michael Vaughan, although Flintoff stressed: "The captaincy wasn't something I was really thinking about."

But he added he didn't feel under additional pressure.

"There's always responsibility on my shoulders, not just as senior player but as a batsman, the top order leading from the front."

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice stepped down from his position as Bolton boss on April 29 after eight successful years with the cash-strapped Lancashire outfit.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

"One of the first things I will be doing is sitting down with Michael Owen and having a little chat with him," he said.

"What I think Michael needs is more time to get on track for us and hopefully he will decide to take that time."

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

"One of the first things I will be doing is sitting down with Michael Owen and having a little chat with him," he said.

"What I think Michael needs is more time to get on track for us and hopefully he will decide to take that time."

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.

He previously turned down the chance to manage the Magpies three years ago, and last summer he was interviewed for the England job but lost out to Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren.

Alardice will have several burning issues concerning players to deal with when he starts his job at St James, most notably with England striker Michael Owen whose future at Newcastle has been cast into doubt.