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Bob inquest on Oct 16

CRICINFO, undated
The long-awaited coroner's inquest into the death of the former Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer will begin on October 16, according to a Jamaica radio station. Woolmer was found unconscious in his Kingston hotel room, a day after Pakistan's shock defeat against Ireland at Sabina Park - a result that condemned them to an early exit from the World Cup. Acting on autopsy findings, Jamaica police initially said Woolmer had been strangled and launched a murder investigation. It was an announcement that sparked a media frenzy with speculation rife about a possible link with match-fixing. The news was also a blow for Jamaica itself, a tourism-dependant country that is already plagued by one of the world's highest murder rates. But eventually, after months of investigation and a re-examination of the autopsy results, the police backtracked and said that Woolmer had died of natural causes, probably heart failure. Ken Pantry, Jamaica's director of public prosecutions, said that more than 50 witnesses will be called at the inquest, to be held at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston.

T20 trophy unveiled

ICC MEDIA RELEASE, Mumbai
International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Malcolm Speed on Wednesday unveiled the trophy that will be at stake when the World Twenty20 Championship gets underway in South Africa on September 11. The trophy, which will be competed for by the 10 ICC Full Members plus leading Associate sides Kenya and Scotland, has the following details:
Designed by Minale Bryce Design Strategy of Queensland, Australia.
Manufactured by Amit Pabuwala in India
Materials used: silver and rhodium
Weight: Approximately 12kg
Height: 57.15cm
Width (at top): 16.5cm
Width (at base): 13.97cm

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Did U Know?

The first NBA player to score 38,000 points was Kareem Abdul-Jabar in 1989.



Malcolm Speed
(ICC chief executive)
"Board of Control for Cricket in India is the only body recognised by the International Cricket Council to run official cricket in India. We have not got any application from the Indian Cricket League for recognition yet."
While ruling out recognising an unofficial multi-million dollar league in India on Tuesday.



ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm
TEN Sports
US Open
Day 5, Session 9
Live from 9:00 pm



Bangladesh cricket captain Mohammad Ashraf (R) and his deputy Mashrafe Bin Mortaza at the Zia International Airport prior to the national team's departure for Kenya on Wednesday. The team arrived in Nairobi at 8pm Kenya time the same day.

PHOTO: STAR

Queensland down NCA

SPORTS REPORTER

Morning always does not show the day. Having won their tour opener down under, BCB National Cricket Academy (NCA) crashed to their second consecutive defeat yesterday. Queensland Academy of Sport won the match by eight wickets as the visitors were bundled out for a paltry 81 in just 30.1 overs in the third game of the Australian trip, according to TigerCricket.com. The Queenslanders opted to field first on a green-top wicket in the Institute Challenge Cup match at Kahlin and their bowlers got the better of the Bangladeshi batsmen who failed to make most of a good bouncy track. Only Jahurul Islam (16 off 39 balls) and Dollar Mahmud (14 off eight balls) reached the double figures with 24 sundries dominating the sorry scorecard. Queensland coasted to 85- for two in 18.1 overs with both their first-class cricketers -- Andrew (28) and captain Kruger (23) -- remaining unbeaten. Nathan made 25. The two Queensland wickets went to pacemen Talha Jubair (1-16) and Dollar (1-24). The tourists will take on Australian Cricket Academy at the Marrara Oval today.

Bangladesh play Thailand today

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh open their 7th Asia Cup Hockey campaign against Thailand in Chennai today. The match gets underway at 9:30 am Bangladesh time. In other opening day's matches, Malaysia face Singapore, South Korea take on Sri Lanka. Pakistan meet Hong Kong and hosts India are up against China. Bangladesh are in Pool B of the 11-team continental meet along with Korea, India, China, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The other teams are Pakistan, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

Harmer interview today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) quest to find a new foreign coach for the national team gained momentum with John Harmer's arrival in Dhaka yesterday morning.

The senior Australian coach faces the BCB officials with a presentation for the position of national team coach at the board headquarters in Dhaka this morning.

Former Zimbabwe captain David Houghton, now in the UK, is next in line but his arrival would be confirmed once he gets the British passport.

Cricket Operations Committee chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu informed yesterday that the board has been in communication with Houghton, who would make his travel plans after September 10, when he is likely to receive his passport.

Coach Jamie Siddons who is currently touring India with an Australian selection, will probably be the last in line.

Former national captains Roquibul Hassan, Lipu, coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury, Istiaque Ahmed and Lt Col (ret'd) MA Latif Khan will be in the coach selection panel.

The 65-year-old Harmer, who is currently working at the Australian academy, said upon arrival at the Zia International Airport that his knowledge of Bangladesh cricket is limited to what he has seen so far on television.

Harmer was appointed England women's coach in July 2001 and left them two years later having helped them to be the second best team in the world, behind Australia, whom he led to three World Cup finals in his eight years from 1992-2000. That included winning the World Cup in India in 1997, and he was made a finalist for Australian Coach of the Year Awards the following year.

His qualifications include Level 3 Australia Cricket coaching certifi-

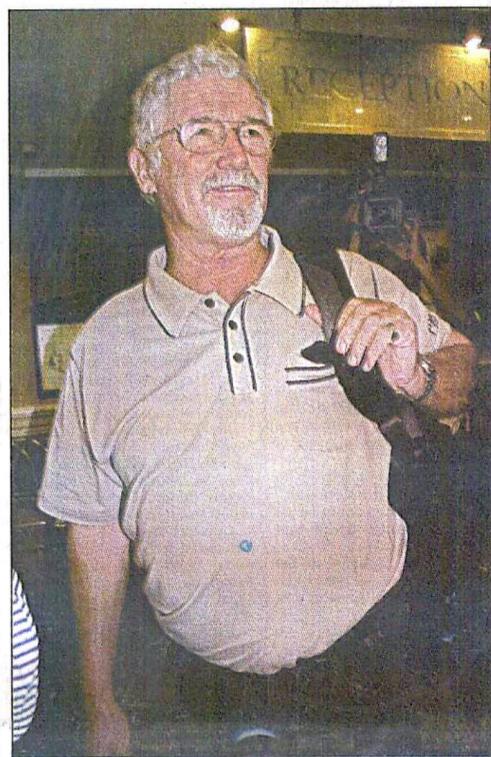
cate, diploma of physical education, bachelor of education, secondary teacher's certificate, higher diploma of teaching.

He has published considerable research on biomechanics and coaching, including biomechanics in physical education in 1971, cricket biomechanics in 1989, bowling techniques of error detection and correction in 1993 plus a CD on wicketkeeping, field-

ing and batting.

His previous appointments include sports science and medicine advisory group for the then ACB, national pace bowling program, sub-committee ACB, coach for pace Australia, consulting biomechanist for ACB, NZCB and Victorian Institute of Sport.

Lipu added that Harmer's interview is likely to continue on Saturday.



Australian cricket coach John Harmer at the Sheraton Hotel after arriving in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

India clinch Nehru Cup

Football

AGENCIES, New Delhi

Turbo-charged India scripted history Wednesday evening by lifting the Nehru Cup international football trophy for the first time with a 1-0 victory over a depleted Syria. Pappachan Pradeep's 44th minute header settling the matter for the hosts.

The win, which fittingly came on the National Sports Day, made the team richer by a staggering Rs.4.77 million, the bulk of this announced even as the final whistle blew. The winner ordinarily would have gone home with \$40,000 (Rs.1.63 million).

India were in the attacking mode right from the word go in front of a full capacity Ambedkar Stadium where tempers flew in an exciting encounter that kept the spectators on the edge of their seats.

Pradeep's goal came when he drove past Syrian goalie Mowasab Blahowss after an on-pass from captain Bhaichung Bhutia. A cross from Steven Dias found Bhutia in the box and he headed on to Pradeep, who did not waste any time to head in.

After conceding the lead, the entire Syrian team who won the league match against India 3-2,

looked rattled but did not give up till the last minute. Ultimately they had to bow to the grit and determination of the Indian team.

Mahesh Gawli, adjudged man-of-the-match, and NS Manju manned the Indian defence extremely well.

Syria's Wael Ayan was sent off in the 44th minute after he deliberately kicked Surkumar Singh.

At the start of the tournament,

Bhutia had said there was realistic chance for India to win -- and he led from the front to prove this right.

"This is the biggest win of my career. We need to keep on playing well and this is just the beginning. This is a good boost for the World Cup qualifiers against Lebanon," Bhutia said after the final.

"We don't play many international tournaments in the country

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Indian footballer Pappachan Pradeep is embraced by a teammate as he celebrates after scoring the winner against Syria in the Nehru up final in New Delhi on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Matuail win again

SPORTS REPORTER

Matuail Udayan Sangha blanked Rainbow AC 2-0 in the Third Division Football League at the Kamalapur Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday with goals from Biplab and Shailesh.

Anwar Hossain scored to help Lalbagh SC beat PWD by a solitary goal while Jurain Janata Club and Mirpur Ekadash played out a one-all draw.

Jafar put Jurain Janata ahead while Shaheen equalised for Mirpur Ekadash.

In the day's last match, Friends Social Welfare Organisation defeated Spandan KC 2-0 at the Outer Stadium.

Indians stay ahead

SPORTS REPORTER

GN Gopal and Surya Shekhar Ganguly stay in contention for the title as the Indian duo enter today's 11th and the final round of the Asian Zonal Chess Championship level on eight points.

Grandmaster Ganguly defeated fellow Indian International Master Sovrajit Saha in yesterday's tenth round at the NSC conference while IM Gopal beat second-placed IM Rohit, who is now on seven points.

Both Gopal and Rohit have earned their third and final GM norms from the event.

In other tenth round matches, Bangladesh IM Enamul Hossain

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Murali blow for Lanka

AFP, Mumbai

Sri Lanka's prolific spinner Muttiah Muralidaran was on Thursday ruled out of the inaugural World Twenty20 Championships next month due to an elbow injury.

"Murali is affected by an elbow injury and he will be out for four to six weeks," Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) secretary Kangadaran Mathivanan told AFP.

"He is definitely out of the Twenty20."

Leg-spinner Malinga Bandara is expected to replace Muralidaran in the tournament to be played in South Africa from September 11-24. SLC sources said Muralidaran

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Eng keep India in check

Cricket

AGENCIES, undated

Kevin Pietersen struck with his third ball to remove Indian dangerman Sachin Tendulkar as the tourists slipped to 103-4 in the 30th over of the fourth one-day international against England at Old Trafford on Thursday.

Tendulkar looked India's best chance of posting a total as he edged to 55, but he then holed out at deep square leg.

It was the last thing India needed after England's pacemen had removed Sourav Ganguly, Dinesh Karthik and Rahul Dravid for single figures.

Earlier, the home team's opening bowlers made life tough for India's top order as three early wickets put the visitors on the back foot. Stuart Broad and James Anderson struck in their first spells and Andrew Flintoff removed Dravid during an impressive return on home soil. It was left to Tendulkar to hold India together but he, too, had plenty of uncertain moments.

Broad and Anderson were again exemplary with the new ball, making life uncomfortable for the extra pace of the Old Trafford pitch and a hint of movement under overcast skies. Ganguly, beaten by

the first ball of the match from Broad, never looked at ease and got away with a top-edge over the slips before being cramped for room on a pull by Anderson and finding Ian Bell at square leg.

India scored only 14 runs off the next seven overs as Tendulkar and Dinesh Karthik struggled to break the stranglehold. Karthik opened his account off his second ball, a fortuitous inside-edge over the stumps, then remained scoreless for his next 20 deliveries. The pressure eventually told on Karthik and he chased and edged a delivery with a hint of width, giving Broad a deserved wicket.

The cheers for the early wickets paled in comparison with the roar that greeted Flintoff's introduction in the 12th over, following Anderson's five-over spell that cost 12 runs. This was Flintoff's first international appearance on his home ground since the Ashes Test in 2005 and his first ODI here since 2003. It took him just six balls to get on the scoreboard when Dravid, who has been in supreme touch this series, nibbled outside off stump after facing a hostile opening over.

In his second over, Flintoff revved himself up towards 90mph against Tendulkar, forcing a play-and-miss outside off stump then firing down a rapid bouncer. Tendulkar was trying to survive the

early onslaught but was still able to dispatch the occasional loose delivery. When Monty Panesar was introduced in the 19th over, he allowed himself a rare moment of expression with a cultured drive through mid-on.

England's control was emphasised when Flintoff bowled to Yuvraj Singh with three slips in the 20th over. Flintoff sent down three consecutive maidens and just three runs came off the bat in his five-over spell. But the task should get slightly easier for India as Paul Collingwood tries to find 20 overs between himself, Panesar and Ravi Bopara. It's a chance for them to gain some momentum, although they have given themselves plenty of catching up to do.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Indian innings after 31 overs in the fourth one-day international against England at Old Trafford in Manchester on Thursday:

INDIA	Runs
Ganguly c Bell b Anderson	9
Tendulkar c Flintoff b Pietersen	55
Karthik c Prior b Broad	4
Dravid c Prior b Flintoff	1
Yuvraj not out	26
Dhoni not out	3
Extras: (lb-3, w-7, nb-1)	11
Total: (For 4 wks in 31 overs)	109
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-31, 3-32, 4-103	

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India superstar Sachin Tendulkar gets out of the way of a bouncer during the fourth one-day international against England at Old Trafford in Manchester yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP