

Claim illegal betting syndicate linked to Woolmer's death



DEAD: Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer.

Kingston, Jamaica

Pakistan cricket coach Bob Woolmer may have been murdered on the instructions of an illegal betting syndicate, former Pakistani fast bowler Safraz Nawaz says.

The former Pakistan coach was found unconscious in his Jamaican hotel room near pools of blood and vomit on Sunday, hours after Pakistan's shock loss to Ireland at cricket's World Cup.

Jamaican police said yesterday they were treating the 58-year-old's

death as "suspicious" and Safraz believes rightly so.

Safraz claimed Woolmer was about to reveal the dark world of match-fixing, which has plagued Pakistan for years, in a book entitled *Discovering Cricket*, News Limited newspapers reported.

"Has Woolmer carried with him to the grave dark secrets that could have brought ruin upon Pakistan's players?" Safraz was quoted as saying. "Did he pay for being the unwitting receptacle of information that was never to be shared?"

Jamaican police deputy commissioner Mark Shields said yesterday that Woolmer's death was now under investigation.

"Having met the pathologist, medical personnel and other investigators, there is now sufficient information to continue a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Woolmer which we are now treating as suspicious," Mr Shields said, reading a short statement.

"We have already informed the Woolmer family of this development

and we are also in close contact with the Pakistan team management, Cricket World Cup and the ICC [International Cricket Council] to ensure that all the parties are kept informed of the ongoing investigation."

Earlier, Pakistan team spokesman Pervez Mir said, "The police suspect that Woolmer may have been murdered."

Reports from the Pakistan camp at the time of Woolmer's death said Woolmer was discovered by hotel staff lying on the floor in his room at



NO SUSPECTS: Deputy Police Commissioner Mark Shields has authorised an investigation.

the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. Blood was discovered on the bathroom floor, there was vomit on the walls and signs of diarrhoea.

Pakistan was considered one of the leading contenders to win a title it claimed in 1992 but the shock defeat to debutant Ireland was one of the biggest upsets in the history of the 32-year tournament.

Coupled with an opening-day defeat by host West Indies, it led to its exit with one group game still to play. The elimination was greeted with fury by fans back home in the cricket-crazy nation, where effigies of the players were burned.

Mr Shields told reporters, "we have no suspects".

- Reuters

Santoro's successor accused of whitewash

By Maria Hawthorne

The new Minister for the Ageing, Christopher Pyne, has been accused of rigging an investigation into his disgraced predecessor Santo Santoro after he said he did not expect to find anything improper.

Senator Santoro has announced he will quit politics after embarrassing the Liberal Party by failing to disclose 72 secret shareholdings, a breach of the ministerial code of conduct.

The scandal has battered the Federal Government, with an opinion poll yesterday finding that seven in 10 voters think Prime Minister John Howard is arrogant and fewer than half trust him.

The poll showed Labor leading the Coalition by 61 per cent to 39 on a two-party preferred basis, while Labor leader Kevin Rudd has made inroads on Mr Howard in his two key areas of dominance – economic management and national security.

Mr Pyne, who was sworn in yesterday morning, is investigating Senator Santoro's decision to award lucrative aged-care bed licences to his friend, Queensland Liberal Party identity Russell Egan Jr.

Amid calls of "you've already made up your mind", Mr Pyne refused to table the terms of reference of his review in Parliament, saying he and his department were "conducting the review in an entirely appropriate fashion".

"We have absolutely no reason to believe or suspect that there is anything untoward in the last round of aged-care approvals," Mr Pyne said.

Labor also accused him of rigging the inquiry.

"A junior woodchuck is going to investigate his predecessor. Fair dinkum. It's an inside job," Labor's treasury spokesman, Wayne Swan, told reporters.

"If they're serious they'll have a decent investigation and get somebody senior to do it."



REFUSAL:

Christopher Pyne who was sworn in yesterday as the new Minister for the Ageing.

Mr Howard said the scandal had hurt the Government and he was still angry with Senator Santoro. But he said he felt sorry for him.

"He's not only lost his ministry, he's lost his political career," Mr Howard said.

"He has himself to blame, he can't blame anybody else, and he accepts that. But other people have done other things of equal weight and continued on.

"But Santo has done the right thing by the Liberal Party and the Government in going."

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer angrily demanded Labor lay off the disgraced minister.

Senator Santoro had been a good minister and it was sad his career should come to this end, Mr Downer said.

"He has resigned. What more can he do?" Mr Downer said. "Does the Labor Party want him to go out and do something even worse? Leave him alone now."

But deputy Labor leader Julia Gillard said while it was the end for Senator Santoro, it was not the end of the matter.

"The fact remains that the Prime Minister John Howard was not an innocent bystander to these matters," she said.

"The buck does stop with the Prime Minister, John Howard, and he hasn't taken sufficient steps to enforce his ministerial code and there still appear to be further questions to be answered."

Coalition colleague and Workplace Relations Minister Joe Hockey said Senator Santoro had behaved like "a dope".

- AAP

Mothers flock to hear sleepy secrets

By Jenna Price

Anyone who promises to get your baby to sleep through the night deserves money.

Which may be why 20 mothers paid \$125 each to hear the secrets of Tizzie Hall, author of *Save Our Sleep*, at the Hyatt Hotel yesterday.

Hall, 33, says there has not yet been a baby she couldn't handle; and she's been wrangling them since she was eight years old.

Anastasia Mastoris, 28, of Spence, brought six-week-old Alexi to yesterday's workshop and swears by the Hall method.

Alexi is perfect and sleeps through the night but Kyrie, now 19 months, really needed help – and so did his mother.

"He spent the first eight months screaming," she says.

While she doesn't mind taking any advice so long as it comes from Tizzie, she refuses to give her own about child-rearing.

"Too many people give advice, all I would say is 'Follow your gut instinct'."

Hall's own analysis of why women come to her workshops is because women are cut off from their families and do not have the support networks which helped raise babies in the past. But some women don't want to have input from their mothers.

Debbie Hill, 35, of Ngunnawal, discovered Hall's advice years ago and found that while workshops were planned for Sydney and Melbourne, Canberra had been left out of the loop so she lobbied the author to visit the national capital.

Her own mother lives in Forbes so she couldn't rely on extended family to help with raising Emerson, 12 months.

"But what mothers teach you is often different to how it is now," she said.

"I wouldn't want to take [my mother's] advice, just because things change."

But she says that she would love to have her mother around anyway.

Hall's interest in babies began when she was aged eight. Her brother died of sudden infant death syndrome and soon she was spending time in the company of other families with babies.

She says it was apparent that she could get them to sleep or to settle them where their own mothers couldn't. Hall says mothers are often so distracted by life around them that they don't learn the difference between the hungry cry and the sleepy cry.

Hall never finished her child psychology degree but has spent 20 years having hands-on experience.

Now she and husband Nathan are keen to have a baby of her own but have experienced some difficulties.



SWEET DREAMS: Alexi Mastoris, six weeks, of Spence, dozes as her mother listens to author Tizzie Hall. Picture: GRAHAM TIDY

Howard opens fire on Rudd

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The Government withdrew the crack special forces task group, which included SAS and commando soldiers, last year. Earlier Mr Howard said he had not asked the Australian Defence Force to develop a contingency plan for the withdrawal of Australian troops from Iraq.

"But I'm quite certain the ADF would have the operational capacity to handle any contingency," he told Parliament.

On Tuesday, Mr Howard appeared to again mishear a question and to suggest that he had a contingency plan for a phased withdrawal of Australian troops. He subsequently said he had been referring to the Pentagon's contingency plans for withdrawal if the "surge" of troops into Baghdad failed.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said yesterday Australia would not surrender to "depraved terrorists" such as those in Baghdad who blew up children in a car bomb, as he also criticised the Opposition's policy.

He told Parliament that the terrorists used the presence of the children in the car to avoid suspicion of soldiers.

"The terrorists ran away from the car, they detonated the bombs, they killed the children in an attempt to try to kill other people as well," he said.

"These are not the sort of people, on this side of the House, we would ever want to give in to."

"The Opposition says it has an exit strategy – its exit strategy is summed up in one word and that word is surrender."

"I don't have any admiration for people who think the solution is to run away."

Mr Downer also said Mr Howard had been taking about US forces on Tuesday.

"All military make contingency plans for any range of contingencies," Mr Downer said.

He said it was too early to say whether the surge strategy was working. "Let's pray that the surge is going to work and of course if in the end it doesn't, then obviously there will have to be some thought given to other alternatives."

Liberal Russell Trood, who has been a vocal critic of the war in Iraq, said he agreed with the Government's plan to withdraw from Iraq when conditions permit.

Court dismisses lawsuit against Dame Kiri for ditching Farnham



RESENTFUL: Diva Dame Kiri Te Kanawa.

When John Farnham failed to attend a meeting with opera diva Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, she became "extremely resentful" and pulled out of a concert series with the Australian pop singer, a Sydney court has found.

The NSW Supreme Court dismissed yesterday a lawsuit against Dame Kiri, and her employer Mittane, despite finding Mittane had not been truthful when it ended

negotiations for the concert project.

Dame Kiri, a New Zealand-born soprano, decided to pull out of three concerts with Farnham in 2005 after he failed to attend a scheduled meeting in Auckland, Justice Patricia Bergin said yesterday in her judgment.

Leading Edge Events sued Dame Kiri, her employer Mittane, her former agent Nick Grace and his company over the

failed concert series. The promoter had sought up to \$2 million – \$600,000 in management fees, \$147,349 for expenses and a quarter share of the concert profits.

But Justice Bergin largely dismissed the action, finding "there was no concluded contract" between the parties.

The three concerts, scheduled to be performed in Melbourne and Sydney, were to be billed as

"Two Great Voices", but Dame Kiri withdrew from the planned performances in March 2004.

While Dame Kiri was worried about the planned concerts after seeing women throwing underwear at Farnham on a DVD of one of his shows, she did not decide to withdraw from the project until after Farnham failed to attend a meeting in New Zealand, Justice Bergin found.

She said Dame Kiri had been

"extremely resentful" when Farnham did not meet her in Auckland on February 29, 2004.

Dame Kiri had been planning to celebrate her 60th birthday the next day at her home in New Zealand's north and Leading Edge had chartered a helicopter so that she could travel quickly home from the meeting.

But she became upset when Farnham failed to make the meeting and blamed bad

weather for his absence, the court heard.

Justice Bergin found that Farnham's failure to attend that meeting was the "major factor" in Dame Kiri's decision to stop negotiations.

Justice Bergin dismissed the claims against Mittane, Dame Kiri and her former manager Nick Grace. But she did order Mittane pay \$128,063 to Leading Edge for costs incurred.



MISSING: Pop singer John Farnham.

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