

Shoaib eager to join Glamorgan

AFP, London

Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar said Monday he wants to follow in the footsteps of international teammate Waqar Younis by playing for Glamorgan.

Shoaib said he has his heart set on a move to Wales after speaking to former overseas star Waqar, saying a spell in county cricket would improve his game.

"I would love to play for Glamorgan and there are a number of reasons why it would be a good move," said the 26-year-old, nicknamed the 'Rawalpindi Express'.

"I want to play county cricket because I believe it would be a very important experience for me. I believe it would help me improve further as a player."

Sharks will trouble 'em

REUTERS, Napier

England's touring team have had their sporting prowess gnawed at again by New Zealand, but this time by two crafty sharks in Hawke Bay rather than 11 spirited Kiwis.

As the local kingfish bit so too did the sharks which accompanied the England team on a fishing expedition to the blue waters of Hawke Bay near Napier.

Team physio Dean Conway had half a fish bitten off his line as he attempted to reel it in, giving at least one of the sharks a satisfactory bite to eat.

Jokes were bandied about that the sharks were there to rip into the bloody carcass of England cricket after their 155-run thrashing at the hands of New Zealand in the second one-day international in Wellington on the weekend and that England were again "all at sea".

Make or break

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To start the fightback, Trescothick needs to fire as he did in India and Nick Knight needs to perform as he did in the first game of the tour, a brilliant 126 against Northern Districts.

If those two get among the runs and Nasser Hussain and Graham Thorpe back them up solidly, the likes of Flintoff and the out-of-form Craig White can flourish without the sort of pressure they were under in the previous two matches.



Winners of the Salvation School's annual sports competition, which was held at the Physical Training College ground in Mohammadpur yesterday, pose with their medals.

Prince pulls SA A

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five fours and two sixes, but for the rest Prince stood almost alone against the tourists.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 351-8)

Langer	b Hall	12
Hayden	lbw b Hall	18
Ponting	c Tsolekile b Bodi	120
M Waugh	c Prince b Henderson	62
S Waugh	not out	102
Martyn	c Cullinan b Henderson	1
Gilchrist	c Smith b Hall	16
Warne	lbw b Hall	0
Lee	c Smith b Lee	6
Gillespie	not out	5
Extras	(lb-8, w-7, nb-9)	24
Total:	(For 8 wkts decl in 98.5 overs)	366

Fall of wickets: 1-39, 2-52, 3-177, 4-271, 5-272, 6-319, 7-321, 8-332

Bowler O M R W

Nel 25 5 75 0

Langeveldt 12 4 46 0

Hall 25 7 97 5

Henderson 19 3 74 2

Benkenstein 4 1 15 0

Bodi 13.5 1 51 1

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings

Smith C Ponting b McGrath 0

Rudolph b McGrath 14

Prince not out 92

Cullinan c Gilchrist b McGrath 4

Benkenstein c Hayden b Warne 0

Hall c M Waugh b Warne 18

Bodi c Gillespie b Lee 33

Tsolekile b Lee 0

Henderson c Langer b McGrath 7

Langeveldt not out 2

Extras (b-4, nb-5) 9

Total: (For 8 wkts in 57 overs) 179

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-35, 3-40, 4-66, 5-114, 6-162, 7-162, 8-175

Bowler O M R W

McGrath 8 4 14 3

Gillespie 8 3 22 0

Lee 6 1 35 0

Warne 4 1 11 0

M Waugh 1 0 4 0

Martyn 4 2 7 0

A stopgap keeper only



REUTERS, Napier

England's stand-in wicketkeeper Marcus Trescothick views the job as a short-term placement only as Jamie Foster struggles to find any consistency in his game.

Foster was dropped by England for the second one-day international against New Zealand on Saturday in Wellington, with coach Duncan Fletcher suggesting the youngster needed a rest.

"I'm still a specialist opening batsman," Trescothick told reporters after England's first practice since Saturday's humiliation.

"If by keeping wicket it gives England an extra option then fine but at the moment I don't see it being a long-term option or a goal for me. I have not kept wicket for a while and I need a bit more time to adjust."

"I have done a lot of work over the years on my keeping with different coaches and it's just remembering what to do. It comes naturally but I would not say I'm a pretty keeper."

Trescothick was asked to keep wicket for the second time this winter and put in a tidy performance

behind the stumps as England went down by 155 runs.

He was so successful that he is likely to be asked to keep wicket and open the batting again when the one-day series resumes in Napier on Wednesday.

Despite the England management trusting him with a key position, Trescothick is eager to hand the gloves back to Foster rather than stake a claim for Alec Stewart's old job on a full-time basis.

Foster will be working with former England keeper Bob Taylor this week as he tries to regain the sharpness that made him displayed on the Test tour to India before Christmas.

Since returning to England duty Foster has had a miserable time with a top score of 13 and a record of seven missed chances in five games -- a run that cost him his place.

Trescothick, who has scored just one run in the two matches against New Zealand, was confident behind the stumps in Wellington to such an extent that he stood up to medium fast allrounder Craig White.

"The wicket was slow and I was worried about the batsmen using their feet to get to the pitch of the ball," he said.

"I don't mind standing up and it's an option that can help the bowlers."

Trescothick has kept wicket on a part-time basis for his county Somerset, and by giving him the gloves, England have solved the dilemma of where to put him in the field.



Participants of the Step By Step School's annual sports competition assemble before the start of the event at the Lalmatia playground on February 15.

Flemo puts safety on top



REUTERS, Napier

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming has said he would be happy to tour Pakistan in April if his team's safety can be assured.

Fleming and his side are due to visit Pakistan for a month between April and May this year for a tour which was originally cancelled in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks on the United States. The Black Caps are due to play three one-day internationals and either two or three Tests.

"I'm satisfied New Zealand Cricket (NZC) are getting the safety issue right," Fleming, whose team are preparing for the third one-day international against England in Napier, told reporters.

"They are sending people over there to check it all out which is good. Pakistan need us to tour and if it is safe enough we are happy to go."

"It means we will have a hectic time and there are concerns we will lose players along the way because there is a lot of cricket to be played but that is what we enjoy doing."

NZC has come under heavy pressure from the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) to tour Pakistan, whose authorities have lost money due to cancelled trips to the country.

New Zealand manager Jeff Crowe is to visit Pakistan to inspect security arrangements, and Fleming will abide by his findings.

Earlier on Monday, NZC chief executive Martin Snedden said the Kiwis hoped to tour Pakistan in April



STEPHEN FLEMING

and hoped to do so in April and May. Snedden said: "New Zealand Cricket has received assurances from the Pakistan Cricket Board and directly from the Pakistan government that player safety will not be compromised while the team is in Pakistan."

"We believe it would also be sensible to send our own envoy to Pakistan to discuss security arrangements."

ACC president Tauqir Zia pointed out on Sunday the potential consequences if New Zealand did not go ahead with their tour of Pakistan.

"India, who are due to tour New Zealand in November this year, will not go ahead with the tour if the Kiwis do not honour their commitment in April," said Zia in Sharjah.

"This is not a veiled or open threat. We are all members of the ICC and should honour our commitments," added Zia, who is also president of the Pakistan Cricket Board.

"We are not talking only in reference to New Zealand, but any country from anywhere. If they don't come and play in Asia the four Test-playing countries of Asia would automatically refuse either to visit or host that particular country."

World Cup hosts Japan on high alert

FROM PAGE 13

is to face Nigeria at the stadium. The reason city officials are citing is the safety of school children from English thugs. A second English venue in Japan, Saitama city, is also equally affected by the negative media coverage on the hooliganism of English fans.

England is to face Sweden in Saitama in their Group F opening match on June 2. To counter such negative image of English football, a group of Saitama based English language teachers is organising workshops for World Cup volunteers, which they hope will dispel at least some of the myth that all English fans are troublemakers.

JAWOC, on the other hand, is planning to set up special checkpoints near match venues to achieve its previously set target of staging an alcohol-free competition, which the organisers claim would drastically reduce the possibility of hooliganism spreading near the

venues. The committee is obviously aware of the influence of alcohol on football fans, many of who often go rowdy after prolonged sessions of boozing. According to JAWOC's plan, committee's appointed volunteers would subject spectators to alcoholic test and confiscate tickets from those whose level of alcohol in blood proves to be higher than normal. But the committee is not yet sure if football's international federation, FIFA, will accept the suggestion.

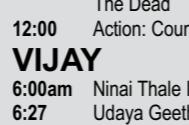
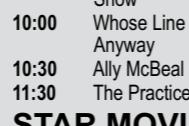
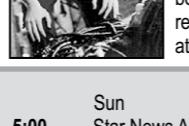
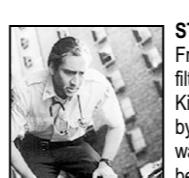
On Japan's own side of preparation for the national team's participation in the championship, things seem to be going not that smooth as fans are expecting. Japanese football officials disclosed recently that the French coach of country's national squad, Philippe Trouser, might delay the announcement of a 30-member team for the build-up of World Cup finals. A rash of injuries to key players could force Trouser to delay his earlier plan of naming

the squad in time. Meanwhile, on the political side of the preparations for the World Cup 2002 things seem to be going much more smoothly. Japan's newly appointed Foreign Minister, Yoriko Kawaguchi, in one of her first telephone talks with her counterparts in other countries, spoke with the South Korean Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister, Choi Sung Hong. They agreed to strive to make the World Cup a success. Later, a Japanese media report disclosed that Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is planning to attend the World Cup opening ceremonies in Seoul in late May. According to the report published in Sankei Shimbun, Koizumi is expected to take a one-day trip to attend the May 31 festivities.

— Monzur Huq is our correspondent in Tokyo

TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



PICK OF THE DAY



Psycho-III

on HBO at 10:00 p.m.

Just when you thought it was safe to step back into the shower, Anthony Perkins reprises the role that made him famous. This time, Norman Bates hires an Assistant Manager for the Bates Motel -- Duane, a struggling musician looking for a few quick bucks.

While fending off a nosy reporter doing a story on the insanity defense at murder trials, Norman runs

into Maureen, a seemingly innocuous stranger looking for a place to stay.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

STAR MOVIES

STAR GOLD

STAR WORLD

STAR PLUS (INDIA)

STAR GOLD

STAR GOLD

STAR GOLD

STAR GOLD

PICK OF THE DAY

