

Pak camp

CRICINFO, undated

A special 19-day camp for fast bowlers and opening batsmen will be held at the Pakistan National Cricket Academy from May 16th onwards, under the auspices, among others of fast bowling champion Wasim Akram.

Twenty-two of the country's leading fast bowlers, including the likes of Shoaib Akhtar, Umar Gul, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Sami, will attend the camp as well as 13 opening batsmen, including Imran Farhat, Mohammad Hafeez and Imran Nazir.

Aaquib Javed, former Test fast bowler and chief coach of the academies, will work with Akram as well as Mudassar Nazar, the former Test opener and current director, game development.

Eight players taking part in the ODI series in Abu Dhabi against Sri Lanka will join the camp from May 25th onwards.

Fast bowlers to attend: Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Asif, Umar Gul, Mohammad Sami, Rao Iftikhar, Najaf Shah, Abdul Raul, Mohammad Irshad, Mohammad Khalil, Junaid Zia, Uzair-ul-Haq, Anwar Ali, Kashif Daud, Shakil-ur-Rehman, Muhammad Amir, Rahat Ullah, Akhtar Ayub, Jamshed Ahmed, Farhan Ayub, Wahab Riaz, Sohail Tanveer, Mohammad Junaid Khan.

Opening batsmen to attend: Salman Butt, Imran Nazir, Mohammad Hafeez, Imran Farhat, Khurram Manzoor, Babar Naem, Khalid Latif, Shan Masood, Agha Sabir, Wajid Ali, Nasir Jamshed , Ahmed Shahzad, Asif Zakir.

Farhat fined for dissent

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan opener Imran Farhat has been fined and reprimanded for a phone call he made to the chief selector after he was not picked for a one-day series against Sri Lanka, officials said Friday.

Chief selector Salahuddin Ahmed complained to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) about 24-year-old Farhat's behaviour after he was overlooked for the three-match series to be played in Abu Dhabi next week.

"The Pakistan Cricket Board has taken strong notice of the incident regarding the telephone call made by Imran Farhat to chief selector Salahuddin Ahmed," the PCB said in a statement.

"After the complete review of the matter, the board has sanctioned Imran Farhat with 50 per cent of his match fee for the first match that he now plays for Pakistan.

"Furthermore, Imran will also be on six months probation in which he will be constantly monitored for his behaviour and attitude."

Farhat, who has played 27 Tests and 33 one-day internationals for Pakistan, was also axed from the Pakistan's World Cup squad after he performed poorly on the team's tour of South Africa in January-February.

Pakistan were ousted in the first round of the World Cup held in the West Indies in March-April, following losses to the hosts and to Ireland.

Farhat was on the comeback trail and had performed well in a domestic one-day competition last month.

"The punishment has been kept lenient considering the fact that this was only the first offence committed by Imran Farhat and he also submitted a written apology for this to the board," the PCB statement added.

Lloyd thinks

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them to hold their own when things get tight. If they can draw or get close to doing well in one of the Test matches, that's what we'd be looking for," Lloyd told 'The Guardian'.

"Lara has left, so there's not a lot of experienced batting. They don't have guys to set the world alight." Lloyd also felt that the West Indies players have to show professionalism to bring back its lost glory.

"We are taking too long to get back to the level we would all like. There are some very tough decisions to be taken.

"These guys have a comfort zone and they have to get out of that to reach the heights of other countries. We used to be very athletic and we have to get that work ethic back," he said.



Did U Know?

Table tennis is the world's most popular racket sport and it became an Olympic sport in 1988.



PHOTO: AFP

New Pakistan cricket team captain Shoaib Malik (R) watches as all-rounder Abdul Razzaq sends down a delivery during a practice session at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday, ahead of a three match series against Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi.

Make a new start: PCB



AFP, Lahore

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday ordered the new-look team to get fit and develop a "work ethic" as they bid to recover from their World Cup disaster.

Chairman Nasim Ashraf said the players must behave appropriately and would face contract problems if they did not make fitness gains every month.

"Each of you must behave like professionals and ambassadors of the country," Ashraf told the team during a meeting.

"The PCB will closely monitor the fitness of all the players and expect an improvement on every player on a month-to-month basis," he added.

"The fitness of players will be a major area in monitoring players' central contracts," said Ashraf of the yearly contracts, which will now be performance based.

The 1992 champions looked sloppy and out of touch as they were ousted in the first round of the March-April World Cup following defeats to the West Indies and minnows Ireland.

Their coach Bob Woolmer was also found dead at the team hotel in Jamaica the day after the Ireland defeat. Jamaican police say he was murdered although the investigation has made little headway.

"We all have had learned lessons from the World Cup and now

it's time to put them behind us and make a new start," Ashraf said.

"The fame, wealth and standing of players are because they play for their country," he added. "The PCB and its management are developing a new culture and work ethics and players are part of this."

The humiliating exit forced burly skipper Inzamam-ul-Haq to quit one-day cricket and, after vice-captain Younis Khan declined to take the post, the PCB was left to appoint young Shoaib Malik as new captain.

Ashraf, whose resignation following the Cup debacle was rejected by Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf -- also the patron of the PCB -- added that he expected more from the team's senior members.

"The senior players need to play their role in building up the youngsters and must wholly support the new captain Malik," said Ashraf.

Malik was assured of support by seniors like batsman Mohammad Yousuf and all-rounders Shahid Afridi and Abdul Razzaq during the meeting.

The PCB chief said Pakistan's fielding, another weak area, must be improved.

"There will be great emphasis on fielding and we must admit that it is not satisfactory. It is up to each player to personally improve fielding which also depends on physical fitness," Ashraf said.

Pakistan are due to take part in a three-match one-day series against Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi in

which matches are scheduled for May 18, 20 and 22.

Younis and leg-spinner Danish Kaneria are not available for the series, while fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar was still recovering from a knee injury.

Asia Cup over April 17-May 3 next year

CRICINFO, undated

Asia Cup will be next held in Pakistan from April 17 to May 3 next year after a gap of two years, according to the Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

The tournament was scheduled to be held in 2006 but was postponed due to an already-packed international schedule for the four Test playing nations.

"We could not hold the Cup in 2006 as the international calendar was packed. None of the Test playing teams had the time to squeeze in the tourney," said Ashraf Huq, chief executive of the ACC.

Referring to the 2010 Asian Games to be held in China, where Twenty20 cricket will be a part of it, Huq pointed out ACC's efforts to induct China into its fold. "The biggest job at hand is to get China to play cricket."

There would be eight teams, the four Test playing nations India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka -- as also four qualifiers from the continent.

Cannavaro

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"I think we are all much better now, not only David," Cannavaro said on his club's website. "We are all making a greater effort to win the league. We have five games left and we must win them all.

"We are in good spirits because we are having good results. This happens to every team. We must continue along the same path because it is important for us to have a good atmosphere -- it makes us work better."

Chelsea eye

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back to his home country, rumours strenuously denied by his manager.

"None of the clubs in Spain have got enough money to even go near him," Moyes insisted. "The talks have not taken place yet but they are due to take place.

"Mikel has three years of his contract to go but we want to reward him because he has done very well for us and Mikel knows we will get down to that in the next week or so."

Moore's debut today



GUARDIAN UNLIMITED, undated

England's first Test squad since Peter Moores' appointment as coach will be unveiled on Sunday, for the first Test against West Indies at Lord's on Thursday, and it will give the clearest indication yet of the power that Moores possesses and the way he intends to use it.

The most notable decisions may include immediate forgiveness for Steve Harmison, the chance of an overdue second Test cap for Owais Shah and the inclusion of Matt Prior as wicketkeeper. All of them had fallen out of favour under the previous coach, Duncan Fletcher, and all have good, if not irresistible, arguments in favour of a recall.

Another recent England tradition will be re-enacted: the inclusion of the captain, Michael Vaughan, to be followed by days of indecision about his fitness and a re-airing of the debate about whether Andrew Strauss or Andrew Flintoff should deputise. The odds are that Vaughan, who fractured a finger batting last week, will accept he is unfit and that Strauss will be named captain at about Tuesday lunchtime.

The increasingly authoritarian reign of Fletcher, who is now in brief enforced retirement and scowling at the lounge curtains in Cape Town, should not encourage the assumption that the squad will be entirely of Moores' own choosing. England Test squads are not chosen only by the coach but by a selection committee also involving the chairman, David Graveney, and the former England all-rounder Geoff Miller. Whereas Fletcher used to fold his arms at the first sign of dissent, Moores, a relative novice, is likely to be amenable. It may yet be that the impending Schofield report recommends that the selection committee should be a thing of the past,

but until that happens we will have to forgo dictatorship and make do with democracy.

Vaughan's doubtful fitness is an unfortunate beginning for Moores, who is anxious to establish his own faith that the Yorkshireman can have a prolonged international future. As faiths go, the Vaughan faith is a bit like the Church of England, involving no real desire for proof, merely a creeping feeling



PETER MOORES

that it is preferable to the abandonment of hope.

At least Vaughan's injuries are getting smaller. The major knee reconstruction has been followed by an injured hamstring and now by a fractured finger. If the pattern continues he will miss Headingley with a migraine, at which point he will be miraculously restored to full health.

Whereas Fletcher gradually became convinced that Vaughan's presence around the squad when injured would be counterproductive, Moores will welcome his involvement at Lord's if, as expected, he is ruled unfit. That would give Vaughan security about his future and dissuade him from playing at Lord's before his finger was fully healed.

So far Moores has shied away

Gough wants a chance



SPORTINGLIFE, undated

Darren Gough believes he could be the man to get England's struggling pace attack firing again.

The fast bowler, currently captain of Yorkshire, insists he would have the support of the players and could put a smile back on their faces after a long, hard winter.

Gough, 36, claims that has been lacking since the departure of former bowling coach Troy Cooley last year, and believes he would be the ideal man to step into the role as replacement for current incumbent Kevin Shine.

"I would bring my experience and

enthusiasm to the role and I think I'd be very good," Gough, who took more than 450 wickets for England, told The Sun.

"The players like me. You saw that two years ago when Troy Cooley left. Simon Jones and Steve Harmison both said publicly they'd like me to be the next bowling coach."

"Unfortunately I'm not very good with computers and unless you have a level-four coaching certificate you can't coach around England."

"But I'd love to put something back into the game and I love representing my country."

"Kevin Shine is an excellent communicator and a good coach but Troy Cooley was a big loss. He had a great relationship with the players."

BANGLADESH-INDIA 2ND ODI SCOREBOARD									
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Mohammad Ashraf	b	Piyush Chawla	12	13	1	0			
Habibul Bashar	st	Mahendra Dhone	43	88	0	2			
Mushtaqur Rahim	c	Dinesh Karthik	35	43	3	1			
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	c	Virender Sehwag	42	22	1	5			
Mohammad Rafique	c	b Piyush Chawla	13	19	0	1			
Abdur Razzaq	not out		9	11	1	0			
Syed Raseel	not out		4	7	0	0			
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-8, nb-3)			17						
Total: (For 9 wickets in 49 overs)			238						
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-51, 3-60, 4-86, 5-92, 6-151, 7-177, 8-193, 9-231.									
Bowler									
Zaheer Khan	0	M	R	W		NB/W			
Munaf Patel	7	0	32	2		nb-3, w-1			
Piyush Chawla	7	0	34	0		w-2			
Ramesh Powar	10	0	37	3		w-2			
Dinesh Mongia	10	1	32	1		-			
Yuvraj Singh	8	0	57	0		-			
	7	0	40	2		w-2			
Result: India won by 46 runs and lead the 3-match series 2-0.									
Man-of-the-match: Gautam Gambhir.									
Toss: India									
Umpires: Asoka de Silva and Enamul Haque									
TV umpire: AFM Akhtaruddin									
Match referee: Roshan Mahanama.									



PHOTO: COURTESY

National bridge team members pose for photographs prior to leaving for Karachi yesterday to take part in the 14th Bridge Federation of Asia and Middle East Championship. The meet starts tomorrow.

'Vaughan 'won't be ready' for first Test'

AFP, London

Injured England captain Michael Vaughan is set to miss the first Test against the West Indies, Yorkshire teammate Dean Kruis claimed Saturday.

The selectors, who are due to announce their squad on Sunday for the opening match of a four-Test series, due to start Thursday at Lord's, have said they will give batsman Vaughan as much time as they can to recover from having his finger broken facing Hampshire's Australia pace bowler Stuart Clark last week.

But Kruis said Vaughan had felt pain during batting practice.

"He has been in the last couple of days trying to test the finger," Kruis told Sky Sports.

"He's had an X-ray and had some strapping on the finger but he won't be ready for the first Test. But he feels pretty confident of being ready for the second Test match."

"I suppose he was looking at playing but he was still feeling some discomfort," the pace bowler added.

Vaughan last played a Test for England 17 months ago, in Pakistan, since when he has been ruled out with a persistent knee problem and a hamstring injury.

Ancelotti

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players who would improve any squad," added the Coach.

"Franck Ribery is also a player I like very much. He is a dynamic figure and had a great World Cup."

They must qualify for the Champions League before making big money signings and that means securing a top four finish in Serie A.

"We have to focus on the League and sealing our position so it's not a problem on our minds ahead of Athens."