

Camp starts sans Sachin

CRICINFO, undated

Sachin Tendulkar and Wasim Jaffer missed out on the opening day of the fitness-specific camp for the batsmen that kicked off in Bangalore at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) on Saturday. Tendulkar, who has been allowed to miss the start of the camp "for personal reasons", is scheduled to join on June 10 while Jaffer, who is already in Bangalore, has been diagnosed with flu and is unlikely to attend the camp.

The nine batsmen who were present and Sreesanth, the lone bowler, underwent an indoor training programme on the first day, one that began with a yoga session in the team hotel. The players then moved into the indoor training facility at the NCA where they underwent drills to enhance core stability, associated with the torso and spine regions, and shoulder stability. There were multi-stage fitness tests too (also called bleep tests) and skin fold measurements, an indicator of the fat composition in the body.

Physical trainer Gregory King is overseeing the camp, one of the three to be conducted ahead of India's tour of Ireland and England. Sreesanth was expected to attend the first two days of the camp -- since his selection for the Afro-Asia Cup Twenty20 match meant he missed out on the bowlers' camp in Mysore. His fast-bowling partner VRV Singh, who had a viral attack last evening, was admitted to a local hospital but is expected to be discharged on Sunday.

Four Indian batsmen -- Sourav Ganguly, Virender Sehwag, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Yuvraj Singh -- who're currently involved in the ongoing Afro-Asian Cup, are expected to join the camp after the three-match series concludes on Sunday. The batsmen present at the camp on the first day were Rahul Dravid, VVS Laxman, Gautam Gambhir, Robin Uthappa, Dinesh Mongia, Dinesh Karthik, Rohit Sharma, Mohammad Kaif and S Badrinath.

This camp follows one that was held specifically for the bowlers, in Mysore from June 4 to 8. It will be followed by a conditioning camp from June 13 to 16 at the NCA, and will be attended by players selected to represent India in the tours of Ireland and England. These teams will be selected, in Delhi on June 12.

ICC considers WC duration

PTI, Dubai

After the criticism about the World Cup in the Caribbean stretching for too long, the International Cricket Council is looking to shorten the tournament to five weeks in its future editions.

"Yes, we are looking at the duration of future World Cups," ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed said.

"I'm hopeful that we can find a format that gets us down to five weeks. There was a lot of criticism of the length of the event. We looked at that. We accept that. We will revise it and try to get it down to five weeks," Speed said.

However, he said there would not be a reduction in the number of matches.

"I think we will end up playing just as many matches, but will do it in a shorter format."

Worst is past

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come to Wembley. If we play like we did against Brazil in our first game there, we can beat all of them.

"As for finishing top, I still think the group is wide open.

"We've still got a lot of big games to play in this group. I'm confident we can beat all those sides. The team has shown over the years that when we are under pressure, we can dig out a result."

And Gerrard is confident the return of Micheal Owen from injury will help England's chances.

"Michael is a fantastic goalscorer and he has got a great record at this level. Any team that has got Michael Owen fit, sharp and ready, is going to be stronger.

"We have missed him, of course we have, and any side having people like Michael available can only benefit."

For a noble

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or national charities but as a team we decided to use our role as England footballers to not only contribute money and our time but to also help raise awareness of particular issues.

"Every player to a man is looking forward to supporting our charity."

The sum of one million pounds will primarily be raised through the players donating all of their England match fees to the players' charity, but it's expected the minimum figure will be exceeded by additional charitable activities undertaken by the players.

The Team England Footballers Charity is also planning to launch its own grassroots initiative to help disadvantaged youth teams across the country.



PHOTO: AFP

HOSTILE: England batsman Kevin Pietersen is dismissed after a Dwayne Bravo bouncer hit him on his helmet and dropped on the stumps during the third day of the third Test at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Gough breaks hand

Cricket

AFP, Manchester

Former England fast bowler Darren Gough had his best first-class figures for nine years Friday but suffered a broken bone in his bowling hand, which could keep him out for up to a month, during Yorkshire's First Division County Championship match against Kent.

Gough, who returned from Essex at the start of the season to captain his native county, took three wickets for four runs in only six deliveries to finish with six for 47 as Championship leaders Yorkshire bowled out hosts Kent for 292 on the third day of four at Tunbridge Wells.

But after an X-ray revealed Gough's injury, Kent recovered to 149 for one at stumps with ex-England batsman Robert Key 72 not out and former South Africa international Martin van Jaarsveld unbeaten on 56.

Sri Lanka great Muttiah Muralidaran took his 20th five-wicket haul in 23 Championship appearances as Lancashire eyed victory against Durham on Saturday's final day.

Lancashire reached 310 for seven in their second innings, a lead of 365 after Muralidaran took five for 95 in Durham's 312.

Elsewhere champions Sussex need eight wickets for victory on the final day at home to neighbours

Hampshire with the visitors set an unlikely 500 to win.

Sussex captain Chris Adams scored a hundred but former Zimbabwe batsman Murray Goodwin fell for 99.

Worcestershire, who made a mammoth 701 for six declared against Surrey featuring captain Vikram Solanki's 232 and 124 from Australia's Phil Jacques, could yet force their first win of the season.

Surrey's Jon Batty scored 114 at New Road but the visitors still had to follow-on and now need a further 273 just to make Worcestershire bat again.

Basement club Glamorgan, bottom of the Second Division table, secured their first home win for three years with a 55-run victory against leaders Nottinghamshire at Swansea.

Spinner Dean Cosker took five wickets with Australian David Hussey top scoring in Nottinghamshire's second innings with 63.

South African seamer Charl Willoughby took five for 82 as Somerset beat Leicestershire by an innings and 259 runs at Taunton.

Somerset's huge 675 for five declared included 182 from Marcus Trescothick, still absenting himself from England duty on health grounds, and 114 from Australia's Cameron White.

Gloucestershire, who followed-on, managed a draw away to Derbyshire in a match where New Zealand's Hamish Marshall scored

120 in what was their eighth straight day of cricket.

Essex are on course for victory against Northamptonshire, who will need another 298 on the final day to make their opponents bat again.

Africa stare

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scored with 66 in the previous match.

Sehwag set the pace when he hammered Albie Morkel for three fours in the opening over. He fell immediately after completing his half-century with a six off Elton Chigumbura. He hit a six and eight fours in his 38-ball knock.

But there was no respite for the African bowlers as Dhoni, Yousuf, Ganguly and Jayawardene maintained the impressive run-rate with their sensible knocks.

Left-handed Ganguly put on 80 for the fourth wicket with Jayawardene and 84 with Yousuf before falling in the closing overs. The former India captain struck a six and nine fours in his 112-ball innings.

South African seamer Morne Morkel took two wickets and his brother Albie one. Other wicket-takers were Zimbabwean Chigumbura (2-84) and Kenyan Thomas Odooyo (1-60).

The third and final one-dayer will be played here on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after Asia's innings against Africa in the second one-day international of the Afro-Asia Cup series on Saturday:

ASIA

Sehwag c M. Morkel b Chigumbura 52
Jayasuriya c Dippenaar b Odooyo 11
Ganguly c sub (Ongondo) b Chigumbura 88
Dhoni c A Morkel 33
Jayawardene run out 45
Yousuf c Boucher b M Morkel 51
Yuvraj Singh not out 30
Rafique c De Villiers b M Morkel 1
Zaheer Khan not out 0
Extras: (lb-8, nb-4, w-14) 26
Total: (For 7 wickets in 50 overs) 337
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-77, 3-134, 4-214, 5-298, 6-331, 7-333.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
A Morkel	6	0	49	1
M Morkel	10	1	48	2
Odooyo	8	0	60	1
Chigumbura	10	0	84	2
Botha	10	1	51	0
Sibanda	6	1	37	0

Toss: Asia

LOCAL SNIPPETS

to the budding footballers of Bangladesh today afternoon at the residence of British High Commissioner in Dhaka.

High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury will host the event at his residence in Baridhara to encourage 35 young footballers aged between 12 and 14.

UK-based Canary Wharf launched a new football project in Bangladesh in August 2006 to develop the skills of young footballers of Bangladesh.

Under the project, they selected 35 promising players, among some 6,000 participants, who are now undergoing a four-year training programme at BKSP.

RATING CHESS

Destiny International Rating Chess Tournament begins today at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hallroom.

More than a hundred players are expected to take part in the competition. A total of Tk 64,000 will be distributed among the winners as prize money.

CORPORATE FOOTBALL

Twenty-four corporate houses will take part in the BRAC Bank second five-a-side corporate football tournament at the International School Dhaka (ISD) gymnasium today.

IDLC, Aarong, Asiatic, Nestle, HSBC, Radio Foorti, Multimode Group, Radisson Hotel, BRAC Bank, Unilever, Ice Technology, ISD, Scholastica Group, Grey, Rahimafrooz, Bangla Cat, Isphani Group, Mojo, Square Group, Aqua Paints, Banglalink, Flora Telecom, GramreenPhone and Dhansiri Media are the teams which will take part in the knockout format of the competition.

Event management firm Excalibur Entertainment is in charge of organising the entire affair.

Gayle rejected

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This raises serious issues about who selects not only the captain but also the team. It is reported that the selectors have no problem with the decision to veto Gayle but they feel strongly that the WICB should not involve itself in choosing the squad. "Ganga is not in the ODI team. If the board picks him as captain, then they are essentially picking the team," a well-placed source with knowledge of the situation told Caribbeancricket.com.

There is also a row over the A team squad for the tour of Zimbabwe. The selectors picked Ryan Hinds as vice-captain to Sylvester Joseph only for the WICB to veto it and pick Narsingh Deonarine.

Ze Roberto

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confirmed Thursday agreement had been reached with the Brazilian, but on condition that he quits international football.

"We feel that it wouldn't be reasonable for a player of his age to make the return trip between Germany and Brazil five times a season to play for the national side," said Hoeness.

Ze Roberto was one of the few players to remain in the national side after the clearance following their 2006 World Cup quarterfinal defeat to France.

He has won 83 caps and scored six goals for Brazil.

Ze Roberto played his last match Wednesday for Santos.

He joined the Brazilian side after his four-year contract with Bayern ended last June, having previously played four seasons at Bayer Leverkusen.

NZ look to Wright

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

New Zealand are considering possible roles for John Wright, who is keen to remain in Canterbury after refusing the position as head coach at Australia's Centre of Excellence. Although there has been speculation Wright could take over from John Bracewell, whose contract as New Zealand's coach ends in July, New Zealand Cricket's chief executive Justin Vaughan said no decision had been made on Bracewell's future.

"Obviously we don't want to leave NZC in a vacuum without a coach," Vaughan told The Press on Thursday, his first day as chief executive. "There is a board meeting in about ten days where I want to

talk to the board about the process. We will then have about six weeks until John is off contract and it would be great if we could run that process until then to give us some certainty.

"Certainly over the last 12 months the side has performed pretty well, reaching the semi-finals of the Champions Trophy and World Cup and winning the Chappell-Hadlee series 3-0. There are lots of positive marks in there. But the coach from here on needs to believe he can make them better than that."

Vaughan said it was good news for New Zealand that Wright had decided not to move to Australia. "I haven't had the chance to meet with him properly yet," Vaughan said. "Hopefully within the next few weeks we can see what his thoughts are. If you spoke to John one of his prime motivators is his desire to stay in Canterbury on his farm.

"So that immediately means he might fit some things and not others. I think that is one of the drivers for him not taking the position in Australia. He might be ready now to do something in New Zealand, when he wasn't before."

Vaughan described Wright, who coached India from 2000 to 2005, as "extraordinary". "He is obviously a very talented guy, very knowledgeable and we'd love to have him," he said. "To be able to have managed the Indian team with their huge egos and drive performance in that environment was remarkable. But maybe he just wants to be a farmer and that's fine ... just as long as he isn't helping the Australians."

Glamorgan want Fletcher

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Former Glamorgan captain Steve James has urged the Dragons to offer Duncan Fletcher a return to the county.

Fletcher, who guided Glamorgan to the County Championship in 1997, is looking for work after resigning as England coach in April.

And James, Fletcher's biographer, believes the 58-year-old is interested in returning to Wales to coach.

"If Glamorgan are looking for a director of cricket, Duncan Fletcher is definitely that man," said James.

"I think they should get on the phone and have a chat with him."

"I went out to see him last week to do some stuff for the book. He didn't say to me in as many words he wanted to come back to Glamorgan,

but I get that impression.

"When he first took the England job he said he wanted to come back to Glamorgan."

He added: "There aren't that many jobs around in international cricket, and I don't think he's had any international offers."

"I think he's looking domestically. He does love Cardiff. He hasn't actually got a house in Cardiff as some people think, but every season he's been with England he's always rented a place in Cardiff."

"I think a move back to Glamorgan would have some lure."

Glamorgan chairman Paul Russell said in April the county had no plans to speak with Fletcher about a possible return to Sophia Gardens.

But since then, Glamorgan have endured a terrible start to the season and the possibility of bringing in a director of cricket to assist new coach Adrian Shaw has been

mooted.

Matthew Maynard's name has been mentioned as a possible candidate, but James believes the former Glamorgan batsman lacks the experience for such a role.

"With all due respect to Matthew Maynard, I think he'll make a good coach but I'm not sure he's ready for that higher up role," James told BBC Wales Sport.

"Glamorgan have got Adrian Shaw and Steve Watkin as coaches at the moment and doing a very good job."

"There's no reason why Maynard and Fletcher couldn't fit in as well."

"But it's a difficult scenario because you've got to remember Glamorgan got rid of John Derrick last winter and that was seen as a cost-cutting exercise so I presume money is going to be an issue."

Wife attacks golfer

AP, Memphis

American golfer John Daly told authorities his wife tried stab him with a steak knife, and the golfer had red marks on his cheeks when he showed up to play Friday on the course where he lives.

Daly called police about six o'clock in the morning on Friday, Shelby County Sheriff's department spokesman Steve Shular said. When deputies arrived, wife Sherrie and the couple's children were not there. Deputies could not find the knife he claimed she used.

Daly is competing this week in the Stanford St. Jude Championship on a sponsor's exemption. He was tied for eighth after the first round in which he had a triple bogey and rebounded with five straight birdies.

He did not speak with reporters, but issued a statement saying he was the "victim of an assault by my wife."

"I filed a complaint with the Shelby County Sheriff's Office. They are investigating, and I'll have no further comment on the matter while they pursue their investigation. My only concern at this point is for the safety of my children and myself," the statement said.

Daly also said he was working with local authorities and tour security for protection. He had two bodyguards with him through his round, and he went from a tie for eighth to a tie for 58th with a 4-over 74 that featured two double bogeys, five bogeys and five birdies.

He did not speak to reporters after finishing his round, which should let him play into the weekend for only the fourth time in 12 events

this year.

No charges had been filed Friday afternoon, and it will be Daly's decision whether he wants that to happen, Shular said.

The 41-year-old golfer and his wife argued last night at a restaurant near the golf course, he told deputies.

Daly has won two majors -- the 1991 PGA Championship and 1995 British Open -- but his play has been overshadowed by two trips to alcohol rehab, outrageous tales of gambling losses, trashed hotel rooms and suspensions.

Daly has struggled this season. He has one top-25 finish and has made only three cuts. He has withdrawn from three other events.

Daly met Sherrie at this tournament in 2001, and they married seven weeks later. Their son, John Patrick, was born a week before she and her parents were indicted in Mississippi on charges stemming from what authorities said was a drug ring and an illegal gambling operation.

Sherrie Daly pleaded guilty in November 2004 to a charge of conspiracy to structure a transaction to evade the reporting requirement. She began serving a five-month sentence in January 2006, then filed for divorce in Shelby County on October 17 last year.

Daly filed himself a day later, then said a month later that things were on hold. Shular said police had been called to the home only once before for a false alarm in December and that Sherrie Daly had listed a Collierville address for herself.

His autobiography -- "My Life In & Out of the Rough" -- details his

gambling and drinking addiction with one chapter devoted to his three former wives that was titled, "All My Exes Wear Rolexes."

Maninder in hospital

CRICINFO, undated

Maninder Singh, the former Indian left-arm spinner, has been admitted to a hospital in Delhi with injuries to both his hands.

Doctors at the hospital have said that he is out of danger and under observation. Maninder's wife has issued a statement saying that it was "purely an accident".

"Both his hands are injured," said Dr Dharmender at the Shanti Mukund Hospital in East Delhi after Maninder was admitted. "The operation is going on and though his condition is stable, we will divulge details later after further reports."

Officials have refused to confirm the cause of the injuries but local TV channels have speculated that it could be the result of a suicide attempt or even a domestic accident.

Shaun sets

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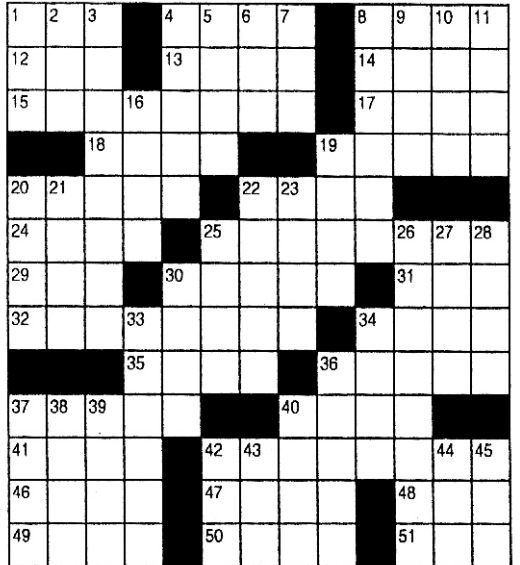
attack. Undoubtedly it is going to be a tough tour. But we are confident of doing well there. We are not focusing on Sri Lanka's strong points, rather our aim is to improve our individual performances," said Ashraf, who guaranteed that the captaincy will not hamper his natural batting.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35 Normandy city	2 Prior night	21 Internet surfer
1 Ump	36 Attuned classic	3 Disney parlor	22 Beauty
4 Spat	37 Marshlike	4 California- lake	23 Small song-bird
8 Walk of Fame emblem	40 Antitoxins	5 Afflictions	25 Speck
12 Eggs	41 Blood-hound's clue	6 Adversary	26 Temporary inactivity
13 Lotion additive	42 Late newsman	7 "SNL"	27 Traditional tales
14 Quasi-modern creator	46 1492	8 Scabbard	28 Stentorian
15 Author	47 "Zounds!"	9 Swerve	30 Fix, in a sense
17 Piccadilly statue	48 Bill's partner	10 Enthusiastic	33 Dr. Phil
18 New Mexico art colony	49 Recognized	11 Optimistic	34 Graceful young woman
19 Shabby out	50 Take-out phrase	16 Yogi Berra's home	
20 Polished	51 Eternity	19 Factor in Einstein's equation	
22 Bat a gnat		20 "To thine own — be true"	
24 Being, to Brutus		36 Japanese fencing	
25 TV host		37 Hit	
Peter		38 Valhalla VIP	
29 Island souvenir		39 Vanished	
30 Cobbler's supply		40 Sweater woe	
31 Halloween shout		42 Lustrous black	
32 Singer		43 Freudian concept	
Peter		44 Sticky stuff	
34 Machu Picchu's site		45 Heir, often	

Solution time: 25 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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DSUBUSKVEBJ JVGRSKJ VZM

OSSMJ EYOO OKSU JIBBT:

"EVKJ VZM EKGTBJ OSKBX BK." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A ROBOT IS VERY ABSORBED IN VIEWING SOMETHING, MIGHT ONE SAY ITS EYES ARE RIVETED? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T

Acting managing director of BRAC Bank Kaiser Tamiz Amin (C) draws a team chit as the bank's senior marketing manager Zahid Ibne Hai and Excalibur Entertainment CEO Farhan Kuddus (R) look on during the launching ceremony of the second corporate football tournament at the ISD gymnasium yesterday.