

Army training for Pakistan

CRICINFO, undated

Military personnel at the 'conditioning' camp being held in the northern city of Abbottabad are training Pakistani cricketers. The camp, first of the set of three to be held this summer, is being held at a military base aimed at helping Pakistan's injury-prone cricketers to get in shape for a demanding international season.

Talat Ali, Pakistan team manager who is also supervising the two-week camp, said that all the players are 'enjoying this new regimental routine'. "The cricketers are really happy with the sort of physical training they are receiving from a team of Army trainers," he told The News. "The boys have told me that such training drills are new for them and they've really welcomed it."

Few of the strict rules and regulations attendees must adhere to while at this camp have been relaxed due to the presence of national stars but others, like showing up formally dressed for lunch and dinner, have been enforced.

Wright wants

FROM PAGE 17 years, despite continued speculation over his future. Wright said he believed Bracewell had done a good job with the team.

"We had a chat before they went to the World Cup and we had a good discussion about things," he said. "John and I played a lot of cricket together, we've sort of been around together. The bottom line is ... I expect he will be continuing. It's the same anywhere. I mean, in India, if you don't win, as coach, you don't keep your job basically, it's as simple as that. And New Zealanders are pretty tough on the coaching front too."

Wright said critics of Bracewell should remember that the second-tier players often determined a team's success and New Zealand's small population made that depth elusive. He said New Zealand's World Cup efforts -- they again failed at the semi-final stage -- were generally impressive, with the exception of their games against Australia and Sri Lanka.

"There's not many people in New Zealand and we're up against continually a bigger talent pool and things like that," he said. "We've just got to get our heads around winning."

Vaughan proud of 'character'



AFP, Manchester

England captain Michael Vaughan praised his side's character after their 60 run victory in the second Test against West Indies at Old Trafford here on Monday, saying they would learn more from a close win than their thrashing of the tourists at Headingley.

This win gave England an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the four-match series, ahead of the final Test at the Riverside on Friday.

It also saw Vaughan become England's most successful Test captain with 21 wins in 35 matches, compared to Peter May's 20 in 41 back in the 1950s and 1960s.

However, after England's innings and 283 run win at Headingley, West Indies' heaviest Test defeat, this latest win was no walkover.

West Indies, set what would have been a Test fourth innings record of 455 to win, were bowled out for 394 shortly after lunch on the final day after Shivnarine Chanderpaul made a defiant 116 notout.

Left-arm spinner Monty Panesar, who finished the match by dismissing last man Corey Collimore, had a match haul of 10 for 187 -- his first 10 wicket Test return in what was his 16th match at this level and the first

time this had been done by an England slow bowler since Phil Tufnell achieved the feat against Australia in 1997.

"I'm really proud of the team," said Vaughan. "We've been asked a lot of questions, been asked to show character both as a team and individuals. These victories are more special because you know you've had to work very hard."

"The Headingley victories are nice but this one is a special one because we've known we've had to work hard for it."

Vaughan's preparations for this match were overshadowed by an interview he gave to the Guardian where he said Andrew Flintoff's now infamous pedalo escapade at the World Cup had damaged the side's morale.

Vaughan denied using the word 'Fredalo' during the interview but the Guardian subsequently published an audiotape where Vaughan used it twice.

"I openly admit I was embarrassed by what I did. I'm sorry for that."

Reflecting on the match, Vaughan said it would be a shot in the arm for a West Indies side that has now won just one of its last 28 Tests.

"West Indies will have gained a lot of confidence from that game. They have proved they can be a decent side when they become a disciplined

one."

As for beating May's record, Vaughan said: "It's special because I've passed a legend in Peter May."

"But you don't win a game of cricket without having good players and I've been very fortunate to have a lot of good players in my teams."

One of those has been Panesar and Vaughan said of the slow bowler: "He's becoming pretty special and he's just great to have in the team."

Panesar, described by West Indies captain Daren Ganga as one of the top three spinners in the world, was spoken to by umpire Aleem Dar for excessive appealing and the otherwise mild-mannered bowler said: "He was saying maybe appeal before I start celebrating."

"I guess I get a little bit excited when I'm out there."

Ganga, in his first Test as West Indies captain after replacing the injured Ramnaresh Sarwan, said: "A lot of guys played with a lot of pride and a lot of purpose, and it's only going to augur well for the rest of the series."

Both captains praised Chanderpaul's innings and the experienced left-hander said: "Monty was really difficult to bat against. The ball pitched and jumped, hit my glove. Some kicked off a length, some squatted. It was a tough wicket to bat on."

Monty can't stay quiet



AFP, Manchester

Monty Panesar has said keeping his emotions under control is proving one of the biggest challenges of his soaring Test career.

The 25-year-old left-arm spinner enhanced his growing reputation with 10 for 187 in England's 60-run third Test win against West Indies at Old Trafford.

That saw Panesar become the first England spinner since Phil Tufnell against Australia at The Oval in 1997 to take 10 wickets in a Test match.

Off the field Panesar, the first Sikh to play Test cricket for England, is as far removed in

character from Tufnell as is possible to imagine, being a non-drinker and non-smoker, unlike the former Middlesex left-earner whose private life became the subject of some lurid newspaper headlines.

But Panesar is as passionate as anyone when it comes to playing cricket and that enthusiasm, his manifest eagerness to do well, coupled with his undoubted skill has already made him a cult hero with fans around the world.

Whereas Tufnell would sometimes turn his anger on teammates if things weren't going well, the only outlet Panesar has for his emotions on the cricket field appears to be with his frenzied appeals.

As Shivnarine Chanderpaul,

dropped on 18 by Panesar, slowly and methodically batted West Indies towards what would have been a Test record fourth innings victory total of 455, England's spinner became increasingly frustrated as a succession of pleas were turned down by Pakistani umpire Aleem Dar.

And at one point Panesar charged down the pitch to celebrate a 'catch' in the slips when a wickedly bouncing delivery had clipped Chanderpaul's helmet.

Players, who risk being fined or suspended if their conduct towards officials falls foul of the International Cricket Council code of conduct, are supposed to appeal to the umpire's face before celebrating a wicket.

Dar, after rejecting Panesar's appeal, had a word with the bowler and appeared to be telling him to calm down.

"He was saying maybe appeal before I start celebrating. I guess I get a little bit excited when I'm out there," explained Panesar, whose sprint down the pitch when he takes a wicket gives the appearance of hyperactive puppet whose strings have just been cut.

Panesar has been mocked for his poor fielding and now, in England at least, every time he successfully gathers and returns the ball spectators cheer him, albeit in a supportive if patronising fashion.

However, on Monday, he surprised a few people by dismissing Darren Sammy caught and bowled following the all-rounder's well-hit drive.

"I was disappointed with the catch I dropped. I felt I was there and I should have taken it," explained Panesar, described by West Indies captain Daren Ganga as one of the top three spinners in the world.

"Today's (Monday's) one, I guess it stuck in my hand and I was glad to get a caught and bowled."

BCCI goes

FROM PAGE 17

"By not advertising for the post or sending out feelers as soon as Chappell left for Australia, the board seriously overestimated its own hand," Cricinfo wrote.

"The promise of a big fat payday may lure those more mercenary but a top-level coach requires all sorts of assurances before taking up a job of such magnitude."

"Will they find a new coach before India's Test series against England begins?"

"For a start, do they even know where to look? This is an embarrassment that the BCCI has brought upon itself."

Asia's season

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players and help young footballers while they are here.

"It's good if the big clubs come but they should give something and not just take away," he told AFP last month.

"They have already taken a lot of money through television rights in Asia."

"Invite youngsters, help some charities or do humanitarian activities, conduct clinics with the players."

"This would be good instead of just coming in and training, sleeping, playing and leaving."

Darsha retires

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan sprinter Damayanthi Darsha, a three-time Asian gold medalist, announced her retirement here Tuesday.

The 32-year-old Darsha, a 400-metre specialist, is the only Sri Lankan to win three Asian Games gold medals.

In the 1998 Games she won gold medals in both the 200 and 400 metres. In the 2002 Games held in Busan, South Korea, she took gold in the 400 metres.

Plagued by injury in the latter stages of her 17-year career, she said she was disappointed she could not win an Olympic medal for the country.

Her teammate, Susanthika Jayasinghe, won a bronze medal in the 200 metres at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

Sehwag left out

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height have seen them surpass other pace contenders like RP Singh and VRV Singh. Sreesanth and Zaheer Khan won India a Test at the Wanderers last December, but adequate back-up will be vital if India are to have any chance of becoming the first touring side to win in England since Australia in 2001.

ODI SQUAD

Gautam Gambhir, Robin Uthappa, Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid (capt), Yuvraj Singh, Dinesh Karthik, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (vice-capt, wk), Rohit Sharma, Ramesh Powar, Ajit Agarkar, Piyush Chawla, Zaheer Khan, RP Singh, Sreesanth.

TEST SQUAD

Wasim Jaffer, Dinesh Karthik, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid (capt), Sachin Tendulkar (vice-capt), Sourav Ganguly, VVS Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (wk), Ramesh Powar, Anil Kumble, Zaheer Khan, Sreesanth, RP Singh, Ishant Sharma, Ranadeb Bose.

Woolmer died

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Woolmer, 58, died soon after being found unconscious in his hotel room in Jamaica on March 18 the day after Pakistan were knocked out of the cricket World Cup by Ireland.

An initial autopsy report proved inconclusive, but a pathology report later indicated he died of asphyxia as a result of "manual strangulation," which led the police to treat the death as murder.

The claims rocked the world of cricket amid speculation about links to an alleged gambling mafia.

"The Jamaica Constabulary Force adopted a thoroughly professional investigation where nothing was left to chance. Every effort has been made by the Jamaica Constabulary Force to seek the truth surrounding Bob Woolmer's death," Thomas said.

"My hope is that despite the trauma of the last two and half months, Mrs (Gill) Woolmer and her sons will be confident that the JCF has done all it can to establish the truth surrounding the death of her husband."

Harmy deserved

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back to his best but he was certainly back to some real consistency in the second innings.

"I'm really pleased for him because he's worked a few things out and he's deserved a little bit of success," added Vaughan after England had set a new record of 11 successive home series without defeat.

Man-of-the-match Monty Panesar, England's most consistent bowler of recent times, did the bulk of the damage with a match haul of 10 for 187, the first time the 25-year-old left-arm spinner had taken 10 wickets in a Test.

Only a typically obdurate unbeaten 116 from Chanderpaul (dropped on 18 by Panesar), in more than six hours, held England up and an admiring Vaughan said of the Guyanese left-hander's century: "That was as good Test match batting as I've seen."

"You take guard in the second innings, you see all that amount of rough and you know you've got to face someone like Monty Panesar, it's a helluva knock to go and be 100 not out in those circumstances."

"I know you always say that when it's just happened, but I can't remember a better innings than that."

Tevez wants

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Cambiasso, Javier Zanetti, Nicolas Burdisso, Mariano Gonzalez and Santiago Solari already plying their trade at the San Siro, it seems Serie A may now be his favoured destination.

"I know Inter is interested in me," said Tevez.

"It would be nice to play in Italy, especially in a team that has so many Argentinians."

"There will be some meetings, some discussions, but I really don't know anything official yet."



PHOTO: COURTESY

Warid Telecom CEO Muneer Farooqui (C) is seen with the winners of the Warid Quiz contest at the company's corporate office at Banani on Tuesday.

Panesar leaps to 12th place



CRICINFO, undated

Monty Panesar's outstanding performance in the third Test against West Indies at Old Trafford has lifted him to a career-best 12th position in the ICC rankings for bowlers. Panesar finished with figures of 10 for 187, his first ten-for in Tests, as England pulled off a 60-run win to take a 2-0 lead and seal the series. Panesar is now the third-ranked spinner in the list, behind only Muttiah Muralidaran and Anil Kumble. Steve Harmison, who also had a good Test with six wickets, retains his 18th place.

Among the batsmen, Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Alastair Cook both moved up eight slots after scoring exactly 166 runs in the Test. Chanderpaul is now in 13th place, one spot ahead of Cook. The news wasn't so good for Andrew Strauss, though, who has dropped out of the top 20 for the first time since December 2004 after scoring just 78

runs in five innings in the ongoing series against West Indies.

TEST BATSMEN

Rank	Batsman	Points
1	Ricky Ponting	936
2	Mohammad Yousuf	915
3	Kevin Pietersen	892
4	Kumar Sangakkara	857
5	Michael Hussey	842
6	Matthew Hayden	828
7	Jacques Kallis	820
8	Rahul Dravid	801
9	Younis Khan	789
10	Ashwell Prince	755

TEST BOWLERS

Rank	Bowler	Points
1	Muttiah Muralidaran	913
2	Makhaya Ntini	856
3	Anil Kumble	730
3	Shaun Pollock	730
5	Shane Bond	722
6	Stuart Clark	720
7	Mohammad Asif	710
8	Matthew Hoggard	701
9	Corey Collimore	699
10	Shoaib Akhtar	698

LOCAL SNIPPETS

OLYMPIC HOCKEY

UNB adds: Bangladesh will participate in the first-ever qualifying round of Olympic hockey to be held in Japan next year in April.

Joint secretary of Bangladesh Hockey Federation Khawja Rahmat Ullah told UNB on Wednesday that International Hockey Federation has given Bangladesh the opportunity to participate in the biggest sports event after the country's satisfactory performance in the last Asian Games Hockey.

Atotal of 18 countries will compete in the qualifying round from where three top teams will qualify for the final round of the Olympic Games.

Eight teams from Europe, four each from Asia and Pan America, one each from Africa and Oceania will compete in the qualifying round.

Nine countries have already

confirmed their participation directly while the remaining three teams from qualifying round will play in the 12-team final round of the Olympic Games to be held in the Chinese capital Beijing on 2008.

DIV 1 VOLLEYBALL

East End Club became champions in the National Bank First Division Volleyball League when they beat Swabalombi Club by 25-13, 23-25, 25-19, 25-19 points at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

With the day's feat, East End Club earned the rights to play in the Premier League from next season.

Azad Sporting Club finished runners-up in the league defeating Dhaka Sabuj 3-0 at the same venue this afternoon.

Kenya to host

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It will be the second time that the tournament, which brings together the top cricket players from Africa and Asia will be staged in Africa.

South Africa hosted the first edition in 2005.

Inamdar said the June 2008 dates had been selected to suit the competing team to avoid a repeat of the previous two tournaments when some star players from Africa and Asia were forced to pull out from their respective teams due to national commitments.

The second edition won 3-0 by Asia, led by their Sri Lankan skipper Mahela Jayawardene, was marred by the absence of India's Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid and South Africa's Graeme Smith, who had been named as the captain of the African squad.

Pace the new

FROM PAGE 17

We don't come across too many quality pacemen in India because it can be very frustrating for them as the pitches are not sporting," said Sekhar, himself a former Test seamer.

"That's why we see youngsters eventually turning to either spin bowling or batting. But we now have a battery of fast bowlers and we must give them an opportunity."

With Zaheer back into the groove after a form slump and Sharma making an impressive debut against Bangladesh recently, the fast bowling scene looks promising in India.

Srinath, now an International Cricket Council match referee, said the pace-talent hunts were "desperately required" in the country.

"I was involved with one such programme and I was amazed to see so many young boys turning up. Such initiatives bring a lot of awareness among youngsters," said Srinath, took 236 Test and 315 one-day wickets.

"I must say that not long ago, very few wanted to be fast bowlers. Thankfully, things are changing now."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

DN KLR ZDJC UN LWBSFTMZA

LTX T BTQR UNNASYDJC,

HUWQX LR FR MTQQRX

KLR SYDJMR UN HLTQRA?
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN SOMEONE ANSWERS "NO" TO "WILL YOU MARRY ME?", I SUPPOSE THAT'S PROPOSITION OPPOSITION.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: N equals F