

Arthur relies on youth

Cricket

APP, Karachi

Coach Mickey Arthur said Saturday he hoped an injection of young blood into South African cricket would help the team gain new heights and improve the country's ranking in the game.

Arthur said South Africa, fifth in Test ranking out of the 11 Test playing nations and who failed to reach the semi-final of the inaugural Twenty20 World Cup this month, were in a transition phase.

"It's a sort of a rebuilding process and we need to see that our younger players are good enough, and for that we are working on a squad that can take South Africa to greater heights," Arthur told reporters.

"It is a new era in the sense that we are blessed with a lot of depth in our fast bowling and it's time we look at the younger guys."

"We need to have a settled

New ODI rules start early

CRICINFO, undated

India and Australia have decided to implement the ICC's proposed one-day international rule changes for their seven-match series, starting with Saturday's ODI in Bangalore. The modifications, which were supposed to come into effect from October 1, have been advanced to avoid a mid-series adjustment.

In June, the ICC had ruled the following changes in ODI playing conditions:

1. An additional fielder will be allowed outside the fielding circle during the second or third Powerplays.

2. If an ODI innings is reduced, the numbers of overs making up each of the three Powerplays shall be reduced proportionately.

3. If a bowler bowls a front foot no-ball, the following delivery will be deemed a free hit and the batsman cannot be dismissed by the bowler from that delivery. He can only be run out.

There will be a mandatory change of the ball at the start of the 35th over of each innings; the replacement will be a clean used ball.

The ICC had also increased the stipulated minimum boundary sizes for all international matches, with the square boundary measuring at least 150 yards from one side of the ground to the other [minimum 65 yards on one side; previous total minimum size was 140 yards]; and the straight boundaries 70 yards at both ends [previous minimum was 65 yards]; maximum boundaries to be used allowing for three yards between boundary rope and advertising boards up to a maximum of 90 yards from the centre of the pitch.

Mourinho exit

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consent 10 days ago.

"He said he was happy to have left, and for him to admit it means he must have had a heavy heart."

"It felt strange to return to our training centre at Cobham and no longer see Mourinho. That was when the shock hit home."

"There was a real family spirit in the camp. We could say anything to one another. That was our strength. Many of us used to play first and foremost for the manager."

"Now we need to forget those feelings and find another source of motivation."

Terry denies

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same this time."

With 60 goals in European competition (47 in the Champions League), Shevchenko sits alongside former AC Milan teammate Filippo Inzaghi two goals behind Gerd Muller's record.

However he insists as nice as they are, it is not personal records that matter.

He added: "It's a good, magnificent competition, with magnificent players. It's very nice, and very prestigious."

"But I don't think about how many goals I've scored, it's important now every time for the club. It's important for the team to win; if I score it's okay, but if the team wins then very good."

squad in a tough year ahead of us."

South Africa is touring Pakistan for two Tests and five one-day internationals and is due to visit India, England and Australia in the next year.

Prior to their Twenty20 setback they also lost to Australia in the semi-final of the 50-over World Cup held in the Caribbean earlier this year.

But while calling for youth, Arthur believes the team have a solid backbone. And he insists that veteran all-rounder Shaun Pollock is an integral part of the squad.

"We have got six good seamers on the scene and we can rest any one guy without damaging the team as we have variety but at the same time Pollock is an integral part of our squad," said Arthur.

Pollock got a lifeline after rookie paceman Morne Morkel hurt his foot during South Africa's drawn three-day match here on Saturday. He was facing the axe after South Africa decided to include Morkel in Monday's first Test against Pakistan.

Arthur believes his batsmen are well equipped to face spin bowling in the first Test against Pakistan.

"We can play with what we have got and I think our batsmen have the capability and the technique to tackle spinners," said Arthur.

Pakistan are likely to play with leg-spinner Danish Kaneria and left-arm spinner Abdul Rehman in the first Test.



PHOTO: APP
South African left-arm spinner Paul Harris lets rip during the last day's play against Patron's XI at the National Bank Sports Complex in Karachi yesterday.

Regime brings Swann back

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

For all the success he achieved for the national team, Duncan Fletcher's reign as England cricket coach featured an unofficial black-list of players whose faces did not quite fit.

Graeme Swann was very much one of them. Branded as being confident to the point of cockiness, he earned a solitary one-day international cap for his country in 2000, and did not feature again.

New England coach Peter Moores, who retains the same powers of selection as Fletcher, operates what seems to be a more open approach.

Players of all levels of experience, from Ryan Sidebottom to Luke Wright, have recently been thrust into the side.

Nottinghamshire all-rounder Swann -- a tidy off-break bowler who can provide quick runs -- is the latest player to earn promotion for the one-day series starting in Sri Lanka next Monday.

"I was seen as not being ideal for that regime," Swann, 28, willingly concedes when asked about Fletcher's view of him as a cricketer.

"You've got to live with that. I'm not going to turn round and criticise

anyone's regime, especially someone who oversaw such a strong increase in the standard of England cricket.

"But maybe with Peter Moores in, it has opened a door for me."

Swann could provide meaningful backup for Monty Panesar, his former Northants teammate.

"Monty was very new when we were together at Northamptonshire," Swann told BBC Sport.

"He had unfathomable potential but was not quite the finished article."

"It will be exciting to link up with him again and I'm sure I can offer something to him as well, having played a great deal of one-day cricket."

"I'm not seeing it as he's the number one and I'm number two. I'm not looking to go to Sri Lanka in a supportive role, but to be in a partnership with Monty."

"Maybe I'm getting a bit ahead of myself but hopefully there might be a role for me to play in the Test leg as well. I had a good season in first-class cricket."

The confidence is possibly oozing already.

It will surely help Swann that the most recent of his five England A tours was to Sri Lanka, in 2004-05.

"It will certainly be a challenge going out to Sri Lanka and playing against such a good one-day side,"

Hamilton takes pole

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a second back.

The Finn said: "I had a small problem with the gearbox but hopefully that will be fixed for tomorrow. It was a sensor problem which cost us some time."

"But the car felt pretty OK in the last session and I was happy. I think I am in a good position for the race."

Germany's Nick Heidfeld was fifth fastest for BMW, just ahead of his countryman Nico Rosberg, driving for Williams, who will start 10 places further back after suffering a penalty for changing his race engine earlier in the weekend.

The session got underway on schedule as the fog lifted and the rain eased although officials were already putting in a contingency plan to postpone qualifying until Sunday morning if the weather

worsened.

It looked for a time that Hamilton would fail to qualify from the first timed session as he got caught behind two slower cars but he eventually made it through with just 17 seconds to spare.

Germany's Ralf Schumacher marred Toyota's day on the track they own by crashing into Spyker's Sakon Yamamoto right at the end of the first session before spinning to a stop on the track.

The German had qualified for the second timed session but was unable to take further part. He will start 15th.

But Britain's Jenson Button gave the home crowd something to cheer, finishing seventh fastest for Japanese giants Honda. He will start sixth after Rosberg's penalty.

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Arsenal's pivotal

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his friend on the club's board David Dein.

The Gunners manager has seen fine starts fizzle out before, but Wenger is hoping that his recipe for entertaining football - currently being played by Cesc Fabregas and Emmanuel Adebayor - will bring with it the kind of success that has eluded the club in recent years.

"The ultimate satisfaction is to win a match and to be able to say that your supporters were transported somewhere beautiful for an hour and a half," he said.

"When top level sport is performed well, that's the power it has. And you can't fool people when it comes to the quality of a product."

"Personally, I don't want to sit on the sidelines waiting for the end of the match and happy that we're relaxed and pleasant way we played our football."

He added: "The players know that

we encourage them to take risks, and they go with their instincts."

"And it's no coincidence. They're talented players and they want to play entertaining, winning football."

After a week of turmoil at London rivals Chelsea following the shock departure of manager Jose Mourinho, Wenger believes that Arsenal, on the other hand, send out such good vibes that even rival players are affected.

"A lot of players want to play for Arsenal because the team sends out such positive vibes," he said.

"Even our rivals can feel it. Last year after we lost the League Cup final to Chelsea (Michael) Ballack came and spoke to me about the relaxed and pleasant way we played our football."

He added: "The players know that

Clarke slams

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SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Australian innings in the opening one-day international against India at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA

Gilchrist	c Yuvraj b Zaheer	12
Hayden	b Sreesanth	34
Hodge	lbw b Sreesanth	0
Clarke	run out	130
Symonds	lbw b Sreesanth	7
Haddin	c Shoaib b Yuvraj	69
Hopes	c Tendulkar b Zaheer	37
Hogg	not out	0
Extras:	(b-4, lb-1, w-11, nb-2)	18
Total:	(For seven wkts in 50 overs)	307
Fall of wickets:	1-14, 2-18, 3-18, 4-28, 5-234, 6-307, 7-307.	

Bowler: O M R W
Zaheer 10 0 64 2
Sreesanth 10 0 55 3
RP Singh 10 0 67 0
Pathan 8 0 38 0
Power 6 1 50 0
Yuvraj 6 0 28 1

Toss: Australia
Umpires: Steve Bucknor (WI), Suresh Shastri (IND)
Third Umpire: Amish Sahiba (IND)
Match Referee: Chris Broad (ENG)

Teams want

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Twenty20 was remarkable and I hope that they carry that good form into the Test. That will be tough but I have faith in my players," said Malik.

TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), Hashim Amla, Mark Boucher, AB de Villiers, Jean-Paul Duminy, Herschelle Gibbs, Paul Harris, Jacques Kallis, Morne Morkel, Andre Nel, Makhaya Ntini, Ashwell Prince, Dale Steyn.

PAKISTAN (from): Shoaib Malik (captain), Salman Butt, Mohammad Hafeez, Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Misbahul Haq, Kamran Akmal, Mohammad Asif, Umar Gul, Rao Iftikhar, Danish Kaneria, Faisal Iqbal, Yasir Hameed, Taufiq Umar, Abdul Rehman.

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After a week of turmoil at London

Rajib finishes with victory

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib defeated Indian Grand Master Deepan Chakrabarty in the 11th and final round of the sixth Asian Individual Chess Championship at Cebu City in the Philippines yesterday.

Despite the day's win, Rajib narrowly missed his third GM norm for just half a point as he secured seven points from eleven matches to share a position from 9th to 13th with four other players.

According to tournament tie-breaking rules, Rajib has a fair chance to be placed at 10.

Chinese GM Zhang Peng Xiang emerged champion while GM Wang Hao was runner-up.

Meanwhile, FIDE Master Aminul Islam, FM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Md. Mehdi Hasan Parag, Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, Sohel Chowdhury, Monir Hossain, Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin, Enayet Hossain and Alamgir Hossain are enjoying joint lead in the Pragati Insurance Open International Rating Chess tournament with three points after the third round matches at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hallroom.

Yousaf on Thursday had a meeting with the PCB Chairman Nasim Ashraf and later at a joint press conference announced his availability for the first Test against South Africa, beginning from Monday in Karachi.

Yousaf had said the Board had assured him a secure future as a Pakistan player and he was drop-

ICL charges Yousuf

Cricket

PTI, Mumbai

Two days after Mohammad Yousuf took a U-turn and aligned with the Pakistan Cricket Board, the organisers of the Indian Cricket League (ICL) have shot a letter to him demanding explanation on his contract with them.