SA cricket set for revamp

CRICINFO, undated

South Africa's cricket structure is set for a major overhaul on Friday at a meeting of the national board, called after the shock resignation of coach Mickey Arthur and subsequent dissolution of the national selection panel. A source close to Cricket South Africa (CSA) said that three major issues will be discussed: the selection process, the issue of the national coach and the lack of black players coming through.

Gerald Majola, CSA's chief executive officer, had dismissed the Selection committee headed by Mike Procter days before the team set out for the Indian tour, reportedly telling them their process had become "flawed." Since then, Majola has been the interim convenor of selectors, with interim coach Corrie van Zyl and batting consultant Kepler Wessels comprising

The previous selection committee comprised Procter and three others, with the final playing eleven decided upon by Arthur and captain Graeme Smith depending on match conditions on the day. It is not clear whether coach and captain will continue to have those powers but it is likely a new convenor will be chosen at the meeting and that Majola will not stay on. It is also unlikely that the selection pow-

As far as the coach is concerned, there are indications van Zyl will be retained in the position until all the structural changes decided upon at the meeting have been put it into action. The adminishead coach just yet, especially as van Zyl has completed a two-Test away series against the topranked side and come off with a draw.

The biggest structural change is said to be the creation of a specialist committee to deal with development and particularly what is being described as "Africanisation." This committee will reportedly seek to further the development

system will be reinstated, either at national or franchise level. Quotas were scrapped in July 2002 at both levels but remain in place at the amateur level, where at least half of every team has to be non-white. Since Makhaya Ntini's exclusion from the national side, the lack of an

Lonwabo Tsotsobe was included in both the South African Test and one-day squad on their current tour to India. He did not feature in the

Rumour is rife that one of the reasons Arthur resigned was because of a dispute with the board over selection issues. In particular, the lack of an African player after Ntini was dropped, reportedly forced Arthur's hand.

The former coach gave the sole reason for his resignation as being that his "vision differed from CSA's," at a press conference in East London on January 27.

Majola stated, at that same conference, that he felt the structures of the country's cricket governing body were in need of revamping. This comes after a tough summer in which South Africa lost a one-day series against England and drew a Test series, which they felt they should tration, it is believed, is unlikely to appoint another have won. The team won just one out of five Tests last year and crashed out of both the ICC World Twenty20 and the Champions Trophy.

Waqar open to coaching

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Waqar Younis, the former Pakistan fast bowler and bowling coach, would be open to the prospect of taking on a broader coaching role with the Pakistan side if he were approached. Waqar was bowling and fielding coach with Pakistan during the disastrous trip to Australia, but was appointed for that series only. His immediate future options are open for now, but he has said he would love to coach the senior side on a longer-term basis.

Though the Pakistan board has not said so openly, it is acknowledged that they are looking for a new coach to replace Intikhab Alam. Nothing will be officially announced until the inquiry committee set up to look into the Australian tour reaches a conclusion and that has been delayed till after Pakistan returns from a short trip to Dubai, where they play England in two Twenty 20s.

The PCB has already contacted -and been turned down by -- Greg Chappell and senior officials have said they are willing to look abroad as well as locally. The Pakistan post is not a particularly attractive one for a foreigner: an unstable administration and security concerns decree as much, so a local option may well have to be the way forward. Ijaz Ahmed is with the senior side in Dubai as a batting and fielding trainer and his name has also come up, after taking the Under-19 team to aWorld Cup final.

"If offered I would love to take on the role of coach," Wagar told Cricinfo. "Pakistan cricket remains my absolute passion and number one priority. I don't want to do it on an appointment or short-term basis though. I'd like to have time to work with the boys, to really be able to plan ahead."

100

Tigers fall

Ashraful lbw b Vettori

Mushfigur c McIntosh b Tuffey

Mahmudullah c Tuffey b Patel

Shafiul c McCullum b Southee

Rubel c McIntosh b Southee

Extras: (b-4, lb-1, w-6)

Total: (All out in 76 overs) 282

Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-51, 3-

72, 4-78, 5-78, 6-157, 7-225, 8-

Result: New Zealand won by

Man-of-the-match: Martin

33

75

Shakib b Southee

Shahadat not out

252, 9-282.

Bowler

Martin

Vettori

Southee

121 runs.

Guptill.

FROM PAGE 17

Aftab run out

Junaid b Martin

Waqar's first stint as bowling coach was between March 2006 and January 2007 and though it didn't end well, his role and contribution was widely acknowledged, especially by bowlers such as Umar Gul and Navedul Hasan. " enjoyed that stint when I was with [Bob] Woolmer, though I worked with limited resources then and in a limited role," he said. "It would make more sense to have a broader role and greater authority if I do work with the side again."

Even as the inevitable finger-pointing and blame game swiftly followed the whitewash in Australia Waqar has remained silent, instead quietly handing in his own report of the tour to the inquiry committee. Surprisingly, he wasn't asked to appear before it, though Intikhab, Aaqib Javed (assistant coach) and Abdur Raquib (team manager) have all been summoned by the committee.

gave it in" Waqar said. "I just want to help make things better and not point fingers at anyone in particular. We lost the series and my report says why I think we lost. I have given some suggestions as well."Pakistan plays best when they do with passion, like we used to when we were playing, that aggression and that Pakistani-ness. There was a lot of stuff happening off the field as well in those days, but when it came to matters on the field, we always had that hunger to just go out and play as well as we could for Pakistan."

It is believed Waqar met Ijaz Butt, the PCB chairman, during a short trip to Pakistan though it is unclear whether possible roles have been discussed. Butt refused to confirm whether a meeting had taken place, saying only that he "meet(s) any number of ex-Test players to take their inputs. I don't want to comment on something that will only be decided once the committee's work is

Maria, Andy advance

Tennis

AFP, Memphis

nals with a straight-sets victory

Australian Open last month.

had to hurry from a minor tour event in Midland, Michigan, to play in qualifying and barely made it.

seeded Czech Petra Kvitova, who rallied to beat third-

Strauss's refuge in Aus village

AFP, Sydney

Andrew Strauss is taking a break from the pressures of the England cricket team captaincy in an isolated village in the state of Victoria, Australian media have reported.

Strauss has been criticised for showing a lack of respect for Test cricket following his decision to opt out of this month's tour of Bangladesh, saying he wants to be fresh for England's Ashes tour to Australia later this year.

The England opening batsman has been spotted in the township of Buninyong, near Ballarat, west of Melbourne, according to The Age newspaper.

Self-belief

FROM PAGE 17 outstanding and I'm really happy with Martin (Guptill) at No.5.

The New Zealand bowlers also earned praise from their captain. "I'm very happy with the way Tim Southee bowled after lunch today as well, he came back with the old ball on a relatively flat wicket and bowledwell.

"Jeetan Patel bowled in some tough situations in the match, but he improved throughout and with a number of lefthanders in the Australian lineup, he could have a role to play in that series."

Vettori was also impressed with Shakib's batting, "We all knew Shakib would come out playing like he did in the first innings. We expected to bowl better at him but it wasn't to be. The way he performed in this Test match, it's no wonder that he is so highly regarded."

Shakib Al Hasan and his colleagues will return to Dhaka today and their next assignment is against England who arrive on the 21st.

Bond, Styris

FROM PAGE 17

always saved his best for them so is looking forward to getting stuck in and helping us."

The other comeback man, Styris, had fared poorly in New Zealand's limited-overs contests against Pakistan in November and was left out of the home series against Bangladesh. "Scott's had really good domestic form, Greatbatch said.

"We've asked him to go away and try and extend his game and we fell that he's done that so he gets an opportunity in the first two one-dayer's as part of the 13 man squad to play Australia."

The series gets underway on February 26 with the first of two Twenty20s, followed by five

SQUAD

New Zealand Daniel Vettori (captain), Shane Bond, Neil Broom, James Franklin, Martin Guptill, Peter Ingram, Brendon McCullum, Nathan McCullum, Jacob Oram, Tim Southee, Scott Styris, Ross Taylor, Daryl Tuffey

World braced for Woods apology

Golf

AFP, Jacksonville

Speculation reached fever pitch Friday ahead of the first public appearance by star golferTigerWoods since a slew of tawdry revelations that led to his stunning fall from grace.

The world's top golfer was slated to appear before a carefully chosen group of reporters for a tightly choreographed public statement. Media trucks arrived at the

site where the billionaire

athlete was to speak the night before, but for all the attention it was unclear where Woods would be after the statement. US PGA Tour commis-

sioner Tim Finchem seemed to suggest that Woods was headed back to therapy. "I don't know what he's going to do after he finishes his

rehab," Finchem said this week at the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship in Arizona. "In a vacuum we'd like him back as soon as possible -- but

we want him back importantly when he's dealt with the issues he felt like he had to deal with.' There has been wild speculation about what Woods will

say, with British bookmaker William Hill even issuing odds -- 4-to-7 that his wife, Elin, will be with him; 8-to-1 that he will announce a divorce; 12-to-1 that his wife is pregnant, and 100-to-1 that he will retire. "It's a private matter, really,

but he's a public person," former Masters champion Bernhard Langer said from Boca Raton, Florida.

Woods was to deliver his remarks at the PGA Tour's headquarters at the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse before a select group of journalists and a lone television camera.

The Golf Writers Association of America declined to participate as pool reporters, citing controls on the event. "The position, simply put,

is all or none," said Vartan Kupelian, president of the 950member group. "To limit the ability of journalists to attend, listen,

see and question Woods goes against the grain of everything we believe. Woods' agent Mark

Steinberg countered that the event was "not a press conference," adding that his client "wants to begin the process of

making amends and that's what he's going to discuss."

No hint has been given as to what plans Woods might reveal, and whether the 14time major champion will return soon to competition and his pursuit of Jack Nicklaus's record of 18 major

He has been photographed recently jogging and hitting golf balls, suggesting he is far from hanging up his golf shoes, but his future has been uncertain since November, when the married father-oftwo crashed his car outside his Florida home, unleashing a scandal.

His squeaky clean image was quickly tarnished after a series of women came forward to allege affairs.

Both the tightly-controlled nature of Woods' first public appearance and its timing have come under fire.

Friday marked the third round of the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship in Arizona and critics have noted that consulting firm Accenture was one of the first companies to sever ties with Woods amid the scandal.

South African golfer Ernie Els told Golf Week magazine that Woods was "selfish" for taking attention away from a tournament.

A spokesman for Accenture noted Thursday that Woods would speak several hours before play got underway.

"If he really wanted to interfere with the tournament, they would have run it during the tournament, so I think it's coincidental," said Fred Hawrysh, Accenture's director of corporate communica-



TIGER WOODS

Roma, Milan pray for favour travels all season -- one away to

AFP, Rome



Title hopefuls Roma and AC Milan will be hoping in-

Sampdoria can do them a favour and blow Serie A wide open by beating league leaders Inter Milan this weekend.

Early pace-setters Sampdoria have won their last four matches in a row and are level on points with fourthplaced Napoli in the fight for Champions League football next season. In a peculiar season,

Sampdoria seem to have overcome their long mid-season blip and are looking again like the compact and threatening unit that stood shoulder to shoulder with Inter for the first seven games of the campaign. Since the Genoa club's drop

in form, however, no team has managed to hold onto Inter's coat-tails and the four-in-a-row champions lead the championship by seven points. It could have been more

were it not for the fine form of Claudio Ranieri's Roma, who rose from the cusp of the relegation zone to second place in Serie A on the back of a 20match unbeaten run in all competitions that ended in a 3-2 defeat at Panathinaikos in the Europa League on Thursday.

When they faced Inter at the San Siro 12 games into this season there were already 14 points between the pair but that gap has now been halved and every obstacle between the two teams has been surpassed.

Roma host lowly Catania on Sunday, when the home fans will fully expect success against a side with only two wins on their

FIXTURES Saturday

Genoa v Udinese (1700GMT), Inter Milan v Sampdoria (1945GMT) Sunday

(1400GMT unless stated) Atalanta v Chievo, Bari v AC Milan (1945GMT), Bologna v Juventus, Cagliari v Parma, Fiorentina v Livorno, Palermo v Lazio, AS Roma v Catania, Siena v Napoli

Juventus -- and who sit a single point above the drop zone. Roma host Inter at the end of

Juan says the capital-based club need to close the gap even furtherahead of that game. "Playing them at home is an advantage, especially considering that we've never been at full

March and Brazilian centre-back

strangth this season," he said. "For example if (Luca) Toni is fit, (Francesco) Totti is absent and vice-versa.

"Soon we'll have more options and maybe we'll get even better." Roma may be hoping for a

favour from Sampdoria, but the Genovese have not travelled well this season, losing seven from 13 and being hammered 5-1 at Juve and losing 3-0 against both Genoa and Milan. But despite an injury to

playmaker Antonio Cassano, Sampdoria have been a better side recently and have won four on the trot, including their last two away matches. It gives them hope, although

it will be a tall order as only two teams -- Roma and Bari -- have escaped from the San Siro with a point against Interthis season.

It's not just Roma chasing the champions, as Milan are also still in the mix ahead of their trip to Bari, nine points behind the leaders but with a game in hand. However, they have won

only one of their last six, including Tuesday's 3-2 home loss to Manchester United in the Champions League.

Veteran Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf says the Rossoneri need to learn to win ugly sometimes.

"This season we need to be nastier in going in search of victory, we can't always play pretty football, we need to be effective" he said. "Now it's back to the league

and we know how to react to this loss, we can't wait for Bari." Meanwhile, struggling

Juventus take a trip to Bologna who are unbeaten in their last six.

Alberto Zaccheroni earned his first win in charge of Juve at home to Genoa last weekend and followed it up with a 2-1 victory at Dutch giants Ajax in the first leg of their Europa League last-32 tie on Thursday.

things, and I really appreciate her.

It's not ideal to be on court two.

but we have to do what we have to

Wimbledon champion, made the

better start, hurtling through the

making a high ratio of errors, but

in the second set she didn't and I

had to dig deep." said Venus, "And

in the end my serve came to my

stroking rhythm, allied it to her

now-famous tenacity, and came

up with three games in a row to

preparation right down in the

next game and come up with

some heavy first deliveries, Peer

might well have gone a break of

when, with the whole court open

at game point, she unaccount-

ably put a forehand inside-out

the end, running down many of

Venus's fiercest drives, throwing

up teasing lobs, and forcing two

deuces before the champion

could close the match out and

reach the final for the second

now breath a collective sigh of

Tournament organisers will

But she fought tigerishly till

drive into the net from close up.

Peer should have reached 4-4

Had Venus not slowed her

reach 3-2.

serve ahead.

successive year.

Peer then found her ground-

first set in only 23 minutes.

Williams, the five times

"In the first set Shahar was

Anne Keothavong, a 6-4, 6-3 over Elena Baltacha. Sharapova, ranked 16th in winner over Croatian Karolina the world, defeated her British Sprem. In men's action, top seeded opponent 6-2, 7-5. She hasn't dropped a set and has lost only American Andy Roddick 11 games in three matches in booked a quarterfinal berth her first tournament since with a 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 victory over falling in the first round of the LuYen-Hsun of Taiwan. Roddick, pushed to three It was another story for secsets in a first-round win over compatriot James Blake, is the ond-seeded American Melanie Oudin, who fell 6-1, 6-3 to defending champion and Swedish qualifier Sofia Arvidsson. reached the quarterfinals for Arvidsson, ranked 139th, the ninth straight year. flat-batted smash back at him. Watson was also grassed on 29 Pollard when he flicked Smith to short Gayle Deonarine fine-leg, where Rampaul missed 0 10 a chance he should have taken. WESTINDIES It all combined to mean Gayle c Clarke b Bollinger another easy win for Australia. Dowlin lbw b Bollinger Gayle predicted at the start of Deonarine b Harris the series that West Indies Pollard c Smith b Hopes would beat Australia 4-1; they Hinds c Smith b Harris lost 4-0. But they did win the Simmons c Clarke b Bollinger tosses 4-1. Smith run out **SCOREBOARD** Ramdin lbw b Smith Sammynotout Scoreboard of the fifth and final Miller c Clarke b McKay one-day international between Rampaul st Haddin b Smith Australia and West Indies at the Extras: (w-5) Melbourne Cricket Ground on Total: (All out in 36.5 overs) Friday: Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-17, 3-19, AUSTRALIA 4-39, 5-80, 6-118, 7-124, 8-135, Watson c Smith b Sammy 51 9-190. Ponting c Ramdin b Pollard 61 Clarke c Deonarine b Rampaul Bowler 47 White c Ramdin b Rampaul Bollinger 33 22 26 Voges not out Harris 35 Hopesnotout McKay 27 Extras: (lb-4, w-4, nb-1) Hopes

in Dubai as "different but nice".

Dubai," she said.

my dream. But there will be no complaints. I achieved a lot in this tournament, professionally and mentally and for myself." "I am sure for Venus it was not ideal to come to court two and I

in August.

Jewish organisation, in New York

"I think she has a really good

Venus ends Peer's run

Tennis

AFP, Dubai

Venus Williams put an end to the security agonies of the 2million dollar Dubai Open on Friday when she halted the remarkable run of the pioneering Israeli, Shahar Peer. But the defending champion

had to cope with the smallest arena she has played in for many years before winning 6-1, 6-4 against the first Israeli woman athlete ever to compete in the United Arab Emirates. Even though Peer had done

more than enough, after defeating three seeds and reaching the semi-finals, to deserve a match on the centre court, the security and police deemed it safer to keep her playing on one of the outside courts. Peer described her experience

"I am sure I will remember this tournament for the rest of my life.

I have made many friends in "Unfortunately I couldn't manage to win it, which will be

told her afterwards that I really appreciated her support," Peer added, cognisant that her opponent had been honoured by the Anti-Defamation League, a

relief that the potential nightmare of harm to Peer appears to have been averted. With allegations continuing to fly around about the identity of those who assassinated a Hamas

founder member in a nearby hotel, tension had been palpable and rising with each unexpected heart and understands a lot of Peervictory.

PHOTO: INTERNET US star Andy Roddick waves to the crowd after defeating Lu Yen-hsun of Taiwan during a Regions Morgan Keegan Championships match in Memphis on Friday.

Bowler O M Rampaul 10 68 55 Smith Miller 0 60

the rest of the selection committee.

ers will be vested in one person.

of black, African players in the national side. There is no indication yet that the quota

African player has become a contentious issue.

Test series.

"I said what I wanted to say in the report and

Top seed Maria Sharapova continued her march through the WTA Tour event here Thursday, reaching the semifi-

Sharapova next faces fifth-

seeded Estonian Kaia Kanepi 1-6, 6-3, 7-6(7/0).Arvidsson will face Britain's

Aus finish with a thump

FROM PAGE 17

full toss into the same region and was taken at deep midwicket for 51. Haddin was the quieter partner but still struck two sixes in his 42-ball 32 before he played on trying to pull Pollard. Michael Clarke and Ponting

Watson tried to work a Sammy

calmly compiled a 104-run stand that included a couple of sixes but mostly consisted of push-and-run play with the field back. Ponting fell on 61 from 55 balls when he tried to glide Pollard through the vacant cordon and managed only to find the wicketkeeper's gloves. Clarke's 58-ball 47 ended when he miscued a pull off Rampaul and skied a catch

to mid-on, where Deonarine

barely clasped the chance.

Deonarine had already dropped Ponting on 47 at square leg when the batsman's sweep off Nikita Miller stayed a bit low. Ponting was given another life on 55 when Hinds' throw missed with Ponting along way out of his ground. Haddin also enjoyed two breaks. On 7, Dowlin dropped a sitter at second slip before two balls later the bowler Smith couldn't quite hold on to a

192, 4-206, 5-242.

Total: (For 5 wickets in 50 overs) 324 Did not bat: Smith, Harris, McKay, Bollinger. Fall of wickets: 1-81, 2-88, 3-

78 Result: Australia won by 125 runs and clinched 5-match

series 4-0. Ma-of-the-match: James Man-of-the-series: Ricky Ponting. Toss: Australia