Razzag returns to Pak squad

AFP, Karachi

All-rounder Abdul Razzaq will join the Pakistan team for a three match one-day series against England, the

"The selection committee has decided to replace injured opener Faisal Athar with Razzaq on the request of captain Rashid Latif," chief selector Aamir Sohail told this news agency.

Athar injured his finger in a warm up match and was ruled out of the

The 23-year-old Razzaq, currently playing for Middlesex in the season, was originally dropped from the squad for lack of

He made only one half century and took just seven wickets in Pakistan's last eight one-day internationals to lose his place in the

Pakistan take on England in the first match, a day-night fixture at Old Trafford in Manchester on Tuesday.

The remaining two matches will be played in London on June 20 and

Farashganj's new body

SPORTS REPORTER

Farashganj Sporting Club formed a 51-member strong executive committee with Nazrul Islam Khan reelected as president.

Islam however is one of the few survivors in the new-look committee of the old-town outfit. A shipping tycoon Islam has been holding the post for the last ten years.

Khokon Azad has been elected general secretary. The committee was made after the biennial general meeting of the club on June 6.

Club Cup hockey FROM PAGE 13

leading Group C, will open their campaign against Victoria Sporting

Abahani, the defending Premier League champions, are all set to win the first on the field battle against their bitter rivals Mohammedan after a successful bourse in the inter-club players' transfer last month.

Although Usha Krira Chakra and Dhaka Mariner Young's Club, who are leading the other two groups, are also in the running, the title issue will once again focus on Mohammedan and Abahani the popular outfits in local sports.

The winners of four groups will play in the semifinals to be held on June 25 and 26 respectively. The final is billed on June 27.

Lawson held FROM PAGE 13

"We are pleased to see Jermaine's response to the treatment, but believe that the rigours of Test cricket would likely overwhelm his back.

work on his bowling action next week, if it initially involves activities of little intensity.

Seepersaud said the WICB had received an assessment of Lawson and had studied video footage of the bowler's action.

Lawson has captured 29 wickets at 24.31 runs apiece in seven Tests. During the series against Australia, Lawson claimed a hattrick in the third Test at Bridgetown and careerbest figures of seven wickets for 78 runs at St. John's.

West Indies' first Test against Sri Lanka starts on June 20

The 40-year

FROM PAGE 13 just making sure the balance of the

"difficult winter"

team is right to give England the best chance of winning. England need to rediscover the winning touch this summer after

what Stewart acknowledges was a

But he points to the strong home record of the team against this summer's opponents Zimbabwe

and South Africa. Will he really travel to Bangladesh in October? Don't bet

against it. But one record surely out of reach is that held by Wilfred Rhodes.

The Yorkshireman played his final Test match aged 52, and even if Stewart spends much of his 53rd birthday in the gym, surely he will not still be playing for England.

Twenty20 Cup underway

Cricket

AFP/CRICINFO, London

Nicky Peng batted superbly as Durham cruised to a six-wicket win in their opening Twenty20 Cup match against Nottinghamshire at Chester-le-Street on Friday.

The former England Under-19 captain, who is averaging 11.5 in the English County Championship this season, thrashed 49 to launch the reply to the visitors' 157 for seven.

Durham had no need to hurry towards the end and, with Australia born left-hander Ashley Thorpe making an unbeaten 38, they got home with five balls to spare.

Trevor Penney launched Warwickshire to the largest total of the day as they ran out comfortable winners over Somerset at Taunton.

Penney, in his benefit year, turned back the clock with an electric 52 from only 28 balls, and with help from Collins Obuya (34 not out), Warwickshire raced to 188 for

Somerset's reply got off to a good start with Keith Dutch smacking 70 from 52 balls, but once Jamie Cox was out for 47, wickets continued to

fall regularly in their search for guick runs and were eventually bowled out for 169, resulting in a 19-run

At New Road, Worcestershire's Stephen Moore cracked a matchwinning 39 not out at number eight in a scintillating one-wicket win with two balls to spare over Northamptonshire.

After David Taylor had crashed 46 from only 20 balls, Worcestershire were well on course to better Northants' 150, but then Ricky Anderson struck four times in quick succession as Worcestershire crashed to 84 for 6.

However, debutant Moore made a name for himself with his cameo knock as Worcestershire sneaked home in a tense finish. At the Rose Bowl, Hampshire

beat Sussex by 5 runs. James Hamblin picked up the man-of-thematch award with a quickfire 34 in Hampshire's nail-biting. A large and partisan home crowd saw a blistering start from

Hampshire as Hamblin and Derek

Kenway (35) smashed an opening

However, Sussex hit back with some good bowling from Mark Davis (3 for 13), and chasing 154, they needed 10 off the last over, but were foiled by their old boy Ed Giddins who bowled a tight last over in an exciting match, and there's still a concert to come.

At The Oval, Surrey beat Middlesex by 4 wickets. James Ormond took the first five-for in the Twenty20 Cup with an impressive 5 for 26 from his four overs. He dismissed Ed Joyce and Simon Cook in successive balls as Middlesex made 155 from their 20 overs.

James Benning (27) got them off to a good start before the middle-order saw them home with four balls remaining. English cricket has taken its most

For Surrey, Ian Ward (31) and

radical step in over 30 years with this first day of Twenty20 Cup Administrators are aiming to

bring new audiences to the game who they believe are unwilling to watch even a 45 overs match the shortest form of the game currently played by England's first-class

Twenty20 matches will last a maximum 20 overs per side half the length of the old Sunday League which scandalised traditionalists

Favourite Federer Knee to keep Johnson out his better performance in the

Tennis

AFP, Halle

Top seed Roger Federer of Switzerland beat Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui 7-5, 7-6 to reach the semifinals of the 800-euro ATP event here on Friday and confirm his favourite status. Federer's entertaining win over

the fifth seed made him the leader of wins on the ATP circuit this year with 41, moving ahead of newly-crowned French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain. Federer won the first set after

breaking in the second game and

tiebreak in the second set earned

El Aynaoui meanwhile had to visit a doctor after the match as he was suffering from a slight temperature but should be fit for Nottingham next week

In other quarterfinals matches, Nicolas Kiefer of Germany beat Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic 7-5, 6-3, French eighth seed Arnaud Clement had the better of Slovakia's Karol Kucera 7-5, 6-7, 7-6. and Russia's sixth-seeded Mikhail Youzhny beat Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic, the third seed,

Time for change

territory in Kashmir

Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf has said that cricket is a "trivial issue" compared to the political problems which need to be resolved.

And Mani acknowledged last year: "We can only facilitate dialogue and persuade governments that it is not healthy for sports and politics to mix but we are not in a position to dictate." He will be the third president

since the ICC was formed in 1997.

Grav's period in charge has been marked by controversy, including the match-fixing crisis which was sparked by South African Hansie Cronje's admissions in 2000.

Earlier this year, the ICC came in for criticism over their failure to deal with potential problems concerning Zimbabwe's co-hosting of World Cup games early enough, resulting in England refusing to fulfil their

Ireland rout Zim

FROM PAGE 13

Mooney

fixture in Harare, and the tournament format.

The volume of international cricket played will also be up for discussion. Most of the international teams have packed schedules that leave little space for recuperation, and there is hardly anything called an off-season any more. It will be interesting to see what steps the ICC ends up taking in this regard, where the long-term good of the game runs counter to the short-term financial benefits.

The ICC will also examine proposals on how to effectively interact with players' representative bodies. Their failure in this regard came to the fore last year when the crisis over the players' contracts broke, an imbroglio which could have been averted had the ICC consulted with a representative body before drafting them. Maybe next time.

REUTERS, London

Bowler Richard Johnson, who made a stunning Test debut against Zimbabwe last week, has been ruled out of England's three-match one-day series against Pakistan next week because of a knee injury.

Chief medical officer Peter Gregory said on the England cricket board's website on Friday: "Richard's knee is swollen and sore and we have ruled him out of all cricket for the next week.' The three matches against

Pakistan are between June 17 and

22. They are followed from June 26 by a triangular series involving England, South Africa and Zimbabwe for which England hope Johnson will be fit. Johnson, in a sparkling Test debut, took six for 33 in the

Zimbabwe first innings last week, helping England win the two-Test The 28-year-old Somerset seamer has been burdened by regular injuries which delayed his

debut for eight years. His place in next week's squad will go to Sussex paceman James Kirtley.

National cricket

FROM PAGE 13

series against South Africa, wants to know the results of four more tests Javed is one of the final fifteen

players for the tour of Australia. Bangladesh leave for Australia on June 22 to play two Tests and three one-day internationals.

Meanwhile, coach Dav Whatmore might be forced to take either young Moniruzzaman or former national opener Shahriar Hossain as a replacement if Javed failed to recover in time.

No Indo-Pak cricket now?

BBC ONLINE, undated

Talks to resume cricket between India and Pakistan have been put on hold, according to an Indian news agency.

In recent months, both sides have shown a willingness to put aside political tensions between the two countries.

time being. It quoted an unnamed cricket official, who said: "After those few days of excitement, there is a general despondency in the two camps

as we seem to be heading

nowhere.

The last two months have seen politicians and cricketers alike discussing the chances of restoring cricketinaties.

Tentative tour plans were even discussed by the countries' cricket

One-day internationals were to be held in each nation in September, followed by a full series in Pakistan in February 2004.

But the PTI's source said: "At the moment, I doubt if we could have any cricket between the two countries in September.

"But we cannot afford to be lax and want to keep everything in place should we get positive signals from the government."

Unlike its Indian counterpart, the Pakistan Cricket Board is suffering a financial squeeze from cancelled tours and needs to play as much cricket as reasonably possible

Asghar yet

And it is thought the publication of the probe report on Bangladesh's World Cup debacle forced him to tender his resignation.

Aliul in his resignation letter

mentioned he had every respect for

the findings of the two-member inquiry committee of Commodore (retd) Mujibur Rahman and Syed Shamim Ahsan. The probe body identified Aliul as one of a number of characters held

responsible for the World Cup Aliul was charged with failing to include a senior player like Javed Omar in the World Cup party and for

being influenced by others. A former Abahani captain Aliul was widely regarded as a strongwilled person who never played at

Ranji Trophy

Meanwhile, the BCCI has received

a letter from BCB that requested for fresh negotiations to sort out the issue of appearance fee of the three-nation TVS Cup which was held in Dhaka in April earlier year.

BCB is reportedly pressing the Indian board to accept a lesser participation fee on the ground that top players like Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid did not take part in the meet. It was said at that time that they would not travel to Dhaka due to injuries.

Double blow for Hewitt

Taylor Dent 6-3, 7-6.

of Grosiean.

Tennis

AFP, London

Lleyton Hewitt saw his hopes of an unprecedented fourth successive Queen's Club grasscourt title ended by Sebastien Grosjean in the

quarterfinals here on Friday.

French Davis Cup player But the Press Trust of India says negotiations have stalled for the



Australia's Lleyton Hewitt wipes his face after losing to French Sebastien Grosjean at Queen's Club in London on Friday.

Grosjean beat Wimbledon champion Hewitt in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4, in one hour and 28 minutes.

Defeat also cost Hewitt his world number one ranking when Andre Agassi reclaimed top spot after beating Xavier Malisse 6-4, 7-5 in his quarterfinal.

times a Queen's finalist in the past four years but yet to win the tournament, also made it through to the last four with a 6-1, 6-4 win over France's Anthony Dupuis. Andy Roddick will face compa-

Britain's Tim Henman, three

said he would not play the grasscourt event at Rosmalen in the Netherlands next week. "Rosmalen hurts itself by having

But despite this defeat Hewitt

a Sunday final," said Hewitt who as Wimbledon champion will start the defence of his title 24 hours later on And he insisted he was not too

disappointed that his Queen's run had ended. "When you know how close grasscourt matches can be, espe-

triot Agassi in the semifinals after cially in the best of three sets, to win the third seed beat fellow American three in a row and to have that kind "He mixed it up well." said Hewitt lucky to get it."

of streak at this place, well you're Hewitt had won 17 matches at But the champion was unhappy Queen's since the 1999 semifinal with his own form and especially his when he was beaten by Pete

Sampras. Agassi didn't realise he had regained the number one spot. "My serve wasn't going well and I "I'm not even aware of that. It didn't return well - and they are two of the most important things in grasscourt tennis," the Australian

feels great to achieve this at this stage of my career," the 33-year-old American said. Henman, yet to beat Hewitt in

their six matches, now faces Grosjean in the semi-finals - his third successive Queen's tie against a "I didn't beat Sampras until the

seventh attempt," said Henman who lost to Hewitt in the semifinals at Wimbledon last year. "So hopefully I'm saving it up for Wimbledon." And Henman warned fans

expecting him to win Queen's now that Hewitt was out that he would be up against a tough opponent in Grosjean. "Seb's playing well. I never

thought I'd play three Frenchmen at Queen's. "But things have changed. The

French guvs are all comfortable on grass. They are similar players, shotmakers and good athletes. I can't recall a slow Frenchman." Hewitt, taken to three sets in his

two previous matches at Queen's this year, saw Grosjean twice break his serve in the first set, including once when Hewitt was 40-0 ahead. Grosjean was cleverly varying his game, coming to the net to strike decisive volleys as well as hitting

In the second set, Grosjean achieved the first break in the fifth game when Hewitt steered a baseine backhand narrowly wide.

baseline winners and a second

break put him 4-2 up and on his way

But in the eighth game Hewitt broke back to level the set at 4-4. Again Hewitt went 40-0 up on his

own serve before Grosjean, aided by some powerful baseline winners. recovered to go 5-4 up.

Grosiean then held his nerve and when Hewitt dumped a forehand return off a high bouncing serve into the net his Queen's reign was over.

Pete undecided on future



US legend Pete Sampras, who is taking a break from tennis that looks more and more like an undeclared retirement, said Saturday that he will make a decision on his future at

ne end of this year. Sampras has not played an ATP event since winning the US Open title last September, his record 14th Grand Slam singles crown.

"I don't want to totally close the door," the 31-year-old former world number one told the French sports daily L'Equipe. "I've given myself to the end to the year to make a decision on

feel like playing some tournaments again." Sampras, who has won 64 ATP titles, and won more than 43.2 million dollars in his career, admitted that past achievements coupled with happiness on the domestic front with wife Brigitte and ninemonth old son Christian Charles. meant he had trouble motivating

middle of the season, I've have done it at Wimbledon." he said.

CROSSWORD

himself for tennis

ACROSS

1 Urban

4 — rock

8 Feed the

12Coloration

poseun

ingredient

15Packed

away

16Salad

17New

1812th-

centur

pontiff

22 Peculiar

23 Extensive

teammate

26 Tackle's

30 Exhibit

ennui

Alamos

33 Keep tabs

34 Proscrip-

35 Student

hogs

14 Comic

transport

"Two months ago I started train-

36 Perfume-

37 Drone

38"An

label word

Essay on

Criticism"

45 Indiana

46 Moist

47 Loadness

(Abbr.)

48 Close up

tightly

49 Old-time

actor

50 Foolish

51 Formerly,

formerly

52 Descartes

Magritte

Solution time: 23 mins.

53 Shelter

one

Jannings

DOWN

Bloke

2 Gridlock

nent.

noise

cracke

dengle

6 Baseball

team

7 Horns

8 Shell

out

10 Shrek,

9 Clashing

11 Deserving

аD

19 Abba of

Israel

5 Palatal

compo-

3 ... and its

"If I had made a comeback in the

ing again seriously with the aim of going back to Wimbledon. But it didn't last, my heart wasn't in it any

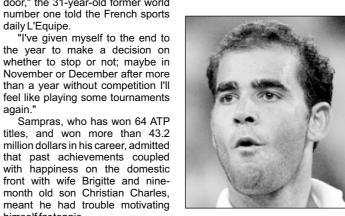
"This decision not to go to Wimbledon was followed immediately by that not to play in 2003, because If I can't motivate myself for the tournament that I put above all the others, it's not even worth thinking about the rest.

"I said to myself: 'What do you have to prove?' And I said 'stop'. I staved at home, I stopped training. I didn't have any aim. I can no longer have any aim after all that I achieved in my career and what happened in

be to play at Wimbledon or the US

again at Roland Garros," said the Los Angeles-based player. "I came every year for nearly 15

having any regrets." All England Club, where he won seven titles, and will be in spirit on



the US Open.

mix

34 Sheepish

remark

35 Imperial

37 Surround

38 Basilica

area

39 Ogler's

40 Chapters

41 Edna

42 Race-

track

of history

Everage,

for one

43 Indulge in

voguing

36 Gloat

Open, but that he would not bid to chase the only title missing from his collection - the French Open.

"It's final. You won't be seeing me

years, I did everything I could to win this title, so I can forget it without But his heart will always be at the

PETE SAMPRAS

The American said that if he did decide to continue next year it would

Like father

FROM PAGE 13 and behind the stumps has stood

June 23.

international debut 14 years ago. He retired from one-day international cricket after the World Cup. but has no plans to do the same in Tests. He recently said: "All I've ever said about the future is that while the enjoyment is there and I feel I'm playing well enough to warrant a

the test of time since making his

place in the side, I see no reason to give it away myself." "I feel exactly the same as I did 20 years ago. I have the same buzz and pre-match nerves I've always had and that's a good thing because that shows you're still up for the

By Eugene Sheffer 20 Throw into the 23"See ya" 24 Bob's longtime partner 25 Have debt 26 A billion 27 Dine 28 Violinist Kavafian 29 Solidify 31 Wash 32 Checkers

XQGG

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS THE OWNER OF MANY DAIRY FARMS: SOME OF MY FRIENDS CALL ME THE COW-ORDINATOR.

CRYPTOQUIP XMNLWIZ YFRUQN'R FR

CMBUMNFUQ, W'Y LWGGQC PK CQZNQQR

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals L The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Mwayenga cArmstrong b Neely 1 Extras: (b-1, lb-6, w-5, nb-1) 13 Total: (All out in 49.5 overs) 182 Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-11, 3-12, 4-108, 5-132, 6-133, 7-170, 8-171, 9-Tennis R W

8 9.5 2 0 19 30 Neelv 25 39 36 Armstrong Botha White 26 **IRELAND** Molins not out Bray not out The 16-year-old from Siberia Extras: (b-4, lb-1, w-1, nb-3)

M

Total: (For no loss in 33.4 overs)184 Did not bat: Botha, O'Brien, Gillespie, McCallan, Joyce, White, Mooney, Armstrong, Neely
Bowler O M R W 37 Hondo 22 28 Brent 26 Marillier 31 15 18 Ervine 0 Sims

Result: Ireland won by 10 wick-

Sharapova on course

AFP, BIRMINGHAM

Maria Sharapova, the leggy Russian blonde whose on-court screams have driven opponents to distraction, beat top seed Flena Dementieva in the WTA tour event here on Friday.

2-6, 7-6, 6-2 to reach the semifinals of this 170,000-dollar, grass court Sharapova, hailed the "new Kournikova" for her film-star looks, looks to have the talent which might make her more effective on-court

than her illustrious countrywoman.

At 5ft 11in, Sharapova has been

followed around the courts here by

swept past compatriot Dementieva

an army of photographers and autograph hunters. Sharapova was warned by the umpire for screaming too loudly as she beat fifth seed Nathalie Dechy 6-3, 6-2 on Wednesday and is generally believed to be the loudest

She said after her Dementieva

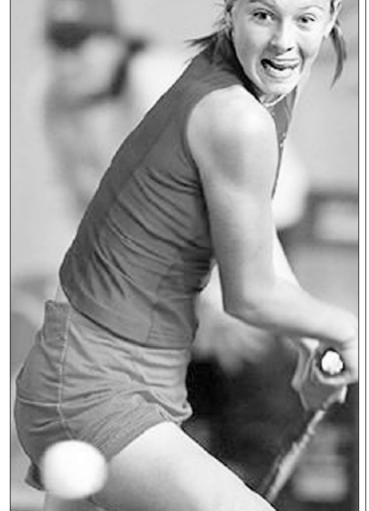
woman's player ever.

victory: "Of course I'm so excited to have won the match and have beaten the number 13 player in the world. Inside I'm screaming, but I haven't won the tournament yet, have another match tomorrow, so I have to concentrate on that." In Saturday's semifinals,

Sharapova meets Shinobu Asagoe

of Japan, who beat Maria Vento-Kabchi of Venezuela 4-6, 6-2, 7-6. The other semifinal sees third seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, who beat France's

Stephanie Foretz 6-7, 6-2, 6-3, against second seed Eleni Daniilidou of Greece, who beat Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn 3-6, 7-6, 7-6.



MARIA SHARAPOVA