SPORT

Shoaib prepares for Leeds

REUTERS, Islamabad

Fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar has recovered from a stress fracture to his ankle and is likely to be available for the third test against England, a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official told Reuters on Friday.

Shoaib, who is currently Pakistan's leading bowler with 165 test wickets, was originally omitted from the touring squad because of fitness concerns that have kept him out of the side since February.

"(Shoaib) had a meeting with the team physiotherapist and trainer in England yesterday and they reported he was physically strong now and looking good for a comeback in a week's time," PCB director Abbas Zaidi told Reuters.

"They feel he needs to play one or two games to get back to full match fitness and then should be available for the third test."

The third test is at Headingley from August 4.

Pakistan battled to a draw in the first test at Lord's with a depleted bowling attack and the second test starts at Old Trafford next Thursday.

Pakistan have faced a number of fitness problems in the last month and after losing Shoaib and Rana Naved they also had to send paceman Mohammad Asif and all rounder Shoaib Malik back to Pakistan with elbow injuries

Zaidi said Shoaib was with his English county side Warwickshire, where he was undergoing a rehabilitation programme and would play a couple of games for them.

"Obviously he is an important member of the side and the team management is very keen to have him back as soon as possible," Zaidi added. "His pace gives the team that extra edge.

T-mobile sacks Ullrich

AFP, Berlin

Former Tour de France champion Jan Ullrich, excluded from this year's race because of links to blood-doping, has been sacked by his T-Mobile team, SID news agency reported on Friday.

Germany's Ullrich, the 1997 Tour de France winner who would have been one of the favourites for the 2006 race, had been suspended by his T-Mobile team the day before the July 1 start.

The 2000 Olympic road race champion was suspected of using the services of doctor Eufemiano Fuentes whom Spanish police believe is at the heart of a blooddoping network.

FIFA defends

FROM PAGE 20 euro fine by a disciplinary committee of football's world governing body on



Sri Lankan captain Mahela Jayawardene bats during a practice session at the Nondescript Cricket Club ground in Colombo on Friday.

starting on July 27 because his

"Those players are vital mem-

wife is due to give birth.

show what they are made of."

Sri Lankan team fresh from a

successful tour of England where

as India's way to thank the West Indies

in their support for South Asia's suc-

cessful bid to host the 2011 World Cup

adainst a combined bid by Australia

Friday added to the confusion by

revealing they wanted to host India

and Sri Lanka for a tri-series in January

next year leading to the World Cup in

teams is already scheduled to be held

in India in January, but West Indian

team manager Tony Howard hoped it

the West Indies, but it is not settled

yet," Howard was quoted as saying in

about a month or so before the World

Cup so that would be perfect prepara-

"We are pitching for late January,

the Jamaica Observer newspaper.

Arjuna back

tion in the lead-up."

"We are hoping to have it played in

A tri-series between the same

the Caribbean in March-April.

would be held in the Caribbean.

West Indian cricket officials on

and New Zealand.

Focus firmly on cricket

AFP, Colombo

South Africa's first non-white cricket captain Ashwell Prince savs his team is not worried about plaving in violence-wrecked Sri

Lanka on the current tour. "Prior to the tour, a team of security experts visited Sri Lanka and submitted their observations," Prince told a media conference

here late on Thursday. "We have been assured that everything is fine and are pretty pleased with the arrangements."

Cricket

India on Friday cancelled a proposed

one-day series against the West

Indies in Canada in September

because neither the rivals or the hosts

Niranjan Shah said the Canadian

Cricket Association had informed him

that it was unable to organise the

a series only next year, they can't do it

"Canada has told us they can host

There were also reports that the

West Indies Players' Association had

threatened to boycott the series

because it had not been taken into

confidence by the West Indies Cricket

"We have received a lot of propos-

prepare for the International Cricket

Council's (ICC) Champions Trophy it

The series against the West Indies

The series was seen in the media

hosts in October-November

Board about the proposed matches.

series in Toronto as planned.

now," Shah told AFP.

Indian cricket board secretary

AFP, New Delhi

seemed interested.

South Africa are scheduled to they fought back to draw the Test play two Tests and a one-day triseries 1-1 and blanked the home series also featuring India during team 5-0 in the one-dayers. the six-week tour of the island "Sri Lanka's confidence is high nation. All matches will be played following their success in England in the capital Colombo. and they will obviously start as Prince was named skipper for favourites," he said. "But we are the tour after regular captain working hard on our game and will Graeme Smith withdrew with an try to compete. ankle injury and vice-captain Prince said off-spinner Muttiah Jacques Kallis was sidelined with a Muralidaran was the major threat tennis elbow injury. for his side

to host series

To make matters worse for "He is their number one bowler Prince, veteran all-rounder Shaun and has troubled us over the Pollock will miss the first Test vears." he said.

> "We will have to raise our game against him and come up with a game plan which will help us counter him."

bers of our side and it's a big blow," said Prince. "But on the positive Sri Lankan captain Mahela side, I feel it's an opportunity for Jayawardene, meanwhile, said his others to put their hands up and team could not rest on the laurels gained in England and needed to Prince conceded his side will be start afresh the underdogs against a resurgent

"What happened in England was great but it's history now," said Javawardene, standing in for regular captain Marvan Atapattu. "We are playing in familiar conditions but need to adapt quickly."

Rookies get a lift

AFP, London England bowler Matthew Hoggard

insisted on Friday his country's raw attack is improving all the time despite their failure to finish off Pakistan England were forced to settle for a frustrating draw at Lord's in the

first match of a four-Test series after the bowlers were unable to dismiss the tourists in the second innings. But Hoggard is adamant the

criticism is wrong and said: "I think it's a little bit harsh. "To bowl them out first time for

400 on the flattest wicket you could tionals, the Kenvan coaching post ever play on was a great effort. is Lama's first national team job, "It didn't degenerate too much although he was Japan's

there wasn't any uneven bounce and it didn't turn much, so to say we blew hot and cold is unfair. "There were periods when we

didn't bowl as well as we could do but that happens in cricket. "I would like to see anyone bow

a team out on that pitch without a mystery spinner." Yorkshire star Hoggard is one of

England's most reliable players and is ranked fifth among the world's leading bowlers, yet he rarely earns the headlines given to teammates like Flintoff and Stephen Harmison.

However, that suits the modest 29-year-old and he added: "I have been number five for quite a while, not that I look

"I don't pay much notice to statistics and records, it is about performing on the day, but for me to be up there with the greats in the top 10 of the world is fantastic company. It is nice to be associated with all those tration for Roddick, who won the great names.'

Asafa Powell unprofessional!

AFP, Kingston

Stephen Francis, coach of sprint star Asafa Powell, Thursday denied that "unprofessional conduct" was to blame for Powell and three other Jamaican runners missing a meeting in Greece. Powell, the co-holder of the

100m world record, was to travel with his agent Paul Doyle, hurdler Brigitte Foster and sprinters Michael Frater and Sherone Simpson on Wednesday for Friday's 22nd

Vardinoyiannia meeting at Rethymnon on Crete. The meet organizers charged

that Powell and his teammates were unprofessional and had been scratched from competition. They vowed to complain to the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) and the EAA (European Atheltics Federation)

However, according to Francis, Powell, unlike Simpson, Foster and Frater, was not contracted to compete at the meet.

"Asafa was not down to compete at his meet so he did not withdraw as

Lama at Kenya helm

Football

build a team capable of challeng-

ing for a place in the 2008 Africa

Nations Cup finals in Ghana and

the 2010 World Cup in South

A veteran of 44 French interna-

AFP, Nairobi

team's coach.

Tennis

ATP Indianapolis Open.

for a first final in 2006.

evening was an exercise in frus-

last of his 20 career titles nine

months ago and is still searching

on every window of opportunity I

had, he came up with a huge

serve or a great volley," said the

11th-ranked former US Open

this year, but I barely got the win. I

stringing three, four and five

matches together, getting deep

into tournaments," he said.

"I played some of my best stuff

"I feel great, but I want to start

"I felt I played well all night, but

AFP. Indianapolis

Morrison.

champion.

was fortunate

Africa.

goalkeeping coach before the 2002 their best on the pitch." World Cup in Japan and South Korea

Lama, who officially takes charge on August 1, said he was Former France goalkeeper Bernard well aware of the difficulties he is Lama on Friday vowed to inject faced in plunging into the politiprofessionalism into Kenyan footcally-volatile football arena, espeball in his new role as the national cially in Kenya where officials have been at loggerheads over the last Lama, 43, will be expected to two years.

In each country you have many problems," said Lama at a press conference in Nairobi.

"But my being here is to inject professionalism into the game and help tap the talent. I want to help the players to forget about the problems, help them relax and give

"I know that Kenya has great inspirations and the potential to become a strong football nation and through the cooperation of the Kenyan society we will achieve,'

The Daily Star

said Lama. "I know that the World Cup will be held in South Africa in 2010 and there is a great chance for us as a team to qualify for this event.'

Lama will play a role in selecting the four local coaches who will assist him in preparing Harambee Stars for the 2008 African Cup of

Nations qualifying matches, which start in September Kenya play in Group Six alongside the 2006 World Cup debutants Angola, Eritrea and Swaziland.

Andy given a fright

top seed James Blake. The American faltered while leading 5-1 in the second set before steadying to defeat South

Andy Roddick had to work to get Whitehouse 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-4. past journeyman Jeff Morrison 7-6 (7/4), 7-5 here Thursday, losing the battle of aces but still advancing into the guarterfinals of the managed to eventually come through thanks in part to 19 aces. Second seed Roddick, the

"I had to weather the storm," 2003 and 2004 champion, mansaid Blake, winner of two American titles this season. "I had aged only nine untouchable a hiccup. I may have eased off the serves to a dozen for the No. 183 hrottle a bit." Apart from the final result, the

The loss ended the hopes of Whitehouse, the No. 512thranked qualifier who claimed the scalp of Marat Safin in the second round.

Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan came back from brink, saving three match points in a 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) win over American Paul Goldstein.

The eighth seed, from Bangkok, is fast forgetting his 12 first-round defeats this season, seven coming on clay and his most recent to claycourter Agustin Calleri at Wimbledon.

Paradorn, 2003 runner-up here to Roddick, saved three match points in a momentum-shifting final set, in which he trailed 4-2.



said Paradorn, who is travelling on his own for much of the North American hardcourt summer. "He African danger-man Wesley seemed to tighten up as he served for 5-2. Blake, sixth in the world, "We both played well on dropped serve on a double-fault returns. I'm glad to be in a while serving for the win. He quarterfinal again."

Paradorn will now face defending champion Robby Ginepri of the United States, who found his way back against Russia's Igor Kunitsyn, 6-2, 6-7 (2/7) 6-1.

"I thought he match was lost,"

Ginepri had to fight back in the final set after missing the chance to serve out a straight-sets win over the 92nd-ranked Kunitsyn.

"I played a couple of sloppy points and got tight," said Ginepri of his near miss. "I was thinking about them all during the tiebreaker.

"I don't have many wins this season and was defending the title. It's tough mentally to serve out a win. But I stepped it up in the

third and his level dropped." Chile's third-seeded Fernando Gonzalez moved into the last

eight with a 6-4, 7-6 (9/7) win over American Vince Spadea Florida-based Belgian Xavier Malisse came through against California-based Russian Dmitry Tursunov, 7-6 (7/4), 3-6, 6-3.

Friday

The punishment provoked widespread outrage in Italy and newspaper La Stampa described it as a 'scandalous sentence".

Leading sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport's headline read "Zidane-Materazzi 3-2, Italy is angry" and said it was "too low a punishment for Zizou."

FIFA remains adamant the verdict was in line with its current rules and said Article 54 of its' disciplinary rulebook states: "Anyone who insults someone in anyway, especially by using offensive gestures or language, will be sanctioned with a match suspension.

"If the perpetrator is a player, he will be suspended from at least two matches: if he is an official, he will be suspended from at least four matches.'

Materazzi had admitted abusing Zidane during extra-time in the final in an incident which caused the France captain's dismissal after he reacted by head-butting the Inter Milan star.

Zidane, who was given a threematch ban and fined 4,700 euros by FIFA, later claimed in a television interview that Materazzi had insulted his mother and sister, while lip-readers employed by several newspapers said the Italian had called his rival a "terrorist."

FIFA's head of media Andreas Herren told PA Sport: "We will continue to consider each case on an individual basis

"If we decide to investigate it, the disciplinary committee will give each party the chance to state their case to give a fair picture of the events, the same as we do now."

Shah said the Indian Board was French Football Federation looking at alternatives, including president Jean-Pierre Escalettes possible contests against Australia or said he would apply FIFA's ruling to New Zealand in either the Netherlands any future incidents that echo the or Asian venues like Singapore and Zidane-Materazzi clash in his Malaysia domestic leagues

Escalettes told the French federals and are considering it," he said. ation's website: "The first remark to "Something will be worked out soon." make is that the instigator has been punished with a two-match suspena one-day series in September to

sion for the national team. "Materazzi will not appeal against the sanction. In punishing the instigator. FIFA has set an example even if Zinedine Zidane is guilty

was planned after India agreed to "The second remark is that this boost the coffers of the cash-strapped verdict is in the same sense as the West Indian board by playing matches FFF philosophy and can be used as outside the ICC's official Test and onea basis for work for disciplinary day programme. committees whether at national or district level."

South Africa open the tour on Saturday with a three-day game before the first Test starts at the Sinhalese sports club next

Thursday. The second Test will be played at the Sara stadium from August 4-8, followed by the tri-series between August 14-29.

BRITISH OPEN GOLF Canada refuse **Duval makes** the cut

AFP, Hoylake

David Duval's long march back to respectability passed another milestone here Friday when he made the cut for the weekend at the British Open.

Duval won this tournament at nearby Royal Lytham in his heyday five years ago, but he then fell into a long decline that left him in golf's equivalent of hell.

But there have been signs this year that his fortunes could be turning around at last notably with a tie for 16th place last month in the US Open over the punishing Winged Foot layout.

Warming to the task, Duval has produced two steady, if unspectacular, rounds of 70 over Royal Liverpool to comfortably make the cut once again.

The 34-year-old former world No.1 said that he could have been even better placed had his putting matched up to the rest of his game.

therefore been forced to sell many

The fate of French striker David

Trezeguet and Sweden's Zlatan

Ibrahimovic is still undecided.

Gazzetta dello Sport reported,

though Corriere dello Sport said AS

Roma had made a substantial offer

been at Juventus since the

2000/2001 season and has scored

Wednesday lost two of its star play-

Brazilian Emerson to Real Madrid.

95 goals in 151 appearances.

The 28-year-old Trezeguet has

The Old Lady of Turin on

Vieira set

FROM PAGE 20 seasons. Italy's richest club has

of its top players

for Trezeguet.

FROM PAGE 17

"I am sad that my name has created such a stir. I ask whether I am unsuitable to come into cricket administration simply because I am a deputy minister," Ranatunga India seem determined to organise said.

"I am not just a politician. I have played the game for 20 years and I have been involved in various cricket activities," said Ranatunga, who became a cult figure in Sri Lanka after leading them to the World Cup title in 1996.

Last year, Ranatunga headed the SLC's high-profile cricket ers in Italy's World Cup-winning committee but quit in disgust after captain Fabio Cannavaro and the interim committee failed to implement his proposals.

stated in these reports," Francis said. "We had an agreement for Asafa to

compete in the 100m, but then the meet representatives told us that the majority of the agreed fee would not be paid until sometime next year ... we then told the meet rep that we would not be competing on those terms, and that Asafa and the other athletes would withdraw.

"The meet promoter asked us (as a favor) to allow the other athletes to run and for us to still carry Asafa to the meet even though he would not be competing ... we agreed," Francis said.

Meanwhile, Doyle said the problem with the flight arose when airline agents didn't want Powell to carry on his hand luggage, saying it was overweight.

Doyle said the party tried to retrieve their checked baggage in order to transfer the contents, but couldn't.

Dimming hopes

FROM PAGE 17 on sprint," said Kitab.

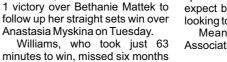
National champions Masudul Karim will run 100 and 200 metres while Shamsuddin will also compete in the 100m. Hafizul Islam and Mohon Khan are going to the Games as part of the relay team.

"If one them does well, we will give him a chance. We are taking young long jumper Al Amin to give him exposure. He does not have much chance this time but as the Games will be held in Dhaka next time, he would be a good prospect for us. The experience will be valu-

able," he commented. Although winning a gold medal in Colombo is not in the likelihood, the coach was not all frustrated. "I know it's too early to say some-

thing but like all coaches, I also have faith in one guy. Our best prospect to win a gold would be Mahfuzur Rahman. He is young, talented and is motivated to win. His form is also encouraging," said Kitab of the 110m

"His best timing is 14.10s in manual timing. The last time, the gold medallist clocked 14.34s. If we add 0.25s to Mahfuz's timing and compare it with electronic timing, he still looks good. However, we don't have the information about our future competitors. If they have progressed, he will also have to do better



Group Women's Open in Mason on Thursday.

"I feel like I'm moving faster but I

"I feel fine, I've been doing a lot of off court work. Both players I have played so far have been really competitive and really tough.

American Serena Williams returns a shot from Bethanie Mattek during a match in the Western & Southern Financial

Clinical Serena thru' to qtrs

"I'm just taking it one match at a time.

"I didn't expect superspectacular results, but I didn't expect bad results, either. I'm not looking too far ahead."

Meanwhile, the US Tennis Association has confirmed that it

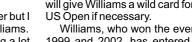
will give Williams a wild card for the

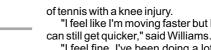
Williams, who won the event in 1999 and 2002, has entered this year's tournament but her injuryaffected world ranking of 139 means she will not receive auto-

matic direct acceptance. In addition to the players already in the draw, 16 players will the remaining eight spots are wild

US Open if necessary.

gain entry through qualifying, while cards awarded at the discretion of the USTA.





Tennis BBC ONLINE, undated

Bangladesh Air Force hurdler. Serena Williams swept to her

second clinical win since returning from injury as she reached the quarterfinals of the Cincinnati Open.

The 24-year-old earned a 6-3 6-