SPÖRT

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Freddie likely to be included

CRICINFO, undated

David Graveney has suggested Andrew Flintoff could play in next month's Champions Trophy in India, as he continues to recover from his second ankle operation earlier this

Flintoff, who is stepping up his rehabilitation in Portugal, was named in England's provisional 30man squad for the Champions Trophy and is being considered as part of the final squad of 14, which will be announced in the next week.

"There has been talk about him in the initial stages of playing as a batsman, but assuming he doesn't have any problems with his rehabilitation he will definitely be in the shake-up," confirmed David Graveney, the chairman of selectors. "Because of the timeline we've been given by the ICC of September 7 we're going to have to put people in there who we're not quite sure about," Graveney said. "We will obviously consult closely with our medical staff, but I would say it's extremely positive that Freddie has got a chance of going."

Graveney also suggested that Ashley Giles, who has been out of action for nearly a year with a hip iniury, could feature in the final 14. Less promising is the news of Simon Jones, though, who is making good but tentative steps on his path to

"Giles has now been signed off and he's now concentrating on cricket-related skills." he said. "He's walking through his bowling action now, which is a very positive sign. Dr Steadman is also pleased with Simon Jones, but caution is the by-

The group stages of the Champions Trophy begin on

M'ganj clinch summer title

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Munshiganj High School beat Sonarang Pilot High School 2-0 in the final of the 35th summer football tournament at the Rampal NBM High School ground on Saturday.

The tournament was organised by the District School and Madrasah

Additional District Com-missioner (general) attended the match and distributed prizes among the partici-

Five-star

Koldo's excellent 57th minute save before the striker was taken off for Everton's Andy Johnson to win his third cap. By then England were 5-0 ahead, Crouch heading home substitute Aaron Lennon's cross with 24 minutes still remaining.

Crouch had netted a hat-trick for his country at the venue in a pre-World Cup warm-up game and he ought to have had another one against part-time opponents.

Johnson had only been on the pitch for a few minutes when he carved out an excellent chance for his strike partner yet Crouch was left holding his head in his hands as he screwed his shot wide of the target.

Lithuania hold

FROM PAGE 20

from the right and an unmarked Danilevicius, who plays for Italian club Livorno, tucked a low shot wide of Buffon and into the bottom corner.

The goal stunned a vociferous home crowd, but their jeers turned to cheers nine minutes later when Italy levelled the score.

Simone Perrotta's chipped pass found Cassano who had drifted wide in the penalty area, and his low cross from the left was tapped in by the predatory Inzaghi for his 23rd goal in 51 internationals.

Cassano went close to giving Italy a half-time lead when his mazy dribble left him with just Zyfrunas Karcemarskas to beat, but the Lithuania keeper pulled off an excellent save to deny the rejuve-

nated Real Madrid striker. Inzaghi was a fraction away from doubling his tally shortly after the break, but his flicked header from

Massimo Oddo's right-wing cross flashed wide. Buffon beat away Mantas Savenas' shot as Lithunia tried to

regain the upper hand, while at the other end Karcemarskas' outstretched boot prevented Inzaghi's drive from finding the bottom corner.

Karcemarskas was Lithuania's saviour again on the hour, blocking Cassano as the former Roma striker latched on to a weak defensive

clearance Italy almost produced a carbon copy of their first goal 15 minutes from time, but Inzaghi somehow sliced his close-range shot over the

bar after good work from Cassano. Alberto Gilardino almost saved Italy's blushes in stoppage time, but Tomas Tamosauskas was on the line to stop the substitute striker's

header from crossing the line.



Jamaican sprinter Asafa Powell, flanked by his US counterparts Tyson Gay and Leonard Scott in action during the men's 100m competition of the Golden League athletics meeting at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin on Sunday.

Three share the bonanza

Athletics

Jamaican sprinter Asafa Powell and American 400m runners Jeremy Wariner and Sanya Richards blitzed their rivals Sunday to share the Golden League jackpot for a perfect six wins in the six-meet series

The trio will each take home a cool 250,000 dollars, but will have to compete in the IAAF world athletics finals in Stuttgart on September 9-10 to be eligible for the prize.

Powell, joint world record holder with drug-tainted American Justin Gatlin, clocked up his record 11th sub-10sec race this year, romping home in a meeting record of 9.86sec, 0.1sec ahead of American Tyson Gay. There was no repeat of the awful

start Powell suffered in Brussels last week, and once he hit his elegant long stride there was no stopping the 23-year-old as he powered away from the field. Wariner duly wrapped up his

perfect six from six in the men's 400m, producing a strong final bend to outrun pacesetter Lashawn Merrit, who himself was caught by Gary Kikaya of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The 22-year-old, the only athlete to have won two gold medals in both the 2004 Olympics and last year's world championships, fell short of his target of another sub-44sec run,

Richards hit the 300m mark a full 10 metres up on the field and won comfortably in 49.81sec ahead of compatriot Dee Dee Trotter (50.87sec).

In the hunt for a share of a second pot of 500,000 dollars for athletes having won five out of six events, there was good news for Kenenisa Bekele and Irving Saladino, who won their 5000m and long jump events (8.35m) respec-But there was heartbreak for

perfect six as Ethiopian compatriot and Olympic champion Meseret Defar won a frantic sprint of a last lap in the women's 5000m to come home in 15min 02.51sec. Bekele fell well short of bettering his world record in the 5000m,

Tirunesh Dibaba who lost out on a

coming home in 12:57.74, more than 20sec off the pace he set in Hengelo two years ago. The 24-year-old, who also holds the world record in the 10,000m, a distance in which he is world and Olympic champion, was again a class above the field -- none of

final lap. Kenyan Augustine Kiprono Choge, 19, won the 1500m in a personal best of 3:32.48, a full second ahead of Said Saaeed Shaheen, the Kenvan-born naturalised Qatari who is the double stee-

whom broke the 13min barrier -- but

left himself too much to do on the

Sherone Simpson made it a Jamaican sprint double, easily winning the women's blue riband event in 10.92sec, benefiting from a fast start to outpace Me'Lisa Barber (11.21sec) and Debby Ferguson (11.24sec).

American Virgina Powell claimed the 100m hurdles in 12.72sec, while Norway's Olympic and world champion Andrea Thorkilsden won the men's javelin with a best of 87.43m.

FIFA to outlaw

FROM PAGE 20 proposals are that all clubs must show who owns them," Sprenger told the Mail on Sunday.

"It will not be enough simply for them to show that a company owns them. They will have to show who is behind that company as well "The FIFA congress unani-

mously supported these proposals in July so there is support from all the confederations for this. "The FIFA president (Sepp

Blatter) wants them to be written at

the Congress next July. "It doesn't matter if a takeover happens before the rules are instituted - from next year all clubs would have to show their ownership and who is behind them. "If

Ham, he would have to show that. "For the integrity of competitions, it has to be made clear who is in

(Joorabchian) took over at West

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

India spring no surprise





Veteran leg-spinner Anil Kumble has not been picked in the Indian squad for next month's Champions Trophy because of doubts over his fitness, it was announced here on Sunday. "According to the report from

physio John Gloster, Kumble was likely to be fit for the tournament but we were not sure and hence decided not to select him," chief selector Kiran More told reporters.

Kumble's inclusion in the 14-man squad was anticipated after reports that he was expected to recover in time

from tendinitis in his bowling shoulder. But the selectors said they also did not want to risk playing him for fear of aggravating the injury.

"We have other series coming up and are looking at his long-term rehabilitation," More said after a meeting in which the squad for a preceding threenation tournament in Malaysia was also decided.

Kumble, 35, who has taken 329 wickets in 264 one-day internationals, ast turned out for India in a one-daver

during a tri-series in Sri Lanka in

There were no other major surprises with only paceman Shantakumaran Sreesanth being dropped from the squad that went to Sri Lanka in what turned out to be a rain-disrupted series last month.

All 15 players who toured Sri Lanka were retained for the Malaysia event featuring Australia and the West

"Sreesanth definitely figures in our scheme of things but we need to give pacemen like Rudra Pratap Singh enough chances as he has been looking good recently," said More.

"There are a number of other players waiting in the sidelines and we will also try to give them chances in the near future." More said.

Former skipper Sourav Ganguly, who had been picked in the preliminary list of 30 for the Champions Trophy, once again found himself out of favour.

The Champions Trophy will start with the qualifiers on October 7 and will be played at four centres -- Mumbai, Mohali, Jaipur and Ahmedabad.

India, who have been placed in Group A along with world champions Australia, England and a qualifier, take on England in their first match at Jaipui on October 15.

Group B comprises of Pakistan, South Africa, New Zealand and the other qualifier from the qualifying league in which the West Indies, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe will fight it out.

CHAMPS TROPHY SQUAD Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender

Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Suresh Raina, Mahendra Dhoni, Irfan Pathan, Aiit Agarkar, Munaf Patel, Rudra Pratap Singh, Ramesh Powar, Harbhajan Singh, Dinesh Mongia.

TRI-SERIES SQUAD

Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh Mohammad Kaif, Suresh Raina, Mahendra Dhoni, Irfan Pathan, Ajit Agarkar, Munaf Patel, Rudra Pratan Singh, Ramesh Powar, Harbhajan Singh, Dinesh Mongia, Shantakumaran Sreesanth.

Pak pace overpowers Eng

week working really hard on my

fitness and bowling. An elated Inzamam added: "Shoaib's bowling with the new ball was lovely -- his pace, his swing,

everything is there." Defeat was England's eighth in as many completed one-day matches this season after they lost Twenty20s at home to Sri Lanka and Pakistan as well as going down 5-0 in a one-day series against the Lankans.

One consolation, ahead of Tuesday's day/night clash at the Rose Bowl, was the form of recalled Gloucestershire seamer Jon Lewis.

In for the dropped Sajid Mahmood, Lewis dismissed openers Mohammad Hafeez and Shoaib Malik on his way to figures of two for 11 in eight overs.

"It was probably a bad toss to lose but credit to Pakistan, they put the ball in the right areas and with 166 on the board it was always hard work," said England captain Andrew Strauss, who ell first ball to Akhtar for nought.

"I think it's a bit easier when you're chasing 166 but Jon Lewis was magnificent," he added.

Younis Khan's 55 kept Pakistan on course before he holed out off paceman Rikki Clarke to Kevin Pietersen at deep mid-wicket after a stand of 78 with Yousuf had taken the tourists to

108 for three in the 28th over. But with Pakistan 32 for two, Younis on 15 edged Lewis to wicket-keeper Chris Read only for Billy Doctrove, one of the umpires who controversially declared Pakistan had forfeited the fourth Test at The Oval last month, to

Replays suggested it was a tight decision at best. But from then on, Younis's 'escape' apart, they were rarely troubled Excluding Lewis, England's all-

seam attack conceded 153 runs in 28.4 overs. Veteran quick Darren Gough especially had a match to forget, his

eight wicketless overs costing 44 runs. Earlier, England were indebted to a career-best 39 from all-rounder Together with Read (30) he put on

53 in 57 balls for the seventh wicket

after England had slumped to 113 for

Scoreboard in the second one-day international between England and Pakistan at Lord's on Saturday: ENGLAND: 166 all out in 39.1 overs

SCOREBOARD

(Akhtar 4-28)

PAKISTAN Malik c Read b Lewis 10 Hafeez c Read b Lewis Younis c Pietersen b Clarke 55 Yousuf not out 49 Inzamam not out 42 Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-2, nb-5) 12

Total: (For 3 wkts in 36.4 overs)169 Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-30, 3-108 Did not bat: Razzaq, Afridi, Akmal,

Naved, Akhtar, Asif. Bowler 0 0 44 8 Lewis 8 4 11 2 0 Broad 6.4 44 0 18 Collingwood 5 Clarke 0 37 Bell 2 0 10 Result: Pakistan won by seven wickets (D/L method) Man-of-the-match: Shoaib Akhtar

Ernesto sweeps US Open

AFP, New York

Eight-time Grand Slam winner Andre Agassi got an assist from Mother Nature Saturday as his third round match at the US Open was moved back to Sunday.

The rain and strong winds from tropical storm Ernesto wiped out Saturday's schedule without a ball being struck, leaving organisers with no choice but to postpone the matches to Sunday.

They hope to get back on track Sunday as weather forecasters are calling for skies to clear up overnight Saturday and stay dry at least through

BOA, Tata sign MoU

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) and Tata Steel yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Dhaka in a bid to enhance the level of Bangladeshi athletes.

The Indian corporate house will train 19 Bangladeshi sportspersons in three disciplines -- athletics, archery and boxing -- in their highly regarded sports academy in Jamshedpur under the agreement.

BOA's acting secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed and Arun Narayan Singh, deputy managing director (Corporate Services) of Tata Steel, were the signatories on behalf of their respective organisa-

BOA president and Chief of Army Staff Lt General Moeen U Ahmed was present as chief guest. Satish Pillai, chief of sports, Tata Steel, was

Fiesta comes

player in 1994 and, after succeeding Carlos Alberto Parreira in July, he has been charged with adding steel to his countrys galaxy of attacking stars. Dunga, in just his second game as coach, was without injured duo Ronaldinho and Ronaldo, but also took the surprising step of leaving out Kaka, AC Milans prodigiously gifted

That move could well be his first step towards attempting to make Brazil into a cohesive unit rather than a collection of malfunctioning

Argentina are also in a state of transition. Alfio Basile is back for his second spell as coach after Jose Pekerman resigned in the aftermath of that premature World Cup

Unlike Dunga he kept faith with the majority of the players who had intermittently dazzled in Germany. But it was striker Carlos Tevez

and midfielder Javier Mascherano who took all the attention as they gave West Ham fans a glimpse of what they can expect after their surprise transfer deadline-day moves to the English Premiership club from Brazils Corinthians.

Hammers paid

Sevilla and AS Roma baulked at the asking price

FROM PAGE 20

MSI chief Kia Joorabchian, who has been strongly linked with a takeover at West Ham, has denied the players will be sold at the end of the season.

And Joorabchian was quoted by the News of the World as saying that he believes West Ham have the potential to challenge the elite of English and European football over the next decade.

"I believe in the very near future West Ham can become bigger than Chelsea and maybe within seven years even challenge Manchester United," Joorabchian told the paper.

English confidence FROM PAGE 20

impressive in that role, as he was during England's World Cup quarter-final exit against Portugal, and should finally become a first-team regular.

Up front, McClaren's faith in striker Jermain Defoe has made Eriksson's decision to ignore him for the World Cup in favour of untried teenager Theo Walcott seem even more bizarre. That faith was repaid with

Defoe's promising display against Greece, two well-taken goals against Andorra and a run along the edge of the box on Saturday which led to Peter Crouch's fifth-minute Defoe and Crouch, who also scored twice against Andorra, should be good for more goals in

Macedonia, where they will again lead the line in the absence of suspended Wayne Rooney and long-term injured Michael Owen. England will be in for a tougher time in their next game, having only managed to win 2-1 there three

years ago to the day in a Euro 2004

qualifier. Bigger challenges are ahead against Croatia and Russia in a Group E that also features Israel and Estonia. For the moment. though, McClaren's England honeymoon looks set to continue.

Donadoni not discouraged

Football

REUTERS, Naples

Italy coach Roberto Donadoni said there was still plenty of room for improvement after his team was held to a surprise 1-1 draw by lowly Lithuania in their opening Euro 2008 qualifier on Saturday.

The Group B game, attended by 60,000 fans who had come to welcome the Azzurri on their first competitive outing since they lifted the World Cup in July, ended in stale-

First-half goals by Filippo Inzaghi and Lithuania striker Tomas Danilevicius cancelled each other

"I'm disappointed with the draw,

but as soon as the lads got back into

the dressing room I told them I thought they'd played well, Donadoni said. "They (Lithuania) started well and were better than us for the first 20

would have got a better result. "There was a good spirit in the team. It's a spirit we can go forward

minutes, but with a bit of luck I think we

The match was Donadoni's second in charge since taking over from Marcello Lippi a few days after

the World Cup final The new coach lost his first match in mid-August when his second-string team were beaten 2-0

by Croatia in a friendly. The late start to Italy's domestic season, which has been put back to Sept. 9 due to legal wrangling surrounding the Serie A matchfixing scandal, prompted Donadoni to leave out several players who he elt were short of match fitness.

World Cup strikers Luca Toni, Alessandro Del Piero, Francesco Totti and Vincenzo laquinta were all missing fro the squad, though Donadoni denied their absence contributed to the failure to capital ise on a string of second-half

"No, not at all. Just look at the

ay we played," he said. 'Inzaghi scored a goal and went lose to getting a couple of others. (Antonio) Cassano did the same and (Alberto) Gilardino had a

header saved on the line. "In all I'd say there were seven clear chances on goal. Usually, you'd expect more than one to go in

I thought we deserved to win toniaht.'

He did admit, however, that some of his players lacked a little of

their usual sharpness. "Maybe we lacked a little bit of pace in the last 20 minutes but that's only to be expected at this time of

the season. "That's the reality we face. There's nothing we can do about it. If Serie A had already begun maybe we'd be a bit sharper, but there's no

point talking about it now." Donadoni insisted the draw would not prey on the Azzurri's minds as they prepare for their next qualifier -- a re-run of the World Cup final against France in Paris on Wednesday.

"Tonight's result will not have any effect on the team. The two matches are completely separate.

"From tomorrow the lads will be completely focused on recovering and getting themselves back in France are definitely a team that

is in a better physical condition than us, but I'm optimistic because our condition can only improve between now and Wednesday"



Acting general secretary of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) Kutubuddin Ahmed (2nd R) and deputy managing director of Tata Steel Arun Narayan Singh exchange documents of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during a ceremony at the NSC conference room yesterday.

'I'm only at 80 per cent'

Cricket

AFP, London

Shoaib Akhtar believes he has still to find his best form in the run-up to next year's World Cup after starring once more against England.

The 'Rawalpindi Express' con-

tinued his impressive comeback to international cricket after six months out with an ankle injury by taking four for 28 as Pakistan beat England by seven wickets in the second one-dayer at Lord's. England, as well as being 1-0

down in the five-match series, were

left contemplating the worrying

prospect that Akhtar was, in his

own estimation, still only "80 per cent fit". "I was just trying to bowl in the right areas, not go for wickets so much as dot balls." explained Akhtar after being named man-ofthe-match in a clash where Pakistan dismissed England for 166 in a contest reduced to 40

"I'm still only at 80 per cent of my fitness so I've been a lucky guy to get a few wickets. Other people might say I'm match fit but my goals are really high.'

overs per side before finishing on 169 for three with 20 balls to spare.

This last week has seen a steady improvement from the paceman who returned to international duty with one for 31 in

Pakistan's five-wicket Twenty20

win against England in Bristol on

Monday and then took three for 45 in Wednesday's washed-out oneday series opener in Cardiff. At Lord's on Saturday he rou-

tinely hit the 90mph mark and was accurate with it, striking sixth ball to have England captain Andrew Strauss caught behind for nought. But the 31-year-old, who had Ian Bell caught at slip before com-

ing back to flatten Rikki Clarke's

stumps and knock over Darren

was still some way off top speed. "I'm still bowling, on average, at 90mph. I should be bowling at 94mph. I'm lacking match practice but in the next few games I think I should be there." he added ahead

of Tuesday's day/night match at the Rose Bowl. Akhtar was adamant that raw pace alone was not an over-riding

concern.

"It's not a challenge for me to bowl at 100mph. It's not a competition about bowling at 94, 95mph getting wickets is my main goal and always has been. "I've always believed I've been a

very accurate bowler. I've never

this long run-up," Akhtar also told reporters after a return of 8-0-28-4. moment for Pakistan when Akhtar lipped in the field.

been stupidly fast. I don't fancy bowling no-balls or wide balls after There was one worrying

When you are playing for your

country you don't think about get-

ting injured when diving in the

field," Akhtar said.

"I'm a guy who likes to give 100 per cent. I love going all out for my country. That's what I've been

doing for the last 10 years." Pakistan look to be wellequipped in their quest to win what would be their second World Cup crown when the tournament takes place in the Caribbean next year, having previously triumphed in

Australia in 1992.

Haq, Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf and the hard-hitting Shahid Afridi. As well as Akhtar, they have pace threat in Mohammad Asif. Navedul Hasan and all-rounder

Their batting line-up features

Abdul Razzaq as well as spin options in Afridi, Danish Kaneria and Mohammad Hafeez. However, they were without Akhtar, Naved (groin) and opening batsman Shoaib Malik (elbow) for

series reverse in England. Asif only returned from an elbow iniury during the tourists' controversial fourth Test forfeit at The But the 23-year-old lived to the

'young Glenn McGrath tag' given

him by vice-captain Younis Khan

the whole of their recent 3-0 Test

by lighting up a gloomy Lord's with two for 10 from eight overs. However, Akhtar said comparisons between himself and Asif with the 1990s Pakistan new-ball duo of Wagar Younis and Wasim Akram

gossip columns, the third-seeded

Sharapova and the ninth-seeded

Roddick -- neither of whom has

been romantically linked with

another player -- were greeted with

the cool gusts of wind that swirled

around 20 minutes before the rain

began again, forcing them to return

Both players hit the ball for

around Ashe at court level.

to their locker rooms.

were off target.

OPEN SECRETS

INTERNET, undated

Andre Agassi will not be the only legend saying good-bye to tennis at the U.S. Open. But for Martina Navratilova, the act of retirement will hardly be uncharted territory.

Navratilova, who has won 15

titles in singles, doubles and mixed doubles at the US Open, walked away from the sport for the first time in 1994 at the age of 37 but returned in 2000 "because I could and I wanted to. "It just sort of fell into my lap and

then I got hooked," she added. "Won a few more Grand Slams along the way. Not too shabby." Now almost 50, the woman who

won 18 Grand Slam singles titles is competing in the women's and mixed doubles at the Open in her last tournament before finally walking away for good. She will not go quietly, however. Navratilova used a media

conference at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on Saturday to criticise the sport's rulemakers for failing to address the issue of racquet sizes and

"I'm disappointed that the rac-

quet manufacturers are dictating what kind of tennis we're watching," she said. "The powers that be aren't regulating it enough. You see in golf, you have so many rules and regulations ... We have so little on the tennis racquets, and the

"I can do things with the ball now that I couldn't have done 10 years ago, certainly not 20 years ago. It takes less skill to hit great shots or to hit powerful shots because you just bang away. Tennis used to be more like squash; now it's more like racquetball -- hit the ball as hard as you can, it will still go in."

LOVE GAME

strings.

After a week of dousing rumors of a blossoming romance, Andy Roddick and Maria Sharapova went and poured oil right back on the flames of curiosity when they shared the court at Arthur Ashe Stadium for a practice Saturday

Both players scampered out from the locker rooms at the first opportunity to hit balls with their respective practice partners ahead of their scheduled matches Instead of all the hot air from the

ALL AGASSI, ALL THE TIME

The rain did not dampen spirits at CBS Sports, which took over from the USA Network for the Labor Day

weekend's telecasts. As the players idled away the weatherenforced suspension of play, CBS declared a seven-hour "Agassi All Day!" schedule. The network began by showing Agassi's U.S. Open final losses to

Pete Sampras in 1995 and 2001, epic matches that did not have the outcome a fan of Agassi may have been looking for.