

India to turn to Webster

REUTERS, Mumbai

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is to use renowned sports psychologist Rudi Webster to help the team prepare for next year's World Cup.

"We are yet to enter into discussions with Webster, though we hope to get him to have a few sessions with the players during next month's Champions Trophy," BCCI secretary Niranjan Shah told Reuters on Sunday.

Shah said the proposal had come from coach Greg Chappell and captain Rahul Dravid in preparation for the World Cup in West Indies.

The Indian team had a few sessions with Webster during this year's tour of the Caribbean where they lost the one-day series 4-1 but bounced back to win their first Test series in West Indies for 35 years.

Webster has worked with several top athletes, including West Indies cricketer Viv Richards and Australian golfer Greg Norman.

Series ends

FROM PAGE 17

Earlier, Strauss won his first loss of the series and chose to field on a pitch with some early life.

But it took the arrival of first-change Mahmood to spark a collapse that saw three wickets lost for eight runs in 15 balls, Pakistan 51 for three when the Lancashire quick had Mohammad Yousuf (11) edging to second slip Strauss.

Collingwood then snared Inzamam ul Haq for two as he walked across his stumps.

Razaq, whose whirlwind 75 not out at Trent Bridge took Pakistan from the depths of 115 for five to 235 for eight, came in with his side in an even worse position at 72 for five.

But on five, Razaq gave Collingwood his 50th one-day international wicket when he was bowled off-stump.

Younis's 80-ball innings, including four fours, ended when a top-edged reverse sweep against Daivrymply went straight to Joyce at short third man.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fifth and final one-day international between England and Pakistan at Edgbaston on Sunday:

PAKISTAN				
Faheez b Mahmood	18			
Farhat run out	15			
Afridi b Lewis	2			
Younis c Joyce b Dalrymple	47			
Yousuf c Strauss b Mahmood	11			
Inzamam lbw b Collingwood	2			
Razaq b Collingwood	5			
Akmal c Read b Yardy	4			
Naved b Dalrymple	8			
Iftikhar Anjum not out	14			
Asif not out	4			
Extras: (lb-10, w-13, nb-1)	24			
Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs)	154			
Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-47, 3-51, 4-68, 5-72, 6-91, 7-102, 8-124, 9-135				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Broad	9	0	37	0
Lewis	10	1	25	1
Mahmood	10	2	24	2
Collingwood	8	0	23	2
Yardy	7	0	22	1
Dalrymple	6	0	13	2

ENGLAND				
Joyce b Asif	8			
Strauss c Akmal b Anjum	35			
Bell c Farhat b Asif	2			
Pietersen b Afridi	34			
Collingwood lbw b Razaq	22			
Dalrymple lbw b Afridi	0			
Yardy not out	12			
Read c Naved b Razaq	4			
Mahmood not out	22			
Extras: (b-6, lb-2, w-6, nb-2)	16			
Total: (For 7 wks in 31 overs)	155			
Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-49, 3-49, 4-102, 5-102, 6-106, 7-118				
Did not bat: Lewis, Broad				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Asif	10	1	57	2
Naved	2	0	22	0
Anjum	8	1	31	1
Razaq	6	0	23	2
Afridi	5	1	14	2

Result: England won by three wickets and levelled the five-match series 2-2.

Man-of-the-match: Sajid Mahmood

Man-of-the-series: Younis Khan

Powell, Liu light up Day 1



AFP, Stuttgart

Hundred metres world record holder Asafa Powell and China's 110m hurdles world record holder Liu Xiang made the most impressive marks on the opening day of the IAAF World Grand Prix finals here on Saturday.

Powell ran yet another sub 10 second race though he didn't threaten his record of 9.77sec and Liu made a stunning return to the international circuit after taking time off since breaking the world mark in July in Lausanne.

Liu timed 12.93sec in the event and admitted to not feeling too surprised at his excellent run.

"I felt really well before the race and I knew I was in really good shape," said the 23-year-old Olympic champion.

"After my world record (12.88sec breaking Colin Jackson's 13 year old mark of 12.91) I returned to Beijing and got a lot of rest," added Liu.

However Liu promised more of the same at the World Cup in Athens next weekend.

"The World Cup has been my end of season objective and that is why I didn't give it my all," said Liu.

Unlike Liu Powell was undecided about the World Cup.

"I feel a little tired, the season has been long but a rich one," said Powell, who started way back in March at the Commonwealth Games where he won the 100m title.

"I will see whether I run in Athens next week."

Powell admitted that he had not threatened his world record because he was nervous of false starting.

"There had already been one so I didn't want to be disqualified for doing the second one. I am not disappointed in my time at all."

Elsewhere America's Olympic and world 400m champion Jeremy Wariner continued his dominance of the event as he won with something in hand.

"It has been a long season but my best run since London," said Wariner, who is with Clyde Hart the

coach of world record holder Michael Johnson.

"It is a great way to finish the season but I had to dig down deep."

His performance spurred on Democratic Republic of Congo runner Gary Kikaya, who broke Nigerian Innocent Egbunike's 19-year-old African record in the 400 metres.

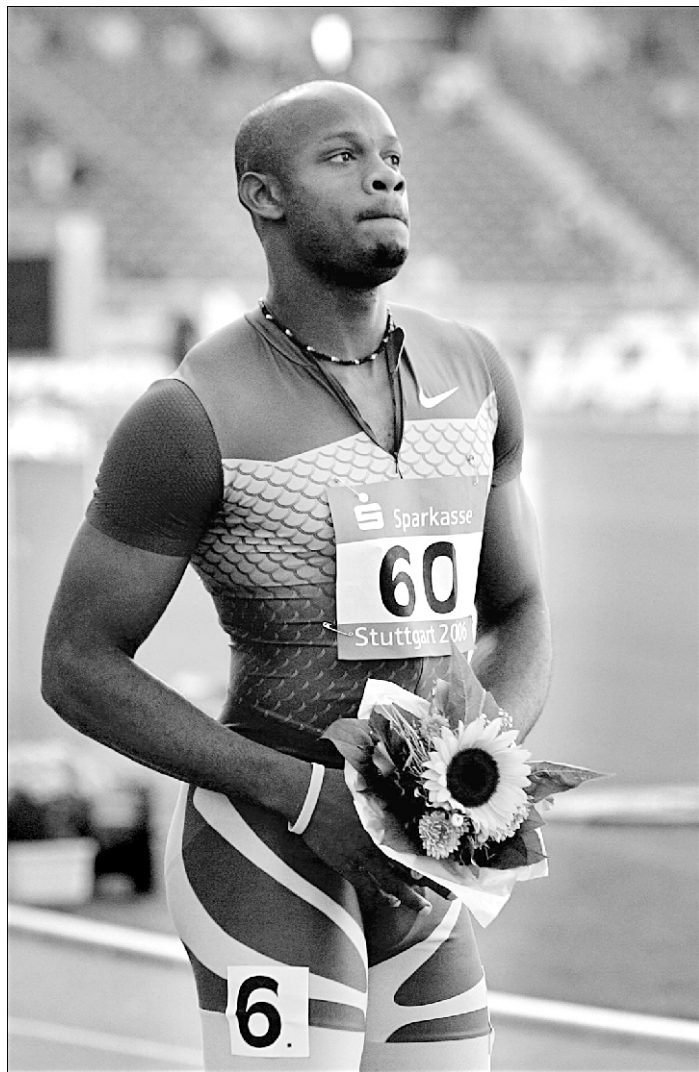
The 28-year-old timed 44.10 seconds in finishing second to Wariner eclipsing Egbunike's time

of 44.17sec set in August 1987.

Kikaya, who was formerly coached by controversial handler Trevor Graham, said he was delighted to have run Wariner so close.

"I am surprised nevertheless to have been so close to him (Wariner)," said Kikaya, who is one of eight children and lived in South Africa for 10 years when his father was ambassador there.

"However it is only human to try."



Jamaican sprinter Asafa Powell looks satisfied after winning the men's 100m event of the IAAF World Athletics Final in Stuttgart on Saturday.

Sachin fully fit: Greg



CRICINFO, undated

India coach Greg Chappell has confirmed that Sachin Tendulkar is "fully fit and in good spirits" ahead of the DLF Cup in Malaysia, a tri-series involving West Indies and Australia that's set to begin on September 12.

"The time spent in the middle was excellent for Tendulkar," said Chappell after a practice game between Virender Sehwag XI and Harbhajan Singh XI.

Tendulkar got himself into form ahead of the tri-series with a fluent 83-ball 101, including 12 fours and three sixes, while opening the innings for Sehwag XI at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

Tendulkar added 164 in an opening partnership with Rahul Dravid (44), someone who he has

opened with just three times in one-day internationals. "We know each other well," said Dravid while commenting on the stand. "I have come a slot up or down, and then we have batted together on a lot of occasions over the last 10 years. It's the same when we are opening."

He added that the opening combination for the DLF Cup would depend on the conditions and the match situation.

The faster bowlers didn't enjoy a great time in the practice games but Dravid wasn't too harsh while judging their performance. "The conditions were pretty flat. It wasn't easy for them. But there were lessons to be learnt for the bowlers."

Chappell was pleased with the commitment shown by Suresh Raina, who played in Saturday's game braving an injury to his jaw. "He was desperate to get back into the middle. You always want to see

that in a young cricketer. He is talented, also has character."

He was happy with the efforts of VRV Singh, the young fast bowler, and added that left-arter Rudra Pratap Singh had bounced back well in the second game.

David spoke about the tough challenge ahead: "These two teams (West Indies and Australia) have a good record against us in recent times. We are determined to reverse that."

He confirmed that Yuvraj Singh, recovering from a viral fever, would join the team in Kuala Lumpur.

SQUAD

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

Giggs rolls back the years

FROM PAGE 20

Ricardo Carvalho headed in a 63rd-minute winner after former Chelsea striker Jimmy Floyd-Hasselbaink had cancelled out Didier Drogba's early strike.

Middlesbrough, who have already beaten Chelsea this season, were on course for another famous win after youngster James Morrison gave them a 22nd-minute lead at Arsenal.

The Gunners were fortunate to salvage a point with a Thierry Henry penalty mid-way through the second half after Boro had been

reduced to ten men by the sending-off of Dutch midfielder George Boateng.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger admitted his side's start to the campaign was a cause for concern.

"When we fail to win a game we have dominated it is always worrying and I am now aware that this our worst ever start in the Premiership," admitted the Frenchman.

Fulham came back from a goal down to snatch an unlikely 2-1 win at Newcastle with late goals from American duo Brian McBride and Carlos Bocanegra, after Scott Parker had headed the home side into the lead.

An injury-time penalty by Gary Speed gave Bolton a 1-0 win over top-flight newcomers Watford at the Reebok Stadium.

The battle between bottom two Sheffield United and Blackburn finished goalless but there was no shortage of drama at Bramall Lane in a match that featured no less than three saved penalties.

After United goalkeeper Paddy Kenny had palmed away a Lucas Neill effort for Blackburn, his opposite number Brad Friedel kept out efforts from David Unsworth and Rob Hulse.

Maria conquers

FROM PAGE 17

the line and she clinched it with a service winner.

That was the same score as in the Australian Open semifinal in January, a match in which Henin-Hardenne hit back to win.

Sharapova flung in another two double faults at 0-1 down at the start of the second set, but she still managed to level.

Henin-Hardenne won the longest rally of the final to level at deuce and 3-2 up but Sharapova got her way out of trouble with two big serves.

The following game was crucial as Henin-Hardenne wavered again and two forehands, one long and one into the net, gave the Russian the break she was looking for.

She served out twice for the title.

Sharapova will be up to third in the world rankings after her New York triumph and she warned that

there was more to come from her.

"It's the carrot on the cake but there are a lot more carrots I want to put on the cake," she said.

"I still have years to go and I can still improve."

Henin-Hardenne had the satisfaction of being only the seventh woman to contest all four Grand Slam finals in the same year.

She also lost to Amelie Mauresmo in the Australian Open and Wimbledon finals and won the French Open final for her fifth Grand Slam win against Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia.

"It's been a great season for me and it's not over yet," she said.

"I am still healthy and my goal now is the four championships. At the end of the year I will see what my plans are for next year."

Wasim votes for Inzamam

PTI, Karachi

Former Pakistan skipper Wasim Akram has said Inzamamul Haq was the right person to lead the side in the World Cup in the West Indies next year as he enjoyed the support and respect of the players.

Inzamam, the only member of the current team who was a part of the 1992 World Cup winning squad, came under fire after Pakistan lost the Test series in England, with some critics suggesting that the Multan batsman should hand over the mantle of captaincy to Younis Khan for the World Cup.

But Akram said he would vote for Inzamam over Younis any day.

"No doubt Younis will be an intelligent captain but my vote goes to Inzamam for the World Cup captaincy as he is the most experienced player in the side and players respect him most," Akram was quoted as saying in the News.

However, Akram said Inzamam, currently embroiled in a ball-tampering row, would do well to be a little more pro-active on the field like he was in the last tour of India in 2005.

On Pakistan's chances in the World Cup, Akram said the team had a great chance to win the prestigious title as they had a balanced combination in both bowling and batting. "Except (for) the opening pair, Pakistan are a balanced side which can win the next year's World Cup," said Akram who finished with 414 Test and 502 one-day international wickets.

Paes ends

FROM PAGE 17

Paes, 33, last registered a grand slam triumph in 2001 at the French Open with Mahesh Bhupathi, with whom he also won the French Open and the Wimbledon in 1999.

This is also Dam's first ever major title. Paes has also won three mixed doubles titles in grand slams.

Paes and Dam pocketed 400,000 dollars as winner's prize money.

The lengthy opening set was a power struggle that stayed on serve to force a tiebreak. Even then, Bjorkman and Mirnyi yielded readily.

The 65' Mirnyi, nicknamed "the beast," used his enormous reach to take care of some high overhead shots. While across the net, Paes clinched numerous points by poaching.

Both teams were equally fierce on their serves, but Bjorkman and Mirnyi's 15 unforced errors and 9 double faults cost them the match. In the second set, the gap started to widen.

The expressive Paes, who was slamming down his racket in frustration in the first set, now pumped his fist, initiated chest pumps with Dam, and performed erratic dance moves as the two nudged their way ahead in the second set.

In the third set, both teams fought it out until Paes and Dam, up 4-3, managed to snatch a break to serve for the match. When Dam pounded back an overhead for a sideline winner to secure the title, a jubilant Paes bounded into his arms.

Weary Milan

FROM PAGE 17

win at Sampdoria, who finished the match with nine men.

Emiliano Bonazzoli gave Samp the lead in the 10th minute, only for Antonio Busce to haul his side level just before the half-hour.

The game's turning point arrived in the 50th minute, when the hosts' defender Giulio Falcone was given his marching orders after conceding a penalty.

Saudati converted the spot-kick successfully, leading home tempers to fray and Gennaro Delvecchio was also sent off two minutes from time.

Elsewhere, Marco Zanchi's 72nd minute goal gave Messina a 1-0 win over Udinese.

Big-time cricket in KL



AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Australia, India and the West Indies tune-up for the ICC Champions Trophy at a one-day series in Malaysia this week, as international cricket has a rare outing in tropical Southeast Asia.

The day-night limited-overs DLF Cup will see each team play the other twice starting Tuesday with the top two meeting in the final at the Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur on September 24.

It is the first time that Malaysia has hosted such a high-profile cricket event, beating off a host of rival bidders including Singapore.

All three teams have brought full-strength squads and will use the series as crucial match practice ahead of the Champions Trophy in India next month.

The tournament is Australia's first international series since it toured Bangladesh in April and marks the return of paceman Glenn McGrath who has not played since January.

McGrath, 34, has been helping his wife in her fight against breast cancer.

"We see the Kuala Lumpur series as an ideal opportunity for him to return to the international cricket scene and will use it to closely monitor his progress," Australia's chairman of selectors Andrew Hilditch said.

Australia are led by Ricky Ponting but vice-captain and wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist is being rested ahead of the Champions Trophy.

West Australian batsman Michael Hussey assumes his vice-captain duties while New South Wales wicketkeeper Brad Haddin replaces Gilchrist behind the stumps.

Test opener Matthew Hayden has been recalled to the one-day side for the first time since he was dropped in England last year, although he will not travel to India next month.

"The whole idea of this series is to try and give everyone a couple of games at least," said Ponting.

Brian Lara, in his third stint as captain, leads the West Indies as they begin the long road to defending their Champions Trophy title.

"What I like about it (the Malaysia tournament) is that it will be perfect preparation for the ICC tournament," he said.

"Playing against teams like Australia and India definitely will get us prepared for defending our trophy. The guys are looking forward to it."

With no full-fledged spinner in the mix they will be reliant on their battery of fast and seam bowlers to fire out the opposition, including Fidel Edwards, Jerome Taylor, Ian Bradshaw and Corey Coolmore.

India come into the event short on one-day match practice after South Africa withdrew from the recent tri-series in Sri Lanka over security concerns and heavy rain ruined their

games against the host.

Led by Rahul Dravid, India have left veteran leg-spinner Anil Kumble out of their squad because of doubts over his fitness.

All 15 players who toured Sri Lanka, including master batsman Sachin Tendulkar, are retained for the Malaysia event although former skipper Sourav Ganguly has once again found himself out of favour.

"It's going to be a very good challenging series. Australia are obviously the best team in the world and I think it is exciting to play against them," said Dravid.

"We have not done well against the West Indies in the last one-day series and this gives us a good chance to correct that. I think we are very confident and if we play some good cricket, we will get results."

The Malaysian capital last hosted one-day internationals when cricket was played at the Commonwealth Games in 1998. South Africa beat Australia in the final.

SCHEDULE
 Sep 12 Australia v West Indies
 Sep 14 India v West Indies
 Sep 16 Australia v India
 Sep 18 Australia v West Indies
 Sep 20 India v West Indies
 Sep 22 Australia v India
 Sep 24 Final
 (All matches are day-night)

Hosts hold Dutch

Korea on top of group



AFP, Monchengladbach

South Korea have maximum points and head Pool B after Saturday's matches at the men's field hockey World Cup championship.

The Netherlands and Germany share four points in Pool B following the match of the day in which Netherlands jumped out to a 2-0 lead early in the second half only to have Germany come back and level the score at 2-2.

India and South Africa drew 1-1 to each earn their first point of the event and England have three points from their win on Thursday over India.

New Zealand beat Japan 1-0 to move to seven points and head Pool A and are now one win away from a semi-finals berth.

Pakistan and Spain hold four points each and Australia earned their first three points of the Championship, defeating Argentina 4-0 on Saturday.

Argentina have one point from their 1-1 draw with Spain on Friday

and Japan have yet to register a point in Pool B.

A sell-out crowd of 12,000 fans watched the match of the day between the Netherlands and Germany turn into a strategic struggle in the scoreless first half.

Matthijs Brouwer opened the scoring for the Netherlands, three minutes into the second half, diving into goal to deflect a cross from the left by Teun de Nooijer.

Rob Reckers made it 2-0 to the Dutch after carrying possession into the circle and punishing Germany's defence for not clearing the ball quickly from the goal mouth, tapping in for the goal.

Germany came back with a penalty corner to Christopher Zeller high inside the left post and a slapshot goal from Moritz Fuerste from a quickly taken free hit outside the circle by Sebastian Biederlack which caught Netherlands defence napping.

New Zealand suffered from their drawn match against Pakistan on Friday but managed to overcome Japan 1-0.

Wenger a worried man

FROM PAGE 20