Greats want Woolmer out PTI, Karachi

Lashing out at coach Bob Woolmer for Pakistan's lacklustre performances in recent times, some former cricketers on Saturday said that a local coach would be in a better position to deliver the results.

At a cricket workshop organised by the Pakistan Cricket Board to formulate a winning strategy for the World Cup, the assembly of former cricketers was unanimous that Pakistan was better off having a local as the national coach.

Majid Khan, Asif Iqbal, Mushtaq Mohammad, Intikhab Alam, Wasim Bari, Rashid Latif, Imtiaz Ahmed, Rameez Raja, Aaqib Javed, Ejaz Ahmed, Mohsin Khan, Muddassar Nazar, Sadiq Mohammad and Abdul Qadir were among those who were in attendance while conspicious by their absence were former greats --Imran Khan, Javed Miandad and Hanif Mohammad.

Miandad refused to attend the workshop in protest after the PCB forgot to include his name in the original list of 27 invitees. The Board, however, said this had happened due to a typo error.

Although a few at the workshop did not criticise Woolmer, majority of them were vocal against the present coach on grounds of his performance since 2004.

"Everyone here should be honest and ask themselves, has the team's performance really improved under a foreign coach. I don't think

so," the vocal Rashid Latif said. Intikhab Alam, who recently did a coaching stint with the Punjab team of India, also minced no words in stating that a foreign coach could never understand the culture and mentality of Pakistani players and could not communicate with them properly

Ntini teens' favourite

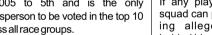
PTI, Durban

South Africa's maverick fast bowler Makhaya Ntini has been voted as the country's most popular sportsperson among fans aged between 13 and 18.

According to the 2006 BMI Junior Sporttrack survey. Ntini has moved up from 3rd place in 2005 to hold the top spot ahead of teammate Shaun Pollock and the country's top soccer stars, Jabu Mahlangu, Benny McCarthy, and Lucas Radebe.

Ntini is notably the first non-soccer Cricket player to hold the number one position, which he similarly achieved in the 2005 BMI Adult Sporttrack survey. Pollock moves up from 9th position

in 2005 to 5th and is the only sportsperson to be voted in the top 10 across all race groups.





Biman's Grand Master Reefat-Bin-Sattar (R) plots his next move during their Dutch-Bangla First Division Chess League against Muktijoddha Sangsad at the Federation hall room yesterday.

Tests

Lahore

have to be at our best.'

getting out for 206 was not on. Now

the guys fully understand that they

"The pitch at Lahore wasn't a

Cricket

AFP, Multan West Indian captain Brian Lara said Saturday his team wanted to celebrate teammate Shivnarine Chanderpaul's 100th Test appearance with a win against Pakistan in the second Test.

"Chanderpaul is reaching a significant milestone. Every player wants to play 100 Tests for his country and we are looking forward to celebrate it with a win," Lara said ahead of the Test, which starts here from Sunday.

Pakistan won the first match of the three-match series by nine wickets in Lahore earlier this week. "Chanderpaul is a fighter and despite suffering from food poison-

ing he performed well in the second innings at Lahore and now he wanted to play this Test," said Lara. The 32-year-old Chanderpaul

had played some poor shots and we will become the 42nd player and need to bat better and be competieighth West Indian to reach the 100tive,' said Lara. Test mark. Ten Australians, eight

trouble pitch but there was move-Englishmen, six Indians, four ment for bowlers and it lasted a lot

Panesar keen to play

AFP, London

cricket so badly that nothing was If any player in England's Ashes going to get in the way," said Australia wicket-keeping great squad can put the furore surround-Rodney Marsh, who came to know ing alleged racist comments

vorked with him

insatiable thirst for knowledge elevation to cult hero status. Every impressing all those who've time he touched the ball in the field during the last English season, "He wanted to play Test match ironic shouts would ring round the

ground. But soon there were cheers for his bowling, especially at Old Trafford in July where he took five

Tapping up in cricket? BBC ONLINE. undated

Sport

Sussex chairman David Green has accused a number of top counties of illegally approaching the county's best players

Green says six players, including skipper Chris Adams, were 'tapped up'last season "I think the game has to come clean and have a formal transfer system, which has already been

suggested by the ECB," Green told BBC Southern Counties. "Otherwise we'll continue to have the richest clubs not paying attention

to the rules and regulations of the dame. Green's accusations were directed at "Test match counties" -

those which own Test match venues and generally have higher revenues. Adams recently agreed a deal with Yorkshire to become captain and director of professional cricket but changed his mind this week and

returned to Hove. England and Wales Cricket Board regulations prohibit counties approaching players who are registered with another team, with a minimum fine of £20,000.

ECB rule 7.1 states: "A county must not approach or be involved in discussions with any cricketer registered by another county or any agent or other person on his behalf with a view to offering him a trial or registering him or employing him in any capacity".

The main exception to the rule is if a player has been notified his contract will not be renewed at the end of the year.

Imrose Rajshahi

FROM PAGE 17 Mahmud. Man-of-the-match Imrose (114*) somehow managed to squeak in the win for his side along with number nine Suharwardi Shuvo (3*).

round match on November 21.

First innings centurion Taposh Baisva fell as the seventh wicket at 204 but Nazmul Hossain, who came to bat next had other ideas. He struck four sixes and a couple of boundaries to score 49 off 116 balls. Saleh, having scored 87 that featured seven fours and a six, then fell to Sabbir Khan who took seven for 134 to have a match haul of 10 wickets for 240.

The two captains decided to call of the match after Nabil Samad became Svlhet's last wicket. Sylhet take on Khulna while Chittagong face Barisal in the next

round of matches. BRIEF SCORES

Bell tunes in time

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

lan Bell answered his Australian detractors with a tenacious century in an ideal Ashes tune-up as England batted out the entire second day of their three-day practice match with South Australia at Adelaide Oval Saturday.

The Warwickshire right-hander battled early on the way to scoring 132 off 240 balls with 12 fours and a six as England reached 303 for six at stumps in reply to South Australia's 247 for seven declared with a day to play

Australia had a second injury scare in as many days when South Australian tearaway Shaun Tait left the field four balls into his 20th over after pulling up sharply after a delivery. Tait, vying with Stuart Clark and Mitchell Johnson for the third pace bowling spot in next week's first Test, looked good in the nets," skipper took 3-65 off 19.4 overs before he left Andrew Flintoff said. the field about 25 minutes before "He didn't score any runs in Sydney (against NSW) but he's been

stumps. A team official said Tait, who was hitting the ball nicely. He played a great knock today (Saturday) along erratic with five wides and nine noballs, was suffering from cramp. But Tait's withdrawal caused some

twitches in the Australian camp after fast-bowling all-rounder Shane the past, but he's responded well to it. Watson strained a hamstring in a domestic one-dayer Friday and is in doubt to play in Brisbane.

vicket in the first 30 minutes of play. Bell's century followed his duck in Collingwood. who will bat either his only other innings on the four or five at the Gabba, also came Australian tour and followed his lessgood with 80, which ensured all of the than-convincing series haul of 171 tourists' six batsmen will enter the first runs at 17.10 in last year's Ashes Test with at least one half-century series in England. each on tour.

"Belly's been in nice touch, he's

Bell, who will bat at No.3 against Bell and Collingwood shared a Australia following the elevation of 178-run stand scored in just under Alastair Cook to Marcus Trescothick's three hours after they came together opener vacancy, was forced to scrap at 34 for three early in his innings against Tait and Kevin Pietersen batted well for 32 former Test paceman Jason Gillespie.

off 35 balls swotting five boundaries until he shouldered arms to Gillespie and was bowled.

with Paul Collingwood.

The Daily Star

"Paul's been shoved up to No.4 a

Tait and Gillespie both claimed a

little bit earlier than what he's done in

He adapts quickly, does Paul."

Captain Andrew Flintoff was on six and wicketkeeper Geraint Jones on 14 at stumps.

Tait removed nightwatchman Matthew Hoggard and Gillespie had Alastair Cook, both caught behind, but Bell and Collingwood dug in during the first session before opening up in the second session as they took to South Australia's young spinners, Daniel Cullen and Cullen Bailey.

Collingwood was out for 80 caught behind, aiming for a big drive off legspinner Bailey, while Bell was caught in the gully off Tait's bowling. England also received better news

on the fitness of strike bowler Steve Harmison, who bowled sharply in the nets to allay fears he might miss the first Test because of a side strain.

Harmison withdrew from the match Friday when he woke experiencing tightness in his side, but he looks on the mend.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the three-day tour match between South Australia and England atAdelaide Oval on Saturday: SOUTH AUSTRALIA: First innings 247 for 7 dec in 81.1 overs (Borgas 73, Lehmann 99, Deitz 24; Hoggard 3-40) ENGLAND: First innings 303 for 6 overs in 96 overs (Bell 132, Collingwood 80, Pietersen 32, extras 17; Tait 3-65, Gillespie 2-27) Toss: South Australia.

PHOTO: INTERNE England batsman Ian Bell drives one off the back foot during his century on the second day of the three-day match against South Australia in Adelaide

Warne wants 15 more

Cricket

AFP, Sydney tions, so I struggled a bit. There can be no greater testament

"I haven't been injured. Between 98 and 2001, I had two shoulder of the way they play. The amount of one-day and 20-20 cricket, it's playing into my hands because they're a lot more aggressive.

"Where it used to be harder to get

1998 and 2001. I had two shoulder operations, a shoulder dislocation, a knee operation and two finger opera-

"The last five years I haven't been wickets because they'd pad me away and try and wear m cricket is now played, and as well as I'm bowling, it's the best period I've had so far.'

was no need to consider retirement it

"I'm probably fitter now than when

I started, also I think it's dictated by

performances -- if you're performing

your role in the team well, it really

doesn't matter about your age," he

cricket and we're winning and we're

fit, I don't think that'll come into it at all."

of the guys over a period of time that I

know exactly how I'm going to bowl to

every single one of their players," he

"As long as we're playing good

Warne revels in his key role

"I've played enough against most

as he eyes 700 Test wickets.

he was still taking wickets.

against English batsmen.

that." he said

said.

said



share a 69-run stand at the start of the day but when they fell, it was Rajin Saleh who held the fort together. He batted very patiently in the face of some stern tests from Chittagong's spin-twin of Sabbir Khan and Elias Sunny who shared 80 overs between

them in the innings.

"This is a crucial Test for us because if we want to win the series we will have to win this important match. I hope we do well in every

Pakistan are expected to bring in uncapped left-arm paceman Samiullah Niazi for allrounder Abdul Razzaq. The 24-year-old Niazi was the second highest wicket-taker in Pakistan's last domestic season

Win it for Shiv: Brian longer than I expected. Here if Pakistanis, three South Africans, seems a slow pitch but it is also very two Sri Lankans and one New

cold and a lot of movement is Zealander have played 100 or more expected," said Lara. The weather in Multan has Lara said it was a do-or-die

match for his team. changed, with consistent rain, and "This Test is important for us more is forecast for Sunday. Pakistan captain Inzamamul Had because we like to win the series,

said he hoped the weather would and the only way we can do that is to win this Test match first," said Lara, hold for his team to enable them to whose team were dismissed for a take an unassailable lead. "It is important that we have good low score of 206 on the first day in

five days to win this Test and pocket "Pakistan is a team which perthe series," said Inzamam, who is forms very well at home. They beat playing in his home town.

"Our batsman struggled and department and play as a team."

England, who had come here after "I always want to do well and want an improvement in my perforwinning the Ashes last year so we mance," said the skipper, who was The 37-year-old master batsdismissed without scoring in the first man, who shouldered his team's Test batting with 61 and 122 in the first Test, urged the batsmen to perform

Rajshahi now host Dhaka in the third SYLHET v CHITTAGONG

Batsmen Golam Rahman (58) and Alok Kapali (40) batted steadily to

Ntini, together with Ryk Neethling and Benny McCarthy are the only sportspersons to feature in the Top 20 across all races.

Give Dravid

FROM PAGE 17

People should be patient and the results will be there," Ganguly said during a panel discussion at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit here.

The stylish Bengal batsman said Dravid would be under some pressure now because the team was going through a lean phase. "How you handle your failures will decide vour future." "Everybody will have weaknesses. You will be criticised when the team is not doing well. The captain is taken up and brought down more quickly," he said.

Recalling his days as a captain Ganguly said attending press conferences after a defeat was the toughest thing.

To go into a press conference after losing a match was the toughest thing. There will be a barrage of questions mostly on the negative side," he said.

WI firm FROM PAGE 17

Woolmer said Brian Lara was a still a worry.

"I always worry about Lara. We have to take chances against him and I don't like (it when) any chances offered by him are dropped," said Woolmer.

Woolmer hoped his team would give its best to wrap up the series. "It is always important to have a winning lead and for that we have to do our best, win this second Test and wrap up the series here. It will be very tough and we need to improve our fielding.

SQUAD

WEST INDIES (from): Brian Lara (capt), Ramnaresh Sarwan, Chris Gayle, Daren Ganga, Lendl Simmons, Shivnarine Chanderpaul Runako Morton. Dwayne Bravo, Denesh Ramdin, Corev Collymore Fidel Edwards, Daren Powell Jerome Taylor, Omari Banks, Dave Mohammed

PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Hag, Mohammad Hafeez, Imran Farhat, Yasir Hameed, Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Shoaib Malik. Abdul Razzag, Faisal lobal, Kamran Akmal, Umar Gul, Samiullah Niazi, Shahid Nazir, Abdul Rehman, Danish Kaneria.

hehind him it's Monty Panesar The left-arm spinner, who has made an impressive start to his Test career since making his debut in March, was reportedly called a "stupid Indian" by a spectator during England's recent tour match against New South Wales at the

Sydney Cricket Ground. Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland waded into the row Friday by saying he didn't think the comments were racist while British sports minister Richard Caborn called for International Cricket Council action.

Panesar, the first Sikh to play for England, just kept his head down. That would have come as no

surprise to those who have followed the career of the 24-year-old Northamptonshire cricketer who has impressed legendary India leftarm spinner Bishen Bedi, himself a

player with the county in the 1970s. Born in Luton, north of London, Panesar cuts a quietly determined figure both on and off the field

Not for him the path of fitting in just for the sake of appearances. Instead he retained the very visible symbols of his religion such as the patkha head covering and the full beard His single-mindedness also

extends to his cricket, Panesar's

iesar when he was England's academy. "He's a typical Indian, just absolutely in love with

the game of cricket. So being sledged by Australia fast bowler Glenn McGrath as "soft" for consulting a sports psychologist was something Panesar took as a compliment.

"They (the Australians) at least have heard of me and I'm a thought in their mind, which is very flattering," he said.

"It sounds like a cliche, but I want to keep doing the basics well. I don't mind the spotlight. It doesn't really affect me.

Indeed the only time Panesar's admirable level-headedness seems to disappear is when he takes a wicket, a sight first seen on a Test ground during his debut in Nagpur when he dismissed India star Sachin Tendulkar.

His celebrations when he takes a wicket resembles a hyper-active puppet whose strings have just been cut.

Then there was Panesar's third Test in Mumbai when he dropped a steepling catch at long-off from Mahendra Singh Dhoni. But a few balls later Dhoni offered up a similar chance and this time he held on

So began Panesar's unlikely

72 against Pakista

DHAKA: First Innings: 370 and sec-Question marks do remain

about his fielding and batting. But ond innings: 265-6 in 70 overs no-one in the England side works (Mehrab 98, Omar 68; Hannan 2-54). harder at all aspects of his game. BARISAL: First Innings: 175 and second innings: 66 for one in 24 overs

out.

Result: Match drawn

innings: 312.

wickets.

(Rajshahi).

3-64, Rasel 3-62).

Man-of-the-match: Ehsanul Haque

(Chittagong). KHULNA: First Innings: 179 and

second innings: 312 and second

RAJSHAHI: First Innings: 265 and

second innings: 230 for seven in 72.2

overs (Junaid 114*, Rosel 49; Razzaq

Result: Rajshahi won by three

Man-of-the-match: Junaid Imrose

His fielding is certainly less of a joke than it was and, batting at No (Nafees 44*) SYLHET: First Innings: 265 and 11, Panesar has already helped second innings: 305 all out 115.4 see through a couple of teammates (Raiin 87, Rahman 58; Sabbir 7-134). to Test hundreds. CHITTAGONG: First Innings: 360 all

Unusually for an English spinner, Panesar has combined wicket taking with economy.

His 32 Test wickets to date have included such fine batsmen as Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Kumar Sangakkara (twice), Sanath Jayasuriya, Mohammad Yousuf (three times). Younis Khan (twice) and Inzamamul Hag (three times). And vet his economy rate has

been a mere 2.58 runs per over. During the Pakistan series, it seemed England coach Duncan Eletcher was more interested in talking about what Panesar could-

n't do than what he could. Yet the fact Panesar is plaving in the ongoing tour match against South Australia suggests he is in line for an appearance in the first Test at the expense of the supposedly more containing Ashley Giles.

> come under pressure from a hardhitting South African middle and lower batting order. Both Munaf Patel and Shanthakumaran Sreesanth took some heavy punishment in the closing overs in Benoni. Likely to play important roles will be leg-spinner Anil Kumble and leftarm seamer Zaheer Khan, who both bowled impressively in Benoni after being recalled to the Indian one-day

team. SQUAD

INDIA: Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Wasim Jaffer, Mohammad Kaif, Suresh Raina, Dinesh Mongia, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Irfan Pathan, Dinesh Karthik, Zaheer Khan, Anil Kumble Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Harbhajan Singh, Munaf Patel, Ajit Adarkar

SOUTH AFRICA: Graeme Smith (captain), Jacques Kallis, Loots Bosman, Mark Boucher, AB de Villiers, Boeta Dippenaar, Herschelle Gibbs, Andrew Hall, Justin Kemp, Charl Langeveldt, Andre Nel, Makhaya Ntini, Shaun Pollock, Robin Peterson

Australia's golden age of cricket than the fact that he has played in a winning Test team in 86 of 139 matches for his country.

Ten times the leg-spinner has snared 10 wickets in a Test match along with 36 five-wicket hauls and he needs just 15 more wickets for an unprecedented 700 Test victims.

English batsmen are particularly attractive to Warne with 172 of his record 685 Test wickets coming in 31 Tests at an average 22.31.

Yet despite his phenomenal performance of capturing 40 wickets in the 2005 series, England carried off the Ashes, ending a 16-year era of Australian dominance

Once again the 37-year-old wristspin conjurer could be England's nemesis as they try to hang on to the Ashes after just 15-months' bragging riahts.

Ominous news for Andrew Flintoff's tourists is that Warne believes he's playing his best cricket. "My cricket has improved. The last two or three years have been better than any time in my last 15 or 16 seasons," he said.

his innings in the Ashes Test series

a timely reminder of his devastating

strokeplay with a whirlwind 63-ball

hundred -- 131 with 17 fours and four

sixes -- in Western Australia's domes-

tic one-day cup win over Queensland

England - a series in which Gilchrist

made minimal impact as a batsman for

the first time in his Test career -- he has

averaged 28.88 in 12 Tests, almost half

play his prolific run-scoring shots.

added problem of the ball swinging,

Gilchrist found himself regularly

his batting median of 48.80.

Since the 2005 Ashes loss in

The Australian wicketkeeper gave

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

with England.

in Perth Fridav

try and go after me. "It's fantastic for me. It means I go for a few more runs, but it means I get

Warne is anticipating reaching a lot more wickets and it helps our new ground during the Ashes series cause.'

And his thoughts on winning back "I only need 15, so I'd like to think the Ashes? at some stage during the series I'd get

"Ever since we lost the Ashes we have all been looking to improve our Australia's Test elder said there games and to win them back." he said

> "Some of us are not getting any younger and this may be the last chance to get them back in our playing time.

Warne is not underestimating England, even though since the Ashes defeat Australia have won won 11 out of 12 Tests and England, excluding The Oval forfeit success against Pakistan, have won just four out of 13.

"The Ashes always brings out the best in both teams. no matter how poor one of the sides are playing," he said.

"At the moment. England aren't playing as good as they would like but at the end of the day it's all about how they play during this series.'

"I've always been confident against England, probably because 'First 20 balls key for Adam'

> chopping the ball on to his stumps or edging into the slips.

But Healy, Gilchrist's Test predecessor as wicketkeeper, sees nothing new in the English strategy and is in no Record-breaking Test wicketkeeper doubt Gilchrist's lean run is a one-off. lan Healy believes Adam Gilchrist's 'They have bowled at him like that lean batting run is an aberration but for his whole career," Healy told The he will need to fight his way early into Australian newspaper Saturday.

"Right from the start, opposition bowlers have tried to go around the wicket and cramp him for room around off-stump.

"He's dealt with that for seven years, and he's got the ability to counteract it.

"He just needs to get in and watch the ball intently.

"Mavbe at the moment he does have to fight his way through that initial 20-ball or 20-run barrier.

"And it's obviously better if he keeps the ball along the ground during that period."

The English bowlers exposed a In 12 Tests since the Ashes flaw in his batting technique by attackchanged hands at The Oval, Gilchrist ing him from around the wicket and has batted 17 times in Tests and been bowling marginally short of a length dismissed for 12 runs or fewer on 11 with little width for the left-hander to of those occasions having faced no more than four overs on each of those Cramped for room and with the ill-fated trips to the crease

That constitutes 65 percent of his Test innings over that time. Before, he failed to reach 12 in just 28 percent of his trips to the middle And even though Gilchrist turned

35 last week, Healy does not subscribe to the theory that, when the years advance, it is a keeper's batting acumen that deserts him before his alovework.

Healy claimed that in the final year of his career (from age 34 onwards) he felt his batting skills were undiminished at training, but he just couldn't pull it together in the middle and he failed to reach 20 in his final 16 Test

inninas Gilchrist's skipper Ricky Ponting has no such misgivings about the form of the most prolific wicketkeeperbatsman in 130 years of Test cricket.

"I get asked these questions a lot about some of the senior players in the side, and it's never a concern of

mine," Ponting said. "I don't need to worry about those blokes. It's like when I get asked about (Glenn) McGrath or (Shane) Warne, how (Matthew) Hayden is batting.

'They'll be fine. They'll sort it out because they have been too good for too long not to.

All they want is freedom FROM PAGE 17 Pintu, a coach at the Dhanmondi boys come from diverse backgrounds. But for them, social class premier league side Kalabagan. is never an issue. All they loved

was the fact that they were not hindered from doing what they like best -- play and be on their own for a couple of hours every day.

Preparations were as good as it could be in only ten days but when the visa and ticket complication was taken care of by the organisers, there was no looking back and in India, the fifteen boys were

given tremendous hospitality. And they played superb too. Winning their two opening matches against Pakistan and Sri Lanka, they were pitted against India in the final of the competition. "They won the matches in

successive days (November 10 and 11) and got very tired. But when they realised that they were to play in the final, one could tell that they were very delighted," said

Cricket Academy (DCA) and the

Mostofa and Pintu were assisted by Ali Haider and Maruf

"We are grateful to the sponsors -- Bangladesh Cricket Board, the army chief and the directors of Special Olympics Bangladesh -for providing us with enough finan-

"The locals were very nice to the boys and it seemed that Indians were more liberal and knew how to embrace these boys. They provided us with plenty of practice materials and had a gen-

us," informed Mostofa. The final was won by the hosts by 61 runs and the defeat was taken sportingly and the players were seen shaking hands just like it was the end of any international

Ahmed Mridul, a teacher with the Ramna School during the tour. Dev.

cial backbone for the tour.

eral sense of hospitality towards

cricket match Mukul Chandra Das and Abdul Hamid were among the ten best

batsmen in the meet and were given bats signed by the Indian legends Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil

The tour and the entire time that the parents of these boys spent with the coaches were a learning experience for both sides.

"They were very happy when we arrived with their children. There were uneasiness at the start but now that we are back, the parents have realised the enormity of this tournament." said Pintu, who misses his days with the boys at Gulshan Youth ground.

Some of these boys will have another opportunity to 'play' even more when they travel to Shanghai next year to participate in the Special Olympics Games and 'play' is all they desire.

India's trial FROM PAGE 17 uncertain after Sehwag missed the Benoni warm-up. He needed four stitches after suffering a cut to the ring finger of his right hand during fielding practice before the match. India's bowlers can expect to