

SPORT

able to bowl so fast in Lahore in late

April -- one of the hottest times of

winter, it will be tougher to generate

But presumably in an Australian

When Akhtar gets it right in one-

He took six for 16 in the first

With 105 wickets in 62 matches

That's five places ahead of Lee,

Akhat's economy rate at 4.51 is

The series is the second for

who has 67 wickets in 38 matches at

also better than Lee's, who is on the

Australian captain Ricky Ponting,

who had instant success when

His predecessor, Steve Waugh,

had suffered the ignominy of failing

to make the final of a triangular

series on home soil, in which South

For Pakistan, their up-and-

coming opener Imran Nazir gets his

first serious examination, while

Australian all-rounder Shave

Watson can stake a strong claim

The first two games of the three-

match series will be played indoors

on a drop-in pitch at the Colonial

Stadium in Melbourne on 12 and 15

The third game is in Brisbane on

"We are in the process of evaluat-

ing every option, and would defi-

nitely like to hold the series in

Pakistan as the first choice," PCB

"All options are still open and

switching the three-Test series to

Australia is one possibility, along

with neutral venues in Sharjah and

Rana denied that the Australia

Cricket Board (ACB) had proposed

to switch the series to Australia and

said the question should be directed

would be discussed with the ACB

officials during the current one-day

He also denied that the matter

director Munawwar Rana told BBC.

match in the series against the

Kiwis, but none for 74 combined in

at 20.34 it's good enough to put him

ninth in the PriceWaterhouse-

year in the sub-continent.

dayers, he can be awesome.

the following two games.

Cooper one-day ratings.

expensive side at 4.95.

winning in South Africa.

Africa beat Australia.

towards the World Cup.

19 June

Morocco."

to the ICC head.

24.74.

genuine pace.

'Lewis greater than Ali'

AFP, London

Boxing legend George Foreman believes British boxer Lennox Lewis AFP, Castries is the best heavyweight of all time after he obliterated Mike Tyson in Memphis.

Foreman was beaten by Muhammad Ali in their classic victory over New Zealand here on 'Rumble in the Jungle' bout in 1974. Sunday and an unassailable 2-0 Yet the former champion is lead in the five-match series.

convinced that Lewis' performance in the 'Rumble on the River' in Memphis on Saturday is greater than anything Ali ever achieved.

"Lennox is beyond doubt the greatest heavyweight of all time," Foreman told the British press Monday.

"He is not second any more, he is there at the top of the tree," Foreman purred after witnessing Lewis demolish Tyson inside eight rounds.

"It reminded me of a young target. George Foreman and an elusive Muhammad Ali - everything you crumbled in the face of a withering want in a fighter.

assault from Chris Gayle and Foreman's assessment was supported by his former adversary, scored 33 in the first five overs. 'Smoking' Joe Frazier, who said: "Lennox is right up there with George Foreman and Muhammad second match of the series here Ali and he has proved himself the best heavyweight out there.'

And Lewis' trainer Manny Steward cavalier 30 and Gayle for 37. agreed with the former heavyweight champions that the British boxer's performance in Memphis had order in Saturday's match. Skipper assured him greatness.

Simons new Protea coach

AFP, Cape Town

South African cricket authorities on Monday appointed former one-day national player Eric Simons as the Proteas' new coach following the sacking of Graham Ford after successive defeats to Australia this season

Simons, 40, will start his job on July 1, United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) spokeswoman Bronwyn Wilkinson said in a statement, adding that the provincial coach has had a "solid record coaching Western Province" over the last two seasons.

Australia beat South Africa conclusively in a home-and-away Test series in Australia and South Africa in which Australia won the first five matches before South Africa gained a consolation win in the final Test in Durban in March.

South Africa lost five of seven one-day internationals played against the world champions following the Test series.



ESPN World Cup Today Lara takes WI to safety Cricket

side.

for form.

Sarwan was the youngest first class cricketer in the West Indies when he played for Guyana at 15 and he and Lara put on a match-Brian Lara hit an aggressive winning 77 for the third wicket unbeaten 59 to lead the West Indies before Sarwan was trapped leg to a comfortable seven-wicket

an elegant 42.

before wicket by Chris Harris. Lara, who won the man-of-thematch award, then took control, hitting five fours and a mighty six. With one match abandoned His controlled 50 came up in 73 balls already. New Zealand can only draw and his innings lasted 84 deliveries level if they win the remaining two as he scored his 48th one-day half matches in Trinidad and St. Vincent. century. New Zealand were comprehen-

Lara scored two 50s in the series sively outplayed on Sunday at the against India but had been put in the newly-built Beausejour Cricket shade by the form of captain Carl Ground in the St. Lucian country-Hooper and Chanderpaul. After a nervous start, Lara returned to his First they batted inadequately, sizzling best against a weak New managing only 210 in 50 overs, at Zealand bowling attack. least 50 runs short of a competitive

Earlier, West Indies' seam and spin bowling attack strangled New Their opening bowlers then Zealand's batting. The Black Caps lost three top batsmen for five runs after captain Stephen Fleming, with Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who 34, and Chris Nevin, with 20, had given the tourists a healthy start. But Chanderpaul, who scored an they plunged from 69 for one to 74 unbeaten 108 on Saturday in the for four.

Veteran campaigner Harris, when the West Indies won by six playing his 212th one-day internawickets, eventually perished for a tional, scored his 15th 50 in a 90-run partnership with Test opener Lou Lara suffered the ignominy of Vincent, who ended as top scorer being dropped down the batting with 60 in 87 balls. SCOREBOARD Carl Hooper said he was struggling

Scoreboard of the third one-day But on Sunday he came in at his international between New Zealand usual number four slot to join and the West Indies at the

Beausejour Cricket Ground on Ramnaresh Sarwan, who stroked Sunday

> NEW ZEALAND Fleming lbw b Gayle 34 12 Astle lbw b Dillon Nevin Ibw b Collymore 20 5 60 McMillan c Collins b Gavle Vincent not out Harris c Sarwan b Dillon 50 Styris b Collymore Hart c Hooper b Collins 12 Tuffey not out 3 Extras (nb-3 w-4 lb-6) 13 Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 210 Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-69, 3-69, 4-74. 5-164, 6-168, 7-201 0 Μ R w Bowler 10 0 40 2 Dillon 0 44 Collins 9 1 2 2 10 36 Collymore 10 34 Gavle 1 0 21 Hooper 5 29 0 R Hinds 6 0 WEST INDIES Gayle b Hitchcock 37 C'paul c Hitchcock b Harris 30 Sarwan Ibw b Harris 42 Lara not out 59 R Hinds not out 18 Extras: (nb-9, lb-1, w-15) 25 Total: (For 3 wkts in 40 overs) 211 Fall of wickets: 1-63, 2-79, 3-156 Bowler 0 Μ RW 0 Tuffev 6 32 0 0 44 0 Butler 5 Hitchcock 10 4 31 34 0 Styris 5 0 2 43 Harris 10 2 0 26 0 Hart 4 Result: West Indies won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Brian Lara.

Green Delta hockey Pacy promise upto second

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket

INTERNET, Melbourne

Both camps wish to play down the

fact but there is no doubting that the

series between Australia and

Pakistan will boil down to a duel

between the two most exciting

Whether or not any records are

broken when Brett Lee and Shoaib

SHOAIB AKHTAR

plaved at Melbourne's indoor sta-

dium and bowling indoors will, in

theory, make it harder to pass the

magic 100mph barrier, because

there is no wind to assist the

pacemen.

Two of the three matches will be

Akhtar come on is another matter.

bowlers in world cricket now.

Two goals by Pakistani recruit Yamin Bhatti propelled Mariner Youngs Club to reclaim second place of the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League with a 2-1 win over Bangladesh Sporting Club in their return leg clash at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yester-

day. The winners led the first half 2-0. Yamin put Mariner ahead through a penalty stroke in the 25th minute and then doubled the score

a minute later with a field goal. Sporting Club staged some late rallies and the got their dividend in the 55th minute when Indian Anil found the net. The victory meant Mariner

raised their tally to 40 points from 15 matches, three adrift of leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club and a point ahead of Abahani Krira Chakra. On the other hand, it was

Bangladesh Sporting's tenth defeat. They have recorded five wins and a draw to earn 16 points. In the day's other match, Dhaka

Railway registered a 2-0 win over Farashganj Sporting Club. Nabi Sheikh gave Railway and early lead with an eighth minute

field goal while Sudhir grabbed the other goal with another field goal in the 50th minute. Railway moved into sixth spot earning 15 points so far while it was

Farashganj's 17th straight loss. Sea of Red

FROMPAGE 13 self-belief since last week's game. Throughout the match, they hollered and hammered on the drums, booed, whistled, screamed and cheered when it was appropriate, running the entire gamut of

Then, just as they must have Cricket given up hope of a goal to cheer, up leapt substitute Ahn to wipe away **REUTERS**, Melbourne the disappointment of falling behind to a simple first half goal. Australia might host a three-game

drained that like the players, they hardly had the energy to celebrate and the stadium was suddenly eerily quiet long before it emptied

The match had taken on an

face as they would if one of the tournament's co-hosts were to qualify and the other fail. Now that Japan had overcome a former superpower, they had to do exactly the same against the other, remaining world force.

stadium. Schools, offices and nearly all major firms were to stop work for the match and police estimated that about one million people would watch the match on screens in cities across the nation.

doors, the wind would clearly be of can hit sixes more easily." That explains why Akhtar was

assistance if it's behind you." But that's largely by the by. The fact is this series will be one of the most important indicators of form between now and the World Cup

Let's look at Lee and Akhtar first and foremost, the obvious crowdpullers

Akhtar was so fast in the 3-0 home drubbing of New Zealand recently that a non-official speed gun recorded him bowling a ball in Lahore at 161 kph -- some 100.05



BRETT LEE

miles per hour. Dr Rabi Mehta, a research fellow in the experimental fluid mechanics laboratory at the California's NASA Ames Research Centre, says high

SCHEDULE

June 12: Melbourne Professor Peter Bearman of June 15: Melbourne Imperial College in London says: June 19: Brisbane "Bowling indoors, things should be more predictable through the air temperatures assist high bowlers. simply because you shouldn't have "If the temperature goes up density is reduced and balls travel

any wind factor. "But when you're bowling outfaster. In the same way a batsman

Pak series down under?

be played there.

"If the tournament can be run at a profit we would like it to go ahead." The two boards will discuss the issue over the next two weeks when

Australia play host to Pakistan in a three-game limited-overs series starting on Wednesday. The tour to Pakistan is almost

certain to be scrapped following the suicide bombing in Karachi in early May which led to New Zealand terminating their tour. The bombing took place outside the hotel being used by both teams. The attack killed 14 people

Several Australian players have since said they do not want to travel to Pakistan

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said a firm decision would be taken by the middle of the next month

series. "No meeting has been scheduled so far so I can't say anything about the source of this report." he said.

Brian seems to be back Test series and a highest score of 36

Cricket

REUTERS, Castries

Brian Lara's match-winning innings in the third one-day international against New Zealand served notice that he was starting to get back to form, said the West Indian batsman. Lara entered the fray in the 20th

over with the West Indies 79 for two chasing 211, and his unbeaten 59 led his side to a seven-wicket win which gave them an unassailable 2-0 lead in the five-match series. The first game was abandoned because of rain

"My form and fitness are at 80 per cent and improving...the main thing is that I am playing better than two or three months ago," said Lara. Lara has struggled to regain his

form since fracturing a bone in his elbow during the West Indies tour of Sri Lanka, where he was at his brilliant best scoring 688 runs in three Tests. in 2001-2002.

He seemed to reach another low point on Saturday when he was relegated to number six in the batting order in the second game of the series against New Zealand. But the left-hander was back at number four on Sunday, and seized in five one-day internationals. "I said in that first game against

India that it would take a while to get to full form and fitness. I don't think I am anywhere near that yet but Wednesday



hopefully it will keep improving, Lara said. The fourth match of the one-day series against New Zealand is in Port of Spain, Trinidad on

emotions.

At the final whistle they were so

increased significance in the light of Japan's victory the previous night over Russia, which edged them a stage closer to qualifying for the second round.

The Koreans could not now lose

out.

unfolding against the backdrop of a massive security operation, its only visible expression the military helicopters circling above the

As such, the afternoon was also

rules say the first option is to go to the visiting country and see if it can



the subcontinent over security fears. Although several neutral venues, including Sharjah and Morocco, have been put forward, Interna-

Australian television: "Our current

Test series against Pakistan in a

reverse fixture later this year if Steve

Waugh's side pull out of their tour of

tional Cricket Council (ICC) chief

executive Malcolm Speed said Australia would be given first choice if the series were switched from Pakistan. Speed said in an interview on

England vs Sri Lanka Second Test, Day Four Highlights Taped Version at 7:30 pm Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Football Asia Repeat at 9:00 am World Cup Today Repeat at 10:00 am Futbol Mundial Repeat at 10:00 nm Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 10:30 pm World Cup Today Live at 11:00 pm



Phone: (If any)

the opportunity. "If it is a choice between me doing well and the team performance, I would choose the team. My main aim is to see us win the series, although I'd love to make a contribution with the bat," Lara said. He came back from injury in the

first Test of the recent home series against India, but struggled with the bat. He averaged only 28.85 in the

FROM PAGE 13

second and I like our chances. Germany looked revived as they opened their campaign with an 8-0 win over Saudi Arabia -- the highest total at a finals for 20 years -- but a 1-1 draw against a brave Ireland side followed, leaving them in danger of making an early exit.

But Cameroon, who started with 1-1 draw with Ireland before struggling to a narrow 1-0 victory over Saudi Arabia, dreamt of reviving the spirit of 1990, when Roger Milla and company went all the way to the quarter-finals before losing to England.

'l'm very confident for this decisive encounter. We will be ready and we will win," said Real Madrid wing-back Geremi, one of many in the squad with top European club football experience Germany would have made sure

of advancing if Ireland had not equalised deep into added time but Voeller remained calm, saying he had expected that the last group game would be crucial

'Of course we were disappointed after what happened against Ireland but I had said from the start that it would all come down to our match against Cameroon," he said.

Voeller survived a fright when top striker Miroslav Klose had to be substituted against Ireland because of a bruised right knee. But Klose, the World Cup's leading scorer with four goals, was able to resume full training on Sunday and assistant coach M i c h a e l Skibbe said he would be 100 percent fit. Cameroon had their own worries after defender and captain Rigobert Song strained his right ankle against

Saudi Arabia but Schaefer said he was fine now. Germany will try to stamp their authority on the game, while looking for high balls and set pieces to provide ammunition for Klose, who

PHOTO: INTERNET West Indies star Brian Lara in action during his match-winning knock against New Zealand in the third one-day international on June 9.

Machines, men face off

Karlsruhe SC and VfB Stuttgart. "This is the first against the

Michael Ballack, who is still hampered by a sore right foot and looked rusty against Ireland but can turn the match around if he recaptures his best form.

Quicksilver forwards Samuel Eto'o and Patrick Mboma are the main trump cards of a Cameroon side well-equipped for physical challenges, but with a tendency to rely more on individual brilliance than on a disciplined collective effort.

has scored all his goals from head-"They have exceptional players but they also give you chances, as we saw against Saudi Arabia,' Voeller said of his unpredictable Much will depend on playmaker opponents.

"We are capable of beating them but we have to be highly concentrated at all times and must not drop too far back, like we did against Ireland. We must believe in ourselves.

Voeller knew he could expect no mercy from his compatriot from the other side, whose heart clearly beats for Cameroon. "I'm a Lion now," said Schaefer

PROBABLE TEAMS

Germany (Formation 3-5-2; Jersey numbers in the begin-

ning): 1-Oliver Kahn; 2-Thomas Linke, 5-Carsten Ramelow, 21-Christoph Metzelder; 22-Torsten Frings, 8-Dietmar Hamann, 19-Bernd Schneider, 13-Michael Ballack, 17-Marco Bode; 11-Miroslav Klose, 9-Carsten Jancker

Cameroon: (Formation 5-3-2; Jersey numbers in the begin-

ning): 1-Boukar Alioum; 2-Bill Tchato, 3-Pierre Wome, 4-Rigobert Song, 5-Raymond Kalla, 8-Geremi; 12-Lauren, 17-Marc-Vivien Foe, 23-Daniel Noom Kome: 9-Samuel Eto'o, 10-Patrick Mboma

Referee: Antonio Lopez Nieto (Spain)

Get it or go out

FROM PAGE 13

"We are in a desperate situation but if wequalify we will be very hard to stop."

PROBABLE TEAMS

France: (Formation 4-2-3-1; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 16-Fabien Barthez; 15-Lilian Thuram, 5-Philippe Christanval, 8-Marcel Desailly, 3-Bixente Lizarazu; 4-Patrick Vieira, 7-Claude Makelele; 11-Sylvain Wiltord, 10-Zinedine Zidane, 21-Christophe Dugarry; 20-David Trezeguet.

Denmark: (Formation 4-4-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Thomas Sorensen; 6-Thomas Helveg, 3-Rene Henriksen, 4-Martin Laursen, 5-Jan Heintze; 19-Dennis Rommedahl, 7-Thomas Gravesen, 2-Stig Tofting, 8-Jesper Gronkjaer; 11-Ebbe Sand, 9-Jon Dahl Tomasson

Referee: Vitor Melo Pereira (Portugal)

France focused

FROM PAGE 13 sector.

Tuesday's match grips the country in the middle of parliamentary elections - on Sunday a record 31.1 percent of voters abstained.

The coincidence of voter apathy and the French team's unexpected fall from grace is up for debate, but France, the toast of the tournament on home soil in 1998, seems preoccupied with the task that lies ahead.

Fans are making preparations to watch the match which begins at 8:30 a.m. here. Business meetings have been postponed and even train times have been altered to accommodate the projected 10 million plus television audience.

The sports press are, for once holding back on direct criticism of the team, and calling Lemerre's troops to arms. Tomorrow, we must wake up,

said L'Equipe's inside page leader a seemingly dual message of support and criticism which refers to France's sleepy start to their World Cup campaign.

"Zidane returns, and so does the smile." said the headline in Le Figaro. Zidane, who scored twice for

"We haven't had much success so far, but the wheel is turning, admitted France defender Bixente Lizarazu in Le Parisien. "I regard Zidane's return as a sign of destiny. The forwards have missed him hugely."

of their last five matches (including friendlies before World Cup), should be a different team altogether with Zidane on board.

influence is undisputed. France have played 45 official matches since Zidane made his debut in 1994, and have never lost an official

Without Zidane (18 matches With Zidane (27 matches), France notched up an impressive 19 wins and eight draws.



NOTHING'S SWEETER: Spaniard Albert Costa kisses the French Open trophy after beating compatriot Juan Carlos Ferrero in the final on June 9.

From nobody to 'yesbody'

Carlos Moya and Sergi Bruguera winning the Roland Garros title and seeing contemporaries like Alex Corretja making the final that spurred him on

"When they played in the final I was thinking 'Oh what's happening with me? They are playing the final and I'm not. I was feeling 'I'm never going to win in Roland Garros. This could not happen to me.

Costa, the new number two in the ATP Champions' Race as a result of his performance here, said that it was his negative thoughts and lack of self-belief which had dragged him down in the past. "During those other years I was

maybe as good as the others from a technical point of view, but not as good mentally

lines and not having won a title in three years, he finally fulfilled his Costa said that the moment of dream of winning a Grand Slam crown to add to the 11 career titles truth came last year at the Rome tournament followed by him crashing in the first round of Roland It was that ambition which kept Garros for the first time since 1994 him going through a gruelling seven rounds and 20 hours and 38 minand dropping to 40th in the world rankings.

"I was completely down," admitted Costa. "I couldn't play. I started to think 'I don't want to feel like this' any more. I just want to be relaxed and enjoy tennis. I need to play the "Now maybe it's my moment," said Costa who admitted that he

way I know how.' It was also the birth of twin daughters Claudia and Alma in April how his countrymen had such success on the slow red clay here last year which brought about a while his best performance were radical change in his attitude.

You start to think about other things. Before tennis was 100 per

cent of my life and now it's not. have my two little babies. I love them a lot and when I lose a match I think 'I'm going home to see my babies'. It's not a drama, it's more natural," said Costa.

PHOTO: AFF

Despite the years of trying but always coming up short, the man from Lerida in Catalunya who makes his home in Monte Carlo, has never doubted that the big breakthrough would come one day. And he proved it as he elimi-

nated defending champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil and last year's runner-up Corretja on his "ay to the final. "The most difficult thing is to

believe in yourself, to believe you can win. And now I'm believing. know I'm going to lose matches and everything, but now I have different

feelings about me," said Costa. And he admitted that Sunday's performance was the greatest of his career

"I was a little surprised. I was in the final and I wasn't nervous and

playing unbelievable tennis. "Today I had probably the best match of my life. I was playing so hard, looking for the point all the time. It was really unbelievable.

But Costa, who marries girlfriend Cristina Ventura next Friday, added: I can't say from a personal point of view this is the best day of my life. But from a tennis point of view, ves. it is. It's the most intense day for me. It's a big, big day for me.

France in their 3-0 rout of Brazil in the 1998 World Cup final, has been sorely missed but his return is sure to give France a much-needed boost.

France, who have only won one

The Real Madrid playmaker's utes on court culminating in Sunday's relatively easy victory over fellow Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-1, 6-0, 4-6, 6-3.

match with Zidane at the helm. played), France have scored eight wins, six draws and four defeats.

Tennis AFP, Paris Albert Costa finally managed to transform himself from Mr Nobody

to a VIP on Sunday evening in the

space of just two and a half hours by

amassed over five million dollars in

his eight-year career, had by his

own admission rarely caused a

ripple of excitement preferring

instead his long-time supporting role amongst the Spanish armada

But fed up of being on the side-

he has already collected on clay.

used to find it incomprehensible

It was the image of people like

two quarterfinal finishes

of clay court battlers.

The 26-year-old, who has

winning the French Open title.