

Wl up against

FROM PAGE 13
Vasbert as he's an experienced cricketer who adds depth to our batting line-up while his bowling speaks for itself," said Hooper.

"He's also had a lot of experience of cricket in South Africa, which means he will be able to contribute as we plan our strategy."
The West Indies players will wear black armbands during the match as a mark of respect for all-rounder Laurie Williams.

The 33-year-old, who played 15 one-day internationals, was killed in a car crash in his native Jamaica on Sunday.

TEAMS

WEST INDIES: Carl Hooper (captain), Shivnarine Chandernaul, Pedro Collins, Corey Collymore, Vasbert Drakes, Mervyn Dillon, Vasbert Drakes, Chris Gayle, Ryan Hinds, Wavell Hinds, Ridley Jacobs, Brian Lara, Runako Morton, Mahendra Nagamootoo and Ramnareh Sarwan.

SOUTH AFRICA: Shaun Pollock (captain), Dale Benkenstein, Nicky Boje, Mark Boucher, Alan Dawson, Boeta Dippenaar, Allan Donald, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Lance Klusener, Makhaya Ntini, Justin Ontong, Jonty Rhodes and Graeme Smith.

Seles sails

FROM PAGE 13
through a sticky patch at the opening as she fell 3-5 behind in the first set.

But she won seven games in a row to wrap up the first set and take a 3-0 lead in the second before rain interrupted the match. When play resumed she polished off her win.

Seles will next face Slovakia's Henrieta Nagyova, who pulled off a shock result by beating fifth seed and former French Open champion Iva Majoli of Croatia 6-2, 6-3.

Pakistan fall

FROM PAGE 13
5-120, 6-141, 7-171, 8-175, 9-198.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	10	3	27	1
Gunaratne	10	1	49	2
Fernando	9.4	0	30	3
Chandana	7	0	37	0
Muralitharan	10	0	29	3
Jayasuriya	3	0	15	0

Toss: Pakistan

Umpires: Daryl Harper (Aus) and Steve Bucknor (WI)

TV umpire: Rudi Koertzen (Rsa)

Match-referee: Mike Proctor (Rsa)

SRI LANKA: Sanath Jayasuriya (capt), Marvan Atapattu, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Aravinda de Silva, Russel Arnold, Avishka Chandana, Chaminda Vaas, Dilhara Fernando, Pulasthi Gunaratne, Mutiah Muralitharan.

Sahara becomes 'Subrata' instead

REUTERS, New Delhi

The main sponsor of India's cricket team, which owns the country's third largest airline, has changed its logo for the Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka after a rival complained of "ambush marketing".

South African Airlines, one of the main sponsors of the tournament, objected to the use of the Sahara India Group logo on the team's uniform.

The Indian team will now wear the logo 'Subrata', named after the Sahara group's chairman Subrata Roy, for the September 12-29 event.

Sahara India's council director Amar Singh told reporters on Wednesday its airline was not a rival of South African Airlines.

"We were told by the ICC and the GCC that they objected to the name Sahara," Singh said.

"We told them we weren't a rival of South African Airlines, which is an international airline and does not even have a service in India."

Singh said the ICC had also rejected a proposal to display the Sahara logo, linked with specific businesses.

"The Subrata logo will be used whenever such a conflict arises," he said.

Zim laugh off rumour



BBC ONLINE, Harare

Zimbabwe have categorically denied claims tabled in a newspaper that they are threatening to pull out of the Test cricket tour to England in 2003.

Chief executive of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU), Vincent Hogg, said: "I never heard of anything like that in my life."

The Daily Telegraph had quoted an ICC insider as saying that if England were reluctant to play their World Cup match in Zimbabwe next February, a backlash could follow.

But Hogg insisted: "No statement like that has been made from the ZCU. I cannot even give you an explanation as to where that has come from."

"It's incredible some of the stories that have come out about

Zimbabwe and the ZCU. It's amazing I can't believe where they are being generated from."

Zimbabwe are due to play all six of their World Cup ties at home next February, including games against Australia and England.

The International Cricket Council has voiced concerns over the growing political crisis in the country.

They have raised doubts as to whether the matches planned for Harare and Bulawayo can take place.

On Wednesday, the ICC announced plans to send a deputation to Zimbabwe to decide whether it is safe to host World Cup matches.

But, whatever the group decides, the ICC has already made contingency plans.

Matches could instead be moved to Bloemfontein in South Africa and an insurance policy will cover Zimbabwe for loss of income.

Under ICC rules, however, Zimbabwe could demand that countries not prepared to travel should be substituted.

That move could result in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh playing there instead of England and Australia - despite the fact they have been drawn in different qualifying groups.

Hogg was bullish about Zimbabwe's right to host matches, however.

He said: "All the health and security issues are in place and the ministry is totally behind us."

"As things stand now, we are looking forward to Pakistan arriving in November and then Namibia are playing our A team before Kenya come here in December."

Hogg added that World Cup executive director Ali Bacher was in the country a few weeks ago, when he had complimented the ZCU on their preparatory work ahead of the tournament.

Sheetal h'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Jatrabari KC defeated Usha KC 21-7 in the Sheetal Women's Handball League at the court next to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half by 10-4.

Ruksana netted nine, Saleha eight for the winners while Rita scored four for the losers.

Friday's match: Jatrabari KC vs Dilkusha SC.

Kournikova cruises

REUTERS, Shanghai

Russia's Anna Kournikova has played our A team before Kenya come here in December.

Hogg added that World Cup executive director Ali Bacher was in the country a few weeks ago, when he had complimented the ZCU on their preparatory work ahead of the tournament.

Zheng, cheered on by the partisan crowd, lost momentum after the eighth game.

"She served rather well, and she was so fast," the Chinese player said.

Kournikova will face Jelena Kostanic in Friday's quarterfinals, the Croat having beaten compatriot Silvija Talaja 2-6, 6-0, 6-4.

In other second-round matches, top seed Anna Smashnova of Israel crushed South Korea's Cho Yoon-jeong 6-0, 6-3, while Japan's Miho Saeki beat Hungary's Petra Mandula 6-7, 6-4, 6-3.

Sponsors won't play again



AFP, New Delhi

Cricket's major sponsors warned Thursday they would not play ball if they were asked to sacrifice commercial interests again, following the debacle over the Champions Trophy.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) was this week forced to water down sponsorship agreements to enable India's top stars like Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly to play in the 12-nation event in Sri Lanka.

But two official sponsors of the ICC event, both from India, said they will not make further concessions for next year's World Cup in South Africa.

"The time is probably right for a sponsors union because their interests need to be protected also, given the huge investments in the game," said Ganesh Mahalingam of LG Electronics India.

"The Champions Trophy has not delivered on the commitments made. But the row ended up pretty well and satisfactorily for everybody because nobody wants to see second-string teams playing any tournament."

The Indian players had initially refused to sign sponsorship contracts that prevented them from endorsing products that conflicted with official sponsors for 30 days before and after the event.

The ICC, however, agreed to limit the terms to only 17 days after the tournament and pledged to bear the consequences of any future claims made by the sponsors.

The ICC is expected to review the players contracts at the conclusion of the Champions Trophy later this month.

Hero Honda, another official sponsor, said its charity ended with

the current tournament.

"In the interest of sending the best Indian national team, we agreed to reduce the 30 days provision to 17 days," Atul Sobti, senior vice-president of Hero Honda, told AFP.

"It is unfortunate everything got messed up. We hope the matter gets resolved immediately after this tournament."

"We can't be expected to be charitable as a business organisation beyond a point."

The world governing body had inserted the ambush marketing clause in the contracts to protect its sponsors who had shelled out 550 million dollars for three Champions Trophy and two World Cup events till 2007.

It is estimated that almost 280 million dollars of ICC's entire sponsorship amount of 550 million dollars has come from India-specific companies eager to bank on huge television audiences in the country.

Samsung India, rivals of LG Electronics, who had signed up seven Indian cricket stars, said Thursday it will abide by the agreement and not air players' advertisements for 17 days after the tournament.

"We have an alternate campaign in place. After that we will revert to the original images of the players," said Samsung's Ruchika Batra.

Two other companies that promote Tendulkar, TVS scooters and Fiat, also said they will not air the master batsman's advertisements for the stipulated 17-day moratorium.

And according to ICC president Malcolm Gray the sponsorship issue involving players and administrators was not yet over despite the participation of the best teams in the meet.

"We're delighted that all the countries have sent their best teams here but more work has to be done regarding the World Cup (in South

Africa next year), particularly with the players," said Gray.

"The aim was to get the current event (Champions Trophy) going," ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed told reporters during a joint press conference.

"We're delighted India have sent their best squad. After this event, we'll sit together and discuss. It's not a priority now."

Dutch ingenuity



REUTERS, Colombo

Cricketing minnows the Netherlands have arrived for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Champions Trophy with their own sponsorship problem and have responded in a novel way.

Unable to find a backer, the Royal Dutch Cricket Board (KNCB) have reached an agreement with the Dutch AIDS Foundation to display an AIDS awareness logo on their shirts during the tournament.

Dutch team manager Hans Mulder said: "We thought about having no logo once it was clear we weren't going to get a sponsor but this seemed better."

"We already had a contact with the Dutch AIDS Foundation...and we thought this was a good idea. Hopefully it will help us find a sponsor for the World Cup."

While most players from the 10 test-playing countries will be in action almost non-stop ahead of next year's World Cup, the Dutch team have virtually no cricket until they walk out to face India in their opening World Cup match, in Paarl on February 12.

Their only formal practice will be a warm-up tournament in Namibia also involving the hosts, Canada and Kenya in the week before the event gets underway.

The squad for this month's

Champions Trophy includes a doctor, a shop worker, a lawyer, an estate agent and just one full-time professional cricketer in Bas Zuiderent, a veteran of the Dutch 1996 World Cup campaign who is on the staff at English county Sussex.

But the hope is that qualifying for the Champions Trophy and the World Cup, thanks to victory in last year's ICC Trophy, will help boost interest in the game in the Netherlands, which boasts just three turf pitches and 60 clubs.

The national team's efforts will certainly improve Dutch cricket's finances as they receive money for taking part as well as a share of the profits that go to developing the game.

Winning either the Champions Trophy, where their opponents in pool four are Pakistan and Sri Lanka, or the World Cup are out of the question but for captain Roland Lefebvre, a former English county cricketer with Somerset and Glamorgan now working for the KNCB, the aims are more modest.

"I would like us to compete," he said.

"If we could win a match that would be amazing, but we're here to play good cricket, show the world we are respectable and to gain experience because if you want to go up in the game you must play against stronger opposition."

The Netherlands' first match of the Champions Trophy is against Sri Lanka next Monday.

They fail to cure 'em



REUTERS, Berlin

Boris Becker and Michael Stich wrote Germany's Davis Cup history in the 1980s and 1990s but their roles in more recent chapters have been far from comfortable.

The former Wimbledon champions and rivals, symbols of a time when their country were a feared force in the competition, have both offered to help Germany in recent years but neither man could stop squabbling and scandals from undermining the team they once graced.

Becker, who inspired Germany to their first two victories in 1988 and 1989, returned to the Davis Cup in 1997, working with captain Carl-Uwe Steeb as both team manager and doubles player before a dispute with Nicolas Kiefer prompted him to quit in 1999.

Stich, who steered Germany to their third and most recent Davis Cup triumph in 1993, tried his luck from October last year, replacing Steeb as captain after Becker had turned down the job.

Becker's former arch-rival could rely on Germany's best possible team after persuading Tommy Haas, who never really got on with Steeb, to reconsider his decision to abandon Davis Cup for a year.

But Stich resigned on Monday after his idea to recall Becker, now 34, to play doubles in a World Group qualifying round tie against Venezuela next week was met by withdrawal threats from both Haas and Rainer Schuettler.

Haas said Germany should concentrate on building a team for the future and bringing back Becker would send out the wrong message.



Action from yesterday's Sheetal Women's Handball League match between Usha KC and Jatrabari KC at the court next to the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Shock loss for Russia



AFP, Moscow

Russia suffered a stunning four-point defeat to the rest of the world on the final day Wednesday of the "match of the century" pitting a Russian team of 10 chess Grand Masters against 10 opponents from other countries.

After the 10th and final round of match held in Moscow's Kremlin Palace, Team World defeated Team Russia 52-48.

The then Soviet Union had defeated the rest of the world in two similar matches held in Belgrade in 1970 and in London in 1984.

Russian Grand Master Garry Kasparov, generally acknowledged as the best player in the world, offered a less-than-dazzling performance throughout the series, winning only one of his 10 games, while losing three and drawing six.

In the final round, a seemingly

nervous Kasparov, playing black, drew with Indian Grand Master Viswanathan Anand, in front of an audience mostly made up of elderly gentlemen politely commenting the game in hushed voices.

Russia and the rest of the world drew in the tenth and last round, after Team World had defeated Team Russia 5.5-4.5 in the ninth round.

Each player had to meet every other player on the opposing team in games lasting 25 minutes, with 10 seconds allowed per move, during the four-day match.

Anand, for one, said he had not expected his side to defeat Russia by such a wide margin.

"It was a great surprise. I could have envisaged our team winning by a point, maybe, but by four points, no," he said. "We had a fantastic team spirit."

However the rest of the world's victory owed much to the inheritance of the Soviet chess school since most of the team was made up

of players originally hailing from former Soviet territories.

In addition to Kasparov, the Russian team was made up of former World Chess Federation (FIDE) champion Anatoly Karpov, Vladimir Kramnik, Alexander Khalifman, Yevgeny Bareyev, Alexander Grushchik, Alexei Dreyev, Alexander Morozevich, Pyotr Svidler and Alexander Motylev, with Vadim Zvyagintsev and Sergei Rublyovskiy as backups.

The world team line-up was: Vladimir Akopian (Armenia), Viswanathan Anand (India) Judit Polgar (Hungary) Ruslan Ponomarev (Ukraine, current FIDE world champion), Vasily Ivanchuk (Ukraine), Alexei Shirov (Spain), Peter Leko (Hungary), Boris Gelfman (Israel), Nigel Short (Britain), Ilya Smirin (Israel) and Teymur Radzhabov (Azerbaijan), Boris Gueffman (Israel) with Vladimir Akopian (Armenia) and Zurab Azmaiparashvili (Azerbaijan) as back-ups.

Safin, Kafelnikov survive



REUTERS, Tashkent

Russian Marat Safin was stretched to the limit by Slovakian teenager Karol Beck in their second round match at the President's Cup before the top seed and defending champion came through with a 7-6, 6-7, 6-4 win to reach the quarterfinals.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov -- Safin's Davis Cup teammate -- also survived a tight three-set encounter as he beat Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Beck, who is ranked 140 places below the fourth-ranked Safin, often frustrated his opponent with his steady groundstrokes and timely drop shots. Beck also fired 17 aces compared to only seven from Safin.

But after splitting the first two tiebreaks, Safin, who is gunning for his third straight Tashkent title here, scored a decisive break in the fifth game of the final set before serving out the match in two hours and 20

minutes.

In Thursday's quarterfinals, Safin will face fifth-seeded Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand, who eliminated Israeli Harel Levy 6-3, 6-4.

In the earlier match on centre court, Kafelnikov was helped by a controversial line call in the ninth game of the deciding set when his backhand against Carlsen appeared to go out, but was called in.

It was enough to give third-seeded Kafelnikov a key break for a 5-4 lead and he duly closed out the match in two hours and eight minutes.

"It was a crucial point when I was serving at 4-4 in the final set and I believe it was a bad call," said 96th-ranked Carlsen, who was treated for a wrist injury in the third game of the opening set.

"I'm very disappointed today because I had many opportunities throughout this match. But it's even more frustrating to lose a game on a bad call."

Kafelnikov, who committed a string of unforced errors and hit 11

double faults, including two in a row to lose the first set, said he was glad to come through another stern test.

"It seems like every match is a struggle for me," said the Russian, who also looked sluggish in his first round match against Germany's Alexander Waske on Tuesday.

"My problem is that I don't have any confidence in myself at the moment and that's why I keep making foolish mistakes."

In the last eight, Kafelnikov will meet Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia, who outlasted Uzbek Vadim Kutsenko 6-7, 6-2, 7-6.

In other matches, second seed German Tommy Haas beat Armenia's Sargis Sargsian 7-6, 6-4, while seventh-seeded Mikhail Youzhny of Russia lost to Belarussian qualifier Vladimir Voltchkov 6-1, 6-3.

"It was an even match as only one break of serve in the second set decided the outcome," said Haas, who broke Sargsian in the ninth game for a 5-4 lead, of his second-round encounter.

Thorpe parts with coach



AFP, Sydney

Ian Thorpe is banking his swimming future on a relatively unproven coach after splitting with Doug Frost, the mentor who guided him to 17 world records and three Olympic gold medals.

The 19-year-old swimming superstar said on Thursday the passion had begun to wane under Frost, who had trained him since he was nine.

"I wasn't enjoying myself training

as much as I should be and as much as I have in the past," said Thorpe.

"I decided I either had to make the change or it was to walk away from the sport. I didn't think I was ready to walk away from the sport."

After considering many possible coaches in a worldwide search, Thorpe opted for Frost's assistant, 29-year-old art teacher Tracey Menzies.

The move is a gamble for the world 200m, 400m and 800m freestyle record holder with Menzies having no proven international record, although she was named Australia's rookie coach of 2000.

However, Thorpe was confident

she would help him to greater heights.

"I don't need to be motivated, so I didn't need a coach that needs to try to motivate me," he said.

"At the end of the day I decided that Tracey was the best coach for myself... and who would help me in my pursuit of excellence."

Tensions between Thorpe and Frost are believed to have heightened at last month's Manchester Commonwealth Games when Thorpe said he was disappointed with his 200m freestyle swim despite producing the third fastest time in history.

But Thorpe described their split as amicable and said he had no complaints about Frost's coaching.

"After the second night (in Manchester), I was disappointed with how I'd swum," he said.

"There's always tension there. When you plan for months and years in advance to be able to perform well on one given day there's a lot of expectation placed on both swimmer and coach."

"Doug wasn't the reason I made a change. It was within myself that the change came."

Frost would not comment on the split on Thursday.

The 58-year-old Frost guided Thorpe to eight world championship gold medals and 10 Commonwealth titles.

"I've grown up under Doug's wing as an athlete," Thorpe said. "I don't know of any other swimmer and coach that have had such a successful career together."



Ai Sugiyama of Japan plays a backhand against Vanessa Webb of Canada at the Shanghai Open on September 11.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Flavour enhancer (Abbr.)
4 Neg. opp.
11 Obsessed
13 Circle
14 Portion
15 Sitarist
16 Conflict
17 Landlord's due
18 Insignificant
20 Minnelli's half-sister
22 As well
24 Do as you're told
28 Chopping into small bits
32 Whodunit writer's award
33 Eight (Sp.)
34 Luminox
36 "Nigella" piece
37 Powdered tobacco
39 Indian fig trees

DOWN
1 Shopping center
2 "Pygmalion" playwright
3 Donated
4 Handle roughly
5 Exam format
6 Use steel wool
7 It's involved in a blowout
8 Praise in verse
9 D.C. title
10 Chapeau
12 Botticelli master-piece
19 Luau bowlful
21 Retainer
23 Lennon's lady
25 Pearl
26 Mosque site
27 Futile
28 R.N.'s workplace
29 Dermatologist's case
30 Actress Elisabeth
31 Chatter
35 Craze
38 Chemin de...
40 Fresh
42 Parlor piece
45 Soft-drink flavor
47 "Pretty Woman" star
48 Oklahoma city
49 Miller's "All My..."

Solution time: 24 mins