Shoaib to

have knee

Akhtar has been ruled out of

selection for the ODI series

against New Zealand next

month as he will be heading to

England for knee surgery. His

recovery is expected to take six

weeks, which means he will

also miss the start of Pakistan's

"Akhtar will miss at least six

matches, let's see whether he

will play the remaining three

group matches for us next

month," Rashid Iqbal, the

spokesman for Shoaib's first-

class team Khan Research

Laboratories, told Associated

refused to pay for Shoaib's

surgery though he is a cen-

trally contracted player by

contract that says players can

be provided medical treat-

ment by the board only if they

sustain injuries while on

national duty. "Unless he

plays and proves his fitness he

cannot be considered for any

future competition," said

Pakistan chief selector Iqbal

capable of making life difficult

for batsmen on helpful tracks.

better their performance in

They will also be keen to

Qasim.

Battle

**FROM PAGE 17** 

Caribbean.

first-class competition.

surgery

CRICINFO, undated

## Leonardo on the brink

AFP, Rome

After a humiliating defeat to FC Zurich in the Champions League, Italian giants AC Milan head into their trip to Atalanta on Sunday with serious questions hanging over coach Leonardo's head.

The seven-time European champions sit 11th in the 20team Serie A table following two wins, two draws and two defeats in their first six matches.

While that record smacks of mediocrity, it is another statistic that is truly worrying the decision-makers in the corridors of power at the San Siro.

Milan have found the net only three times and have failed to score in four of those six matches.

Only two teams have scored fewer goals than Milan and those include Sunday's hosts Atalanta, who were the first club this season to fire their coach when they dismissed Angelo Gregucci just four games into the campaign after four straight defeats.

## Another year

FROM PAGE 17

could spell financial disaster faster than one can say Allen Stanford. To please the critics there have to be one or two players from other teams, but there is a qualifier there as well, those teams must be any team but Bangladesh.

Whether they like it or not, and whether they admit it or not, Bangladesh is treated like a pariah. No one from the ICC says a word about India refusing to invite Bangladesh for a Test series and yet they go bonkers when a player enters the field of play displaying one too many a sponsor's logo on the back of their pads. They are right; surely that warrants more attention than Bangladesh. This attitude continues outside the field of play right into their awards show when a scant lack of cricketing acumen led them to believe Shakib was good enough to be the best ODI allrounder for the better part of a year and yet, he still did not manage to make it into the ODI team of the year. This is not a case of sour grapes, this is a case of gross ineptitude. Shakib held together a weak team with match winning and more importantly grace saving performances throughout the entire year. His statistics match up with anyone one of those who won the award, but what separated him from the rest was his heart and dedication even in the sorriest of causes. For that he may not be an ICC award winner, but he is a champion to us all and I guess that is the best award one could ask

This year, after his retirement, the ICC announced Matthew Hayden as the 10th best batsman, now wait for it ... of all time. Maninder Singh believing the news to be true called the ICC rankings a "joke" and "sadistic". Wait, now even I'm confused, was that true or not? I guess peeling through the layers of the ICC's onion only one thing is guaranteed, tears, whether they are of joy or sadness depends on which team you play for.





## Diego Maradona

(Argentina soccer coach) "The bearded one (God) saved me many times before - and I hope he will do so this time." Seeking divine intervention to reach the World Cup finals.



The youngest Formula One Grand Prix (GP) winner is Fernando Alonso of Spanish descent. He won in the 2003 GP when he was 23 years old.



Pakistan captain Younus Khan (second from L) warms up with teammates at Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Thursday. Pakistan take on New Zealand in the second semifinal of the Champions Trophy today.

# Pak favourites: Yousuf

AFP, Johannesburg



Experienced Pakistani ites against New Zealand in the Champions Yousuf.

Trophy semifinal here today. three games so far. The entire team gave a good performance and our morale is high. I think we are favourites in the semifinal. I hope we win

this match," Yousuf said on Thursday. Pakistan qualified for the semifinals with four points from three matches in the fourteam Group A, beating arch-rivals India and the West Indies before losing to defending champions Australia in their last game.

"We won a good match against India and I think the match we lost yesterday (against Australia) was the best game of the tournament

as it was decided on the last ball," said Yousuf, 35. Pakistan looked like winning the game against Australia when they reduced their opponents to 187-8 before Brett Lee and

Nathan Hauritz helped their team achieve a 206-run target in a last-ball finish.

"You cannot call any team favourites in one-CHAMPIONS batsman Mohammad day cricket because anything can happen, but if Yousuf has said his you consider the performances of both the team will start favour- sides, I think we have an upper hand," said

"No doubt, they (New Zealand) played really "We have fought and played well in all of our well in their last two matches against Sri Lanka and England. Their pace bowling is really good, especially with the return of Shane Bond. It will be a good contest."

Yousuf, who has so far scored 9,450 runs in 275 one-day internationals, said in-form spinners Saeed Ajmal and Shahid Afridi were expected to give the team a big advantage.

"The advantage is that our spin bowling is very good. With the arrival of Ajmal, our spin bowling has been strengthened. Ajmal and Afridi have been bowling really well in recent times," said Yousuf.

"This is the main reason why our team has reached the semifinal and also won the Twenty20 World Championships in England

Hauritz, Siddle.

## It's the Watson show

FROM PAGE 17 Given their perilous state 21 overs into the game, Strauss must have been relieved if not satisfied to set Australia a target of 258 on a track that had some grass, cracks and reasonable bounce.

But after the early exit of Paine, England endured nothing but pain and a fair-size crowd had plenty to cheer as the predicted rain and thunderstorms never materialised.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the Champions Trophy semifinal match between England and Australia at SuperSport Park in

Centurion on Friday: ENGLAND Strauss c Hopes b Siddle Denly c Paine b Siddle Shah c Paine b Lee Collingwood c Paine b Johnson Morgan c Paine b Watson Davies b Watson Wright c Paine b Siddle

### Nat'l tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

Bresnan b Lee

The Anlene National Tennis Tournament gets underway today at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna with over 200 participants including 20 women taking part.

Amol Roy and Sathi Sarker were rated top seeds in the men's and women's singles for the tournament, which also will hold four more events -- men's doubles, women's doubles, boy's singles and veteran's doubles.

The winner in the men's singles will get highest Tk 22,000, six thousand more than the winner of women's singles event.

performance in that tourna-

well in England and do well for

my team. I'm really proud of

myself for having a new shot

named after me (the Dilscoop).

That shot has given me confi-

Siddle claimed Emerging

country is an enormous hon-

for me to be part of the team.

It's been very enjoyable," said

Dale Steyn, is the only player to

retain his place in the World

Test Team of the Year, with last

year's captain, Graeme Smith,

missing the cut to accommo-

date World Player of the Year

nominees Gambhir and

Strauss at the top of the order.

Dhoni takes over as captain; AB

de Villiers, Sachin Tendulkar

and Thilan Samaraweera make

up the middle-order, while

Bangladesh's impressive

allrounder, Shakib al Hasan, is

chosen as the spin option

alongside three quicks in

Johnson, Steyn and Stuart

of Cricket award, presented to

New Zealand won the Spirit

South Africa's spearhead,

our and it has been a great time

Player of the Year award.

Australian paceman Peter

"Getting to represent my

"It was a thrill for me to do

ment," said Dilshan.

Swann run out	18
Anderson not out	-
Onions run out '	
Extras: (w-6, nb-1)	
	25
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-16,	. 3
71, 4-91, 5-100, 6-101, 7-2	
8-245, 9-251.	
D I O M D	*

Bowler Lee Siddle 10 28 Hopes Johnson 35 Watson 0 32 Hauritz AUSTRALIA

Watson not out Paine c Davies b Onions Ponting not out

Extras: (lb-2, w-5) Total: (For 1 wkt in 41.5 overs) 258 Fall of wicket: 1-6. Did not bat: Hussey, Ferguson, White, Hopes, Johnson, Lee,

Bowler Anderson 8.5 Onions Bresnan Collingwood 8 50 Wright 0 11 0 Result: Australia won by nine

wickets. Man-of-the-match: Shane 111 Watson.

# Rio wins race for 2016

the team which, in the opinion captain & wicket-keeper)

of the ICC umpires and match Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh),

Pakistan's Aleem Dar was Chris Gayle (WI), Kevin

England's Claire Taylor was Thushara (SL)

"Iam very pleased to get this Dilshan (SL), Yuvraj Singh

FROM PAGE 17

'It's unbelievable, overwhelming and spectacular," beamed Rio Governor Sergio Cabral, while Brazilian football legend Pelewas reduced to tears.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) members had earlier delivered a stunning snub to favourites Chicago and Obama.

In a sensational first round, the 95 eligible voters rejected a personal plea by the most powerful man in the world.

Obama had flown in on Friday morning to appear at the final presentation but even his powerful presence, as well as the lobbying of his wife Michelle, failed to excite the members.

The American city was followed out by Tokyo whose pleas to host the Games for a second time fell on deaf ears.

Rio's appearance in the final two is no surprise as they had consistently impressed in the past year and a stunning piece of oratory by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva at the presentation sealed their place.

referees and the 10 full member

captains, has best conducted

itself on the field within the

Porterfield won the Associate

Player of the Year award while

award. Thanks to PCB (Paki-

stan Cricket Board) and ICC as

well as my friends and family

and of course my wife, who I

named the Women's Cricketer

The awards were based on

The selection panel was

performances between August

chaired by West Indies legend

Clive Lloyd, with former crick-

eters Anil Kumble of India, Bob

Taylor of England, Pakistan's

Mudassar Nazar and New

Zealander Stephen Fleming

WORLD TEST TEAM OF THE

YEAR: Gautam Gambhir (In-

dia), Andrew Strauss (Eng-

land), AB de Villiers (South

Africa), Sachin Tendulkar

(India), Thilan Samaraweera

(Sri Lanka), Michael Clarke

(Australia), MS Dhoni (India,

being the other members.

13, 2008 and August 24, 2009.

have to leave for long periods of

named Umpire of the Year.

Ireland captain William man)

spirit of the game.

time," said Dar.

of the Year.

Johnson Cricketer

He declared it was not only Brazil's time but also South America's as no country from the continent has previously

hosted the Games. Madrid, bidding to become the first Spanish city to host the Olympics since Barcelona's successful 1992 edition, were seen to be rank outsiders.

However, the presence of 89year-old former IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch helped secure vital votes.

His plea that 'his days on earth were numbered' struck a chord for many of the members who owed their positions to him during his controversial but highly successful tenure which saw the Games become the modern and commercial titan that it is now.

The elimination of Chicago and Tokyo set up an intriguing head-to-head between two of the giants of sports administration - Samaranch and former FIFA President Joao Havelange, who looking far younger than his 93 years promised to invite people to a massive party in Rio in 2016 when he will be 100.

Mitchell Johnson (Australia),

Stuart Broad (England), Dale

Harbhajan Singh (India, 12th

WORLD ODI TEAM OF THE

YEAR: Virender Sehwag (Ind)

Pietersen (Eng), Tillakaratne

(Ind), Martin Guptill (NZ), MS

Dhoni (Ind, captain & Wicket-

keeper), Andrew Flintoff (Eng),

Nuwan Kulasekara (SL)

Ajantha Mendis (SL), Umar Gul

(Pak), 12th man: Thilan

Hossain bagged two wickets

their first 3-day warm-up match

with Maharashtra Cricket

Maharashtra Cricket

Association 309/8 in 89 overs

(Ankit bawane 67, Ameya

Shirkhande 52, Azad Ansari

48; Shahadat Hossain 1/65,

Dollar Mahmud 2/62, Md

Sohrawordi 2/68, Faisal

Association under-22 side.

Earlier, Bangladesh A drew

MCA start

each for the tourists.

SCOREBOARD

Hossain 2/56)

FROM PAGE 17

Steyn (South Africa)

Saeed Ajmal.

Match referee: Javagal Srinath

(IND)

FROM PAGE 17

Jewel Rana, the captain of the 1999 SA Games gold medallist Bangladesh football team, and Rajani Kanta Barman, who was the captain of 2003 SAFF championship Bangladesh team, will pick the lottery while TV celebrities Shomi Kaiser and model Mona Lisa are likely to be present on the occasion.

After the draw, which will begin at 3:30pm, the third congress of SAFF will get underway at 7:00pm with representatives of all eight nations including SAFF president Ganesh Thapa attending the meeting.

Of 14 foreign delegates, 12

The congress will elect a new committee and a dynamic Kazi Salahuddin, the president of the Bangladesh Football Federation, is the popular choice to take the hot seat from All Nepal Football Federation president Thapa,

Meanwhile, the last SAFF congress was held in Colombo in 2004 while the first one took place in Zurich, Switzerland in 2000.

# One off-day cost us: Dhoni

Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib AFP, Johannesburg



A CHAMPIONS Mahendra Singh Dhoni performance against after 16 overs. Pakistan in the opening match cost his team an

early exit from the Champions Trophy. "Of course, the first game we played we were said Dhoni. off the boil. But apart from that game, the second was a wash-out and the third we won," Dhoni said after his team crashed out of the

tournament on Wednesday. "You feel disappointed, but at the same time it is difficult to say whether this performance

was bad," said Dhoni. Pakistan by 54 runs in their opening game of the four-team Group A. They managed just 248 after conceding 302 runs.

The Pakistan board has The next match against defending champions Australia was abandoned due to rain, with their opponents looking on course for a big better for the team if bowlers also contributed total after posting 234-4 in 42.3 overs. pointing to a clause in the

When India completed a seven-wicket victory over a depleted West Indies side in a day-night game here on Wednesday, they were playing six specialist bowlers and most of them already out of the competition following can bat," said Dhoni. Australia's last-ball win over Pakistan in a day

from three matches, followed by Pakistan (4/3), India (3/3) and the West Indies (0/3). The top five bowlers who can't really bat much.'

two advanced to the semifinals. Wicket-keeper Dhoni also turned seamer India skipper for the first time in one-day internationals, taking the wicket of Travis Dowlin with his has said a below-par fourth delivery. Dinesh Karthik kept wickets

> "I bowl regularly in the nets, but this was one of those wickets where I could have bowled,"

> "So I thought I can get in three-four overs and then we could get in the spinners if

> Abhishek Nayar bowls from the other end." Dhoni said he hoped India would put in a

> better performance in the home one-day series against Australia, starting later this month.

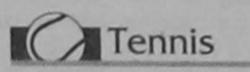
"We made quite a few mistakes in this tour-India were under pressure after losing to nament, like bowlers giving width to the batsmen. I don't think it's such a serious problem that it can't be solved," said the Indian captain.

> "Hopefully, we will assemble before the Australian series and rectify the problems." The Indian skipper also said it would be

with the bat. "That's one of the reasons why the Australian side is really good because they are

"At times, if you play with only five bowlers and you have only six batsmen, it is a big worry. Australia topped the group with five points It's always about the combination. In this tournament, we were really forced to play with

# Maria, Jelena in final



AFP, Tokyo

big matches, having fallen in the semifinals of the 2006 Crowd-favourite Maria Champions Trophy in India Sharapova overcame a secand the 2007 World Cup in ond-set loss of form to beat Agnieszka Radwanska Friday It will be the first one-day and set up a final against international between the two Serbia's Jelena Jankovic in the since October 2006 when New Pan Pacific Open tennis tour-

Earlier in the day Jankovic,

Zealand beat Pakistan in a league match of the tourna-The former world number be a good match." ment's last edition. one, the winner here in 2005, New Zealand batsman held her composure to storm Martin Guptill said Thursday back from 0-2 down in the the team's morale was high final set to complete a 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 victory over the 11th-

going into the match. seeded Radwanska of Poland. "Our confidence level is high at the moment," said Guptill.

"We are extremely confident of putting up a good performance in the semifinal against Pakistan. They are a very good side, but I think we are capable of matching them.

**TEAMS** NEW ZEALAND (from) Daniel Vettori (captain), Neil Broom, Brendon Diamanti, Grant Elliott, Martin Guptill, Gareth Hopkins, Brendon McCullum, Kyle Mills, Jeetan Patel, Ross Taylor, Shane Bond, Ian Butler, Iain O'Brien, Aaron Redmond, James Franklin.

PAKISTAN (from): Younus Khan (captain), Imran Nazir, Misbah-ul-Haq, Umar Akmal, Shoaib Malik, Shahid Afridi, Rana Navedul Hasan, Fawad Alam, Mohammad Yousuf, Kamran Akmal, Umar Gul, Mohammad Aamer, Mohammad Asif, Rao Iftikhar,

Umpires: Simon Taufel (AUS) and Ian Gould (ENG) TV umpire: Daryl Harper (AUS)

## SAFF draw

have already arrived in the capital while Thapa is expected to arrive Saturday afternoon. Besides, Maldives Football Federation president Ali Azam was supposed to land last night.

brace from Raju. who has been criticized for being inactive since taking After resumption, Feni over the SAFF presidency in

one, overcame an injury scare the match at one-set all, the to beat Asia's number one Li Russian then found herself 0-2 Na of China 6-4, 6-3.

Sharapova said of her meeting with Jankovic in the final. "She is one of the best

players in the world. She has had a really good tournament. It will be really important to be aggressive and take care of my service games and just play for every point. Hopefully it will Sharapova, ranked 25th in

the world after her shoulder injury lay-off, suffered a midmatch slump as she overhit her power-packed strokes and lost all of her service games in

the second set. After Radwanska squared



PHOTO: AFP

Jelena Jankovic of Serbia hits a return against Li Na of China during their semifinal match at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday.

# MSC hammer BKSP

FROM PAGE 17 in the 70th minute with a long-

rang drive. With nine minutes to go,

Bukola also completed his hat-trick with a place shot and Emeka, who slotted a treble in the previous match, sealed the fate of the match from a spot kick five minutes from time to add insult to BKSP, who conceded 17 goals in three

In the first match, knowing well that a win would be enough to see them in the knockout phase, both Brothers and Feni Soccer fought equally in the first half that saw the ball mostly confined to the midfield.

But the latter had the last laugh in the second half with a

After being humiliated 7-1 by giants Mohammedan in the previous match, Brothers Union strengthen their lineup with fielding two new recruits midfielder Steven Kwest and Enock Bentil, but the rest could hardly be affected by the Ghanaians.

Soccer indicated that they Brothers goalkeeper Iran Sheikh, who was lucky as Ahmed. Imrul's powerful shot came off Referee: Jalal Uddin.

the crossbar.

Iran finally failed to resist Feni Soccer as unmarked Raju tapped an Anwar push from close in the 61st minute and seven minutes later Raju, who struck a hat-trick against BKSP, doubled the margin from a difficult angle availing a through pass from Asif Yousuf.

After going down, the All Oranges bit back in the 72nd minute when Enock rose high to nod a Liton Khan cross from the right. Later, Brothers Union went all-out, but they could hardly produce any scoring chances, mainly because of a shaky midfield.

### TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN: MN Shakil, Mofazzal Hossain Shaikat (Mamun Miah), Ariful Islam, Hasan Al Mamun, Yamin Ahmed Munna, Arman Aziz, Nasiruddin (Mamunul Islam), Shakil Ahmed (Enamul Haq Sharif), Christina Emeka, Alamu Bukola Olaleken and Zahid Hasan Emily.

BKSP: Arifuzzaman Titu, Saddam Hossain Any, Billal Miah, Hasan Ali, Pronob Kumar Dey, Faruk Hossain, were going to dominate the Ariful Haque, Masud Rana match as Imrul Hasan tested Sheikh, Julfiquar Haider, Ali Akbar Kanon and Saifuddin

down in the final set but per-"It's going to be difficult," sisted in attacking Radwanska's second serve to earn return winners on a break point in the fourth and eighth Despite dropping two

> Sharapova finished off the match with another return winner on her fifth match point Jankovic needed court-side

match points in the ninth,

treatment on her right arm at the beginning of the fourth game at 1-2 down. But the Serbian showed no ill-effects to hit two consecu-

and break back on a Li backhand error which went wide at 15-40 to tie the score 2-2. Jankovic added another break in the eighth game and, although she needed to save one break point in the following game, calmly served out

tive winners from the baseline

backhand service return go "I started to feel some pains in my arm and felt the balls were heavy, so it was difficult," said Jankovic, ranked eighth in

for the match watching Li's

the world. "I received some treatment and took medicine. I just tried my best, tried not to think about my arm, just tried to fight every point. It was a difficult match overall, but I managed to come out with a

win." With the win, Jankovic improved her record against Li to three wins against four defeats.

## **De Villiers** misses Champs League

CRICINFO, undated

Cricket South Africa has withdrawn AB de Villiers from all competitive cricket for the next four to six weeks after he complained of lower back pain. The decision, taken on the basis of advice received from CSA's medical committee, means he will not play for his IPL franchise Delhi Daredevils in the inaugural Champions League Twenty20 in India in October. Sources indicated Manoj Tiwary would be the likely replacement for the tournament beginning on October 8.

"AB de Villiers developed left lumbar pain four weeks ago, during preparation for the ICC Champions Trophy tournament," Shuaib Manjra, chairman of CSA's medical committee, said. "Despite extensive physiotherapy combined with anti-inflammatory and analgesic medication, his symptoms persisted and an MRI scan was done. He has severe left lumbar spasm and without medication was unable to move freely during the ICC Champions Trophy tournament.

"We have thus decided to withdraw AB from all cricketing activities for the next four to six weeks in order to allow for proper management of his condition and prevent further injury."

AB de Villiers is likely to return to active participation at the start of the MTN Domestic Championship on October 28. "I am obviously disappointed to miss the Champions League," he said "and I wish the Daredevils all the best for the tournament."