Sachin looking forward to WC 2011

PTI, Dubai

Senior batsman Sachin Tendulkar is optimistic about India's chances at next year's cricket World Cup and said pre-tournament recovery and maintaining the momentum will be the key to success.

"We've been performing well as a side and I think it's important that the India team carry its momentum into the tournament next year," Tendulkar said.

"I think our pretournament preparation will be key and at the same time pre-tournament recovery is also important so that we're raring to go once the event has started," he added.

The 37-year-old Mumbaikar said reputation won't count in the World Cup and the best team on a given day will win. "I think it's difficult to say

which team will do well in the tournament next year as it's about who performs well on that given day," he said.

"Whoever does well will carry the confidence with them through the tournament once they've won a few matches.

"It (World Cup) makes it a totally different ball game,' said Tendulkar, who has played in five ICC Cricket World Cups.

The 50-overs cricket World Cup will be hosted in the subcontinent by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh starting in February next year.

May wants uniform referral system

AFP, Sydney

The chief of the Federation of International Cricketers Associations on Friday called for the Umpire Decision Review System (UDRS) to be applied throughout all Test series.

The referral system is being used in a Test series in Britain for the first time during the current four-match campaign between England and Pakistan.

FICA Chief Executive Tim May said he backed recent comments from leading cricketers, Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara, Australia's Ricky Ponting, India's Virender Sehwag and recently-retired umpire Rudi Koertzen for the review system to be implemented in all Tests.

Under the review system each side is allowed two unsuccessful challenges to on-field decisions per innings, although they have a maximum of 15 seconds in which to make the request.

The third umpire, assisted by various technological aids, then rules on whether to overturn an on-field verdict.

"In May this year, the ICC's Cricket Committee, of which I am a member, made a recommendation to the ICC's Chief Executives' Committee that the UDRS should be used in all Tests in all series," May said in a statement.

"This is a recommendation that was strongly supported by players that FICA represents.

better. I felt more myself going into the race "Unfortunately, the ICC tonight," said Phelps, who has struggled for Chief Executives' Committee consistency this year after a break from his did not adopt this recommenusual arduous training regimen. dation."

Former Australian Test spinner May said the committee instead preferred to give various national Boards' discretion to use the technology from series to series, because of concerns over the funding of the technology and opposition from some Boards to the system.

"The players are aware that the system isn't 100 percent perfect, but believe that its introduction has resulted in an improved number of correct decisions and the eradication of the 'obvious' incorrect decision," he said.

May say the review system was introduced to Test cricket primarily as a means of addressing the 'blatantly incorrect' decision.

Sheikh Jamal

FROM PAGE 17

Kader did not want to reveal the names of the foreign coaches. However, it has been learnt that they have been trying to bring in Zoran Kraljedic and Berber Dabor, who were the assistants of Bangladesh's former head coach Zoran Djordjevic.

It's learnt that Sheikh Jamal had initially offered Shaiful Bari Titu, an AFC A-licensed coach, but he refused the offer citing his involvement with the Bangladesh Football Federation.



Spain players celebrate after scoring against New Zealand during their Champions Trophy match in the western German city of Moenchengladbach on Thursday.

Perfect Aussies

Hockey

AFP, Moenchengladbach

Australia defeated hosts Germany 3-1 on Thursday to maintain their perfect Champions Trophy record and book their place in Sunday's

Frenetic end-to-end play marked the first 20 minutes, both teams having shots on goal until Martin Haner converted Germany's first penalty corner for their only goal.

Germany goalkeeper Max Weinholt for Australia's first goal just before the break and added another, deflecting in a cross from Jamie Dwyer early in the second half.

Dwyer put the match out of Germany's reach, hammering in a loose ball which Germany defence failed to control and clear.

"We came here to play in the final and we have achieved that and I am proud of the way we fought although I think the result could have gone either way," said Australia coach Richard Charlesworth.

Germany stay second in the group despite suffering a second successive defeat having lost to Spain on Tuesday.

But coach Markus Weise still saw positives.

"It was a close match and I am happy we could create chances. Unfortunately we were unable to convert any, apart from the one penalty corner, so creating chances is one thing and converting them is another," Weise said.

New Zealand came within 10 seconds of another historic win after defeating Netherlands 3-1 Tuesday, but conceded a last second penalty

corner and goal to allow Spain to draw 4-4. New Zealand now share third place with

Michael Phelps won the 100m butterfly at the

US Swimming Championships on Thursday,

nabbing the 50th national title of his career

this year, and said he was pleased with the effort

a day after bemoaning a "terrible" performance

some distance between my time and the (previ-

ous) fastest time in the world," said Phelps, who

surpassed the 51.70 set by Evgeny

Tyler McGill (52.20), with Timothy Phillips third

He was comfortably in front of runner-up

"My stroke felt a lot better, my walls were

Phelps' 50 national titles are the most of any

Rebecca Soni delivered her trademark

Bhaji hits out

US swimmer. Tracy Caulkins is next on the list

strong finish to win the women's 100m breast-

stroke in 1:05.73, another fastest time in the

Phelps clocked 50.65sec, fastest in the world

"I was real happy with that. I wanted to put

with a time that put a smile on his face.

in winning the 200m fly on Wednesday.

Swimming

AFP, Irvine

Korotsyshkin.

in 52.41.

with 48.

FROM PAGE 17

between the sides.

with the sides clashing in nine

Tests, 26 ODIs and four

Twenty20s since July 2008.

Harbhajan said he did not mind

playing anyone, but hinted that

players from both camps were

bored of the frequent fixtures

"I think in the last eight

months, we have played a lot

of cricket against Sri Lanka.

Obviously, the batsmen get

used to your bowling and the

bowlers know where they're

going to play them. But I can't

do much about it. I love play-

ing cricket, so that's the way it

goes. Who ever you play

against, I don't mind. But yes,

even the Sri Lankan players

feel the same. We have played

each other almost every sec-

ond month in the last eight

form and fitness in the first

Two Tests before returning

home, missing the final Test

and the upcoming ODI series.

He defended the team man-

Harbhajan struggled for

months.

Spain and England, all with four points.

David Alegre scored first for Spain followed by Nicholas Wilson's deflection high into the net for his third goal in three matches at the tournament.

Santi Freixa's individual goal had Spain ahead 2-1 going towards the break until Simon Child levelled at 2-2 in the last minute of the first half.

New Zealand dominated Spain for the first 20 minutes of the second half as Phillip Burrows then Steven Edwards scored field goals for a 4-2 lead with 15 minutes to play.

Spain hit back a minute later, Ramon Alegre Des Abbott picked up a rebound from converting Spain's third penalty corner off Pau Quemada's flick.

Spain went for the equaliser, gained a penalty corner with 90 seconds left on the clock after New Zealand had their video referral refused. The push out was not stopped giving New

In the last play of the game, Spain gained possession in New Zealand's circle and won a

Zealand 80 seconds to defend their lead.

penalty corner. The final siren sounded and Spain took the

penalty corner, converted by Miquel Delas. Netherlands' problems continued with a 4-3

defeat to England sending them to the bottom of the table with no possibility of a place in the final. Richard Alexander had England on the

scoreboard in the first five minutes and Netherlands replied with Rogier Hofman's goal minutes later.

Simon Mantell put England ahead but Jeroen Hertzberger equalised.

Mink van der Weerden then converted Holland's first penalty corner for a 3-2 lead at the break.

But Jonty Clarke and Richard Alexander scored England's second half goals to condemn Netherlands to a fourth loss of the tournament.

Soni, who saw the world record she set in

winning the 2009 world title eclipsed last

August by teammate Jessica Hardy, trailed

Hardy narrowly at the turn, but powered home

a quality field that also included 2000 Olympic

gold medalist Megan Jendrick and 1996

delighted to book a place on the team for the

Pan Pacific Championships in the same pool

mine the US team for next year's World

erupted in the men's 50m free, the final of

which was swum under protest after Josh

Schneider was allowed to compete despite

for the 100m fly heats without officially scratch-

ing. Although the rules say that makes him

ineligible to swim later events on the same day,

he appealed and as his appeals continued he

Schneider tied for second with Cullen Jones in

21.97 to put a potential Pan Pacs berth in limbo.

Nathan Adrian won the final in 21.70, while

USA Swimming rules official Bruce Stratton

to test myself there myself

there before I go to South

Africa. But it shouldn't really

be a problem because the

physio told me that it would

take two weeks to heal. Then,

I'll have to do a lot of strength-

ening work for the calf. I am

hoping everything goes well

and I will be back to bowling

ble time in the first two Tests,

conceding 280 runs for his two

wickets as India slipped down

0-1 in the series. He faced

widespread criticism for his

inability to spearhead the

young attack, with Bishan

Singh Bedi terming Virender

Sehwag the best offspinner in

India in a veiled insult.

Harbhajan hopes to Harbhajan however refused to

Corporate Trophy. I would like elders," Harbhajan said.

retaliate.

Harbhajan had a forgetta-

and running after two weeks."

At issue was Schneider's failure to turn up

Chandler was well adrift in 1:08.07, but was

The times from the two meetings will deter-

That made for extra tension as controversy

Olympic silver medalist Amanda Beard.

Ann Chandler was the surprise runner-up in

as Hardy faded to seventh.

Championships in Shanghai.

being declared ineligible.

was allowed to compete.

agement's decision to play

him despite being half-fit, in

the absence of senior seam

bowlers Zaheer Khan and

Sreesanth. "The day I reached

Sri Lanka, I got swine flu, but

recovered in time for the first

Test. While bowling in the

second Test, I suffered a side

strain but carried on playing.

The other three bowlers have-

n't played much Test cricket, so

I had to take on the responsibil-

Paddy (Upton, the mental

conditioning coach) on the

Galle Face road when I felt a

calf strain. From there on, I

have been struggling to walk.

This is why I couldn't play the

recover in time for the

Champions League T20 in

September, where, fitness

permitting, he will represent

Mumbai Indians. "That's the

third Test," he said.

"Then, I was running with

ity and give it the best shot.

later this month.

Half-century for Phelps

Bayern reward Mueller

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich have rewarded Germany international Thomas Mueller, top scorer at the World Cup with five goals, with an improved two year contract extension, the Bundesliga champions announced.

The new deal ties Mueller to Bayern until 2015.

The 20-year-old's starring role in helping Bayern to the double last season and in helping Germany into third place in South Africa has earned him an improved three million euros a year deal, local media reported.

Bayern president Karl-Heinze Rummenigge said on Friday: "Bayern rewards performance and Thomas Mueller's performances last season were extraordinary. "Thomas has given us a

lot of joy, he won the German league title and German Cup, and played in the Champions League final....we are very happy to know that his long term future is with Bayern." The player himself added:

"I feel at home at Bayern. I am proud to be wearing the Bayern colours for the next five years."

Kuantan 6's

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bengal Gladiators take on Kerala in the opening match of the 41st Kuantan Six-a-side Cricket tournament today at the seaside resort.

Other teams in the group are Malaysia national team and Heritage Cricketers.

The six-member team led by Rohan will also include Ali Ashaab, Isam,

Raihan, Tutul and Rony. The Gladiators are sponsored by A&Y Services.

Eng ravage Pak **FROM PAGE 17** Butt spent nearly an hour at

the crease for seven runs.

Umar Akmal clipped Anderson off his pads and whipped Broad legside for an audacious six.

But Pakistan saw Azhar Ali lbw to a Broad inswinger for a 32-ball nought.

Umar Akmal was also lbw to Broad but replays suggested the ball had pitched outside off-stump. However, Pakistan chose not to refer South African umpire Marais Erasmus's verdict. Wicketkeeper Zulaqarnain

Haider made a first ball nought on his Test debut, caught behind off Broad, after Pakistan dropped Kamran Akmal, who made two ducks and missed several chances at Trent Bridge. Amin, dropped on 10 by

Graeme Swann, batted for over an hour and struck three fours before he was caught by third slip Paul Collingwood off Anderson. Umar Gul, who made a

Test-best 65 not out at Trent Bridge, fell for nought as Anderson took Pakistan's final three wickets for one run in 10 balls.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: First innings 72 all "That's his opinion and it out (Butt 7, Akmal 17, Amin 23, doesn't matter. I have heard him Aamer 12; Anderson 4-20, say a lot of things. Some people Broad 4-38, Finn 2-10)

are like that; you can't change. ENGLAND: First innings 43 for only tournament we have. All I can say is that my parents no loss (Strauss 24 not out, Before that, there is the have taught me to respect Cook 17 not out)

'We are no chokers'

Cricket

CRICINFO

Dale Steyn is fed up of South Africa's 'chokers' tag, and believes they do not deserve to go in to the 2011 World Cup with doubts over their ability to succeed in crunch games.

South Africa had looked the part in four of the five World Cups they participated in since 1992, before losing in the elimination rounds. They were knocked out in the first round of the 2003 edition at home, on the back of a wrong reading of the Duckworth-Lewis par scores. They have faced similar problems in the first three editions of the World Twenty20 despite going in as pre-tournament favourites on each occasion, yet Steyn felt it was unfair to put undue pressure on the young side, several of whom will be in their first World Cup next year.

"For me, to be labelled as chokers really sucks," Steyn told Reuters. "This team is made up of a lot of young guys who will play for South Africa for a long time. Why are we being called chokers, a lot of us have never been to a World

Cup before.

"I've played in two Twenty20 World Cups but there was hardly a year between them and you could hardly pick yourself up from the last one. It was extremely disappointing what happened in the West Indies [in the 2010 World Twenty20], but we have another opportunity at the end of this season and hopefully we can get this monkey off our back," Steyn said.

The South African player group is currently gearing up for the final lap before the World Cup with a conditioning camp in the High Performance Center at Tuks University. Their upcoming commitments are three ODIs against Zimbabwe, five ODIs and two Tests against Pakistan in Dubai, followed by three Tests and five ODIs at home against India.

"With the World Cup just around the corner, we need to have the perfect side to play in those conditions, players that will fit like a glove," Steyn said. "If you ask me one year from now what was the highlight of the season, whether it's beating India at home in a Test series or the World Cup, let's be honest, we want to bring that trophy back with us."

previous two matches against Simon in straight

serve today," Simon joked about the match that

ended just before 1 a.m. "He wasn't able to hit

winners versus me because the court was a little

Berdych of the Czech Republic beat 16th-seeded

Andrey Golubev of Kazakhstan, 6-3, 5-7, 7-5; and

third-seeded Fernando Verdasco of Spain

advantage of a number of mistakes by his 6-foot-

9 opponent, who had won each of his seven

a little more pressure on your serve," Malisse said

of Isner, who leads the ATP tour in aces. "I just

tried to get the serve back. That's his big weapon.

You take what you can get, and right now I'm just

Malisse overcame 18 aces by Isner and took

"He serves well, and because of that you have

defeated American Ryan Sweeting 6-4, 7-5.

In other matches Thursday, top-seeded Tomas

slow and I was moving well."

previous tiebreaks at this event.

happy to be in another quarterfinal."

"The difference is that I was able to return his

Roddick upset by Simon

Tennis

AP, Washington

Gilles Simon beat second-seeded Andy Roddick 6-3, 6-3 on Thursday night in the third round of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic.

Roddick, a three-time champion of this U.S. Open Series event, came out flat against the 13th-seeded Frenchman in a match that started just before 11 p.m. because of a 4 1/2 -hour weather delay.

Roddick, ranked ninth in the world, was the third highly seeded American to lose over the past two days.

Unseeded Xavier Malisse of Belgium beat fifthseeded John Isner 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (5) on Thursday. Sixth-seeded Sam Querrey lost in straight sets to Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic on Wednesday. "It was just a bad night," Roddick said. "I don't

really have any defense for it. I didn't feel right physically. I didn't feel right mentally. I wish I had answers for you right now, but I just don't.

out before I do that again." Roddick, who was 26-4 through April, has lost five of his last 14 matches on tour. He had won his

players. "(But) I promise you, I'm going to figure this course waiting is not an easy thing."

"I don't know, maybe," Verdasco said. "Of

The weather delay might have affected the

The three doubles matches scheduled for Thursday were pushed to Friday.

Zvonareva stunned

Tennis

AFP, San Diego

California teenager Coco Vandeweghe rallied to upset Wimbledon runner-up Vera Zvonareva 2-6, 7-5, 6-4 Thursday to reach the quarter-finals of the WTA San Diego Open. Qualifier Vandeweghe, ranked 205th in the

world, shook off her poor start to topple the ninthranked Russian, who is seeded third in the hard court event.

Vandeweghe won her second straight main draw match after dropping 13 of her previous 15 careerWTA matches.

Zvonareva appeared to be headed toward an easy victory when she broke Vandeweghe's serve three times in the opening set.

By the time Vandeweghe held serve, she trailed But the 18-year-old from the San Diego area

seemed to gain confidence from the encouragement of the crowd. She and Zvonareva exchanged early breaks in the second set before Vandeweghe gained a deci-

sive break and served out to level the match.

Vandeweghe served for the match at 5-3 in the third, but Zvonareva converted her third break point to trim the lead to 5-4.

But Vandeweghe put away the match in the

next game with a blistering forehand winner on

her first match point. In the quarterfinals she'll face Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova, who defeated Italian Sara Errani 6-1, 6-7 (5/7), 7-5.

Fifth-seeded Italian Flavia Pennetta defeated Maria Kirilenko 6-4, 7-6 (7/5), notching two early breaks to pocket the opening set before falling behind 5-2 in the second.

She responded by winning four straight games, but was broken at love when serving for the match at 6-5. Kirilenko saved one match point at 6-4 in the

tiebreaker before Pennetta was able to close it out. "After the first set, I just relaxed a little bit," Pennetta said. "She was making some mistakes at

the end of the first set so I was thinking she was going to do the same. "But she started to play better and more

aggressive. I was a little too far from the (base)line and I was running too much." Pennetta will face second-seeded Australian

Samantha Stosur in the next round. "I have to rest now and be ready for running

so much," Pennetta said. "When she hits the ball it's really powerful. My return is going to be really important." In another second-round match, Slovakia's

Daniela Hantuchova defeated China's Zheng Iie 6-2, 6-1.



American Coco Vandeweghe hits a backhand return against Russian Vera Zvonareva in the Mercury Insurance Open at La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad on Thursday.