## Shakil claims Rating title

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

FIDE Master Abu Sufian Shakil won the Prime Bank 9th International Rating Chess competition at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hallroom yesterday.

He earned eight points to clinch the title while Monir Hossain became runners-up and Chanchal Kumar Ghosh ended at third place after Monir beat Chanchal in what turned out to be their place-deciding

The prize distribution ceremony will be held today at the National Sports Council conference room at

## Crowd record goes to Gabba

AFP, Brisbane

Cricket Australia confirmed a record attendance for the first Ashes Test between Australia and England, which wrapped up at Brisbane's Gabba ground Monday.

The 164,747 spectators who streamed through the turnstiles for the opening clash of the most hyped series in Ashes history eclipsed the previous Brisbane Test record of 93,143, set during the controversial "Bodyline" series in 1933.

The record was beaten after only three days of the Test, Cricket Australia (CA) said, with 117,322 spectators piling into the Gabba stadium by the end of Saturday.

The old record was set in the era when Tests stretched over six days, rather than the current five-day

"Ashes fever truly gripped Brisbane this week and we've seen history created," Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland

Sutherland also praised the crowd's behaviour after Cricket Australia imposed a security clampdown that some critics said went too far and destroyed the game's atmosphere, effectively silencing England's Barmy Army support

## Sania selected as tennis beauty

PTI, Beijing

The Chinese media has included Sania Mirza among the world's alltime 'Top 10 Tennis Beauties' along with Russian star Maria Sharapova and former player Gabriela Sabatini. Sania figured 10th in the list carried out by the official Xinhua

The Indian star, currently ranked 66 in the world, was shown wearing a traditional Indian dress as well as donning a skimpy tennis attire, a

picture apparently shot during a Grand Slam Championship. The ten who figured in the order: Gabriela Sabatini. Chris Evert. Steffi Graf. Anna Kournikova. Martina Hingis, Daniela Hantuchova, Mary Pierce, Maria

Sharapova, Justine Henin-

### Cta ride

FROM PAGE 17

of the ball, Dhiman has opened his account this season with this knock. His innings ended when he holed out to off-spinner Ali Arman Raian Waseluddin and Sabbir Khan then took over to take make sure that their side reach a total above 300 runs. Wasel scored 34 while Sabbir hit 22 runs. For the visitors, Rajan picked up

three wickets while Arafat Salahuddin and Ishrag Sonnet took two each.

### KHULNA v SYLHET

Experienced opener Sajjadul Hasan batted for four-and-half hours as he held the Khulna innings together. After they lost early wickets, Khulna had Sajjadul and allrounder Manjarul Islam to thank as these two shared a 73-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Sylhet's left-arm spinner Nabil Samad took two wickets but his dismissal of Sajjadul for 75 was vital for his team's cause. Sajjadul, hit 12 fours in his 223-ball salvo.

Maniarul was unbeaten when the day ended on 82 runs, having faced 149-balls. He struck 13 fours in his effort that now is a pivotal factor for both team's fortunes as his dismissal could spark a collapse for Khulna.

Left-armer Enamul Hague and Alok Kapali took a wicket each

## **SCORES IN BRIEF**

**DHAKA:** First innings 194 for six in 90 overs (Javed 18, Uttam 42, Anwar 20, Shamsur 36, Shahriar 13, Marshall 49\*, Riyad 9, Mosharraf 1\*; Shuvo 3-37, Shahjada 1-25, Mushfiqur 1-32,

CHITTAGONG: First innings 303 for nine in 89.4 overs (Tamim 2, Masum 34. Salahuddin 18. Dhiman 85. Ehsanul 12. Faisal 49. Wasel 34. Sabbir 22, Tareq 0, Alamgir 4\* Raian 3-56. Arafat 2-24. Sonnet 2-

73. Hannan 1-46. Hasan 1-24). KHULNA: First innings 237 for five in 92 overs (Shafiul 19. Saiiadul 75. Sahagir 16, Salahuddin 4, Maniarul 82\*, Asad 4, Salim 22\*; Nabil 2-59, Enamul 1-30, Kapali 1-33).



Chittagong wicketkeeper-batsman Dhiman Ghosh drives on the off-side during his knock of 85 against Barisal on the first day of the four-day National Cricket League match on Monday.

# Ponting pretty pleased

Cricket

Ricky Ponting expects Australia's winning form to carry through to this week's second Ashes Test as

England search to resolve their selection issues ahead of Adelaide. England leave chastened by a massive 277-run loss to Ponting's team, succumbing to defeat early on the final day here Monday to put

immediate pressure on Andrew Flintoff's team to hold on to the With just four days to the next Test, Ponting believes the scheduling has worked in Australia's favour

and will look to take a firm grip on the five-Test series with victory in Adelaide from Friday. "It will be terrific for us, having played as well as we have," Ponting

enthused after leading Australia to his 23rd win as skipper in 31 Tests. "There's not much time for

England to go away and do too much to get their game in order, that's the way I'm looking at it. "We'll be right to hit the track

again on Friday and there's a really good feeling around the group having played as well as we have over the last five days so we can continue that and carry it into Adelaide."

While Ponting has the luxury of

which players to leave out of a winning side, if necessary, England will have to think long and hard what to do with mis-firing pace spearhead Steve Harmison.

The Durham giant stuttered from the first ball of the Test when he spectacularly sprayed a wide to second slip.

Harmison claimed just one wicket -- Shane Warne for 17 in the first innings -- in his match analysis of 1-177 off 42.1 overs.

"I think through the game Harmison got better, his spells late on the first day and second day were a lot better and he's completely a rhythm bowler and if he's a little bit out, then the radar is a little bit out," Ponting said.

"I'm sure they will be paying a lot of attention to what he's doing in the lead-up to Adelaide and they'll need him at his best going forward in this

Ponting was also asked at his post-match press conference to justify not enforcing the follow-on after Australia held a massive 445run innings lead.

It was the largest lead an Australian Test side has enjoyed without enforcing the follow-on, surpassing the 380-run margin Bill Woodfull's team had enjoyed when winning against England at The Oval in 1934.

"I felt the bowlers would have been better to have a break at that stage of the game (after bowling a total of 61.1 overs)." Ponting said. "The wicket was only going to get

SPÖRT

REUTERS, Karachi

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) does not see any split in the world game after the removal of Australian Darrell Hair from the International Cricket Council's (ICC) elite panel of umpires.

Syed Ashraful Huq, chief executive of the ACC, told a news conference on Monday he did not see the formation of any official Asian bloc on pressure issues in the ICC after the Hair episode

playing nations got together and developed a consensus to have Hair removed from the elite panel, but it was nothing personal against him, Hua said.

executive board in Mumbai earlier this month when Pakistan lodged an official protest against him following the Oval test incident in August. Hair and fellow umpire Billy

Doctrove had changed the ball and penalised the Pakistanis five runs for against England This led to the Pakistanis refusing

to continue play after tea on the fourth day in protest against the charges. The ICC later cleared captain

day games for bringing the game into disrepute. With Pakistan mounting pressure on the ICC to take action against Hair

alleging he had overstepped his England, the ICC removed him with a majority vote.

Bangladesh discussed Hair's issue verbally and decided this region would be better off without him. Ashraf said.

players had lost confidence in his umpiring and he should not remain on the panel," he added. Ashraf said the ACC did not

expect any backlash from other test-playing nations from Hair's removal.

supported Hair and protested to the ICC while Hair has said he is seeking legal advice on his removal and is in talks with the ICC about his future.

of the game with the focus mainly being on big-hitters Brendan Taylor and Elton Chigumbura.

Apart from India, these two teams were the only ones left from the 10-Test playing nations to have played Twenty20 International matches, with Australia having played the most matches at this

### **TEAMS**

(captain), Aftab Ahmed, Sakib Al

(captain), Tino Mawoyo, Brendan Taylor, Élton Chigumbura, Chamu Sean Williams, Mluleki Nkala

# MPs flay Chappell

## Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India's beleaguered cricket coach Greg Chappell came under fire from the country's politicians on Monday for suggesting they were paid to talk and criticise.

Lawmakers, already incensed at the under-performing cricketers, were further infuriated when Chappell scoffed at their demands he be sacked from the 300.000-dollar-a-"They are entitled to make any

comment they like. That's what they are paid to do in parliament," the former Australian captain was quoted as saying from Cape Town, where India lost the third one-dayer to South Africa by 106 runs on Sunday. The defeat, following the 157-run

loss in the second match in Durban after the first game in Johannesburg was washed out, was India's 10th in their last 12 completed one-dayers. A senior federal minister sug-

gested Chappell must face a privilege

motion in parliament, where he could be reprimanded for his comments. "If members of parliament are willing, a privilege motion can be moved against Chappell," Renuka Choudhary, the federal minister for

women and child development, told a

Communist lawmaker Gurudas Dasgupta said the Australian great "had no business" to make such comments against members of

"Chappell does not understand the nuances of democracy," he said. Lower house speaker Somnath Chatterjee added: "Let nobody lecture us on what the MPs' job is."

Chappell, 58, succeeded New Zealander John Wright as India coach in May 2005 for a two-year term that ends after the World Cup in the Caribbean in March-April.

Niranian Shah, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said last week no discussions had taken place on whether Chappell's contract would be BCCI official Rajeev Shukla, a

member of parliament himself, came to Chappell's rescue, saying politicians were going overboard about what was essentially a sporting "Channell should definitely have

refrained from making an observation about MPs, because they are entitled to speak about the performance of the Indian team." the Press Trust of India quoted Shukla as

"At the same I don't feel he meant to show any kind of disrespect

"I would request MPs also to maintain a little bit of restraint while making comments about players and

"Those who follow cricket have every right to speak, but there are certain MPs who don't know the A-B-C-D of cricket and they are abusing

the players and the coach. Tomorrow, if cricket players get up and start abusing MPs then what will happen?

Chappell said in Cape Town Sunday the onus was on the players to lift their game for the rest of the South African tour, which includes two more one-dayers and three Test

"I am not sure whether there is a solution other than working hard," he was quoted as saying in the Indian

"We have to try and turn things around. It has got to come from the players. They've got to dig deep and find a way to do it.

"Indian batting teams with better credentials have struggled under these conditions before. The ball bouncing between waist and chest is not something that happens regularly

"It takes some adjusting and I don't think we are doing it well at the

The clash came during Pietersen's 153-run fourth-wicket

stand with Paul Collingwood, virtu-

ally the only period England was on

Pietersen said the period of

# Warne, KP still buddies

## Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

England batsman Kevin Pietersen said he bore no grudge with Australia's Shane Warne Monday after the pair clashed during the Ashes opener at the Gabba in Brisbane. Pietersen yelled an obscenity at

Warne after the Australian legspinner hurled the ball at his head during a tense period of play on day four of the first Test Sunday. Pietersen was forced to swat the ball away with his bat.

The confrontation followed criticism that the two players, who are teammates with English county Hampshire, were too friendly for members of opposing Ashes sides.

The 26-year-old right-hander told ABC radio after England lost the Test by 277 runs that the argument with Warne was "just playing nice, hard cricket" and would not affect

last man out, hooking to McGrath off

Australia's huge lead with their

highest successful fourth-innings

run chase in an Ashes Test 332 for 7

for the opening three days here.

445-run innings lead after dismiss-

field on the final day after treatment

overnight for injuries which kept

them off the field during Sunday's

while turning for a run during his 24

minutes of batting early Sunday

while McGrath required a pain-

Team physiotherapist Alex

Kountouris believes the pair will

overcome their problems in time to

Scoreboard on the fifth and final day

of the first Ashes Test between

Australia and England at the Gabba

AUSTRALIA: First innings 602 for 9

killing injection to his left heel.

play in Adelaide

**SCOREBOARD** 

Ponting strained his upper back

Ponting and McGrath took the

England will be looking to

in Melbourne in 1928.

ing the tourists for 157

their off-field relationship "What happens on the field stays

on the field, it's got nothing to do with what happens off the field." South African-born Pietersen said. Australian captain Ricky

Ponting, who was receiving treatment for a strained back at the time of the confrontation, said both fans and players would be relish the prospect of more Warne and Pietersen showdowns during the

"Going on yesterday (Sunday) it looks like it will be an on-going battle," he said. "I wasn't out there amongst it

esterday, it would have been nice to listen in to what was being said, also saw it on television. "They are two very feisty and competitive players, so there's no

lot to Kevin as the series go on. "He (Pietersen) seems like he enjoys the battle as well, so the fans and the players can look to it all

doubt that Shane will be bowling a

#### dominance allowed England to salvage some pride after a desperate performance early in the match. "We needed to go out there in the second innings and show some

top during the match.

dedication," he said. "We started off really badly in the first three days so we had to go at it and show some determination,

some sort of grit and commitment."

He said England would be looking to display similar fighting qualities from the start of the Adelaide Test beginning Friday.

## Kaif's house pelted

PTI, Allahabad

A group of people, claiming to be supporters of the Lok Janshakti Party, on Monday vandalised the house of cricketer Mohammad Kaif after his poor show in the ongoing

one-day series against South Africa. Kaif scored 8 and 10 in the two one-dayers against South Africa who drubbed India in both the matches so far leading to strong criticism back home.

"A number of them tried to storm the house, broke some electric bulbs and plastered the name plate with mud," police said.

"They also raised slogans against BCCI Chief Sharad Pawar for persisting with Greg Chappell as the coach of the Indian team and burnt their effigies," they added.

## Yousuf fires

FROMPAGE 17

16

Earlier, Collymore bowled Hafeez between his bat and pad, while Younis was run out while taking a difficult single off Powell, who hit the stumps on his follow through. Farhat played a rash shot off

Dwayne Bravo after hitting nine Pakistan kept the same side for

the second Test running, keeping an unchanged 11 in the series. The West Indies brought back their vice captain Ramnaresh Sarwan in place of spinner Dave Mohammed from their second Test line-up.

## **SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and the West Indies at the Karachi National Stadium on Monday: **PAKISTAN:** First innings Hafeez b Collymore

47

102

20

18

#### Yousuf Ibw b Collymore Inzamam c Chanderpaul b Malik Ibw b Taylor Razzaq c Ramdin b Bravo Akmal not out Nazir not out Extras: (b-1, lb-6, nb-2) Total: (For 7 wkts in 88 overs) 257 Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-72, 3-112, 4-

Farhat c Ramdin b Bravo

Younis run out

Ganga

178, 5-222, 6-239, 7-248. Taylor Collymore 16 27 20 74 Powell 14 6 33 Bravo

Toss: Pakistan Umpires: Daryl Harper (AUS), Mark Benson (ENG) Television umpire: Riazuddin

0 20

Match referee: Roshan

Mahanama (SRI)

# **England seek to fight**

## Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

England have just three days to come up with some answers after a crushing 277-run loss to Australia in the opening Ashes Test at the Gabba here Monday.

The tourists' grip on the famous urn has been weakened a little after Australia's dominant performance in the first of five Tests, amassing a total of 804 runs in two declarations and bowling the tourists out twice to wrap up victory in Monday's morning session.

Andrew Flintoff's team head to Adelaide for Friday's second match of the contest looking to overcome a number of problems, most pressing the out-of-synch bowling of pace spearhead Steve Harmison.

The giant Durham speedster opened the series with a monstrous wide delivery that skewed to second slip and came away from the Brisbane Test with an unflattering one An in-form Harmison is vital to

England's chances of holding on to the Ashes they took off Australia in last year's unforgettable series in "He's desperate to get into this series, he's desperate to bowl the way we know he can and he's work-

ing towards that. Hopefully, everything will come right for him," Flintoff "I'll sit down with (coach) Duncan Fletcher in the next few days and we'll have a chat (about the selection) and a discussion what our tactics are

Adelaide," he said. Man-of-the-match and Australian captain Ricky Ponting said Harmison was a key player for England in the

"I think through the game

Harmison got better, his spells late on

the first day and second day were a

lot better and he's completely a

once we have a look at the wicket in

rhythm bowler and if he's a little bit out, then the radar is a little bit out." Ponting said.

"I'm sure they will be paying a lot of attention to what he's doing in the lead-up to Adelaide and they'll need him at his best going forward in this series.

Australia needed just 90 minutes on the final morning to snare the five remaining wickets to mop up victory. There are parallels to the last

series when Australia swept to an emphatic 239-win in the first Test at Lord's only to lose the series 2-1. But Ponting, who scored 196 in the first innings, is determined to avoid any "It's up to us really to keep them

under pressure," Ponting said.

"They'll be able to bounce back if we

allow them to, which is probably what happened last time around (at Lord's "If we play the same way as we did in this game, good hard tough Test match cricket, then England should

find it hard to dominate the next "We'll just have to have a good look at what we've done well in this game and make sure we continue it on in the series. You can't afford to take the foot off the accelerator whatsoever.

Flintoff, preferred to Andrew Strauss as Ashes tour skipper in the injury absence of 2005 series leader Michael Vaughan, said England must be pro-active. "We can't mope around. We can't

sit around thinking too much, we've

got to learn from it obviously. There's

still four games to go," he said. "We've been in this position before. 1-0 down in an Ashes series with four to play, and we've got to take the positives out of this game into Adelaide. Australia totally dominated the

first three days, but England gained

some encouragement from a rousing

153-run fourth-wicket stand between

Paul Collingwood and Kevin

Pietersen over two and a half hours

harder to bat on, the weather looked

good going right through the game.

so those cracks that were pretty

predominant on the second day

were only going to get worse.

thought our bowlers could exploit

back out in the field again and

maybe getting some of their bowl-

ers, who looked tired in the first

innings, to bowl again and try and

"I make decisions on behalf of

"That's the way we decided to go

the team and what I think is best to

and we won the game very comfort-

ably so I'm more than happy with the

tions that England were "under-

cooked" for the Gabba Test.

would have been us.

Ponting also ridiculed sugges-

"Well, they couldn't have been

any more than us. We had one first-

class game after the Champions'

Trophy in India, we've only been

back in the country for a week and a

half before the first Test, so if anyone

was going to be under-cooked i

an excuse. From the start of this

game we got the momentum and

they found it hard to get it back in

"I don't think they can use that as

"Also the fact of getting England

those well later in the game.

wear them down.

win a game of cricket.

attack. "Over the past 24 hours we salvaged something from the game. Flintoff said. "The way Pietersen and Collingwood played yesterday (Sunday), that partnership showed what good players they are and took

a bit of pride from the game for us." But it was all a damp squid on Monday as England, needing to show application to bat out the entire day for a draw, unravelled in just 90 minutes, with impressive mediumpacer Stuart Clark finishing with 4-72 off 24.1 overs to finish with seven

England's hopes nosedived in the day's opening over when Pietersen was out on Brett Lee's fourth ball. Pietersen went the same way as Collingwood (96) by getting out within

sight of a century.

with no addition to his overnight 92 scored in 228 minutes with 14 bound-With him went the last remaining recognised batsman and the wickets

Lee, with the second new ball, had

Pietersen out to a poor shot to

Damien Martyn at short mid-wicket,

## Blatter rules

steadily tumbled from there.

FROM PAGE 20 avoid relegation, not for the title

Something is wrong about this.' Again without specifying who he was referring to. Blatter also criticised the increasing trend of foreign investors buying up English clubs.

whole clubs. As long as they are promoting the game in a sensitive way, we are not concerned. "But if they are arriving to take the best out of football, rather than to serve it, again something is wrong because when you have so much

money, it leads to a distortion as far

as the other clubs are concerned."

"England must be a very attractive

league for investors to take over

## Hair splits nothing: Huq

"It is true that the four Asian test-

Hair was removed from the elite panel after the meeting of the ICC

alleged ball-tampering in the test

Inzamamul Haq of the ball-tampering charges but banned him for four one-

authority in awarding the test to "Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and

"We just felt that the Asian

Cricket Australia has strongly

## Old toes

FROM PAGE 17 tailor-made for this newest variation

Inter's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored after just seven

### **BANGLADESH:** Shahariar Nafees

Hasan, Nazmus Sadat, Mohammad Rafique, Farhad Reza, Nadif Chowdhury, Mashrafee Bin Mortaza, Shahadat Hossain, Abdur Razzaq, Mushfiqur Rahim, Tapash Baishya, Mehrab Hossain (Jr.). ZIMBABWE: Prosper Utseya

Chibhabha, Gary Brent, Keith Dabengwa, Ryan Higgins, Anthony Ireland, Blessing Mahwire, Hamilton Masakadza, Stuart Matsikenveri. Christopher Mpofu.

#### Langer 82: Flintoff 4-99) ENGLAND: First innings 157 (Bell England had needed to defy 50, Giles 24; McGrath 6-50, Clark 3-

declared (Ponting 196, Hussey 86,

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 202 for one declared (Langer 100 not out, Ponting 60 not out) ENGLAND: Second innings (293

regroup for Friday's second for 5 overnight) Adelaide Test after being dominated Strauss c Broad (sub) b Clark Cook c Hussey b Warne Man-of-the-match and captain Bell Ibw b Warne Ricky Ponting received criticism Collingwood st Gilchrist b Warne96 from local pundits for not enforcing Pietersen c Martyn b Lee the follow-on after Australia held a

Jones b McGrath

Australia go one up

Giles c Warne b Clark Hoggard c Warne b Clark Harmison c McGrath b Clark Anderson not out Extras: (b-8, lb-10, w-2, nb-11) 31 Total: (All out in 100.1 overs) 370

Flintoff c Langer b Warne

244, 5-271, 6-293, 7-326, 8-346, 9-361, 10-370 Bowler R 22 1 98 Lee McGrath 19 3 53 72 Clark 24.1 Warne 34 124

Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-36, 3-91, 4-

Hussey 0 Result: Australia won by 277 runs and lead series 1-0. Man-of-the-match: Ricky

Inter rule over Palermo FROM PAGE 20 Inter, with 33 points, maintain their unbeaten record and are now four

minutes. Palermo levelled just before the break when Brazilian Amauri caught Inter goalie Julio Cesar by surprise. The leaders quickly gained the upper hand after the break with Adriano breaking through two

defenders to feed Patrick Vieira who

points ahead of Roma with Palermo

a further two points behind with 27.

fired into the net after 61 minutes. Meanwhile, AC Milan skipper Paolo Maldini grabbed the only goal of the game as his side beat Messina 1-0 on Saturday to help ease the pressure on under-fire coach Carlo Ancelotti.

After collecting just one point

from four games, Milan desperately

needed a victory. And Maldini's 13th-minute header from Andrea Pirlo's perfectly-weighted free-kick provided

"These are three important

points which will ease the pressure bit," said Ancelotti.

Ponting.

"The side still needs to grow. We had a few problems in the first half but I'm happy with how we ended the game." Milan went into the game still

weighed down by their eight-point penalty for match-fixing as well as an iniury crisis which has seen goalkeeper Nelson Dida ruled out for at least two months after damaging his left knee in Tuesday's Champions League defeat at AEK Athens. Milan are now in 15th place in the

table but 22 points behind leaders and city rivals Inter-In other Serie A action Sunday,

tailenders Reggina fought back to claim a 2-2 draw against fourthplaced Livorno as Lazio won 3-1 against Ascoli. Chievo collected their first

League win of the season defeating Udinese 2-0. Victor Obinna scored