'Thanks Australia'

Cricket

West Indies captain Brian Lara conceded Friday that world champions Australia had played a key role in the recent improvement in his young cricket team's perfor-

"Playing against Australia has improved our players' performances," said Lara, who arrived amid tight security in the southern Indian city to promote the sport of go-karting.

"We lost both the Test and oneday series against Australia, but we learnt a lot from them. They are a champion side," said Lara, who has scored 8,404 runs with 21 centuries

The young West Indies team achieved the incredible in the fourth and final Test against Australia at Antigua in May when they chased a world record 418 in the fourth innings to win the

The West Indies then won the last three one-dayers against the World Cup champions before losing the seven-match series 4-3.

Lara's new-look side fared better against Sri Lanka, clinching the two-Test series 1-0 last month. "We've a good crop of youngsters in the team," he said

"It's good to have young players around you. They are inexperi-enced, but talented. Our side is

Lara will launch a go-karting event here on Sunday along with Australian Test skipper Steve Waugh and Indian batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar.

All of them endorse the Indian re company MRF on their cricket

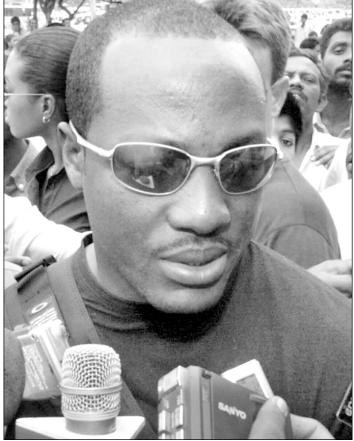
Go-karting, a poor cousin of Formula One, is run on 800 cc engines and has become a craze

Meanwhile, Waugh is already in India on a charity tour of Udayan, a nome for leprosy-afflicted children on the outskirts of eastern city of

The Australian skipper praised his Indian counterpart Saurav Ganguly for taking the team in the right direction with his aggressive

"His (Ganguly's) captaincy has direction and he enjoys his team's respect," Waugh said. "Captaincy calls for tough

decisions and he doesn't go for soft options. Under his captaincy, the boys seem to be enjoying a fight. There's a new toughness in the current Indian side."



West Indies cricket captain Brian Lara talks to the press at Madras airport yesterday. Lara, one of the brand ambassadors of the leading tyre company MRF, came to the Indian city to promote a go-karting race.

FROM PAGE 13 the man-of-the-tournament hav-

ing scored 102 runs and capturing three wickets.

Jugantor Sixes

Rabeed collected the best batsman prize having amassed 99 runs. Ujjal was the best bowler with six

ATN Bangla never came to terms with the asking rate and eventually ended at 65 for 3.

Later, State Minister for Youth and Sports M Fazlur Rahman who witnessed the match gave away the trophies.

State Minister for Youth and Sports M Fazlur Rahman witnessed the day's final as chief guest and later distributed the prizes.

BOA secretary general Zafar Imam, editor of Dainik Jugantor Golam Sarwar, general manager of ATN Bangla Sarkar Firozuddin, marketing development manager of Transcom Beverage Ltd Golam Morshed and former national skippers Minhajul Abedin and Akram Khan were also present.

Sixteen teams took part in the event, organised by the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association and sponsored by Transcom Beverage Limited for the second consecutive year.

Bracewell gets

FROM PAGE 13

on November 1, after their tour of Bracewell said the new job was a

dream come true after a "manic couple of days. He was firm about not going to

India but said it would be tough not being there. "It will be difficult, because now

I feel ownership. Before I didn't, I was detached but I had loyalty because I was a New Zealander,' Bracewell said

"It was a long-term ambition, now it's there I'm going to find that quite tough.

Assistant coach Ashley Ross will take the team on the test and oneday tours of the sub-continent.

Former New Zealand captain Jeff Crowe has stepped down as manager of the national team, with former Auckland Cricket chief executive Lindsay Crocker replac-

Crocker played first-class cricket in New Zealand for Northern Districts and also played professionally in England and South Africa.

35 Invitation

encl.

36"---

CROSSWORD

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victim

31 Speed

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33 Čleric's

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Bonnie

goddess

1 First

Jacques praises Jacques

Cricket

AFP, Manchester

Jacques Kallis was full of praise for Jacques Rudolph's innings in South Africa's seven-wicket triangular series day/night one-day international win over England at Old Trafford here Thursday.

Kallis was 82 not out and Rudolph 71 not out at the finish, the pair sharing an unbroken stand of 145 that saw the Proteas home with 15 balls to spare as they over-hauled England's 223 for seven.

The result meant South Africa led the table by a point from England having played one game

Rudolph effectively ended 27vear-old Kallis' bid to become only the fourth player in history to make hundreds in three successive oneday internationals.

Not that Kallis was complainng. "I was very impressed by the way he handled it," said the allrounder of the 22-year-old

FROM PAGE 13

V Solanki c Boucher b Ntini

A McGrath st Boucher b Boje

A Flintoff c Smith b Kallis

C Read not out

A Giles not out

R Johnson b Ntini

162, 6-162, 7-176

Bowler

Pollock

Ntini

Boje

By Eugene Sheffer

DOWN

1 Expert 2 Physique

Jaarsveld

Langeveldt

SOUTH AFRICA

GSmith b Anderson

21 Place of

22 Put

worship?

J Troughton c Gibbs b Ntini

Extras: (b-4, lb-10, w-10, nb-3)

Did not bat: D Gough, J Anderson

Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 223

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-7, 3-121, 4-140, 5-

10

5 1 18

M Vaughan c Boucher b Pollock

Kallis, Rudolph

52

30

10

27

O M R W

4 21

0 43

0 25

22

8 0 38

0 46

1 18 H Gibbs run out

A Hall b Flintoff

J Kallis not out

Bowler

Gough

Flintoff

Johnson

Vaughan

Anderson

J Rudolph not out

Extras: (lb-11, w-9, nb-2)

Total: (For 3 wkts in 47.3 overs) 227

Did not bat: M Boucher, S Pollock, M van Jaarsveld, N Boje, C Langeveldt, M

O M

10

9.3

Result: South Africa won by seven

7 0 37

0 30

5 0 27

0 38

0 51

33

Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-37, 3-82

"He is very calm and that does not always come naturally to a youngster. He's got maturity above

Kallis, who made 107 in the six wicket defeat by England at The Oval on Saturday and followed that up 24 hours later with an unbeaten 25 in the 46-run win over Zimbabwe at Canterbury, was left with a tournament average of 314. Another hundred here would

well as South Africa team-mate Herschelle Gibbs as the only men to make three successive one-day Kallis said: "It would have been a nice thing to do. But I'm happy with 82. Sometimes 10 off five balls

have seen him join Pakistan duo Zaheer Abbas and Saeed Anwar as

is just as important if you win as hundred." South Africa captain Graeme Smith cut in: "He (Rudolph) is keeping him (Kallis) hungry."

Smith said of his team's run-chase: "I couldn't believe the calmness with which we dealt with it. We said we wanted a hundred partnership. When it's your day you must take responsibility. The

two Jacques took responsibility.

But he also said former captain Shaun Pollock's four successive maidens at the start of England's innings had been vital too. "Polly was unbelievable. It definitely makes a difference. It puts a lot of pressure on the other side, especially when you take a wicket.

Pollock finished with miserly figures of one for 21 in 10 overs.

England captain Michael Vaughan did his best to take a level-headed approach to defeat. "We're an inexperienced side. We've had some great days and bad days and I'm sure we'll have more.

England were without Marcus Trescothick for most of South Africa's innings after the in-form left-handed batsman injured his

"Trescothick injured his knee while batting," Vaughan explained after the Somerset star had accidentally hit himself. "It stiffened up in the slips during the first 15 overs and he went off just as a precau-

Ton eludes

Extras: (lb-3, w-1, nb-8) 12 Total: (For 7 wkts decin 79 overs) 232 Did not bat: Tareq Aziz, Anwar Hossain, Fall of wkts: 1-27, 2-173, 3-177, 4-177, 5-Bowler

Magoffin 17 5 44 14 1 75 Duval 7 40 18 Nve Worthington 15 5 26 10 2 39 3 CBCA: Second innings

Meuleman cTareq bMashrafee 29 WilliamscHannan bMashrafee 3 Worthington b Tareq Ronchilbwh Rafique Ferguson not out

O M

7 2 15 0

6 1 19 2

6 3 7 1

0 14 0

0

7 1 33

0

22

4

Total: (For 4 wkts in 31 overs) 99 Man-of-the-match: I Kallis. Umpires: Billy Bowden (NZL) and Neil Mallender (ENG) To bat: S Magoffin, M Cleary, C Duval, M Fallofwkts: 1-14, 2-41, 3-45, 4-72.

Extras: (lb-4)

Anwar

Tareq

Rafique

Kapali

Mashrafee

82

71

22

TV umpire: Peter Willey (ENG) Match referee: Clive Lloyd (WIS) Toss: England

Ashraful

BUSXMR OUUM WU OWHRY: SDOXBHK HQUDW

ODFFYHKXOW HFW, WU

THIEF MADE AWAY WITH THE LUTE. Today's Crýptoquip Clue: U equals O The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM

AFP, London

The London district of Barnes is to get its 'old' pub back after calling last orders to thirsty customers at the Henman Arms.

Tim Henman's exit from Wimbledon means the drinking hole named after him will go back to its old name of the Sun Inn.

WOODY HAS A SIX PACK

Australian doubles specialist Tod Woodbridge will have his work cut out if he wants to land the Wimbledon title this year. Rain in the second week has led to a serious backlog of matches - and he may have to play six times before Sunday is out

The 32-year-old is into the mixed doubles third round alongside Svelana Kuznetsova - but Woodbridge also had to wait for men's doubles partner Jonas Bjorkman to go out of the singles to Andy Roddick in the quarterfinals. To win both the doubles crowns he now has to work overtime.

WASHING DOWN THEIR SORROWS

British tennis fans were left to wash away their sorrows after Tim Henman's exit to Sebastien Grosjean by finishing off some of the 90,000 pints of beer and 80,000 half pints of Pimms on offer at tournament bars across the fort-

Going into the final weekend, fans have also chomped through an estimated 25,000 kilos of strawberries at two pounds (three dollars) a punnet.

Scuds his way

major threat and finally ended his Wimbledon last eight hoodoo by seeing off German Alexander Popp in a marathon five-setter to make his first semi after quarterfinal exits in 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Grosjean aced his way out of trouble to hold for 3-4 but then blasted wide on set point in his next service game and slumped into his The third set went with serve to

3-3 before Grosjean eked out only his second break point of the entire His opponent promptly aced away the danger and held before

romping through the final two Whereas Grosjean made the final, Philippoussis ironically was a first-round loser at Queen's Club proving that warm-up form means

A family reunion

little when a player has years of

frustration to put behind him.

FROM PAGE 13

ousting Clijsters 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, recovering from a set and a break down in a rain-interrupted encounter.

Serena says having Venus breathing down her neck is all the motivation she needs.

"When I see her playing so well I want to do better -- I realize that I really want to stay on top.

"But I'll definitely have to up my game. You can never stay on the same level," said Serena, who admitted both sisters were glad their doubles campaign was already behind them following defeat to Russian 15th seeds Elena Dementieva and Lina Krasnoroutskaya.

Venus had looked the less likely finalist after a poor French Open campaign and various fitness

But she has looked in excellent form to date here winning 82 percent of points at the net while serving 31 aces.

She now has to turn the tables on Serena and end her sister's recent dominance in Slam finals. "All four times it was at least

For Venus, the fact that it will once again be Serena on the other side of the net looking to end her dream of a Wimbledon hattrick is immaterial.

"Really I don't see my opponent across the net. I just see the ball. I can only control what I'm doing on



State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman handing over Pepsi Media Cup's Best Batsman's award to Jugantar's guest player Rabeed Imam after the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Follow him

Cricket

AFP, Cardiff

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak said Friday his side could learn from the example of in-form South Africa batsman Jacques Kallis.

South Africa and Zimbabwe face each other in a triangular series one-day international here on Saturday with Kallis, who knows Cardiff's Sophia Gardens ground well from his time with Glamorgan, in supreme form.

Kallis currently has a tournament average of 314 after his unbeaten 82 guided South Africa to a seven-wicket win over England at Old Trafford on Thursday. "He doesn't give his wicket

away, he's tight and he scores runs all round the wicket," fast bowler Streak said of Kallis. "He's accumulated and timed his innings really well. What he's done, he's accumulated, he's got to a certain stage, then freed the arms without taking too many risks early on," added Streak at Sophia

Gardens on Friday. "He's a good example to batters. He gets in and he stays in and that's what you need to win games.

But Streak said Grant Flower, who made an unbeaten 96 in Zimbabwe's four-wicket win over

England at Trent Bridge on June 26, had it in him to play another match-winning innings.

"He didn't get off to a flyer but once he was in and got the pace of the wicket, converted, gave himself a chance and that's what you need your batters to do."

Zimbabwe, who have a slight fitness doubt over all-rounder



HEATH STREAK

Andy Blignaut (hamstring), are currently two points behind leaders South Africa and a point shy of England, who have played four games to the African duo's three.

This weekend Zimbabwe, like South Africa last week, must play back-to-back matches, with a fixture against England at Bristol

on Sunday

England, by contrast, do not have any back-to-back triangular matches and Streak said: "It's something the ICC (International Cricket Council) have been asked to avoid. From our side, it's just a thing of fairness.

"South Africa and Zimbabwe both have back-to-back games. England don't. We don't have a problem with that as long as all teams have the same schedule.'

But Streak said he was proud of the way Zimbabwe had bounced back after losing both their two Test against England earlier this season by an innings.

"A lot of the people thought that after the Tests we would be a pushover. It was good for the morale of the team that we beat England."

And Streak said his men were not that far away from South Africa. despite a 46-run triangular defeat against the Proteas at Canterbury on Sunday.

"The guys are clever enough to know that if we hadn't dropped Kallis (who made an unbeaten 125) and missed a couple of run-outs it would have been a far closer

"For us it's always a challenge, being the underdogs. We don't have a lot of first-class cricketers. We've got to learn faster than other people and that's just the way

Over and out?

Cricket

Like the player himself, Britain's press was in no doubt Friday that Tim Henman may never have a better chance of winning Wimbledon after being dumped out of this year's competition at the quarter-final stage.

"Extiminated", screamed the punning headline splashed across the back page of The Sun, Britain's most unforgiving tabloid.

"32-minute massacre," headlined an accompanying report of the match, in reference to the time it took France's Sebastien Grosjean to finish off the British number one after the tie had been carried over from the day before due to rain.

The Sun also took a swipe at Henman in its editorial.

"As usual now we know summer's really here. It's raining. And Tim Henman's out of Wimbledon. Some things never change," it said.

The Daily Mail chipped in too. "It was his best chance ever... but this was the moment Tim knew

he may never win Wimbledon,'

said a headline alongside a photo of a thoroughly fed-up Henman.

There was little forgiveness even among some of the broadsheets. "Henman blows last chance",

howled The Guardian -- its Wimbledon correspondent,



TIM HENMAN

Stephen Bierly, writing that the Briton's defeat "emphasised just how much his grass-court game has diminished over the past two years, while those younger than him grow ever stronger."

Only The Daily Telegraph was in forgiving mood.

"Beaten Henman deserves a break," said its headline, the paper arguing that he "should not be blamed if his best is not quite

And with a air of optimism, it had the following front page message for the player's wife: "Cheer up, Lucy, there's always next year," said a headline next to a photo of a pained Mrs Henman.

The paper also had kind words for the French victor. "The truth, though, is that Grosjean's best tennis was better

than Henman's few purple patches," said chief sports writer Paul Hayward. Following his defeat, Henman was asked whether the best chance at landing his home tournament

had been lost. "Maybe," was his curt reply before adding:

"I think my chances are getting less -- but it still won't stop me coming back and trying. If you don't believe in yourself you've got

Navratilova's record attempt thwarted

WIMBLEDON

AFP, London Kim Clijsters of Belgium and Japan's Ai Sugiyama denied 46year-old Martina Navratilova a chance of a 20th Wimbledon title on Friday, beating the veteran and Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia 6-4.

2-6, 6-4 in the women's doubles quarterfinals. Navratilova, nine singles crowns, seven women's doubles and three mixed doubles successes to her name, was playing an astonishing 300th match at the All

England Club since her 1976 debut. She came here hoping to go close. It wasn't a total blowout." level with Billie Jean King, whose 20 crowns are a Wimbledon record. comprising six singles wins, 10

doubles and four mixed triumphs between 1961 and 1979.

But Navratilova, a Czech-born naturalised American, was unable to match an aggressive showing by her rivals on this occasion as Clijsters and Sugiyama moved through to a meeting with American fourth seeds Lindsay Davenport and Lisa Raymond.

That match was due to take place later in the day with rain in the second week having produced a backlog in the doubles schedule.

Clijsters put Sugiyama out of the singles last week but crashed out in the semi-finals on Thursday evening to Venus Williams.

Navratilova and Kuznetsova, ust 18, broke their rivals' serve on four occasions in a close encounter but dropped their own five times in

Saber fears

sport until the year 2006. So the BCB is guaranteed to receive that money. During my term, we never had to stretch our means. Whatever funding you see now is just a outcome of that process we had put in place."

Regarding the High Court's decision to suspend the activities of the Board of Directors, Saber felt that it was having a negative impact.

"When a sports body's activities is determined in the court, it can never have a positive effect. I still feel that the Board of Directors concept is the ideal way to bring professionalism in the BCB. There's no alternative to professionalism in

Squash court for Officers Club soon

UNB, Dhaka

The foundation stone of squash court at the Officers Club was laid

State Minister for Youth and Sports M Fazlur Rahman laid the foundation stone of the court to be constructed by next December at a cost of about Tk 12 lakh at the Bailey Road club premises.

today's reality

"In a recent interview with the BBC, the Board president said that the ability of the present advisors council will be proved by the Bangladesh team's performance on the field. If that is the case, then I'm afraid, the adhoc body of the BCB

has failed. Saber came down hard on the Board's apparent inability to defend Bangladesh's position in interna-

tional cricket. "A lot of people are making poor remarks about the standard of our cricket around the world. I'm surprised that the BCB boss, who attended the International Cricket Council (ICC)'s meeting in England recently, didn't protest the new ICC chief Ehsan Mani's sweeping comments about Bangladesh.

"The Board has also kept silent on statements of some former Australian players that Bangladesh should be relegated or thrown out of Test cricket. It's a shame. The BCB should stand up and make a strong

"Internationally we are being isolated day-by-day. It is also doing a lot of harm for international cricket as Bangladesh was the model for globalization of the game. Now sponsors are shying away too because of the bad publicity and the Board doesn't have the diplomatic skills to overcome the crisis, observed Saber.

Star fail to shine

SPORTS REPORTER

Although title-contenders The Daily Star finished unbeaten that was little consolation as they still made a premature exit from the Bashundhara-DRU football tournament after being held to a goalless draw against Manabzamin at the handball court next to the Bangabandhu National Stadium

which needed a victory in order to move into the quarterfinals, had only one chance to break the deadlock late in the second half but Pinaki Roy's scotching shot crashed on to the post only to return to play. Even the hard-working

In an often scrappy encounter, the leading English daily team

Morshed Ali Khan could not con jure any magic as he had done against Dainik Dinkal earlier. The Bangla tabloid's better difference enabled it to join Ajker

Kagoj and Bhorer Dak in the last

Ajker Kagoj clinched the Group C title with an all-win record beating New Age 1-0 while Bhorer Dak emerged Group H winners after a scoreless draw with Bhorer Kagoj.

Earlier, Dainik Jugantor, Ekushey Television (ETV) and ABAS booked their places in the knockout phase.

Asia Youth Cup

the tournament will qualify for next

year's Youth World Cup to be

staged in Bangladesh in January-February. The event was originally scheduled to be held in Singapore but was relocated after the outbreak of

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in the country. The participating teams are divided in two pools of five teams each with United Arab Emirates, Maldives, Singapore, Nepal and Qatar forming pool "A" while Pool B"comprises of Malaysia, Kuwait,

Bangladesh's Athar Ali Khan is the chairman and tournament director while India's Roger Binny and Rumesh Ratnayake of Sri Lanka will be the members. India's Dr. Vaes Paes heads the

Hong Kong, Oman and Thailand.

medical committee. "We welcome the Indians who

are involved in this competition. It just goes on to show that the relations between the two countries are on the mend, Zakir said.

5 Chicken it my together French 23 Part 3 of 37 Adorable 9 Sort 12 Gabrielle 4 Setting 24 Saharan tyke 38 Śquander Chanel 26 Coaster 13 "The 40 Alum speare's 27 Has the King 42 Ms. 28 Lyricist's 14 Great MacGraw 6 First ltr. 43 End of 7 Conductor subject, Lake canals 15 Start 8 Dressing 29 Catch 48 Egg-yung sight of 31 Filled of an ingredient 9 Part 2 of 49 Historic Aristotle periods quote 17 Seesaw 50 Hollywood 10 Actor Rob the 11 R&B's -details clashers quorum 18 Help a 51 X rating & the 34 Summer hood 52 Socialis hrs. in 19 Lucy's pal 16 Copper NYC labor **CRYPTOQUIP** 21 More than leader 35 Steering sufficient 20 Bather's Eugene 24 Chills and 53 Dowels 37 West fever Coast st 25 Com-Solution time: 25 mins. 38 Float muter's expense 26 Popular 39 Shaving cream additive board "ZYKKU game 30 Fuss Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE LOCAL MUSIC STORE WAS ROBBED. UNFORTUNATELY THE 41 Colonía

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