# SPORT

### TT qualifiers from today

UNB, Dhaka

The zonal phase of the AB Bank 29th National Table Tennis Championships will start today in Rajshahi.

About 39 teams including 38 DSAs and Jahangirnagar University will compete in four zonal qualifiers. The top three men's and boys' teams from each zone will qualify

for the final round. However, nine women's DSA teams, Bangladesh Biman and Bangladesh Ansar will directly play in the final round.

### BCCI will think over Warne's offer later

PTI, Mumbai

Indian Premier League title-winning Rajasthan Royals skipper Shane Warne might have offered his services to mentor the country's spin bowlers but the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) feels it's too early to give a thought to the leg spin legend's proposal.

"It's too early to even think about this when we are yet to come out of the hangover of IPL," said BCCI sources when approached for their reaction to Warne's line of thinking.

On Saturday, the day after brushing aside the challenge of Delhi Daredevils, Warne told mediapersons here that he would like to return to India to guide the emerging and young slow bowlers.

"I could come back as a spin bowling mentor for young spinners, Warne had said when asked if he would like to come back to India in a coaching position.

The spin wizard, who has claimed 708 wickets in Tests and 293 in ODIs, also rated Kings XI Punjab leggie Piyush Chawla, Delhi Daredevils' Amit Mishra and teammates Yusuf Pathan and Ravindra Jadeja as bright prospects and said there was a lot of young talent available.

# Pacy Pakistan

Pakistan will play Bangladesh in the opening match on June 8 and then come face to face with archrivals India two days later. Indiameet Bangladesh on June 12.

SQUAD

FROM PAGE 17

final Test.

half-century.

Shoaib Malik (captain), Salman Butt, Nasir Jamshed, Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Misbahul Haq, Shahid Afridi, Kamran Akmal, Mohammad Asif, Sohail Tanveer, Umar Gul, Rao Iftikhar, Wahab Riaz, Fawad Alam, Bazid Khan, Naumanullah Khan.

forward, and was caught at slip off

Stuart MacGill, who announced

earlier in the day this would be his

have things all their way, and

Chanderpaul also used the time to

steadily progress to another Test

he nudged a delivery from Mitchell

Johnson into square leg for a single,

close, alongside Dwayne Bravo,

The visitors saw the pair add 73 -

The Aussies however, did not



Ajax goalkeeper Imran (bottom) tries in vain to stop Sonali Bank forward Krishna Kumar's (L) third goal during their Green Delta Premier Hockey Super League match at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

# Door opens for Warne?

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

The sudden retirement of Australian leg-spinner Stuart MacGill over the weekend could see bowling great Shane Warne come out of international retirement, cricket commentators said

MacGill called quits on his 44-Test career Sunday midway through the second Test against the West Indies in Antigua after admitting that at 37 he was no longer up to the rigours of international

The veteran, who spent much of his playing career in Warne's considerable shadow, only made the Australian tour of the Caribbean after overcoming serious knee and wrist injuries.

Only last month Warne, who retired from international cricket following the fifth Test against England in Sydney in January 2007 with a then world record 708 Test wickets, raised the prospect of playing again for Australia.

Warne, a year older than MacGill at 38, reportedly said: "If Australia really needed me and there was no-one else around, and (captain) Ricky Ponting thought I

Elements hold up Aussies

could do the job, you would weigh

"If Stuey MacGill fell over and broke his leg, and there were no other spinners around, and Ricky came out and said, 'Mate, can you please help us out for this one-off life." tour? We need you', that is something I would weigh up."

Former Australian leg-spinner and radio commentator Kerry O'Keefe said Warne, who has been playing in the domestic Indian league, could well make a shock international return.

"He definitely could come back," O'Keefe said Monday. "I think it's now going to be a possibility if he has a desire to do it.

"Obviously, he has to come back and play first-class cricket... and whether or not the grind of Test cricket as a player, and not a captain, is as attractive for him, we're going ' frontline spinner but, just eight to find out I guess, because this will generate a lot of interest now.

"I think Warney would be worth a phone call, just asking 'what's doing Shane?"

Warne has admitted he misses playing international cricket and said that he would be up to the task of returning to the top level if called

"If I wanted to keep playing I don't think there would be an issue with me being the No.1 spinner and

performing," Warne told an Australian newspaper last month.

"I would still love to be playing international cricket, and miss it because I devoted 20 years to firstclass cricket. It is a big part of my

Australian selectors now have to decide who will be the team's firstchoice spinner for Australia's four-Test tour of India in October following the retirements of MacGill and Brad Hogg.

MacGill said he will play out the current Antigua Test, with young left-arm spinner Beau Casson likely to make his debut in the third and final Test starting in Barbados next week.

Australian selectors had hoped MacGill could provide a bridge between the retirement of Warne and the emergence of a new Tests into the post-Warne era, no obvious heir apparent has appeared

MacGill said the fear of not playing his best cricket was at the back of his retirement decision.

"Unfortunately, now my time is up. As I said many times last summer, there is no way I will ever walk onto a cricket field unless I can guarantee that I can dismiss top order batsmen consistently, MacGill said.

# Arambagh sign four

SPORTS REPORTER

Arambagh signed four more footballers for the second B. League, due to start in September this year, yesterday at the BFF Bhaban.

They confirmed contracts with their own players Serajul Karim, Moloy Barman and Tabith Awwal and roped in Farashganj midfielder Khalid Hossain for one year.

The first team to sign players during the May 15-June 20 transfers for the professional football league, they had recruited Akram Hossain, Piaruzzaman Piru and Farhad Hossain last month.

#### Different right

FROM PAGE 17 notice that apart from the fact that I wasn't bowling as I would have liked, things weren't working the way they are supposed to work," he said.

MacGill, a wine buff and prolific novel reader, defended his right to be different in a sporting culture that often encourages uniformity.

"It is a team sport and some people are still of the opinion that all cricketers should be the same. I will argue till I am blue in the face, not just for my own sake but for the sake of all young cricketers coming through who are a bit different, 'who am I to tell you what sort of music you should listen to?'

"If you like a glass of red rather than an icy cold beer, good on you. It doesn't matter, so long as you step across the line and make a contribution and don't get in the way of anyone else," he said.

The frankness was typical of a man who, whether it be refusing to tour Zimbabwe or speaking his mind about former coach John Buchanan's methods, was not prepared to let the need for team spirit suppress his individual character.

"I say the first thing that pops into my head, not always the smartest thing to do but I am pretty open, people generally know when I am unhappy with them," he said.

MacGill spent most of his career in the shadow of fellow leg-spinner Shane Warne, who retired last year, but still took wickets at an impressive rate when the chance came along, picking up 207 victims in 43 Tests before the current one.

When Warne was banned for using illegal substances in 2003-04, MacGill showed his quality by taking an impressive 53 wickets in 11 Tests.

In another era, MacGill would have been first-choice spinner and played many more Tests but he does not regret playing at the same time as the most successful leg-spinner of all time.

"I regret the fact that I am not playing on but part of my retirement is to do with the pleasure I have derived from my achievements," he said.

"I am proud of myself and I don't want to play any longer because I don't want to take the shine off it. I have a lot of good memories, I'd hate to chuck in another bad one."

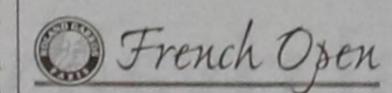
#### A Dhoni run

owners showed any interest in the Aussie colt, who was simply overlooked in the first two rounds of bid ding before Kings XI Punjab coach Tom Moody roped him in just nine

Marsh, however, can still draw some solace from the fact that his sterling show in the Twenty20 event at least won him an ODI recall in the Australian team.

Marsh in the run-getters' chart with an average of 41.07 and the lefthander proved a good buy for the Delhi Daredevils, who had coughed up 2.9 crore rupees for him.

# Contrasting challenges for Serbian duo



AFP, Paris

It will be contrasting challenges for Serbian pair Ana Ivanovic and Jelena Jankovic in the first two of the women's French Open quarter finals on Tuesday.

Third seed Jankovic takes on teenage Spanish qualifier Carla Suarez Navarro, playing in her first Grand Slam tournament, while second seed Ivanovic goes up against Swiss veteran Patty Schnyder playing in her 48th.

Schnyder holds a 4-3 winning record against Ivanovic, but the 20year-old from Belgrade has taken the last three and will start a strong favourite, a sentiment shared by Schnyder.

"Yeah, she's tough. I think the big favourite after (Justine) Henin

Ivanovic showed she is back to top form with a 6-0, 6-0 thumping of Petra Cetkovska in the fourth round, but she was refusing to see too far ahead to where a first Grand Slam beckons.

"That's one thing I don't want to think about, because obviously I feel great, all these matches I played, and I feel very confident going into my next round," she said.

"But I don't want to think too much. What if I win or am I going to play good next match and even win that? So I just basically want to take it match by match."

Ivanovic undoubtedly has the power to outgun the 29-year-old Schnyder, and only a repeat of the bout of nerves she showed in losing in straight sets to Henin in last

year's final looks likely to derail her. Apart from knowing nothing about her 19-year-old opponent, Jankovic is worried by a painful way she plays she's just maybe the right arm and shoulder that has seen her forced to wear a support the but there must remain a ques-

ment during games.

It struck again during her drawn out fourth round win over Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland and the 23-year-old, who like Ivanovic hails from Belgrade, was despairing.

"I wish I didn't have any injuries," she complained. "I wish I was healthier and could enjoy my games.

"It's like the whole thing is hurting me. It started low down and now it's going up. It's like a chain and I don't know what I have to do. I will see the physios and I will try to do my best to recover."

Suarez Navarro, who has upset Amelie Mauresmo and Flavia Pennetta on her way into the last eight, said she had nothing to lose and was just enjoying the ride.

"I like the atmosphere here. You feel that the crowd loves tennis," the Canary Islander said.

Jankovic will start a huge favourbrace here and seek medical treat- tion mark over that arm injury.

# Carter clinches 100m at Golden League

**Athletics** 

AFP, Berlin

Nesta Carter put the finishing touch on a great day for Jamaican sprinting when he won the men's 100m at the Golden League meeting here on Sunday.

His time of 10.08sec was way outside Usain Bolt's new world record of 9.72sec set in New York on Saturday night, but he claimed he would put in a spirited challenge for a bronze medal at the Beijing Olympics behind Asafa Powell and Bolt.

Carter said after his win at the Olympic stadium that Jamaican sprinting had been put on the map this weekend. "It has been a big day for Jamaica when Usain Bolt got the world record. I also contributed to it with this win.

"I think third spot after Asafa Powell and Usain Bolt is open for the Olympic Games at 100 metres and I want that place.

And on his victory, where he beat out Kim Collins of St Kitts and Nevis (10.12) and American Ivory Williams (10.13) into second and third spot, Carter said: "It was a pretty good start, but I was not expecting a win today."

Bolt had clocked a world record of 9.72sec to electrify the Reebok Grand Prix athletics meeting in New York.

The 21-year-old broke the previous record of 9.74 set by compatriot Asafa Powell in Rieti, Italy, on September 9, 2007.

With a favorable wind of 1.7m/sec, Bolt finished ahead of 100m and 200m World Champion Tyson Gay of the United States (9.85) and American Darvis Patton (10.07).

On a night when thunderstorms and the threat of lightning forced a 45 minute disruption to the action - and that after the start of the meet was delayed for an hour - Bolt delivered the real jolt of the night. The 1.95m tall Jamaican imme-

diately became the man to beat as the athletics season builds toward the Beijing Olympics in August, with Gay, Powell and the rest of the world's sprinters relegated to the role of challengers.

"This world record doesn't mean a thing unless I get the Olympic gold medal, or win at the World Championships," he

# Regional rivalry

FROM PAGE 17

India, under British coach Bob Houghton, have a great match winner in Baichung Bhutia who have three championship medals in the regional football extravaganza. It will be the veteran striker's fourth appearance after missing the show in Dhaka due to injury, the only time India failed to make the final.

The favourites, highest ranked team in the tournament with a FIFA ranking of 151, have retained most of their senior players and played preparation matches in Portugal. Although seasoned goalkeeper

Sandip Nandi has been left out due to injury, India have members of the 2005 champion team like Mahesh Gawli, Deepak Mondal, NS Manju, Anwar, Sameer Naik, Steven Dias, Climax Lawrence, NP Pradeep, Mehrajuddin, Renedy Singh and rising star Sunil Chetri.

Bangladesh, finalists in three consecutive championships, left home without much conviction and Abu Yusuf, the only local coach to have led the side into a SAFF Championship, faces a tough task.

Looking for their first international victory in two years, the SAFF runners-up whose current ranking is a low 180 have a great chance to make a winning start though as they face Khare Bahadur Basnet's minnows Bhutan (FIFA ranking 187) -- a team of unknown quality - before taking on the meet's lowest ranked side Afghanistan (ranking

Double amputee South African athlete Oscar Pistorius, who aims to compete against able-bodied athletes at the Beijing Olympics, runs during a training session on the track of the Dutch city Emmeloord on Sunday.

#### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 36 Odometer 58 Sponsor- 20 Pantheon figures 21 Untalkative one 22 Kachina worship-23 TNT, for instance 27 Unopened 29 Poi base 30 Shadowbox, 0.9. 45 46 Andrea 37 Roman dramatist 39 Bit roles 45 Part of TLC 46 From

## **CRYPTOQUIP**

51 52 53

WJDIIRW VBCCRYX DWLTUII DYC FUT RYWTRZRYDLRYX ZRIIROU

Saturday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I GOT INK STAINS ON MY SMALL OUTDOOR GRILL, DOES THAT MAKE IT A BLOTCHY HIBACHI?

# The death of the ODI?

DILEEP PREMACHANDRAN

who was not out on 29.



ironic that its success might lead to the eventual extinction of the pajama cricket that was the cornerabout fair pay, improved TV covercame expecting to be entertained.

gladiatorial fast bowlers and the strokeplayers that could take them advertised its players as warriors. bouncer, people knew that the World Series wasn't some hit-andgiggle enterprise. The IPL had a his blueprint, adapted it to an lack of imagination of those that Indian context, and threw in a dash administer the game that the 50of Bollywood for good measure.

off MacGill. Australia lead the three-Test

Kingston, Jamaica. He reached the landmark, when the last 14 Tests they have contested against West Indies and need only a draw to secure their hold on the Frank Worrell Trophy -- symbol and was unbeaten on 55 at the

The Aussies have not lost a Test Marshall lbwb Clarke

with Bravo delighting the crowd with two huge sixes over long-on SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the third

series 1-0, after they completed a 95-run victory in the opening Test last Monday at Sabina Park in Australia have now won 13 of

of Test supremacy against West

series in the Caribbean since 1991. - unbroken -- for the fifth wicket The third and final Test between the two sides starts on June 12 at Kensington Oval in Barbados.

> day of the second Test between West Indies and Australia at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground in Antigua on Sunday: AUSTRALIA: First innings 479 for

seven declared (Katich 113, Clarke WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 125 for three)

Smith c Symonds b Johnson

Sarwan c Clarke b MacGill Morton c Katich b Clarke Chanderpaul not out Bravo not out

Powell, Edwards. Fall of wickets: 1-55, 2-103, 3-105,

4-182.				
Bowler	0	M	R	V
Lee	15	5	48	
Johnson	28	6	98	
Clark	14	0	39	

Clarke

Symonds

## Extras: (b-9, lb-13, w-2, nb-11) 35 Total: (For 4 wkts in 71 overs) 255 To bat: Ramdin, Sammy, Taylor,

1 82 MacGill

# FROM PAGE 17

days before the IPL got underway.

Gautam Gambhir (534) trails



from World Series Cricket, it's quite unlikely to shed a tear. stone of the Packer revolution. As for Test cricket. Nothing could be much as World Series Cricket was further from the truth. The Testage and superior marketing of the one, and it generally consists of sport, it was also about establishing people who have played the game trast, the IPL's head honchos didn't one-day cricket as a distinct entity, at some level, whether that's back behave like stentorian schoolmasplayed in coloured clothes, under garden, park, first-class or interna- ters, and the entertainment packlights, and in front of crowds that tional. More importantly it's a It was razzmatazz with some what Milan Kundera called

substance. Packer's focus was on on. Three decades later, the IPL Test cricket for the crash-bang-When Andy Roberts fractured He or she may go and watch Dumb David Hookes' jaw with a vicious and Dumber, but it's never going to similar moment, when Zaheer identity. In that respect, it's like Khan left Dominic Thornely look- your stereotypical Bollywood ing like a young Mike Tyson had movie with the hackneyed script seen to him. Packer was a pioneer that tries to have something for and an original, and the IPL's copy- everyone and ends up having cats succeeded because they took nothing. It says much about the

This year, after an uninter- since the Packer years. rupted run of 28 years, Cricket

before the plug is pulled. Crowds and television audiences caught in the thrall of the Twenty20 game are with.

It's amusing to hear greats of the past talking of how the IPL's success could have dire consequences cricket constituency is a distinct group of people that appreciates Slowness, those not obsessed with middle-aged women who had

instant gratification. Such fans will never abandon soaps. wallop thrills that Twenty20 offers. replace 400 Blows or In the Mood for Love in his affections.

Sadly, one-day cricket has no over game has evolved so little

Compare that with Lalit Modi. Australia pulled the curtain down You may not like the man or his on its annual one-day tri-series. It's hubris, but he has taken an existing fair to say that its decline had mir- concept, fine-tuned it, and ensured

rored that of the one-day game. that the cricket world will never be After the spectacular success of the the same again. After Sunday When you World Twenty20 in South Africa, night's final, which could have consider how and the inaugural IPL season, the been scripted by Gregory Howard 50-over game is on life support, of Remember the Titans fame, and it may only be a matter of time Modi and the IPL hold all the cards, while the ICC and other boards have next to nothing to bargain

> The last World Cup in the Caribbean was a fiasco, an object lesson in how not to organise an event. Poor crowds, overpriced tickets, a lack of atmosphere and an interminable schedule all combined to make it perhaps the worst of all major competitions. In conage that accompanied the games but even that lasts 16 weeks, and attracted everyone from five-year- then a month of playoffs. The olds with temporary tattoos to decided to forego a staple diet of TV

Where now for the IPL? After what happened on Sunday night, there's little doubt that the second season will be huge. Despite the concerns of the ECB and others, every single one of the world's top players is likely to take part. If they do try to prevent the likes of Kevin Pietersen from playing, they'll only end up being checkmated like the Australian Cricket Board was after Packer's bold gambit. What is likely to happen is this:

both England and Australia, and

perhaps South Africa and Pakistan

too, will endeavour to jazz up their

own Twenty20 events so that they

can at least compare to the IPL. A

Champions League will surely

result from it, because the stupen-

dous response in India has con-

firmed that people are ready to invest both time and money to watch the best play the best, even if it's only over three hours. The franchises, some of whom

might even break even despite the

year, also have a role to play. Manoj

Badale, of the Emerging Media

group that owns the Rajasthan

Royals, reckoned that it would take a couple of years for the club culture to truly take root, but you can rest assured that teams like Rajasthan won't be spending the next ten months idle. The reality is that no league can prosper if it operates only over six weeks. American Football has the shortest season of any major sport,

football (soccer) seasons in

Europe, the NBA in North America

and Major League Baseball all last

much longer, which is why they

become such an integral part of fans' lives. What does the Indian cricket fan do now? Next up is a tri-series in Bangladesh, followed by an Asia Cup that features teams like Hong Kong. It's the classic champagnefollowed-by-flat-beer scenario, and it will be interesting to see what the TV ratings are like. Back when Doordarshan, the national broadcaster, was all we had, everyone watched it. Then, with the onset of cable TV, no one bothered.

The IPL has created a revolu-

tion, especially in the fan demo-

graphic, but has now left town. For

the moment, the talk is of creating a

four-week window, most likely in

April. It's only a band-aid solution.

three-month season where teams play weekend games and the occasional mid-week one as they do in the major football leagues. Those will alternate with Champions League games featuring the top huge amounts invested in the first sides. might be set aside for Test cricket

and other bilateral contests, but

the fact is cricket needs a 50-overs-

a-side game between India and

Hong Kong like it needs a hole in

the head. After watching Glenn

McGrath against Sanath Jayasuriya

and Shane Warne against Sourav Ganguly, why would anyone settle for such mediocrity? It's an opinion that even players share. Stephen Fleming was New Zealand's finest captain, the one who led them to their only major one-day triumph, he ICC Knockout in 2000. "I am worried about the amount of one-day cricket, how much appeal one-day cricket is

calendar.' The response to the first season of World Series Cricket, with the forces of orthodoxy ranged against it, was so lukewarm that a desperate Packer was reduced to counting the cars in the parking lot. No one saw Modi doing anything similar, and the perfectly scripted final has guaranteed that all the franchises will be counting next year are even bigger gate receipts. And if that kills off a terminally sick one-day game,

problem for the international

In the long run we're looking at a this one for Cricinfo website)

A six or eight-month period

going to have with tournaments like this," he said. "I think the

then so be it.

(Dileep Premachandran wrote

#### 15 Took 47 Ostrich's 6 "... or undue to be" cousin 48 Black 7 Partner of 32 Actress advantage of cuckoo Tinker and Hatcher 17 Handheld 49 Dirty Chance 34 Tenor organizer word 8 Tranquil-54 Gun the majority feels that it could cause a (Abbr.) 9 Told how 18 Raggedy or why 19 Loose Gioconda" 10 "Livin' La 42 Courage - Loca" 44 Enthusi-21 Got one's 11 Author Hunter teeth 56 Scarlet into 57 Ram's 16 Legisla-24 Old mate portico Solution time: 24 mins 25 Bagel topper 26 Newcomer to society 28 Tends texts 31 Datebook notation (Abbr.) 33 Massage 35 Break suddenly

times, in 38 Grumpy 59 Past

DOWN

4 Explated

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43 Straight- 3 Recipe

poetry

13 Treasure

14 Twice VII building

4 Moore-

50 Pirate costume feature Gershwin

beginning

brother 52 What couch potatoes do 53 Tokyo's

"LFU ILDTJUL JULLUT."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals S