

The victorious Australian cricket team pose with the Frank Worrell Trophy after they clinched the series 2-0 against West Indies at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Monday.

V'ball camp concludes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A volleyball training program concluded at the Moukhara High School playground in Baraigram upazila of Natore on Tuesday.

The program started on May 15 with thirty students of the school who participated in the training.

Md. Yasin Ali, district sports officer attended the conclusion ceremony as chief guest and distributed the certificates among the participants while Abdullah Al Mamun Ashrafi, assistant secretary of Natore DSA attended the function as special guest.

Md. Abu Zafar, Headmaster of Moukhara High School presided over the function.

Italy into last 8

minutes and with over an hour's

play left here Domenech decided to shore up his defence, taking off Nasri for Jean-Alain Boumsong. Coupet then performed wonders to tip out with his fingers Fabio

Grosso's 25m freekick. Up at the other end Pirlo was

booked for an ugly challenge on Benzema, his second of the competition which rules the AC Milan playmaker out of the quarterfinal with Spain. As news filtered through from

Berne early in the second half that Holland had gone a goal up against Romania a huge cheer went up from the Italian fans.

And on the pitch the Azzurri celebrated that news when de Rossi struck a 30m freekick which flew past Coupet after the ball was diverted on its course by Henry's foot.

Domenech introduced Nicolas Anelka for Govou in a desperate bid to salvage the match.

Then not for the first time in this competition Buffon performed miracles to tip out a Benzema special from the edge of the area which was heading into the top far

The stuffing though had been knocked out of France and Italy were never going to be denied, the resounding win keeping alive their dream of a repeat of their 1968

Dutch make

FROM PAGE 17

predatory instincts by getting in front of his marker to prod past Lobont for his eighth goal in what was only his 13th international

There was a brief flurry of Romanian pressure in the closing

Sreesanth out

FROM PAGE 17

the loss against Chennai Super Kings. He featured in all 15 of Punjab's matches during the IPL, and finished with 19 wickets in the tournament, making him the jointsecond highest wicket-taker with Shane Warne, and three behind

The Asia Cup starts on June 24, and India play their first game against Hong Kong a day later. Sreesanth was included in the original 15-man squad and his place is likely to be taken by Manpreet Gony, who also replaced him for the tristries in Bangladesh.

'Winning matters'

Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

Ricky Ponting admits that Australia are clearly in transition, but he emphasises that they continue to which is very important.

Australia completed an 87-run victory in the third and final Test against West Indies on Monday at Kensington Oval.

victory, were dismissed for 387 in their second innings about :25 minutes before tea on the fifth and final day.

Test because it's not an easy thing to do," Ponting told reporters.

"Winning a Test match is hard work. All the guys at the moment said. are sitting back there in the dressing room exhausted. It has been hard work this whole series, and winning these two Test matches.

"For Brad Haddin and Beau Casson, playing in a winning Test match team and series winning teams for the first time, it will be a step in the right direction for them.

"West Indies is a good place to play cricket, although we have not had the crowd we may have wanted, but all three Tests have been entertaining."

Australia won the three-Test do not think it is hindering me. series 2-0, after they also won the opening Test at Sabina Park in the Jamaica capital of Kingston by 95

The second Test at the Vivian Richards Cricket Ground in the Antigua village of North Sound was

The Aussies have already retained the Frank Worrell Trophy -- symbol of Test supremacy between the two sides -- but they win Test matches and Test series were pushed all the way by West Indies.

This many people is evidence that the era of their dominance of World cricket is ebbing away, following the retirement of several West Indies, chasing 475 for high-profile players, most notably Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath, and Adam Gilchrist

the more exciting periods in my career to have some new, fresh faces around the team," Ponting

"I thought it was going to be exciting, and it has been, it has been great. I have enjoyed it. I have enjoyed having guys making their debuts and guys who have played a handful of Tests in the side because I feel I have a lot to offer to those guys by way of experience and know-how in certain situations in

"If I can go and say one thing to them that is going to help them out in situations in games, I feel that's my job. I am really enjoying it, and I

"I felt as good in this series as I have felt for a long time. . . It's a different time for the team, but we're winning games and this is

something about which I am pretty

Ponting noted that his side learned quite a lot from the series, particularly ahead of their next Test tour to India.

He indicated that some of the conditions in which the series was played were identical to the subcontinent, and it has taught his side the value of patience.

"There are lots of positives there for us, but we're probably not demolishing sides like we might have two years ago, but we are grinding teams down and winning Test matches, and we're doing it

"It's the style of play more than anything else. You have to accept that the game may go into the fifth day and you have to be patient. You have to grind an innings out, or in the middle of a bowling spell, not try to attack too much.

"When you attack too much, runs begin to flow, and the batting team gets momentum in the game, and it starts slipping away from

"That's one area I think we have improved in vastly over the last four or five years, and it's our knowledge about how to play in these types of conditions, we have learnt about how to play in them.

Australia now face West Indies in a Twenty20 International on Friday at the same venue before beginning a five-match One-day International series on Tuesday June 24.

Pawar still BCCI chief

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

and ICC vice-president, can continue as the Indian board's president till his term ends in September as it has emerged that an ICC rule barring dual roles does not apply to a president-elect. Pawar was expected to quit his BCCI job soon after assuming the additional role of president-elect early next month, but officials from both organisations have told involved. Cricinfo the ICC rules do permit

Sharad Pawar, the BCCI president

him to stay on. Under an arrangement reached last year, Pawar was to have quit his BCCI post after David Morgan officially became president at the ICC's annual conference in Dubai,. The BCCI was expected to function under an interim arrangement from June to September, when Shashank Manohar -- the president-elect and a lawyer from Nagpur -- would officially taken over as president.

However, the ICC has clarified that the freeze on holding dual posts currently applies only to the post of president, and does not include the vice-president or president-elect. Sources in the BCCI said they have been informed by officials close to Pawar that he will stay on with the Indian board to "smoothen the transition process", especially with senior officials jostling to secure vantage positions during an expected BCCI reshuffle in September, when the key posts of secretary and treasurer may be re-allotted.

is "nothing in the ICC constitution

that can prevent Pawar from holding both posts at this stage". IS Bindra, the ICC's principal advisor, said the dual-role rule applies only to the job of president. "I see no bar in Pawar taking his time to hand over charge of BCCI," Bindra told Cricinfo. "The ICC constitution says the dual-role rule applies to the job of president and not the vice-president or president-elect."

Ratnakar Shetty, the BCCI's chief administrative officer, said "as far as the BCCI is concerned, Pawar's term ends in September, and there is no other technicality

The ICC had stated in a press release issued on June 27 last year that "(David) Morgan will now be expected to relinquish his role within the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in keeping with the existing policy that the president and the person chosen to succeed him should not represent a member at the same time as holding those offices. Mr Pawar will do likewise with his role within the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in 12 months' time."

It's clear now the rule does not apply to Pawar as president-elect. "As you will remember, David Morgan did not step down as chairman of the ECB immediately after being appointed as ICC's president-elect," an ICC spokesperson said. "He was elected as presidentelect at ICC annual conference in June but Giles Clark only took over as ECB chairman in September."

However, the spokesperson said the issue may be revisited next month during the annual conference which will discuss a recommendation from the governance An ICC spokesperson said there review committee that "a short clause be inserted into the articles

(of the constitution) to specify formally the role of the vicepresident and provide that he should not be permitted to hold any office under, or perform any executive duties for, any cricket authority". Even then, Pawar is unlikely to be affected as the first ICC board meeting he would attend as president-elect is slated for November, nearly two months after his BCCI term ends.

Pakistan gets ICC approval

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan was given a vote of confidence Tuesday by international cricket bosses as it gears up to host the Champions Trophy later this

International Cricket Council (ICC) president Ray Mali said he was confident Pakistan would put on a good tournament as the country had experience of running such events in the past.

The tournament, from September 11-28, involves all the major cricketing powers --Australia, South Africa, India, England, Pakistan, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the West Indies.

Pakistan also host the six-nation Asia Cup involving defending champions Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates from June 24 to July 6. Malí, who arrived with other ICC

officials for Wednesday's launch of the biennial Champions Trophy, said: "The Asia Cup will give Pakistan an opportunity to rehearse for the Champions Trophy."

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will play their third group match today against hosts Singapore in the 3rd Men's AHF Cup Hockey Championship.

Bangladesh have maintained an unbeaten record in the tournament by beating Brunei 6-1 and Chinese Taipei 3-2 in their first two encounters. They will meet Uzbekistan in the last group match tomorrow.

Four top finishers of the nineteam competition will qualify for the 10-team Asia Cup along with India, Pakistan, South Korea, China, Malaysia and Japan, six seeded nations.

PIONEER FOOTBALL

Tongi Krira Chakra rode on Jamal's first-half strike to beat Gazipur XI 1-0 in a North Zone match of the Pioneer Football League at the Mohakhali T&T ground.

Jamal scored the match-winner in the 30th minute.

At the same venue, Kalachandpur XI meet Maghbazar Sabuj Sangha and Khelaghar KS take on Modhubagh Friends Club today. In the West Zone play-off match,

Lalbagh Tarun Sangha will face Manik Smriti Sangha.

WOMEN'S HANDBALL The final round of the Exim Bank 19th National Women's Handball Championship has been deferred by 13 days.

The four-day final round was scheduled to start yesterday but now it will kick off on June 30 at the

Mirpur Indoors. defending champions BJMC, Ansar & VDP and Dhaka will play in the final round along with Rajshahi, Joypurhat, Tangail, Narail, Faridpur, Jessore, Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Chittagong, the nine qualifiers.

BASKETBALLCOURSE

The Olympic Solidarity Basketball Coaches Course concluded at the Mirpur Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium on Tuesday.

International basketball coach Marzan Novobich conducted the 15-day course.

FIRST DIV KABADDI

The First Division Kabaddi League get underway tomorrow at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court. Ten teams, split into two groups,

will compete on a single league and later two group champions will play the final. The champions will be elevated

to the Premier League while the bottom side demoted to the Second Division.

Dhaka Wanderers, Sreezoni Sangsad, Ali Sporting Club, Maniknaagr Kabaddi and Dhalpur Krira Chakra are in Group A while Matuail Milan Smriti Sangsad, Diamond Sporting Club, Dhalpur Satadal Sangsad, Maniknagar Unnyan Samity and Signa Sangha are pitted in group B.

Camp for young athletes soon

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF) will soon arrange a training camp with the potential athletes for higher intensive training.

BAAF general secretary Mosharraf Hossain Shamim said that they would pick some potential athletes from the recently concluded senior and junior meets and would conduct a two-month training program.

He also informed that they have already received donation of Tk 2.5 lakh from National Sports Council (NSC) to meet the cost of the camp.

The date and venue of the camp are yet to be finalised, but the training camp is supposed to be held in BKSP, he added.

Yusuf wants

FROM PAGE 17 August and October this year under

a local expert but a foreign coach could take over in early 2009 for preparation for next year's South Asian Games in Dhaka and the sixth SAFF Championship in India.

Teammates fret

FROM PAGE 17 spearheaded the Pakistani attack in Asif's absence, Lawson said the two needed more time before

rising to Asif's stature. "They are good but I would still love to see Asif back in the side," he stated.

Asif's case is being heard by the Dubai Attorney General and is expected to take another 10 to 12 days before it is decided if the pacer would be charged or released. Lawson said Pakistan's defeat to

India in the tri-series group match was due to the fact that in the last few months Shoaib Malik's men had been playing weak oppositions in Zimbabwe and Bangladesh. "I think switching from the twenty20 format to one-dayers

took some time for the players and

that led to our big defeat," he said.

LOCAL SNIPPETS C'Ron closer to MU exit

Football

AFP, London

Cristiano Ronaldo appears to be edging closer to joining Real Madrid after reports in England on Tuesday claimed the Manchester United winger is ready to demand a transfer after Euro 2008.

Ronaldo has made it clear he would like to sign for the Spanish champions if they meet his wage demands, but United are determined to keep the Portugal winger.

United reported Real to UEFA for trying to unsettle their prize asset but Bernd Schuster's club are still ready to make Ronaldo the highest paid player in the world if he can persuade United to bow to his

That has led to a stand-off him. between the two clubs that Ronaldo

appears set to resolve himself.

He could be set to hand in a transfer request or even refuse to Robinho as part of the deal. report for pre-season training according to the Times, who report that Ronaldo told a source he ugly. "would do everything in his power to persuade United to sell".

The former Sporting Lisbon star is expected to issue a further statement, outlining his intentions as soon as he finishes with Portugal's is to go to Madrid. Euro campaign.

Ronaldo only signed his current 120,000 pounds a week contract with United 16 months ago but he could expect to at least double that Portugal. sum if he switched to the Bernabeu.

claimed earlier this month that he would let Ronaldo rot in the reserves rather than be bullied into selling tion for the future - even if United

He is unlikely to be tempted to to Real."

change his mind by reports that Real are ready to offer Brazil winger

With Ronaldo apparently determined to quit, the saga could turn

The Daiy Mirror reports that a close friend said: "Ronaldo has made his mind up now and feels it is just time to wait before he announces what he will do - which

"The announcement about Cristiano's future will be the next step, but it won't happen until the end of Euro 2008 for him and

"He is determined to be the United boss Sir Alex Ferguson master of his own future. The decision has been made and now it's a case of everybody getting in posiaren't yet ready to sit down and talk

KP a freak: Shah

Cricket

AFP, Chester-le-Street

Owais Shah has no plans to copy the switch-hitting exploits of Kevin Pietersen despite seeing his "freak" of an England teammate strike two sixes batting 'left-handed'.

Pietersen, who twice turned round to middle the stunning blows A total of 12 teams, including | offmedium-pacer Scott Styris during a superb innings of 110 not out in the first one-day international against New Zealand here Sunday, may not have many more chances for such improvisation.

The legitimacy of Pietersen's Kevin to get the right balance between orthodox and very unor-'reverse slog sweep' is to be debated thodox," said Shah, who helped at a meeting of MCC, cricket's law-Pietersen add 73 in just 35 balls in a was." makers, at Lord's on Tuesday.

Critics such as former England captain Michael Atherton say the shot gives batsmen an unfair advantage over bowlers, who must tell the umpire with which hand they will be delivering the ball or risk being

penalised But Shah, whose rapid 49 off 25 balls with three sixes and four fours, helped power England to a total of 307 for five, is unconcerned by issues of cricketing legality.

The talented Middlesex batsman just doesn't fancy his chances of copying Pietersen, who also struck his fair share of conventional boundaries during his first one-day international century in England. "It was a wonderful innings by

"There were some unbelievable shots, but he's just a freak," said Shah, who on Sunday's evidence has

huge margin of 114 runs.

match England went on to win by a

no need to play anyone else's game. "I'll leave that all to him because I don't know if I could do that -- I just try to play with a straight bat."

Pietersen also won support from an unlikely source in New Zealand batsman Daniel Flynn. "I don't see why he should be restricted in playing it so fair play to

him," said the left-hander. "I've tried

hitting right-handed shots myself but I can'thit them as well as that." He added: "I'm left-handed in nearly everything I do -- golf, cricket everything except kicking a ball -- so I appreciate how good a shot that

Olympic torch

Police imposed a security

lockdown as the Olympic torch

Tuesday started its run through

China's mainly Muslim region of

Xinjiang, seen as one of the most.

sensitive legs on its nationwide

Urumqi was largely shut down and

police checkpoints restricted move-

ment throughout the normally

heavy security at the central

People's Square, where Tuesday's

relay kicked off, and anyone enter-

ing had to go through metal detec-

Xinjiang and the Tibetan regions of

China are considered the most

sensitive of the three-month jour-

ney to the Beijing Games in August

because of simmering discontent

leg began with a 12-kilometre (7.5-

mile) relay through Urumqi from

People's Square, regarded as a sym-

bol of Communist power in the city.

The three-day, four-city Xinjiang

The crowd, numbering about

3,000, chanted "Go, China!" and

"Go, Olympics!" as the relay got

underway under sunny skies. Many

had stickers of the Chinese flag on

among local ethnic groups.

The flame's passage through

Police imposed particularly

The centre of the regional capital

relay starts

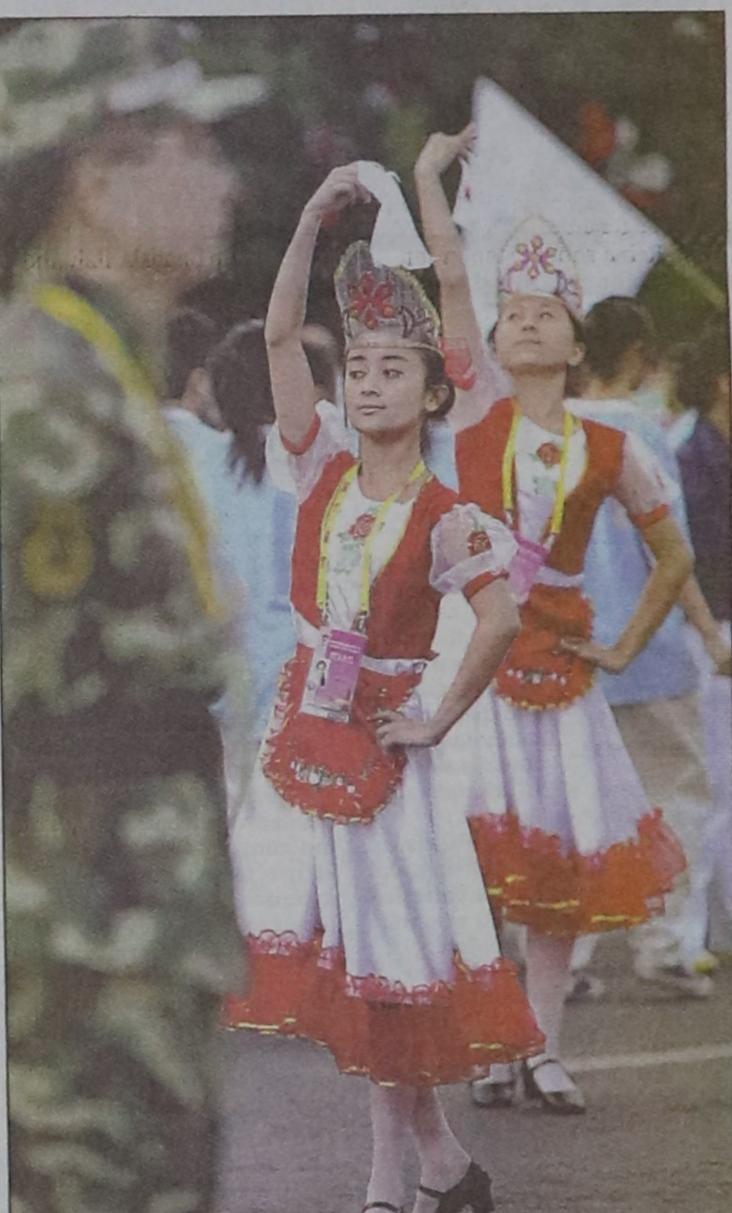
Xinjiang leg

AFP, Urumgi

journey.

bustling city.

tors and bag searches.



their cheeks. They were overwhelmingly Han Chinese, with only a tiny number of Uighurs, the largest ethnic group in

Uighur students perform during Olympic torch relay festivities at the People's Square in Urumqi, capital of China's northwestern Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, yesterday.

23 Weep

25 Exist

27 Noise

29 "CSI"

34 1960s

35 "In

dance

Valley

of -

36 Church

37 Horrify

game

40 Swedish

music

quartet

41 Exam

44 Sand-

wich

cookie

45 Smooch

direction

beverage

48 Beerlike

46 Dawn

39 Steal

perch

5 Fireplace 28 Conclu-

24 Standard

26 Purchase

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

39 Energy

line?

47 Hubbub

voice

52 Not as

53 Jai

55 ABC

much

54 Ordinal

suffix

Island

series

1 Roe

follower

50 Low

43 Rancher

to the

5 Sprite

12 Stash

13 Wire

14 Carry

18 Scroll

20 No

15 Vicinity

locale

liability

21 "- Town"

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30 Rowing

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Grafton

31 Author

32 Hostel

33 Porter's

place

36 Bamboo

ealer

allas

38 Clay

gloomily

23 Offspring DOWN

22 Addams

26 Medi-

16 She's not

8 Carrots'

2 Mario-

part

7 Winter

bug

8 "Alla-

9 Food

stake

17 Brussels-

based

org.

19 Helios

provider 22 Rage

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-8

10 Initial

11 Undo

kazam!"

3 Notion

4 Lea

the region.

the crowds lining the route were also mostly Chinese, many of them young people given a break from their studies, as well as government employees.

Leading away from the square,

27 28 29 evidence 23 24 25 36 37 34 35 44 45 46 40 41 42 52 **CRYPTOQUIP** 42 Santa -.

XOWGXOKK APNHFGN 43 Converse BHZKR WANLVG HZA OKK APG XOAAGNW, FHZKR

COVG PLC TLABPGN-TGNEGBA? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE MATHEMATICIAN HAD A REALLY UNREALISTIC HOPE. I RECKON YOU COULD CALL IT "PI IN THE SKY."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals L

minutes but it was to be van Persie who had the final word. Collecting a cross on the left of the Romanian box, the Arsenal forward held off Contra's challenge and the pace of his shot saw Lobont beaten at his nearpost

Sohail Tanvir's 22.

"I actually said when some of the more senior players moved on that I felt it was going to be one of "I am proud anytime we win a