

Bekele leads the doubles

AFP, Berlin



Ethiopian superstar Kenenisa Bekele and Americans LaShawn Merritt and Sanya Richards won their second gold medals on the final day of the world athletics championships here on Sunday.

Bekele's came in the 5,000 metres as he became the first man to do the 5,000-10,000m double, a feat even his compatriot Haile Gebrselassie failed to achieve the one time he tried in 1993.

Merritt and Richards' second titles came in the men's and women's 400m relays respectively.

There was to be no such joy for Yusuf Saad Kamel of Bahrain who, having taken the 1500m title, failed to repeat his golden performance in the 800m.

That was won by Mbulaeni Mulaudzi which meant the South Africans swept the 800m after Caster Semenya had won the women's equivalent.

Bahrain's Maryam Jamal also completed a double, by defending her 1500 metres title, but only after Spaniard Natalia Rodriguez was disqualified after crossing the line first.

The 30-year-old was adjudged to have pushed Ethiopian Gelete Burka down the back stretch sending her crashing to the ground and on seeing the video replay the Spanish team decided not to protest the decision.

"I saw a space down the inside and then Burka tried to close me out. There was some barging and then she fell. I did nothing wrong," said Rodriguez.

Earlier China had claimed their first ever women's marathon world title when Xue Bai had taken gold and Norway's two-time Olympic champion Andreas Thorkildsen ended his title drought at these championships after two silvers with gold at last.

However, Bekele's was the standout performance in a world class field which included the 2003 champion Eliud Kipchoge, who had beaten both Bekele and Moroccan great Hicham El Guerrouj in the 2003 final, and defending champion Bernard Lagat.

The Ethiopian, who also completed the double at the Beijing Games last summer, failed to shake off the pack with his trademark kick going past the bell for the last lap and had to produce a nail-biting sprint to edge past the Kenyan-born naturalised American Lagat at the line.

Bekele clocked 13min 17.09sec, far off his own world record of 12:37.35, with Lagat claiming silver on 13:17.33 and Qatar's James C'Kurui taking bronze at 0.48sec.

"I'm so happy for my country as I am the first Ethiopian to win this title," said the 27-year-old.

Lagat said that even at 34 he wasn't considering hanging up his spikes.

"You will see me again, for a long long time," said Lagat, who

also lost his 1500m title, where he took bronze.

"I will be getting stronger next year. I am especially looking forward to the 2012 Olympics in London.

"I lost my title, but I am very happy with what I achieved today."

Richards didn't repeat her celebrations after she had won the individual title, but threw down the challenge to the Jamaicans, who won both the 4x100m relays where the Americans failed to make the finals, for two years' time.

"We will be ready for them. They can't have everything," said the Jamaican-born naturalised American.

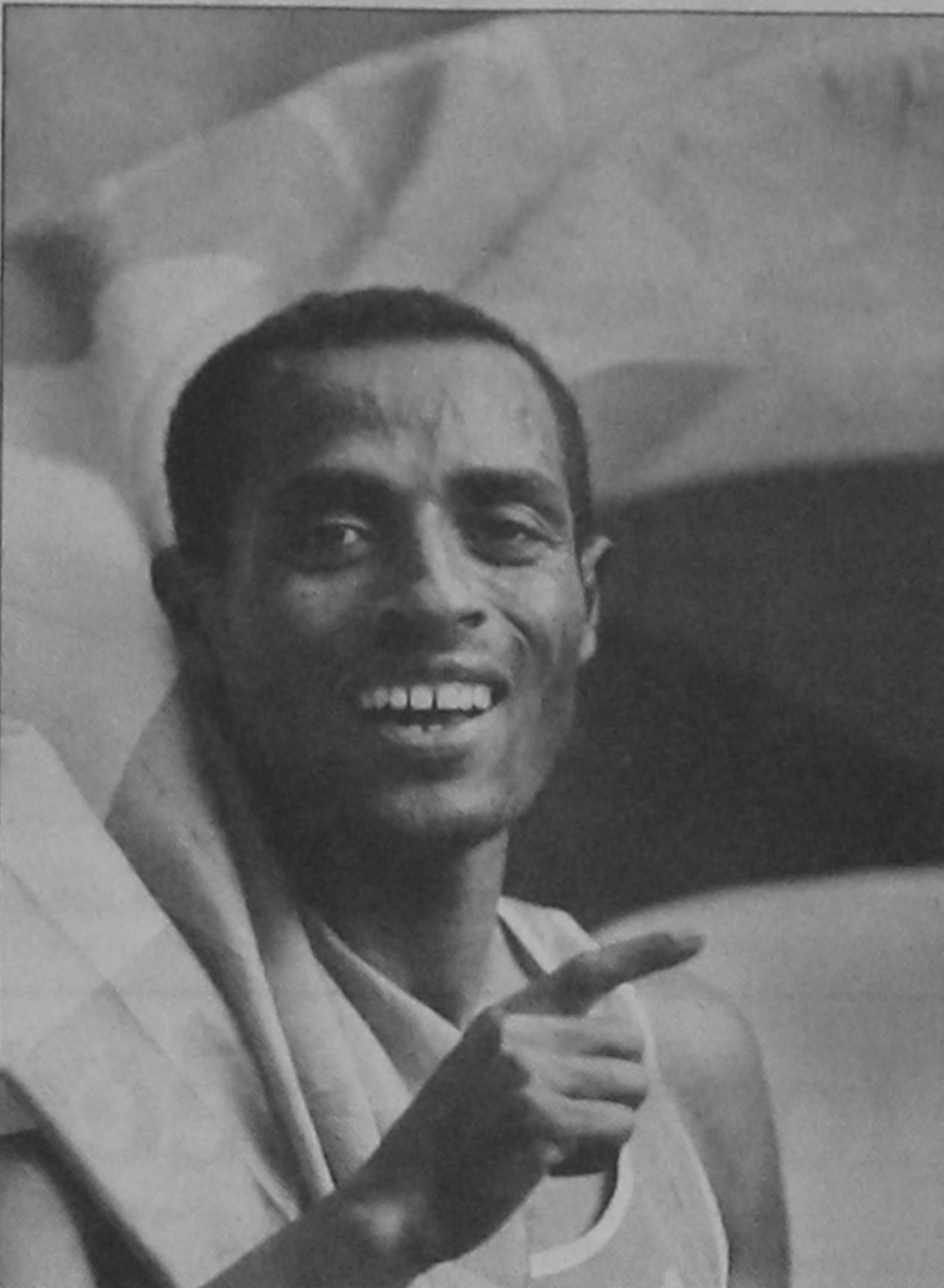


PHOTO: AFP

Ethiopia's Kenenisa Bekele celebrates with his national flag after winning the men's 5000m race at the Athletics World Championships in Berlin on Sunday.

Academy lose series

SPORTS REPORTER

The GP-BCB National Cricket Academy (NCA) suffered a 93-run defeat in the third and final one-day match to lose the series by 1-2 against Standard Bank National Academy of South Africa (SBNA) in Johannesburg on Sunday.

The home team recovered from a 16-run defeat in the first match to secure the series after their 2-0 success in the four-day battle.

SBNA rode on Peter Malan's 113 to score 238 for eight wickets in 50 overs.

In reply, NCA were bundled out for 145 scores.

BRIEF SCORES

SBNA: 238-8 in 50 overs (Peter Malan 113, R Rossouw 33; Tanvir Haider 2-39, Saqlain 2-49). NCA: 145 all out in 36 overs.

Reefat slips to third

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Reefat Bin Sattar slipped to third position at the close of fifth round of the 9th United Insurance & United Leasing Grandmasters Chess Tournament at the National Sports Council Tower Lounge yesterday.

Reefat was joint top with Indian Grand Master Dibyendu Barua at the end of the fourth round, but the local GM went down to the Indian GM, who now enjoy the solo lead in the point table with 4.5 points.

Dibyendu played with white pieces against French Defense and the game continued to Tarrasch variation and he won the game after 33 moves.

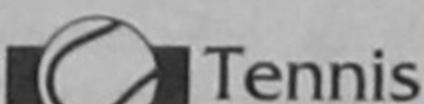
Top rated Georgian GM Mikheil Mchedlishvili beat GM Rustam Khushnudinov of Kazakhstan in the fifth round to stay in the second position with 4 points.

As many as 10 players - GM Enamul Hossain Rajib, GM Reefat Bin Sattar, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag, Hasan Emam, GM Merab Gagunashvili, Igors Rausis of Czech Republic, GM Neelotpal Das, GM Tejas Bakre, IM Atanu Lahiri and Indian Bitan Banerjee --- were sharing the third position with 3.5 points each.

Rajib drew with Neelotpal, Rausis drew with Bakre, Lahiri drew with Gagunashvili, Parag beat FM Abu Sufian Shakil, Hasan beat IM Vishal Sareen, Bitan beat FM Kh. Aminul Islam.

GM Abdullah Al Rakib beat FM Hamid Manish, Praveen Kumar drew with GM Ismagambetov Anuar, FM Minhazuddin Ahmed drew with FM Sahaj Grover, FM Taibur Rahman beat FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon, FM Vinoth Kumar beat Debaraj Chatterjee, FM Mohammad Javed drew with Shrestha Keshav, Golam Moshtafa Bhuiyan beat Karma Pandey, FM Sk. Nasir Ahmed beat Abdullah Al Saif, Aminul Islam Polish beat Tandukar Naveen and Jamal Uddin beat Shrestha Bilam Lal.

Dementieva lifts Rogers Cup



AFP, Toronto

Elena Dementieva won her third singles title of the year, snapping a run of poor showings against Maria Sharapova in an all-Russian showdown at the WTA Rogers Cup on Sunday.

In a tune-up event for the US Open, the 27-year-old Dementieva posted a 6-4, 6-3 win over unseeded Sharapova to earn her 14th career singles title.

"I really like to play this tournament, but I've never done anything better than first or second round, which was very disappointing for me," Dementieva said. "Every time I come I have such great crowd support."

"I just feel so happy to finally win this title. It means a lot to me."

She also won titles this year in Sydney and Auckland but hasn't had much success against Sharapova over the years.

It was just the third win for Dementieva over Sharapova

in 12 career meetings and first in three years. Her last win was in the semifinals of the 2006 Los Angeles tournament.

Duo bag gold for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh bagged two gold medals in the 5th Korean Open International Taekwondo Championship that concluded on Friday in Incheon, Korea.

Mizanur Rahman, who also grabbed gold medal in the Colombo SA Games, defeated Pakistani Mubasir Ali in under 87 kg category while Rasiul Kabir beat Pakistani Nujabid Ikram in above 87 kg category to bring laurel for the nation.

Mizanur and Rasiul were sent to the Korean competition by the Bangladesh Olympic Association to justify their progress as the Taekwondo players have been training under the supervision of Korean coach Lee Ju Sung ahead of the 2010 South Asian Games in Bangladesh.

Freddie fire

FROM PAGE 17 build on their success to become the top side in the world. That was Michael Vaughan's aim, but the victory and the subsequent lengthy celebration wasn't used in the right way and the team went backwards over the next four years.

"What I think we need to do is, if there's any lesson to learn from 2005 now, it's to go for domination, to try to get number one in the world," Flintoff said. "We've got the talent, we've got the side to do it. It's just a case of believing it and putting it into practice. One comforting thing is, having seen yesterday (Sunday) and the past five Test matches, is that I'll disappear and the England side will be in good hands."

"The likes of (Jonathan) Trott coming in and everybody's forgetting about KP. Our best player has not played the bulk of this Test series. So the future of the side is in good hands. There's no reason why we can't be the best in the world. We're a very talented team -- but we can't get carried away."

English skipper Andrew Strauss formed the type of team spirit that was absent in 2006-07 when the Ashes were handed back with the 5-0 whitewash down under, when Flintoff was preferred as captain and he struggled to combine the roles of leading player and leading man. He has admitted it was a role too much for and that Strauss was the right man all along.

"I think in a roundabout way we got to the right man for the job," he said. "There was

lot of speculation (about who would be captain) between me and him for the last Ashes series in 2006-07. I said before, I probably took one for the team there. We got beat but it's enabled Strauss through different circumstances to take over."

"Strauss leads by example, not just with his batting but with the way he conducts himself. He's a popular lad. I'm sure in four or five years' time when someone else is sat in this chair being asked what Andrew Strauss was like as a captain... he was a belter."

Under-19

FROM PAGE 17 Under-19 World Cup to be held in New Zealand in February next year.

ITINERARY

ENGLAND U-19 IN BANGLADESH Oct 12-13: 2-day practice match against BCB Select XI at Fatullah. Oct 16-19: 4-day Test at Chittagong. Oct 21: One-day practice match against BCB Select XI at Chittagong. Oct 23: First One-day at Chittagong. Oct 26: Second One-day at Fatullah. Oct 27: Third One-day at Fatullah. Oct 29: Fourth One-day at Fatullah. Oct 31: Fifth One-day at Fatullah. Nov 2: Sixth One-day at Mirpur. Nov 4: Seventh One-day at Mirpur. ZIMBABWE U-19 IN BANGLADESH Nov 11: One-day practice match against BCB Select XI at Bogra. Nov 13: First One-day at Bogra. Nov 14: Second One-day at Bogra. Nov 16: Third One-day at Bogra. Nov 18: Fourth One-day at Bogra. Nov 21: Fifth One-day at Mirpur/Fatullah.

Australia fall in Test rankings

CRICINFO, undated

Australia's 2-1 Ashes defeat, confirmed with a heavy 197-run loss at The Oval on Sunday, has cost them their No. 1 spot in the ICC Test rankings. They have slipped to fourth, with South Africa now the No. 1 Test team in the world, followed by Sri Lanka and India.

It is the first time the Australians have lost their grip on the top spot since 2003, when the ICC introduced its current ranking system. The defeat has cost them eight points but despite the series result they remain ahead of their arch rivals England, who are in fifth place. England gained six points but are still 11 behind Australia.

Australia were in danger of losing their No. 1 ranking towards the end of last year, when they lost a home Test series to South Africa 2-1. A consolation win in the third Test in Sydney ensured they retained top spot and they also held on thanks to their follow-up series victory in South Africa.

RANKINGS

1. South Africa 122pts, 2. Sri Lanka 119, 3. India 119, 4. Australia 116, 5. England 105, 6. Pakistan 84, 7. New Zealand 82, 8. West Indies 76, 9. Bangladesh 13

Ponting down

FROM PAGE 17 mances across the board."

Australia have won just six of their past 16 Tests, during which they have suffered series defeats to India (away), South Africa (home) and now England. Sunday's loss at The Oval has ensured their Test ranking has plummeted from first to fourth, marking the first time since 2003 the Australians have not held the top spot.

Despite their slide, Ponting insisted his current squad should be persisted with for future series. "I think there are a lot of Test wins in this series of players," he said. "In a couple of years there are going to be a couple of guys coming in and going out with a couple of us getting a bit long in the tooth. They will win a lot of Test matches for Australia in the future. They will learn from their mistakes in this series."

Hockey needs

FROM PAGE 17 are in the current national squad.

It is good to have more players from the BKSP. But to have natural talents like Jummon Lusal, Jamil Parvez Lulu, Jamal Haider, Mahbub Haroon, Mohammad Sadek, Rafiqul Islam Kamal and Musa Mia, we must nourish those strong pockets now facing extinction without proper domestic competition.

Unpaid booters seek wages

SPORTS REPORTER

As many as 25 players including three foreign recruits sought the intervention of the Bangladesh Football Federation to clear their last season's unpaid wages from Mukti Joddha Sangsad KC.

They placed a written complaint to the football's governing body yesterday. It stated that the club authority did not pay any wages to them after signing them in June, 2008 for the Citycell 2nd B. League. It has also shown that the players would collectively get nearly Tk80 lakh.

Following Mukti Joddha Sangsad's account being frozen by the caretaker government, the club struggled to form a squad for the 2008-09 season and the players like Firoz Mahmud Titu, Rokonzaman Kanchan, Saifur Rahman Moni came forward to assemble a squad without taking any advanced payment and kept Mukti Joddha Sangsad in the top flight fray, finishing just above relegated Khulna Abahani KC.

BFF general secretary Al Musabbir Sadi told reporters that they would refer the matter to the players' status committee to solve it.

Sadi said that it would be difficult to deal with if the players complained to the Asian Football Confederation.

Mukti Joddha Sangsad president, retired major general Helal Morshed said that they would consider the matter regarding the humanitarian aspect though he termed those contracts unveiled, as there was no signature by the club president or general secretary.

Meanwhile, the club have retained nine players out of those 25 for the upcoming season and already paid nearly 50 to 60 percent of each of the contracts.

MSC confirm Enamul

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan SC retained the services of midfielder Enamul Haque Sharif for the upcoming season as the Black and Whites yesterday signed up Sharif.

The Motijheel-based outfit, who start their conditioning camp in Mymensingh from today, had earlier roped in 13 players including last year's star striker Zahid Hasan Emily and star defender Wali Faisal from rivals Abahani.

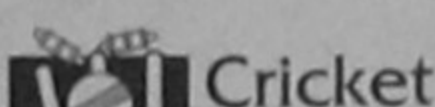
Mash returns

FROM PAGE 17 against the Tigers.

"It was painful not to be part of the team's recent great success but I'm happy about the outcome of the result in the tours of West Indies and Zimbabwe. I am hopeful that we can continue our good form in the coming series," said Mashrafe, who had injured his right knee during the first Test against the West Indies at St. Vincent in June and has been sidelined since.

Mashrafe underwent surgery which was performed by orthopaedic surgeon Dr. David Young.

'Aussie selectors erred'



AFP, Sydney

Chairman of selectors Andrew Hilditch on Monday refused to blame his panel for Australia's shattering loss of the Ashes to England.

Australia's 197-run loss in the fifth Test at The Oval on Sunday, which delivered England a 2-1 series victory, led all the news bulletins in sports-obsessed Australia on Monday as the ramifications sank in.

Ricky Ponting's captaincy and the selectors' decision-making came under fire for the series loss but they appeared likely to hold on to their positions with Cricket Australia's chief executive James Sutherland fully supportive of their performances.

Hilditch admitted his panel erred by not choosing specialist spinner Nathan Hauritz for the final Test, but he refused to blame the selection of an unbalanced side on a spin-friendly pitch for Australia's humiliating defeat.

Ponting became only the second Australian skipper in more than a century to have twice lost an Ashes series in England, and Hilditch said he was gutted and in a state of disbelief over the final Test defeat inside four days.

"We would've changed the side (from the fourth Headingley Test) if we'd read the wicket right, and we would've played Nathan Hauritz," Hilditch told a news conference in Adelaide on Monday.

"But it would be an oversimplification to say that meant we lost the Test match, that'd be incorrect. We lost the Test match because we got 160 in the first innings."

"Jamie Cox was the selector on duty, but everybody misread the wicket, from our entire playing group, captain

and coach included, and that just happens."

"To see the hard work that all those players put in, a very important series for everybody, to see it fall apart at The Oval was hard for everybody."

Hilditch, who has been a frequent target of critics during his controversial tenure as chairman, said he was shocked by the Ashes outcome.

"I'm feeling gutted and in some disbelief over the last couple of days," he said.

"The traditional signs of who's going to win a Test series are all there and it should have been Australia."

"We had six of the top seven batsmen, 10 centuries, eight of them Australian, the three leading bowlers in the series were all Australian."

"Everything indicates that we dominated the Test series."

But he said that "we lost the Test series through five hours of cricket. We lost the Test series in the last hour in Cardiff (first Test) when we should have won. I thought at the time it was going to hurt us, which it did."

Other key phrases were "two hours of batting at Lord's in the second Test and maybe even an hour's batting at The Oval in the first innings, when we really needed to get 400-500 runs and get into a good position."

"The Test series really came down to us losing key moments and England winning key moments. It didn't come down to individuals, it came down to England winning the critical moments and (us) losing them."

Hilditch said Australian cricket was in a rebuilding phase following the keenly felt retirements of Shane Warne, Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden and Glenn McGrath.

"The reality check is we're a young side, a rebuilding side, we've lost a lot of great players but had no time to reflect on

that, we've got to reflect on the future," he said.

"We're going to have ups and downs in performance over the next couple of years while we continue a rebuilding process."

"The process is far from over. We've still got players we're going to lose in the next couple of years."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the fifth and final Ashes Test between England and Australia at The Oval on Sunday:

ENGLAND: First innings 332 (Bell 72, Strauss 55; Siddle 4-75, Hilfenhaus 3-71)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 160 (Katich 50; Broad 5-37, Swann 4-38)

ENGLAND: Second innings 373-9 decl (Trott 119, Strauss 75, Swann 63; North 4-98)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 80-0)

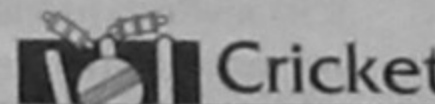
	B	O	M	R	W
Watson lbw b Broad	40				
Katich lbw b Swann	43				
Ponting run out (Flintoff)	66				
Hussey c Cook b Swann	121				
Clarke run out (Strauss)	0				
North st Prior b Swann	10				
Haddin c Strauss b Swann	34				
Johnson c Collingwood b Harmison	0				
Siddle c Flintoff b Harmison	10				
Clark c Cook b Harmison	0				
Hilfenhaus not out	4				
Extras: (b-7, lb-7, nb-6)	20				
Total: (All out in 102.2 overs)	348				
Fall of wickets: 1-86, 2-90, 3-217, 4-220, 5-236, 6-327, 7-327, 8-343, 9-343.					

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	12	2	46	0
Flintoff	11	1	42	0
Harmison	16	5	54	3
Swann	40.2	8	120	4
Broad	22	4	71	1
Collingwood	1	0	1	0

Result: England won by 197 runs and clinched five-Test Ashes series 2-1.

Man-of-match: Stuart Broad. Men of the series: Andrew Strauss (England) and Michael Clarke (Australia)

English press ecstatic



AFP, London

England cricket captain Andrew Strauss was hailed as a hero in the British press Monday after leading his team to victory, while questions were raised about Australian skipper Ricky Ponting's future.

Under headlines reading "THRASHED 'EM" and "The Ashes are home," British newspapers celebrated the victory on their front pages, many with photographs of Strauss holding the coveted urn as his teammates sprayed champagne.

Former England captain Nasser Hussain said the close relationship between Strauss and coach Andy Flower had been crucial to England's performance throughout the Ashes series.

And he said Strauss, who took over from batsman Kevin Pietersen in January, had gone from strength to strength during the summer against Australia.

"As the series has gone on, I have been extremely impressed with Strauss's body language, his composure and his leadership and I thought he had a terrific game in this last Test," he said in Daily Mail.

While full of praise for Ponting, Hussain asked whether it was time for the Australian to relinquish the top job and concentrate on his batting.

"I believe it may be a good thing for him if he

considers whether he should continue as captain," he said.

Former England player Mike Selvey echoed the Strauss-Flower partnership, saying they had pulled off "an incredible turnaround" after England were thrashed by Australia in the fourth Test at Headingley.

"It was to England's advantage and the credit of Strauss and Andy Flower, the director of cricket, that they had the time to reflect, rethink and then gather once more. The changes paid dividends," Selvey said in the Guardian.

The writer said Ponting's future must now surely be in doubt with Australian vice-captain Michael Clarke "waiting in the wings" to lead the former number one side.

"For his part, Ponting, a most generous opponent in defeat, will be remembered not just as a master batsman but as the second Australian captain after Billy Murdoch to lose the Ashes twice in this country and the first for more than a hundred years," Selvey noted, referring to Australia's 2005 loss.

Former England captain Mike Atherton also praised Strauss, but singled out all-rounder Andrew Flintoff who, playing in his last Test, ran out Ponting with a direct hit from mid-on, just as he looked in dangerous form.

"There were no runs and wickets for him (Flintoff) yesterday, but the gods had granted him, out of recognition for a remarkable career, the day's defining image," Atherton said in The Times.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Make up your mind	1 Responsibility
4 Syndicate boss	2 Luxurious show
8 Applaud	3 Genealogy chart
12 Neither mate	4 Lives product
13 On in years	5 Past
14 "Clue" weapon	6 Vigor
15 Work with	7 Probabil-ity
16 Excellent wheat	8 Ill-natured
18 Bundle of	9 Despon-dent
20 Long lunch?	10 Gorilla
21 Brat's stocking stuffer	11 Apiece
24 Receded	17 Wish undone
28 Uneaten	19 Put on a show
32 Thy	22 State with conviction
33 Puncturing tool	23 On the up-and-up
34 Painter of ballerinas	25 Benefit money
36 Raw rock	26 Modern game
37 Movie holder, once	27 Game show
39 PDQ	28 Fat
41 Abject terror	29 Basin
	30 Take off
	31 Anger
	35 Hair cleaner
	38 Computer type
	40 Give it a go
	42 Volente predecessor
	45 Writer
	47 Frost
	48 Wander
	49 Shacks
	50 Jazz style
	51 Discover-er's call
	52 Allen or Conway
	53 — Paulo
	54 Reaction to castor oil

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	O	S	A	P	A	W	N	F	O	P	
A	B	E	D	I	D	E	A	I	K	E	
F	I	N	A	N	C	I	E	R	N	I	P
G	I	S	T	R	U	L	E	S			
A	F	F	I	X		C	O	R	A		