



PHOTO: INTERNET

England skipper Paul Collingwood (C) and teammate Kevin Pietersen pose with the World Twenty20 trophy on arrival at Gatwick Airport in London yesterday.

Rajib finishes on lowly 15th

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Eamul Hossain Rajib became fifteenth in the Commonwealth Chess Championship...

Sunrise hold Uttara

SPORTS REPORTER

Sunrise Sporting Club came from behind to hold Uttara Baridhara Club...

WI A in control

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conceding 24 runs. SCORES IN BRIEF WEST INDIES A: First innings 285...

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The immortals

FROM PAGE 17

Italians were involved in some of the best matches. In the group stage, England faced the Brazilians...

Excuses galore

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There is discrepancy between the players and the coach. Neither the federation nor the selection committee intervened in the decision he took.

But, in a re-staging of the 1966 final, the Germans got their revenge over England...

Suspended

FROM PAGE 17

following the argument with the referee after the match against Chittagong Abahani.

Tigers face

FROM PAGE 17

Hansen, who came down with chickenpox after the first three-day game.

Greats hail heroes

AFP, London

Former England captain Paul Collingwood's boys who won the country its first major world title with the ICC World Twenty20 triumph on Sunday.

England were in irrepressible form in the tournament and crushed old foes Australia by seven wickets in the final to win the championship.

Former captain Mike Gatting and Michael Atherton said the English team played positive and aggressive cricket throughout the tournament...

"Towards the end of the final there, they could have nudged their way through to win by one over," Gatting told BBC Radio Five Live Tuesday.

"But no, they carried on playing in a positive manner and won with three overs to spare against a very, very strong Australia side."

Gatting said this England team has been consistent throughout the tournament something they must develop if they are to remain at the top of the world game...

"That's something [consistency] we've been missing in all our cricket for the last 10 years I suppose," said Gatting.

"We've managed to beat sides, the best sides at times, but we've never had that consistency that the West Indies had through the 80s and then the Australians through the 90s."

"And it really is about the disciplines of doing your jobs, doing the homework and then actually carrying those disciplines out."

He said the victory will lift the confidence of the entire team.

"They've done it magnificently well in this tournament. They've done it, the hard work. When you do build that confidence, you get that arrogance you can do the job you need to do."

"If you can keep doing that on a regular basis then your confidence goes sky-high and you expect to do what you do, which is perform at the very highest level on a consistent basis," said Gatting.

Atherton said England were the deserving winners as they were positive and played aggressive cricket.

"No one could argue that England did not deserve their triumph yesterday in Bridgetown. They were outstanding, as they have been throughout."

"It was Australia who looked the nervous outfit as England's bowlers bowled quickly and straight and the fielders, athletic and alert, boxed them into a corner from which only a par score was possible at best," Atherton wrote in his column in The Times.

He praised the England's bowling attack as they restricted Australia to 147.

"England's attack has more variety and fewer weak links than other countries, Graeme Swann again confirming his excellence in all forms of the game. Once England negotiated Australia's new-ball attack, the result was a formality."

"England's batsmen coped with the bounce better than their counterparts and did not go into their shell as teams often do on the biggest occasions. They had played aggressively throughout," Atherton said.

After 33 years!

WIMBLEDON

INTERNET, London

The last time Queen Elizabeth II attended Wimbledon was the last time a British player made it to the finals at the prestigious lawn tennis tournament. That was 33 years ago.

The Queen was expected to attend last year's men's final but Brit head Murray had advanced that far, but he was defeated in the semifinal by Andy Roddick.

Perhaps for the benefit of Murray's mental well-being, officials announced today that the Queen will sit in the royal box on a specific day, June 24, rather than waiting for a milestone that may never come.

Though the schedule for that Thursday won't come out until the previous evening, you can bet things will work out that Murray will be playing a second round match on Centre Court that day.

She last attended a match in the year of her Silver Jubilee, 1977, and watched British player Virginia Wade win the title. No British player has made it to the finals since.



QUEEN ELIZABETH II

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Hansen, who came down with chickenpox after the first three-day game.

Alastair Cook, who successfully led England in place of the resting Andrew Strauss during their recent tour of Bangladesh...

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T20 win gives Eng a boost for Ashes'

AFP, London

Shane Warne admits England's ICC Twenty20 final win against Australia has given them a psychological advantage ahead of the forthcoming Ashes series.

Paul Collingwood's side defeated Australia by seven wickets on Sunday to end their 35-year wait to win a major global tournament and former Australia leg-spinner Warne believes that success could be influential in the Ashes later this year.

"England will have taken a small psychological advantage from Sunday's final. Australia were just starting to build a bit of momentum and find some consistency in the aftermath of losing last year's Ashes."

Warne said in the Daily Telegraph, "That will send a message to Australia that they have to play very well to beat England now in any form of the game."

"But the Ashes in Australia is very different. It is the hardest series to win and England were embarrassed last time around. England's planning must be to go out there and beat them every time to keep the momentum going."

Warne was impressed with the way Collingwood's men took the fight to the opposition in every match and singled out England spinner Graeme Swann for special praise.

"He is adding a lot to all forms of England's cricket. I have been very impressed. He is the most improved cricketer in the world," Warne added.

"What has struck me most is that as an off-spinner there are only certain ways you can get people out. But he has more than that, he really changes his pace well."

"Normally when your spinners bowl faster they lose their spin. But he can bowl quicker deliveries and still turn it. It is a very good gift and he can adapt it to all forms of the game."

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17 won gold in the match air rifles event scoring 285, six points more than silver medalist Ibnu Hasan of Army Shooting Association, which saw Abdul Malek win the 22 rifle gold for them.

Malek's teammate Asaduzzaman won silver scoring 241 points.

SCHOOL KABADDI Nawabpur Govt High School, Khilgaon Govt High School, Jatrabari Ideal School and Ansar VDP High School won their respective matches on the opening day of the Dhaka Zone matches of the Standard Chartered National School Kabaddi Championship at the Outer Stadium Kabaddi Court yesterday.

Nawabpur Govt High School defeated Birshreshtha Shaheed Noor Mohammad Rifles Public School and College by 91-64 points, Khilgaon Govt High School beat Maniknagar Model School by 56-27 points.

Jatrabari Ideal School beat Segunbaghicha High School 54-27 and Ansar VDP High beat Bir Muktijoddha Hafizur Rahman Ali High School.

Imtiaz Ibn Sattar, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered, declared the 24-team meet open while Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation general secretary Monir Hossain was also present on the occasion.

Flower being cautious

AFP, Bridgetown



England coach Andy Flower has insisted his side will keep their World Twenty20 final win over Australia in perspective ahead of the upcoming Ashes series with their oldest foes.

England, who hold the Ashes after a 2-1 win on home soil last year, beat Australia by a convincing seven wicket margin at the Kensington Oval here on Sunday to win their first major international limited-overs title.

They now face home series against Bangladesh and Pakistan, as well as several one-day internationals against Australia, before heading Down Under.

England have not won a Test series in Australia since 1986-87 and, with several of the personnel on both sides in the five-day format set to be different from the respective Twenty20 teams, Flower was wary of reading too much into Sunday's success.

"The Ashes tour is six months away," he said here on Monday ahead of England's departure from the Caribbean.

"Every time we come up against Australia it does have some sort of shift in the balance of power," the former Zimbabwe international added.

"But we do know they have been an incredible side for a long time and we know that when we go to Australia we will have a huge fight on our hands. There are no illusions in our camp about that."

Meanwhile Flower, while proud England had belied their reputation as a modest one-day team to win the third edition of the World Twenty20, made it clear there was still room for improvement.

"I think there is a long way for us to go," said Flower, thrust into his post in January last year after a row that cost star batsman Kevin Pietersen the England captaincy and Peter Moores his job as England coach.

Back where he belongs

AFP, Harare

Former England coach Duncan Fletcher has returned to his roots at the Harare academy, bent on strengthening Zimbabwe's cricket development.

But the ex-Zimbabwe skipper was not working with the current national team, which is optimistic of a return to the Test match arena after a four-year absence.

Instead he was guiding young prospects, from 15 to 18 years old, who have all been inspired by seeing former teenage star Elton Chigumbura ascend to the captaincy of the national one-day international team.

Bright-eyed youngsters gathered around Fletcher under a large tent on the edge of four practice nets set up on the square of the Academy ground, now rather grandly known as the High Performance Centre.

They were filled with the knowledge that Chigumbura played first class cricket at 15 years old.

And they were well aware of dramatic events in 2001 that brought them to this opportunity in their young cricket lives.

It has been nine years, when they were at junior school, since Zimbabwe cricket was thrown into turmoil.

Sackings, strikes, walkouts, allegations of racism and financial irregularities, hastily assembled raw replacements, and the inevitable embarrassing results led to the refusal of countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka to fulfill Test match commitments against them.

Fletcher opted not to discuss his role. "I don't talk to journalists," he said. However, HPC director Kevin Curran, another former Test player, was more forthcoming.

"Basically you cannot create quality players overnight," he said. "We need to work from schools level and

"This is one form of the game. But if we talk about the England team we talk about all three forms of the game."

However, he insisted there would be spin-off gains for England from their Twenty20 triumph.

"I think one of the greatest things we will get out of this is growth in our self-belief," Flower said. "The players should believe in themselves -- because they have played some outstanding cricket."

Flower also praised the influence of Twenty20 captain Paul Collingwood, leading the side because Test skipper Andrew Strauss has opted out of international cricket's shortest format.

"He has got a lot more confident about what he is doing," Flower said. "He feels more comfortable. He has led from the front -- I don't mean his batting but in his attitude."

"He has always been a bit of a driver of the environment, because he is a nuggetty Englishman who will have a go at whatever is thrown at him."

Strauss will be in charge, with Collingwood set to be back in the ranks, when England face Bangladesh in the first Test at Lord's, which starts a week on Thursday.

Flower was confident the handover would be a "seamless" transition.

"I think the number one option would be to have one captain for all three forms of the game," he said.

"We haven't had that opportunity and we have had to make do and make the best of a situation as it is.

"Luckily we have got some really good people who have grown as leaders. Strauss certainly is and Alastair Cook handled himself well in Bangladesh (where he captained the side while fellow opener Strauss took a break) and is good back up for Strauss now. Collingwood has grown."

"Strauss coming back is not a problem. He is highly respected in our dressing room. He is a good man and it will happen seamlessly."

look further forward. It all takes time, lots of time, to bring the best out of young cricketers, to build them to international level. So the major factor for us is not so much talent as preparation.

"We need to identify potential at 15 years old and then work together towards achievement of this programme."

By "this programme" he meant Fletcher -- "probably the best coach in the world" -- who teamed up with national coach Alan Butcher.

They are assisted by Curran, former Zimbabwe Test allrounder and captain Heath Streak, opening Test batsman Alistair Campbell, the recently short-term contracted spinner Brian Jennings, prolific batsman David Houghton and others.

These men are, or have been, working on a near-daily basis since the formation last year of a franchised national professional domestic league.

Curran revealed that the country might soon benefit from contracting three or four international stars into the league during their respective off seasons.

Despite all the efforts Zimbabwe still needs help.

Their team was recently beaten in an ODI series by West Indies 4-1 while in the World Twenty20 they made a quick exit, though this did follow two victories in warm-up games, against Pakistan and Australia.

There are therefore glimmers of hope coming from short versions of the game, but nothing yet in matches against international opposition played over three or four days.

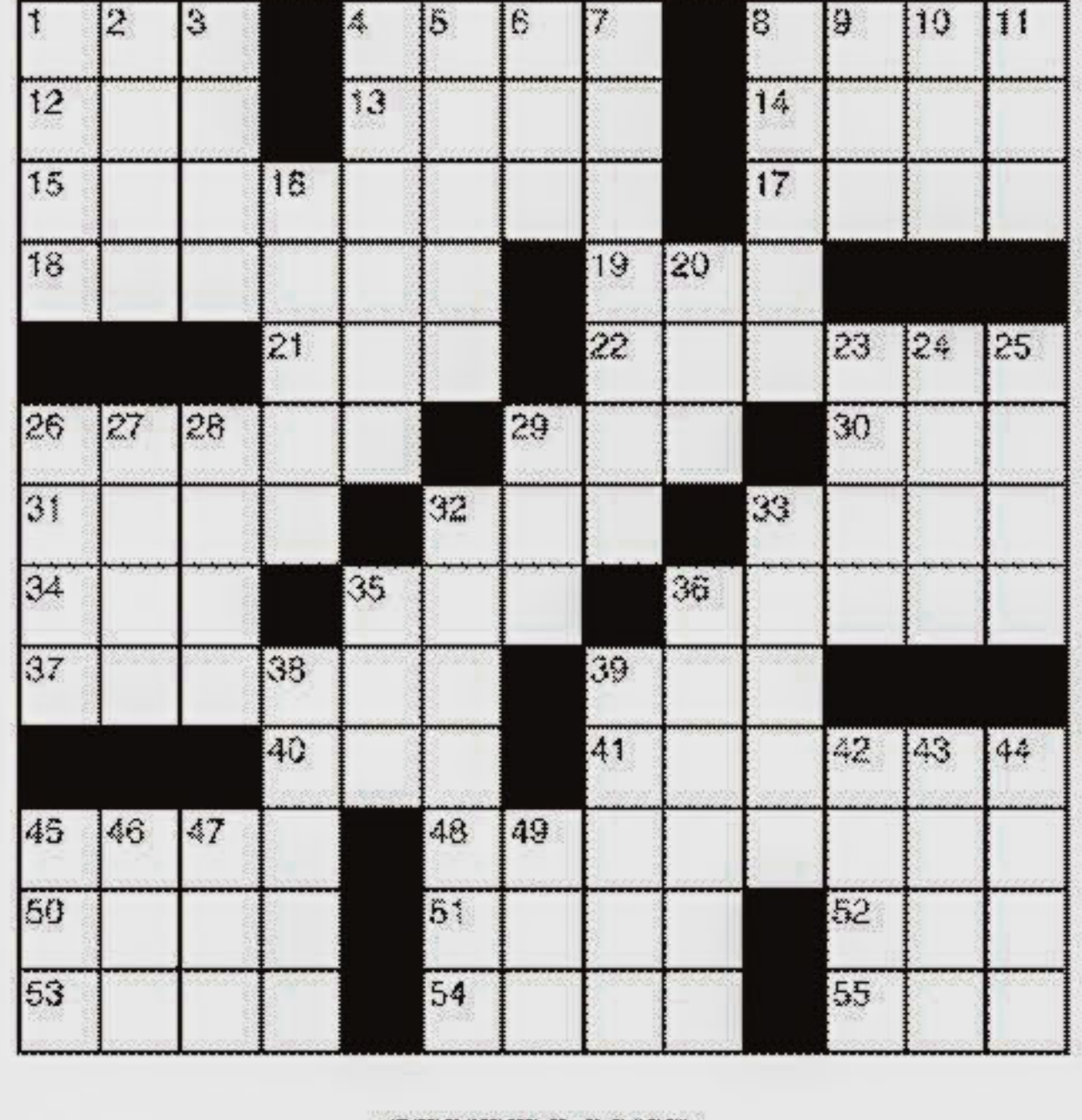
Local critics are puzzled why this is not paramount in the development programme.

Meanwhile, starting on May 28, Zimbabwe will take on India and Sri Lanka in a crucial 50-overs series at home, followed by two Twenty20 clashes with India in Harare.

They will need to be competitive at the very least and this means innings of at least 200. There is very little expectation of a victory from their projected four ODI matches, but solid performances are imperative.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Coop occupant, 4 Speech impediment, 8 Sandwich shop, 12 Swiss canton, 13 Reverberate, 14 Send forth, 15 The Reagan years, 17 Prompts, 18 Jason, formerly with the New York Giants, 19 Hot tub wheeler, 22 Tower designer, 26 Necklace fastener, 29 The "e" in "i.e.", 30 Carte lead-in, 31 Earring site, 32 Clear the tables, 33 Campus area, 34 Luau music-maker, 35 Series of skirmishes, 36 Warm-water food fish, 37 This or that, 39 — Lanka, 40 Recede, 41 Produces, 45 Ring out, 48 Genius, 50 Madiocre, 51 Laugh-a-minute, 52 Lennon's lady, 53 Smithsonian, for ex., 54 Faction, 55 Kans. neighbor, 20 Trench goat-man, 23 Mythical, 24 Verve, 25 Kenny Rogers hit, 26 Hint, 27 Trickster deity, 28 Help a hood, 29 W. of the Urals, 32 My hat is off to them, 33 Library demand, 35 Symbol of intrigue, 36 Wistful, 38 Serf, 39 Church council, 42 Ponce de —, 43 Eat in style, 44 Uppity sort, 45 Omega precursor, 46 A billion years, 47 Foolish one, 49 Mid-afternoon in old Rome.



CRYPTOQUIP ZQVEBXQH EL CNCEJJO DNWP ND CKHX DHWQ QLZYHHPQYO OEYW, ANBJP ONB XEO H'L VYQAQJ-KQEYCQP? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A POPULAR SEVENTIES TUNE DESCRIBING THE LEAF OF A TREE OUGHT TO BE CALLED "YOU'RE SO VEINY." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals Y