AFP, London

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

small psychological advantage

very well to beat England now in

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 momen-

the way Collingwood's men

took the fight to the opposition

in every match and singled out

England spinner Graeme

forms of England's cricket. I

have been very impressed. He is

the most improved cricketer in

"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

bowl faster they lose their spin.

But he can bowl quicker deliv-

eries and still turn it. It is a very

good gift and he can adapt it to

LOCAL SNIPPETS

won gold in the match air rifles

event scoring 285, six points more

than silver medallist Ibnu Hasan

of Army Shooting Association,

which saw Abdul Malek won the

Asaduzzaman won silver

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

Charted National School

Kabaddi Championship at the

Outer Stadium Kabaddi Court

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

executive officer of Standard

Charted, declared the 24-team

meet open while Bangladesh

Kabaddi Federation general

secretary Monir Hossain was

also present on the occasion.

with the

Giants

wheeler

designer

fastener

26 Necklace

29 The "e" in

lead-in

"i.e."

31 Earring

site

32 Clear the

tables

33 Campus

area

30 Carte

19 Hot tub

22 Tower

**21** 18-

New York

52 Lennon's

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54 Faction

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Solution time: 25 mins.

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Imtiaz Ibn Sattar, chief

Rahman Ali High School.

Nawabpur Govt High

Malek's teammate

"Normally when spinners

"He is adding a lot to all

Swann for special praise.

the world,"Warne added.

changes his pace well.

all forms of the game."

FROM PAGE 17

.22 riflegold for them.

scoring 241 points.

yesterday.

SCHOOL KABADDI

Warne was impressed with

"But the Ashes in Australia is

any form of the game.

tum going."

"England will have taken a

Asheslaterthisyear.



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

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Eamul Hossain Rajib became fifteenth in the Commonwealth Chess Championship concluded in New Delhi yesterday. Rajib earned eight points from 11 games. FM Abu Sufian Shakil became 33rd with 7.5 points. FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar became 53rd while FM Mohammad Javed became 65th. Sagar and Javed earned 7 points each. FM Mehdi Hasan Parag became 78th, Abdullah Al Saif became 79th and Debaraj Chatterjee became 85th. Parag, Saif and Debaraj earned 6.5 points each. GM Niaz Murshed became 139th with 5.5 points, IWM Rani Hamid became 191 with 5 points.

### Sunrise hold Uttara

SPORTS REPORTER

Sunrise Sporting Club came from behind to hold Uttara Baridhara Club to a 1-1 draw in the Senior Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Abul Kalam Azad gave Uttara an 18-minute lead only to be cancelled by a 72-minute strike from Rashed.

Victoria Sporting Club will take on old-Dhaka outfit Wari today.

### WI A in control

**FROM PAGE 17** conceding 24 runs.

### **SCORES IN BRIEF**

**WEST INDIES A: First innings** 285 and second innings 162-2 in 50 overs (Smith 62, Dowlin 32, Edwards 55 not out, Bravo

10 not out, extras 3; Shuvo 2-

BANGLADESH A: First innings 125 all out in 45 overs (Nafees 3, Nazimuddin 33,

### Marshal 21, Shuvo 23, extras 5; Shillingford 4-30, Brown 2-24) The immortals

### **FROM PAGE 17**

Italians were involved in some of the best matches.

In the group stage, England faced the Brazilians in Guadalajara in a game many envisaged as a dress rehearsal for the eventual final. Jairzinho grabbed the goal that won it for Brazil but the game is best remembered for Gordon Banks' save from Pele's bulletheader -- and a late miss by Jeff Astle. Despite that defeat, England joined Brazil in the knock-out

stages. But, in a re-staging of the 1966 final, the Germans got their revenge over England, when, with Alf Ramsey's side leading 2-0 and having taken off Bobby Charlton and Martin Peters to rest them for the next round, stand-in keeper Peter Bonetti fumbled a long-range shot from Franz Beckenbauer and then allowed Uwe Seeler to back-head the equaliser. England wilted in the heat of Leon and Ramsey's team, run ragged by a far fitter German side, succumbed in extra-time when Gerd Muller, scorer of ten goals in Mexico, scored a typically predatory winner.

TO BE CONTINUED | communication between the

# Rajib finishes on lowly 15th Greats hail heroes

AFP, London

Former England captains lavished praise on Paul Collingwood's boys who won the country its first major world title with the ICC World TWENTY20 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 and that saw them emerge champions. "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, with the Ashes series in Australia beginning at the end of the year.

"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. The guys have enjoyed what they've done, 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!



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. You'll forgive the Queen if she's tired of waiting around for another excuse to make the trip from Buckingham Palace to the All England Club.

The Queen was expected to attend last year's men's final if Brit Andy Murray had advanced that far, but he was defeated in the semifinal by Andy Roddick. Though it wasn't officially confirmed, there had been hints dropped while Murray was still playing early round matches that the Queen would attend a potential Murray final.

As if having the hopes and dreams of 62 million Brits and the full attention of the London tabloids wasn't enough, now Murray was playing for the right to have an audience with the Queen? Dude isn't good

when there's slight pressure. 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



### **QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

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. I doubt the Queen is making the 25 drive to catch a Dinara Safina game.

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.

# Excuses galore

**FROM PAGE 17** 

"He was given full authority to choose the squad. Neither the federation not the selection committee intervened in the decision he took. He took players in the squad who were not even in the preliminary camp," said Mamun.

It is also widely claimed that the German discouraged some of the senior players from coming to the preliminary camp, and he picked one or two who does not have the quality to be chosen for the national squad. The absence of senior

players was a big reason for the disastrous performance of team, believes former star national forward Rafiqul

Islam Kamal. He also pointed players behind the debacle. 'There is a clear lack of

out a lack of communication between the coach and the

players and the coach. There is discrepancy between what the coach says and the play-

ers say," believed Kamal. "The lack of experience in the side that cost us dearly. Players like (Rasel Mahmud) Jimmy and (Asaduzzaman) Chayon will not deliver everyday and which is why you need back-up which is not happening. We probably needed a couple of senior players in the team to guide the youngsters," said Kamal.

## Suspended

FROM PAGE 17

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

For the same reason, Beanibazar SC's coordinator Abul Hossain has been warned after the official apologised for his first mistake.

**FROM PAGE 17** 

three-day game.

season.

### Tigers face

Hasan, who came down with chickenpox after the first

Alastair Cook, who successfully led England in place of the resting Andrew Strauss during their recent tour of Bangladesh, will lead the England Lions in the game and it will be an opportunity for the young batsman to further enhance his captaincy skills as well as some time in the middle after averaging just 28.37 in five games for Essex this

Spinner Monty Panesar is also in the side. Panesar has not played any cricket for England since the first Ashes Test last summer and was not chosen for either of England's overseas tours over the winter.

## 'T20 win gives Eng a boost for Ashes'

AFP, Bridgetown

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

England coach Andy Flower has insisted his side will keep their World Twenty20 final win over Australia in perspective ahead TWENTY20
Australia in perspective anead of the upcoming Ashes series with their oldest foes. 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 limitedovers title.

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

from Sunday's final. Australia England have not won a Test series in were just starting to build a bit of Australia since 1986-87 and, with several of the momentum and find some personnel on both sides in the five-day format consistency in the aftermath of set to be different from the respective Twenty20 losing last year's Ashes. But the teams, Flower was wary of reading too much first time they came up against into Sunday's success.

England in a final they lost," Warnesaid in the Daily Telegraph. "The Ashes tour is six months away," he said here on Monday ahead of England's departure "That will send a message to Australia that they have to play 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 oneday 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.

# Flower being cautious "This is one form of the game. But if we talk

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

forms of the game."

about the England team we talk about all three

"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

"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 nuggety 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

"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."

## Back where he belongs look further forward. It all takes time, lots of

# Cricket

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 work-

ing 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

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

time, to bring the best out of young cricketers,

of this programme.' By "together" he meant Fletcher -- "proba-

bly 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

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 oppo-

sition 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 50overs 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.

24 25

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 34 Luau **55** Kans. 20 Trench

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