CA chief favours Warne comeback

CRICINFO, undated

Shane Warne might have plenty of things to worry about at the moment, but his cricketing future need not be one of them. Bob Merriman, the chairman of Cricket Australia, has said that the many controversies emanating from Warne's personal life will not affect his standing with the board.

Speaking to Herald Sun. Merriman said: "We are certainly looking forward to February 10 next vear [when Warne's ban expires] and Shane Warne coming back as a strong player. He has co-operated in respect to the issues the board has control on. We don't have control of any player's private life. He has certainly reacted in all the areas we have asked him to. It is [now] really a matter for the selection committee.

Merriman indicated that CA does not intend to concern itself with a player's personal life. "The board has not taken a view on that," he

"We have not discussed player X or player Y, but certainly a hell of a lot of work has been generated in the board office because of the issues of the last four months.

"Obviously we are hopeful that ssues in his private life remain private, like any person. That's probably a pious hope given the high-profile sports person he is."

MSC go atop

goal eight minutes later to extend the winners' tally. Indian Bikramjit found the Mohammedan goal from a penalty-corner in the 52nd minute.

TODAY'S MATCH

Abahani KC v Ajax SC (4pm)

WHIZZ KID-197 winner

Nurul Haque

(Chakaria Govt School, Cox's

Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on September 7.

WHiZZ KID-197

correct answer

1. How many runs did Bangladesh score in the first innings of the 2nd Test against Australia?

cricket champions? Ans: Nepal 3. Who won the Pepsi handball title?

2. Who became Asian Youth Cup

Ans: Bandarban 4. Who clinched the CONCACAF

Gold Cup?

Ans: Mexico 5. How many Test tons has Steve

Waugh scored?

Ans: 32

WHiZZ KID-196

winner



Abdullah Nur Sobhan (Saint Judes Int'l School, Dhaka)

CROSSWORD

39 After

40 Harbor

42 Short-

45 On the

49 Apiece

50 Make a

52 First

beach

decision

victim

playing

piece

54 — good

deed

55 Matches

a bet

boards

Solution time: 25 mins.

57 Bill-

53 "Scrab-

vessel

tempered

ACROSS

5 Hired

8 "Dead

man's

13 Blackbird

15 Particular

17 Dandling

18 Respect-

20 De-iced,

in a way

able

22 Female

23 Apiece

24 "Fargo"

27 And

actor

more

of the

same

34 Journal

poet

35 "Maud"

38 Choir

precede

32 Carle

14 Scruff

16 Collar

hand

transport

Agassi on course

US OPEN US OPEN

World number one Andre Agassi dispatched stubborn Swedish southpaw Andreas Vinciguerra 7-6 (7/1), 6-1, 6-4 here Thursday to book a third-round US Open date against a familiar foe -- Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Vinciquerra, ranked 92nd, was playing only his second hardcourt match since February. But he tested Agassi in the first set and duelled him through seven deuces in the seventh game of the final set before giving up a service break.

"He was hitting his shots effectively," Agassi said. "I was being solid with my game but it wasn't good enough. I had to step up my game and pick up my shots. Once I settled down I hit my shots a lot

Eight-time Grand Slam champion Agassi, at 33 the oldest man here and ever to be ranked number one, has only failed to reach the US Open's fourth round once since 1993, but knows he will be tested Saturday by the 28th-ranked

"We both will try to control the baseline," Agassi said. "He controls points and knows how to win. I have to take it seriously. I have to be on him from the get if I'm going to win.

"Y-man, he's a talented player. His career speaks for itself."

Kafelnikov, who turns 30 in February, won the 1996 French Open and 1999 Australian Open but has struggled to a 26-21 record this season and has not gone past the third round of a Slam since a semifinal run here in 2001.

Until ousting Kenneth Carlsen and rising to 6-0 against the Dane, Kafelnikov had not won back-toback matches since May. He had considered retirement before a change of heart after helping Russia win the 2002 Davis Cup.

"He's very talented," Agassi said. "I think he could have accomplished a lot more than he has. He's still out here because of his game."

Agassi is 7-4 against Kafelnikov, having won the past five in a row. They have not played each other since the 2000 ATP Masters Cup.

"We go back a long time. We have had a lot of battles," Agassi said. "It's going to be a good match. We've played some great matches in the past.

It will be the fifth Grand Slam meeting between the rivals and the earliest they have ever faced each other in a Slam.

Agassi beat Kafelnikov in the 2000 Australian Open final, a 1999 US Open semi-final and a 1995 Australian Open quarterfinal. The Russian's Ione Slam victory over Agassi came on French Open clay

Cricket

domestic season.

By Eugene Sheffer

3 Waugh or 28 Uncle, in

21 Gorilla

24 Wrestling

25 Brewery

output

a sort

Acapulco

oratorios

26 Hymn of

29 Short

30 Deterio-

31 Past

36 Huey,

ration

Dewey

37 Puppy's

or Louie

remark

38 Shocked

41 "People"

43 Get the

44 Luke's

46 Follow

47 Stench

48 Other-

51 Space

craft

compart-

goods

mentor

surface

58 Young-

1 Saharan

2 Burlap

fiber

5 Snack

hars

6 Get -- for

effort

7 Clothina

protec-

tors

8 Short

sock

9 Singer

Blu

10 Fencing

gear 11 Progeny

19 Negative

Guinness

DOWN

Australian Stuart Law may be in the

runs for Lancashire in English

county cricket but his state

Queensland desperately want him

to continue that form into the next

The 34-year-old has been enjoy-

ing a purple patch of form with

Lancashire, scoring 1,400 runs at

82.35 but for Queensland last

southern summer injury-riddled Law

struggled making only 169 runs at

Queensland by 246 runs in last

season's Sheffield Shield final

taking the interstate title off

Queensland for the first time in four

New South Wales smashed

Q'land need

Law & order

in a 1995 quarterfinal.

French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, the third seed from Spain, beat Austria's Jurgen Melzer 1-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-2, 6-4 and Argentina's fifth-seeded Guillermo Coria, a French Open semi-finalist, bounced Czech Bohdan Ulihrach 6-

Australian sixth seed Lleyton Hewitt rallied to oust South Korea's Lee Hyung-Taik 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4. Lee lost nine matches in a row entering the Open but made a valiant effort in his first match against the two-time Slam winner.

"He was a fighter on the court," Lee said. "His balls were very deep. I couldn't attack as much as I wanted.

Hewitt lost the final eight points of the first set but broke Lee to open the second and third sets and saved four break points in a dramatic final game before finishing off Lee on his fourth match point.

"It was a tough match. As I played better he played better," Hewitt said. "He stepped it up. He took it to me. I just had to hang tough.

On the women's side, French Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne, the second seed from Belgium, beat Croatia's Silvija Talaja 6-1, 6-2 in 51 minutes, while sixth seed Jennifer Capriati took 63 to down Slovakian Martina Sucha 6-

Capriati, a three-time Slam champion, faces France's Emilie Loit next. The American has yet to really pushed, but I feel like my strokes are fine. I'm moving well.

feel pretty good.' Thai 11th seed Paradorn Srichaphan advanced by ousting Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty 6-4, 6-4

"I played pretty well, didn't make too many mistakes," Paradorn said. "It's great for my next match. I'm not using too much energy."

Todd Martin won his 400th ATP match, ousting Dutch 16th seed Martin Verkerk 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (11/9). Verkerk, who fired 26 aces. led 5-2 in the final tie-breaker before the 33-year-old American made a final stand.

"Pressure situations get the blood flowing," Martin said. "I was starting to think about a fifth-set tiebreak. I was able to hang in there. I served great.

Martin will next play countryman Robby Ginepri, who beat South Africa's Wayne Ferreira 6-2, 6-4, 6-7 (0/7), 6-2."I was frustrated," Ferreira said.

"I was not very happy with the way was playing. I wanted more. I wanted to play better. I didn't feel like played that well. I was disap-

Friday matches feature American fourth seed Andy Roddick, winner of three titles since Wimbledon and 13 matches in a row, against Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic and women's world number one Kim Clijsters against Russian Svetlana



Ande Agassi pumps his fist after beating Andreas Vinciguerra of Sweden at the US Open on Thursday.

With Matthew Hayden, Jimmy

Maher, Martin Love and Andrew

Symonds set to be unavailable at

different times with the Australian

Test and one-day teams next sum-

mer, coach Terry Oliver says Law's

experience is vital to his side's

son from Stuart," Oliver said on

Oliver said Law's run harvest

including five centuries, for

Lancashire showed that last sea-

son's form loss was an aberration

'He hasn't lost his skill." he said.

would have liked. He was always

playing with niggling injuries and by

his own admission he wasn't as

focused as he was in the past.

"He didn't hit as many balls as he

for the former Australian batsman

"We're looking for a bigger sea-

success.

Friday.

SA-Derby match washed out

AFP, Derby

Rain prevented any play on the first day of South Africa's three-day tour game against Derbyshire here Thursday in what was the tourists' last match before next week's fifth Test against England at The Oval.

South Africa lead England 2-1 in the five-match series following their crushing 191 run fourth Test win at Headingley concluded Monday.

The Proteas are due to rest several key players for the Derbyshire game with batsman Gary Kirsten - who scored 190 runs in total at Headingley -- and fast bowler Makhaya Ntini among those expected to sit out this match. All-rounder Andrew Hall -- who

made a Test-best 99 not out at Headingley -- has been released to play for Worcestershire in Saturday's C and G Trophy final against Gloucestershire at Lord's.

Leading pace bowler Shaun Pollock, who missed the fourth Test to be present for the birth of his daughter in Durban, is not due back until Monday.

PAKISTAN DIARY

FROM PAGE 13

In this match Bangladesh have left arm slow bowler Mohammad Rafique operating.

Former opener Athar Ali Khan and now a Bangladesh Cricket Board selector agreed the team needed a specialist spinner but there were no wicket-taking spinners in the country.

"Of course we need an offspinner or a leggie. But there is none to choose from right now. There are a few youngsters but they need more time to develop their skills," he said during the lunch break.

B'DESH-PAK

SCORECARD				
FROM PAGE 1	13			
Saleh	7	2	13	0
Ashraful	2	0	9	0
Kapali	2.1	1	3	3
BANGLADESH: Second innings				
Hannan c Umar b Akhter 7				
Javed c Latif b Akhter 0				
Bashar Ibw b Gul 28				
Ashraful c Umar b Kaneria 7				
Saleh not out 5				5
Kapali not out				4
Extras: (lb-1)				1
Total: (For four wkts in 18.4 overs)				
52				
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-20, 3-43, 4-43				
To bat: K. Mashud, K. Mahmud, M.				
Rafique, M. Murtaza, A. Kabir				
Bowler	Ó	M	R	w
Akhter	6.4	1	25	2
Chabbir	-	2	11	Λ

Kaneria Toss: Bangladesh

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (WIS) and

jump final.

Athletics

Jana Pittman and Kelli White made

light of the absence of women's

athletics icons Cathy Freeman and

Marion Jones here on Thursday as

they landed the 400 metres hurdles

and 200m respectively at the World

to Freeman in Aussie eyes - admit-

ted to watching a Rocky movie

where the Sylvester Stallone char-

acter humbled his Russian oppo-

Pittman - the anointed successor

AFP, Paris

Championships.

nent in the ring.

sprinters carried on their work to winner Jerome Young.

off the revelations that he had tested positive for steroids, and then

Pittman, White enlighten after being cleared by an internal

Australian Jana Pittman holds her national flag after winning the women's 400m hurdles gold at the 9th Athletics

"I spent the day watching Rocky movies particularly the one where he beats the Russian. "I turned to my coach and I said: That's me - I'm going to beat the Russian."

revealed. "The IOC has written to the IAAF and the USOC, strongly urging them

Out on the track on Thursday, her main rival was Russia's world record holder Yuliya Pechonkina. White succeeded where Jones

failed in achieving the sprint world championship double and emulated East Germany's Katrin Krabbe's feat back in 1991. However, the hosts' hopes of two

of their fairest and hottest medal fancies stepping up to the plate were dashed as Muriel Hurtis finished fourth behind White while Manuela Montebrun took bronze in the women's hammer behind Cuba's Yipsi Moreno. France still has hope with hep-

tathlon silver medallist Eunice Barber easily qualifying for the long While America's male 200m

repair the damage caused by the antics of Jon Drummond, who was disqualified from the 100m, the news hardly got better for 400m While the 27-year-old shrugged

competed in the Sydney Olympics ecstasy after her victory. She

inquiry, the IOC entered the fray. In a statement released on

Thursday, they seemed to sweep aside the line taken by the USATF and the IAAF that they were both bound by the ruling at the Court of Sports Arbitration (CAS) last November that all cases between 1996-2000 were closed and the athletes' identity would not be

to pursue the matter. It has also written to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) calling on it to assist in finding the truth by using all means and powers at its disposal," said an IOC statement. After the disgraceful behaviour of

Drummond and the cloud over Young, the organisers will have been delighted that the mouthwatering 5,000m clash between Ethiopia's 10,000m champion Kenenisa Bekele and Morocco's 1,500m master Hicham El Guerrouj is on for Sunday. Both came through their semi-

finals but while Bekele will have his other two team-mates with him, the 29-year-old El Guerrouj will just have one and by all accounts Abderrahim Goumri is no friend of However, it nearly didn't happen

at all as the indefatigable Moroccan

revealed that after just over three hours of sleep following his wonderful success in the 1,500m on Wednesday he had his doubts about competing. "When I woke up my first thought was whether I really wanted to do the 5,000 but here I am and I feel

really good now and I feel really motivated." Pittman was as expected in

That revelation would warm the heart of her fellow Australian, tennis ace I levton Hewitt who has admitted in the past that he too uses the

showed no signs of nerves as she

chased down Pechonkina.

Stallone character to fire him up before he goes on court.

Mohammedan

FROM PAGE 13

Arambagh started the second half brilliantly, especially Imrul Hasan Emu who produced some good passes from the left but Winu wasted all of them.

After the match, it was came as a real surprise when striker Farhad, who managed to get away manhandling Arambagh defender Mustafa Kaba, was declared man-of-thematch. Everybody was expecting Arif Khan Joy to collect the award. TEAMS

Mohammedan SC: Nizam, Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Mahmudul Hasan, Titoo, Joy, Monwar (Salisu). Pappu, Dabran (Sentu) (Faisal), Kanchan and Farhad.

Arambagh KS: Piru, Kamruzzaman, Aziz Al Arman, Mustafa Kaba (Kamrul), Rezaul Karim Biplob, Kamal, Saif, Biddyut, Emu, Winu and Chu (Ashraful Awal). Yellow cards: Biddyut (Arambagh

Referee: Tayeeb Hasan.3

England defer naming squad

Cricket

England have delayed until Sunday naming the side to play South Africa in the fourth Test at The Oval next week because of injuries to key England, 2-1 down in the series,

have lost Sussex fast bowler James Kirtley with shin splits And Martin Bicknell, recalled for

hamstring problem. "We need more time to re-assess

"Delaying the announcement will enable us to make further checks on the form and fitness of possible

England had been been expected to recall Graham Thorpe After that match he took a break

class cricket this season and his inclusion would give England a lefthanded option in the middle-order.

His Surrey teammate and wicketkeeper batsman Alec Stewart looks likely to get the Oval farewell from international cricket he has looked for since announcing this would be his last series as an

Johnson is fit again after a knee problem while Durham quick Stephen Harmison, dropped for Headingley, look set to be recalled. And at the spin-friendly London

venue. Worcestershire's Gareth Batty or Robert Croft of Glamorgan could be asked to support left-armer Ashlev Giles. The selectors are also believed

to have discussed calling up Middlesex opening batsman Andrew Strauss, with a plan to move Marcus Trescothick down the order.

Star Vision Div II chess champs **SPORTS REPORTER** Star Vision Chess Team clinched the Second Division Chess League title with maximum 29 points after the final round at the NSC yester-Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad became runners-up with

27 points while Friend Chess Power finished third with 24.5 points. In the final round Star Vision beat Alam Nur CC 4-0, Muktijoddha Sangsad beat Faith Chess Club 3-1

p, Hazaribagh FSC beat Friends Chess 2.5-1.5. Protiva Daba Goshti beat Uttara Daba Goshti 3-1, Dhaka

Star Vision, Muktijoddha Sangsad and Friends Power qualify for the First Division Chess League for the year 2004.

Petherick has the most expensive innings analysis of somebody doing

Members of the Star Vision Chess Team pose for photographs yesterday.

CRYPTOQUIP

SRJH V AJUNCH FCTACNJN V GLHJ SRXQJ XH IJB, SCLQB

NRJJG TLNXF?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF FIDO WERE TO RENT A DOGHOUSE, DO YOU THINK THEY WOULD MAKE HIM SIGN A LEASH?

FCIINXBJUJB

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals C The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe

give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Kapali: Good, better, great! 1903-04 H Trumble Aus v Eng Melbourne W Rhodes, AE Knight, AFA Lilley TJ Matthews (2) Aus v RSA Mancheste 1912

1st Inns: R Beaumont, SJ Pegler, TA Ward 2nd Inns: HW Taylor, RO Schwartz, TA Ward 1929-30 MJC Allom Eng v NZ Christchurch TC Lowry, KC James, FT Badcock 1938-39 TWJ Goddard Eng v RSA Johannesburg A Melville, AD Nourse, N Gordon 1957 PJI oader Eng v WI Leeds JDC Goddard, S Ramadhin, R Gilhrist LF Kline 1957-58 Aus v RSA Cape Town ERH Fuller, HJ Tayfield, NAT Adcock 1958-59 WW Hall Lahore WI v Pak Mushtag Mohammad, Fazal Mahmood. Nasim-ul-Ghani

GM Griffin RSA v Ena 1960 Lord's MJK Smith. PM Walker, FS Truemar LR Gibbs Adelaide 1960-61 WIvAus KD Mackay, ATW Grout, FM Misson 1976-77 PJ Petherick NZ v Pak Lahore Javed Miandad, Wasim Raia, Intikhab Alam Brisbane 1988-89 **CAWalsh** WI vAus AIC Dodemaide, MRH Veletta, GM Wood MG Hughes 1988-89 Aus v WI CEL Ambrose, BP Patterson, CG Greenidge **DW Fleming** Rawalpindi 1994-95 Aus v Pak Aamer Malik, Inzaman-ul-Haq, Saleem Malik SK Warne Aus v Eng Melbourne 1994-95 PAJ DeFreitas, D Gough, DE Malcolm DG Cork Eng v WI Old Trafford 1995 RB Richardson, JR Murray, CL Hooper Eng v Aus D Gough Sydney 1998-99 IA Healy, SCG MacGill, CR Miller Wasim Akram Pak v SL Lahore 1998-99

RS Kaluwitharana, MRCN Bandaratilleke, GP Wickramasinghe Dhaka 1998-99 DA Gunawardene, WPUJC Vaas, DPMD Jayawardene 1999-2000 **DNT Zoysa** TR Gripper, MW Goodwin, NC Johnson 1999-2000 RS Kaluwitharana. HMRKB Herath, KR Pushpakumara 2000-01 GD McGrath Aus v WI SL Campbell, BC Lara, JC Adams Harbhajan Singh Calcutta 2000-01 Ind v Aus RT Ponting, AC Gilchrist, SK Warne Mohammad Sami Pak v SL 2001-02

A hat-trick is when a bowler takes wickets with three consecutive deliver 1. Allom, Petherick and Fleming did the hat-trick on debut.

WIvAus

Ban v Pak

Bridgetown

Peshawa

2002-03

2003

TCB Fernando, DNT Zoysa, M Muralitharan

Shabbir Ahmed, Danish Kaneria, Umar Gul

BLee, SCG MacGill, JL Langer

the hat trick (3 for 103).

JJC Lawson

Alok Kapali

2. The second Trumble and the Griffin hat-tricks were in the final Test of 3. The Walsh, Hughes and Lawson hat-tricks involved two innings. Matthews did the hat-trick in each innings.

6. Largest total to include a hat-trick is 537 by Pakistan at Rawalpindi, 7. Least number of career Test wickets for a bowler doing a hat-trick is 8 by Griffin. 8. Zoysa's hat-trick was from the first three balls he delivered in the Test

Headingley 10 years after his last Test, is battling to overcome a

our options in light of the injuries to James Kirtley and Martin Bicknell," said chairman of selectors David

replacements.

for former captain Nasser Hussain who broke a toe in South Africa's 191 run third Test win at Headingley. Left-handed batsman Thorpe

cricket in over a year since making the last of his 77 Test appearances against India at Lord's last season.

from all cricket after his marriage Thorpe averages 56.07 in first-

England cricketer. Somerset seamer Richard

Shoaib

allowed to rejoin Durham

REUTERS, Peshawar Pakistan will allow Shoaib Akhtar will rejoin English county side Durham after the second Test against Bangladesh after all.

Pakistan had second thoughts

about releasing the fast bowler after

Mohammad Sami was ruled out of

the ongoing test series against Bangladesh with a hairline fracture of the ankle. But Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Lieutenant-General Tauqir Zia told reporters on

Friday: "Akhtar will join the English

county soon after the second test." He said the bowlers' enforced absence would allow the selectors to try out new bowlers in the third test and one-day internationals.

Durham had released Shoaib

under the understanding that he would return to them after the second test, which ends on Sunday. Shoaib and Sami have headed Pakistan's new-ball attack since the

axing of Wasim Akram and Wagar Younis after the World Cup.

Chess Vision beat Seikhdi Jubo 2.5-1.5 points.