Column One

BOOST sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-72

✓ **Tick the Correct Answers**

Competition closes 8 pm, June 27, '97

1	How many countries will participate in the sixth Asia Cup cricket?		
	Four	Six	Three
2	The number of associate members in the International Cricket Council are		
	21	26	23
3	Who has scored a double hattrick in the Green Delta First Division hockey league?		
	Sadek	Kamal	Siam
4	The Bangladesh vice-captain in the 6th Asia Cup is		
	Minhajul	Aminul	Saiful
5	The new French Open champion is		
	Bruguera	Kuerten	Chang

Name .....

.....

Class ..... **Roll No.** .....

School Address .....

.....

Phone: (If any) .....

POWERED WITH EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK

Steffi Graf

(German tennis superstar)

"I am completely open on this question. I am hopeful of the abilities of the physicians, but I would have no problem ending my career."

After being asked about her career right after the latest knee operation.

Lord's Test begins today

LONDON, June 18 (Reuter): Presumably to Mark Taylor's relief, the spotlight has switched from the Australian captain to his England counterpart Mike Atherton in the buildup to the second Test at Lord's on Thursday.

Taylor saved his Test place for the immediate future with a century of immense character and concentration in the opening Ashes Test at Edgbaston.

MIKE ATHERTON

He has been further heartened by Australia's first tour win in a first-class match, and 84-run victory over Leicestershire on Monday which featured five wickets in an innings by Shane Warne and six in the match from replacement paceman Paul Reiffel.

"We hadn't won a match for a month so the Leicester result was important," Taylor commented. "We really looked as if we meant business in their second innings."

Australia, the unofficial world champions, have historically flourished at Lord's and have won their last three Tests at cricket's worked headquarters.

But for the moment the force is with England, who won the first Test within four days following a clean sweep of the three-match one-day series.

Their successes, alongwith the national soccer team's victory in the Tournio de France and stirring performances by the British Lions in South Africa, have generated an air of head euphoria among the British sporting public.

Now the pressure is on Atherton and his team to perform in the season's showpiece at Lord's, where England have beaten Australia only once this century.

Atherton, awarded the Order of the British Empire at the weekend, becomes England's longest serving captain on Thursday when he leads his side for the 42nd time in a Test.

The previous record was held by the late Peter May, who captained England in 41 Tests.

Nobody has questioned Atherton's ability as an opening batsman, reflected in an average of 45.55 since taking over as captain four years ago.

But he has won only three series in that time, although playing a full part in a creditable 2-2 home draw with the West Indies in 1995.

His latest critic is former Test selector Fred Titmus.

"Atherton is a fine player but one of the worst captains we have had since the war," Titmus commented on Monday. "For him to get Peter May's record is a travesty."

In a biography launced at Lord's on Tuesday, Atherton said he had taken the job because he "genuinely felt I could make an impact on the field."

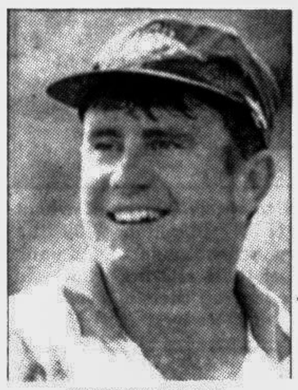
But he also acknowledged: "You can only captain an unsuccessful side for so long."

In a welcome vote of confidence, the England selectors did not even bother to meet before announcing an unchanged squad for Lord's with the same 11 expected to play.

Australia have selected Reiffel in place of the injured Jason Gillespie and will probably keep faith with Michael Bevan. Despite his weakness against the short, lifting delivery.

Bevan also struggled with his quick left arm unorthodox spin in the first Test but remains the only backup to Warne.

Reiffel, who stepped off the aircraft straight into the match



MARK TAYLOR

against Nottinghamshire, has bowled immaculately and with showers forecast at the end of the week could play an important part.

TEAMS

ENGLAND: Mike Atherton (captain), Mark Butcher, Alec Stewart, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, John Crawley, Mark Ealham, Robert Croft, Darren Gough, Andrew Caddick, Devon Malcolm.

AUSTRALIA: Mark Taylor (captain), Matthew Elliott, Greg Blewett, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Michael Bevan, Ian Healy, Shane Warne, Michael Kasprowicz, Paul Reiffel, Glenn McGrath.

Jansher stoops to Nicol

CAIRO, June 18: Third-seeded Scot Peter Nicol defeated reigning world champion Jansher Khan in a sensational 92-minute final match of the Al-Ahram international squash championship in Cairo on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The left-handed Scot beat top seed Jansher 12-15, 15-14, 15-12, 15-11 in his first tournament win since the 1994 Leeks classic in Cardiff, Wales. Nicol did however win in an unofficial money match recently played between the two champions in London.

It was second-time unlucky for Jansher who also lost last year's Al-Ahram championship to the fifth-seeded Egyptian champion Ahmed Barada, then a wild card entry.

Nicol said his surprise victory in the grass court, located at the foot of the pyramids of Giza, was part of a long-range tactical plan. It will also almost certainly elevate his rank to number two in the world.

Nicol launched his tactics full-force from the beginning of the match and the Scot soon had the 3,000 spectators who silently watched him beat local hero Barada on Monday cheering him on to a 12-9 lead in the first game of the final.

But the vastly experienced Jansher escaped the deep court net long enough to counterattack stunningly in the front court and clean up that opening game in a single hand.

The patient Scot simply started the second game, went to an 8-5 lead, absorbed another counterattack to 9-9 and then led again 14-12 and game ball.

Jansher might have won that game with a possible penalty stroke after recovering to 14-14 but referee Nasser Zahran allowed him only a let.

Jansher smashed a forehand volley into the tin to lose the single point tie-break. His unforced error swung the match Nicol's way.

Nicol led 6-4, 9-5 and 10-7 in the third game but the Pak-

PETER NICOL

istani champion surged again to lead 11-10. But Jansher lost that initiative on a careless penalty stroke in the forehand court and then contributed three more unforced errors to the Scot's call.

Nicol produced a scintillating backhand volley drop under intense physical pressure from Jansher and then followed it with a clinical forehand version to clinch a 2-1 game lead.

Jansher raised the pace noticeably to advance into the front court and built a lead of 10-4.

It seemed he was on his way to a familiar late game surge with which he has killed many opponents but a forehand drifting dropshot that might have continued the resurgence was called down by the referee and had to register as another unforced error.

This gave Nicol the toehold on which to counterattack fiercely and smoothly to close out the game and the championship.

The world champion finished with a desperately low forehand drive into the tin. Nicol finished hands aloft, beating on the sidewalk with the butt of his racket in delight at the reward of his carefully constructed and superbly-played final.

The women's final was, however, an all-Australian affair in which Melbourne's world champion Sarah Fitz-Gerald easily brushed aside her second-seeded Sydney-based compatriot Michelle Martin in just 29 minutes. Fitz-Gerald lead 9-3, 9-3, 9-0.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Avijatrick Club posted their third consecutive victory in the Pioneer football league when they defeated Red Sun KC by a lone goal in one of the three East Zonal matches at the Dhupkhola ground in the old part of the city yesterday.

After a barren first half Uzzal scored the all-important goal for Avijatrick in the 59th minute.

Abakash Tarun Sangha recorded a thumping 5-1 win against Aganagar KC with Mossaraf notching two goals. Saiful, Rajib and Jamal shared the other three goal for the winners while Arif netted the consolation for Aganagar in the 47th minute.

In the other match, Abdul Hadi Juba Sangha and Paradogair Club shared honours to a one-all draw. Shamim gave Paradogair a 29th lead before Nasim neutralised the score for Abdul Hadi JS five-minute into the second half.

Meanwhile, three East Zone matches were also decided at different venues yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Golam Mostafa Lane split points with Lalbagh to a 1-1 draw. Mamun gave Golam Mostafa Lane a 34th minute lead before Jahangir struck the equaliser for Lalbagh in the 51st minute.

At the RAJUK ground adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium, Arambagh KC (junior) earned a hard-fought 2-1 win over K R Boys. While Rainbow AC recorded a lone goal victory over Rising Star with Ramzan scoring the match-winner in the 17th minute.

Istanbul to host '99 Euro swimming

ROME, June 18: The 1999 European Swimming Championships will be held in Istanbul, the European Swimming League (LEN) said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The LEN Bureau, which chose the venue for the two-yearly event at a meeting on Sunday, also decided to separate the water polo competitions from the other aquatic disciplines — swimming, diving, synchronised swimming and long-distance swimming — at future European Championships.

Florence and Prato in Italy were chosen to stage the men's and women's European water polo championships in 1999. The LEN said the separation of venues was designed to give more emphasis to each of the aquatic disciplines.

Water polo will feature with the others at the next European Swimming Championships in Seville, Spain, in August.

Russian natants short of cash?

MOSCOW, June 18: The Russian swimming team's preparations for the European Championships in Seville in August may be disrupted by a cash shortage, the Sport Express newspaper reported today, reports AFP.

"The Russian Olympic Committee and swimming federation failed to get enough money for the national team to train in a coordinated way," the daily said.

Many national stars have been forced to train separately in their local swimming centres in Volgograd, Samara or Saint Petersburg.

More than 20 team members, including Denis Pankratov, a double gold-medalist in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic butterfly competition, will leave for Portugal soon for training, but the trip will be personally funded by the team's chief coach Viktor Avdiyenko.

The Portuguese swimming federation invited Avdiyenko and Sergei Kolmogorow, the squad's medical research chief, to give a series of lectures, and they agreed to donate their fees to cover the team's expenses.

However, Grigory Stetsyuk, executive director of the Russian Swimming Federation, played down the financial problems.

"We are facing some difficulties in attracting money, but it is not affecting the training," he told Wednesday.

He said Russian sprinter Alexander Popov, who won two gold medals in the freestyle in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, and added two more in Atlanta, was expected to join the team in Seville just before the Championships.

Australia-based Popov has been following his own training programme since he was knifed in a street brawl in Moscow last August.

"Popov is the only swimmer with a guaranteed place in the squad in Seville," said federation chief Gennady Alyoshin.

Aussie-NZ WC playoffs

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, June 18: Wynton Rufer scored a pair of goals Wednesday night as New Zealand beat Fiji 5-0 to clinch the Group 2 title in a second-round Oceania World Cup soccer qualifying match, reports AP.

New Zealand will now face Australia in a two-leg playoff in the third round, with the winner to play the fourth-place Asian team for a spot in the World Cup next year in France.

Vaughan Coveny, Nik Viljoen and Riki van Steeden also scored for New Zealand.

On Saturday, Papua New Guinea play, Fiji at Port Moresby. Both teams have 1-2 records after three matches.

German Patrick Bellenbaum (R) takes control of the ball ahead of Pakistan's Rahim Khan during their friendly engagement in Dusseldorf, Germany on June 17.

— AFP/UNB photo

Asia Cup cricket

WorldTel to sponsor Bangladesh

Sports Reporter

World Tel, a leading electronic media, will be the sponsors of the Bangladesh team for the sixth Asia Cup. This was disclosed yesterday by the secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad.

Although details were not available, it was learnt that the American company will provide a lucrative amount to the BCB for using their logo on the jersey of the national team for the four-nation tourney, scheduled to begin in Colombo from July 14.

The biennial event also includes three cricketing giants — world champions Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India.

Ansars lift Orient Bread kabaddi tittle

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars lifted the Orient Bread women's kabaddi tournament title defeating Sonali Bank in the final by 28-19 points at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sport Complex in Dhanmondi yesterday.

The final, which marked the successful completion of any sort of eves kabaddi tourney after fifteen years, attracted a huge crowd.

Earlier, Ansars moved into the final eliminating Rifles School by 60-12 points in their semifinal at the same venue in the morning while Sonali Bank recorded a 49-9 point win against Azad Sporting Club in the second semifinal.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader gave away prizes among the winners. The president of the Kabaddi Federation Habibur Rahman Molla, MP, was also present in the presentation ceremony.

Eighteen teams took part in the three-day meet.

Acme abase Police

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

BANGLADESH POLICE: 63 all out in 17.5 overs (Alamgir 23, Saiful 11; Hasibul Hossain 6/19, Zakir Hossain 2/11, Al-Shahriar Rokon 2/13).

ACME LABORATORIES: 64 for no loss in 6.2 overs (Naimur Rahman 39, Nurul Abedin not out 18).

Hasibul Hossain Shanto ran havoc with the new-ball as defending joint-champions Acme Laboratories recorded their second successive win in the Office cricket league with a thumping 10-wicket defeat on minnows Bangladesh Police at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The tall national right-arm seamer captured six wickets for only 19 runs in his seven overs to sent the rookies packing for a meagre 63. In reply, Acme raced on to amass the required 64 without loss in only 6.2 overs.

National all-rounder Naimur Rahman hammered a quickfire unbeaten 39 off 24 while former national opener Nurul Abedin Nobel was not out on a 15-ball 18.

Div III football

Sports Reporter

Shaheen notched up a brilliant hattrick as Jatrabari Krira Chakra scored a record 9-1 goal win over Matuail Jubo Sangha in one of the two Third Division football league matches, played at the Army Stadium yesterday.

Shaheen scored the first two goals in the 11th and 16th minutes to set the tone of a huge victory for Jatrabari before completing his treble midway through the second half. Shaheen part, Salahuddin struck twice in a span of three minutes in the second half while Nasim, Anis, Niranjan and Shahed scored one goal apiece to complete the Matuail rout. For the losers Rubel pulled off a late consolation goal.

In the first matches of the day, Sunrise SC came from behind to defeat Rayerbazaar by the odd goal in three.

Raju, the architect of Sunrise's sensational win, scored both the goals for his side in the 37th and 51st minute respectively. Earlier, Ishak gave Rayerbazaar a 25th minute lead.

OJ again in thick soup

BEVERLY HILLS, June 18: OJ Simpson must give up trophies from his days as a football star and his golf clubs to pay 33.5 million dollars for the beating death of his ex-wife and a friend, a judge ruled Monday, reports AFP.

Simpson was acquitted of the gruesome double murder but in February lost a civil suit brought by the victims' families. His 72 trophies are to be auctioned off to raise money to pay the damages.

Judge Irving Shmer ruled that the former athlete could not keep the trophies, valued at an estimated 85,000 dollars, Simpson says, however, that he cannot find his most valuable trophy — the Heisman Trophy for university play estimated at 400,000 dollars.

Despite lawyers' pleas that he be allowed to at least keep his 14 golf clubs, Simpson must five up all six bags and 51 clubs.

'99 WC cricket schedule

LONDON, June 18 (Reuter): Schedule for the 1999 World Cup cricket tournament announced at Lord's on Tuesday:

Group A: England, India, Kenya, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe.

Group B: Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Pakistan, Scotland, West Indies.

FIXTURES

May 14 : England v Sri Lanka, Lord's.
May 15 : India v South Africa, Hove. Zimbabwe v Kenya, Taunton.
May 16 : Australia v Scotland, Worcester. West Indies v Pakistan, Bristol.
May 17 : **New Zealand v Bangladesh, Chelmsford.**
May 18 : England v Kenya, Canterbury.
May 19 : Sri Lanka v South Africa, Northampton. India v Zimbabwe, Leicester.
May 20 : Australia v New Zealand, Cardiff. Pakistan v Scotland, Chester-le-Street.
May 21 : **West Indies v Bangladesh, Ireland (venue to be announced).**
May 22 : England v South Africa, The Oval. Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka, Worcester.
May 23 : Kenya v India, Bristol. Australia v Pakistan, Headingley.
May 24 : West Indies v New Zealand, Southampton. **Scotland v Bangladesh, Edinburgh.**
May 25 : England v Zimbabwe, Trent Bridge.
May 26 : Sri Lanka v India, Taunton. South Africa v Kenya, Amstelveen, Netherlands.
May 27 : West Indies v Scotland, Leicester. **Australia v Bangladesh, Chester-le-Street.**
May 28 : New Zealand v Pakistan, Derby.
May 29 : England v India, Edgbaston. Zimbabwe v South Africa, Chelmsford.
May 30 : Sri Lanka v Kenya, Southampton. West Indies v Australia, Old Trafford.
May 31 : Scotland v New Zealand, Edinburgh. **Pakistan v Bangladesh, Northampton.**

SUPER SIX

June 4 : Group A second v Group B second, The Oval.
June 5 : Group A first v Group B first, Trent Bridge.
June 6 : Group A third v Group B third, Headingley.
June 8 : Group A second v Group B first, Old Trafford.
June 9 : Group A third v Group B second, Lord's.
June 10 : Group A first v Group B third, Edgbaston.
June 11 : Group A third v Group B first, The Oval.
June 12 : Group A second v Group B third, Trent Bridge.
June 13 : Group A first v Group B second, Headingley.

SEMIFINALS

June 16 : Team 1 v team 4, Old Trafford
June 17 : Team 2 v team 3, Edgbaston

FINAL

June 20 : Lord's.

Players and officials of the victorious Bangladesh Ansars team, which clinched the Orient Bread women's kabaddi title beating Sonali Bank in the final, pose at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex yesterday. — Star photo

Peter's verdict upheld

BONN, June 18: German prosecutors dealt injured tennis star Steffi Graf a new blow on Tuesday when they said her father would go to jail in the next two months for at least a year for millions of marks of tax evasion, reports Reuter.

Prosecutors and defence lawyers both said they had withdrawn their appeals challenging the verdict against Peter Graf, 58, handed down by a court in Mannheim in January, meaning the sentence is now legally binding.

The court sentenced Peter to three years and nine months after convicting him of evading and trying to evade 12 million marks (6.9 million dollars) in taxes on Steffi's earnings, but he was freed pending the result of the appeals.

Prosecutors, who originally deemed the sentence too lenient, said they had dropped an appeal because they had found no legal errors in the court's written verdict.

"Peter Graf has prepared himself to complete the remaining part of his sentence. Because the taxes were already paid long ago, the matter will soon be laid to rest," Graf's lawyer Franz Salditt said in a statement.

The decision provides another setback to the former world number one player, who is at the moment out of action because of a serious knee injury.

Her father has been the most important figure in the life of the 28-year-old Steffi, who started playing the game when she was hardly bigger than a tennis racket.

Prosecutor Horst Kuehner said it would be six to eight

PETER GRAF

weeks before Peter would have to go to prison because of legal formalities and he would remain free until then as long as he did not break any of the terms of his bail.

Kuehner said Graf would probably have to serve two thirds of his sentence in total, meaning he may be in prison for around 15 months because he had already served 15 months in investigative custody.

Legal experts said the amount of time he will be behind bars could be even less then if the sentence were reduced for good behaviour.

Prosecutors also said they had dropped their appeal against the verdict on former family tax adviser Joachim Eckardt, who received two and a half year for complicity.

Eckardt, 49, has already served 14 months investigative custody and will probably not have to return to jail.

Prosecutors in March dropped investigations against Steffi Graf herself. Now recovering in a Vienna clinic after a knee operation, after she agreed to make a donation to charity. Media reports put the sum to 1.3 million marks.

She will not be able to defend her Wimbledon or US Open titles in the next few months and last weekend said she was considering retiring because of persistent injury.

Eubank starts paying back

LONDON, June 18: Britain's former world champion boxer Chris Eubank on Monday began community service duties at two schools following his conviction for causing grievous bodily harm, reports AFP.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Atlas pages
5 Eject
9 Craze
12 Monad
13 Wings
14 "— Blue?"
15 "Cannery Row" author
17 Actress Thurman
18 Elwood P. Dowd's pal
19 Acrylic fiber
21 Spielberg hero
22 Haunted-house noise
24 St. Louis squad
27 Halloween shout
28 Rodents do it
31 Milwaukee product
32 Commotion
33 Leading lady
34 Tablet
36 Rainy
37 Snatch
38 Centrifuge inserts
40 Math ratio
41 Enjoys a tearjerker
43 Threat
47 Unctuous hypocrisy
48 "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" author
51 Every last crumb
52 Actress Gray
53 Relaxation
54 Ball-bearing item
55 Chopin's love
56 Deli loaves

DOWN

1 Giddyap, in the Yukon
2 Rectangular pilaster
3 Dock
4 Home of a certain septigamist?
5 Youngest
6 Diminutive suffix
7 Singer Davis
8 Tea variety
9 "Absalom, Absalom!" author
10 Shot
11 Anthropologist Fossey
16 Bottom line
20 Scott Joplin's style
22 Bodies of laws
23 Cheer
24 Converse, slangily
25 1996 torch lighter
26 "Billy Budd, Foretopman" author
27 Weep loudly
29 Actress Gardner
30 Hyperlink hookup
35 Recline
37 Glamorous castaway
39 Tray contents
40 Confine
41 Prince Albert, e.g.
42 Anger
43 Have an objection
44 Vacationing
45 Docket entry
46 Potato buds
49 Mound stat.
50 Hr. fraction

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

CRYPTOQUIP

D H K Q Q N H A H N L R K E E Z P W G H W L E A N R G U I Z W H E H U R R X Z W P U Q K E E K E I R G H D R X .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE KOOKY SKY DIVER LOVES TO SAY HE'S SOAR WITH THE WORLD.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: G equals M

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.