

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-74

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes 8 pm, July 25, '97

- 1 Who lifted the Wimbledon ladies' singles crown this year?
2 How many times has Sampras won the Wimbledon?
3 Which nation clinched the Copa America title?
4 Who became champions in the World Youth Soccer Cup?
5 Who won this year's Green Delta First Division hockey league title?

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

EN-VITS

SPORTS TALK



Linford Christie

(Olympic 100m goldmedalist)
"Over the years, I found that the better I got, the less fan it seemed."

BOOST WHIZZ KID-73 winner

Md. Abdul Karim Khan, Udayan School. (Remember to bring your ID card and one passport size photograph while collecting the winners prize from The Sports Desk of The Daily Star on July 16 at 7:30 pm)

WHIZZ KID-73 correct answers

- 1. Who is the third fastest server in men's tennis circuit at the moment?
2. How many warm-up matches will Bangladesh play before the World Cup in 1997?
3. How many matches has Shahbaz played for Pakistan?
4. What is the position of Bangladesh in FIFA rankings for June?
5. Who lifted CUTE Premier handball league title?
Ans. BDR

Cutting the Premiership to size

LONDON, July 11: English Premier league officials are considering reducing the top flight competition from 20 clubs to 18, a newspaper reported on Thursday, reports Reuters. Premier league chief executive Peter Leaver was quoted as saying the country's top sides may also withdraw from the League Cup in a bid to improve England's standing in Europe. "We may have to do both eventually, Leaver said after a meeting of English clubs involved in Europe this season. Several Premier league coaches have blamed a congested domestic fixture calendar on England's poor performances in European club competition in recent years. UEFA wants England to have an 18-team competition to fall in line with most of the rest of Europe. This would allow for a further expansion of the European Cup, the Guardian said. UEFA was considering reducing the number of English clubs allowed to compete in Europe if the Premier league did not cut its numbers by two, the paper added.

Rain plays foul at Colombo

Sports Reporter



Rain ruined Bangladesh's second warm-up match against the Sri Lankan Board President Eleven after only 14.2 overs of play in Colombo yesterday. According to a faxed message received here yesterday, the sky was clear in the morning and the match began on time at the Moors Sports Club ground. But the match lasted hardly an hour before rain stopped play and forced the umpires to abandon the game with the visitors, who appeared in their last practice match before the Asia Cup which begins on July 14, on 80 in 14.2 overs for the loss of two wickets. The visiting side's unfinished innings was built around the two openers Naimur Rahman Durjoy and Shahriar Hossain Bidyut who scored 27 runs apiece to give the team a solid start. Durjoy, one of the key members of the ICC winning squad,

faced only 17 balls before being bowled by R Perera. In his quickfire innings, the right-handed bat hammered four boundaries and a six. Bidyut, a replacement for injured Athar Ali Khan, on the other hand took 47 balls. However, one down Habibul Bashar Sumon, who scored a half century in the previous match last Wednesday, failed to improve his average as he was out for only seven. Vice-captain Aminul Islam Bulbul was not out on six. Besides, two more changes were made to the team yesterday. Wicketkeeper Khaled Masood Pilot was replaced by Mofizur Rahman Munna while seamer Hasibul Hasan Shanto was given the day off by bringing in Zakir Hasan. Meanwhile, according to the message Pilot, who lost two of his teeth on Wednesday, was improving is expected to recover in time before their opener against Pakistan July 18. Pilot apart, Athar, who suffered a back injury, has also recovered and will appear in a fitness test today.



DURJOY...27 off 17

Colombia's 'ugly game'!



BOGOTA, July 11: Drug traffickers control 80 per cent of Colombia's top five soccer clubs and have stakes in many others, the head of the country's corporate watchdog said on Thursday. In the first systematic probe of its kind, the companies superintendency investigated 100,000 shareholders of all of Colombia's professional soccer teams. It believes a group of between 50 and 80 people are pumping proceeds from cocaine and heroin trafficking into the country's most popular sport. "Illicit money is really a euphemism and there are many things that suggest that these funds invested in (some) clubs are linked to drug trafficking," companies superintendent Dario Laguado told Reuters, confirming media reports that 80 per cent of the top five clubs. Superintendency officials say the clubs most tainted by drug money are America from the city of Cali, Millonarios from capital Bogota, Atletico Nacional from Medellin, Deportivo Cali and Envigado, at least 15 smaller regional teams are also suspected of drug links. Millionaires directors were unavailable for comment on Thursday. Atletico Nacional

manager Juan Guillermo Montoya said he "welcome" the probe and added: "We don't have any problem in that respect." Envigado manager Javier Velasquez criticised news reports of the probe as "sensationalist" and said "this type of investigation is damaging to the reputation of clubs and their directors." Laguado said 174 soccer shareholders had either failed to explain the source of the cash they invested in soccer clubs or could not be fully identified - raising suspicions that some may be aliases for known drug lords. The final report will be completed this month and the results will be passed to the chief prosecutor's office, which has already opened a preliminary investigation, a spokesman said. Clubs could face hefty sanctions if they are found to be financed with drug money and individuals could have their shares confiscated under a recently introduced asset stripping law if they are found to have links with narco-trafficking. Bogota's second soccer club, Santa Fe, was not directly mentioned by the superintendency but its director Cesar Villegas was arrested last year and is

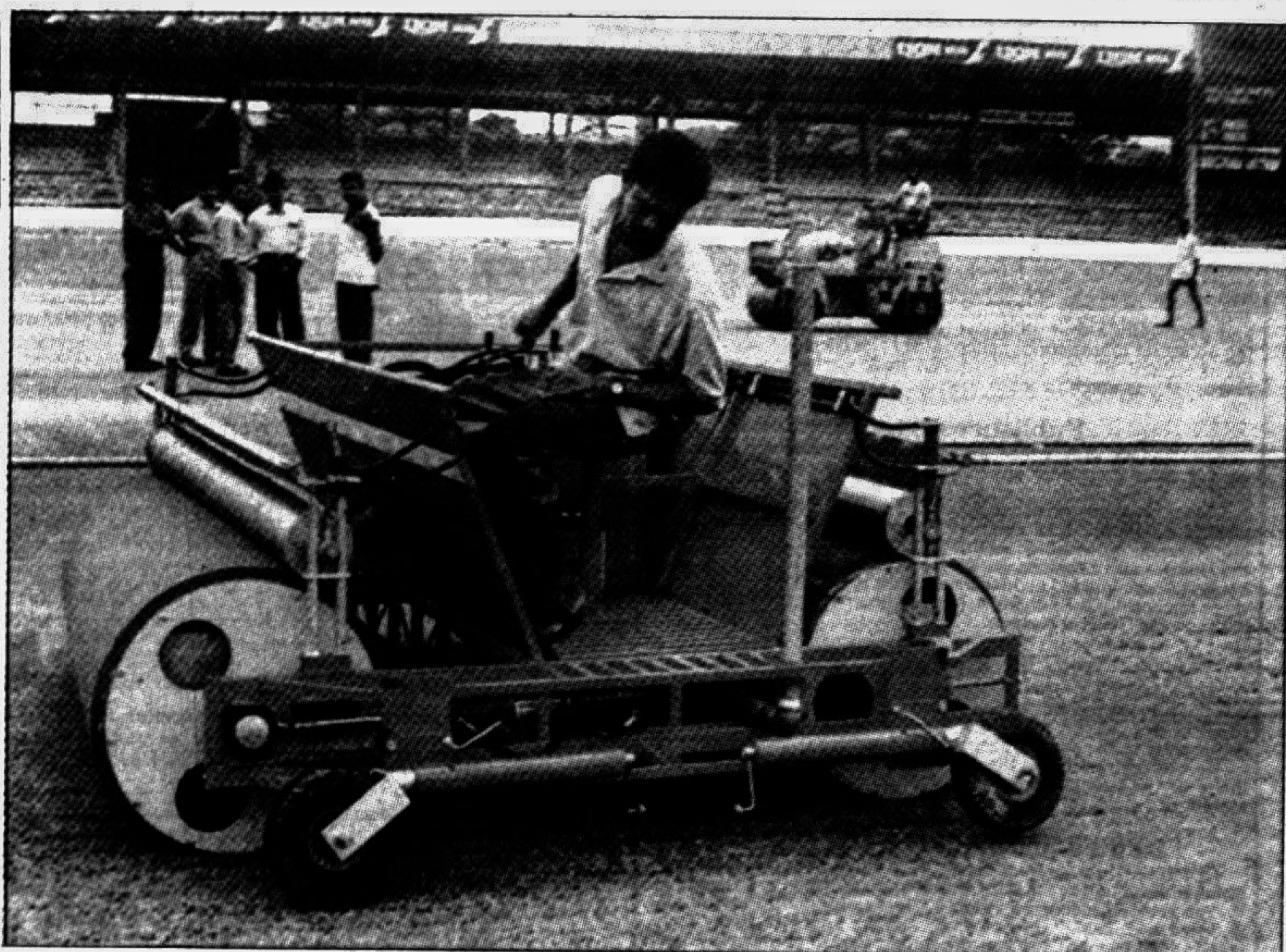
under investigation for illicit enrichment from drug trafficking, the spokesman said. Laguado gave few details on the "suspicious" shareholders but said the widow of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, late head of the Medellin drug mob's military operations, had a minority stake in Millonarios. Her husband was said to have a major holding in the club before he was killed by police in 1989. The links between Colombia's drug cartels and the "beautiful game" stem back to the early 1980s despite the findings of his investigation. Laguado believes the game is "much cleaner" than it has been for most of the past 15 years. He said that the death or capture of all of Colombia's top drug barons meant their stakes had passed to their heirs and many had been sold to legitimate investors, including major corporate sponsors. The head of the now defunct Medellin Cartel, Pablo Escobar, and the Rodriguez Orejuela brothers, jailed leaders of the Cali Cartel, were all said to have major holdings in soccer clubs. Soccer stars fell victim to the Mafia, they were bought, they were promoted and they were murdered, Sitmon Strong wrote in "whitewash," his history of the Colombia cocaine trade. "Soccer teams reflected power and social status... and were big business. They offered easy to launder money in Colombia and abroad," he added. Many sports analysts believe it was financing from drug cartels that led to the Colombian national team's rise to glory in the run-up to the 1994 World Cup in the United States, despite being favourites to win. Colombia had a disastrous showing that ended with the murder of defender Andres Escobar shortly after he returned to Medellin.

Diego does what he does best

BUENOS AIRES, July 11: Controversial Argentine football star Diego Maradona on Thursday returned to his old habit of making volatile comments, blasting the lifestyle in Japan and saying he would never live there, reports AFP. Maradona told TV America 2 the Japanese were "very capricious" for recently denying the mercantile athlete an entry visa based on his very public past problems with illegal drugs. Less than 24 hours after his triumphant - and fifth - return to the soccer field, the former national team captain, 36, said he would never live in Japan because "over there everything is screwed up." "There are so many people that crowds waiting on the corner to cross the street look like a demonstration," added Maradona, whose Argentine side won the World Cup in 1986. "Yesterday, when we were ready to defend against a corner kick, I said it looked like (the scene at) a Japanese traffic light, where 100,000 people cross the road without laughing or anything, they just come and go," he joked. In an on-air conversation with his brother Hugo, who lives in Japan, the soccer star asked him to please return to Argentina soon, because "all Japanese are Japanese," a phrase used here to describe someone with a strange lifestyle.

Another after Ravanelli

LONDON, July 11: Relegated Middlesbrough have accepted a bid from another English club for Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli, reports Reuters. The north-eastern club's telephone service for fans said on Thursday that Middlesbrough had agreed to allow the club, which was not identified, to talk to Ravanelli about a transfer. One report said the fee involved would be between seven and nine million pounds (11.7 million dollars). "Middlesbrough have confirmed that they have accepted a bid from an unnamed club and have given the club permission to speak with Ravanelli to allow them to agree personal terms," the service said.



PREPARING FOR THE ASIA CUP...Sri Lanka cricket board's latest acquisition, a 'super sucker', is put into operation to dry the Premadasa Stadium, where the opening and final matches of the four-nation tournament are to be played. -AFP/UNB photo

Lalbagh beat BG Press

Sports Reporter
A second half goal by striker Shanti gave Lalbagh Sporting Club a solitary goal victory over Bangladesh Government Press in yesterday's lone Third Division football Super League encounter at the Army Stadium. After a barren first session, Shanti fired the all-important goal of the match in the 59th minute.

Bruce goes home for medical July 15

COLOMBO, July 11: Sri Lanka's coach Bruce Yardley will leave for Australia next week at the beginning of the Asia Cup tournament here for an "overdue medical checkup" the cricket board here said Thursday, reports agencies. The Australian coach, who was hired by Sri Lanka in January on a two and a half year contract replaced fellow countryman Dave Whatmore who abruptly ended a two-year contract following difference with some players. Yardley will leave for home on July 15, the day after the start of the 13-day tourney, as ordered by his doctors. The cricket board did not give further details on why Yardley, 49, was leaving at a time when World Champions Sri Lanka were going to play against Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Sri Lanka had earlier approached former England star Allan Lamb and also sounded out the great West Indian all-rounder Sir Garfield Sobers to train the side. Team manager and former captain Duleep Mendis, who has acted as a stopgap coach in the past, will assume Yardley's functions, the board said. Yardley would be back before the tournament ends on July 26, said a cricket official, who asked not to be named.

Benson & Hedges final today

LONDON, July 11: Kent's Mark Ealham may have trouble negotiating the Surrey close fielders in Saturday's Benson and Hedges Cup final at Lord's, reports AFP. And the respect Ealham might receive from Surrey is a result of a both his own reputation and the good rapport between the two sides.

The 27-year-old all-rounder approaches this weekend's showpiece knowing he has graduated from the ranks to become one of the key performers on show as Kent attempt to win this trophy for the first time since 1978 despite appearing in their third final in six years. That alone will guarantee a certain amount of good-natured abuse, but when two of the close in fielders are likely to be Mark Butcher and Adam Hoolioake who both toured Australia alongside Ealham with England in this winter and the wicketkeeper is Test teammate Alec Stewart, he knows he is in for a noisy stay at the wicket. "I'm sure there will be a bit of micky taking going on out there, conceded Ealham. "It's probably worse in a way because

knowing the Surrey lads so well will probably relax me a bit when you want to be keyed up for it. "I'm expecting it to get very intense once we get out on the pitch and I'm sure there will words spoken but I'm sure it will be nothing out of the ordinary. "They are a good bunch of lads and we all know each other very well and I'm expecting a great atmosphere between the two sides both before and after the match." His laid back approach though hides a fierce determination to put Lord's final defeats against Hampshire in 1992 and Lancashire three years later firmly behind him and finally taste some domestic success. Ealham's undoubted ability with bat and ball helped him emerge as a key player in England's team and has been an ever-present this season for both the Tynes Trophy and the Cornhill Test series against Australia. But for all his international credibility, he is yet to sample success with Kent apart from their Sunday League triumph two years ago and is eager to remedy the situation. "Every cricketer loves playing for England and I'd love to do that as many times as possible, but to win a Lord's final with Kent would be great," he explained. "I've played in the finals and although I haven't won them, I've really enjoyed being involved and the atmosphere. This year we have two very good sides and it should be a cracking final." Ealham, whose century off 44 balls against Derbyshire is still a Sunday League record, can be expected to come in at No 4 and use his explosive stroke-play to try and upset Surrey's attack before using his swing and seam to restrict their batting line up. "I used to be primarily a bowler who batted at nine but I gradually moved up the order and now I'm batting at four in one-day cricket," he added. "I started bowling mainly for something to do when I was in the field and I learnt to swing it. "I've never really been a quick bowler and I haven't really got the height anyway so I concentrated on trying to swing it and that has developed as I have got older and more experienced."

A rehearsal for Scotland

EDINBURGH, Scotland, July 11: Amateur status of the game in Scotland is one of the major stumbling blocks for Celtic cricket in their desire to become a major force in the international arena, reports AP. "Scotland, who will make their World Cup debut in the 1999 tournament, hosted by England, will play their first major dress rehearsal against the touring Australians Saturday at the Grange Cricket Club ground, one of the venues being used for World Cup matches. Although the match hasn't been given international status, the locals have left no stones unturned in making this day a major one on Scotland's sports calendar. "From now onwards, whatever we do is going to be very crucial," said Alex Ritchie, the general manager of the Scottish Cricket Union. "If we don't take advantage of anything that comes our way, we'll never achieve our potential." Scotland finished third in this year's International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy in Malaysia to qualify for the

World Cup. World Cup qualification has attracted sponsorship and raised the profile of Scottish cricket. But the absence of professionalism, according to Ritchie, means Scotland face a mountainous task in preparing for the event. "The major problem facing our cricket is the amateur status of it," said Ritchie. "We don't have professional cricketers. All our cricketers are either schoolboys or office workers. "We just can't organise overseas tours, because no one is prepared to grant them leave. "We had a tough time when we had to go to Kuala Lumpur," he added. Cricket is a minority sport in Scotland and is brushed aside by the more popular football codes of soccer and rugby union. The country's best cricketers are being lured to the English county competition where their talents are rewarded with lucrative contracts. But, having committed themselves to playing in England, these players are no longer allowed to represent Scotland unless they relinquish their English residency. "Every time these players appear for us, they lose their

English residency and have to wait four years to qualify as a local to play county cricket," said Ritchie. The International Cricket Council is closely monitoring the two criteria for national qualification - birth in a particular country, or five-year residency. "They have listened to us sympathetically, and I am hopeful there will be some changes," said Ritchie. Steve Waugh, who will captain Australian on Saturday, praised Scotland's effort in qualifying for World Cup competition and said the Australians won't be treating their hosts lightly. "It was a tremendous effort by the amateurs of Scotland," said Waugh. "We meet them in the opening section match in the World Cup and we will treat them with respect." A capacity crowd of over 7,000 is expected to see the unofficial world champions of Test Cricket in action. The Australians, enjoying a short holiday here half way through their 14-week tour, spent Friday relaxing and playing golf at the world famous St. Andrews course.

J-League roundup

TOKYO, July 11: Brazilian playmaker Zinho scored one goal and set up another on Wednesday night to help Yokohama Flügels beat Hiratsuka 2-1 at home and take the J-League lead with three games left in the first stage competition, reports Reuters. The Flügels, with 30 points from 13 matches, are two points ahead of Kashima who lost the league lead they had held since May 24 with a 1-0 home loss to Shimizu S-Pulse. The J-League first stage ends on July 19 with the second stage starting on July 30 and ending on October 4. The winner of each stage plays for the title unless the same team wins both sections in which case it automatically takes the championship. Zinho drove home a free kick over Hiratsuka's six-man defensive wall to put the Flügels ahead just before halftime and defender Shoji Sonoshita made it 2-0 with a 62nd minute header off Zinho's free kick. The Flügels held Hiratsuka's comeback attempt to a 76th minute goal by Brazilian forward Lopes. At Kashima, veteran Shimizu forward Kenta Hasegawa knocked home a corner kick from Masaaki Sawanobori one minute into the second half to hand the Antlers their first defeat in six games. Brazilian Edilson struck a sudden-death winner, his second of the match, as Kashima managed to gain two points with a 3-2 extra-time home victory over lowly Kyoto Purple Sanga. Kashima stand in third place in the 17-club table, four points behind the Flügels. Yokohama Marinos edged 10-man host Nagoya 1-0 with a 26th minute goal by Yoshiharu Uenpai after Nagoya's Yugoslav playmaker Dragan Stojkovic was sent off for insulting.

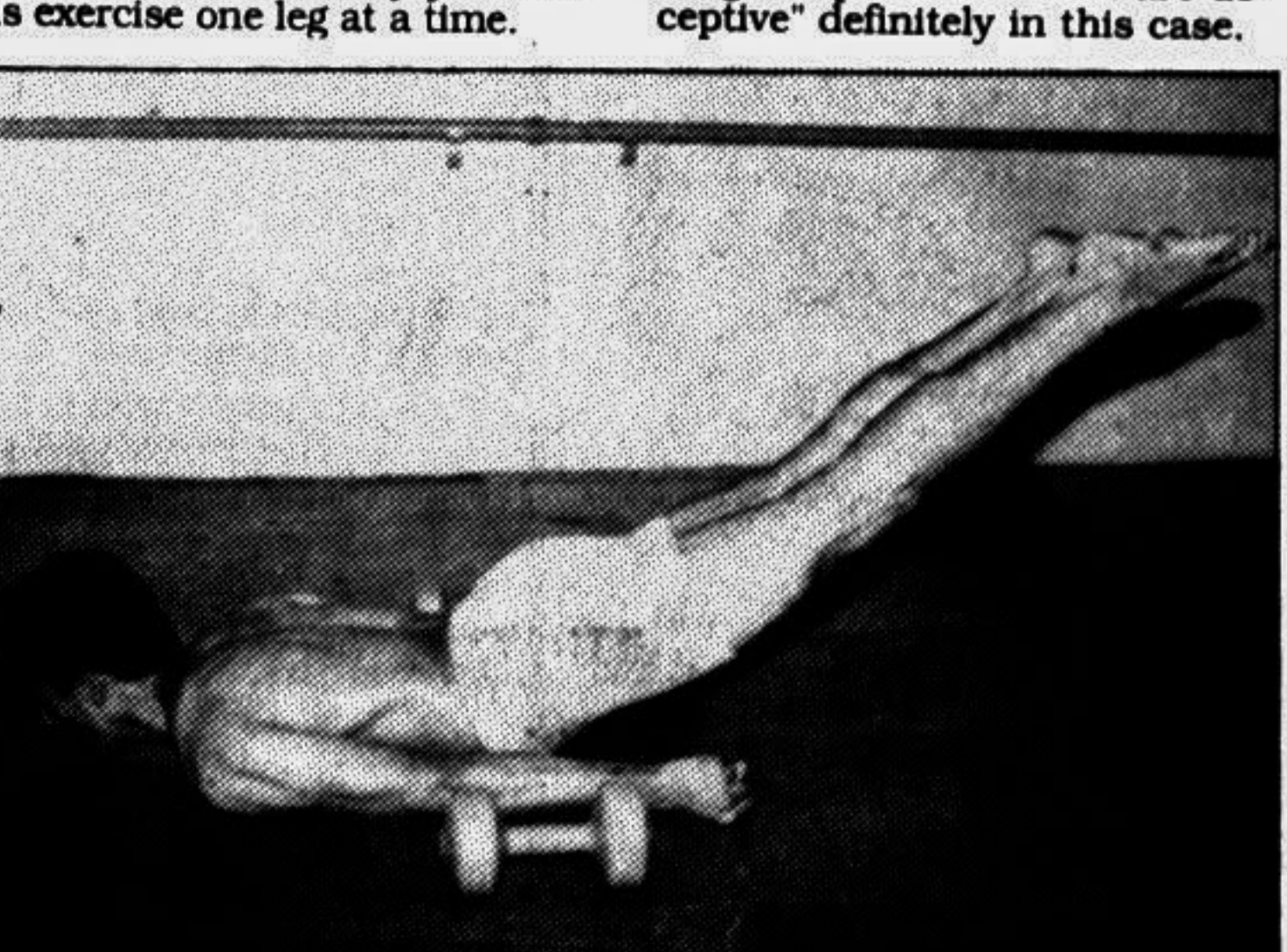
fitness royale

with rani padamsee

Tightens and tones the entire hip/buttock area, and helps to shape the back thigh muscle (biceps femoris, or hamstrings), and helps to remove "saddle bags." Strengthens the lower back. Stance: Lie on the floor on your stomach. Extend your toes behind you. Your feet should be about twelve inches apart. Lean on your elbows for support or do it like Lemon. Movement: Squeezing your entire hip/buttock area as hard as possible and keeping your knees locked, lift both legs at once until you cannot go any higher. Your legs will naturally go into a wider position at this point (about eighteen inches apart). Continuing to keep the pressure on your hip/buttock area, return to start position and repeat the movement until you have completed your set. Rest zero to fifteen seconds and do a second set of the leg curl and prone but lift. Remember, you will be doing twelve to fifteen repetitions for each thigh exercise, and fifteen to twenty-five repetitions for each hip/buttock exercise.

Alert: Beware of the temptation to tense your lower back. Consciously relax your back as you work. You may want to keep your fingertips on your buttocks as you move in order to ensure that you are flexing that area to the fullest extent. Variation: You may perform this exercise one leg at a time.

Gym Workout: You may substitute this exercise for any exercise performed on a hip/buttock machine. Although you should breathe normal but initially you will have a little problem. This exercise looks easy but is very tough to perform. "Look are deceptive" definitely in this case.



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 News-caster
2 "A Kick Out of Your..."
3 "Lisa"
4 School of...
5 In need of...
6 Mobius'...
7 Loesser...
8 Pub order...
9 "pig's..."
10 Pitch...
11 Nov. 5, in...
12 Refuse...
13 Drama...
14 Pronto...
15 Cunning...
16 Wapiti...
17 Solution time: 24 min.
DOWN 1 Predicaments
2 "A Kick Out of Your..."
3 "Lisa"
4 School of...
5 In need of...
6 Mobius'...
7 Loesser...
8 Pub order...
9 "pig's..."
10 Pitch...
11 Nov. 5, in...
12 Refuse...
13 Drama...
14 Pronto...
15 Cunning...
16 Wapiti...
17 Solution time: 24 min.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters and numbers. Includes a key: G B C E H F B L X P F I X B P H I G E H X E L W P I P E D D I T W R L C R W F B D T P E W X Saturday's Cryptogram: SHOE STORE'S COMICAL ADVICE FOR CLIENTS: COME IN AND HAVE A FIT. Today's Cryptogram clue: P equals W. The Cryptogram 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.