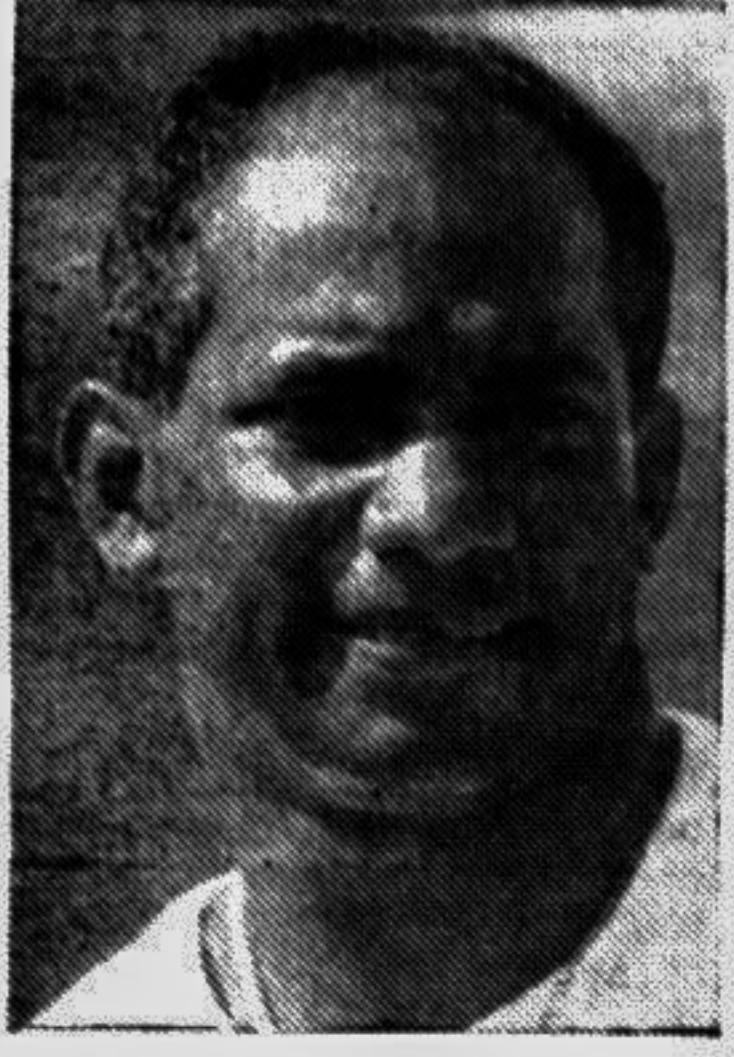


## Column One

## SPORTS TALK



Sanath Jayasuriya

(Explosive Sri Lanka opener)  
I feel the same way the Pakistanis might have felt when I was holding the centre-stage. It's a good experience."

After Pakistani youngster Shahid Afridi snatched his record for fastest one-day hundred, hitting the latter for five.

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

## Competition-75

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm, August 8, '97

1 Who is the soccer coach of AC Milan?

Sacchi Capello Tabarez

2 Who lifted the Leg Mason Classic tennis title this year?

Korda Chang Wheaton

3 Which is the new club of Roberto Baggio?

Bologna Atletico Vicenza

4 Who won the Ali Sports 7th schools kabaddi title?

Millat Rifles Nawabpur

5 Who scored the first hattrick in this year's Federation Cup football?

Iqbal Al-Amin Sohag

Name .....

.....

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

.....

School Address .....

4-3611 1062 290765 01100000

Phone: (If any) .....

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## Peter returns to prison

STUTTGART, Germany, July 29: The father of tennis star Steffi Graf arrived at a German prison hospital on Monday to begin a sentence for evading millions of dollars worth of tax on his daughter's income, state justice officials said, reports Reuter.

Peter Graf was sentenced in Stuttgart to three years and nine months in jail for evading or trying to evade 12 million marks (dollars 6.5 million) of tax, the verdict became legally binding last month after prosecutors dropped their appeal against it.

In the recently concluded Asia Cup held in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh had to face three mighty Asian cricketing nations, losing to all of them as expected.

We had nothing to lose from these matches, rather, we got the opportunity of learning a lot of international cricket. We faltered some what in batting. We left a whole lot of loose gaps in fielding and had a huge sigh of despair from bowling. In the first two matches against Pakistan and Sri Lanka, our batting seemed steadier than before. At least for a brief period, Athar and Akram against Pakistan kindled a ray of hopes for Bangladesh by batting like any in the international arena, specially Athar displayed some sparkling performances. Even a very sluggish and sloppy fielding and at times very ordinary bowling by the Pakistanis, could not reduce the charm of Athar's batting by any means.

Athar handled both pace and spin equally well. Akram did not lag behind. But the rest of the batting was simply pathetic. Bulbul and Pilot could not measure up to it. But at the end the total of 200-plus appeared better than average score for Bangladesh. Compared to that our bowling seemed like an ordinary club standard. Pick of the three was the off-spinner Salahuddin.

He stuck to a line and bowled within his limitations. In this game, when you know that your bowling armery is very limited you must bowl within your limitations, i.e., bowl one line with least of variations. Our pacers and the rest of the spinners did just the opposite and paid the price.

Fielding was substandard. This is of course very natural that when a side is being hammered all around, its fielding is obviously under pressure, the fielders are bound to make

Kelly knows

ATHENS, July 28: Kelly Homes is Britain's best chance for track gold when the World Championships begin here next weekend, reports AFP.

But the 27-year-old army corporal is refusing to let the hype surrounding her go to her head.

I hope to be in the best shape of my life in Athens — I'll need to be, she admitted recently.

Homes has not forgotten what happened to her at Atlanta.

Prosecutors in March dropped investigations against Steffi Graf herself, who is out of the game at the moment with a knee injury, after she agreed to make a donation to charity. Media reports put the sum at 1.3 million marks (dollars 700,000).

Steffi says she knew little about her financial affairs, entrusting them to her father from the start of her career.

The 28-year-old, who has slipped to fifth place in the world rankings and who was unable to defend her Wimbledon title last month and will miss the US Open, has recently said she was considering retiring because of persistent injury.

## Mike facing the music



LEEDS, July 29: In the wake of England's humiliating fourth Test defeat, chairman of selectors David Graveney has admitted it's time to inject some fresh talent into the line-up, reports AP.

Down 2-1 in the six-match series, England team seems on its way to losing the Ashes for the sixth time in a row.

Now Graveney and his fellow selectors Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting are faced with the task of assembling a new outfit which would give England every chance of winning the final two Tests, or at least salvage some pride with a win at either Trent Bridge or the Oval.

We must not be panicked into wholesale changes, said Graveney. "But at the same time, we have to give ourselves the best possible chance. We need an injection."

In the second Test at Lord's, England was bowled out for 77 before rain saved the day. England's last four innings have been 172, 268, 162 and 200 and have led to two consecutive defeats.

England's top order must be tampered with, and there is a strong case for calling up the brothers Adam and Ben Hollioake, or even Glamorgan opener Stephen James, who last week became the first player to reach 1,000 runs this country season.

Adam Hollioake, 25, starred in all three one-dayers for England while 19-year-old Ben has played two match-winning knocks at Lord's this year.

Playing England's best batsman further up the order may also contribute to the "injection" Graveney is craving for.

Nasser Hussain and John Crawley are clearly the form players of the series so far.

Hussain, the present No. 4, scored a double century in the first Test and a gutsy 105 at Headingley. He is England's leading run-getter with 307 runs, and could be more useful at No. 3, allowing wicketkeeper-batsman Alec Stewart to drop down to No. 6.

Crawley, presently batting at No. 6, has scored 83 and 72 in his last three innings and could

also bat higher, perhaps in place of left-hander Graham Thorpe who has failed to make an impact since scoring a century at Edgbaston.

said Atherton, England's longest-serving captain with 44 Tests. "It is difficult to win the next two Tests. But we need to start playing a lot better."

The pressure does seem to be affecting Atherton, who publicly insulted an MCC member on the fourth morning of the match after hearing him describe England's performance on the field as "garbage".

The British press is already calling for Atherton's scalp, suggesting Surrey captain Adam Hollioake will be England's next leader.

Monday's Daily Mail put it bluntly: "the question is not if Atherton should quit, but when?"

Atherton, who said he will review his position at the end of the Ashes series, has often indicated he believes a four-year cycle is a natural life span for a captain.

Atherton at least has the support of Graveney, who himself is feeling the pressure at the end of the honeymoon period which began with England's 3-0 whitewash in the one-day series and ended when England escaped defeat at Lord's.

What's hurting Michael Atherton more than anything is that the chances have not been created in the last two tests — but they have not been taken," said Graveney.

But Athers is very strong — that's why he's captain — and I've said often enough that I have the highest regard for him both as a cricketer and as a man.

We have to be strong people together. People are hurting in our dressing room — the players are hurting, the captain is and so am I.

In this position I do feel you have to stand back for a couple of days," added Graveney.

On the bowling side of things, medium paceman Andrew Caddick, who took five wickets at Edgbaston, is likely to be recalled in place of Headingley debutant Mike Smith, who failed to take a wicket in his first Test.

Selectors will also be watching former Test speedster Dominic Cork, who has been sidelined with injuries but last week took six wickets for Derbyshire.

The Ashes are not gone."

Omar Khalid Rumi  
more mistakes than usual. That was exactly what happened with our fielding.

The ray of hopes that waxed in the first match waned in the next one and went out com-

petitely in the last one. The statistics of the second match spoke for that. Athar stood out as the best again. Rest followed with lesser contributions. Bowling was as usual below par, excepting Salahuddin who bowled a good line but without much success. And without quality pacemen it is certainly impossible to make any impression on the opponents of these calibres. We have to find out some two real quicks. The sooner they appear the better it is for us. But, as long as we could

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