

## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Nasser Hussain**  
(England's new cricket captain)  
"With his Test record behind him and being leading run scorer in international cricket for two years, it's going to take more than just one bad Test to axe Alec Stewart."

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

### Competition-117

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to City Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
July 9, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

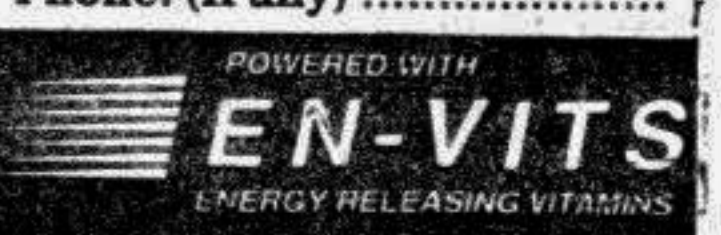
- How many matches have been scheduled for the World Cup 99?  
40      41      42
- Pakistan beat New Zealand in the semifinal by  
9 wks      10 wks      53 runs
- How many wickets did NZ bowler Geoff Allott capture in the World Cup?  
18      21      20
- Saqlain Mushtaq scored his hat-trick against which country?  
Kenya      Zimbabwe      Bangladesh
- How many runs did Minhazul Abedin score in the World Cup?  
120      140      140

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....



## Steve uncle remembers 'em

CALCUTTA, July 6 (PTI): Amidst heady celebrations in the wake of Australia's World Cup victory, the team's captain Steve Waugh has found time to remember his young supporters thousands of miles away in India.

A message has come to 250 inmates of 'Udayan', a home for rehabilitation of children of leprosy patients, from their 'Steve uncle' thanking all of them for their good luck messages and prayers for his team's success.

The children had prayed for Australia's victory in the cricket World Cup final against Pakistan and the prayers were answered as the country lifted the coveted Cup for the second time.

In his message, Waugh expressed his desire to visit 'Udayan' again and wanted the authorities to distribute cakes and other snacks to the inmates to celebrate the Australian victory.

As per Steve's request, a huge cake was brought here and the children had a great time last Thursday. The kids kept talking about Steve uncle and wanted to know when he would visit them again, a Udayan official said.

Though the Australian captain has expressed his desire to visit Udayan again, he could not give a specific date because of his cricketing commitments.

## Boys' h'ball

Rajarbagh Police Lines School earned a massive 22-6 victory over BCIC School in the inaugural match of the 10th Bata schools boys handball tournament at the Outer Stadium ground yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners dominated the first half 12-3. Nazmul scored highest 13 and Hanif 7 goals for the winners while Nazmul of BCIC netted 3 goals.

Earlier, State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader opened the eight-day meet. President of Bangladesh Handball Federation Lt Col (Retd) M A Hamid and general export manager of tournament sponsors Bata Shoe Company MS Alam were present.

Fifteen teams split into four groups are taking part in the meet.

## Bangladesh storm into semis

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh stormed into the semifinal of the Asian Youth cricket championship with one match to play when they recorded an impressive six-wicket win over Malaysia in their second Group A encounter at the Kalang ground in Singapore yesterday.

The defending champions, who won their first game against Hong Kong by eight wickets, ensured yet another easy sail after Imran Rahim caught the Malaysians in his spinning web.

The young left-arm spinner claimed four wickets for only 14 runs in his nine nailing over in the morning, were bundled out for a paltry 116 run in 47.2 overs.

But Bangladesh got a tougher task when they started their chase nearly two hours after the lunch break due to heavy rain, a common phenomenon in this part of the world.

When the rain stopped and play resume, Bangladesh were awarded a revised target of 80 run in 26 over. They, however, scored 83 for four wickets in 21.2 overs.

Imran Ahmed, the young opener of Victoria Sporting

Club, and Nahidul Haq gave Bangladesh a sound start, putting on 48 runs in 12.4 overs. Imran was first to go after scoring a 45-ball 21. The departure of Imran inflicted a stunning collapse as Bangladesh lost three more wickets with the addition of 36 runs to the total.

Nihid followed Imran soon, making a 41-ball 21.

Vishnu Suppian, who started the slide by removing both the openers, took another wicket to finish with fantastic figures of 5-2-6-3.

Hannan Sarker, who scored an unbeaten 46 in the previous match, however played yet another sensible innings to guide Bangladesh to safety without further damage. He scored an unbeaten 14.

Bangladesh will play their third and final Group A match against United Arab Emirates today.

### SCOREBOARD

**MALAYSIA**  
Chung c sub b Tariqul 1  
Bakar b Bikash 4  
Suppian b Fahim 22  
Vilaseran S, Mortuza b Imran Rahim 31  
Neswaran c Tariqul b Imran Rahim 9  
K Murti c Ahmed b Fahim 7  
H Lee b Bikash 16  
N Daud lbw b Imran Rahim 0  
Suresh not out 12

**K Deen c Fahim b Imran Rahim 1**  
Ramadan b Bikash 0  
Extras: (nb-1; w-12) 13  
Total: (All out in 47.2 overs) 116  
Fall of wkts: 1/ 10, 2/12, 3/54, 4/74, 5/76, 6/100, 7/101, 8/111, 9/116

**BOWLING**  
Bikash 8 2 13 3  
Tariqul Hasan 8 0 24 1  
Hannan Sarker 3 0 12 0  
Mosaddek Rubel 9 1 23 0  
Fahim Muntasir 10 0 30 2  
Imran Rahim 9 5 14 4

**BANGLADESH:** (revised target of 80 run in 26 overs)  
Imran b V Suppian 22  
Nahidul b V Suppian 22  
Hannan not out 14  
Mazharul b N Daud 9  
Fahim c A Suppian b V Suppian 0  
Rajin not out 0  
Extras: (lb-3, nb-6, w-7) 16  
Total: (For 4 wkts in 21.2 overs) 83  
Fall of wkts: 1/48, 2/56, 3/68, 4/76

**BOWLING**  
N Daud 4 2 0 24 1  
Anil Suppian 6 0 20 0  
Kishina 5 0 25 0  
Vishnu Suppian 5 2 6 3  
Vickneswaran 1 0 6 0

**Result: Bangladesh won by six wickets.**



State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader being introduced to the participants of schools handball tournament for boys yesterday.

## FIFA for earlier finals

LOS ANGELES, July 6 (Reuters/AP): Soccer's world governing body FIFA yesterday agreed to bring forward the start of the 2002 World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea from its originally planned date of late June.

FIFA's World Cup organising committee said the change had been agreed because of the potentially unfavourable weather in late June and July in the two host countries.

It said that each of the world's soccer confederations would be asked to study a proposal for May 23 as the target date for the start of the tournament.

The proposal is unlikely to find support in many European countries where many soccer seasons continue until well into May.

The World Cup is traditionally held in the Northern Hemisphere's summer following the conclusion of the European league seasons. Earlier, local organisers said that the 2002 World Cup would start June 1 and finish June 30.

The 1998 World Cup in France began on June 10; the 1994 event in the United States on June 17; and the 1990 event in Italy on June 9.

FIFA also said that the World Cup format would remain unchanged for 2002, rejecting a Japanese proposal to play the second round with a group or league schedule.

The field will be divided into eight, four-team groups with the top two in each group advancing to a single-elimination or knockout second round. The quarterfinals and semifinals also will remain single-elimination rounds, leaving the tournament a 64-game event.

A deal has been reached to give Asia a chance to play for a fifth berth in the 32-team finals, with an expected two-leg playoff against the last-placed European team.

The deal removes the threat of a strike by the Asian Football Confederation to withdraw from qualifying if its demand for an additional team in the finals was not met.

"It has been decided that Europe and Asia will play for half a place," said Jack Warner, the president of CONCACAF. "The president of FIFA, Sepp Blatter met with (UEFA) president Lennart Johansson. It is the best way for these things to be decided, to avoid contentious debate."

Blatter and Johansson, following the first of two meetings of the Executive Committee late Monday, both denied a decision has been reached.



FIFA general secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinen also denied a decision has been made, and said that the matter still had to be discussed by the full Executive Committee on Tuesday.

"There is no decision," Zen-Ruffinen said. "A lot of discussions have been held in the last several days. But it's a matter for the full Executive Committee."

The deal for Europe to give up half of its 15th place has been rumored and reported for weeks.

In December, Asia was allocated four berths in the 2002 finals, two of which were reserved for co-hosts Japan and South Korea, meaning its other 43 members would have to fight for the other two.

Asia was allocated 2/1-2 for the 1998 World Cup, eventually ending up with three when Iran beat Oceania winner Australia in a two-leg playoff. This time, Oceania will be forced to fight for its place in a playoff with South America, which is guaranteed four berths besides the

## Zalayeta sticks with Juve

LUQUE, Paraguay, July 6: Uruguay's Copa America striker Marcelo Zalayeta confirmed Monday he would return to Italian giants Juventus after the South American tournament is over, reports AFP.

Zalayeta, 20, was loaned by the Bianconeri last season to Empoli, who were relegated to Serie B but the forward is determined to win a first team place with the deposed Italian champions.

The striker scored both of his side's goals in the 2-1 Group C victory over Ecuador Sunday night.

playoff. AFC general secretary Peter Velappan had said that while the confederation wanted a fifth guaranteed place, it would settle again for a playoff for the final berth.

The boycott threat was not without precedence. In 1966, both Africa and Asia, except for North Korea, withdrew from qualifying to protest the allocation of only one berth in the 16-team finals field to the two continents.

Europe was a likely choice for the half berth because it was allocated the lion's share, 15 - including defending World Cup champion France, in the 32-team field.

The deal comes amid days of meetings leading up to the Women's World Cup final on Saturday.



Action from yesterday's First Division soccer league match between Muslim Institute and Prantik Krira Chakra at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. —Star photo

## Premier League resumes today

Sports Reporter

After a day's rest, the Keya Premier Football resumes at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today with Mohammedan Sporting Club taking on Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club.

The lone Premier League match will kick-off at 5.30 pm. But Mohammedan, who recently brought two Iraqi booters, will not field their foreign recruits in the match. It was learnt that Mohammedans are yet to complete the registration formalities of Mazin Abdus Sattar and Shamir Jasim Abbas, who arrived in the city Monday.

### Div I soccer

## Prantik hold Muslim

Sports Reporter

Muslim Institute lost their first point in the Keya First Division football league when they settled for a 2-2 draw with Prantik Krira Chakra at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Abul Hasan, who scored both the goals for Muslim, shot his side into the lead in the 8th minute before Kabir restored parity for Prantik one minute from the short whistle.

Prantik were shot ahead by Anwar ten minutes into the second half, but Abul saved the day for Muslim with his second goal seven minutes away from their final whistle.

It was Muslim's first draw after two consecutive wins. On the other hand it was second draw against a defeat in three games.

When Muslim faltered, Wari recorded a lone goal victory over BRTC in the fixture of the First Division at the same venue last afternoon. After a barren first half, Atish scored the all-important goal in the 89th minute.

### World Club

## tourney defended

LOS ANGELES, July 6: FIFA general secretary Michel Zen Ruffinen refuted criticism of the controversial new World Club Championship yesterday and said it was almost certainly here to stay, reports Reuters.

Speaking at an international trade fair, the world governing body's number two official said FIFA had no intention of abandoning the tournament and was seeking television backing for the eight-team competition in Brazil in January.

The European football body, UEFA, has attacked the competition, saying it flies in the face of efforts to streamline the international calendar. But Zen Ruffinen said such criticism was unfair.

"This is the only remaining part of football, an international club championship, in which FIFA was not active," he said.

"We are actively seeking television partners who we have asked to reply by July. Our statutes insist we develop football so this was a natural step to take before privateers come in with the same idea and use it simply to make money."

Although no date has been set for any subsequent tournament, Zen Ruffinen said FIFA would not be basing its future on the success of the inaugural championship.

## Greenidge Windies' coach?

Sports Reporter

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, July 6: Seeking fresh faces to lead a team scarred by controversy, the West Indies Cricket Board says it will advertise for a coach and manager instead of choosing from a list of ex-stars and team employees, reports AP.

"There will be no handpicking for it this time," Board president Patrick Rousseau told The Associated Press after a two-hour meeting Sunday with members of the Caribbean Community trade group. "Everybody who feels they have the qualifications can apply."

The contracts of manager Clive Lloyd and coach Malcolm Marshall expire in October.

The West Indies team has been shaken in the last year by a players' revolt and a flubbing by South Africa in December. A bottle-throwing attack by crowds in April and the storming of the field by players that stopped a match against Australia have further embarrassed the board.

Advertising is the "only way to ensure we make the best possible selection," Rousseau said. "England opened it up to everybody including non-Englishmen. I don't think we need to do that, but I am just showing how important it is to widen the

net." The names of former players Vivian Richards and Gordon Greenidge have surfaced since Richards stood in for Marshall during the World Cup and Greenidge's departure from the Bangladesh team.

Lloyd has already endorsed Greenidge to take over Marshall's job. Marshall had to undergo an operation for cancer of the stomach during the World

net. The region has to begin paying the International Cricket Conference in 2004 for planning of the event, Rousseau said.

On Sunday, the board also talked with Caribbean leaders about proposed legislation waiving visa, customs and immigration for players travelling between Caribbean countries. Some games may also be played in Guyana and Florida because the World Cup is granted to hemispheres rather than countries, Rousseau said.

"If we have to deal with the normal visa, customs and immigration systems, we'll never be able to run the World Cup," Rousseau said.

He said the region might also need to seek funding to build new cricket grounds in preparation for the World Cup. Officials expect 12 teams to participate in the series.

At a meeting in Antigua Wednesday, the board will also look at ways to improve security after the incidents of crowd unrest.

"It is high-risk when people come rushing on to the field fighting (players) over stumps," Rousseau said. "We understand that we have to protect the players."

## Arjuna seeks security

Sports Reporter

COLOMBO, July 6: (AFP/AP): Disgraced Sri Lankan cricket skipper Arjuna Ranatunga demanded airport protection on his return from the World Cup fearing he would be attacked.

Ranatunga, 35, returning after an extended stay in England following his humiliating exit from the World Cup raised doubts about his personal safety, the Lankadeepa daily reported today.

"The airport authorities provided him with the necessary protection but there was no untoward incident" when he arrived Monday, the Lankadeepa said, adding that Ranatunga's family returned on a separate flight.

Sri Lanka's cricket selectors were expected to axe Ranatunga and his deputy Aravinda de Silva on Monday, but have delayed the announcement because they had not yet spoken to the player.

Master-blaster Sanath Jayasuriya and Roshan Mahanama are seen as the likely contenders to lead Sri Lanka at next month's tournament here also involving Australia and India.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka has ruled out its cricketers playing in a friendly match against India on Saturday.

Cricket board officials said they did not want to risk players being injured ahead of the triangular tournament.

Press reports here said all the top Indian players with the

exception of Mohamed Azharuddeen were expected to play in the friendly at Mohali, India.

"We are giving great emphasis to the forthcoming Australian and Indian tour and we want the players to really work for it," cricket board chief Rien

Meanwhile, Dav Whatmore, who is due to take up a four-year appointment as Sri Lanka's coach, will leave Lancashire at the end of July.

Whatmore, under contract to Lancashire until the end of next season, was given his release by the Old Trafford committee and now has two County Championship matches against Glamorgan and Hampshire left in charge.

Chairman Jack Simmons said: "He has done a great job but Sri Lanka has always been close to his heart."

Whatmore filled the Old Trafford gap left by David Lloyd's exit in 1997 and last season led them to a NatWest Trophy-AXA League double. But now they are fighting the threat of second division championship cricket next year having slumped to fourth form bottom.

Whatmore said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here, and I will be sad to go but I'm sure the team will go from strength to strength."

Captain John Crawley will be responsible for all first-team duties until the end of the season, helped by the appointment of Warren Hegg as vice-captain.

zic Wijetilleke said in a statement.

Sri Lankan cricket team was to visit India to take part in a promotional match at Mohali, in northern India, on July 10.

The invitation came before the Sri Lankan cricket board was reconstituted. It was accepted and the team had made plans to leave for India.

But the new board refused on grounds that it could interfere with preparations for the Sri Lanka-Australia-India tour scheduled for August. "After the

ing," said May, who was in Sri Lanka with Watson and Australian team manager Steve Bernard to examine security arrangements for the three-Test tour.

It's not like they want him to come, so they can abuse him. "They are genuine cricket lovers and the only antagonism was to their own players after the World Cup."

Australia are scheduled leave for Sri Lanka on August 16 and contest the one-day tournament from August 22-31. The three-Test series concludes on October 3.

Australia then travel to Zimbabwe for their first Test, and three one-day internationals before returning home on October 25.

Warne, dropped from Australia's Test team on their tour of the West Indies in April, roared back to form in the World Cup one-day tournament in England.

He finished with 20 wickets, sharing top spot with New Zealand's Geoff Allott, and was named man of the match in Australia's eight wicket rout of Pakistan in the final.

## SL waits for Warne

Sports Reporter

MELBOURNE, July 6 (AP): Sri Lankan cricket fans want Australian spinner Shane Warne to forget about retirement and make the tour there next month.

Although Warne is a controversial figure in Sri Lanka after his World Cup criticism of former skipper Arjuna Ranatunga, he commands plenty of support in the subcontinent.

Warne was, however, expected to be named next week in the Lankan tour party.

After starring in Australia's World Cup triumph last month, leg-spinner Warne said he was undecided about his future but he has not ruled himself out for Sri Lanka. "As far as we have been told everyone is available for selection for the tour," Australian chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns told the Sydney Morning Herald on Tuesday.

The touring Test and one-day squads are to be announced next Monday.

Brendan McClements, the board's communications general manager, told AFP last

Friday that Warne, who came back to form with a bang at the World Cup, had yet to commit himself.

"The situation regarding Shane is unchanged. He requested some time to consider his international future and he is taking that time at the moment," McClements said.

ACB Operations Manager Richard Watson said from Sri Lanka last week, where he was inspecting facilities, that if Warne decided to continue Test cricket "he will be available for the Sri Lankan tour."

Warne's former spin partner Tim May, now the Australian Cricketers' Association president, returned from the island Monday overwhelmed by Sri Lanka's desire to see Warne in action.

Far from cheering at reports of a possible retirement by Warne, who has staged a long-running and bitter verbal war with Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga, Sri Lankan fans were urging him to make his third visit there, May said Tuesday. "Everywhere we went, all people wanted to know was whether Warne would be com-

## Inquiry irks Imran

Sports Reporter

KARACHI, July 6: Former captain Imran Khan on Tuesday lashed out at the government for ordering an inquiry into match-fixing allegations following the Pakistani team's defeat in last month's World Cup final, reports AFP.

"They try to find scapegoats and nothing else," said Imran, who retired after leading Pakistan to the 1992 World Cup triumph and later entered politics, launching his own Movement for Justice political party.

The government last week asked the anti-corruption Accountability Bureau to conduct the probe after allegations the final against Australia was

rigged. Defending the national team, Imran said it was "the mere pressure of the final that the team succumbed and nothing else."

The defeat of the side led by Wasim Akram sparked an outcry and allegations of match fixing.

"Every loss here is linked with drinking, gambling and match fixing. It is ridiculous," Imran said.

He hit out at the Pakistan cricket authorities for not resolving match-fixing allegations when they first began to surface.

"The matter should have been solved four years ago. But the Cricket Board delayed all this to save their offices."

The commission resumes its hearing on Thursday and is expected to finalise its findings this month.

"I can't understand why the commission delayed the report until after the World Cup. There is no link between justice and the World Cup," Imran said.

He said he believed the delay was also a factor increasing pressure on the players during the World Cup.