

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
Competition-119

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

Competition closes at 8 pm  
Aug 27, '99 and draw  
shortly afterwards

1 Who are the current FA Cup  
champions?

Man United Arsenal Liverpool

2 Who is Sri Lanka's cricket  
coach?

Whitmore Yardley Fernandez

3 Who won the Confedera-  
tions' Cup title?

Brazil Mexico USA

4 Who is the Bangladesh  
cricket captain?

Munirul Alam Aminul

5 Which stadium will host the  
final of 2002 World Cup?

Yokohama Suzuka Nagoya

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

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Scene from the Premier League engagement between Abahani and Mohammedan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. — Star photo

## Kenya: Test status in 10 yrs

NAIROBI, Aug 14 (Reuters/AFP): International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive David Richards said on Friday that Kenya would have to wait another 10 years before attaining Test status.

"It would be in Kenya's interest to invest the heavy financial commitment incumbent on Test nations in developing the infrastructure here," said Richards speaking at the end of a five-day inspection of facilities ahead of a decision on the hosts for next year's ICC tournament.

Dhaka, Sharjah and Nairobi are bidding to host the tournament.

South Africa won the first edition played in Bangladesh last October, beating West Indies in the final.

"It is a slow process and Kenya would rather develop cricket to the very top level be-

fore thinking of becoming a Test nation," Richards said.

Richards said that the grounds in Kenya still required much improvement and there was a need to install floodlights at grounds to allow day/night matches.

Kenyan officials have often asked to be given automatic qualification to join the nine Test nations in South Africa.

Richards, an Australian national, led a high-level ICC delegation composed of 14 delegates from five development groups — Europe, East Asia, Pacific, Asia, Africa and the Americas — to attend the annual development committee meeting in Nairobi.

After inspecting the facilities in place for next month's tri-nation cricket tournament, Richards, accompanied by the ICC International Development Committee chairman Ali Bacher of South Africa, said he was impressed by the venues.

But he ruled out the possibility of Kenya and Bangladesh being exempted from participating in the next ICC Trophy tournament in Toronto, Canada, which acts as a qualifier for the World Cup in 2003.

The two associate members have asked to be given automatic qualification to join the nine Test nations in South Africa.

Richards said the only opportunity for the two nations to be exempted will be when the number of World Cup participating teams are increased from the current 12 to 14, an issue the ICC has put up for discussion in the new year.

He also clarified that Bangladesh, a cricket-crazy nation and current holder of the ICC Trophy, will have to wait a little longer before being accepted as a Test-member nation. It applied to join in the elite two years ago.

## WI cricketers agree on fees

BARBADOS, Aug 14 (Internet report): Everything is in place for the West Indies cricket team's tours of Sharjah and Singapore.

The Barbados Nation reports, negotiations have been finalised between the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) and the West Indies Players' Association (WIPA) surrounding fees and prize money for the players for the two one-day tournaments next month.

The bargain was said to have run smoothly and the players were satisfied with the details of the agreement. However, plans have not been finalised for the Test tour to New Zealand later this year since the finer points of the itinerary have not been ironed out.

That trip is expected to include two Tests and five one-day internationals, starting in December.

Less than a year ago there was a major fall-out between the boards and the players' representative over fees for the inaugural Test tour of South Africa.

It required lengthy meetings in London among officials from the Players' Association, WICB and the South African Cricket Board to settle the impasse which attracted international attention.

After that the West Indies Cricket Board and WIPA reached an agreement in November, outlining details for further negotiations.

## Div II hockey

Dilkusha SC and Karnak Samaj won their respective matches in the Green Delta Insurance Second Division hockey league at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium on Friday, reports UNB.

Dilkusha beat Tejaon Agragami Club 2-1 after leading the first half 2-0.

Sabar and Anisuzzaman netted for the winners while Sultan scored for the losers.

In the other match, Karnak Samaj blanked Uttara Hockey Club 3-0 after dominating the first half 2-0.

Zahidul, Mamun and Moni netted for the winners.

## SEA Games

### Thailand's 4th soccer gold in a row

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Aug 14: Thailand scored a goal in each half to beat Vietnam 2-0 in the football final of the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games here Saturday, reports AFP.

The goals by Thailand, who won the gold medal in the Games for their fourth straight time, came from Thawatchai Ongtrakul in the 39th minute and Out Charleissarn in the 85th minute.

Meanwhile, goalkeeper Kartiko Hendro was the unlikely hero earlier in the day when he single-handedly took his side to penalty kicks and then saved two Singapore attempts as Indonesia took the bronze.

Hendro flung himself across the line to block a certain goal late in the second half after Singapore forward Mohamad Arafat beat the Indonesian offside trap to slot onto the end of a low Samawira Basri cross.

The match went straight to penalties after full-time ended goalless.

Hendro saved the penalty attempts of Singapore captain Nasser Hussain and Nazri and Rafi in conversion by Zainal Zulkarnaen and Salleh Mohamed Azhar.

Bima Sakti, Prasetyo Hariyanto, Sugil Yantoro and then Bambang Panungkas all converted for Indonesia to clinch a 4-2 penalty win.

## Shouaa wins javelin gold

AMMAN, Aug 14: Syria's Ghada Shouaa on Friday won the gold medal in the women's javelin and appeared set to regain the form that enabled her to clinch several Olympic and international gold medals in recent years, reports AP.

Shouaa, who has been hampered by injuries since 1997, had a 55.14-meter throw while Aida Salim of Tunisia won silver, throwing for a distance of 48.69 meters. Egypt's Mona Mustapha took bronze with a throw of 41.98 meters, the state-owned Petra news agency reported.

The competition was held in Irbid, 100 kilometers (60 miles) north the capital Amman.

The official opening of the 9th pan-Arab Games will open Sunday, but the athletic events, which began on Wednesday, started earlier to allow athletes to finish in time for the Aug. 22-23 World Athletics Championships in Seville, Spain.

In the men's high jump, Qatar's Mohammed Abdul Aziz clinched the gold medal with 16.44 meters while Saudi Arabia's Salim al-Ahmadi won silver with a 16.35-meter jump and Iraq's Majid Abdul Bari jumped 16.23 meters to win bronze.

More than 4,500 athletes from 20 Arab countries and the Palestinian territories are participating in the competitions nicknamed "Al Hussein tournament" after the late King Hussein who died of cancer on Feb. 7.

## Waugh counts on top tag



BRISBANE, Australia, Aug 14 (AFP): Skipper Steve Waugh says the desire to remain at the top of

world cricket will ensure his Australian team remain focused when they begin their tour of Sri Lanka on Monday.

The Australian squad returned to the nets here for the first time Saturday since their World Cup final triumph against Pakistan at Lord's in June.

The Australians have already spoken about the potential for a leadout ahead of five one-day matches and three Tests against a revamped Sri Lankan team under new captain Sanath Jayasuriya.

The World Cup marked the end of a long campaign for the Australians, who completed an Ashes home series against England and a tour of the Caribbean before netting one of cricket's biggest prizes.

"It's time to switch on again because this is where the hard work begins for us," Waugh said Saturday.

"I can't remember a team being number one in both forms of the game since the West Indies dominated 20 years ago.

"The challenge lays in staying at the top - which will be

hard because there's a lot of good sides and they're going to be out after us but it's incentive enough for us to keep playing well."

Waugh said the Australians were confident the tour would go ahead without a hitch after receiving a detailed briefing late Friday on security in Sri Lanka, which has been rocked

light on the battle between Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill to be the team's number one spinner.

Warne, who recovered from his Test axing in the Caribbean to spearhead the World Cup charge, has said he is back to his best and expects to play both forms of the game on tour.

But Waugh did nothing to dampen the speculation when he insisted the Test line-up was far from settled.

"It's going to be a tough question again and we have to monitor how both guys are going," he said.

"Warne has first bite of the cherry in the one-day games and then we have a lead-up game going into the first Test which could be pretty crucial."

"I like a team where everyone is playing for their Test spot and that's the way it should be."

"It keeps the guys hungry and focused - you don't want to become complacent."

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## Ready to reclaim Test role



BRISBANE, Australia, Aug 14 (AFP): Champion leg-spinner Shane Warne Friday said he was back

to his best and expected to return to Australia's Test cricket team in Sri Lanka next month.

Warne, who was disappointed to lose captaincy of the Victorian Sheffield Shield team this week, Friday spoke of his desire to reclaim the Test spinning role he lost to Stuart MacGill in the Caribbean in April.

Warne was dropped after struggling for consistency following shoulder surgery but he convinced his critics he was back to his best when he lummoxed South Africa and Pakistan in the World Cup in England last June.

The 29-year-old wrist-spinner, who has taken 317 Test wickets, joined other Australian Cricket Board-contracted players for a three-day training camp here before the tour of Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

"I'm back to my best so I'm going over there expecting to play in both forms of the game," Warne said.

"There's five one-dayers first so hopefully I can slowly get into the tour, adapt to the conditions and get right for the first Test."

"I'm ready to go and I'm actually quite excited. I've had some tests on my shoulder and it's back to what it was (before the injury) and my form is back to how it used to be."

Warne lost the Victorian captaincy after it was realised his international programme could limit him to just one Sheffield Shield appearance and three domestic one-day matches this coming summer.

While admitting his disappointment, Warne said he would "cop it on the chin" and get on with the Sri Lanka tour, which begins on Sunday week with a triangular one-day tournament featuring India.

"Everything will be okay but it's certainly a little bit of a concern," Ponting said.

"We have security with us -- in our buses and our hotels -- and they basically do whatever they can to make sure we're 100 per cent safe."

"I've been through it before in Sri Lanka but it might come as a bit of a shock for some guys who haven't been there -- seeing guys with machine guns around you most of the day."

"It takes some time to get used to but I'm sure the guys will as the tour goes on."

Warne refused to confirm speculation he would link with English county Hampshire next year.

"I've spoken to a few (English) counties but no deal has been done with anyone yet," he said.

"It's something that I always wanted to do. If I strike the right county and the timing is right then I'll probably do it."

Warne refused to confirm speculation he would link with English county Hampshire next year.

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## Nasser back for decider



CHELMSFORD, England, Aug 14 (AFP): Nasser Hussain pronounced himself fit Friday to cap-

tain England in next week's final Test against New Zealand at The Oval.

"I'll be 100 per cent fit to play at The Oval," was his brief comment as he rushed past waiting journalists before Essex began their four-day clash against the tourists at Chelmsford.

The England captain had hoped to play in the game for his first taste of action since breaking a finger in the second Test at Lords three weeks ago.

But Essex cricket consultant Keith Fletcher said: "On the advice of James Davis, our physio, we decided not to risk playing him today."

"Another knock on the hand could put him back to square one but he should be OK next week."

Ronnie Irani meanwhile is the leading candidate for an England recall with the selectors set to pick a specialist all-rounder for the first time this summer.

The elevation of Nottinghamshire wicket-keeper Chris Read into the senior England