

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?

Whatmore | Yardley | Fernandez

3 Who won the Confederations' Cup title?

Brazil | Mexico | USA

4 Who is the Bangladesh cricket captain?

Minhazul | Akrum | Aminul

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

Yokohama | Suzuki | Nagoya

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

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EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Sachin Tendulkar
(New Indian skipper)
"I would love to lead the team."

Barisal v'ball

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 14: Barisal became champions beating Jhalakati 3-0 in the final of the inter-district women's volleyball championship at the Matmata Majidunnissa Secondary School ground yesterday.

The competition was organised by the Barisal Divisional Women's Sports Association.

Barisal Farida Mollah, president of the association distributed prizes.

New sports body for Kulaura

From Our Correspondent

KULAURA, Aug 14: Kulaura Thana Sports Association under Mouli Bazar District Sports Association (MDSA) was formed recently.

The elected office bearers are: president — Niazur Haque, vice-presidents — Ruhul Amin, Abdur Rouf, general secretary — Radheshyan Roy, jt secretaries — Jahanara Siraj, Alauddin Ahmed, cashier — Syed Jamal Uddin and members — Abdul Mukadir, A K M Shahi Ahmed, Abdul Wahid, Fayem Uddin Chowdhury, Abdul Mukit, Abdul Kadir, Mirjan Ali and Salim Islam.

Paradorn lifts SEA singles title

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Aug 14: Defending champion Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand beat the Philippines' Bryan Juinio 6-3, 6-2 Saturday for the men's singles tennis gold medal in the Southeast Asian Games, reports AFP.

Maricris Fernandez of the Philippines defeated top seed Wynne Prakutsya of Indonesia 6-4, 6-4 for the women's singles gold.

In an all-Thai men's double final, Paradorn won another gold when he and his elder brother Narathorn — the Asian Games doubles champions — beat Danai Udomchoke and Vitaya Samrej 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Austin won the next 10 games, but knew she had seen the future of women's tennis.



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's 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.

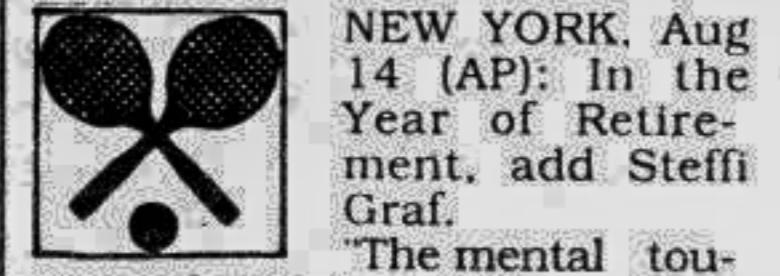
Kenyan officials have often said they are seeking Test status but Richards said a formal request had not been made.

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-national cricket tournament, Richards, accompanied by the ICC International Development Committee chairman Ali Bacher of South Africa, said he was impressed by the venues.

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.

Gratitude to a great



NEW YORK, Aug 14 (AP): In the Year of Retirement, add Steffi Graf.

The mental toughness puts her right up there with the Michael Jordans, the Wayne Gretzky's and the John Elways," two-time US Open champion Tracy Austin said of Graf.

"They all retired at the same time. What are they doing to us?"

Graf announced Friday that she was calling it quits after dominating women's tennis and earning a women's record 21,839,777 dollars along with 22 Grand Slam tournament titles.

"I have done everything I wanted to do in tennis," the 30-year-old Graf said during a news conference in Heidelberg, Germany. "It is time to stop."

"I can kind of sympathise with what she's going through because when you're at the top, it is not easy to maintain it," Pete Sampras, the top-ranked men's player, said. "She had an unbelievable career, did it with a lot of class."

"She was so disciplined. She was always focused, always trying 100 per cent," Austin said. "Just very professional about her job and her work."

Bart McGuire, the WTA Tour's chief executive officer, said, Graf "has been a role model for women athletes in all sports. She has been a catalyst for the resurgence of women's tennis, especially in Europe."

"Steffi is a class act," McGuire said.

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario played Graf in seven Grand Slam tournament finals, winning the 1989 French Open and the 1994 US Open.

"She's been a great player, a great champion, a good person and a friend," Sanchez-Vicario said in Manhattan Beach, California, where she is playing in the Acura classic. "No one can replace Steffi. Steffi Graf was always my measure of greatness."

very, very good player," Austin said. "She had a huge, huge forehand and she moved like a deer out there."

Billie Jean King called Graf the all-time great singles player in women's tennis.

The nimble footwork and big forehand changed women's tennis, although Graf, unlike many other young players, was not an overnight success. She didn't win her first Grand Slam tournament title until 1987, when she surprised Martina Navratilova in the final of the French Open.

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"But I'm happy for her that she feels at peace," Pierce said.

"Wimbledon semifinalist Alexandra Stevenson said Graf's retirement "gives me goose bumps. Also knowing I will never have the privilege of playing against her makes me sad. But I will memorise her graceful and courageous run at the 1999 French Open. Steffi Graf was always my measure of greatness."

"I was really expecting her to kind of end her career at the US Open," said Lindsay Davenport, the Wimbledon champion and the defending US Open champion, "so it is a little bit of a surprise."

"What I thought was really great was the older she got and the more she was winning, probably in the mid-90s, the happier it seemed to make her. When she was playing in the '80s and just dominating, she never looked that happy and I think she really learned to appreciate the game the older she got and more she played."

In 1982, Graf played her first WTA Tour match in Filderstadt, Germany. The 13-year-old participant in the draw and pulled Austin's name as her first-round opponent.

"She was this ... kid who hit the ball so hard I couldn't believe it," Austin remembered Friday. "It was 4-all in the first set and she was painting the lines."

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great player," Austin said. "She had a huge, huge forehand and she moved like a deer out there."

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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. 22-29 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-Ahmad won silver with a 16.35-meter jump and Iraq's Majid Abdul Bari jumped 16.23 meters to win bronze.

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