

## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Martina Hingis**

(World No 1 tennis player)  
"I like being the star. Who wouldn't? I have nothing to be shy about. I'm not that bad looking."

## 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

- Who are the current FA Cup champions?  
Man United Arsenal Liverpool
- Who is Sri Lanka's cricket coach?  
Whatmore Yardley Fernandez
- Who won the Confederations' Cup title?  
Brazil Mexico USA
- Who is the Bangladesh cricket captain?  
Musharraf Akram Aminul
- Which stadium will host the final of 2002 World Cup?  
Yokohama Saitama Nagoya

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

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**EN-VITS**  
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

## Asia Cup hockey Nine confirm participation

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18: Nine teams have confirmed they will participate in the 5th Men's Asia Cup field hockey tournament to be hosted by Pakistan from November 18 to 28, officials said Tuesday, reports AFP. The tournament has been allotted to Pakistan by the Asian Hockey Federation, secretary of the Pakistan Hockey Federation, Mudassar Asghar, told the AFP news agency. The confirmations have come from Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, South Korea, and Sri Lanka, in addition to the host nation.

## Pakistan ready to play with India

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18 (Internet report): Pakistan has declared that it was ready to play the annual one-day cricket series with India in Toronto after its government gave a go-ahead to its cricket board (PCB). Announcing this, the PCB ad hoc committee chairman, Mujeeb Rehman, said the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) had been informed of the decision and urged the Indian authorities to decide about their participation "immediately" as there was little time left for the event normally held in September. "We have already made it clear to the BCCI that we are ready to play and it is up to them to decide," Rehman told the English daily The News. The annual series scheduled from September 12 was cancelled by sponsors Sahara India after several top Indian cricketers led by Kapil Dev demanded that India snap all cricketing ties with Pakistan for its intrusion in Kargil. The BCCI working committee which met in Calcutta on August 3 left the final decision to the government, which is yet to make its decision known. Rehman said the Pakistan Foreign Ministry had already given the go-ahead. "We are sticking to our stance of playing against India or any other country in any part of the world."

## Teams arrive from August 25

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation have fixed the rates of different tickets for the 2nd Bangladesh Cup, billed for an August 27 start at the Bangladesh National Stadium.

Hospitality boxes, air-conditioned with 12 seats and non-AC with 10 seats, will be sold at Taka 50,000 and 30,000 for all the 15 matches. Besides, there are five types of season tickets including one for the players.

**Season Tickets**  
VIP (Gate No 3) - Taka 1,000  
VIP (Gate No 2) - Taka 700  
International gallery (Gate 10 and 11) - Taka 600  
Players gallery (Gate No 20) - Taka 300  
Ladies gallery (Gate No 21) - Taka 300.

**Group matches**  
Daily (Western gallery) - Taka 25  
Daily (Eastern gallery) - Taka 15

**Semifinals/Final**  
Daily (Western gallery) - Taka 30  
Daily (Eastern gallery) - Taka 20

Bangladesh Television will



second floor of Bangabandhu National Stadium, which will include all the modern media facilities.

Meanwhile, the list of the Ghanaian Olympic team reached the BFF office yesterday. The 25-member team which includes seven officials,

will arrive in the city on August 25. Ghana apart, the Japanese combined J-League team, Indonesian national team, Nepalese national team, Thai Olympic team and Korean under-18 team will also arrive in the city on August 25.

The remaining five foreign teams—Rio de Janeiro Soccer Federation team from Brazil, Kuwait national team, Kerlet Football Club from Hungary, Malaysian Olympic team and a combined team from Uzbekistan will reach the capital on the following day.

### Ghana Olympic team:

Players: Osei Boateng, Yaw Berko, Felix Yeboah, Alex Djani, Eric Nii Armah, Hamza Mohammed, Eklun Johnson, Razak Abdul, Joe Sam, Boateng Dennis, Baba Adams, Lawrence Aldoo, Ali Maous, Kwasi Kyere, Samuel Abieku, Adu Mintia, Asli Kwame and Atta Kofi.

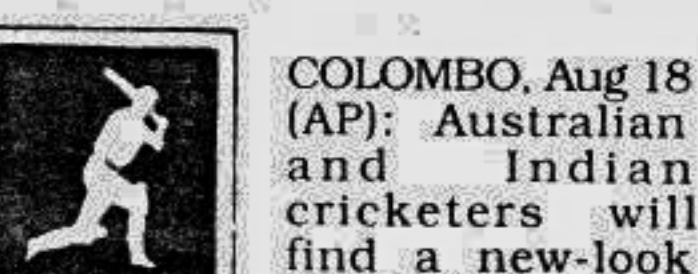
Officials: Oheneba Charles, Oti Akenteng, Baba Adams, Charles Boateng, Julius Onyameama, Alex Asante and Worlanyo Agra.



Australia's Shane Warne (L) and Steve Waugh during practice in Colombo yesterday. — AFP photo

## Waugh & Co in Colombo

## SL want glory days back



COLOMBO, Aug 18 (AFP): Australian and Indian cricketers will find a new look Sri Lankan team when they arrive here for a tournament this week: no flashy cars, no cell phones, no late nights, no jokes, and a no-nonsense approach to the game.

The first one-day tournament since this year's World Cup begins Sunday, and Sri Lankan cricket officials are determined to strip away the team's glamour and return to pure, skillful play.

"It is cricket which makes our nation proud and got us international fame, and my task is to see that we get the past glory back," said Rienze Wijetilleke, the chairman of the newly constituted cricket board.

"We have made it known to the players that discipline goes hand in hand with success," Wijetilleke, who also heads one of Sri Lanka's top five banks, told The Associated Press.

After winning the 1996 World Cup, the Sri Lankan players were flooded with gifts that ranged from sports cars to plots of land to cell phones. But at the World Cup this year, Sri Lanka lost the tag of "world champions," and the glory melted away.

Now, coaches are keen to get the players' minds back on the

sport—not its perks.

Players have been told to keep their flashy cars at home, not to use their cell phones at practice, not to tell jokes during practice, and to go to bed early. To improve physical fitness, some players have been advised to cut down on rice, a staple food in this nation of 18.5 million people. The players are trying to break the habit.

"What we feel is that our players have all the cricket techniques, they just have to be more disciplined and get their confidence back," said Chandra Schaffter, the newly appointed manager of the cricket team.

"I am telling them that nothing can substitute discipline. If they want to be champions again they will have to achieve it the hard way," said Schaffter.

So strict is the discipline that when former skipper Arjuna Ranatunga went to Canada to take part in a charity match without the written approval of the Board, he was suspended. When his former deputy Aravinda de Silva had a confrontation with a cameraman trying to film him while he was using his cell phone, the Board reprimanded him.

Meanwhile, antiterrorist commandos threw a security ring around the Australian cricket team which arrived Tuesday, says another report.

Cricket officials greeted the Australians at the interna-

tional airport. Policemen guarded the 30-kilometre (20 mile) route from the airport to Taj Samudra hotel where the team will be staying.

Tamil Tiger separatists have often attacked the Sri Lankan capital, but they have never targeted the visiting cricketers.

The Australians are likely to practice Wednesday in preparation for their first match against host Sri Lanka on Sunday at Galle, a port city 110 kilometres (65 miles) south of Colombo.

The state-run media praised the Australians, particularly skipper Steve Waugh, for their professionalism. "He (Waugh) is ruthless and nothing is ever given away by him on the cricket field. He loves to wear the opposition down and pile on the agony," The Daily News said Tuesday.

After the one-day series that will also feature India, the Australians will play three Tests against Sri Lanka.

Security officials say the Liberation Tigers of Tiger Eelam have suffered several reverses on the battlefield recently and may do something to dramatise their 16-year-old insurgency war.

The LTTE says Tamil minority in Sri Lanka are discriminated by the majority Sinhalese, who control the government and military. The government denies the charge.



AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME: Central defender Kingshuk (C) shows his attacking prowess by heading Abahani in front during their Premier League Super Four clash against Arambagh yesterday. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Summer fiesta for shuttlers

Sports Reporter

The Summer Open Badminton Tournament '99 will be held at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium from August 20 under the auspices of Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF).

The six-day tournament will be restricted to four events—singles and doubles for both men and women.

A press conference in this regard was held at the NSC conference room yesterday afternoon with BBF president Kutubuddin Ahmed in the chair. BBF general secretary Zahir Ahmed and joint-secretary Marium Tareque were also present on the occasion.

The tournament will be sponsored by Sadat Smriti Sadan, a Maghbar-based charity organisation.

## Quader sees SAF training

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture Obaidul Quader visited Bangladesh Shooting Complex, Boxing and Table Tennis Complex yesterday to see the practice of Bangladesh teams for taking part in the upcoming SAF Games in Kathmandu, reports BSS.

The 8th South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, the largest sports festival of South Asia, will begin from September 25 this year in the Nepalese capital.

Bangladesh will take part in all the 12 events—athletics, boxing, football, kabaddi, karate, swimming, shooting, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling, weight lifting and taekwondo.

## Pak World Cuppers summoned

KARACHI, Aug 18 (AFP): Pakistan's cricket World Cup squad were Tuesday summoned to appear before a judge heading a commission looking into match-rigging allegations, officials said.

The team has been asked to appear before the commission on August 23 in Lahore, officials said.

The commission headed by Lahore High Court judge Malik Mohammad Qayyum will hear testimony from suspended skipper Wasim Akram and 13-member players.

Besides two other suspended players Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed, the squad includes five others who were termed as "beneficiaries" in an interim report of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) last year.

Wasim, Malik and Ijaz were barred by the PCB's ad-hoc committee, which took over the charge of running the cricket affairs last month. The committee said they would not represent Pakistan until they proved their innocence.

The players will cross-examine alleged bookies Salim Pervaz and discarded fast bowler Ata-ur-Rehman who had alleged that certain Pakistani cricketers were involved in match-fixing.

Former Test cricketers and coach Javed Miandad has also been summoned to record his statement before the commission.

Khawar said the commission was ready to hear evidence from anyone wanting to testify to the commission until August 25.

## Barguna chess

From Staff Correspondent  
BARISAL, Aug 18: For the first time chess league has been introduced at the Adarsha Madhyamik Girls School in Barguna yesterday.

Barguna Chess Club organised the chess league while it was inaugurated by Advocate Md Sahajuddin, Chairman Barguna Pourashava.

## Headers head Abahani high

Sports Reporter

Two second-half goals guided title aspirants Abahani to a 2-0 win over Arambagh in their second 'super four' Keya Premier Division Football League clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Defender Kingshuk and Indian forward Sabir Pasha scored for the popular Dhanmondi outfit, who struggled for a breakthrough during the entire first session against a spirited Arambagh ensemble.

Abahani, without the service of midfielder Iqbal who was serving a two-match ban on disciplinary grounds, had to make a change in their formation. Bringing defender Partho in the midfield did not work as the sky-blues failed to create any panic in the Arambagh defence in the first session.

On the other hand, Arambagh, who have earned the reputation these days of playing magnificently, but only for the first 45 minutes, maintained their tradition to play brilliantly against their more illu-

trious counterparts in the first half and produced two good chances.

Forward Tota headed wide off the near post from a Manik free-kick in the 24th minute, while substitute Masud's header was returned by Abahani custodian Aminul at the stroke of the breather.

After the break, Abahani

Team	Rank	M	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Abahani KC	2nd	15	9	4	2	23	9	31
Arambagh	4th	15	4	3	8	16	25	15

brought Partho back into the defence and placed substitute Shahidul Alam Ranjan in the attack. The decision proved worthy as Abahani went all out against Arambagh from the very beginning of the second half.

The much-expected lead for Abahani came in the 52nd minute when defender Kingshuk headed home an Arman cross from the right side with an acrobatic jump.

Sabir Pasha then sealed Arambagh's fate two minutes later with another header after being fed by Ghanaian striker Opuju from the right side.

Abahani, with yesterday's win, moved to second position in the table having raised their tally to 31 points from 15 matches.

Earlier, Abahani, in a written letter to Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC) on Tuesday, threatened they would boycott the league if the authority failed to

take action against what they termed "a fixed match between Mohammedan and Arambagh" and lift the two-match suspension on their midfielder Iqbal.

However, being assured by the DMFLC late Tuesday night that they would investigate the matter through an inquiry committee, Abahani changed their mind and fielded their team against Arambagh.

Yellow card: Tajul (Arambagh).

**TEAMS**  
Abahani KC: Aminul, Dulal, Kingshuk, Charles Ghansha, See page 14

## Oval Test starts today

## Young England v injured NZ



LONDON, Aug 18 (Reuters/AFP): England and New Zealand will bid to avoid Test cricket's wooden spoon in the fourth and final match of their series starting on Thursday at The Oval.

New Zealand are currently bottom in the unofficial world championship table, published by the Wisden Cricket Monthly magazine and which is based on results between the nine Test-playing nations.

But if they win to take the series 2-1 they will move up two places, leaving England bottom.

After sacking selectors Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, England have made five squad changes from the match at Old Trafford two weeks ago, where they were outplayed but escaped with a draw.

Captain Nasser Hussain returns from injury while experienced batsmen Graeme Hick and Mark Butcher, who stood in for Hussain during the third Test, have been dropped along with spinner Peter Such.

Former captain Alec Stewart drops down the order and resumes behind the stumps.

Three newcomers have been included in the 13-man squad, with Darren Maddy of Leicestershire certain to win his first cap, opening the batting with another former captain Michael Atherton.

Northamptonshire all-rounder Graeme Swann and Warwickshire seam bowler Ed Giddins, who received an 18-month suspension for taking cocaine three years ago, have also been called up for the first time.

With pacemen Darren Gough, Dean Headley and Alex Tudor injured, Giddins will hope for selection ahead of Chris Silverwood and Alan Mullally.

Ronnie Irani, the Essex all-rounder who was last selected in 1996, is back in the frame after playing in his county's emphatic victory over New Zealand this week.

Fielding a team of near Test-strength, the tourists lost by an innings and suffered injuries to two of their fast bowlers, Chris Cairns and Geoff Allott. Both are doubtful, which may mean a call-up for Shayne O'Connor and the uncapped Andrew Penn.

The crushing innings defeat by Essex on Monday has not helped the mood in the Kiwi camp either.

New Zealand coach Steve Rixon claims his side were not properly focused at Chelmsford. "We obviously were not up to

the game—our minds were planted on the final Test more than anything else," he said.

"It was a game late in the tour four months, and I'll forgive me on one performance."

"We have played good Test match cricket and we will reinforce all the good things we have done in the series."

New Zealand have a poor record at The Oval, with four draws and four heavy defeats in eight Tests, but they have performed well in the current series.

The weather forecast for London is poor, with showers expected on each of the first three days.

**SQUADS**  
**ENGLAND** (from): Michael Atherton, Darren Maddy, Nasser Hussain (captain), Graham Thorpe, Alec Stewart, Mark Ramprakash, Ronnie Irani, Andy Caddick, Graeme Swann, Chris Silverwood, Ed Giddins, Alan Mullally, Phil Tufnell.

**NEW ZEALAND** (from): Matthew Horne, Matthew Bell, Stephen Fleming (captain), Nathan Astle, Roger Twose, Craig McMillan, Chris Cairns, Adam Parore, Dion Nash, Chris Harris, Daniel Vettori, Geoff Allott, Shayne O'Connor, Andrew Penn.

## Of a giddy Ed Giddins



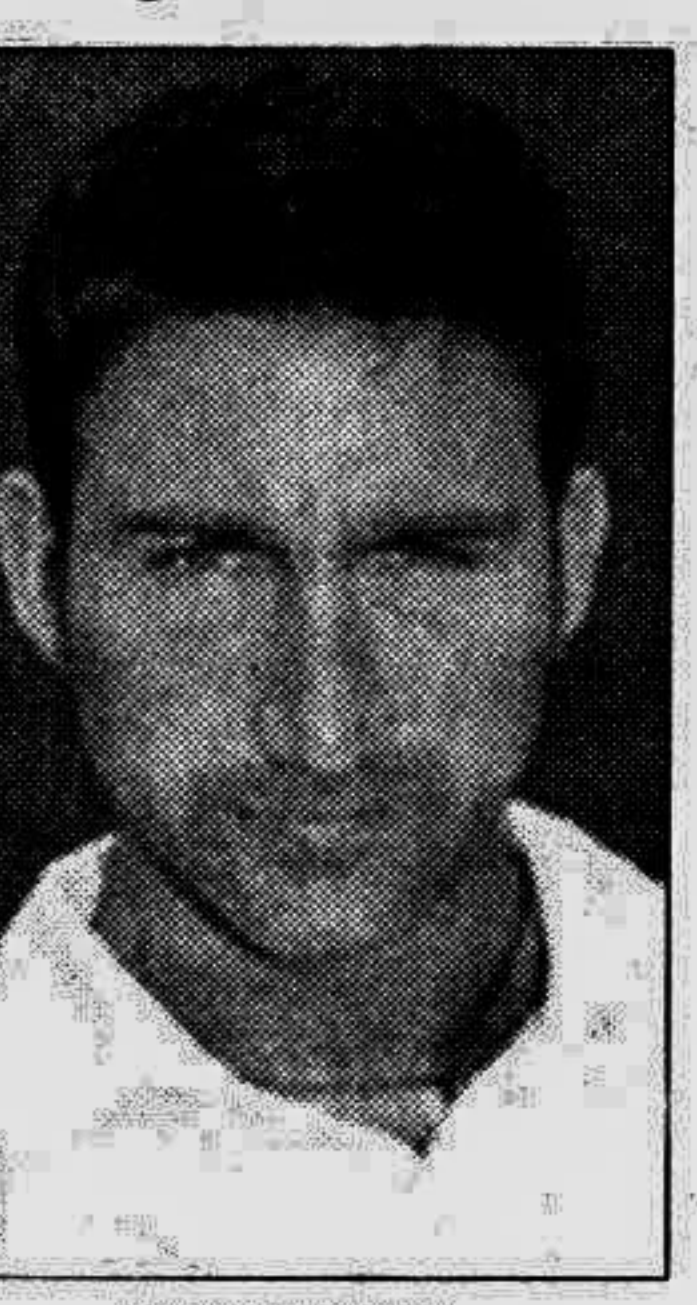
LONDON, Aug 18 (Internet report): It will be back to selling Christmas trees for Ed Giddins if he fails to make England's squad for the tour of South Africa this winter.

But at least the Warwickshire fast bowler now has the chance to put his name in lights in the deciding Test of the Cornhill series against New Zealand.

The final Test of the summer can often be an all-or-nothing affair. Do well at The Oval and you tour, if not, you do not.

And Giddins, 28, is well-prepared on both counts. Through his Surrey pal and partner Nadeem Shahid, he has 500 Christmas tree holders stacked in an underground store at The Oval, ready for the festive season.

Giddins, though, believes he



ED GIDDINS

ensure his Christmas is spent in sunnier climes, which would leave the trees to look after themselves.

"There's no substitute for cricketing experience. I know it's a huge step up from county cricket, but when you are cut there it's the same thing—you are looking to hit the stumps, get the snicks, or get them plumb in front," said Giddins.

"The difference between now and four years ago is that my bad performances are few and far between, whereas before I still had good ones but there were a few bad ones in between."

The reason I'm more confident is that I've had the four years to step up. I would have had nightmares about this four years ago. I always thought I wouldn't have signed a contract with Warwickshire."

Giddins, formerly with Sussex, was banned for the entire



England batsman Ronnie Irani practises batting in the nets at The Oval on August 17. —AFP photo