

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

#### Competition-128

✓ Tick the correct answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm April 28, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

1	Who is the number one women's tennis player?	Hings	Davenport	Seles
2	Who won the United Insurance IM chess title?	Refaat	Zia	Aung
3	How many Tests did Walsh need to break Kapil Dev's world record?	114	115	116
4	Who was adjudged man-of-the-series in the West Indies-Zimbabwe Test?	Rose	Walsh	Adam
5	Who are the First Division cricket champions?	Dhanomdi	V Cricketers	Khelghar

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....



## SPORTS TALK



### Shoaib Akhtar

(Pakistan speedster) I like Shahrukh Khan, Aamir Khan and Salman Khan. Don't ask me about heroines because they are all lovely and beautiful. I like Raveena Tandon and Kajol. My favourite movies are "Hum Aap Ke Hain Kaun" and "Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayengey."

### Schools h'ball BAF Shaheen emerge Group B champs

Last year's runners-up BAF Shaheen School & College emerged Group B champions to reach the semifinals of the Bata schools boys' handball tournament at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday, reports UNB.

Earlier, three teams — holders Rajarbagh Police Lines High, Motijheel Model High and Shaheed Nabi High — booked their semifinal berths as champions of their respective groups.

The semifinal matches will be held after completion of the Second South Asian Handball Championship beginning in Dhaka next Friday.

Shaheen School eliminated Narinda Govt High 16-15. The match was locked in 9-9 goals in the first half.

Khaled scored six goals, Tanveer four and Azad three for the winners while Arifur netted seven and Gaffar four for the losers.

### Olympic Day Run June 23

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) will organise a run on June 23 to celebrate the Olympic Day Run in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world expressing its solidarity with Olympic movement to create awareness among the youth against drug abuse, reports BSS.

BOA has taken elaborate programme to make the run a success as International Olympic Committee (IOC) declared this year's run as Millennium Olympic Day Run-2000.



Home Minister and chairman of Wari Club's centenary celebration organising committee Mohammad Nasim (L) presenting a crest to Mozaffar Hossain Palto during a dinner at the Sheraton Hotel yesterday. —Star photo

## Long live Wari Club

Sports Reporter

The five-day long centenary celebrations of Wari Club, the oldest sports organisation of the country, ended in the city yesterday.

On the concluding day, the finals of the table tennis and volleyball competitions were held at the NSC wooden-floor gymnasium and court adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium in the morning and afternoon.

Anirban of India defeated compatriot Jayanta 21-17, 21-10 to clinch the men's singles table tennis title. In the all-Biman women's affair Rumi bagged the crown outlasting Tumpa 23-21, 21-17, 16-21, 21-13.

Besides, Parag of Biman walked away the boy's trophy with a 21-14, 21-7, 21-15 win over fellow player Tirtho.

Ten teams including one from India took part in the tournament. Bangladesh Army Red collected the volleyball cup after a marathon five-set struggle against the hosts. The Army Red spikers won their last league match 25-13, 22-25, 22-25, 20-13, 15-13.

Earlier in the three-team round-robin stage Army Red earned four points with victories over Bangladesh Army

### Sirajganj cricket

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 25: Raktamukut Ekadash beat Runners Club Ekadash by 6 wickets at the Shaheed Shamsuddin Stadium today.

Winning the toss Runners batted first and made 104 runs losing all wickets in 40 overs. In reply, Raktamukut collected 105 runs in 13 overs losing 4 wickets. Sheekim of Raktamukut was adjudged man-of-the-match.

In the other match of the day, Siraj Smriti Sangha defeated Shuda Smriti Sangha by 126 runs at the same venue.

Winning the toss Siraj Smriti batted first and made 227 runs losing 6 wickets in 40 overs.

In reply, Shuda Smriti managed 101 runs losing all wickets in 37 overs.

Green and Wari Club. The centenary club, who beat the Green team in the first match, earned the runners-up spot.

Later in the evening, the club arranged a dinner at a Sheraton Hotel. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad attended the function as chief guest. Home Minister Mohammad Nasim and Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif were present among other distinguished guests.

The five-day programme began with a colourful rally in the city last Friday morning. On the second day, a seminar on the club's contribution in the local sports was held at the NSC conference room. Noted sports journalist Mohammad Quamruzzaman presented in

key note paper. On Monday, a club night was organised at its premises where all members including their families got together.

The organisers hope to hold an exhibition cricket match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on April 29 between local and foreign players now taking part in the Premier Division league.

Wari Club was founded by Roy Bahadur Surendra Nath Roy at his residence in the remaining Wari area in 1898 which was formed in 1898. After shifting twice, the pioneer old-town club finally settled in Motijheel in late eighties.

Defending champion International Master (IM) Ziaur Rahman of Biman began his defence of the Professor Abdul Razzak 26th National Chess Championship title in style.

He comfortably defeated Sved Ruhul Kabir Shilpu of Titus Club on the inaugural day of the 15-round championship at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Zia, highest-rated player of the country, played with whites against the Slav defence of Shilpu and checkmated his opponent after 25 moves.

Fellow IM Reefat-bin-Sattar beat Saifuddin Ahmed Lovlu in the first round. Playing with black pieces against the Catalan opening of Lovlu, last year's runners-up took only 17 moves to wrap up the board.

Enamul Hossain Rajib of Titus Club also recorded a victory over Arifuzzaman Sikdar. Playing with whites against the modern defence of Arif, Rajib

## New-look county c'ship

LONDON, Apr 25: English county cricket begins a three-year experiment tomorrow with the historic

launch of a two-divisional championship, reports Reuters.

A three-up and three-down system of promotion and relegation has been introduced by the England and Wales Cricket Board to try to improve playing standards and increase public interest and spectator support.

The top nine counties last year, headed by champions Surrey, form the new first division, but ironically six of the previous seven title winners — Glamorgan, Warwickshire, Middlesex, Essex, Worcestershire and Nottinghamshire — all start off in division two. So too will the world's three premier strike bowlers, Allan Donald, Glenn McGrath and Shoaib Akhtar. They have been engaged on overseas contracts with Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Nottinghamshire.

Essex's England captain Nasser Hussain together with free-scoring Australian batsmen Justin Langer (Middlesex), Matthew Elliott (Glamorgan) and Michael Bevan (Sussex) will also be operating in the second tier.

Inevitably, it has been Hampshire's recruitment of Shane Warne, who recently became Australia's record wicket-

taker, that has attracted most attention. It has also sent Hampshire's membership soaring towards the 5,000 mark for the first time since signing former England captain David Gower.

His six-month stay on the south-coast will cost Hampshire 150,000 pounds (\$235,000) which his advisers expect could be quadrupled by media commitments and sponsorship endorsements.

But Hampshire captain Robin Smith is convinced Warne is more interested in wickets than financial rewards. "He was ringing me virtually every week since January checking how things were going in the build-up to the season," said Smith.

"I've been really impressed at the way he wants to fully integrate himself into all aspects of the county."

Warne said: "Playing county cricket is a challenge I have

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Scene from the women's singles final of the Wari Club centenary table tennis tournament between Biman's Tumpa and Rimu at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday. —Star photo

### Youth Asia Cup hockey

## Bari named team leader

General Secretary of Bangladesh Hockey Federation M Shamsul Bari has been named as team leader of the Bangladesh squad which will leave the city on May 1 to participate in the 4th men's youth Asia Cup Hockey Championship, reports UNB.

The 12-team meet will begin in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur on May 3.

Bangladesh will play a warm-up match with South Korea on May 2 before starting their campaign with India on May 3 at the Bukit Jalil Stadium.

Custodian Russel Khan has been named captain while defender Ishtiaq Ahmed vice-captain of Bangladesh team, comprising 16 players and four officials.

The other three officials are: Nurul Islam (coach), Sheikh Nurul Islam (judge) and M Latifur Rahman (umpire).

Bangladesh have been placed in Pool B with India, Uzbekistan, China, Iran and Japan while Group A comprising South Korea, Pakistan, Oman, Singapore and hosts Malaysia.

In the other group matches, Bangladesh will meet Uzbekistan on May 4, Iran on May 6, Japan on May 8 and China on May 9.

Bangladesh finished fourth in the first Asian meet held in New Delhi in 1988, placed 5th in the second in Malaysia in 1992 and became 6th in the last in Singapore in 1996.

TEAM  
Russel Khan Bappi (captain), Mohammad Javed, Shahidullah Khokon, Ishtiaq Ahmed Shilpu (vice-captain), Rafiqunabi Nakib, Issa Miah, Mirajul Ahsan, Thui Nu Marna, Mahbulul Ehsan Rana, Shahidullah Tito, Ashiquzzaman, Ariful Haq Prince, Giasuddin Rubel, Shamim Reza, Ramiz Ahmed and Kutubuddin Year.

### South Asian h'ball from Apr 28

Indian men's team will take on Nepal in the opening match of the second South Asian Handball (men's & women's) Championship beginning here on Friday, reports UNB.

The match will start at 3.45 pm at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the five-day double league basis meet at 3.30 pm.

Two top teams from each group will play the finals on Tuesday (May 2). The women's final is scheduled for 3.00 pm while the men's final will start at 4.15 pm.

Bangladesh women's team will play holders Indian side in the other opening day fixture, billed for 5 pm at the same venue.

In the other first round matches, hosts Bangladesh will play Nepal at 9 am and India at 3.30 pm on Saturday in the men's competition.

In the women's group, holders India will face Nepal at 10.20 am while Bangladesh will play India at 5 pm, also on Saturday, in the first phase engagements.

The return-leg matches of men's and women's groups will be held on April 30 and May 1.

Meanwhile, the Nepalese teams arrive in the capital today while the Indian teams will reach here on Thursday.

The first South Asian handball championship was held in the Indian city of Joypur in 1996 with the hosts clinching both men's and women's titles.

### Premier kabadi

Bangladesh Army B earned a 36-9 victory over Fire Service B in the 6th Premier Division Kabadi League yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners dominated the first half by 12-5 points. Fire Service B also lost their second match against Sonali Bank Club by 8-15 points. The winners led by first half by 4-2.

In the day's other matches, Bangladesh Rifles A defeated Fire Service A 26-10 while Fire Service A in their second match managed a 20-4 win against Bangladesh Army A.

the club and Brazilian football federation (CBF).

But Athirson arrived, however, at the team hotel and said he was delighted to be in the Brazilian squad.

"I really wanted to play for Flamengo this Sunday but I was lucky because the club understood my situation and authorized my release."

The only tense moment came when Ronaldinho Gaucho of Gremio arrived an hour after the 11H00 (14H00 GMT) deadline for the players to meet at the team hotel.

An agitated Ronaldinho said his plane had made an unscheduled stop and was there-

## Abdul Jabber Smriti Boli Siddiq best grappler

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 25: Siddiq Ahmed alias Siddiq Boli (wrestler) retained his title in the traditional wrestling competition of Chittagong titled as 'Abdul Jabber Smriti Boli Khela' held at Laldighi Maidan in the city here this afternoon.

Demonstrating eye-catching techniques Siddiq, who hailed from Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar, defeated Nazrul Islam alias 'Naju Boli' in the consecutive rounds of 'the Challenge & Final Bout' of the competition.

Known as 'Jabobijver Boli Khela', the popular competition was declared open by the Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury at 4.30 pm. The Minister for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan was present as the chief guest and Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner A T Ahmedul Haq was the special guest.

Forty-eight wrestlers from Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, and Comilla took part in the preliminary round, from where Nazrul qualified for the challenge bout with Siddiq Boli.

Before pitted against last year's champion Siddiq Boli, the challenger from Sitakunda defeated Nurunnabi Chowdhury alias Nuru Boli of Fatikchhari.

But Nazrul failed to put up any resistance in the final bout against Siddiq Boli, who pinned his challenger on the ground within 1.30 minutes in the first round and within less than 1 minute in the second one. Besides, 18 other bolts (wrestler) won awards for their wins in different categories.

Organising committee of the competition - Abdul Jabber Smriti Boli Khela committee distributed crests and money among the winners. Chittagong City Mayor on behalf of the Corporation presented a 'gold

medal' to the champion wrestler while Shah Alam Cooker Industries gave Hajjak lights to the champion and runner-up.

City Corporation also provided the wrestlers with boarding and lodging for the day.

Earlier the CCC Mayor announced that competition would receive patronage from his organisation.

The traditional wrestling competition is named after one businessman named Abdul Jabbar Shadagor who introduced this to motivate the young people of the port city in the anti British movement around a century ago.

Since its inception the event has attracted a good number of wrestlers and visitors on 12th of Baishakh every year. As part of the festivities a three-day country fair is being held and ends a day after the main event.

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Winners of the Wari Club centenary table tennis tournament pose after the finals yesterday. —Star photo

### Land crisis won't affect morale

## Zimbabwe in England

LONDON, Apr 25: Zimbabwe's farming cricketers will try not to be distracted by the land crisis at home as they make their inaugural Test tour of England, reports Reuters.

Five players in the squad of 16 - vice-captain Heath Streak, Guy Whittall, Bryan Strang, Dirk Viljoen and, to a lesser degree, Alistair Campbell - are farmers.

They are to play on despite the troubles in Zimbabwe where pro-government militants have invaded hundreds of white-owned farms over the past two months.

Captain Andy Flower said at a news conference as the players practised at Lord's on Tuesday: "Everyone's worried. We've got some farmers in the side with families, though they're not on the farms any more."

"We have got to think positively, hope that things do sort themselves out and if problems do arise in the future then we deal with them then."

"As far as causing additional pressure which could affect on-field performance, I don't think it will."

"When you are playing this level of sport there are always distractions and this is another distraction which should not affect performance or practice."

Asked how the home crisis had affected morale during his team's recent tour of the Caribbean, Flower said: "Obviously, it's frustrating to watch from thousands of miles away but I don't think it's an excuse or a reason for on-field under performance."

"You should be able to compartmentalise sufficiently well so that it doesn't affect you."

There are no contingency plans for the Zimbabwe squad if the situation deteriorates at home.

Tour manager Dan Stannard

said: "We've got the go ahead from the Zimbabwe Cricket Union and from the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board), who are also very keen for this tour to take place."

"It's very important that it does take place, for cricket, particularly in Zimbabwe, and at this moment in time we have no thoughts whatsoever about going back."

"As far as those players who come from farming families are concerned their families are probably very pleased they are on this tour for a variety of reasons - cricket for one, and second the fact it is not an additional worry for them."

Zimbabwe's itinerary opens on Thursday with a four-day match against Hampshire at Southampton. It includes two tests against England and a triangular limited overs tournament with England and West Indies who start their tour in June.

## Brazil out to prove

MONTEVIDEO, Apr 25: Four-times champions Brazil will have to put their dreams of World Cup glory in far-off 2002 firmly to the back of their minds as they target a vital qualifying win Wednesday at home to Ecuador, reports AFP.

Following a mediocre goal-less draw in Colombia in their opening match Brazil already have to make up lost ground as eternal rivals Argentina thrashed Chile 4-1 in their first tie to move into pole position.

Four of the ten South American teams are guaranteed a slot for the 2002 finals, hosted by Japan and South Korea, with the side finishing fifth requiring a play-off against a team from Oceania to decide their fate.

Brazil, who have to contemplate a future without the injured Ronaldo, go into action at the Morumbi stadium in Sao Paulo against an Ecuador side which won its opening tie 2-0 in Quito against Venezuela, who are expected to be the group whipping boys.

As reigning continental champions the Brazilians are unlikely to have any trouble making the finals - especially as coach Wanderley Luxemburgo has taken a hard line and insisted clubs release their players, turning a deaf ear to angry protests.

Flamengo had threatened not to release defender Athirson, creating friction between

fore delayed.

Brazil include Champions League stars Rivaldo of Barcelona and Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos in an 18-man squad.

"We are confident that we can pull out a great performance and score a good win," Rivaldo said after Monday training.

Ecuador coach Hernan Dario "Bollito" Gomez is on record as saying he had a dream earlier in the week that his men will win 1-0 with a goal from Ulises de la Cruz.

Argentina meanwhile travel to Venezuela, whom they should beat despite the loss through injury of record scorer Gabriel Batistuta, who has a back complaint.

The Fiorentina striker came off after an hour of Saturday's Serie A defeat against Juventus.

But the 'albiceleste' (whites and sky blues) do welcome back Monaco's playmaker Marcelo Gallardo, who was Monday elected French player of the year for his decisive role in leading his club to the league title.

Chile, who reached the second phase at France 98 but whose morale is at a low ebb after their drubbing by Argentina, host a Peru side who beat Paraguay last month.

Chilean authorities have declared the match "high risk" as they seek to avoid a repeat of the crowd trouble which

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