

## Linu distributes birth certificates

SPORTS REPORTER

Table-tennis legend and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Zobera Rahman Linu formally inaugurated a birth certificate distribution ceremony in Baonia Bandh (embankment) in the city's Mirpur area recently.

A Guinness Book of World Record-famed star for most number of national titles, Linu handed over 32 birth certificates to mostly underprivileged children of the locality.

In five wards under Baonia Bandh, the data of 10,690 children aged 0-18 have so far been collected by ARBAN (Association for Realization of Basic Needs) for finalising the birth registration process.

The programme was organised by ARBAN and supported by the Bangladesh government, Terre des hommes (Tdh) Foundation Italy and UNICEF with funds from the Netherlands government and the European Commission.

"Birth registration is essential for every citizen of the country. It ensures the right of every citizen to an official identity that is recognised by the state. Everyone should, therefore, have their birth registered and carefully preserve their certificates," Linu told the audience at the ARBAN school premises.

She urged the local people to avail the free of cost registration offer until July 2, 2008 announced by the Bangladeshi government as birth registration gives protection against social vices like early marriage, child labour, violence against children, criminal responsibility of children due to proper verification of age.

Also speaking at the ceremony, Laura Giani, country representative of Tdh Foundation, describing the certificate awarding ceremony as a symbolic gesture to consolidate child rights, said that with UNICEF assistance Tdh Foundation has been supporting NGOs like ARBAN to implement a pilot project of birth registration of 22,000 children.

UNICEF's programme officer Tizra Theurissen, project coordinator Robiul Alam, ARBAN coordinator Muhammed Kamal Uddin and Ismail Hossain Gazi, chairman of Baonia Bandh Development Committee, were also present.

## Thakurgaon win Under-14 title

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Thakurgaon emerged as regional champions of the national under-14 district youth cricket competition when they beat hosts Gaibandha in the final by six wickets at the local stadium yesterday.

After bowling out Gaibandha for only 101 runs in 48.4 overs, Thakurgaon took their time to reach the winning target as they scored 102-4 in 38.5 overs.

## Scramble

FROM PAGE 20

Panionios Athens enter their all-important Group H clash with French club Bordeaux with renewed confidence after a domestic league win over city rivals Panathinaikos at the weekend.

"The win against Panathinaikos, one of the best teams in Greece and with a vast European experience, will certainly help us psychologically for the match against Bordeaux," said Panionios' Croatian midfielder Ivica Majstorovic.

"I believe we are 100 percent ready to win and go on to the next round of the UEFA Cup competition."

Turkish side Galatasaray, the 2000 winners, will join Panionios in a battle for the remaining ticket and have the easier fixture when they play bottom side Austria Vienna at home.

Group winners Bordeaux and Helsingborg have both qualified.

## Terry faces long

FROM PAGE 20

said Ashley Cole could be punished for an offensive two-fingered salute at Arsenal fans, even though the incident was not mentioned in referee Alan Wiley's match report.

England full-back Cole was subjected to persistent verbal abuse from Arsenal supporters in what was his first game back at his old club since his controversial transfer across London last season.

He further angered Gunners fans by making disparaging remarks about the club in his autobiography.

Photographs of Cole making his gesture appeared in British newspapers on Monday and the spokesman said: "None of the officials saw the incident."

"If an incident is not seen by the officials, it would depend on what evidence is available, whether there's any TV footage, any photographic evidence to be considered."

Arsenal's win ensured they stayed top of the Premier League by a point from Manchester United and left Chelsea in third place, six points off the lead.



Table tennis icon and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Zobera Rahman Linu is seen among recipients of birth certificates after a distribution ceremony at Baonia Bandh in the city's Mirpur area recently.

## Waugh votes for Hogg

### Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Steve Waugh has backed the traditional line-up of three fast bowlers and a spinner for the Boxing Day Test against India. Despite a surge in popularity for Shaun Tait over the past two weeks, Waugh believes Brad Hogg should take the spot left by Stuart MacGill when he had surgery on his wrist.

"It's probably 50-50 right now, but Hogg deserves a chance," Waugh told the Daily Telegraph. "He has never let Australia down. He has proven one of our best one-day players in the last four years."

Hogg has appeared in only four Tests, the last coming in 2003, while Tait was called twice on the 2005 Ashes tour. Waugh said if Hogg was not chosen now he might never come back.

"Tait is probably ready to go and there would be a temptation to play him," he said. "Hogg deserves a chance. If you don't give him a chance now, he will probably never

get a chance. If it doesn't work, you can always make a change for the second and third Tests."

Tait's limited-overs speed against New Zealand has been fierce and he has proved his right elbow has recovered from surgery. However, Waugh would prefer Brett Lee, Stuart Clark and Mitchell Johnson in the side if three fast men were picked.

Waugh said India were more comfortable against spin than pace. "If they can get stuck into their top order with some short stuff and be very aggressive, it's a bit of an ageing batting line-up," he said. "There are a few question marks over India although on the other side is that they have a lot of experience."

India start their tour with a three-day game against Victoria at the Junction Oval on Thursday and Ian Healy felt they had arrived too late to adjust to the conditions. "Another fortnight might have been perfect," he told the paper.

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