

# Bangladeshis win gold, silver, 3 bronze in Special Olympics

WASHINGTON, July 30: Bangladesh athletes competing in the eighth International Special Summer Olympic Games held in the US twin cities of Minneapolis-St. Paul from July 20 to 26, earned one gold, one silver and three bronze medals for their country says a USIS special release.

The Special Summer Olympics are international events held by and for physically and mentally disabled athletes since 1968. Bangladesh athletes competed for the first time in an event which drew participation by 6,000 special athletes from 90 nations this year.

Like other special athletes, Bangladesh youngsters Fahmida, Asif, Faizur, Masum, and Mansur, travelled to the US with their parents and a coach, Mr Asafuddoula, a Bangladeshi businessman.

## BDR champions

Sports Reporter

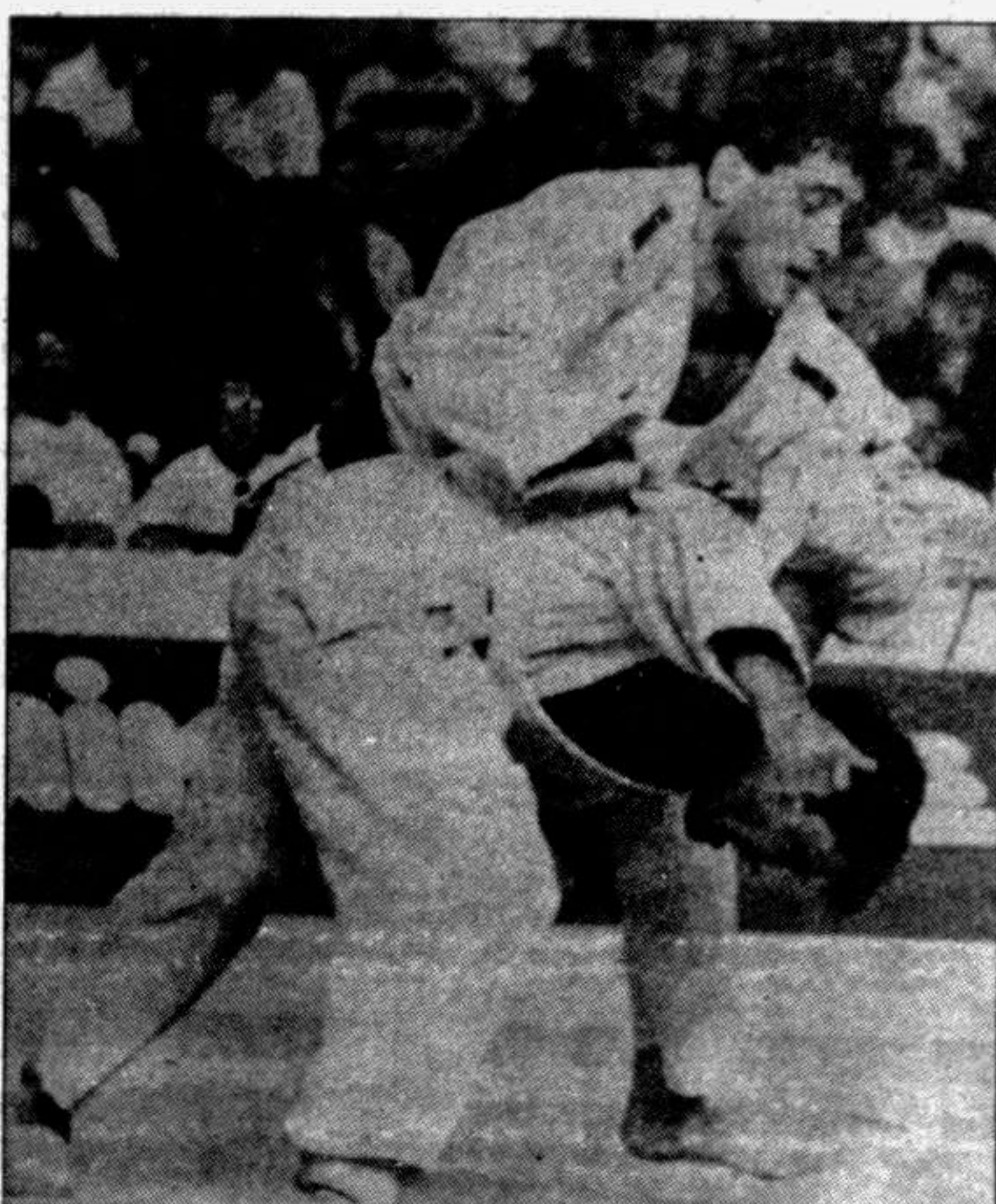
Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) annexed the championship beating Bangladesh Ansars in yesterday's final of the seventh monsoon handball tournament at the Outer Stadium handball court.

The issue had to be decided with the help of tie-breakers after both BDR and Ansars finished the regulation period tied 14-14. After the tie-break, BDR emerged the winners by the slender margin of 21-20 in this keenly contested match despite the heavy afternoon downpour.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka gave away the trophies as chief guest.

sponsored the Bangladesh team's participation in the Special Olympic Summer Games.

"Despite language and cultural difference, the Bangladesh athletes were inspired by the hearty affection and hospitality shown to them," said Mr Asafuddoula, in an interview with a Voice of America correspondent. He added that participation in the



Sergei Kosorotov of USSR on way to his victory over Naoya Ogawa of Japan in heavyweight division at the World Judo Championship in Barcelona on July 25.

Games helped the Bangladeshi special athletes build self-confidence.

Coach for the Bangladesh team, Ms Moutaz Rahman of the Bangladesh Institute for Mentally Retarded Children, expressed hope that with some additional financial assistance, more boys and girls from Bangladesh will be able to participate in the next Special Olympic Summer Games.

# Ad-hocism at BFF must stop: Velappan

SY Bakht

An unhealthy situation prevails in the football arena of Dhaka because of the "all-powerful" influence exerted by only two local clubs over the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), said Peter Velappan, general secretary of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). "Mohammedan and Abahani have created an uncomfortable situation between the Federation and themselves," Velappan, currently on a visit here in connection with the Tenth Asian Club Cup tournament, said in an interview with The Daily Star recently.

Noting that no player should be above the club, no club should be above the federation and no federation should be above the game, Velappan said that the existing situation in the local football arena is against the greater interest of football in the country.

"If Bangladesh made a more sincere effort I would imagine they would have a far better team," he said. Although there is tremendous potential for developing football here, Velappan feels that the BFF needs to re-organise itself in order to tap that potential.

He suggested that the Federation needs to stabilise the leadership instead of making frequent changes due to the politicization of the organisation. He said the BFF should also energize its activities with professional administration and management and re-organise the structure of competitions held here by holding youth tournaments and more club tournaments. "But it (the tournaments) has to be held on a country-wide basis and not as only a monopoly of Dhaka," he added.

He said the help of foreign coaches should also be sought to train local talents. "It is not enough to bring them (coaches) for only a few

months, it has to be for at least three to five years," Velappan noted.

He felt that the arrangements made for holding the tournament here was good, but he expressed his disappointment over some unexpected developments.

He said that, unfortunately, the tournament faced two major obstacles. The first being the bad playing conditions due to incessant rain and, secondly and more importantly, the poor performance in the tournament by the local outfit Mohammedan Sporting Club.

"For the financial success of the tournament it is important for the host team to be at least in the semi-finals, thus I am disappointed at the poor performance of the MSC," Velappan explained.

He said that he was satisfied by the standard of refereeing in the tournament and felt that the players in general played in the true spirit of fairplay and sportsmanship. But he expressed his disappointment at the quality and standard of play at the tournament.

"These are the leading clubs from seven countries and we expected to see a much higher level of football, but many of the matches at the tournament were not upto our expectations," he lamented.

As far as the overall standard of Asian football is concerned, Velappan said that it was a long way from the World Cup standards as evidenced by the poor performance of the Asian teams during the last WC in Italy.

"But we are very pleased to note that our youth teams are bridging the gap. Our youth teams from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Syria, Japan, South Korea and China have done very well in recent tournaments," he pointed out.

"They have beaten teams

from Europe and South America and this has helped to overcome the existing psychological barrier and it is only a matter of time before these young players develop into top class international players," he added.

Among the 37 AFC member countries the standard and quality of football varies significantly, thus it is difficult to standardize the game and bring about uniformity in de-



PETER VELAPPAN

velopment and progress, he said.

The AFC classifies the member countries into three categories for different levels of football development. The leading group consists of economically sound countries which include the Gulf nations, Japan, China, North and South Korea and Iran. The development of football in these countries is said to be at a faster pace than the rest.

The second group are those footballing countries with tremendous football cultures and spectator interests that is already there and where special efforts to stimulate interest in the game is not needed. These AFC member countries are classified as the second powers of Asian football, which

includes Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Oman, Syria and Hong Kong.

The third group includes Pakistan, Nepal, Vietnam, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Macau, Velappan pointed out.

Thus, Velappan noted, the AFC motto is development at its own pace but on sound policy and principles.

He said the AFC provides assistance to all national associations in establishing good infrastructure, organisation and administration. The AFC undertakes training of manpower by offering courses for secretaries, coaches, referees and medical personnel.

"The next thing we do is stimulate development through holding tournaments," Velappan noted. The AFC organises two Asian level youth tournaments for the under 16 and under 19 age groups. "And now we have also established an under 23 tournament which is for the Olympic team," he said.

Velappan said that the clubs have an important role to play in the development of football and thus to encourage club football the AFC organises two club tournaments — the Asian Club Cup tournament and the recently instituted Asian Cup Winners Cup tournament.

The club is the nucleus of football development and clubs must play an important role in the development of national and Asian football," he pointed out. "Unfortunately in Asia these clubs are not well organised and are not well managed," he added.

Velappan said that the Asian clubs need to switch over completely to professional football. He said, "you cannot expect an amateur player to give world class performance, so Asian football has to become professional and the clubs should be run with sound business management with profes-

sional people." Asked why he thinks the standard of football seems to be falling behind that of Africa, Velappan noted that there are at least 300 players from Africa playing in Europe which helps them develop their skills as professionals.

Although Asia has far more better infrastructural and organisational facilities available than Africa, he said that not a single Asian player plays in Europe.

Answering to another question Velappan said that wealth, good patronization, excellent facilities, good playing conditions and the ability to hire the best foreign coaches has helped some Middle Eastern countries develop their footballing skills tremendously in recent years.

Velappan said that Iran is coming up strongly with complete commitment as an Asian football power-house.

Asked if any Asian country has the possibility of holding the World Cup in the near future, he said Japan is a very serious contender for holding the World Cup in 2002. "And I am confident that they can do a good job," he added.

Velappan said that it was a setback for Asian football that a third berth for Asia was not secured for the WC in 1994. "But we are encouraged by the progress of our youth teams in world tournaments and we will certainly renew our bid for a third place in 1998," he added.

Velappan played for the Malaysian national team in the sixties and was the secretary of the Malaysian Football Association for 15 years, also was the team manager of the national team for several years, became the secretary of AFC in 1978 and took up the full-time job of general secretary in 1984.

# Asian giants clash today

KUALA LUMPUR, July 30: Pakistan, the Asian Games field hockey champion, takes on rival India on Wednesday in the six-nation Sultan Azlan Shah tournament, but the Indian coach says it will be just like any other encounter, reports AP.

"Hockey is no more between Pakistan and India. Even if we lose, it is not the end of the world," Indian coach Balkishen Singh said Tuesday.

India has won its only game so far and Pakistan has won twice in the tournament, which also includes Malaysia, South Korea, the Soviet Union and New Zealand. Pakistan is favoured in Wednesday's game in Ipoh, 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of Kuala Lumpur.

Since taking over the Indian team in April, Singh has

introduced a new style of "total hockey," replacing the traditional 5-3-2 formation.

"Total hockey involves 11 defenders and 11 strikers at the same time. Every player can play all positions and this style is gaining good results," Singh said.

India used the new system during its European tour in May, and won two out of three Test matches against Spain. Against both Germany and the Netherlands, it drew one game and lost one.

Singh, a former Indian national fullback, said he believed the new format would bring the desired results in the 1993 World Cup.

India, the 1980 Olympic gold medalist, last defeated Pakistan 4-3 in the BMW Cup in the Netherlands in 1989 but lost 3-2 in its archrival in last year's Beijing Asian Games.

Singh said victory over Pakistan on Wednesday would be a great morale booster for his players.

He said he respected Pakistan as a well-prepared team but that the two sides' chances are equal.

"Our target is the pre-Olympics round and from then on we will scale to glory again in world hockey," said Singh. India last won the World Cup in 1975 in Kuala Lumpur, beating Pakistan 2-1 in the final.

Pakistan team manager Islahuddin Siddiqui said that with a new system of play, India is a team to watch out for. "We respect them. Our players are in great shape and they will dent India's dream tomorrow," he added.

## Malaysia post win

IPOH, Malaysia, July 30: Hosts Malaysia beat New Zealand 2-1 for its first win in the six-nation Sultan Azlan Shah invitational field hockey championships here Monday, reports AFP.

Both teams were at one-all at the interval.

## Ambia, Feroza for Tokyo world meet.

A three-member Bangladesh athletics team, led by General Secretary of the Federation Abdul Wadud Khan, will take part in the World Athletic Championships to be held in Tokyo from August 24 to September 1, reports BSS.

Other members of the team are sprinters Golam Ambia and Feroza Khatun.

## Nat'l wrestling begins

The sixteenth National Wrestling championships, organised by Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation, began at the National Coaching Centre yesterday, reports BSS.

Chairman of the National Sports Council Major General Mubshur Rahman inaugurated the three-day meet as the chief guest. President of the Federation Capt Siddique Ahmed, BN, was also present on the occasion.

In all, 42 wrestlers from six teams are taking part in 10

# Maradona to practise with Boca Juniors

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, July 30: Argentina's Diego Maradona, banned from soccer until July

next year for failing a dope test and who is currently undergoing drug rehabilitation, is to start training with his former local club Boca Juniors, reports Reuter.

The disgraced midfielder, who faces drug charges here and in Italy, told reporters late on Sunday at Boca Juniors' stadium that he will join the club's First Division team training sessions this week.

Maradona, however, said he still had not made up his mind on whether he would return to professional soccer. In April, after the Italian league punished him with a 15-month ban, he told a television reporter that he was sick of the game.

"I want to enjoy with my family this free time that the ban has imposed on me," he

said after watching Boca Juniors draw 1-1 against Racing Club.

"I'm spending this time with my wife and kids and



Diego Maradona

later, once the Italian tribunal's ban is up, I'll decide what to do, whether I'll continue in the game or not, but I've got nearly a year ahead of

me," he added.

Boca Juniors players appeared thrilled by the idea of working out with the former Argentina skipper.

"I'm really happy because Diego congratulated me after the match and because he said he will be training with us," said striker Gabriel Batistuta, a star of the Argentine national team which won the South American Copa America tournament this month.

The former Napoli Club captain, often hailed as the world's best soccer player of his time, was banned when a urine test after an Italian league match in March revealed traces of cocaine.

He returned to his native Buenos Aires, where late in April he was arrested with two friends and charged with cocaine possession and with freely supplying the drug to others.

Maradona, 30, is now on bail and due on trial here. He could face a prison sentence

ranging from two to 12 years if found guilty.

In his first interview in many months, Maradona on Thursday told television interviewer that he had recovered from his drug problem and that cocaine was now 'an ugly memory'.

"Diego already asked permission from (club) directors to be able to train along with the team," Boca Juniors' manager Marcos Franchi told the news agency Noticias Argentinas. Therequest was approved, and Maradona will start Tuesday, Franchi said.

Maradona is the all-time scoring leader for Boca as well as Argentina's national team, which he has led since 1983. In 1986, he led Argentina to the world Cup. Last year, the team finished second to West Germany.

Franchi said Maradona may play next Sunday with actors and local soccer stars in a soccer game to raise money to equip a hospital.

# CRICKET CLIPPINGS

## Hughes in no hurry to join Surrey

LONDON, July 30: Australian Test paceman Merv Hughes has been invited by Surrey to join the country side next season, reports Reuter.

Hughes said: "They asked me to make a snap decision but I told them I couldn't. They've given me a couple of weeks to think about it."

Surrey's current overseas signing, Pakistan bowler Waqar Younis, will be unavailable next season when his country will be on a cricket tour of England.

## Maynard slams lightning century

LONDON, July 30: Glamorgan's Matthew Maynard raced to the fastest century of the season in his team's country championship match against Surrey at the Oval on Monday, reports Reuter.

Maynard, currently banned from playing for England after joining the rebel tour to South Africa last year, hammered his way to three figures off just 75 balls with five sixes and nine fours. Maynard, Ian Botham and John Morris had previously all made 83-ball centuries this season.

Surrey, fifth in the championship, were denied a fourth successive victory, finishing on 288 for eight after Glamorgan had set them a second innings target of 320. Nottinghamshire moved up into third place after a four-wicket win over ailing country champions Middlesex.

Former England captain Mike Gatting hit an unbeaten 143 as Middlesex declared their second innings at 330 for three to leave Nottinghamshire needing 282 to win. Paul Johnson's 105 off 108 balls put Nottinghamshire on course and West Indian all-rounder Franklyn Stephenson smashed a six into the Lord's pavilion to clinch victory with five balls to spare.

Middlesex are still looking for their first championship win of the season. Warwickshire lead the championship by 44 points from Essex while Nottinghamshire are a further three points behind.

Essex and Nottinghamshire each have a game in hand on the leaders while fourth placed Lancashire and Surrey have played two games less than Warwickshire.

## Kellett cracks first-class century

L EEDS, England, July: Simon Kellett completed a maiden first-class century for Yorkshire as their three-day match against Sri Lanka at Headingley petered out into a draw on Monday, reports Reuter.

No other result looked likely after the visitors opted for batting practice on the easy-paced pitch and took their overnight 327 for six to 422 for eight before declaring.

Rumesh Ratnayake thrashed an unbeaten 66 from 55 balls, hitting four sixes off spinner Jeremy Batty and adding four fours.

Yorkshire, 108 behind on first innings, then cruised to 184 for one in their second innings as Kellett shared in stands of 102 with acting captain Ashley Metcalfe and 82 with David Byas.

The 23-year-old opener, who scored 82 in the first innings, finished unbeaten on 109 from 204 balls with 12 fours.

# Seles gets bye

CARLSBAD, California, July 30: Sixth-seeded Nathalie Tauziat of France beat Kathy Rinaldi 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 on Monday in the opening round of the 225,000-dollar Mazda tennis classic women's tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

The world number one Monica Seles of Yugoslavia is due to play Pam Shriver of the US today in her first match in a sanctioned tournament since winning the French Open on June 8.

The top-seeded Seles, who pulled out of last week's Federation Cup saying that her injured left leg had not yet completely healed, received a first round bye.

"I hope I can keep it close," Shriver said after her 6-4, 6-3 victory over Jo Durie. "It will be good fun and I will have no pressure on me."

Unseeded Anne Minter of Australia upset eighth-seeded Laura Oildemister 6-3, 6-4 for her first victory against the Peruvian in five tries.

Tauziat improved her record to 5-0 against Rinaldi by taking the last two games of the match.

Tauziat broke serve to take a 5-4 lead when she ripped a backhand winner past the American. She then served out the victory on the third matchpoint.

"She didn't lose the match. I won the last two games," said Tauziat.

# Jury to probe rape by Tyson

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, July 30: A grand jury will investigate allegations that heavyweight boxer Mike Tyson raped an unidentified woman in his hotel room while attending a convention earlier this month, a prosecutor said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Federal authorities were called in to assist in the investigation and Tyson will be subpoenaed to testify about what happened the night of July 19, Marion county Prosecutor Feffrey Modest said at a news conference.

No charges have been filed, and Tyson can refuse to testify to the grand jury, Modest said. Tyson has denied the rape allegation.

Reverend Charles Williams, President of Indiana Black Expo, the meeting that Tyson

was attending, said the 18-year-old woman involved later participated in the Miss Black American pageant at the convention. She did not win.

Tyson is scheduled to fight champion Evander Holyfield for the undisputed world heavyweight title in Las Vegas on November 8.

AFP adds in an earlier report, a lawyer for Tyson has dismissed allegations that the former champion was involved in a rape here a week ago.

"We hear the same kind of thing about once a month," said Tyson's attorney Charles Lomax here Saturday. "Mike is a target for just about anybody who wants to take a shot at him."

The woman, whose name is being withheld, went to the police the following day, but no charges have yet been filed.

# Christie may be axed from relay team

LONDON, July 30: British athletics captain Linford Christie faces the axe from his country's World Championship sprint relay quartet in Tokyo next month after missing a weekend training session, reports AFP.

Britain's director of coaching Frank Dick has dropped Europe's fastest man for a Grand Prix meeting at Zurich next week.

And he warned: "I just hope this will not roll on until Tokyo, but if he refuses again, I'll leave him out of that as well."

"When the team was at Edinburgh recently, I impressed on the boys the importance of practice. I told

them that we could have four Carl Lewises. But unless we got things like baton-changing right we would end up with nothing."

"Linford was at the meeting and agreed to everything I said, but when I asked him to report to Loughborough, he said he would be travelling to Italy for a meeting there on Wednesday."

"I asked him to postpone travelling for 24 hours and offered to cover any extra expenses from our own funds, but when he didn't turn up, I had no choice but to drop him."

Christie was responsible for the 4x100 metres relay disqualification which cost Britain the European Cup.

CONFIDENT

# KONCHELLAH

Reuter adds from Nairobi, world 800 metres champion Billy Konchellah, dogged by asthma since winning the title in Rome in 1987, said on Monday he was confident he would win gold again at next month's World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

"In good health as I am now, it is not possible to lose," Konchellah said.

Konchellah has struggled with asthma and allergy-related ailments since shortly after his victory in Rome four years ago.

"Now I have a clean bill of health," said Konchellah, who underwent 80 medical tests during treatment in the United States before conquering his illness.

Konchellah, 28, said the greatest challenge to his title defence would be from two fellow Kenyans — Olympic champion an world indoor record holder Paul Ereng and Robert Kibet.

Konchellah lost to Ereng at the Kenyan trials last Saturday.

Konchellah predicted Britain's Peter Elliot, a silver medalist at the Rome Championships, and Brazil's Jose Barbosa would be finalists in Tokyo.

But he was confident Kenyans would dominate the middle distance events.

"British and other world athletes have to contend with the Algerians before even thinking of US — and we are better than the Algerians," he said.

# SA athletes may form breakaway body

JOHANNESBURG, July 30: South Africa's athletes, poised to return to international competition, may bypass local officials whose squabbling is blocking the way back, reports Reuter.

The Republic's senior athletes, angry over a weekend decision by officials to turn down an invitation to take part in the Worked Athletics Championships in Tokyo next month, have threatened to form their own body and go it alone.

In South African Amateur Athletics Association (SAAAA) on Saturday voted not to go to Tokyo, a move which may endanger the Springboks' participation in next year's Barcelona Olympics.

"How can a bunch of administrators who represent maybe two per cent of all athletes in the country make a decision like that?" demanded Fanie Van Zyl, a former South African mile record holder.

Van Zyl said a body representing senior athletes would soon be formed which would have the ear of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

"We have not been caught napping. I tell you we will be going to Tokyo," Van Zyl said. He declined to name the sportsmen and women who

would form the breakaway movement, but athletes including Springbok athletics captains Dries Vorster and Myrtle Botham were said to be meeting on Monday to discuss latest developments.

A breakaway by senior athletes would further complicate the already confused picture inside South Africa, where most officials have agreed in principle that the country's

sporting isolation should end but differ over timing.

Some officials, including Olympic committee Kingpin Sam Ramsamy, want to hang fire until the Barcelona Games, while others say that South African athletics has met the conditions for international re-entry and should therefore go to Tokyo.

The pro-Barcelona, anti-Tokyo lobby is the most influential, infuriating athletes who want to accept IAAF President Primo Nebiolo's invitations to the World Championships.

Ramsamy's National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCOSA) suffered a setback at the weekend when a hardline faction walked out of its inaugural meeting.

The hardliners want keep the Republic in complete isolation until one-person, one-vote is achieved in South Africa, but they represent only a tiny body of disruption.

NOCOSA Chairman Ramsamy said the walkout — was still on course for Barcelona.

# Lewis at Malmo race likely

STOCKHOLM, July 30: Ben Johnson has been dropped from a sprinter race at Malmo from August 5 because of his recent unsatisfactory results, organisers said Monday, reports AP.

Malmo AI president Bengt Benduse confirmed he faxed Johnson's attorney and agent Ed Puterman in Toronto on Sunday to cancel the contract.

The Malmo meet was billed as the first rematch between Johnson and Carl Lewis since the 1988 Olympics in Seoul,

when Johnson defeated Lewis but was disqualified for using steroids.

Lewis will join a first-class field in the 100 meters, which includes returning Malmo champion Ola Adeniken of Nigeria, Americans Leroy Burrell and Dennis Mitchell, according to Benduse.

He added that Bruno Surin of Canada would replace Johnson at the meet. Surin won the Canadian world cup qualifications for the 100 meters on Saturday in 10.