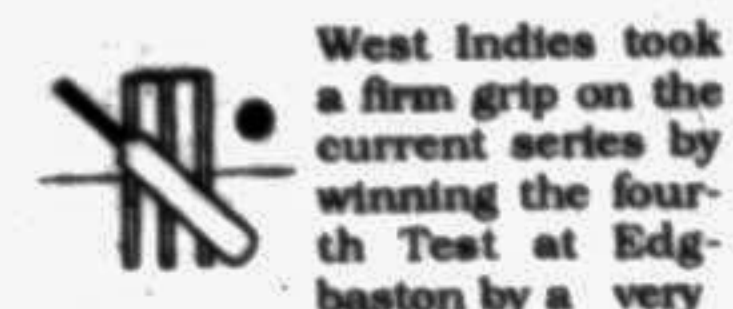


A DISTANT VIEW

The Caribbeans consolidate at Edgbaston

A. M. Chowdhury



West Indies took a firm grip on the current series by winning the fourth Test at Edgbaston by a very convincing margin of seven wickets.

Morris, Gooch's 16th opening partner in Test cricket, called in because of Smith's injury, could hardly get going.

England survived for only 10 balls next morning, adding only 4 more runs to their overnight total of 184; the

Richards' claim for the honour for his superb batting in the second innings or Lewis' claim for good allround performance.

target which the Caribbeans could be expected to reach easily. They did reach it, but not without making a few hearts of their supporters beat rapidly for some time.

unable to find any answer to Ambrose's attack (so far he has fallen to him six times out of his seven outings), is yet to prove that he is good at Test level as well.



England Captain Graham Gooch (L) is bowled by West Indies' Malcolm Marshall for 45 on July 25 during their fourth Test match at Edgbaston. Windies won the Test on July 28 by seven wickets to go 2-1 up in the 5-Test series. The second Test at Lord's was drawn. AFP photo

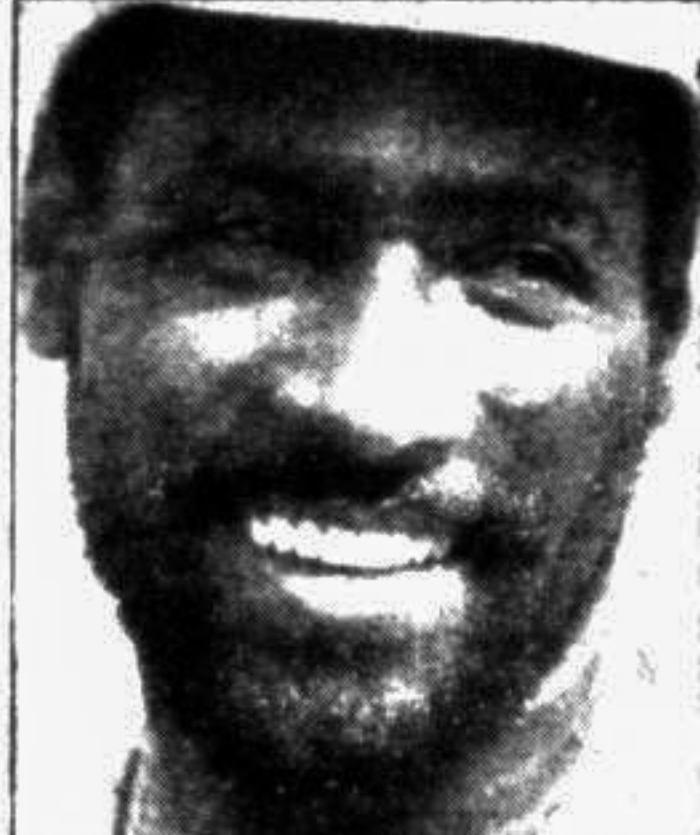
again a disappointment. Ramprakash with 29, seemed to perform a role which he, by

whole innings lasting for only 70.4 overs. Marshall born the haul mark of a great artist and his figure of 12.4-1-33-4 clearly bear testimony to the quality and incisiveness of his bowling.

of a big first innings lead by claiming 5 wickets for only 16 runs (overnight he had 1 for 95) and thereby restricting the total to 292.

The fragility of English batting was once again exposed. But for the rear-guard action of Lewis and Pringle the story would have been dismal.

The pitch at the Oval, the venue for the last encounter, is known for its benignity to batsmen. If it lives up to its reputation England would find it difficult to run through the West Indian batting twice.



VIV RICHARDS

The full house at Edgbaston was delighted to see Richardson leading his side to a first innings lead of 65 at stumps (253 for 4) remaining unbeaten with 103.

At the start of the fourth day West Indies was set for an easy victory; England's lead being only 52 and 2 wickets to fall.

Powell steals the show



SESTRIERE, Italy, Aug 1: American Mike Powell leapt to a wind-assisted 8.73-metre long jump victory in an international athletics meeting on Wednesday and then said there could have been a world record in better weather, reports Reuters.

Lewis did not compete. "If he'd been in it there might have been a world record", Powell said.

"Any other day I would have been fine," said Lewis, who had been practising in Sestriere since last Thursday.

"I felt cold and was scared of hurting myself out there", he added. Larry Myricks, bronze medalist at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, was second with a leap of 8.33 metres and fellow American Llewellyn Starks third with 8.31.

DRECHSLER WINS German former world record holder Heike Drechsler had the help of a wind of 1.8 metres per second, inside the accepted two metres, when she made the year's best leap of 7.37 metres to win the women's event.

Leroy Burrell, who set a world record of 9.90 seconds last month, battled ahead wind of 3.40 metres per second to win the men's 100 metres in 10.30 seconds, ahead of fellow American Dennis Mitchell (10.40) and European champion Linford Christie of Britain (10.48).

Michael Johnson won the 200 metres, his sole event at next month's World Championships in Tokyo, in 20.50 seconds with fellow American Danny Everett second in 20.73.

Jamaican Merlene Ottey, 31, won her double duel with 22-year-old Irina Sergeyeva of the Soviet Union.

Congrats, Special Olympians!

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL, Minnesota: Every athlete from around the world who participated in Special Olympics International contests here finished a winner, according to games officials and dignitaries who celebrated with the athletes at the closing ceremonies.

"Hopefully, the light which has been sparked in the hearts and souls of every one of those special Olympians that will fan out all across this world, will inspire others to become involved in Special Olympics," Senator Edward Kennedy told the more than 6,000 athletes at the closing ceremonies on July 26.

Kennedy, with the Olympic torch still burning brightly behind him, hailed the Special Olympics athletes gathered before him on the grounds of the Minnesota state capital.

"Everyone is inspired..... by all..... of those who came here to encourage those special Olympians who were involved in the sports activities."

He thanked the corporate and individual sponsors, the volunteers, the teachers, and the parents, saying, "To all of those who have made this a memorable week, our congratulations go to the special Olympians themselves," he emphasized.

A SAFE JOURNEY

"A safe journey," he wished the athletes. "And may you always feel that the Special Olympics has been a part of your life, and that you will give something back to others like

you have received here in this magnificent twin cities."

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of Senator Kennedy and the late President John F. Kennedy, founded the games in the early 1960s. The Kennedys' championship of the mentally retarded stems from the fact that their late sister, Rosemary, was mentally retarded.

Special Olympics International chairman Sargent Shriver, instrumental in the Games ever since his wife conceived of sports as a way of improving the lives of the mentally handicapped, also praised the athletes.

"Special Olympics athletes are astounding the world with their athletic abilities, and their records," Shriver said. "They are also uniting the world. Imagine," he exclaimed, "The northern and the southern Irish have played together as one team. The Arabs and the Jews have cheered one another. Whites have befriended blacks, and blacks, whites," he said.

"The communists and the capitalists have enjoyed one another, competed against one another, and remain friends. That's the way the whole world should be! That's the way Special Olympics is."

"I have lived to see the triumph of the mentally handicapped. They have taught us the wonders we can achieve with them, and through them. And with the values they teach us, we can truly change the world," Shriver noted.

THE OLYMPICS

The Olympics torch was extinguished and passed to a representative of Austria,

which will host the 1993 Winter Special Olympics, as 45-piece orchestra, under the direction of Philip Brunelle, performed composer Dan Kallman's 'Special Olympics celebration,' and then played 'Fanfare for the common man,' or the theme song from the movie 'Chariots of Fire.' Herald trumpeters played long horns on the giant, second story portico of the state house.

As an 800-member choir of Special Olympics International volunteers sang, white doves were released and a giant fountain rose, reflecting a myriad of coloured lights. The orchestra performed the 'Olympic theme and march,' 'Candide,' and 'Walk to the garden.' The ceremonies ended with a blazing explosion of colourful fireworks.

The festivities and the grounds were enveloped in pagantry: From the athletes' team uniforms to the Hollywood entertainers, from the 'dancing water' fountain to the thousands of meters of brilliant ribbons, and from the electric-tinted balloons to the silver-coloured drill team, there was colour.

Special Olympians lingered after the fireworks, dancing to the music still coming from the loudspeakers, smiling through tears, exchanging addresses and promising to write to one another.

Shriver said that more than 18,500 people attended the 1991 Games here. They must recognize that the goal of Special Olympics, which has always been, 'Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt,' was met by every single athlete, from every continent on the globe. They were all winners. — USIS

Becker, Stich for Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Aug 1: Wimbledon champion Michael Stich and world number one Boris Becker have both confirmed they will play in next year's Australian Open championship, tournament organisers said yesterday, reports Reuters.

The championships, to be held from January 13-26, would carry record prize money of 6.2 million Australian dollars (4.8 million US dollars), Tennis Australia President Geoff Pollard said at a media launch at Melbourne's National Tennis Centre.

The world's top five men, Becker, Stefan Edberg, Stich, Ivan Lendl and Jim Courier, have all given verbal commitments to play although entries do not close until December, Pollard said.

Prize money is 20 per cent higher than this year's tournament and includes 360,000 dollars (290,000 US dollars) each for the singles champions.

Women's world number one Monica Seles, who missed Wimbledon and the recent Federation Cup, could not be contacted, Pollard said.

Shooting results

JAKARTA, Aug 1: Indonesia and the Philippines bagged one gold medal each here on the sixth day of the 16th Southeast Asia Shooting Association (SEASA) but not enough to shake Taiwan from the top position, reports AFP.

Only Rajaola scored 563 in the women's 25 metre (yard) sport pistol to give the host nation its fifth gold of the tournament but low scores by her two compatriots dented them the team gold medal.

The team gold went to the Philippine's trio of Susan Aguado, Celinia de Castro and Lourdes de Castro who combined to score 1,642.

As Taiwan is virtually assured of the overall championship title with their 14 golds, the battle in the remaining events will be for the second spot between the Philippines and Indonesia, with six and five golds respectively.

Seven countries are taking part in this annual tournament. Thailand, the defending champions have sent a small delegation of six to the tournament.

Table with 4 columns: Country, Gold, Silver, Bronze. Includes Taiwan, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand.



SAID AOUITA — challenged by his younger country men.

Aouita to lead Moroccan pack

FRANCE, Morocco, Aug 1: Said Aouita need look no further than his own countrymen for his World Championship challengers, reports Reuters.

Two other Moroccans, Brahim Boutayeb and Mohammed Isengar, have clocked 13.10 and 13.08.

Aouita, out of action for several months after an operation on his calf muscles in June last year, said he was in top form again.

"In Tokyo I will get a gold medal whatever distance I run," he said. "People who say I am finished and they will beat me in Tokyo will have to run over my body to win."

Moroccan team doctor Abderrahman Meziane said: "Said is back on form and improving his performances daily. He will create surprises in Tokyo."

Aouita himself is very confident, although his performances in his most recent meetings in St Denis and Nice in France were disappointing.

"I am the first athlete in the world to hold so many records. I have upset athletic standards by setting records for the 1,500;00;3,000 and 5,000 metres," he said proudly.

He said he was not afraid of the younger Moroccans who have been inspired by his example. He thinks they lack experience of top-class competition.

"The Tokyo places will be tactical, infernal and suicidal. And only the best can win," he said.

TENNIS TIDBITS

Cherkasov trounces Chang



Cherkasov

BROOKLINE, Mass. Aug 1: Top seed Andre Cherkasov of the Soviet Union trounced Albert Chang of Canada 6-1, 6-1 Wednesday in the second round of the \$200,000 US Pro Tennis Championships at Longwood Cricket club, reports AP.

Cherkasov, 21, allowed Chang a third game service break before closing out the first set. Chang, 20, then won the first game of the second set, but Cherkasov reeled off six for the match.

"I felt good and need the work," Cherkasov said.

In other matches, fourth seed Ronald Agener of Haiti overcame early sluggishness on the way to a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Andrew Sznajder of Canada.

And seventh seed Andres Gomez of Ecuador beat Yevgeny Kafelnikov of the Soviet Union 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

Agener lost service in the opening game of the match and trailed 3-1 early on before rallying to score breaks of his own in the sixth and 10th games.

Agener won four consecutive games at the start of the second set and played out the set to advance into the third round.

Bonking Becker

BERLIN, Aug 1: Boris Becker might not have won Wimbledon but he is assured of a place in history, report agencies.

This time it is not for his tennis, but for introducing a new word into the German dictionary.

The word is 'bonk', a word of English derivation which describes the act of sexual intercourse.

It first impinged on the German consciousness after Becker was called 'Bonking Boris' by the tabloids in London after his 1987 defeat at Wimbledon was attributed to an over-active sex life.

It has since then taken on a big way in Germany and now it is the best selling dictionary there.

Tauziat in fine form

SAN DIEGO, California, Aug 1: Sixth-seed Nathalie Tauziat of France put her disastrous Federation Cup form behind her here on Wednesday to reach the third round of the \$225,000 dollar women's tennis tournament with a straight-sets victory over American opponent Alycia May, report AFP.

Tauziat, who lost both her singles and the doubles when France crashed out to qualifiers Poland in the first round of the Federation Cup in Nottingham, raced to a 6-3, 6-4 victory.

Japan's Akiko Kijimuta fought hard but was beaten in three sets by Australian Anne Minter who emerged a 6-3, 5-7, 7-5 winner.

Third-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland also had to go three sets against American Kimberly Po

Pan-American Games begin in Havana from today For hosts Cuba, national honour is at stake

HAVANA, Aug 1: Cuba is staking its national honour on the 11th edition of a 39-nation sports festival which in the past has earned the title of Pandemonium games, reports AFP.

The Pan American Games in this time-war capital and the southern city of Santiago open Friday and wind up August 18.

The Cubans, facing drastic shortages of building materials and almost everything else, have made huge efforts to avoid the Havana event becoming another Pandemonium games.

More than 8,000 citizens joined elite worker brigades and other teams to help finish the installations on time, officials said.

Cuba's top athletes joined in high-jumper Javier Sotomayor pushed wheel barrows of cement, runner Roberto Hernandez dug holes and 400-meters start Ana Quirot handed out tools.

Cuba's communist leader Fidel Castro urged the work teams on, stressing that the Games were "an international commitment, a sacred commitment we have to honour... and we are a country of honour."

More than 20 new installations — including a 35,000 capacity Olympic stadium — have been built and more than 40 upgraded.

Guatemala City and then Rio de Janeiro withdrew from holding games in 1959 after the chosen host-city, Cleveland, ran out of money. Chicago finally hosted it.

In 1975 Mexico City stepped in to stage the event only 10 months before the scheduled date after both the Chilean capital, Santiago, and Sao Paulo had pulled out.

American athletes still chuckle about the 1983 Games in Caracas. Team members were given keys to their rooms only to find they did not need them. The rooms had no doors.

Indianapolis helped feed the games reputation in 1988, athletes criticised the living

conditions and the Canadian Olympic Association wrote in its official report:

"There was a shortage of rooms, a lack of equipment and the transportation system was chaotic."

There are few things that could please Castro more than organising better Games than his ideological enemy, the United States.

There were some positive reactions from the first American athletes to stay in the village.

They've done a great job of putting everything they have behind the Games, said hockey player Drew Stone.