

Navy's Selim better's own mark

Sports Reporter



The fourteenth national swimming championships, under the aegis of the Bangladesh Swimming Federation, got off to a flying start at the Dhaka Stadium swimming pool yesterday with Md. Selim Miah of Bangladesh Navy rewriting his own national mark in the 200m butterfly.

Abdus Salam clocked 2:22.17 secs for the silver medal while Md. Muniruzzaman of Bangladesh Krishna Shikha Prosthian (BKSP) took the bronze by coming home in 2:28.23 secs. Only two finals were held on the opening day yesterday. Havildar Yasin Ali of Bangladesh Army earned the distinction of winning the first gold medal of the four-day meet which also includes water polo and diving. Yasin Ali clocked five minutes 15.64 seconds for the 400m individual medley, nearly two seconds outside the three-year-old national mark of 5:13.84 seconds, set by Bangladesh Navy's Md. Mahbubur Rahman in 1988.

Mahbub had to settle for the silver in yesterday's race, managing a poor 5:15.94 secs. Lance Naik Younus Ali of Army took the bronze by finishing a distant third in 5:22.40 secs. The preliminaries of the three-metre springboard and five-metre fixed board diving events were also held yesterday morning while the afternoon session featured only water polo games. As many as ten matches were decided on the day. Bangladesh Police trounced Kushtha DSA 16-0. Jessore DSA beat Brahmanbaria 13-0, Bangladesh Air Force beat Narail DSA 15-0, Bangladesh Agricultural University outplayed Meherpur DSA 14-1, BKSP beat Bogra DSA 17-0.

Bangladesh Army, who have won the gold medal twelve out of 14 times, beat Police 8-1, while Chuadanga earned a walkover against Chittagong University who failed to show up for the match. Jessore DSA and Bangladesh Air Force chafed up their second straight wins, the former beating Chuadanga 8-0 and the latter trouncing the students from Bangladesh Agricultural University 11-0. Bangladesh Navy completed a day of dull, unexciting and one-sided affairs by trouncing the students of BKSP 13-0 in the last match of the day. Army, Navy, Air Force and Jessore DSA have thus reached the semifinals. Twelve teams, comprising 82 swimmers are competing in the swimming events while another 172 players representing 14 teams are taking part in the water polo event. Today's events include the heats of the 200m freestyle, 200m backstroke, 200m breaststroke and the 4x100m medley relay, with the heats scheduled for the morning session starting at nine and the finals in the afternoon session starting at 2:30 pm. In today's water polo semifinals, Army take on Jessore while BAF meet Navy. The final is scheduled for tomorrow, Aug 22. Earlier, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka formally inaugurated the all-male championship as chief guest. M Asafuddin, Secretary, Ministry of Jute, who is also the chief of the swimming federation, was present on the occasion. At the end of the first day's events, Bangladesh Army had one gold, one silver and one bronze medal, Bangladesh Navy followed them with one gold and one silver while BKSP are the only other team in the medal table with one bronze.



Havildar Md Younus Ali of Bangladesh Army claimed the first gold medal of the 14th national swimming championships by winning the 400m individual medley at the Dhaka Stadium pool yesterday. —Star photo

Killat's dives fetch 3 golds

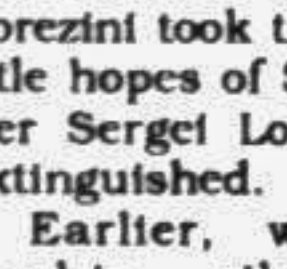


ATHENS, Aug 20: Germany's Albin Killat won an unprecedented third successive European diving title and Elena Miroshina of the Soviet Union regained her highboard crown at the European swimming championships on Monday, reports Reuter. Killat, champion in 1987 and 1989 but nursing a hand injury in Athens, completed a golden treble in her men's three-metre springboard event, overwhelming his rivals with a super closing sequence of dives to win by a vast gulf of over 42 points. "I'm very happy because nobody before me won three golds in a row," said the 29-year-old veteran and bronze medalist at last January's World Championships. Sweden's Joakim Andersson came through for the silver and Italy's Davide Lorenzini took the bronze as the title hopes of Soviet top qualifier Sergei Lomanovsky were extinguished. Earlier, world championship silver medalist Miroshina, who won the European 10 metre platform

title at 13 in Strasbourg in 1987, gained a similarly emphatic victory with a winning margin of 30 points in a Soviet one-two with Inga Afonina to clinch the first title of the nine-day championships. Miroshina, who did not defend her title in Bonn in 1989, led from start to finish and was guaranteed at least second place before she even executed the last of her eight dives. Afonina had to settle for silver, as she did in 1989, while Ute Wetzig, the former East German defending champion, won the bronze but tailed the Soviet victor by a huge margin of over 70 points. Miroshina, runner-up to 12-year-old Chinese prodigy Fu Mingxia in the World Championships, amassed the highest score of the day with 80.64 points for her sixth dive — a magnificent inward 3-1/2 somersaults. Afonina dived consistently, with scores of over 60 for her last four efforts, but Miroshina's big sixth dive effectively ended the contest. Miroshina, the top qualifier of the 12 finalists, had stamped her authority in the fifth series with a forward 3-1/2 somersaults which earned

her 72.00 points and hosted her well clear of Afonina. Miroshina compiled 453.90 points, with Afonina on 423.39 and Wetzig on 382.47. Hungary's Ibolya Nagy, third behind the two Soviet divers in Sunday's preliminary round, was never in the hunt in the final and ended ninth. Compatriot Brigitta Cserba, the last qualifier, performed contrastingly better in the final and finished fourth on 358.83. Killat faltered in the sixth round of the men's 11-dive final when he dropped from first to fifth, nearly 20 points behind Fomanovsky after an unsatisfactory forward 3-1/2 somersaults yielded a meagre 39.06 points. Killat, who injured his hand in training last week and only resumed diving on Saturday, reduced the gap to six points in the eighth round, regained the lead in the ninth and destroyed his Soviet rival's challenge in the last two dives. The German was 25 points clear of Lorenzini, with Lomanovsky third, entering the final series and knew the title was his when he garnered the day's best score of 85.14 points from his final reverse 1-1/2 somersaults with 3-1/2 twists.

IAAF vetoes SA's readmission



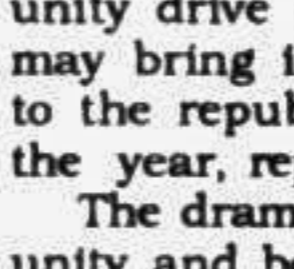
TOKYO, Aug 20: South Africa will not be readmitted to international athletics following a decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) congress on Tuesday to accept a recommendation from the sport's ruling body, reports Reuter. The IAAF council decided on Sunday it could not recommend readmission of the Republic, expelled from the IAAF in 1976 because of its apartheid policies. "There is currently no unity, no final constitution and no development programme in operation in South African athletics," the council said. The decision means that unless the congress holds an extraordinary general meeting and reverses its decision, South African track and field athletes will not compete at next year's Barcelona Olympics. The congress is not scheduled to meet again until 1993. However, a group of six South Africans, who said they represented 95 per cent of South African athletes, said at a news conference they were confident that South Africa would send a track and field team to Barcelona. IAAF council member Istvan Gyulai of Hungary told a separate news conference following the first session of the two-day congress meeting the question

of South Africa's readmission had not even been put to a vote. "The congress applauded the position of the council," Gyulai said. Gyulai said South Africa needed to demonstrate that the various factions of the South African Amateur Athletic Association (SAAAA) were unified and that it had a final constitution and a development programme. "If the situation changes, then there will be a new approach," he said. IAAF officials said this week if the council decided that South Africa satisfied its conditions it could recommend that the congress readmit the Republic. They said the congress could then hold a postal vote and if it accepted the recommendation South Africa could still be admitted to the IAAF in time for the Olympics in July. The South African athletes in Tokyo said they had talks with the African Amateur Athletic Confederation on Monday and agreed that the SAAAA should have demonstrated by October 12 that it had achieved the IAAF objectives. Spokesman Brian de Lacy said in an interview afterwards that he hoped the Confederation would then recommend to the council that South Africa be readmitted.

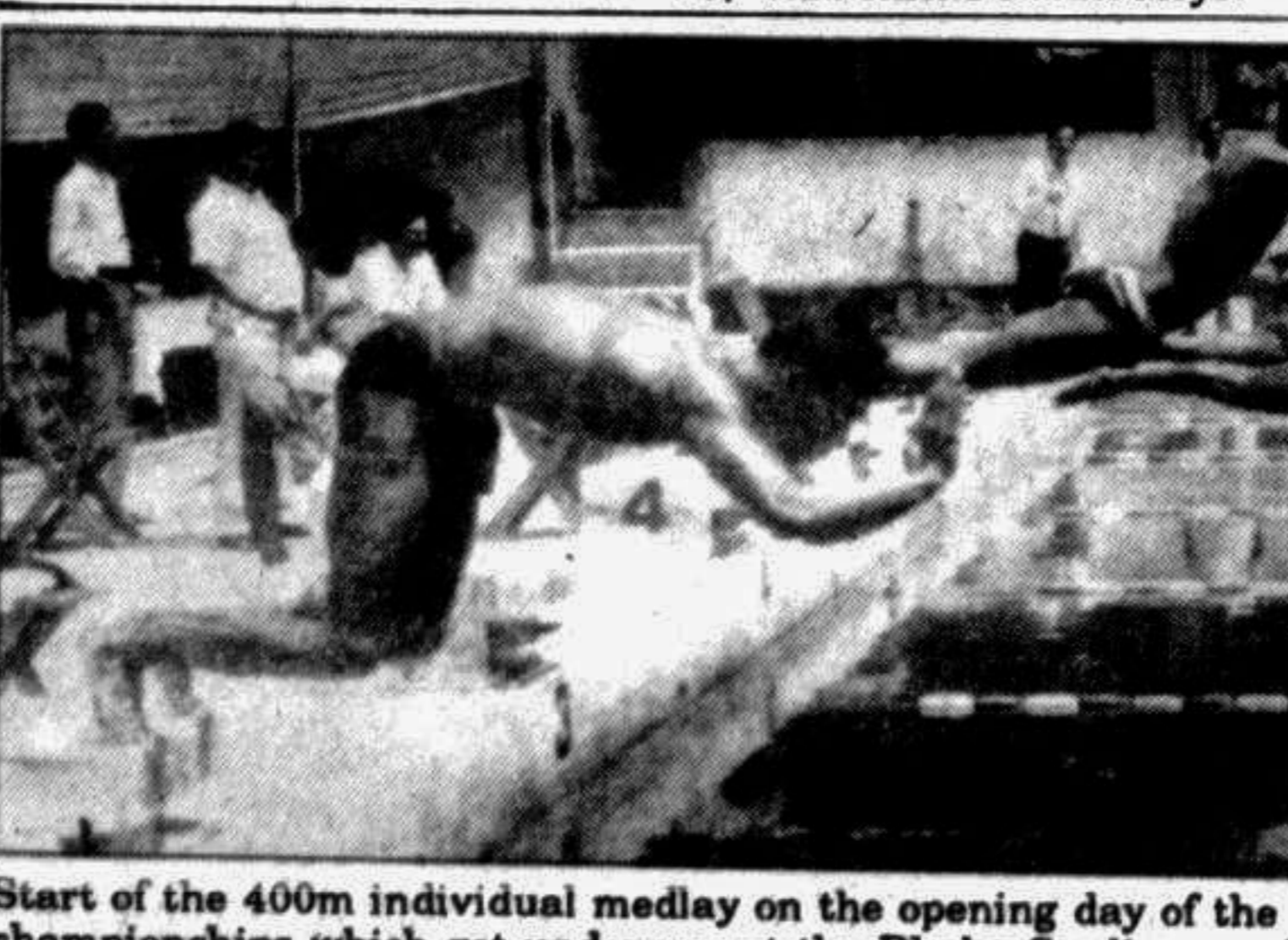
19cagers called up

Sports Reporter Nineteen basketball players have been named for the second phase training for the final selection of the national team which is scheduled to take part in the SAF Games beginning in the first week of December in Colombo. Thirty-two players were called for the first phase training which began on August 4 and ended on August 19. The selected players are: Wasif Ali, Nurul Huda, Sohel Farooq, Strajul Islam, P K Goushami and Ayub Ali of Bangladesh Navy, Asgar, Asif Jafar Jumayed and Nobeut Ali (Eman) of Dhaka University, Adam Ali, Abdur Rahim, Nurul Huda, Mizan and Kaisar of Bangladesh Army, Feroz of BDR, Sushant and Zahir of Munshiganj DSA and Asti Hossain of Dhaka Winner's Club. The unity games would feature Africa's top athletes, officials said. "This time things are looking positive. We are all confident that the new initiative will be supported by every serious athletic and administrator," said official Daniel Moyo.

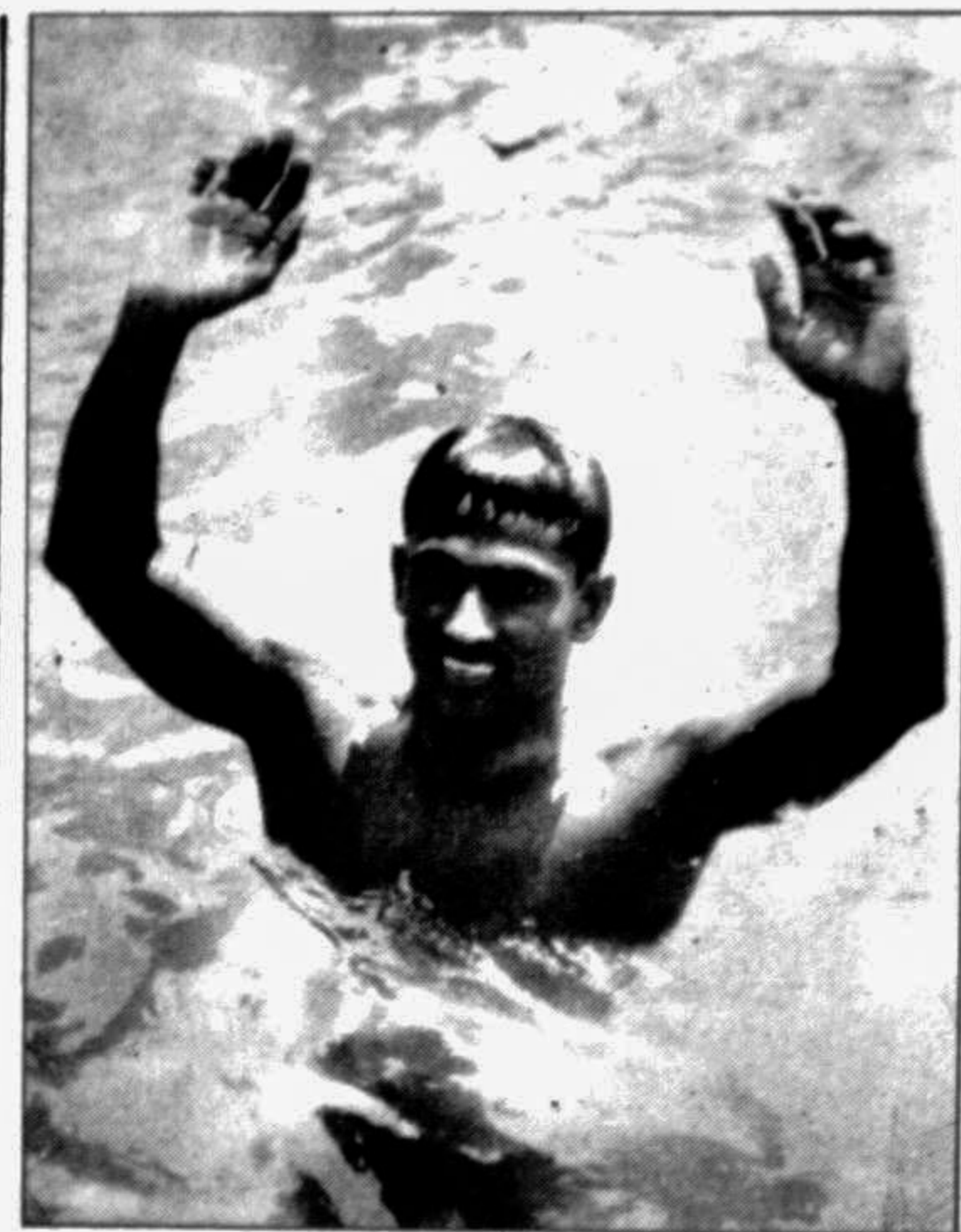
Tshwete's bid to unite squabbling factions



JOHANNESBURG, Aug 20: South Africa, in danger of losing chance to compete in next year's Olympic Games, launched a major unity drive on Monday which may bring international stars to the republic by the end of the year, reports Reuter. The dramatic bid to achieve unity and book South Africa's place in Barcelona came shortly after athletics world ruling body, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), vetoed South Africa's re-admission at a meeting in Tokyo. Sports officials said African National Congress (ANC) sports leader Steve Tshwete had agreed to act as mediator to bring squabbling administrators together and achieve non-racial unity by the end of the month. If Tshwete's efforts are as successful with athletics as they have been with a long list of sports, a track and field meeting would be held in South Africa by the end of the year to celebrate the end of the republic's apartheid isolation. The unity games would feature Africa's top athletes, officials said. "This time things are looking positive. We are all confident that the new initiative will be supported by every serious athletic and administrator," said official Daniel Moyo.



Start of the 400m individual medley on the opening day of the four-day national swimming championships which got underway at the Dhaka Stadium pool. —Star photo



SELIM MIAH (Navy)... new national 200m butterfly mark

Lendl struggles

COMACK, New York, Aug 20: Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, who has been sinking in the tennis rankings, struggled to beat Carl-Uwe Steeb of Germany 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 on Monday in the opening match of the Hamlet Challenge Cup, reports Reuter. Steeb, a German Davis Cup player who is ranked 52 in the world, held a 3-1 lead in the third set but let Lendl off the hook. The night match was the only one played on the opening day of the 250,000-dollar tournament after the entire day programme was wiped out by a hurricane that swept along the east coast of the United States. Lendl, who reigned for 156 successive weeks as world number one, has slipped slowly since giving up the top ranking a year ago. Struggling to come back from hand surgery earlier this year, Lendl dropped to number five this week to fall from the top four for the first time in 10 years. "I just need to win some matches," Lendl said. "It's hard to come back while everyone else has been playing all along." "I hope it [his form] comes back in time for the US Open next week. I know it's there. It's just a matter of getting it." Lendl won the first set by breaking Steeb's serve at love in the opening game and fighting off five break points Steeb held against his erratic service. Steeb took advantage of four double faults from Lendl as he took a fast 3-0 lead in the second set on his way to levelling the match. Lendl reached 3-3 in the final set as Steeb began netting the ball and took a 5-3 lead with a reflex volley return of a net cord shot that was almost past his head. "That was the important point," Steeb said. "I was upset after losing that point." Number one seed and defending champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden plays his opening match today against American qualifier Chris Garner.

SCHENECTADY, New York, Aug 20: Rain forced cancellation of all first-round matches on Monday at the 250,000-dollar OTB international tennis tournament, reports Reuter. Top-seeded Michael Stich of Germany, who defeated compatriot Boris Becker in this year's Wimbledon final, is scheduled to play his opening match today against Australian Mark Woodforde. Garrison, meanwhile, beat Cristina Testi of Argentina 6-2, 6-2 to give herself a boost of confidence. Garrison, ranked 12th in the world, lost her first match in last week's tournament and said she entered this event to further prepare for the next week's US Open. "I thought I needed more matches to get ready for the Open," the American said. "Today, I hit some shots I hadn't seen in a year and a half, which is good because I haven't played well in the last year. In other first-round results, sixth-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria eliminated American Carrie Cunningham 6-4, 6-0, while her younger sister, Amgaldenia, defeated Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden 6-4, 6-3 on the hard courts. Eight-seeded Nathalie Tauziat of France, 14th in the world, was upset by hard-hitting Andrea Strandova of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 7-5.

Rozsa's world record



ATHENS, Aug 20: Norbert Rozsa of Hungary shattered his own world record in the first heat of the 100-metre breaststroke Tuesday with a time of 1:01.29 at the 20th European Swimming Championships, reports AP. Rozsa, 19, easily outswam Italy's Gianni Minervini to break the world mark of 1:01.45, a record he had set at the World Swimming Championships in Perth, Australia, last January. He had shared that record with Vasil Ivanov of the Soviet Union, who matched the time on June 9 in Moscow. Rozsa also set a new European record in the distance. Rozsa, swimming in the third of four qualifying heats, also bettered the European Championship record of 1:01.49 set in Bonn, Germany, two years ago by Britain's Adrain Moorhouse. Minervini finished second in the heat with a time of 1:02.69, fifth in 1:03.30. Moorhouse, entered in the second heat, finished first with a time of 1:02.30. The 100-metre breaststroke final takes place later Tuesday. The Hungarian is also competing in the 200-metre breaststroke. Rozsa came in second in the 200-metre event in Perth and has a personal best of 2:12.03. The world record is 2:11.23. Swimming events began Tuesday with heats and finals

in men's 100-metre breaststroke and 200-metre freestyle, and women's 100-metre freestyle, 400-metre medley, 4x200-metre freestyle and synchronized swimming, solo final. Men's and women's water polo qualifiers and preliminaries in the men's 1-metre springboard preliminaries are the only other competitions being held on the fourth day of the championships. The springboard finals are set for Wednesday. Men's water polo finals are set for Saturday and women's for Sunday. There are 942 athletes from 29 European countries competing in the Championships.



NORBERT ROZSA

Seles pulls out



WASHINGTON, Aug 20: Top seed Monica Seles pulled out after all, and fourth-seeded Zina Garrison took a positive step toward regaining her sagging confidence at the 350,000-dollar Virginia Slims of Washington on Monday, reports Reuter. Seles was mistakenly placed in the draw as the number one seed when a tour official received the wrong message on Saturday at the tournament in Manhattan Beach, California. The Yugoslav teenager claims an operator mistook the world "won't" for "want." "I have been told to refer all calls to the Women's Tennis Association," Seles said on Sunday. "It was a big misunderstanding. I don't deserve to have this happen to me." The WTA issued a statement that said the telephone message was transmitted incorrectly and that she would not be fined for the incident.

Rain the spoiler

SCHENECTADY, New York, Aug 20: Rain forced cancellation of all first-round matches on Monday at the 250,000-dollar OTB international tennis tournament, reports Reuter. Top-seeded Michael Stich of Germany, who defeated compatriot Boris Becker in this year's Wimbledon final, is scheduled to play his opening match today against Australian Mark Woodforde. Garrison, meanwhile, beat Cristina Testi of Argentina 6-2, 6-2 to give herself a boost of confidence. Garrison, ranked 12th in the world, lost her first match in last week's tournament and said she entered this event to further prepare for the next week's US Open. "I thought I needed more matches to get ready for the Open," the American said. "Today, I hit some shots I hadn't seen in a year and a half, which is good because I haven't played well in the last year. In other first-round results, sixth-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria eliminated American Carrie Cunningham 6-4, 6-0, while her younger sister, Amgaldenia, defeated Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden 6-4, 6-3 on the hard courts. Eight-seeded Nathalie Tauziat of France, 14th in the world, was upset by hard-hitting Andrea Strandova of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 7-5.

Kabaddi results

Sports Reporter Mirpur Jubo Sangha and Jhatika Samaj Kalyan won their respective matches in the Dhaka Kabaddi league yesterday at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court. Mirpur JS routed Dhaka WSA 20-8 after leading 6-2 at the breather. In the other match of the day Jhatika Samaj Kalyan outplayed Bangladesh Boys 32-16. The winners led 13-8 at half time. TODAY'S MATCHES Bangladesh Boys vs Bangladesh Bank (5 pm) Jatrabari Udayan vs Srijoni Sangsad (5.30 pm).

Shooting put off

Sports Reporter The National Shooting Federation Bangladesh has postponed the .177 air rifle shooting competition by a week. A press release issued yesterday said the meet, which was originally scheduled from next Friday, Aug 23 will now be held on Aug 30 instead. Entries close on Aug 25.

Handball players honoured

Sports Reporter The Dhaka Mariners' Young Club accorded reception yesterday at its club pavilion to the Bangladesh national handball team which performed creditably in the Commonwealth junior championship which concluded in the Indian capital of New Delhi last week. The Bangladesh lads surprised everyone by finishing third — ahead of England whom they defeated. The Nigerians retained both the boys' and girls' titles while hosts India finished runners-up in both sections. The Bangladeshis also earned a cash prize of 44,000 Indian rupees. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka, was present as the chief guest while NSC's chairman Major General Mahbubur Rahman was present as special guest.

INSIDE TRACK

'Fred' plays foul in Tokyo

TOKYO, Aug 20: Typhoon Fred interrupted training for the World Athletics Championships which start on Saturday, with heavy rain in Tokyo and elsewhere in Japan forcing competitors to stay indoors today, reports Reuter. Around 250 of an expected 1,700 athletes for the nine-day Championships had arrived by Monday night but a second consecutive day of rain left them no chance of outdoor practice. Weather forecasters said the rain was caused by Typhoon Fred, centred off the south coast of Japan and producing winds of more than 100 kph (60 mph) in some places. The typhoon is expected to head towards China but rain is likely to continue for the next few days, they added.

Coup delays Russians' arrival

TOKYO, Aug 20: The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) and Japanese government officials are considering chartering an aircraft to transport the Soviet team from Vladivostok to the World Athletics Championships here, reports Reuter. The 95-member team was scheduled to arrive in Nagoya on Wednesday but Soviet officials here have been unable to get in touch with the squad at its training site in Vladivostok since the overthrow of President Mikhail Gorbachev on Monday. Four other Soviet athletes, including world pole vault champion Sergei Bubka, were due to fly from Moscow on Wednesday and join their teammates in Nagoya. Soviet delegates at the two-day IAAF biennial congress which opened today have expressed fears that all Soviet airports would be closed after the coup. "Nobody has been able to get in touch with the team," one IAAF official said today. He said IAAF president Primo Nebiolo had held talks with Japanese officials on Monday night and one option still being considered was hiring a charter aircraft to fly the Soviet team here.

Soviet Fed boss confident

TOKYO, Aug 20: Soviet athletics chief Igor Ter-Ovanesyan said today he was confident the Soviet team for the World Athletics Championships would arrive in Japan as scheduled despite the unstable situation following the overthrow of president Mikhail Gorbachev, reports Reuter. The championships begin on Saturday. "I am sure everything will be okay and everyone will be here," Ter-Ovanesyan, the president of the Soviet Athletic Federation said. Athletes and officials were waiting to leave to Soviet training camp in Vladivostok, organisers said in a statement today. "They are supposed to arrive at Nagoya airport either on the 21st or 22nd," the statement said. Ter-Ovanesyan told a news conference after the first session of the International Amateur Athletic Federation's (IAAF) biennial congress he had telephoned Moscow and had talked to the Soviet embassy in Tokyo. "I seriously hope that the political situation will not influence the results of the World Championships," Ter-Ovanesyan said. Earlier, IAAF officials and Japanese government representatives discussed the possibility of chartering an aircraft to transport the Soviet team from Vladivostok. The Soviet team comprised 186 athletes and officials, making it the third biggest delegation after the United States and Germany, today's statement said.