

# Soldiers set 3 more marks



Bangladesh Army swimmers continued to dominate the national championships, setting three more records on the third day of the four-day meet at the Dhaka Stadium pool yesterday.

The latest national records were created in the 400m free-style, the 50m free-style and the 4x200m free-style events. These take the number of records bettered to six — one having been set on the opening day and two on Wednesday.

Although the Army swimmers hogged the headlines, yet their water-polo team, which has won the national title on 12 out of 14 times — BDR being the sole spanner in the Army march way back in 1978 — were for once on the receiving end yesterday with the Bangladesh Navy team exacting sweet revenge for last year's defeat in the final. In a close match, Navy prevailed 7-6 over the defending champions. Air Force finished third beating Jessore for the bronze.

At the end of Day Three, Army led the medal table with six golds, six silvers and five bronzes while Navy continued their challenge by garnering five golds, as many silvers and one bronze. Bangladesh Air Force were placed a distant third with just four bronzes while Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) still had only one bronze to their credit.

## Sports Reporter

The day's proceeding started with Shamsul Islam, the champion free-style swimmer of the country who holds all the records in the event except the 50m, bettered his own record in the 400m with the timing of 4:34.67 secs. The previous timing was 4:36.84 secs.

However, Shamsul Islam's teammate Havildar Harunur Rashid stole the limelight on the day by establishing himself as the fastest swimmer of the country. In a hot race, Harunur forced Naik Takbir Hossain to not only yield the pride of place but also erased Takbir's standing mark of 25.42 seconds, set in last year's championships, with a timing of 24.94 secs.

Takbir settled for the silver with a time of 25.47 secs while Cpl. Akhteruzzaman of Bangladesh Air Force came home in 25.67 secs for the bronze. Mohammed Ilyas Hossain of Navy finished second in the 400m free-style with a timing of 4:38.75 while Lance Naik Asaduzzaman took the bronze with a timing of 4:45.80.

The Bangladesh Army 4x200m quartet, made up of Lance Naik Asad, Havildar Abdus Salam, Havildar Yasin Ali and Havildar Shamsul Islam, picked up the gold by setting a new national record of 8:47.90.

The previous record of this event was 8:58.82 which was also set by this quartet in last year's championships.

The Bangladesh Navy quartet comprising Kayes Ahmed, Kibria, Mahbubur Rahman and Ilyas Hossain, settled for the silver with a timing of 9:04.58 secs while the bronze went to the Bangladesh Air Force quartet made up of Rafiqul Islam, Mohammad Selim, Cpl Akhteruzzaman and Dhanarajan Das.

Petty Officer Mohammed Mahboobur Rahman of Bangladesh Navy broke the monopoly of Army by clinching the gold in the 200m individual medley clocking 2:24.87.

Mahboob also holds the national record of 2:23.91 which he set last year.

Havildar Yasin Ali of Army took the silver while Lance Naik Osman Ghani, also of Army, collected the bronze medal.

Today is the concluding day of the four-day meet. Six events are billed for today. The events are — 100m free-style, 1500m free-style, 100m back stroke, 100m butterfly, 100m breast stroke and 4x100m free-style relay.

## MEDALS TABLE

Following is the medals table after Thursday's events:

Teams	G	S	B	Total
Army	6	6	5	17
Navy	5	5	1	11
Air Force	0	0	4	4
BKSP	0	0	1	1

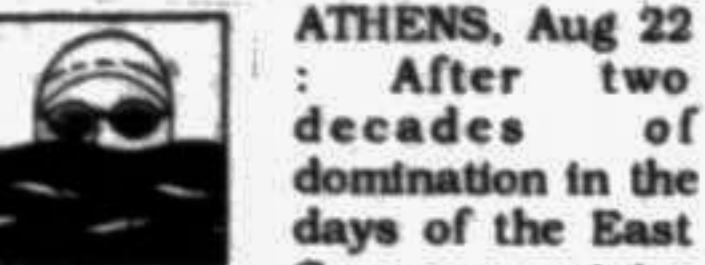


Havildar Shamsul Islam remained the best free-style swimmer of the country by shattering his own national record in the 400m with a time of 4 min 34.67 secs yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium pool.



Havildar Harunur Rashid flashes the victory sign after becoming the country's fastest swimmer with a new national record in the 50m freestyle event on the third day of the 14th national championships at the Dhaka Stadium pool yesterday.

# FRG girls disappoint



ATHENS, Aug 22: After two decades of domination in the days of the East German state, German women swimmers failed to land a place in either of Wednesday's women's finals at the European championships, reports Reuter.

Troubled by illness and far from the force they were of old, they were reduced to the ranks of a so-ran left to dispute the consolation by finals. Defending champion Manuela Stellmach managed only 11th place overall in the 200 metres freestyle heats, while Kerstin Kielgass, fastest in Europe this year, had to pull out because of illness.

Kielgass, a European relay gold medalist in 1985, got up on Tuesday after four days in bed suffering from a high temperature and a stomach upset, German swimming source said.

Her absence cost the now-united German team the gold medal in Tuesday's 4x200 freestyle relay as Heike Friedrich, a pale shadow of the world and Olympic champion, she was, lost the lead and fully six seconds overall to Denmark's anchor swimmer Mette Jacobsen.

Stellmach, Kielgass's room mate, had also been confined to bed for two days with a high temperature which any have been caused by excessive air-conditioning in their room.

Jana Doerries, 15, a medalist at last January's world championships in Perth in the last heat and ninth overall-one place and 0.10 seconds from qualification.

Doerries, an ex-East German like her she won silver in the 100 breaststroke and bronze Perth where she won silver in the 100 breaststroke and bronze in the 200.

Western German Alexander Hasencl, the team's other women's 200 breaststroke swimmer never made it to Athens after injuring departure.

After years in the shadow of the women swimmers, it was left to the men to uphold German honour, with Patrick Kuehl leading qualifiers for the 400 metres individual medley final and fellow butterfly heats. Germany also topped men's 4x200 freestyle relay qualifiers.

Kuehl, who won bronze in 1987 and silver in 1989, staked his claim for gold in the absence of world and Olympic champion Tamas Darnyi of Hungary, winning the opening heat in four minutes 20.70 seconds.

Ex-East German teammate Christian Gessner secured the third-best final qualifying time of 4:23.11, winning the last heat by a whisker from Italy's Olympic bronze medalist Stefano Battistelli. Italy's Luca Sacchi was second-fastest overall.

# Kulikov spurs Soviet gold surge



ATHENS, Aug 22: Vladislav Kulikov figured in a Soviet title spree at the European Swimming Championships on Wednesday and, in his delight the turn of events in Moscow, dedicated his gold medal to his family and fellow countrymen, reports Reuter.

Kulikov swam his 100 butterfly tried to wrest power from President Mikhail Gorbachev had collapsed.

"I heard the news before the race. I felt very happy and I wanted to make a contribution to the good news by winning gold here," said Kulikov, bronze medalist at last January's World Championships.

"I was really lifted and felt light after hearing the news. I want to dedicate this win to my family and my people. I've always supported Gorbachev and was very unhappy and frustrated when they toppled him."

Kulikov scooped the gold in one of three desperately close finishes at the Olympic centre, where the Soviet Union collected four titles to hoist their tally to six at the end of the fifth day of the nine-day championships.

Elena Rudkovskaya romped away in the women's 200 metres breaststroke. Andrei Semenyuk won the one-metre springboard diving title and a Soviet quartet prevailed in the men's 4x200 freestyle relay.

Denmark's Mette Jacobsen snatched her second gold medal in 24 hours in winning the women's 200 freestyle and shaven-headed Italian Luca Sacchi grabbed the men's 400 individual medley gold in the absence of Hungarian World and Olympic champions Tamas Darnyi, who by passed this meeting to concentrate on next year's Barcelona Olympics.

Less than one tenth of a second split the difference between gold and silver in three races — Kulikov winning by 0.08 of a second, Jacobsen by a 0.05 and Sacchi by 0.04.

Kulikov trailed Germany's Nils Rudolph for much of the 100 butterfly final but swept through at the finish to win in 54.22.

Spain's Martin Lopez Zubero, world 200 backstroke champion, proved his versatility by taking the butterfly silver, edging out Rudolph by just 0.1 of a second.

Lopez Zubero, who broke the 200 backstroke world last week, said he had given butterfly little thought.

Defending champion Rafal Szukala of Poland finished fourth, though only 0.13 separated him from Kulikov.

Jacobsen, who anchored Denmark to a surprise victory in Tuesday's women's 4x200 freestyle relay, won a thrilling duel with Catherine Picwink, newly-crowned 100 freestyle champion.

The stocky French swimmer carved out a vast early lead and was still over a second clear of the Dane at the final turn.

# 'Magic carpet' raises hopes of records in Tokyo



TOKYO, Aug 22: A "Magic carpet" laid at Japan's National Stadium has sparked hopes that athletes like Leroy Burrell and Carl Lewis will shatter sprint and jump records at the World Athletics Championships, reports Reuter.

Several national sprint records have already fallen this season on the new track at the stadium, site of the 1964 Summer Olympics. World marks may follow in the nine-day Championships starting on Saturday.

In May unheralded local sprinter Satoru Inoue eclipsed his career best by 0.18 of a second to set a Japanese 100 metres record of 10.20 seconds.

This new track is more solid and springier than others," said Keiji Ogushi, director of the Japan Amateur Athletics Federation (JAAF). "I think the track will suit the world's top sprinters and jumpers. I'm looking forward to seeing new world records this summer."

"I'm already excited at the thought that Burrell could break his 100 metres record (9.90 seconds) in Tokyo," the former-Olympic hurdler said.

Lewis, Burrell and record-breaking Soviet pole vaulter

Sergei Bubka all praised the new surface after trying it during visits to Japan earlier this year.

It also impressed foreign athletes who competed in Japan's national athletics championships in June, a dress rehearsal for the World Championships.

"To break a world record, I need a hard track," said former high jump world record holder Patrik Sjoeborg. "This track is really good."

"The track is very comfortable to run for me," said Japan's Susumu Takano, who clocked 44.78 at the meeting to break his 400 metres national record. "Top-class 400 metres runners can set times at the 43-second level."

Only five 400 metres runners, including American Buich Reynolds, world record holder with 43.29, have clocked below 44 seconds.

Japan put a total of six billion yen (43 million dollars) into renovating the ageing 60,000-seat stadium.

Instead of a conventional all-weather track, the newly developed chipless urethane surface has some distinctive features, including soft landing but strong kick-back and a non-slip quality.

"The new urethane track is an epoch-making production, as when the all-weather syn-

thetic track replaced the earth track in the late 1960s," said Hirooyuki Oku, director of Nippon Taikoku Shisetsu, Japan's top sports facilities construction company.

The synthetic track was introduced to world class athletics at the 1968 Mexico Olympics.

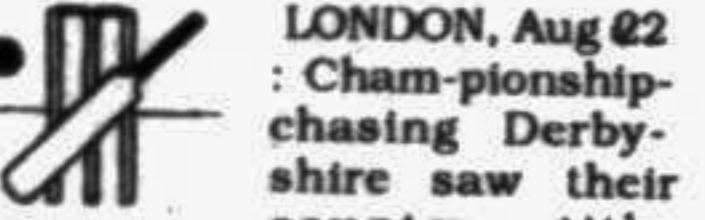
Oku said all-weather chip-scattered surfaces had posed problems with broken chips making the track slippery.

"After receiving the request to develop a fast track, we tried to make a surface without chips which we find are one of the main obstacles to athletes setting records," Oku said.

Oku said his firm had solved the problems by developing a new "non-chip" surface — a softish, wavy top layer placed on a harder shock-absorbing cushion base.

"I think this non-chip track will quickly set a major trend for new athletics stadiums," Oku said. "I hope the world's top athletes will certify that the new track is superior to conventional ones by setting records in Tokyo."

# Leics dent Derbyshire hopes



LONDON, Aug 22: Championship-chasing Derbyshire saw their country title hopes dented when they were beaten by an innings and 131 runs inside two days by struggling Leicestershire on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The visitors outplayed them in every department and richly deserved only their second victory of the season.

Starting the second day only 43 runs ahead with five wickets down, Leicestershire increased that advantage to 275 as they scored 392 against some wretched bowling.

Phil Whitticase hit 93 off 132 balls, Ben Smith made 51,

and the last pair of Craig Wilkinsong and John Maguire added another 51 to pile in the agony for the home side.

Maguire then had former Leicestershire opener Peter Bowler caught behind off an inside edge in the sixth over and after tea, the innings disintegrated.

David Mills, who had figures on nine for 37 in the first innings, took three more wickets for a match haul of 12 for 91 as Derbyshire were all out for 144.

Warwickshire's faltering lead at the top of the table came under further pressure, as Glamorgan staged a battling comeback at Edgbaston.

Replying to Warwickshire's 358 for eight declared, superb

innings by Adrian Dale (99) and Ravi Shastri (80 not out) helped Glamorgan to 346 for five declared.

Warwickshire were 55 for two in their second innings at the close.

Second-placed Essex maintained their late season challenge with Paul Princhard blasting 128 and John Stephenson 116 as they shared a second wicket stand of 246 against Yorkshire at Colchester.

They enabled Essex to declare at 300 for three and Yorkshire, who made 446 for nine declared in their first innings, lost Ashley Metcalfe before the close to finish six for one.

# Mirpur JS, Jurain Janata in semis

Sports Reporter

Mirpur Jubo Shanga and Jurain Janata Club cruised into the semi-finals of the Dhaka kabadi league defeating Maniknagar Unnayan Samity and Bangladesh Bank Club respectively in the quarterfinals yesterday at the Outer Stadium kabadi court.

Mirpur Jubo Shanga outplayed Maniknagar Unnayan Samity by 41-12 points after leading 19-3 at the breather. The winners scored three long.

In the other quarterfinal declared Bangladesh Bank Club by 15-6 points. Jurain got one long.

Azad Sporting Club will play against Manda Sangsad at 4:30 pm in today's first quarter final while Sonali Bank will take on Imarat Nirman Sramik Union at 5:30 pm in the day's second quarter-final at the same venue.

# Graf, Becker top seeds

NEW YORK, Aug 22: Boris Becker was made the top men's seed at the US Open for the first time and Steffi Graf the top-seeded woman for a record fifth consecutive year, the United States Tennis Association said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Following are the seedings for the US Open, which begins next week:

**Men**  
1. Boris Becker (Germany); 2. Stefan Edberg (Sweden); 3. Michael Stich (Germany); 4. Jim Courier (US); 5. Ivan Lendl (Czechoslovakia); 6. Pete Sampras (US); 7. Guy Forget (France); 8. Andre Agassi (US);

9. Srdjari Brugra (Spain); 10. Karel Novacek (Czechoslovakia); 11. David Wheaton (US); 12. Goran Ivanisevic (Yugoslavia); 13. Andrei Cherkasov (Soviet Union); 14. Emilio Sanchez (Spain); 15. Petr Korda (Czechoslovakia); 16. John McEnroe (US).

**Women**  
1. Steffi Graf (Germany); 2. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia); 3. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina); 4. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain); 5. Mary Joe Fernandez (US); 6. Martina Navratilova (US); 7. Jennifer Capriati (US); 8. Conchita Martinez (Spain); 9. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia); 10. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland); 11. Katerina

Maleeva (Bulgaria); 12. Zina Garrison (US); 13. Leila Meskhi (Soviet Union); 14. Nathalie Tauziat (France); 15. Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia); 16. Anke Huber (Germany).

**Ivanchuk-Yusupov draw game 7**  
BRUSSELS, Aug 22: Soviet Players Vassily Ivanchuk and Artur Yusupov agreed a draw on Wednesday in their adjourned seventh game at the World Chess Championship quarter-finals without play resuming, reports Reuter.

Most analysts felt when the game was adjourned on Tuesday that the position was completely drawn.

The result leaves Yusupov in the position of needing to win his eighth game scheduled for today, to level with Ivanchuk and force him into a weekend tie-break.

"Have you heard?" he asked after the match. "It is over". It transpired he was not talking about the chess but about the fact that the coup d'etat in the Soviet Union appeared to be collapsing.

Accumulated points (first player to exceed four points goes on to semi-finals):  
V. Anand 3 1/2 A. Karpov 3 1/2  
N. Short 4 B. Gelfand 3  
V. Ivanchuk 4 A. Yusupov 3  
J. Timman 4 1/2 V. Korchnoi 2 1/2

# Liverpool beaten

LONDON, Aug 22: Former champions Liverpool stumbled to a 2-1 defeat away to Manchester City on Wednesday, following the losing example of their great rivals Arsenal, reports Reuter.

City's win, their second in the first two games of the season, gave them a share of the early First Division lead with neighbours Manchester United, who beat Aston Villa away 1-0.

The happiest team of the night, however, must have been Oldham Athletic, who celebrated their first home game in the top division for 68 years with a 3-0 win over Chelsea.

Liverpool were hoping to steal a march on champions Arsenal after their 3-1 defeat by Everton on Tuesday when they arrived at Manchester City.

A 26th minute goal from David White, who formed a lethal partnership with Niall Quinn, soon shattered their hopes. White added another in the 64th minute.

Teenger Steve McManaman pulled a goal back in the 75th minute and seven minutes later Liverpool had a chance to equalise when they were awarded a penalty.

But Dean Saunders, the 2.9 million pound sterling (4.85 million dollars) signing from Derby, drove the ball against bar.

Luton, the bookmakers' favourites for relegation, were 1-0 down and with 10 men left

# Almas champion

Sports Reporter

Almasur Rahman became champion with eight-and-a-half points in the qualifying round of the Mahanagari chess league yesterday at the NSC's Chess Room.

Fifteen other players with eight points jointly took the second place and earned their right to represent Mahanagari chess team in the First Division league.

# Patrick-Farmer may pull out

TOKYO, Aug 22: Heavily-favoured women's 400-metre hurdler Sandra Farmer-Patrick said on Wednesday she may withdraw from the World Athletics Championships because of hamstring problems, reports Reuter.

The 29-year-old American said she would have both hamstrings examined by doctors today and would attempt some type of workout today and Friday before deciding whether to compete in the Championships.

She said she had almost decided to call US coaches and tell them to replace her in the Championships, which begin on Saturday. "But my coach and my husband both said I should come and run if I could," she said.

The year's fastest women's 400-metre hurdler at 53.54 seconds, Farmer Patrick had been expected to take on rapidly improving Briton Sally Gunnell in the hurdles beginning on Monday.

# Mary Joe wins the clash of Fernandezes

WASHINGTON, Aug 22: Mary Joe Fernandez, the top-ranked American woman in the world, reached the semifinals of the Virginia Slims of Washington on Wednesday night with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory over Gigi Fernandez, reports AP.

Third-seeded Mary Joe had to struggle all the way against her unseeded opponent. She lost the first three

games of the match, and was within a point of losing the fourth game.

Over 28 games, covering two hours and ten minutes, Mary Joe Fernandez won 96 points, and Gigi Fernandez won 92 points.

In the other evening match, fifth seed Zina Garrison defeated Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, 6-3, 2-6, 6-1.

All the seeded players who took the court on Wednesday were winners.

# China drub Nepal

TOKYO, Aug 22: China defeated Nepal 4-0 and the Maldives drew with Singapore 1-1 on the fourth day of the Asian Group 'E' Olympic football qualifying matches, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said today, reports AP.

The KCNA report, monitored here, gave no half-time score of the games staged Wednesday at Pyongyang's Sosan Stadium.

# Michael Johnson denied by Tokyo schedule

TOKYO, Aug 22: Michael Johnson probably lost two gold medals before he even arrived in Tokyo for the World Athletics Championships, reports Reuter.

The 23-year-old athlete with the bizarre, bolt-upright style would have been favoured to win the men's 400 metres and anchor a victorious American 4x400 metres relay team.

But a scheduling clash made it impossible for him to compete in both the 200 and 400 metres in Tokyo, robbing the tall Texan of his gold medal chances in the one-lap race.

American team policy took away the second when he was denied a place in the relay team because he had not taken

part in the 400 metres at the US National Championships — thanks to a similar programming conflict.

Johnson was both outraged and dismayed by that decision but he may still emerge as one of the stars in Tokyo where he starts as the hottest of favourites in the 200 metres.

"I know that I can do something spectacular," said that quiet but confident Johnson, who can already claim a winning streak of 24 races over his preferred distance.

The spectacular may involve a tilt at one of the oldest world records in the book, Italian Pietro Mennea's 1979 time of 19.72 seconds.

"I've always felt that if you go out there to do the best that you can and you're not concerned with anything but winning and you just don't care

what time you run, you're going to have a really good performance," he said after clocking a 19.85-second personal best in Edinburgh, Scotland last season.

"I consider that the best race I have ever had — because of the time and because of the people in that race," said Johnson who left Olympic gold medalist Joe Deloach, world champion Calvin Smith, both Americans, and current European title holder John Regis of Britain trailing.

With challengers such as Namibian Frankie Fredericks, Regis and fellow-American Leroy Burrell to push him, the record could fall on the fast track at the national stadium in Tokyo.

"I feel I'm confident of running the world record when the track and the condi-

tions are right. I feel I have 19.7 in me," he said.

Burrell was the last man to beat him in the 200 metres but he needed a wind-assisted 19.61 seconds, faster than the world record, when he did so in May last year.

Since that early season defeat, Johnson has looked virtually invincible. Unbeaten this year and with times of 20.02 and 44.17 seconds over 200 and 400 metres respectively, he may become the first athlete ever to clock the year's best over both distances.

"Over 200 metres, I don't really fear anyone," he said.

It's my race, the one I feel most comfortable with. It's also the one where the world record seems most reachable."

Johnson emerged as a leading runner only last year after his two previous seasons were virtually wrecked by injury. A stress fracture kept him out of action in 1988 and a torn muscle severely limited his racing the following year.

But his huge natural talent could not be restrained forever and he worked out a weights and flexibility programme with his coach with the aim of keeping clear of injury.

The programmes was tough but it worked and Johnson's meteoric rise was able to start at the beginning of 1990.

Now he ventures into uncharted territory at his first major championships where he will have to run four races in two days to win the one gold medal available to him.

Johnson's rise was able to start at the beginning of 1990.

Now he ventures into uncharted territory at his first major championships where he will have to run four races in two days to win the one gold medal available to him.

# Elliott cries off

TOKYO, Aug 22: Peter Elliott of Britain, the 1988 Olympic silver medalist at 1,500 metres, has withdrawn from the event in the World Track and Field Championships because of an Achilles injury, team officials confirmed Thursday.

Elliott, who has the world's second-fastest time in the mile this year and the third-fastest in the 1,500, has battle injuries all summer.

Since winning the mile at Oslo last month in 3 minutes, 49.46 seconds, he has expressed concern that the problem might be too severe for him to run in the meet.