

Spectator Ben!

TOKYO, Aug 25: When the World Championships of track were held four years ago, Ben Johnson sprinted to a world record, stardom and victory over nemesis Carl Lewis.

But Johnson watched from the stands Sunday as Lewis took this year's championship and rewrote the record books with a stizzling 9.86-second finish in the fastest 100-meter race ever, reports AP.

"It was a great race," said Johnson, smiling broadly. "I feel glad for them."

The Canadian sprinter, making a bumpy comeback this year after a two-year ban for testing positive for banned drugs at the Seoul Olympics, failed to win a slot to represent Canada in the 100 meters, here.

Instead, he will be running the lead-off leg of Canada's 400-meter relay.

Johnson, whose 1987 championships victory and 9.83 world record time were later erased because of his admitted long-term use of performance-enhancing drugs, said he felt Lewis deserved the win.

"They have been running well all year," he said of both Lewis and teammate Leroy Burrell, who finished second at 9.88. Six of the eight finalists finished in under 10 seconds.

"This was a very big race for them, the last of the year, and so they were at their peak," Johnson said. "Any track is a fast track if you are ready to run."

Johnson added, however, that he still has his sights on next year's Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, where he thinks he has a chance of setting a record.

"This year doesn't matter, what is important is next year's Olympics," he said.

In greatest 100m race of all time Lightning Lewis leaves no doubt



TOKYO, Aug 25: Carl Lewis shattered the world 100 metres record in the greatest performance of his career on the second day of the World Athletics Championships today, reports Reuter.

Lewis retained the world title in 9.86 seconds, 0.4 of a



second under teammate Leroy Burrell's old mark of 9.90 set at the US Championships in June.

Astonishingly, the 30-year-old American, twice the world and Olympic champion, was last out of the blocks in the eight-man final.

Through sheer strength and will power Lewis pulled back the deficit, stepped up another gear at 70 metres and took the lead with five metres to run.

Lewis knew he had won as soon as he crossed the finish line, throwing his arms in the air in jubilation.

Burrell, his teammate at the Santa Monica Track Club, finished second in 9.88 and Dennis Mitchell made it a medal sweep for the Americans with third place in 9.91.

It was the greatest 100 metres race of all time. Britain's Linford Christie broke his own European record by half a second, but his 9.92 was good enough only for fourth place.

The first six finishers all ran under 10 seconds and each set personal bests.

Lewis, who is something of a folk hero in Japan, ran a jubilant victory lap with Burrell, watched by the Emperor and Empress of Japan and also by his one-time great rival Ben Johnson who was commenting for Japanese television.

Only Johnson has run faster than Lewis. But his times of 9.83 and 9.79 recorded when he beat Lewis at the 1987 Rome World Championship and 1988 Seoul Olympics respectively, have been erased after he tested positive for drugs in Seoul and later admitted to taking steroids since 1981.

"This is the best race of my career, I'm in the best shape of my life," Lewis said.

"Just to know you're doing everything right and be 30 and run the race of your life is great."

"This is definitely the happiest race of my career but I couldn't have done it without being with the other members of the Santa Monica Track Club.

"It looked like I got a terrible start — but I got a great start. The other guys got out so good it looked as if I had had a bad start."

Burrell said: "This was the fastest race of all time. I was just happy to be part of it."

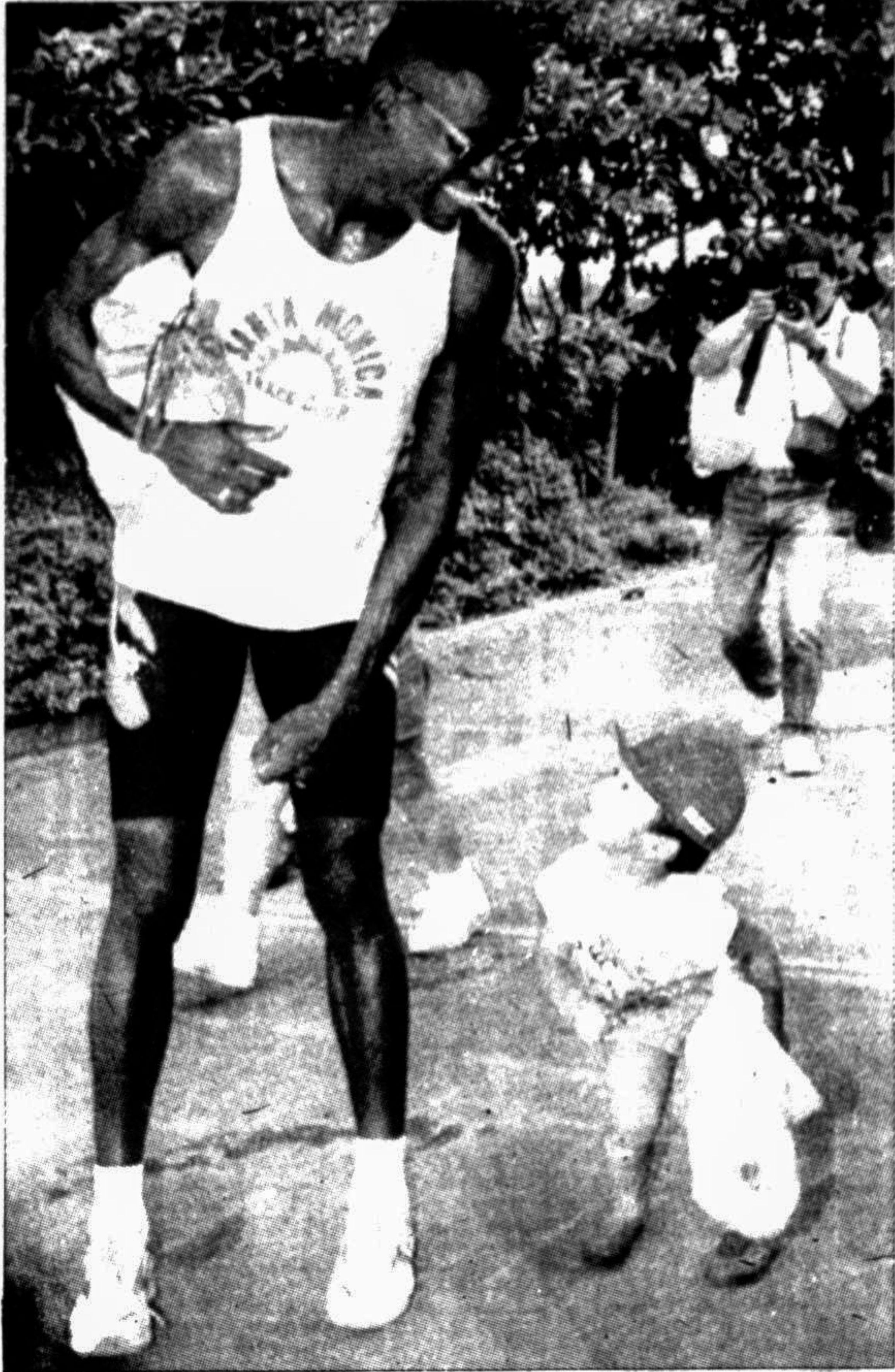
"I broke the world record and lost it on the same day. How many people can say that? Carl is a great runner, he responded to my talent. How more fitting than to lose to the greatest runner in track and field history?"

Mitchell said: "He's simply the greatest runner on the planet and I was proud to be part of it today."

It was apparent after Sunday's semifinals that a world record was inevitable.

On a warm, still night Lewis clocked 9.93 in his semifinal, a time previously bettered by only himself and Burrell.

Linford Christie of Britain, the Olympic silver medalist in Seoul, was fourth in 9.92.



Carl Lewis, who ran his greatest race yesterday in Tokyo, with a young Japanese admirer after training at the National Olympic Stadium Friday.

Frank Fredericks of Namibia was fifth in 9.95, an African record, and Ray Stewart of Jamaica sixth in 9.96.

Lewis was the fastest in all four rounds of the competition. He had a sensational 9.80 seconds in the second round on Saturday, but it was not a world record because the 4.1 kph wind was much stronger than the two-meters per second allowed.

The wind for the final was a medium 1.2, making all times legal.

Lewis, who had been second both times, wound up with two gold medals and a world record of 9.82.

His victory in Tokyo was the first time, however, he had actually broken a world record in the event after winning the race.

After the race, Lewis was almost in tears. The crowd of 60,000 at the National Stadium cheered wildly as he crossed the finish line and for a long time after the race, erupting into a roar when the time was announced.

Sedykh lives up to reputation

TOKYO, Aug 25: World record holder Yuriy Sedykh of the Soviet Union lived up to his reputation as the greatest hammer thrower of all time when he won his first World Championship here today with a throw of 81.70 metres, reports AFP.

For the third straight Championships, the Soviet Union took the hammer-throw gold and silver but failed to clinch the bronze as Andrey Abdvliyev finished behind Germany's Heinz Weis and Hungarian Tibor Gecsek.

European Cup winner Igor Astapovich threw 80.94 metres for the silver. Weis, the 1989 European and World Cup champion, finished third with his sixth and final throw of 80.44 metres.

For Sedykh, a 36-year-old graduate of the Kiev Institute of Physical Culture, who has won two Olympic and three European titles, it was his first triumph since the 1986 European Championships. At the 1988 Seoul Olympics, he was second behind his countryman Sergey Litvinov, who took the world title in 1983 and 1987.

MEDALS TABLE

TOKYO, Aug 25: Tabulation of medals at the 3rd World Track and field Championships after Sunday's events:

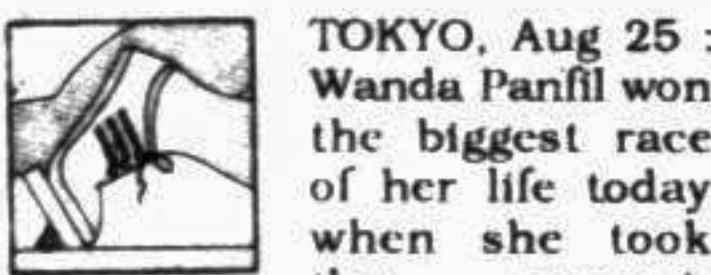
(Gold, Silver, Bronze and total)

	G	S	B	T
Soviet Union	2	3	3	8
United States	2	1	1	4
Germany	0	1	2	3
Italy	1	0	0	1
China	1	0	0	1
Poland	1	0	0	1
Japan	0	1	0	1
Sweden	0	1	0	1
Finland	0	0	1	1



LEROY BURRELL

Panfil leads the pack



TOKYO, Aug 25: Wanda Panfil won the biggest race of her life today when she took the women's marathon at the World Athletics Championships. She then set her sights on next year's Olympics, reports Reuter.

"I always wanted to hear the Polish national anthem at a world championship or an Olympic games," she said after her convincing victory on the Championships' second day.

"Now I want to hear it at an Olympic games," she said.

Panfil, 32, broke with two-km left in the 42.195-km race, staged in the streets of Tokyo early this morning.

She quickly set up a 30-metre lead over Japanese Sachiko Yamashita and German Katrin Dorre and cruised round the final lap in the National Stadium to win in two hours 29 minutes 53 seconds.

Yamashita delighted the sprinkling of Japanese spectators in the stadium by taking the silver in a personal best of 2:29:57 with Dorre repeating her bronze medal performance at the Seoul Olympics by finishing third in 2:30:10.

The race began through the Tokyo streets at 7 am on a cool morning with Panfil prominent in a leading bunch that included defending champion Rosa Mota of Portugal.

The runners set a conservative early pace with Panfil keeping a close watch on Mota, the greatest Championship marathon runner of all time with world, Olympic and three European titles to her credit.

They turned for home in 1:14:54 with Mota holding a narrow margin but no one yet prepared to make a break.

At 23 km Soviet Ramliya Burangulova decided to strike but her challenge was short-lived and she was quickly gathered in by the pack.

As Burangulova's challenge faded, it became apparent Mota was in trouble.

The little Portuguese, who needed surgery for an abdominal cyst this year and missed several weeks training, was soon trailing the leading bunch by more than 100 metres. She dropped out shortly afterwards and walked off disconsolately.

As the temperature began to rise and the runners reached the gradual incline leading back to the stadium the race resolved into a struggle between Panfil, Yamashita and her teammate, Yuko Arimori, Dorre and fellow-German Iris Biba and Portuguese Manuela Machado.

Biba dropped back at 30 km. Machado two km later and

Arimori at 33 km, leaving the top three to fight it out for the gold.

At this stage Panfil sensed she was too strong for her opponents and surged ahead to take a lead she was never to relinquish.

Panfil, who has run only seven marathons, has won her last five including this year's Boston race.

She lives and trains in Mexico with her husband Mauricio Gonzalez, who will run the 5,000 metres here.

"My husband said we're only interested in the gold medal," Panfil said. "And I must obey my husband."

Khalid Bashir's hattrick

GLAGOW, Scotland, Aug 25: Khalid Bashir led Scotland 'A' merry dance here on Saturday with a hat-trick 'as Pakistan romped home 5-1 in a men's hockey international, reports AFP.

He gave a lethal exhibition of short-corn striking with three direct hits in the 16th, 35th, and 47th minutes.

Pakistan also converted a similar award in the 20th minute, when Tahir Zaman made no mistake after the ball had been slipped to him.

Backley fails to qualify



TOKYO, Aug 25: Steve Backley, Britain's brightest gold medal hope at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, joined two other former world record holders by crashing out of the men's javelin competition today, reports Reuter.

Backley, Czechoslovak Jan Zelezny and German Klaus Tafelmeier failed to qualify for Monday's final in a morning of upsets.

European, Commonwealth and World Cup champion Backley failed for the first time in a major competition, throwing only 78.24 metres and finishing 15th overall in the two groups. The top 12 qualify for the final.

Zelezny and Tafelmeier fared even worse. The Czechoslovak managed just 76.26 metres and Tafelmeier was 33rd out of 41 with 72.42.

Backley, whose training was interrupted by an abductor muscle strain this year, refused to blame the injury.

"I'm making no excuses," he said. "I've been throwing 88 metres all week."

"I just lacked a little bit of rhythm. I think I've learned already from it but I'm certainly very disappointed."

Zelezny was bitterly upset that a mark of around 87 metres was ruled illegal after he overbalanced while throwing.

The Czechoslovak fell to the ground and officials found that his chest had touched the infield over the edge of the runway.

Zelezny was disgusted with the ruling and repeatedly mimed his fall to show the officials where he thought his chest had struck the ground.

"I thought the throw was legal," he said before lodging a protest with the jury of appeal.

Kersee keeps her title



TOKYO, Aug 25: Jackie Joyner Kersee of the United States won the gold medal in the women's long jump on Sunday, attaining 7.32 metres, despite a foot injury which restricted her to one good jump.

Heike Drechsler of Germany was second with 7.29 and Larisa Berezhnaya of the Soviet Union was third with 7.11.

The American star took the lead in the 3rd World Track and Field Championships from her very first jump. Her second try was a foul, which appeared to be even better. Then she passed her third jump.

When she came down the runway for her fourth try, two steps from the jump she apparently twisted her right foot, misjumped and fell on her face in the sand pit.

She grimaced and rolled in pain for many minutes as doctors inspected and then bandaged the foot and ankle.

Attended by her anxious husband and coach Bob Kersee, Joyner-Kersee placed ice on her ankle and lay on the field.

She missed the fifth round but made a tentative jump on the sixth.

The American star eventually tried to make her sixth and last jump, but she was clearly in pain and it was 7.11.



JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE gold despite pain.



US Detisa Floyd wins heat 4 of the first round women's 800-metre with 2:00.05 seconds followed by German Birthe Bruhns (2:00.11, L) and Lilia Nurutdinova (2:00.13, C) during the 3rd World Championships in Tokyo on August 24.

DMFA announces transfer schedule

The Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA), yesterday announced the complete schedule of the inter-club player transfer for the Senior Division football league '91, reports UNB.

According to the schedule, tokens will be issued from September 3 to 11 from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm every day.

The transfers will start on September 5 and continue till September 11, from 5.30 to 8 pm everyday.

Transfer seekers have to collect their tokens after depositing Tk. 200 at the DMFA accounts section and produce the receipt along with two copies of passport-size photographs.

They have to deposit the token and put their signatures on the transfer form in front of DMFA nominated officials. Another Tk. 30 as transfer fee will also be required.

Transfers will not be granted without tokens and there is no provision for withdrawal.

Any player unable to collect the token or observe the transfer formalities personally can ask for a commission by depositing Tk.2000 at the DMFA accounts section within the stipulated time.

DMFA has nominated four officials — Ferdous Islam, Afzar-uz-Zaman Sohrab, Shamsuzzoha Khan Majlish and Abdullah Al Mamun — to conduct the transfer formalities.

Asian giants stay unbeaten

AMAGASAKI, Japan, Aug 25: China, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan remained unbeaten in the preliminary round on the fourth day the Asian men's basketball championships here Sunday, reports AFP.

Heavily favoured China overwhelmed the Philippines 107-79 (47-40, 60-39) to chalk up its fourth win in Group A while South Korea came from behind to beat Saudi Arabia 68-52, (32-33, 36-19) for their fourth victory in Group B.

Japan breezed past Iran 83-74 (46-38, 37-36) for their third win without a loss in Group D.

Taiwan beat Hong Kong 99-62 (44-29, 55-33) for their second straight victory in Group C.

Eighteen teams were divided into four groups and top two finishers in each group will move into the quarter-finals. The winner of the Championships is eligible for the Barcelona Olympics.

Dutch girl wins world cycling title

STUTTGART, Aug 25: Leontien Van Moorsel of the Netherlands won the women's individual road race title Saturday at the World Cycling Championships over slick streets after a morning rain, reports AP.

Van Moorsel finished the 79 kilometers (49 miles) in 2 hours, 9 minutes and 47 seconds.

American Inga Thompson took second place, almost two minutes behind. Canadian Alison Sydor captured third.

Van Moorsel, 21, won the women's pursuit title in 1990, but she was only 15th in qualifying in this year's pursuit event.

The road course included a climb up to 500 metres (1,640 feet) in each of the five laps.

Several cyclists skid during the race following heavily rain overnight. There was also light drizzle during the first half of the race.

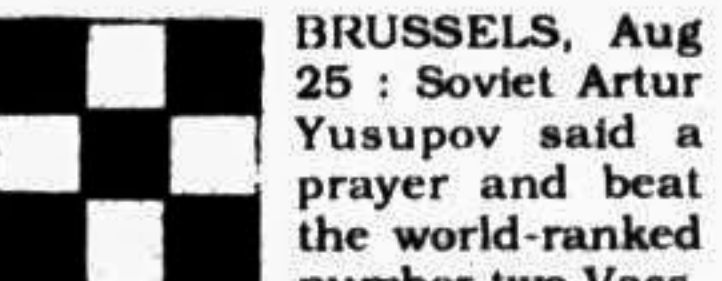
"The race was tough and dangerous," Van Moorsel said. "The rain had made the road slippery."

Most of the pack stayed together for two laps before Van Moorsel broke away on the third climb and built up a quick lead.

"The first lap was quite slow. When I saw the faces of the others who were suffering, I felt stronger than them," she said.

"However I still waited. Then I became nervous and had to attack."

Yusupov reaches world semis



BRUSSELS, Aug 25: Soviet Artur Yusupov said a prayer and beat the world-ranked number two Vasily Ivanchuk in breath-taking tie-break games on Saturday to become the fourth qualifier for the World Chess Championship semi-finals, reports Reuter.

"The game was among the best I have ever seen," top American grandmaster Yasser Seirawan said.

Other analysts agreed the two matches had been a thrilling spectacle.

Yusupov had always been regarded as the underdog in this battle, compatriot Ivanchuk being the second-rated player behind world champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union.

Before the first game, Yusupov could clearly be seen to say a quick prayer which was answered in a brilliant first game.

Gaining a large advantage in the opening as black, Yusupov proceeded to head directly for the white king, sacrificing a knight on move 23.

When Ivanchuk, nervous in the extreme, touched the wrong piece on move 25, the position was probably losing, according to analysts.

With a killing 33rd move, Yusupov capitalised on his superiority, and Ivanchuk resigned on his 40th move.

"A strange choice of opening by Yusupov — this system you play for advantage, not draw," said former champion Anatoly Karpov of their second game.

But Yusupov's aggressive attitude continued, culminating in an exchange sacrifice on his 32nd move.

From what had been a relatively quiet opening, a two-edged position developed. But with Ivanchuk requiring the win, he inevitably fell into time trouble.

Needing to find 20 moves in just one minute, Ivanchuk capitulated, resigning and leaving a final moment of drama.

In the spirit of the final position, Yusupov claimed to have offered a draw and the arbiters accepted this result.

It was academic. Yusupov had qualified, along with Karpov (Soviet Union), Jan Timman (Netherlands) and Nigel Short (England) who had already clinched their places.

Results of tie-break games (first to one and a half points qualifies):

Game -1 Ivanchuk (Soviet Union) 0 Yusupov (Soviet Union) 1.

Game -2 Yusupov (Soviet Union) 1/2 Ivanchuk (Soviet Union) 1/2.

BAF soccer

JESSORE, Aug 25: The annual inter-base football championship of Bangladesh Air Force got underway at BAF Base Matiar Rahman here today, says a press release.

In the evening match, BAF Base Bashur team and the BAF Base Matiar Rahman team draw 1-1.

Earlier, local Base Commander Group Captain Rashid Ahmed inaugurated the 4-day meet.