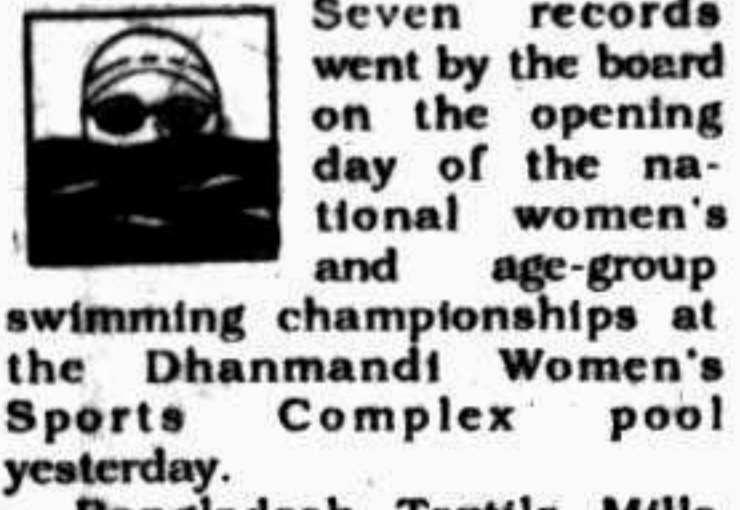


National women's age-group championships

Records take a beating

Sports Reporter



Seven records went by the board on the opening day of the national women's and age-group swimming championships at the Dhanmadi Women's Sports Complex pool yesterday.

Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) swimmers led the charge on the first day of the four-day meet under the auspices of the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation by grabbing four of the eight gold medals at stake.

At the end of Day One, BTMC led the table with four golds, two silvers and one bronze. They were followed by Bangladesh Ansars with two golds, four silvers and five bronzes while Rajbari DSA were close on their heels with two gold medals, two silvers and a bronze.

Patul Ghosh of Rajbari got the silver in 1:39.33 secs while the bronze went to Laila Akhter of Ansars who timed 1:48.34 secs.

Mita Rani Shome of Rajbari won the first of her team's two gold medals by clinching the 100 m butterfly title in the 13-14 yrs' girls group.

her time of 1:33.45 secs. Rajbari's second gold medal also came in the 13-14 yrs' group when Nibedita Das set a new record in the 200 m backstroke clocking 3:22.19 secs against the old mark of 3:43.78 seconds — nearly 20 seconds faster.

Sultana of Ansars earned the silver — her second medal of the meet — while Aleya Khatun of Rajbari got the bronze. All three medalists in the event improved upon the old mark — a remarkable race indeed.

Sumana Akhter of Ansars won the girls' 11-12 yrs 100 m backstroke gold with another record timing of 1:35.97 secs. Hasina Akhter of Ansars settled for the silver followed by Chand Sultana of BTMC who got the bronze.

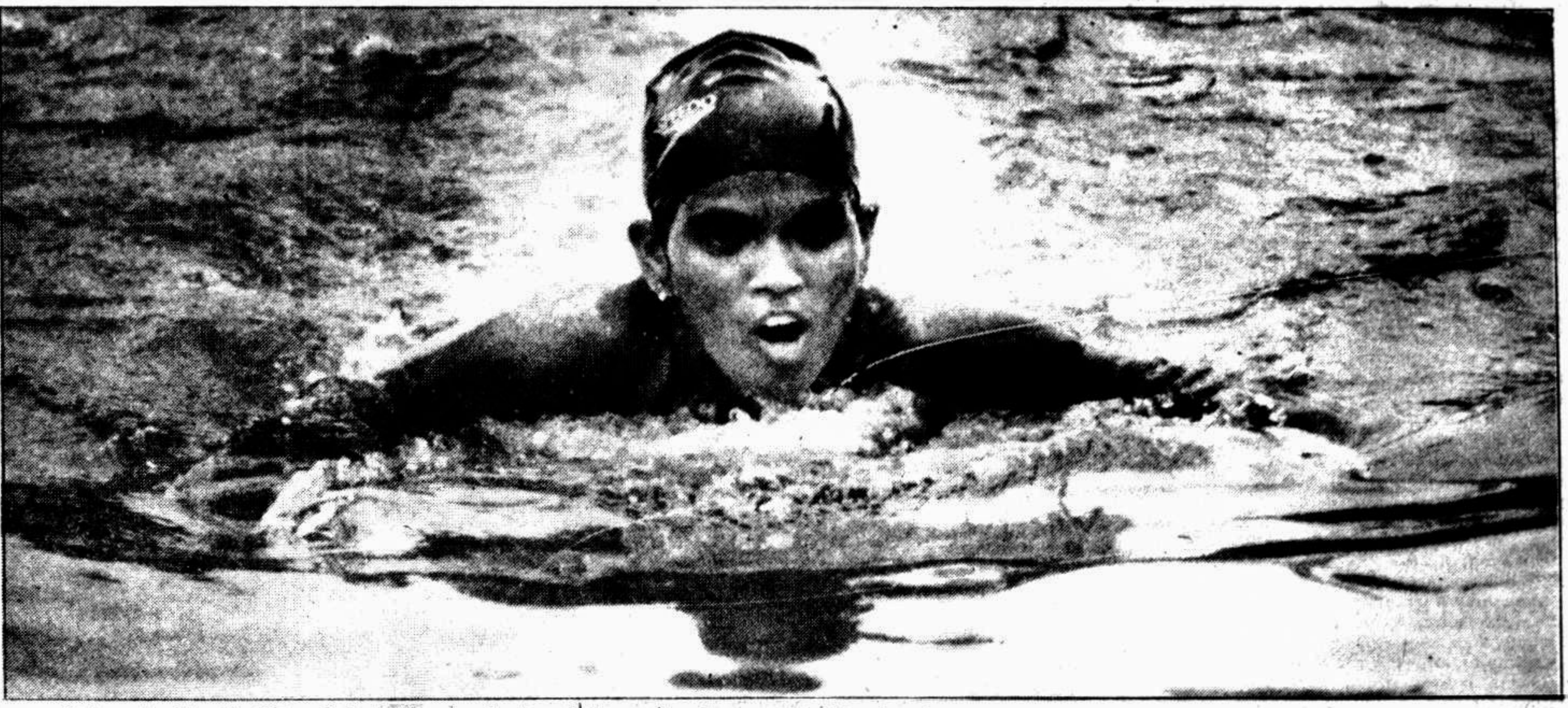
Rahima Khatun of BTMC won the under-10 yrs 50 m freestyle in 42.10 secs, the only event that saw the previous mark remain unscathed.

Munni Akhter of Ansars got the silver and Marufa Khatun of Pabna won the bronze.

More than 120 swimmers are representing 13 teams in the meet which was inaugurated in the morning by Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdus Salam Talukder.

Competition continues today, beginning at 9:30 in the morning.

Table with 5 columns: Team, G, S, B, Total. Rows for BTMC, Ansars, Rajbari, Pabna, and a total row.



Mahmuda Sharif of Bangladesh Ansars shattered the national women's 100m breaststroke record on the opening day of the nationals at the Dhanmadi Women's Sports Complex pool yesterday.

BAAF picks 19 for SAF Games camp

Bangladesh Athletics Federation yesterday (Friday) selected 19 athletes for the third phase training camp to participate in the coming SAF games, reports UNB.

The camp will commence from September 29, the Federation sources said. The selected athletes are: Golam Ambia, Farid Khan, Giasuddin, Goni Amin, Mujibur Rahman, Afzal Hossain, Nazrul Islam and Solaiman Mujumder of Bangladesh Army, Sahjan Uddin, Emdadul Haq, Wazir Rahman, Firoza Khatun, Nazma Haider Rafiq and Sumita Goswami of BTMC, Milzar Hossain, Shah Jalal, Nilufar Yasmin and Mehdi Ahsan of BJMC and Rahim Nayeem of Navy.

They were selected after the two-day open-trial began at the Bangladesh Army Stadium on September 22.

Chiburdanidze-Xie draw Game 1

MANILA, Sept 27: Soviet title holder Maya Chiburdanidze neutralised a dangerous passed pawn by China's Xie Jun on Thursday as the first game of the battle for the world women's chess title ended in a 41-move draw, reports Reuter.

Bong Villa Mayor. The 20-year-old former physical education student from Beijing drew white and played her favourite king's pawn opening on Thursday in the 16-game series at the Manila Hotel in the Philippine capital.

Xie started her challenge without Chiburdanidze, who was two minutes late for the match, and only arrived when the clock was ticking.

Chess game notation table with columns for White (Xie) and Black (Chiburdanidze) moves, numbered 1 to 41.

Xie, seeking to break six decades of Soviet dominance in women's chess, failed to press home the advantage of a passed pawn on the sixth rank as Chiburdanidze manage to mount some threats of her own under time pressure to force the standoff.

Chiburdanidze, playing under the flag of the separatist Soviet Republic of Georgia, is defending her title for the fifth time since winning it in 1978.

The first player to score 8.5 points wins the crown. One win counts for a point and a draw for half a point. In the case of an 8-8 tie, Chiburdanidze retains the title.

Here is a move by move account of the first game of the World Women's Chess Championship between Soviet holder Maya Chiburdanidze and Chinese challenger Xie Jun with the challenger playing white:



Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, an avid cricketer, relaxes after hitting the winning shot in an exhibition match on Sept 26 at Lahore's Bagh-i-Jinnah ground.

Moses may return

BERGEN, Norway, Sept 27: World 400 metres hurdles record holder Ed Moses plans to make a comeback at next year's Barcelona Olympics, reports Reuter.

"I have decided to go for the Summer Olympics next year and I have been training well all the time even if I have not competed since 1988", Moses told reporters at the world conference on anti-doping in sport on Wednesday.

"I started full training in August," said the 36-year-old American, who won two Olympic and two world championship gold medals.

Moses, who set his world record time of 47.02 seconds in 1983, retired after the Seoul Olympics and switched to Bobsleigh racing. He said that after 25 years on the track he needed a break and a chance to prove himself in something else.

Sanchez moves up

PALERMO, Sicily, Sept 27: Top-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain overcame Martin Jaitt of Argentina 2-6, 7-6 (6-3), 6-4 Wednesday night to advance to the quarterfinals of the dits 300,000 ATP men's tennis tournament in Palermo.

Marian Vajda of Czechoslovakia upset fifth-seeded Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina 6-2, 6-4

New sex test

PARIS, Sept 27: A French laboratory has come up with a new sex test that will be used on women competitors at the Albertville Winter Olympics next year, Games organisers said Wednesday, reports AFP.

"The new method will be tested at Albertville and if all goes well it should also be used at the Summer Games in Barcelona," said Philippe Lebaq, who developed the test.

Sex testing on women at international events has always been a controversial issue with officials in many countries considering it an unfair intrusion of privacy. But the International Olympic Committee imposed gender tests in 1968 for Olympic competitors.

Previously samples were taken from the mouth of female athletes and the cells studied under a microscope.

Lebaq's bioprobe systems laboratory will use molecular biology to study a competitor's genetic makeup, also from a mouth sample.

Men have one X and one Y chromosome. Women have two X chromosomes, but only one worked properly and the other can be detected under a microscope.

The new test concentrates on hunting the Y chromosome and Lebaq says it is 100 per cent successful.

Nigerians, Kenyans re-assert

CAIRO, Sept 27: The fifth All Africa Games were all but over on Friday, with host Egypt failing in its expensive bid to show the world it was ready to host an Olympic Games, reports Reuter.

The athletics competition, showcase of this sporadically staged continental sports festival, ended on Thursday with the Nigerians and Kenyans re-asserting their traditional dominance.

The only matter of international significance still to be decided before the closing ceremony on Tuesday was which hockey team would represent Africa at the Olympic Games in Barcelona next summer.

Scheduling and procedural mix-ups, a computer system that often took hours to produce results, and the absence of six of Africa's seven world athletics champions detracted from the Games.

But the most telling blow to Egypt's dreams of staging the first Olympic Games in Africa in the year 2004 was struck a week ago, minutes before a torch perched atop a replica of a pyramid was lit in a colourful opening ceremony.

FRIGHTENING CRUSH Dozens of dignitaries from African Olympic committees and sports federations were caught up in a frightening crush outside the main entrance to Cairo Stadium.

Reporters at the scene said they were amazed no one was seriously hurt.

The opening ceremony was one of the best I have seen in my life," International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch told reporters the next day. "But maybe what happened before the ceremony was not on the same level."

IOC vice-president Keba Mbaye saw the chaos ahead of him at the gate and returned to his hotel to watch the ceremony on television.

Samaranch said he had discussed with President Hosni Mubarak setting up a committee to study the possibility of Egypt hosting the Olympics in 2004 at the earliest.

While diplomatically praising the standard of the facilities, he offered few other encouraging words.

Lamine Ba, secretary-general of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa which helped organise these Games for the Organisation of African Unity, said Egypt had done great work under trying circumstances but added: "Egypt succeeded in what was difficult but failed in what was easy, I mean what happened outside the stadium."

Stars criticised for skipping Games

CAIRO, Sept 27: A senior official with the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA) criticised top athletes on Thursday for opting out of the current fifth All Africa Games, reports Reuter.

"I'm not totally satisfied with the performances because the athletes who shone in Tokyo decided to run at the Barcelona Grand Prix rather than here," said Lamine Ba, Secretary-General of the SCSA, which organises the Games for the Organisation for African Unity (OAU).

"They preferred to stay where they were paid rather than to represent their country," he said.

The athletics events at these sporadically staged continental Games were put back a day to entice more athletes to Cairo after the final meeting of the Grand Prix season in Barcelona.

Krickstein in Brisbane quarters

BRISBANE, Australia, Sept 27: Aaron Krickstein of the United States beat unseeded Australian Mark Woodforde in straight sets late Thursday and became the fifth and last seed to enter the quarter-finals of the Queensland men's open tennis, reports AFP.

Last year's losing finalist and this year's number three seed Krickstein won 6-3, 7-5.

He will meet fifth seed Wayne Ferreira of South Africa in the quarterfinal of the 320,000 dollar (256,000 US) tournament.

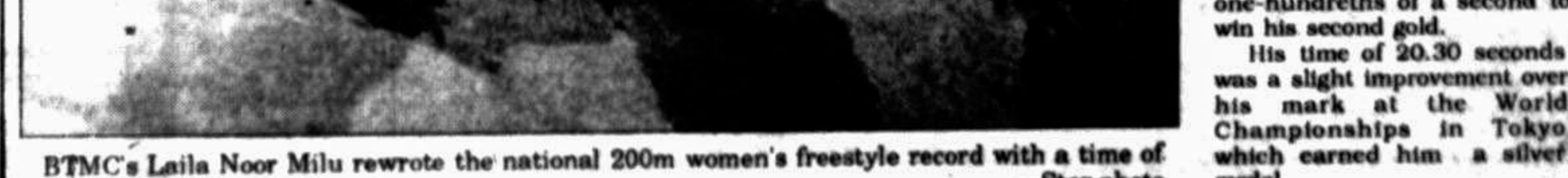
Title holder and top seed Brad Gilbert meets unseeded Australian Jason Stoltenberg, while second seed Russian Andrei Chesnokov to play against number eight seed Richard Fromberg of Australia.

At least one unseeded player will enter the semifinals after Gianluca Pozzi clashes with Jim Grabb of the United States.

After his victory Krickstein said he was beginning to improve after a bad year on the circuit which saw him drop 30 places in the world rankings to 50.

"I think I'm playing better now," Krickstein said.

BTMC's Laila Noor Milu rewrote the national 200m women's freestyle record with a time of 2 min 45.03 secs yesterday.



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Surgeon treating Watson pleads to make boxing safer

LONDON, Sept 27: A brain surgeon treating boxer Michael Watson, battered into a coma in a world title fight last week, called on Thursday for talks between medical experts and Britain's Sports Minister to try to make the sport safer, reports Reuter.

Peter Hamlyn, treating 26-year-old Watson at London's St Bartholomew's Hospital, told a news conference: "Boxing is not a safe activity, as long as it goes on people will be damaged by it and people will die by it."

Hamlyn called for an urgent meeting between Sports Minister Robert Atkins, the Boxing Board of Control and medical experts to make the sport a little safer.

Watson's injuries provoked a debate in Britain over whether boxing should be banned.

Hamlyn said there should be mandatory regulations to ensure extra safety, but gave no details. "Such regulations cannot make boxing safe. It can never be safe. But perhaps it

could be a little safer," he said.

The 26-year-old Watson collapsed after losing a World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title fight last Saturday. He remains critically ill on a life-support machine, with doctors deeply concerned over swelling in his brain.

Atkins has rejected calls for boxing to be banned and has urged schoolboys to take up the sports.

"It does nothing but good for a young boy. You rarely see anybody getting anything other than a bloody nose," he said in an interview.

MORALES REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS

Meanwhile, another report from India, California said: Boxer Fernie Morales has come out of a four-day coma and shows encouraging signs of improvement but Briton Michael Watson, also felled by a Saturday title fight, remained unconscious on Thursday.

Morales, who underwent surgery to remove a blood clot on his brain after losing his International Boxing Federation bantamweight title bid, regained consciousness late on Wednesday and his condition has improved significantly, a hospital spokesman said.

"His condition has been upgraded from critical to serious, and he is showing definite signs of improvement," a spokesman for the hospital in India, California said. "Some of the signs are really encouraging."

Dr Ali Tahmoqres, who performed the surgery on Morales said: "The started coming out of the coma just yesterday.

Becker pulls out

BRISBANE, Sept 27: World number two Boris Becker has withdrawn from next week's Australian indoor tennis championships in Sydney because of a persistent back injury, tournament organisers said today, reports Reuter.

The three times Wimbledon champion, who said only three days ago he would be returning to action by defending the indoor title, decided to pull out after a practice session in Monte Carlo.

Becker earlier withdrew from Germany's Davis Cup semifinal tie against the United States in Kansas City last weekend because of the injury.

Tournament director Graham Lovett said he had been advised early today of Becker's decision by the player's manager, Ion Tiriac.

Three times champion Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia is the new second seed in the one million dollars (US) event ahead of Americans Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, David Wheaton and Yugoslav left-hander Goran Ivanisevic.

Ivanisevic also was doubtful with a back injury but has arrived in Sydney, Lovett said.

American Derrick Rostagno is now seeded seventh, ahead of compatriots Michael Chang and Brad Gilbert.

The draw for the 48-man event will be made on Saturday.