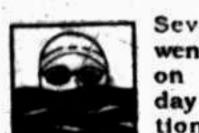
Records take a beating



Seven records went by the board on the opening day of the national women's

age-group swimming championships at the Dhanmandi 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. To top it off, their swimmers rewrote three national marks - in the 50 m free-style (15-17-yrs age group), the 200 m free-style (women), and the 100 m butterfly (15-17 yrs).

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.

Pabna DSA were the only other medallists with a bronze to their credit.

Mahmuda Sharif of Bangladesh Ansars shattered her own national 100 m breaststroke record with a timing of 1 min 33.24 secs. She was followed by BTMC's Noor-i-Afroze who clocked 1:49.78 secs. Selina Akhter of Ansars took the bronze in 1:46.87.

Laila Noor Milu of BTMC shaved nearly seven seconds off the previous national mark for the women's 200 m free-

style by clocking 2 min 45.03 secs. The earlier record was 2:52.21 seconds.

Rehana Zaman of Ansars also bettered the old mark but her time of 2:45.19 secs was a shade slower than Laila's and was good enough for the silver only. Her teammate Tania Akhter got the bronze with a time of 3:29.50 secs.

Munira Rahman of BTMC earned the first of her two gold medals by winning the 15-17-year age-ground 50 m free-style with a new record to boot. She touched home in 32.66 seconds to prove the fastest swimmer in the country to her age group. The old mark was 34.22 sccs.

Fellow-BTMC girl Mahfuza Rahman won the silver while the bronze, went to China Akhter of Ansars.

Munira's second gold along with another new record - came in the 100 m butterfly. The BTMC girl, who seems to have improved tremendously since the last nationals and could be in line for several other medals and records, clocked 1 min 23.92 seconds, a time that clipped an incredible 11 seconds from the existing mark she had herself set last year of 1:34.26

Putul Ghosh of Rajbari got the silver in 1:39.33 sees while the bronze went to Latla 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. In the process she rewrote the existing mark of 1 min 39.05 sees with

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 Khatoon of Rajbari got the bronze. All three medallists 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

MEDALS TABLE

Rajbari Pabna	0	2 0 -	1	5 1
,	8	. 8	8	24

Moses may return

BERGEN, Norway, Sept27 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 antidoping 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 Jaite of Argentina 2-6, 7-6 (6-3), 6-4 Wednesday night to advance to the quarterfinals of the dirs 300,000 ATP men's tennis

tournament in Palermo. Marian Vajda of Czechoslovakia upset fifthseeded Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina 6-2, 6-4

The 26-year-old Watson col-

lapsed 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

boxing to be banned and has

urged schoolboys to take up

Aikins has rejected calls for

over swelling in his brain.

the sports.

Surgeon treating Watson pleads to make boxing safer

— AFP photo



27: A brain by it.' surgeon treating boxer Michael Watson, battered into a coma in a

BRISBANE, Sept

27 : World num-

ber two Borts

Becker has with-

drawn from next

week's Australian

indoor tennis

championships in Sydney be-

cause of a persistent back in-

jury, tournament organisers

champion, who said only three

days ago he would be returning

to action by defending the in-

door title, decided to pull out

after a practice session in

from Germany's Davis Cup

semifinal tie against the

United States in Kansas City

last weekend because of the

Grahman Lovett said he had

been advised early today of

Becker's decision by the

player's manager, Ion Tiriac.

Tournament director

Becker earlier withdrew

Monte Carlo.

The three times Wimbledon

said today, reports Reuter.

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, an avid cricketer,

relaxes after hitting the winning shot in an exhibition

Becker pulls out

match on Sept 26 at Lahore's Bagh-i-Jinnah ground.

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 26year-old Watson at London's St Bartholomew's Hospital, told a conference: "Boxing is not a safe activity, as long as it goes on people will be dam-

aged by it and people will die could be a little safer," he said.

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

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

"Boris has not been happy

"He's been practising in

Becker was the second seed

with his progress," Lovett told

reporters at the Queensland

Open tournament in Brisbane.

Monte Carlo, but doesn't feel

he is properly prepared for a

tournament as strong as ours."

behind Stefan Edberg of

Sweden, the world number

Lendl of Czechoslovakia is the

new second seed in the one

million dollars (US) event

Sampras, Andre Agassi, David

Wheaton and Yugoslav left-

with a back injury but has ar-

is now seeded seventh, ahead

of compatriots Micheal Chang

even will be i...de on Saturday.

rived in Sydney, Lovett said.

ivanisevic also was doubtful

American Derrick Rostagno

The draw for the 48-man

hander Goran Ivanisevic.

and Brad Gilbert.

ahead of Americans Pete

Three times champion Ivan

"It does nothing but good for a young boy. You rarely see anybody getting anything other

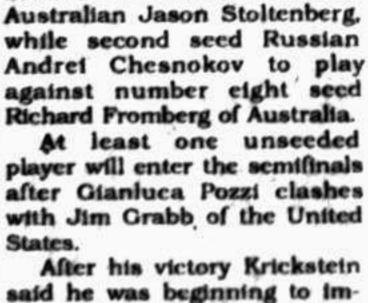
than a bloody nose," he said in an interview. MORALES REGAINS

CONSCIOUSNESS

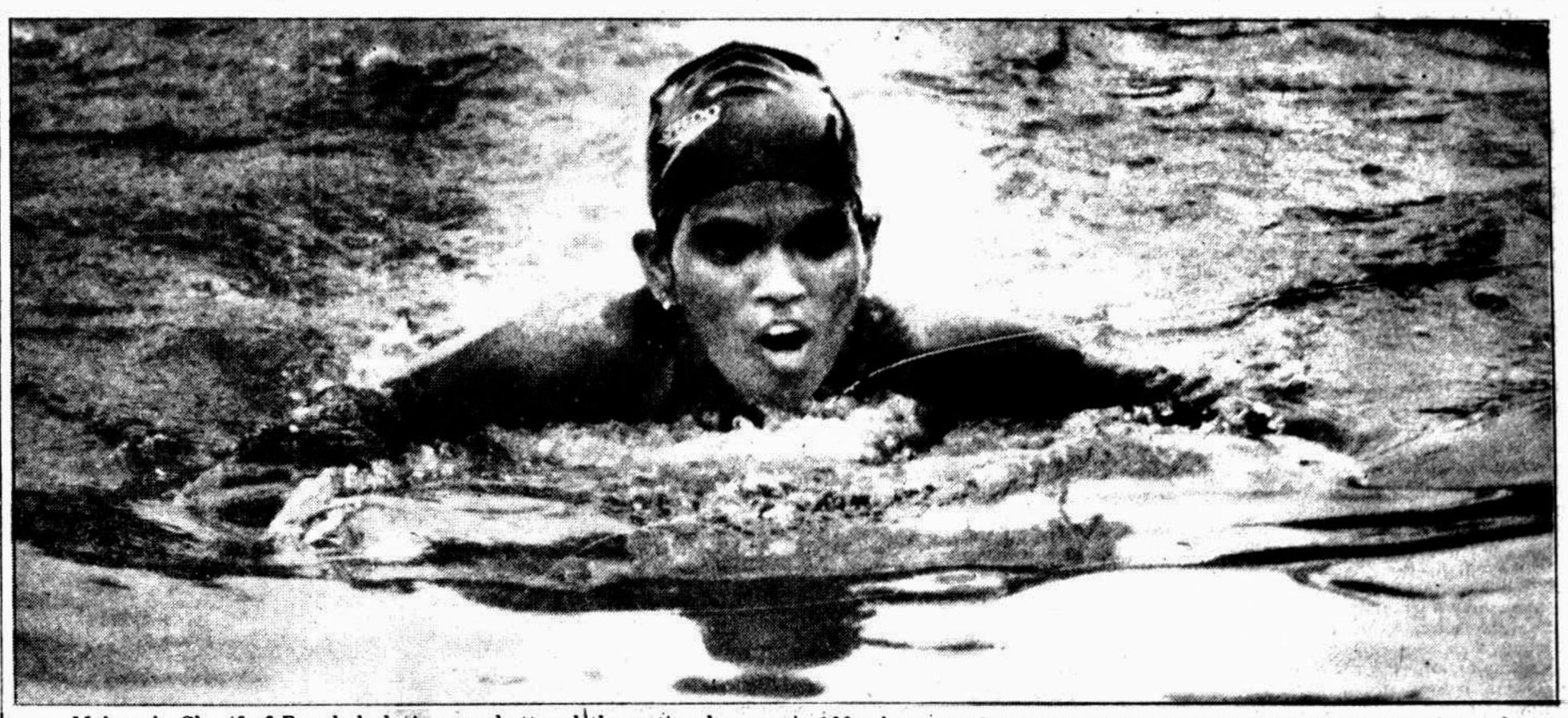
Meanwhile, another report from Indio, California said: Boxer Fernie Morales has come out of a four-day coma and shows encouraging signs of improvement but Briton Michael Watson, also felled by a Saturday title fight, remained unconscious on Thursday.

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

"His condition has been upgraded from critical to serious, and he is showing definite signs of improvement," a spokesman for the hospital in Indio, California said. "Some of the signs are really encouragingDr Ali Tahmouresie, who performed the surgery on Morales said: "He started coming out of the coma just yes-



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



Mahmuda Sharif of Bangladesh Ansars shattered the national women's 100m breaststroke record on the opening day of the nationals at the Dhanmandi Women's Sports Complex pool yesterday. - Star photo by Shafiuddin Bitu.

BAAF picks19 for SAF Games camp

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

The camp will commence September 29, the Federation sources said.

The selected athlets are: Golam Ambia, Farid Khan, Giasuddin, Geni Amin, Mujibur Rahman, Afzal Hossain, Nazrul Islam and Solaiman Mujumder of Bangladesh Army, Sahan Uddin, Emdadul Haq, Wazir Rahman, Firoza Khatun, Nazma Haider Rafiz and Sumita Goswami of BTMC, Milzar Hossain, Shah Jalal, Nilufar Yasmin and Mehdi Ahsan of BJMC and Rahim Nayeem of

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

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

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 Lebacq, who developed the test.

Sex testing on woman at international events has always been a controverstal 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 mi-

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

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

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

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.

player will enter the semifinals after Gianluca Pozzi clashes with Jim Grabb of the United

prove after a bad year on the circuit which saw him drop 30 places in the world rankings to

Chiburdanidze-Xie draw Game-1 win counts for a point and a Bong Villa Mayor.



pawn by China's Xic 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.

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. "She could have continued

more circumspectly to nurse her positional advantage, but Maya found counter-play despite slight time pressure," said Filipino national master

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 Xie started her challenge without Chiburdanidze, who was two minutes late for the

match, and only arrived when

the clock was ticking. The two shook hands and the 31-year-old Soviet world champion immediately made her response. They are playing in a small room in front of around 20 spectators.

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

draw for half a point. In the 16. NE1 case of an 8-8 tie, 17. NF4 Chiburdanidze retains the title. 18. C4 Here is a move by move ac-19. NF3 count of the first game of the 20. RE1 World Women's Chess 21. E6

Championship between Soviet holder Maya Chiburdanidze and Chinese challenger Xie Jun with the challenger playing white : Xie (white) Chiburdanidze (black) 1. E4 2. NF3 3. BB5 4. 0-0 5. D4

22. NG6 23. NE7 24. G4 25. NG4 NG7 26. ND4 27. NF5 28. GF5 29. KG2 30. RAD1 RDG8 31. KG3 RH4 32. RH1 RHG8 33. RH4 GH4 CH 34. KH3 35. RD5 36. BF6 CH 37. RD8 38. RC8 RF3 CH 39. KH4 40. RC6 F6 41. KG3

While diplomatically prais-

Lamine Ba, secretary-gen-

eral 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 cir-

cumstances but added: "Egypt

succeeded in what was difficult

but failed in what was easy, !

ing the standard of the facili-

ties, he offered few other en-

KF7

RAD8

Nigerians, Kenyans re-assert 2004 at the earliest.

6. BC6

DE5

11. NC3

13. H3

12. RFD1

9. B3

8. QD8 CH



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 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 Stadtum.

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

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

Stars criticised for skipping Games



the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA) cri-

ticlsed 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 Catro after the final meeting of the Grand Prix season in Barcelona. But Kenyan steeplechaser

Moses Kiptanui is the only one of the seven African gold medalists from last month's Athletics World Championships in Tokyo who has competed. Kiptanui said he acted 'just lime a soldier" after he was

letics officials. He wanted to pull out to rest a calf strain. Ba also criticised the Games organising committee for circulating information alleging Tunisian swimmer Senda Gharbi, winner of five

ordered to run by Kenyan ath-

freestyle gold medals, had failed an initial dope test. "The correct procedure was not followed if the second test is negative the information should remain confidential so the athlete is not

prejudiced," BA said.

mean what happened outside the stadium." **\$ 250M SPENT**

couraging words.

Egypt spent an estimated 250 million dollars on the Cames, saying it was building for the future. With admission free and limited revenue from television, it was not expecting to get much, if any, of that

"It is now time for our African continent to organise an Olympic Games and Egypt is capable of doing so," said Abdel Meneim Amara, Egypt's Minister of Youth and Sports and head of the games organising committee.

But the Gulf War hampered Egypt's efforts to get everything ready on time, with landscaping work and other cosmetic construction left undone

They tried hard, but they needed six or seven months more," said a visiting Kuwaiti sports official.

FREDERICKS' MARK

Meanwhile an AP report said: Frank Fredericks of Namibia set an African record in the 200-metre sprint Thursday and Nigerian wrestlers swept the freestyle division to capture 10 gold medals at the Games.

Nigerian athletes, who also won golds in track and field and weightlifting, captured a total of 26 medals Thursday. Egypt still leads the medals race after six days with 120 medals, 61 gold.

Through the track and field events, Nigerian and Kenyan athletes took home the overwhelming majority of medals, earning 37 and 29 respectively.

Nigerian women showed their strength in sprints, capturing the 1-2-3 in the 100. 200 and 400 meters, while Kenyan men overwhelmed competitors in long-distance running with 10 golds. Other teams with strong

showings were Ethiopia, particularly in long distance, and Algeria. Namibia's Frederiks, who earlier won the gold in the

100 meters, clipped the previous African record by two one-hundreths of a second to win his second gold. His time of 20.30 seconds

was a slight improvement over his mark at the World Championships in Tokyo which earned him a silver medal



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