

Indians break desert jinx

SHARJAH. United Arab Emirates, Oct 18: India broke a desert jinx Friday to score a 60 run win over Pakistan in the Willis Trophy league match here, reports AFP.

Having been restricted to 238 for four in 50 overs, India fought back gallantly to bowl out Pakistan for 178 by the 45th over.

The exciting win gave the large Indian expatriate population here something to cheer after having seen their team lose the last eight encounters against Pakistan at the Sharjah ground.

India's last win over Pakistan at this desert venue came way back in March 1985 when they bumbled out the rivals for 87 after being dismissed for 125 in a sensational match.

Electing to bat first after winning the toss, India appeared to have thrown away the advantage when they were

restricted to 184 for three after 45 overs.

India, however, struck 45 runs in the last 22 deliveries of the innings, 33 of them coming from the rampaging blade



SANJAY MANJREKAR - the man of the match.

of 18-year-old batting sensation Sachin Tendulkar, to relieve the situation.

Tendulkar hit five boundaries in a breezy 52 off 40 balls while the other major Indian contribution came from man of the match Sanjay Manjrekar who made a polished 72.

Pakistan appeared to be coasting to victory at 124 for two in the 32nd over before a dramatic collapse saw them lose their last eight wickets for 54 runs.

Medium pacer Manoj Prabhakar claimed four for 25 to seal Pakistan's defeat, their second successive one in the tournament after losing to the West Indies by one wicket Thursday.

India take on the West Indies on Saturday. The second leg of the round robin league will start Monday after a days rest.

Pakistan made a bad start when in-form opener Sajid Ali was caught behind off Prabhakar for five at the score of eight.

But Javed Miandad and Rameez settled down to post Pakistan's 50 in the 16th over.

The pair added 76 for the second wicket when a superb piece of fielding by Kapil Dev broke the stand.

Raja drove left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju to mid-off where Kapil swooped on the ball and broke the non-striker's wicket before Raja could complete a single.

Raja's 53 included four boundaries and came off 75 balls.

Soon after Pakistan reached 100 in the 28th over, Miandad completed his individual fifty, off 79 balls with the help of two boundaries.

Indian left arm spinner Ravi Shastri, who conceded 53 runs in nine overs, finally made amends with a wicket maiden in his tenth and final over.

He trapped Salim Malik leg before for 19 as the batsman tried to force the ball on the leg side and missed the line.

The fall of Malik's wicket made Pakistan 124 for three, still 115 behind the victory target.

It was soon 129 for five as Pakistan lost skipper Imran Khan and Javed Miandad off successive deliveries.

Imran, who made one, was bowled off the last ball of the 33rd over bowled by Prabhakar.

With the very first delivery of the next over, Miandad fell in similar fashion to Raju, who replaced Shastri, Miandad's watchful 61 came off 94 balls with the help of just two boundaries.

Raju then held a brilliant return catch diving to his left on the follow through to get rid of Ijaz Ahmed for four and reduce Pakistan to 139 for six in the 36th over.

Javegal Srinath bowled Wasim Akram for 14 in the 40th over to claim his first wicket in one-day international and make Pakistan 155 for seven. After that the Indian win was a mere formality.

Indian manager Ashok Mankad, a former test batsman said: "It was a great victory considering how much we have lost to Pakistan in the past, but it is too early for celebrations.

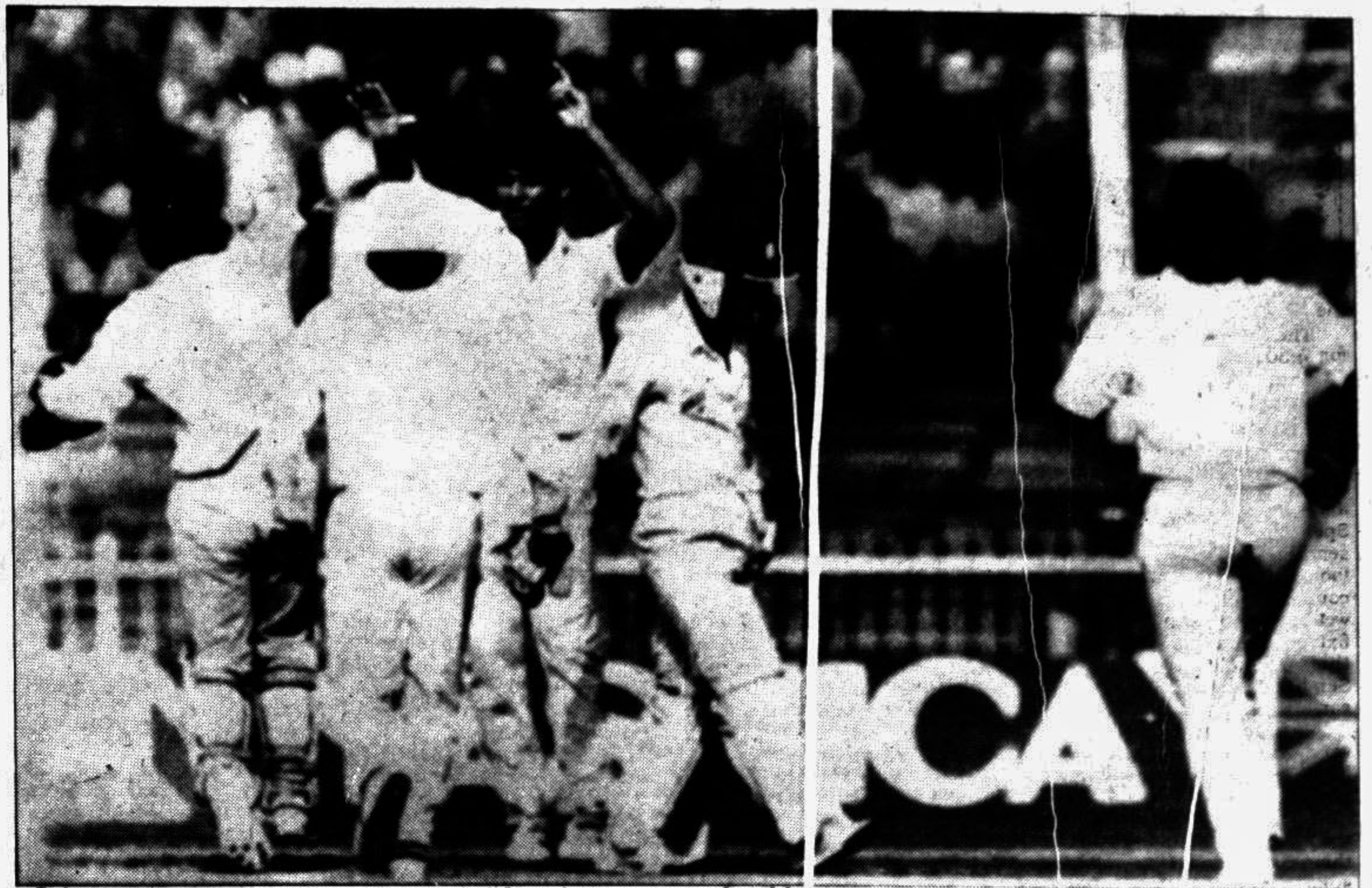
"We have to play Pakistan once more in this tournament and the West Indies twice before the final comes on October 25.

"A total of 238 was not really inadequate since the wicket was slowing and would make a run chase difficult in the afternoon. We had a 50-50 chance when Pakistan were 124 for two, but once Miandad and then Malik went, I was certain we were through.

Pakistan captain Imran Khan was not available for comment.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA				
Shastri run out				22
Imran b Akram				38
Manjrekar lbw b Waqar				72
Azharuddin b Waqar				32
Tendulkar not out				52
Kapil Dev not out				10
Extras (lb-4, w-3, nb-5)				12
Total (for four wickets, 50 overs)				238
Fall of wickets:	1-44;	2-93;	3-149;	4-193.
Did not bat:	Kiran More, Vinod Kamathi, Manoj Prabhakar, Venkatapathy Raju, Javegal Srinath.			
BOWLING				
Imran Khan	10	0	44	0
Waqar	10	0	66	2
Akram	10	0	42	1
A Raza	10	0	45	0
Anqib	10	3	38	0
PAKISTAN				
Rameez run out				35
Sajid Ali c More b Prabhakar				5
Miandad lbw b Raju				61
Malik lbw b Shastri				19
Imran b Prabhakar				1
Ijaz c and b Raju				4
Wasim Akram b Srinath				14
Moin Khan not out				17
Akram Raza c Azhar b Kapil				0
Waqar b Prabhakar				6
Aaqib Javed b Prabhakar				4
Extras (w-2, nb-10)				12
Total (all out-44.4 overs)				178
Fall of wickets:	1-8;	2-84;	3-124;	4-129;
	5-129;	6-139;	7-155;	8-156;
	9-166.			
BOWLING				
Prabhakar	7.4	1	25	4
Srinath	9	1	31	1
Kapil	8	0	30	1
Shastri	10	1	53	1
Raju	10	0	39	2



Pakistan's fast bowler Waqar Younis (3rd L) is being congratulated by team members while West India's vice-captain, Gus Logie (C) walks back to the pavilion. Younis took 4 wickets in the opening match of the triangular Willis Trophy, but then lost to West Indies by one wicket on Oct 17 in Sharjah. —AFP photo

Rodrigo joins Surya Tarun

Sports Reporter

collected their tokens. Gulshan Youth all-rounder Zaktuzzaman Shabbir joined Bangladesh Biman also on Friday.

The Gulshan Club signed Kazi Ziaur Rashid Rupom and Jahangir Hamid. Sohed (younger brother of footballer Kaiser Hamid) who played last year for Abahani KC.

Medium pace bowler Ziaul Islam Masood of Agrani Bank moved to GMCC.

A number of officials from Milnars First Division clubs were also active yesterday to

sign players for this season.

Dhaka Wanderers Club, who last year just managed to avoid relegation, signed up four players while another Milnars side title aspirants Wari Club also managed to collect three players.

One must be hoping that today being the last day of this year's transfers, will be an interesting one.

Zahed Razaq Masum and Athar Ali of Brothers Union, Azhar Hossain Shantoo and Shahidur Rahman of Dhaka Mohammedans will be the players to be watched today.

NZ, Malaysia win qualifiers

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Oct 18: New Zealand's men's team came out the better side in a rough Olympic

qualifying hockey match with Ireland here today, winning 2-1, reports AFP.

It was an at-times ill-tempered match, with five players banished from the field for short periods.

The Pool A match win gave New Zealand a good chance for one of the four berths up for grabs in the Barcelona Olympics next year, and eliminated Ireland from the semi-

final hunt. The Irish resorted to some vigorous physical tactics in an endeavour to put New Zealand off their game, but they only managed to raise the ire of the umpires and ultimately bring about their own downfall.

There were some heavy body clashes and heated verbal exchanges before the temporary second-half suspensions of Ireland's Robin Madeley and Neil Cooke, and the home side's Craig Russ and Jamie Smith.

New Zealand, having scored first from a penalty corner in the 14th minute, secured victory when veteran midfielder

Peter Miskimmin slotted home a penalty stroke with seven minutes still on the clock.

Ireland's goal also came via a penalty stroke late in the first half when one of their players, Jimmy Kirkwood, was serving a temporary suspension.

New Zealand coach Kevin Towns was expecting a hard encounter. "But I wasn't expecting it to be quite as physical as that," he said.

"I can accept hard play but I thought that went beyond it, it was really disappointing to see it degenerate like it did."

Cram's Olympic hopes bloom

SYDNEY, Oct 18: Britain's mile world record holder Steve Cram won the first street mile race in

Sydney today and said his recent freedom from injury had encouraged him ahead of next year's Barcelona Olympics, reports Reuters.

Cram, 31, collected prizes worth 45,000 dollars (35,600 US) including a car after crossing the line first in three minutes 57 seconds in front of thousands of spectators.

He finished two seconds in front of Simon Dyle who just shaded fellow-Australian Darren Abbott in the race

through the city's central business district.

Mary Decker-Slaney, 33, of the United States won the women's mile in four minutes 24.4 seconds from Australians Angela Raines-white and Elizabeth Miller.

Cram set the mile world record of three minutes 46.32 seconds in Oslo in 1985 but has been below peak form for several seasons due to injury.

He told journalists after the race the past four weeks had been the first injury-free period for him since April. "It's given me a lot of encouragement for next year."

Cram said he would have several weeks off before

preparing for next season when he hopes to win selection for the Olympic games.

"The one thing I want to do is try and avoid injury this time around," he said. "I have had a lot of frustrations over the last two and three years."

"Hopefully things will go well, I will get off to a good start early in the season, get selected and off to Barcelona."

He said Algerian Noureddine Morceli was now the best 1,500 metres runner in the world but was not unbeatable.

"I get a winter without any problems, I certainly would consider myself a medal shot in Barcelona," Cram said.

A Jahangir-Martin semifinal

NEW YORK, Oct 18: The race for the US Open squash title was thrown open on Thursday by the

surprise defeat in the quarter finals of third seed Chris Dittmar of Australia and the patchy form of the favourite, Pakistani Jahangir Khan, and world champion Rodney Martin of Australia, reports Reuters.

While Rodney Martin had to fight back from a deficit of 1-2 in games to beat unseeded Englishman Jason Nicole, his elder brother Brett brought down Dittmar, who has seldom failed to reach the semifinal stage.

The defeat of Dittmar was not the only result to contradict the seedings.

England's 20-year-old Peter Marshall, using his unorthodox

two-handed grip, beat the former world champion from New Zealand, Ross Norman, in straight games.

Rodney Martin, coming back from a long break in tournament play, was prone to error and would not have escaped defeat, had Nicole not tired.

His brother Brett played superbly to beat Dittmar, who was by no means off form. The match between Norman and Marshall was a contest only in the first game, which could have gone either way, but the pace at which it was played wrecked the 32-year-old New Zealander.

The semifinal pairings are Jahangir Khan versus Rodney Martin, now fierce rivals, while Brett Martin plays Marshall. Jahangir Khan surrendered the first game to unseeded Canadian Gry Waite, and felt

the need to turn on full steam to subdue him.

An earlier report said: Peter Marshall, a 20-year-old from England, beat sixth-seeded former world champion Ross Norman of New Zealand 15-13, 15-8, 15-9, one day after he scored a straight-games victory over second-seeded Chris Robertson, a member of Australia's world title-winning team.

Once again, Marshall showed that, provided he gets to the ball fast and early and avoids being formed into the defence, his two-fisted shots on both sides could be an advantage.

Their pace and disguise had Norman, still one of the steadier ralers in the game, struggling to contain the younger player's disciplined attack and, after the first game, Marshall was in charge.

Asian meet begins in KL today

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 18: Asia's biggest athletics event gets underway Saturday with 750 competitors from 28 countries taking part in the five-day Asian Track and Field (ATF) Championships at Merdeka Stadium here, report AFP.

Early favourites and defending champions China have entered 33 competitors, while India, who finished second behind the Chinese in the last Championships which they hosted in New Delhi, have a contingent of 26.

China garnered 22 gold medals, 15 silvers and six bronzes in New Delhi while India racked up seven gold, nine silver and six bronze.

Japan, who finished third in New Delhi with three gold, five silver and five bronze, are fielding 43 competitors.

China are without doubt the glamour team boasting two world champions, both women.

Javelin thrower UX Demel and shot putter Huang Zhihong, who collected told medals in the World Championships in Tokyo, expect little opposition to their top positions in this meet.

China have also brought along several of their Beijing Asian Games champions and they too are expected to face little opposition in their quest for gold.

Among them are Zhong Huan in the 3,000 and 10,000 meter events, and 100-meter champion Tian Yumei in the women's section.

Leading the challenge in the men's section are long jumper Chen Junrong, triple

jumper Chen Yan Ping and shot putter Cheng Shaobo.

But China's chief-de-mission Li Pengzhi, was quick to point out that dominating the biennial championships once again would mean nothing for his country.

"We know we are strong and winning gold medals is not our only aim here. We will go all out to clock new times, throw new distances and jump higher heights that are of world standards," he said.

He added that China was aiming to have even more world champions.

Asked if China expected to face any challenges in Kuala Lumpur, the modest chief-de-mission replied: "We do not underestimate any of the competitors. Our athletes will go all out to give their best."

India, now in the doldrums in Asian athletics, unlike the days of P.T Usha who won five gold medals in the 1985 Championships in Jakarta, hope to see some revival of

their previous glory.

In the last Asian Games in Beijing they failed to collect any gold medals in athletics.

Indian team manager A. Selvanaya gam said only the best have been selected for the Asian Championships, as the contingent has been reduced to 26 from the original 70 competitors.

"We have a blend of gold and new athletes and we are confident of doing better than in the last Championships," he said.

Japan, who won the first four Championships, from the inaugural event in 1973 in the Philippines right up to the 1981 meet which they hosted, have no "dreams of upsetting the Chinese," said their official Keiji Ogushi. (There was no Champions hips in 1977.)

He disclosed that a number of top Japanese athletes are not in Kuala Lumpur as they have chosen to take part in some domestic champi-

onships. Amongst the other athletes expected to be in the limelight here is Asia's fastest man, Qatar's Tala Mansoor, who had the rare distinction of winning the sprint in two Asian Games — 1986 and 1990.

Among his challengers is Sri Lanka's Sriyantha Dassayana, who clocked an impressive 10.30 seconds in the recent World Championships.

The women's 100 meters will see a close contest between Taiwan's Wang Hsuei-Chen, Thailand's Ratjai Sripen and Asian Games winner Tian Yumei of China.

Pakistan's 400 meter hurdler Ghulam Abbas is strongly fancied to win the event which won his country a gold medal in the Beijing Asian Games.

Japan's Masami Yoshida is a strong favourite in the javelin event, while South Korea's Kim Bong-Yo appears set to win the 800 meters run.

Bob Hasan new chief of AAAA

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 18: Active Indonesian sports figure Bob Hasan was elected the new president of the Asian Amateur Athletic Association (AAAA) at the organisation's ninth congress held here Friday, reports AFP.

Hasan, in a straight fight with Singapore's Loh Lin Kok, polled 21 votes to become the new president of the AAAA, Loh polled 10 votes.

Hasan, besides heading the Indonesian athletics organisations, is also a keen golfer and plays a big part in grooming young golfers in his

country.

A third contestant for the post, Park Jung Ki of South Korea, withdrew just before the congress began its session.

The outgoing president of the AAAA Seiko Yasuda, who served the organisation for more than 12 years, did not stand for re-election.

Maurice Nicholas of Singapore was returned unopposed as the secretary-treasurer.

The new committee will serve for four years.

The following is the new committee:

President: Bob Hasan (Indonesia).

Senior vice presidents: Park

Jung, Ki (South Korea), Eisa Abdullah Al-Dashti (Kuwait), and Abdul Kareem Abdul Beda Mo hamad (Kuwait).

Vice presidents: Shaikh Al-Jud Aziz Attayattullah Al-Khalifa (Bahrain), Lou Dapeng (China), Umrao Singh (India), Hideyuki Sasaki (Japan) and Charouk Arirachakaran (Thailand).

Secretary-Treasurer: Maurice Nicholas (Singapore)

Council members: M Jegathesan (Malaysia), Kim Chun Gi (North Korea), Ching Kwok Ng (Philippines), Saad Ahmad Limloom Al-Mesafiri (Qatar), Don Victor (Sri Lanka) and Moufak Jouma (Syria).

Rival S African bodies pledge to end rows

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 18: Squabbling South African athletics officials said on Wednesday they are optimistic they will have settled their differences by the end of the year, in time to send a team to the Barcelona Olympics, reports Reuters.

Joe Stutzen and Banele Sindance, head of two rival athletics groupings, said they were confident of unifying their organisations and establishing a non-racial code for the sport.

"I am confident unity in athletics will be achieved before the end of this year," Stutzen said.

"I am positive we can achieve this," said Sindance. The two men were commenting on a statement by

Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), who said this week that South Africans would be welcome to IAAF-sponsored events if unity were achieved.

Nebiolo made a vain bid to get a Springbok team to the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo last August but political differences between rival race-based organisations scuppered his efforts.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has invited South Africa to take part in the Barcelona Games and the country's Olympic chief Sam Ramsamy said on Wednesday a decision would be made early next month.

Ramsamy, in Sydney for the congress of the General Association of International Sports Federations, said fa-

cially-divided sports bodies could be barred from taking part even if the Republic participated.

Asked if sports associations might be admitted on an individual basis, Ramsamy said: "There's a little validity in that and that is what the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCSA) is looking into."

The IOC voted in July to readmit South Africa unconditionally after more than 20 years in the sporting wilderness.

But NOCSA has moved slowly in bringing South Africa back into the international arena in the wake of this year's repeal of the main apartheid laws.

"We are going at a steady pace because of the sensitive issue of race relations... we need to carry all the people with us, the majority are the

disadvantaged sector," Ramsamy said.

"I believe that by next year we will get all, if not, most of sports in the right place."

Williams worried about his rival

WILLIAMSON, W. Va., Oct 18: Charles Williams, who calls himself Prince Charles, said he's more worried about his next opponent than becoming king of the ring, reports AP.

Williams already has ascended partway toward light heavyweight dominance, winning the International Boxing Federation title in 1987 from Bobby Czyz and defending seven times.

The World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council, however, recognise different champions.

Plea to save Commonwealth Games

HARARE, Oct 18: Commonwealth leaders on Thursday were urged to provide cash support to save the Commonwealth Games as a cornerstone of the 50-member grouping, reports Reuters.

"The Commonwealth Games are rapidly approaching a critical juncture," Major-General Henry Adefope of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), told reporters.

Without financial backing, he said the future of the Games — threatened by the emergence of regional games and world championships — was in question.

Declaring the era of boycotts South Africa was at an end, Adefope said the Games and sport in general could become the grassroots foundation of the Commonwealth.

"We believe sport has the

potential to be one of the most significant under-spinnings of the Commonwealth of the next century," he said.

Adefope, from Nigeria, was presenting a report on strengthening sport in Commonwealth countries — which represent nearly a third of the world's population.

The report is due to be debated in Harare next Monday during the present summit of Commonwealth leaders. It will be the first time they have discussed sport in detail at such a high level.

"We expect this conference to be a turning point for sport in the Commonwealth. It will be the first time heads of government sit down to discuss sports in detail," he said.

The report urges that the Games be hosted more widely throughout the Commonwealth, but made no