

Asir Dhaka's hero

Sports Reporter



Dhaka District Sports Association (DDSA) are the new national hockey champions.

In the final of the fourth nationals, held yesterday at the Hockey Stadium, Dhaka DSA defeated pre-tournament favourites Bangladesh Army 3-2 in the tie-breakers after the regulation 70 minutes and another 30 minutes of extra time failed to settle the issue.

Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdus Salam Talukdar had to give away the trophies in semi-darkness after the match ran well past 6:30 in the evening. Fittingly, it was he of the day — Dhaka Captain Rahmat Ali Asir — who received the champions' trophy from the chief guest. For it was goal keeper Asir who virtually won the match single-handed for his team, stopping three of the penalty strokes taken by the soldiers despite the adverse light in which the tie-breakers were enforced.

fact, throughout the competition, which began Aug 10, none of the participating teams showed much expertise in converting penalty corners which has become such a key feature of the modern game.

However, Dhaka also has their good moments yesterday and their outside-right Sadeq time and again managed menacing runs through Army's defence, only to be thwarted each time. Barkatullah Chapal on the left flank and the veteran Maleq Chunnun in defence played superbly but the pick of the Dhaka players — who included several national stars — was half-back Tapan who toiled hard in the oppressively hot conditions.

The scorching sun and the stifling humidity could not have been conducive to healthy hockey and neither side could be blamed really for failing to rise to the occasion and present the sizeable crowd a good treat.

Bangladesh Air Force won the fair-play award while

Maleq Chunnun of Dhaka DSA, who gave up his usual role of an attacking forward for that of a defender — and gave such a brilliant account of himself at that — was rightly adjudged the best player of the 11-day meet, sponsored by Bashundhara, a private housing company. Havildar Jahangir received the highest scorer's award. The trophies were donated by Shah Sports, a local sports goods company.

The final was also witnessed by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka. Bangladesh Hockey Federation chief Alamgir Mohammad Adel was also present.

TEAMS

DHAKA DSA: Asir, Gader, Maleq Chunnun, Zafar, Jamal Haider, Abdullah Piru, Fazal (Mitul), Kismat (Bappi), Kanchan and Chapal.

ARMY: Osman, Ramiz (Babar), Swapan, Sanjit, Ali (Akram), Alif, Shaif, Kashem, Jahangir, Shaif and Amin.



Dhaka DSA skipper Rahmat Ali Asir receiving the champions trophy from chief guest LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar after beating Bangladesh Army 3-2 in the tie-breaker in yesterday's final of the Bashundhara 14th national championship at the Hockey Stadium. —Star photo

Anand beats Karpov

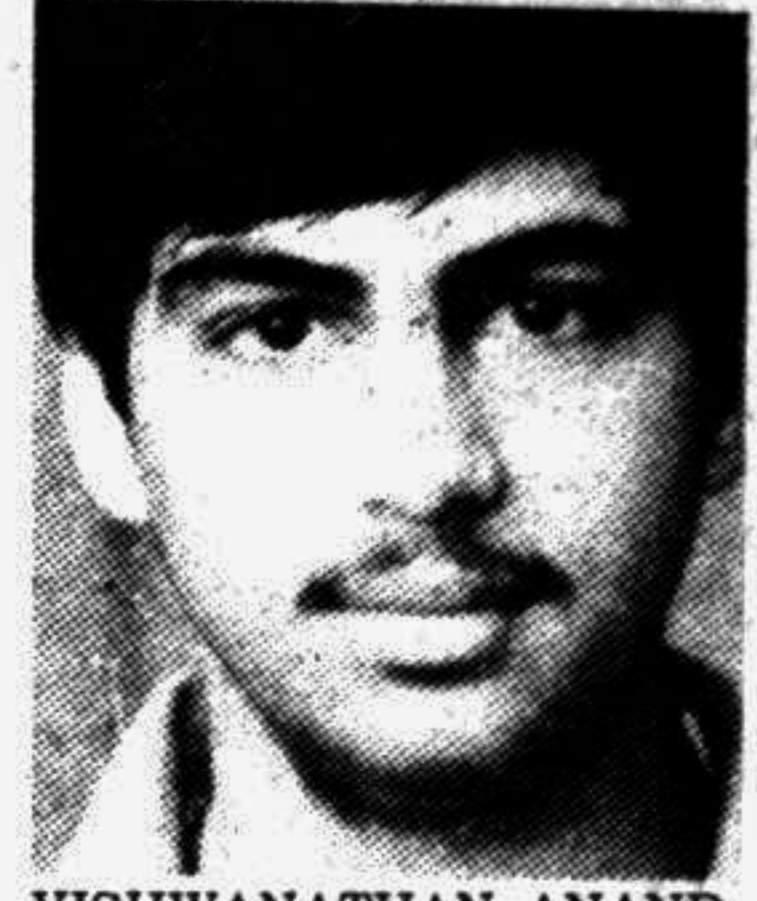
BRUSSELS, Aug 20: Indian Viswanathan Anand defeated former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union in their adjourned sixth game on Monday to draw level in their best-of-eight world chess championship quarter-final, reports Reuter.

But earlier Anand squandered a chance to defeat Karpov in the adjourned fifth game, allowing him to escape with a draw.

Monday's action levelled their series at three points each. The first player to score 4 1/2 points goes to the semi-finals.

The adjourned sixth game was all over quickly. Anand played what turned out to be a forced winning line against Karpov and after six moves Karpov resigned on his 71st.

In the fifth game Anand played 10 moves that had apparently been prepared, according to English grandmaster John Nunn. On his next move, the 74th, Anand deviated and let Karpov back into the game.



VISHWANATHAN ANAND

Both players promoted pawns, and although Anand was a knight to a pawn up, the position was eventually drawn after 94 moves.

Adjourned result game five:
V Anand (India) 1/2
A Karpov (Soviet Union) 1/2

Adjourned result game six:
A Karpov (Soviet Union) 0
V Anand (India) 1

Accumulate points (first player to exceed four points goes into semi-finals):
V Anand 3 A Karpov 3
N Short 3 1/2 B Gelfand 2 1/2
V Ivanchuk 3 1/2 A Yusupov 2 1/2

SA's World Cup hopes brighten

SYDNEY, Aug 20: The organisers of next year's cricket World Cup have boosted South Africa's chances of playing in the one-day competition by extending the deadline for entry, until September 30, they said today, reports Reuter.

Australia and New Zealand, co-hosts of the month-long tournament, agreed in talks with International Cricket Council (ICC) Secretary John Stephenson at the weekend that the South Africans should be given every chance to compete.

The United Cricket Board of South Africa now must formally apply to the ICC for a decision by the competing countries, according to World Cup committee joint Chairman Malcolm Gray.

"We support South Africa's inclusion but it's not up to us to make the decision," Gray told Reuters. "This will allow maximum time for consultation by the various boards."

South Africa was readmitted to world cricket at last month's meeting of the ICC in London after a 21-year absence from the international arena.

The World Cup organisers had said earlier this month that South Africa would be welcome to play, but a decision was needed in two or three weeks.

The extension will allow the West Indian Cricket Board of Control to consider South Africa's inclusion when it next meets on September 20.

The South Africans have said there must be goodwill from all the eight competing countries if they are to take part in the Cup, to be held from February 22 to March 25.

If the South Africans play, the number of matches would increase from 31 to 39, with 25 in Australia and 14 in New Zealand.

The World Cup committee also announced that television rights in Britain had been sold to BSKYB which will provide live coverage for a minimum of 20 matches.

completed victory by an innings and 12 runs to collect a maximum 24 points.

Northamptonshire began the final day of the three-day game on 202 for nine in their second innings, still requiring 29 runs to make Essex bat again.

Left-arm spinner John Childs, who took six for 61 in the first innings, grabbed the last wicket to finish with match figures of eight for 138.

Warwickshire, who have four games remaining, were not playing on Monday but entertain mid-table Glamorgan in a three-day game starting today, while Essex are at home to lowly Yorkshire.

Indian Test captain Mohammad Azharuddin, who scored an unbeaten 160 in the first innings, lifted Derbyshire's championship hopes with 67 off 52 balls in the second innings to lead them to a five-wicket victory over Lancashire.

Set 291 in a minimum of 67 overs, Derbyshire reached their target with two overs to spare and moved into third place, 44 points behind Warwickshire with two games in hand.

Former England opener Chris Broad was the only batsman currently playing first-class cricket to hit centuries against all 17 countries when he cracked 131 for Nottinghamshire against Somerset.

But his effort was in vain as Nottinghamshire's bid to maintain their championship challenge faltered just five runs short of victory.

Essex closing in on Warwickshire

LONDON, Aug 20: Essex increased the pressure on English county cricket championship leaders Warwickshire with victory over Northamptonshire on Monday to narrow the gap between them to 13 points, reports Reuter.

Second-placed Essex, who have a game in hand over the leaders, comfortably

Second-placed Essex, who have a game in hand over the leaders, comfortably

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Winners	Runners-up
1974	Comilla DSA	B Police
1975	Dhaka DSA	Faridpur
1976	Faridpur DSA	Dhaka DSA
1977	Dhaka DSA	Faridpur DSA
1978	Dhaka DSA	Comilla DSA
1979	B Army	B Railway
1980	Abandoned	
1981	B Army	Jessore DSA
1982	B Army	DAMSA
1983	B Army	Dhaka DSA
1984	B Army	Dhaka DSA
1985	B Army	
1986	B Army	
1987	Not held	D U
1988	B Army	
1989	Not held	D U
1990	BKSP	B Army
1991	Dhaka DSA	

The old man with a youngster's speed

TOKYO, Aug 20: A decade ago their bitter rivalry approached a level of hostility matched since by only Ben Johnson and Carl Lewis, reports Reuter.

Race after race Ronaldo Nehemiah beat, and often humiliated, Greg Foster in the high hurdles.

Now the roles are reversed as the two American teammates go for the gold in the

World Athletics Championships starting on Saturday.

Foster has left Nehemiah trailing in his wake since the former world record holder returned to the track in 1986 after four lucrative years playing American football for San Francisco 49 years.

"It's like going back 10 years — as far as US running well," Foster said in a recent telephone interview.

But there is no bitterness in Foster's voice as he discusses

and enduring rivalry.

"It's good for the sport," he said. "We're not totally dominating, as back then, but it's still a good situation with us coming in 1-2 or 2-3 most of the time."

"I enjoy it, and I'm sure he does."

The situation was very different in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Foster, now 33, triumphed only five times in 43 meetings while Nehemiah, one year his junior, shattered the world record three times, finally clocking 12.93 second in a 1981 race at Zurich in which Foster finished second in his best time of 13.03.

Then Nehemiah went to American football.

Foster became number one and in the past nine years either he or compatriot Roger Kingdom, twice Olympic champion and current world record-holder at 12.92, has held the top spot.

Kingdom has been world number one five times, including the past three seasons, while Foster has been top four times.

Now with Kingdom sidelined by injury and absent from the World Championships it may be Foster's turn again.

"It's the best season I've ever had," Foster, the current world indoor champion, said.

"I've never been this consistent outdoors. I've had five races under 13.2, one under 13.1 and one right at 13.1, and I've never done that before."

Only Tony Dees, who did not qualify for the American team, has run faster this season, clocking 13.05 to Foster's 13.06.

Three others are under 13.20 — Britons Colin Jackson (13.13) and Tony Jarrett (13.19) and Nehemiah (13.19).

Welsman Jackson grabbed the 1988 Olympic silver medal behind Kingdom, but in the absence of Foster who broke his left arm three weeks before the U S Olympic trials and failed in a valiant bid to make the team.

"I've been hearing things about Jarrett," Foster said. "But the race I ran against him, he ran 13.70 something. It's hard for me to worry about guys who are inconsistent."

The most consistent hurdler at Tokyo apart from himself, Foster said, world be Nehemiah.

The 1979 World Cup champion has regained his old form, ranking fourth among world hurdlers in 1989 and sixth last year.

"Twelve years later I shouldn't be here," Nehemiah said after finishing third in the

U S Championships to qualify for the world team.

"The other runners have allowed me to come back. If they're not careful I'll come back and beat all of them."

The worlds did not alarm Foster, who wrapped an arm around Nehemiah after their race.

"I was young then," Foster said of his 1970s clashes with Nehemiah.

"And when you have somebody running as fast as you, or faster, you always thought you

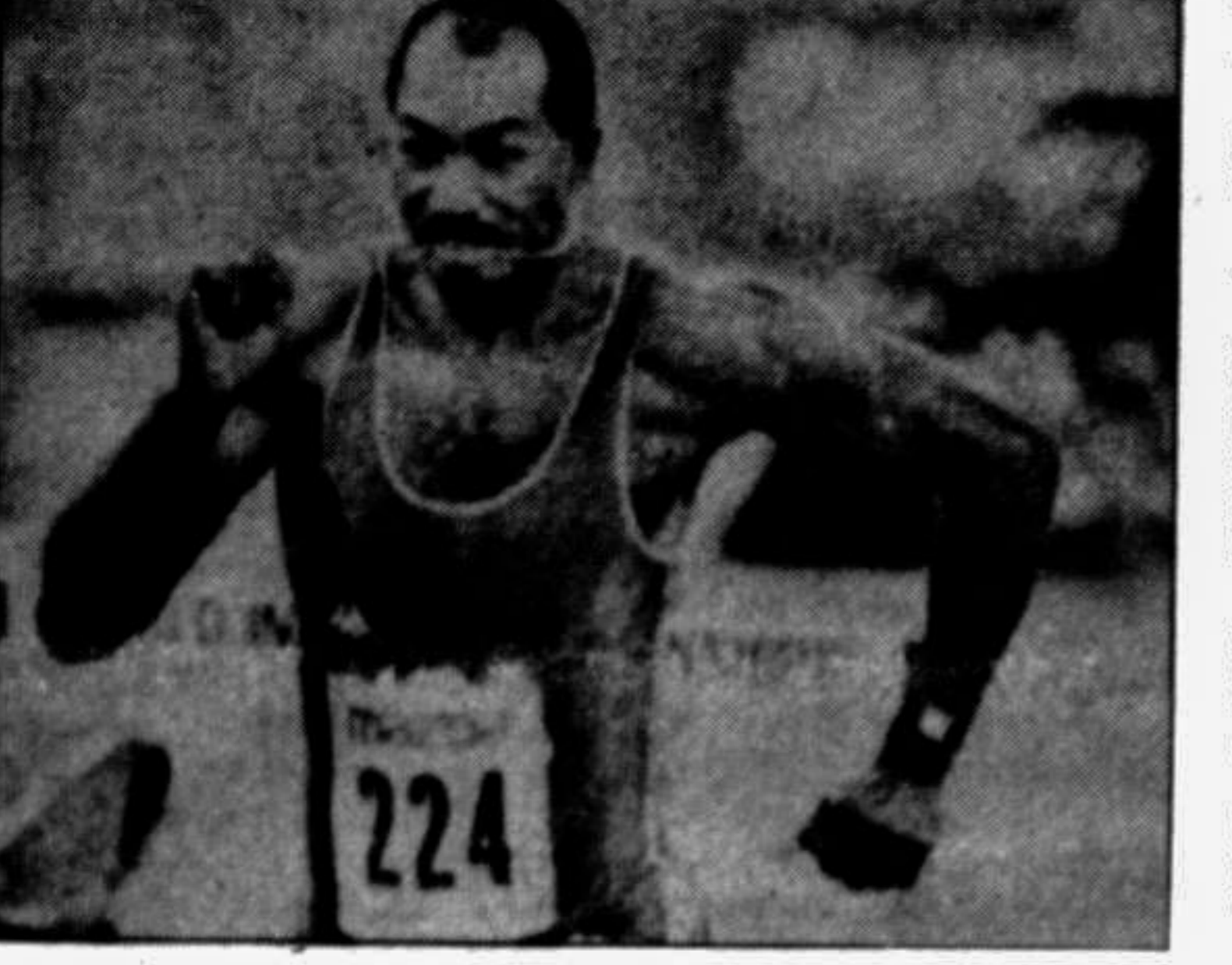
had to worry about them, or see where they were in the race in order to win."

"In other words I wasn't sure of my capabilities back then."

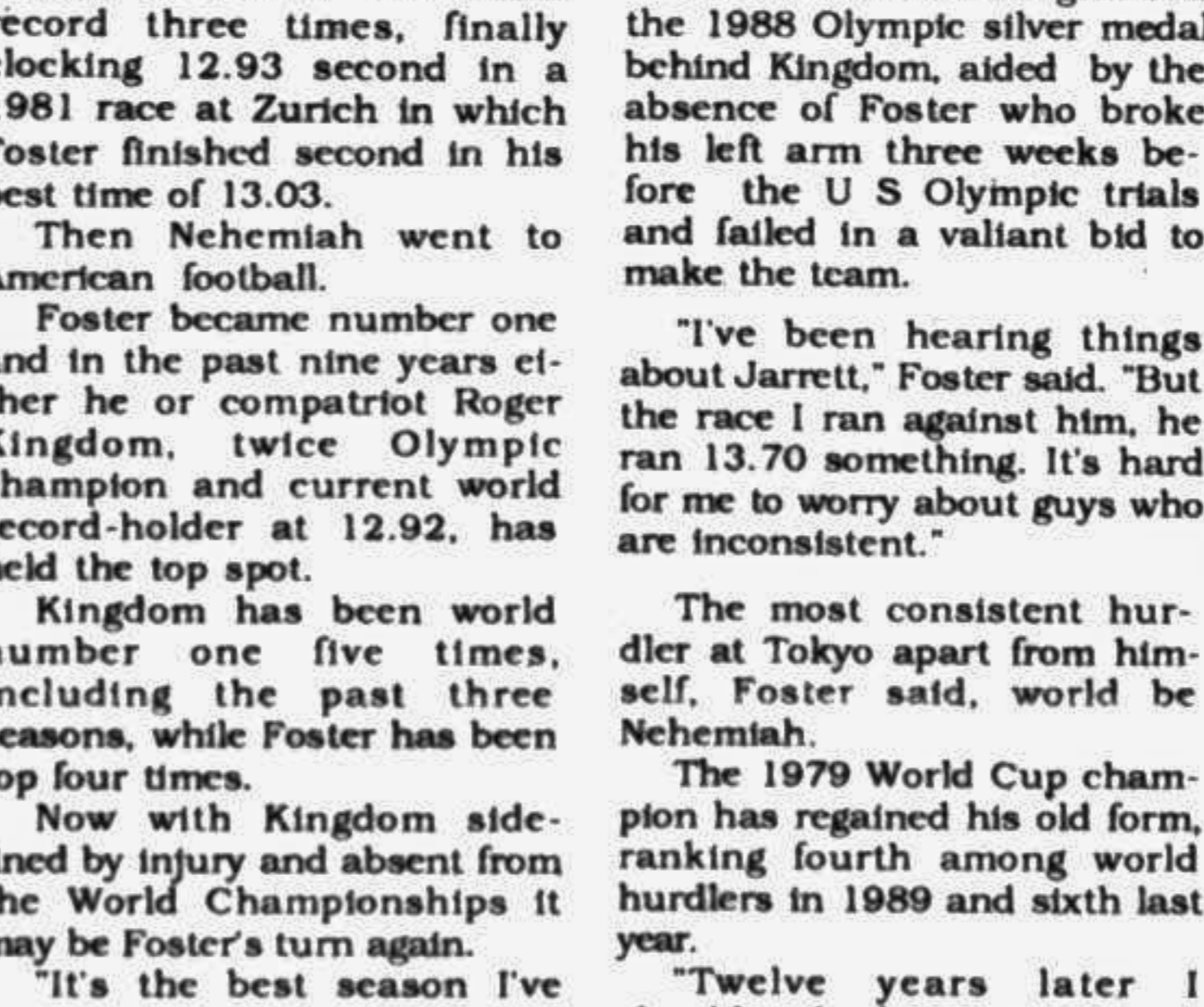
And now?

"Very sure," said the old man with a youngster's speed.

"I know what I can do. And to win a third World Championship would mean that someone would have to take years to duplicate what I have already done."



GREG FOSTER



RONALDO NEHEMIAH

Germans: United they fall?

TOKYO, Aug 20: German membership of the world athletics super-powers club may well lapse next week in an ironic sequel to last year's reunification, reports Reuter.

Nebiolio, IAAF chair since 1981, stood unopposed after being nominated by 62 federations.

Manfred Steinbach said recently: "The doping problem has played a role. But many of the athletes have also been forced to deal with major changes in their training environment, too."

Athletes from the former eastern state have been hit by a large-scale loss of jobs among their coaches and by a failure to adapt to a less rigid training programme.

Former European javelin champion Klaus Tafelmick a Western German, said: "The former GDR athletes are not very self-reliant. They have to be led by the hand."

The atmosphere between the two groups in the German training camp in Seoul as they prepare for the World Championships is not ideal, he added.

"I have problem with them," Tafelmick said. "Before they wouldn't even look at us through their backsides."

There were rumblings of favouritism too when former East German sprint queen Katrin Krabbe was allowed to fly to Seoul later than the rest of the squad.

Chief trainer Bernd Schubert saw a lack of incentive as an important factor. "Before they were motivated by training camps overseas, the opportunity to travel everywhere and job security through sport but now that doesn't count anymore."

In the inaugural World Championships in Helsinki in 1983 East Germans captured 10 titles and the two Germans waded off with 30 medals in all, 12 of them gold.

Germany's best chances are in the women's events where Heike Henkel, who recently broke Ulrike Meyfarth's national high jump record with a 2.04-metre leap, is tipped for gold.

Long jumper Heike Drechsler, 800 metres runner Sigrun Wodars Grau and discus thrower Like Wyluda have title hopes.

When the championships close on September 1 Germany may just have to reconcile itself to being an athletics also-ran.

Four years later in Rome East Germany alone took a staggering 31 medals, 10 of them gold.

This time around the united Germans would be perfectly happy with three or four titles even if that would inevitably leave them trailing well behind the Americans and the Soviet Union.

It would also quite likely leave them in the wake of the Kenyans who have serious hopes of sweeping the men's middle-distance events.

Bangladesh team off to Tokyo

A three-member Bangladesh athletic team led by the federation's general secretary Abdul Wadud Khan left here today for Tokyo to participate in the third World Athletic Championships, reports BSS.

The nine-day competition begins in the Japanese capital on August 24.

The other two members of the team are: Sprinters Golam Ambia and Proza Khatun. The Bangladesh athletes will compete in the men's and women's 100m and 200m sprints.

Lewis' secret weapon

TOKYO, Aug 20: Six times world champion Carl Lewis today unveiled a secret weapon upon he hopes will bring him more gold and glory at the World Athletics Championships starting on Saturday — the ultralight shoe, reports Reuter.

The American held a news conference to praise the virtues of the new shoe, made by a Japanese company, with a moulded plastic sole and plastic pins instead of the usual ceramic spikes.

"You feel like you're running barefoot yet you have an incredible grip because they're so light," he said. "It's so flexible. It just moulds with your foot. I feel it will definitely enhance performance."

Makers said the shoes, weighing in at just 115 grammes each, were 55 grammes less heavy than the ones Lewis wore at the Seoul olympics in 1988 where he won two gold medals.

Lewis said he had used the shoes only once in competition, in June in the United States. But that he had been practising regularly with them and would be using them in Tokyo.

"I can't say I'll run 9.7 (seconds in the 100 metres) because I'm wearing them," Lewis said. "But it does help because it makes me feel more comfortable."

Lewis won gold at the two previous World Championships in 1983 and 1987 in the 100 metres long jump and 4x100 metres relay.

He is aiming for a repeat in

all three events in Tokyo but faces strong competition, especially in the 100 metres, from fellow-American Leroy Burrell, the world record holder.

Lewis, 30, refused to make predictions but said he was looking forward to a great championships. "I'm ready, willing and able, mentally and physically, to run at my best," he said. "In better shape than ever before."

Metropolis bridge from tomorrow

The metropolis bridge league, organised by the Dhaka Metropolis Bridge Association, will start at the Bangladesh Bank Club premises at 5 pm on Thursday (August 22), states a press release.

In all sixteen teams in four groups will participate in the preliminary league, while the two tier super league will be participated by eight teams.

The league matches will be played on Thursday, Fridays and closed holidays only. But on August-23 (Friday) weekly pair duplicate bridge context will be held at 3.30 pm at the same venue.

DPRK, China win

TOKYO, Aug 20: North Korea beat the Maldives 4-0 and China blanked Singapore 3-0 in the third day matches of the Group E Olympic football preliminaries Monday in Pyongyang, the Korean Central News Agency said today, reports AFP.

China, Singapore, The Maldives, Nepal and North Korea are competing in group 'E'.

Div Two cricket qualifiers

Sports Reporter

Evergreen C C and Anushlon Sangsad won their respective matches to move into the group semifinals of the qualifiers for the Second Division cricket league yesterday at different city venues.

Evergreen thrashed Rampura Jubo Sangha by 76 runs at the City Club ground at Mirpur.

Evergreen scored 149 losing seven wickets in their allotted 25 overs.

In reply, Rampura J S were bundled out for a paltry 73-run in 19.3 overs.

In another match held at the Mahakhal T and T ground, Askona Adarso Sangha conceded a four-wicket defeat by Anushlon Sangsad.

Timely boost for Sri Lankans

HOVE, England, Aug 20: Sri Lanka finished 20 runs short of morale-boosting win over Sussex at Hove on Monday four days before their Lord's Test against England, reports Reuter.

The loss of three wickets in the space of five runs, including that of first innings century maker Sanath Jayasuriya, caused the visitors to call off the chase for victory after they had been set 275 to win in 54 overs.

After seamer John North claimed four wickets in 18 deliveries to leave Sri Lanka on 109 for four, Hashan Tillekaratene, who made 80 not out in 85 balls, and Rodhan Mahanama (65) added 119 runs in 20 overs with superb shots.

But then paceman Adrian Jones dismissed Mahanama and with three more wickets falling in quick succession soon afterwards, Sri Lanka gave up the chase.

But the result heartened captain Aravinda de Silva, who was not playing because of a strained shoulder.



Action from yesterday's national hockey final between Army and Dhaka DSA at the Hockey Stadium. —Star photo