

Lewis eyes a hattrick of hattricks

TOKYO, Aug 21: Carl Lewis has won enough gold in his career to fill a reasonably sized bank vault.

But his appetite for success is as insatiable as ever, reports Reuter.

The 30-year-old American arrived in Tokyo for the World Athletics Championships with a unique collection of 12 Olympic and world gold medals to his name and a burning ambition to do even better.

What else could possibly satisfy the athlete who has won just about everything? The answer, according to the king of the track, is a world record or two.

"I feel I'm faster than I've ever been," he said on Tuesday. "I still have the ability to improve. The next barrier is to beat 9.90 seconds (in the 100 metres) and get over 29 feet (8.84 metres) in the long jump."

Lewis lost his 100 metres world record in June to Santa Monica Track Club teammate Leroy Burrell, who clocked 9.90 seconds at the US national championships in New York, beating his close friend into second place. Lewis would clearly like that record back.

An 8.84-metre leap would also put him tantalisingly close to his long-term objective of beating fellow-American Bob Beamon's 23-year-old world record of 8.90 metres.

Lewis's own personal best of 8.79 metres was set as long ago as 1983 but he is unbeaten in the event in more than a decade, has more than 50 jumps of 8.50 metres or better under his belt and may just be capable of finally upstaging Beamon's leap into the 21st century.

Not that Lewis has given up interest in claiming titles.

When the Championships start on Saturday he will be aiming for an incredible triple hattrick, having won the 100 metres, long jump and 4x100 metres relay at each of the two previous Championships in 1983 and 1987.

It would be an amazing feat to pull off but Lewis is oozing with confidence as he prepares for the task ahead.

"I'm looking forward to a



CARL LEWIS

great championships," he said. "I'm ready, willing and able, mentally and physically, to run at my best. I'm in better shape

than ever before in my life." Lewis refuses to make predictions or discuss individual events or rivals but there is no secret that his fleet-footed friend Burrell is his biggest obstacle.

The 24-year-old has been the fastest man in the world for the past three seasons and has beaten Lewis on each of their three confrontations over 100 metres this year.

But Lewis believes he can recapture lost ground by running in a newly developed ultralight shoe with a moulded plastic sole and he is not alone in rating his chances.

His manager Joe Douglas is positively upbeat. "He's in in-

credibly good shape, I can tell you that," an impressed Douglas told Reuters.

"He's trained hard and he's genuinely committed to every event. He wants to win them all — may be there's some disadvantage in being an all-rounder but there's no other way to do it."

However, if Lewis should lose to Burrell in Sunday's 100 metres final, his world is unlikely to be shattered. Lewis genuinely rejoices in the successes of Santa Monica colleagues and was by no means distressed when another member of the club, Joe DeLoach, beat him in the Olympic 200 metres final in Seoul.

"I've had two great moments this season," Lewis said. "The first was when five Santa Monica athletes reached the 100 metres final at the US championships. The second

was when we raced a relay world record at Monte Carlo."

The remark is telling because Lewis is plainly prouder of the Santa Monica team equalling the French 4x100 metres record of 37.79 seconds than of a national US quartet going on to beat the record four days later in Zurich with a time of 37.67.

Lewis ran the anchor leg in both but the big difference in his eyes was that Dennis Mitchell, who will be in the relay team in Tokyo, was preferred in Zurich to Santa Monica Floyd Heard. Mike Marsh and Burrell made up the squad in each race.

With a little help from his friends, Lewis could threaten that record again on the final day of the Championships on September 1, adding yet more lustre to that vast and growing collection of gold.

Soviets arrive

TOKYO, Aug 21: The first batch of Soviet athletes, including three world record holders, flew in here from

Moscow Wednesday to compete in the World Athletic Championships, despite Soviet unrest following President Mikhail Gorbachev's ouster on Monday, reports AFP.

"We had no problem in leaving the country," pole-vault record holder Sergey Bubka told reporters after arrival aboard a scheduled Soviet Aeroflot flight at Narita Airport.

He was with three other athletes — women's and men's hammer-throw record holders Natalya Lisovskaya and Yuri Sedikh and 110 meter hurdler Igor Kazanov — and two coaches.

Bubka, 27, aiming for a third straight world title, brushed aside a question whether he would like to live abroad permanently as often suggested in press reports.

"I don't think about it. I am a Soviet national," he said in Russian.

Questioned on his attitude to Gorbachev's reforms, known

as perestroika, he said, "I have supported it as a whole."

He was unsure about fast-changing developments in Moscow where Soviet troops clashed with protesters overnight.

There was no clash when we left. If there was one, it could possibly lead to a civil war," he said.

The remaining 99 Soviet athletes were scheduled to arrive Thursday in Nagoya, central Japan, on a chartered flight over two and a half hours from the Far East naval port of Vladivostok where they underwent training.

"Yes, I am satisfied," International Amateur Athletic Association Federation press officer Franco Fava said on the Soviets' arrival, but he declined further comment while the sport's governing body was deep in the second-day session of its biennial congress.

Powerful IAAF President Primo Nebiolo has said that if the athletes were stranded in Vladivostok he might seek "a special authorisation and charter a plane to go and get them."

"The situation is quite okay, at least as far as sport is concerned."



The Jessore DSA versus Bangladesh Army water polo match in the Daily National Championships in progress yesterday. Army won 21-1 and will meet Navy in today's final. —Star photo

Falcao gets the sack

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, Aug 21: Paulo Roberto Falcao was sacked as trainer of the Brazil soccer team on

Tuesday, following a disagreement with the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), reports Reuter.

Falcao was fired from his first coaching job a year after taking over because he refused to accept changes in the way the team was run, CBF director Jorge Salgado told a news conference.

"There was some resistance and because of the divergences we concluded we would have to opt for a new trainer," Salgado said.

Salgado would not say what the proposed changes were. Falcao was not immediately available for comment.

Brazilian reporters who cover the national team said Falcao was upset because the CBF did not renew the contracts of his physiotherapist and press spokesman.

Falcao, a former World Cup star, has been constantly under fire for his team's poor performances.

Brazil has won five and drawn seven of their 15 full



FALCAO

international matches under him, during which more than 50 different players have been

used.

He was especially criticised for Brazil's performances in the July South American championship, in which his team eventually finished second.

Salgado said the new coach would be chosen next week. Brazil's next match is a friendly against Wales in Cardiff on September 11.

Falcao is the latest to succumb to one of sport's toughest jobs. His predecessor Sebastiao Lazaroni was forced to lock himself in his flat for six days after Brazil was knocked out in the second round of last year's World Cup.

Tele Santana, another predecessor, had his flat stoned after Brazil was eliminated from the 1982 World Cup.

Zia smriti soccer
Sports Reporter

East End Club moved into semi-finals of Ziaur Rahman smriti football tournament defeating Rangdhani Narinda Club by 2-0 yesterday at Tejgaon School ground.

Eight teams are taking part in the tourney.

The first round matches of the meet will end on August 23. The date of semi-finals and final will be announced later.

US booters shock the Argentinians

MONTECATINI, Italy, Aug 21: The United States seeking to build a strong soccer base prior to hosting World Cup finals, have reached the World under-17 championship quarter-finals after a shock 1-0 victory over Argentina, reports Reuter.

The American Juniors, buoyant after defeating hosts Italy in the opening match on Friday, beat Argentina with a 23rd minute goal by Matthew McKeon on Tuesday night to secure a place in Sunday's quarter-finals.

The US whose Olympic team won the Pan America Games title for the first time earlier this month, have four points, two more than Argentina and three more than China and Italy.

Italy, held 2-2 by China, must beat Argentina in their last qualifying match on Thursday to reach the quarter-finals.

Pele to re-marry

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug 21: Former Brazilian soccer star Edson Arantes Do Nascimento, better known to his fans worldwide as Pele, will marry Lucienne Taasis, a 29-year-old physician, early next year, according to Brazilian press reports Tuesday, reports AFP.

Pele, now a 51-year-old businessman, was divorced in 1976 from his wife, Rose. The couple has three children.

The Argentinians, a point ahead and with a better goal difference, need only a draw.

"Now we must beat Argentina, then again," Italy's senior national team coach Azeoglio Vicini said, bitterly recalling the 1990 World Cup

when his team were eliminated by Argentina in the semi-finals.

If current positions remain the same after Thursday's final round of qualifying matches, the US... will meet traditional rivals Mexico in the quarter-fi-



FIFA President Joao Havelange (L) of Brazil hugs football legend Pele after Pele was honoured for his contributions to the sport during the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Confederation of South American Football on August 6. — AFP photo

nals.

The Mexicans are in second place in Group B two points behind Australia.

Brazil, three times World Cup winners at senior level, have an impressive record in Group C, with full points and six goals for and none against after a 4-0 win over United Arab Emirates.

Second spot in Group C is between European champions Spain or wonder boy Nil Lamptey's Ghana in the quarter-finals. Spain and Ghana are both already through after the better goal difference.

Lamptey, who has already netted Ghana's second goal in a 2-0 win over Uruguay.

Jhenidah DC's Gold Cup soccer

JHENIDAH, Aug 21: The Deputy Commissioner's Gold Cup football tournament, organised by the District Sports Association, begins here Friday at the local stadium, reports UNB.

Moshir Rahman MP will inaugurate the 16-team tournament in the afternoon.

The participating teams are — Pabna, Ishardi, Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Rajbari, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Jessore, Noapara, Magura, Satkhira, Jhenidah, Mousumi Club, Cosmos Club and Mongla Eleven team (Khulna).

Under 16 cricket camp concludes

Sports Reporter

The three-week long under-16 school boys' coaching camp organised by Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) concluded yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

National Cricket coach Syed Altaf Hossain, S. Rahman Chinnu, Abdul Hadi Ratan and S. Chowdhury Shisir conducted the coaching. Forty three players took part in the three-week long training camp.

Bridge results

Defending Champion 'Dhaka Club Blue' retained the open team foundation day trophy of Dhaka Club by defeating the "Pickwick Pink" team by an impressive margin of 121.67 IMPs over an 80 board final, says a press release.

In all 16 teams of the city participated in the event.

The Blues earlier were champions of the round robin matches but were 9.33 IMP behind because they lost their round robin match to the runners-up team comprising of comparatively younger players.

The Club team was represented by four Bangladeshi internationals namely AK Feroze Ahmed, M Waliul Haque, Rezaul Haq (Bachchu) and A T M Moazzem Hussain (Khokan) joined by veteran pair of Group Captain (Retd) MA Qudus and Moinuddin Ahmed while the Pickwick was represented by Dr Sk Mohammed Ali, Dr Anwar Hussain, Dr A Malek, Bani Amin (Icon), Nainul Hassan (Tapu) and Egor.

Earlier in the open pairs event, 30 pairs participated in the qualifying round and 16 pairs played a 30 board final. M/S T R Chowdhury and M A Qudus become Champion while N C Saha and B Chy and N H Shamsuzzaman (Kamal).

The junior team, named India White, exhibited its vast reservoir of talents against the much experienced Kenyan seniors.

All the three goals in the rain-marred and ill-tempered match came in the first half. The play was held up for more than 40 minutes because of a heavy downpour 12 minutes after the start.

On a couple of occasions there were scuffles between the two teams and once referee AS Bawa showed yellow cards to India's Anil Aldrine and George Ochieng of Kenya.

The home side, with five India players who played in senior tournaments, shot into lead in the 18 minute with a kid Mohan goal while the match winner came from Sanjay Bisht two minutes before the break.

Soviets barred from returning home

LONDON, Aug 21: Three British-based Soviet football internationals are being barred from returning to their troubled homeland this week, reports AFP.

Manchester United's Andrei Kanchelskis and Oleg Kuznetsov and Alexei Mikhailichenko of Scottish champions Glasgow Rangers will travel directly to Oslo for the Soviet Union's European Championship qualifier against Norway next week.

Kanchelskis, whose wife is still in the Soviet Union, was due to join the national squad in Moscow to prepare for the match, but United manager Alex Ferguson put his foot down.

He said: "Naturally we're concerned about the state of affairs in Russia. We need advice and we're in touch with UEFA."

"We're happy to let Andrei go to Oslo on Sunday to link up with the Russian squad preparing for their European Championship tie against Norway next Wednesday."

"But we're not entirely happy about letting him report back to Russia on Thursday, as he's supposed to do. We would prefer to wait until the turmoil settles before he actually goes back to his homeland."

Kanchelskis, who make a dazzling start to the English season by setting up both goals

in the win over Notts County, will play at Aston Villa on Wednesday night.

"Naturally the boy is concerned and we feel that to play will be the best thing for him," Ferguson explained. "His main concern is that his new wife Nina will be able to fly to England next Sunday as planned."

Rangers are also expecting their players to travel directly to Norway. They are currently in Valencia for a two-day tournament but were due to fly to Moscow on Thursday.

Rangers secretary Campbell Ogilvie said: "We don't want to over react. The players might

get in and out of Russia without any problem, but we're simply trying to cover all aspects of this situation."

Rangers have asked the Soviet Football Federation to co-operate and UEFA have been advised of the situation.

Ogilvie added: "Ideally we want the players to fly direct from Glasgow before going on to Norway. We would be happy either way."

"We're told UEFA of our position as we don't want to be in contravention of their regulations and the Scottish FA have also taken up the case on our behalf."

Everton beat Arsenal 3-1

LONDON, Aug 21: English champions Arsenal, beaten only once in the league last season, crashed to a 3-1 defeat at Everton in their second game of the season on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Arsenal's defeat was their biggest in the league since October 1989 when Everton beat them 3-0.

Mark Ward, Everton's new signing from Manchester City, scored twice in his home debut, his first coming three minutes into first-half injury time.

Arsenal, who saved themselves from defeat against Queen's Park Rangers on Saturday opening day with an injury-time equaliser, struggled to create chances and

conceded two more goals in a 12-minute spell in the second half.

Tony Cottee made it 2-0 after 59 minutes and Ward added his second in the 71st to give Everton their first win after losing at Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

Nigel Winterburn added a consolation goal three minutes from time.

Leeds, who did not play on Saturday, opened their season with a 1-0 win at home to Nottingham Forest thanks to a 13th minute strike from Scottish midfielder Gary McAllister. Former Liverpool striker John Aldridge took his goals tally to five in two games for his new Second Division club Tranmere Rovers

Sanchez, Fernandez win easy

WASHINGTON, Aug 21: Second-seeded Arantza Sanchez-Vicario of Spain and third-seeded

Mary Joe Fernandez both posted easy straight set victories and then Fernandez spoke out on Monica Seles' withdrawal at the 350,000-dollar Virginia Slims of Washington on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Sanchez-Vicario downed Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 6-4, in 66 minutes, and Fernandez needed 69 minutes to beat South African Marianne De Swardt 6-4, 6-1, in second-round matches in the 28-player draw. The top four seeds drew first-round byes.

Seles of Yugoslavia withdrew after a miscommunicated phone message inadvertently placed her in the tournament as the top seed when the intent of the message was to inform officials she did not want to play.

American Pam Shriver continued her successful comeback with a 6-2, 6-3 win over

Elna Reinach of South Africa in a first-round match.

Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia beat Soviet Natalia Zvereva 6-4, 7-5. Zvereva was admittedly distraught over the political events in the Soviet Union, which was compounded by the loss of her luggage on the way to Washington.

French women win team trial

STUTTGART, Aug 21: France won the women's team trial Wednesday as the road events of the World Cycling Championships began, reports AP.

France's team of Marion Ghignot, Nathalie Gendron, Cecile Odin and Catherine Marsal, was timed in 1 hour, 2 minutes, 14.1 seconds for the 50 kilometers (31 miles).

Defending champion Netherlands was second in 1:02:41.5 with the Soviet Union third, 1:02:51.1.

who entered here on Friday to finish her preparation for the US Open, dominated the 72nd-ranked De Swardt with consistent groundstrokes and an improved serve.

Fernandez, who said she was pleased with her performance, noted that the Seles situation was exacerbated by a general lack of controversy in women's tennis.

"The women's game doesn't usually have things like this happen. Most of the players fulfil their commitments. It doesn't affect what I do. I more or less stick to my business, which is getting ready for the Open," Fernandez said.

Shriver, ranked 30th, controlled Reinach by approaching the net at key times like 30-30 points and break opportunities. She said her immediate goal is to reach the semifinals in this tournament.

"I have sort of a check list. I need to beat a top player. I need to reach the semifinals of a tournament, which I hope to do this week. Then I can concentrate on getting back in the top 20," the 29-year-old Shriver said.

Indian stickwinders start well

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: India began the four-Test hockey series against Kenya on a bright note as its junior squad carved out a 2-1 win in the first match here today, reports PTI.

The junior team, named India White, exhibited its vast reservoir of talents against the much experienced Kenyan seniors.

All the three goals in the rain-marred and ill-tempered match came in the first half. The play was held up for more than 40 minutes because of a heavy downpour 12 minutes after the start.

On a couple of occasions there were scuffles between the two teams and once referee AS Bawa showed yellow cards to India's Anil Aldrine and George Ochieng of Kenya.

The home side, with five India players who played in senior tournaments, shot into lead in the 18 minute with a kid Mohan goal while the match winner came from Sanjay Bisht two minutes before the break.



M A Sultan (R) President of the Mahanagari Club Samity presents a VCP to Ziaul Haque (L), President of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association yesterday evening.