

## Bangladesh's '94 World Cup dates

**Sports Reporter**

The first leg matches of the Asian Group F qualifying round for the 1994 World Cup soccer will be held in Japan in April next year.

Bangladesh, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, Thailand and Sri Lanka are the participating nations in Group F.

The return leg matches will be played in the UAE who, along with South Korea, represented Asia in Italia '90.

Only the group champions will move into the six-nation Asian finals scheduled to be held later on with the top two countries qualifying for the '94 World Cup.

Twenty-nine Asian countries—split into six groups—will take part in the qualifying rounds.

Bangladesh's first match is against hosts Japan on April 11, 1993, while they will play Sri Lanka, the UAE, and Thailand on April 13, 15 and 18 respectively.

Bangladesh will meet Japan in the first return leg encounter on April 30 in the UAE. They will take on the UAE Thailand and Sri Lanka on May 3, 5 and 7 respectively.

Following are the other five Asian groups:

GROUP A: China, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen and Pakistan.

GROUP B: Iran, Syria, Oman, Taiwan, and Myanmar.

GROUP C: North Korea, Qatar, Singapore, Vietnam and Indonesia.

GROUP D: South Korea, Bahrain, Hongkong, Lebanon and India.

GROUP E: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia and Macao.

## Olympic Day run

**Sports Reporter**

An Olympic run to observe the Olympic Day will be held under the auspices of the newly reconstituted Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) on June 23.

The race will start from the Army Stadium in Banani and finish at the Dhaka Stadium.

The programme will mark the formal functioning of the BOA, which was named on June 10.

Meanwhile, Gias Kamal Chowdhury and Bashir Ahmed, the President and Secretary General respectively of the BOA, called on State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain yesterday.

The first meeting of the BOA executive committee will be held soon.

## Schools TT from tomorrow

The Green Delta Schools table tennis tournament, organised by Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF), begins Monday at the National Sports Coaching Centre, reports UNB.

State Minister for Textiles Major (Rtd) MA Mannan will inaugurate the four-day tournament.

BTTF President Syed Yousuf Hossain disclosed details of the meet at a press conference at the NSC conference room yesterday afternoon.

BTTF General Secretary Kazi Moinuzzaman Pila, tournament convenor Sheikh Aynul Haq and Deputy Managing Director of Green Delta Insurance Abdur Rahman Bhuiyan also spoke on the occasion.

One hundred and twenty-six boys and 20 girls from 33 school teams will participate in the competition in four events—the boys' team, boys' singles, girls' team and girls' singles.

A record number of 33 teams—22 from Dhaka Metropolitan and 11 from outstations—have sent their entries out of the 45 schools invited by the BTTF.

The BTTF will select eight boys and four girls from the competition for higher training under a Chinese coach beginning next month.

The Green Delta Insurance Company, the sponsors of the tournament, will provide Tk. 55,000 for the tournament out of an estimated budget of Tk. 70,000.

Earlier, Bata Shoe Company sponsored the tournament six times till 1989.

## Chinese spikers win

TOKYO, June 20: China rallied from a first set loss to beat Japan 1-15, 15-7, 15-3, 15-9 Saturday for their third victory against eight defeats in the preliminary round of the men's Volleyball World League, reports AP.

Japan fell to 1-10.

The two teams are to meet again Sunday.

Group A consists of the United States, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Japan and China. Group B consists of Canada, Cuba, Germany and the Netherlands, while Group C consists of Brazil, France, Italy and South Korea.

The top two teams from each group in the preliminary round will advance to the final round.

## Bangladesh-HK final today

**Sports Reporter**

The stage for the final of the third South East Asian cricket championship has been set. Champions of the last two tournaments and hot favourites Bangladesh will play Hong Kong in the final in keeping with the general anticipation.

Two-time finalists and strength-wise the nearest rival to Bangladesh, Hong Kong sailed into the final of the ICC Associate Members' tournament with a handsome six-wicket victory against host Singapore yesterday at the Singapore Cricket Club ground.

Singapore captain KH Imran won the toss and elected to bat on a wicket that has not behaved as the happy hunting ground for the willow wielders since the beginning of the tournament.

Singapore got off to a reasonably good start with the opening pair of Goh Swee Heng and Crossley putting on 43 for the first wicket, with the latter hitting 28 with the help of four boundaries.

A middle-order collapse, however, saw Singapore slump to 84 for six and a late flourish by Thiyar Mohd, the highest scorer of the innings, and skipper Imran enabled Singapore to muster 144 in 48.5 overs.

Thiyar Mohd topscored with 33, studded with one sixer and one four while Imran made 28, also with the help of one six and a four.

R. Sujanan was the destroyer-in-chief for the Singaporeans with figures of three for ten. Beaman also bowled very well for Hong Kong to capture three for 17. G Davies took two for 20.

A breezy 45 by opener P. Fordham laid the foundation of an easy Hong Kong victory. He hit six fours in his 87-ball knock.

Later S Foster sustained the good work done by his teammate with a solid innings of 51 before becoming Sivalingam's second victim. Foster played 99 balls and sent the ball to the fence five times.

Opener Aitkinson with 16 and Eames, with 17 were the other notable scorers for Hong Kong as their side made 147 for four in 46.3 overs, to enter the final with an easy six-wicket victory.

Sivalingam was the most successful Singapore bowler with two for 37. Balakrishnan and Deshpande took one apiece.

Hong Kong play favourites Bangladesh in the final today.

## No confirmation of Mike Tyson's reported conversion to Islam

UNDATED, June 20: Mike Tyson is attending Muslim prayer services and taking instruction in the religion in prison. Contrary to published reports, however, he has not converted to Islam, a spokesman for the Islamic Society of North America said on Friday, reports AP.

Kamran Memon, an assistant editor of Islamic Horizons magazine, said a Muslim outreach volunteer named H Karim Abdullah has seen Tyson at Islamic prayer services each Friday and attending lessons about Islam.

"He is going to the lessons and participating in Friday prayer, but he has not yet become a Muslim," Memon said in a telephone interview from the his organization's headquarters in Plainfield, Ind.

The New York Daily News on Friday cited Black Muslim minister Bilal Muhammad as saying Tyson became a Muslim "two or three weeks ago" at the Indiana Youth Center in Plainfield. The former heavyweight champion is serving a six-year sentence there for his rape conviction.

The newspaper, said Muhammad, a former boxing promoter, claimed he was told of Tyson's conversion by a Muslim prisoner who learned of it from the leader of a Muslim inmates' group.

Memon said Tyson has not yet publicly professed his belief in Allah and his prophet Mohammed, the step by which one converts to Islam.

Indiana Department of Corrections spokesman Kevin Moore said prison officials were not aware of any change in Tyson's religious affiliation. He said Tyson has not asked for a Muslim diet free of pork.

"If prisoners ask for a change in diet for religious preference reasons, we do grant that," Moore said. "That's about the only way we'd know of any change in his religious beliefs."

The Rev Jesse Jackson last year baptized Tyson, and the Nashville, Tennessee-based National Baptist Convention USA Inc and black ministers in Indianapolis spoke out in Tyson's support during his trial.

MIKE TYSON

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## Armenians upset Russians

MANILA, June 20: Smbat Lputian of Armenia defeated Russia's Alexander Dreev today to hand the Russian team their first loss in the 30th World Chess Olympiad in Manila, reports Reuters.

Lputian forced Dreev to resign their adjourned game in 72 moves of a Catalan opening to lead Armenia to a slim 2.5-1.5 victory, but the result only slightly dented Russia's lead over the 112 nation field.

"I'm glad we won, but it seems... We shall fight only for second place because first place is almost sure for Russia," said Armenian team leader Rafael Vaganian, who drew his 10th match on Thursday against world champion Garry Kasparov.

"We lost our first match. Dreev's position was already bad although he had some chances for a draw," Russian team captain Yuri Razuvayev said.

Armenia's victory allowed them to move into second place, 3.5 points adrift of the front running Russians who have 29 points. They were facing the United States in the 11th round today with the Americans trailing them by just half a point.

Updated standings Saturday in the 30th World Chess Olympiad in Manila:

**MEN**

29.5 Russia

28 Armenia

25.5 US

25 Lithuania, Uzbekistan, Iceland

24.5 Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine, Hungary

The Russians defeated top rivals the United States and Ukraine in earlier games in the 14-round tournament which ends on June 25. Kasparov's team faced Iceland today.

In women's action, China are seeking to preserve the narrow lead they seized for the first time on Thursday over Georgia and Ukraine. The Chinese have 20 points while the Georgians and the Ukrainians are half a point behind.

The Chinese were battling Romania while Georgia met Russia and Ukraine tangled with Latvia today.

"For us, every match is now important," said former world champion Maya Chiburdanidze of Georgia. "We hope to win against Russia and we hope Romania can do very well against China."

**STANDINGS**

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Women's world chess champion Xie Jun of China concentrates on her next move against Bulgarian Grandmaster Margaret Voiska during the round 10 game of the 30th Chess Olympiad in Manila on June 18.

## Wait is rebels' fate?

LONDON, June 20: The 16 England cricketers who made an unofficial tour of South Africa two years ago are unlikely to have their five-year international bans lifted until April next year, reports AP.

The 16, who include former England captain Mike Gatting and John Emburey, will have their cases discussed by the International Cricket Council here on July 7, but will probably be told to serve another 10 months of their suspensions.

ICC secretary John Stephenson said: "South Africa have been the prime movers to get the ban reduced, but my feeling is that next April is the likeliest date for it to be lifted."

Many people, including several current England players, believe the "rebels" should serve their whole sentence, which was imposed in 1990.

England's cricket authorities are deliberately keeping a low profile on the issue, but a compromise deal should result in the rebels serving three of their five years.

That would mean Gatting, Emburey and company being available again for next year's ashes series against Australia.

## Rain washes away Johnson's timing

MONTREAL, June 20: This time, it may have been Ben Johnson's ultimate false start.

The disgraced sprinter and former world-record holder seemed to blow through the field on his way to the 100-metre finals at the Canadian Olympic Track Trials on Friday night, reports AP.

But then the rain struck, washing out the electric timing system and any valid way of finding out how fast Johnson was going.

He was hand-timed in 10.1 seconds — backup timers clocked him at under 10 seconds — which surely would qualify him for a spot at Barcelona and a chance to atone for his 1988 ordeal in Seoul.

Reports began to circulate that Johnson's time was 9.9 seconds, just a tick or two slower than Carl Lewis's world record of 9.86 seconds.

However, meet officials annulled all of the results and announced the eight runners for the final would be selected from a three-heat semifinal Saturday.

Johnson, 30, whose career appeared over after his positive steroids test at the 1988 Olympics, looked to have suddenly leapt back into the spotlight.

Canadian champion Bruny Surin had the second-fastest time, taking his heat in 10.30 seconds.

Johnson refused comment after the race, and later sent word he would make no statements until after the final.

There was a surreal quality to Johnson's performance. The Toronto sprinter was moved from the second to the third heat, where he ran against a slower field.

Then the public address announcer at Centre Claude-Robillard skipped over Johnson when introducing the runners. Then there were three false starts.

But once the race began Johnson looked like his former self, the man who won the 1987 world championship and the 1988 Olympic gold in a world record 9.79 seconds before the positive drug test.

Johnson lost his gold medal and records and was banned from competition for two years. He hasn't been impressive since returning in 1990, and only last week ran a weak 10.43 in Portugal.

Johnson needs to finish under 10.28 to qualify for the Olympics.

## Murray better's Meyer's mark

EDINBURGH, June 20: South African Elana Meyer was knocked off the top of the world women's 3,000 metres rankings here on Friday night by European champion Yvonne Murray, reports AP.

The Scot who flopped in last year's world championships delivered a warning to her Olympic rivals in Barcelona by clocking eight minutes 36.63 seconds as Britain romped to a double victory over Kenya in a track international.

Outpacing world 10,000 champion Liz McColgan, Murray eclipsed Meyer's mark by four and a half seconds, while McColgan equaled it.

Murray's win helped Britain to a 62-25 win over the Kenyans in the women's match. The host nation won all four of the events.

Kenya had only marginally more joy in the men's match with victories in the 3,000m and 5,000m as they crashed 145-92.

Even former world number one William Tanui came off second best in the 800m to promising British prospect Curtis Robb.

## England fightback well

**Sports Reporter**

England fought themselves back into the game by limiting Pakistan to a first innings lead of only 38 runs on the third day of the second cricket Test at Lord's yesterday, according to BBC monitored in Dhaka last night.

Pakistan, resuming at 123 for one, were all out for 293 shortly after tea and by the close of play England had reached 52 for the loss of skipper Graham Gooch's wicket in their second knock.

Fast bowler Devon Malcolm, returning to the England team after a year, picked up four wickets for 70 runs while Philip DeFreitas claimed three for 58 and Test debutant leg-spinner Ian Salisbury two for 73.

Pakistan lost their last nine wickets for only 170 runs as the England bowlers kept to a tidy line and length.

Vice captain Salim Malik hit 55 and Asif Mujtaba 59, both falling to Malcolm who also removed young hopeful Inzamam-ul Haq for nought. Pakistan skipper Miandad gave Salisbury his first Test wicket after making only nine.

At close, Alec Stewart was batting on 23 and nightwatchman Salisbury on one after Gooch had fallen leg before to Aaqib Javed for 13 with the score on 40.

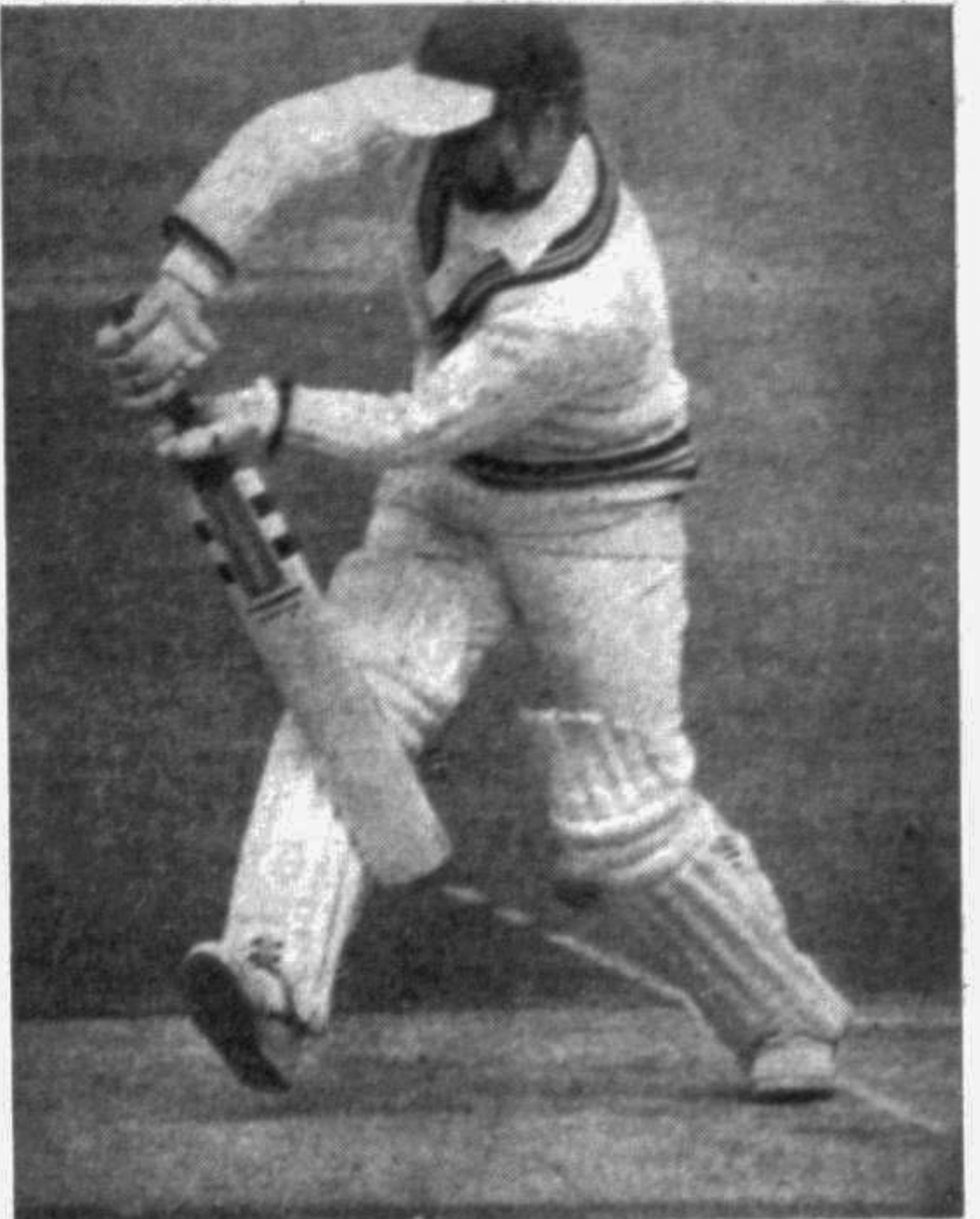
An earlier AFP report said: Pakistan recovered from a double setback at lunch on the third day.

At the break they were just 46 runs behind England's inadequate total, having reached 209 for three through the efforts of Asif Mujtaba (55 not out) and Salim Malik (37 not out).

Earlier, Mujtaba had watched in horror as he lost Aamir Sohail for 73 without a run added to the tourists' overnight score of 123 for one and skipper Javed Miandad for nine.

Sohail was caught behind by Jack Russell off Phil DeFreitas from the eighth ball of the day, while Miandad gave Ian Salisbury his first Test wicket at 143 when Ian Botham plunged forward to catch the master batsman at slip.

But then, Mujtaba and Malik put together an undecided



Pakistan's Asif Mujtaba hits the ball on his way to an unbeaten 22 runs before lunch, on the second day of the second Test between England and Pakistan at Lord's on Friday.

—AFP photo

**SCOREBOARD**

**ENGLAND:** First innings 255 (A.J. Stewart 74; G.A. Gooch 69; Waqar Younis 5-91)

**PAKISTAN:** First innings (Overnight 123 for 1) Aamir Sohail c Russell b DeFreitas 73 Rameez Raja b Lewis 24 Asif Mujtaba c Smith b Malcolm 59 Javed Miandad c Botham b Salisbury 9 Salim Malik c Smith b Malcolm 55

**ENGLAND:** Second innings 13 Gooch lbw b Aaqib 23 Stewart not out 23 Salisbury not out 15 Extras: 2 (for one wkt) 52 Total: (for one wkt) 140 (Incomplete)

3-143, 4-228; 5-228; 6-135; 7-263; 8-271; 9-276; 10-293.

**Bowling:** O M R W DeFreitas 26 8 58 3 Malcolm 15 5 70 4 Lewis 29 7 76 1 Salisbury 23 3 73 2 Botham 5 2 9 0

## Atherton's reminder to selectors

LONDON, June 20: Discarded Test opener Mike Atherton gave the England selectors a timely reminder by scoring his second century of the season in Lancashire's county championship match against Middlesex at Old Trafford on Friday, reports Reuters.

Atherton, who missed England's winter tour to New Zealand and Australia through a long-term back injury, batted himself right back into Test contention in a double century stand with another player back in form, Nick Speck.

The pair put on 233 together for the second wicket and enabled Lancashire to reach 346 for three by the close of the first day of the three-day match.

Speck took his aggregate in championship cricket this season past 1,000 runs as he hit 13 fours in scoring 111, his fourth hundred of the season.

Atherton had 17 boundaries in his 271-ball 135.

Tim Curtis, the country's leading runscore in all types of cricket this season, also hit a century, scoring an unbeaten 151 out of 297 for seven for Worcestershire against Yorkshire at New Road.

It took him to the remarkable tally of 2,108 runs in the 20 first-class matches he has played since taking over as captain last July. His fourth century of the season contained 20 boundaries.

Opening bat Mark Lathwell scored his maiden hundred, off Surrey at Bath, and became the first Somerset century-maker of the season.

He hit 114 after being dropped twice in his three and a quarter hour innings. He was finally bowled by offspinner James Bowling, having hit 12 boundaries out of a Somerset total of 376 for nine declared. Northamptonshire's inform wicketkeeper David Ripley came to the rescue with 54 against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge to help his side recover from losing four wickets for 22 after being in a strong position at 127 for one.

Ripley hit six boundaries and featured in a seventh-wicket stand of 61 with Andy Roberts (62 to help Northants to 326 for nine).

## Court bars Reynolds from US Olympic trials

**Battle heats up in men's 100m**

NEW ORLEANS, June 20: Just hours after Butch Reynolds promised that he would run the 400 meters and make the Olympic team, a federal court said that he could not compete in the US Olympic Track and Field Trials, reports AP.

"This certainly isn't a victorious feeling for the Athletic Congress," said Frank Greenberg, president of the Athletic Congress. "Butch Reynolds is a world-class athlete."

Reynolds, the world record holder and 1988 Olympic silver medalist in the 400, is also a world class batter, taking on the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the International Olympic Committee and TAC.

The IAAF suspended Reynolds for two years after he tested positive for steroids in August 1990, the IOC said he could not run in the trials, and TAC dropped its support of him during the final stages of the fight.

Reynolds' suspension will be over August 12 — two days after the summer Olympics end.

On Friday, Reynolds secured an injunction that would have allowed him to run in the trials Saturday, but the 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the ruling Friday night. One of Reynolds' attorneys said they would not appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court.

While Reynolds' battle drew more attention, the battle between Carl Lewis and Leroy Burrell in the 100 meters heated up.

Lewis and Burrell finished first in their initial heats, Lewis with a 10.33 and Burrell at 10.09. In the quarterfinals, both were second — Lewis at 10.17 and Burrell at 10.27.

Meanwhile, Santa Monica Track Club teammate Mike Marsh, who ran a 10.29 in the first race tied Burrell for the best time to the day at 10.09 in the quarterfinals.

Lewis' training partner and chief threat Burrell also had an up-and-down day. He won his preliminary race in a swift 10.09 seconds, then took second in his quarter-final in 10.27 seconds.

"I didn't know the guy was on my right," Burrell, the world silver medalist, said of little-known Ricky Carrigan.

"I thought I had it won. I didn't accelerate the way I should have, but it's just the quarter-finals."

Contender Dennis Mitchell also advanced, but indoor 60 metres world record holder Andre Cason, hampered by Achilles tendon problems, fell in the first round and had to be carried off the track.

Lewis limped across the finish line in the quarterfinals and later blamed dehydration due to the 90 degree Fahrenheit (32 Celsius) temperatures.

"I was cramping in the block. My calves cramped the entire race, the entire race," Lewis said.

Earlier, a confident Reynolds praised the injunction that would have allowed him to run on Saturday but said it should never have reached that point.

TAC officials, seeking to prevent Reynolds from competing and "contaminating" the other 31 entrants in the 400 metres field, including his younger brother, Jeff, appealed to the Cincinnati court after the federal court ruling.

"Butch Reynolds is not here to contaminate any athlete," Reynolds said. "I am innocent of all accusations. I have proven that for the last 21 months."

The IAAF's threat to suspend the runners would, in effect, have meant the United States would have had no 400 runners in the Olympics at Barcelona.

Greenberg said concern for the other athletes in the event had finally overridden TAC's concern for Reynolds.

"We were concerned that early on the ruling that came out of London was the entire US team [could be barred from the Olympics]," Greenberg said. "Later it has seemed to be just the 400, but what concerns us is that they can do either."

Although TAC was concerned for the other athletes, it did not abandon Reynolds, Greenberg said.

"Our statutory duty is to protect the athletes. We felt we did everything that we could for Butch," Greenberg said. "I doubt that any court in the United States could have put Butch on the line. We did as much as we could."

The women's 100 semis and finals will also be run. Gwen Torrence, who shook off a strained muscle behind her left knee after the first race, came back to post an 11.26 in the quarterfinals. Michelle Finn matched that time and Ester Jones and Gail Devers had 11.31 as 24 runners made it to the semifinals.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey began her quest to defend her Olympic heptathlon title, trying to qualify for the US team on Saturday with the 100-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put and 200 meters. Joyner-Kersey, the 1987 world champion, pulled a hamstring in the 200 meters at the world championships in Japan last August and did not finish the event.