

Schools kabaddi semis tomorrow

Sports Reporter
The first round of the 1992 schools kabaddi ended yesterday at the Outer Stadium...

Monsoon handball

Sports Reporter
Defending champions Bangladesh Rifles made a good start in their campaign to retain the 1992 monsoon handball title...

Meanwhile, the other match of the day between Brothers Union and Farashganj Sporting Club...

TODAY'S MATCH

Police vs Pragati Boys (4:45 pm)

Biman in SAA badminton

An 11-member badminton team of Bangladesh Biman leaves on July 20 for Colombo to take part in the second South Asian Airlines badminton tournament...

Penalty conversions may tilt the balance between beauty & brawn



BARCELONA, July 16: Just as tennis is dominated by the boom-boom server, so the key to victory in field hockey has become smashing home the penalty corner...



SHAHBAZ...artist

The path to Olympic gold in Barcelona will be blocked by beefcakes like Floris-Jan Boveland and Carsten Fischer...

Both are masters of the set piece. They can hit the ball past rushing defenders with inch-perfect precision and worrying power.

It is a style that Indian and Pakistan, who have been used to sharing the Olympic title between them for so long, have taken some time to get used to.

Olympic golds in 1980, to at least reach the semifinals. But after the European tour even he gave penalty corner conversions as one of the 'grey areas' his team must concentrate on.

After losing the Champions Trophy contest they hosted in February, Pakistan rebounded by taking the five-nation BMW trophy in Holland...



BOVELANDER...power

Pakistan team manager Islahuddin is confident his side has sorted out its penalty conversion problems, as well as finishing in attack.

Any country that cannot find a set-piece smasher, or boast the field talent of India and Pakistan, may find the

Olympic competition hard going.

Great Britain will have Sean Kerly, the hero and one of six survivors of the Seoul campaign, taking part in his third Olympics.

Australia have tried to mix European aggression with Asian artistry but they have consistently failed to live up to expectations at the Olympics...

A surprise loss to New Zealand cost them the gold medal at Montreal in 1976, while at both Los Angeles (1984) and Seoul (1988), the Australians entered the Olympic tournament as favourites only to miss a medal of any kind.

What happened at Seoul, or Los Angeles, has nothing to do with what happens now, said team skipper Warren Birmingham.

Also tempering Australia's ambition is a tough preliminary draw in Barcelona. Ranked third in the world, they are grouped with Great Britain, Germany, India, Argentina...

The women's tournament will be played for only the fourth time, and Australia can count on their women more than their men.

The Australian women, gold winners in Seoul, have largely swept all opposition aside in recent years, though a 13-year unbeaten run against Great Britain was ended this year.

But the South Koreans, finalists in Seoul, and China, will be strong Asian contenders and the Dutch women have won the last three World Cups.

Barcelona ticket sales reaches 67 per cent

BARCELONA, July 16: Barcelona Games organisers said on Wednesday they had sold 67 per cent of tickets and were confident of reaching their target of 80 per cent sales, reports Reuter.

Nearly 3.9 million tickets were made available for the 16-day Summer Olympics, which open on July 25.

Ticket sales director Oriol Serra of Games organisers COOB '92 said the 80 per cent target had already been met for all sports except soccer, hockey and baseball.

We are very confident that during the Games we will sell over 80 per cent of the global ticket total, Serra said.

Tickets for the opening and closing ceremonies and for all events in swimming, rhythmic gymnastics, judo and fencing have already sold out, Serra added.

Demand for seats for the men's basketball final, another sell-out, had exceeded that for the opening ceremony, making it the most sought-after event of the Games, Serra said.

Of the total tickets, 600,000 were sold abroad and the same number made available to sponsors and sports federations. The rest were put on sale in Spain through the Banesto Bank.

COOB aims to earn 11.3 billion pesetas (113 million dollars) from ticket sales to help cover its 140 billion peseta (1.4 billion dollar) budget.

Prices range from 46,000 pesetas (460 dollars) for a prime seat at the opening and closing ceremonies to 500 pesetas (five dollars) for a view of early events in sports such as rowing.

Organisers of the 1988 Seoul Games said they sold 84 per cent of tickets but attendances were generally lower.

For sure we'll beat Seoul in actual attendance. We expect 95 per cent or more of the tickets sold will be used, Serra said.

Boredom with backstroke turns Darnyi into 'king of medley'



BUDAPEST, July 16: Boredom with backstroke turned Tamas Darnyi into a phenomenon who has won all his major international championship individual medleys since 1985...

last month's Hungarian Championships when he was beaten by Attila Czema — widely regarded as his heir apparent — in the 400.

But his coach said Darnyi had been keeping plenty in reserve for the Olympics and did not regard it as a serious competition.



TAMAS DARNYI...the Hungarian superstar

and sweeps into Barcelona a heavy favourite for more Olympic gold, reports Reuter.

The Hungarian, whose parents took him to a pool when he was six, completed 200 and 400 individual medley doubles at the 1988 Olympics and 1986 and 1991 World Championships.

He turned the same trick at the 1985, 1987 and 1989 European Championships but did not defend his titles in Athens last year in order to concentrate instead on preparing for the Barcelona Games.

Until 13 I was a backstroke swimmer but I found it easier to win races in the medley, he said. I didn't like the backstroke. In training it was like having to swim eight to 10 kilometres a session always on the same stroke.

He suffered his first individual medley defeat in years at

petition.

When it matters, the 'king of the medley' still looks well clear of the field at both individual medley distances so a repeat golden double in Barcelona would be no great surprise.

This time, however, he is chasing three gold medals, hoping to add the 200 metres butterfly to his collection.

Darnyi won the 1989 European Championship title in the event in the absence of German Olympic gold medalist Michael Gross and finished third in the 1991 Worlds, well behind American Mel Stewart and Gross when the German made his championship farewell.

But coach Tamas Szechy says Darnyi, who has fulfilled all his mentor's predictions, has still to show his real potential in the butterfly.

If the 25-year-old catering college student does pull off the treble in Barcelona, he is likely to tell the world he owes it all to the old man, as Szechy is reverentially and affectionately called by Hungary's swimming stars.

Quizzed about earnings from sponsorship and advertising, Darnyi acknowledged Gross had earned far more but added: 'If I had been born in Germany, I might never have been a swimmer. One thing is sure, I would never have met up with the old man.'

Darnyi's record is astonishing but his career was nearly brought to a premature end at the age of 15 when the retina of his left eye was damaged in a snowball fight.

After 15 hospitals and clinics had given up hope, he underwent four operations in a Cologne clinic and returned to major international competition at the 1985 European Championships.

The Olympics should yield rich financial pickings for Darnyi. The Hungarians are on bonuses of 1.5 million forints (20,000 US dollars) for a gold medal, three times higher than at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Darnyi pocketed one million forints (13,300 US dol-

lars) after Seoul and if he achieves his treble in Barcelona the prize will be 4.5 million (60,000 US dollars).

Over the past year or so, Darnyi and the other top Hungarians have begun to benefit from sponsorship and publicity fees, guided by Gyorgy Zempleni, a successful American businessman who has returned to Hungary and taken over management of the national swimming squad.

But money will not induce Darnyi to abandon the gear he wears to keep warm on the poolside. He has worn it at every competition since winning his first World Championship titles in 1986 and says: 'There are some things in life which have more than cash value.'

Darnyi does not rule out the possibility of continuing to the 1996 Olympics even though he admits that, at 29, he would be at an age considered old in the swimming world.

No doubt it will depend on whether Szechy, 61, continues as coach.

In an interview with the Hungarian Playboy magazine, when asked whether the tough training regimen imposed by Szechy ever led to differences and compromises, Darnyi said: 'There is no democracy, no seeking consensus. The coach has to dictate.'

Should he decide to call it a day after Barcelona, Darnyi has two new careers in the making. Whatever happens at the 1992 Games, his next goals are to take his graduation exams at the College of Catering and the National College of Sport and Physical Culture.

As he winds down from Barcelona, Darnyi expects to read more science fiction (Isaac Asimov heads the list) and relax to the music of his preferred rock bands Pink Floyd, Vangelis and Dire Straits.

Albanian PM dismisses UEFA's apprehensions

TIRANA, July 16: Albanian Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi on Wednesday protested against UEFA's decision to exclude his country's teams from the draws for the three major European club soccer competitions because of doubts about the safety of visiting teams and officials, reports Reuter.

According to Albanian Football Federation officials, Meksi sent a note of protest to the European Football Union (UEFA) rejecting what he called UEFA's claims of lack of safety in Albania.

The note said Albania and its capital Tirana would soon be staging a meeting of the Group of 24 (G-24) rich countries, which ruled out all doubts about safety.

'Safety in the most recent match with Lithuania was ideal,' a representative of Albania's Football Association told Tirana radio, adding that the International Soccer Federation (FIFA) delegate at the match had praised the organisation.

'We were not the only ones to be punished, but the punishment to us was among the most severe,' the official said.

UEFA's decision excluded teams from Albania, Croatia and Georgia from Wednesday's draws.

Awesome Africans arrest attention in France



NICE, France, July 16: Namibian sprinter Frankie Fredericks headlined some awesome performances by the Africans at the Nice Grand Prix athletics meeting on Wednesday with a sweeping 100 metres victory, reports Reuter.

Fredericks, the world 200 metres silver medalist, who is hoping to become the first black African to win an Olympic sprint medal, de-

metres bronze medalist, got the better start, but Fredericks came through strongly from 60 metres to win in 10.12 seconds.

Canada's Bruny Surin took second place from Mitchell in 10.21 with Mitchell two-hundredths of a second further back in third place.

'It wasn't a very good race,' Fredericks said. 'The starter didn't let me get in the go position.'

The free-running Kenyans dominated the middle distances before a crowd of almost 17,000 on a balmy summer's evening with year's bests for Wilfred Kirochi in the 1,500 metres and Paul Bitok in the 3,000.

Kirochi clocked three minutes 33.04 seconds while Bitok overtook compatriot Moses Kiptanui to win the 3,000 in 7:35.00 with yet another Kenyan, William Sigey, in third place.

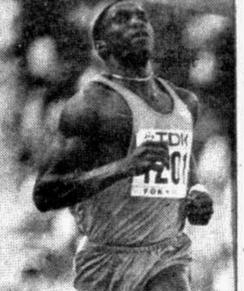
Predictably the Kenyans also dominated the 3,000 metres steeplechase, with Micah Boinnet coming from third in the straight to win in 8:12.69, third-fastest time in the world this year. Kenyans took the first four places.

Earlier Zambia's would champion Samuel Matete won

his second race in three days in a repeat of last year's World Championships 400 metres hurdles final.

Matete, who has been trailing the leading Americans on the European Grand Prix circuit this year, was finally first to the line in Salamanca, Spain, on Monday.

In the absence of the US top two Kevin Young and David Patrick, he won again in Wednesday in the year's third-fastest time of 46.15 seconds ahead of Tokyo silver medalist



SAMUEL MATETE

Winthrop Graham and bronze medalist Kris Akabusi.

Jamaican Graham led at the final barrier but Matete was gathering momentum and displayed his characteristic strong finish to win comfortably.

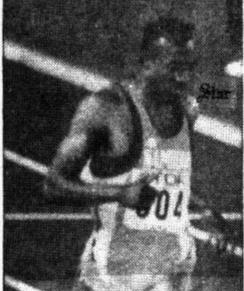
Graham clocked 48.37 while Britain's European champion Akabusi, who appeared to be struggling throughout, was more than a second down on Matete with a time of 49.16.

France's Marie-Jose Perek clocked a year's best time for the women's 400 metres, winning easily in 49.50.

'Nice is a great meeting,' the 24-year-old world champion said. 'The slope is very good for my performance.'

Merlene Ottey, looking stronger with every race, powered away from fellow Jamaican Juliet Cuthbert in the straight to win the women's 200 metres in 22.11. Only Torrence has run faster this year.

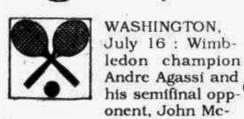
Germany's Heike Drechsler, the European champion and former world record holder, won the women's long jump with a leap of 7.15 metres.



FRANKIE FREDERICKS

feated American number one Dennis Mitchell for the second time this year. Mitchell, the world 100

Agassi, McEnroe exit



WASHINGTON, July 16: Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi and his semifinal opponent, John McEnroe, were defeated by players ranked 92nd and 95th in the world Wednesday night in the second round of the Nations Bank Classic, reports AP.

The second-seeded Agassi, who had not dropped a set as two-time defending champion here, lost to Kevin Curren 7-5, 6-4, while McEnroe was beaten by Britain's Jeremy Bates 6-2, 1-6, 6-4.

'McEnroe has been one of the people I've looked up to since I was very young. It was a dream to play him. To play him and beat him is one of the high points of my life,' said the 30-year-old Bates.

The fifth-seeded McEnroe has played four times in Washington over the past 15 years, and has never advanced past the third round.

'I think the streak is going to be intact for my whole career,' he said. 'I don't know if I'll be back. Not with any malice toward the tournament.' He said the chances of his return 'are slim to none.'

McEnroe led 3-1 in the final set.

was visibly upset over a line call when serving at 4-3 in the third set.

McEnroe and Agassi were not the only seeded players to have a rough time. Top-seeded Petr Korda fought off an upset bid to win in three sets, while No 4 Aaron Krickstein fell in three sets.

Korda, a finalist here last year and currently ranked fifth in the world, dropped the first set to Jimmy Brown before rallying for 4-6 6-2, 6-3 victory on a stadium court where temperatures reached 107 degrees Fahrenheit (42 Celsius).

Krickstein was upset by Guillaume Raoux 7-5, 3-6, 6-3. Krickstein's problem wasn't lack of practice, but lack of matches. He hadn't played in a tournament since the French Open in May.

Ivan Lendl, the third seed, had no problem getting past Jared Palmer 6-4, 6-1.

'It wasn't as hot as I thought it would be,' said Lendl, who followed Korda onto the stadium court. 'It was much warmer around 12 o'clock.'

Lendl had not played since an early exit at Wimbledon. 'I wasn't striking the ball as well as I'd like, but it was good for me at this stage of the summer. For my first match, I was pretty happy,' he said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-56.

CRYPTOQUIP
S L Q L C S G C B K H S O Q L
H K K - W L V H S J Q L G O S C
G O C S O G C O O Q S L L
H J B H J W G Q C S N
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER BEING FIRED, GLUM FOOTBALL COACH FOUND HIMSELF AT LOOSE ENDS.
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.