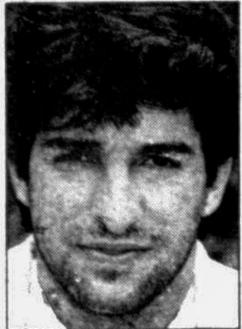


Akram burst restricts Derby

Sports Reporter
Devastating fast bowling by Wasim Akram restricted Derbyshire's first innings to 216 on the first day of the three-day match between the touring Pakistanis and Derbyshire yesterday, according to BBC monitored in Dhaka last night.

The left-arm fast bowler



AKRAM ... 5 for 59

took five wickets for 59 runs while leg-spinner Mushtaq and speedster Waqar Younis took two apiece.

Rookie pacesman Ataur Rahman claimed one as Pakistan went one step ahead in their bid to pocket a 50,000 pound sterling jackpot for eight first class wins.

However, the batsmen let the tourists a bit down as Pakistan made 98 for three when stumps were drawn for the day.

Tk 16.20 cr budget for SAF Games

A budget of Tk 16.20 crore has been prepared for holding the forthcoming SAF Games in Bangladesh, State Minister for Sports Sadeq Hossain told Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) yesterday, report agencies.

Replying to Zainal Hazi (AI), he said of the amount, over Tk 3 crore will be spent for imparting training to various Bangladesh teams which will participate in the Games.

The 2nd SAF Games, held in Dhaka in 1985, cost taka six crore.

He said there six events at the first SAF Games while 12 events would be contested in the next Games.

The State Minister said the government and Bangladesh Olympic Association will seek financial assistance from different countries including China, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Australia and India.

Rifles High in kabaddi final

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Rifles High School moved into the final of the 3rd schools kabaddi competition when they outplayed Rifles Public School and College 28-20 in the first semifinal held at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court yesterday.

The winners, who had two losses to their credit, led the first half 15-06.

Meanwhile, the day's other semifinal between Maniknagar Govt Primary School and Segunbagicha High School, ended in a fiasco when a group of rowdy spectators entered the ground.

The match was locked 16-16 at the end of the scheduled time but extra time could not be played due to unfavourable circumstances.

The Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation will announce the schedule for a re-match soon.

Nat'l TT Aug 1-6

The 17th national table tennis championships will be held at the National Coaching Centre from August 1-6 under the auspices of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation.

Affiliated organisations have been requested to send their entries to the federation office by July 28, says a press release.

Rowing trials

The Bangladesh Rowing Federation will hold trials open to all on August 1 on the river Buriganga to select 50 rowers for two national teams, reports UNB.

The two teams, "Red" and "Green", will represent Bangladesh in the 2nd international rowing championships to be held on the Buriganga, near the capital, sometime this year.

Interested clubs and district sports associations have been asked to contact the federation office immediately. The federation will pick only rowers below 25 years, says a press release.

Snell sets Somerset on top



LONDON, July 18: South African pace bowler Richard Snell lashed a career-best 81 to help give Somerset the upper hand against Leicestershire in their county championship match on Friday, reports Reuter.

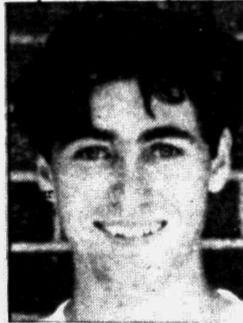
Snell, who had previously scored only one half-century in first class cricket, made his runs off 72 balls, hitting 14 four and two sixes as Somerset recovered from 16 for three captain Chris Tavare launched their fight back with a battling 69 before Snell put on 70 for the seventh wicket with Graham Rose (59) and added a further 69 in just nine overs with Roland Lefebvre for the eight wicket.

Fast bowler David Mills finished with five for 64, but Somerset sealed their revival by dispatching Nigel Briars and nightwatchman Gordon Parsons to leave Leicestershire on nine for two at the close of the first day.

Ex-England opener David

Smith and wicketkeeper Peter Moores shared a 251-run partnership as Sussex frustrated leaders Essex at Southend.

Both collected their first centuries of the season in a 66 over alliance to help Haul Sussex from 73 for four 341 for five at the close. Smith made an unbeaten 178 with 26 fours while Moores matched his partner's calm application



RICHARD SNELL ... 81

while driving and pulling during an innings of 109, which occupied 230 minutes and 187 balls. Nottinghamshire captain Tim Robinson hammered a magnificent 164 not out at Trent Bridge as Durham's bowlers suffered their biggest thrashing since joining the championship at the start of the season.

Robinson struck 21 fours in his 327 minute innings helping Nottinghamshire to pile up a commanding 431 for six. He put on 185 for the fifth wicket with England all rounder Chris Lewis, who struck a stylish 107, including a six and 15 fours.

England batsman Robin Smith, seeking more convincing form ahead of next week's fourth Test against Pakistan at Headingley, was top scorer with 79 for Hampshire against Glamorgan at Portsmouth.

Smith hit 13 fours and two sixes, while West Indian Malcolm Marshall hammered 70 to help second placed Hampshire to declare at 338 for nine.

Steve Lewis serves ultimatum



GATESHEAD, England, July 18: United States 400-metre runner Steve Lewis Friday threatened not to run the 1,600-metre relay event at the Barcelona Olympics if Michael Johnson was drafted onto the squad, reports AP.

"He won't run," Lewis said. "We have the support of the other quarter-milers. If he's in, we won't run."

Lewis, the US No 2-ranked quarter-miler, said the 400-metre squad was unhappy with suggestions Johnson run the 1,600-metre final in Barcelona. Johnson chose not to run the 400 at the Games, concentrating on the 200.

Lewis and No 1-ranked Danny Everett said Tuesday they preferred Andrew Valman in the squad. Johnson ran the third fastest 400 this year in London last week.

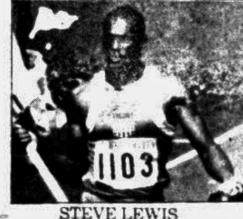
Lewis, from the Santa Monica Track Club, was beaten over 300-metre Friday at the Gateshead invitational track meet by Britain's John Regis. It was the third fastest 300-metre time in history and the

second-fastest race ever. Regis's 31.67 seconds was a Commonwealth record, ahead of Lewis's 31.82. Only Cuba's Roberto Hernandez and Danny Everett of the US have run faster — both ran 31.48 in September 1990 in Jerez, Spain.

"It went well considering it was my first 300 ever," Lewis said. "My speed is definitely there, coming to the wire I was strong."

"I've been having trouble sleeping since coming over here, in fact it wasn't until last night I got a decent sleep," Lewis added. "The doctor gave me some sleeping pills."

South African distance runner Elana Meyer, competing in her first international race, ran



STEVE LEWIS

the second fastest 3,000-metres of the year in 8-minutes, 39.11-seconds. It was seven seconds outside her personal best set last year but Meyer was happy with the result.

"I really needed a solid race," Meyer said. "I was after an 8:40. It's very different running in Europe, I was so used to the circumstances in South Africa, knowing how things work [at meets]."

"I still have to learn a lot," Meyer added. "I still have to run a few more races. It's very different, I know the other girls names but not their faces. But now at least with every race I get to know a couple of new athletes and put faces to names."

Meyer, the fastest woman over 5,000-metres this year, will run the 10,000-metre in Barcelona.

Tonja Buford of the United States ran the sixth fastest women's 400-metre hurdles of the year in 54.76. It was one hundredth of a second slower than her previous best this year, finishing second to Sandra Farmer-Patrick in the US track trials in New Orleans June 21.

Never again in France, says Carl Lewis



GATESHEAD, England, July 18: Carl Lewis won't be going back to France any time soon, reports AP.

The world 100-metre record holder, hoping for a third consecutive Olympic long jump gold medal in Barcelona, joined US track teammates at a training camp in Narbonne, France this week.

"Oh, a wonderful resort," Lewis said. "It contributed to the wonderful performances tonight of people who went there."

It was obvious from Lewis's tone and facial expression he didn't mean a word.

Lewis, competing Friday night in his last long jump before Barcelona, trailed Britain's Mark Forsythe until the fourth round. His 8.23 meter (27-foot) leap was good enough to win the second-string competition, but well below his best.

For a man that Santa Monica Track Club coach Joe Douglas believes is capable of 30 feet (nine meters), Lewis's performance was disappointing.

Lewis, who failed to qualify for the 100 or 200 at Barcelona, is still recovering from a virus which sapped his strength throughout the US track trials.

"I'm not 100 per cent yet but I feel much better," Lewis said. "Today I was a little sluggish but it's my fourth day over

Handball results

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Ansars and Brothers Union registered easy victories in their respective matches of the Phoenix Insurance monsoon handball tournament played at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

Germany to meet Spain in final

FRANKFURT, July 18: Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf and Anke Huber powered top-seeded Germany over the United States Saturday to set up a final with defending champions Spain in the Federation Cup, reports AP.

Edberg, Ivanisevic crash out

STUTTGART, Germany, July 18: Stefan Edberg and Goran Ivanisevic, seeded one and two, both crashed out of the 1.04 million dollar Stuttgart Open claycourt tournament at the quarter-final stage on Friday, reports Reuter.

in Europe and that's normal."

"But I did feel that the virus wasn't in my body, I'll be a lot better in Barcelona," he added. "On Wednesday I felt as good as I've felt all year. The Olympic long jump is three weeks away and I'll be a lot better by then." Lewis won't return to Narbonne. "Oh, no, never again," he said, before complaining about the food, the weather and the facilities.

His last competition before joining the US team in Barcelona, will be a sprint at Sestri, Italy on Tuesday. "I may run a 100, may be a 200," he said.

The Sestriere meet, 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) high has attracted many of the world's top track stars.

Asked about US chances in the 100 at Barcelona, Lewis said: "Leroy Burrell has to be the favourite."

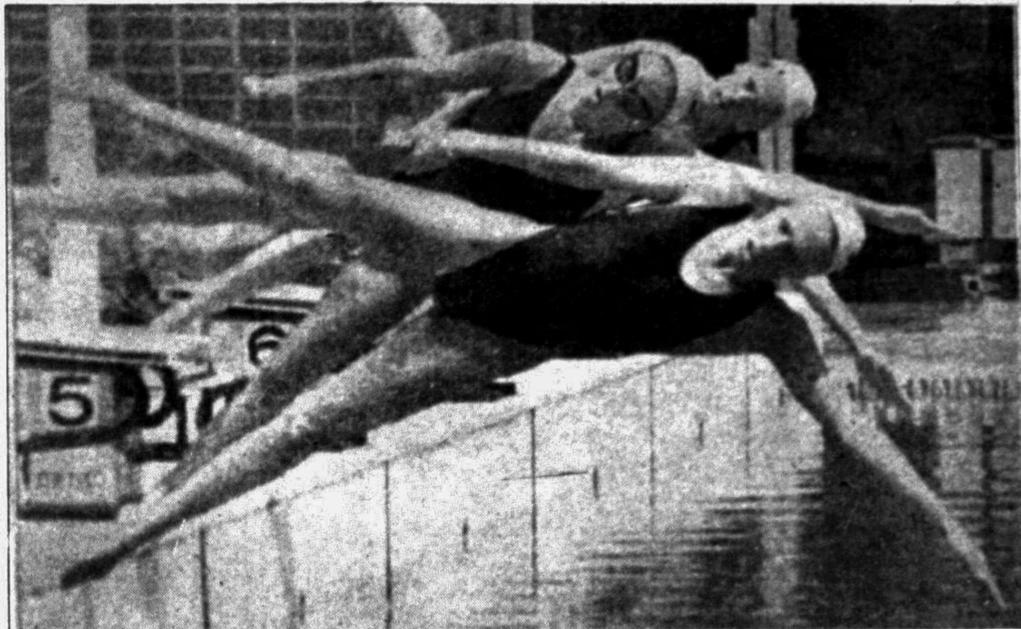
He's the only one whose broken 9.90 seconds this year," Lewis added. "Others have run well, but no one has run those times this year. I know Mark Witherspoon is going to surprise people because I train with him."

"So is Lindford Christie because he's consistent. But Leroy's won the races against

Capriati in semi

MAHWAH, N.J., July 18: Second-seeded Jennifer Capriati beat Caroline Kuhlman 6-3, 6-2 on Friday to advance to the semifinals of the dlr's 150,000 Pathmark Tennis Classic, reports AP.

Top-seeded Monica Seles of Yugoslavia eliminated fifth-seeded Robin White of the United States 6-2, 6-4.



Dutch synchronised swimming team members Marjoly Both, 20 (front), Tamara Zwart, 17 (C) and Frouke van Beek, 21 (background) dive to practise their duet routine at the Olympic swimming pool in Barcelona yesterday. The 25th Summer Games will start on July 25. — AFP photo

Maradona gets leave to leave Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, July 18: An Argentine judge on Friday gave fallen soccer idol Diego Maradona, who is undergoing a court supervised drugs rehabilitation programme, permission to leave the country, the star's lawyer said, reports Reuter.

Speaking to reporters outside the central Buenos Aires courthouse, lawyer Ricardo Gil Lavedra said Maradona had sought permission to leave Argentina in case he returned to European football.



DIEGO MARADONA

The stocky midfielder is trying to persuade Napoli, for whom he has said he would never play again, to release him from a contract binding him to the Italian club until mid-1993. A 15-month ban from soccer worldwide, imposed when he failed a post-match drugs test, expired on June 30.

Shortly after his return to Argentina in April, 1991, Maradona was arrested for taking cocaine and ordered by a judge to quit the habit under medical supervision.

Earlier this week Maradona said on a television chat show he wanted to play in Europe for one more year before returning to Argentina to end his career at Boca Juniors, the Buenos Aires side he inspired to their last league title in 1981.

"I want to spend a year playing in Europe and then two years with Boca (Juniors) where I will die in football terms. That is my dream," he said.

Maradona did not name the European team for which he might play, saying it all depended on the result of negotiations to win his release from Napoli.

Maradona's manager Marcos Franchi travelled to Europe this week for talks with French champions Olympique Marseille and Spanish First Division Sevilla.

Maradona is currently following a rigorous training programme at a farm owned by Boca Juniors president Antonio Alegre 200 kms from Buenos Aires.

He plans to don the Boca Juniors shirt for at least part of a friendly against Cruzeiro of Brazil next Wednesday.

World Cup will fly high in an indifferent sky



NEW YORK, July 18: The 1994 World Cup mascot and videos will start popping up in the United States within six months, and despite a reputation of indifference to soccer the man in charge of selling the event says building excitement shouldn't be that tough, reports AP.

The World Cup will not only fly, it will be a huge success, ISL Marketing president and chief executive officer Brian McGrath said Friday.

ISL, the Swiss-based marketing arm of the FIFA and the International Olympic Committee, has the responsibility, along with the local organising committee — World Cup USA 1994, of making the month-long tournament a hit.

Many pundits, inside and outside the United States, have doubted its chances, especially considering the last internationally recognised major outdoor soccer league, the North American Soccer League, folded in 1985 and attempts to revive it have failed miserably.

Last week, the Major Soccer League, a 14-year-old indoor league, ceased operations after threatening to fold for the last four years.

That apparently hasn't

scared away major corporations from the World Cup.

On Thursday, ISL and World Cup USA 1994 added General Motors as its sole automotive sponsor, the last of the 10 major sponsorships the World Cup allotted.

With names such as McDonald's Mastercard, Coca-Cola and Canon, McGrath says building awareness won't be a problem.

"McDonald's serves 18 million people everyday," McGrath said. "That's extensive marketing clout. And if you have a promotional tie-in, the number of people exposed... it's legion."

American candy manufacturer Mars, Japanese electronics maker JVC, Philips, Gillette and Fuji Film, McGrath says, give the World Cup 10 high profile names that can place the World Cup logo almost anywhere.

The campaign to sell the World Cup should become noticeable to Americans before the end of the year. Things will probably start with a contest to name the mascot, a floppy-eared, big-nosed dog unveiled earlier this year that was criticised for everything from holding a soccer ball (instead of kicking it) and its untraditional shirt (the stripes are horizontal not vertical) to the simple fact that it's a dog.

The mascot has been revised to remove the horizontal

stripes and place the ball under its foot. One pose has the mascot catching the ball in its mouth.

"The mascot has to develop a personality," McGrath said. "The first stage in that is to give it a name."

"On the television side, we at ISL will be creating some programming that will entertain, build awareness and educate."

With a population of 250 million in the United States, US Soccer Federation president and World Cup USA head Alan Rothenberg has predicted that the 1994 World Cup will be the first to sell out every single match in the 52-game tournament.

Although many sports columnists have written that the United States simply doesn't like soccer, McGrath shares Rothenberg's sentiments.

The concern that exists that American doesn't have a pro league, that it doesn't have a history of world class soccer, it's not a concern to me because of all the other factors," McGrath said. "Americans don't want miss a party; the organisational ability; the unmatched infrastructure; a dedicated, highly professional staff. We just have to go about the business of developing awareness."

Beating Bubka not the best bet



BARCELONA, July 18: In 1984 Sergei Bubka, already the world record holder and world champion, seemed certain to become the first Soviet athlete ever to win the Olympic pole vault title, reports AP.

The 30-year-old Ukrainian from Donetsk, whose wild childhood escapades included almost drowning in a barrel of water used for salting cabbage, had grown up to be the best in the world at catapulting himself through the air at the end of a long pole.

It was the perfect profession for a boy who narrowly escaped serious injury when his braces caught on a branch as he fell out of a tree.

But his dreams of Olympic glory ended when the Soviet Union announced their boycott

of the Los Angeles Olympics. Bubka stayed away while Pierre Quinon of France won the Olympic title.

It was to be one of the few disappointments for Bubka during a glorious decade during which he has become one of the most successful athletes of all time, eight years on from the LA Games, the bad news for his rivals is that he still is.

In June of this year he broke the pole vault world record for 30th time, raising the bar to 6.11 metres at Dijon, France, while his world indoor record of 6.13m is even further out of reach.

Bubka is now reported to be clearing 6.25m regularly in training and so could arguably go on breaking the world record for several more years.

He first raised the record to 5.85m in Bratislava a few weeks before the 1984 Olympics. Further big increases followed that year at Paris (5.88m), London (5.90m) and Rome (5.94m). Then in July, back in Paris, he increased the record by 6cm to become the first man to clear 6.0m.

Since then, however, Bubka has methodically increased the record by one centimetre or two at a tie and picked up big cash pay-days along the way.

Including his appearance money and the bonuses he gets from the meet promoter and his sponsors, each world record is now worth around 75,000 dollars to him, so there is no sense in him raising the record by more than the absolute minimum.

It is making him rich beyond his wildest dreams and he now lives in Germany with his wife and young family. A recent contract with the Berlin Olympischer Sport Club was worth 140,000 dollars.

It is fair to assume there is no barrel outside his home for salting cabbages. Bubka could buy everything in the supermarket now and not worry about the impact on his bank balance.

Although some critics have said Bubka is cynically cashing in on his talent, no one can deny the excitement and drama he brings to a track

meet, sometimes vaulting as late as midnight to set a new record.

His first major successes came when he was only 19 and unexpectedly won the inaugural World Championship title in Helsinki in 1983.

He remained unbeaten in any major event until the 1990 European Championships, when he never regained full fitness after a knee injury earlier in the season and finished sixth.

Since that setback, though, he recovered to win the World Championship title for the third successive time in Tokyo last year and has continued to take the bar higher than ever before.

Sergei Bubka may no longer be totally invincible, but there would be very few people willing to bet against him winning the gold in Barcelona and taking the bar just one centimetre higher at the same time.

Int'l boxing in Dhaka

Sports Reporter

An international boxing meet with professional as well as amateur fighters from some Commonwealth and South East Asian countries will be held in Dhaka on November 6 and 7.

Sponsored by Markets International Limited, the tournament will feature fly-weight class boxers from Ghana, England, Thailand and the Philippines.

Promoter Victor Dundo of 'Dundo's Promotions' has been employed by the sponsors to contact professional boxers from Ghana and England who will fight only on the first day of the two-day tournament.

It has been learnt that organisers will arrange bouts between local boxers and the champion amateur boxers from the Philippines and Thailand on the second day of the meet.

District headquarters have not yet responded to a call from the Bangladesh Amateur Boxing Federation to play hosts to some amateur bouts in a bid to popularise the sport outside Dhaka, lamented an official of the Boxing Federation.



1990-91 First Division basketball league champions Angels Club received their trophy from State Minister Sadeq Hossain Khoka at a belated awards ceremony at the wooden-floor gym yesterday. —Star photo