

Rosa Mota pulls out of marathon

BARCELONA, July 26: Olympic marathon champion Rosa Mota of Portugal has pulled out of the Games because of ill-health, reports AFP.

The 34-year-old has been dogged with health problems since the World Championships in Tokyo last September.

"Both my trainer and I decided that I just wasn't fit enough to compete in the marathon," said Mota, who waited until the last moment to announce her withdrawal in the hope that she might make it.

British coach irked
BARCELONA, July 26: Britain's chief athletics coach said the course and the timing of the Olympic marathon races made the 42.195 km course the hardest ever at a major championship, reports Reuter.

Frank Dick told reporters the oppressive heat in Barcelona made him particularly concerned about the well-being of the athletes in the races which start at 1730 local (1530 GMT).

"I think there are too many decisions being made which are not putting the athletes first," Dick said.

He said heat problems would be worsened because runners face a steep climb to the finish in the hilltop Montjuic Stadium.

"I think this is the hardest course we've ever had at a major championship."

"It's very regrettable that the organisers didn't hold the events in the cooler conditions of the morning and that more though was not put in to finishing the race at sea-level somewhere else in the city," Dick said.

"The good news is that our runners are very aware of this. I would say there will be a lot of runners less happy than normal."

The women's marathon is on August 1 and the men's on August 9, the final day of the Olympics.

The men's race will end shortly before the start of the closing ceremony and organisers have decided that late finishers will have to finish outside the stadium.

"That's absolutely disgraceful," said Dick. "Having negotiated that toughest of hills, can you imagine how they will feel when they are not even allowed the pleasure of finishing in the stadium itself."

Cuban spikers win

BARCELONA, July 26: Cuba stormed back to Olympic competition after a break of 12 years with a tit-for-tat 3-1 men's volleyball victory over Holland here Sunday, reports AFP.

Set scores were 15-12, 17-15, 6-15, 15-10 in the preliminary Group B opener that lasted nearly two and a half hours at the Palau D'Sports de Barcelona.



The Daily Star OLYMPIC SPECIAL



Boguinskaya out for revenge

BARCELONA, July 26: There is no feud, says world champion Kim Zmeskal, just a good rivalry, reports AP.



SVETLANA BOGUINSKAYA... a point to prove

Olympics started Sunday with compulsory events.

Entering as a Unified Team for the final time, the Russian women are favoured to win their 10th Olympic team title since 1952. The only time that they didn't win was in 1984, when the Soviet Union led an

Boguinskaya adamant that she would not have lost to Zmeskal had the meet been held in Europe instead of Indiana.

Zmeskal says relations have improved between the two. "We've seen each other here, smiled and said hello," Zmeskal said. "We've competed against each other since then (Indianapolis) and there have been no handshaking problems."

Shannon Miller, also 140 centimeters (4-foot-8), teamed with Zmeskal to lead the US team to the silver medal behind the Soviets at the World Championships, and then outscored the world champion at the Olympic trials last month.

"There's not any pressure, it's just another meet," she said on the eve of Olympic competition. "It's another strange gym, and that's about it."

The key to the Americans' chances may be Betty Okino, who at 163 centimeters (5 feet 5 inches) towers over Zmeskal and Miller.

"I think my body style is maybe my big strength," Okino said. "I have the long body that European judges like."

Okino was fourth in the all-around at the World Championships last year but has been injured much of this year.

Okino, whose forte is the balance beam, reflected the Americans' hunger to further narrow the gap with the former Soviets.

"The only reason I started this sport was to make it to the Olympic Games. Making it here isn't enough now. It was the main thing but now that I'm here it's not enough. We are thinking gold or at least silver. This is the strongest team ever."

Romania, which ignored the Soviet-led boycott in Los Angeles to win the team gold medal in 1984, has finished second to the Soviets three times since 1976.

Almost as deep as the Russians in talent, Romania's pool includes Cristina Bontas, Lavinia Milosovici and Gina Gogean.

Bontas was third in the all-around behind Zmeskal and Boguinskaya at Indianapolis. Milosovici is the world champion in the vault, while Gogean has recovered from injuries that kept her out of the World Championships, where Romania finished third.

Two days of compulsory and optional competition will determine the team medals. The top 36 gymnasts from the compulsory and optional rounds then advance to the all-around finals.

Asian giants make determined bid

BARCELONA, July 26: With Beijing bidding determined for the right to stage the 2000 Games, a wave of Chinese swimmers and divers are showing Asia the way as they take the Olympic centre stage, reports AFP.

If China, South Korea and Japan have their way after upping their cash and material incentives, they will return home with more golds than they reaped in Seoul four years ago, triumphing in such crowd-pulling sports as swimming, athletics and gymnastics.

The debut of new Olympic sports may also favour China in women's judo, Malaysia and Indonesia in badminton, and Taiwan and Japan in men's baseball.

Above all, the Chinese are dying to regain the throne of Asia's supreme sporting power from South Korea, following their comparative disaster in 1988.

They managed only an embarrassing five golds in Seoul, one third of their 1984 haul. Against 12 for South Korea and four for Japan.

"We'll try to do better than we did in Seoul," China's vice sports minister Yuan Weimin says. "In every aspect from gold medals, morale to self-discipline."

With a modest contingent of 251 competitors in 20 sports, the world's most populous nation hopes to reap gold in 12 sports including diving, women's swimming, athletics, gymnastics, weightlifting, women's volleyball, badminton and table tennis.

The retirement of the legendary Greg Louganis from the world diving limelight has left the once mighty US team no match for young Chinese talent who have won three world titles since Seoul.

They also include women's world and Olympics springboard champion Gao Min and 27-year-old veteran Tan Liande, who has spent most of his career chasing Louganis.

Sweeping aside suspicions of drug use, the Chinese are also making waves at the open-air swimming pool up on the Montjuic hill, where the



KIM SOO-NYUNG

women's swimming contingent boasts three winners from the 1991 World Championships in Perth.

Zhuang Yong, 19, with the 50-metre freestyle title to her name aims to improve on her 100m silver medal in Seoul.

Lin Li chases Olympic glory on top of her 200m and 400m individual medley world titles while Quang Hong may repeat the one-two finish with teammate Wang Xiaohang in the 100m butterfly in Perth.

Yang Wenyi, who holds the women's 50m world record of 24.98sec, also hopes to go one better than Seoul where she was beaten into second spot by the mighty German Kristin Otto, now in retirement.

Giant shot-putter Huang Zhifeng, 100 kilograms, and javelin thrower Xu Demiao also push China's gold hunt as the first Asians to Tokyo world athletics titles in Tokyo last year.

Zhong Huandi and Wang Xiuting, second and third in the women's 10,000m in Tokyo, can strike a medal of some colour for China.

Hiromi Taniguchi, whose late burst in the final four kilometres gave Japan its first worlds marathon title in front of a fanatic home crowd last year, is carrying another of Asia's athletic hope on his skinny frame.

On the made-for-television stage of gymnastics, Li Jing is tuning up to triumph both on



RASHID SIDEK

the parallel bars and pommel horse as he did at the World Championships this year to earn the extrovert 22-year-old the fortune and fame of a folk hero in regimented China.

North Korea, China's hard-line communist neighbours, see their gold medal hopes shining in the 1.47m tall frame of Kim Hwang-Suk who stood taller than anybody else on the World Championship uneven parallel bars.

South Korea, hosts of the last Games, expect no less than what they won at home. That would mean 12 golds in Barcelona, and they are hoping for two in archery, one in boxing, two in judo, two in wrestling and one in table tennis.

Women's world archery champion Kim Soo-Nyung is strongly favoured to win the individual title and could lead the country to the team gold.

Hwang Hye-Young and Chung Myung-Hee are seen to vie for the women's badminton doubles gold with China's world champions Guan

Weizhen and Nong Qunhua. The men's world champions, South Korea's Park Joo-Bong and Kim Moon-Soo, are also favoured for glory in the new medal sport.

Rashid Sidek, who created a sensation in May by leading Malaysia to their first Thomas Cup world team title for 25 years, hopes to follow it by



GAO MIN ... diving queen

winning his country's first Olympic medal.

Rashid's older brothers, Jalani and Razif Sidek, also angle for a medal as the World Grand Prix men's doubles winners.

As women's judo also makes its Olympic debut, world open-weight champion Zhuang Yaoyan could add another gold to China's medal collection.

Japanese men's judokas, led by four world champions, are going full out to re-establish their tradition of winning at least half the titles on offer at World Championships and Olympics in their national sport. They returned home from Seoul with just one gold for heavyweight Hitoshi Satou.

Taiwan pin their gold-medal hopes on the Korean martial art of taekwondo, the new Olympic sport of men's baseball and women's archery.

They struck taekwondo gold in Seoul and seek to revive the baseball battle royal with Cuba, the United States and Japan.

England draw level

LEEDS, England, July 26: England's nerves held today as David Gower steered them to victory over Pakistan on the fourth day of the fourth Test at Headingley, reports Reuter.

Needing 99 to win, England reached their target for the loss of four wickets, with Gower undefeated on 31 and Mark Ramprakash not out 12.

Resuming the day on 98 for four, still 25 runs behind England's first innings score, Pakistan were all out just after lunch for 221 leaving England a small total to chase in a low scoring game.

But Pakistan paceman Waqar Younis set the England nerves on edge as he charged in to grab two quick wickets when the score was just 27.

Gower then came in, and although two further wickets fell, he kept his calm and scored the winning runs.

In a tense post-lunch session England took the last three Pakistani wickets for just 16 runs but any thoughts that England would reach their target with ease were dispelled when Waqar first had Mike Atherton out leg before for five and then Robin Smith caught at midwicket without scoring.

Man-of-the-Match Graham Gooch, whose first innings 135 had put England into their narrow match-winning position, was

No more action replay

HEADINGLEY, England, July 26: Potentially controversial incidents were being censored from replay on Headingley's giant video screen in the fourth Test between England and Pakistan here Saturday, reports Reuter.

Test and County Cricket Board official Ken Lawrence acted after Pakistani paceman Aaqib Javed interrupted his over to watch a replay.

Aaqib, fined 150 pounds for intimidatory bowling during the third Test at Old Trafford, was clearly disappointed when umpire Mervyn Kitchen turned down his lbw appeal against Alec Stewart.

Aaqib started up at the screen to study the replay before walking back to his mark for the next delivery.

That was the most obvious of several similar examples on the third morning of the fourth Cornhill Test.

Instant replays of the most interesting action suddenly disappeared from the screen following Lawrence's intervention.

"I felt they were putting too much pressure on the umpires as well as holding up play," he said.

The screen has been used only once before during a Test in England — at the Oval last summer. Then, replays were restricted to routine action plus clear cut dismissals and a similar strict arrangement is likely to be reinforced before next month's final Test at the Oval.

still there, but only after a large slice of good fortune.

When only 13, he survived a run out appeal with television replays apparently showing umpire Ken Palmer had made the wrong decision following a powerful throw from Waqar at long-leg.

Scoreboard table with columns for batsmen and runs.



England bowler Tim Munton celebrates after bowling Pakistan's opener Rameez Raja for 63 during the fourth day's play of the fourth Test at Headingley Saturday. England won by six wickets yesterday.

Gooch was eventually out for 37, well caught by Asif Mujtaba close to the wicket off the bowling of leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed.

Alec Stewart was out soon after when the score was on 65, caught behind off Mushtaq's bowling for two. But despite several confident appeals Pakistan enjoyed no more success as England inched to victory.

For the second time in the match Salim Malik held the Pakistani innings together and was left unbeaten on a superb 84 following his 82 not out in the first innings.

England have now levelled the five-Test series 1-1 with the final Test being played at the Oval in two weeks time.

SCOREBOARD

Final score board for the fourth Test here today.

ENGLAND won by six wickets.

PAKISTAN: First innings 197 (Salim Malik 82 not out).

ENGLAND 320 (Gooch 135, Atherton 76, Waqar Younis 5-117).

PAKISTAN: 2nd innings

Aamir Sohail c Stewart b Mallerder 1

Rameez Raja c Atherton b Munton 63

Asif Mujtaba c Hick b Mallerder 11

Javed Miandad c Stewart b Mallerder 8

Salim Malik not out 84

Inzamam-ul-Haq c Smith b Pringle 19

Abahani off to Hyderabad

Sports Reporter

Navana league runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra comprising 13 players and three officials led by the left-arm pace bowler Golam Nawshar Prince, left Dhaka to take part in the Mofnuddowiah invitational knockout cricket competition beginning from July 29 in Hyderabad, India.

Abahani will play an unnamed Maldives club on July 31. Should they win they will take on the winners of the match between MRF XI and Hedge and Modi in the quarter-finals.

Sixteen teams will compete in the meet which runs until August 8.

Niaz tops his compatriots

The world chess organisation FIDE in its latest ratings has ranked Grand Master Niaz Morshed as the top most among the twelve chess players of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Niaz tops with 2505 points among ten men and two women players.

Fide Master Ziaur Rahman follows Niaz with 2380 points while Zillur Rahman Champak is rated third with 2355 points.

The other rated players are: National champion Rifatin-Sattar (2335), Safuddin Lavloo (2315), Fide Master Younus Hassan (2285), Fide Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman (2265), Fide Master Rezaul Haq (2230), Anisur Rahman (2220) and Ziaul Kader Tuhin (2215).

International Woman Master Rani Hamid is rated 2135 and Shabana Parveen Nipa 2105 points.

Police in semis

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Police yesterday filled the fourth and last semifinal berth of the 1992 moon-sun handball competition.

Earlier, reigning champions Bangladesh Rifles, fancied Brothers Union from Group A and last year's runners-up Bangladesh Ansars from Group B qualified for the semis.

Bangladesh Police and Ansars, who now have nine points from three matches each, will clash July 30 to decide the Group B championship.

Yesterday Police, leading 14-4 at the breather, outplayed Surjakarajjal Boys Club 31-14.

Pragati Boys Club swept aside Nawabpur Sporting Club 33-3 in the other match of the day.

Nat'l TT put back

Sports Reporter

The seventeenth national table tennis championship under the aegis of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) will now begin from August 12 instead of August 1, as was earlier scheduled, says a press release.

Men, women and boys of various organisations and district sports associations (DSAs) will compete in ten different events.

The DSAs and affiliated organisations yet to register their names have been asked to send their entries to the BTTF at the Dhaka Stadium by August 8.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Walk heavily 5 Actor Torn 8 Kind of exam 12 Irritate 13 Swiss canton 14 "...for the call of the running" 15 Isles off Ireland 16 Fast-talking peddler 18 Garbles a text 20 Snide looks 21 Shoshone 22 Road goo 23 Wanders about 26 Style of roof 30 Mrs. Eddie Cantor 31 Disease of sheep 32 Kentucky bluegrass 33 Tropical fruits 36 Jazz dance 38 An — and a leg 39 Mongrel dog 40 Shaped like an egg 43 Sea cow 47 Willy Loman, for one 49 Small rugs 50 Ananias, for one 51 River island 52 Ski instructors 53 Corrida cheers 54 Overhead railways 55 Sensible DOWN 1 Baby buggy Solution time: 24 mins.

Grid for crossword puzzle with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

NOIX MOQUMDQUILM ZRP'K ZUTOIK KAU PUDLKCU VGMCPUMM; KAUI MCXTQJ VRN RRGK. Today's Cryptoquip clue: Q equals L. 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.