

Narvaez is Spain's hero

BARCELONA, Aug 9: Quico Narvaez became the hero of soccer-mad Spain with a dramatic last-minute winner against Poland on Saturday which earned them Olympic gold and sent the 95,000 fans delirious, reports Reuter.

Roared on at Barcelona's Nou Camp Stadium by the biggest and most passionate crowd of the Games, Spain stormed back from a goal down to beat Poland 3-2.

It was Spain's first soccer medal since 1920 when they took the silver in Antwerp.

Narvaez, the 20-year-old striker from Cadiz, was responsible for one of the most dramatic moments of the Olympics, when, with less than a minute left, he scored his second goal of the night.

It ended Polish hopes of a second title and sent the flag-waving, drum-beating crowd wild with delight. The King and Queen of Spain rose to their feet to applaud in the royal box.

Poland, who had snatched the lead in the last minute of the first half and come back to level the game 2-2 with 14 minutes left, slumped to the ground in disbelief as the final whistle blew.

Spain, who had not conceded a goal in five previous Games in this under-23 tournament, were rocked when striker Wojciech Kowalczyk robbed defender Juan Lopez and fired home past the advancing keeper in injury-time of the first half.

It was a goal against the run of play, but the Spanish came out fired up in the second half and laid siege to the Polish goal.

The crowd were brought to their feet twice in five minutes when first Abelardo Fernandez equalised with a header from a free-kick in the 64th minute and then Narvaez put them ahead after robbing defender Tomasz Waldoch and blasting his shot into the net.

But Spanish hearts sank when just six minutes later the Poles pulled level as Ryszard Stanek ran onto a pass over the top of the defence to score amid howls of protest that he was offside.

In an Olympic Games that has seen several Spaniards defy the odds to win gold, the most popular title of all was finally wrestled.

With extra time looming Narvaez seized on a deflected shot from Roberto Solozabal to ram home the winner.

The Spanish players, making their first appearance of the tournament in Barcelona after playing their previous matches in Valencia, hugged each other in delight.

In the bronze medal game Friday, Ghana defeated Australia 1-0.

Waqar's future in Surrey uncertain

LONDON, Aug 9: Pakistan paceman Waqar Younis, who shattered England's hopes in the deciding fifth and final Test at the Oval on Saturday, said his county championship future with Surrey was in doubt, reports Reuter.

The 20-year-old fast bowler has been trying to negotiate a new contract with Surrey, for whom he took 113 wickets last summer after joining them in 1990.

"Things have not yet been settled and at the moment we haven't been able to agree on the money," he said.

"I would like to come back to Surrey. People here have always treated me well and I hope things can be sorted out during this Test. But at the moment there is still some way to go."

DCPA meets BCCB over pool

Sports Reporter A meeting regarding the players' pool between the Dhaka Cricket Players' Association (DCPA) and the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) was held at the BCCB yesterday.

The meeting had a detailed discussion on the proposals raised by the DCPA.

The DCPA has asked the BCCB to implement the players' pool from next year instead of the current year and to raise the players' quota to four from three for each club.

The DCPA also suggested that only the players who played for the national team in the 1991-92 cricketing year, instead of the last three years, should be included in the pool.

However, the BCCB is yet to decide the issue.

General Secretary Aminul Huq Moni and Treasurer Reza-e-Karim represented the BCCB while veteran cricketers Jahangir Shah Badshah, Oazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, national team skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Athar Ali and Golam Faruk Suru spoke for the DCPA.



OLYMPIC SPECIAL



Pak pace proves too hot for England



LONDON, Aug 9: Pakistan's lethal bowling cocktail made short work of England's last five wickets today, earning them the fifth Test by 10 wickets and the series by two victories to one, reports Reuter.

A desperate rear-guard action by Robin Smith, who scored 84 not out, meant England avoided the ignominy of an innings defeat by just one run when they were skilted out for 174 in their second innings, 25 minutes before lunch.

England, chasing Pakistan's total of 380, resumed today on 137 after managing a paltry 207 in their first innings.

But after a stubborn start by Smith and overnight partner Chris Lewis, the spin of Mushtaq Ahmed and the devastating speed of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis soon finished off the tail.

Pakistan came back in to score their two runs to win off Mark Ramprakash as Pakistan's vocal supporters roared their approval.

Akram won the man-of-the-match award and he and Waqar shared the accolade of men-of-the-series.

Waqar's final wicket today to bowl last man Devon Malcolm brought his tally for the series to 22, one more than the series record against England held by former captain Imran Khan.

Akram equalled Iran's total. The two pacemen, who started the summer below par because of injury, have developed throughout the series, producing an apparently unplayable combination of speed and swing.

England captain Graham Gooch conceded his batsmen were not equal to the task.

"Their two openers have been decisive in the series," he said after winning the award of England's man-of-the-series.

"Our batsmen had trouble coping." On Sunday, under a watery sun, both Waqar and Akram succeeded in moving the ball and after Lewis was dismissed in the 12th over for 14, England's resistance crumbled. Lewis, his patience worn

thin after surviving 114 minutes of defensive play against the pacemen, was stumped by Rashid Latif as he went rashly forward to have a crack at a ball from spinner Mushtaq Ahmed.

Derek Pringle followed a disconsolate Lewis to the wicket, but lasted only 12 ner-

However, even there, they suffered a similar spectacular batting collapse in their first innings.

Pakistan captain Javed Miandad extolled his own bowlers' performance.

"They are the best in the world and the best bowlers will always take the wickets."

Scoreboard table showing bowlers: Gower b Waqar, Ramprakash c Mujtaba b Mushtaq, Lewis st Latif b Mushtaq, Pringle b Akram, Mallerender c Mushtaq b Akram, Tufnell b Akram, Malcolm b Waqar, Extras: (b-1, lb-8, nb-0)



Mushtaq Ahmed of Pakistan sweeps Phil Tufnell for four during the third day's play of the fifth and final Cornhill Test at the Oval Saturday. Pakistan piled up a massive total of 380 runs in reply to England's 207 in the first innings. Pakistan won the match Sunday to clinch the series 2-1.

vous minutes before Akram ripped out his leg stump with a ferociously quick delivery. He had scored just one.

Neil Mallerender lasted 10 balls and scored three runs before Akram had him caught at second slip by Mushtaq. Akram then comprehensively bowled Phil Tufnell with his very next delivery.

Devon Malcolm managed to survive the hat-trick but was out soon after, yorked by Waqar.

"Their bowlers were too good for us and deservedly clinched the match quite easily," Gooch said. "We simply did not get enough runs — you can't win unless you do."

England's sole victory in the five-match series came in the fourth Test at Headingley where the ground's fickle wicket was perfectly suited to their bowlers' brand of swing.

he said. "England lost because of their pace. They kept beating the bat."

The two sides drew the first rain-shortened Test of the series at Edgbaston. Pakistan won at Lord's by two wickets and the third match at Old Trafford was drawn.

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the fifth and final cricket Test between England and Pakistan at the Oval today: ENGLAND: First innings 207 (M Atherton 60, Wasim Akram six for 67)

PAKISTAN: First innings 380 (Javed Miandad 59, Shoaib Mohammad 55, D Malcolm five for 94)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overflight 137 for five) Gooch c Aamir b Waqar 24, Stewart lb Waqar 8, Atherton c Latif b Waqar 4, Smith not out 84

Table with 4 columns: Bowling, O, M, R, W. Rows for Akram, Aaqib, Waqar, Mushtaq, Aamir.

PAKISTAN: Second innings Aamir Sohail not out 4, Rameez Raja not out 0, Extras: (w-1) 1, Total (for no wicket) 5

Bowling: O M R W Ramprakash 0.1 0 5 0 Result: Pakistan won by ten wickets

First Test — Edgbaston, Match drawn. Second Test — Lord's, Pakistan won by two wickets. Third Test — Old Trafford, Match drawn. Fourth Test — Headingley, England won by six wickets. Pakistan win the series 2-1.

Ashford's golden icing



BARCELONA, Aug 9: American Evelyn Ashford, the mother courage of the track, retired from competition on an historic note on Saturday and declared it was time to start eating again, reports Reuter.

Ashford, 35, ended her fourth Olympic Games with a gold medal in the 4x100 metres relay that gave her a place in the record books as the oldest woman ever to win Olympic glory on the athletics track.

It was the third successive gold in the 4x100 for the American and, with her 100 metres individual title at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, made her only the third woman in Olympic history to win four track crowns.

"I wanted to leave Barcelona with a gold medal and I am," said Ashford, first off the blocks for the US quartet.

Ashford, who interrupted her track career to give birth to daughter Raina Ashley in 1985, spent 16 years at the top starting from her first appearance at the Montreal Games in 1976.

She went on a special diet, which she said she hated, to slim down for Barcelona to the weight she was in 1984, when she ran a world record 10.76 seconds for the 100 metres in Zurich.

She declared on Saturday that the diet had gone out of the window. The time had come to start doing "all the things I like to do, like eating cake."

Ashford failed to qualify for the 100 metres final in Barcelona, where she finished fifth in her semifinal after a poor start.

She made up for that disappointment by going out for a meal.

Pain, planning & pesetas pay off

BARCELONA, Aug 9: Spain found the Midas touch at their Olympic Games.

The host nation, who managed a total of only four gold medals in their 12 previous Olympic appearances, had won an astonishing 13 gold, five silver and two bronze by Saturday night, reports Reuter.

They were guaranteed two more medals in the men's water polo and featherweight boxing finals.

Throughout the Games Spanish athletes have sent the crowds wild as one after another performed beyond their highest expectations to bring home gold.

Their fighting spirit was typified by 23-year-old Fermín Cacho, a virtual unknown on the world circuit who stunned a class field to win the 1,500 metres, the Olympics' blue ribbon event, on Saturday.

And their soccer team's 3-2 success over Poland in Saturday's final was one of the most popular triumphs as 95,000 fans roared their approval in Barcelona's Nou Camp.

But Spain's phenomenal success had less to do with cheering home crowds than four years of investment to drag Spanish sport up to world class level to prevent an embarrassing flop on home soil and wounded national pride.

The Association of Olympic Sports (ADO), has been pumping millions of dollars into training the nation's hot-shot athletes for their places on the Olympic podium.

Under the scheme, 23 companies have handed over an average of 1 million dollar a year in return for sponsorship rights to the Spanish team.

Now the investment is paying dividends.

"Ninety per cent of the Spanish success in the Olympic Games is down to the ADO," the programme's technical director, Fernando Sanchez Banuelos, said. "In the smaller sports the percentage is even bigger."

Spain all but swept the board in the sailing gold medals and Martin Lopez Zubero fulfilled expectations in the swimming pool, setting an Olympic record when he won the 200 metres backstroke.

Jose Manuel Moreno set another in the one-km cycling time-trial.

But no-one thought Spain would score in athletics,



Jubilant Spanish booters after beating Poland in the Olympic football final on Saturday. — AFP photo

Danish handball official due in Nov

The general secretary of Danish School Sports Federation Allan Lund is expected to arrive here in November to hold a seminar on handball, reports UNB.

The seminar will focus on international standard of handball and is expected to evaluate and analyse the country's standard in the sport, said Asaduzzaman Kohinor, Secretary of the Bangladesh Handball Federation Sunday.

A total of 35 sport officials have already filed to take part in the seminar.

Allan was invited by Asaduzzaman Kohinor when he visited Denmark last April.

Bahar's title

Sports Reporter Md Anwarul Karim Bahar with five points clinched the active chess championship organised by the Kamalapur Samaj Kallyayan Krira Sangha, says a press release.

Mizanur Rahman and Abul Khair finished second and third respectively.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution time of 21 minutes and a grid of letters.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and a clue: Today's Cryptoquip clue: I equals P

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.