

S Bima judo from today

Sports Reporter

The five-day 1992 Sadharan Bima judo and karate competitions under the aegis of the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation (BJKF) begin today at the National Sports Council (NSC) gymnasium.

The judo meet will be conducted in the first two days while the karate competition is scheduled for September 9 to 11.

Addressing a press conference at the NSC yesterday, the president of the BJKF Khurshid Ali Mollah said that Labour and Manpower Minister Md Abdul Mannan Bhuiya will inaugurate the judo competition today at 4 pm and Jute Minister Brig (ret'd) ASM Hannan Shah will give away the prizes tomorrow at 5 pm.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka will grace the opening ceremony of the karate meet on September 9 at 11:30 am. Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain will distribute the awards among the successful karatekas on September 11 at 5 pm.

Eighty-two judokas including 22 women representing 15 clubs will take part in 14 different judo events while 395 men and 32 women representing 56 clubs will compete in 14 karate events.

The BJKF president said that Sadharan Bima have donated eighty thousand taka out of an estimated budget of Taka 95,000 for holding the competitions.

The BJKF president also informed the press that the federation, in association with the Bangladesh Government, will soon introduce judo and karate at the schools and college levels. The government is planning introduction of judo and karate as a compulsory subject soon, Khurshid Mollah claimed.

BJKF vice-president Hassanuzzaman Moni and secretary Awlad Hossain also addressed the press conference.

Italian spikers retain world league title

GENOA, Italy, Sept 6: Italy battled back from a first game loss to win the world volleyball league for a third successive year here on Saturday against Cuba, reports AFP.

The Italians earned a hefty one million dollar purse for their 3-1 victory, which avenged their surprise failure to get into the medals at the Barcelona Olympics.

The home team lost the first game after leading 14-9, but then upped their play to deny the Cubans further gains, trouncing them 15-3, in the second game, followed by 15-11, 15-11 wins to clinch the tournament.

Earlier, the United States, claimed third place with a 3-1 win over the Netherlands, silver medalists in Barcelona.

The Americans won the bronze, while gold medalists Brazil were eliminated in the first round of the league.

Jansher wins Singapore squash

SINGAPORE, Sept 6: World squash number one Jansher Khan crushed Australia's Brett Martin to win the Singapore Open on Saturday, reports AFP.

The Pakistani won 15-4, 15-6, 15-9 — but there was consolation for the Martin clan as Brett's sister Michelle beat British champion Sue Wright 15-13, 17-16, 15-10 to claim the women's prize.

Michelle is currently in superb form. Last month's Malaysian Open victory moved her into third place in the world rankings.

Matin Babu wins cycling race

Sports Reporter

MA Matin Babu of BJMC pedaled all the way to the finish line ahead of forty competitors in the Dhaka-Bhaluka-Dhaka 1 road race held on September 4.

Babu took 5 hours 20 minutes to cover the distance which proved a bit too difficult for most of the cyclists who participated. Only ten riders managed to keep the wheels going till the end.

A Kuddus Babul of BTMC finished second ahead of BJMC's S Sajjad Ali.

Allahma soccer

Sports Reporter

Manik Kona Krita Chakra trounced Sylhet Mohamedan Fan Club 3-1 in their second leg match of the third Mustafa Allahma Gold Cup soccer tournament at the Dhaka Dakshin School ground yesterday.

Zahir took his side ahead in the fifth minute of the first half while Quayyum doubled the margin in the 11th minute.

Ivanisevic is third seed to fall



NEW YORK, Sept 6: Far from the crowds watching Jim Courier and John McEnroe charge toward a

US Open collision, new teen phenomenon Chanda Rubin blossomed and Wimbledon finalist Goran Ivanisevic wilted, report agencies.

Third seeded Pete Sampras, 1990 Open champion, almost tumbled out in the third round Saturday night, but survived a serious scare against No 93 Todd Martin to win 7-6, (7-1), 2-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 in over 3 1/2 hours of scintillating tennis.

Rubin, 16, dashed around the court, blasting from the baseline and charging the net on occasion, in beating No 15 Katerina Maleeva 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, in a third-round match. Two other Maleevas loom in Rubin's path, the eldest, No 9 Manuela in the next round, and the youngest, unseeded 17-year-old Magdalena in the quarterfinals.

Next up on the same court, Ivanisevic, the fifth seed and runner-up to Andre Agassi in a thrilling Wimbledon championship match, played sick, tired and sapped of strength in a 6-4, 6-0, 6-3 loss to Alexander Volkov.

Ivanisevic's loss marked the third upset in the men's singles, after losses by sixth seed Petr Korda and number 11 Michael Stich.

Ivanisevic, looked exhausted on court, and said he felt even worse. "I was playing without any energy," the Croat said. "My legs felt very heavy. I could not run. I was serving badly because my arms were so heavy."

He said he had felt ill since he arrived in the United States several weeks earlier, though medical tests last week found nothing wrong.

Volkov bristled at suggestions that his win owed little to his own efforts.

"I don't know what was wrong with him," said Volkov. "Maybe he didn't expect me to play that well."

"I didn't just serve well today. I played very well from the baseline. It is always difficult to beat somebody who is playing like that."

Ivanisevic couldn't figure out what was wrong with him, ticking off such possibilities as a virus, too much tennis, an aversion to American food, the city air.

He complained about the

food in London, too, but that didn't stop him from serving 206 aces and pushing Agassi to five sets with 37 in the final. Ivanisevic had only nine against Volkov, 33 in his three matches.

Agassi, No 8, had no such problems on the stadium court, easily overpowering Jan Siemerink 6-2, 6-3, 6-3, and next faces No 10 Carlos Costa,

one break in the second, one break in the third, then one break in the fourth.

"It was pretty nip-and-tuck all the way," Courier said.

"I wanted the opportunity to play Courier and now I have that chance," said McEnroe, winner of four US Open titles. "He's the top player in the world, so it will test where I am right now."

The winner of Courier McEnroe has every chance of meeting Andre Agassi in the quarter finals.

Magdalena Maleeva beat American Kimberly Po 6-2, 6-3 to line up a fourth round clash with Rubin. In the same quarter of the draw, ninth seeded Manuela Maleeva Fragner advanced with a 6-7 (6-8), 6-3, 6-2 victory over Czechoslovakia's Andrea Strnadova.

Three more women's seeds completed the fourth round line up.

Fifth seeded Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario beat Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu 6-1, 6-3, and 14th seeded American Zina Garrison defeated Australian Rachel McQuillan 6-3, 6-1.

Steffi Graf, the second seed, won her third match without dropping a set, 6-4, 6-2 over Nanne Dhalman.

Rubin, who won the juniors tournament at Wimbledon in July and had never played any of the Maleevas before, notched her biggest victory since turning pro a year ago.

Where some players might feel nervous and others confident leading 5-4 in the third set, Rubin said she felt sheer relief after coming from behind in the eighth game and tying at 4-4.

"Then it was kind of like, you know, I can do this," said Rubin, from Lafayette, La. "The match is right here, just play every point, don't think about match point."

Rubin, one of the few black pros in tennis, was in the US Tennis Association's development programme for a year, then was on the national team for two years with special coaches. The attention in nurturing her talent paid off in a big way at the USTA's showcase event.

"It was a match I was waiting for. I hope the USTA was waiting for it. I think they were," she said. "I am grateful for all the help they have given me. I am trying to do my best for me, for them, for everybody. This was a big breakthrough."



GORAN IVANISEVIC

a 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, victor over Omar Camporese. The winner goes on to the quarterfinals against the winner of Courier McEnroe in the fourth round.

Courier, the top seed and winner of two grand slam events this year, had a tough time beating No 60 Cedric Pioline 7-6, (7-2), 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. McEnroe, meanwhile, cruised to a 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Richard Fromberg.

The top seed Courier who has dropped a set in all three of his matches so far, said the match was a struggle until the end.

"He was serving very well, and I was winning comfortably on my serve, so it came down to the break in the first set,

Sampras survives a scare



NEW YORK, Sept 6: Third-seeded Pete Sampras made no secret of his feelings after escaping into the

US Open fourth round with a come-from-behind victory on Saturday night, reports Reuter.

"I definitely could have lost," Sampras said of his 7-6 (7-1), 2-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 win over unseeded fellow American Todd Martin. "I used up about 19 lives tonight."

Sampras was in dire straits throughout the last two sets of the three hour 41 minute struggle on the National Tennis Centre stadium court.

He was a service break down 2-0 in the last set before breaking in the third game with a backhand winner. Sampras held for 2-2 and then when he ripped a forehand winner for the break he was ahead for good at 3-2.

Still, it took his fourth match point and a blistering service winner to wrap up the match.

In the fourth set Sampras had to serve a love game to pull even to 5-5 before breaking Martin at 15-40 with a brilliant backhand passing shot for 6-5.

"I feel myself to be pretty fortunate to still be in the tournament," said Sampras, whose next opponent is 13th seed Guy Forget of France, a 6-3, 7-6(7-4), 2-6, 6-2 victor over American David

Food and air let Ivanisevic down

NEW YORK, Sept 6: Maybe it is the food, maybe it is the air, but whatever it is, Goran Ivanisevic has not enjoyed his most recent stay in the United States, reports AFP.

"Since I came here in America, I am feeling very bad, very sick," the fifth-seeded Croat said after losing 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 to Russian Alexander Volkov in the third round of the US Open.

"First in New Haven, and then here."

Ivanisevic, who was stopped in the quarter-finals at the New Haven, Connecticut, tournament two weeks ago, said he had blood tests then and doctors found nothing wrong with him.

However, he said he had felt even worse since his arrival in New York, suffering from insomnia and stomach cramps.

Wheaton. "I had an off night, but I had to find a way to win. It was not pretty and there was a little bit of luck."

Martin, ranked 93rd in the world, sensed he was on the threshold of a milestone victory from the first set when he pushed Sampras into the tiebreaker.

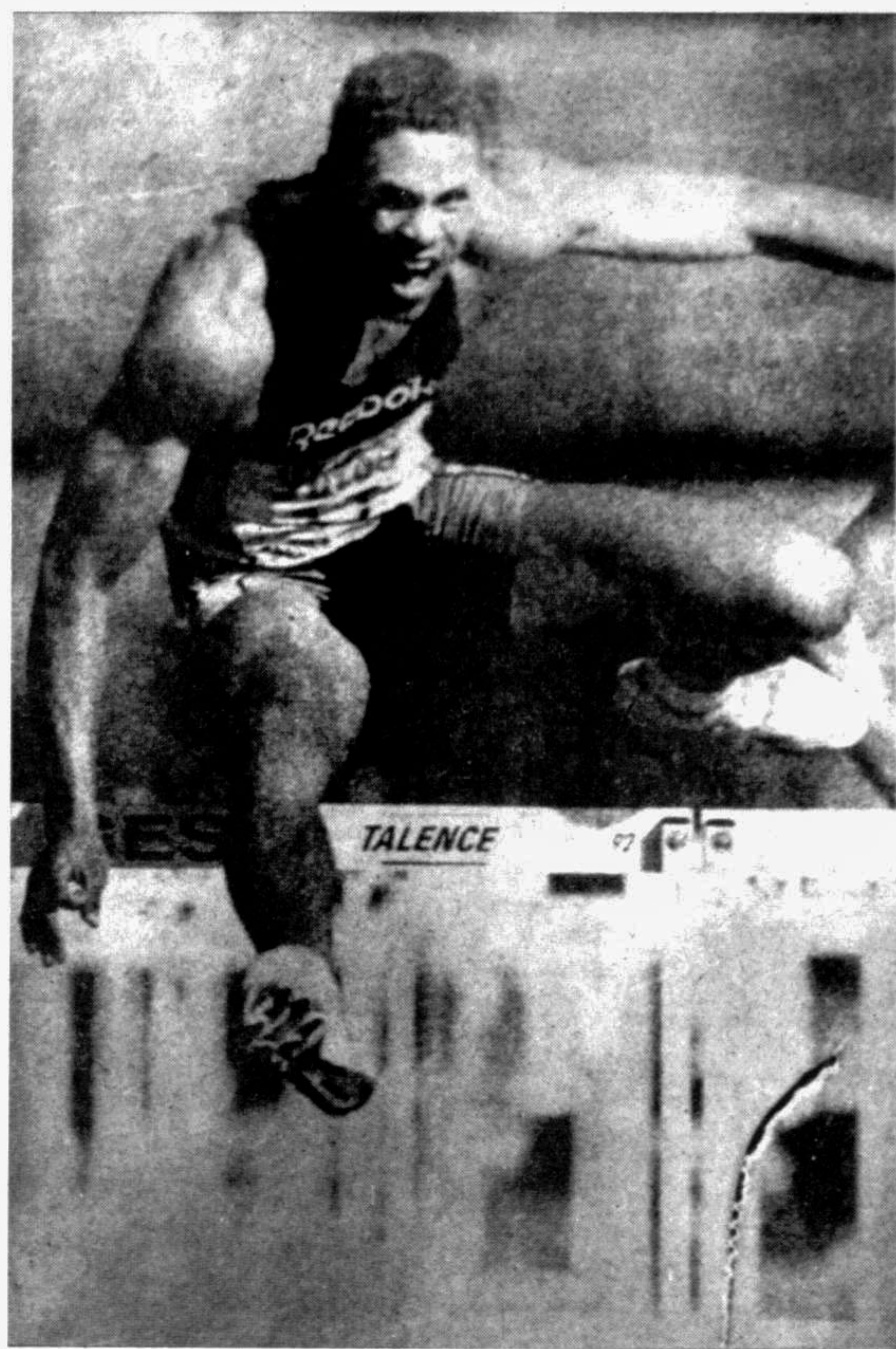
"I figured if I could stick with him through a set, I knew I was in it the whole time," he said. "I knew I was a few shots, a few points away from winning."

Olympic solidarity course

CHITTAGONG, Sept 6: A six-day Olympic solidarity sports leadership course began at the Zila Parishad Hall here this morning, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner and president of the Chittagong Zila Krira Parishad (CZKP) A H M Abul Kashem inaugurated the course at a simple ceremony attended by CZKP office bearers, and sports lovers.

The objective of the course is to develop sports leadership among those who are connected with sports associations.



American Dan O'Brien clears a 110m hurdle, one of the ten events of decathlon, in Talence, France on Saturday. O'Brien broke Briton Daley Thompson's world record with 8,896 points. — AFP Photo

O'Brien overcomes Olympic dole



TALENCE, France, Sept 6: American Dan O'Brien broke Briton Daley Thompson's eight-year-old decathlon world record on Saturday to overcome his disappointment at missing the Barcelona Olympics, reports Reuter.

The reigning world champion set six personal best performances on his way to scoring 8,891 points, improving by 44 points the mark set by Britain's Thompson at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

The 26-year-old American, who did not qualify for Barcelona after failing to score a point in the pole vault at the US trials in March, beat Thompson's scores in six out of 10 events.

And his triumph was all the sweeter as the comfortably beat Olympic champion Robert Zmelik of Czechoslovakia, who finished second on 8,344 points, France's Alain Blondel was third with 8,285.

But it was close challenge as O'Brien gradually faltered towards the end of the second day and he needed to produce a personal best time in the last event, the 1,500 metres.

"I wanted this world record

so badly. Now it feels better than a gold medal," said O'Brien.

"I was so disappointed because of Barcelona. I wanted to prove I was the best in the world. Now I can say I had a good year after all," he said.

He started with 10.43 seconds in the 100 metres, one hundredth of a second better than the legendary Briton, then set personal bests in the long jump with 8.08 metres, in the high jump will 2.07 metres and in the shot put with 1.69 metres.

He faltered only in the 400 metres with a relaxed 48.51, almost two seconds slower than Thompson, whose record he was leading by 46 points at the end of the first day.

He had a perfect start to the second with another two personal bests of 13.98 in the 110 metres hurdles and 48.56 in the discus.

He cleared five metres in the pole vault, ensuring he did not repeat his mistake in the US trials where he sat out early rounds only to fail to register a clearance when he finally entered.

But an average throw in the javelin — 162.58 metres to Thompson's 65.24 — forced

him to improve his best time once again in the gruelling last event, the 1,500 metres.

Looking exhausted, O'Brien needed to run faster than 4:45.00 to beat the world record. Cheered by 8,000 spectators and some of his opponents, the American crossed the line in 4:42.10 to improve by 44 points the mark set by Thompson.

"Daley who?" Joked O'Brien before starting a lap of honour. Thompson, 33, Olympic champion in Moscow and Los Angeles failed to qualify for the Barcelona Games after losing a desperate battle against injury.

He broke down with a torn leg tendon halfway through the 100 metres of a decathlon in July held specially to allow him to try to qualify for one more Olympic Games.

In the women's heptathlon, Olympic silver medalist Irina Bieleova of Russia beat world champion Sabine Braun of Germany in the last event.

Bieleova, who trailed Braun throughout, clocked an excellent 2:07.90 in the 800 metres to snatch victory with 6,673 points.

Braun was second with 6,496 and Bulgaria's Svetla Dimitrova third on 6,411.

Sky's the limit for Kevin Young



TURIN, Italy, Sept 6: Kevin Young, the track and field athlete of 1992, seeks fresh fields to

conquer after a year in which he won the Olympic 400 metres hurdles title while breaking the world record, reports Reuter.

The 25-year-old American capped a triumphant season on Friday by winning the men's overall title in the Grand Prix athletics final, collecting total prize money of 35,000.

"As I came to the finish line I was summing up my whole season," Young reflected after winning the one-lap hurdles in 48.16 seconds. "It's been a tremendous year for me."

Young said Friday's meeting — the last of 18 Grands Prix in 13 countries — was his final competition of the season.

He now intends to rest for a month before starting winter training in preparation for another busy year which includes the Stuttgart World Championships.

Young slashed Ed Moses's nine-year-old world record of 47.02 seconds by 0.24 of a second in the Barcelona Olympic final despite topping the final barrier and running the last 10 metres with his right hand held high in the air.

"My next goal is 46.46, I may go under 46."

"I have always felt that he would be the first under 47 seconds," Smith said. "It was just a matter of time."

"What we have been doing this year is working on hurdlings efficiency."

Young paid tribute to Moses, twice an Olympic champion and unbeaten in 112 races between 1977 and 1987.

"I think Ed Moses is one of the greatest hurdlers who have ever lived," he said. "And I'm also one of the greatest."

"Personally, I needed someone to pave the way. My goal is not a winning streak like Ed Moses but to keep running under 47 seconds. The sky's the limit."

Hiranaka fires up for title defence

TOKYO, Sept 6: Japanese champion Akinobu Hiranaka and Filipino challenger Morris East held public sparring sessions Sunday ahead of their World Boxing Association junior welterweight title match, reports AP.

Hiranaka displayed powerful punches and forced his sparring partner to the rope in a two-round session at Yonekura Gym. East's punches were lighter.

The 12-round title match will be held at Nihon Budokan Wednesday.

Lewis throws yet another challenge to Christie

LONDON, Sept 6: Carl Lewis, the world 100 metres champion and world record holder, may compete in this month's World Cup in Havana setting up a possible clash with Britain's Olympic champions Linford Christie, reports Reuter.

"Carl is thinking of going to Cuba," David Greffinger, the lawyer for Lewis's Santa Monica Track Club, said on Saturday.

"We should know in a week or so."

Christie will captain the British team in Havana. Lewis, the 1984 and 1988 Olympic 100 champion, did not defend his title in Barcelona after failing to make the American team for either the 100 or 200 metres.

The 31-year-old American, who had suffered from a virus at the US trials, showed he had made full recovery in Barcelona by winning his third long jump gold medal then anchoring the U S 4x100 metres relay team to a world record.

This week Christie said he was prepared to meet the man he deposed as Olympic champion in Tokyo on September 19 as long as he was guaranteed at least half the 495,000 dollar likely to be on offer.

But on Friday he issued a statement saying he had decided to postpone meeting Lewis until next year.

Christie said he wished to stage the race on British soil and his agent Sue Barrett said he felt very strongly that as Olympic champion he should be the person to dictate where and when the race would take place.

Hall of Famer dies

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Sept 6: Hall of Fame second baseman Billy Herman, named to 10 All-Star games over 15 seasons in the National League, died of cancer on Saturday. He was 83, reports AP.

Herman, who holds the NL record for highest batting average in All-Star games at .433 (13 for 33), entered the majors in 1931, playing with the Chicago Cubs for 10 seasons and then joining Leo Durocher's Brooklyn Dodgers.

With teammates Joe "Ducky" Medwick, Pee Wee Reese, Dolph Camilli, Kirby Higbe, Pete Reiser, Dixie Walker and Whitlow Wyatt, Herman helped Brooklyn win its first pennant in 21 years before losing to the New York Yankees in the 1941 World Series.

"He was a gentleman, an outstanding player, a Hall of Famer in every way. He was always modest, always quiet, a guy you'd like to be with," former Milwaukee Braves general manager John McHale told the Palm Beach Post.

William Herman, a resident of Palm Beach Gardens, was born in New Albany, Ind., on July 7, 1909 and named after three-time Democratic presidential nominee William Jennings Bryan.

He served two years in the navy during World War II and returned to the majors in 1946 with the Dodgers. He played his final season with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1947.

Herman ended his 15-year career with a .304 average and 2,345 hits in 1,922 regular-season games. He played in four World Series, three with the Cubs (1932, '35, '38) and one with the Dodgers, but none took the championship and three of those clubs lost to the New York Yankees.

Amritraj's plan to upgrade Indian sports standard

NEW DELHI, Sept 6: Indian tennis star Vijay Amritraj today outlined his blueprint for improvement of Indian sports which he will submit to the Prime Minister, PV Narasimha Rao, tomorrow, reports PTI.

The former India Davis Cup captain, addressing the press here today said the plan envisages the creation of a top post under the Prime Minister and the person will be responsible to run sports in the country.

Explaining the details of his plan, Amritraj said "Sports should be left to be run by people who know best about it."

Amritraj said according to his plan, the government need not spend a single rupee but less it by announcing tax rebates for companies investing in the promotion of sports and give customs duty exemption for any or all equipment needed for sports.

The person responsible for running sports in the country will enlist support from 50 to 100 companies who have to set aside two high-level jobs every two years in two disciplines of their choice.

These companies will, apart from getting tax-breaks, be promoted by the athletes who are with them, Amritraj said.

"There is no guarantee that this scheme will work but all we have to do is to give it the best shot we have," he said.



New York's favourite son Jimmy Connors, who celebrated his 40th birthday last Wednesday, being interviewed by TV after his second round exit from this year's US Open Saturday. — Star TV photo