

South African skipper Kepler Wessels, his deputy Hansie Cronje and teammates warm up before a practice session in - AFP photo Colombo yesterday. Mike Proctor, the team manager, is the man in the centre.

What now for England's losers? tied 2-2 with the West Indies in

LONDON, Aug 11: England's cricket team loses its ninth game out of 10 and the chairman of selectors

resigns. The country that invented the game hasn't won a match for over a year and critics say it has no answer to its current crisis, reports AP. Battered all round the

grounds by the Australian batsmen and dismissed for modest scores by the bowlers, England have at least been consistent. Consistent at losing.

Since beating Pakistan in July last year, England have lost to Pakistan, India (three times) Shri Lanka and Australia (four times). They managed a draw

against Australia last month but since have lost twice in a

A day after England went 4-0 down to Australia in the Ashes series, the papers were full of gloom and despondency about what can be done to turn the "Where do we go from here?"

asked the tabloid Daily Express in a headline. England are on course for their heaviest ever Ashes loss, said the Times of London.

Other papers noted that the announcement that selectors' chairman Ted Dexter had resigned was welcomed by English fans watching their team lose at Edgbaston. They broke out into applause.

Some papers even had Dexter's resignation on the front page as well as the back. Even the Financial Times, a paper that specializes in finance and business news and doesn't even have a regular sports page, carried the story

"When a once-great company makes losses in all its main markets and its chairman resigns in disgrace, it is time for a complete rethink," the FT said.

"Most companies would be embarrassed to admit that they promoted staff in the haphazard way of the England cricket team - by part-timers basing judgements on a series of impressions." Dexter, a stylish batsman

who captained England 30 times in a 62-Test international career between 1958 and 1968, had been selectors' chairman at 30,000 pounds (dlrs 45,000) a year since 1989. But he was criticized for not

watching all the Test matches throughout. Instead, Dexter preferred to leave matches half way through to watch junior England teams in action and promote the development of the game among young players.

After his decision to step



GEOFF BOYCOTT

gested Tuesday as his successor. The views were certainly not unanimous.

Among the names mentioned were former England captains Mike Smith, Geoffrey Boycott, Bob Willis, Tony Lewis, Tony

Greig and Raymond Illingworth. South African-born Greig suggested Boycott should get the role. Illingworth, named as a candidate by former Australian captain Ian Chappell, said he would consider it, but also said it should go to Boycott or Willis.

Former fast bowler Willis put himself in the running but also mentioned Boycott as the main candidate. Three newspapers said Smith was the most likely choice because outspoken former players such as Boycott, Illingworth and Willis would upset England's cricket establish-

Most agreed, however, that the committee method of selecting the team was outdated and that one man should be in charge of picking the lineup for



BOB WILLIS

After next week's final Test against the Australians, England begin thinking about a lineup that will be strong enough to challenge the West Indies, one of the world's

strongest teams. Only two years ago England

Bubka gunning for his fourth

STUTTGART, Germany, Aug 11: Sergei Bubka may have dominated pole vaulting for the past decade, but there is no guarantee that the Ukrainian will cap his weirdest season yet with a gold medal here, reports

For Bubka, the showman who has set 34 indoor and outdoor records, 1993 is proving to be an erratic year.

He started the outdoor season in fine form, winning in Sao Paulo with 5.80m and then hitting 6.00m at San Jose to raise hopes that more world records would soon come tumbling down.

However, not only has the 29-year-old failed in a string of attempts to beat the 6.13 mark he set in Tokyo last year, but his form went disastrously astray mid-season, when he lost three events on the trot.

Defeat in the European Cup was followed by disappointment at Lille and Oslo, and it wasn't until the Nikaia meeting in Nice that he was able to get the better of Russia's Olympic champion Maxim Tarasov.

It's a far cry from the sort of form which saw him unbeaten in seven years of championships, from the worlds at Helsinki in 1983 to the European Champs at Split in 1990.

Devers ready for a treble

STUTTGART, Germany, Aug 11: Gail Devers is ready to race for three gold medals at the IAAF World Championships, reports AFP.

The US sprinter won three gold medals two weeks ago over a lesser field at the US Olympic festival, taking the 100 metres, the 100 metre hurdles and anchoring the triumphant 400metre relay. She will attempt the same sweep in Stuttgart against a world-class field.

"I accomplished exactly what wanted." Devers said of her showing in San Antonio, Texas. This was just the preparation I needed for the World Championships. I will be ready."

Devers struggled in her final 100 metre tuneup before the World Championships, however. She finished third at the Weltklasse Grand Prix meet in Zurich, Switzerland.

Dreschler ready

STUTTGART, Germany, Aug 11: Heike Dreschler was the only former East German athlete to have come unscathed through the mud-slinging which accompanied the collapse of the old GDR sports system, reports But her reputation took a

knock in March when her father-in-law and coach Erich Dreschler was implicated in revelations about drug abuse behind the Berlin Wall. She appears to have ridden

the storm and in June led a boycott threat of the European Cup if the German sports authorities pursued their prosecution of 20 former East German coaches. The drugs charges were dropped and she duly competed in Rome. Dreschler, then Heike Daute,

first made the headlines in 1983 when as an 18-year-old she won the long jump gold medal at the first World Championships in Helsinki.

She had to wait nine long years for a second major long jump triumph.

An east European boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and Jackie Joyner-Kersee barred the way to further success.

ACROSS

1 South

6 Gator

12 Self-

14 Tea

American

capital

bowls?

people

variety

bender

Geller

17 Stuns

19 Army

20 Actor

rank

abbr

Perry

mate

and

31 Resold for

a huge

profit

15 Subtlety

16 Spoon-

for short

Tuning up for big occasion



Saturday.

perfection.

Lewis has been training near

Nice while Christie has based

himself in Monte Carlo as both

men take full advantage of the

Mediterranean sunshine before

their projected showdown in

Sunday's world 100 metres fi-

American world champion and

Britain's Olympic gold medalist is the focal point of the men's

competition at the fourth World

Championships starting on

The clash between the

STUTTGART, Gerare purely technical. Andre Cason, the US chammany, Aug 11: pion, was the man in form in Southern France, playground of the the early part of the season but has not looked nearly so conrich and famous, vincing recently.

has hosted Carl Lewis and Linford Christie this Cason had a great start. week as the world's two most Whether he can maintain his momentum against the taller glamorous sprinters prepare for the World Athletics Championand heavier figures of Lewis and Christie is questionable. ships, reports Reuter.

Lewis, is the quickest man this season over 200 metres and runs the distance for the first time at a World Championships.

But this may well be the year for Namibia's Frankie Fredericks, Olympic 100 and 200 silver medalist, who has run all over Europe this summer and who still looks to have plenty in

Barely behind the 100 metres and its public interest comes the 400.

The one-lap sprint features Lewis has not won any of Olympic champion Qunicy his six 100 metres finals this Watts and world record-holder year while Christie has only lost Butch Reynolds. Yet the overwhelming favourite is a third In addition, Lewis has ap-American, world 200 champion peared to be struggling while Michael Johnson. Christie, at 33, one year the

American's senior, looks to Johnson, a victim of foot poisoning at last year's have timed his preparation to Barcelona Olympics, opted to run the 400 at the US trials But Lewis, the greatest of his era, appears sublimely unfollowing a leg injury early in concerned at his lack of success the season and looks set to confirm his reputation as the and maintains his problems

best sprinter produced by the United States since Lewis.

If the Americans look likely to rule the sprints. The Africans should dominate the middle

and long distances. Kenyan Billy Konchellah returns in quest of a hat-trick of world 800 titles, the steeplechase will go to any one of three Kenyans barring an unimaginable upset, and Algerian Noureddine Morceli is the clearest of favourites for the 1,500 if he changes his mind and decides to compete.

The hurdles see Britain's European champion Colin Jackson, who has suffered a worrying back injury in the past week, seeking a first major 110 title. And in the 400 hurdles American Kevin Young strives to regain the authority which saw him stride imperiously to the Olympic title and world record last year.

In the field events Ukrainian Sergei Bubka, for once, is under pressure following his failure to clear a height in Barcelona.

Bubka, who measures his sporting life in centimetres with 34 indoor and outdoor records, is the co-world leader with Russian Rodion Gataullin this year and appears to be back to something approaching his

It'd be baptism by fire for 'em



STUTTGART, Germany, Aug 11: Europe's newest republics may be making their post-

Soviet debut at the World Championships here - but their rivals will not be celebrating, reports AFP. Bundled together as a uni-

fied team at the Barcelona Olympics, Stuttgart is the first major event where Russians, Ukrainians, Belarussians and the rest will appear in national While map-makers have

been thrown into confusion by the 12 new republics and three Baltic states, the effect on athletics is no less significant.

Suddenly, the restrictions which pegged back the number of Soviet finalists in an event have disappeared. The safety net, which ensured a fair spread of rival nationalities in the medal race, has been taken

The situation varies according to the discipline, with track athletes much less at risk than field. European and Americans will still hold sway in the sprints. Africans in the middle distance and Asians in the marathon. But for would be pole

vaulters and hammer-throwers, for example, the situation is little more than disastrous. It's bad enough having to

beat Serget Bubka, the Ukrainian who has set a phenomenal 34 indoor and outdoor world records in the vault. But at no fewer than three

Grand Prix meets this year -Lille, Lausanne and Oslo Bubka was one of six former Soviets among the top eight.

The top three places all went to ex-Soviets, who are unbeaten this season in the discipline, thanks to Bubka and Russia's Olympic Champion Maksim Tarasov and Rodion Gataullin. The situation is no less des-

perate in the hammer, where the six best throwers of 1993 comprise three Russians, two Belarussians and a Tazhak.

Of the new arrivals, Russia is certain to win the most medals in Stuttgart, followed by either the Ukraine or Belarus. That order was respected in

Barcelona, where the Russians got 13 of the Unified Team's 21 athletics medals, the Ukraine three, Belarus two and Tazhakstan one. Russains also engineered the two relay medals. The use of performance-

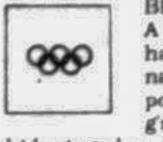
boosting drugs by east bloc women athletes is one thing which, sadly, seems to have survived the fall of communism. Three Bulgarian stars have

been brought to earth by the dope testers this year, but so have two top Russians -Ludmila Narozhilenko and Marina Shmonia - and two Ukrainians - Tatyana Dorovskikh and Inessa Kravets.

American Janet Evans (L) addresses the newsmen during a press conference at the Port

Island Sports Centre yesterday. Sitting on her left is Anita Nall. Evans, who won four gold medals in the Barcelona Games and Nall will take part in the Pan-Pacific swimming - AFP photo championships, scheduled to begin today.

China too poor to host Games?



BEIJING, Aug 11: A dissident who has become China's only open opponent to Beiling's 2000 Olympics bid staged a new protest at committee offices today saying

the country was too poor to 2000 Olympics," Qin told rehost the sports spectacular, reports Reuter. Qin Yongmin, a 40-year-old China turn to

Ognanovic BEIJING, Aug 11: Rade Ognanovic, the Yugoslav-born coach who led Cameroon to the 1982 World Cup finals, has been put in charge of the newlyformed Chinese Olympic team, China's national news agency said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

China, who broke tradition last year to hire a foreigner to coach their hapless national team, have appointed Ognanovic as part of their bid to raise the level of soccer in the

Ognariovic has also had spells coaching the national teams of Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Jordan, Egypt, and Ivory Coast. The terms of his contract were not disclosed. German Klaus Schlappner,

who was hired last year to coach the national side, had his contract renewed on Tuesday despite failing to take China to the second phase of the World Cup Asian zone qualifying tournament.

China, who lost to Iraq and Yemen, have failed in four attempts to qualify for the World Cup finals.

Schlappner will remain in charge for the 1994 Astan Games in Japan.

former steel worker who was detained for two weeks in April for trying to organise opposition to the bid, unfurled an anti-Olympic banner and spoke to surprised Olympic committee 'I'm here to express my opposition to China's bid for the

porters before being allowed to meet bid committee spokesman Wu Zhongyuan. "You people in Beijing can't see how poor people are in

other places," Qin said. Officials at the Beijing Bid committee were surprised by Qin's reappearance at the head of a pack of foreign reporters on Wednesday, and tried to act politely for the cameras.

Qin, said his major reason for opposing the Games is that they are too expensive, with total estimated outlay at around US 1.2 billion dollar.

Beijing had neither the financial nor logistical resources to host the Olympics, he said. "Anybody who looks at things objectively would realise this," he said.

Qin's lonely anti-Olympic battle fuels charges made overseas that China is suppressing opposition to the Betjing aid in its eagerness to win the honour * of hosting the Games.

Qin said earlier that police had warned him not to form any anti-Olympics organisation, not to discuss his opposition to the Games with foreign journalists and not to distribute anti-Olympic materials.

He was only released from detention in April after signing a document accusing him of incitement.

Qin, who lives in the central city of Wuhan, said on Wednesday that he had been

detained numerous times by police. He was also imprisoned for seven years for organising dissident activities during China's "democracy wall" movement in the late 1970's. China's official bid submitted

to the International Olympic

Committee promised that "no group opposed to holding the 2000 Olympics will appear in Beijing, either now or in the fu-The final Olympic decision, which pits Beijing against fellow

front-runner Sydney as well as other cities including Berlin and Manchester, will be made on September 23:

Cuthbert enraged KINGSTON, Jamaica, Aug

11: Double Olympic silver medalist Juliet Cuthbert said she would never compete for Jamaica again after being overlooked for the World Championships, reports Reuter.

Cuthbert, 29, second in both the 100 and 200 metres at the Barcelona Games, told local radio she was "very angry" with the Jamaica Amateur Athletics Association (JAAA) for omitting her from the team for Stuttgart and 'will not run for Jamaica anymore.

Cuthbert was excluded after missing national trials last month because of a thigh injury. But she has made an encouraging return to the track in Europe and said she felt used by Jamaica's athletics' authorities.

"Last year when I won the two silver medals for my country everybody was proud ... after I've got hurt it just seems like all that's happened is that I've been just kicked around," said a bitter Cuthbert.

China pin hopes on youngsters

a series at home and went on to

Then everything went wrong.

England lest 2-1 at home to

Pakistan, were blanked 3-0 by

India and were embarrassed by

Shri Lanka. Before the current

Test series, England also lost

three one-day games to the

Australia and England is re-

flected in the scores made by

Australian batsmen have scored

centuries against England dur-

ing the series, David Boon

scoring three, Mark Taylor hit-

ting two and captain Allan

centuries for England and

600 in an innings. At Lord's

they scored 643 for four with

the first three batsmen all scor-

ing centuries and No. 4, Mark

Waugh, making 99. At Hea-

dingley, Australia amassed 653

for four with Border and Steve

Waugh in an unbroken fifth-

England's best was 422 for

So what is the difference?

six in the drawn game at Trent

Are the selections wrong, is the

leadership poor? Is the system

The Test and County Cricket

Board hopes to find a solution

before the teams goes to the

for chairman, puts England's

problems down to a simple lack

cricketers," the former fast

bowler said. "Of those, only

about 40 should be earning a

Willis, one of the candidates

"We have 400 professional

West Indies in the Winter.

of picking the team unreliable?

wicket stand of 332.

Bridge.

of ability

Graham Gooch scored two

Australia twice went past

Border making 200 not out.

Graham Thorpe made one.

The gulf in ability between

Each of the first seven

down New Zealand 2-0.

Australians.

the batsmen.

STUTTGART, Germany, Aug 11: Wang Yan, the youngest ever world record holder in athletics, leads a Chinese team confident of success at the World Championships which start here on Saturday, reports Wang, who broke the

14-year-old in 1986, had to wait seven years before making her debut in a major international competition. She upheld China's tradition by winning the World Cup race

5,000m track walk record as a

in Monterry, Mexico, in April and tries to succeed Chen Yueling by winning the first event of the championships on Saturday.

Chen, Olympic 10km walk champion in Barcelona last year, failed to make the team. "It's difficult right now to

predict how we will do but, yes, we are confident," China's team manager Pan Weiman said on Wednesday as the 19 athletes worked the jet lag out of their system with a brisk stint on the training track. Wang Junxia, still only 18,

is another youngster who China are pinning their hopes on. She has run the 10,000m more than a minute faster than her nearest rival, Germany's

Uta Pipping, this year. Zhang Linli and Zhang Lirong, first and third in Seoul, hope to make Monday's final of the 3,000m. The qualifying round is on Saturday. Liu Dong, 1500m winner in Seoul, and Lu Yi, 800m cham-

pion, join forces in the 1,500m.

The final is run on the last day of the championships on Aug 22, two days after the heats. The youngsters are supported by some experienced winners.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer flower? 35 Supporter . 54 -- - ski of the DOWN arts?

1 Required

2 Different

from

3 Altar

member-

affirmation

4 Take care

5 E. Power

Biggs

6 Athena's

counter-

7 Responsi-

8 Oklahoma

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40 Northern 11 Rip apart diving bird employed puddytat!" 43 Modern music style

39 Base-

runner's

44 Condescend 46 Ever-47 Not obligated 49 Rodeo

51 Run off 9 Slight the track 52 Show up 22 Neither's ations 53 French

Solution time: 26 mins. 23 Danson Koppel A F T WE ME GOALS 38 Immense finger paint SOOTIRONS 26 Serve as SPRINGMAUTUMN locale

MEOWS SMEE

44 Joyride

LAWNMANSWER

EXIGENT IVANA

CENTONE SIGNS
(cocktail) toreman 28 USO audience 30 Reverential fear

unit 34 Simon and Garfunkel, 36 Columnist 41 "M"A"S"H" (cocktail) 50 Pay -

10 Leave the

Union

purchases

11 Satan's

18 Scene of

chaos

under

23 Pick up

25 Cause

Instrument 27 Lamb's

tears

mama

29 Mariners'

home

32 Wheedles

31 Vestige

33 Current

the tab

13 Logic

21 Two

CRYPTOQUIP

CO . H K K Y F RVN Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FAMOUS RESTAURANT MIGHT STOP MAKING SOUP SINCE IT'S OUT OF STOCK.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Q equals F

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipner 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.