

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

What now for England's losers?

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.

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."

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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 tide.

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GEOFF BOYCOTT



BOB WILLIS

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China too poor to host Games?

BEIJING, Aug 11: A dissident who has become China's only open opponent to Beijing's 2000 Olympics bid staged a new protest at committee offices today saying the country was too poor to host the sports spectacular, reports Reuter.

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 officials.

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 future."

China pin hopes on youngsters

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 AFP.

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 AFP.

Tuning up for big occasion

STUTTGART, Germany, Aug 11: Southern France, playground of the rich and famous, has hosted Carl Lewis and Linford Christie this week as the world's two most glamorous sprinters prepare for the World Athletics Championships, reports Reuter.

are purely technical. Andre Cason, the US champion, was the man in form in the early part of the season but has not looked nearly so convincing recently.

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.

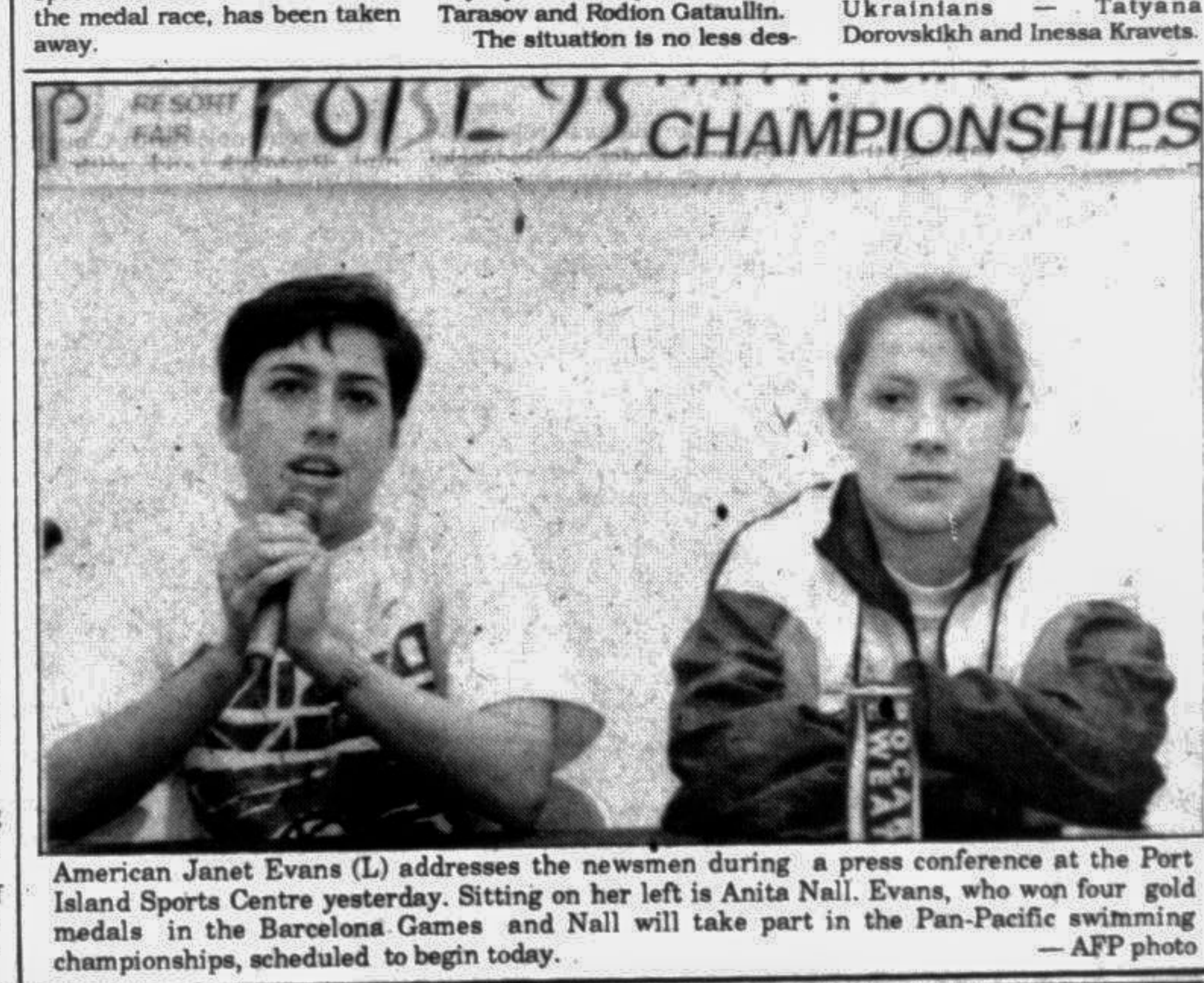
It'd be baptism by fire for 'em

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.

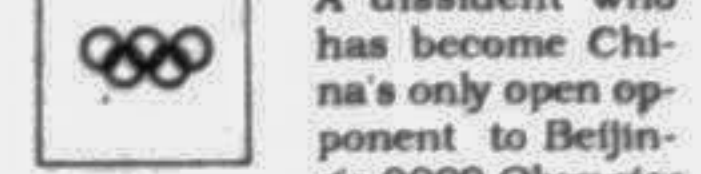
The situation varies according to the discipline, with track athletes much less at risk than field: European and Americans will still hold sway in the sprints, Africans in the middle distance and Asians in the marathon.

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 AFP.



American Janet Evans (L) addresses the press during a 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 championships, scheduled to begin today. — AFP photo



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 country.

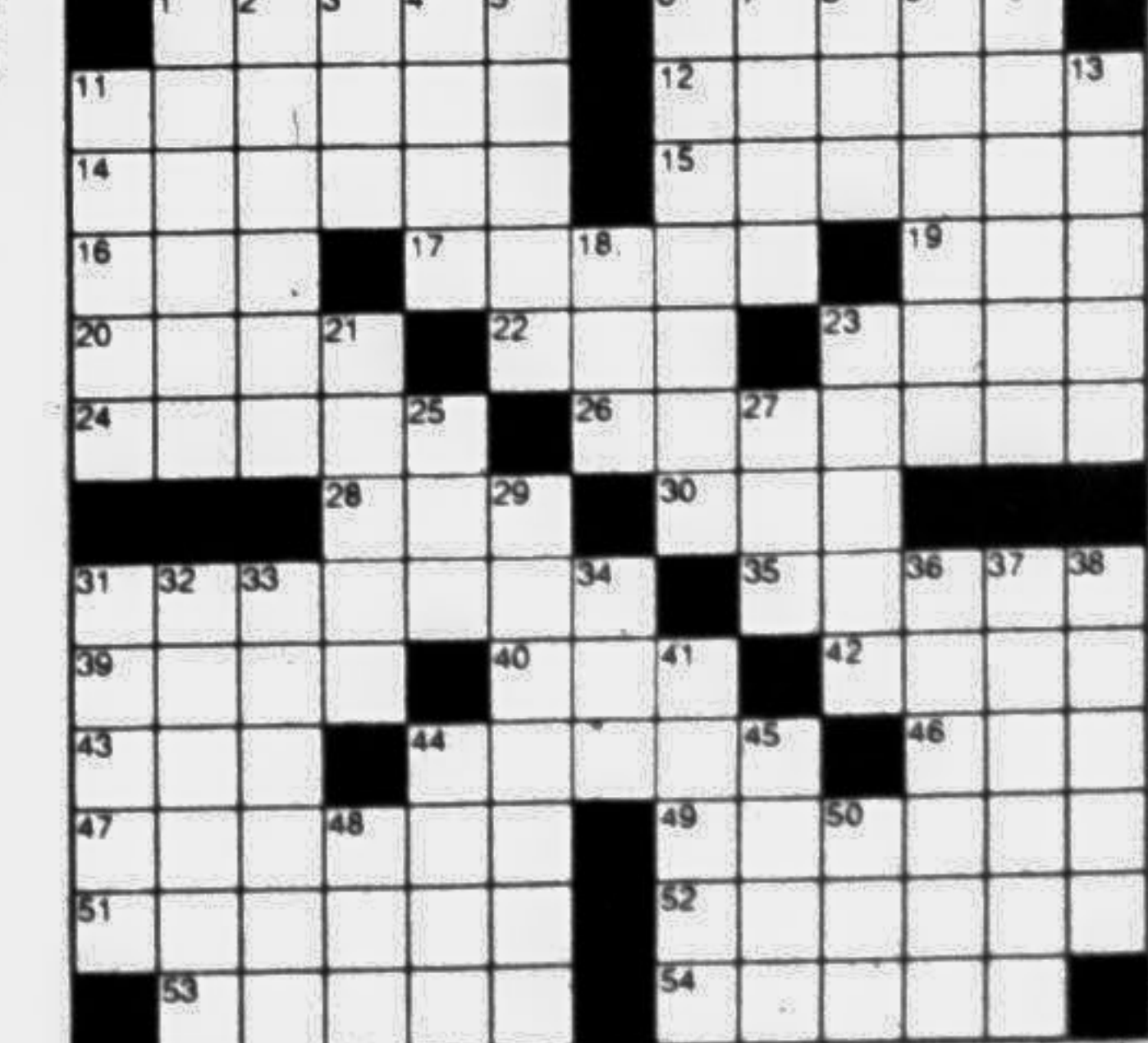
China's national news agency said on Tuesday, reports Reuter. Ognanovic has also had spells coaching the national teams of Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Jordan, Egypt, and Ivory Coast.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 Supporter of the arts? 54 — ski flower? 10 Leave the Union. 11 Satan's purchases 13 Logic 18 Scene of chaos 21 Two under par 23 Pick up the tab 25 Cause tears 27 Lamb's mama 29 Mariners' home 31 Vestige 32 Wheddles 33 Current unit 34 Simon and Garfunkel, e.g. 36 Columnist William 37 "Dallas" family 38 Immense locale 41 "M*A*S*H" 44 Joyride 45 Ostentation 48 — tai (cocktail) 50 Pay — view



CRYPTOQUIP COQQANY ZOT AKFR XT RVN AEZCNSMOSY XF TKR MNR KER KQ RVN HKKYF 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 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.

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 enraged

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."

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