

Philips Lighting — Official Sponsor of WorldCupUSA94

PHILIPS

# Scherbo regains touch

BRISBANE, Apr 23: Vitaly Scherbo, the dominant figure in men's gymnastics for the past two years, rebounded back to top form Saturday, winning the floor exercise gold medal at the World Championships, reports AP.

The 22-year-old from Belarus scored 9.75 points for his floor routine to finish ahead of Neil Thomas of Britain and Ioannis Melissanidis of Greece, who shared second place at 9.687 points.

Yuri Chechi of Italy, the defending champion, won the rings gold medal with 9.787 ahead of American Paul O'Neill at 9.725, with Dan Burinca of Romania and Valeri Belenki of Germany sharing third place at 9.700.

Luo Li of China, a tiny 17-year-old competing in her first World Championships, scored a championship-high 9.912 to win the women's uneven bars title.

Svetlana Chorkina and Dina Kochetkova, both of Russia, were second and third. Chorkina scored 9.875 and Kochetkova 9.850.

Gina Gogean, a 16-year-old Romanian, won the women's vault gold medal with 9.812 ahead of Chorkina, who scored 9.800, and Lavinia Milosovici of Romania, who scored 9.787.

Shannon Miller of the

United States, who successfully defended her all-around title Friday night, led after her first vault with 9.825 but tumbled on the dismount from her second vault, landed on her bottom and finished seventh



VITALY SCHERBO

with an average of 9.543.

"I wished I would have done a better second vault, but it was the first time I'd tried it in competition," said Miller, a 17-year-old high school student.

Defending champion Gregory Misutin of Ukraine was fourth with 9.650 points.

The last five individual apparatus finals will be held Sunday afternoon.

If she'd hit the vault she

would have won," Nunno said.

Maritus Urcica, an 18-year-old student competing in his first major senior competition, collected Romania's second gold medal of the night when he won the pommel horse title with a total of 9.712.

Eric Poujade of France, the European Cup champion, was second with 9.700 while Li Unghua of Switzerland and Vitaly Marinich of Ukraine shared third place at 9.662.

Scherbo won his first title of the championships after finishing a disappointing third in defense of his all-around title earlier in the week.

He won six gold medals at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games and three at last year's World Championship at Birmingham, England.

The Minsk resident will contest three further apparatus finals Sunday — in the vault, parallel bars and horizontal bar.

Scherbo was the last of the eight finalists to complete his routine, overhauling Thomas, a 26-year-old from Liverpool who also was runner-up in last year's World Championship, and Melissanidis, a 17-year-old who is the European junior champion in the discipline.

Soccer, the game favoured by the country's blacks, does feature in its manifesto but the party name is an acronym for Sports Organisations for Co-operative Contributions to Equal Rights.

The general secretary, a 27-year-old graduate of Cape Town University, smiled when he told reporters the Soccer Party was "based on the principle of uniting the whole country around sport, music and the arts."

A hastily photocopied, 18-page manifesto explained how it would pay off South Africa's 136 billion rand (dollars 38.5 billion) debt within 10 years by means of a one per cent tax on all bank and credit transactions over a value of 2,000 rand (dollars 666).

All schools will teach sports, music and the arts to exam level.

Less cerebral but crucial to the party's ethos is the legalisation of prostitution and marijuana or *dagg*.

"Nobody represents the prostitutes of the country. We should use the energy of these people in a constructive way rather than force them into the closest. Everyone knows it's the oldest profession in the world," Kafelnikov said. And *dagg*?

"Rastafarian use it as part of their religion to meditate... and it is used as medicine. Alcohol is used and promoted in South Africa so much but its effect is just as harmful as *dagg* when it is abused," he added.

The Soccer Party has 49 candidates around the country. They include surprise choice Darryl Cullinan, a star of South Africa's national cricket team. Lavisa said little on party funding.

"You could say that we are privately funded but they want to remain anonymous," he denied, however, that any funds from either *dagg* or prostitution were involved.

The Soccer Party will be happy if it can make people in South Africa smile."

## Medvedev moves into final

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Apr 23: Andrei Medvedev defeated his friend and former junior doubles partner, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 Saturday in the first semifinal of the dirs 1.7 million Monte Carlo Open, reports AP.

The 19-year-old Medvedev, an ethnic Russian who represents Ukraine, defeated Kafelnikov, 20 original from Sochi, Russia, in 1 hour, 43 minutes. Both developed in the former Soviet system and played a number of matches in the junior ranks but never as pros.

Later Saturday, defending champion Sergi Bruguera of Spain was scheduled to meet second-seeded Stefan Edberg in the other semifinals.

Kafelnikov earlier had eliminated Andre Agassi and Michael Stich. Medvedev beat Jim Courier in a 3-hour, 19

minute marathon in their quarterfinal Friday.

The Medvedev-Kafelnikov match lacked the intensity of the Courier-Medvedev match.

Courier and Medvedev went at with baseline rallies and occasional delicate drop shots. They went to a third set tie-breaker to decide the match.

Medvedev and Kafelnikov went to a first-set tiebreaker after more than an hour of play. However, it was a minimum of risk-taking throughout the set and the key points went to Medvedev when Kafelnikov would make the error.

In the tiebreak with Kafelnikov leading at 5-3, Medvedev won five of the next six points with Kafelnikov errors, mostly forehands going wide or into the net.

An Medvedev then rolled through the second set in 36 minutes, breaking Kafelnikov in the fourth game at 3-1, held serve to make it 4-1 and maintained that advantage the rest

of the way. The final three points were Kafelnikov errors without much pressure from Medvedev.

The Russians have practised together a few times this week. They won the Sunshine Cup, top junior event in Miami, Fla. for the old Soviet Union in 1990 as well as the World Youth Cup in the Netherlands the same year.

Kafelnikov said that they had played nine times as juniors and Medvedev had a 7-2 advantage.

Kafelnikov has won two tournaments earlier in the year but on hard courts. It is the first semifinal on clay courts in his pro career. He is ranked 41st in the world after starting the year at No. 104.

Medvedev had made the top 10 as a 18 year-old in June 1993 and is currently ranked ninth in the world. It is only his third tournament of the year after injuring his knee in Australia in January yet his second final.

Medvedev has made the top 10 as a 18 year-old in June 1993 and is currently ranked ninth in the world. It is only his third tournament of the year after injuring his knee in Australia in January yet his second final.

The following persons were the lucky winners of first TDS WC Quiz competition, the draw for which was held at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium on April 17.

4th Prize Winners Consolation Prizes (5)

**First Prize**  
Name : Rohayat Mahmud (Mithun)  
Address : 87/2, Barabag, Mirpur Section-2, Dhaka.  
Father's Name : Mohsin Ali Munshi

**2nd Prize**  
Name : G M Faiz Ahmed  
Address : BTRI, Srimangal, Dist : Maulvibazar Father's Name : Md Sajidullah Gazi

**3rd Prize**  
Name : Latiful Hasan Chowdhury  
Address : House No : 24, Road No : 7, Block-H, Banani, Dhaka.  
Father's Name : Abdul Mannan Chowdhury

**4th Prize**  
Name : Abdul Ishaque Muhammed Ibrahim Address : C/O A M M Yahya, PO: Telecom CRB, Chittagong. Father's Name : A M M Yahya

**5th Prize**  
Name : A N M Taherul Islam Address : C/O Prof Saiful Islam, Seugari, Palpara, Bogra-5800. Father's Name : Prof Md Saiful Islam

**Cameroon's WC build-up in chaos**

YAOUNDE, Apr 23: Cameroon's chaotic preparations for this year's World Cup finals hit a new low on Saturday when state radio announced the cancellation of Sunday's friendly match against Zambia, reports Reuter.

The radio gave no reasons for the last-minute decision.

The warm-up match in Douala, Cameroon's economic capital, was organised by an obscure company called audio visual international communication.

Soccer journalists said the company was unable to raise the funds to bring Zambia, one of Africa's top teams.

Cameroon's Indomitable Lions were Africa's pride in the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, reaching the quarter-finals.

The team qualified for this year's finals in the United States but preparations have been thrown into chaos by squabbling inside the soccer federation. Its president was sacked on March 30 but he says the dismissal was illegal and has refused to give up the job.

"There's also going to be an Embassy Cup starting from May 1 through to June 5," a World Cup spokesman said.

"It will be between many more teams."

## A soccer party without ball

CAPE TOWN, Apr 23: Score with the Soccer Party. That's the liberal sex-and drugs plat-form of South Africa's newest contender in next week's first democratic election, reports Reuter.

The fringe group pledges to legalise drugs and prostitution, do away with income and sales taxes and make all education free.

It also promises more jobs, equal salaries for all, cheap petrol and sports and leisure complexes in every town.

The Soccer Party is listed second on the ballot paper for the April 26-28 poll, with a picture of Rastafarian — deadlocked leader, rock star James Mange, seeking votes.

"When we are in government we will make a lot of money from the production of *dagg* (marijuana). We all know that the farms exist so why not make them legal?" grins the party's general secretary Mwandle Lavisa.

Soccer, the game favoured by the country's blacks, does feature in its manifesto but the party name is an acronym for Sports Organisations for Co-operative Contributions to Equal Rights.

The general secretary, a 27-year-old graduate of Cape Town University, smiled when he told reporters the Soccer Party was "based on the principle of uniting the whole country around sport, music and the arts."

A hastily photocopied, 18-page manifesto explained how it would pay off South Africa's 136 billion rand (dollars 38.5 billion) debt within 10 years by means of a one per cent tax on all bank and credit transactions over a value of 2,000 rand (dollars 666).

All schools will teach sports, music and the arts to exam level.

Less cerebral but crucial to the party's ethos is the legalisation of prostitution and marijuana or *dagg*.

"Nobody represents the prostitutes of the country. We should use the energy of these people in a constructive way rather than force them into the closest. Everyone knows it's the oldest profession in the world," Kafelnikov said. And *dagg*?

"Rastafarian use it as part of their religion to meditate... and it is used as medicine. Alcohol is used and promoted in South Africa so much but its effect is just as harmful as *dagg* when it is abused," he added.

The Soccer Party has 49 candidates around the country. They include surprise choice Darryl Cullinan, a star of South Africa's national cricket team. Lavisa said little on party funding.

"You could say that we are privately funded but they want to remain anonymous," he denied, however, that any funds from either *dagg* or prostitution were involved.

The Soccer Party will be happy if it can make people in South Africa smile."

## Moroccans weak but undaunted

RABAT, Apr 23: If FIFA delegates had voted differently in 1988 the world's elite players could now be preparing for the World Cup finals in Morocco rather than in the United States, reports Reuter.

The North African kingdom were the only serious contenders to the US when the vote was taken six years ago to decide the host nation for the 1994 finals.

The United States collected 10 votes, Morocco seven and Brazil just two.

Although the United States could not be matched in terms of communications, facilities and marketing opportunities, they were a poor second to the Moroccans in their passion for the game.

Unfortunately for Morocco, that was not enough to enable them to clinch the votes needed to stage the event.

Morocco realistically lacks the infrastructure to stage an event as huge as the World Cup and few Moroccans ever through they really would host the tournament.

What they are far more upset about is losing to West Germany in the dying seconds of their second round clash in Monterrey in Mexico in 1986 when they were beaten 1-0 by an 89th minute Lothar Matthaus free-kick.

Whether Morocco will have a chance to get over that disappointment this summer is debatable.

They were drawn in a tough first round group along with Belgium, the Netherlands and

Saudi Arabia and could well struggle to make the second round this time.

When the draw was announced a local daily headlined its story from Las Vegas: "Groan."

Morocco are hoping to advance by being one of the four best third-placed finishers, scratching out a draw with the

United States.

Unfortunately for Morocco, that was not enough to enable them to clinch the votes needed to stage the event.

Morocco realistically lacks the infrastructure to stage an event as huge as the World Cup and few Moroccans ever through they really would host the tournament.

What they are far more upset about is losing to West Germany in the dying seconds of their second round clash in Monterrey in Mexico in 1986 when they were beaten 1-0 by an 89th minute Lothar Matthaus free-kick.

Whether Morocco will have a chance to get over that disappointment this summer is debatable.

They were drawn in a tough first round group along with Belgium, the Netherlands and

Portugal 3-1 to top their first round group.

But their squad this year looks like being the weakest to represent the country so far.

Coach Abdella "Blinda" Ajri has been rebuilding the side since he took over from Abdelkhalik Louzani following the completion of the qualifying competition, and unlike Louzani, is keen to use as many players now based in Europe as he can.

The squad will spend the month of May in France playing against minor league clubs to create "harmony among the players" according to the coach.

His main problem is co-ordinating teamwork between professionals with teams in Europe who is hoped will stiffen the backbone of the other members of the section with less international experience.

Blinda will have to knit his homebased players in with a dozen players from European clubs like Mustapha Hajji (Nancy), Merry Krimou and Mustapha Haddou (Angers), Aziz Ouali (Bastia), Abdallah Nacer (Duisburg), and Hassan Nadir (Farese).

Players from at home and abroad have rarely played together and Blinda seems in a quandary over who to select and is tight-lipped about his final 22.

The Moroccans are hoping that the hot and humid climate will favour them, particularly in Florida, which is on the same latitude as Morocco. If that does not help they always have "baraka," the local word for good luck.

On March 23 they had what

local sports writers called an "unconvincing" 2-1 away win in

Portugal 3-1 to top their first

round group.

But their squad this year looks like being the weakest to represent the country so far.

Coach Abdella "Blinda" Ajri has been rebuilding the side since he took over from Abdelkhalik Louzani following the completion of the qualifying competition, and unlike Louzani, is keen to use as many players now based in Europe as he can.

The general feeling in African circles is that if Zambia