Matuail Udayan Sangha and Mirpur Eleven earned promotion to the Third Division foot ball league when both sides won their respective semifiof the Pioneer football league in tie-breakers at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Matuail Udayan Sangha prevailed over Kawran Bazar Progoti Sangha 4-3 in penalty shoot-out after the regulation period ended goalless.

Sohel, Taslim, Biddyut and Jewel converted the spotkicks for the winners while Towhid, Enamul and Rashed were the three successful dead-ball shooters for Kawran

The pattern was followed in the second semifinal where Mirpur Eleven earned a 4-2 tie-break win over Anirban Sangsad.

Mohsin, Safiul, Murad and Abul scored for Mirpur from the spot while Pavel and Asad made it for the losers.

The winners will meet in a rather academic final on Friday at the same venue.

Swedish tennis, coach arrives today

Leonardo Snelleman, a Swedish international tennis expert, arrives today to conduct an Olympic solidarity tennis coaches' course, reports BSS.

The two-week long course. organised jointly by the Bangladesh Olympic Association and Bangladesh Tennis Federation in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee and International Tennis Federation, begins at the National Tennis Complex.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain will inaugurate it as chief guest at 5

Twenty-five coaches from different clubs of Dhaka and other parts of the country will take part.

NatWest heroes flash again

LONDON, Sept 7: Batting heroes of last weekend's NatWest final. Tom Moody. Graeme Hick and Brian Lara ensured Worcestershire and Warwickshire stayed neck and neck for the Sunday League title when postponed matches were played on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Hick and Moody, who on Sunday shared an unbroken 198-run partnership as Worcestershire beat Warwickshire in the NatWest final, put on 102 together as Worcestershire beat Lancashire on a faster scoring rate in the league match.

Worcestershire were set a revised target of 135 from 30 overs after a downpour ended Lancashire's innings at 148 for seven off 33 overs.

After captain Tim Curtis fell, Hick (63 not out) and Moody (55 not out) battered Lancashire into submission by reaching their target with 26 balls to spare.

Lara, who made 81 in the weekend final, again topscored for Warwickshire, making 56 at a run a ball to beat the weather and clinch victory on a faster scoring rate in reply to Hampshire's 197 for four at Edgbaston.

Warwickshire reached 147 for four from 28 overs and were nine runs ahead of their target rate of nearly five an over when a downpour ended

the match. Hampshire had earlier made 197 for four in their 40 overs, mainly due to a fine 68 by Robin Smith who opened

the innings. The result left Warwickshire on 50 points with one match to play while Worcestershire are four points behind but with two matches outstanding.

Kent remain the only other possible title contenders on 44 points and with two matches

Santos without Pele again

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 7: Soccer legend Pele has left his job as a director of Brazilian soccer club Santos, the team where he spent 17 years as a player, after a row with club president Miguel Kodja Neto on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"It's all about differences of opinion," said Pele after bidding farewell to Santos players during a training session.

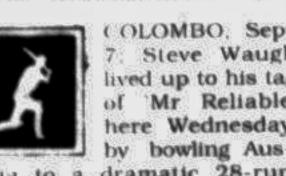
Asked whether he would miss the club, he replied: think Santos will miss Pele a lot more."

In February. Pele returned to Santos; which he left as a player in 1973. His son Edinho is currently the team's goalkeeper.

But the former star fell out recently with Kodja by criticising him for signing former Brazil captain Neto and said the money would have been better spent on a new sports complex for the club.

Santos has the opportunity to be a successful team but it has to be via the grassroots." Pele said.

Pioneer soccer | World champions Warned



Steve Waugh lived up to his tag of Mr Reliable here Wednesday by bowling Aus-Iralia to a dramatic 28-run victory over Pakistan in the

World Series one-day international, reports AFP. Waugh picked up three for 16 from 10 overs of steady medium-pace as the Australians pulled the rug from under the world champions at

the Sinhalese Sports Club

Premadasa Stadium on Friday Pakistan clash on Sunday with hosts Sri Lanka, who deleated India in the tournament

Australian captain Mark Taylor attributed his team's emphatic victory to good fielding and bowling, and hoped to continue the good work in the remaining two matches.

· "We have made a good start and would obviously like to build on that," said Taylor, the successor to the retired Australian great Allan Border.

SHANE WARNE...man-of-match

Restricted to a modest 179

for seven from their 50 overs.

the Australians fought back in

the field to keep the strong

Pakistani batting line-up down

chipped in with three for 29

and was adjudged the man-of-

the-match, following his defi-

ant knock of 30 in Australia's

a lone hand for Pakistan with a

heroic 46 made with a painful

hamstring, but found no sup-

cruising to victory when Anwar

and Injamamul Haq put on 75

for the second wicket to take

the score to 77 for one in the

But Waugh and Warne mar-

shalled Australia's brilliant re-

covery by taking all but two of

the next eight wickets for the

Waugh, a self-confessed

pressure man, kept a good line

and Warne mesmerised the

batsmen with his turn and

flight to give Australia two full

points in their opening match

in a day night international at

Australia take on India next

TAIPEI, Sept 7: Taiwanese

President Lee Teng-Hui ac-

cepted on Wednesday an invi-

tation to attend the opening

ceremony of next month's

Asian Games in Japan, raising

the prospect of a Chinese boy-

cott of the event, reports

the controversial invitation ex-

tended earlier this summer by

Kuwait's Sheikh Ahmad Al-

Fahad, president of the Olym-

pic Council of Asia (OCA).

Taiwanese Foreign Affairs

Minister Fredrick Chien said

chi, director of the Interchan-

ge Association, Japan's un-

official representative office in

Taiwan, of the decision as a

courtesy to the Japanese go-

vernment, a ministry spo-

Japan have no diplomatic ties.

kesman said. Taiwan and

· "The purpose of President

Lee's trip to Hiroshima is

simply to attend an interna-

tional sports event. And ...

therefore, the trip has nothing

to do with the relations be-

tween the Republic of China

and Japan." the spokesman

Taiwan has called itself the

quoted Chien as saying.

Chien notified Yanai Shihi-

in a statement.

Lee had decided to accept

addition of only 73 runs.

of the four-nation event.

port from the other end.

Opener Saeed Anwar played

Pakistan appeared to be

Leg-spinner Shane Warne

to 151 for nine.

faltering innings.

22nd over.

Pakistani manager Intikhab

Alam said his team could learn

a lesson from the Australians

on fielding and running be-

necessary runs which proved

costly in the end." Intikliab

said. Also the batsmen ran

S WAUGH...3 for 16

liked the way Australia took

quick singles to keep the

Taiwanese President accepts OCA invitation

Republic of China since its na-

tionalist rulers fled to the is-

land after losing the Chinese

Civil War to the communists in

created diplomatic embar-

rassment for Japan after China.

the biggest foreign entry for

the Games with 568 athletes,

protested last week and

threatened to boycott if Lee at-

tended. Beijing regards Taiwan

happy to accept the invitation

and this is to support the

spirit of the Olympic Council

of Asia and to promote interna-

tional respect, friendship and

harmony. presidential spokes-

man Raymond Tai said in a

the only Asian head of state in-

vited for the Games which is to

be held next month in

private plane and take part

only in the opening ceremony.

foreign ministry spokesman

might boycott the Games ff

Olympic officials rescinded

Lee's invitation under pres-

Rock Leng told reporters.

He would fly to Japan by

Earlier, Taiwan warned it

Lee appeared to have been

"President (Lee) was very

as a renegade province.

statement.

Hiroshima.

The OCA invitation has

poorly between the wickets.

"We conceded about 30 un-

tween the wickets.



scoreboard moving."

two for 34.

Earlier, the Australians

found run-making difficult

against spot-on bowling after

Pakistani captain Salim Malik

won the toss and elected to

Akram claimed three for 24 to

take his world record tally to

257 wickets, while leg-spinner

Mushtag Ahmed finished with

Left-arm seamer Wasim

doughty vice-captain lan Healy's two valuable stands late in the innings.

Healy, who made 30, put on 43 for the sixth-wicket with Michael Bevan (37) and 46 for the seventh with Warne (30).

Officials at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground, which was waterlogged on Tuesday, heaved a sigh of relief when bright sunshine dried the outquickly to enable prompt start.

Pakistan seized the early advantage by wiping off four top order Aussie batsmen by the 18th over with the score at

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the one-day cricket match between Australia and Pakistan:

AUSTRALIA Taylor lbw b Akram Slater c Mujtaba b Akram Boon b Raza M Waugh st Latif b Mushtaq 23 S Waugh c Latif b Mushtaq Bevan c Mushtaq b Malik Healy not out Warne b Akram McDermott not out Extras: (b-7, lb-9, w-9) Total (for 7 wickets 50 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-11: 2-34:

4-49; 5-85; 6-128; 7-174 not bat: T May, G McGrath OM R W Bowling: 10 2 24 Wasim Akram 8 2 43 Wagar Younis Mushtag Ahmed 10 1 34 26 Akram Raza

7 0 17 Aamir Sohail Salim Malik 5 0 19 PAKISTAN S Anwar c McGrath

b S Waugh Sohail b McGrath Inzamam st Healy b Warne 29 Basit Ali c and b Warne Malik c Taylor b S Waugh Latif c Taylor b S Waugh Wasim Akram b McGrath Akram Raza c Healy b McDermott Younis c Slater b Warne Mushtaq not out Mujtaba not out

Extras: (b-2; lb-5; nb-3; w-6) Total: (9 wkts) Fall of wickets: 1-2: 2-77; 3-83: 4-94: 5-124: 6-129: 7 129; 8-147; 9-150. M R W Bowling McDermott 21 10 3 25 McGrath 53 May 29 Warne 10 1 16 S Waugh

Overs: 50 Result: Australia won by 28

Man-of-the-match: Shane

Warne STA	NI	DII	NG	S		
League s	sta	ınd	ling	(s	aft	er
Wednesday's	: 3	ma	tch	(p	lave	d.
won, lost, no	re	sul	lt, p	oir	its):	
Sri Lanka	1	1	0	0	547)	2
Australia	1	1	0	0	3)	2
India	1	0	1	0	728	C
Pakistan	1	0	1	0		C

Politics clouds Asiad

entered 270 athletes.

told Reuters.

tion to Lee.

to invite Lee.

sure from Beijing. Taiwan has

invite President Lee under

pressure from China and

Japan, we do not rule out the

possibility of a boycott of the

Games," Taiwan Olympic

Committee (TOC) deputy sec-

retary-general Chen Kuo-Yi

Japan has become about Chi-

na's threatened boycott, Ja-

panese Prime Minister

Tomiichi Murayama stepped

into the diplomatic row on

Tuesday to remind Taipei that

Tokyo had a one-China policy

where the Olympic movement

is meeting, said on Tuesday

the OCA president had hinted

he would withdraw his invita-

But Chen said TOC chair-

man Chang Fench-Shu had

since spoken to Ahmad and

quoted him as saying there had

been no change in the invita-

tion. Seven Taiwan legislators

are to visit Japan on Thursday

with a petition signed by 113

members of Parliament to try

to persuade Japanese officials

Kyodo, reporting from Paris

that recognised Beijing.

In a sign of how concerned

"If the OCA decides not to

Sri Lankans celebrate

COLOMBO, Sept 7: Sri Lanka Tuesday celebrated a long-awaited one-day victory even as bad weather threat ened to ruin the country's biggest cricket festival, reports

Sri Lanka's emphatic sevenwicket win over India in Monday's truncated opening match of the four-nation World Series gave home fans something to cheer about after seeing their team reduced to dust by Pakistan last month.

Blasted 4-1 in the one-day series by the world champions and losing two Test matches in under four days, the Sri Lankans were pleased that the off-form Indians were easier to

Skipper Arjuna Ranatunga. who had predicted before the match that he fancied his team's chances against India. hoped the morale- boosting win would help Sri Lanka qualify for its first final in a major tournament.

"We never seem to do well in important tournaments, but hope it will be different this time." he said Tuesday.

"To reach the final we will have to win one of our remaining two games against Australia and Pakistan. It is not an easy task, but not impossible either," Ranatunga said.

Indian manager Ajit Wadekar attributed his team's defeat in the 25-overs-a-side slugfest to lack of match practice and poor fielding.

"Most of the boys have not played since April and this was obvious in the approach of the batsmen," he said. "But I am disappointed at the fielding. We performed like school-

Wadekar hoped the team would lift its game before the next match against Australia on Friday. 'We have three days to prepare for that important match. I want the boys to put their minds on it."

Tan adds one to China's haul

ROME, Sept 7: Tan Shuping won China's fourth diving gold of the World Championships Wednesday, producing two late spectacular efforts to leave the field well behind in the women's 3-metre springboard. reports AP

Tan finished strongly to place first with 548.49 points, 49.89 ahead of silver winner Vera Ilvina of Russia, with Ger many's Claudia Bockner third.

American Karen Dalton saved her best of the 10 dives for last and pulled into fourth. Tan's second dive moved her into top position, which she never relinquished.

Heading into her final effort, the Chinese needed just 27.51 points to secure gold Tan could have made a really bad dive and still won the title. Her crisp reverse 2 1/2 somersaults earned wild applause from the crowd and the highest marks of the final 77.40 points on two nines, two

8.5s and an 8. In the ninth round, Tan's backward 2 1/2 somersault earned two 8.5s and three 8s for 73.80 points.

Tan adds the gold to the silver she took in the 1-metre springboard competition won by countrywoman Chen Lixia.

The Chinese have been nothing but dominant in the diving and their haul after five events now totals eight medals - four gold, three silver and one bronze. Zimbabwe's Evan Stewart, in the men's 1-metre springboard, is the only other gold-winner with the men's 10-metre highboard still to come Thursday.

China's divers, and their less-successful competitors. attribute the run to long training sessions.

"In the afternoon we train four to six hours a day." Tan said. "But before major compe titions we usually train a little bit more, about eight hours a

Bockner felt she couldn't face that.

Tokyo on the ball

TOKYO, Sept 7: Japan will watch developments following Taiwan's announcement that President Lee Teng-Hui plans to attend the Asian Games next month in Hiroshima, a news report said Wednesday, reports AFP.

allowed to turn up.

wan's announcement.

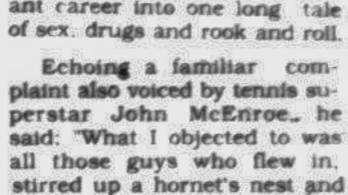
"We are watching consultations among the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), Taiwan and China." a Japanese Foreign Ministry source was quoted as saying by JIJI press. Taiwan said Wednesday it

had notified Japan that Lee US team." would attend the Games opening on October 2 at the OCA's invitation, raising fears of a Chinese boycott. Beijing, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province

better medal prospects. and goes to great lengths to prevent the island from gaining recognition as an independenounced those making such dent state, earlier hinted at a boycott of the Games if Lee is

Barcelona Olympics at age 14, There was no immediate she is a celebrity in Europe reaction from China to Taiwith endorsement contracts

Botham In black & white



But he said in the autobiog raphy that he did smoke drugs on the 1983-1984 New Zealand tour.

Drugs was merely a way out of the pressures," he said. It is



not something I condone. There were times when I hid in my room, had a joint and totally switched off - otherwise 1 think I might well have gone

Botham, who scored 5,200 runs and took 383 wickets and 120 catches in his Test career. verges on the viriolic in some

tersely delivered judgements. Of Dexter, he writes: "He crossed the line between eccentricity and idiocy far too often for someone who was supposed to be running English cricket

Botham, whose ego shows no signs of deflating when reviewing his own career, says of Boycott: "The biggest impression he made on me was what a selfish person he can be ... he simply went too far, too often."

Pakistan captain Imran Khan is not spared any brickbats when "Beefy" Botham turns to the sensitive issue of ball-tampering.

"Unlike Imran Khan, I have never lifted the seam, I have never scratched the surface of the ball and I have never gouged one with a bottle top."

Now busy with charity walks, television quizzes, pantomimes and a theatrical roadshow, he said: "I make no apology for the way I have conducted myself over the years. I have no regrets.

With a mouth as forceful off the field as his bat was on it, he writes. "All through my life I have possessed extraordinary self-belief."

Van Almsick, Dolan dominate



ROME. Sept 7: Franziska van Almsick conjured a world record out of a race she had thought she wou-

LONDON, Sept 7:

Cricketing legend

ian Botham, laun-

ching his autobio-

graphy on Tues-

day, rounded fier-

cely on his critics and pleaded

for a chance to have a say in

the English teams of the

smoking cannabis on tour, at

tacks selectors' chairman Ted

Dexter for too often crossing a

line between "eccentricity and

idiocy" and describes former

teammate Geoff Boycott as

all-rounders. Botham said he

hoped he did not have to wait

30 years before being able to

offer some input into English

the team, motivate the boys,"

ome of punch and aggression

in his own career, which in-

cluded 12 games as England

captain, had just one com-

plaint about the team picked

for the Australian tour - he

would not have left out

launch, Botham, 38, did not

mince his words when reflect-

ing on the tabloid journalists

who loved to turn his flambov-

At the champagne book

Derbyshire's Dominic Cork.

"I would like to help select

The man who was the epit-

One of the sport's greatest

In his book, he admits to

future, reports Reuter.

"selfish."

Test cricket.

ld never swim on a day of emotional upheaval for the German at the World Championships on Tuesday, report agencies. Towering American Tom

Dolan posted the evening's second world record in the ensuing men's 400 metres individual medley final and then Australia's Samantha Riley proved - like Van Almsick that China's formidable women swimmers can be beaten.

Van Almsick triumphed over 17-year-old Lu Bin in the 200 metres freestyle and double Commonwealth champion Riley defeated Yuan Yuan in the 200 breaststroke. The German star Swam

1:56.78 in the women's 200meter freestyle Tuesday, bettering the old mark by 0.77 seconds, to take gold after not totaling about dirs 4 million. That figure certainly will rise with her new status as recordbreaking gold winner. The German said through

an interpreter that she learned of the withdrawal "from my coach and he knew form Hase's coach. Together the two coaches decided I could com-With rumours still buzzing

about the switch, she added that she believed Hase "decided alone" to withdraw. Asked if she'd share the gold with her teammate. Van

Almsick said. "I'm very grateful to Hase but I won the race alone and I'll keep the medal. It's Van Almsick's third in two days: on Monday, she was

third behind world recordsetting Chinese Le Jingyi in the 100 free and was on the German team that finished second to the Chinese in the 800 relay.

Dolan started swimming because doctors said it would help alleviate breathing diffi-

sluggish" during the morning qualifying. Dolan said his breathing was fine during the final. "Tonight I just got into a zone and didn't think about it.

After taking all three women's golds Monday, the Chinese did not win a race Tues-Australia's Samantha Riley,

who beat world record holder

Rebecca Brown twice at the Commonwealth Games two weeks ago, did it again in Rome, taking the 200 breaststroke in a championship record 2:26.87. Poland's Rafal Szukala, the Olympic silver medalist and

men's 100 butterfly in 53.51. the fastest performance of the Sweden won the men's 800 freestyle relay in 7:17:74, with

European champion, powered

away from the field to win the

the favoured United States a surprising fourth.

Five world record holders were in action Wednesday, inchilding 100 freestyle star



Franziska van Almsick of Germany shows off her gold medal after winning the women's 200m freestyle final at the World Swimming Championships in Rome on Sept 6. Van Almsick set a new world record for the event clocking 1 min 56.78 seconds

qualifying for the final. Dolan, who suffers from asthma, broke the record for the 400 individual medley just minutes later.

Van Almsick was only

ninth-fastest in the morning qualifying. But she moved into the final when countrywoman Dagmar Hase withdrew from the eighth spot. The mysterious move was

greeted with skepticism by some competitors. "The whole situation was

kind of strange," said American Nicole Haislett, the 1992 Olympic gold medalist who finished fifth Tuesday. "Van Almsick made a mistake in qualifying and anyone else would have had to live with it. "I don't think it's right. It

would never happen with the Haislett said that there was a rumour circulating amongst

the athletes that Hase had been paid to step aside for Van Almsick, who figured to have Van Almsick denied that money was involved and she

suggestions. Winner of two medals at the

culties caused by an esophagus one-fifth normal size, and Tuesday that treatment paid dividends. The University of Michigan sophomore swam the 400

medley in 4:12.30 to shave .06

seconds off Tamas Darnyi's

record and claim the first gold for the United States at these championships. "I think every little kid dreams of what I just did, Dolan said. "I hope it picks the

team up." Dolan, who turned 19 six

days ago, takes medicine to lesson the effects of the asthma. But he said it is all probably weaker than it should be" in order to comply with FINA regulations.

"The asthma's been the worst it's ever been this summer," he said. "I struggled with it a lot."

Although he felt "a little

Sutter strikes

SION; Switzerland, Sept 7: Switzerland beat the United Arab Emirates 1-0 (halftime 1 0) in a friendly soccer interna tional on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

- AFP photo Alexander Popov and long-dis-

tance specialist Janet Evans. In women's diving, top qualifiers Tan Shuping of

China, already a silver winner at these championships, and American Karen Dalton vied for the 3-metre springboard title. Second round seedings for the women's water polo com-

petition were completed by the replayed Canada-Russia match. Officials ordered a replay of Saturday's game after Canada successfully protested a referee's decision.

MEDALS TABLE

Medal table after the sixth

day of the World Swimming

for Swiss

Scorer: Alain Sutter (20th).

Australia Poland Zimbabwe Belgium Canada Cost Rica Mexico

Hungary New Zealand

Championships on Tuesday (tabulate under gold, silver.

bronze): China Sweden United States Germany Finland

made everything unsavoury."