

### Gunnell's bitter blow

LONDON, Aug 1: Briton Sally Gunnell already reconciled to being unable to defend her 400 metres hurdles title at the World Championships in Gothenburg, now looks likely to pull out of the 4x400 metres relay as well, reports Reuter.

"Sally will make a final decision in a day or so, but it is highly unlikely she will compete, a spokesman for the world record holder said on Monday.

Gunnell had hoped to run in the relay as consolation for abandoning her defence of the hurdles title because of injury, but had disappointing results in two 400 metre races in Germany.

She finished third at a meeting in Lindau and sixth in Rheede.

She was disappointed with the times and believes she would not be able to do full justice to herself or the team, the spokesman said. "But at least she has come through without any ill-effects and hopefully will be racing again in late August or early September."

### Move to stop streakers

MANCHESTER, England, Aug 1: Britain's parliament is being asked to bring in legislation to combat a new breed of cheeky, bare-faced "criminals" - streakers at cricket matches, reports Reuter.

The streakers' score totalled seven during the fourth Test between England and West Indies at Old Trafford which ended on Sunday and John Bower, the chief executive of Lancashire, is getting hot under his collar and tie about it.

He is contacting the House of Commons and says: "I will be asking for a criminal offence to be brought in under legislation. I would be very surprised if it doesn't receive all-party support."

### Lotus-Kamal cricket semis today

Both the semifinal matches of the Lotus-Kamal metropolitan Second Division qualifying cricket league will be held at separate city venues today, reports UNB.

Lancashire KC will take on Indira Road KS at the Dhamundi Cricket Stadium while Pinerbagh KC will face Udayachal Club at the City Club ground.

### Emburey earns promotion

LONDON, Aug 1: John Emburey has been appointed cricket manager for England A's winter tour to Pakistan, putting him first in line to succeed Ray Illingworth in charge of the full England side next year, reports Reuter.

The 42-year-old Middlesex spinner, recalled for the fourth Test against West Indies, intends to become a full-time coach after retirement and has been given the perfect chance to establish his credentials for England's top job.

### Volkov ousts Rusedski

LOS ANGELES, Aug 1: Alexander Volkov, the No. 7 seed from Russia, beat hard-serving Greg Rusedski 7-5, 6-4 Monday in the first round of the \$28,000 dollars Infniti Open, reports AP.

Volkov lost to Rusedski the three previous times they played. Rusedski, a Canadian who recently became a British citizen, has a serve that's been clocked at 137 miles per hour (221 kilometres per hour).

### Napoli saved

NAPLES, Aug 1: Cash-strapped former Italian champions Napoli will be allowed to play in Serie A next season after coming up with a rescue plan, the Italian Soccer Federation decided on Monday, reports Reuter.

The club's shareholders' meeting last Friday approved a plan for a 12.5 billion lire (7.8 million dollars) capital increase to be guaranteed by Napoli's major shareholder Corrado Ferlaino and one of his companies.

### Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Aug 1: Pathantuly Boys' Club beat Central Plaza Krira Chakra 2-0 in the inaugural match of the Metropolitan Kishore football league at Dampara Police Lines ground here today, reports BSS.

Striker Arafat Hossain scored both the goals in the first half.

Nineteen teams are participating in the league, organised by the Chittagong Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA).

## Stars with ambitions



GOTHENBURG, Aug 1: Frenchwoman Marie-Jose Perec will fittingly launch the fifth World Championships on Saturday, beginning her quest for a golden double in the 400 metres and 400 metres hurdles in the opening rounds of the first event, reports Reuter.

By the end of the championships the following Sunday, a global television audience of more than one billion will have shared her trials and tribulations, as well as those of Michael Johnson, Noureddine Morceli, Merlene Ottey, Linford Christie and Sergei Bubka.

Although this competition will be missing the Chinese distance women who enthralled the world in Stuttgart two years ago, fans have bought virtually every ticket available for the finals.

Between 190 and 200 countries have entered, ranging from single competitor teams from Monserrat, Botswana, Kuwait and Norfolk Island, to the 144-strong American team, the largest of all.

And while Perec could emerge as the outstanding female star, American Michael Johnson should enhance his reputation as a unique talent with golds in both the 200 and 400.

Already the fastest man in the world this year over both distances, Johnson has not been beaten in the 400 for five years, and seems almost unbeatable over the half-lap race as well.

Britain's Linford Christie, now 35, is also going for a sprint double in the 100 and 200. Despite a traumatic

summer on and off the track, in which he has announced his retirement and suffered the death of his mother, Christie starts as the favourite to retain his 100 title and take a medal in the 200.

If this is his last major championship, he is likely to go out of the 100, his special event, at the very pinnacle.

Donovan Bailey of Canada (9.91) and Olapade Adeniken of Nigeria (9.92), the two fastest men in the world this year, are sure to challenge Christie, but may have to be content with the silver and bronze medals.

One man who has no intention of quitting in the foreseeable future is Algeria's middle-distance king, Noureddine Morceli.

With world records already this year in the 1,500 and 2,000, Morceli is virtually certain to retain the 1,500 title he won in Stuttgart two years ago.

The men's field events are likely to produce some riveting competitions following recent world records in both the long jump and triple jump.

The long jump mark fell on Saturday when Cuban Ivan Pedroso leaped 8.96 metres at high altitude in Sestriere, Italy, adding one centimetre to the record American Mike Powell set four years ago in the World Championships in Tokyo.

Cubans now hold the world long jump and high jump records while Britain's Jonathan Edwards has triple jumped further than anyone in history.

There may not be quite the same interest in women's field events, but the women's

track events will produce some absorbing face-offs.

Jamaica's defending 200 champion Ottey will be hard-pressed to retain her title against her old American rival Gwen Torrence, the fastest woman over the distance in the world this year, and Russian Irina Privalova, the European double sprint champion.

Since the demise of the communist bloc at the end of the 1980s, eastern Europe's stranglehold on the women's middle distances has been broken.

Mozambique's Maria Mutola, unbeaten for three years over 800, is a likely winner in that event although Cuban Ana Quirot will have other ideas, while Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan and Kelly Holmes of Britain could well battle each other for the 1,500 gold.

Another intriguing event will be the heptathlon, in which American Jackie Joyner Kersee, champion in 1987 and 1993, and her old long jump rival Heike Drechsler of Germany come face to face over seven events in two days.

Drechsler was the youngest woman ever to win a World Championship gold when she took the long jump at the inaugural 1983 worlds at the age of 18.

One other gold medalist from those far-off days is still competing and looking for his fifth successive world title.

Pole vaulter Bubka has won his event at all four previous championships and it will probably be the incomparable Ukrainian who will again help these championships reach the greatest heights.

### Maradona pissed off!

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 1: Argentinian footballing tragedy Diego Maradona said here today that he would never again set foot in the United States, and therefore his daughters would miss meeting Mickey Mouse on a trip to Disney World, after he was only given an eight-day visa instead of the long-term visas his Boca Junior teammates received, reports AFP.

The world's most fascinating and controversial footballing figure said: "They refused to grant me a proper visa because I admire and like Fidel Castro and I believe that Che Guevara is the greatest person of all time."

Maradona has not enjoyed good relations with the American authorities since being testing positive in a dope test at last year's World Cup for which he is still serving a suspension and would not have been able to play in the friendly tournament in New York.

The former Napoli player said he was subjected to "a humiliating and discriminatory questionnaire" at the American consulate in Buenos Aires.

The two-time World Cup finalist, who is still idolised in Argentina, said: "They asked me the most extraordinary questions. Such as did I still take or sell drugs. I don't think the Americans for example are that pure and clean."

### SAF Games chief visits venues

MADRAS, Aug 1: B Sivanth Adityan, president of the South Asian Sports Federation, has expressed satisfaction over the speed at which the construction work is going on at the six venues of the seventh South Asian Federation Games (SAF) to be held here from December 18 to 27, reports PTI.

Adityan, who is also president of the Indian Olympic Association, visited the venues along with R K Sharma, director, and Mohan Pyare, member secretary of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu last Thursday and Saturday. He told PTI that "all the venues would be ready before the end of October."

He said the presidents and secretaries of all the SAARC nations - Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives besides India - would be meeting in Madras on Aug 5 to decide on the inclusion of judo or squash as an additional discipline.

### Calcutta MSC march on

CALCUTTA, Aug 1: Mohammedan Sporting maintained their winning run with a convincing 2-0 victory over Tollygunge Aggragami in their Charns Super Division League match at their home ground here yesterday, reports PTI.

Mohammedan Sporting, who had stunned title aspirants East Bengal 1-0 in their last match, shot into the lead through a brilliant effort by striker Pratap Senapati before winger Abdul Khalique settled the issue four minutes before the interval.

## Rangers raring to go



GLASGOW, Aug 1: Glasgow Rangers have long prided themselves on being one of the giants of European soccer, reports Reuter.

Almost everything about the club entitles them to think so. Seven successive Scottish titles, their 51,000 capacity all-seater stadium, 18 international players from various countries on their playing staff.

The club has an annual income of more than 20 million pounds sterling (32 million dollars), boasts fans in every corner of the globe, runs a TV station on match days and sells everything in their club shop from their Rangers brand of whisky, gin

trophy, they will never exorcise the ghosts of Celtic's "Lisbon lions", nor will anyone outside the blue half of Glasgow put them on a par with the likes of Real Madrid, Barcelona and AC Milan.

Chairman David Murray, a multi-millionaire in the steel and metals industry who rebuilt his own life after losing both legs in a car crash in his twenties, has provided the funds for the re-building of Ibrox Stadium into one of the finest in Britain.

But he is well aware of the no-man's land Rangers currently inhabit. They are too big for Scotland, not eligible to take part in the Premier League in England and have still to prove themselves in Europe.

"We know that with the

More than 12,000 fans have already pledged their cash and Murray says that if demand continues to grow, he will not hesitate to increase the stadium's capacity to 60,000.

The passion and loyalty of the Ibrox fans is legendary and for more than a century their "auld firm" rivalry with Celtic has fuelled their devotion and split the city in half.

The Protestants with their Union Jack British flags support Rangers, the Catholics with their Irish flags follows Celtic.

For the best part of those 100 years that rivalry was largely interecine, but all that changed in the late 1980s when former manager Graeme Souness started signing English and overseas players.

His successor Walter Smith has continued that policy, bringing in players of the calibre of Brian Laudrup from Denmark, Basile Boli from France and Paul Gascoigne from England via Italy.

The biggest signing of course was Gascoigne, who cost 4.3 million pounds (6.87 million dollars) from Lazio and whose own peroxide blond, cropped hairstyle has spawned hundreds of imitators and given Glasgow's barbers a healthy boost to their earnings.

Because of the serious injuries he has suffered over the last four years, the signing of Gascoigne is a major gamble.

But Gascoigne, one of five close-season signings who have cost the club 11.3 million pounds (18.05 million dollars), could be the key to unlocking the European treasures.

These are bouyant, optimistic times at Ibrox, but the club has been in this position for the last two seasons.

Big summer signings have brought the promise of great achievement, only for Rangers to fail in their European quests.

Murray, a staunch advocate of a European league, knows that for the club continue to grow at their present rate on and off the field, it is imperative they reach the lucrative Champions League.

All they have to do to achieve that is to beat the Cypriot champions part-timers Anorthosis Famagusta, in a preliminary round tie next month.

Last weekend saw Rangers lift their first trophy of the season when they beat Romanian champions Steaua Bucharest 4-0 and Italians Sampdoria 2-0 in the Ibrox international tournament.

Steaua are in the Champions' League and could well face Rangers later in the season. So at least they proved they have what it takes to beat the best in Europe.

Perhaps they have always had that - the real achievement will be to do so when it really matters.

## Modahl censures IAAF



LONDON, Aug 1: British athlete Diane Modahl reacted angrily on Monday to a decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to reopen the case into the four year doping ban quashed last week by an appeal panel, reports agencies.

She urged the IAAF to think again about referring her case to arbitration and also called for a "summit" meeting of top scientists to discuss the ramifications of her case.

Earlier on Monday the International Amateur Athletic Federation decided to send the case of British runner Diane Modahl to arbitration.

Modahl had been suspended by the IAAF for four years last December for failing a drugs test, but the 800-metre runner won an appeal to an independent commission appointed by the British Athletics Federation last week.

Chairman of the IAAF doping commission Arne Ljungqvist said the IAAF's own arbitration panel should hear the case within three months, but he hoped it may be sooner.

It needs further evaluation. The preliminary evaluation is not very impressive, we need a fuller study," he said.

The IAAF had already said it would test Modahl's samples an unprecedented third time, and that the tests would be open to her and anyone else she wants to witness them.

The arbitration panel will also review arguments delivered in the reports.

Modahl, 29, was banned after tests taken at a meeting in Lisbon in July last year showed she had 42 times the legal amount of testosterone.

She protested that the urine samples had been contaminated in Lisbon and that the testing procedures were flawed. The IAAF has always backed its testing procedures.

The results were not sent to the BAF until 9 1/2 weeks after the samples were taken when Modahl was about to defend her Commonwealth Games 800 metres title in August last year. She was withdrawn from the race and sent home from the Games in Victoria, Canada.

When the three-person appeals committee found Modahl not guilty, the IAAF questioned the validity of the new evidence, saying it was based on "remote possibilities". It said it was "baffled" why the evidence wasn't presented to the BAF when it made its original decision to ban Modahl.

It should be made clear that the final decision regard-

ing the eligibility of any athlete lies with the IAAF," it said in a statement following last week's decision.

But the British Athletic Federation (BAF) panel lifted the ban saying it could not be sure beyond reasonable doubt of her guilt because the positive test could have come out because the samples were left unrefrigerated for several days.

Modahl said: "We know that bad storage can lead to urine samples becoming heavily infected and generally contaminated."

We also know that what happens in heavily contamination. Samples can actually create the very banned substance for which the scientists are testing. That is what happened in my case and must never happen again.

"We will only know more about the extent of the risk if all these high powered scientists get together, not in an adversarial setting such as before an arbitration panel, but in an atmosphere of scientific collaboration."

"I call upon the IAAF to reconsider their decision and call for this collaborative effort."

Tony Ward, spokesman for the BAF, said: "The IAAF clearly felt the panel have been misdirected or reached an erroneous conclusion."

"We do not believe either happened. We feel there was reasonable room for doubt in the case, based on the evidence put forward."

## Nebiolo not amused



GOTHENBURG, Aug 1: Athletics chief Primo Nebiolo has threatened not to attend the forthcoming World Championships because of negative Swedish media reports about him, the organisers said on Monday, reports Reuter.

In the run-up to the championships, starting in Gothenburg on Saturday, a Swedish television journalist asked Nebiolo, the Italian president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), about a trial in Italy at which he was acquitted of charges of abuse of office.

He was furious about the incident and hinted he would leave Sweden after the IAAF congress which precedes the championships.

Primo Nebiolo does not feel welcome here, he told me yesterday he wants to go home directly after the IAAF congress. I hope and believe he will reconsider." Ulf Ekelund, the general secretary of the Swedish organising committee, told a news conference on Monday.

Ekelund said the Swedish media could ruin the championship if it did not show restraint in its coverage of Nebiolo, president of the IAAF since 1981.

trying to hinder their freedom of speech.

Britt-Marie Mattsson, a talk-show host interviewing Nebiolo on Sunday for a Swedish programme due to be broadcast today, said he showed her the door only eight minutes into an agreed one-hour interview.

Mattsson said a shouting match followed in the hotel corridors as Nebiolo's aides accused the television crew of asking the wrong kind of questions.

Ekelund said the incident was the last straw for Nebiolo, who is often praised for giving athletics a higher profile and negotiating lucrative television and sponsorship contracts, but who is sometimes accused of running the sport as a one-man show.

### Ndeti skips Gothenburg meet

NAIROBI, Aug 1: Three-time Boston Marathon winner Cosmas Ndeti has withdrawn from Kenya's team for the Gothenburg World Championships due to injury, officials said today, reports Reuter.

Ndeti had been tipped as a hot contender for the gold medal.

Chief coach Danson Muchoki also announced the withdrawal of another marathon man, Eric Kimiyo, again citing injury.



A traditional Indonesian dance performed by a young girl during the opening ceremonies of the 38th Archery World Championships in Jakarta yesterday.

— AFP/UNB photo

## An ever piercing Pierce



CARLSBAD, California, Aug 1 (AFP): A second-round Wimbledon exit and a Fed Cup defeat

may not seem the perfect preparation for an assault on the US Open title, Mary Pierce's confidence remains undimmed.

Pierce, the world number three, said that even though she has not cashed in on the momentum from her Australian Open triumph in January by winning any more tournament titles, she is physically and mentally at home among the game's best players.

"It has been eight months that I've been ranked among the top players, and I think

I've shown I can consistently play with them," she said.

At Wimbledon, she fell in the second round to French Fed Cup teammate Nathalie Tauziat, but she said the three-set effort, in her first appearance at the All-England Club, was a pleasant surprise.

So was France's down-to-the-wire defeat by the United States in the semifinals of the Fed Cup.

Playing the Americans in North Carolina, the French split the four singles matches to take the tie to the deciding doubles.

"That's totally the opposite to a blow in confidence," she said of the loss. "It's such a great experience. It's very rare that we can play as a team, play for each other. I felt we played really well."

"The whole team was disappointed because we came so close, and when you come close it's even harder. But we all tried really hard, and there was a great team spirit."

Now she has focused on the last Grand Slam of 1995, the US Open, and her appearance here at the 430,000-dollar WTA tour event at the Costa resort is part of that preparation.

"My goal is to peak at the US Open," she said. "I'm training hard physically. I'm going to play here and at Toronto. They will be very important tournaments for me to prepare and be match tough."

Pierce admitted to something of a let-down after the Australian Open, where she beat Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in straight sets in the final.

After Australia, a lot of stuff happened really fast and I was trying to churn really hard and do a lot of things off court. I think that's why I got sick," said Pierce, who bat-

ted a groin strain and a kidney infection earlier this year.

Now, she says, she is well and injury-free.

She was also clearly happy and relaxed as she prepared to play a tournament she last entered two years ago when her highly-publicised conflict with her father was at its peak and she sought a court order keeping him away from her matches.

"A lot has happened in the last two years in my life," said Pierce. "I've been working with Nick (Bollitieri) and Sven (Groeneveld) and I feel there has been a tremendous improvement in my game."

### Connors beats Borg

DEARBORN, Michigan, Aug 1: Jimmy Connors rallied to beat Bjorn Borg 6-6, 6-4, 6-4 on Monday in the final of the Mentadent Champions tournament, reports AP.

Connors, who earned 40,000 dollars in the 150,000-dollar tournament, has won 13 of 15 events on the 35-and-over tour since it began in 1993 and has beaten Borg eight straight times.

### Evans finishes fourth

PASADENA, California, Aug 1: World record-holder Janet Evans settled for fourth place in the women's 800m freestyle at the US National Swimming Championships here on Monday, reports AFP.

Up-and-coming 15-year-old Brooke Bennett won the event in 8 mins 31.84 secs - well outside Evans' world mark of 8:16.22.

"It felt really good. I'm pleased with my race," Bennett said. "I came here to swim the best I could."