Kumble spells **Durham's doom**

LONDON. Aug 4: Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble bagged another five-wicket haul to send Northainptonshire back to the top of the country championship table on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Kumble tormented Durham's fragile batting at Northampton with five for 26, giving him 71 wickets for the season and 28 in the last five innings, as the visitors crumbled to 148 all out. Northants then rubbed in

their superiority ruthlessly. openers Richard Montgomerie (46) and Alan Fordham (79) posting 107 to leave the home side in complete control on 147 for two at the

Northants went into the match trailing leaders Warwickshire, not involved in the current round, by two points but they quickly converted that deficit into a twopoint advantage with a thoroughly efficient bowling and fielding display.

But while Kumble enjoyed another successful day most bowlers were put to the sword on pitches baked hard by the relentless sun.

Third-placed Middlesex thrashed their way to 500 for six from 110 overs against Nottinghamshire at Lord's. former England captain Mike Gatting and Jason Pooley leading the way with cen-

Gatting made 148 and Pooley 133. Pooley's fourth championship century of the season came off just 94 balls and included 18 fours and a

Graham Gooch, another former England skipper, was one of three century makers for Essex as they piled up 452 for four against Hampshire at Colchester.

Gooch passed 1,000 runs for the season for the 19th time in his career with a brilliant innings of 142. Nasser Hussain made 145 and Mark Waugh 114 not out.

At Canterbury, Surrey reached 345 for two against Kent thanks to hundreds by opener Martin Bicknell and England's Graham Thorpe.

Bicknell followed up his double century against Nottinghamshire two weeks ago by hitting 146, while Thorpe - his partner in a secondwicket stand of 260 - posted 152 not out.

Tail digs SA out of trouble

WORCESTER. England Aug 4: South Africa were rescued by the eighth wicket pair of skipper Neil McKenzie and Pierre Joubert after a midinnings collapse in the second under-19 Test against England here on Thursday, reports AFP.

The lourists lost six wickets for 57 runs in 27 overs in declining from 143 for one to 200 for seven after electing to bat, with spinners. Vikram Solanki and Umer Rashid doing the dam-

But McKenzie and Joubert both profited from surviving sharp chances to add an unbroken 80 in 33 overs as South Africa reached 280 for seven in 112 overs by the close of the first day.

McKenzie was unbeaten on 77, off 177 balls with 12 fours, while Joubert's 37 not out spanned 101 balls and contained four boundaries.

South Africa had been given a solid start by Mark Boucher who figured in partnerships of 79 in 32 overs with Ashwell Prince and 64 in 20 overs with Hendrik Dippenaar The first Test between the

two sides ended in a draw

Graf keeping a low-profile?

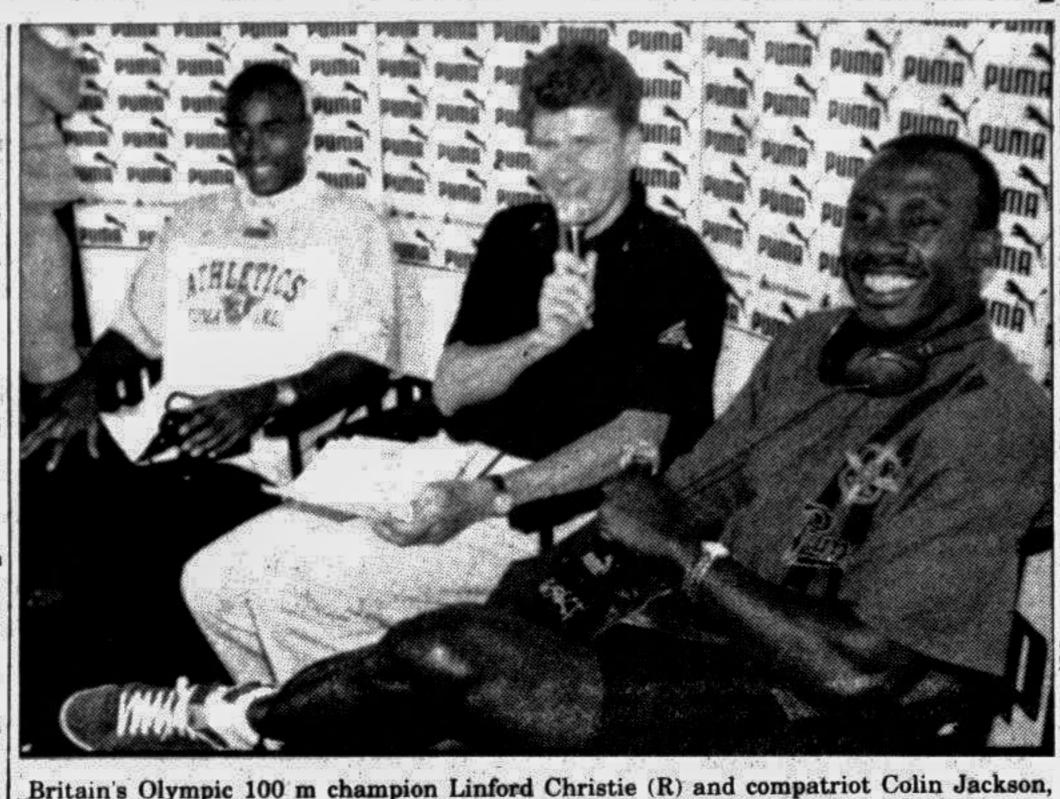
FRANKFURT. Germany Aug 4: Top-ranked world tennis player Steffi. Graf is laying low as she and her father are investigated in a tax evasion case, and she insists she did no deliberate wrong said a friend who spoke to her Friday, reports AP.

"Despite this unbelievably difficult and pressured situation, Steffi has a clear head. said Hans Wilhelm Gaeb, vice president of General Motors Europe.

He said he spoke to Miss Graf by telephone Friday afternoon, and said she was thinking about her home and family. Miss Graf's trainer has said she is in the United States, preparing for the US Open in New York on Aug.

"She is sure that she herself has in no way consciously done anything wrong," Gaeb said. "She is thankful that she can face this difficult situa tion with confidence. She will for the time being stay

out of sight." Gaeb is acquainted with Graf, 26, through her contract as a spokeswoman for Adam Open AG, a subsidiary of General Motors.



Britain's Olympic 100 m champion Linford Christie (R) and compatriot Colin Jackson, 110m hurdles record-holder, are interviewed during a press conference at Gothenburg's Valand Bar yesterday before the official opening of IAAF World Championships.

- AFP/UNB photo Christie's pride at stake



GOTHENBURG. Aug 4: Linford Christie, who starts the defence of his world

100 metres title on Saturday, said today he was capable of running a world record if necessary in order to retain his crown. reports Reuter.

The 35-year-old Briton. whose fastest time of 9.87 seconds is just two-hundredths of a second outside the world record of 9.85 set by American Leroy Burrel two vears ago, said he was in superb shape and looking forward to the competition. But he refused to answer

any questions about the revelation this week that he had recently become a grandfather following the birth of daughter to his 16-year-old son's girlfriend.

"What's that got to do with athletics"? he snapped at a reporter at his final prechampionship news confer-

"Personal life doesn't come into it. We are here to talk about athletics."

The pugnacious Briton also took his usual swipe at the British media and refused to answer any questions about the possibility of his taking part in the Olympic Games in Atlanta next year.

Asked by a foreign reporter about his long-standing feud with the British press. Christie responded: "Why do you want to ask me that? What do you want to talk about that for?

"A lot of them don't want to see me win, but a lot of them are going to be very disappointed."

Without any particular prompting, the Olympic, world, European and Commonwealth champion said: "To achieve what I have achieved you have to be strong. I was born to run.] was born a winner. "When I hear 'God save the

Queen' played in the stadium and that because of me thousands of people in the stadium and millions more at home are happy, it makes you feel very good. The British public are not as gullible as some people think.'

Earlier this summer

Christie announced he was quitting athletics at the end of the season, and rounded on another reporter who asked him if he planned to run in the Olympics.

"I've already said everything I have to say about that," he said.

Christie is going for a sprint double at these championships and said he was more excited about trying to win the 200 rather than the

"I've got nothing to win and everything to lose in the 100. If I win it, well... I've done it again. I can't become any more famous than I am already, I can't become and better known than I am. But the 200 is a real challenge. It's unknown territory for

Christie is due to run in the eighth of 12 first round 100 heats on Saturday, and barring any mishaps in the second round and semifinals, will line up for the final on Sunday evening. The men's 200 competition starts next Thursday with the final on

Brits bank on Gothenburg



GOTHENBURG. Aug 4: After a simmering summer of discontent, British at-

hletics chiefs will turn thankfully to the World Championships opening here on Saturday for some welcome relief from a season of internal strife, reports Reuter.

Britain enjoyed unprecedented success at the 1993 Stuttgart World Championships, with Linford Christie. Colin Jacks on and Sally Gunnell winning gold medals.

Christie, now 35, is favourite to retain his title here although his relations with administrators and media have plumbed new

But Jackson and Gunnell, who both set world records at Stuttgart, have withdrawn from the championships with injuries and, in Jackson's case: a serious case of bruised feelings as well.

The national championships last month were notable more for the off-track drama than the action in the arena with Christie getting special dispensation to run in the 100 final even though he had been eliminated in his

Of more significance was Jackson's decision to withdraw from the championships after his heat of the 100 metres then fly to Italy to run 24 hours later.

British Athletic Federation (BAF) executive chairman Peter Radford was angered at Jackson's action, demanding both an explanation and that the Welshman prove his fitness for the World Championships.

After a tense meeting between the pair, Jackson finally agreed to run one final race before the World Championships before announcing through his promotions company Nuff Respect that he would not defend his 110 metres hurdles title

Jackson, who has been suffering from a strained abductor muscle, later accused the BAF of forcing him to withdraw from Gothenburg by requiring him to prove his

"If there hadn't been this pressure. I feel I would have been going to Gothenburg." Jackson said.

Nutl Respect, which also represents. Christie and world 200 metres silver medalist John Regis, was earlier embrollied in a dispute with the BAF over appearance money for domestic meetings.

. The dispute was finally resolved the day before the showpiece London Grand it."

Prix on July 7, but too late for the trio to compete.

Instead, spectators at Crystal Palace had to be satisfied with the sight of three of Britain's top athletes sitting at trackside signing autographs.

The problems with British athletics go deeper than dispute with a handful of highly paid superstars.

At a news conference here this week, chief coach Malcolm Arnold called for government money to help the sport develop fully its potential and contended he could see Britain losing its status as a major power.

Arnold pointed out that the sport in Britain was largely run by volunteers and instanced the steep decline in middle-distance standards after what he called a "wonderful record over the past 20 years."

"If the coaches who come are coming over here are not grossly out of pocket at the end of the year, I will be very, very surprised," he said.

Arnold said Britain was now weak at the long distance events, in long jumping and all field events except the javelin.

ing model I would like," he concluded. "But I can't afford

SA U-24 cricket team in Lanka

COLOMBO, Aug 4: South Africa's under 24 team arrived here Thursday for a month-long tour which coach Bob Woolmer predicted would be "a great stepping stone" for his young players. reports AFP.

The team, led by Dale Benkenstein, opens their tour Sunday with a three-day game against a Sri Lanka Board President's XI before playing three youth Tests and two one-day internationals.

'I am very excited about the tour. It will be a great stepping stone for all the players," said Woolmer, who is also in charge of the South African Test team.

The former England bowler said the tour has assumed greater significance because it was the first international outing by the youth side since South Africa's isolation in the cricket world ended four years ago.

tle said the youngsters would now get the opportunity to master wickets in the Indian sub-continent.

"The players themselves will have to learn to play on sub-continent wickets. This is a fine learning process,' Woolmer said. "We have a very balanced side including four very good seamers and three very promising spin-

TEAM

D Benkenstein (capt), HD Ackerman, A Bacher, N Boje. F Brooker, M Bruyns, A Huckle, J Kallis, L Klusener G Liebenberg, L Mazikazana. S Pollock, R Telemacus, R Veenstra, M Davis.

New event at 99 athletic meet

GOTHENBURG, Aug 4: The women's pole vault and hammer will be introduced to the World Outdoor Athleics Championships for the first time in 1999, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said or Thursday, reports Reuter.

Women will also compete in the pole vault for the first time at the World Indoor Championships in Paris in 1997, in IAAF agreed at its

Powell upbeat

GOTHENBURG, Aug Mike Powell has expressed delight that he is likely to retain his world long jump record but admitted he was in no shape to better his mark at the World Championships starting on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Italian athletics chiefs said on Thursday they would ask the International Amateur Athletic Federation not to ratify the mark of 8.96 metres set by Cuban Ivan Pedroso at Sestriere last Saturday because video evidence showed somebody had by the council, the executive been standing in front of the "If lam going to lose my

record. I want it to be taken from me legitimately," Powell said from his home in southern California on Thursday.

"It's not that he cannot jump that far. I am going to shake his hand and hug him. I like him. He's a nice kid." But Powell, who set his

world mark of 8.95 metres at the 1991 Tokyo World Championships, said he wished Pedroso had waited a year to have an outstanding "I am beat up pretty bad,"

the American said. "I had a rough trip to Europe, earlier. "I am used to competing with my hamstring sore and my back tight but a sore left heel his causing major problems. Every time I jump, I am

"My goal at the World Championships is just to be competitive. I've got my second chance. I've got my wake-up call "If he does break my

record. I can guarantee next year that I will be ready to break the record."

World Championships in Jakarta on Aug 3.

the overall lead. Eight of his medals have been gold, the most by a male or female.

Lewis in a dilemna

Lewis also owns eight golds and a silver in the Olympics, and has indicated that he will retire after the Atlanta Games.



jump, he is part of the threeman US team that includes Kareem Streete-Thompson, ranked No. 2 in the world this year with a leap of 8.56, and two-time defending champion and former world record-holder Mike Powell,

No. 3 at 8.52. Only Cuba's Ivan Pedroso. whose world record of 8.96 probably won't be ratified after a dispute over wind speed, has jumped farther than Streete-Thompson and

Powell. Lewis, meanwhile, has a legal best of only 8.00, tying him for 45th in the world this year, and wind-aided best of 8.45.

Regarding the relay, Lewis finished sixth in the 100 at the US championships, and it has been customary that the top four finishers comprise the final foursome. However, there have been exceptions in the past, including adding Lewis to the mix.

The top four - Mike Marsh, Maurice Greene, Jon. Drummond and Dennis Matchell - ran at Monte Carlo, Monaco, July 25 and won in 38.25 seconds, the fastest time in the world this

"We'll probably stay with that (team)," Groves said. "Carl has a touchy hamstring. But we will decide during the meet who runs."

Lewis became the team's first alternate when fifthplace finisher Leroy Burrell, the world record-holder, decided to end his season because of a foot injury. If Lewis runs only in the prelims and the team winds up with a medal, he would still receive a gold, silver or bronze.

The relay final will be run Aug. 13, the last day of the championships.

solidarity with countries with

legal problems, those which

battle against doping with

out-of-competition testing,'

said Clemens Prokop, a

tion," said US delegate Frank

keep the four-year bans could

cost the national federations

and the IAAF millions of dol-

lars. In fact, at least 15 feder-

ations asked the IAAF im-

mediately after the vote to

create a special found to

cover costs of litigation be-

cause of the longer bans.

"We are in the same posi-

Nebiolo said the vote to

German delegate.

Greenberg.

Nebiolo suffers setback



GOTHENBURG, Aug 4: The IAAF Congress ignored recommendations from its own council and

appeals from some of its most influential member states and on Thursday rejected a proposal to cut drug bans from four years to two, reports AP.

The vote agianst the cut, supported by the United States. Russia, Germany, France and Italy among other members, came one day after two leadings sprinters were suspected for failing drug It was also seen as a per-

sonal defeat for Prime Nebiolo, the 72-year-old Italian who has headed the sport's world governing body since 1981 and who was given another four-year term by acclamation Wednesday. Nebiolo tried to put the

best face on the rejection. saving it had not been his proposal. But he said the negative vote could mean millions of dollars in expensive litigation fees for members states that conduct comprehensive drug testing. But it had been endorsed

branch of the international Amateur Athletics Federation. The Congress rarely goes agianst the recommendations of the council, which is also chaired by Nebiolo.

Delegates said Nebiolo had been furious after a passionfilled debate during which congress delegates shouted down a member of the council when he tried to make a final pitch for the proposal and instead decided to go ahead with the vote. The two-year ban would

have been in line with the policies adopted by the International Olympic Committee. The four-year suspension

applies to first time offenders. Anyone caught a second time gets banned for life. The proposal was rejected

by a huge majority, with 137 member states voting to retain the four-year ban and 49 to reduce it. Britain, Finland and Spain

were among those against reducing the ban, arguing that such a move would send a wrong signal to the athletes and the public.

championships starts Saturday, but two top sprinters will miss the event after failing drug tests in June. Daniel Effiong of Nigeria

faces a four-year ban for testing positive for anabolic steroids and Donovan Powell of Jamaica faces a threemonth ban for taking a stimulant, a milder offense. Germany was among the

nations arguing forcefully for a cut in the ban. German and other federations have to battle courts in their countries that consider four-year bans to deprive athletes of their livelihood too long a

NEBIOLO

Katrin Krabbe, the former

German world champion

sprinter, has been battling

her ban in German civil

courts and could win large

"The congress showed no

sums in compensation.

"We don't have this money, it could be dirs 20-30 million a year. We would have to reduce our contributions to athletes, organizers of events, anti-doping efforts development programs. "The council will have t

consider this matter very se riously. It could create enor mous difficulties." Nebiol

He said the IAAF had spent dirs 4 million in lawye and legal fees in the last tw years, while the American German, Italian and French federations had spent a con bined dirs 39 million in th last four years on legal bat

Istvan Gyulai, the IAA general secretary, said the majority of the countries the opposed a reduction of th ban had never experienced serious drug abuse or con ducted out-of-competitio drug testing.

Freeman throws gauntlet down



GOTHENBURG. Aug 4: Austra lia's Commonwealth cham-Cathy pion Freeman throws down an early challenge to

world 400 metres women's favourite Marie-Jose Perec in the opening event of the fifth World Championships on Saturday, reports Reuter. Freeman, the first aborigi-

nal to win a gold medal in any athletics event, was a convincing winner over the 1991 world champion at the Competition at the World | Monaco Grand Prix last

Frenchwoman Perec rur in the third heat with de fending world champio Jearl Miles of the Unite States in heat five. Only two finals will be d

cided on Saturday wi Chinese Huang Zihong d fending her women's she put title and Angelia Kanana, who won th Hamburg marathon last Apr opening the Kenyan distan challenge in the women marathon.

Portuguese Manue Machado, second two yea ago in Stuttgart and the be Portuguese marathon runn since Rosa Mota, is the ra favourite in a field lacking most of the world's top e ponents. Machado is the on woman in the field ranked the top 10 this year.

Conditions should favourable for the 42.196 k race which starts at 11 GMT, with a maximum ter perature of 25 degree Celsius forecast after a swe tering week here:

The strength of the African challenge in the mi

dle and long distance even will become clearer after th opening rounds of the men 800 and 10,000 metres. Wilson Kipketer, former of Kenya but now resident Denmark, is the fastest ma

in the world this year in the 800, clocking one minu 42.87 seconds in Monaco. Ethiopia's world reco holder Haile Gebrselass

runs in heat one of th 10,000 metres again Top French archer Sebastien Flute marks his arrows during the men's 50m event at 38th Moroccan Olympic champi - AFP/UNB photo Khalid Skah.

Peter Graf refused bail



FRANKFURT. Aug 4: The father of Steffi Graf was denied release on bail after his arrest

that also targets the world's top-ranked women's tennis player, a prosecutor said Thursday, reports AP. Graf, who was reported to be in New York preparing for the US Open tournament that starts Aug 28. "is still under investigation, but the situa-

tion for her is unlike that of

evasion in a criminal probe

her father", said Mannheim prosecutor Peter Wechsung. Wechsung explained that authorities had feared Mr Graf, who has managed Miss Graf's career for 13 years, might try to flee the country or eliminate evidence. Wechsung said there was no such fear regarding the 26-

year-old tennis champ. Mr. Graf had offered to post bond to gain his release after his arrest Wednesday. but a magistrate declined the offer and ordered him held in investigative custody, said Wechsung. He would not say

how much bond Mr Graf offered.

There was widespread. speculation that Miss Graf



PETER GRAF might quit tennis because of her father's arrest and the pressures of an investigation that included 15 tax inspectors searching her family home in Bruehl on May 23.

However, she went on to win the French Open six days later, and then her sixth Wimbledon. "I don't think that Steffi will quit now," said Claus Stauder, head of the German Tennis Pederation. What can help her now are

German news media reported that Mr. Graf, 57, had been transferred from a prison in Mannheim to a prison hospital in neighbouring Ludwigshafen for medical checks. No details were pro-

sports media reported that Mr Graf had over a four-year period paid at least 10 million marks (7.2 million dolbeen paid on an estimated 35 million marks (25.2 million dollars) in income.

Ivanisevic sails into qtrs

Open, reports AP.

"I know the sort of coachpreparing for pain.

vided on his condition. German television and lars) less than should have

Gunther Reffert, mayor of Bruehl where the Grafs pay local property taxes, said. "The taxes were always paid punctually. This whole affair is baffling to me."

LOS ANGELES. Aug 4: Top-seeded Goran Ivanisevic took advantage of five doublefaults by Jim Grabb on Thursday to win 6-4, 6-2 and advance to the quarter-finals of the dirs 328,000 Infiniti

at this one, unless he gets picked for the 400 relay. reports AP. The 10-time medalist only, qualified for the long jump, at which he won gold

World Championships, said Friday he may not be fit-enough to compete

medals in 1983 and 87 and failed to make the US trios in the sprints. But the 34-year-old American collected a left hamstring injury last week and

GOTHENBURG.

Aug 4: Carl Le-

wis, who has

won medals at

all four previous

it is not recovering fast enough. "If I had to make a decision now, I couldn't compete," Lewis said. "It is not

"If I just had to run in the 100, I think I could do it. But there are a lot of other things involved in the long jump. "I may feel better in two

through two days of a jump competition." As well as winning the long jump in '83 and '87. Lewis was silver medalist in 1991. He also anchored the relay team to victories in 1983, 1987 and 1991 as well as winning the 100 metres in

Lewis' 10 medals are more than any other man in World Championships competition and tie him with Jamaican sprinter Merlene Ottey for

