

Sport

Trent Bridge Test from today Atherton England's worry

LONDON, Aug 9: England suffered a scare on the eve of the fifth Test at Trent Bridge on Thursday when captain Mike Atherton complained of back problems, reports Reuter.

Chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth said there was also a slight concern over the fitness of another batsman, though he refused to name the casualty or discuss his injury.

England were sufficiently worried about Atherton's fitness to call up in-form Yorkshire batsman David Byas, who completed 1,000 runs in first-class cricket this season before any other player.

England's batting for the match starting in Nottingham on Thursday has already been weakened by the absence of injured pair Alec Stewart and Robin Smith.

Opener Atherton, who has a long history of back twinges, reported a sore back after the morning practice session at Trent Bridge.

"Mike is not completely happy with his back," said Illingworth. "I think he'll probably be okay, but it is a worry."

In the event of Atherton not being able to play, Illingworth said wicket-keeper Jack Russell would probably take over, but he added: "We've not had time to discuss that."

Russell's form both behind the stumps and as a batsman has flourished since taking over the Gloucestershire captaincy this season.

While there is a cloud of

their batting plans, England are still intent on paying two spinners, and groundsman Ron Allsopp has prepared a Test strip to offer plenty of runs over the first few days before taking turn towards the end of the match.

Allsopp said: "I don't think this surface will be that quick but I think there will be quite a few runs scored over the next few days and it will definitely turn towards the end."

Though the pitch may not be particularly quick, the West Indian fast bowlers have a habit of extracting pace and bounce from a surface that seems comparatively docile when their opponents are



MIKE ATHERTON bowling on it.

There is no doubt England's partly untried batting line-up will be subjected to another relentless barrage of hostile, short-pitched fast bowling from West Indies' four-pronged pace attack.

They will not only have opener Nick Knight, playing

his second Test, in their sights but also Alan Wells, the England A team captain who is set to make his Test debut at the age of 33. In addition, John Crawley is battling to establish himself in Test cricket.

Graeme Hick's return to the middle order is not certain after being dropped from the side who won the fourth Test at Old Trafford last month to square the six-match rubber 2-2.

Hick may miss out again if Illingworth, who is also team manager, wants to play five specialist bowlers.

Left-arm spinner Richard Illingworth and all-rounder Mike Watkinson, who bowls off-spin, seem certain choices, with Angus Fraser and Dominic Cork to use the new ball.

That would leave a choice between left-arm seamer Mark Ilett and pace bowling all-rounder Craig White for the final place in the attack.

West Indies are compelled to make at least one change after Jimmy Adams suffered a cracked cheekbone when batting against Somerset last Thursday. They also have Carl Hooper nursing his broken right index finger, sustained in the fourth Test.

This opens the way for Shivnarine Chanderpaul, another of the touring team's left-handers, to make his first appearance of the series.

A patient middle-order batsman of great application and a sound technique, Chanderpaul could offer a much-needed measure of discipline to a batting side often betrayed by loose strokes in this series.

Calling a spade a spade

NOTTINGHAM, England, Aug 9: Graeme Hick sought clear-the-air talks with England chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth on Tuesday about his future in Test cricket, reports Reuter.

Zimbabwe-born Hick was upset at being left out of England's team for the fourth Test against West Indies, having been told he was surplus to requirements on the morning of the Old Trafford match.

But Hick was selected for the 13-man squad for the fifth Test starting at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, on Thursday and now wants to know where he stands with the England hierarchy.

Hick is challenging both the reason behind his omission at Old Trafford and the selection policies which have seen a total of 22 players picked for this season's four Tests.

"Every summer we go through the same routine," said Hick.

"We always seem to call up the same number of players and to me that's not the right formula for success."

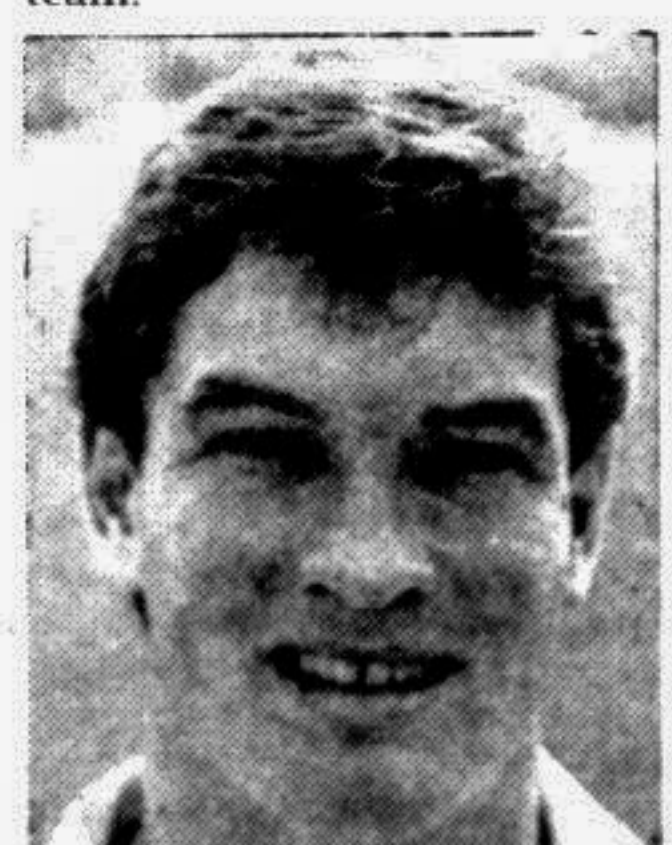
"Every summer I get dropped and that doesn't help you feel secure. What I shall be saying to lily is between me and him. But I have asked to see him because he always says he wants people to give it to him straight. Well, that's what I'll be doing."

Illingworth, who is also the England team manager,

said during practice at Trent Bridge on Tuesday that he had planned to have "a chat" with Hick anyway.

Last week Illingworth made some pointed remarks about the need to "weed out" of the England set-up players who were selfish or who did not contribute enough to the team cause.

He did not give names, but on Tuesday Illingworth said: "Everyone wants to do well, but only Graeme knows whether he wants to do better for himself or for the team."



GRAEME HICK

"I want people who are prepared to die for England. That's what we must get over to the players and I think that this summer we've made great strides in that direction. I think people know now what's required of them if they are to play for England."

"Hick has all the ability in the world, and in fact no one's got more ability. He has

done it at Test level too, but he must take over and dominate situations more. I want to talk to him on a general level."

"Yes, he was very upset at being left out at Old Trafford, but perhaps everyone has to realise there are no automatic selections for England."

Illingworth added that to succeed against West Indies, something Hick has generally failed to do, a player needed mental strength. "You need to win the mind game first," he said.

Hick countered Illingworth's opinion that he needed to be more assertive by saying: "I don't need him to tell me that."

"I have a lot of self-belief, if I didn't it would not have got me through all the rubbish that has been written and spoken about me in the past five years."

"I can't be that bad to have scored the amount of runs I have made in the last couple of years."

"I think I've been mis-read a lot as a person because I don't run around shouting and showing emotion. I believe it's just as powerful being in control of yourself."

Hick and Sussex batsman Alan Wells, who has not previously played Test cricket, are in contention for the batting vacancy caused by the absence of Robin Smith, who suffered a fractured cheekbone in the Old Trafford match.

England and West Indies stand at 2-2 in the six-match series.

Boulmerka bags gold

GOTHENBURG, Aug 9: Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria won the gold medal in the



HASSIBA BOULMERKA

women's 1,500 metres at the World Championships today, reports Reuter.

Britain's Kelly Holmes won the women's 1,500 silver and Portuguese Carla Sacramento took the bronze.

Sabatini survives a toughie

MANHATTAN BEACH, California, Aug 9: Third seed Gabriela Sabatini stared defeat in the face on Tuesday but survived the scare to reach the third round of the Acura classic, reports Reuter.

The Argentine needed some help from her opponent and a third-set tie-break to get past Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7-2).

Second-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez earned a far more comfortable 6-3, 6-2 win over Germany's Christina Singer to join Sabatini in the third round.

But eighth seed Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan was upset 6-3, 6-1 by Italian Nathalie Baudone in another second-round match.

Perec prevails over adversity

GOTHENBURG, Aug 9: Marie-Jose Perec of France reclaimed her 400 metres World Championship crown with a majestic run in the Ullevi Stadium on Tuesday night, reports Reuter.



GOTHENBURG, Aug 9: Marie-Jose Perec of France reclaimed her 400 metres World Championship crown with a majestic run in the Ullevi Stadium on Tuesday night, reports Reuter.

Driving herself powerfully down the home straight, she destroyed defending champion Jearl Miles of the United States and Australia's Commonwealth champion Cathy Freeman to win the gold by five metres in the year's fastest time of 49.28 seconds.

She last won the world title in 1991. There was no hint of the injury problems which had caused her to abandon her attempt at a 400 flat and hurdles double.

Instead, she looked imperious as her long stride swallowed up the track and left her rivals in her wakes almost in a private race of their own for the consolation prizes.

Pauline Davis of the Bahamas better known as a horse sprinter but taking part in her first 400 metres final took the silver in a national record of 49.96 seconds and Miles was third in 50 seconds exactly.

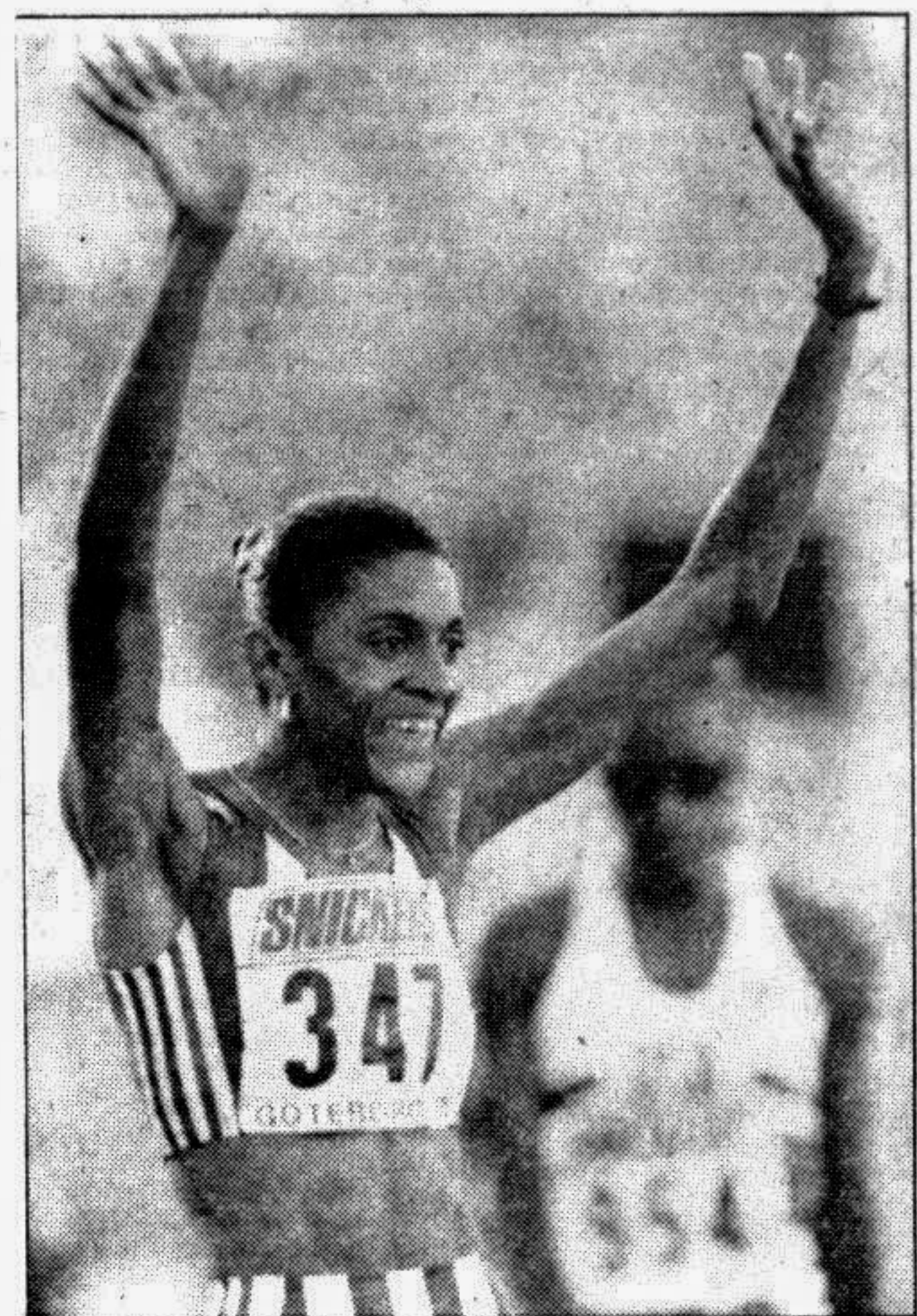
Freeman, who bravely tried to force the pace in the opening 200 metres, visibly tied up in the closing stages and finished fourth in 50.60.

Meanwhile, former Kenyan Wilson Kipketer, who now runs for Denmark, turned his season of impressive form into a gold medal when he won the world men's 800 metres title with tactical expertise.

Kipketer, the fastest man

in the world this year over two laps, ran an intelligent race, leading away

the line to take the silver medal in 1.45.64 ahead of Nelson Rodal who had led at



A delighted Marie-Jose Perec of France raises her hands after winning the 400 metres final at the World Athletics Championships in Gothenburg on August 8. Perec's timing was 49.28 sec. — AFP/UNB photo

from the rest of the field down the home straight to clinch his first major title in one minute 45.08 seconds.

Burundi's Arthemion Hatungimana just dipped at

the bell and off the final bend. The Norwegian took the bronze medal in 1.45.68.

Kipketer stayed back in sixth as Rodal, roared on by a large Norwegian contingent

in the capacity crowd, took the racers through the first lap in 52 seconds.

The 24-year-old slipped cleverly into German Nico Motchebon's slipstream as he made a break on the outside down the back straight.

With 70 metres to go Kipketer produced a devastating kick which destroyed the field to cross the line with metres to spare.

The fourth day of the championships saw American Derrick Adkins produce some smooth and controlled hurdling to win his 400 metres hurdles semifinal in 48.25 second and qualify for Thursday's final with ease.

Adkins, who finished seventh at the 1995 championships in Stuttgart but who is regarded as a strong medal contender, was able to ease off at the finish with Frenchman Stephane Diagana placing second in 48.37.

But Olympic silver medalist Winthrop Graham of Jamaica, who finished third in Stuttgart two years ago, was disqualified for crossing lanes in the second race.

Graham would have reached the final in any case as he came in only fifth in the heat won by Stuttgart silver medalist and former world champion Samuel Matete of Zambia in 48.50 seconds.

"After the first 400 metres they slowed down and I was sure then that I would win the race," Kipketer said of his 800 metres victory.

World record holder Halle Gebrselassie produced a devastating kick with 200 metres to go to defend his men's 10,000 metres title.

After a tactical race, the 22-year-old Ethiopian picked his moment perfectly as the athletes went into the final bend and finished almost 10 metres ahead at the finish in 27 minutes 12.95 seconds.

Morocco's Olympic champion Khalid Skah took the silver in 27:14.53 after just holding off Kenyan Paul Tergat in a sprint down the home straight. Tergat clocked 27:14.70.

American Todd Williams tried to set a fast pace at the start of the race and managed to build up a 50-metre lead over the main group after five laps.

But Kenyan Joseph Kimani chased the American down in the sixth lap and the race turned into a battle between a group of six athletes.

Kimani took the group through 5,000 metres in 13:46.20. But it was Moroccan Salah Hissou who took the athletes into the bell with Gebrselassie on his shoulder and Skah in third.

Once the Ethiopian made

Seles starts in Toronto

CLEVELAND, Aug 9: Monica Seles will make her long-awaited return to the women's tennis tour next week in Toronto, reports Reuter.

Sales will compete in her first WTA Tour event in 28 months at the Du Maurier Open, her manager, Stephanie Tolleson of International Management Group, announced on Tuesday.

Seles came out of seclusion 10 days ago to play an exhibition against Martina Navratilova in Atlantic City, winning her first competitive match in more than two years, 6-3, 6-2.

She has not played on the tennis tour since she was stabbed in the back by a deranged spectator during a match in Hamburg, April 30, 1993.

Tolleson said Seles will not compete in an exhibition at Mahwah, New Jersey.

Will real Tyson stand up?

LOS ANGELES, Aug 9: Mike Tyson, boxing's prodigal son who makes his much heralded return to the ring August 19 in Las Vegas on Tuesday showed reporters a much quieter side to his once brash and abrasive nature, reports Reuter.

"I don't talk much. I don't talk like I did in the past," he said at his first major news conference since promoter Don King announced a six fight, 35 million dollars deal for the former heavyweight champion.

Tyson, who served three years in prison for a March 1992 rape of beauty pageant contestant Desiree Washington insisted he has not been humbled by his experience.

"I'm just more secure in what I do," he explained.

But the prison time has given the one time youngest heavyweight champion in history a new perspective. "I really do enjoy my life so much more now than I did before."

Tyson, 26, was courteous in answering questions and even displayed flashes of humour.

Asked if he was concerned about how his body would re-

act to being punched hard following his four year lay off, he replied with a smile. "I haven't been hit too much when I have been fighting."

On strategy for his comeback fight with unheralded Peter McNecley, Tyson said, "I am going to do my thing, and you know what my thing is."

Following in the footsteps of Muhammad Ali, Tyson, who converted to Islam while in jail, said he intended to adopt a Muslim name eventually.

Rain holds Muster up

SANMARINO, Aug 9: Heavy rain forced organizers of the San Marino Open to postpone top seed Thomas Muster's first round match against Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay by 24 hours to Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The Australian, winner of eight clay-court tournaments this year including the French Open, is bidding to return to that winning form in the 300,000 dollars event after defeat in the final of his home Austrian Open on Sunday.

In the play that was possible between the storms, holder and fifth seed Carlos Costa of Spain lost 7-6, 6-4 to Gaston Etlis of Argentina.

ally but would not say when. McNecley, who will fight Tyson at the MGM Grand Hotel, has a 36-1 record, amassed against little known opponents.

King defended his decision to put McNecley in the ring with Tyson, calling him a worthy opponent.

McNecley will have by far his biggest payday for stepping out of obscurity to meet Tyson, he will receive a reported 700,000 dollars while Tyson pulls in just under six million dollars of Tyson, King said. "Mike is already the people's champion around the world."

"What we are launching today is a campaign for the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world."

In his inimitable fashion, the flamboyant King took over the proceedings, launching into an hour-long monologue replete with old jokes and exhortations to a worldwide television audience to ante up 50 dollars per household to watch the fight on Pay Per View Television.

At one point, reporters got a glimpse of an even quieter side of Tyson. The former champion appeared so bored by King's ramblings that he yawned visibly, closed his eyes and rested his head on the dais.

The people's mayor!

ATLANTA, Aug 9: Atlanta's mayor Tuesday blasted city property owners, who plan to charge tenants inflated rents during the 1996 Olympic Games, calling them "despicable" and promising they will be ostracised by the city's government, reports Reuter.

"We won't simply sit idly and accept that people take advantage of our citizens for this one-time gain and do things we think are despicable and that are contrary to Atlanta and the Olympic spirit," said Mayor Bill Campbell.

One company, Intown Properties Inc., has told residents to move out or pay 3,000 dollars per month in rent for four months next summer. Some of the firm's renters pay 400 dollars per month for one-bedroom apartments. The company did not return telephone calls.

Other landlords are renewing leases for only six months so that apartments will be available for Olympic rentals.

The Atlanta City Council this week passed a resolution condemning Olympic price-gouging by landlords.

The mayor said the city was "exploring other ways of trying to turn the heat up."

A Georgia law enacted last year prohibits price-gouging by hotels, but there is no similar protection for renters. State law does not give local governments the authority to enact rent controls.

A Dane & the dilemma

GOTHENBURG, Aug 9: Wilson Kipketer continued Kenyan runners dominance of the middle distance events when he convincingly won the World Championship 800 metres title at the Ullevi Stadium on Tuesday night, reports Reuter.

The only difference was he won the gold medal running in the red and white vest of Denmark.

"I won the race for my coach and Denmark," he said afterwards.

Kipketer, 24, who won the final in one minute 45.08 seconds, was running for more than just the gold or the 35,000 dollars Mercedes Benz car handed to the winner.

He was running for a place in next year's Olympic Games and hoping to make the Danish government relax their rigid rules on citizenship by granting him a year ahead of schedule.

A resident in Denmark for the past five years he has not yet lived in his adopted homeland for the mandatory seven years required by Danish law to become a citizen.

Although under International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) rules he is eligible to run for Denmark in these championships the International Olympic Committee (IOC) does not allow athletes to compete in the Olympics unless they are full citizens of the country they represent.

Ottey needs a helping hand

GOTHENBURG, Aug 9: After 15 years in top international competition, Jamaican veteran Merlene Ottey admits she is still badly in need of guidance, reports Reuter.

Without a coach all season, the 35-year-old Ottey is suddenly struggling with her technique.

"I thought over the years that all I had to do was run and run," Ottey said as she prepared for today's 200 metres heats at the World Athletics Championships.

"I thought coaching myself was going to be easy. But it has been a lot harder work getting my technique back."

Ottey who picked up her first Olympic medal in the 4x100 metres relay at the 1980 Moscow Games collected a record 11th World Championship medal when she took silver in the 100 metres in Gothenburg on Monday, her 28th medal in a major competition.

Danish I like Denmark, everything about it — and the beer is good," he said in fluent Danish.

Despite his enthusiasm the Danish Parliament takes a tough stance on citizenship rules and is unlikely to make an exception for Kipketer.

Their failure to do so would deprive the Game of a great talent. Nurtured on his family's farm in the Eldoret region of the Nandip Hills where many of the great Kenyan runners have emerged Kipketer was blessed with natural talent.

But Kipketer is a little different from the others. "Unlike all the other Kenya children, I didn't have to run to school and back because the farmhouse was next to the school. I could walk there nice and slowly," he joked.

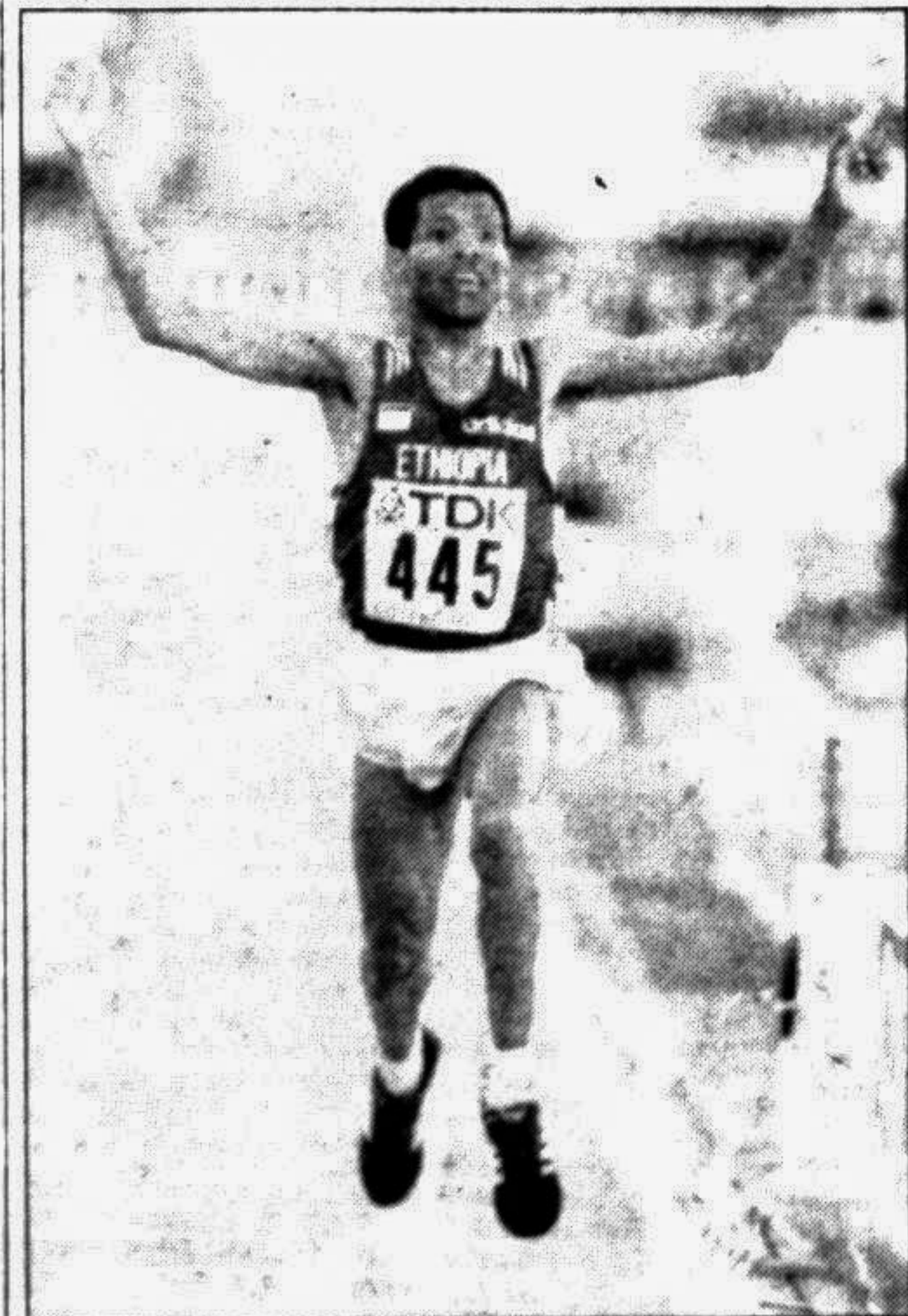
Kipketer moved to Denmark in 1990 to study first agriculture and now electrical engineering spruving many offers from American colleges because their courses focused too heavily on athletics.

His interests were cast wider and he wanted to have a career to fall back on when his running days were over.

Right now, he is in the form of his life. At Monaco on July 25 he ran the year's fastest time of 1:42.87 to become the fifth fastest 800 metres runner in history.

While his success in Sweden represents his first major honour it was not Denmark's first medal in the World Championships.

That came in Stuttgart in 1993 when Ranata Nielsen won a bronze in the women's long jump, but that was hardly a homegrown Danish victory either as she was born in Poland.



Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie crosses the line to win the 10,000 metres event at the Athletics World Championships in Gothenburg on August 8. — AFP/UNB photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Facilities Department, Ministry of Education
Mymensingh Zone, Mymensingh

Tender Notice No. 02/95-96/XEN(M)/FD/IDB Dated: 31.7.95

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited from the enlisted A-1 & A-2 Contractors of Facilities Department for the reconstruction of 01(One) Madrasa in 01(One) groups under the Project "Reconstruction/extension of Madrasa under the Loan Assistance of IDB". Each group of work consist of 01(One) Madrasa. All other related information may be seen in the tender documents.

Name of the Madrasa in IDB Loan Project				
Sl No	District	Thana	Group No	Name of Madrasa
01	Netrakona	Sadar	24	Latifa Abbas Mohila Madrasa

Tender documents may be obtained from the office of the undersigned and also from the office of the Zonal Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Dhaka, Tangail, Faridpur & concerned Assistant Engineer office during office hours up to 30.8.95.

Tender will be received in the above mentioned office on 31.8.95 up to 12.30 pm and will be opened on the same date at 12.45 pm in presence of the tenderer/tenderers if any.

Before purchasing the tender documents the owner/authority representative of the firm will have to apply to the concerned officer in printed pad stating the group number as mentioned in the tender documents. Time allowed for completion of the work is 6 (Six) months.

The original enlistment Book will have to be produced at the time of purchasing the tender documents. Each tender must accompany a Bank Draft/ Pay Order from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh for an amount of Tk 2.5 (Two & half per cent) of the quoted amount in favour of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Mymensingh Zone, Mymensingh.

Tenderer (s) will have to quote itemwise rate with detail analysis & rate will include all types of Taxes and VAT.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender/tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md Ali Azam Quadry
Executive Engineer
Facilities Department, Mymensingh Zone,
Mymensingh

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