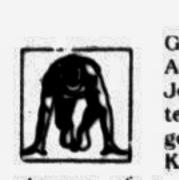
Glittering day in Gothenburg

The world Johnson's oyster



GOTHENBURG. Aug 12: Michael Johnson sprinted to a unique golden double. Batten's

dream of a world record came true and Sergei Bubka soared to a fifth successive pole vault title in a dramatic day at the World Athletics championships on Friday. reports Reuter.

If that was not enough for the 40,000 capacity crowd in the sun-drenched Ullevi Stadium, Kenyan Moses Kiptanui won a third 3,000 metres steeplechase title in a row in the third fastest time ever and German Lars Riedel completed a discus hattrick. The most electrifying per-

formance of the day though was Johnson's sprint to the 200 and 400 metres double which had never previously been achieved in either the Olympics or the World Championships. The 27-year-old Texan.

who won the 400 metres title on Wednesday in the second fastest time ever run. came flying out of the 200 turn half a metre clear. He opened up an ever-in-

creasing lead down the home straight to win in 19.79 seconds, only 7-100ths outside Italian Pietro Menneas 1979 record of 19.72, the oldest in the book.

Defending champion Franke Fredericks of Namibia took the silver in 20.21 ahead of American Jeff Williams who finished third in 20.18.

Afterwards Johnson lay down on the track on his back and accepted the congratulations of his rivals after reclaiming the title he last held in 1991 to win his fourth overall individual world crown. Johnson said: "Story of the

week; very close to the world record, anyway, I'm exhausted but I'd like to thank the organisers for allowing me to do it the way it was. "He said he was keen to run in the 4x400 metres relay at the weekend.

Christie sticks to his guns

GOTHENBURG, Aug 12: Britain's 100 metres champion Linford Christie confirmed on Friday he intended to retire at the end of the current season, reports Reuter.

In an interview with Swedish television Christie said he was not going to defend his title at next year's Atlanta Olympics.

"I have made my decision and I'm sticking to it," he

Christie, 35, finished sixth in Sunday's world 100 metres final after aggravating a hamstring injury in the semifinals.

An Iranian way of protest!

TEHRAN. Aug 12: An Iranian wrestler taking part in a World Championship has thrown away a match in order to avoid meeting an Israeli at a later stage Tehran Radio said on Friday. reports Reuter.

"Since Iran does not recognise a country by the name of Israel... it was deemed best that he lose this easy match so that he would not later have to face (an Israeli wrestler)." the radio

The radio was referring to Amir Raza Khadem losing on Thursday to Turkey's Sabahettin Ozturk in the first round of the world free wrestling championship in Atalanta.

Khadem, a 1992 Barcelona Olympics bronze medalist lost the 82-kg weight category match on warnings after 1 minute, 30 seconds, the radio said.

Iranian television said Khadem may have been barred from the champi onship if he had beaten Ozturk and then refused to meet the Israeli wrestler. losing his chance for a bronze medal

It did not give the name of the Israeli wrestler.

Khadem was intentionally backing off instead of actively facing Ozturk in order to lose on warnings, it said.

Muster in semis

SAN MARINO, Aug 12: Top seed Thomas Muster reached the semifinals of the San Marino Open on Friday while Spain's Alberto Costa. who beat him in Sunday's Austrian Open final, retired injured in another quarter-fi-

nal. reports Reuter. Muster, who struggled through a tie-break in his first set, beat Romanian Adrian Voinea 7-6, 2-6, 6-4.

While Johnson merely added another chapter to his growing legend. Batten made an almost legendary comeback setting a world record only three months after hav-

Okkert Brits, the 21-yearold South African who last month became only the third man in history to vault six metres and who was an outside tip to dethrone Bubka

8.02.08.

"It was an easy race for me. I could have broken the world record," he said. "But 400 metres before the finish I saw that the others were



Kenyan Moses Kiptanui leaps over the water jump, with his compatriot Mathew Birir in hot persuit during the men's 3,000m steeplechase final at the World Athletics Championships in Gothenburg on August 11. Kiptanui won the gold medal in clocking 8 - AFP/UNB photo minutes 4.16 seconds.

ing emergency surgery on her appendix.

The 26-year-old American, her face almost masked by wrap-around sunglasses. came down the home straight matching her American teammate Tonja Bufford stride for stride.

But Batten just edged ahead on the line to clock 52: 61 seconds, breaking absent champion Sally Gunnells world record, set by the Briton at the 1993 World Championships in Stuttgart, by 13-100ths of a second. Also missing was pre-race

favourite Marie-Jose Perec of France, who pulled out of the race with a hamstring injury despite winning the 400 metres flat title on Tuesday. Buffords time of 52.62 also

beat Gunnells record and

Deon. Hemmings set a

Jamaican national record to take the bronze in 53.48 sec "Yesterday I had a dream that I broke the world record. It was the most vivid

dream I ever had," said Batten afterwards. "People talking about it being a weak field didn't know what they were on about. It was always going to be tough and I had to run fast

Among all the glory there were the inevitable tears of

unexpected defeat. Defending women's 800 metres champion Maria Mutola of Mozambique, one of the hottest favourites in the entire championships, was disqualified, just like American Gwen Torrence in Thursday's 200 metres final. for stepping on the line during the opening phase of her semifinal.



MICHAEL JOHNSON

disappointingly finished outside the medals in fourth place after failing at 5.80.

Bubka, now 31, who first won this title when he was 19 in 1983 took the gold with a clearance of 5.92 metres but failed with three attempts to improve his own outdoor world record by one centimetre to 6.15 metres.

Kiptanui led from start to finish in the 3,000 metres steeplechase to win in eight minutes 4.16 seconds, a time only he has beaten and close to his own world record of

way behind me so I decided to save it for Wednesday's Grand Prix in Zurich."

Riedel added, another gold medal to his collection after winning the man's discus in Tokyo in 1991 and in Stuttgart two year's ago.

MEDALS TABLE

Medals table at the world Athletics Championships after Friday's events. Country Gold Silver BronzeTotal

,	33			
USA	8	2	3	13
Italy	2	2	1	5
Portugal	2	0	1	3
Germany	2	0	0	2
Ukraine	2	0	0	2
Russia	1	3	6	10
Belarus	1	3	2	6
Jamaica	1	I	2	4
Canada	1	1	1	3
Finland	1	1	1	3
Bahamas	1	1	0	2
Ethiopia	1	1	O	2
Great				
Britain	1	1	0	2
fù uva	1	1	0	3
France	1	0	2	3
Algeria	1	0	0	1
benmark	1	0	0	1
Syria	1	0	0	1
l'adjikistan	1	0	0	1
Cuba	U	2	O	2
Romania	0	2	0	2
Bulgaria	0	1	1	2
Bermuda	0	1	0	
Burundi	0	1	0	1
China	0	1	0	1
Spaur	0	1	0	1
Kazakhistan	0	1	0	1
Могоссо	0	1	0	1
Namibia	0	1	0	1
Zambia	0	1	0	1
Hungary	0	0	2	
Kenya	0	0	2	2
Poland	0	0	2	2
Saudi Arabia	U	0	1	91
Dominican				
Republic	()	O	1	
Norway	(1	0	1	
Trinidad and				

Seles busy in showbiz Seles came out of seclu-

Monica Seles continued her return to public life on Friday with a playful appearance on late-night US television.

NEW YORK, AUR

12 Tennis star

admitting to nerves over next week's Canadian Open, her first tournament since being stabbed on court more than two years ago, reports

Ill be very nervous," 21vear-old Seles told David Letterman during the taping of CBS' "Late Show With David Letterman." But it'll be fun to be out there and this is preparation for the US

A giggling Seles, dressed n a short black dress with a floral pattern and black slip on shoes, was cheered by the audience of several hundred people. She said she loved the game too much to quit and hoped she would be playing until she was 35.

"Hopefully I'll be playing good and if I don't make a fool of myself. I'll be fine. she said looking forward to the Toronto tournament.

The top-ranked player in the game when she was stabbed in the back by a spectator during a match in Hamburg on April 30, 1993. will be making her longawaited return to the women's tour in Canada next week. She was attacked by a German fan who wanted to return Germany's Stelfi Graf to the Number One beath

sion two weeks ago to play an exhibition match against Martina Navratilova in Atlantic City, New Jersey: winning 6-3, 6-2. On the television, show,

Seles laughed along with

Letterman as he teased her

about her short dress and the famous grunting noises she makes on court. She said the US Open later this month will be her real comeback, a return to the Grand Slam event she won in the two years before

the attack. Seles won three Australian Opens, three French Opens and two US Opens among her 32 titles in just more than five years on the professional



Yugoslav-born American tennis star Monica Seles appears in a CBS television talk show in New York on Aug 11. Seles is expected to return to the professional women's circuit -AFP/UNB photo in Canadian Open this year.

marathon gold

GOTHENBURG, Aug 12: Martin Fiz of Spain came from behind to win the marathon at the World Championships Saturday. ahead of Mexican Dionisio Ceron and Luiz Antonio Dos Santos of Brazil, reports AP.

Fiz caught up with Ceron some ten minutes from the finish, and completed the 42.195 kilometre (26.385 miles) in 2 hours 11.41 minutes. Ceron slumped in the final two miles (three kilometres) and finished in 2:12.13 as Santos came through in 2:12.49.

Fiz is the reigning European champion and has won four of his last five races. Defending champion Mark Plaatjes failed to make the US team.

Bubka: Born to dominate

GOTHENBURG, Aug 12: Sergei Bubka strutted across the stage he was born to command on Friday, transforming again one of the most thrilling spectacles in track and field into raw theatre, reports Reuter.

While other champions from his era have faltered or faded at the World Championships, the 31-year-old Ukrainian soared to his fifth world pole vault title in just three vaults.

He then came desperately close to his 18th outdoor world record, failing three times at 6.15 metres in front of a crowd still in a state of feverish excitement after Kim Batten's world record in the 400 metres hurdles.

Three times Bubka catapulted himself into the heavens and each time he apparently cleared the bar, only to knock it over on his way down.

He also played on the emotions of the packed crowd like a master actor, prowling across the field between attempts and waiting until the tension was at his highest before launching himself on his approach run. As a 19-year-old kid from

the Soviet Union, Bubka vaulted from obscurity to win gold at the inaugural 1983 Helsinki World Championships. He won in Rome in 1987, in Tokyo in 1991, again in Stuttgart two years ago and finally in Gothenburg on Friday. Pouring himself a beer

from one sponsor into a plastic cup carrying the insignia of a soft drink manufacturer. Bubka said it had been important to win a fifth championship.

"But to be world champion and break the world record. he shrugged. It's a bit diffi-

Bubka, the first man to break the six metres barrier. appeared restless and showed outright impatience when asked about his world record plans. "You think it's very easy."

he said. "I fight with my body and my mind, it's not easy."

Kiptanui knows no bounds GOTHENBURG, Aug 12

His third world title secured in comfortable fashion. Kenviiii 3,000 metres steep lechaser Moses Kiptanui has another barrier in mind. reports Reuter.

"I want to run below eight minutes," said the world record holder, looking ahead to Wednesday's Grand Prix meeting in Zurich. "I got what I wanted for

this year." he said on Friday. a gold medal dangling from his neck, his third in consecutive World Championships. "The only thing left is the record.

He fell more than two seconds behind his 1992 world mark of eight minutes 2.8 seconds in claiming the world title in 8:04.16, the third fastest time ever.

But the speed necessary for a record run appeared there as he had no problem in outracing countryman Christopher Koskei, who insists on running barefooted. "In the last 400 metres

decided to relax." said Kiptanui. Koskei claimed the silver in 8:09.30 with Sa'ad Shaddad Al-Asmari of Saudi and two-time defending

saw nobody was with me so I

Arabia an unexpected third in | champion Chang scrambled 8:12.95 after Kenyan back from two match points Matthew Birir fell in the final lap to place ninth. Kiptanul won a 35.000 dollars Mercedes car for the victory and Al-Asmari said he had been promised the same

first medal in the championships Kiptanui will probably be even richer after Zurich if he accomplishes what he said he would do.

record holder, it is not enough," he remarked. want to do something that six. will be remembered as long as people remember sport."

Fiz pockets, Dream turns into reality!



GOTHENBURG. Aug 12: A timely dip turned Kim Batten's latenight dream in-

to an afternoon surprise on Friday as the American claimed the women's 400 metres hurdles

she did not lean as efficiently at the finish as the more experienced Batten. "But I felt I did everything I could." said

Buford. Batten had woken up on Friday, afraid that a dream she had had would affect her

The only thing missing was a little dance Batten had planned to perform after the race. "I didn't have the

courage to do it," she said. Now it will be on to the Zurich Grand Prix on Wednesday and a meeting with France's Marie-Jose



Kim Batten (R) of the USA after winning the women's 400-metre hurdles having a lap of honour with compatriot Tonja Buford, who took the silver, in Gothenburg on Aug 11. -AFP/UNB photo Batten set a new world record clocking 52.61 sec.

Athletics Championships, time." Batten said of the reports Reuter.

Batten, who 10 weeks ago was struggling to run at all because of an emergency appendectomy, beat compatriot Tonja Buford by one-hundredth of a second by dipping to the finish line as both wiped out Sally Gunnel's 1993 world record.

oh, my God," said Batten. "I felt like I had leaned, but I still didn't know. Then I felt the air and everybody was pointing at me. So I thought maybe in won. She did win, in 52.61 second to Buford's 52.62 as they

"I saw the time and I said

surprised everyone by removing Briton Gunnell's world record of 52.74 seconds.

Buford appeared to lose he race in the run-in when

dream. "But I know it was a world record time." The dream bothered her

as she knows she has a tendency to get over-exited so she called her coach Terry Long back home in Tallahassee, Florida, and asked for advice. "I told her the race would not be won in the first 200

metres, that race management would do it." Long said from his home. But Batten could not shake Buford until that final dip. "I

felt that I was ahead at the sixth or seventh hurdle," said Buford. "I told myself, okay, relax. You are ahead. "I did not relax too much. I tried as hard as I could off

the last hurdle. But Kim got

champion who decided not to try to win the 400 metres hurdles as well. "I owe her one. She was

beating up on me in the hurdles when I was down. I refuse to let someone come in the event and beat me up like that," said Batten, who had not been running at top form in the weeks before the World Championships because of inflamed toes. "I've been trying so hard

to gain respect. No one has really given it to me," she said. "Even going into this meet. I was not really considered the favourite. It really made me mad. "I said I was going to show

everybody. I didn't know I was going to break the world record. But I was going to show people that I am a good hurdler."

Gunnell gets a booster GOTHENBURG, Aug 12:

Britain's Sally Gunnell was stirred, but not shaken, by the sight of American Kim Batten snatching away her women's 400 netres hurdles world record at the World. Athletics Championships on Friday, reports Reuter. Gunnell, whose season has

been wrecked by an Achilles tendon injury, was sitting in the Ullevi Stadium when Batten clocked 52.61 seconds to shave 0.13 seconds from the record the Briton set at the 1993 World Championships in Stuttgart. But the 29-year-old Olym-

pic champion, who commentated on the race for British television, said the loss of the record had just made her more determined to get back to the track next season. "I've had this year to get

recharged. Now this has happened I am keen to get back," Gunnell said. "I'm desperate to get fit now I have seen what happened. "It has taken a bit of pres-

sure off me going to next year's Olympics in Atlanta. I want to have a good winter and try and run faster."

"It did not look like the kind of race where a world record would go. It was a rugged sort of race," she said.

Michaels the marauders tight match," Stich said. "I

— AFP/UNB photo

A BITE IN DELIGHT: An invincible Ukrainian Sergei

Bubka bites on his gold medal as if to taste its

worthiness for the men's pole vault final, the event he

has been dominating more than a decade, at the World

Athletics Championships in Gothenburg on Aug 11.



MASON. Ohio. Aug 12: Two Michaels, Stich and Chang. came back from the brink of defeat to capture quarter-final wins on Friday at the 1.8

Jim Courier, reports Reuter. Under clear skies and a full moon, the fourth-seeded down in the second-set tiebreaker to take a 3-6, 7-6(8-

6). 7-5 victory over fellow

American and 11th-seeded

million dollars ATP

Championship, Stich over

Pete Sampras and Chang over

Courier. Earlier, in boiling heat, the eighth-seeded Stich of for winning Saudi Arabia's Germany saved a match point with an ace down the middle at 30-40 in the 10th game of the second set and ended up a 6-7 (5-7), 7-6(7-3), 6-1 winner over an exhausted Although I am the world Sampras, the second seed.

> The ace was one of Stich's 27 in the match to Sampras'

After losing that match point the second-ranked Sampras wilted and strained

his way through a third set. "I just felt tired." the American said after the two hour, two minute match. "It

more than he was." The hot, humid weather didn't take its toll on topseeded American Andre Agassi, who captured a 6-3, 6-4 quarter-final victory over 50th-ranked Renzo Furlen of

Today's semifinals feature Agassi against 13th-seeded Thomas Enqvist of Sweden and Stich against Chang.

Sixth seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, looking increasingly disinterested in the outcome of his match, folded to the 13th-ranked Enqvist 4-6, 6-0, 6-3.

The seventh-ranked Ivanisevic was fined 750 dollars for an audible obscenity velled during the match and another 1,000 dollars for refusing to appear at a postmatch press conference.

handle.

It was obvious that the te-

nacious Stich, nipping at Sampras' heels, was too much for the American to

told myself not to give up at any stage of the match. The first set was hotly

contested with Sampras just was pretty hot and I was coming through on his third struggling with it a little set point in the tie-breaker. Stich took an early lead in the second set, breaking

> smacked a backhand wide at 0-40 in the eighth game. Sampras never recovered from Stich's preventing him from taking advantage of his

Sampras' serve in the first

game. But Sampras evened

the score when Stich

one match point. "I was disappointed I had a match point and was one point away from winning it." Sampras said. "That wills it

with me. The fifth-ranked Chang and 15th-ranked Courier played a three-hour fourminute match that changed momentum numerous times.

Courier seemed in charge with a 6-3, 2-0 lead, but Chang fought back, pushing a second set tie-breaker that nearly ended the match.

"He (Chang) never gives up, never says die," Courier, said. "He's a very deserving winner. "It was very tense, a very