

Column One DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT there was total mayhem at Lord's after West Indies won the final of the 1975 World Cup cricket. Some youngsters pulled Keith Boyce to the ground and removed his shoes. Fortunately they went no further. Jeff Thomson was not given the 'Lordly' treatment but lost his leg guards.

In the Lahore final this year the US \$ 100,000 cheque as prize money went missing from the pocket of a Sri Lankan player during post-match celebrations.

Also in the chaos that followed the 1975 final, umpire Dickie Bird lost his precious cap. Not long after, Bird found a man in a bus wearing the same cap. Bird was not amused, but decided not to press the matter further when the man declared his love for cricket, and especially umpires.

This is a gullible bird.

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-33 Tick the Correct Answer

SPORTS TALK Mark Taylor (Australian cricket captain) Excessive pressure on players can be counter-productive because, however, good you think they are, don't forget others are working as hard trying to do better. Winning is bloody difficult and winning all the time quite impossible.

GMCC gun Bankers down

AGRAZI BANK: 181 in 48 overs (Anwar Hossain 52, Kamrul Huda 26; Babul 3/36, Morshed 3/32). GMCC: 183 for 6 in 43.4 overs (Javed Omar Belim 80, Alamgir 28; Dipu 3/32)

The Greater Mymensingha Cricket Club (GMCC) ended their otherwise unimpressive campaign of this year on a winning note when they beat Agrani Bank by four wickets in their last

Progoti Div III football

East End Boys recorded a lone goal win over Sunrise SC in one of the two Progoti Insurance Third Division football super league matches held on opening day at the Rajuk Stadium, adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the other engagement of the day, Dipali Juba Sangha and Moghbazar KC shared points in a one-all draw.

Eight top finishers from the first phase are taking part in the round-robin super league from where top two teams will earn promotion to the Second Division next season.

Premier cricket relegation league engagement at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. In a low-scoring affair, national opener Javed Omar Belim 80 hammered a polished Golla to set the stage for



MIZANUR RAHMAN

GMCC's convincing victory with more than six overs to spare in the 50-over match. 'Javed, the dark and dapper right-handed bat, who excepting a few flashes of brilliance had a rather disappointing season, clouted 11 fours in his patient 111-ball stay at the crease before he was eventually out in the 38th over leaving his side just 29 runs short of victory.

After the departure of Javed, skipper Mizanur Rahman Babul, who is the re-

cent past has improved his batting, then propelled GMCC to victory scoring an unbeaten 17.

Albeit the work-man-like right-arm seamer failed to lead GMCC to the elite six-team super league, had enjoyed a wonderful season both with the bat and ball.

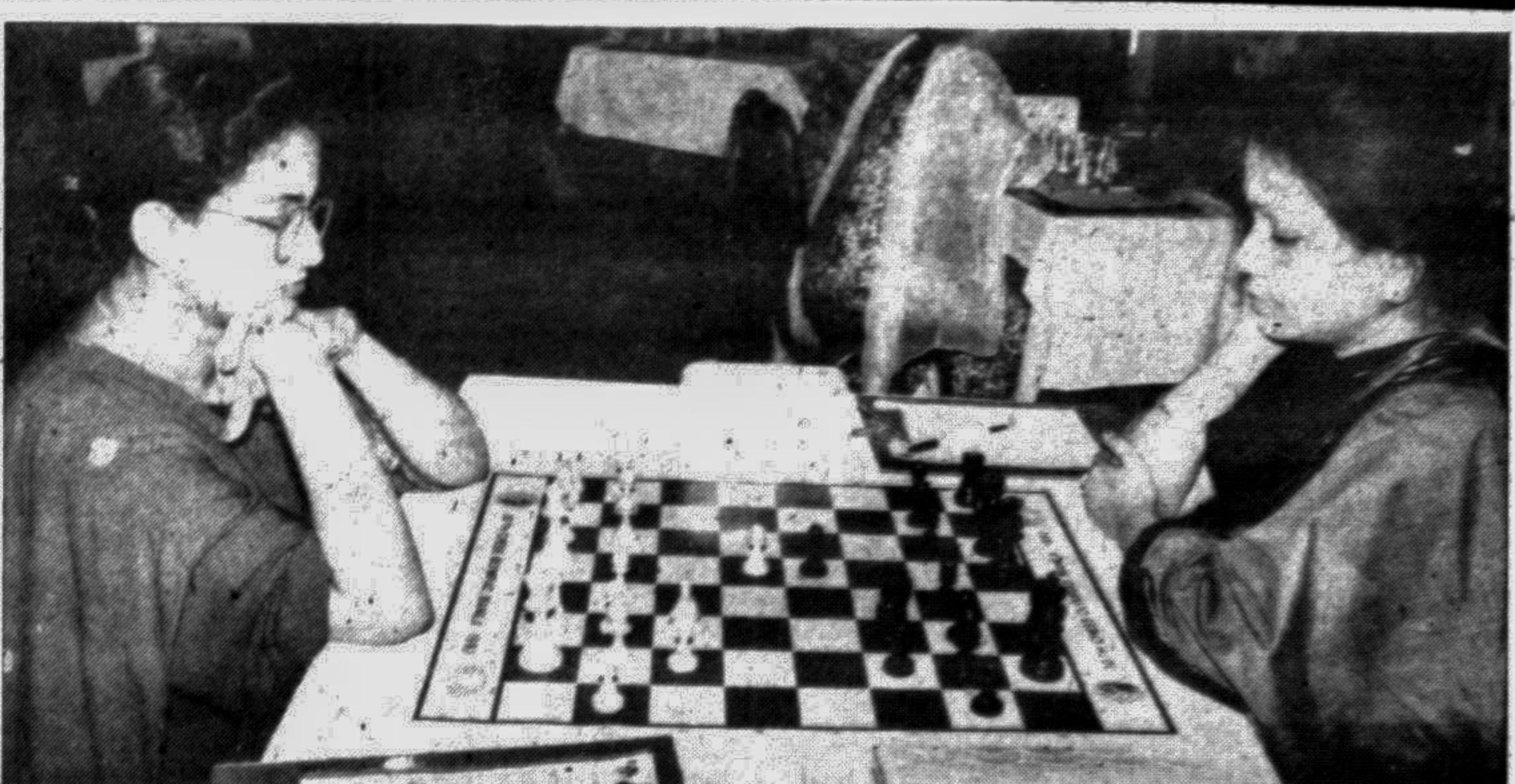
Babul, who led his side from the front to skittle the Bankers out to a modest total, claimed three wickets to finish as the highest individual wicket-taker with 43 scalps in this year's league.

Young left-arm spinner Sentu, who had also an impressive season with the cherry, matched his skipper's feat with three for 32 in his seven overs.

For Agrani Bank middle-order bat Azam Iqbal with a gritty 52 off 87 balls, Kamrul Huda (26) and veteran Dipu Roy Chowdhury, who scored an unbeaten 20 off only 16 balls, were the notable contributors to the total.

With this win GMCC finished top in the six-team relegation league with 16 points from their quota of 16 outings including eleven first-leg engagements where they won only five.

On the otherhand, it was Agrani's ninth defeat from 16 outings. Meanwhile, Dhaka Wanderers, who along with Agrani Bank promoted to the Premier Division last year, have already demoted to the First Division with Eakaton.



WHERE EXPERIENCE COUNTS: Nine times champion IWM Rani Hamid (R) ponders over her next move against defending champion Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa during the opening round match of 17th national women's chess championship yesterday. Rani beat Nipa after 43 moves. - Star photo

Nipa falters early

Sayedra Shabana Parveen Nipa made a disastrous start in defence of her crown when she lost her inaugural match of the 17th national women's chess championship at the hands of International Women's Master (IWM) Rani Hamid on the opening day at the NSC chess room yesterday.

The defending champion, who adopted the Queen Pawn opening against Rani's black pieces, capitulated to her more experienced opponents after 43 moves.

For Rani Hamid, the record nine times champion, it was an auspicious start on her bid to add another feather in her illustrious long career.

On the otherhand Tanima Parveen, the other international-rated player in the nine-round Swiss league meet, also failed to regain the national crown. The former champion got little resistance to beat unseeded Nazrana Haq after only 27 moves.

In the other three matches on the opening day, last year's runner-up Afroza Khanom Babl staved off a tough challenge from 1993 champion Zakia Sultan to win the match after 54 moves while Afana Parveen Nira, younger sister of Nipa, defeated Jahana Hui Runu in a match played in the line of Scotch opening.

Meanwhile, the other match between Masuda and Fazilatunnessa Poly was yet to be decided till the filing of this report last night.

Ten players including four qualifiers from the preliminary round are taking part in the championship.

Pepsi Cup live on Star Sports

Star Sports has acquired more live broadcasting rights to yet another enthralling cricket tournament The Pepsi Cup live from Sharjah, begins Friday, April

12 at 10:30 (BST) with India taking on Pakistan, says a press release. As three of the giants of cricket (India, Pakistan and South Africa) battle it out under the desert sun, viewers can expect to see some high-class cricketing action. With the likes of Sachin Tendulkar, Anil Kumble, Aamir Sohail, Waqar Younis, Jonty Rhodes and Brian McMillan participating, there should be plenty of star performances to look forward to on Star Sports.

Pakistan come in to the tournament riding a crest of triumph that saw them winning the Singer Cup. Arch-rivals India, on the otherhand are desperate for a major title

Schools cricket Dhanmondi Int'l take on Radiant today

Radiant International School will take on Dhanmondi International School in the opening match as the Dhaka zone competition of the 14th Nirman schools' cricket tournament begins at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium this morning.

A total of 73 schools are taking part in the Dhaka zone matches divided into eight groups. Top teams of each group will qualify for the quarterfinals and four semifinalists will play in the final round.

Tyson gets into trouble

CHICAGO, Apr 10: Police said Tuesday they were investigating a complaint that World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, on parole after serving three years for rape, sexually assaulted a woman in a Chicago nightclub, report agencies.

Police said the unidentified woman's complaint grew out of an encounter Sunday night with Tyson and former WBC heavyweight champion Oliver McCall at The Clique, a southside nightclub.

A Chicago police detective said they were investigating the complaint, which was being treated as a criminal sexual assault, but neither boxer has been charged. Police said Tyson had gone to Cleveland, where he has a home.

WGN-TV in Chicago described the woman as a 25-year-old resident of nearby Gary, Indiana. Her lawyer told WGN-TV that she was frightened and wanted to keep her identity secret.

According to the reports, a club manager said the woman had been introduced to Tyson at her request. Tyson allegedly molested her in a booth at the club.

The woman, a beautician, was treated at an unidentified Chicago-area hospital and called police after she was released early Monday, said her attorney, Jerry Lee Peteet of Gary.

Chicago Police Detective Steve Glynn confirmed a police report was filed against Tyson and the matter is under investigation.

A security guard who answered the phone at Tyson's residence in Ohio said there would be no comment from the boxer.

On Tuesday Peteet said the woman, whom he would not identify, had gone to the bar, The Clique, with friends and had never met Tyson before.

'Nobody said anything about Mike Tyson being in here that particular night, but that's not to say he wasn't,' Wizard said. 'This is a popular place, and it attracts some celebrities, so you don't always notice everybody's that here.'

Peteet said his client called police to complain about Tyson on Monday and then followed up by filing a complaint in the Wentworth police station on Tuesday.

'Right now what I can tell you is we are at this point here putting together a decent sort of case, if there is one, based on what we have from her,' Peteet said. 'There are certain things we have to be sensitive to for the sake of her privacy.'

Tyson was convicted in 1992 of raping Desiree Washington, a Coventry, Rhode Island, college student then competing in the Miss Black American Pageant. Tyson contends the couple engaged in consensual sex. He served three years in an Indiana prison and now is on a four-year probationary term.

Tyson was released from an Indiana youth detention center in March 1995 after serving time for a rape conviction.

In 1986, at 20, Tyson became the youngest heavyweight champion. Tyson regained the WBC heavyweight title last month with a third-round victory over Briton Frank Bruno.

Tyson's police record dates to 1978 when as a 12-year-old he was picked up for purse snatching. He later discovered boxing in reform school.

The perfect Sino tonic

TIANJIN, Apr 10 (AFP): Take a few world champions in top form, add in a few young and talented swimmers, and you have a Chinese cocktail designed to rock the Atlanta Olympics.

Even though the definitive list of those chosen will not be known until the end of the month, the Chinese national championships just concluded in northeastern Tianjin provide a rather precise idea of the danger China's women's team will pose in the United States.

Le Jingyi, the Shanghai swimmer who already has two world titles and records to her name (50m and 100m), proved that she is still the world's fastest in the 50m, even after a six-month sabbatical.

One of those caught in Le's wake, 18-year-old Shan Ying of the Guangzhou army team demonstrated that she will also be a serious contender for the podium in not only the 100m event but in the 50m and 200m, as well.

Liu Limin, 20, reminded all that she can be counted on to transform her twin world titles from Rome in 1994 - in the 100m and 200m butterfly - into Olympic gold medals.

Of China's Roman flowers, only the backstroke, He Cihong, has not completely recovered her form following a year away from competition.

After a mediocre qualifying performance in the 100m, the event in which she holds the world record, he, who was officially diagnosed with a fever, decided not to compete in the longer distance.

She is delaying until the next week's Asian championships in Bangkok, her at-

tempt to earn a place on the 200m backstroke team. Unfazed, the younger swimmers did not hesitate to challenge their illustrious elders in Tianjin.

Chen Yan and her four national titles (200m, 400m, 800m and 400m medley) and Han Xue in the 100m breaststroke, both of them aged 15, Chen Yan, 17, in 100m backstroke and Wu Yangang, 18, in medley proved they are the next stars of Chinese swimming.

But despite the promises of all this talent, those responsible for Chinese swimming remain circumspect.

'China will obviously win fewer titles than in Rome and certainly fewer than in Barcelona in 1992,' said Chen Yungeng, the former national team coach who has since become an advisor to the national swimming federation.

China gleaned nine medals in the 1992 Olympics: four gold, three silver and two bronze.

The avalanche of strong performances by women swimmers in Tianjin has once again eclipsed an average performance by the men, who at best can hope to reach an Olympic final.

The performances, however, also revive the specter of doping which surfaced two years ago, also in Tianjin, during the qualifiers for the world championships. Eleven athletes including seven swimmers tested positive at the Asian Games a few weeks later.

'Our system for combating doping has strengthened, and our swimmers are now the target of regular unannounced tests by FINA the international swimming federation,' Chen said, adding the problem was 'under control.'

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WI Board XI on the back foot

KINGSTON, St Vincent, Apr 10: Guyanese fast bowler Colin Stuart captured three wickets for 35 runs in a fiery spell as New Zealand reached 146 for six in their second innings at the close on the second day of their three-day match against a West Indies Board XI on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

But the New Zealanders were still in a strong position to force an outright victory.

They have an overall lead of 306 with four wickets remaining, including not out batsmen Chris Harris (31) and acting captain Justin Vaughan (7).

New Zealand achieved their position after they dismissed the Board XI, who resumed from their first day overnight score of 43 for one, for a modest 158 runs in reply to their first innings score of 318 for nine declared.

Paceman Chris Cairns did most of the damage, capturing five wickets for 29 runs off 14 overs while Dion Nash took three for 37.

The only resistance came from Board XI's captain Sherwin Campbell, whose 79, was exactly half of his team's total.

Campbell, starting the day on 35, batted responsibly for nearly three hours, facing 131 balls and striking 12 delightful fours.

He was sixth out at 129, caught at short mid-wicket by Roger Twose off fast bowler Danny Morrison.

Xu to carry Olympic torch

BEIJING, Apr 10: China's first-ever gold medalist will carry the Olympic flame through San Francisco's Chinatown next month as part of the traditional torch relay in the run-up to this summer's Atlanta Olympics, it was announced here Tuesday, reports AFP.

Xu Haifeng, head coach of China's women's target pistol team will be one of 13 Chinese people among thousands carrying the torch across the United States prior to the July 19 opening of the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia.

The 38-year-old former salesman-turned-marksmen from China's eastern Fujian province won gold in the men's pistol event at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Four years later, in Seoul, Xu followed up with a silver medal.

The news came in a release here from Olympic sponsors Coca-Cola, who will select 2,500 torch-bearers from 69 countries.

SA's Olympic ordeal on

CAPE TOWN, Apr 10: The organisers of South Africa's bid for Cape Town to host the 2004 Olympics were in closed-door talks today after deputy chairman Clive Keegan resigned, citing lack of confidence in chief executive officer Chris Ball, reports Reuter.

Keegan, a former Cape Town mayor and executive committee member of the Olympic bid company, accused Ball of trying to marginalise the board.

He said in his resignation letter: 'I can, in conscience, no longer continue to hold senior office on a board which is ignored and marginalised by the CEO and his management. I am no longer able to exercise my legal or ethical obligations in terms of the companies act.'

The letter, dated April 2, was reported in local newspapers today.

Keegan also criticised Ball for propelling the bid project towards, 'domestic discredit' and complained of ineptitude

in the company's marketing and public relations work.

Ball, a former banker, was appointed chief executive of the Olympic bid company last June after six months of disagreement between the previous bid committee headed by Raymond Ackerman, the Cape Town city council and the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCESA) about who was running the bid campaign.

Keegan was not in his office today and the spokesman for the bid company, Paul Johnson declined to confirm if Keegan was attending the board meeting which was called to discuss his resignation letter.

The official position is that we have notification of his resignation. We believe the accusations, particularly those against Chris Ball, are baseless and are certainly inconsistent with decisions taken at board level over the past couple of months,' Johnson told Reuters.

Johnson said the company's staff would support Ball: 'For those of us that work here. The allegations of unprofessionalism ring hollow. We feel that Chris is the appropriate leader for a project of this magnitude.'

International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Juan Antonio Samaranch has courted South Africa's bid to host the 2004 Games but said late last year that Rome was a

'This will put Palestine on the international map of athletes,' he told Reuters in poverty stricken Gaza, handed over by Israel two years ago to a self-rule government led by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

'I can't find words to express my feelings for having the opportunity,' said 30-year-old Abu Marahil on Monday.

A distance runner, Abu Marahil will compete in at least one heat of the 10,000 metres in the 1996 Games in Atlanta in July. He will carry the Palestinian flag around Atlanta's Olympic Stadium in the opening ceremony.

'His participation will be symbolic since only one is taking part and not the whole team because our athletes don't have the means that qualified international athletes have,' said Ahmed al-Yazji, director general of the youth ministry.

What Palestinians lack in Olympic financing and training, they make up for in enthusiasm.

Chiense lifters lead the way

YACHIYO, Japan, Apr 10: Cui Wenhua continued China's dominance of the Asian Weightlifting Championships by winning the men's 108-kilogram category Tuesday on the final day of competition, reports AFP.

China won 12 to 19 gold medals awarded at the six-day championships at which nine world records were set.

Kim Tae-Hyun gave South Korea its first title by winning the men's over 108kg category Tuesday with a total lift of 430.0 kg.

Cui took the men's 108 kg with a combined lift of 392.5 kg.

China captured seven of nine women's events and five of 10 men's titles. North Korea won three gold medals, while Iran, Kazakhstan, Taiwan and South Korea won one each.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes crossword puzzle grid and solutions. Cryptogram: PMA RZT CZPS, CZVB RHKNSA ZKTNEVSL E VEHKLAB TRMMN. Yesterday's Cryptogram: I CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY THAT CLINGY DRESS, BUT I'LL TRY IT ON FOR SIGHTS.