

Pan-Arab Games end

BEIRUT, July 17: Mubarak Sultan Al-Moubi of Qatar pulled off the biggest surprise on the last day of athletics at the Pan-Arab Games on Wednesday when he became the first Arab to break the 49 sec barrier for the 400m hurdles, reports AFP.

The 19-year-old, who ran an Arabic best 49.07 sec at last year's World Junior Championship in Sydney, powered home in 48.95.

Algerian Moustapha Asdad took silver in 49.14 with Asian champion Zeid Abou Hamed of Syria was relegated to third in 49.68.

Algeria won six gold medals on Wednesday to go top of the medals table with 14 golds, one more than Egypt.

But Qatar, with eight golds or a third of the men's total, was the biggest winner in athletics. However, they bungled the 4x400m relay to let Oman in for their first ever gold medal at these Games.

Syria, who topped the medals table with 48 golds when they organised the last Games five years ago, won their first gold medal through Firas Mahamid in the women's javelin.

However, Syria's football team were the first to qualify for the semifinals when they beat Kuwait 2-1 in Group B and their basketball team beat Libya 86-67.

Saudi Arabia scored a runaway 88-59 win over Jordan in their Group B basketball game.

Baggio's fate still on the balance

MILAN, July 17: Roberto Baggio will remain an AC Milan player for a while longer after club officials said on Wednesday they had failed to finalise a widely-forecast transfer deal with Serie A rivals Bologna, reports Reuters.

Milan had been expected to confirm Baggio's departure during an afternoon news conference at which they presented their squad for the coming season.

But club vice-president Adriano Galliani said nothing had been concluded and suggested the deal still hung in the balance.

"Nothing's changed since yesterday, we're still waiting for a reply from (Baggio's) agent," he said.

"It's true that it's a situation a little bit like that," he said, making a see-saw gesture with his hand.

"I think he needs to find a team where he can be the playmaker and I fear that in this Milan side he would find himself sacrificed."

"He's a player who should be in a first team but here it's more difficult. I hope he finds a team where he can be the director of the orchestra but, if he can't, then we're happy to have him with us."

Galliani said on Tuesday that Milan had received several offers for Baggio, the most attractive of which was from Bologna.

Spartak on top

MOSCOW, July 17: Defending champions Spartak Moscow secured the undisputed top spot in the Russian league after their 2-0 win at home over mid-table Zhemchuzhina Sochi on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Playmaker Andrei Tikhonov and second-half substitute Miroslav Romashchenko scored late in the game for the Moscowites, who now have 37 points after 18 matches, two points ahead of city rival Dynamo.

In the Moscow derby between CSKA and Dynamo Andrei Kiselev opened the score with a free kick for Dynamo in the 76th minute but Dmitry Khomich equalised just three minutes later for a 1-1 draw.

Rotor Volgograd, who were leading the league only a week ago, suffered a shock 2-1 loss to Chernomorets in Novorossiysk despite a goal by the league's top scorer Oleg Veretennikov — his 11th of the season.

In two other surprise results, Zenit lost 1-0 at home in St Petersburg to last-placed Fakel Voronezh, while in Moscow fourth-placed Torpedo Ln were defeated by Shinnik Yaroslavl 2-1.

Mixed day for Morceli



NICE, France, July 17: Nouredine Morceli of Algeria was left with mixed feelings after seeing two of his world records survive at the Nikaia Grand Prix on Wednesday — especially since he wanted to break one of them, reports Reuters.

Morceli watched with satisfaction as Moroccan Hicham El Guerrouj clocked three minutes 30.32 seconds and failed to break the world 1,500 metres record of 3:27.37 seconds Morceli set on this track on a memorable night two years ago.

But the Algerian Olympic 1,500 metres champion then failed to derive much pleasure from his own attempt to beat his own world mile record of 3:44.39.

Morceli ran 3:48.64 — only the fifth fastest time in the world this year — and well outside the record he set in Rieti nearly four years ago.

Morceli, however, could gain some measure of satisfaction in the final grand Prix meeting before next month's World Championships in Athens with the emphatic style of his victory, finishing well clear of Kenyan Noah Nguny (3:50.41) with France's Said Chebbi a distant third in 3:52.21.

Morceli has looked out of sorts for most of the summer and, while not in the devastating form of recent years, he will still be in contention for gold in Athens. So, of course will El Guerrouj.

The Moroccan, who twice this month has gone close to breaking Morceli's world marks in both the 1,500 metres and mile, made it a hat-trick of near misses after being let down by some over-ambitious pace-making by Kenyan Reuben Chesang and Vincent Malakwen.

But he still clocked the second fastest time of the year and only he has run quicker.

El Guerrouj was let to cover the last lap in around 53 seconds after going through the bell at 2:34 and could manage only 56 seconds. He actually went closer to the record in Stockholm last week when he ran 3:29.30, the fastest in the world this year.

However, he was pushed all the way to the line by Kenyan John Kibowen, who finished second in 3:30.44 with Kenyan William Tanui, the 1992 800 metres Olympic champion.

third in 3:31.62.

Kibowen little-known before the start of this season, has run some impressive times this summer, but this race served notice he could be a real threat to the more established names.



N. MORCELI

very soon.

Maksim Tarasov of Russia, the 1992 Olympic champion, had a night to remember when he became only the fifth man in history to clear 6.00 metres in the pole vault.

He won a high-calibre competition which included French Olympic champion Jean Galtier, with a clearance of 6.00 metres to join Sergei Bubka (6.15), South African Okkert Brits (6.03), Radion Gataullin (6.02) and Igor Trandenkov (6.01) in that event's role of honour.

Portuguese women Fernanda Ribeiro and Carla Sacramento both ran the fastest times of the

year in their respective events — the 3,000 metres and mile.

Ribeiro, the Olympic 10,000 champion, proved she is coming into form at right time by running a year's best eight minutes 37.14 seconds in the 3,000, while Sacramento won a closely fought mile race in 4:25.00.

South African teenager Llewellyn Herbert, who finished with a silver medal in the World Junior Championships last year, was another impressive winner in the 400 metres hurdles.

He outpaced Zambia's Olympic silver medalist Samuel Matete over the last two hurdles to win in 48.17 seconds with Matete second in 48.37.

European champion Geir Moen of Norway finished his preparations for the World Championships with a win in the 200 metres, but had to find some extra speed in the last 30 metres to overtake 19-year-old Sean Ogunkoya of Nigeria.

The African 100 champion who led from the start but wilted over the last few strides.

"I am really tired now after running a lot recently," said Moen. "And I have to be ready for the worlds. It's going to be tough. Ato Boldon is in great shape so is Frankie Fredericks and Maurice Greene — and Michael Johnson hasn't even started running yet."

Moen clocked 20.41, with American Rohsaan Griffin second in 20.50, the same time as Ogunkoya, who was placed third.

Jamaican Merlene Ottey, who at 37 will be attempting to retain her world 200 title next month, appeared to be in fine form winning her race in 22.47 seconds, her best of the summer, ahead of compatriot Juliet Campbell (22.61).

Ottey, who first competed in a major championship before some of today's younger athletes started eating solids, said: "It's probably my last chance of another title. But I feel fine and will be going for it again in Athens."

Other winners included American Kim Batten in the 400 metres hurdles (53.71), Astrid Kumbernuss in the women's shot (20.51 metres) and Sarka Kasparkova of the Czech Republic in the women's triple jump (14.72 metres), Anier Garcia of Cuba in the men's 110 hurdles (13.18) and Melissa Morrison (12.63) in the women's 100 hurdles.

It's now upto Ravanelli

LIVERPOOL, July 17: After visiting the club and discussing terms with its management, Fabrizio Ravanelli must now decide whether he wants to join Everton of the Premier League, reports AP.

The Everton management insists it has done everything possible to lure the Italian striker to Goodison Park, and that the decision now rests with Ravanelli himself.

"The player has informed me of how pleased he was with the set-up and ambitions of the club, and that's pleasing to hear," said Everton manager Howard Kendall, who spent three hours with Ravanelli on Wednesday.

"I think the ball is firmly in their (Ravanelli's) court whether the deal is negotiable or not. They've only got to say 'yes' and it's negotiated."

The silver-haired striker scored 31 goals for Middlesbrough last season, but wants a move from the relegated club as he does not want to play in first division.

Middlesbrough, originally requesting nine million pounds (£15.2 million) for the Italian, has accepted a 7.5 million-pound (£12.6 million dollars) offer from Everton, and now it is Ravanelli's salary that needs to be decided.

"It's coming to a sensible agreement and we feel we have a sensible figure," said Everton director Clifford Finch. "If we can negotiate this with Fabrizio Ravanelli then all well and good. He's a super player and would be great for the club."

Liverpool hopeful

LIVERPOOL, July 17: Liverpool hope to complete the signing of England international midfielder Paul Ince from Italy's Internazionale in the next few days, reports Reuters.

"There are one or two things to sort out," manager Roy Evans said on the club's telephone service for fans on Wednesday. "I hope to sort things out this week or early next week. Hopefully in the next three to four days."

Ince has said he will leave Inter before the start of the new season and has been linked to several English sides including Arsenal and Blackburn as well as Liverpool.



American Doug Flach makes a forehand return against compatriot Andre Agassi during their Legg Mason Classic engagement in Washington DC on July 16. Flach won 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Boris makes rusty return



STUTTGART, July 17: Boris Becker made a successful return to competitive tennis two weeks after his emotional farewell to Wimbledon by scoring a hard fought win over Moroccan Karim Alami at the Stuttgart clay-court tournament on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Becker, playing his first match since his quarterfinal defeat to Pete Sampras at the All-England Club, needed two tie-breaks to overcome unseeded Alami 7-6, 7-6.

The former world number one German, who said after losing to Sampras that he had played his last Wimbledon match, said he intended to play for a few more months before starting a new career as a coach.

Becker, who on Tuesday unveiled a team of young German players he intends to train, said last week he would enter the upcoming US Open championships, ending speculation that his Wimbledon appearance could have been his last at a Grand Slam event.

More than 5,000 fans turned up in Stuttgart to watch their hero, who failed to impress but nevertheless managed to win.

But there was also bad news for Becker, who heard from the organisers of November's ATP Tour World Championship that he would not get a wild card for the prestigious Hanover tournament.

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Agassi bites the dust

WASHINGTON DC, July 17: Andre Agassi's return to tennis after a 70-day layoff fell short of his expectations when he lost 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 to unseeded Doug Flach in the second round of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Agassi, who took time off to heal a wrist injury and to marry actress Brooke Shields, looked sharp in the first set with a cracking serve and effective passing shots, but then weakened.

He got an early break in the second set but eventually dropped the set when he double faulted on break point in the ninth game.

Agassi again took the early lead in the third set before Flach broke in the fifth and ninth games.

"I wasn't expecting a whole lot after not having played in a couple of months," said Agassi, whose ranking has fallen from No 3 to No 31 in the last year.

"After a good start, I got a little tired. My legs went first. After playing for just an hour I didn't expect my arm to feel as if it weighed 30 pounds. But all I can do at this point is take it one step at a time in getting back."

"Right now I'm having trouble beating Doug Flach, so it's going to take some time."

Agassi had a first-serve percentage of just 46 per cent and was guilty of 15 double faults, including a pair on game point.

Flach, who carries a ranking of 174, had 10 aces, including four in a row at one stage and a bullet down the middle that ended the match.

"I was pretty surprised myself with those aces, but my serve has been improving lately," said Flach, who eliminated Agassi in the first round at Wimbledon last year. "In fact, my whole game has picked up and I've won matches in my last three tournaments."

Gwen joins the list



NICE, France, July 17: American sprinter Gwen Torrence, no stranger to controversy during her highly successful career, was embroiled in more trouble today for pulling out of the Nikaia Grand Prix "for no good reason," reports Reuters.

Torrence, seen shopping among the tourists along the



GWEN TORRENCE

bustling Rue de France in Nice on Tuesday, incurred the wrath of meeting promoter Robert Bertolo for withdrawing from the 200 metres because of what he called "vague personal problems."

"She is one of the stars of the sport, but she does not have the attitude of a responsible professional. She would not say why she did not want to run, just that she had decided to go back to the United States."

Torrence, scheduled to defend her world 100 metres title in Athens next month, was due to meet her old rival Merlene Ottey of Jamaica in the race on

Wednesday night.

Torrence made no public comment, unlike in the past when her outspoken views about rivals have landed her in trouble with authority.

In her absence, Ottey, now 37 but running as well as ever, won the race in 22.47 seconds, the third fastest time of the year, and said she was looking forward to defending her 200 crown in Athens.

She was crowned world champion in Gothenburg two years ago after Torrence, who actually won the race, was disqualified for stepping outside her lane.

Torrence was not the only big name to withdraw from the meeting, the last grand Prix before the World Championships. Missing were Sergei Bubka (pole vault), Ivan Pedroso (long jump), Kelly Holmes (800m) and Frenchman Stephane Diagana, the European record holder over the 400 hurdles. Diagana said he damaged his sciatic nerve competing in Stuttgart at the weekend, but after missing the Olympics last year through injury, was determined to be fit for Athens.

While the meeting failed to live up to much of its pre-publicity which focused on two world record attempts and "200 champions," it still produced some high quality athletics and there were year's best performances in four events.

Bulgarians miss the bus

GENEVA, July 17: Bulgaria will miss the forthcoming World Gymnastics Championship because it failed to register its entry on time, the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) said on Wednesday, reports Xinhua.



Fernanda Ribeiro of Portugal as she wins the 3000 metre at the Nikaia Grand Prix in Nice, France on July 16. The Portuguese clocked 8 min 7.14 sec to record the fastest time of the year.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Friday 18th July

(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programme)

BTV

8:00 Opening announcement
Al Quran programme summary
8:15 Patriotic songs 8:20 Alor Disharee 8:45 Computer 9:00 News in Bangla 9:15 Hamd-O-Naat 9:40 Lecture on the significance of Eid-e-Miladun Nabi 10:00 Live Asia Cup Cricket Sri Lanka vs India 6:00 Superman 6:45 Programme on health 7:00 The News 7:05 Programmes from Chittagong station 7:25 Malancho 8:00 News in Bangla 8:30 Arabian Nights 9:00 Musical programme (Package) 10:00 The News 10:30 Movie of the Week 11:30 News in Bangla 12:25 Saturday programme summary 12:30 Close down.

BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:30 World Living: Building Signs 7:00 BBC Worldnews inc. World Busi-

ness Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 10:00 BBC World News 10:05 World Focus: Panorama 11:00 BBC Newsdesk 12:00 BBC Newsdesk 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Panorama 2:00 BBC World News 2:25 50 Years Of Independence 2:30 World Living: Holiday 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: Building Signs 5:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:00pm BBC Newsdesk 6:30 World Focus: Panorama 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC Newshour Asia & Pacific 8:25 50 Years Of Independence 8:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 9:55 50 Years Of Independence 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Living: Top Gear 11:00 The World Today 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Correspondent 2:00 BBC World News 2:25 50 Years Of Independence 2:30 World Living: Airport 3:00 BBC Newsdesk inc.

World Business Report & 24 Hours 10:00 BBC Newsdesk inc. Asia Today & World Business Report 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newnight

CHANNEL V

6:00am Rewind VJ Sophia 7:00 Tune In T [V] 8:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 9:30 Tune In T [V] 2:30 Liberty First Day First Show 3:00 Videocam Flashback 3:30 Son of Time Pass 4:00 Tune In T [V] 5:30 Tune In T [V] 6:00 Billboard US Countdown 7:00 Billboard US Countdown 8:00 Tune In T [V] 9:00 The Indian Top 10 10:00 Liberty First Day First Show 10:30 The Ticket 11:00 V Spot 11:30 Tune In T [V] 1:00 Haysah 2:00 Says Manu VJ Alessandra 3:00 [V] 1's VJ Alessandra 3:30 Sigaw Manila VJ Joey Urban Flow/Passage 4:30 Tune In T [V] 5:30 Over The Edge

STAR PLUS

6:30 Ninaad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:00 Business Agenda 9:30

Nine To Five 10:00 The Urban Peasant 10:30 Media TV 11:00 The Wonder Years 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 Space: Above And Beyond 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Ghanan 3:30 Meri Awaz Suno 4:00 Tu Tu Main Main 4:30 Lost In Space 5:30 Doctor's House MD 6:00pm The Wonder Years 6:30 The Urban Peasant 7:00 Awaz 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Meri Pasand 8:30 Jeene Bhi Do Yaaro 9:00 Kaleidoscope 9:30 Star News 10:00 Porridge 10:30 Picket Fences 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00am Santa Barbara 1:00 Star News 1:30 Chicago Hope 2:30 Burke's Law 3:30 Vega 4:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:30 21 Jump Street

STAR SPORTS

6:30am US PGA Tour 1997 Quad City Classic Day 3 7:30 EPGA Lohr Lomond World Invitational 8:30 Marlboro League CNFL HL 9:00 High 5 III-5 9:30 Pepsi Asia Cup 1997 HL Day 2 Pakistan v Bangladesh 10:30

LIVE Pepsi Asia Cup 1997 Sri Lanka v India 1st Session 2:00 Lunch 2:30 Live Pepsi Asia Cup 1997 Sri Lanka v India 2nd Session 6:30 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire 7:30 F1 Powerboats World Champs. 8:00 High 5 III-6 8:30 The Asian Football Show 9:30 Inside Cricket 1st Session 10:00 Sports India 10:30 Pepsi Asia Cup 1997 HL Day 3 Sri Lanka v India 11:00 US PGA Tour 1997 Quad City Classic Final Day 1:00 F1 Powerboats World Champs. 1:30 Pepsi Asia Cup 1997 Sri Lanka v India

STAR MOVIES

7:30am Classic: Bachelor Of Hearts 12:30 Adventure: Shanghai Surprise 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Adventure: Wizards of The Lost Kingdom 15:1:30 Faye Bye Bye Red Riding Hood PG 3:30 Documentary: The Metal Years 15:30 Cross-venture: Convinction Cross 17:30 Family: My Friend Joe 9:30 UK Top Ten 10:00 Gold: Six Degrees Of Separation? 12:00

Friday Fury: A Better Tomorrow 18:20 After Dark: Behind Closed Doors 18:40 Action: The Last Warrior 15:5:30 Thriller: The Abominable Dr Phibes 15

PTV

08:00 TILAWAT AUR TARJUMA/HAMD/NAAT 08:20 BOLTA HAATH 08:35 Sada-E-Kashmir 09:10 DASTAR KHAWAAN 09:35 Karb (serial) 11:00 KHABRAIN 11:15 English Film 11:45 Sports Prog. 02:02 BISMIILLAH 02:15 FEHM-UL-QURAN 02:40 NATAK RANG (SINDHI) 03:25 Ek Raat Ek Kahani (Drama) 04:40 Sehat Aur Sukoon (Drama) 05:25 Biology for 10th 05:55 Uffaq (Serial) 06:25 AIOU COURSE 07:20 Full House (Comedy Eng. Film) 07:45 ENGLISH NEWS 08:10 Fun Time Poppet Show 08:45 Paal Do Paal (Serial) 09:00 Break for Headlines News 10:00 Khabar-nama & Commercial News 10:35 Lollywood Top Ten Countdown Film Music 11:35 Spectrum 12:00 FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSIC

CINEMA & KHAS KHABRAIN /CLOSE DOWN.

EL TV

07:00 Yeदन Ki Baraat 07:30 Stand By (Trailer Show) 07:40 Gujra Hua Zamana 08:20 Jassen Pal 08:30 Fit Or Fat 09:00 Awaz Haye Andaz Wahi 09:30 News Line (Serial) 10:00 Hindi Feature Film 01:00 Liberty Public Demand 02:00 Gujrat Prog: Sapna Na Vavetar 03:00 Aaha 03:30 Mast Mast Show 04:00 Tanav 04:30 HFF 07:20 Zed 07:50 Hussein Pal (Trailer Show) 08:00 Hindi Film 10:30 Stand By (Trailer Show) 10:45 Hindi Feature Film 02:00 Satranj 02:30 Chori Chori 03:00 Its My Choices 03:30 Amar Prem 04:00 Hindi Feature Film

ental Folk Songs 12:00 Play 12:3