

Deep Blue awarded

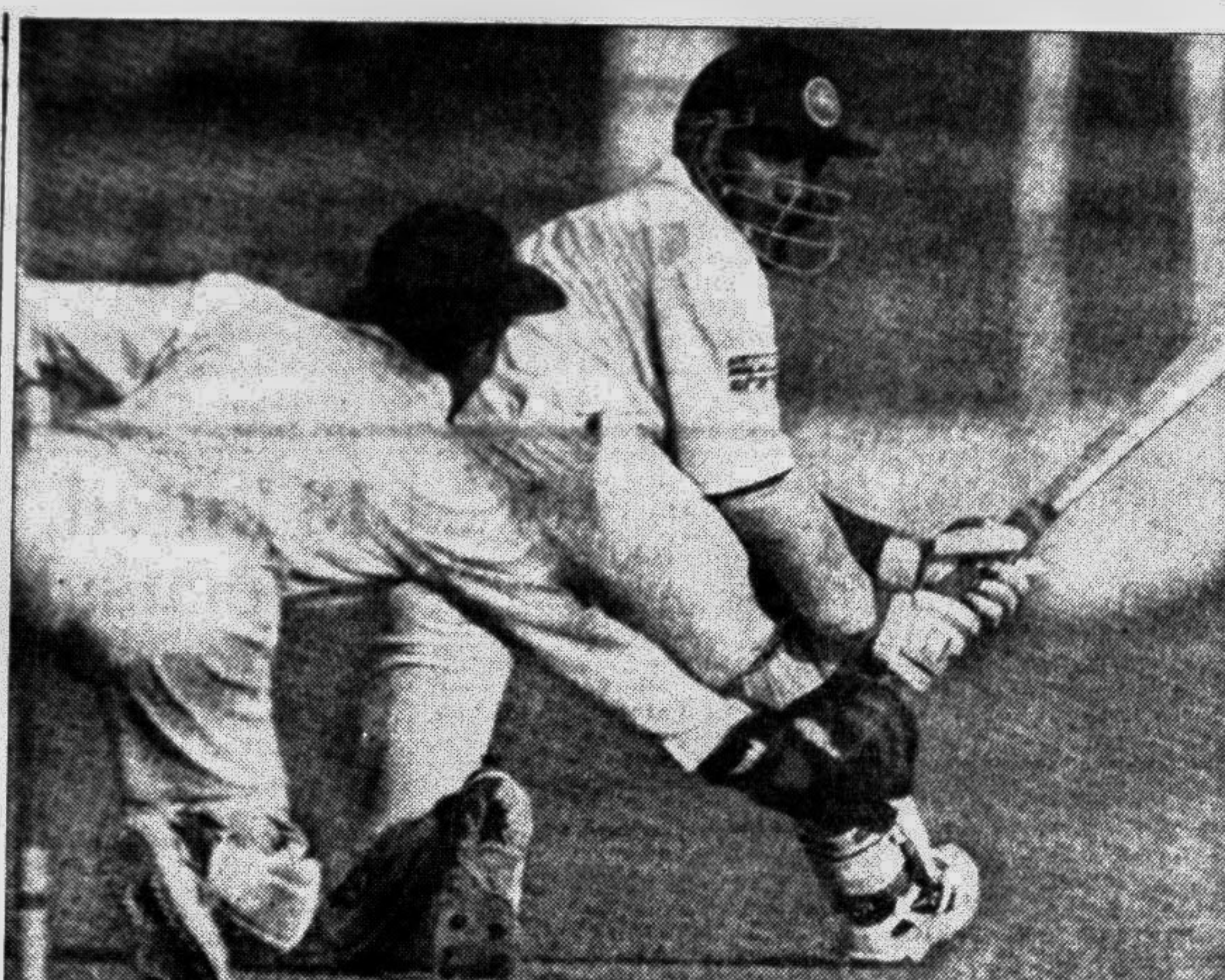
PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island, July 30: Creators of IBM's Deep Blue, the computer that beat Garri Kasparov, received a 100,000-dollar prize...

Kasparov won the first match against Deep Blue in February 1996. But after that loss, IBM engineers retooled it, returning with a machine that could think twice as fast.

Karim vows to come back

CALCUTTA, July 30: Wicketkeeper Saba Karim, dropped from the Indian team for the Test and one-day series against Sri Lanka, has resolved to fight his way back in the team, reports PTI.

The wicketkeeper said his assigned role as a pinch-hitter in the first league match against Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup was a great challenge.



Sri Lankan President's Board Eleven skipper Ruwan Kalpage watches after paddling the ball while Indian wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia tries to glove it during the second day's play of their three day match in Colombo yesterday.

SL Board XI 233 for six

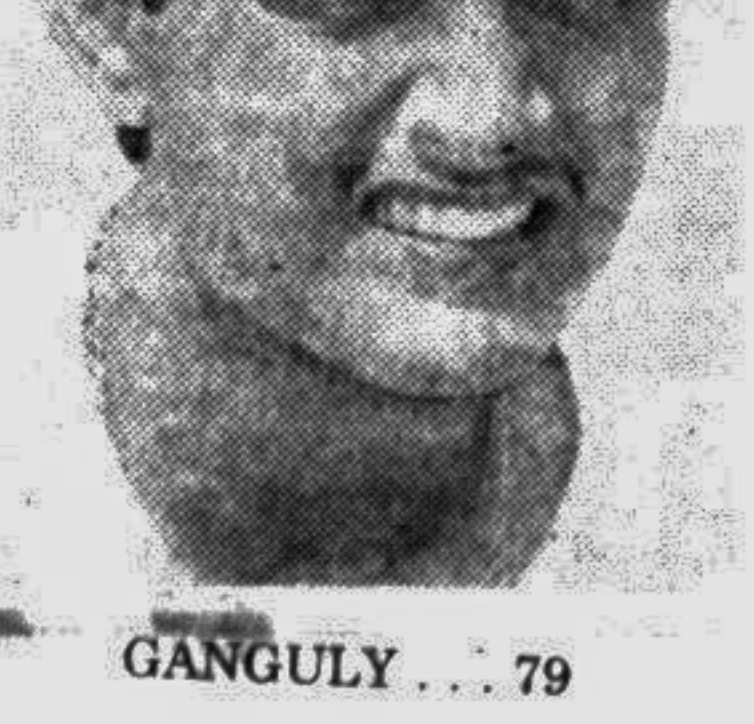
COLOMBO, July 30: The Sri Lanka Board President's XI were 233 for six in reply to India's first innings of 308 at the close on the second day of their three-day game at the Saravanamuttu Stadium today, reports Reuter.

On Tuesday, India survived a middle-order collapse on an uneven wicket to post 295 for nine.

Navjot Sidhu made 64 and newcomer Gagan Khoda contributed 59 in a first-wicket stand of 136 against the Sri Lankans, but the tourists caved into 212 for six soon after tea.

against the three-man spin attack. Rahul Dravid failed to score while two other replacements left-hander Vinod Kambli (nine) and Nayan Mongia (one), also fell quickly.

Ganguly, who hit 11 boundaries and a six, fell to the last ball of the day, giving leg-spinner Upul Chandana an easy return catch.



Ruwan Kalpage, leading the team.

home team, picked up two for 55. Left-armner Jayantha Silva and Chandana, fighting for a spinner's berth in the Tests, shared seven wickets between them.

SCOREBOARD \* Scoreboard on the second day of the three-day match between the Sri Lanka Board President's Eleven and India on Wednesday.

Table with columns: INDIA: First innings (overnight 295-9), Khoda c and b Kalpage 59, Sidhu c Mendis b J Silva 64, Dravid c and b Chandana 0, Tendulkar c Ranatunga b J Silva 32, Ganguly c and b Chandana 79, Kambli st Galagoda b J Silva 9, Mongia c Jayawardena b Kalpage 1, Chauhan c Arnold 13, Chandana 6, Kuruvilla lbw b Chandana 6, Kulkarni not out, Mohanty st Galagoda b Chandana 7, Extras (b-5, lb-4, w-8, nb-13) 308, Fall of wickets: 1-136; 2-137; 3-175; 4-183; 5-211; 6-212; 7-279; 8-290; 9-295.

Huber, Pierce pull through

CARLSBAD, California, July 30: Anke Huber and Mary Pierce both survived stiff challenges to post three-set victories Tuesday and advance to the second round of the 450,000 dollars Toshiba Classic women's tournament, report agencies.



ANKE HUBER

beat Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva 7-5, 1-6, 6-3, while France's sixth-seeded Pierce overcame American Amy Frazier 6-3, 6-7, 6-3.

part of our game." Huber said. "We're both returning better than we're serving."

Huber sandwiched breaks in the fourth and six games around one of her own for a 4-2 advantage in the deciding set. At 4-3, the German converted her fifth break point to go ahead 5-3 before serving out the match at love.

Pierce was pleased with her victory. "It was a great match for me, she really made me play," the 10th-ranked French woman said after the 2-20 baseline duel.

In another first-round match, teenager Venus Williams scored a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Argentina's Florencia Labat to set up a second-round match against No 1-ranked Martina Hingis of Switzerland on Wednesday night.

Hingis won her only meeting with Williams, a 6-4, 6-2 victory in the third round at this year's Lipton Championships.



MARY PIERCE

Anne-Gaëlle Sidot of France beat Australia's Siobhan Drake-Brockman, 7-5, 6-3. Williams started strong in each set against Labat, taking 5-0 leads in both, but she faltered slightly before finally closing out the match.

"Serving is not the strongest

Bookie suspect detained in India

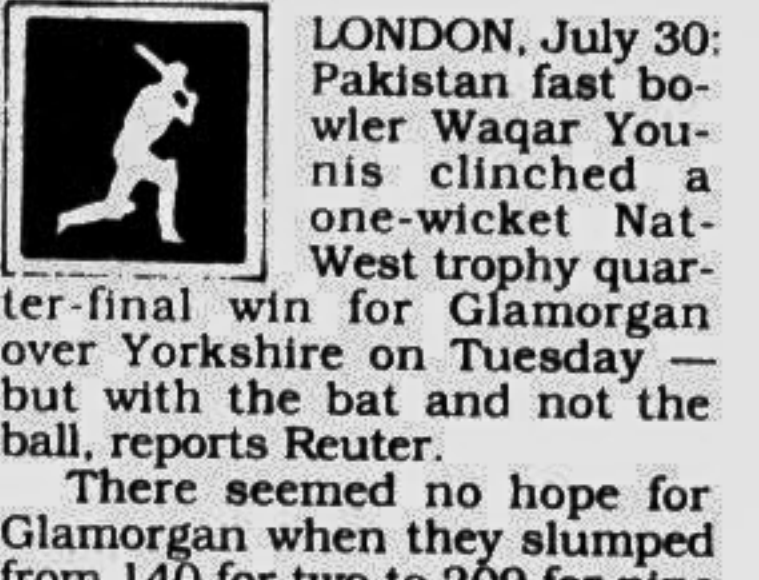
NEW DELHI, July 30: An Indian suspect being an illegal bookmaker involved in international match-fixing has been arrested, newspapers reported today, reports AFP.

Earlier this month former Pakistan wicketkeeper Rashid Latif added to the speculation by reportedly telling "Outlook" magazine that big-name players from India and Pakistan were involved in widespread match-fixing.

He later withdrew allegations against certain players, saying he had been misquoted by the magazine.

Illegal betting on cricket results is widespread in India.

Waqar willow wags in time



WAQAR YOUNIS

LONDON, July 30: Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis clinched a one-wicket NatWest trophy win for Glamorgan over Yorkshire on Tuesday - but with the bat and not the ball, reports Reuter.

There seemed no hope for Glamorgan when they slumped from 140 to two to 209 for nine chasing Yorkshire's 236 for eight.

Waqar finished with 34 not out after England paceman Darren Gough had looked to have set up Yorkshire for their third successive NatWest semi-final by taking four for 36.

The 22-year-old batsman, who has made only five first-class appearances, hit 18 boundaries in his 165-ball innings as Sussex made 329 for five with four balls to spare after chasing a formidable 327 for eight.

Sussex line-up after Neil Lenham failed to prove his fitness following a heel injury. He beat the previous highest individual score of 141 by Gehan Mendis against Warwickshire 17 years ago.

Derbyshire's formidable total was built around an unbeaten 129 by Chris Adams who hit eight fours and a six. England vice-captain Nasser Hussain dropped Essex into a big hole and then dug them out of it as his side overcame Nottinghamshire by three wickets at Trent Bridge.

He dropped catches off opener Tim Robinson once and century-maker Paul Johnson twice, and the duo between them went on to score an additional 124 runs after their let-offs.

It left Essex facing an imposing 289 for victory, but Hussain made up for his fielding nightmare by top-scoring with an unbeaten 89 as his side won with 10 balls to spare.

Warwickshire completed the semifinal line-up with a 28-run victory in which Mark Ramprakash of Middlesex may have boosted his England prospects despite ending up on the losing side at Lords.

Disabled's unique act

LONDON, July 30: Masudur Rahman Badiya, a physically handicapped swimmer from West Bengal, has become the first disabled Asian to cross the English Channel in a record time of 16 hours and 23 minutes, reports PTI.

Badiya, a 29-year-old, who lost both his legs from knee down in an unfortunate train accident at the age of 11 in 1979, started off from Dover coast in England on Monday and completed his epic Channel cross as he touched the headlines halfway between Calais and Boulogne, swimming a distance of 18.2 nautical miles.

"The last bit was very tough when the Channel was hit by the tide. But I am extremely overjoyed that I could make it in a sort of record time", Masudur told PTI after his sterling performance.

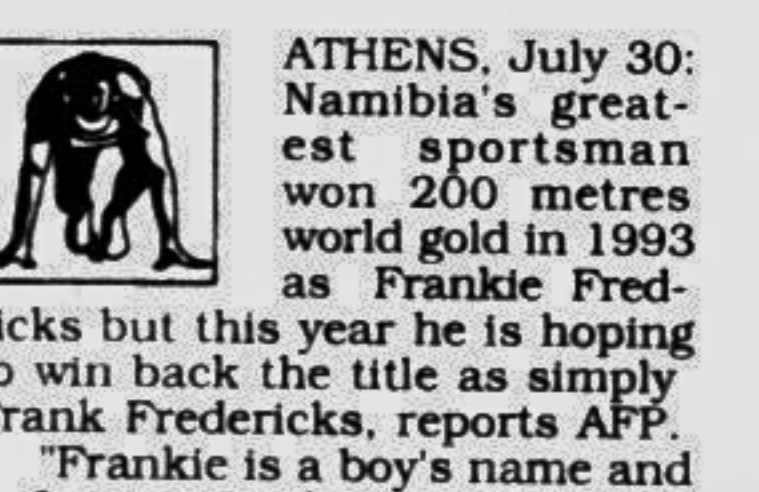
Badiya thus becomes the first retarded person in Asia and second in the world to have successfully crossed the English Channel.

Masudur was aiming for breaking the world record held by German handicapped swimmer, Lucyna who crossed the Channel in 12 hours and 29 minutes in 1990.

Lucyna was only partially handicapped as she did not have her feet. But Masudur is the first swimmer, amputated from knee down, to cross the Channel, said Duncan Taylor of the Channel Swimming Association.

"He (Masudur) has to be put on water before he can start swimming as he does not have legs and his feet is thus even more remarkable," Taylor told PTI.

Frankie likes to be Frank



FRANKIE FREDERICKS

ATHENS, July 30: Namibia's greatest sportsman won 200 metres world gold in 1993 as Frankie Fredericks but this year he is hoping to win back the title as simply Frank Fredericks, reports AFP.

"Frankie is a boy's name and as I now consider myself to be a man I would like to be known as Frank," the 20-year-old Fredericks said.

If the world title was won on a vote for the most popular man on the circuit then Fredericks would be celebrating victory already but he faces a tough task this year at both 100 and 200 metres.

The four-time Olympic silver medalist, who in 1991 became the first non-American to win the national collegiate titles, has had an inconsistent year winning well in Helsinki, Osaka, Rome and Lille but his best times in both events this season places him behind Ato Boldon and American champion Maurice Greene.

Fredericks, who takes his mother to all the major championships, suffered a potentially demoralising loss at the hands of Boldon, fastest man over 100 and 200 this year, in Stuttgart on July 12 over 200 metres.

However the Namibian finds it difficult to ever present anything but a cheerful attitude.

The one time he looked visibly shocked was after Michael Johnson had destroyed him in the Olympic 200 metres final last year - it was no consolation.

The normally placid and pleasant Fredericks has like Canada's equally charming 100 metres world record holder Donovan Bailey taken umbrage at the increasingly unpopular Texan.

"We won't know who the fastest man in the world is until the (World Championship) 100m final in Athens (in August)," Fredericks said after June's 150 metres duel between Bailey and Johnson in Toronto - to which he wasn't invited.

Fredericks faces a greater challenge than seeing who is the fastest man in the world.

In Athens he will be striving to show his decision to change his name and become a man has not, like some of his rivals, been delivered too late in his career.

Pedroso sets his target



PEDROSO

MADRID, July 30: One of the defining moments in track and field came in the 1991 world long jump duel between American duo Carl Lewis and Mike Powell, reports Reuter.

After a protracted battle, Powell prevailed but needed a world record of 8.95 metres, surpassing Bob Beamon's 23-year-old mark of 8.90 set at the 1968 Olympics.

Six years on Powell's effort in Tokyo still stands as the best long jump ever.

Cuba's Ivan Pedroso, 24, and then the Pan-American junior champion recalls sitting at home in Havana watching the contest.

"I remember it well," he said. "It was the greatest long jump contest I'd ever seen."

In Gothenburg two years ago Pedroso succeeded Powell, the 1991 and 1993 gold medalist, as the world champion. Now he is plans to succeed Powell as the world record holder.

"Nine metres is a reachable target. I feel sure I can do it," Pedroso said. "That is my dream and I think it is possible although it is obviously very difficult to achieve."

Pedroso's ambitions of exploring uncharted territory at the World Championships have meant he has restricted his outings in the early part of this outdoor season.

The Cuban has already briefly experienced life at the top.

He jumped an altitude-assisted 8.96 metres at the Italian ski resort of Sestriere two years ago only for it to be removed from the record books.

The distance was never ratified as the International Amateur Athletic Federation ruled that an official had obstructed the wind gauge.

This year, Pedroso has produced a series of outstanding efforts around the European circuit, including a 8.63 metres effort in the Italian city of Padua.

Pedroso is confident that he can shroud off his latest setback and 90 beyond nine metres in Athens.

Mandela stands by Cape Town

JOHANNESBURG, July 30: President Nelson Mandela met with International Olympic Committee (IOC) members Tuesday, showing his confidence on Cape Town's success in its Olympic bid, reports Xinhua.

The 70-year-old South African leader believed the southern port city stands a "good chance" of winning the 2004 Games bid.

Mandela earlier met with visiting IOC members Ivan Dibos of Peru, Paul Walkwork of Western Samoa, Anton Geesink of the Netherlands and Lu Shengrong of China.

Mandela said he may travel to Lausanne, Switzerland to "witness the historic decision" on September 5.

The South African leader has so far met about 25 of the 109 IOC members who will cast their votes.

The five-city shortlist included Rome, Buenos Aires, Athens, Stockholm, as well as Cape Town.

Petra fails dope test

ATHENS, July 30: Distance runner Petra Wassluk has been dropped from the German team for the World Championships starting on Saturday after a positive dope test, reports Reuter.

German Athletic Federation officials said today that the 27-year-old 10,000 metres runner had been found to have excess levels of the stimulant caffeine in her body during a doping test in Spain last April.

Sjoberg skips Athens meet

STOCKHOLM, July 30: Former world high-jump record holder Patrik Sjoberg of Sweden said Tuesday he will not compete in the World Championships in Athens which will start on August 1, reports Xinhua.

The three-time Olympic medalist is still suffering from a thigh injury which he sustained in a "superstars" competition last June. Sjoberg, a top member of Sweden's athletics squad for the last 15 years, has never approached the qualification height of 2.28 metres this season.

Lechkov joins Besiktas

ISTANBUL, July 30: Bulgarian international midfielder Yordan Lechkov joined Turkish side Besiktas from Marseille on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Lechkov, who played in the 1994 World Cup final, spent a year with the French club after joining from Hamburg.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Table listing TV and radio programs for Thursday 31st July, including BBC, STAR PLUS, CHANNEL V, STAR MOVIES, STAR SPORTS, PTV, EL TV, SONY ET, and ZEE TV.