

Lara poised to replace Donald

BIRMINGHAM, Aug 23: Warwickshire are hoping to bring back record-breaking batsman Brian Lara, who last played for the county in 1994, for next season, reports Reuters.

"He's very positive about coming back," said club chief executive Dennis Amiss. "We hope he'll continue where he left off."

Amiss said he was waiting for confirmation of the dates of the Red Stripe competition from the West Indies Cricket Board before finalising a deal to secure Lara's services for next season.

He also indicated that Lara would probably miss the first few weeks of the county championship because of his domestic obligations.

Lara helped Warwickshire to the championship, the Benson and Hedges Cup and the Sunday League in 1994.

He would over as Warwickshire's overseas player from pace-bowler Allan Donald, who will be on tour with South Africa.

World Cup badminton results

YOYAKART, Indonesia. Aug 23: World badminton powerhouses China and Indonesia dominated Saturday, capturing five and four berths each for the finals of the Sanyo '97 World Cup badminton championship, reports AP.

China also secured a title in the tournament as the world's top duo of Ge Fei and Gu Jun will play an all-Chinese affair in the women's double against compatriots Qin Yiyuan and Tang Songhua.

The men's and women's singles along with mixed doubles finals will feature Indonesia-China clashes.

Chinese Sun Jun, who out-powered Ong Ewe Hock of Malaysia, 15-5, 15-1, will face Ge Suprianto in the men's singles. Suprianto, disposed of compatriot Indra Wijaya, Indonesia, 15-13, 15-10.

In women's singles, second seeded Susi Susanti of Indonesia defeated China's Gong Zhichao, but Ye Zhaoying retaliated by eliminating Mia Audina, 11-4, 5-11, 11-5.

Both Susanti and Gong exchanged leads each in the first and second sets. Susanti fought back from a 1-6 deficit in the opening set to force a deuce-of-13 tie and blanked the Chinese for 13-10.

Supported by more than 3,000 spectators, Susanti easily surged to a 9-0 lead in the second set but Gong caught up and leveled it. Susanti fought back and disposed of Gong 11-2.

The Indonesia ace Susanti and the top seeded Ye will play the last year's final, which was won by Susanti.

The only other finalist is South Korean pair of Lee Dong-soo and Yoo Yung-sung, who will fight in the men's doubles against Indonesia's Ricky Subagja and Rexy Mainaki.

Lee and Yoo stopped Indonesian pair of Sigit Budiarto and Chandra Wijaya, Indonesia, 8-15, 15-8, 15-12, while Ricky and Rexy routed Choong Tan Fook and Lee Wan Wah of Malaysia 15-12, 15-3.

The five-day tournament, which started Wednesday at Amonggrogro stadium in the Central Java's ancient city of Yogyakarta, has been declared the last world championship.

Davenport, Testud in final

STONE MOUNTAIN, Georgia, Aug 23: Lindsay Davenport beat Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 6-2, 6-4 Friday to earn a chance to win the 450,000 dollars US Women's Hardcourt Championships on the court where she claimed Olympic gold in July last year, reports Reuters.

In today's final, the fourth-seeded Davenport will face unseeded Frenchwoman Sandrine Testud who took out an off-form Iva Majoli of Croatia, the third seed, 7-5, 6-3.

After winning three titles this spring, Davenport's biggest claim to fame this summer was to stop world number one Martina Hingis in the semifinals in Los Angeles.

Kasprovicz strangles England

Aussies 100 runs away



LONDON, Aug 23: Medium-pace Michael Kasprovicz took seven for 36 to bowl Australia to the brink of their fourth straight Ashes win in the sixth Test at The Oval Saturday, reports AP.

Kasprovicz-produced a 16-ball spell either side of the lunch break on the third day as England were skittled out for 163 in their second innings, leaving Australia to score 124 runs to win and wrap up the series 4-1.

Kasprovicz, playing in his third game of the series and first since the second Test a Lord's, took 4-1 as the England innings folded 43 minutes after lunch.

Australian opener Matthew Elliott (4) fell lbw to Devon Malcolm in the first over of the second innings. After six overs the visitors were 24 for one with captain Mark Taylor 12 not out and Greg Blewett unbeaten on six.

England's Mark Ramprakash delayed the inevitable with a gritty 48 in 149 minutes, but once he irresponsibly charged Shane Warne and was stumped, the home side lost its last four wickets for three runs in 11 balls.

Kasprovicz replaced fast bowler Glenn McGrath from the Vauxhall End and sent down just five balls in his second over after lunch claiming tailenders Peter Martin, Phil Tufnell and Devon Malcolm.

Kasprovicz ended a threatening 79-run fifth wicket stand between top-scorer Graham Thorpe (62) and Ramprakash and then trapped Adam Holoake leg before wicket for four.



KASPROVICZ ... 7/36

England, beginning the day on 52 for two, lost Nasser Hussain (2) to leg spinner Warne on the third ball of the day.

England took lunch on 145 for six with Ramprakash and Andrew Caddick holding the innings together.

Caddick, coming in at the fall of Holoake's wicket, batted for 49 minutes but didn't get off the mark despite facing 37 balls.

Warne, handicapped by a groin strain which appeared to threaten Australia's push for their first win at The Oval since 1972, took two wickets, hobbling around for 19 overs on the third day.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the sixth cricket Test between

England and Australia at The Oval on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings 180

AUSTRALIA: First innings

Elliott b Tufnell	12
Taylor c Holoake b Tufnell	38
Blewett c Stewart b Tufnell	47
M Waugh b Caddick	19
S Waugh lbw b Caddick	22
Ponting c Hussain b Tufnell	40
Healy c Stewart b Tufnell	2
Young c Stewart b Tufnell	0
Warne b Caddick	30
Kasprovicz lbw b Caddick	0
McGrath not out	1
Extras: (lb-3, nb-5, w-1)	220
Total: (all out)	220

Fall of wickets: 1-49; 2-54; 3-94; 4-140; 5-160; 6-164; 7-164; 8-205; 9-205; 10-220.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Malcolm	11	2	37	0
Martin	15	5	38	0
Caddick	19	4	76	3
Tufnell	34.3	16	66	7

ENGLAND: Second innings

Butcher lbw b Mark Waugh 13

Atherton c Steve Waugh b Kasprovicz 8

Stewart lbw b Kasprovicz 3

Hussain c Elliott b Warne 2

Thorpe c Taylor b Kasprovicz 62

Ramprakash st Healy b Warne 48

Holoake lbw b Kasprovicz 4

Caddick not out 0

Martin c b Kasprovicz 3

Tufnell c Healy b Kasprovicz 0

Malcolm b Kasprovicz 20

Extras: (b-6, lb-10, nb-4) 20

Total: (all out) 163

Fall of wickets: 1-20; 2-24; 3-26; 4-52; 5-131; 6-138; 7-160; 8-163; 9-163; 10-163.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
McGrath	17	5	33	0
Kasprovicz	15.5	5	36	7
Warne	26	9	57	2
Waugh	7	3	16	1
Young	1	0	5	0

(Incomplete)

Russian stars' mixed day



SEVILLE, Spain, Aug 23: Alexander Popov, out to reclaim his title as swimming's top sprinter after being stabbed a year ago, swam the world's second fastest time this year in the 50m freestyle, clocking 22.57 seconds Saturday in the preliminaries of the European Swimming Championships, reports AP.

Popov, who has already won gold in the 100 freestyle in his first big meet since winning double gold in the Atlanta Olympics, cruised at the end when it looked like he could have gone faster.

Julien Sicot, a 19-year-old Frenchman from Martinique

holder, failed to qualify for Saturday's 200-metre butterfly final.

Pankratov, who managed only sixth place in the 100 fly, clocked 2:01.25 for 11th place — far off his world record of 1:55.22.

Pankratov, who has been racing almost non-stop since the Olympics and has the top 200 butterfly time this season in Europe (1:57.33), complained of being tired after the 100 final and said he should have skipped the Europeans.

France's Esposito of France led the top eight qualifiers to the finals in a time of 1:58.58 with second for Denis Silantiev of Ukraine in 1:59.06 and third for Chris-Carol Bremer of Germany in 1:59.88.



Russian ace swimmer Alexander Popov dives into the pool at the start of the 50m freestyle heat in the European Championships in Seville, Spain on Aug 23.

— AFP/UNB photo

who trains in Bourdeaux, was second in 22.76 with third Denis Pimankov of Russia in 22.89.

Popov, 25, was stabbed in the stomach on Aug. 24, 1996, in a skirmish in Moscow with a watermelon vendor just weeks after repeating his Olympic double gold from the '92 Barcelona Olympics.

Only Ricardo Busquets of Puerto Rico and William Pilczuk of the United States have gone faster this season (22.42). Jiang Cheng of China has also clocked 22.57.

But another Russian had a bad day.

Denis Pankratov, the defending Olympic and European champion and world record-

"I knew, right from the start Pankratov was out of it because his first stretch under water was too short," said Esposito, the 200 bronze medalist in the '92 Olympics.

In the women's 200-metre medley, Martina Moravcova of Slovakia qualified first in 2:16.57 with Susan Rolph of Britain second in 2:17.06 with third for Sabine Herbst of Germany in 2:17.48.

Moravcova has already won two silver medals in the 100 freestyle and 100 butterfly and was fourth in the 200 freestyle.

In the men's 100 backstroke, Ethan Urbach of Israel had the top time of 55.96 with 55.98 for Mariusz Siemida of Poland and 56.21 for Martin Lopez

Zubero of Spain.

Lopez Zubero, 28, the former Olympic champion and defending world champion in the 100 backstroke, is going for his fifth European gold. He said if he doesn't win here he may retire before the world championships in January in Perth, Australia.

In the women's 400 medley relay, Germany qualified first in 4:12.00 with second for Russia (4:12.60) and third for the Netherlands (4:13.68).

The top three spots in the men's 1,500 freestyle — with the final set for Sunday — were: Emiliano Brembilla of Italy (15:10.65), Igor Snitkov of Ukraine (15:15.71) and Ian Wilson of Britain (15:23.22).

Ireland's Michelle Smith, entered under the surname of her husband — Erik de Bruin — has won gold in the 400 individual medley and 200 freestyle and silver in the 400 freestyle. But she withdrew from Saturday's 200 individual medley, citing fatigue and leaving only the 200 butterfly to swim when the 12-day meet ends Sunday.

The withdrawal means she will be unable to match the record of four individual golds in the Euros set by former East German Ute Geweniger in 1981 and Hungary's Krisztina Egerszegi in 1993.

OAU backs SA's 2004 Games bid

ADDIS ABABA, Aug 23: Organisation of African Unity (OAU) secretary-general Salim Ahmed Salim today urged the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to pick Cape Town as the venue for the 2004 Olympic Games, reports Reuters.

"A vote for Cape Town is a vote for the consolidation of democracy in Africa. The confidence and the economic growth that come with a successful bid are needed to nurture the new democracies in South Africa and many new democracies in Africa," he said.

"By embracing South Africa now, we will send a strong signal of encouragement to President Nelson Mandela's rainbow nation," said Salim, noting all continents except Africa has hosted the Games.

The IOC makes its final choice on the venue for the 2004 Games on September 5.

Sahara Cup

Pakistan without Ws

ISLAMABAD, Aug 23: Pakistan's captain Rameez Raja will lead a 13-man squad in the Sahara Cup one-day series against India in Canada next month, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced today, reports Reuters.

But opening batsman Aamir Sohail and pace bowler Shahid Nazir have been dropped by the selectors after poor performances in the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka last month. PCB chief executive Majid Khan said.

The team, which will play five matches, will again be without the dreaded fast bowling combination of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis and leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed.

Majid said Younis would be unavailable as his engagements with English county club Glamorgan keep him busy up to the middle of September and Mushtaq had opted out because of a troublesome knee.

Akram is nursing an injured shoulder.

Squad: Rameez Raja (captain), Saeed Anwar (vice-captain), Salim Malik, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Ijaz Ahmed, Moin Khan, Hasan Raza, Azhar Mahmood, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mohammad Hussain, Shahid Afridi, Aaqib Javed, Kabir Khan.

Marion's finest moment

BRUSSELS, Aug 23: American world champion Marion Jones became the third equal fastest woman in history on Friday when she clocked 10.76 seconds for the 100 metres, reports Reuters.

Jones, who last week in Zurich lost her first 100 race since her World Championship triumph earlier this month, bounced back with a brilliant victory at the Brussels Grand prix.

"I was very motivated after I lost in Zurich, I wanted to show here who is the fastest," Jones said amid applause from male American sprinters Maurice Greene and Jon Drummond.

"This is not honest. Every time I perform you just blow that away," said Drummond who beat world champion Ato Boldon in the men's 200 at the same Brussels meeting.

"Marion, please slow down," world 100 metres champion Greene joked.

Only American Florence Griffith Joyner, who holds the world record of 10.49, and Ottey, who took second with 10.63, have run faster than Jones. Ottey's best time is 10.74.

The 21-year-old Jones is now joint third fastest in the record books together with her youth idol, American Evelyn Ashford.

Olympic champion Gail Devers, who came third with 10.96, was never in contention.

Ottey, 37, beat Jones at the richest meeting in athletics in Zurich last Wednesday.

The Jamaican veteran said she wanted to silence the critics who had said she was slowly going downhill and should retire.

"I'm the second fastest in the world. It certainly is not up to me to retire," said Ottey.

"People even go round asking other athletes, like Boldon whether I shouldn't retire. That's not fair."



THREE CHEERS! Kenyan Paul Tergat (L) celebrates with countryman Paul Koech after creating the new 10,000-metre world record at the Brussels Grand Prix on Aug 22. Koech finished second.

Haile toppled twice



BRUSSELS, Aug 23: Ethiopia's Haile Gebrselassie lost two world records in a matter of hours on Friday after superb 5,000 and 10,000 performances from Kenyans Daniel Komen and Paul Tergat, reports Reuters.

Nine days after Zurich's historic meeting when three world records fell, Komen set a new mark for the 5,000 metres and Tergat broke the 10,000 metres best.

Gebrselassie, who concentrated on the 3,000 metres at the Brussels meeting, failed to break Komen's best mark for that event.

Komen had warned Gebrselassie that he would look for revenge after the Ethiopian surged past him in the final lap to clock 12 minutes 41.86 seconds to set the previous 5,000 best on August 13 in Zurich.

On a cloudy, still evening, the Kenyan smashed the record when he clocked 12.39.74.

Tergat inflicted Gebrselassie more punishment by setting a new record of 26.27.85 for the 10,000, crushing the previous best time of 26.31.32 clocked by the Ethiopian last month in Oslo.

It was the second successive year that the 10,000 metres world record had been broken in Brussels to the beat of an African drum band.

Last year Moroccan Salah Hissou set a record of 26.38.08 with Gebrselassie out of his

way, Komen relied on Compatriots Elhaj Maru and Martin Keino to set the pace. But he hardly needed their help.

With 2,000 metres remaining, Komen moved past a tiring Keino and ran the last five laps on his own. The Kenyan earned a 25,000 dollars bonus for his record.

"I knew I was going to break the world record, it was in the air," said Komen. "I had the feeling that nothing could go wrong."

Tergat stayed safely behind compatriots William Kalyila and David Chelule for the first part of the 10,000, then shrugged off a late challenge from another Kenyan, Paul Koech.

With some 600 metres remaining, he kicked, leaving Koech helpless.

Last year, I was lacking a bit of freshness," said Tergat, referring to last year's 10,000 metres here when he finished second behind Hissou.

"I pushed the pace-makers halfway through the race because they were not going fast enough," Tergat added.

After what happened in Zurich, Komen asked the organisers to add a 5,000 metres to Friday's programme.

His triumph would perhaps have been even sweeter had Gebrselassie been in the race but the Ethiopian had set his sights on the 3,000 metres record.

Gebrselassie won easily in 7.26.02 but was well outside

Komen's best mark of 7.20.67 set in September last year in Rieti, Italy.

If Komen and Tergat left Brussels richer, other athletes took a step towards even more money.

Namibian Frankie Fredericks, Moroccan Hicham el Guerrouj and Romanian Gabriela Szabo stayed on course for the 20 one kilo gold bars, worth over 2000,000 dollars which will be shared by athletes who win their events in all Golden Four meetings — Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin.

Fredericks won the 100 metres in 9.90, beating world champion Maurice Greene to second place. American Greene, who clocked 9.92, suffered his third defeat in as many races since taking gold earlier this month in Athens.

El Guerrouj and Szabo, in a class of their own in the men's 1,500 metres and the women's 5,000 respectively, recorded straightforward victories and need just one more on Tuesday in Berlin to take their part of the gold.

But Komen and Gebrselassie could steal the show from them in the German capital, where they might face each other over 5,000 metres.

"I see only one athlete capable of breaking my record and that's Haile," said Komen. "He's a good friend and I think the competition between us is the best thing that could happen to athletics."

Chang stoops to Rafter



Julian Alonso of Spain bounced second seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia from the Hamlet Cup in

the quarterfinals Friday, reports Reuters.

The eighth-seeded, 14th-ranked Rafter beat world number two Chang 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 in the warm-up for the US Open starting next week. Alonso, a qualifier, beat fourth-ranked Ivanisevic 7-6, 3-6, 6-3 and made a little history as well.

The 76th ranked Alonso had a 225 kph ace in the first point of the ninth game of the first set of their match, making him only the third man in ATP Tour history to serve that fast.

Chang broke Rafter in the first game of their third set but the Australian broke right back to tie at 1-1. In the fourth game, Chang hit a forehand long that allowed Rafter to break and lead 3-1.

In Chang's next service game he was down 0-40 but a Rafter backhand error, a 146 kph ace and a stellar Chang forehand crosscourt passing shot took it to deuce. Rafter used a forehand half-volley to finally break and lead 5-1.

Rafter was down 15-40 while serving for the match, but Chang mis-hit into the stands for 30-40 and then Rafter ran Chang to opposite sides of the court for three difficult retrievals — but Chang's third return was wide.

Rafter put the seal on the point by using his forehand to knock home the high-bouncing ball for a "winner" into the open court.

After Chang blasted a forehand long, Rafter closed out the match with a 145 kph ace, his 12th of the night.

"Tonight I was very relaxed," Rafter said. "I played fantastic." He insisted that he has not played soccer since he was 6, but was impressed with his forehand winner. "I could probably get a contract in Liverpool or something," he quipped.



American athletics legend Carl Lewis being welcomed on arrival at Brussels airport on Aug 22. He will compete in the Brussels Grand Prix.

— AFP/UNB photo

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Sunday 24th August

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

BTV

3:00 pm Opening announcement Al Quran Programme summary 3:10 Reflection from the Bible 3:15 Patriotic Songs 3:20 Cartoon: Woody Woodpecker 3:45 Weekend Drama 4:00 News 4:45 Marami 5:15 Open University 6:00 TV National Debate 7:00 The News 7:05 Health Tattva 7:25 Maiti-o-Manus 8:00 News in Bangla 8:25 Chayachandha 9:05 Shay Gai Sunny 10:00 News at Ten 10:25 Shemudhin programme 10:50 Film show: Hazrat 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Sunday's programme summary 11:40 Close down

BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:30 World Living: The Travel Show 7:00 BBC World Headlines 7:05 Weekend World: BBC Global Report 8:00 BBC World News 8