

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 Reuter.

"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

YOGAKARTA, 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 two of Gei 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 Indonesian-China clashes.

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

In women's singles, second seeded Susi Susanti of Indonesia defeated China's Gong Zhicao, but Yu Zhaoying retaliated by eliminating Mia Audina, 11-4, 11-11, 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 three and blanked the Chinese for 13-10.

Supported by more than 3,000 spectators, Susanti easily surged to 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 Yu will replay the last year's final, which was won by Susanti.

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

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

The five-day tournament, which started Wednesday at Amangrogo 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 Reuter.

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.

Aussies 100 runs away



LONDON, Aug 23: Medium-pacer Michael Kasprowicz 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.

Kasprowicz 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.

Kasprowicz, 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.

Kasprowicz 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.

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

KASPROWICZ ... 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 Hollioake'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 Hollioake 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	0
Young c Stewart b Tufnell	1
Warne b Caddick	30
Kasprowicz lbw b Caddick	0
McGrath not out	0
Extras: (lb-3, nb-5, w-1)	9
Total: (all out)	220
Fall of wickets: 1-49; 2-54; 3-94; 4-140; 5-150; 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 (overnight 52 for three)

Butcher lbw b Mark Waugh

Atherton c Steve Waugh b

Kasprowicz

Hussain c Elliott b Warne

Thorpe c Taylor b Kasprowicz

Ramprakash st Healy b Warne

Hollioake lbw b Kasprowicz

Caddick not out

Martin c and b Kasprowicz

Tufnell c Healy b Kasprowicz

Malcolm b Kasprowicz

Extras: (lb-6, nb-10, w-4)

Total: (all out)

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

Kasprowicz	15.5	5	36	0
Waugh	26	9	57	2
Young	7	3	16	1
Waugh	1	0	5	0

(Incomplete)

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Sport

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 Reuter.

But opening batsman Aamir Sohal 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, Inzamamul 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 Reuter.

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 10.83, 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.

Irishland's Michelle Smith, entered under the surname of her husband "Eric de Bruin" — has won gold in the 400 individual medley and 200 freestyle and silver in the 400 freestyle. 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

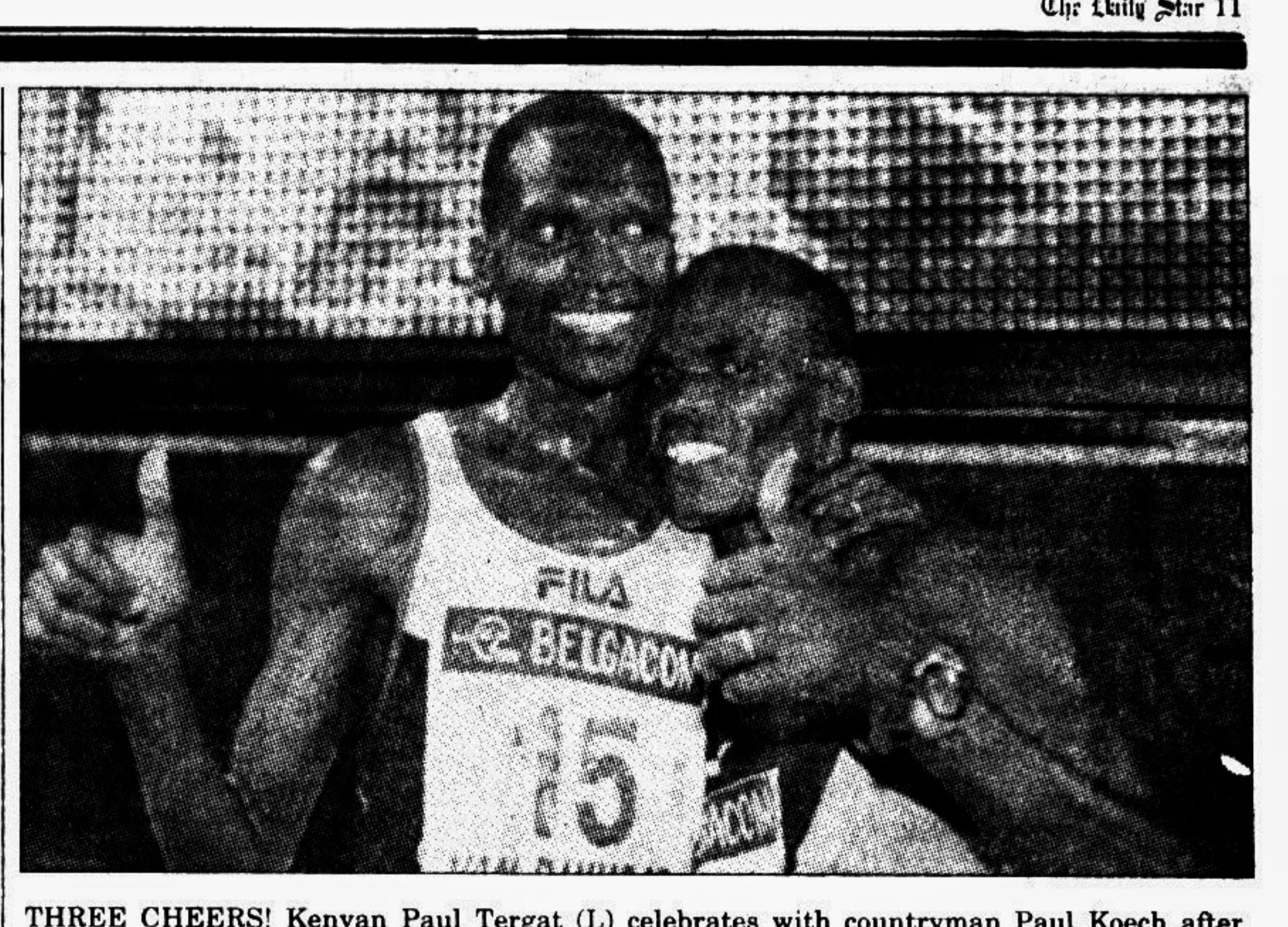
ADDIS ABABA, Aug 23: Organisation of African Unity (OAU) secretary-general Salim Ahmed Salim today urged the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to pick Cape Town as the venue for the 2004 Olympic Games, reports Reuter.

"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 democracy 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.

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 finishing second.

Haile toppled twice

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

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.

Tergat stayed behind compatriots William Kipyego and David Chehule 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.

"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 inflicted Gebrselassie's second defeat in 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

the best mark of 7,20.67 set in September last year in Rieti.

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 200,000 dollars which will be shared by athletes who win their events in all Golden Four meetings in Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin.

Fredericks won the 100 metres in 9.90, beating world champion Maurice Greene into second place.