### Barisal soccer

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Aug 19: Barisal District First Division football league will start tomorrow at the local Abdur Rab Serniabat Stadium.

The league was organised by the Barisal District Sports Association (BDSA) football upaparishad.

According to the upa-parishad sources, ten local football teams are taking part in the league. The teams are: Kheloar Kalyan Samity, T&T Eleven, Muktijodhya Ashis Pathagar and Club, Rupatali Prantik Sangha, Amanat Ganj Eleven, Abahani Krira Chakra (KC), Confidence Club, Friends' Society, Kallol Pathagar and Club and Chandradweep Pathagar and Club.

### Steve, Arjuna bury hatchet

COLOMBO, Aug 19: Munching on lettuce leaves, Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh and former Sri Lankan skipper Arjuna Ranatunga have buried their past animosity. and now say they are good friends, reports AP.

The two clashed most recently in January during Sri Lanka's last tour in Australia, when Ranatunga exchanged heated words with Waugh on the field. They met up over a salad bar Wednesday at a reception for the upcoming cricket tournament here.

"I had a very nice chat with Steve and I told him I have no problem whatsoever with him,"

Ranatunga said. Waugh, a veteran of 268 oneday matches, said he was going to miss Ranatunga, who has been dropped from the Sri Lankan squad. The Australian team is in Sri Lanka to take part in a three-nation one-day tournament and three Test matches with the home team and India.

Waugh said the meeting Wednesday was the first time the two had had a chance to reconcile in person. Aware of the animosity between them, Sri Lankan and Australian players watched with amusement as the two spoke while helping themselves to salad.

· "Everyone mellows with age," Waugh said philosopin-

Waugh also had a few words to say about the upcoming matches beginning Sunday and continuing until Aug 31.

"I am not here to warm up for the Australian season," he said "It is always the real thing. This game is important as any other one-day game or test match.

"The only way (Sri Lanka and India) can get us is that we are underprepared at the moment. We are a bit rusty." The Australian team hasn't played since winning the World Cup in

"We had cricket going for nine months straight and you had to get away from cricket," he said.

### Hussain wilful

But Hussain is also determined that the newcomers should make their presence felt by making a contribution both on and off the pitch to the team's morale and spirit.

"Consistency of selection and winning have got to come now," he stressed.

"If we can do that then people will feel part of it, but it's got to this perfect picture of an come down to the individual as well - they have got to put themselves out and make sure they contribute.

"People always feel part of it when they've got a hundred or five wickets and people are patting them on the back because they are making a contribution to England winning a game and that's the most important

Performance and fitness will also be major factors in whether the three debutants and recalled Essex all-rounder Ronnie Irani - become mainstays of the new England set-up as they attempt to build for the future.

He said: "The players we have brought in have a lot of ability and a lot of fight about them and it's up to them now. "We'll back them and they

will be supported and they will be given the opportunity and the right atmosphere to go out there and perform for England. "That's all we can do - the

rest is up to the individual when they're out there. I want the players to go out there and enjoy it, to express themselves and show the British public they're enjoying it," The fact remains, however,

that for all the positive bodylanguage and enthusiasm at the end of a long international summer, England can ill afford to set out for an arduous tour to South Africa and Zimbabwe as the world's worst Test side.

"We know where we are in the table because everybody keeps telling us, but let's look forward and work out how we're going to get up there and beat sides like New Zealand consistently, which is what we should

do," explained Hussain. "Once that has been achieved, we should then move onto the better sides like Australia and South Africa. We've got to start somewhere and we've started with this side and we're going to be consistent with

selection, give them everything possible and try and move on. "I said a couple of months ago when I came into the job that people mustn't kid themselves and think we're up there

with the Australians and the South Africans because statistics tell you that we're not. "New Zealand are a good bat-

tle for us at the moment, we're not naive and we're going into it with that attitude, but I know if we play like we can we can beat them.

"Statistics don't lie and we are where we are, but let's try and look forward now because that's what we've done with the side we've selected."



American superstars (L-R) Marion Jones, Michael Johnson and Maurice Greene during a press conference in Seville, Spain organised on the eve of the World Athletics Championships starting Saturday. -AFP photo

## Absentees take shine off medals

SEVILLE, Spain, Aug 19: (AFP): • ( Primo Nebiolo, ਫ਼ੀ the president of the International SEVILLA'99 Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF), likes to call athletes his family.

Sadly for the venerable Italian there will be some notable members of his 'family' missing at the World Athletics Championships, which officially open here on Friday.

Absent both in body and spirit will be six-time pole vault champion Sergei Bubka and Cuban high jump world recordholder Javier Sotomayor, whose withdrawal has nothing to do with testing positive for cocaine at the Pan American Games but is due to a back in-

Jamaica's Olympic and world long jump silver medalist James Beckford, who missed the national trials, Britain's injured European and Commonwealth 400m champion Iwan Thomas and Ireland's 1998 dual European champion Sonia O'-Sullivan, who is back in training after having a baby, also forgo the Championships. While world 200m champion

KINGSTON, Aug

19 (AP): In this

economically de-

pressed Caribbean

land, track star

crime-plagued,

Merlene Ottey is a towering and,

sadly, rare icon of national

for steroid use, Jamaicans re-

fused to believe it, and talk

ing, racism and a conspiracy to

that they would want to tear

down this wonderful woman,

African," said bank teller

British, and "most everyone in

the world" — think of Ja-

maicans as drug dealers and

criminals, and so have "done

Radio shows were flooded

this as an act of revenge,"

with similar opinions Wednes-

day as news spread that the 39-

year-old "Sprint Queen" with-

drew from the World Champi-

"They" - Americans, the

"It makes me want to cry

quickly turned to test-tamper-

keep Jamaica down.

Howard Clarke.

Clarke said.

So when she tested positive

Ato Boldon, his John Smith stablemate Marie-Jose Perec. France's triple Olympic and world champion, and Canada's 100m Olympic champion Donovan Bailey will be here. the first two will be cheering on their training partners and Bailey will just compete in the

4x100 relay. The 25-year-old Boldon's absence from the track robs the championships of one of its star attractions. He is one of the few stars willing to actively promote the sport.

His withdrawal last week evidently caught his sponsors. Adidas, short. There are huge posters portraying the extrovert Trinidadian as an angel all around Seville.

"Apart from Bubka, who is a great showman, Boldon is the other one of the athletes missing who actually can sell tickets at the door and the sport is not blessed with too many stars with that pulling power." one seasoned observer of the sport

"Hicham El Guerrouj breaking the mile world record this year in Rome was a great moment in sport, but when you looked round the Olympic stadium there were whole sections bare of spectators, so much so thought there had been a mixup in the dates for the meeting. "What sort of message does that send to sponsors and tele-

vision companies? "Now we come to the showpiece of the season and the list of absentees begins to read like a who's who of the current crop .. it is not looking good."

Add in the absence of the suspended 'Green Machine' -American 100m champion Dennis Mitchell - and the championships will be keen to avoid more high-profile withdrawals as much as they want to avoid a high-profile drugs

With both Allen Johnson, the reigning 110m hurdles champion and the 400m champion Michael Johnson, who is no relation, still recuperating from injuries, however, Nebiolo's family could see unknown relations visiting come the opening day of competition on Saturday.

For a sport grappling with its identity - and also fighting to maintain its place at the top table -- it is a problem organisers could have done without.

NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (India Abroad News Service): Indian tennis legend Vijay Amritraj can always be banked upon for an ace or two even when i comes to the dizzying world of

the hospitality industry. Amritraj, an international tennis commentator, has signed a contract with Welcomgroup, which runs the five-star Park Sheraton Hotel in Chennai, to set up 'Vijay's Sports Cafe, a unique sports restaurant within the hotel premises in Chennai, the Economic Times newspaper reported to-

"We hope it will be ready by mid-November. It will be a totally new concept being introduced for the first time in India," Manish Goyal, the joint managing director of the hotel, was quoted as saying by the pa-

Located on a 1.600 sqft area. the cafe is expected to be a hit with sports fovers, what with six of India's most popular sports featuring in the theme. Cricket, tennis, football, motor sports, golf and basketball will form the theme in various sections of the cafe.

Equipped with televisions giving international sports coverage, the cafe will offer unique dishes and a sportsbar. The cost of designing the cafe will be borne by the Park Sheraton Hotel, the paper said.

Amritraj, who once took India into the Davis Cup finals and is a former ATP president. has already launched a series of businesses and this will be yet another feather to his entrepreneurial cap.

He runs First Serve Entertainment, a company that produces sports programmes for television, and a flourishing tennis academy in Chennai. His cricket cafe in Colombo has been reported to be a raving suc-

### World chess roundup

LAS VEGAS, Aug 19: Displaying nerves of steel. Liviu Nisipeanu of Romania defeated Alexander Khalifman on Wednesday at Caesars Palace to force a playoff in the semifinals of the World Chess Championship, reports AP.

Nisipeanu, seeded 46 out of 100, would have been eliminated with a loss of draw but pulled another major upset by beating his more experienced Russian opponent.

After gaining a slight advantage in the opening, the 23-yearold Romanian forced a position where he had the advantage despite each player having the same number of pieces.

Several Grand Masters commenting on the game believed Khalifman would be able to draw. He made a few small errors, however, and Nisipeanu was able to force a position that secured his win.

The players will face each other again Thursday in twogame sets of tie-break matches. These games will last less than

an hour in contrast to the normal seven-hour maximum.

The victor in the playoff will meet Vladimir Akopian of Armenia in the finals which begin Sunday, Akopian eliminated England's Michael Adams, the fifth seed, on Tuesday.

## Around the counties

LONDON, Aug 19: Alex Wharf scored 78 runs for Nottinghamshire as they fought back from losing their first six wickets for just nine runs against Glamorgan in the English county championship yesterday, reports AFP.

Wharf set about the Welsh side's bowling attack in determined fashion after coming in as eighth man on a dramatic opening day.

And he dealt superbly with the threat posed by ex-England bowler Steve Watkin who had claimed five wickets in three overs to reduce the visitors' early order to rubble. Bolstered by Usman Afzaal.

who scored 52, and Paul Franks who, as ninth man in hit a defiant 49 not out. Notts finally ended up on 228 all out, with Watkin finishing with six wickets for 75 runs off 18 overs. In reply Glamorgan made a

shaky start losing Adrian Dale, trapped leg before by Franks for But after the tea interval

Glamorgan settled down in with Steve James (43 n.o.) and Jacques Kallis (24 n.o.) taking the score at stumps to 75 with out further loss.

Opener Ed Smith powered his way to a useful 83 before losing his wicket as third placed Kent finished the day on 191 for three against Somerset at Taunton.

### BRIEF SCORES At Southampton Hampshire 125-1 (D Kenway

55 n.o., W Kendall 51 n.o.) v Warwickshire. At Northampton Northamptonshire 194-4 (A J Swann 57) v Gloucestershire. At Colchester

Essex v Durham, no play due o rain. Nottinghamshire 228 (A Wharf 78, U Afzaal 52, S Watkin 6-75) v-Glamorgan 75-1.

At Lord's

At Hove

51) v Derbyshire.

Middlesex v Leicestershire, no play due to rain. At Taunton Kent 191-3 (E Smith 83, D Fulton 58 n.o.) v Somerset.

Sussex v Surrey, no play due to rain. At Kidderminster Worcestershire 243-6 (V Solanki 75, E Wilson 54, G Hick

Tour Match At Shenley Sri Lanka A 27-0 v MCC, no play due to rain.

### "Vijay 's Sports | Gullit denies internal strifes NEWCASTLE. "These have been difficult



England, Aug 19: Newcastle United manager Ruud Gullit has dismissed reports of

reports AFP. Gullit was reported to have been at loggerheads with a number of players, including club captain Alan Shearer.

But the Dutchman has stressed that there is no rift between himself and any of his "Although the last three

weeks have been very difficult. and as a team, we have not performed for our fans in the manner that they deserve, we will continue to put this right in the coming weeks and we will put the last couple of weeks behind us," Gullit said.

"We have a number of players injured, who will be refurning in the next two to three weeks and contrary to reports in some quarters, we have a team spirit which is completely united in their desire for suc-

"We had a discussion after the game on Sunday, which resulted in an even more determined effort to pull together.

"There were no phone calls and no accusations - just an open discussion.

times for a new squad but I feel very confident that this team will succeed in the coming



RUUD GULLIT

Gullit is also unhappy at continuing speculation that his future at St James' Park could be affected because his girlfriend Estelle Cruyff and 18month-old daughter Joelle re- five months ago.

main in Amsterdam.

"Having read a lot of the media reports over the last 48 hours. I really do not wish to comment about my family life as I believe that should be a private matter between myself, Estelle and our family," Gullit

But Newcastle legend Malcolm Macdonald claims Gullit has to sell striker Shearer or risk losing his own job.

Macdonald has stepped into the row that has gripped the North-East as the club staggers into a crisis following three defeats on the run.

"Gullit needs to arrange a deal with a club that is interested in buying Shearer, then put the whole situation in front of the directors. Either that or they (the club) pay off Gullit's contract instead and he walks away," Macdonald told the Daily Mail.

"Gullit has to take some action because his reputation is being eroded on a daily basis." he added.

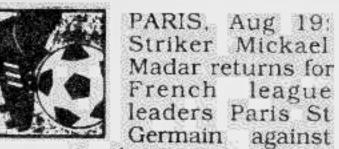
Meanwhile, Newcastle midfielder Silvio Maric claims he wants to leave the club.

"I have told the club that I am not satisfied and that I want to leave. They said they could find a solution," he said.

Maric joined the Tyneside club from Croatia Zagreb only

## French First Division preview

# PSG welcome back Madar



French league leaders Paris St Auxerre in the French League on Friday night after 10 days out of action with a hamstring pull, reports AFP.

The French international is set to come into the midfield in place of Jerome Leroy in the only expected change from the side which won 2-1 against Metz last weekend. Nigerian defender Godwin

Okpara, who missed the Metz game with a twisted knee, has only just begun training and isn't ready for a return. Philippe Bergeroo's side,

who trained behind closed doors on Wednesday, are the only French side to have won their first three matches, helping to put behind them their dismal 1998/99 season.

They were knocked out in the first round of the European Cup Winners' Cup and failed to

Russian Alexander Khalifman ponders his next move

against Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu of Romania in the

semifinal of the World Chess Championship in Las Vegas

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53 Snatch

48 Italian

qualify for Europe or win either domestic cup competition - a poor record for such a big club. Auxerre, who lost 3-0 to Metz

before beating Sedan 3-1, are expecting to bring back French international striker Stephane Guivarc'h to trouble the Paris defence. Auxerre midfielder Cyril Je-

unechamp is, meanwhile, serving a suspension after being sent off against Sedan. Unbeaten and second-placed

Bordeaux, who travel to Rennes, will have to check the fitness of Johan Micoud, Lilian Laslandes, Sylvain Wiltord and Ulrich Rame after France's friendly international against Northern Ireland on Wednesday night. Paul Le Guen's 16th-placed

Rennes side are still looking for their first win and may find it tough going against the champions.

Furiani stadium on Sunday.

The Corsican team have cer-

tainly provided a lot of goals,

Up-and-down Bastia host third-placed Nantes at their either scoring or conceding them, beating Strasbourg 3-0 at home and losing 4-0 at Monaco. In Sunday's other game,

French League Cup winners Lens host Marseille, who have had a poor start considering their demanding fans, their last two results being a 0-0 with Le Havre and 3-3 draw with St Etienne. Nancy's evergreen Irish

striker Tony Cascarino is hoping to continue his goalscoring form at St Etienne, having found the net against both Le Havre and Sedan. Cascarino celebrates his

37th birthday on September 1 when he might expect to win his 34th cap for his country in a European championship qualifier against Yugoslavia.

Montpellier are to face a Monaco side on a high following their 4-0 thrashing of Bastia, which included a David Trezeguet hat-trick. Monaco coach Claude Puel is, however, set to be without Julien Rodriguez and Sylvain Legwinski. In other games, Le Havre

meet Sedan, Metz face Lyon and strugglers Troyes host Strasbourg. FIXTURES

Friday: Paris St Germain v Auxerre, Rennes v Bordeaux, Montpellier v Monaco, Le Havre v Sedan, Metz v Lyon, St Etienne v Nancy. Troyes v Stras-

Sunday: Bastia v Nantes, Lens v Marseille

### **Ex-Magpies** boss' plea

NEWCASTLE, England, Aug 19: The former owner of troubled English Premiership club Newcastle United has called for patience from supporters as the club attempts to turn around its season, reports AFP.

had returned to England as a fan and not to act as a peacemaker in an alleged feud between manager Ruud Gullit and captain Alan Shearer. But, after the club's worst

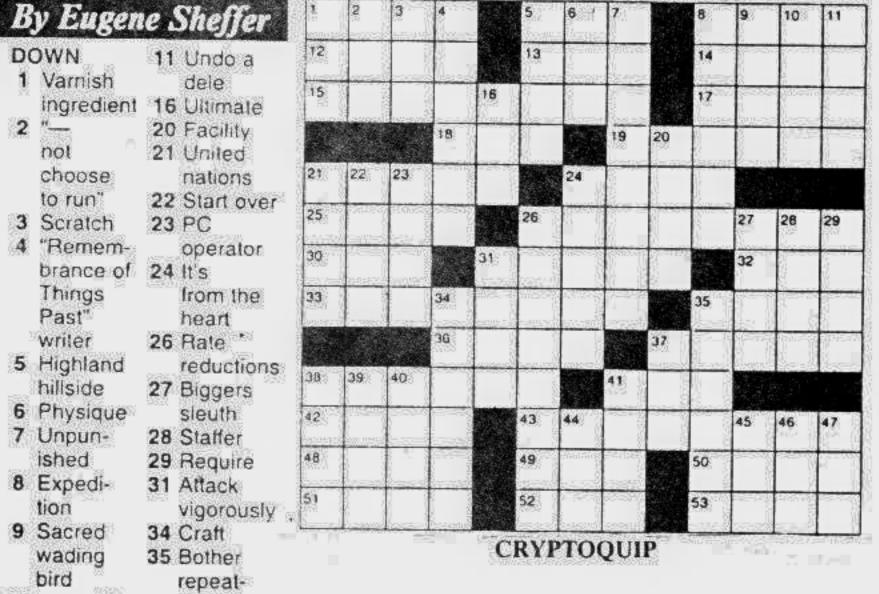
Sir John Hall insisted he

start to a season for 40 years three straight defeats - Sir John was backing his successors to bring success to St James' Park. "The board will get it right, This is a massive club that must

go only one way," he told the Newcastle Evening Chronicle after his return from Spain, where he has been living. "Everyone is disappointed

with the start we've made but when you're re-building a club it takes time. There are no mira-"(Chairman) Freddie Shep-

herd is currently re-building and it can't be done overnight. He and the directors have to get the base right - really they've had to work on that since Kevin Keegan left. I hope they make it and I'm sure they will.



---AFP photo

MUSAENZKY, CRSK

THAYSMK XRMTS NM CSEA

ULZA MP XHNMPPT. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COULDN'T YOU RIGHTLY DESCRIBE FOOTBALL AS A ROUGH-AND-FUMBLE GAME?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: X equals C

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error,

#### onships in Seville, Spain, after traces of the steroid Nandrolone were found in her system in an initial test. If a sec-Arab Games

rule the pool AMMAN, Aug 19: Egyptian swimmers won three swimming gold medals and the country's squash players stamped their dominance in the sport in the Arab Games on Wednesday, re-

Egyptian natants

ports AP. Meanwhile, the Players Qualification Committee disqualified the six-member Qatari weightlifting team comprising a Lebanese and four Bulgarian-born members for violating international rules on foreign players.

In swimming, Egypt broke its own 2-year-old Arab Games record in the men's 800-meter freestyle relay, finishing in 7 minutes, 49.22 seconds. Algeria was second in 7:49,96. The Algerians competed

without Ellis Salim, who was substituted with 14-year-old Ben Abid Raouf in the second "We were very close and we could have won it if the team

was complete," Algerian coach Del Braik Zeinedine said. Egypt's last swimmer, Hani al-Tair, broke down with tension after ending the race and had to be consoled for 10 minutes before he could compose himself for the medal cere-

mony. The race broke the Arab record of 7:49.85. Egypt also won gold medals

in men's 50 breaststroke and women's 50 butterfly. At the squash courts, topseeded Amir Wajih and No 2 Mohammed Abbas won semifinal matches to up an all-Egyptian title match.

Three more Egyptians, including 14-year-old Umniya Abdul Qai won women's quarterfinal matches. In soccer, defending cham-

pion Jordan was assured of a place in the second round after it defeated the Palestinian .Territories 2-0.

Victim of conspiracy? ond "B" sample returns positive, she will probably be suspended

for two years. That would effectively end a career that has netted Ottey seven Medals in five Olympics and made her the most popular sport personality in Jamaica, along with West Indies cricketer Courtney Walsh. The country comes to a standstill when she

Wilmot Perkins, a popular radio host and commentator, said ordinary Jamaicans would see the Ottey case as the latest symptom of a national decline - "another blow to our self-es-

"Jamaica has been taking a

lot of blows recently, and there isn't a great deal going on for us to rave about," Perkins said. A national malaise can arguably be traced back to a banking system collapse in the mid-1990s that precipitated a steady economic decline. A laundry list of recent ills includes gas riots in April in which eight people died, and a marked upswing in violent crime that has

versity of the West Indies, defended the popular reaction as a

richer lands. "You can't blame Jamaicans

for having those views," she The need for a second test for

competes at major meets.

killed nearly 600 people in Christine Cummings, a sociology professor at the Uniing of Jamaicans as criminals and drug addicts, and efforts to curb Jamaican immigration to

said. "It may be true that damaica has a drug and crime problem, but not every Jamaican is an addict or a crimi-

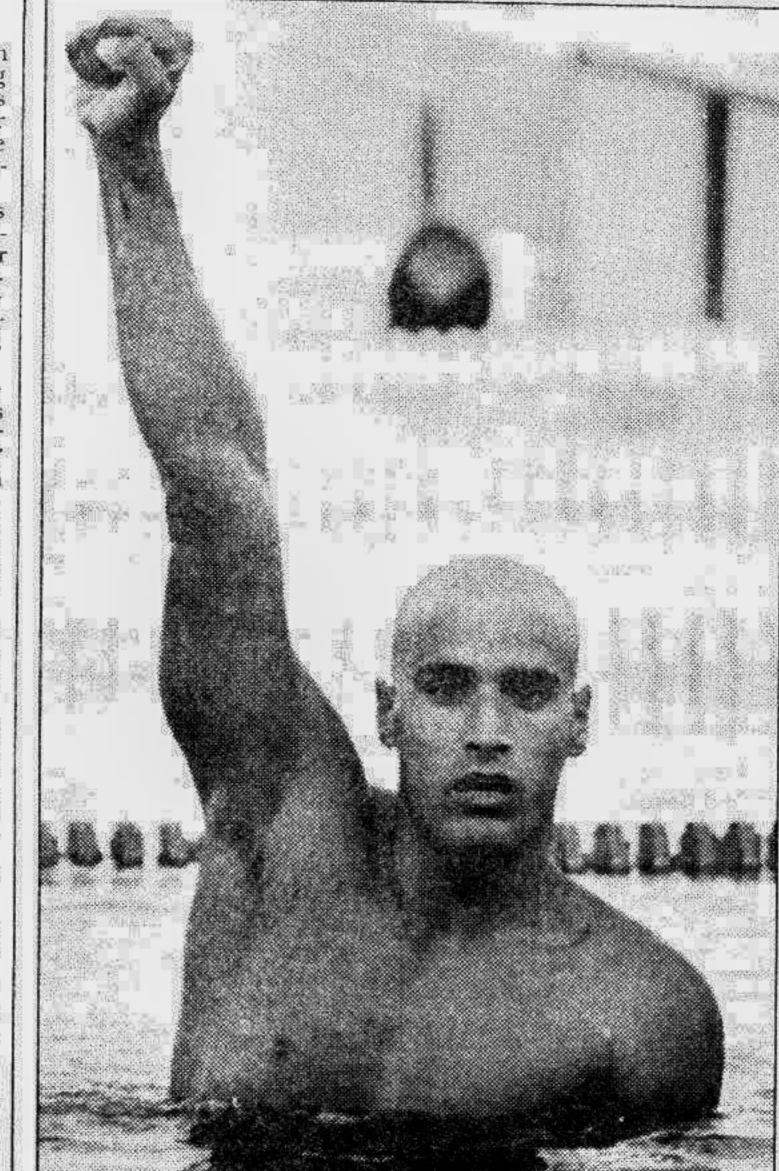
confusion here. "They still have to do another (test), so we really don't know yet, do we?" asked an angry Darlene Campbell. "I don't know how we can so

Ottey was the source of much

absolutely certain that it is not possible for tampering with samples to take place," chimed in Ottey biographer Claire Forrester, appearing on Jamaican radio Few seemed to pay attention

to experts who called the tests accurate. Dr Paul Wright, who was team physician for several Jamaican track teams, said flatly that "there is no way for these tests to be wrong or the positive

result to be caused by anything other than taking Nandrolone. "All this stuff about some shadowy person or group planting things in food is all nonbacklash against the stereotypsense, utter nonsense."



Egyptian swimmer Shamseddine Mahmud exults after his victory in the 50-metre breaststroke of the Pan Arab Games in Amman on August 18. -AFP photo