

Sport

Wallwork's ban suspended

BRUSSELS, Sept 4: A Brussels judge on Friday temporarily suspended the life ban on Manchester United's Ronnie Wallwork pending a final ruling by the Belgian Football Union's appeals body...

Everton get Xavier

LONDON, Sept 4: Portuguese international Abel Xavier joined English Premiership side Everton from PSV Eindhoven Wednesday on a three-year contract...

Juninho's Boro plan

MIDDLESBROUGH, England, Sept 4: Brazilian star Juninho is looking for a long term future at Middlesbrough when his loan spell finishes in May...

Help Anamika

From page 13 When contacted, a senior Bangladesh Olympic Association official said that their hands were tied because it was the BJKF who has the full authority to select their team...

Team doctors to blame?

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 4: The Rio de Janeiro Regional Medicine Council (CRM) on Thursday absolved the two Brazil team doctors who allowed the national team's star striker Ronaldo to play in the 1998 World Cup Final...

PCB prefers to wait

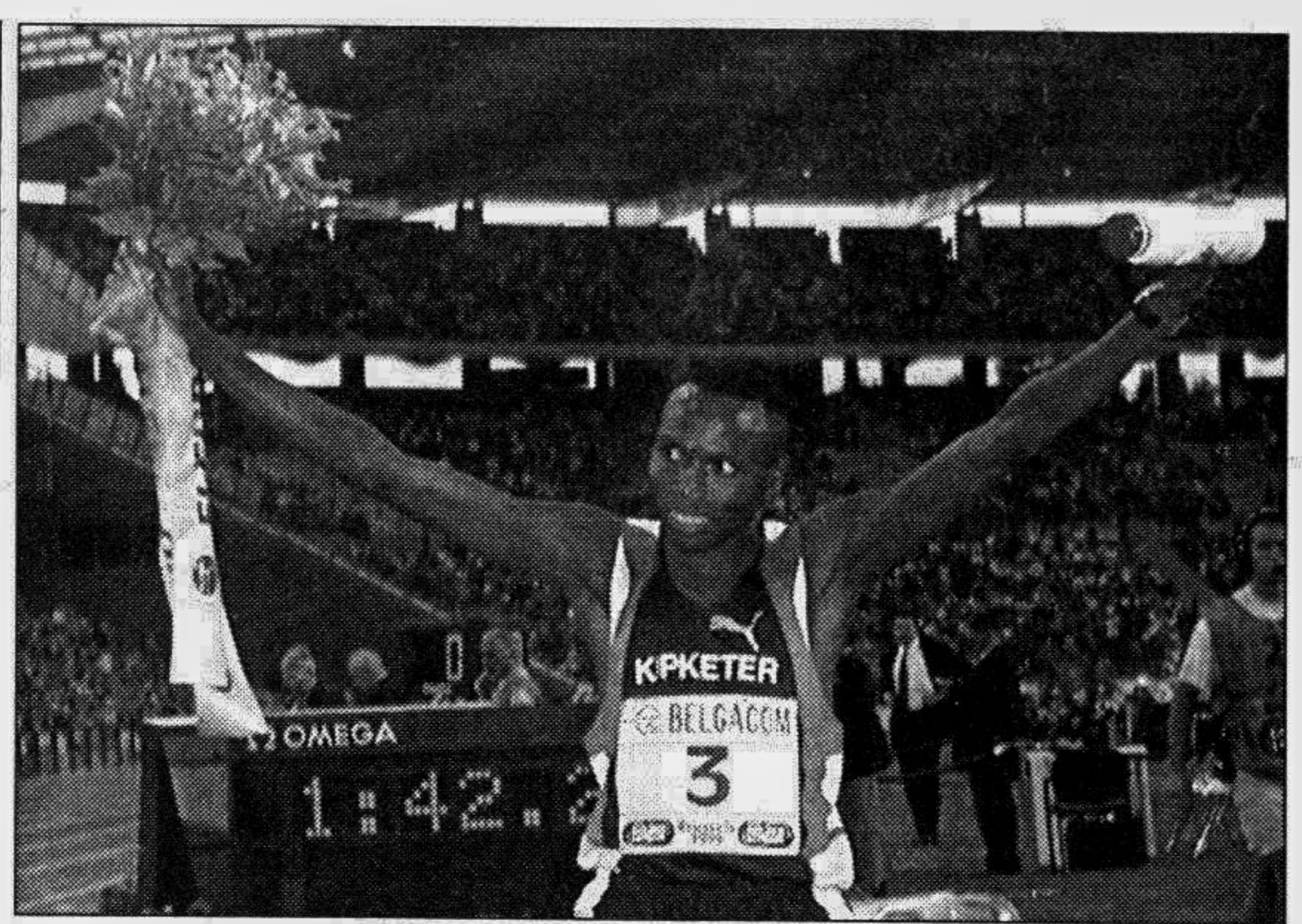
KARACHI, Sept 4 (Internet report): The controversy-ridden Pakistan cricket took a new twist on Friday as Ataur Rehman refined his somersault skills with yet another retraction...

passed orders to issue a show-cause notice to him and he has been restrained from leaving the country, Khawar informed. Ataur's withdrawal as one of the key accusers might prove to be the turning point in the inquiry...

Commission, after which it would immediately submit its findings to the chief patron of the PCB, President Rafiq Tarar. Meanwhile, the chairman of the PCB ad hoc committee on Friday did not rule out the possibility of Wasim being reinstated as captain for the Toronto series...

East Bengal retain league title

CALCUTTA, Sept 4: Formidable East Bengal retained the Calcutta Super Division football league title defeating Mohammedan Sporting Club 0 in their concluding outing here today, reports PTI. Ghanaian right wing back Suley Musah converted a penalty in the 42nd minute...



Denmark's Wilson Kipketer poses after winning the men's 800-metre title at the Golden League meeting in Brussels. —AFP photo

Kipketer, Szabo in sight of jackpot

BRUSSELS, Sept 4: Wilson Kipketer and Gabriela Szabo moved tantalisingly close to a one-million-dollar jackpot by winning their penultimate races in the Golden League series in style on Friday, reports Reuters. World champion Kipketer of Denmark overcame another challenge from South African Hezekiel Sepeng to win in a year's best time of one minute 42.27 seconds...

metres world record. El Guerrouj, world champion over 1,500 metres, looked for much of the race if he could add the 3,000 mark to his collection of world records featuring the 1,500 and the mile. But in the end he had to be content with 7:23.09, becoming the second best performer over the distance...

given a hard time by Sepeng who pushed him all the way before settling for second place in 1:42.69. "It's a bit of a lottery," Kipketer said of his chances of being considerably richer in a few days. "You win some, you lose some. We will see." Szabo, who used her trademark kick to outprint Ouaziz and beat her into second place as she did in the 5,000 metres final in Spain, shared Kipketer's view of the jackpot...

Smith runs thru' Leics

LONDON, Sept 4: Outgoing English county champions Leicestershire lost their first home match in the competition for four years on Friday after a 10-wicket haul by Derbyshire's uncapped fast-medium bowler, Trevor Smith, reports Reuters. The 22-year-old Derby-born Smith finished with the excellent figures of 10 for 150 as his side won by four wickets with one day of the four-day game to spare...

whose three wickets included their captain and former Australia Test batsman David Boon for 13, and experienced seamer Peter Martin, who also had three wickets. Hampshire collapsed to 167 in their second innings against Northamptonshire, having at one stage been 95 without loss at Northampton. Left-arm spinner Michael Davies strengthened his claim for an England A place with six for 49. Off-spinner Graeme Swann, in England's Test squad for the forthcoming tour to South Africa, proved Hampshire batsmen have all sorts of problems against the turning ball by taking four for 46...

slumped to 148 for six at the close. BRIEFScores At Old Trafford: Lancashire (20 pts) beat Durham (4 pts) by an innings and 14 runs. Durham 226 (J Daley 66, J Lewis 61, C Schofield 5-66) 197 (N Speak 66) v Lancashire 437 (J Crawley 158, G Lloyd 86, N Phillips 4-171). At Leicester: Derbyshire (19 pts) beat Leicestershire (7 pts) by 4 wickets. Leicestershire 343 (P Nixon 72, V Wells 68, T Smith 5-87) 197 (D Stevens 60, P Nixon 51, T Smith 5-63) v Derbyshire 308 (P DeFreitas 105, K Krikken 60, M Kasprovic 4-70) 235-6 (A Rollins 113). At Taunton: Somerset 203 (G Rose 50, S Thomas 4-40, O Parkin 4-38) 280 (M Trescottick 167) v Glamorgan 113 (G Rose 4-14) 98-4. At Edgbaston: Gloucestershire 132 (J Snape 57, A Richardson 8-51) 206 v Warwickshire 167 (A Smith 5-41) 31-1. At Northampton: Hampshire 357 (W Kendall 98, R Smith 94, G White 55) 167 (D Kenway 52, M Davies 6-49, G Swann 4-46) v Northamptonshire 342 (R Warren 110, R Bailey 92, D Ripley 67, P Hartley 4-59) 79-2. At Scarborough: Kent 302 (M Ealham 59, M McCague 53, C Silverwood 5-67) 148-6 (E Smith 55) v Yorkshire 389 (M Vaughan 153, R Harden 64, C Silverwood 53 n.o.) D Headley 4-1051.

Bookies give thumb down to Magpies

LONDON, Sept 4: British bookmakers remain convinced Newcastle are heading down to the First Division despite the appointment of Bobby Robson, reports AFP. William Hill rate the club as 100-30 shots for relegation. Newcastle are also hotly tipped to lose their next match at Chelsea, the bookies offering odds of 6-1 against Robson coming away with all three points against Gianluca Vialli's side. Newcastle remain long shots at 10-1 to reach the Premiership top six at the end of the campaign and the odds on Robson leaving St James' Park by the season's close are currently 7-1. But Hills are backing under-pressure Magpies striker Alan Shearer to net for England against Luxembourg on Saturday. The England captain is rated at 6-4 to net one goal at Wembley, 3-1 to score a double and 8-1 to grab a hat-trick or more. England are offered at 1-33 to beat Luxembourg and 11-10 to win both on Saturday and away in Poland next Wednesday. But the bookies doubt whether England will actually make it to the Belgium/Holland-hosted finals, offering 1-2 on Kevin Keegan's men missing out and only 6-4 that they qualify. Hosts Holland are rated as 4-1 favourites for the trophy with Italy at 5-1, world champions France at 13-2 and out-of-form holders Germany rated as 8-1 shots.

Taelman Burkina Faso's new coach

OUAGADOUGOU, Sept 4: Experienced Belgian coach Rene Taelman was handed the task on Friday of guiding Burkina Faso through the 2000 African Nations Cup Finals, reports AFP. The 53-year-old, who has 27 years experience in coaching clubs in South America, Africa and Asia but has never coached a national outfit, signed a one year contract. Taelman, who took the post following the resignation of Frenchman Didier Notheaux, will be aiming to improve on Burkina Faso's 1998 performance when as hosts they reached the semifinals. The 2000 renewal which is being co-hosted by Ghana and Nigeria runs from January 22 to February 13.

Christie will know next week

LONDON, Sept 4: Former Olympic 100m champion Linford Christie is likely to learn his fate next week, after attending a hearing into his positive drugs test on Friday, reports Xinhua. Christie is hoping to clear his name in the investigation into whether or not he took the banned substance nadrolone. Though retired and only running for fun while he coaches other sprinters, the 39-year-old was suspended after failing a drugs test after an indoor meet at Dortmund, Germany in February. Christie faced the same three-man panel that heard the case of Scottish athlete Dougie Walker, who was eventually cleared of any wrongdoing. Jayne Pearce, spokeswoman for UK Athletics, said: "The hearing has concluded and we will make a further announcement as soon as the outcome is known." Christie, who has protested his innocence, said after his suspension: "I'm virtually retired. For me to take drugs at the end of my career or when my career is finished is stupid and ridiculous. When I first heard the news it was a shock. I'm innocent and I keep telling everybody I'm innocent. It sounds like the same old record but I did no wrong, so that's it." If Christie is found guilty, he faces a two-year ban.



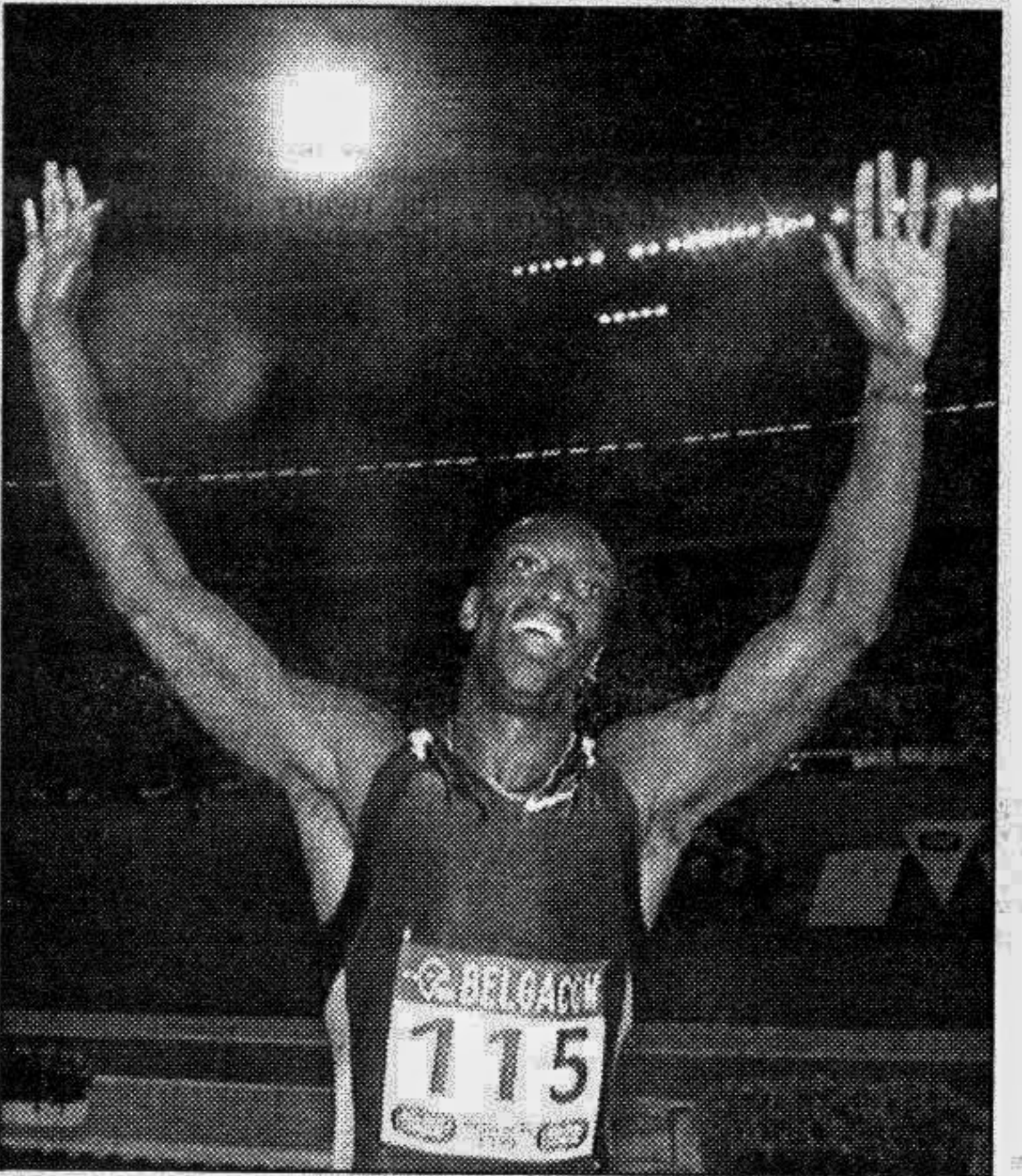
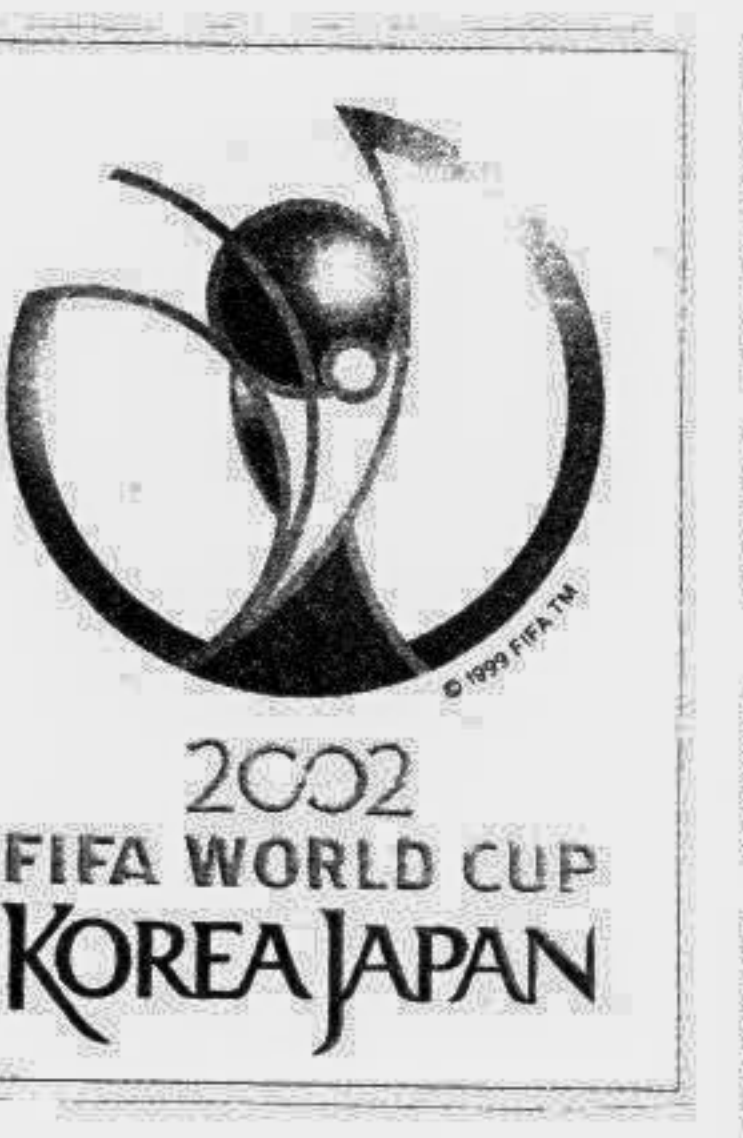
Scene from the African Club Cup encounter between Egypt's Al-Aly and Morocco's Al-Raja in Cairo on September 3. —AFP photo

CONMEBOL confused!

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 4: South American confederation general secretary Eduardo Deluca says the issue of 2002 World Cup berths has been decided, seemingly quashing a proposal that would have the continent play Europe instead of Oceania for a place in the finals. "The issue of the distribution of berths is over. The subject has been fully discussed," Deluca insisted. As it stands now, the schedule calls for the fifth-place South American team to go up against a team from Oceania for one of the last berths on the 32-team World Cup, which is to be co-hosted by South Korea and Japan. Under FIFA's original allocations, Europe received 15 berths, including an automatic place for defending champions France. Africa received five berths, Asia four, CONCACAF three, while South America received four berths and a playoff with Oceania for the last. Asia balked at the allocations, and has threatened to boycott if it not given a fifth guaranteed place. Europe tried to appease the Asian Football Confederation, offering to have its 14th-place qualifier play its

formally among FIFA members that would have the fifth-placed South American team play the 14th place from Europe, and Asia's fifth place would take on the Oceanians. But Deluca told The Associated Press that the "4-1-2 berths" already granted to South America were already a done deal - ratified by FIFA's executive committee during its last meeting in Los Angeles. As such, he insisted the issue could not be appealed, nor changed. "The Asians are still protesting, and they are looking for allies wherever they can in an attempt to change the qualifying programme," Deluca said. But he insisted answers for Asia's protest should be found elsewhere: "That is a problem for the Asians... not for South America." As for the threat of an Asian boycott, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said last week that he would meet "within two weeks" with Asian Football Confederation president Sultan Ahmad Shah of Malaysia. "There will be no Asian boycott," Blatter said. He has said he would "clarify" the situation before the FIFA Executive Committee meets again in Las Vegas on October 1. two of its places were reserved for the co-hosts - and unprecedented occurrence - that two places for its remaining 43 members was insufficient. In the past few weeks, a proposal has been discussed in-

coach Wanderley Luxemburgo experiment with new formations in training. And reports suggested he is not entirely satisfied, leaving until kickoff for prognosticators to speculate whether Brazil will abandon its traditional 4-4-2 alignment for a 3-5-2 formation. If implemented, Roma full-back Antonio Carlos would have greater freedom, with duties similar to a European-style sweeper, alongside fullbacks Joao Carlos and Scheidt. Defenders Cafu and Roberto Carlos, holdovers from the 1998 World Cup team, were moved up to "wings" - assuming both offensive and defensive duties. The object apparently is to contain an Argentine side enhance with its European stars who sat out the Copa America to rest from a grueling season of play abroad. This time, Ortega is expected to be joined by Crespo and Lopez, a trio that inspires the respect of opponents. Crespo, 24, also has been sharpened by play for Parma in the Italian league where his coach, Alberto Malessani, has unabashedly called him "the best forward in the world." Crespo shrugs off such praise, but admits it feels more confident and a better player than he did even a year ago. Meanwhile, Lopez is coming off a phenomenal season at Valencia as one of the Spanish league's leading scorers. One sports columnist, Jose Luis Barrio of Argentina's El Grafico, said Saturday's friendly play had all the ingredients of a showdown: pride and passion of two South American powerhouses, not to mention a well-matched rivalry. "It's time to confront reality," he wrote.



American track star Michael Johnson is delighted after recording victory in the 200m final in Brussels. —AFP photo

Clash of Latin titans

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 4 (AP): This time, there will be no excuses. It's only a friendly, but that's a bit of a contradiction when Argentina and Brazil clash. And this time, neither will be able to claim it didn't have its full-strength side. With the European leagues suspended for a week due to European 2000 qualifiers, both South American powers have their full complement for Saturday's match at River Plate's Estadio Monumental. It's the first of two friendlies in four days, with a rematch on Tuesday in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Brazil won their last meeting at the Copa America, but the Brazilians know it didn't really count. Argentina were missing much of its "foreign legion" in July, while Brazil were at maximum force. Even so, Argentina gave Brazil their toughest fight of the tournament, and the Brazilians escaped with a 2-1 victory only because goalkeeper Dida stopped a penalty kick. "Up the ante!" blared Clarin in reference to the arrival of their stars from Europe. Argentina's biggest newspaper declared Friday: Argentina's "selection is ready for more ambitious soccer than it showed Brazil in the Copa America." The rivalry is so close that Argentina have won 34 of the 85 meetings. Brazil have won 30 in the series that dates back to 1914. But Argentina haven't beaten Brazil at home since a 1-0 victory in the first round of the 1983 Copa America. Still smarting from this year's Copa America, Argentina are eager to avenge the July defeat. On Friday, Argentine televi-

coach Wanderley Luxemburgo experiment with new formations in training. And reports suggested he is not entirely satisfied, leaving until kickoff for prognosticators to speculate whether Brazil will abandon its traditional 4-4-2 alignment for a 3-5-2 formation. If implemented, Roma full-back Antonio Carlos would have greater freedom, with duties similar to a European-style sweeper, alongside fullbacks Joao Carlos and Scheidt. Defenders Cafu and Roberto Carlos, holdovers from the 1998 World Cup team, were moved up to "wings" - assuming both offensive and defensive duties. The object apparently is to contain an Argentine side enhance with its European stars who sat out the Copa America to rest from a grueling season of play abroad. This time, Ortega is expected to be joined by Crespo and Lopez, a trio that inspires the respect of opponents. Crespo, 24, also has been sharpened by play for Parma in the Italian league where his coach, Alberto Malessani, has unabashedly called him "the best forward in the world." Crespo shrugs off such praise, but admits it feels more confident and a better player than he did even a year ago. Meanwhile, Lopez is coming off a phenomenal season at Valencia as one of the Spanish league's leading scorers. One sports columnist, Jose Luis Barrio of Argentina's El Grafico, said Saturday's friendly play had all the ingredients of a showdown: pride and passion of two South American powerhouses, not to mention a well-matched rivalry. "It's time to confront reality," he wrote.

BAF basketball

Annual inter-base basketball championship of the Bangladesh Air Force began at the BAF Base Bashur at Kurmitola yesterday, reports BSS. A total of five teams drawn from the Bangladesh Air Force are taking part in the competition. In the opening match Base Bashur defeated Base Zahurul Haque 48-47.