LOS ANGELES, Sept 17 (Internet report): Australia A failed to come to terms with a difficult wicket yesterday as they crashed to a five-wicket loss to India A in the second game of the five-match America Cricket Challenge here.

In a match reduced to 42 overs-per-side, Australia were dismissed for 129 in 35 overs and India achieved their target with 11.5 overs to spare. The result levelled the series at 1-1 with three to play.

For the second straight day heavy fog delayed the scheduled Sam start and Australia A coach Allan Border compared the pitch conditions to a "wet Sydney club wicket":

Sundries with 28 were the major contributor to an Australian innings in which only four players reached double figures after captain Adam Gilchrist won the toss and opted to bat.

Two changes were made to the side that won the series opener by 77 runs with batsman Corey Richards and bowler Gerard Denton replacing Andrew Symonds and Leigh Hansen.

Richards (22) and Denton (2-30) were the most successful batsman and bowler respectively for an Australia A who never fully recovered from losing opener Ryan Campbell to the opening ball of the match.

A third wicket stand of 39 between Richards and Michael Di Venuto (20) was the only notable partnership of an innings in which Damien Martyn also made 21. "Di Venuto and Richards

copped a bit of a battering but they soldiered on pretty well but had nothing to really show for

"Unfortunately 130 was probably 30 or 40 runs short of what we should be getting on these wickets. Border said his bowlers ap-

peared to be suffering from "early season woes" after they served up a rash of no-balls and

BCCI incurs losses

CHENNAI, Sept 17: The Indian cricket board, the richest sports body in the country, has reported a substantial decline in profit for the year 1998-99. reports PTI.

The surplus amount transferred from the income and expenditure account was 8.3 crore rupees, only 53 per cent of last year's profit of 15.9 crore rupees, according to the treasurer's report circulated to members for adoption at the 70th board AGM slated for September 21 and 22 in Jaipur.

However, the general fund account was up from around 16 crore rupees to around 18.10 crore rupees.

The board incurred major expenditures in hiring the services of former Aussie skipper Bob Simpson as consultant and young Aussie Andrew Kokinos as physical trainer.

Simpson was paid 31.48 lakh rupees and Kokinos received 35.42 lakh rupees for his services.

The working committee members had expressed displeasure over this expenditure and BIC has been forced to men for a reputed trainer within the country.

The treasurer's report does not specify any reason for the downfall in its profits. However, the senior team's tours had generated considerable

The highest surplus of 3.85 crore rupees came from the senior team's tour to Toronto for the one-day series, while the tri-series at home also featuring Australia and Zimbabwe fetched a surplus of about 2.48 crore rupees.

The other tours that were financially rewarding were the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah in April 1998 (52.35 lakh rupees), the home tri-series featuring India, Bangladesh and Kenya (10.3 lakh rupees), India's Sri Lanka tour (78.40 lakh rupees), to Zimbabwe (20.00 lakh ru-

The Wills International Cup in Dhaka (33.93 lakh rupees), the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah in November 1998 (70.61 lakh rupees), to New Zealand (93.28 lakh rupees), the two matches against Pakistan at home (26.42 lakh rupees) and the matches in the Asian Test Championship (91.16 lakh ru-

Two SL athletes to miss SAF Games

COLOMBO, Sept 17: Sri Lanka's top medal hopes, Sugath Tillekaratne and Chintaka De Soyza will not participate in the seven-nation South Asian regional meet in Nepal because of injuries and illness, a top sports official said Friday, reports AP.

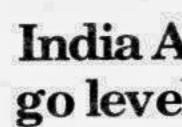
"Tillekaratne is nursing a leg injury while De Soyza has contracted chicken pox," said Sunmil Gunawardhana, the coordinating secretary to the Sports Ministry.

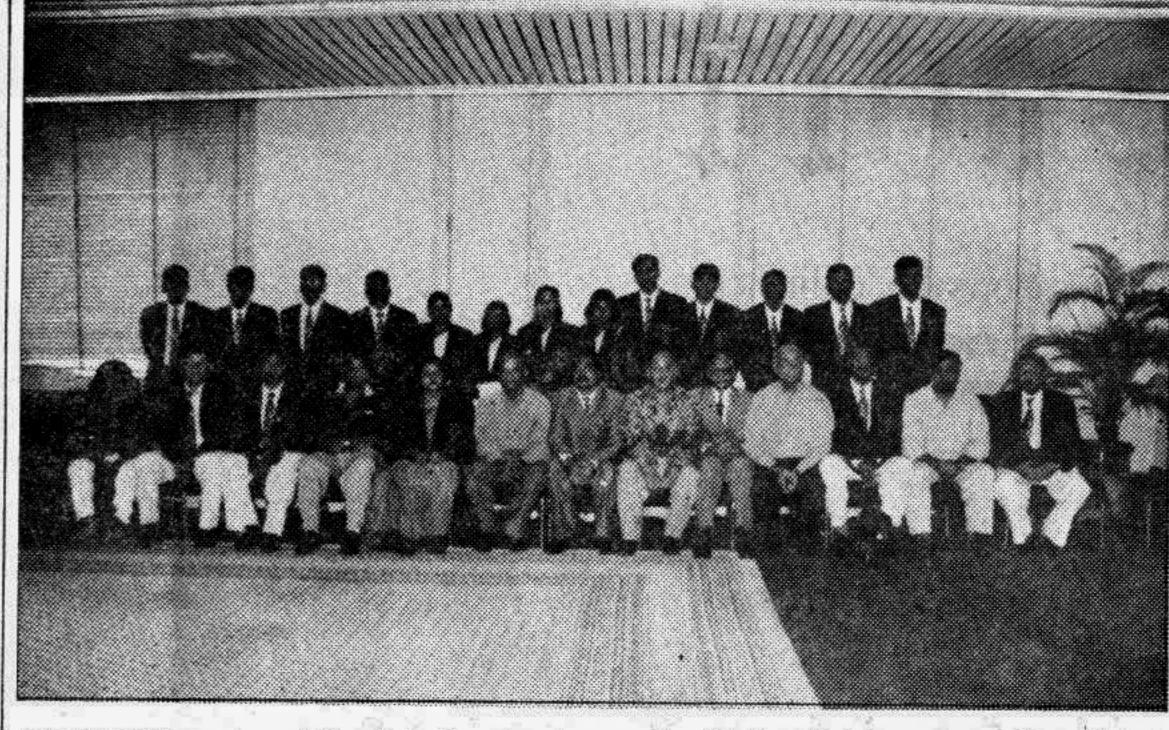
"Between the two athletes, Sri Lanka was expecting to bag the medals for several sprint events, including the 100, 200, 400 and 4x400 meters events", he said.

Tillekaratne and De Sovza. both gold medalists at the last South Asian Federation Games and the Asian Games, will be fit after a month.

Sri Lanka is sending a contingent of 63 participants led by Sriyani Kulawansa, who was the only Sri Lankan athlete to reach the semifinal stage in the recently concluded World Athletic Championships in Spain. The Games are scheduled to

start later this month.





The SAF Games-bound Bangladesh swimming squad with the officials.

-Star photo

'Prince of Calcutta' home

CALCUTTA, Sept 17: Saurav Ganguly, who led the Indian team in

the victorious series at Toronto returned to the city Thursday evening amidst a huge reception. The Indian captain for the three match series was quite touched at the 'welcome home' he received.

There were close to 2,000 lans at the airport to receive the 'Maharaja of Bengal'. Ganguly however, seemed quite unaffected by the adulation. "I had a job to do, which I have managed with the help of the other members of the side. I couldn't have achieved this distinction alone. wish they were here to share the accolades with me today," said the stylish left hander.

Later on sitting at his residence, Ganguly talked at length about the performance of the side in Toronto. He feels that Nikhil Chopra has come of age. "Actually, I thought that this time he would be the 'man of the series. He really bowled very well. I was a bit surprised when heard my name on Sunil Gavaskar's lips," said Ganguly.

Talking about the performance of the youngsters, Ganguly said, "Nikhil has gone a long way in establishing his position in the team. Other than that I would like to mention about Debashis Mohanty. The medium pacer troubled everybody including Brian Lara. he has got this ability to take an early wicket.

"Some people have called

Internet/Reuters

end Gordon Gree-

midge terrorised

opponents with

his bat, but his son Carl im-

pressed as a bowler on his

County Championship debut

at The Oval before rain halted

proceedings shortly after 2pm.

but that was plenty of time for

Greenidge to help the champi-

ons reduce Yorkshire to 50 for

for 32 in 10.1 overs, surprising

several Yorkshire batsmen

lioake won the toss and was

soon rewarded when Martin

Bicknell had Yorkshire opener

Michael Vaughan lbw to the

second ball of the match for no

And Surrey, doing their best

to make up for Wednesday's to-

tal washout, were quickly in the

off one Greenidge over, was de-

ceived by a slower ball from

Bicknell and holed out to

became 14 for three when York-

shire captain David Byas be-

came Greenidge's first Champi-

Yorkshire's 14 for two soon

Greenidge at mid-on for 12.

Matthew Wood, who took 11

wickets again.

with his deceptive pace.

The 21-year-old took three

Surrey captain Adam Hol-

Only 21.1 overs were bowled

for Surrey yesterday.

West Indies leg-

From Our Correspondent

him lucky. But then as a captain, I would definitely like to have such luck on my side. However, above all, he has talent. Luck alone wouldn't have helped him to get an early wicket in every match that he



Amongst the other players that Ganguly talked about were Andhra's young wicketkeeper M.S.K. Prasad and Baroda's Jacob Martin. "What I liked about Prasad was his spirit. When asked him whether he would like to open he said that he had no problems. Martin also displayed tremendous guts. The Toronto wicket was not exactly tailor made for batsman. However, he impressed everyone with his guts and technique."

Ganguly made it clear that he enjoys captaincy. "Pressure brings out the best in me. And I have really enjoyed my stint at Toronto. I would not shy away from the job if given the oppor-

Carl makes Greenidge proud

Umpire Nigel Plews, stand-

ing in his final first-class

match before retiring, took his

time over the decision and Byas

could consider himself slightly

wickets owed nothing to luck.

Wicketkeeper Richard Blakey

was beaten for both pace and

length by a delivery that cut

into him a touch. The ball

trimmed his off bail, Blakey

was out for nine and Yorkshire

was out in similar fashion,

bowled for a duck by another

fast, pitched-up Greenidge de-

livery. At that stage Greenidge

had three for six in 22 balls.

Two balls later Gary Fellows

were 25 for four.

But Greenidge's next two

LONDON, Sept 17 onship victim, lbw for two.

tunity once more."

Pankaj Roy had led India in one Test which he lost. Ganguly, who has already established himself as the greatest Bengali cricketer of all times on both sides of the border, has left Roy behind on this count also.

The left hander, however, has a candid message. "I will feel very happy, if my success inspires more Bengali cricketers to take up the sport. Talking about his decision

to change the batting order during the third match, Ganguly said, "I kept Rahul at number five as he was the most experienced member of the team after me. He gave stability to the batting order and what an innings he played. I decided to open simply be-

cause the batting conditions were difficult and I wanted to protect the youngsters as much as I could.

He also is not ready to accept the West Indian Ricardo Powell as the latest superstar in cricket. "The first few matches are always easy. Then the bowlers measure you out. Powell has already demonstrated a weakness outside his off stump. I will not be surprised if bowlers start working on it very soon."

The southpaw also made it clear that he was not unduly worried when Powell was leading his charge. "If you had watched the match, you had definitely seen me smiling. I knew that he would commit a mistake sometime or the other. That is why, I was asking everybody to

The 18-team County Championship is being split into two

BRIEF SCORES

dec (A Aymes 86, J Laney 67, R Smith 64, A Mascarenhas 51) v Derbyshire 143-3

Harvey 73 no) v Kent

N Killeen 5-58) v Durham At Trent Bridge: Notting-

Lancashire, meanwhile. hoping to finish runner-up. captured six Somerset wickets 66. D Thompson 4-54) v Essex for 238 after making 322. They began their game on 199 points

to Surrey's 256. Third-placed Leicestershire, Caddick 8-113) v Somerset 228-10 points behind Lancashire, 6 (M Trescothick 78, G Rose 32 reached 274for seven against

Durham after their first day's

play was rained off. Warwickshire improved their chances of finishing in the top half of the table and qualifying for the First Division next season by beating Sussex in two days

Bowling their visitors out for 176, Warwickshire knocked off the 69 runs needed to win for the loss of three wickets.

divisions for the first time next

(DAY 2 OF 4)

At Derby: Hampshire 362-8

At Cardiff: Glamorgan 227 (M Powell 67) 27-0 v Northamptonshire 204 (R Warren 72)

At Canterbury: Gloucestershire 247-4 (K Barnett 79 no. I

At Leicester: Leicestershire 274-7 (D Stevens 98, V Wells 57,

hamshire 349-10 (J Gallian 118. G Welton 76. R Robinson

At Taunton: Lancashire 322 (G Lloyd 144, J Crawley 64, A

v Surrey

At The Oval: Yorkshire 50-5

At Edgbaston: Warwickshire (17pts) beat Sussex (4pts) by 7 wkts; Sussex 99 (T Munton 7-36) 176 (P Cottey 73, A Giles 5-63) v Warwickshire 207 (N Smith 71, T Frost 66, J Lewry 5-59) 71-3 At Worcester: Worcestershire

465-9 dec (V Solanki 155, E Wilson 116, D Catterall 60, F Tufnell 5-107) v Middlesex 56-0

Pushpakum ara rattles Aussies

COLOMBO, Sept 17: Sri Lanka's Board XI were 29 for three in reply to Australia's first innings score of 224 at the close on the opening day of their three-day match today, reports Reuters.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings Slater c Dilshan b Gallage Blewett c S Perera b Pushpakumara Langer c C Silva b N Perera M Waugh Ibw b Pushpakumara Ponting c N Perera b Pushpakumara Katich run out Healy run out 32 Warne b Pushpakumara Miller c Jayewardene b N Perera Fleming c Jayewardene b Pushpakumara Muller not out Extras: (lb-4, w-2, nb-12)

Fall of wickets: 1-20; 2-62; 3-67; 4-81; 5-144; 6-156; 7-190; 8-191; 9-203 Bowler Gallage 11.1 S Perera Pushpakumara 18 37 Kalpage N Perera 0 55 14.3

BOARD XI: First innings Gunawardana lbw Muller Dilshan b Fleming Jayantha c Healy b Fleming Silva not out De Saram not out Extras: (lb-1, w-2, nb-4) Total: (For three wickets)

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-8; 3-10 To bat: N Perera, Jayewardene, R Kalpage, Perera, R Pushpakumara, Gallage.

OMRW Bowler Fleming Muller

Warne signs for Hants

LONDON Sept 17 (Internet report): Australian Test star Shane Warne has agreed to play for Hampshire next season. Leg-spinner Warne, who was

man-of-the-match in the World Cup final victory over Pakistan at Lord's this summer, has signed a one-year contract thought to be the most lucrative in the history of English cricket.

Hampshire chief executive Tony Baker said: "With the county's move to a new ground next season, this is a wonderful way to emphasise the extent of our ambitions going into the new millennium.

The deal is subject to the approval of the Australian Cricket Board, although they have given their blessing to Warne's international teammate Glenn McGrath to play for Worcestershire. It could mean two of the

world's top bowlers playing in the Second Division of next year's two-tier County Championship.

Worcestershire are already condemned to finishing in the bottom nine of the current competition and Hampshire need to beat Derbyshire in this week's final round of matches to clinch a First Division berth.

McGrath's two-year contract is reported to be worth around £100,000 a season and Warne's deal is set to eclipse that. Hampshire say they expect

to meet the cost of his financial

package through a number of commercial opportunities together with a considerable increase in gates and member-Warne, who was 30 this week, is currently captaining

the Australians on their tour of Sri Lanka in the absence of broken nose victim Steve Waugh

He has been arguably the world's most successful bowler over the past decade, taking more than 300 Test wickets and topping 200 in one-day internationals.

Red Star coach leaves

BELGRADE, Sept 17: Red Star Belgrade coach Miloljub Ostojic has quit his post two days after his side's 0-1 defeat by French side Montpellier in the UEFA Cup, first round first leg match, reports AFP.

Ostojic has been reportedly disappointed by a series of poor showings by the 1991 European champions, which he has coached since taking over from Vojin Lazarevic just three months ago.



Winners of the Junior Challenger series pose with the Tennis Federation president Alamgir Faruque Chowdhury (3rd from R) after the finals at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

French preview

Marseille's back against the wall might persuade them to give Lyon with both clubs under



PARIS, Sept 17: Marseille coach Rolland Courbis goes into Sunday's home match with newly-promoted

Troyes knowing that defeat could be the final nail in his coffin as coach to France's bestsupported team, reports AFP.

The club that were pipped to the title by Bordeaux on the last day of the last season is languishing in the bottom half of the French First Division after only winning one game so far in domestic competition this sea-

But all is not lost for Courbis. Marseille lifted their spirits in midweek with a 2-0 Champions League victory over Sturm Graz of Austria. And the 1993 European

champions received another boost Thursday with the news that their French World Cup winner Christophe Dugarry had been found innocent of taking nandrolone and would escape a six-month ban. But Sturm Graz are the weakest side in Marseille's

pulled off a shock 1-0 against Nantes last week, could be the last straw. The club's notoriously impatient fans have already called for his head - notably after the comprehensive 3-1 defeat by lo-

cal rivals Montpellier last

weekend - but it remains to be

seen if the European triumph

Group D and Courbis knows

that defeat against Troyes, who

Courbis his head. Leaders Paris St Germain,

meanwhile, welcome back playmaker Ali Bernarbia for their trip to Alsace to face Strasbourg.

Bernarbia moved to PSG in May just after inspiring Bordeaux to the title.

With Nigerian Jay-Jay Okocha also finally beginning to show why PSG paid Fenerbahce 11 million pounds for his services after the World Cup there is much optimism at the capital's only top flight club.

Lens host Le Havre while Nantes will look to bounce back from their Troyes setback at home to Rennes, who beat Monaco last week to knock the principality outfit off the top of the league.

Monaco are reassured by the return of French World Cup winning goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, who missed the Rennes match but returned against St Johnstone in the UEFA Cup in midweek. They should see off Metz while Montpellier hope to continue in winning vein at Nancy.

Sedan, 3-0 winners at Lens last week, host Bastia in their Ardennes fiefdom.

On Saturday there are two fixtures, the first pitting together two clubs with a lot to prove and the second pairing two sides experiencing something of a renaissance. Champions Bordeaux host

recruited Tony Vairelles from Lens, Brazilian Sonny Anderson from Barcelona and Pierre Laigle from Sampdoria for a small fortune. They lie second to PSG but are yet really to shine and were

some pressure. Lyon in summer

Slovenians Maribor in the Champions League preliminary Bordeaux, meanwhile, have made an indifferent start to their title defence and look to be

surprisingly eliminated by

missing Benarbia's input. Last year's Championship winning strikeforce of Sylvain Wiltord and Lilian Laslandes, who scored 37 goals between them last term, are yet to catch fire in 1999-2000 even though

choice line up for the French national team. However, in the other Saturday match St Etienne, back in the first division after a threeyear absence, travel to Auxerre

they are currently the first

who are also enjoying life. The Burgundy outfit only escaped relegation on the last day of last season but are third behind PSG and Lyon this term and seem to be inspired by the return of their French World Cup winning striker Stephane Guivarc'h after an unhappy spell in England and Scotland.

Astonishingly it is Auxerre coach Guy Roux's 39th season in charge at the Stade Abbe Deschamps.

Bundesliga preview

All is not well at Hertha



COLOGNE, Germany. Sept 17 Hertha Berlin's highly expectant fans ought to have been looking for

ward to Saturday's arrival of title candidates Bayer Leverkusen but suddenly things are looking bleak for the capital side, reports AFP.

Hertha's Champions League 2-2 draw with Turkey's Galatasaray has further weakened an already below strength squad.

At Galatasaray they lost Thomas Helmer - rushed over just two weeks ago from Sunderland to prop up the back line - to a muscle tear, as well as midfielders Dariusz Wosz (knee injury) and Michael Hartmann (broken foot).

All that with matches against unbeaten Leverkusen and English club Chelsea to come. An 85th minute penalty tore

the heart out of Hertha in Galatasaray's seething arena. It cost the visitors victory and tore deep into their flagging self confidence.

Leverkusen meanwhile have no such worries. They held up well against fine Italian side Lazio Rome Tuesday, coming away with a 1-1 draw, and will travel to the German capital with their heads held high. Bayern Munich will do like-

wise at Eintracht Frankfurt although they haven't won

The Bundesliga champions were static in beating PSV Eindhoven midweek and are still hampered by key players who are either unfit or out in-

there this decade.

Stefan Effenberg is gradually running himself back into form while Oliver Kahn played his first game for three months against PSV.

Trainer Ottmar Hitzfeld insists that all he cares about are results, not attractive football, which might be a good thing right now because Bayern are off the boil.

Lothar Matthaus is to be rested Saturday while Paulo Sergio - who scored both goals against PSV - is doubtful because of a hip injury.

Thomas Hassler, one of Germany's 1990 World Cup winners, is itching for revenge against Borussia Dortmund Friday

He left Dortmund for 1860 Munich in July amid bitter acrimony after a wasted season spent mainly on the bench. 1860 coach Werner Lorant has restored his self confidence

in just a few months and

praises him loudly as Germany's best midfielder. "The nicest thing for me would be if we win and I score a goal," Hassler said. "I'm not afraid of meeting Hassler again," Dortmund

coach Michael Skibbe com-

mented glibly. "Quite the oppo-

site, it's part of our daily job."

still reeling from last week's 5-0 thrashing by Werder Bremen and the disruption caused by Otto Rehhagel's power struggle with outspoken captain Ciriaco Sforza. The Bremen result - Sforza didn't play for discipline rea-

go to Kaiserslautern who are

sons - has forced both men to bury the hatchet and start Qualitatively Hamburg are a much stronger team than Bremen and have won their last

Kaiserslautern have three clear defeats in succession. Wolfsburg celebrated their international debut Tuesday with a 2-0 win over Hungarian side VSC Derecen but management were annoyed only 7,200

three matches in a row while

fans turned up to watch. Many more are expected when Werder Bremen visit Sunday as the Wolves hunt their third home victory this season. In fact the last time Wolfsburg lost in their own lair was in round five a full year ago - to none other than Werder Bre-

Schalke's Danish striker Ebbe Sand, who scored twice and broke his nose last week at Leverkusen, will wear a special protective mask against Unterhaching Saturday.

In the remaining games of round five, Freiburg play Hansa Rostock (Friday), SSV Ulm play Arminia Bielefeld, and Víß Stuttgart play Duisburg (both

Kenyans rule the day JOHANNESBURG. Christopher Koskei.

Sept 17: Kenya's A WO A

Kennedy Ochieng won the 400 metres and Kpkurui Misoi the 3,000 metres steeplechase. Seville silver medallist Sepeng had no answer to Kimutai's finish and Algeria's Aissa

Dzabir Guerni, bronze medallist

at the world championships. also powered past the tiring South African to take the Kimutai clocked a fast highaltitude time of one minute 44.91 seconds, with Guerni second in 1:45.32 and Sepeng third

in 1:45.58. World indoor champion Johan Botha of South Africa could manage only sixth. Kenya made a clean sweep of the steeplechase medals although it was Misoi, the least-

fancied of the trio, who took the

title ahead of 1997 world cham-

pion Wilson Boit Kipketer and

this year's world champion,

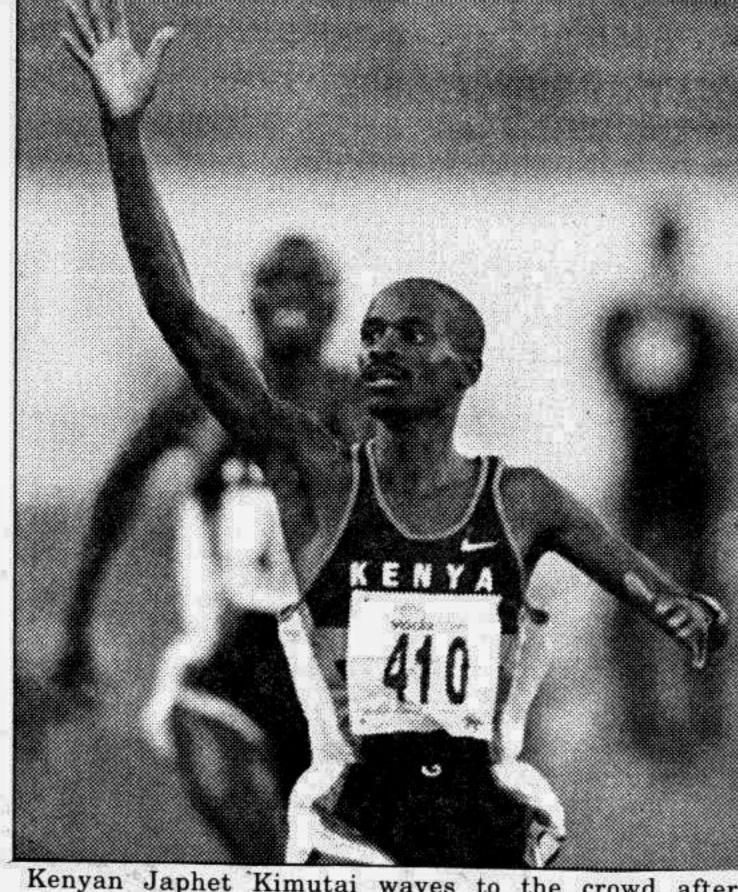
Kipketer and Koskei allowed

Kiefer in semis

seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov the day before. Bastl, who is ranked only 154th in the world, knocked out seventh-seeded countryman Marc Rosset on Wednesday before eliminating Frenchman

Umelo took the women's long jump and the Nigerians also won the men's and women's 4x100 metres relays. Kutre Deleche, Ethiopia's world championship bronze medallist, was an easy winner

| in the women | s 1,5 | 500 1 | netre | s. |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
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| Country | G | S | B | T |
| S Africa | 44 | 42 | 36 | 122 |
| Egypt | 38 | 48 | 28 | 113 |
| Nigeria | 43 | 16 | 19 | 78 |
| Tunisia | 16 | 13 | 28 19 16 | 45 |
| Algeria | 10 | 17 | 22 | 45 49 |
| Kenya | 6 | 4 | 7 | 17 |
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Kenyan Japhet Kimutai waves to the crowd after winning the 800-metre gold at the All Africa Games on September 16.

Primera Liga preview Barca eying fourth win MADRID, Sept 17:

Spanish champi-

ons Barcelona,

fresh from a win-

ning start in the

Champions Lea-



gue and seeking a third straight league title, will bid for a fourth win in as many matches Saturday at modest Alaves to stay clear of eternal rivals Real Madrid, reports AFP. Alaves have managed a decent start of their own with two

wins in three games and could spring a surprise. Their chances were boosted by the news that Barcelona's Portuguese midfielder Luis Figo is out with suspension following his dismissal last week against Espanyol. Figo could console himself

Thursday with the news that the Spanish authorities have cut his original ban from four matches - meaning he will return to action on October 13 - in what is bound to be a highlycharged match against Real. Real face Deportivo La Coruna in the match of the

Salgado - a worry for coach John Toshack following the three goals conceded at Olympiakos on Wednesday in the Champions League where Real had to be satisfied with a

A win in the Santiago Bern-

Real face being without Fer-

abeu stadium would be an ideal

nando Hierro at the back as

well as the suspended Michel

Deportivo possess a potent threat in the shape of Roy Makaay, who has already netted four times in three matches. However, his strike partner -Brazilian Flavio Conceciao - is

Surprise package Rayo Val-

lecano - promoted last season

an injury doubt.

Hierro has a knee injury.

and like Barca with three wins in three to date - travel to Celta Vigo, who were expected to launch a title challenge of their own after good pre-season form. They slipped up at Oviedo on the opening day Valencia, who have yet to

gain a single point, will take heart from their Champions League win over Rangers as they travel to Real Betis.

middle-distance their teammate to break clear with 900 metres remaining and show of strength then cruised home for the silver and won three men's track golds and bronze respectively. at the All Africa Games yester-Misoi had plenty of time to day, reports Reuters. raise his arms in victory down Japhet Kimutai upstaged the final straight, winning by South African favourite nearly nine seconds. Nigeria picked up four gold Hezekiel Sepeng to win the 800 medals. Falilat Ogunkoya won metres which featured five of the women's 400 metres, Grace the world's top 10.

TASHKENT, Sept 17: Nicolas Kiefer, the only seeded player left in the President Cup tennis tournament, beat American Cecil Mamit to earn a semifinal spot yesterday, reports Reuters. Kiefer will now play Czech veteran Daniel Vacek, who beat Paradom Srichaphan of Thailand 7-5, 7-6 (8-6) after his tough three-set victory over top

Anthony Dupois 6-2, 6-4. Ninety-second ranked Wessels took care of 114th ranked

German Axel Pretzsch 7-6, (10-

8) 6-0.

weekend with Deportivo aiming to bounce back from their UEFA Cup loss to Norway's -AFP photo