

## Nash doubtful for Zim Tests

CHRISTCHURCH, Sept 5 (Internet report): Black Caps all-rounder Dion Nash is likely to miss both Test matches against Zimbabwe as he recovers from back trouble, but his long selection has been endorsed by coach David Trist.

Trist, speaking to The Press from Mutare where the Black Caps have just finished their first tour match, said there was nothing amiss with Nash as he gradually increases the workload on his lower back which has been prone to stress fractures.

Trist said he was almost ready and bowling most days, but was such a valuable all-rounder he did not want him rushed back.

Nash is expected to be fully fit for the following one-day series against Zimbabwe, the ICC knockout tournament in Nairobi which follows, and the limited-over segment of the South African tour.

## England's Ashes odds rise to 3-1

LONDON, Sept 5: England's chances of beating Australia in next year's Ashes were rated at 3-1 by bookmakers William Hill following Monday's Test series triumph over West Indies, reports Reuters.

Australia still remain favourites for the Ashes contest at 8-15, with a drawn series offered at 7-2.

England's standing in the game rose after they completed a 3-1 victory over West Indies at the Oval, their first series success against their opponents since 1969.

## Walsh to take his time

LONDON, Sept 5 (AFP): Courtney Walsh will put his feet up for a few weeks as he ponders whether to follow Curtly Ambrose into retirement.

England beat the West Indies by 158 runs in the fifth and final Test here at The Oval on Monday, the tourists all out for 215 chasing 374.

The victory gave England a 3-1 win, their first Test series victory over the West Indies since 1969 and the Wisden Trophy.

Magnificent resistance by Ambrose, given a guard of honour by the England players as he walked out to bat in his final Test, was eventually ended when he was caught at slip by Michael Atherton off Dominic Cork for 28 that featured three fours.

Walsh, in his last Test in England, also got the same reception from his opponents but two balls later he was lbw to Cork for naught.

Walsh, who has taken his world Test record to 483 wickets, refused to say if he too was following Ambrose into retirement or going on West Indies' tour of Australia this winter instead.

"I'm going to put my feet up and have a rest. All the boys are disappointed but we've got to think about what's happened," said Walsh, who added that he "couldn't go on forever".

## Chess course

A five-month Grand Masters chess training course begins today at Bangladesh Chess Federation conference room, reports UNB.

Latvian GM Igor Raos will conduct the course.

Leading players of the country will take part.

The participants are: Zia, Rezaat, Rakib, Rajib, Shiplu, Lavlu, Shakil, Amin, Pallab, Moin (Chittagong), Monir (Narayanganj), Nasir, Sumon, Emon, Rani Hamid, Iva, Nipa, Tanima, Zakia, Debraj (Barisal), Firoz (Narayanganj), Mustafa (Mymensingh), Javed, Azaz, Udas, Ratul, Babi, Parag, Royal (Jhenaidah) and Sumi (Khulna).

## Luxemburgo, stars due Down Under

GOLD COAST, Australia, Sept 5: Brazilian coach Wanderlei Luxemburgo and three of his star players will arrive on the Gold Coast today to complete the South American side's under-23 Olympic squad, reports Reuters.

Striker Ronaldinho and midfielders Alex and Athierson will join their team mates at the Carrara Stadium where a friendly is scheduled against local side Gold Coast City today night.

# Sampras versus Krajicek



NEW YORK, Sept 5: Thirteen-time Grand Slam winner Pete Sampras and nemesis Richard Krajicek

advanced to a US Open quarterfinal showdown with straight-set wins Monday in matches interrupted 2 1/2 hours by rain, reports AFP.

Fourth seed Sampras, the only man not to lose a set here, beat South Korean qualifier Lee Hyung-Taik 7-6 (7/4), 6-2, 6-4 while the big-serving Dutchman hit 15 aces and 50 winners to oust Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty 7-6 (13/11), 6-4, 6-1.

"He possesses some heavy heat," Sampras said. "Hopefully I can get some returns back. That's the key to the match, who puts more pressure on the service game. It's going to be tough to break. He's confident against me."

Krajicek, ranked 23rd, is 6-3 against Sampras. Their only prior Grand Slam match was in 1996 at Wimbledon. Krajicek won 7-5, 7-6, 6-4 to inflict the seven-time Wimbledon winner's only defeat at the All-England Club since 1992.

"It won't be an easy match," Sampras said. "It's a matter of making him play as much as possible. It's a match that's gonna come down to a couple points."

Krajicek had won four in a row against Sampras before the 29-year-old American took their most recent meeting last year at Cincinnati.

"It'll be a difficult test," Krajicek said. "Sampras serves on another level than most guys. It's always tougher to return when the ball comes so quick."

"To have a good chance against Pete, I think it's better to play him early. His finals record in Grand Slams (13-2) is unbelievable."

Two more seeds, No. 8 Alex Corretja and No. 10 Cedric Pioline, were ousted in completions of third-round matches halted Sunday by rain.

Only four of the top 10 remain in the 15 million-dollar Grand Slam event after earlier exits by 1999 champion Andre Agassi, No. 2 Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil and No. 5 Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia.

Carlos Moya, the 1998 French Open champion, eliminated Corretja 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 to book a date with 1999 US Open runner-up Todd Martin, who beat Frenchman Pioline 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, 6-2 in the other rain-interrupted affair.

Moya and Martin are in a quarter of the draw assured of producing an unseeded semifinalist, along with Tuesday round of 16 foe Wayne Arthurs, a 102nd-ranked Aussie south-paw qualifier, and Thomas Johansson of Sweden.

Other fourth-round matches Tuesday include Swedish third seed Magnus Norman against 14th seed Nicolas Pietrangola of Germany and sixth seed Marat Safin of Russia against 12th seed Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain.

Sampras and Lee began playing in hot and humid conditions before a capacity crowd in 25,000-seat Arthur Ashe Stadium. When they returned after a 2 1/2-hour storm, a near-deserted venue featured a cool and breezy climate.

Sampras saved three break points in the sixth game to reach the tie-breaker, which he won when Lee's right foot stepped on the bottom of the net as he tried to stop himself after a forehand volley. Lee was called for the violation, losing the point and the set as a result.

"If I were to win that point, I would have had two more serves

and a chance to win the set," Lee said through a translator. "I lost a lot of emotion and I was not myself at the beginning of the second set."

"If I had won the first set, I don't think I would have won the match, but I would have had some momentum behind me and I would have played much better."

Sampras, who hit 14 aces and 39 winners, ended an 0-for-10 streak on break points in the second game of set two, which he ended by breaking Lee. Sampras seized control early in set three and ended matters on a forehand winner.

Krajicek trailed 36th-ranked Hrbaty 6-3 in the tie-breaker but saved three set points in a row and three more later, finally ending it with a forehand winner on his third set-point opportunity.

Krajicek seized control from there, breaking Hrbaty twice from each of the last two sets to advance.

Hewitt fired 11 aces and was perfect on break-point chances, winning all five he reached against Enqvist and denying the Swede on his four chances over their one hour and 48 minutes on the court.

Enqvist needed a forehand to surrender a break and lose the first set and Hewitt backhanded an impressive cross-court winner to capture the second set after only 66 minutes.

Enqvist committed his third double fault to give Hewitt two match points and then sent a backhand long to surrender the last set's only service break and his fourth match to Hewitt in as many meetings this year.

"He's a very tough player," Enqvist said. "I think he's ready mentally. He certainly has a good game for it. I think he has a chance to go all the way."

# Records at elements' mercy?



BRISBANE, Sept 5 (AFP): Don't expect Maurice Greene to break his world record in the 100-metre final at the Sydney Games, Florence Griffith Joyner's 100 and 200 appear safe from Marion Jones' clutches.

World records in the distance races also are unlikely, despite the expected cool weather.

Although the forecasters are predicting temperatures of a little more than 60 degrees Fahrenheit (15 degrees Celsius) for late this month when the track and field competition is held, from September 22.

October 1 — the sprinters will be buffeted by the expected headwinds in 110,000-seat Olympic Stadium.

While the distance runners — from 1,500 metres through the marathon — should find the conditions ideal, history dictates that world records in those events will stand.

"I don't think the times are going to be as fast as everyone thinks (in the sprints)," said Ato Boldon of Trinidad and Tobago, the 1996 bronze medalist in the 100 and 200, who already has competed in the stadium.

"The wind blows almost directly down the straight into which the 100 metres is run. That's not something that sprinters love."

When Greene set the world record of 9.79 seconds at Athens, Greece, last year, the weather was hot and the wind negligible. The same conditions existed when he ran 9.80 in winning the 1999 world championship later at Seville, Spain.

When Canada's Donovan Bailey set the 100 world record of 9.84 in 1996 at the Atlanta Games, he also was the beneficiary of warm weather and little wind.

"The times this year don't matter," Boldon said. "You run to win. The Olympics is when time matters least."

That's what Jones should be thinking. She is facing a Herculean task in trying to win an unprecedented five gold medals and will need to pace herself to remain fit for five events — the 100, 200, 400 relay, 1,600 relay and long jump.

She has come the closest to breaking Flo-Jo's marks of 10.49 in the 100 and 21.34 in the 200. Jones' best times are 10.65 and 21.62, both at altitude. Sydney is at sea level, so that will not help her.

If the weather is cool, "it will have a physical and psychological effect on the sprinters and jumpers," said Ernie Gregoire, an assistant US women's coach in charge of the long jumpers, triple jumpers and hurdlers.

"The ballistic athletes depend on warm weather," he added.

Include the throwers in the group that prefers the warmth, said Jerry Quiller, an assistant US men's coach responsible for the distance runners from 1,500 metres through 10,000 metres.

"Sprinters, jumpers and throwers don't want to have to compete with their sweats on," he said. "The distance guys will love the cool weather unless it's windy. The distance guys will love the cool weather unless it's windy. If it's just cool, they'll be fresher after running their heats or rounds."

Despite the gloomy forecast for the sprinters and jumpers, Gregoire thinks world records are possible.

"When you get in this kind of situation and the adrenaline starts flowing and there's that guest to be No. 1, great things happen," he said.

"Special events bring out special times from special people."

US high jumper Kenny Evans doesn't think anything special will occur in his event if the weather isn't warm.

"In that case, I don't think people will jump as high," he said. "People will just have to tough it out in the cold weather."

"I don't know of anyone breaking the world record when it's been cold. I don't think anything explosive will happen."

American long jumper Melvin Lister doesn't believe the weather will be a factor.

"If you're feeling good, the record will fall," he said. "If not, it won't."

Abdi Abdirahman, a member of the US 10,000-metre team, said, "It depends on how cold it gets. If it's real cold, it might not help set a world record, but the cold probably

will help some people get PRs (personal records) by a couple of seconds."

"I prefer the cooler weather, not cold," he said.

No matter the weather, distance runners don't often set world records at the Olympics, because most of the races are tactical.

Of the top performances in races between 1,500 and the marathon, plus the walks, were few came at the games. Going into this year, the highest-standing mark from the Olympics was 27:07.34 by Ethiopia's Haile Gebrselassie in winning the 10,000 metres at Atlanta, and that ranked only 18.

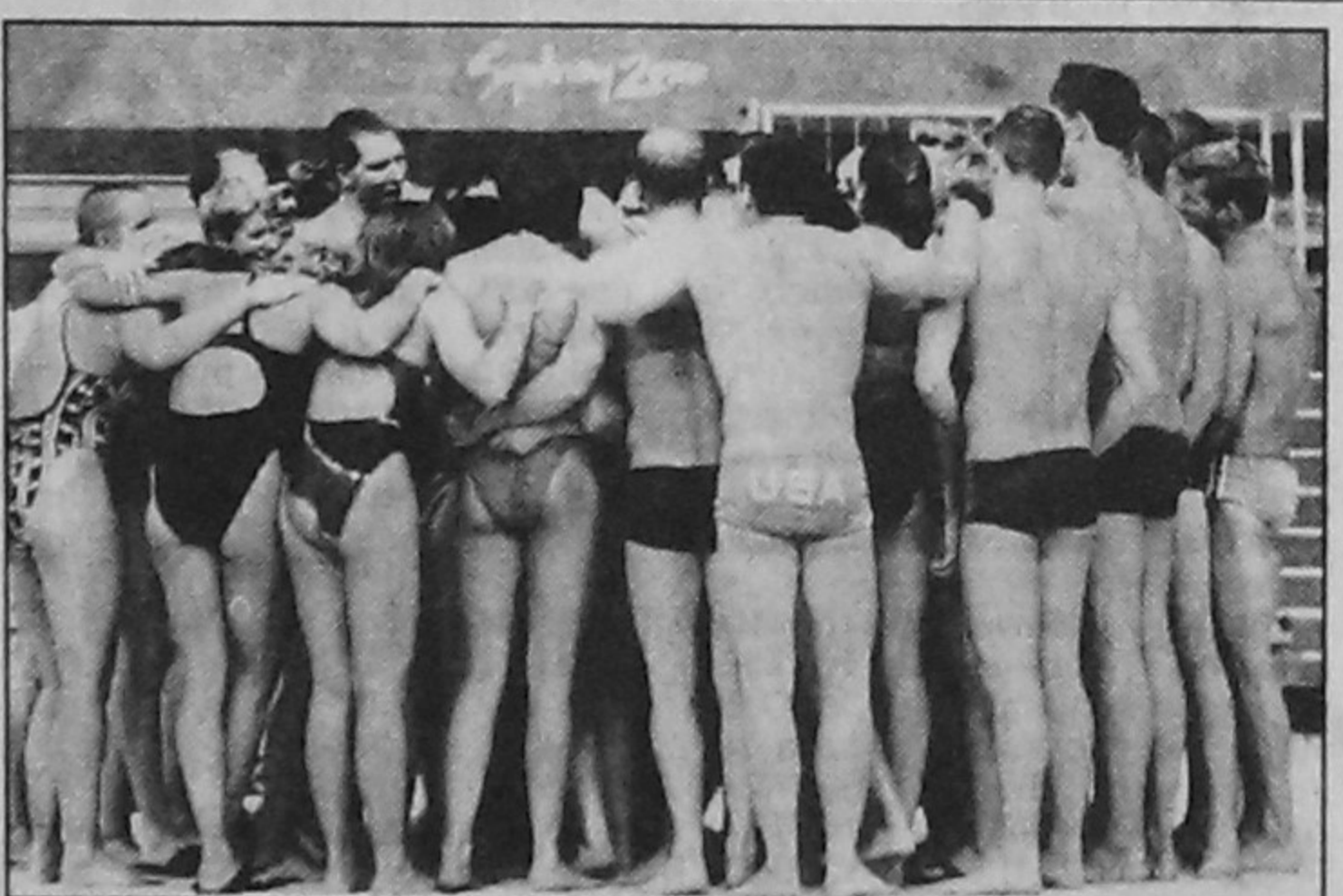
Only three other Olympic marks ranked in the top 50 in the 10,000. There were none in the 1,500, 5,000, marathon or the walks, and only one in the 3,000 steeplechase — the then-world record 8:08.02 by Andres Gardener of Sweden in 1976, and that was No. 49.

In the women's events, there were four remaining marks in the 1,500, led by Russian Tatyana Kazankina's 3:55.56 in 1980, which was No. 23 at the beginning of the year, and four in the 10,000, headed by Portuguese Fernanda Ribeiro's 31:01.63 in 1996, No. 34.

The biggest beneficiaries of the cool conditions might be the walkers.

"Usually the weather is conducive for sprinters," US race walker Andrew Hermann said. "After being in Seville and Athens (for the past two World Championships), where it was scorching hot, you will see world-class times that you didn't see in those conditions."

"Anyone from the 5,000 up is ecstatic about this. The sprinters have had it warm every other meet."



TOGETHERNESS: The US Olympic swimming team having a group hug before a practice session at the Olympic Pool in Sydney yesterday. —AFP photo

## WC 2002 Argentina, Brazil bookies' pick

LONDON, Sept 5: Brazil and Argentina are favourites to win the 2002 World Cup, ahead of world and European champions France, according to bookmakers William Hill, reports Reuters.

Brazil bounced back after a poor series of results to trounce Bolivia 5-0 in a South American World Cup qualifier in Rio de Janeiro at the weekend, while Argentina beat Peru 2-1 in Lima.

Brazil, who won the trophy for the fourth time in 1994 and who were runners-up in 1998, were quoted at 5-1 with Argentina, winners in 1978 and 1986.

France, held to a 1-1 draw at home to England on Saturday, are rated at 6-1, ahead of Italy (9-1), the Netherlands (11-1) and Spain (12-1).

They are followed by three nations on 20-1 - England, Germany and Nigeria.

Wales, who opened their qualifying campaign with a 2-1 defeat in Belarus on Saturday, are the biggest outsiders - quoted at 1,000-1.

## England climb up the ladder

LONDON, Sept 5 (Internet): England climbed to sixth place in the Wisden World Championship after winning the series against West Indies on Monday.

This equals the highest placing ever for the side, rated the worst international team in the world after they lost to New Zealand at The Oval a year ago, and they have a chance of climbing into the top half of the table over the next few months if they win their forthcoming Test series in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the teams immediately above them in the table.

Australia still lead, as they have done since January 1997, narrowly ahead of South Africa. West Indies remain in third place by 0.07 of a point, but could fall below England next year as they take on Australia in Australia.

The Wisden World Championship - unofficial but widely-accepted - began in 1996 as a means of ranking the nine teams who have played Tests. It counts the most recent series, both home and away, between each pair of countries. Teams receive two points for winning a series and one for drawing. A one-off Test counts as a series.

Because not everyone has played everyone else, percentages are used. Series not renewed after seven years are excluded from the table, recalculation taking place each September. This has helped England this time: the series against India and Sri Lanka in 1992-93, which they lost, have now dropped out.

## Shoaib to miss Kenya tourney

KARACHI, Sept 5 (Internet report): Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar will miss the ICC knock-out tournament starting in Kenya from October 3 after he was left out of the 22 probable selectors named on Monday.

The probabilities will attend a training camp which starts in Lahore from September 11.

Pakistan's opening game in the tournament is on October 8 against the winner of Sri Lanka and West Indies match.

Shoaib is down with knee injury for which he is being treated in Nottingham. He is unlikely to return to competitive cricket until November.

While key players like skipper Moin Khan, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Wasim Akram and Saqlain Mushtaq have been named in the probabilities, there was no place for wrist-spinner Shafiqul Alam who was sent as an observer to Singapore. Also missing from the list is pace-man Shabbir Ahmad.

Interestingly, the selectors had submitted 34 probabilities to the cricket board. But after a meeting between the advisory panel members, the list was reduced to 22.

## PAK PROBABLES

Moin Khan (captain), Inzamam-ul-Haq (vice-captain), Saeed Anwar, Imran Nazir, Salim Elahi, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Ijaz Ahmad, Faizal Iqbal, Imran Abbas, Humayun Farhat (wicket-keeper), Waqar Younis, Kabir Khan, Mohammad Akram, Wasim Akram, Azhar Mahmood, Abdur Razzaq, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Malik, Mushtaq Ahmad, Danish Kaneria and Arshad Khan.

# Serena stays on course



NEW YORK, Sept 5: A controversial line call that saved a set point helped lift defending champion Serena Williams past 17-year-old Wimbledon semifinalist Jelena Dokic and into the US Open quarterfinals, reports AFP.

Fifth seed Williams downed Dokic 7-6 (9/7), 6-0 here Monday. The 18-year-old American made 24 unforced errors in the first set, five of them in a row to squander a 4-1 lead in the tie-

set to Williams and basically the match, for she was never competitive after that.

"That's what turned around the whole set, the whole match," Dokic said. "That linesperson was closer to it than I was. It was very close. You could have called it either way. It could have gone the other way. It was a very close call at 6-5 in the tie-breaker. It was called. You have to go on."

Williams will next face second-seeded compatriot Lindsay Davenport, who beat 18-year-

Elena Dementieva. But Dokic's defeat was the talk of the Flushing Meadows. She was already having to deal with the US Open banishment of her father Danir for abusive behaviour, the same situation she faced at Wimbledon.

"You have to deal with situations," she said. "You have to block things out. You have to be able to play the game whether something is happening or not."

"It's hard to come out and play the next set when you have lost such a hard set, like it's slipping away. In the second set she didn't give anything away. She got all her returns and served well the entire match. She just kept going after that first set. I'm a little disappointed I didn't get that first set."

If I won that first set maybe I would have even won the match in two sets. I would have gotten on a roll and got her under pressure. She's the defending champion. If she gets tight and you get a few points, it could have been the end. But it was called out. It's too late to change it now."

Williams hit 14 aces, giving her a tournament-best 36, to end Dokic's dream.

With 20-year-old Venus on a 23-match win streak and the opposite side of the bracket, Serena has the chance to fulfil a lifelong dream in an all-Williams US Open final.

"It'll be the great opportunity of a lifetime," Serena Williams said. "It's what we have worked for so many years and we hope that it can finally come true. We're marked women. Everybody wants to beat a Williams sister."

No one more so than Hingis, who lost a Wimbledon quarterfinal to Venus and last year's US Open final to Serena. But the Swiss 19-year-old must first beat Seles, as she has done in 10 of their 12 meetings.

"In the last few meetings I have always beaten her," Hingis said. "You never know. She never gives up. I never underestimate her. That's maybe why I always play her so well."

Fourth seed Pierce, who had beaten Hingis five times in a row, ended her ordeal after only 38 minutes following her set-costing sixth double fault. She played little since her Roland Garros victory due to the rotator cuff injury.

"It was sore and just with every serve I hit it got worse," Pierce said.

Dementieva, ranked 25th, struggled to oust 57th-rated American Lilia Osterloh 6-3, 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/5). The Russian squandered two match points in set two, failed three times serving for the match in the last set and needed two more tie-breaker match points before Osterloh hit a backhand wide to lose.

## SYDNEY SIDELINES

GOLD COAST, Australia, Sept 5: Olympic competitors were warned today to beware of thieves and souvenir hunters after two top athletes were victims of theft soon after arriving in Australia, reports Reuters.

The first victim was British hurdler Colin Jackson who had one of his bags stolen containing 5,000 dollars worth of personal belongings.

The second victim was Canadian high jumper Mark Boswell who had more than 7,000 dollars cash stolen after losing his wallet at Brisbane International Airport.

Boswell had left his wallet on a trolley at the airport after he flew in from Europe early today.

## GAINING POPULARITY

SYDNEY: The Sydney Olympics are proving too popular with athletes leading to unexpectedly large entry numbers that could result in some competitors having to sleep three to a room, reports Reuters.

Even with some athletes staying outside the Olympic Village, organisers estimate the village will have to cope with an extra 500 people above the 15,000-plus planned for the Games.

Village organisers have told chefs de mission that they would have to move extra beds into rooms to cope with the extra demand.

The village had planned to only have two athletes sleeping to a room.

Organisers say the higher than expected number of athletes meeting qualifying standards set by the 28 different sports was part of the problem.

## KISSINGER'S OLYMPIC AMBITION

SYDNEY: Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger is poised to become a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Olympic sources said today, reports Reuters.

The sources said Kissinger, who was part of a commission that recommended major reforms to the Olympic movement last year, will be nominated for membership by the IOC executive board for election by a full session of the IOC.

He would become one of four or five "honour members", a new IOC category introduced last year to bring eminent figures into the Olympic movement.

The "honour members" do not have voting rights but can express their views.

## BAHRAIN HISTORY

SYDNEY: Two Bahraini women will make history in Sydney by representing their archly conservative Gulf Arab nation in this month's Olympics, news reports today said, according to the media.

Maryam Al-Hil will compete on the track in the 100 metres sprint and compatriot Fatima Abdel Majid will be in the pool for the 50 metres freestyle.

It will be the first time women have made the Bahraini Olympic team.

## CYCLISTS INJURED

SYDNEY: A car skidded into a group of German Olympic cyclists in the Royal National Park south of Sydney today, injuring one and knocking others off their bikes, police said, reports AFP.

"One cyclist suffered minor injuries," a police spokeswoman said.



An AFP photo shows the reproduction of two stamps edited by French post office displaying athletes performing different sports for the Sydney Olympic Games.

## TV Guide

Wednesday 6th September (All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

### BTV

9:45 Recitation from the Quran 10:am Proceeding of the Jatiya Sangsad Live Telecast 3:00 Opening Announcement, Recitation From The Holy Quran And Programme Outline 3:15 Patriotic Song 3:20 Open University Prog. 4:00 Bangla News 4:05 Sashtotha 4:20 Cartoon: Captain Planet 4:40 Shamol Chhaya 5:20 Shikhangon 5:45 Pusti Tathya 6:05 Desh-O-Biggan 6:30 Transmission

From Chittagong Center 7:00 Sambad (Bangla News) 7:05 Gecitban 7:25 Nupur Nikkan 8:00 Bangla News At 8:20 Basant Baloy 8:50 The New Adventure of Robinhood 10:00 News At Ten (English) 10:20 Aalokchitro 10:50 Sopan 11:30 Bangla News 11:35 English News 11:40 A) Programme Outline For Thursday B) National Song 11:45 Closing (Special Programme For 15th August- Chhironjeev Bhangobandhu: Dir-A.K.M. Noor Hossan, Nibedito Pongtimala: Dir-Syed Kamus)

### EKUSHEY TV

2:00 Aikar Potrikay 2:10 Bhalobasha Kare Koi 2:35 Alo Amar Alo

3:00 Ekushey News Headlines 3:02 Bangla Cinema : Daya Maya (Elias K., Mahmud K., Alamgir, Kobori, Diti) 5:30 Drishti 6:00 Ekushey News Headlines 6:02 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom 6:30 Chadrak 7:00 Ekushey News Headlines 7:02 Aikar Potrikay 7:1