#### **English** gymnasts retain title

AFP, Manchester

England retained their men's gymnastics team gold medal at the Commonwealth Games on Friday with a total of 162.075 points.

The silver medal went to Canada with 161.350 points and the bronze

medal to Australia with 159.100. England went into the event expecting a tough battle against Canada, who has won the title three times, but were keen to make up for the disappointment of only finishing third in Kuala Lumpur four years

But the host nation held their nerve to keep the gold they worked so hard for in 1998

"The best thing tonight was the pressure on the high bar, the last piece of apparatus but this is without doubt the highlight of my career," said Ross Brewer, one of three survivors from the Kuala Lumpur

"The atmosphere was electric." John Smethurst, another 1998 winner, was equally overjoyed.

#### **MSC** governing body formed

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Mohammedan Sporting Club announced a 10-member governing body with leading businessman

Matlub Ahmed as chairman. The executive committee of Mosaddek Ali made the decision on

Monir Ahmed has been named



**MATLUB AHMED** 

member secretary of the committee, which will run for the next two years.

The committee members are: Matlub Ahmed (chairman), Monir Ahmed (member-secretary), Obaidul Karim, Ahmed Igbal Hasan, Engineer Nasir Uddin, AFM Jahangir, Illias Siddiqui, Belayet Hossain, Moinul Islam, Mosaddek Ali and Lokman Hossain

#### Duck distinctions

their name.

#### **ONE-DAY CRICKET**

Khaled Mashud and Aminul share the distinction with 5 ducks; Sumon is just behind him with 4 ducks. Shanto, Akram, Bidyut and Nannu were out on zero thrice. Sharif Atahar, Durjoy, Shafiuddin Babu, Nurul Abedin Novel and Haroon-ur-Rashid Liton crowded at the fourth place with 2 ducks each. The following batsmen has got only 1 duck --Opee, Shariful Haque Plabon, Sumit, Jakir Hasan, Sanwar, Rokon, Jahangir Alam, Sujon, Rafique, Moni, Faruk Ahmed, Gazi Ashraf Hussain Lipu and Samiur Rahman.

Interesting, eh? Who could have ever thought that Aminul and Khaled Mashud are the record-holders for ducks among Bangladeshi players? In both forms of the game, the two batsmen have the tendency to get out before scoring ducks.

It is natural that tail-enders like Shanto and Sharif would get the highest number of ducks. But why Aminul, Mashud, Sumon and Nannu? Is it because Bangladesh have their tail at the top? -- Fahmida Waliullah, e-mail

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# **Double for Despatie**

Manchester.

AFP, Manchester

Alexandre Despatie gave Canada a second men's diving gold at the Commonwealth Games on Friday, while Australia turned to a new name in Loudy Tourky to make it two out of two golds so far for their

Despatie added the 3m springboard title to the 1m springboard crown he won on Thursday, and once again Tony Ally captured the

"I'm happier with this one," Despatie said. "On 1m I was able to do it. On the 3m I've not been able to express myself fully. To be able to do it finally is great.'

Bronze went to Australia's Robert Newbery, who snatched the medal from Canadian Philippe Comtois on the final dive.

Tourky won the women's 10m platform, giving Australia it's second women's diving gold after Irina Lashko's triumph in the 1m springboard on Thursday.

Tourky entered the final trailing Canadian Myriam Boileau, who botched her most difficult dive and finished fifth.

But two more Canadians climbed onto the podium as Emilie Heymans finished second and Blythe Hartley added the bronze to the silver she took behind Lashko.

Despatie dominated for the second day in a row.

Still only 17, he led through every round of the morning's preliminaries, carrying a total of 213.175 points into the final six dives. The highlight of his finals series was a reverse three and a half somersault which boasted a degree of difficulty of 3.5 and earned 88.20 points.

He finished with 709.59 points (finals 474.60 points), easily ahead of the 676.64 of Ally, who pulled himself up from fourth place after the preliminaries.

Newbery, who was lying 10th out of 11 divers after the preliminaries, packed his finals list with difficult dives and performed them consis-

He had moved into fourth behind

penultimate round.

With his final effort, a reverse two and a half with one and a half twists -- degree of difficulty 3.5 -- Newbery earned 85.05 points for a total of

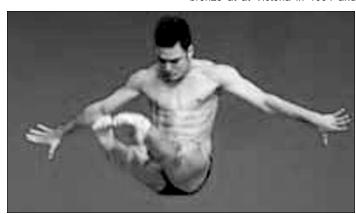
That moved him ahead of Comtois, whose closing effort, an inward two and a half, earned 74.70 points for 652.80

"Starting the final 10th means that finishing with a bronze medal is

a good day's work," Newbery said. Tourky took the lead for good after her third of five final dives, but included a superb performance on a relatively easy dive -- a reverse two and a half somersault that earned 72.09 points. Heymans had cause to regret a back three and a half somersault that was one of her most difficult dives but earned just 58.41

Heymans, a synchronised diving silver medalist at the Sydney Olympics, finished with 527.79 points while Hartley, the reigning 1m springboard world champion, totalled 490.17.

Boileau, who won platform bronze at at Victoria in 1994 and



**ALEXANDRE DESPATIE** 

Heymans pushed her until the end. Diving earlier in the order, the Canadian turned in a superb final dive, earning 81.60 points for her back two and a half somersault with

one and a half twists. Tourky closed with the same dive, and even though she scored only 75.48 points it was enough to claim the gold with a total of 538.65

"I knew Emilie's last dive and my edive were exactly the same, Tourky said. "I knew she did a great job. I had to do something special. I

"It's a relatively new dive for me, so it's a little scary, but I've been doing it well in training.' Heymans said that although the

dive was difficult, she put it at the end of her series with confidence. "I've been doing that dive for

three years now," she said. "It's usually pretty good." Tourky's final series had also improved to silver four years ago, at Kuala Lumpur, couldn't make it to the top step of the podium

With a lower degree of difficulty in her final series, she needed a stronger performance on her toughest dive and instead received just 27.84 points after a handstand wobble threw off the whole dive.

Despatie can make Commonwealth Games history with a third gold in Saturday's men's 10m platform, while Australia's women can hope to make it three out of three on the final day of diving when Lashko returns to action in the 3m springboard.

"I can't think about the results," Despatie said of his bid to defend his 10m title and complete a treble. "I'm Glamorgan." just going to focus on the task."

## Seeds sail smoothly

#### Manchester. AFP, Manchester

Malaysia, the obvious threat to the top seeds in the mixed team badminton competition at the Commonwealth Games, won their opening group match at the Bolton Arena Friday, but not without a

Men's singles number two seed Lee Tsuen Seng, the world ranked number 11, was stretched by the Canadian Robert Milroy edging home 8-7 in the second game of 3-0

Then, in the final mixed doubles the Malaysian combination of Cheu Choon Eng and Chin Eei Hui were beaten in straight games by Milroy's brother Will and Denise Julien.

It was a shaky start for the Malaysians, whose match against England on Sunday is regarded by many as the unofficial gold medal decider.

In the other late games, both Channel Islands teams provided easy victories for stronger nations. with third-seeded Scotland beating Jersey 5-0 and Australia accounting for Guernsey by the same score in their first group match of the tourna-

Earlier in the day, the top-seeded sides made an untroubled start to their pursuit of medals on the first full day of competition.

Host nation and favorites England beat Nigeria 5-0 without dropping a game in their first outing, although Ola Fagbemi gave Mark Constable a good fight in the men's

By Eugene Sheffer

22 Coal

The men's doubles team of Simon Archer and James Anderson were particularly strong in winning their match with just two points dropped, but England lost the chance to give some of their youn-

the schedules. Opponents Trinidad and Tobago withdrew from the team event, because their travel arrangements meant that they would not arrive in time for the first day of the competi-

ger players a game when their

evening match was dropped from

Archer later described the match that England did play as 'a practice

"We are just focusing on playing

Canada and Malaysia," he said On a day of little joy for the minnows of the sport, third seeded Scotland were equally commanding against the Maldives, racing to a clean sweep with a minimum of

points lost. Ghana were no match for the fourth-seeded Welsh - who were encouraged by a visit to the Bolton Arena from the Duke of Edinburgh going down 5-0, with defeats in the men's and women's singles and doubles and the mixed doubles.

Richard Vaughan and Kelly Morgan - both in with a good chance in their individual events next week were particularly impressive in disposing of their opponents in straight games.

'seven-points-to-win' system - due to be scrapped after the Games they dropped just one point apiece to Issah Mohammed and Theresa

Playing under the controversial

TWZVCВЕ CBY

J X NGZHIXNNDN Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SPIDERS IN PARIS HAVE fourth in 1998 to third this time with VERY UNITEALTHY DIETS. THEY CONSUME TOO 63.40. MANY FRENCH FLIES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals S 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.

The Welsh then accounted for Barbados, with Morgan and Vaughan again totally dominant in their singles, not conceding a single point to the hapless Caroline . Vaughn and Ryan Holder.

That gave Wales a platform from which they never looked like falling as they completed another clean

Second seeds New Zealand showed the benefit of their intensive preparation in China and the Netherlands as they made similarly short work of Mauritius, who were only admitted to the competition at the last minute after failing to submit their entry in time.

Men's singles star Geoff Bellingham had to work hard in one game against Hyder Aboobakar before winning 8-6 and Mauritius' mixed doubles pairing of Stephan Beeharry and Karen Foo Kune had the moral victory of taking a game off Chris Blair and Tammy Jenkins before going down 3-1

"It was a good start for us,' said the New Zealand manager Grant Stone. "We were a bit tentative early on but once we were used to the conditions we played really well."

New Zealand's second group match saw them defeat the Seychelles, although the underdogs' singles specialists, Nicholas Jumave and Cathrina Paulin, did well to take points off their oppo-

Singapore, fancied to give Wales problems in Group C, limbered up against Botswana, with Li Li and Ronald Susilo near-faultless in their singles to give them a momentum they never lost.

India's Pupela Gopichand played perhaps the most graceful badminton of the day in beating Northern Ireland's Bruce Topping, but Graham Henderson and Eugene McKenna battled hard in one of the best contests of the day before losing in the Men's Doubles.

#### Shaw clinches hammer gold

AFP, Manchester

English hammer thrower Lorraine Shaw claimed the first track and field title of the Commonwealth Games here Friday hurling a Games record of 66.83 metres in front of her hometown crowd.

The 34-year-old, who took silver four years ago, beat Aussie duo Bronwyn Eagles, who finished second with a best of 65.24m to add to her bronze in last year's world championships, while 24-year-old Karyne de Marco improved from

Shaw celebrated in style embracing 21-year-old Eagles in a giant bearhug before doing an energetic lap of honour round the

### Tri-series will

He has now advised the KCA to liaise with their Australian and Pakistan counterparts in order to make the tournament a success".

The International Cricket Council (ICC) had earlier urged cricket officials to sort out their differences with the government so the series could go ahead as planned on from August 29 to September 7.

The ICC says the current dispute must be sorted out because they do not want similar difficulties arising over the two games scheduled for Nairobi as part of the 2003 World Cup.
"It is important that this dispute is

resolved so as to remove uncertainty concerning Kenya's right to stage World Cup matches," said chief executive Malcolm Speed.

The KCA is not recognised by the sports ministry, which has been trying to have the national cricket and football governing bodies dissolved because of alleged financial irregularities

The High Court in Nairobi ruled, however, that only the Registrar of Societies had the power to disband either body.

The triangular series was originally due to take place in Pakistan and feature Australia and New Zealand, but the Pakistan Cricket Board decided to seek a neutral venue because of safety concerns and eventually opted for Nairobi.

"The event will be viewed by some two billion people. It will showcase Kenya's cricket and tourism to the world and Pakistan has accepted to surrender gate collection and hundreds of bats to KCA," said KCA chairman Jimmy Rayani.

### Dating Lord's

FROM PAGE 13

Matthew Hoggard and Andrew

"They did a great job with the new ball in India and it didn't bother me. I bowl first change for And Jones, called up for this

choice quicks Darren Gough, Andrew Caddick and Alex Tudor, insisted his best was still to come. "You can expect more from me. The rhythm didn't feel as good as it can. It should be better tomorrow

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### India fall apart

a duck and Hoggard wrapped up the

innings when Zaheer Khan was caught by Thorpe for three. **SCOREBOARD** Scoreboard of India's first innings against England on the third day of

the first Test at Lord's in London vesterdav: ENGLAND: First innings 487 (N Hussain 155, J Crawley 64, A Flintoff 59, C White 53, S Jones 44;

Zaheer Khan 3-90, A Kumble 3-128)

INDIA: First innings (overnight 130-

Jaffer b Hoggard Sehwag b Giles Dravid c Vaughan b Hoggard 46 Nehra lbw b Flintoff Tendulkar c Stewart b White Ganguly c Vaughan b Flintoff 43 Laxman not out Ratra c Stewart b Jones Agarkar c Flintoff b Jones Kumble b White Zaheer c Thorpe b Hoggard Extras: (b-4, lb-8, nb-8) Total: (All out in 81.5 overs) Fall of wicket: 1-2, 2-128, 3-130, 4-

162, 5-168, 6-177, 7-191, 8-196, 9-

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O M R Bowle 16.5 4 33 Hoggard 19 9 22 47 Jones 21 2 61 16 3 46

## Mutola fancies her chances

Manchester.

REUTERS, Manchester

Mozambique's Olympic and world champion Maria Mutola dominated the qualifying for the women's 800 metres on the second day of athletics at the Commonwealth Games on

With the eagerly-awaited men's 100 metres final due to take place later in the day, Mutola cruised through to Sunday's semifinals by winning her heat in two minutes 1.87

ing heats, recording the fastest time run by a teenager to head the qualifiers for the women's 400 metres hurdles.

The main attraction Saturday's programme were the semifinals and finals of the men's and women's 100 metres, however.

The men's sprint was shaping up as a battle between the two Englishmen Dwain Chambers and Mark Lewis-Francis, who have been drawn in separate semifinals, starting at 1805 GMT ahead of the final at 1935 GMT.



**MARIA MUTOLA** 

seconds, almost a second clear of her nearest rival, Scotland's Susan

be showdown between Caribbean sprinters with Debbie Ferguson of Australia's Jana Pittman also Bahamas the favourite. The

The women's final was likely to

uled for 1745 GMT ahead of the fina at 1925 GMT.

Pittman, dubbed the "new Cathy Freeman" of Australian, athletics, confirmed her reputation as one of the sport's rising performers with a personal best time of 54.14 in the

The 19-year-old's time was more than a second clear of Jamaican pair Debbie-Ann Parris, who was second fastest overall and Deon Hemmings, the 1996 Atlanta Olympic champion and silver medallist at Sydney in 2000. The final will

be held on Sunday. "That's got to be the easiest 400 hurdles I've ever run because didn't make any mistakes," said Pittman, who burst on to the international stage in 2000 when she won the 400 double at the junior world championships.

"I decided to go out and run the race like I was going to run the final and just ease up over the last 30 metres.'

Jamaica's Sandie Richards, the defending champion in the 400 flat race, made the most of Freeman's absence to top the qualifiers from Saturday's second round of heats in

Freeman's decision to run the 4x400 relay only and the withdrawal of England's Olympic bronze medallist Katharine Merry and other top contenders has left Richards as the favourite to defend the title she won in 1998 when Freeman was again missina.

The men's 800 has also been depleted by the absence of Kenyan world record holder Wilson Kipketer and the withdrawal of South Africa's former Olympic silver medallist Hezekiel Sepeng. With the event now wide open,

Otukile Lekote of Botswana clocked

the fastest time in Saturday's heats

to secure a place in Sunday's semifinals, just ahead of Uganda's Paskar Owor and Canada's Nathan Brannen But the likely favourites remain

the Kenyan pair of Joseph Mutua and Japheth Kimutai, who were sixth and 11th overall. "People think that the

Commonwealth Games is such a small competition but it's so important, it's like the Olympics," Kimutai said. "For me to come here and win a medal is just so important."

# Venus edges past Anna

Tennis

REUTERS, Palo Alto

Top seed Venus Williams overcame some stubborn resistance from Anna Kournikova to forge out a 6-3, 6-4 victory in their quarterfinal match at the Bank of the West

Classic on Friday. Williams now plays unseeded American Lisa Raymond, a 6-4, 6-2 upset winner over third seed Monica Seles for a place in the final of a tournament she won two years ago.

Earlier, Lindsay Davenport continued her rehabilitation from injury as she cruised past Jelena Dokic 6-2, 6-2 in just 48 minutes and set up a rematch of last year's final against defending champion and fourth seed Kim Clijsters of Belgium.

with a routine 7-5 6-3 win over 17vear-old Yugoslav wildcard entrant Jelena Jankovic. Williams came into the contest with a 7-0 record against Kournikova, who has been strug-

Clijsters reached the last four

past five months and slumped to a world ranking of 54. But like she displayed in her first two victories here, the popular

aling to find any sort of form over the

Russian showed off a powerful, remodelled game, engaging in numerous athletic rallies with the four-time grand slam champion.

Kournikova even had several ambitious attempts at attacking Williams's powerful serve. "I expected her to play well because she had to go for broke

cracked 23 winners, including seven aces, to 17 from Kournikova. "She had nothing to lose, as playing the top seed in the quarterfinals is the high point of her

against me," said Williams, who

summer. "She plays so flat it's sometimes hard to know where she's going with the ball...she came up with some great shots and so did I, which is what made it so interesting tonight."

The match appeared to be going

as the players' respecTive rankings suggested when Williams broke Kournikova to love for a 4-2 lead in the first set after the Russian committed three unforced errors. Although Kournikova hit a hand-

ful of service returns for winners, Williams took the set with three aces and a service winner. Kournikova wouldn't go away quietly, however, breaking Williams

to lead 4-2 in the second set when

she forced her opponent into com-

mitting a forehand error.

American Venus Williams in action against Russian Anna Kournikova at the

Bank of the West Classic on July 26.

done in straight sets and stepped up her play, breaking Kournikova back by ripping a forehand winner down The top seed held to 4-4 and broke Kournikova again when her

Williams was keen to get the job

opponent dumped a backhand approach shot into the net. Williams closed out the match when Kournikova committed a

backhand unforced error. "I realised I was just pushing balls back and I needed to step it up," Williams said. " Once I noticed that, I started putting a little more

Kournikova said she was generally pleased with her play but said that Williams was a level above most players on tour. "She has much more experience

mustard on my shots"

match positively.

than in me in big matches,' Kournikova said Despite losing to Williams for the eighth straight time, Kournikova said she would look back on the

"I was in control of some of the points, which is a great step for me,' Kournikova said. "I played great in my three matches here. Clijsters beat Davenport in last year's final, but the second seeded

American has won their other six

matches, including a three-set

victory in the Tour Championships at the end of last year. "Kim's very fast and gets back a lot of balls that other girls wouldn't, plus she gets them back with

power," Davenport said "She's a step up from Jelena (Dokic) and I'm going to have to raise my level."

The 28-year-old Raymond is known more for her doubles play but managed to score her biggest win of the year by out-hitting the slowmoving Seles.

### Bronze eludes

FROM PAGE 13 happy.'

His Malaysian teammate Zakaria was also content with second place after suffering an injury to his shoul-

difficult for me and if my partner

hadn't performed so well, then

"The injury made things very

there's no way we could have got a medal.' Wallace, who had come out of retirement to take part in the Games, said he was indebted to

bronze medal. "I consider Chris deserves all the credit for the medal. He really

partner hector for taking them to the

helped me. I even had to beg, steal and borrow equipment from him to compete here," said Wallace.

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