

### Asian athletics meet starts today

AFP, Colombo  
The Asian athletic championships get underway here on Friday with most countries looking at them as an opportunity for exposure rather than of garnering medals.

"The meet is a chance to try younger athletes," said Amateur Athletic Federation of India Secretary Lalit Bhanot, reflecting the mood of different camps. "The depth of athletics in the continent has increased."

The 14th meet at the Sugathadasa Stadium will not be different from preceding editions, which also saw countries like China and Japan holding back their best.

The biennial meet has suffered since the decision in 1995 to shift it to an even year, as it is now held either in the year of the Olympics or the Asian Games, on which events most countries prefer to focus.

Asian Amateur Athletic Association President Suresh Kalmadi said that he did not think there was anything to worry about.

"The more events we have on the continent, the better it is. It is not a problem that needs to be looked into even though I agree that the meet has become diluted," he said.

This year, the championships are being held within seven weeks of the Asian Games, scheduled from September 29 to October 14 in the Korean city of Busan, and within a week of the conclusion of the Commonwealth Games.

Hosts Sri Lanka are the only ones going all out in the meet, having entered 105 athletes, including star female sprinters Susanthika Jayasinghe and Damayanthi Darsha.

### Sehwag shines

FROM PAGE 13  
the second Test of four between England and India at Trent Bridge on Thursday.

INDIA: First innings	0
Jaffer b Hoggard	85
Sehwag not out	13
Dravid c Key b Hoggard	34
Tendulkar b Cork	5
Ganguly not out	4
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-1)	141
Total: (For 3 wks in 51 overs)	111
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-34, 3-108	
To bat: V Laxman, A Agarkar, P Patel, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, A Nehra.	

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Hoggard	16	6	33	2
Cork	11	3	45	1
Harmison	10	6	14	0
Flintoff	12	3	27	0
White	2	0	19	0

**ENGLAND:** Michael Vaughan, Robert Key, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain, John Crawley, Alec Stewart, Andrew Flintoff, Craig White, Dominic Cork, Stephen Harmison, Matthew Hoggard.

**Umpires:** Rudi Koertzen (South Africa) and Russell Tiffin (Zimbabwe).

### Zimbabwe, a WC

FROM PAGE 13  
(ZCU) has spent 150 million Zimbabwean dollars (250,000 US) on ground improvements for the World Cup, in the last six months, including three media centres.

It stands to lose a further 80,000 US dollars if Zimbabwe does not stage the six matches here against England, Australia, Namibia, Holland, Pakistan and India in Group A.

The ZCU has already lost 300,000 US dollars this year after Australia pulled out of a scheduled Test and One-Day International tour here in April.

The World Cup is being claimed as the biggest sporting event in Africa this decade. It will involve 14 nations playing 54 matches over 46 days.

The winner will receive two million US dollars from a prize fund of five million dollars. A television audience of more than one billion is expected.

## Last laugh Dwain's



REUTERS, Munich

Dwain Chambers shrugged off his reputation as an under-achiever at big events with a brilliant victory in the men's 100 metres final at the European Championships on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old lived up to expectations at last by setting a new championship record of 9.96 seconds to secure his first major title and hand Britain their fifth straight continental crown in the blue riband event.

Chambers shaved a hundredth of a second off his personal best with the fastest time by a European this season, eclipsing his own 10.03 set in June.

"This is a good answer to all my critics," said Chambers, who pulled up with cramp in the final of the Commonwealth Games just over a week ago.

"After all the hype you start to get the doubts creeping in," added the Englishman, whose medal collection featured a silver from the previous European Championships and a bronze from the 1999 world championships but no gold.

Portugal's Nigerian-born Francis Obikwelu took silver in 10.06 while Briton Darren Campbell, the defending champion, grabbed bronze in 10.15.

Ekatzerini Thanou, the Olympic silver and world bronze medallist, emulated Chambers by finally winning gold in the women's 100 metres on a damp evening in the Bavarian capital.

The powerful Greek made the most of the absence of Ukraine's world champion Zhanna Pintusevich-Block to win in 11.10 seconds, beating Belgium's Kim Gevaert and Italian Manuela Levorato into second and third respectively.

Only Heike Drechsler could have stolen the show from Chambers on the second day of action as she sought a place in history.

The 37-year-old Olympic cham-

ion had won the last four European long jump titles and needed just one more to become the first woman athlete with five successive titles for the same event at major championships.

But she had to settle with fifth place behind Russia's Tatyana Kotova, the 2001 World Championships silver medallist and the best jumper in the world this

champion Olimpiada Ivanova leading a Russian one-two as the women's 20 kilometre walk made its European championships debut.

Ivanova, who served a two-year doping ban from 1997, broke away halfway through the race for a comfortable victory over compatriot Yelena Nikolayeva in a season's best one hour 26 minutes 42 seconds.



Britain's Dwain Chambers draped in the Union Jack, celebrates after winning the men's 100m final at the European Championships on Wednesday.

season with an impressive 7.42 metres.

A leap of 6.85 metres was enough to secure her gold with Britain's Jade Johnson taking a surprise silver medal while Hungary's Tunde Vaszi won the bronze.

The men's 10,000 metres final witnessed a tight battle between Spain's Jose Manuel Martinez and German Dieter Baumann but could not match the women's race won in style by Britain's Paula Radcliffe on Tuesday.

Martinez won in 27 minutes 47.65 seconds with former Olympic 5,000 metres champion Baumann, back in action after a two-year drugs ban, finishing second in 27:47.87 and Jose Rios underlining Spain's strength in the distance events with the bronze in 27:48.29.

Italian Erica Alfriedi took bronze in an event replacing the 10 kilometres in which she took silver at the previous European championships in Budapest.

Hungary's Adrian Annus won his first major title at 29 in the men's hammer competition with a throw of 81.17 metres with Ukraine's Valdislav Piskunov taking the silver medal and Greek Alexandros Papadimitriou winning bronze.

World and Olympic champion Simon Ziolkowski of Poland, who has been struggling all year, failed to qualify for the final.

Greece, warming up for the Olympics in Athens in two years time, grabbed their second gold on Wednesday with Ekatzerini Vogoli winning the women's discus final. Russian Natalya Sadova and another Greek, Anastasia Kelesidou, completed the podium.

## Change your attitude



AFP, Sydney

Lleyton Hewitt will have to deal with being the world's number one and heal his tempestuous relationship with the media, says Australian Davis Cup teammate Wayne Arthurs.

The feisty 21-year-old Australian faces a hefty fine by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) for not fulfilling his media commitments at the Cincinnati Masters tournament on Tuesday.

Hewitt said on Wednesday that he would appeal any fine imposed on him and claims he never agreed

to the interview with the Cincinnati tournament's host broadcaster ESPN.

He said he had already completed his press commitments for the week.

The penalty could be as much as half his prize-money for the week, which would total 196,000 dollars should he carry off the Masters Series tournament.

Hewitt, who doesn't speak to sections of the Australian press after off-court problems, had to change his attitude towards the media in general, said Arthurs.

Arthurs is expected to team with the world No. 1 at next month's Davis Cup World Cup playoff with India in Adelaide.

"He has to do something about

it," Arthurs told Australian Associated Press from Cincinnati on Wednesday.

"It's possibly something that he will have to deal with being number one in the world."

If Hewitt appeals against the decision, the matter will go before the ATP Stars Committee, comprising of former players.

John McEnroe, Guy Forget and Hewitt's Davis Cup captain John Fitzgerald serve on the committee, although a new line-up could be in place by the time any appeal is lodged.

An ATP spokeswoman here on Thursday pointed out the amounts were determined by the players themselves.

"The Players' Council nominated that amount," she said.

"It is a very large amount, but only if he wins the tournament. So we're talking about something that hasn't even happened."

Arthurs says he and Hewitt are on friendly terms, but the Wimbledon champion must look at his extra responsibilities as the top-ranked player in the men's game.

"It is big status that you have to carry and he might have to look at that side of things a little harder than he has done in the past," said Arthurs.

"I really have no problems with Lleyton back in the locker room when I play Davis Cup, he's a really nice guy. It's a little unfortunate that that he has had a few problems with the media."

### Kent rope in Steve

INTERNET, Sydney

Australian Test captain Steve Waugh will play for county side Kent from August 21 until the end of the season.

The 37-year-old will make his debut in a Norwich Union League floodlit match against Leicestershire.

Waugh, who has joined the club as a replacement for Andrew Symonds, last played in English county cricket in 1988 when he turned out for Somerset.

Symonds has one-day commitments for Australia A in South Africa from September 4 to 18.

The veteran right-hander hopes the move will help him gain some match practice ahead of Australia's three-Test series with Pakistan in September.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to play some tough cricket and this stint will provide excellent preparation for the upcoming season," Waugh said.

While Steve will be playing for Kent, his twin brother Mark appears for another south-east county, Essex.

Sadly, fans will not have the chance to see the two brothers play against each other as Kent and Essex are not due to face each other in the remainder of the season.

Steve Waugh added: "It has been 15 years since I last played county cricket, so it is quite exciting and I look forward to making a strong contribution at Kent."

Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire were also keen to sign Waugh, who has scored 9,600 Test runs, leading Australia since February 1999.

"We are thrilled that Steve has agreed to play for us for the rest of the season," said Kent's director of cricket Ian Brayshaw.

### 'Trouble kid'

FROM PAGE 13

"I'm proud of my son for what he has achieved for the nation. This is the second most memorable moment in my life after his birth," said the bearded businessman. Asif is older of his two sons.

Asked to recall how he felt when he won Bangladesh's second ever gold in the Games after Atiqur Rahman and Abdus Sattar Nini clinched the Air Pistol team gold at the Auckland Commonwealth Games in 1990, Asif said that it was a moving experience.

"The glittering gold could not match the satisfaction I got seeing my country's flag being hoisted and the national anthem being played in Manchester."

Showing no signs of jet lag from his nine and a half-hour non-stop flight from England, Asif was happily exchanging pleasantries with the gold medal adorning around his neck.

The Bangladesh Shooting Federation awarded him with a cheque of taka one lakh.

Asif is now focused on getting a better training facilities to aim higher. He is determined to prove a point to his Indian rival Abhinav Bindra.

Bindra chuckled saying "let's see where he is in four years time" after Asif shattered a 12-year Games record to win the close battle with the Indian. Asif scored 691.9 points to Bindra's 691.4.

Asif however believes that to emulate or better that marvellous score he would require a Herculean effort since his best at the BKSP and in the Bangladesh Games was well below that mark.

With the Asian Games just a month away, Asif sets himself a new goal.

"I'm not concerned with medals. The Asian Games is a tougher act to follow. I just want to improve on my score," said Asif.

## Destination Britain?



AFP, London

Yugoslav world number five Jelena Dokic is planning to move to London and apply for British citizenship, according to her volatile

father Damir.

Belgrade planning authorities have rejected an application for a large family mansion and tennis centre and Damir claims that a move to Britain is the only way to develop his teenage daughter's talents.

"She can't get the right location to build the mansion and tennis

centre she wants, so we have decided to move to England," he told a Belgrade radio station.

"I'm fed up with all this mess and therefore I'm going to write Jelena off as a Belgrade citizen. I want her to become a UK citizen," said Damir Dokic in comments reported by the BBC.

Dokic, 19, emigrated to Australia from Serbia with her family in 1994 but returned to Yugoslavia last year when her father fell out with the Australian press and public.

But Damir's memories of Britain are not all happy ones, although his daughter did reach the Wimbledon semi-finals in 2000.

The former boxer first gained notoriety in 1999 when he was cited for drunk and disorderly conduct in Birmingham after lying down in the middle of the road after being thrown out of a tournament for being verbally abusive.

The following year, he was ejected from Wimbledon after smashing a broadcaster's mobile phone. He was later banned from the US Open for an outburst over the price of salmon in a restaurant.

The Dokic family's increasingly volatile relationship with the Australian media reached a head at the 2001 Australian Open.

Both Jelena and her father claimed the draw had been rigged against her after she was paired with Lindsay Davenport in the first round. She made a last-minute decision to play the event under the Yugoslavian flag.

She has never played Fed Cup for Yugoslavia and should she be granted a British passport she would have to wait 32 months before being allowed to compete for her new country.



JELENA DOKIC ... keeps changing her citizenship

## Pete fires blanks



AFP, Cincinnati

Australian Wayne Arthurs pounded Pete Sampras with 23 aces to complete a dismal day for the former world number one while fellow American Andre Agassi advanced with ease at the 2.95-million-dollar Masters Series.

The big-serving Aussie's 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 third-round triumph capped a week that has been as much of a breakthrough for Arthurs as it has been a disaster for 13-time Grand Slam winner Sampras.

The 30-year-old American, a three-time winner here who has not won a title for more than two years, has a monumental rebuilding task to complete after his big game was effectively held hostage by the fearsome Arthurs serve.

Agassi, the sixth seed, ousted Argentine qualifier Guillermo Coria 6-0, 6-2 and eighth seed Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain outlasted American James Blake 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in night matches.

South Africa's Wayne Ferreira topped seventh seed Albert Costa of Spain 7-6, 6-2.

Aussie Arthurs, an over-30 competitor like Sampras, said there was a difference between the seven-time Wimbledon winner now and in his peak form in the 1990s.

"He's certainly not the Pete Sampras of the 90s, that's for sure," Arthurs said. "You still have that aura that you are playing Pete

Sampras. But the aura is not as big as it was.

"He's lost 15 matches this year, I don't think he's lost 15 matches in a whole season. He's a bit more vulnerable than he used to be."

Sampras is not scheduled to play next week and the clock is ticking for him to find his form before the August 26 start of the US Open, an event where he has lost in the finals the past two years.

"I was at his mercy a lot," he said of the Arthurs game. "I didn't feel I had much control. It was so frustrating. You know he's going to pop his aces and that there wouldn't be a lot of rallies. I knew he would be dangerous."

Arthurs went nowhere following a quarterfinal at Queen's and a runner-up spot at Nottingham on grass prior to a Wimbledon fourth-round showing, going out in the first round at Newport and Kitzbuehel.

The veteran qualifier had lost in the first round here on his two previous appearances in 1999 and 2001. But that was all forgotten in victory.

"He put a lot of pressure on my service game," said Sampras, playing Cincinnati for the 12th time and the eighth consecutive year. "It was a tough one to lose. You can just roll the dice against Wayne."

"I didn't go my way." Sampras was fresh from a Tuesday night win, staging a comeback over last weekend's Toronto Masters champion Guillermo Canas.

Top seed Lleyton Hewitt of Australia stretched a miracle run as

he won a second straight match without losing a game when Davide Sanguinetti quit injured in their second-round encounter.

The Italian limped off with a right foot injury which has bothered him for several weeks, handing world Number one Hewitt a 5-0 result in 18 minutes.

After beating qualifier Robby Ginepri love and love in the first round, Hewitt has not even dropped a game and has been on court for just 59 minutes.

The Australian, who still has no real idea of the state of his game after losing last week in the first round, will play Flying Finn Jarkko Nieminen for a place in the quarterfinals.

Hewitt said he would appeal an ATP fine he copped for failing to meet an interview requirement this week.

"I plan to win it," he said of the sanction, which amounts to 20,000 dollars or half his prize money, whichever is greater.

"I still don't know where my game is," said the 21-year-old with four titles, including Wimbledon, so far this season. "It would have been a lot nicer to have won properly."

"I fell I'm hitting the ball well enough and I'm still in the tournament. I'm hoping to get some tough matches over the next few days."

Fourth seed Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski completed a British double disaster as both went out to big-hitting young guns.

Chile's go-for-broke Fernando Gonzalez stunned Henman 7-6, 6-2, while 20-year-old Spaniard Tommy Robredo ousted Rusedski 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

"I can't think of the last time I played that badly, it was horrendous," Henman said. "He is so erratic, once you get an opportunity, you can't give him a second chance."

"I would like to think it was just one of those things, there hasn't been too much wrong with my form. There's not really an obvious explanation. To play so badly as I did is disappointing."

## Serena saunters



AFP, Los Angeles

Serena Williams, competing for the first time as the world's No. 1 ranked player, advanced to the third round of the 585,000 WTA Los Angeles Open defeating Russian Lina Krasnoroutskaya 6-4, 6-2 here on Wednesday.

"I am happy to be back," said Williams, sporting a silver crown on her head symbolic of her status as



SERENA WILLIAMS

the new queen of tennis.

The 20-year-old American admitted she looked rusty in her first outing since winning Wimbledon.

Last month she supplanted older sister Venus as the world's top-ranked women's tennis player.

Jelena Dokic, No. 4 seed, said on Wednesday that the muscular Williams sisters are turning women's tennis into a game of sheer power.

"They are so big," said Dokic. "Venus and Serena are twice the size of me."

Dokic also advanced to the third round on Wednesday with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Tina Pisnik of Slovenia.

"I feel like my game is getting better," she said.

In their second round matches on Wednesday, Greece's Eleni Daniilidou upset sixth seed Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia 6-4, 6-2; Anne Kremer of Luxembourg beat Marie-Gaianeh Mikaelian of Switzerland 6-2, 6-2; No. 8 seed Daja Bedanova, of the Czech Republic stopped American Alexandra Stevenson 6-3, 6-2;

France's Nathalie Dechy beat Iroda Tulayaganova of Uzbekistan 6-4, 6-2; Japan's Ai Sugiyama outlasted No. 7 seed Elena Dementieva 6-2, 6-7, 7-5.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	35 Crew member necessity	36 Devil ray	37 Cunning ally	40 Prickly	8 Authoritative command	12 Went blonde, in a way	14 Destroy	15 Winter forecast	16 Go no farther	17 Ziering of "90210"	18 Nonliteral expressions	20 Earth mover, for short	23 Dazzle	24 Incessantly	25 Big name in mail order	28 Drench	29 Aimada	30 Kangas's kid	32 Loose overcoats	34 "Death of a Salesman" son			
<b>DOWN</b>	1 Consumer aid org.	2 The whole pair shooting match	3 Floral garland	4 More indolent	5 Compared with	6 "The ramparts"	7 Data for Robert Ripley	8 Joining together	9 Division word	10 Leading man?	11 Stocking stuffers	13 Autocrat	19 Air for a pair	20 Morning moisture	23 Bedroom slipper	24 Unwanted e-mail	25 Vagrant	26 Harness part	27 California	28 Victory sign	29 Devoured	30 45-X-rating?	31 Mag staffers

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

CHAMBERS, TIAMER, OIA, LOBBIO, APEX, HOV, ONIUS, KITTY, EWIE, PRETTIE, KENE, STAZIE, TITANI, ORO, LAIGON, INOULID, AREINA, SNAIKE, GRIFFIN, SITTIER, GRIFFIN, SITTIER, JOHKE, BIAH, OKIAY, AHOA, BEDI, SOME, MIN, GRIAN, ENOW, BOIT, STTYX, SASIS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15								16		
			17			18	19			
20	21	22			23					
24					25			26	27	
28			29					30		31
	32	33								