

Springboks invited to tour India

NEW DELHI, Nov 1: South Africa's cricketers have been invited to make a short tour of India in November as their first overseas assignment after 21 years isolation, an Indian cricket official said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

A South African tour would make up for the cancellation by Pakistan of a five-match one-day series in India because of protests by Hindu militants. The games were to have started this week.

Former Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya said he had made the offer to a South African delegation earlier this week when they visited Calcutta, where he is now secretary of the Bengal's Cricket

Association (CAB). "The (South African) delegation will discuss it on Sunday", Dalmiya said.

Punjab Cricket Board's President Inderjit Bindra had issued the invitation with him on behalf of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Dalmiya said.

BCCI President Madhavrao Scindia has declined to confirm the Board has issued any definite invitation.

Dalmiya said the South Africans had been asked to play three one-day internationals in Calcutta, New Delhi and Jalandhar from November 10 to 14.

The delegation from the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), currently in Pakistan, was due to return to South African today.

The tour has to be cleared

by both governments.

The Foreign Ministry in New Delhi, which severed ties with South Africa in 1948, praised the UCBSA this week as an example of an acceptable, non-racial sports federation.

South Africa, banned from world cricket since 1970, were re-admitted to the International Cricket Council (ICC) last July following the dismantling of apartheid laws. They are to take part in the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand early next year.

India are due to leave for a Test tour of Australia in mid-November but a BCCI source said the Board had already asked Australian officials to consider rescheduling so India could squeeze in a home series to replace the Pakistan matches.

Wahed Nasiruddin memorial tennis singles champ

Sports Reporter

Sy d K M Wahed of the Gulshan Club clinched the singles title of the fourth Nasiruddin memorial tennis tournament which concluded at the Officers' Club, Bailey Road yesterday.

In the final held in the afternoon, Wahed trounced Khorshed Alam Sarker of the Engineers' Club 6-1, 6-1 to lay claim on the trophy.

Syed Masudur Rahman and Quamrul Islam Siddiqui of hosts Officers' Club won the doubles title beating their club mates Akmal Husain and Ahmed Maroof 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 in an exciting final.

The veterans' doubles title went to Habibur Rahman and Dr Rashiduddin Ahmed of Dhaka Club who won the final against Syed Masudur Rahman and Imdadul Haq of Officers' Club 6-3, 6-1.

Mrs Azizunnessa Nasiruddin Ahmed gave away the prizes as chief guest. The prize-giving ceremony was also attended by Officers' Club chairman Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman.



Winners of the fourth Nasiruddin memorial tennis tournament which concluded at the Officers' Club, Bailey Road yesterday seen with chief guest Mrs. Azizunnessa Nasiruddin Ahmed (standing, 3rd from right). Also seen are singles champion Syed Wahed (standing 4th from left) and club chairman Cabinet Secretary M. Siddiqur Rahman (4th from right, standing). — Star photo

Pakistan keen to play S Africa

LAHORE, Pakistan, Nov 1: Pakistan was 'very keen' to play South Africa in January before the World Cup in Australia, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported Friday, reports AFP.

President of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) Zahid Akbar speaking Thursday at a dinner hosted by the BCCP for a visiting South African cricket delegation, said his country was 'very keen to play South Africa in January next year prior to leaving for Australia to compete in the World Cup.'

The report added that

Akbar also said South Africans were 'Always welcomed to play in Pakistan whenever they had the time.'

Geoff Daikin, President of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), said at the dinner that his Board had received a proposal from Pakistan for one-day matches in January, APP said.

He said 'The early requests have come from Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka' and that they would consider each request in order Sunday when the South African Cricket Board meets in Johannesburg.

'We will discuss the option of either inviting Pakistan to South Africa or vice versa,' he said.

He added that South Africa would definitely bid for the 1996 World Cup. 'Without being precocious next year we have to make an application.'

Lauding the role of countries on the sub-continent in readmitting South Africa into the international cricket community he said 'We are thrilled and delighted that the main thrust has come from Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka.'

The four-member South African delegation which arrived here Thursday from New Delhi after a brief stay in Lahore flew back home early Friday. This was the first-ever official visit of a South African delegation to Pakistan.

Watson regains consciousness

LONDON, Nov 1: British boxer Michael Watson knocked into a coma in his fight against Chris Eubank for the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) middleweight title late September, regained consciousness last Thursday, reports AFP.

A spokesman at St. Bartholomew's Hospital here said that while the 26-year-old Watson was not completely out of danger, his surgeon Peter Hamlyn was pleased with his progress.

The boxer, who had brain surgery for head injuries after fighting Chris Eubank in the bout almost six weeks ago, is continuing to breathe without a life-support machine.

King denies mob ties

NEW YORK, Nov 1: Boxing promoter Don King on Thursday denied allegations in Sports Illustrated magazine that he has ties to organized crime, reports AP.

Former FBI agent Joe Spinell, who conducted a four-year investigation into corruption in boxing, says the promoter's name kept surfacing as the probe looked into the role of organized crime in the sport. Spinell, now the Inspector General of New York State, recounted his findings in the Nov. 4 issue of the magazine.

'I categorically deny the charge that I am associated with organized crime. This charge is a blatant falsehood,' King said in a statement.

Santos knocked out of Sao Paulo meet

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 1: Santos, the once great Brazilian soccer club made famous by the legendary Pele, suffered another disappointment on Thursday when they were prematurely knocked out of the Sao Paulo championship, reports Reuter.

Santos, who have gone into an agonising decline in the last 10 years, saw their last chance of making the second stage of the competition disappear when they were held to a scoreless draw at home by Botafogo/Sao Paulo in a lifeless match watched by less than 1,000 fans.

The result means it is impossible for Santos to qualify from the Green Group and is another blow to a club which has not won a major title since 1984.

Last week Santos were knocked out of the South American Super Cup by Penarol of Uruguay and earlier this week the club parted with coach Ramiro Valente.

The top five teams in the Green Group and the top three from the Yellow Group advance to the second stage of the competition. Each Group has 14 teams.

In the Green Group, Palmeiras secured a second round berth with a stormy victory over Guarani in which the only goal came from a controversial penalty converted by Odair.

Guarani defender Biro Biro and coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo were both sent off for protesting the decision and the team finished the match with nine players when Ailton was also shown the red card in a separate incident at the end.

Corinthians without suspended captain Neto, also made sure of their second round place by beating Ferroviaria 1-0 with a goal by Eziquiel.

Sao Paulo and Internacional are already certain of qualifying from the Yellow Group.

Holyfield bent on fighting Damiani

NEW YORK, Nov 1: Undisputed heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield missed a 30-million-dollar payday when Mike Tyson pulled out of their fight, but the good news for him is that his hometown fans can now afford to see him fight, reports Reuter.

Holyfield, in a televised satellite news conference from Houston on Wednesday, said he insisted on fighting Italian Francesco Damiani in Atlanta, Georgia, on November 23 so his fans 'could see the champ come home.'

Holyfield's promoter, Dan Duva, said Holyfield will earn 'less than eight million dollars,' or about a million less than he could have received for fighting in Las Vegas.

Tickets for the Damiani fight—sanctioned by the World Boxing Association and the International Boxing Federation, but not the World Boxing Council—have been scaled to 250,60,40 and 25 dollars. If, by some fluke, Damiani wins he will only be the new WBA and IBF cham-

pin.

'Evander wanted a cheap ticket so anyone who wants to come can come and see him fight,' Duva said.

The ticket prices for the scheduled 12-round fight at the 17,000-seat Omni Arena are relatively cheap, but Damiani is far from a household word with fight fans, who would not be willing to pay anything close to the usual 1,500,1000 and 500 dollars for seats at a title fight in Las Vegas. The 33-year-old Damiani, who has a 27-1 record, was a silver medalist at the 1984 Olympics, and in 1987 became the European heavyweight champion. In 1989 Damiani stopped Johnny Duploy to win the lightly regarded World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title.

Damiani lost the WBO title in his last fight last January when American Ray Mercer knocked him out in the ninth round.

Damiani said in a press release that the fight with Holyfield would give him a chance to prove himself once again.

'I'm sure many people in the U.S. think I have no chance of winning, but remember what Buster Douglas did to Mike Tyson.'

Douglas knocked out Tyson in February 1990 to win the title. Tyson was taken out of the Holyfield fight—scheduled for November 8 and touted to be the biggest money-making fight ever at 100 million dollars—by a pulled rib cartilage.

Rescheduling the Holyfield-Tyson fight has become a problem because the former champion is scheduled to go on trail in Indianapolis, Indiana, on January 27 on rape charges, which he denies.

Tyson's lawyers are attempting to have the trial postponed because they claim they have not been given essential information. If the trial is postponed it is possible Holyfield and Tyson could fight in February or March.

But Holyfield, 28, is not holding his breath.

'Tyson is not on my mind,' he said. 'I just have to move on. I can't let Tyson or anyone else dictate what my career is going to be like. I already have

the credibility. I'm the heavyweight champion of the world,' said Holyfield, who knocked out Douglas last October to win the title.

Holyfield again raised the possibility that he might retire soon, saying he is just 'taking it fight by fight... I'm thinking about moving out and giving somebody else the opportunity.'

But Holyfield, who was wearing a baseball cap saying 'Jesus Christ: He's the real thing,' said if a multi-fight deal came along he would consider it.

The champion admitted that 'when you're on a high to fight Tyson you drop down to fight a Francisco Damiani (whose name he had trouble pronouncing).'

'Lou's job is to pick up the motivation,' he said, referring to co-trainer Lou Duva.

But then it appeared that Holyfield remembered that regardless of how cheap the tickets he probably should try to sell them and also pump up pay-per-view television sales.

But Damiani's 'a good, tough warrior,' he said.

Jones sends early warnings

MELBOURNE, Australia, Nov 1: An unbeaten century by Dean Jones in the opening first-class match of the season here Friday gave India a taster of what to expect in their forthcoming tour of Australia, reports AFP.

Jones batted for five-and-a-half hours to score 122 of Victoria's 248 for five on the first day of their Sheffield Shield match with Tasmania.

Probably the best one-day batsman in the world, Jones reached his hundred in 282 minutes and by close of play had hit 10 boundaries.

In Brisbane, Australian captain Allan Border made 61 not out for Queensland against South Australia.

Queensland's real hero of

the day, however, was opener Matthew Hayden, who made a magnificent 149 in his first match, laying the foundation for his side's impressive 366 for three.

Hayden, the eighth Queenslander to score a century on his debut, was well supported by former Tasmanian skipper Dirk Wellham, who made 80 on his first appearance for his new state.

SCORES

QUEENSLAND (1st innings): 366-3 against South Australia (Hayden 149, Wellham 80, Border 61 not out).

VICTORIA (1st innings): 248-5 against Tasmania (Jones 122 not out).

At the WACA ground in Perth, Madras-born Mark Lavender starred for Western

Australia in their Sheffield Shield match with New South Wales.

Batting number three, Lavender, battled for six hours before being out to the last ball of the day after scoring 71, including six boundaries, in his side's first innings score of 219 for six.

The 24-year-old was well supported by his captain Geoff Marsh (53) and 20-year-old Damien Martyn (57).

Lavender began his first-class career last season with centuries in his opening two matches.

SCORES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: First innings 9-219 (Mark Lavender 71, Damien Martyn 57, Geoff Marsh 53, Mark Waugh 2-11, Wayne Holdsworth 2-60 v/s New South Wales.



The seven-round Swiss league competition of the Second Division chess league concluded at the National Coaching Centre chess room yesterday with Dhaka University emerging the champions. — Star photo

Leeds firm to hang on

LONDON, Nov 1: Leeds United will be looking to extend their first spell at the top of English soccer's First Division in 17 years when they face Wimbledon away on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Their closest challengers Manchester United a point behind, will be hoping Leeds slip up, giving them the chance to reclaim the lead they lost last Saturday after topping the table since late August.

The London club switched the replay from their small plough lane ground to the much larger Selhurst Park and were rewarded with a near-capacity 45,000 turnout.

But their luck ran out as Leeds squeezed through 1-0.

Wimbledon's reward came later with election to the football league.

Saturday's nostalgic clash on a ground which is now

Wimbledon's adopted home offers the chance to compare two of the most effective target men in the game.

Lee Chapman fills the battering-ram type centre forward role, once held by former Scotland international Joe Jordan, with no less enthusiasm or skill yet still awaits a full England cap.

John Fashanu, back to his best after injury, does a similar job for Wimbledon, recognised by the award of two full England caps.

Former England midfielder Steve Hodge who was played an important part in Leeds' march to the top is ruled out with groin trouble.

Manchester United face bottom club Sheffield United with the goal power of Mark Robins offering a potent consolation for a casualty list which is growing at an alarming rate.

The England under-21 man came off the bench to score his first goals of the season in a 3-1 league cup win over second division Portsmouth on Wednesday.

The win was Manchester United's first in six matches.

Champions Arsenal will be looking for an emphatic home victory over fellow Londoners West Ham to put behind them a 1-0 League Cup defeat at Coventry on Wednesday.

Liverpool at home to Crystal Palace, bid to climb from an uncharacteristic eighth position, nine points adrift of the leaders.

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Zhao in Thai semis

BANGKOK, Nov 1: Top seed Zhao Jianhua of China went through to the men's semifinals of the Thailand Open badminton championship here Thursday, beating No. 5 seed Joko Suprianto of Indonesia 15-9, 4-15, 15-4, reports AFP.

Second seed Rashid Sidek of Malaysia easily defeated South Korean Kim Hak Kyun 15-4, 15-4, while No. 6 seed and defending champion Sompol Kitkasemkit beat No. 3 seed Foo Kok Keong of Malaysia 17-14, 15-9. Last

year's runner-up Alan Budi Kusuma of Indonesia downed China's Lin Liwen 15-13, 15-12.

Indonesia's top seed Susi Susanti, 1990 All-England champion and 1991 World Cup champion, had to work hard before edging South Korean Bang Soo Hyun 11-9, 12-9 in the women's singles quarter-finals.

Second seed Lee Heung Soon of South Korea comfortably beat China's Shen Lianfeng 11-1, 11-1, while China's

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Mandatory blood test in Barcelona likely

BARCELONA, Spain, Nov 1: Olympic athletes may be subjected to blood tests to help detect drugs

as early as next year's Games in Barcelona, reports Reuter.

Prince Alexander de Merode of Belgium, chairman of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical commission, said on Thursday a decision depended on the outcome of current research.

He told a news conference after the second IOC world congress of sports scientists a decision on the viability of blood testing for the 1992 Games could be made following a meeting of the IOC executive board in Lausanne, Switzerland in December.

Previous indications had been that the earliest possible date for the introduction of blood tests was 1996, at the Atlanta Games.

De Merode said that while few legal and ethical concerns over blood testing had surfaced, the IOC was studying potential opposition on religious grounds.

At the same time, measures were being drawn up to ensure maximum security for blood samples, should they be used, he said.

De Merode stressed that while his commission was proceeding 'with all possible speed' towards a decision, the IOC needed to be cautious about such medical innovations.

'Blood tests must never replace the tests we now carry out. If it happens, it must be urine and blood tests in conjunction,' he said.

Some substances are detectable only in urine samples,

and others only in blood.

Within the Olympic movement only the International Ski Federation (ISF) had conducted blood tests and these were not as broad in scope as the IOC required, De Merode said.

On another testing issue, De Merode said the IOC had rejected gender testing of women by visual examination, a practice piloted on a voluntary basis at the recent World Athletics Championship in Tokyo.

Such examinations were likely to cause some athletes to withdraw on religious or cultural grounds, he said.

'It should not be up to us to determine who is a man and who is a woman,' De Merode said.

At the six-day congress more than 1,300 scientists

from almost 60 countries discussed sports-related studies in a dozen fields from kinesiology to philosophy.

With several others, final keynote speaker Andrew Pipe, chief medical officer for the 1992 Canadian Olympic team, called for an end to inconsistent drug testing penalties and practices among sports and between the 170 countries with National Olympic Committees.

De Merode told the news conference the IOC had recently established a sub-committee to meet before the end of the year to tackle inconsistent drug policies.

Pipe also endorsed the idea of an IOC medical ethics commission to hold doctors and medical scientists more accountable as their roles within the Olympic movement

expanded.

Urging delegates to start policing their own fields of study, Pipe referred to the case of Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, disqualified and banned from competition after testing positive for drugs after winning the 100 metres Olympic final in Seoul in 1988.

'In my country we are only too familiar with the tragic dimensions of drug scandal,' Pipe declared. 'Another scandal of that magnitude in my country will destroy for a decade the reputation of elite level sport. The public will not trust us any more.'

The congress was the second of its kind, following one held in Colorado Springs in 1989. A third is due to be held in Lillehammer, Norway, in 1993, a year before the Winter Olympics are held there.

USOC congress moots stricter ethics

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., Nov 1: The inaugural US Olympic Congress that begins Thursday will serve as a forum for another first for the amateur athletic organization—the discussion of stricter ethics rules, reports AP.

William Hybl, interim president of the US Olympic Committee, is expected to ask the organization's executive committee to approve several proposals aimed at boosting public confidence in the committee.

The USOC currently has an unspecified ethics provision in its constitution. The proposed strict, specific regulations by Hybl would be a first. If the executive committee approves

Hybl's plan, the USOC board of directors would vote on it Sunday.

The call for specific ethics guidelines—a precedent in the group's 93-year history—follows alleged 'corruption' within the USOC by two top-ranking officials.

Robert Helmick resigned as USOC president in September after published reports said he had a conflict of interest because his Des Moines, Iowa, law practice included Olympic-related clients.

USOC executive director Harvey Schiller has been asked to step down by US Skating, the largest governing body of an Olympic sport. The ski group says Schiller sought free ski

passes in exchange for an increase in grants and knew about, but did not report, Helmick's alleged business conflicts.

Both men have denied the allegations. Arnold Burns, a former US deputy attorney general, is continuing to investigate both cases.

This week's meeting comes at a time when the USOC struggles with a tarnished reputation in a critical year: The Winter Olympics begin Feb 8 in Albertville, France, and the Summer Olympics open July 25 in Barcelona, Spain.

'It's obvious that we need to reassure the American people that their Olympic committee is functioning honourably,' Hybl said recently. He could not be reached for comment by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

USOC spokesman Mike Moran would neither confirm nor deny the reports.

Other events scheduled for the Congress include inducting seven new members into the US Olympic Hall of Fame.

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The captain of the Vignarunissa Noon Girls High School receiving the champions trophy from chief guest State Minister for Culture Mrs. Jahan Ara Begum and Bata-Bangladesh Managing Director M Oldroyd. Vignarunissa Noon school retained the Bata school girls handball title beating Bangladesh Rifles School in the final at the Dhanmandi Women's Sports Complex Thursday afternoon. — Star photo

99 teams for Thomas Cup

CHELTHAM, England, Nov 1: A record 99 teams have entered for the Thomas and Uber Cup badminton tournaments next year, with South Africa making their return after a 22-year absence, reports AFP.

The preliminary rounds will be held in February in Hong Kong and the Dutch town of Den Bosch, with the finals hosted in Kuala Lumpur in May, the international Badminton Federation announced here on Thursday.

China will be looking for its fifth consecutive victory in the women's Uber Cup and its fourth consecutive win in the men's Thomas Cup.