

With Pakistan holding the Dutch 1-1

Champions' Trophy is wide open



BERLIN, Sept 19: Pakistan's hockey team threw the 13th Champions' Trophy wide open here on Wednesday by drawing 1-1 with the Netherlands in one of the best matches of the men's tournament, reports AFP.

The result may have strengthened the hand of Germany, who are still at the top of the table with four points from two games, and who have a match in hand.

But it does let Australia in with a chance of the gold medal, depending on what happens between Great Britain and Germany.

Pakistan, Australia and the

Netherlands will all be backing Britain in the showdown — all four countries have three points from three games.

Wednesday's effort by Pakistan also broke a sequence of victories over them by the Dutch, the most notable being their 3-1 defeat in the World Cup final in Lahore 1990.

Pakistan manager Isahuddin, visibly relieved after the match, praised Khalid Bashir for his goal and hailed him as a new short corner expert.

"After all, he has learnt his trade from our coach Munawar Zaman, himself a great short corner specialist in his day," he said.

If Britain halt the progress of Germany, Pakistan will also

be in contention for the gold medal. They too have to play Britain, along with the Soviet Union — who are unlikely too offer much of a challenge.

Germany and Australia are on top of the women's table with six points each from three games.

The Dutch, who lost 2-0 to the Aussies on Wednesday, were disappointed and looked nothing like the side that won the World Cup in Sydney last year.

Brian Glencross, the Aussie women's team coach, said he wanted his side to be 30 per cent better for a successful defence of their gold medal at next year's Barcelona Olympics.

"Seeing he other teams here rather raises my expectations for Australia," he said.

Meanwhile, in a clear warning to their Asian rivals, South Korea beat China 1-0 here on Wednesday in a women's match they should have won more comfortably.

Both teams will take part in the Olympic qualifying tournament in Auckland next month, although in different groups.

A run feast at Durham

DURHAM, Sept 19: Yorkshire reject John Glendenen hit an unbeaten double century for Durham against Victoria here on Wednesday as the tally piled up to 909 runs for the loss of just 10 wickets on a friendly university pitch, reports AFP.

Victoria go into the final day 201 runs ahead at 153 for two in their second innings, providing their batsmen with some useful practice before next week's Britannic Assurance challenge match against the county champions.

For the bowlers it was relentless toil on a feathered wicket, with Glendenen making the most of three lives.

The 26-year-old, who played for Yorkshire seconds from 1983-1986, batted for 317 minutes, faced 227 balls and hit 32 fours. He also hit 109 against Glamorgan in the Natwest Trophy this season.

Durham declared at 354 for three immediately after Glendenen became only the second player in Durham's history to reach 200.

DMBA bridge

The pair duplicate bridge competition will be held at the Bangladesh Bank Club premises here today.

A total of 20 to 25 competitors are expected to participate in the contest.



Y. Li of China (No 15) blocking a shot from M. Ishikoke of Japan at the 6th Asian senior women's volleyball championship in Bangkok on 18 Sept. China won the match 3 sets to 2.

Bubka's big day today



BARCELONA, Sept 19: Sergei Bubka, the greatest pole vaulter in history, is set to crown a triumph.

Ohan season by walking off with 25,000 dollars on Friday as the men's overall Grand Prix athletics champion, reports Reuters.

The 27-year-old Ukrainian is six points clear of his nearest rivals in Friday's Grand Prix final, thanks to the bonus points from his world record leap of 6.08 metres at the Moscow Grand Prix on June 9.

Since then the world champion has taken the mark to 6.10 metres, giving him four outdoor and indoor world records this year.

On Tuesday Bubka showed he had recovered from a painful heel injury which plagued him during the Tokyo World Championships by winning a competition in Jerez de la Frontera.

Now he sets his sights on the Grand Prix final and the possibility of another world record.

Bubka has set 28 world records and another one on Friday would equal Finn Paavo Nurmi's mark.

Germany's world high jump champion Heike Henkel heads the women's standings from Jamaican Merlene Ottey. Both athletes have 45 points but the Grand Prix statisticians have given Henkel the lead because of her jump of 2.04 metres at last month's Monaco Grand Prix.

Ottey has bounced back from her twin disappointment at the World Championships, close of the third day of the four-day international.

First wicket pair Flower and Kevin Arnold (60) put on 94 in 141 minutes before the partnership was broken by leg spinner Peter McIntyre, tree wickets falling for 51 before Flower and Andy Pycroft (24 not out) steadied the innings.

Earlier, Zimbabwe pace bowler Paul Reiffel taking the wickets to finish with four for 34.

where she finished third in both the 100 and 200 metres finals, to clock the third fastest time ever over 200 at last Friday's Brussels Grand Prix.



SERGEI BUBKA

The men's 3,000 metres steeplechase could produce a world record if world champion Moses Kiptanui is on song.

Kiptanui, still a novice at the event, ran a year's fastest time of eight minutes 06.46 seconds in Brussels and he will be competing on Friday against three talented compatriots in Olympic champion Julius Kariuki, William Mutwol and Patrick Sang.

Two other men's world champions should complete magnificent seasons in style.

American Michael Johnson, untouchable over 200 metres for the past two years, takes part as does 1,500 metres gold medalist Nourredine Morelli.

Zimbabweans follow on

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, Sept 19: Opener Grant Flower scored his second half century of the match to prop up Zimbabwe after they followed on 290 behind Australia's B cricket team on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Flower, top scorer with 74 in Zimbabwe's first innings of 193, batted 10 minutes short of five hours for a painstaking unbeaten 63 that guided his side to 193 for three at the

close of the third day of the four-day international.

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Kabaddi finals from today

Sports Reporter

The final rounds of the Uttara Motors national kabaddi championship, which were scheduled to begin yesterday at four divisional venues, had been put back by a day by the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation.

When contacted yesterday, the officials of the Federation gave no specific reason for the delay.

However, they said the championship will begin today at the four divisional venues.

As many as 22 teams from all over the country will play in the four zonal finals.

Asian women's volleyball

BANGKOK, Sept 19: Defending champions China edged out Japan 17-15, 15-7, 5-15, 7-15 and 15-12 in a Group F second round match to enter the semifinals in the 6th Asian women's volleyball championships here Wednesday, reports AFP.

In the same group Taiwan beat Australia 15-8, 15-5, 15-7.

In Group E South Korea beat Thailand 15-3, 15-12, 15-1 while North Korea beat Vietnam 15-1, 15-6, 15-1.

In the semifinals on Friday Japan will meet South Korea and China will face North Korea.

Michel pays for his mischief



MADRID, Spain, Sept 19: A Spanish Federation judge fined but did not suspend Real Madrid star Michel on Wednesday for squeezing "the most secret private part" of opponent Carlos Valderrama during a recent match, reports AP.

Michel, whose real name is Miguel Gonzalez, received a 500,000-peseta (dhs 5,000) fine but escaped further sanction for his attempt to rile Valderrama, a Colombian who plays for Valladolid.

During a Sept 8 Spanish First Division match, Michel reached behind him and squeezed Valderrama's groin twice as the two jostled for position before a corner kick. Real Madrid won 1-0.

Valderrama's smug and deft hand and Valderrama's incredulous reaction were caught by both still photographers and television cameras.

Valladolid filed a formal complaint with federation judge Jose Javier Forcens, claiming that Michel had been trying to incite a violent reaction from Valderrama's to get the Colombian ejected from the game.

In his findings, Forcens used literary Spanish to describe the facts of the case and explain his decision, rejecting Michel's defence that the action was a joke.

He said Michel "with a furtive look, but a sure hand, squeezed, with the latter, on two occasions, the most secret private part" of Valderrama.

The judge said that "manipulating in public that of your neighbour which is a gift given exclusively to males by nature" violated a federation rule protecting players' dignity and decorum.

Forcens could have suspended Michel for up to four games.

No immediate comment was forthcoming from Michel, who was with Real Madrid in Bratislava as the team prepared for its first-round UEFA Cup match with Slovan.

— AFP photo

San Diego keen on Diego's services



SAN DIEGO, California, Sept 19: A US indoor football team, the San Diego Sockers, said on Wednesday they want to sign Diego Maradona, just hours after the Argentinian star was convicted of drug dealing, reports AFP.

A court in Naples gave Maradona a suspended 14 month jail sentence and fined him five million lire (3,900 dollars).

The player, who was not in court, had his sentence reduced after plea bargaining. Maradona, who could have been jailed for two years, had instructed his lawyer to enter a plea of guilty.

Maradona is meanwhile under a 15-month playing ban, which expires on June 30, 1992, and is on bail in Argentina where he faces similar drug-trafficking charges and a maximum 16-year jail term.

On top of this, Maradona is under contract until 1993 with Napoli.

But club official Osa Ancira said the San Diego Sockers are undaunted by the problems of signing the former Argentinian skipper.

"We'll cross the bridge

when we get there. We're making some inroads.

Ancira reckoned that Maradona "has more layers of protection than the people. It

takes time to go through the right people.

"The 'whys' are obvious—he's the number one player in the world. If we brought him here, there's one million people from Tijuana who would want to see him. I don't think the sports arena would be large enough to hold everyone who would want to watch him."

"He plays an indoor style game, he keeps the ball close to his foot. From (partners in) Mexico we heard he wanted to play indoors for a year. The major soccer league is the best league, and the Sockers are the best team."

"If he's serious about playing indoors, he should come to play with San Diego Sockers."

He also claimed that "our goal is not to make money in our first year, but to strengthen the league. He would single-handedly bring more publicity to the league in one swoop than it's had in 12 years."

The Sockers have won the national six-a-side championship nine times in the last 10 seasons.

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"So I knew I had to play well, play consistently and aggressively to beat her," she added.

Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria, seeded third, also overcame Andrea Strnadova of Czechoslovakia 6-1, 6-2 to stay on course for a possible semifinal encounter against Fernandez.

"I could have played better and made less unforced errors. But I served well and I put a lot of pressure on her with my ground strokes," said Maleeva, who won the Japan Open on the same Centre Court in 1987.

Before facing Fernandez, the Bulgarian will have to beat either fifth-seeded Laura Gildemeister of Peru or Akiko Kijimuta of Japan in the quarter-finals.

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Powell's plans work perfectly



BRUSSELS, Sept 19: Mike Powell, the new holder of the world long jump record, is not haunted by the fate of his predecessor, reports Reuters.

The 27-year-old American broke the oldest record in the book last month when he leaped 8.95 metres at the Tokyo World Championships. Compatriot Bob Beamon's mark of 8.90 had stood since the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.

Beamon was never able of repeat or even approach his 8.90 metre leap and quickly disappeared into oblivion.

But Powell vows his record was not a one-off performance.

"I have no fear of not jumping that far again, because I've jumped further on fouls before, so my body is capable of jumping further than it did in Tokyo," Powell, 27, said before last Friday's Brussels Grand Prix.

"My personal best (before the 8.95) was 8.66 metres. Every year that I've competed, I've improved. I don't see any reason why I wouldn't keep going on improving. I'm very goal-oriented," he said.

He has the chance to prove he is as good as his word at next year's Olympic Games in Barcelona.

"My goal next year is to win the gold medal in Barcelona and it may take a jump of nine metres or beyond," he said.

Powell realises Carl Lewis, who was widely expected to succeed Beamon in the record books instead of him, will be after his record.

"Now that I reached the top it's going to be hard to stay on top because Carl Lewis has the motivation to beat me."

"And other jumpers may look at me and say: 'I can do it, the man can do it'. Now everybody wants to beat me."

But the prospect of increasing opposition could not wipe the smile off his face and he happily admitted he was already reaping the financial rewards of his record leap.

His private sponsor, a footwear company, paid him 50,000 dollars for the record plus an extra 5,000 bonus for beating Lewis.

"Now a lot of people are interested in me. My agent Brad

Hunt is very busy. 'It's nice to have some options now,' Powell said.

For a vast majority in the crowds, Powell was still a nobody when he bettered Beamon's legendary jump. Lewis' presence and the lack of recognition proved the ideal ingredients to motivate him for the record jump, he says.

"I had to earn my name out there. All I want to do is just get what I deserve. And I thought 'If I jump the world record I'll get the respect that I deserve', he said.

He is convinced that the instant fame will also help him in his future performances.

"I'm going to enjoy going out in front of the crowd and competing even more now. Now that more people know who I am... when I start to clap and play and crowd, everybody will be involved."

He admits he had badly underestimated the impact of his record.

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"As the days went on, I realised how many people were interested in what I did. There was much more coverage of my jump and my coming home than I had expected."

But it took him just a few days of get his act together again after Tokyo.

"I like the attention, but a lot of people wanted a lot of my time. Now I'm able to delegate my time in a better fashion."

He just suffered a slight hamstring problem — which kept him out of the Brussels meeting — for which he blamed an overdose of travelling, interviews and a lack of rest in the aftermath of Tokyo.

For Powell, advance planning is vital. So far it has paid off in full.

"In the beginning of the season I sit down and count what I want to do that for that year. I've been doing a pretty good job at accomplishing those goals," he said.

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Saunders stars in Liverpool's goal glut



LONDON, Sept 19: Liverpool returned in triumph to the European soccer stage after a six-year exile as striker Dean Saunders plundered four goals in a 6-1 UEFA Cup spree against Finland's Kuusysi Lahti on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Liverpool, banished after the Heysel Stadium disaster of 1985, put that tragedy behind them and brought back happier memories of past European glories with a burst of four goals in the last quarter of an hour of the first-round first-leg tie at their Anfield Ground.

English champions Arsenal made an equally potent home start in their bid to lift the European Cup, trouncing Austria Vienna 6-1 and celebrating a four-goal hero of their own — Alan Smith.

Smith crammed his goals between the 50th and 66th minutes as Arsenal demonstrated their eagerness to emulate compatriots Liverpool, who won Europe's premier trophy four times between

1977 and 1984.

Soviet marksman Sergei Yuran set the standard for Saunders and Smith, netting four times for his new Portuguese club Benfica in the 6-0 destruction of Maltese minnows Ilamrun Spartans in

time — his first goals for Benfica, the European Champions of 1960 and 1961, since he joined them in July.

Welsh striker Saunders opened Liverpool's tally in the 12th minute and added three more in the 77th, 85th and 86th minutes. Ireland's Ray Houghton claimed the two others in the 33rd and 90th.

The Finns gave Liverpool several anxious moments in the earlier stages and Kalte Lehtinen kept them in the hunt when he made it 2-1 two minutes after Houghton's first goal. But after the deluge the return in two weeks must be a formality.

Marseille, beaten by Red Star Belgrade in last May's European Cup final, warmed up for the new campaign by brushing aside Union Luxembourg 5-0 in the grand Duchy.

Jean-Pierre Papin plundered a hat-trick — two brilliant volleys and a penalty — and Daniel Cuereb and Frank Sauze scored the others as a French club claimed four wins in four games in the three European competitions.

New Zealand striker

Wynton Rufer banged in a quick-fire hat-trick for Werder Bremen, scoring in the ninth, 13th and 32nd minutes as the Germans routed FC Baccu in a Cup Winners' Cup match in Romania.

Dutch striker Wim Kieft was sent off and fellow international Gerald Vanenburg booked for protesting against a penalty award which enabled Turkey's Besiktas to achieve a 1-1 draw against former holders PSV Eindhoven in the European Cup in Istanbul.

Mehmet Ozdilic scored from the spot 10 minutes from time to equalise Juul Ellerman's 27th-minute opener for PSV, winners of the trophy in 1988.

Reigning European Cup champions