

Pakistan to play five one-dayers in India

NEW DELHI, Sept 22: Pakistan will play five one-day internationals during their short tour of India, the Indian Cricket Board said on Friday, discounting reports the tourists wanted to reduce the number of matches, reports Reuter.

The president of the Indian Board of Control (BCCI), Madhavrao Scindia, said Pakistan had agreed to a 13-day tour starting on October 27.

"Pakistan Cricket Board has confirmed their commitment to play five one-day games and the tour is certainly on," Scindia said.

The Indian authorities had rejected Pakistan's proposal to play two Tests and two one-day internationals. The BCCI said it was not possible to include two Tests in the short time available before India embark on a tour of Australia.

Kabaddi finals in Dhaka from Sept 26

The final round of the Uttara Motors 18th national kabaddi championship will begin in Dhaka at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court on September 26, reports UNB.

In all ten qualified teams from four divisions and a service zone will take part in the three-day competition.

The teams are Bangladesh Ansar, Fire Service, Comilla, Feni, Tangail, Dhaka, Bogra, Dinajpur, Khulna and Satkhira DSAs. On Saturday, Tangail beat Dhaka DSA by 14-12 points in the Dhaka divisional final while Bogra defeated Dinajpur by 45-16 points in the final of Rajshahi Division.

Houghton to the rescue

HARARE, Sept 22: Skipper David Houghton res-cued Zimbabwe with a superb unbeaten century on the opening day of the second unofficial cricket Test match against visiting Australia 'B' on Saturday, reports Reuter.

After winning the toss, Zimbabwe were 57 for two at lunch. But in the next hour good bowling by Australian leg-spinner Peter McIntyre brought about a collapse to 88 for seven.

Houghton, who has been out of form recently, began the recovery with veteran off-spinner John Traicos, putting on 67 for the eighth wicket.

By the last hour of the day Houghton and number 11 Malcolm Jarvis seemed to have the measure of the bowling.

At the close they had compiled an unbeaten 66 for the last wicket with Houghton 103 and Jarvis on 26. Zimbabwe finished the day on 230 for nine.

The match resumes on Monday after today's deciding match in the one-day international series, which currently stands at 1-1.

Scores: Zimbabwe 230-9 (D Houghton 103 not out, K Arnot 31, P McIntyre four for 42, D Hickey 4-67).

Sheikh Ahmed new OCA chief

NEW DELHI, Sept 22: Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Sabah of Kuwait was unanimously elected president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) after members relaxed rules governing minimum age today, reports Reuter.

Sheikh Ahmed, 32, succeeds his father Sheikh Fahad Al-Sabah, who was killed in last year's Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

A controversy over Sheikh Ahmed's candidature ended when council members overruled objections and waived a requirement that the council president should be more than 35-years-old.

Two other candidates for the post acting OCA chief Roy De Silva of Sri Lanka and Indonesia's Bob Hassan, earlier withdrew from the contest.

Bridge results

The following are the results of the weekly pair duplicate bridge contest of the Dhaka Metropolitan Bridge Association held last Friday at the Bangladesh Bank Club premises, states a press release.

14-table Mitchell — (North-South): First — Quazi Hamiduddin and Das Deba Prasad (59.34 per cent); second — Md. Shamsul Alam and A K M Azizur Rahman (57.97 per cent); third Mahfuzur Rashid and Md Yakub (57.55 per cent).

East-West: First — Natmul Hassan Topu and Bani Amin Eon (59.82 per cent); second — Momtullah and Asaduzzaman (57.35 per cent) and third Jahirul Haque and A Wahab Howlader (56.25 per cent).

The next weekly bridge contest will be held on September 27 at 3.30 pm at the same venue.



Australians Sharon Buchman (L) and Tracy Belbin (C) try to prevent Germany's Britta Bechker from coming through during their Champions' Trophy women's lawn hockey match in Berlin on Sept 20. The match ended in a scoreless draw. — AFP photo

Another jewel in Seles' crown

TOKYO, Sept 22: Top-seeded Monica Seles needed just 51 minutes Sunday to demolish Mary Joe Fernandez 6-1, 6-1 and win the Nichirei international ladies tennis championships, reports AP.

Seles, the world's top-ranked woman player, matched German star Steffi Graf's record of winning 17 singles titles before her 18th birthday. She turns 18 in December.

"It's tough to read her shots, she mixed up her shots very well," said Fernandez, the second seed and defending champion, who often helplessly watched Seles's shots zip past her.

"I think I played very well today. I wasn't really missing any balls. I just played great tennis," said the 17-year-old Yugoslav, who improved her record against Fernandez to 7-1.

The season was worth dollars 70,000. It brought her total winnings this season to dollars 1,507,758.

Her victories this season include the US Open, French Open and Australian Open, but she skipped Wimbledon, saying a leg injury forced her to drop out.

Fernandez, a 20-year-old American ranked seventh in the world, said, "She played very well and did not give me a chance to get into the match."

Seles did drop her serve once, when she was leading 5-0 in the second set. At deuce, she sent a passing shot wide and then hit a shot too long.

But she broke Fernandez at love in the final game on the hard court of Ariake Coliseum.



MONICA SELES

Chinese girls stay the best spikers in Asia

BANGKOK, Sept 22: Defending champions China retained the title when they defeated Japan in three sets 15-8, 16-14, 15-10 in the final of the sixth Asian women's volleyball championship here Saturday, reports AFP.

South Korea finished third with a three sets to nil win over North Korea in the match for third place. Taiwan beat Australia 3-0 in the match for fifth place, while Thailand beat Vietnam 3-0 in the match for seventh place.

China have now won Asian women's championships title four times — three of them back to back. China finished champions in the second, fourth, fifth and sixth championships.

China, Japan, and South Korea have also won a berth in the 1991 World Cup women's volleyball championships in November this year in Japan. China and Japan also qualified to represent Asia in the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992.

Close call for French leaders

PARIS, Sept 22: Second half goals from the French league's leading marksmen George Weah and Jean-Pierre Papin saved leaders Monaco and champions Marseille from shock home defeats to newly-promoted sides on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Monaco, who had won nine of their previous 10 matches, trailed Nimes by a 24th-minute goal from 21-year-old Ahmed Maharzi, his first strike in the First Division.

But the big Libertain Weah saved the day for the club from the principalty with his 12th goal in 11 games when he netted in the 64th minute.

Monaco almost won the day when substitute Christopher Thomas fired in a fierce shot in the last minute, but Nimes keeper Lionel Perez made a miraculous save.

The story was almost identical at the Stade Velodrome where European Cup finalists Marseille were rocked by a 24th minute goal from Pierre Laigle of Lens, like Maharzi a 21-year-old playing in his first season in the upper flight.

Services soccer

BOGRA, Sept 22: The annual inter-service football championship will begin here tomorrow at Bogra Cantonment, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Navy will take on Bangladesh Air Force in the opening match. Bogra Area Commander Maj. Gen Sadiqur Rahman Chowdhury will inaugurate the meet.

5 Man United fans jailed

ATHENS, Sept 22: Five Manchester United soccer fans were jailed for seven months and fined 1,500 pounds sterling (2,500 dollars) each after being convicted of wrecking a bar during a brawl court officials said today, reports Reuter.

Eight United fans were charged after the brawl in the seaside suburb of Glyfada on Friday — two days after the English club drew 0-0 with Athinaikos in a European Cup Winners' Cup tie.

Three were acquitted of assault and causing extensive material damage and freed.

Under Greek law the jailed fans can buy off the sentences. Court officials said their families had been contacted and they were trying to raise the money.

Pakistan poised to lift Trophy

BERLIN, Sept 22: Germany, Australia and Pakistan all stand a chance of lifting the Champions Trophy today, as the hockey tournament enters its decisive final day, reports AFP.

Germany will take the glory if they beat Australia, while the Aussies will get gold medal if they can blast the Germans by five goals.

Any other result will land the Trophy in the lap of the Pakistanis, who have not won it since 1980.

Despite all their skill and craft, Pakistan could only manage a 1-0 win on Saturday over the Olympic champions Great Britain, who played with courage and gritty determination.

Territorially, the British had as much of the play but the lack of a sharpshooter proved their undoing. Sean Kerly, the scorer of eight goals at the Seoul Olympics, seems to have worn himself out.

Britain have also not sorted out their short corner tech-

nique. They had five alto-gether, compared to five for Pakistan, and gained nothing from them.

Pakistan would have gone into the interval 3-0 up had they not squandered east opportunities, which they also went on to miss in the second half.

But their hero was Khalid Bashir, who scored from a short corner after just five minutes.

Their manager Islahuddin was a happy man on Saturday night, saying that he could not care what happens today.

"In any event, we shall be going home at least with a silver medal and that will encourage us," he said. "We have a long way to go yet and the road is hard, but our aim is to regain the Olympic gold medal and we have the players to do it."

Australia won the gold medal in the women's tournament after being second on the two previous occasions in Amsterdam in 1987 and in Frankfurt in 1989, where South Korea were the winners.

STANDINGS

Tables (played, won, drawn, lost goals for, against, points):

Men						
Pakistan	5	3	1	14	8	7
Germany	4	2	2	10	6	6
Australia	4	2	1	1	8	6
Great Britain	5	1	2	2	4	4
Netherlands	4	1	1	2	7	3
Soviet Union	4	0	1	3	6	1
Women						
Australia	5	4	1	0	10	4
Germany	5	3	2	0	9	3
Netherlands	5	2	2	1	6	4
Spain	4	1	0	3	5	2
South Korea	5	1	0	4	6	2
China	4	0	1	3	3	1

Bubka, Henkel overall champs

BARCELONA, Sept 22: Sergei Bubka completed his most successful season in style on Friday by winning the athletics Grand Prix men's overall title, reports Reuter.

The Soviet pole vaulter had already set eight world records this year — four indoor and four outdoor — and successfully defended his world title despite intense pain from a bruised heel.

On Friday he won the pole vault competition at the Grand Prix final with a typical display

of sheer guts and determination. That leap alone was worth 35,000 dollars — 25,000 for the overall title and 10,000 for finishing first in the pole vault standings.

Bubka then tried to earn himself another 25,000 dollars by raising his world record to 6.11 but abandoned the competition after two unconvincing attempts.

"It was not easy for me after missing so much training," he said. "I didn't have much time for practice. Every jump was very hard for me today."

There were no such complaints from high jumper Heike Henkel who won the women's overall title.

The German world champion leaped 2.02 metres to relegate Bulgaria's world record holder Stefka Kostadinova into second place.

"I'm very satisfied," Henkel said. "The season wasn't too long — but it was long enough." Henkel's winning jump early in the competition gave an added edge to the year's final major meeting.

Grand Prix statisticians swiftly calculated that Merlene Ottey would need to clock 10.86 seconds in the 100 metres or Soviet Natalya Artyomova four minutes 16.10 seconds for the mile to head Henkel in the overall standings.

Ottey gave it her best shot but finished one hundredth of a second outside the necessary time.

She still picked up 10,000 dollars as winner of the 100 metres title and said afterwards: "I concentrated hard on my start today and my only thought was to run and finish as fast as possible."

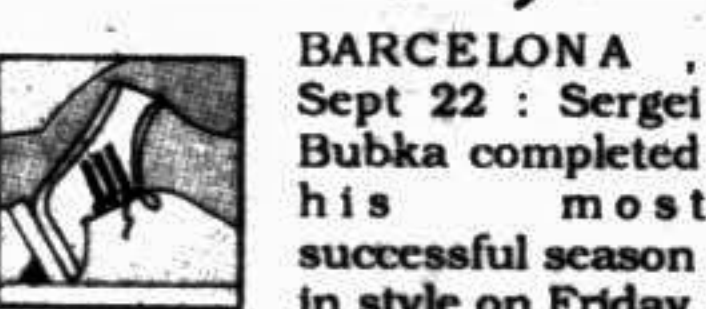
Artyomova, running the final lap and a half on her own, made a spirited attempt on Paula Ivan's world record of 4:15.61 but finished in 4:17.00, missing out both on the world mark and the overall title.

Her time was still her second fastest and the fourth fastest ever.

Moses Kiptanui, who had signalled his intention to attempt the world steeplechase record, found the effects of a stomach upset and a long, hard season too much for him.

The Kenyan world champion was overtaken in the final metres by Moroccan Abdelaziz Sahere and said: "My mind was only on finishing as I had a bad stomach ache beforehand. I had a bad time during the race."

By contrast American world champion Michael Johnson



SERGEI BUBKA



HEIKE HENKEL



HEIKE HENKEL

was again in awesome form, setting a year's best of 19.88 seconds in the men's 200.

Johnson, running into a slight head wind, slowed at the finish but still finished more than four metres ahead of Brazilian Robson da Silva.

"This has not been one of my best races technically and I did not run with my usual ease," Johnson complained, although spectators would have been hard-pressed to fault his performance.

The evening ended with Algerian world champion Nourredine Morcelli confirming his supremacy in the 1,500 metres.

Morcelli won easily in 3:34.48 from Morocco's world record holder Said Aouita.

Americans lead the Germans

KANSAS CITY, Missouri, Sept 22: A small but exuberant group of German Davis Cup team supporters with noisemakers have raised too much of a racket for United States captain Tom Gorman, reports Reuter.

"I talked to the referee this morning and felt that the use of outside objects like that should not be a part of the tennis out there," Gorman said on Saturday after the German team of Michael Steik and Eric Jelen earned their country's first point with a doubles victory.

The pair staved off German elimination by beating Scott Davis and David Pate 7-6, 6-4, 6-4 in doubles on Saturday to cut the United States lead to 2-1 in their semifinal.

Earlier Germany's Wimbledon champion Stich lost Friday's opening singles match to Andre Agassi in straight sets.

Stich will return to the indoor red clay court at the Kemper arena today to play the first reverse singles match against French Open champion and U.S. Open runner-up Jim Courier.

"Jim will be on a mission," Gorman said of Courier, who beat Stich on clay in the French Open semifinals. "I think he will be coming out on all cylinders."

The final singles will pit Agassi against German left-hander Carl-Uwe Steeb.

The winners will meet France in the final at the end of November.

Davis and Pate did not play well or cohesively in their Davis Cup debut. They moved awkwardly at times and often failed to cover the open court when one of them moved to cut off a shot.

Some 200 Germans fans

have arrived to watch the weekend semifinals against the defending Davis Cup champions at the 16,000-seat Kemper arena, but the din of their noisemakers have muted the restrained support offered by American fans for their team.

"I have no problems with noise with their hands, feet or mouths. I have nothing against that," Gorman said. "But the players were saying Friday that these things were real noisy and there was constant noise. It was getting out of hand."

Following the American request, an International Tennis Federation official, Christopher

Stokes, went into the stands early in the doubles match to tell a handful of the excessively enthusiastic German contingent to refrain from using the noisemakers.

"Tom rather politely asked if we could please call a halt to it," Stokes said. "He was not happy with the situation."

While boisterousness at Davis Cup matches is more often the rule than the exception, it is extremely rare for the home side to complain about noise in the stands.

"We are trying to phase that sort of thing out," Stokes said. "It's not exactly fair to the team dealing with it."

France in final

PAU, France, Sept 22: Guy Forget and Arnaud Boetsch guided France safely into the final of the Davis Cup on Saturday when they won the doubles in the semifinal against Yugoslavia, reports Reuter.

The French pair beat Slobodan Zivjotic and Srijan Muskatirovic 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 in one hour 40 minutes to give the team an unbeatable 3-0 lead and seal their place in the final for the first time in nine years.

The Yugoslav team were drastically weakened by the withdrawal of Croatians Goran Ivanisevic and Goran Prpic in sympathy with their break-away state's struggle for independence.

Forget and Boetsch, who was playing his first Davis Cup match, were never troubled by the Yugoslavs and the inexperience of the 19-year-old Muskatirovic was all too obvious.

The French broke the young Serbs serve in each set to put themselves in a winning

position and neither Frenchman was broken during the match.

"I'm happy because we've rarely played to our potential in the Davis Cup in the past," said non-playing French captain Yannick Noah.

"We were not playing the strongest Yugoslav team but our players knew what they had to do and they did it. I'm specially happy for Guy. He's had a great season and he deserves this."

Forget beat Muskatirovic in straight sets in Friday's opening singles before 18-year-old Fabrice Santoro won a tight five setter against Zivjotic to give the French a 2-0 overnight lead.

Noah said France now expected to meet the United States, who were leading Germany 2-1 in the other semifinal. "That's good for us because well play at home," he said.

A French-US clash in the final would be a repeat of 1982 when the American visitors including John McEnroe won the trophy 4-1 in Grenoble against Noah and Henri Leconte.

United extend their lead

LONDON, Sept 22: Manchester United sustained their flying start to the pursuit of their first English soccer league title for 25 years when they thrashed struggling Luton 5-0 at Old Trafford on Saturday, reports Reuter.

A second half burst of four goals, two in three minutes from Scottish striker Brian McClair, swept United to their seventh First Division win of the season in an unbeaten run of nine games.

United stay four points ahead of second-placed Leeds, the only other First Division team still undefeated, who pulled off a 1-0 home victory

over Liverpool. Midfielder Steve Hodge, signed from Nottingham Forest last July, fired Leeds to their fifth win in nine league matches with a 25th-minute goal against last season's runner-up.

English marksman Gary Lineker stole the individual scoring spotlight in the First Division when he struck four goals for Tottenham in their 5-3 away victory against Wimbledon.

United, who have rarely made a better start to their bid for the league crown they last won in 1966-67, were set on course against Luton by midfielder Paul Ince's first goal of the season after 23 minutes.

But Luton, next to bottom of the 22-team division with two wins in 10 games, kept the leaders waiting until the 63rd minute for the second goal.

However, once Steve Bruce had tucked away a spot kick awarded for handball, United destroyed their opponents with three more goals in nine minutes. McClair hit the first two before Wales striker Mark Hughes completed the rout.

Leeds continued their own impressive league form by ending a 19-match sequence against Liverpool without a victory.

It was a move by Scottish midfielder Gordon Strachan, the mainspring who makes the side tick and appearing in his 100th game for Leeds, that led to the only goal.

South Africa's exclusion from '94 World Cup

CAF may reconsider decision

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 22: The African Football Federation (CAF) may yet reconsider its decision to rule South Africa out of the 1994 World Cup, a top sports official said here on Saturday, reports AFP.

CAF took its decision during a weekend meeting in Cairo after the two South African football associations failed to meet August 30 deadline to present a united front to the ruling body.

But National Olympic Sports Congress (NOSC) president

Mululeki George, speaking on his return from Cairo, announced that a further meeting has been arranged to discuss the issue.

Local reports said the CAF committee chaired by Cameroon's Issa Hayatou, had given South Africa a second chance to comply and has decided to meet again in December to consider the matter.

Other South African officials Saturday reacted with anger to CAF's decision. The South African news agency SAPA said.

SAPA secretary-general Solomon Morewa said CAF had

used a "flimsy excuse" to reject the application on Friday, saying South Africa's two football associations had concluded the unity process recently, when they constituted a 21-man executive.

SANFA president Goba Ndlovu held a different view, saying a meeting scheduled to draft a unified constitution with SAFA never took place.

The conflicting statements by officials of the two associations cast strong doubt on the status of the demanded merger and played a major role in CAF's decision, observers said.

All Africa Games open in Cairo

Arab swimmers dominate

CAIRO, Sept 22: Tunisia won the first gold medal of the fifth All Africa Games on Saturday when swimmer Senda Gharbi retained her title in the women's 100 metres freestyle, reports Reuter.

The Arab states' dominance of the swimming events was quickly reasserted when Algeria's Abdel Razak Bella broke his own African record in the men's 100 metres breaststroke final with a time of one minute 07.55 seconds.

The small but powerfully built Gharbi led all the way to touch in 58.64 seconds, well of her own African record of 57.72 but a half second ahead of Egypt's Rania Elwany. Corine Leclair of Mauritius was third in 1:01.09.

Banghwaesi Digma of Nigeria was second to Bella in 1:08.12 and Mauritius' Bernard Desmaris, his head shaved for the event, was third in 1:08.27.

Swimming has been mainly a North African affair in these continental Olympics. Tunisia won 17 of the 32 swimming

gold medals on offer at the last Games in Nairobi in 1987. Egypt took 11 and Algeria two.

Host nation Egypt made a poor start to the defence of their soccer title when they lost 2-1 to Nigeria in their opening Group A match in Ismailia.

Tigani Babangida put Nigeria a goal up just after half-time with a sweet side-foot volley.

The Nigerians, strongly fancied to win the eight-nation tournament, were pegged back in the 75th minute when Hadi Khshaba lobbed an equaliser.

But they clinched a deserved win five minutes from

time, Emmanuel Amunike l