

Springboks to play in World Cup, says SA weekly



JOHANNESBURG, Oct 7: South Africa will be invited to end its anti-apartheid isolation by sending a team to next year's cricket World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, a South African newspaper said on Sunday, reports Reuters.

The Sunday Star quoted "impeccable sources close to the International Cricket Conference" as saying the world ruling body would be given the official go-ahead this week to include a Springbok team in the competition starting in February.

The report said it was now clear the West Indies would not block South Africa's participation on political grounds,

despite a vote by the Caribbean cricket nations last week not to support South Africa's application to send a team.

But West Indies Cricket Board Secretary Steve Camacho told the Star that the West Indies objections to South Africa's re-admittance to the ICC and to its participation in World Cup were procedural rather than political.

"This issue had nothing to do with politics and everything to do with cricket. South Africa is a de facto member of the ICC and we are very pleased that they are back in the family of cricketing nations," he said.

The West Indies abstained last July from a vote to re-admit South Africa to the ICC and it was feared that Caribbean resistance would stymie South

African hopes of ending decades of anti-apartheid isolation at the World Cup.

I apologise if there has been a misunderstanding in your country. We are very pleased with the development of your cricket," Camacho said.

There was more good news for South African sports fans at the weekend with the announcement by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) that it had ended a ban on tournaments and would sanction two events in Johannesburg next month.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) on Wednesday provisionally admitted South Africa to major team competitions such as the Davis Cup, Federation Cup and the Olympics.

Graf-Becker for Hopman Cup



PERTH, Oct 7: Boris Becker and Steffi Graf will play together for the first time as a mixed-doubles team for Germany, organizers of the Hopman Cup tournament announced Monday, reports AP.

Graf and Becker have won three Wimbledon titles each and, at various times in the past year, have been the top-ranked players on their re-

spective circuits.

Hopman Cup chairman Paul McNamee said one opportunity important to both Graf and Becker had eluded them over the past six years.

"Both Boris and Steffi are keen to represent their country together after being on top of the tennis tree for the past six or so years," said McNamee. "They have always been geared to representing Germany with Boris leading a past Davis Cup win and Steffi

playing in the Federation Cup."

"But they had never played on the same court and they were keen to use this opportunity to settle an outstanding piece of their careers."

Graf played in the inaugural Hopman Cup in 1988, the year she won the women's Grand Slam and an Olympic gold medal. With partner Patrick Kuhnert, Graf made the semifinals of the Hopman Cup before the German team was beaten by Australia.

Graf indicated she wanted to return to the Hopman Cup but only if she was partnered by Becker.

"It was a case of one not signing without the other, so the hardest thing in bringing them together was to get them to agree at the one time," said McNamee.

"But we got their assurances last week and have now produced one of the most significant tennis events of the past few years."

The rumour of a possible Becker-Graf partnership was front-page news in Munich newspapers last month.

The German team will be favoured in the Dec. 27-Jan. 3 event, although the tournament will feature at least 13 players ranked in the top 20 in the world with four further teams to be announced.

Other teams announced to date:

France: Guy Forget and Julie Halard; Spain: Emilio Arantxa Sanchez; United States: David Wheaton/Mary Joe Fernandez; Soviet Union: Andrei Cherkasov/Natalia Zvereva; Switzerland: Jacob Hlasek/Manuela Malecva-Fragniere; Czechoslovakia: Karel Novacek/Ilicena Sukova; Australia: Todd Woodbridge/Rachel McQuillan.



A DREAM DUO... German superstars Steffi Graf and Boris Becker (R) have at long last paired up to play in the Hopman Cup mixed doubles championship in Australia. — Star file photo

Seles denies Navratilova



MILAN, Italy, Oct 7: Monica Seles fought off a determined challenge by Martina Navratilova to win the Milan indoor tennis championship, dashing the American's hopes of equalling Chris Evert's record number of titles, reports Reuters.

The two rivals played with the intensity normally reserved for a Grand Slam tournament, the 17-year-old Yugoslav world number one eventually outlasting Navratilova, 34, to win 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

Seles needed one hour 40 minutes to overcome Navratilova, who was aiming to match Evert's record of 157

tournament wins.

Seles started at a brisk pace, using her trademark double-fisted backhand to frustrate Navratilova's attacking strategy.

But her normally error-free ground strokes were not at their best in the second set, Navratilova breaking twice to take the set 6-3.

But Navratilova quickly lost her momentum as she double-faulted to give Seles the first game of the third set.

The American fought back and broke Seles to square the set at 3-3.

However, her joy was short-lived. Seles fired a barrage of backhand returns to Navratilova's feet and broke to go 5-

4 up.

Navratilova wasted a break point in the final game and her backhand volley hit the top of the net to give Seles the match.

"It was a good battle, a close match decided on two or three points," a dejected Navratilova said later.

She said she tried to keep Seles off balance with slicing shots and the strategy almost paid off.

"Sometimes my approaches to the net were not so good," she said.

Navratilova said there was not much to choose between the top four players in the world. "I still feel close to the Number One spot."

Seles said she would use a four-week break in the women's circuit to work on her serve.

"If I could add a serve and volley game I could win more matches easily," she said.

Graf's 59th title



LEIPZIG, Germany, Oct 7: Steffi Graf, seemingly untroubled by her recent wrist injury, won the 59th tournament of her career when she beat Czechoslovak Jana Novotna in the final of the Leipzig women's event on Sunday, reports Reuters.

The German world number two, who has been suffering from strained tendons in her playing wrist, took just 67 minutes to dispose of the third seed 6-3, 6-3.

For Graf, who recently returned from a four-week layoff with a shoulder injury, the victory provided a fitting climax to a week during which the 22-year-old became the youngest woman to win 500 singles matches as a professional.

Graf said she did not think she would be able to dislodge Seles from the number one spot in the world rankings this year.

"I just want to finish a year which has not always been great, in a good fashion," Graf said.

She said she planned to travel to Zurich for the European indoor tournament which starts today.

"I've been lucky to have



Action from the 4th Bata schools handball competition inaugural match between Narinda Govt High School and Bangladesh Rifles School at the Outer Stadium handball court. Narinda won 19-13.



Former national champion Younus Hassan (R) contemplates the options during his ninth round game of the 17th national chess championship against Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury of Dhaka Metropolis at the NSC chess room last night. — Star photo

Rowing put back by a day

The first International rowing competition and the 15th national rowing championships will now be held on the Buriganga near the Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge-1 on October 10 instead of October 9 due to unavoidable circumstances, a Rowing Federation press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Rowing teams from India and Myanmar (Burma) have already arrived here to take part in the international meet.

Thirty boats from different parts of the country will participate in the national championships. The managers of the teams have been requested to attend the managers' meeting on October 9 at 5 p.m.

Soviet lifters top men's table

DONAUSCHINGEN, Germany, Oct 7: Olympic champion Alexander Kurlitsch's win in the super-heavyweight category completed a Soviet clean sweep of the men's World Weightlifting Championships, reports AFP.

The Soviets won 27 medals, including 15 gold, but China dominated the newly-established women's championships which produced 19 world records to the men's three.

Li Yajuan led the Chinese onslaught with three world records in the 82.5 kg category.

She snatched 113kg and jerked 143kg out of competition for a record total of 255 kg.

Bata handball

Sports Reporter Narinda Government High School won the inaugural match of the fourth Bata school handball tournament organised by Bangladesh Handball Federation beating Bangladesh Rifles High School 19-13 goals at the Outer Stadium handball court.

State Minister for Textiles Major (ret'd) M A Mannan formally inaugurated the tournament yesterday afternoon. Managing Director of Bata Shoe Company M Oldroyd was also present on the occasion.

Twelve teams, divided into two groups are taking part in the three-week long competition.

Top two teams from each group will play in the semifinals scheduled to be held on October 24 with the final on October 26.

Shaheed Nabi High School will take on Ansar and VDP High School in today's encounter at 4 p.m.

Riffat widens the gap

Sports Reporter

Shahinur Hossain needed just 23 moves to overpower bottom of the 16-player table Sheikh Shahadat Hossain Ratna of Bogra who played with black pieces in another Queen's Gambit declined opener.

Ratna has just a solitary point to his credit.

Ziaul Kader Tuhin played out a draw with former national champion Jamilur Rahman of Bangladesh Ansars, the players agreeing to split the point after 23 moves of a modern defence opening.

Former national women's champion Rani Hamid reversed her losing streak following two successive defeats by beating Mainuddin Mamoon of Dhaka Metropolis after 41 moves in match of the Sicilian variation.

The International Woman Master is now placed third in the points table with five and a half points while Mainuddin Mamoon has three and a half. Rani played white to Mamoon's black pieces.

Rani Hamid's Biman teammate Rezaul Haq ran into trouble against Khandaker Keyes Hossain of Ansars and forfeited his game to leave Keyes with four and a half points. Reza has three points, the same as Sheikh Anwar Hossain of Dhaka DSA.

Shahinur Hossain vs Khandaker Keyes Hossain

TODAY'S MATCHES
Sheikh Anwar Hossain vs Sheikh Shahadat Hossain Ratna
Syed Tahmidur Rahman vs Anisur Rahman
Jamilur Rahman vs Shabana Parveen Nipa
Ziaul Kader Tuhin vs Mainuddin Mamoon
Riffat bin-Sattar vs Rani Hamid
Younus Hassan vs Shahabuddin Ahmed Qureshi
Rezaul Haq vs Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury
Shahinur Hossain vs Khandaker Keyes Hossain

break opportunity in the fifth game when the Australian netted a backhand low volley and the two held their serves till the 11th game.

Conceding, however, failed to cash in a 40-15 lead in the following game as the Australian retaliated with a series of marvelous passing shots and service returns.

The Canadian hit the floor with his raked in a temper when the Australian launched another fine service return winner down the line to take the set.

The spirited Stoltenberg was serving for the match at 5-3 and 30-0 with a service break in the fourth when he committed three double faults in a row, but his strong serves came to the rescue and he completed the match with a cross-court passing shot for a clean winner.

In their first-round action, Gianluca Pozzi of Italy outgunned Andrei Olhovskiy 6-3, 7-5 and Gary Muller of South Africa fired 23 aces to beat Ctislav Dosedel of Czechoslovakia 7-5, 7-6 (7-5).

But the 89th-ranked Canadian converted the only

Anisur Rahman of Ansars was held to a draw by Shabana Parveen Nipa of Faridpur last night. The result left Anis with five points, along with Shahabuddin Qureshi while Nipa increased her collection to 3.5 points.

The other match of the day yesterday, between last year's runner-up and a former champion Younus Hossain of Ansars and Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury of Dhaka Metropolis, was still in progress at the time of filing this report.

Younus had four points after eight rounds Sunday while Kabir had 2.5.

Jamilur Rahman has four points after nine rounds.

The first player to score 8.5 points wins the series.

Aussie whitewash

MELBOURNE, Australia, Oct 7: Olympic champions Australia completed a whitewash of Great Britain in the final match of the three-game International Women's field hockey series here Monday night, reports AFP.

The Australians won 2-0 with goals from Alyson Annon in the 29th minute and Chris Dobson, 52nd minute.

Australia kept the British scoreless throughout the series.

Aussies coast in Seiko Super

TOKYO, Oct 7: Jason Stoltenberg, Mark Woodford and Simon Youl coasted to straight sets victories to make it Australia's day in the first round of the one million dollar Seiko Super men's tennis tournament here today, reports AFP.

Woodford, Ranked 115th in the world this week, was the easiest winner of the three, spending just 50 minutes on court to beat Peter Lundgren of Sweden 6-1, 6-3.

Stoltenberg outlasted Grant Connell of Canada 7-5, 6-3 while Simon Youl pulled off a mild upset, beating Thomas Hogstedt of Sweden 7-6 (7/5), 6-1.

Stoltenberg, who fired seven aces and 13 service winners throughout the match against the Canadian left-hander, surged ahead 3-0, having his flawless serve-and-volley gave in control from the outset.

But the 89th-ranked Canadian converted the only

Monday.

Muller, who beat world No.1 Stefan Edberg of Sweden in the Volvo Indoor in February, slammed down 11 aces in the first set and 12 more in the second on the artificial court of the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

Edberg, top seeded in this tournament, had a first round bye. He was coming to Tokyo fresh from victory in the Australian Indoor championship, the 32nd tournament title of his career.

In a match between two qualifiers, Canadian Glenn Michibata defeated American Rick Leach 6-2, 6-4.

All the Japanese wild card entries in action Monday last. American Robbie Weiss beat Yasufumi Yamamoto 6-2, 6-3,

Hong Kong beat Bangladesh 14-9

TOKYO, Oct 7: Top-seeded China beat Thailand 17-1 and second-seeded Japan defeated the Philippines 34-3 Monday in opening matches of the water polo competition of the 4th Asian Swimming Championships, reports AP.

In other matches held in the swimming pool in Fukuoka, southern Japan, Hong Kong beat Bangladesh 14-9 and Iran topped Saudi Arabia 12-4.

Singapore and South Korea are also among the 10 nations taking part in the four-day competition.

The top three finishers qualify for the elimination competition in Calgary, Canada, next March to determine berths for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

Sick Xie takes a time-out

MANILA, Oct 7: Chinese challenger Xie Jun called a time out on Sunday, saying she was sick after two straight losses against Soviet holder Maya Chiburdanidze in their battle for the Women's World Chess title in the Philippines, reports Reuters.

"She is ill," Sun Lianzhi, the head of the Chinese delegation, told reporters when asked the reason for the postponement of Sunday's scheduled sixth game in Manila. Each player is allowed one time out in the series.

The 31-year-old defending champion seized a 3-2 points lead in the 16-game series after winning the fifth game on Friday evening when she blundered in the end game and resigned after 42 moves.

Xie, a 20-year-old housewife from Beijing, is trying to break more than six decades of Soviet dominance in women's chess.

The first two games had been drawn. Xie won the third match before Chiburdanidze stormed back to sweep the next two games. One win counts for a point and a draw for half a point.

The first player to score 8.5 points wins the series.

Aussie whitewash

MELBOURNE, Australia, Oct 7: Olympic champions Australia completed a whitewash of Great Britain in the final match of the three-game International Women's field hockey series here Monday night, reports AFP.

The Australians won 2-0 with goals from Alyson Annon in the 29th minute and Chris Dobson, 52nd minute.

Australia kept the British scoreless throughout the series.

Brazil, Iceland lead

YOKOHAMA, Oct 7: Iceland, the surprise of the tournament, and defending champion Brazil led

tight battle. Austria trailed by eight points after 32 deals, but after 64 had gone ahead by 18, 155-137.

Rizzo's crown

MIYOSHIICHO, Japan, Oct 7: American Patti Rizzo won the women's Tokai classic golf title by two shots and Etchil Imai of Japan captured the men's title by four Sunday, reports AP.

Rizzo, who started the final round two strokes behind Miyuki Shimabukuro of Japan, shot a 2-under-par 70 with three birdies and one bogey for a 212 total. It was her sixth victory in Japan.

Tu Ai-yu of Taiwan, who leads the Japan LPGA money earnings list with two victories this season, shot a 73 and shared second place at 214 with Fusako Nagata of Japan.

Rizzo received 9 million yen (dolls 69,000) and Tu and Nagata each pocketed 4 million yen (dolls 31,000) from the total purse of 50 million yen (dolls 385,000).

Shimabukuro shot a 75 and shared fourth place at 215 with Huang Bie-shyun of Taiwan and two Japanese — Koori Harada and Kei Kikuno.

Huang shot a 71 Sunday on the 6,210-yard (5,680-meter) par-72 east course of the Miyoshi Country club in central Japan.

In the women's team competition for the NEC Venice Cup, United States 11 and Austria were out first.

United States 11 outscored United States 1 in the second segment of 16 deals, then held on to lead 167-106 with 32 deals to go. United States 1 won the American women's team championship earlier this year, defeating United States 11 in the final.

Austria, the European champion, and China, the Far East victor, were locked in a

Monday after 64 deals of the 96-deal semifinals of the men's NEC Bermuda Bowl world contract bridge team championships, reports AP.

The last 32 deals will be played Tuesday.

Iceland, one point behind Sweden after 32 deals, outscored the Swedes 74-35 over the next 32 deals to take a 137-99 lead.

But comeback honors of the day belonged to Brazil. After 48 deals, Poland led the first half. Brazil scored 75 points on the last 16 deals of the day while holding Poland to 9. That put Brazil ahead 162-144 in the high-scoring match.

In the women's team competition for the NEC Venice Cup, United States 11 and Austria were out first.

United States 11 outscored United States 1 in the second segment of 16 deals, then held on to lead 167-106 with 32 deals to go. United States 1 won the American women's team championship earlier this year, defeating United States 11 in the final.

Austria, the European champion, and China, the Far East victor, were locked in a

Monday after 64 deals of the 96-deal semifinals of the men's NEC Bermuda Bowl world contract bridge team championships, reports AP.

The last 32 deals will be played Tuesday.

Iceland, one point behind Sweden after 32 deals, outscored the Swedes 74-35 over the next 32 deals to take a 137-99 lead.

But comeback honors of the day belonged to Brazil. After 48 deals, Poland led the first half. Brazil scored 75 points on the last 16 deals of the day while holding Poland to 9. That put Brazil ahead 162-144 in the high-scoring match.

In the women's team competition for the NEC Venice Cup, United States 11 and Austria were out first.

United States 11 outscored United States 1 in the second segment of 16 deals, then held on to lead 167-106 with 32 deals to go. United States 1 won the American women's team championship earlier this year, defeating United States 11 in the final.

Austria, the European champion, and China, the Far East victor, were locked in a

Monday after 64 deals of the 96-deal semifinals of the men's NEC Bermuda Bowl world contract bridge team championships, reports AP.

The last 32 deals will be played Tuesday.

Iceland, one point behind Sweden after 32 deals, outscored the Swedes 74-35 over the next 32 deals to take a 137-99 lead.

But comeback honors of the day belonged to Brazil. After 48 deals, Poland led the first half. Brazil scored 75 points on the last 16 deals of the day while holding Poland to 9. That put Brazil ahead 162-144 in the high-scoring match.

In the women's team competition for the NEC Venice Cup, United States 11 and Austria were out first.

United States 11 outscored United States 1 in the second segment of 16 deals, then held on to lead 167-106 with 32 deals to go. United States 1 won the American women's team championship earlier this year, defeating United States 11 in the final.

Austria, the European champion, and China, the Far East victor, were locked in a

Monday after 64 deals of the 96-deal semifinals of the men's NEC Bermuda Bowl world contract bridge team championships, reports AP.

The last 32 deals will be played Tuesday.

Iceland, one point behind Sweden after 32 deals, outscored the Swedes 74-35 over the next 32 deals to take a 137-99 lead.

But comeback honors of the day belonged to Brazil. After 48 deals, Poland led the first half. Brazil scored 75 points on the last 16 deals of the day while holding Poland to 9. That put Brazil ahead 162-144 in the high-scoring match.

In the women's team competition for the NEC Venice Cup, United States 11 and Austria were out first.

United States 11 outscored United States 1 in the second segment of 16 deals, then held on to lead 167-106 with 32 deals to go. United States 1 won the American women's team championship earlier this year, defeating United States 11 in the final.

Austria, the European champion, and China, the Far East victor, were locked in a

Monday after 64 deals of the 96-deal semifinals of the men's NEC Bermuda Bowl world contract bridge team championships, reports AP.

The last 32 deals will be played Tuesday.

Iceland, one point behind Sweden after 32 deals, outscored the Swedes 74-35 over the next 32 deals to take a 137-99 lead.

But comeback honors of the day belonged to Brazil. After 48 deals, Poland led the first half. Brazil scored 75 points on the last 16 deals of the day while holding Poland to 9. That put Brazil ahead 162-144 in the high-scoring match.

In the women's team competition for the NEC Venice Cup, United States 11 and Austria were out first.

United States 11 outscored United States 1 in the second segment of 16 deals, then held on to lead 167-106 with 32 deals to go. United States 1 won the American women's team championship earlier this year, defeating United States 11 in the final.

Austria, the European champion, and China, the Far East victor, were locked in a

Monday after 64 deals of the 96-deal semifinals of the men's NEC Bermuda Bowl world contract bridge team championships, reports AP.

The last 32 deals will be played Tuesday.