

India again invited by SA

NEW DELHI, Oct 30: South Africa has renewed its invitation to India to play a full Test series in the Republic from October to December next year, a top South African cricket official said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"We want to express our gratitude to India for supporting South Africa's readmission to the world cricketing fraternity," United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) managing director Ali Bacher said. "That's why we have invited them to play the first series after our return to test cricket."

Bacher is a member of a South African delegation visiting India for the first time. "This trip (of the UCBSA delegation) is basically a goodwill visit and to thank the Indian Cricket Board for their continued support and to renew the invitation," he said.

In July, India proposed South Africa's readmission to the International Cricket Council (ICC) after two decades of isolation for the Springboks.

The South African delegation will go to Pakistan on Thursday.

There is a possibility of some famous India, Pakistani and West Indian cricketers playing in the Currie Cup in the near future," UCBSA vice-president Krish Mackerdij, another member of the delegation, said.

Rice, Cook tipped for captaincy

CALCUTTA, India, Oct 30: Veteran all-rounder Clive Rice and Jimmy Cook are likely candidates to lead South Africa into its first cricket World Cup in 21 years, a senior South African cricket official said today, reports AFP.

Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), currently on a goodwill visit here, said Rice although 42-year-old, was still an outstanding cricketer.

Opening batsman Cook, who scored more than 5,000 runs in English county cricket for Somerset in the past three seasons, was another contender for the captaincy of the team, he said.

Domestic cricket had kept the game alive during the long international ban on South Africa, Bacher said, and the country still had a number of talented players with the Cup team's strength lying in its all-rounders, he said.

He singled out batsmen Adrian Kuiper and Brian McMillan and upcoming fast bowlers Richard Snell and Steven Jack.

Bacher, South Africa's captain when it last played a Test series in 1970, also said he now regretted organising rebel tours during the international ban but said he had felt at the time he had to keep the game alive.

Int'l umpires' panel on card

LONDON, Oct 30: English umpires are up in arms with plans for an international panel of officials which is likely to be introduced next year, reports AFP.

The International Cricket Council are currently looking for a sponsor to fund the panel, which is expected to cost 400,000 pounds a year. But Don Oslar, chairman of England's first-class umpires, warned, "I've feared for some time that there will be an independent panel of umpires and I'm sure if the Test and County Cricket Board allow, this to go through, it will cause considerable ill-feeling."

"I'm attending meeting at Lord's tomorrow at which the matter will be discussed and I shall remind the board of the unanimous proposal adopted by all English umpires at our meeting 12 months ago."

The proposal says our body does not wish to be associated with the international panel, as this is detrimental to English umpires, the English game and cricket in general, and that this is supported by the TCCB by voting against the proposal at any ICC meeting.

"This did not happen last year when the TCCB supported the idea of a panel in Australia last January, but I shall repeat tomorrow the strength of our objections."

Agrani, Mukta Bihanga post wins



A raid by Shantinagar into the Agrani Bank goalmouth in yesterday's Second Division hockey league match at the Hockey Stadium. Shantinagar defeated the bankers 2-0.

Mukta Bihanga and Agrani Bank Club registered victories in their respective matches of the Green Delta Insurance Second Division hockey league yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

In day's first encounter, Mukta Bihanga scored an exciting 2-1 victory over Dhaka Hockey Club.

After a barren first-half, Rehanuddin of Mukta Bihanga slammed two goals in third and fourth minutes into the second half. One minute later Ashfaq Hossain reduced the margin for the Dhaka Hockey Club.

Mukta Bihanga hung grimly on their slender lead till the final whistle as the Dhaka Hockey Club pressed hard for the equaliser.

In the other match of day, Agrani Bank Club cruised to a comfortable win over Shantinagar Club.

Nasir Ahmed and Ismail scored one goal each for the bankers.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Combined SC vs Cantanlian (2.30 pm).
Shishu KC vs East End Club (3.45 pm).

DPRK stalls talks with ROK over judoka's defection

SEOUL, Oct 30: Pyongyang rejected today Seoul's proposal to resume sports talks, demanded the repatriation of a North Korean judo player who defected to the South, officials here said, reports AFP.

Kim Yu-Sun, North Korean Olympic Committee chairman, said that the South must return Li Chang-Su to the north and apologize for the "kidnapping" of Li if the South really wanted to resume the sports talks, the officials said.

Kim's demand was contained in a message sent over the direct telephone line to his Southern counterpart Kim Chong-Yul, who proposed two weeks ago to resume the talks on November 5.

North Korea shelved the fifth round of the talks indefinitely following Li's defection in August, a first by a North Korean athlete.

The inter-Korean sports talks were to discuss the formation of single Korean teams for the 1992 Olympics and other international sports events.

For the first time in history, the two Koreas successfully formed a single team for the World Table Tennis Championships in Japan in April and the World Youth Soccer Championship in Portugal in June.

O'Sullivan stuns spectators

BANGKOK, Oct 30: Top-seeded Ronnie O'Sullivan of England stunned snooker fans here when he recorded three century breaks in a row to defeat Abdulla Ghulam Reda of Bahrain 4-0 on Tuesday in a first-round match at the Nescafe world snooker championship, reports AFP.

The 13-year-old from Ilford, Essex won his second match 88-47, 116-38, 104-0, 100-4 in only 36 minutes — the quickest to date in the tournament — with breaks of 100, 104 and 100 in the last three frames.

"I was looking at the maximum break twice, but luck was not on my side," said O'Sullivan, who registered a perfect break of 147 in the 1991 English Amateur Championship in May.

Australian Quentin Hann also shone brilliantly, slotting a 117-break in the sixth frame of a 4-2 win over Belgian Bart Van Ginneken.

Joseph Cann, 18, of County Kildare, Ireland, did well in defeating 13th-seeded David Bells of Wales, 4-2.

BDR volleyball

Khagrachari Sector team became champions in the Bangladesh Rifles Inter Sector Volleyball tournament yesterday defeating Rangamati Sector by 15-5, 15-5 and 15-9 points in the final match at the Sylhet sector ground, reports UNB.

Brigadier Abdullah Al Hussain, Deputy Director General of Bangladesh Rifles witnessed the final match as chief guest and later gave away the prizes.

Noor-e-Alam Khan Sangsad lead Div

II chess table
Sports Reporter

Noor-e-Alam Khan Memorial Chess Sangsad is leading the points table with 13 points after the completion of the fourth round matches of the Second Division chess league yesterday at National Sports Council's chess room.

Noor-e-Alam Khan Sangsad easily won their fourth round tie yesterday against Q Chess Club by 4-0.

Dhaka University Chess Club were placed in the second position with twelve points. They registered a 3-1 points victory over title contenders Champion Chess Club.

Bagicha Nasir Memorial Sangsad were lying in the third position with 10 points followed by Agrani Chess Club in the fourth position with 10 points.

Bagicha Nasir M S beat Bangladesh Television C C by 3-1. The other clubs who won their matches yesterday were Notre Dame C C, Dishari Chess Club, Friends Chess Club and Beta Chess Club.

Narayananjay Mushgul Mehfil received a walkover over Serajganj Zilla Samity CC.

Soul-searching Eubank

LONDON, Oct 30: World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion Chris Eubank is still fighting to come to terms with his role in the Michael Watson tragedy, reports AFP.

Five weeks after the ill-fated world title fight at Tottenham here when Watson suffered a severe brain injury which plunged him into a coma from which he has yet to emerge, Eubank has made no decision on his future.

"It's a very difficult time for me, very traumatic," said the 25-year-old Englishman, "without question it has changed me."

"It makes me wonder if I can go on earning money from this sport. It's a period of taking stock. Whether it takes a few weeks, a few months or a few years, I doubt if I'll ever come to terms with it."

"It's a bad thing what happened. I never expected that I would inflict such damage on an opponent. I've not yet sat down and contemplated what I'm going to do."

Eubank will leave shortly for a 10-day holiday in the United States, where he will give his career further consideration.

Watson hogs the headline

BANGKOK, Oct 30: Eight-seeded Jason Watson of Ireland registered a second century break with 122 on the second day of the 77-nation 1991 Nescafe World Amateur Snooker Championship here Monday defeating Nils Bohling of Sweden 4-0, reports AFP.

On the opening day, 21-year-old Watson Hade made a 127-break late Sunday night in his 4-0 win over Brunel's H Ali Aris.

Another Irish player, John Cany, 16, made a century break of 127 in his 4-3 frame victory over Suriya Suwan-nasing of Thailand.

Second-seeded Chuchart Tratrata Apradit of Thailand, who suffered a loss on the first day, recovered with a 4-0 win over Egyptian Rady Rizk.

Indian Yasin merchant downed no 7 seed Tom Collins of north American 4-1, while Thai Nopopadol Nopopachorn came back after losing the first two frames to defeat sixth seeded John Kemp of Scotland 4-2.

The top seed, 15-year-old Ronnie O'Sullivan of England, won his first match 4-1 over 60-year-old Dr David Barron of Zimbabwe.

Third-seeded Michael Duffy of north Ireland made the quickest win so far in this tournament, in only 48 minutes.

BU reception

Brothers Union Club accorded a reception last evening to players of the club for becoming the unbeaten champions in the Federation Cup football tournament at the club premises at Gopibagh, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, who is also the chairman of the governing body of the Club, attended the reception as the chief guest.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum, officials of Bangladesh Football Federation and sports organisations were present.



Actions from yesterday's Second Division chess league, organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation, in the chess room of the National Sports Council.



New world chess champion Xie Jun of China and two unidentified Chinese officials in jubilation after dethroning Maya Chiburandize of Soviet Union in the World Women's Chess Championships series in Manila on Oct 29. — AFP photo

Xie first Asian to win world title

MANILA, Oct 30: Chinese challenger Xie Jun on Tuesday ended six decades of Soviet dominance over women's chess by defeating Soviet world title holder Maya Chiburandize in a 16-game series for the crown in the Philippines, reports Reuter.

"I'm very, very happy," a jubilant Xie told reporters after drawing the 15th game in 62 moves of a modern defence while holding the black pieces.

The result after 4-1/2 hours of tense struggle gave her a winning 8.5 - 6.5 lead over Chiburandize, who has held the title for 13 years since winning it in 1978. The first player to score 8.5 points wins the title.

A quiet Chiburandize, who was close to tears, declined to talk with reporters after the loss of her title. She quickly left the playing hall.

"I was confident of getting a good game for the previous draw," said Xie, who learned to play chess in a Beijing school at the age of 10. She raised both hands in triumph after the game as she was surrounded by her ecstatic supporters.

The rise of China's women chess players, who first broke into the candidates matches

MOVES OF GAME 15		
Modern defence;		
Chiburandize (white)	Xie (black)	
1. d4	g6	
2. c4	e7	
3. nf3	d6	
4. nc3	a6	
5. a4	b6	
6. bc4	e6	
7. 0-0	nd7	
8. h3	bd7	
9. bc3	ne7	
10. od2	h6	
11. nh2	nf6	
12. bd3	od7	
13. rad1	d5	
14. f3	nh5	
15. of2	if5	
16. g4	d x e4	58.
17. f x e4	nf6	59.
18. nf3	0-0-0	60.
19. ne5	oc8	61.
20. oc2	n x e4	62.

Italy may go for English system

ROME, Oct 30: The low scoring rate in this season's Italian soccer championship has prompted league president Luciano Nizzola to suggest following England and introduce three points for a win instead of two, reports Reuter.

Commenting on Italian radio after only eight goals were scored in nine First Division games on Sunday, Nizzola said, "They were looking at all possible remedies."

Perhaps the best solution would be to introduce the English system which rewards a win with three points, he said.

"I don't agree, however, that all Sunday's games were un-entertaining. The 0-0 draw in the Genoa Derby (Genoa v Sampdoria) might easily have ended 2-2."

Football Federation president Antonio Matarrese also expressed concern, without, however, recommending the English system. "Our championship is followed and envied all over the world but we shouldn't fool ourselves into believing that we have the best soccer by divine right."

So far this season, the Italian championship has registered an average of only 1.9 goals per game.

The goals crisis comes as no surprise to Juventus coach Giovanni Trapattoni today's defenders are better and more prepared than today's attackers, he said.

Torino coach Emiliano Mondonico said: "These days our side make fewer and fewer mistakes in defence."

Both men will be hoping to underline the point on Wednesday when Juventus travel to Lazio in the first leg of the Italian Cup third round.

Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven try to take the lead from Feyenoord Rotterdam on Wednesday when they entertain MVV Maastricht.

Coach Bobby Robson still has to do without striker Romario, who is recovering from a bruised ankle. Midfielder Gerald Vanenburg and defender Eric Gerets also remain doubtful.

Ajax Amsterdam, who have lost their last two league games, hope to recover from against Willem II Tilburg.

John Van T Sapp is expected to be on the bench again after preferring a place in midfield as playmaker.

Feyenoord have no mid-week match.

Spanish Soccer Fed fined

BERNE, Oct 30: The Spanish Football Federation was fined 50,000 dollars on Tuesday for crowd trouble during a European Championship match against France this month, reports Reuter.

A European Football Union (UEFA) spokesman said irate fans had thrown objects on the pitch after the match and the Spanish Federation had until Thursday to appeal against UEFA's 75,000 Swiss Francs (950,000 dollars) fine.

The match in Seville on October 12 was won 2-1 by France, who qualified for the 1992 finals in Stockholm.

UEFA's control and disciplinary committee also imposed a one-match suspension of French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, who was booked for the second time during the match.

UEFA may challenge Belgian court's verdict

ZURICH, Oct 30: The European Football Union (UEFA) said on Tuesday it might challenge the verdict of Belgium's highest court which confirmed convictions of senior soccer officials over 1985 soccer stadium riots that killed 39 people, reports Reuter.

Belgium's Cour De Cassation, the highest court of appeal, on October 16 confirmed a three-month suspended sentence on UEFA's former general secretary Hans Bangter. He was found guilty of involuntary killing by gross negligence by a first appeals judge in 1990.

The first trial in 1989 had cleared Bangter of the charge a statement issued after an extraordinary meeting of UEFA's executive committee said UEFA found the verdict manifestly unjust and the arguments on which it was based "incomprehensible and unacceptable."

The executive committee will be looking into the situation which has now arisen and the possibilities of challenging the verdict delivered against UEFA's former general secretary, UEFA's said.

UEFA said it had always contested the competence of the Belgian courts. The verdict placed the whole organisational framework of sport in jeopardy and the judgment could have repercussions in countries other than Belgium, it said.

The Cour De Cassation hearing was the third and last belating to the rioting before the European Cup final between England's Liverpool and Juventus of Italy in Brussels's Heysel stadium.

In overturning the first trial verdict, the appeals judge in 1990 ruled Bangter had been negligent in choosing the ageing Heysel stadium for the match. He said UEFA should compensate the victims of the disaster and their families for material damage and mental suffering.

The highest appeals court also confirmed the suspended six month jail sentence of the former secretary-general of the Belgian Soccer Unions Albert G'Boensens, and a Belgian police captain.

British fans were widely blamed for starting the riots. Fourteen of them were convicted of manslaughter in the first trial. One was cleared but others were given more severe penalties by the first appeals court.

JAMALPUR, Oct 30: Shaheed Smriti Gold Cup Football Tournament will begin tomorrow at Dwangari High School ground, reports UNB.

Bogra Friends Club and Sherpur Himachal Club will participate in the opening match.

MARSEILLE, France, Oct 30: French champions Marseille said on Tuesday that trainer Tomislav Ivic was taking a 15-day break from soccer because of the civil war in his native Yugoslavia, reports Reuter.

Marseille general secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes said former trainer Raymond Goethals would take over the team in his absence.

"Tomislav is very upset by the events in Yugoslavia and he has asked us for a break," Bernes said.

"He has not been fired, this decision has been taken with no suggestion of disagreement in the interests of helping the club and Tomislav."

He said Ivic, a Croat, was worried about the safety of his family in Yugoslavia.

Ivic succeeded Goethals as trainer this summer with the Belgian moving over to the technical director function vacated by Franz Beckenbauer.

The Yugoslav has been criticised as Marseille's league form has been relatively unimpressive and last season's European Cup finalists also face the possibility of an early exit from this year's competition.

Leading Sparta Prague 3-2 after the first leg of the second round, they travel to Czechoslovakia for the second leg on November.