#### Karachi to host **SAARC** Airlines soccer in June

From M J Zahedi

Special Correspondent KARACHI, May 6: The SAARC Airlines Federation football Cup is likely to be played in Karachi in the last week of June this year.

This was disclosed here by Ali Nawaz, manager, PIA football and vice president of Pakistan Football Federation.

PIA has been assigned the responsibility of staging the event by the SAARC Airlines Federation. He said the championship was the first of its kind, initiated by PIA. It was first scheduled to be held from May 22. But Zaheer Ahmed of Bangladesh, president of the SAARC Airlines Federation, requested PIA to delay the event till August.

But, according to Mr Nawaz, August would not suit PIA because the Pakistan national soccer league would be on at that time and PIA would be engaged in that.

#### FIFA's sympathy

MONTE CARLO, May 6: The International Football Federation (FIFA) today expressed sympathy for the victims of the Corsica Stadium disaster in which 20 fans were killed when a temporary stand collapsed, reports Reuter.

"What more can we say than to express our sympathy to all the victims," FIFA secretarygeneral Sepp Blatter told reporters.

"We feel great sadness that once again our sport has been hit by such a tragedy."

## Stadium collapse in France kills 26 fans



BASTIA, Corsica, May 6: The death toll from the collapse of a temporary grandstand at a French

Cup soccer semifinal rose to 26 Wednesday and officials feared the number could climb. Meanwhile, Agencies police opened a homicide investigation into the incident,

reports AP. More than 700 people were injured, 60 of them seriously. before a scheduled game between four-time defending French League champion Olympique Marseille and Second-Division Bastia.

Several spectators said fans had been stomping their feet just before the stands collapsed, and that the metal scaffolding was unsteady.

"The stand vibrated about three seconds, then just fell over," said Bastia fan Antoine Casanova. "When we arrived there were still workers tightening the bolts on the scaffold-

The temporary seating was brought in to increase the capacity of the stadium from 8,500 to 18,000.

ers who removed the dead and injured from the twisted. blood-spattered wreckage at Furiant Stadium claimed that the grandstands were not solidly fixed to the ground.

Alain Giordanengo, president of the Enterprise General du Midi firm that built the 10,000-capacity fixture over the last week, called the accident baffling.

These stadiums are built

like mesh," Geordanengo told Europe-1 radio. "Even if some (cross-bars) don't hold, they should be supported by the others. It's really incompre-

hensible." The huge crumpled heap of metal pipes bore testament Wednesday to the scope of the disaster. It threw about 3,000 spectators to the ground, literally tearing some from their shoes. Hundreds of empty plasma sacks used in emergency blood transfusions littered the soccer field Wednesday.

The game was postponed indefinitely.

Prosecutors in Bastia. where flags were lowered to half-mast and black bunting was hung on government buildings, opened an investigation on charges of involuntary homicide and injuries in the incident.

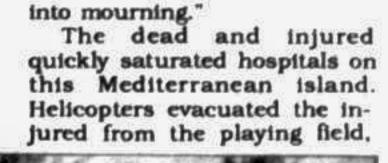
A parallel investigation team of top-ranking civil servants from the Interior, Equipment and Sports ministries arrived Wednesday morning. Sports Minister Frederique Bredin said they would conduct a rapid inquiry.

The international Federa-Casanova and rescue work- tion of Association Football said that it would leave an investigation to local author-

Organisers of the Tour of Corsica auto rally called off the final day of the race, and the French Rugby League said that a minute of silence would be observed at this weekend's matches

President Francois Mitterrand planned to visit the site later Wednesday, the presidential palace announce.

Speaking in a television interview from Expo '92 in Seville, Spain, Mitterrand called the accident "a terrible event that has sent our country





People wounded in the collapse of a temporary stand at Bastia's Furiani Stadium on May 5 evening, await to be evacuated to the mainland in Bastia's Airport lounge. Twenty-six people were killed and 700 wounded.

-AFP photo

where some received first aid and blood transfusions.

Air force and private planes shuttled hundreds of injured to mainland hospitals. The airlift was largely over by noon Wednesday, but two airplanes were on standby at Batia's airport to ferry more if needed.

Hospital officials in Marseille, where about 300 of the injured were taken, said it was their biggest emergency since World War II.

By mid-morning, many people remained without word on the condition of their family members.

The collapse of the top 15 rows of the stands threw some spectators 80 feet (12 meters) to the ground.

"It was like a house of cards collapsing," said Michel De Gentile, a reporter for Radio corse Frequenza Mora. "It was like there was a wave, and a quarter of the stands disappeared, like a film in slow mo-

"Everyone looked up, dazed. The people on the ground in front just froze. Behind them was terrible, people were cry-

Witnesses said the steel grandstand wobbled as fans stomped their feet in unison before the scheduled kickoff. Fans were unable to hear several warnings broadcast over loudspeakers to stop the stamping.

It was not clear how many fans were in the section that collapsed, but Urban Affairs Minister Bernard Tapie, the millionaire businessman who owns Olympique Marseille, said there were "several thou-

"Hundreds could have died," Tapie said. "Those who allowed this to happen wil

have to be punished." Survivors said that the stands appeared overcrowded, with some spectators sitting on steps. Several journalists covering the event, including a writer for The Associated

Press, were hurt. Bastia wanted to increase capacity for the game against Olympique Marseille, last year's European Champions Cup losing finalist.

It was the largest soccer tragedy since April 15, 1989, when 95 fans died in a crush at Hillstorough Stadium in Sheffield, England, prior to an English Football Association Cup semifinal between Liverpool and Nettingham Forest.

France Equipment, the company that built a temporary stadium used at February's Winter Olympics in Albertville, denied reports that they were the same bleachers used in Bastia.

French Football Federation president Jean Fournet-Favard said the stands had been inspected and certified Monday

The winner of Wednesday's semifinal was to play AS Nonaco in the French Cup final, scheduled for Sunday Fournet-Fayard said he did know it the accident would force postponement of the fi

Mitterrand sent a message of condolence to the families of the victims. So did France's national soccer team.

#### UEFA compromises on yellow cards for Euro finals

LISBON, May 6 : Players shown the yellow card in qualifying matches for the European soccer championship will have the slate wiped clean at next month's finals in Sweden, the European Football Union (UEFA) agreed on Tuesday. reports Reuter.

The decision reversed the previous rule under which players booked in the qualifiers carried over the offence and automatically served a onematch suspension if they were shown another yellow card at the finals.

UEFA general secretary Gerhard Aigner said the new regulation had been adopted by UEFA's executive at the request of Dutch national trainer Rinus Michels, whose move was backed by the coaches of all eight teams who will be playing in Sweden.

The coaches had complained that the rule gave an unfair advantage to host nation Sweden which qualified by right as host nation and so had no players with vellow cards hanging over them.

Players will now be suspended in Sweden only if they are sent off or are shown at least two yellow cards during the finals.

Aigner said UEFA had also agreed on another change for the qualifying tournaments of future championships. The present rule wiping the slate clean after the first season of the two-year qualifying period would be abolished, he said.

matic one-match suspension for a second booking at any stage of the qualifying tourna ment.

## COOB fears serious overcrowding



MONTE CARLO, May 6: Track and field swimming lead the list of sports which may need

to reduce the number of athletes for the Summer Games in Barcelona, Olympic officials say, reports AP.

With more than 19,000 athletes and team officials en tered so far, Barcelona orga nizers asked international fed erations Tuesday to help find ways of bringing the figure down to the established limit

of 15,200. If there is no progress soon, officials said they would consider limiting the number of athletes in certain sports to the level of the Seoul Games in 1988

They specifically cited track and field, swimming and judo as the three sports with the largest surplus of entries.

There are 2,792 athletes entered in track and field events, a 54 per cent increase over the figure in Seoul. Swimming has 1,242 entries, 56 per cent more than Seoul, and judo's total has jumped 84 per cent to 553.

The overflow was a focus of the discussions of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), which represents all 25 sports included in the Games.

The federations also drafted a resolution seeking a onethird share of all future Olympic revenues, a proposal which they planned to put to the International Olympic Committee's executive board

on Wednesday. Barcelona organizers say they have room for no more than 15,200 people in the Olympic village. But 4,000 ad-

ditional requests for accreditation have been received so far, with 13 countries still to submit their entries. "We have said very strongly

we are against quotas, but if there are no beds, you can't let the athletes sleep in tents," said Peter Tallberg of Finland, head of the IOC athletes commission and president of the International Yachting

#### Petra Felke to retire

JENA, Germany, May 6 Petra Meier-Felke, the world javelin record holder and Olympic champion, will retire after this year's games in

Barcelona, reports AFP. Meier Felke, 32, from the former East Germany who threw 80m dead in Potsdam in 1988, said she was suffering shoulder problems and a chronic inflammation of her right knee.

"I'll be very happy if I can even throw 70 metres in Barcelona, she said

She singled out Xu Demei of China, who beat her into sec ond place in the World Cham pionships last year. World Championship bronze meda llist Silke Renk of Germany and Norway's Trine Hattestad Solberg as the most likely medallists in Barcelona.

But Tallberg said he believed the numbers will gradually come down on their own, noting that countries often apply for more accreditations

> than they actually need. Another possible solution, he said, would be to rotate the athletes living in the Olympic Village, having them leave once their competitions were

The overcrowding problem is expected to be discussed further on Friday and Saturday when the IOC executive board holds meetings in Seville,

The federations, mean while, engaged in long debate on their demand for a greater share of Olympic revenues.

At present the federations receive 10 per cent of the total revenue from Olympic broadcast rights. They expect to get dirs 36 million this year from

the Barcelona TV fees. "All the revenues should go in one place and then be divided three ways among the IOC, the federations and the national Olympic committees," said Boris Stankovic, head of the international basketball federation. That should be the principle." But Dick Pound, the IOC's top marketing official, indicated the request would be

rejected. The numbers have changed so dramatically in the past few years that maybe we should all sit back and take a look at how we do divide the revenues," he said. "But I don't think you can just some and stand at a door and whine."

### CHRONOLOGY OF DISASTERS

LONDON, May 6: Following is a chronology of disasters at soccer stadiums in recent years by Reuter:

April 15, 1989, Sheffield, England: Ninety- five people are killed and at least 200 injured in Britain's worst sports disaster after a crowd surge crushes packed fans against barriers at the English F A Cup semifinal match between Li-

verpool and Nottingham Forest at the Hillsborough Stadium. MARCH 12, 1988, Kath-mandu: A Stampede towards locked exits in a hailstorm at Nepal's national soccer stadium produces the country's worst civilian disaster when 70 fans are killed.

May 29, 1985, Brussels: Thirty- nine fans, mostly Italians die in rioting before the European Cup final between Italy's Juventus and Liverpool of England at the Heysel Stadium. May 1985, Bradford, Eng-land: A fire in a stand kills 56

MAY 1985, Mexico City: Ten people are trampled to death and 29 are injured when they tried to force their way into a stadium to see a domestic match. NOVEMBER 1982. Cali, Colombia: Twenty-four people

die and 250 are hurt when drunken fans provoke a stampede at a soccer match. NOVEMBER 1982, Algiers: A Concrete roof at a stadium

collapses, killing 10 spectators. JULY 1982, Moscow: UP to 340 people are crushed to death when fans leaving the stadium try to re-enter the stands after a last- minute goal in a UEFA Cup tie between Moscow Spartak and Dutch side Haarlem at the Luzhniki Stadium, according to Soviet-sky Sport. The government newspaper izvestia puts the death toll at 66.

FEBRUARY 1981, Piraeus, Greece: Twenty-four people die in a stampede as fans rush to leave the ground. JANUARY 1971, Glasgow: Sixty-six people die in a crowd

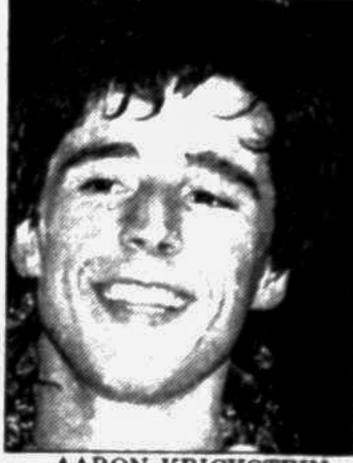
crush at Ibrox Stadium. MAY 1964, Lima: more than 300 fans die in a riot during an Olympic qualifying match between Argentina and Peru.



CHARLOTTE, NC. May 6: Top-see ded Aaron Krick stein advanced in straight sets whi-

le defending champion and fifth-seeded Jaime Yzaga was beaten Tuesday in the first round of the dirs 225,000 US men's clay court championships, reports AP.

The match between sec ond-seeded David Wheaton and Jimmy Brown on Tuesday night was interrupted and postponed until Wednesday by



AARON KRICKSTEIN

Fans scurried beneath the bleachers at Olde Providence Racquet Club, but tournament officials waited less than 30 minutes before calling off play for the night. Wheaton, playing his first match in two months, lost the

6-2, and had won the first point of the third set when the rain came. Krickstein, 24, who was ranked 34th to start the season and has climbed to 15th. beat Jacco Eltingh 6-3, 6-1

Krickstein next plays Wed

nesday against Todd Witsken,

who won beat Argentina's Meanwhile, both Yzaga and

nent 35 Word Yzaga, of Peru, lost a twobefore hour match to Switzerland's

(11-9). Mezzadri made good on his third match point of the last-set tiebreaker when Yza-Italian children in Diego ga's forehand service return sailed wide.

lar success. Yzaga fought off two match points in the tiebreak before falling 11-9 to Mezzadri, who is ranked 40 places below the Peruvian at 84th in the world.

Eintracht Franklurt and VFB Stuttgart both secured important away victo-

ries on Tuesday to stay neckand-neck in their German Championship race, reports Reuter.

Goals from Ghana, international Anthony Yeboah and Heinz Gruendel helped Eintracht to a 2-0 triumph at Karlsruhe while league top scorer Fritz Walter struck again to secure VFB two points in a 1-0 win at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

With just two games remaining, Eintracht, chasing their first title since 1959,

#### Maradona to pay for his child NAPLES, Italy, May 6: A

Naples court ruled today that Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona was the father of a child born to his former Italian girl friend Cristiana Sinagra, reports Reuter. It ordered the ex-Napoli

player, who had denied he was

the father of six-year-old Diego

Armando juntor, to pay five million lire (4,545 dollar) a month maintenance. "It's a satisfying result," said Sinagra's lawyer Enrico Tuccillo. I hope all other

Armando's position have simi-Maradona has been in Argentina since April 1991 when he left Italy after failing a

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legendary

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BONN, May 6: still only lead VFB on goal difference in the tightest Bundesliga battle for years. Borussia Dortmund, who

> won 1-0 at Wattenscheid thanks to a 65th-minute goal from Swiss international Stephane Chapuisat, stayed one point behind. But their hopes of scraping back the point are fading fast.

He Bundesliga seems to have turned into a duel which is unlikely to be decided before the final day of the season on May 16. Eintracht have the easier

final two matches. On Saturday, they host Werder Bremen, who will still have to day's European Cup Winners Cup final against Monaco in their legs and minds, before travelling to lowly Hansa Rostock for their last game.

VFB are at home to Wattensheid before visiting fourth-placed

Leverkusen on the last day. Eintracht needed to defend hard to secure their two points. In the second half Karlsruhe put them under intense pressure and the Frankfurt team hardly came

Eintracht's flamboyant coach Dragoslav Stepanovic paid tribute to his side's composure and praised goalkeeper Uli Stein for a superb perfor-

"Despite the situation at the top of the table my team played cool," he said. "They understood that the fate of the championship was in our hands. Sein had almost 1,000

lieves the race will go right to the tape.

victory," the former Colongne trainer said. We have always said it would go to the last day. The tension is mounting and we are prepared for it all."

Strike delays

Werder Bremen LISBON, May 6: The strike

by public sector workers in Germany delayed the depar ture on Tuesday of Werder Bremen for Lisbon where the German team are due to meet Monaco in the European Cup Winners' Cup final today, re ports Reuter.

The strike caused wides pread disruption of air traffic and Werder's players had to wait for almost two hours in their charter plane at Bremen Airport before it was able to

take off, German officials said. The team finally arrived in the Portuguese capital early on Tuesday afternoon.

The German Football Federation (DFB) said Germany's women's European Champion ship qualifier against Poland had been postponed because the strike closed Frankfurt airport for the day and prevented the team from flying

PRESTON, England, May 6 monwealth lightweight boxing stopped fellow-Briton Steve Boyle in the seventh round, reports Reuter.

#### Uber and Thomas Cup badminton

#### Great start by Chinese girls KUALA LUMPUR May 6: Defending champions China got off to a great

start in the defence of the women's Uber Cup badminton title on Tuesday, beating hosts Malaysia 5-0 in the opening Group A match, reports Reuter. The Chinese women, unde-

showed uncompromising form to crush the young Malaysian Jiuhong led the way by disposing of Lee Wai-Leng 11-2, 11-3

feated since they first entered

the tournament in 1984.

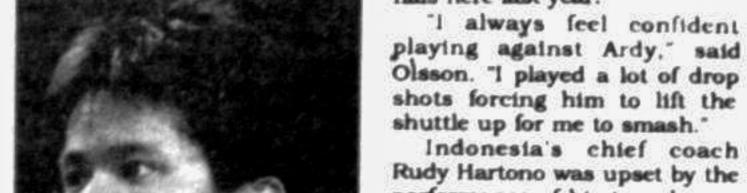
in the first singles. In Group B, South Korea, the biggest threat to China.

I --- '-! 1 1 1

Lewis' schedule WASHINGTON, May 6: Sprinter Carl Lewis will take part in four meetings before the US Olympic trials at New Orleans in June, his agent Joe Douglas said Tuesday, reports

Lewis will start on Saturday at Austin, Texas, in a 100 metres, in which he is reigning Olympic and world champion and world record holder. But he was beaten into third last month by his Santa Monica Track Club teammate Mike Marsh and Nigerian sprinter Davidson Ezinwa.

Lewis will compete in the long jump in New York on May 24 and then a sprint at San Jose, California on May 30. He will race in the 200 metres at Indianapolis on June 10.



All-England champion Tang

washing five-time winners Japan 5-0. The Koreans, who lost to China in the last two finals. were in superb form led by their top singles players Bang Soo-Hyun and Lee Heung-Soon, ranked fourth and fifth

showed their mettle by white-

ARDY WIRANATA

in the world. Bang defeated Hisako Mizut 11-5, 11-6 while Lee beat Harumi Kohara 11-3, 11-6.

#### WIRANATA LOSES

In the men's Thomas Cup, eight-time winners Indonesia were joited when Ardy Wiranata lost the first singles to Sweden's Jens Olsson 15-17, 15-1, 8-15 in Group A. Wiranata, ranked second in

the world, was not up to the

mark against the lanky Swede

who also won their last en-

counter in the Grand Prix fi-

nals here last year. "I always feel confident playing against Ardy," said Olsson. "I played a lot of drop shots forcing him to lift the

Indonesia's chief coach

performance of his top player. "Ardy should not have lost," There is simply no excuse

teammates, however, won all their matches for Indonesia to win 4-1. Hosts Malaysia got off to a

fine start by beating England

5-0 in Group B.

"We got what we wanted, a 5-0 win," team manager Punch Gunalan said. "England played better than expected." Malaysia and Indonesia are seen as the biggest threats to defending champions China

#### nst Thailand in Group A today. Cantona to play for Leeds

who open their defence agai-

LEEDS, England, May 6 : French international striker Eric Cantona has agreed to a three-year deal with English soccer league champions Leeds United, club officials said on Monday, reports Reuter. Cantona will sign before re-

turning to France for a closeseason holiday. Manager Howard Wilkinson bytously I am delighted to secure the services of Eric as we look forward to

European football next season".

**ACROSS** 1 Gudrun's husband 5 Comment from



first set 4-6, won the second

Roberto Azar 6-3, 6-2. his opponent in last year's final, Jimmy Arias, lost their chances at repeat trips to the championship match.

Claudio Mezzadri 6-3, 1-6, 7-6

## 37 Henry Hudson's

vesse 39 The heart Scrooge 41 Wide-8 Court star spread 12 Source of 42 Give

priority to 13 Spanish 45 Salesman's giveaway

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to Krakow for the match: Title retained Carl Crook retained his Comtitle on Tuesday when he

# 32 27 Joined the 35

**CRYPTOQUIP** 

N O X S F A T J. MVA NPBFG MAHGVAS QPSGVHBAJ

Today's Cryptoquip clue: I equals G

QFHTC XCS

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

50 Wrongdo-

Players would face an auto-Anybody's title in Bundesliga VFB's Christoph Daum be-This was a very important