

UN to overrule IOC's decision

UNITED NATIONS, July 17: The UN Security Council's sanctions committee is expected later today to bar Yugoslavia's athletes from the Barcelona Olympics despite approval from most of its leading members, diplomats said, reports Reuter.

Council members Austria and Hungary have said they would respond negatively to a query from Spain on whether athletes could compete as individuals without using the name of their country.

Unlike the Security Council, the committee to enforce sanctions against the rump Yugoslav state must approve requests unanimously, thereby giving each of its members

veto power. All 15 nations on the council are members of the sanctions committee.

The committee met on Thursday and at the suggestion of the Cape Verde Islands delayed its final decision for a day.

The group of seven leading industrial nations, which include the United States, Britain, France and Japan, proposed that Yugoslav athletes be allowed to take part in the Games as individuals.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) agreed with the Yugoslav National Olympic Committee last week that athletes from Yugoslavia — now just Serbia and Montenegro — could compete in Barcelona.

Under the IOC deal, and subject to UN approval, the

Yugoslavs would compete as the so-called 'Independent Team.' They would wear plain white uniforms and receive medals under the Olympic flag.

The Security Council on May 30 imposed wide ranging sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro.

The sanctions are among the most stringent ever imposed and included a ban on sporting contacts, previously only clamped on South Africa by the General Assembly.

Yugoslavia's President Dobrica Cosic wrote to the Security Council early this week saying sanctions should not be imposed against innocent young people.

Sanctions meant the unjustified pillorying of Yugoslav athletes for something they have not done.



Olympic hostesses display the Spanish Olympic postage stamps on the steps of Barcelona's main post office Thursday. —AFP photo.

Security surge to stave off spoilers

BARCELONA, July 17: The Spanish Army is carrying out "undercover operations" to neutralise the threat of Basque terrorists at the Barcelona Olympics, city Mayor Pasqual Maragall said today, reports AFP.

Maragall described the ETA separatist group as "a shadow of its former self" after recent arrests in Spain and France but admitted there was still a risk of attacks.

The mayor did not give details of the operations but said the Army, Navy and Air Force were all involved in the undercover war against terrorism.

Security sources said a clampdown on suspected separatist sympathisers would continue right through the

Games which run from July 25 to August 9.

Six thousand troops have been drafted in to help guard the Games Village, stadiums and other possible targets.

The city police force has been doubled to round 20,000. The police have complained to the authorities about living conditions.

The COOB organising committee, of which Maragall is chairman, and the city authorities have been given a 20 billion pesetas (200 million dollar) central government credit to pay for the security.

But Maragall said the army operations were not included in this cost.

"If you had asked two months ago I would have said the government was very concerned. Since then we have

gone through a very difficult period and the terrorist organisation has paid a very high price for its activity."

"There may be certain peripheral action and there may be certain attempts," said Maragall, "but we think we have covered every eventual-ty."

The COOB chairman said 14,109 athletes and officials had been registered in time for the Games. The organisers succeeded in pruning back numbers, which at one stage threatened to hit 20,000, to under 15,000 which can be catered for.

Maragall said he also expected the two-week Olympiad to make a surplus of around 350 million dollars which would be put toward the cost of building the Games facilities.

China hope for a TT revival

BARCELONA, July 17: China, which vetoed the Olympic hopes of at least two former citizens, hopes that its men can produce a revival when table tennis makes its second appearance in the Games on July 28, report AFP.

Since this sport's Olympic debut in Seoul four years ago the world's strongest table tennis nation has become increasingly worried about its talent drain and relative decline in the men's arena.

Now China may be encouraged both by a new Olympic rule and the unexpected capture in November of the men's World Team Cup in the Olympic arena, the Estacio del Nord.

The new rule gives any nation the right to veto participation by its former citizens for three years after acquiring a passport from another country.

China, not surprisingly, has taken advantage of this, thus ending Olympic hopes for the former World Cup winner Chen Xinhua, now the English national champion, and for the former world number one, Geng Lijuan, now the best women's player in Canada.

Despite this China's women, whose dominance remains unbroken, are almost as strong as ever, with world champion Deng Yaping and world number two Qiao Hong, favourites for gold and silver.

The men's singles, by contrast, will see Europeans as favourites, despite the developing talent of the young Chinese left-hander Ma Wenge, who did so well in Barcelona nine months ago.

Among the front runners are likely to be two Swedes,



China's top woman paddler Deng Yaping, world champion Jorgen Persson and former world champion Jan-Ove Waldner, and France's Jean-Philippe Gatten, who became world number one for the first time last week.

The men's doubles will be wide open, with Paris from Sweden, Germany, China, Poland, South Korea and Russia all capable of getting among the medals.

A major threat to Chinese hegemony could come in the women's doubles from the South Korean pair of Hyung Jung Hua and Hong Cha Ok, or the North Koreans, Li Bun Hui and Yu Sun Bok.

OLYMPIC NOTEBOOK

BARCELONA, July 17: Forecasters say they expect hot and sunny weather for the opening day of the Olympics on July 25, though they warn it is too early to make reliable predictions, reports AP.

Alejandro Martinez, chief forecaster for the Meteorological Centre for the Barcelona zone, said preliminary indications are for light clouds and some showers in nearby mountains on July 24 — followed by clear weather for several days.

But Martinez said the first reliable forecast will be available only two or three days before the July 25 opening ceremony. "It is scientifically impossible to give an exact forecast now for July 25," he said.

HORSE HEALTH: Despite serious problems with horse sickness during the past few years in parts of Spain, a Barcelona veterinarian says an outbreak of equine fever is "practically impossible" at the Olympics.

Joaquim Sabate, president of Barcelona's College of Veterinarians, said adequate precautionary measures have been taken and that the mosquitoes that carry the virus cannot thrive in Barcelona's climate.

Test on rivers around Barcelona have not found any of the mosquitoes, Sabate added.

Other measures taken to ensure there is no outbreak of equine fever include vaccination of horses taking part in Olympic equestrian events and efforts to prevent infected horses from entering the Barcelona area, Sabate said.

Outbreaks of horse sickness in southern Spain in recent years had caused fears that the equestrian events might have to be moved out of Spain, but Olympic officials have steadfastly maintained the Barcelona area is safe.

STILL TOO MANY: After struggling for months to keep the number of athletes and team officials at the Barcelona Games from surpassing 15,200, Olympic organizers have finally agreed to find room for an additional 400 team members.

The Barcelona Olympic Organizing Committee (COOB) said Thursday it expects 15,609 athletes and team officials to stay in Olympic housing during the Games that begin July 25.

COOB officials said they may have to put extra beds in some rooms at the Olympic village in order to house the additional people.

COOB spent three months negotiating reductions with national Olympic committees worldwide after nearly 19,200 originally signed up for the Games. Organizers had said such a surplus would overwhelm housing, catering and transportation services.

Maragall foresees a financial boon

BARCELONA, July 17: Barcelona Mayor Pasqual Maragall on Thursday forecast a financial success for the Summer Olympics, reports Reuter.

"Our budget is balanced. We did not aim to make a profit. All we wanted was not to have a financial loss and we will not have a financial loss," said Maragall, who is also president of the Olympic organising committee COOB.

He said organisers anticipated a surplus of 350 million dollars which would be ploughed back into sports facilities.

COOB has a relatively modest budget of 140 billion pesetas (1.4 billion dollars) for the Games, the biggest in history, which open on July 25.

The amount is overshadowed by the sum total of 926 billion pesetas (9.2 billion dollars) local newspapers on Thursday said had been spent on new sports arenas, roads, other infrastructural improvements and a facelift for Barcelona.

The reports, which quoted a study by Barcelona City Hall, said 63 per cent of the money had come from the city, the Catalonia region and the Spanish national government, with the rest from private investors.

Maragall said the Games, set to draw 400,000 visitors to his city, were "a golden opportunity" for Barcelona to attract foreign investors and tourists.

"Everything is in place," he said.

Green grass to grace Games arena

BARCELONA, July 17: Games organisers are racing against time to repair the grass at Barcelona's main Olympic stadium in time for the opening ceremony on July 25, reports Reuter.

Ground staff at the 65,000-seater stadium said on Thursday they have been working day and night since Monday patching up bare sections in the arena with new turf.

Stadium press director Robert Follolosa Martin said the state of the grass would not be a blemish on the opening ceremony, to be beamed live to a worldwide television audience, because the field would be completely covered.

Organisers then have six days to prepare the surface for the athletics programme which begins in the stadium on July 31.

"For the athletics, the grass will be perfectly green," Follolosa Martin promised.

He said the damage had been caused by three months of rehearsals by the cast of thousands who will perform at the opening ceremony.

The Municipal Stadium, set on the Montjuic Hill which overlooks Barcelona, was handed over to the Olympic organising Committee by city authorities in May.

Until then, it was used by the Barcelona Dragons American football team and occasionally for pop concerts.

Ground staff said the foot-

ball matches had added to the wear and tear. Trucks had also been driven across the field during preparations for the Games, one worker said.

"It's in a bad way," said the worker, who on Thursday was carefully spreading sand into gaps where fresh turf had been laid to cover some of the brown patches.

"We are working day and night. Yesterday, I worked from seven in the morning until three in the afternoon and then again for eight hours from eleven at night," said the worker.

The stadium, built in 1929 and remodelled for the Games between 1985 and 1989, is closed to the public until July 24.

Shuttlers Malaysia's trump card

BARCELONA, July 17: Rashid Sidek, who created a sensation in May by leading Malaysia to their first Thomas Cup world team title for 25 years, hopes to follow it by winning his country's first Olympic medal when badminton makes its Games debut at the Pavello de La Mar Bella on July 28, reports AFP.

Rashid beat the world champion from China Zhao Jinhua and the world number two from Indonesia Ardy Wiranata en route to that historic, humid night in Kuala Lumpur — but two months, six thousand miles and another arena could make a lot of difference.

European players, who are usually outplayed in an Asia-dominated sport, were encouraged by the moderate temperature in the Pavello during the test tournament in May, and the destinations of medals may depend partly on the effectiveness of the air conditioning.

Zhao, twice an all-England champion in the cool of Wembley may also be hoping for similar conditions that might favour him at the expense of the Malaysians and Indonesians.

Rashid, who quit with a back injury after two days of

the test tournament, still believes a gold medal is possible for him, but has his sights on a more immediate target.

probably be provided by South Korea — world champions Joo Bong Park and Moon Soo Kim in the men's and world num-

ber ones Hye Young Hwang and So Young Chung in the women's.

Another little piece of sporting history will be made if Indonesia's world number one Subi Susanti can fight off the challenge of China's other world singles champion Tang Juhong, to win gold in the women's singles.

Indonesia has only ever won one Olympic medal, a bronze, before and the introduction of its national sport into the Games, could herald a new era of recognition for the world's fifth most populous nation.



Thomas Cup champion brothers Rashid and Jilani Sidek.



Participants of the cricket coaching camp which concluded in Tangail yesterday.

Olympic condoms on sale

BARCELONA, July 17: Competitors will have to pay for Olympic condoms at the Barcelona Games, reports Reuter.

There are 23 condom machines — including one in the discotheque — at the seafont Village which will house more than 14,000 athletes and officials.

Village bed and board is free for the first time but unlike previous Games there is a charge for condoms — available only in green. They cost 100 pesetas (one dollar) for a pack of three.

Organisers have ordered 50,000 packs.

BSWA seminar in Noakhali

Sports Reporter

A sports seminar on "Sports in and outside the capital" under the aegis of the Noakhali branch of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) was held at the BRDB Coaching Centre at Noakhali Thursday, says a press release.

Rabul Huq Shaham presented the keynote paper.

Shaikh Aynul Huq, Qamrunnaha Dana, Prof Sarker, Mafizul Haider Chowdhury, Abdur Rahman Manju, Saiful Alam Jahangir, Abul Hashem, Sajal and Sultana Rozina took part in the discussion.

Noakhali branch BSWA chief Mohiuddin Tokon presided.

Deputy Commissioner of Noakhali M A Kamal attended as chief guest.

Cricket coaching ends in Tangail

Sports Reporter

The month-long coaching camp for cricketers (under-19), coaches and umpires under the joint auspices of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) and Tangail District Sports Association concluded at the Tangail Stadium yesterday, says a BCCB press release.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner of Tangail A Mannan distributed certificates among the participants.

Burrell confident of landing gold

NEWCASTLE, England, July 17: Former world record holder Leroy Burrell is confident he can keep the Olympic 100 metres title in the Santa Monica Club family, despite the absence of defending champion Carl Lewis, reports Reuter.

Burrell, at a news conference here with his club-mate and fellow American Lewis on the eve of their appearance at an invitation meeting in Gateshead, said: "As a friend, I'd have liked Carl to have the chance to defend his title."

"It's a shame he's not going to be in that event."

Lewis failed at the recent

US trials to qualify for the sprints.

Burrell, having spent a comparatively quiet season in which he has competed just six times, said "I know I can run a lot faster than anyone else out there, because I've done it. I'm confident I can win in Barcelona."

Instead of sharpening up for the Summer Games on the international circuit, Burrell opted to train at home and feels the new policy of race starvation has worked.

"I haven't posted a great time yet, but I am in better shape now than this time last year," he said.

Burrell, who will run the 200 metres in Gateshead, has only one more 100 metres planned before Barcelona, in Sestriere, Italy, next week.

Lewis said: "I could sit down and twiddle my thumbs and think about the sprints, but I want to get out there and win the long jump and still have a great summer."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ersatz chocolate
 - 6 Mischief-maker
 - 9 Frequenty
 - 12 Pueblo material
 - 13 Extinct New Zealander
 - 14 AFL partner
 - 15 Georgia city
 - 16 Sinks a billiard ball
 - 18 Ruby of musicals
 - 20 Tardy
 - 21 Parrot
 - 23 Lincoln boy
 - 24 It takes a paddling
 - 25 Travels — My Aunt
 - 27 Take five
 - 29 Detente
 - 31 Homes
 - 35 Army vehicles
 - 37 PBS series
 - 38 Boater material
 - 41 Put to work
 - 43 Corvine comment
 - 44 Stoltz or Bogosian
 - 45 Czech's neighbor
 - 47 They hold pictures
 - 49 Regions
 - 52 St.
 - 53 Shirt shape
 - 54 Likewise
 - 55 Yon wench
 - 56 Mornings: abbr.
 - 57 Ford flop
 - DOWN
 - 1 English river
 - 2 Palin-dromic name
 - 3 July 4th props
 - 4 Woodwind
 - 5 Author Stephen Vincent
 - 6 Block
 - 7 Othello, e.g.
 - 8 Atl.'s counterpart...
 - 9 ...and what it is
 - 10 — be tied
 - 11 — a fine lady upon...
 - 17 Warning
 - 19 Humongous
 - 21 Reverence
 - 22 Lindstrom or Zadora
 - 24 Singer Calloway
 - 26 Commander
 - 28 Rodeo rope
 - 30 Fresh
 - 32 Case-loads
 - 33 Zsa Zsa's sis
 - 34 Witnessed
 - 36 Beats
 - 38 Mysterious Psalms
 - 39 Source of treasure
 - 40 Kitchen gadget
 - 42 Duck
 - 45 Check
 - 46 Saharan
 - 48 Plato's H
 - 50 Anagram of 48
 - 51 Staff member

Solution time: 26 mins.

FIND	SAW	LAST
ONOR	QUE	AVOW
AGUE	UKE	NEMO
MANAGE	PADRES	
MOE	DAM	
LABS	ZARZUELA	
ONA	EVA	NEM
UNLOADED	STAY	
LUG	IDA	
THETAS	AUGUST	
IOTA	KAT	ETUI
TRIG	IRE	SARD
ONCE	MID	THEY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
21	22			23				24				
25		26		27			28					
29			30				31		32	33	34	
			35				36		37			
38	39	40					41		42		43	
44							45			46		
47							48			49	50	51
52							53			54		
55							56			57		

CRYPTOQUIP

N T Y W Z M O W M O T F W M

H Y Y I H Z Y G M E Y L L Z M O

Q N Q M F I W Z M G Y Y E

Today's Cryptoquip clue: L equals F

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.