

Joint WC bid in jeopardy?

CALCUTTA, Nov 23: A high-level delegation of the International Cricket Council (ICC) is visiting India later this week to ascertain whether the 1996 World Cup can be held in Asia, reports AFP.

ICC president Clyde Walcott and chief executive David Richards will use their invitation to the final stages of the ongoing Hero Cup here for an on-the-spot assessment of the joint bid by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to host the game's premier one-day competition.

The bid was thrown in turmoil after Pakistan pulled out of the Hero Cup, citing security reasons, the third time Pakistan had refused to tour India since 1990.

Adding to the uncertainty was a bitter row over television rights of the Hero Cup, organised to celebrate the diamond jubilee of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB).

India's Supreme Court had to intervene when the government-run television Doordarshan prevented the London-based Trans World International (TWI), who won the rights to telecast the tournament, from beaming the live signal worldwide.

The court allowed both Doordarshan and TWI to shoot the matches, but ordered that the TWI signal was only for external use and Doordarshan would have the domestic

rights.

The US based World Television Inc (World Tel) which holds the rights for the 1996 World Cup, is unsure whether they will be allowed to televise the tournament.

World Tel's president Mark Mascarenhas, who has also been invited to the Hero Cup finals, will join the ICC representatives in probing Indian officials on the feasibility of staging the World Cup in the sub-continent.

"It is indeed tragic that we will be travelling to India with the purpose of serving an ultimatum on the subject," Mascarenhas told the Economic Times in an interview from his office Connecticut.

"The controversy over global telecast of the Hero Cup has pushed us to an unprecedented situation," he said.

"I must admit the status of the three Asian countries as the World Cup's host is definitely hanging in the balance."

India's case at the meeting will be put forward by its cricket board secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya, the chief organiser of major events like the 1987 World Cup in India and Pakistan and the Hero Cup, and the brain behind the 1996 bid.

"I must admit our position has been weakened by recent happenings but we hope to rectify the situation," Dalmiya told AFP here Tuesday.

"India stands to lose around 2.25 billion dollars if the World Cup is taken away from us, and

I hope all concerned realise this."

Dalmyia, who is the convenor of the Pak-Indo-Lanka Joint Management Committee (PILJMC) for the World Cup said it was a make-or-break situation for sport in the region.

India will never be allowed to stage a major international event again if there is no co-operation from the authorities.

"Relations with Pakistan are bound to improve in the near future, but we have to set our own house in order first," he said.

The ICC representatives and Mascarenhas are also expected to meet senior officials of the Central Information and Broadcasting Ministry during their Indian visit.

Mascarenhas said, "The onus is now on India to repair the damage if it still wants to host the Cup."

"Our meetings this week would make or break the sub-continent's chances and we would not dillydally as we have not much time left either," he added.

According to the tentative schedule worked out by the PILJMC, the sixth edition of the World Cup will be held in January 1996.

Pakistan would host the Final, India the semi-finals while the preliminary matches will be shared by the three countries.

South Africa have expressed a desire to host the Cup if the Asian bid falls through.

Another blow for Krabbe

HAMBURG, Germany, Nov 23: Katrin Krabbe's rivals in Germany said on Monday they would boycott domestic events she runs in despite her two-year drugs ban, reports AFP.

Silke Lichtenhagen, one of the athletes ready to give the former double world sprint champion the cold shoulder, admitted the decision was partly motivated by self-interest.

Krabbe and clubmates Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr had two-year bans for using Clenbuterol confirmed by an International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) arbitration panel on Saturday.

But the trio have pledged to fight the decision in court while continuing to compete in the German Indoor season from next February.

IAAF rules, however, threaten any athletes who compete against them with suspension.

Lichtenhagen said the decision to boycott Krabbe was "a form of self-protection." But she argued it might be possible to sidestep the ban by allowing the trio to run in a separate race. She added: "Then we would not have to run directly against them."

The German Athletics Federation (DLV), which cut the IAAF's original four-year ban to one year on the grounds that it would be judged as a restraint of trade by German courts, is to meet the disgraced sprinters this week.

But DLV president Helmut Digel warned: "People should not expect too much from these talks. We are bound by the IAAF decision and must see it applied."

The DLV could be barred from international athletics if it sides with Krabbe and her teammates, who will not be allowed back into official international competition until August 1995.



Pakistan's Jansher Khan holds aloft the World Open squash championship trophy after defeating his long-time arch-rival and compatriot Jahangir Khan in the final held at the Asif Nawaz Squash Complex in Karachi yesterday. Jansher won the match 14-15, 15-9, 15-5, 15-5. — AFP photo

Jansher conquers Jahangir

KARACHI, Nov 23: Jansher Khan's illustrious career to an end with a seventh World Open title in his home city ended in gallant failure when he was beaten 14-15, 15-9, 15-5, 15-5 by fellow Pakistani Jansher Khan on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Playing only his second tournament after nine months out with a back injury, Jahangir had incredibly beaten three top 10 ranked players — Ross Norman of New Zealand, Australian Brett Martin and England's Chris Walker — on his way to the final.

But the final proved to be one match too many as Jahangir, tied and upset by several refereeing decisions, surrendered to defending champion and world number one Jansher in 66 minutes.

The occasion, only the third All-Pakistani World Open final in history, turned into a gathering of the Khans as great names from Pakistan's squash history came to watch.

They included Jahangir's father, former British Open champion Roshan Khan, and his uncle Hashim Khan, British Open champion seven times in the 1950s.

It was clear which Khan the large audience wanted to win. Jansher was greeted with polite applause while Jahangir entered to cheering, chanting and stamping of feet.

The crowd were soon cheering again as the 29-year-old Jahangir opened in style and won the attack against his younger opponent.

They played point-for-point to 6-6 before Jahangir opened up a two-point gap by forcing two rare errors from his opponent. It was a gap Jansher was unable to close although he kept Jahangir engaged in long, strength-snapping rallies which were later to prove decisive.

Jahangir became more dispirited with the referee, a

world listed official brought in at the last minute at Jansher's request to replace a former Pakistani player who had been due to officiate.

Twice Jahangir came off court to protest to Stevenson, who was in Karachi for the forthcoming team event and had originally come to the match as a spectator.

As Jahangir visibly tired, Jansher stepped up the pace and clinched his fifth world title with some ease, taking the third game in 10 minutes and the fourth in 11 minutes.

"This is my greatest moment," said Jansher. "Jahangir played very well. I was playing a legend."

Jahangir won't change his mind

KARACHI, Nov 23: Pakistan's legendary squash player Jahangir Khan said Monday he has decided to retire from play because the charm of the sport he dominated for nearly a decade has faded, reports AFP.

"I have earned almost everything which squash could offer me — money, fame and glamour — so there is nothing left which can force me to continue playing," Khan told AFP here Monday.

Khan, who turns 30 next month, has refused to bow to what he called "immense pressure" from various quarters in Pakistan to change his retirement decision.

He said a week ago he would quit squash after the ongoing World Championships here, and said Monday he is sticking by his statement.

"I want to say goodbye to squash in a respectable way and this is the most suitable moment to close this chapter," said Khan, who has made a dream comeback in the World Open here by reaching the finals.

Khan, who did not disclose his post-retirement plans, said he finds squash's past more glorious than its future. He said he loved playing squash in the 1980s, but times have changed.

"Things were different in the past, most top players used to travel together, eat together and have fun together. It was all fun."

"But now some of the leading players today do not even talk to each other. Probably it is due to the growing professionalism in the sport."

Khan started his illustrious career by winning the 1979 world amateur title in Melbourne at age 15, and went on to write his name in the history books for his five-and-a-half year unbeaten record.

He will lead Pakistan in the team event which begins here on Wednesday, with the hosts favoured to regain the title after six years.

Oslear has a story to tell

LONDON, Nov 23: The great ball-tampering controversy just won't die.

Allegations that Pakistani fast bowlers doctored the ball have been debated daily in British newspapers and have even been aired in the High Court, reports AP.

The issue took a new twist Tuesday when a reserve umpire charged there was a cover-up by English cricket chiefs.

The controversy stems from a game at Lord's between England and Pakistan in August 1992. At the lunch interval, a ball that had been used by Pakistan's bowlers was changed by the umpires.

According to English player Allan Lamb, the ball was replaced because it was thought Pakistani fast bowlers Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram had been scuffing one side with their fingernails to help them make the ball swing late in an over to the batsmen out.

That practice is against the rules of cricket and has always been denied by the bowlers.

According to the umpires, it was changed because of the regular wear and tear caused when the ball bounces.

The issue exploded into a controversy last season and Lamb wound up in court facing a libel action.

The former South African batsman made allegations in the tabloid Daily Mirror that former Pakistani bowler Sarfraz Nawaz told him, when they were Northamptonshire colleagues, how the ball could be scratched to make it swing.

Sarfraz denied telling Lamb anything like that. The case went to the High Court earlier this month and both parties settle the issue after four days' evidence without it going to the jury.

But the debate rumbled on.

Don Oslear, who was reserve umpire at the game, was quoted in the Daily Mirror on Tuesday as saying that cricket officials altered a statement about the ball-changing incident to avoid

upsetting the Pakistan team.

According to Oslear the statement to the media was amended from 'as the condition of the ball had been altered the umpires changed it' to 'that the match ball had been changed.'

Oslear said that match umpires John Hampshire and Ken Palmer were forbidden by cricket's code of conduct to make any public comment. Now that he has retired, Oslear can.

"I could not longer be part of what has been an outrageous cover-up plot protecting so many leading cricketing personalities," Oslear told the Mirror.

"Both umpires were hopelessly let down by English cricketing officialdom. They were in a hopeless position not being permitted to make any statement about their match reports."

One of the Mirror's tabloid rivals, the Sun, said it had evidence that proved the Pakistan bowlers did not cheat.

It said that match referee Deryck Murray, the former West Indies wicket-keeper, filed an official report stating the ball was changed because of wear and tear and not ball-tampering.

Cairns recovers

HOBART, Nov 23: New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns has recovered from a bruised heel and is set to return for the second cricket Test against Australia, which starts Friday at Bellerive Oval, reports AP.

Cairns suffered the injury during the drawn first Test in Perth last week and missed the four-day match against the South Australian state team as a precaution.

The 23-year-old bowled only one over in Australia's second innings of the Test match but acting captain Ken Rutherford said Tuesday that the rest had guaranteed he would be fit for the Test.

"Chris has been able to bowl in the nets for the last two days and he's coming along all the time," Rutherford said. "He's 99 per cent certain to play."

Match officials in Hobart are hoping the weather improves before Friday.

Snow fell on the city's backdrop, Mount Wellington, in the early hours of Tuesday morning.



JAHANGIR KHAN
a stunning forehand drive wide of his opponent's racket.

It's going to be a real festival

DENVER, Nov 23: More than 3,600 of the nation's top amateur athletes, including what figures to be nearly half the 1996 US Olympic team, will compete in the 1995 US Olympic Festival, reports AP.

The event is scheduled for July 21-30, 1995 and will be held largely in the three Colorado cities of Denver, Boulder and Colorado Springs.

Harvey Schiller, executive director of the US Olympic Committee, estimated up to half of the nation's Olympic athletes would participate in the competition's 37 sports.

Schiller said the 1995 Pan American Games in Argentina will be held in March, eliminating a potential schedule clash.

Tim Leiwke, president of the Denver Nuggets, co-chairman of US Olympic Festival '95 Organizing Committee, said the festival has a projected budget of \$10 million, with \$3 million coming from corporate support.

The US Olympic Festival '90 in Minneapolis drew a record attendance of 503,769, resulting in \$3.4 million in ticket revenue.

NZC chief puts a tin hat on tampering

AUCKLAND, Nov 23: Sharp television pictures and international umpires and match referees meant cricket ball tampering is no longer an issue, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) chairman Peter McDermott said Tuesday, reports AFP.

New Zealand will this season host a Pakistan cricket team captained by Wasim Akram who, with Waqar Younis and Aaqib Javed were all pace bowlers accused of tampering with the ball during former Pakistani bowler Sarfraz Nawaz's court action against England's Allan Lamb, who claimed Sarfraz had shown him how to cheat.

McDermott said the International Cricket Council was looking into the matter and as far as NZC was concerned it was not an issue.

Pakistan are to play three Tests and five one-day internationals here early next year.

After much acrimony in the last three seasons, NZC chief executive Graham Dowling's treatment on his recent visit there suggested a more conciliatory attitude by Pakistan towards New Zealand.

Another one

SALINAS, Puerto Rico, Nov 23: A member of Cuba's target-shooting squad in the Central American and Caribbean Games left team housing Monday, the sixth athlete to do so since the delegation arrived in Puerto Rico, reports AP.

Another team member, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Ana Zulrik Santiago Diaz, 24, had left. Her name was withdrawn from the list of competitors, according to a registration source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Five other Cuban athletes have left the team, apparently to seek political asylum.



Top-seeded Jansher Khan (R) of Pakistan lunges forward to play an attacking stroke against Britain's Peter Marshall during their World Open squash championship semifinal in Karachi Nov 22. Jansher reached the final beating the Briton 15-5, 15-6, 15-8. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35 Bread spread	Martin	19 Charity
1 Hole-making tool	36 Ferber book	DOWN	20 Some houses are built on it
4 Author Janowitz	37 Fern leaf	1 Tray	21 Charles' game
8 Exaggerates the bill	40 Bob's costar	2 Court	22 Tropical fruit
12 Jack of "Barney Miller"	41 "The Swedish Nightingale"	3 Seducer	23 Desire
13 Iowa city	42 Champagne-Burgundy	4 Western resort lake	25 EEE
14 List-end abbr.	46 Saxophone type	5 Frenzied	26 Anunciación's land
15 Express freight trains	47 Mimicked	6 Had a close encounter	27 The yoke's on them
17 Highly rated	48 "Caught ya!"	8 They're often kept on the string	28 Circus structure
18 Dustin Hoffman role	49 Drudge	9 Teensy bit	30 Frenzied
19 Ready to fight	50 Tramp's love	10 Andersen, for one	33 "The Call of the Wild" author
20 Extra	51 TV chef	11 "Rosebud," e.g.	34 End of a Mitchell title
22 Ponder		16 Incensed	36 Slap-happy
24 Minute orifice			37 Envelope part
25 Fond memory			38 Anger
29 Inventor Whitney			39 Aware of
30 Airport sitcom			40 Extorted
31 Pink-slip			42 Nickname for 32 Across
32 Leader of the 1920s			43 --Locka, Fla.
34 Small songbird			44 Half a dance?
			45 Nebr. neighbor

Solution time: 26 mins.

ACROSS	NAP	COMA
HURT	EGO	UPON
OKRA	HOW	BEND
YESSIR	EVEN	
SQUARE	IDEAL	
RIDES	LEX	YMA
IRON	WAD	VEIN
MAC	AIR	HEDDA
SQUARE	MEAL	
MIEN	LIVING	
SEED	EBB	EMIR
PANE	RIO	TINE
ARTS	SOW	SNOW

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49				50					51	

CRYPTOQUIP

JHLXOLT · XVNWWK · POGVN ·

OL · D · G · X · K · W · D · K · T

PHLJUR · UJPW · G · DNUJO

V · W · J · J · W · U · X · O · H · L ·

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BOARDING HOUSES ARE GOOD SOURCES OF TEMPTING GOSSIP BECAUSE OF ALL THE ROOMERS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: J equals N

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.