It's so radical it needs time

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Dec 8: The Olympic Programme Commission has recommended radical changes to the events lineup for the 2000 Games in Sydney, informed sources said here Tuesday, report agencies.

A report drawn up by the commission for the International Olympic Committee executive is considered so controversial that the IOC has ordered it kept under wraps.

Commission chairman Phillippe Chatrier said he had been told to divulge none of the contents. IOC secretary general Francois Carrard gave a press conference just to say that no details would be published.

"The executive commission wants to take time to think about the recommendations made before taking a decision," said Carrard.

Kicking out sports considered obsolete or inappropriate and cutting back others are thought to be proposed. "The report is so radical that it is bound to stir up a fuss amongst international federations," said one source close to deliberations.

Stopping the Olympic Games getting out of hand in terms of competitors and officials has long been a concern of IOC leaders. But each time the question comes round to a vote the lobbying of threatened federation leaders always puts back the tough decisions.

Wrestling, modern pentathlon, boxing and weightlifting have all been threatened with Olympic expulsion or being severely curtailed.

Chatrier is considered a radical in planning future Olympics. At the Barcelona Games in 1992, he publicly expressed regret that his past proposals to prune back competitions had not been followed.

"We propose but the executive decides. Up to now we have not had a lot of luck."

The programme for the Sydney Games is to be debated in open at the IOC Congress in Paris next September.

The IOC may be holding back from publicising radical decisions now because it does not want to threaten other measures.

It is currently attempting to persuade federations to unify drug detection measures and sanctions. The cycling, soccer and tennis federations are still dragging their feet about the measures while other sports have complained about the legal obligations being imposed on them.

"Revealing the recommendations for the programme would really cause an upset. The IOC does not need that right now," said an Olympic official.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Nelson Mandela and Jacques Cousteau could be among the speakers at the IOC Centennial Congress in Paris next year.

IOC director general Francois Carrard said prominent world figures would be invited to give keynote addresses at the Aug. 30-Sept 3 congress, which will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic movement.

Carrard said the IOC would seek to line up speakers "with a global vision, people who can bring inspiration and a message."

He said no invitations have been issued yet, but the Mandela, the ANC leader from South Africa, and Cousteau, the French oceanic explorer, were on the IOC's wish list.

TV TALKS

The IOC expects to have a deal next month on the US television rights for the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, with a projected selling price of more than 300 million dollar.

IOC marketing chief Dick Pound said Tuesday the negotiations are expected to be held in New York during the third week of January.

The CBS network paid 295 million dollars for the rights to broadcast the Feb. 12-27 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway.

"The fact that all three networks are interested suggests we would look for an increase over the Lillehammer fees," Pound said. "My guess is it's a number that will start with a 3."

Meanwhile, Pound said he doesn't expect the Canadian and Australian TV rights for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics to be signed until next month or after the Lillehammer Games. Previously, officials said they hoped to sign those deals by Christmas.

Pound also said that IBM was expected to sign on in the next few days as a worldwide sponsor of the Atlanta Games.

IBM would become the eighth company to join The Olympic Programme, or TOP, the IOC's worldwide marketing programme.

Venue controversy over

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Dec 8: The venue for the rowing competition at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics should be finalised by the end of the month, organising chief Billy Payne said Wednesday, reports AP.

Payne said the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) was offering two alternate sites: a reservoir to be built in Conyers, Ga, east of Atlanta, our Lake Lanier, northeast of the city.

The final decision will be up to the International Rowing Federation.

"We expect they will express a preference for one of the two sites momentarily," said Payne, who briefed the International Olympic Committee executive board. "That should happen by the end of the year."

The rowing venue has been a source of controversy ever since it was moved for financial reasons from the original site at Stone Mountain Park in Dekalb County.

Payne acknowledged that some IOC officials had recently expressed "displeasure" at the gradual disintegration of what was supposed to be a complex of venues at Stone Mountain Park.

It was originally planned to stage six sports at Stone Mountain, but equestrian, shooting and rowing have all been moved elsewhere. Now, only tennis, archery and the track cycling events remain.

"People seem to forget that two sports which moved, equestrian and shooting, did so at their own request," Payne said. "We made the right decision encouraged by the federations. We are somewhat perplexed at the criticism we have received."

Payne said another venue switch is expected to be approved next month. ACOG wants to stage the soccer finals at the University of Georgia's 86,000-seat stadium in Athens, Ga, rather than the new Olympic stadium in Atlanta.

Payne said officials of FIFA, world soccer's governing body, had visited the Athens stadium and expressed "100 per cent" support for the venue. He said the IOC is expected to ratify the move at its session in Lillehammer, Norway, in February.

"With rowing and soccer, both of which seem imminent, all the locations are set," Payne said.

Payne also won support from the executive board for his idea to build a Centennial Olympic Park on a blighted, 72-acre tract of land in downtown Atlanta.

Funded with dlrs 100 million in private money, the park would serve as a gathering area for visitors during the Olympics. After the Games, the park would be redeveloped and a small area would remain as a permanent park and tourist attraction.

"The executive board viewed this particular initiative as kind of a potential consensus idea.... that seemed to indicate the Olympics is producing something good for the overall community," Payne said. "They were glad to her about it."

Norwich no pushover: Inter

MILAN, Italy, Dec 8: Internazionale coach Osvaldo Bagnoli is not taking victory for granted when his team hosts Norwich city of England in their UEFA Cup third round, second leg match on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Even though Inter take a 1-0 lead into the game following Dennis Bergkamp's winner from the penalty spot in the first leg two weeks ago, Bagnoli knows just how dangerous Norwich can be away from home when their counter attacking game is at its most effective.

Bagnoli conceded on Tuesday. "The game is wide open and our advantage doesn't leave me feeling all that confident. I'm glad, however, that we'll have Angelo Orlando and Davide Fontolan back in the team."

But Inter will be without injured midfielders, Dutchman Wim Jonk and Antonio Manicone, as well as striker "Toto" Schillaci.

However, Bagnoli can still field a strong side with Francesco Dell Anno, Russian Igor Shalimov and Orlando and Fontolan in midfield, supporting the attacking partnership of Uruguyan Rubn Sosa and Bergkamp.

Compared to Inter, who have been playing in Europe for 38 years, Norwich are mere apprentices having made their European debut this season.

But they have already claimed the impressive scalp of Bayern Munich who they knocked out in the last round — clinching the tie with a decisive win away from home in the first leg.

In contrast to their home form, which has been patchy, Norwich have only lost twice away from home in 14 matches this season.

An indication of their success away from home is their scoring record. They have scored just three goals at home in the English Premier league — 24 on their travels.

But manager Mike Walker has a huge battle on his hands to come away with a win from Inter's impressive San Siro Stadium.

Norwich were outplayed for long periods by Inter in the first leg and their task has been made even harder because three key players — midfielder Ian Crook, sweeper Ian Culverhouse and captain Ian Butterworth — are all suspended.

But John Polston, another key defender, appears to have recovered from an ankle injury and heavy cold and should play.

Walker is also considering playing striker Efan Ekoku although the Dynamic 22-year-old has made only one reserve team appearance in the last two months since recovering from a foot injury. Ekoku scored seven times in 12 matches before being sidelined.

Morrison maintains his innocence

IOWA CITY, Iowa, Dec 8: Heavyweight fighter Tommy Morrison pleaded not guilty here Tuesday to charges he punched a 20-year-old student at a restaurant, reports AFP.

Morrison was arrested after the incident around 2:00 am on Tuesday.

Police officer Craig Lihs said Morrison, who was later found to be drunk, apparently approached University of Iowa student William Strout from behind.

"It was a sucker punch," Lihs said. "He taps the guy on the side of the head and knocked him clear out of the booth. The kid never saw him."

Morrison was also charged with public drunkenness. He was released on bail pending a trial.

Morrison, 24, said Strout and some other students were staring at him in the restaurant. The students said they had recognised Morrison from his appearance in the move "Rocky V."

Morrison defeated George Foreman for the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title last June, but was knocked out by Michael Bent in the first round on October 29.

British boxer Andy Holligan (L) poses for photographers with Mexican super lightweight champion Cesar Chaves (2nd-R) on Tuesday during a press conference to announce their title bout in Puebla, Mexico on Dec 18. The boxers were accompanied by promoter Don King (2nd-L) and WBC president Jose Sulaiman. — AFP photo

Jansher finishes where he started

ZURICH, Dec 8: World champion Jansher Khan ended his squash year on Tuesday just as he had started it, by winning the Super Series title here, reports Reuter.

But the Pakistani was again given a good deal of trouble by England's Peter Marshall before taking the final 8-15, 15-8, 15-7, 15-9 for his 10th major title of 1993.

Jansher and Marshall have now met five times in the past month and the Englishman has taken five games off his rival.

"He is becoming a big danger to me," said Jansher. "He has good shots and he never gives up."

The Pakistani opened his all-conquering year by winning the inaugural Super Series tournament on the same court in January, but for a while his hold on the trophy looked shaky.

Marshall, who had treatment for a jarred Achilles tendon during the day, decided attack was his only real chance, and Jansher was visibly shaken in the first game.

The Pakistani came out with all guns blazing in the second game and, although he squared the contest, Marshall thereafter engaged him in long, tiring rallies for virtually every point.

But Jansher had a little more accuracy, a little more power and increasing confidence and finally subdued his gallant opponent.

After NBL now comes ABL

SINGAPORE, Dec 8: Six cities in Asia, Australia and New Zealand agreed on Wednesday to launch an international basketball league next year modelled on the US National Basketbal Association (NBA), team owners said, reports Reuter.

The Asian Basketball League (ABL) will include teams representing Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Perth and Auckland, ABL managing director Alan Marshall said, he said other cities could field teams as well.

"This is the first truly international basketball league and covers the last frontier of the sport," Marshall told a news conference.

"Prospective team owners from Tokyo and Beijing attended a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the league which is also talking to officials in Bangkok, Jakarta, Seoul and Taipei about their possible participation," he said.

The Asian leagues season will last three months from either late November or early December. The ABL will allow each team to import three foreign players in the first two years to improve standards.

Hong Kong will be allowed to employ players from China without counting them as foreign. The British colony returns to Chinese rule in 1997.

"The league is negotiating with Hong Kong-based Star TV for television coverage of its competition and with sport shoes and soft-drinks companies for sponsorship," Marshall said.

Mercer's case postponed

NEW YORK, Dec 8: A judge expressed annoyance Monday when he postponed the attempted bribery trial of heavyweight Ray Mercer because the prosecutor's chief witness was not available this month, reports AP.

New York State Supreme Court Justice Jeffrey Atlas set Jan 10 as the next court date. Assistant district attorney Roslynn Mauskopf said heavyweight Jesse Ferguson would be out of state because of family medical problems.

Ferguson is the chief witness against Mercer, who allegedly offered Ferguson dlrs 100,000 to throw a fight Feb 6 at Madison Square Garden. The bribe allegedly was offered during the fight and picked up by Home Box Office microphones.

Bordeaux's Marcio Santos (L) sends Karlsruhe's Sergeij Kiriako (L) crashing during an exciting UEFA Cup tie in Germany on Dec 7. — AFP photo

Schmidt on target again

KARLSRUHE, Germany, Dec 8: Edgar Schmidt kept up his hot shot record in the UEFA Cup as SC Karlsruhe beat 10-man Bordeaux in a hot tempered match Tuesday to reach the quarter-finals, reports AFP.

Schmidt, four goal hero of Karlsruhe's 7-0 humiliation of Valencia in the second round, scored two more as the Germans beat Bordeaux 3-0 to overturn their 1-0 deficit from the first leg.

The Germans had promised to come out all guns blazing and Rainer Schutterle had been booked before Schmidt put the two sides level in the 18th minute.

Bordeaux had Stephans Paille sent off and two others booked. Karlsruhe also had Dirk Schuster booked and at one stage defenders Slaven Bilic and Schuster were fighting each other.

Stood on the penalty spot, Schmidt headed a long free kick by Russian international Sergei Kiriakov past Bordeaux goalkeeper Gaetan Huard. Kiriakov got the second goal in the 65th minute before Schmidt sealed the game with an opportunist goal.

Tension soon mounted Paille's nerve broke first. He knew immediately it was a red card offence after punching Eberhard Carl in the Karlsruhe penalty area in the 24th minute.

The Frenchman left the field with his hands in his head in despair, but Bordeaux put up a fight even down to 10 men.

Zinedine Zidane produced a spectacular one handed save from Karlsruhe goalkeeper Liver Kahn and substitute Christophe Dugarry missed from two yards out with only the misplaced Kahn to beat.

Karlsruhe only imposed their advantage at the end of the first half. Schmidt's shot from 30 yards hit the base of Haurd's left hand post. Seconds later Kiriakov shot inches wide.

The German's stepped up the pressure in the second half. Burkhard Reich side-footed a shot onto the post and seconds later Croat defender Sleven Bilic sent an overhead kick onto the same patch of woodwork.

Tempers flared across the pitch and Bordeaux defender Laurent Croci was booked for one foul and was lucky not to get his marching orders after jumping on the stomach of Bilic after one challenge.

But in the 65th minute a Rainer Schutterle cross beat reached the back of the Bordeaux goal where Kiriakov slid the ball in for the second goal.

Schmidt was put through to an unchallenged position in the 76th minute to shoot Karlsruhe in an unbeatable position. Schmidt has now scored eight times in the competition this season.

Casino Salzburg pulled off a shock defeat of Sporting Lisbon, coached by former England manager Bobby Robson, to book their quarter-final place.

Lisbon led 2-0 from the first leg and Casino lost midfielder Damirumuzik in the 18th minute with a broken arm.

In another tense match with six Austrians booked, second half goals from Leo Lainer and Ralph Huetter drew the sides level.

Sporting's Capucho hit the Casino Crossbar with an extra time shot. But it was substitute Edgar Amerhauser who got the winner for the Austrian side with a spectacular volley in the 113rd minute.

Lazio won't let Gazza go

LONDON, Dec 8: Leeds have expressed an interest buying Paul Gascoigne from Lazio although the Italian club said on Tuesday they had no intention of selling the English international midfielder, reports Reuter.

There has been widespread media speculation over the past two weeks that Gascoigne was returning to England and on Tuesday Leeds became the latest club to be linked with him, although their manager Howard Wilkinson stressed that talks were at a tentative stage.

However, in Rome, the possibility of Gascoigne returning home was squashed by Enrico Bendoni, Lazio's general manager.

Bendoni said : "Paul Gascoigne is not going to be sold by Lazio at any price. He is simply not for sale."

Bendoni's comments add another twist to what is developing, into the type of long-running saga that surrounded Gascoigne's transfer from Tottenham to Lazio for 5.5 million pounds (8.25 million dollars) last year.

Leeds, the 1992 English champions who are currently second in the Premier league, say they were alerted some time ago that the Italians were prepared to sell Gascoigne.

Wilkinson said: You are talking about one of football's superficial, tentative and exploratory contacts — the kind that happen in a football manager's office every week.

"We were contacted along with a number of other clubs including, I understand, Blackburn, Newcastle and Manchester United, and asked whether we would be interested in Gascoigne.

"My reaction was obviously that I would not say I wasn't interested but a lot of questions would have to be answered if we ever got to that stage, knowing the uncertain nature of business of this kind."

Latest reports suggest that Gazza is determined to stay in Italy — even if that means joining a different club.

La Hoya's biggest mistake

LOS ANGELES, California, Dec 8: Former Olympic champion Oscar de La Hoya could lose his professional boxing licence after he pulled out of about following a tug-of-war over who should manage him, reports AFP.

The unbeaten De La Hoya withdrew from Thursday's scheduled junior lightweight bout against Jose Videal Concepcion in New York.

His co-managers, Bob Mittleman and Steve Nelson, have filed a 10-million-dollar lawsuit in court here against Reynaldo T Garza and Gerardo Salas, the fighter's cousin, accusing them of interfering in their contract with the fighter.

"We have a valid contract with Oscar, and obviously they (Garza and Salas) are interfering with it," Nelson said.

"They won't let us talk to him and now they apparently have told him not to fight in New York, which means he will be suspended."

Sixteen months ago, De La Hoya won of Olympic gold in Barcelona. Since then he has won all 11 of his professional fights, 10 by knockout.

Mittleman and Nelson signed him with a 1-million-dollar offer, and decided not to rush him into a title fight. He only recently signed to fight World Boxing Organization champion Jimmy Bredahl next March.

Salas, De La Hoya's cousin, knew the fighter was dissatisfied with Nelson and Mittlemen, and encouraged him to make the break.

Mittleman said he and Nelson have had letters from De La Hoya seeking to break their contract, and last week the fighter obtained a court order barring them from contacting him.

Promoter Bob Rum said De La Hoya would be replaced in Thursday's fight by Lyndon Paul Walker, a Virginian with a record of 9-6-4 with three knockouts. Concepcion is 38-10-2 with 23 knockouts.

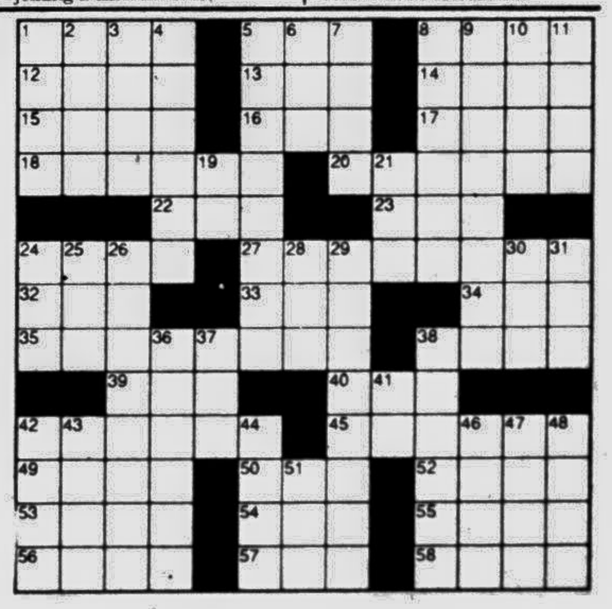
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Hot tubs
5 Odometer reading: abbr.
8 Poker player's prizes
12 St. Helens outflow
13 Dos Passos trilogy
14 Cole Porter's home-town
15 Fe
16 Cul-de- —
17 Ballet bend
18 "Flash-dance" song
20 Tapper Ruby
22 Calendar abbr.
23 Sigma follower
24 Linus's sister
27 Vintage autos
32 Blackbird of puzzle-dom
33 "— Blue?"
34 Nay canceler
35 Abut
38 Cauldron contents
39 KGB counter-part
40 Guy's date
42 Bligh's boat
45 Gram-marians' concerns
49 Parisi-ennes' magazine
50 Shale product
52 Writer Emile
53 Culture medium
54 24 horas
55 Green acres?
56 Crew members
57 Melody
58 Oboist's necessity

DOWN
1 Post-diet
2 India rubber
3 Stratford's river
4 Sound-ness of mind
5 Brawny
6 "There — tavern..."
7 Need
8 Lawyer's ploy
9 Like mobile phones
10 Pennsyl-vania port
11 Litigant
19 A word to the doctor
21 Greek H
24 Jekyll's workshop
25 Half of dos
26 Round
28 Latin I word
29 Match-less
30 Storm center
31 Wield a needle
36 Restau-rant clientele...
37 ...and what they do
38 Sports jacket
41 Oakland squad
42 Tempo
43 Gymnast Korbut
44 Luke Sky-walker's guru
46 Quayle's successor
47 Author Wiesel
48 Chopin's lady friend
51 Sundial notation

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	B	B	E		P	O	I		S	H	A	W
L	O	O	M		O	W	N		C	O	D	E
L	O	O	P	H	O	L	E		O	O	Z	E
A	M	B	L	E		Z	A	P	P	E	D	
			O	X	E	N		L	E	S		
C	O	P	Y		V	I	N	E		T	A	C
I	D	O		F	E	L	I	X		E	G	O
A	D	O		A	R	E	S		I	R	A	Q
		P	A	L		S	I	G	N			
M	A	D	R	A	S			A	D	A	M	S
O	N	E	R		C	O	O	P	E	D	U	P
I	N	C	A		A	B	A		E	R	L	E
L	A	K	Y		M	I	K		D	Y	E	D



CRYPTOQUIP

M Z S W F U J C F D R S J R Y S B U P W R D W R Z S R P W F Y M C U.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR NEW FRIEND, THE MESSY SCULPTOR, LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals G

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.