

## Australians in Pakistan

KARACHI, Sept 19: Australia's cricketers arrived in Pakistan on Monday for what promises to be a close fought Test series, then first without former captain and voracious run-maker Allan Border, reports Reuters.

Pakistan are a very tough side to beat and they have been playing very well for the last 12 months," captain Mark Taylor told the Karachi newspaper Dawn. "But that doesn't mean we can't beat them. We haven't come here to lose."

The Australians, with a strong batting order, will look mainly to paceman Craig McDermott and leg spinner Shane Warne for penetration against the Pakistani line-up.

Pakistan's manager Intikhab Alam said his players would not be underestimating their opponents, but would hold the edge with an attack spearheaded by fast bowlers Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, backed by the leg spin of Mushtaq Ahmad.

"The Australians are a very good side," Alam said. "We have

a very good chance provided we have enough runs on the board. We can get them out twice."

Pakistan will be without prolific batsman Javed Miandad, who is in London recovering from a knee operation.

"Pakistan's performance depends a lot on fast bowlers Wasim and Waqar. If they are on form they will create problems, but the Aussies are determined to win."

### Warwickshire's unique treble

LONDON, Sept 19: Warwickshire became Sunday league champions when they beat Gloucestershire by 46 runs in the final match of the season, reports Reuters.

It gave Warwickshire an unprecedented hat-trick of titles. They won the Benson and Hedges limited overs tournament earlier in the season and have made also certain of the county championship.

In the fourth competition, the NatWest Trophy, Warwickshire lost in the final to Worcestershire.

nacious and we have to take them on at their own game," former Test player Zafar Altaf told Reuters.

The Pakistani and Australian teams flew to Karachi overnight from Sri Lanka where they both failed to reach the final of the four-nation Singer one-day World Series.

India beat Sri Lanka in Saturday's final. Pakistan earlier won a three-Test series against Sri Lanka 2-0.

Australia's last tour of Pakistan in 1988-89 was marred by controversy over umpiring and pitches.

This time a neutral umpire will officiate in each of the three Tests — England's Dicki Bird in the first Test in Karachi, and Karl Liebenberg and Cyril Mitchell, both of South Africa, in the second and third.

The Australians play their opening three-day match against a President's XI at Rawalpindi on Friday.

South Africa join Pakistan and Australia for the triangular Wills Championship of one-day matches starting on October 12.

## One-day cricket redefined

SYDNEY, Sept 19: Australia will experiment with a new format for limited overs cricket which splits the game into four innings instead of the present two, officials said today, reports Reuters.

In a 50 overs match under the experimental rules, the side batting first will face half of their allotted overs before effectively being forced to declare.

The opposition will then take their turn in the middle for 25 overs. Both sides will then bat again for the remainder of their overs.

Australian Cricket Board (ACB) chairman Alan Crompton said the changes could be introduced at senior level if they were found to add excitement.

"It's an experiment only but the board is interested in and supportive of anything where there is an aim to improve the game," Crompton said.

"There's a suggestion that some matches lose their interest early in the piece, particularly if the team batting first is about 70 for six after 25 overs."

"In this experiment, even if the team batting second takes a lead, there's always a possibility for the other team to recover in its last 25 overs."

Tasmania's Sheffield Shield side will play two matches under the new rules, including a friendly against Queensland on October 6.

## Lee cancels Hiroshima visit

TAIPEI, Sept 19: President Lee Teng-Hsi of Taiwan officially announced today that he had cancelled a planned visit to next month's Asian Games in Japan, reports AFP.

The presidential office said in a statement that "serious political interference" had made it impossible for Lee to go to the Games.

Lee condemned China's role in the international storm over his invitation to the event. "China's role in the international sports has impaired the athletic spirit of the event," it said.

The Games from October 2 to 16 in Hiroshima, Japan are Asia's biggest sporting event. Beijing had threatened "political troubles" if Lee went, leading to fears of a Chinese boycott.

## Ruelas wins WBC crown

LAS VEGAS, Sept 19: Gabriel Ruelas, making the most of his second chance at a title, outpointed James Leija in brutal 12 rounds of nonstop punching Saturday night to take a unanimous decision and Leija's WBC super featherweight title, reports AP.

Ruelas, who challenged Azumah Nelson for the title on Feb 20, 1993 but lost a decision in that bout, knocked Leija down twice. Leija had taken the crown by outpointing Nelson last May 7.

Although Leija was knocked down by a smashing right uppercut in the second round and Ruelas kept the pressure on the rest of the way, Leija fought back bravely. He even sent Ruelas to the canvas in the fifth round, although Ruelas was moving around the ropes and the punch caught him off-balance.

Ruelas sent Leija down again in the 12th, when the champion ducked into another right uppercut.

Both fighters were marked after the bout. Ruelas had his nose bloodied in the seventh and it continued to bleed throughout the fight. But he cut Leija by his left eye early in the bout, then opened a cut over Leija's right eye in the middle rounds.

The judges' cards favoured Ruelas, who had a point deducted for a low blow in the 10th, by scores of 116-108, 115-109 and 115-111.

Ruelas joins his brother, Rafael, as a champion. Rafael, who also lives in Sylmar, Calif., holds the IBF lightweight belt.

The victory by Ruelas, who was born in Jalisco, Mexico, and came to the United States with his family when he was 7, improves his record to 39-2, with 22 knockouts.

Leija, from San Antonio, is 26-1-2, with 13 knockouts. Both fighters weighed 130 pounds each.

## Pettway stops Rosi in Round 4

LAS VEGAS, Sept 19: American Vincent Pettway knocked out Italian Gianfranco Rosi with a left hook in the fourth round to win the International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior middleweight championship on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Pettway, 28, swarming over Rosi toward the end of the round, softened up the Italian with a left hook and immediately landed another to drop Rosi, who got up on two knees at the count of seven but couldn't make it the rest of the way before being counted out by US referee Jay Nady.

The official time of the knockout was two minutes, 59 seconds of the fourth round.



An AFP file photo dated Sept 13 shows the entrance and buildings of the Hiroshima Asian Games athletes village which was opened on Sept 18. The village is located near the main stadium of Hiroshima's 'Big Arch' and is expected to house 6,900 participants and officials.

## Chavez comes out punching



LAS VEGAS, Sept 19: Julio Cesar Chavez appeared hurt, although it wasn't from Mel-drick Taylor's punches, reports AP.

It was because some people still think he's not the fighter he once was.

"People made too much of one loss," Chavez said after stopping Taylor in the eighth round of their scheduled 12-round rematch Saturday night.

"All the great fighters have lost. Muhammad Ali, Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler. They all had losses."

Chavez of course, didn't have a loss in his 14-year career until Frankie Randall knocked him down and won a decision Jan 29.

Although he won the rematch after suffering a head butt in a controversial eighth round ending May 7, Chavez had been dogged by questions that his skills had slipped and his best days were over.

"To all of those who said I was old and finished, they can say the old men are old, but they keep going strong," Chavez said.

Chavez was indeed strong against the quicker Taylor, who won some early rounds but was apparently undone by a furious sixth round in which the two fighters went at each other nonstop for almost the entire three minutes.

Chavez knocked Taylor down in the eighth round, then followed with a flurry of head punches that prompted referee Mills Lane to stop the fight at 1:41 of the round.

The ending was not as dramatic as the first time Chavez fought Taylor, stopping him with two seconds left in a fight he was trailing, but it was more convincing.

"I elected to fight too soon with Chavez," said Taylor, apparently regretting the sixth round slug-out. "I really thought it would be my night. I went with my heart and gave it everything I got."

It was sweet redemption for the 32-year-old Chavez, who had been criticised not only for the Randall fight but also for a disputed draw with Pernell Whitaker last year in a fight most thought Whitaker clearly won.

It also opened up possible lucrative rematches with both Whitaker and Randall, although promoter Don King appeared to have different ideas.

King said Randall should fight Whitaker, with the winner taking on Chavez. Whitaker is already scheduled for a rematch with Buddy McGirt on Oct 1.

"Randall will get another shot at Julio, but first he's got to beat Pernell Whitaker," King said. "That fight is a done deal."

That was news to Whitaker's promoter, Dan Duva.

"I have no idea what he's talking about," Duva said. "Pernell Whitaker beat Chavez the first time they fought. Why should he take a step backward and fight Randall? Let the winner of Chavez-Randall fight him."

Randall did his part to set up a third fight with Chavez, taking a lopsided 12-round decision over Argentina's Juan Coggi to capture the WBA version of the 140-pound (63-kg) title.

"I want Randall," said Chavez, who is now 91-1-1. "There will be a third fight between Frankie Randall and Julio Cesar Chavez."

American golfer Tom Lehman holds aloft the President's Cup after the United States won the tournament at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club Gainesville, USA on Sept 18. — AFP photo

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## Randall too strong for Coggi

LAS VEGAS, Sept 19: American Frankie Randall was too quick and too strong for Juan Martin Coggi of Argentina on Saturday and won a one-sided, 12-round unanimous decision to capture the World Boxing Association junior welterweight championship, reports Reuters.

It marked the second 140-pound title for Randall, who won the World Boxing Council super lightweight championship in January when he became the only person to beat Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico.

Randall, a 4-1 favourite despite being the challenger, knocked down Coggi three times: in the first, fifth and sixth rounds.

Coggi dropped Randall in the second round, the only time the bout could be considered close.

## NFL race hots up

SEATTLE, Washington, Sept 19: Two-time reigning American professional soccer league champions Colorado and 1993 runners up Los Angeles clinched playoff berths with 2-1 weekend home victories, reports AP.

Colorado beat Montreal while the Salsa eliminated Vancouver and regular-season leader Seattle beat last place Toronto 1-0 on Saturday.

Entering the final week of the regular season, Seattle (12-6) has 103 points to 89 for the second-place Salsa (10-8), 84 for Montreal (11-7) and 83 for Colorado (11-6).

Fifth-place Vancouver is 20 points behind the Foxes with only 18 points possible from their two final matches.

Playoff pairings will be decided in matches this week. Colorado are at Seattle on Tuesday, Montreal on Friday and Los Angeles next Sunday in the most critical matchups.

Seattle needs only a home victory over Colorado or Vancouver to clinch first place and home-field advantage through the playoffs.

## Vitas Gerulaitis dead

SOUTHAMPTON, New York, Sept 19: Former Australian Open tennis champion Vitas Gerulaitis was found dead at a friend's home here Sunday. He was 40 years old, report agencies.

Police said a preliminary investigation did not reveal any suspicious circumstances. The cause of death will be determined after an examination by the Suffolk County Medical Examiner's office.

Gerulaitis, a former Australian Open winner, played Wednesday in Seattle on the Champions Tour, a circuit for men's players 35 and over. He withdrew from the tournament the next day because of a bad back.

Gerulaitis, who left the main tour in 1985, worked last weekend for CBS on the US Open as a studio analyst. He also played in the men's 35 and over doubles event during the Open.

"Everybody in tennis knew

Vitas as an outgoing and gregarious type. It's a real shock," ATP Tour spokesman Kevin O'Keefe said.

An excellent shot-maker who played with great flair,



VITAS GERULAITIS

Gerulaitis had acknowledged using cocaine during the late 1970s and admitted his drug use undercut his ability as a player.

Gerulaitis beat John Lloyd

in the final of the 1977 Australian Open for his lone Grand Slam title. He lost the finals of the 1979 US Open and the 1980 French Open. He won the 1975 Wimbledon doubles title with Sandy Meyer.

Gerulaitis was No 4 in the world in 1984. He won 27 singles titles and nine doubles championships on the ATP Tour and had career earnings of \$1,278,748.

The Brooklyn, New York, native won four of 22 tournaments in 1979 and won five of six Davis Cup matches to help the United States retain the title. He played on the US team from 1977-80.

In one of his finest matches, Gerulaitis rallied past Roscoe Tanner in the semifinals of the 1979 US Open after trailing by two sets and down a service break. In 1977, he lost in a Grand Slam semifinal, falling to Bjorn Borg in a five-set tiebreaker at Wimbledon.

His sister, Ruta, played on the women's tour and reached a ranking of No 31 in 1980.

## To revive India's hey days

NEW DELHI, Sept 19: The Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) is taking massive steps to reorganise and develop the game in the country, reports PTI.

In an informal chat with reporters here today, IHF president K P S Gill said the steps included creating as many as a dozen teams of national standard, maintaining computerised data on the players and greater utilisation of the synthetic surfaces available in the country.

Gill complemented the junior squad for its successful tour of Australia on which it won five matches, drew one and lost one.

He agreed with a question that Indians, at the junior level, were world beaters but they tended to fade out once they made it to the senior grade.

To prevent that, the IHF chief said, sustained training would be imparted to the youngsters and their progress monitored through computerisation.

He said the few synthetic turf available in the country were very much under-utilised. "I want them to be used from early morning to late in the night. I am going to ensure that."

One way, according to him, was to create as many as a dozen teams of national standard and put them for training on those turfs. "I want at least 12 people to fight for one place in the national team. That is the only way those already in (the team) are made to give of their best."

Gill said: "IHF was in the red by Rs two lakhs when we took over. We made a profit of Rs 20 lakhs from the present Federation Cup. We do not want to be dependent on anyone for funds."

That was the reason, he said, he suggested to the government and the sports authority of India that instead of going in for cost-sharing for laying synthetic tracks, the IHF or its affiliated units would lay the base at their cost and the government should fund the laying the synthetic turf. The authorities had agreed to

the proposal, he said. The IHF president agreed to a suggestion that the federation should come out with its yearly calendar and also a monthly newsletter.

Regarding the forthcoming Hiroshima Asian Games, he said the hockey team would leave on September 25.

"If we win the gold, there may not be too many chopings, and changings, except for injuries or illnesses. If we don't, we may have to take a second look at the team formation."

For this reason, he said the stand byes and reserves would be in training camp immediately after the team leaves for Hiroshima, so that a fit team could be put together for the World Cup to be held in Sydney (Australia) in November.

Gill also talked about putting a restriction on the number of tournaments in the country a team could participate.

This step would give more players opportunity to show their talent and prevent players from going stale.

## New ITF rules

HONG KONG, Sept 19: The International Tennis Federation has decided to modify tennis balls in an attempt to blunt the advantage of power servers and make the sport more entertaining, reports AP.

ITF President Brian Tobin said Saturday that the new balls, to go into use immediately, would increase rallying on hard surfaces.

"Harder balls will be used on a slow surfaces and softer balls on faster surfaces," he said at the end of the four-day annual meeting of the Federation.

The ITF also has implemented a 20-second limit between points for tournaments under its jurisdiction — the Davis Cup, Grand Slams and Federation Cup events.

The Association of Tennis Professionals, which governs the men's tour, has experimented with the 20-second rule, a reduction of five seconds from the present limit, but decided against it last week.

## Motor rally mishap