

Four nations hockey on Star Sports

Tune in to Star Sports for exclusive coverage of the nail-biting four nations tournament from Brisbane, Australia, featuring India, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

The battle lines are drawn and an exciting banquet of Asian, Australasian and African field hockey styles will be on offer as the four sides battle it out for top honours.

The series is an important component of the Kookaburras preparation for the Atlanta Olympic Games and will be the last tournament the Australian hockey team will compete in before traveling to the United States.

The matches will be hosted by Brisbane in their newly completed State Hockey Centre. Indian viewers and hockey enthusiasts can look forward to the special Hindi commentary service Star Sports will be providing throughout the tournament.

So who will come out tops from down under? Watch Star Sports and find out!

TELECAST SCHEDULE (Bangladesh Times)

- June 1: 9:30 India v South Africa
June 1: 9:30 Australia v New Zealand
June 2: 9:30 3rd-4th Place Playoff
June 2: 11:30 Final

Revelation indeed!

NEW YORK, May 31: Andrew Jennings, a British journalist who wrote a new book about the Olympics, said he has proof that several boxing bouts at the 1988 Seoul Olympics were fixed, reports AFP.

Jennings cites a document found in the files of STASI, the former East German secret police. He said Karl-Heinz Wehr, secretary general of the International Amateur Boxing Association, reported to STASI.

Records of one such report indicated South Korean 'Organisers' paid boxing officials 15,000 dollars to ensure victories by South Korean fighters. The organisers paid judges between 300 and 500 dollars, Jennings wrote.

American Roy Jones lost a controversial 3-2 decision to South Korea's Park Si-Hun in a gold medal bout at Seoul. 'When they made that decision the way they did, I knew there had to be a payoff,' said Jones, who feels no vindication. 'It still doesn't put a gold medal around my neck.'

Kenya gets the nod

NAIROBI, May 31: Kenya will host the All African table tennis tournament at the end of this year, which will attract around 20 countries in the continent, chairman of the Kenya Association of Table Tennis Sharad Ghai said on Wednesday, reports Xinhua.

Sharad Ghai said to make the tournament successful, Trust Bank Kenya Limited has decided to sponsor it to the tune of one million Kenya shillings (about 20,000 US dollars).

The tournament will be staged at Moi International Sports Center and Arya Sports Ground for 10 days. Africa's big giants in the sport Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Tunisia and South Africa have confirmed their participation.

Women's v'ball

OSAKA, Japan, May 31: The Netherlands on Thursday suffered their first defeat in four matches leaving them tied with three teams in the final qualifying round for women's volleyball at the Atlanta Olympics, reports AFP.

The European champions watched their two-set advantage disappear in a 15-10, 15-10, 11-15, 10-15, 17-19 defeat to Ukraine.

The Netherlands, Japan, Croatia and Ukraine, vying for the last three Atlanta berths, are now tied with identical 3-1 win-loss records in the eight-team round-robin tournament.

Croatia, fourth-place finishers in last year's World Cup here, chalked up a 15-5, 15-5, 15-7 victory over winless Romania, while Japan outgunned Bulgaria 15-11, 15-9, 15-3.

Italy beat winless Taiwan 15-5, 15-6, 15-5 earlier in the day.

Onus on Jessey

ATLANTA, May 31: Opera soprano Jessey Norman will perform a new work as part of the opening ceremony of the Centennial Olympic Games on July 19, Games organisers said Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Rivals reach consensus

ZURICH, Switzerland, May 31: Japan and South Korea have agreed to co-host the 2002 World Cup soccer finals, a FIFA source said today, report agencies.

A compromise was worked out at a secret meeting on Thursday night between former Japanese Prime Minister Kichi Miyazawa and former Korean Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo.

The decision was endorsed by a majority of FIFA executive committee members. The executive committee had been scheduled to vote on Saturday as to which country would be the first Asian country to stage the finals.

Both sides indicated they had agreed to proposal. Japan, widely regarded as favourite to host the prestigious tournament, had previously resisted the suggestion. South Korea was more sympathetic to the idea.

Alarmed at the fierce rivalry between the two contenders, the eight European members of FIFA's executive committee proposed the co-hosting. UEFA said the two bids were both excellent in technical terms and the dueling was bad for the sport.

It was a view shared by the president of the Asian confederation, Sultan Ahmad Shah, and his African counterpart Issa Hayatou.

FIFA President Joao Havelange had resisted making last minute changes to tried and tested procedures.

But apparently under pressure from the other members of the executive committee, Havelange persuaded Shinichi Okano, the head of Japan's 2002 World Cup bid

committee, to accept the co-hosting idea, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

Saburo Kawabuchi, the vice-chairman of the Japanese bid committee and chairman of the Japanese professional J-League, confirmed the co-host decision.

President Kim Young-sam of South Korea sent a congratulatory telegram to his delegation in Zurich, officials said.

'I express deep respects for the FIFA Executive Committee members' decision to let the two countries co-host the event in order to promote harmony in the world soccer community and South Korea-Japan bilateral relations,' Kim said in the telegram carried by the national news agency Yonhap.

'Co-hosting the 2002 World Cup will be a chance to further strengthening the friendly bilateral relations with Japan,' Kim said.

Japan's close links with FIFA president Joao Havelange had been seen as a threat to their hopes of winning the 2002 finals.

There was growing resentment among FIFA members about the autocratic style of the 80-year-old Brazilian who considered a vote for South Korea as a sign of no-confidence.

The animosity between the two neighbours dates back to Japan's 35-year occupation of the Korean peninsula.

Japan has earmarked 5.2 billion dollars to spend on construction, including high-tech 'virtual stadium' with giant 3-D screens to create a live match effect for fans who can't watch the match itself.

South Korea's budget is more modest - about 1.3 bil-

lion dollars on new infrastructure - although costs are lower than in Japan. South Korea has a superior soccer pedigree and has reached the last three World Cup finals.

Both countries have promised to donate the profits to the good of global soccer. The 2002 finals are expected to be watched by a combined television audience of 40 billion people.

After criticism from UEFA that existing World Cup broadcast and marketing revenues were peanuts, FIFA's Havelange agreed to open up the bidding.

The executive committee is also due to consider seven formal offers on the broadcast rights on Friday. FIFA has stayed tight-lipped on how much each is worth - UEFA had set a target of about 800 million dollars.

Under a long-standing deal with a public network consortium coordinated by the European Broadcasting Union, the television rights for the next finals in France in 1998 are fixed at just 230 million Swiss francs (184 million dollars).

There is some disquiet in the executive committee at the way FIFA is handling the broadcast rights issue - for instance it decided to separate them from marketing rights rather than selling them in a package. That is expected to be thrashed out Friday.

The European Broadcasting Union; ABC Television of the United States; Hong Kong's Cable TV; Mark McCormack's International Management Group; the Swiss marketing company CWL; FIFA's long-time marketing partner ISL of Switzerland; and TEAM, the marketing agent for the European Champion's League, all put in offers.

98 WC draw in Marseille in Dec

ZURICH, Switzerland, May 31: The group draw for the finals of the 1998 World Cup in France will be held in Marseille on December 4 next year, it was announced here on Thursday, reports AFP.

The date was set during a meeting between the French World Cup Organising Committee and FIFA officials.

The draw will be held during a special football match made up of one player from each of the 32 countries who reach the finals.

'It will be Europe against the Rest of the World and at half-time we will hold the draw,' explained Jacques Lambert, head of the French organising committee.

He said the half-time of the match would be extended to around 30 minutes to give time for the draw. Lambert added that French officials will be going to Euro '96 which begins in England next month to study the security set-up.

Euro '96 trivia

BRUSSELS, May 31: International trade unions charged Euro '96 organisers on Wednesday of using balls manufactured by children working in slave conditions in Pakistan, reports AFP.

'It is shame on soccer that its central item is the product of an industry where almost every factory has a punishment room for kids who are hung upside down, starved, caned or lashed when they make a mistake or upset their masters,' said Neil Kearney, the general secretary of the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Federation.

The federation called on football's governing bodies to adopt a code of conduct to ensure that balls manufactured with a stamp of approval from UEFA or FIFA produced by factories which do not use child labour and observe basic workers rights.

Pakistan produces around 80 per cent of the world's footballs, mostly in the city of Sialkot, which alone turns out 35 million balls a year.

Kearney said workshops in Sialkot frequently had children as young as six working for less than four pence (six US cents) an hour. Many of them had been sold into effective slavery for as little as ten pounds (15 dollars).

'It is up to UEFA and FIFA to get these children out of the workshops and into school,' Kearney said.

Olympic makes Monica elated

PARIS, May 31: Monica Seles, bidding for her fourth French Open singles title, said here on Thursday that she was 'ecstatic' when notified that she had been named for the United States Olympic team in Atlanta, reports AFP.

'I am just thrilled to be able to play for my country,' she said, adding: 'It is so exciting to think about being part of the Olympic Games joining athletes from all over the world in the Olympic village and playing tennis for the United States.'

It has been a long road back to the game I love and playing the Olympics is a lifelong dream. Seles, who was born in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, became an American citizen in March 1994.

Olympic team: Men - Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Maliva Washington, Richey Reneberg. Women - Monica Seles, Chanda Rubin, Lindsay Davenport, Gigi Fernandez.

FA in a fix

LONDON, May 31: The Football Association (FA) were facing fresh problems on Thursday after a corporate hospitality company threatened to sue them for compensation over a Euro 96 ticket scandal, reports AFP.

Steve Hamer, director of the 105-year-old National Sporting Club, and his secretary were arrested and imprisoned in a central London jail after three hours last month after police raid on the Regent Street Headquarters.

The club was accused of illegally selling 1,300 tickets for Euro 96 but the charges were dropped 11 days later and Hamer is now demanding to know why the raid was ever carried out.

He said: 'The FA and the metropolitan police have exactly one week to explain themselves or we will seek redress in the courts.'

'I know it's very close to Euro '96 but they are quite determined to go ahead with this if necessary. In that case, the only people who will get wealthy are the lawyers.'

Hamer, whose fellow directors include former England cricket captain Bob Willis and his brother David, believes the previously untarnished reputations of the club has been badly damaged by the episode.

He was scathing of the treatment by the FA. 'They have not offered one word of explanation or apology. But that is typical of them - they seem to lurch from one crisis to another,' he said.

'Being arrested was a very degrading and upsetting experience, and it could have been stopped by the FA, but they did not lift a finger.'



Spaniard Conchita Martinez makes a forehand return against Radka Zrubakova of Slovakia during their second round match of the French Open at Roland Garros on May 30. - AFP/UNB photo

Sanchez in last sixteen

PARIS, May 31: Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, who has been keeping a low profile as she bids for a third French Open title

and still feeling the effects of a difficult five-set first-round marathon against South African Marcos Ondruska, was never able to upset Muster's rhythm.

And although he wore wrap-around sunglasses for protection in the blazing sunshine, the 28-year-old Frenchman still seemed to have trouble seeing Muster's blistering groundstrokes.

The 28-year-old Australian left-hander also beat Solves at Roland Garros in the first-round last year - although on that occasion the Frenchman managed to take a set.

Showing no discomfort from the ankle injury which forced him to pull out of the ATP event in St Polten last week, Muster moved confidently into a third-round clash against Romania's Adrian Panu.

Muster, winner at Mexico City, Estoril, Barcelona, Monte Carlo and Rome so far this season, is seeded to play world number-one Pete Sampras in the final Sunday week.

Odds on the world number-one winning the only Grand Slam title missing from his collection on the surface least-suited to his serve-and-volley style shortened dramatically on Wednesday when he beat twice-champion Sergi Bruguera of Spain in five sets to reach the third-round.

Muster made it clear that he had always considered the American his most dangerous title challengers

at Roland Garros, moved up a gear to overwhelm 20-year-old Elena Likhovtseva and reach the last sixteen of the women's singles here on Friday, reports AFP.

The 24-year-old, fourth-seeded Spaniard needed just 52 minutes to complete a devastating 6-0, 6-0 victory leaving the fair-haired Russian still looking shell-shocked as she left the court.

Sanchez-Vicario, whose only clay-court victory this year came in Hamburg, now plays either France's 12th-seeded Mary Pierce or Germany's Barbara Rittner for a place in the quarter-finals.

The Spanish player, a finalist here twelve months ago, has so far dropped only six games since arriving in Paris, enjoying a relatively low-profile passage through the draw while media attention has focussed on the returning Monica Seles and defending champion Steffi Graf.

Earlier on Thursday men's champion Thomas Muster gave another awesome display of power and ruthlessness to overwhelm French wild-card opponent Gerard Solves 6-1, 6-3, 6-0 in just 83 minutes.

Solves, ranked a modest 171st in the world rankings

and still feeling the effects of a difficult five-set first-round marathon against South African Marcos Ondruska, was never able to upset Muster's rhythm.

Asked if he was surprised by Andre Agassi's early defeat, Muster shrugged disdainfully. 'I don't think I have to comment on his defeat,' he said.

Agassi recently upset Muster by referring to him as a one-dimensional, one-surface player who didn't deserve his high world ranking.

Goran Ivanisevic, three-times a quarter-finalist in seven previous visits, also scored an impressive straight-sets win on an outside court to reach the third-round.

The fifth-seeded Croatian, serving bullets almost at will and never allowing experienced American opponent David Wheaton to dictate play, scored a 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 win.

After slamming down another 17 aces against the American, Ivanisevic said: 'I think this number-two court is the fastest clay court I ever played on in my life.'

'I came here last year with too much confidence and I didn't have good results - I lost in first round. The trouble was that I wanted to finish points too early and just went for winners.'

'This year it is a different story. Before coming here I play very bad. This time I'm more patient and I'm playing much better than one week ago. This is Grand Slam. Everything in this Grand Slam is everything is possible.'

Ivanisevic, who made a sensational start to the year when he won four tournaments (Zagreb, Dubai, Milan and Rotterdam), went off the ball after sustaining a neck injury which forced him to retire against Agassi in the final at Key Biscayne.

Ivanisevic now faces promising Czech newcomer Bohdan Ullrich who notched up a surprise victory over the slumping Andrei Medvedev.

Former champion Michael Chang, a finalist twelve months ago, survived late revival by Australian clay-court specialist Richard Fromberg and notched up a 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4.

The fourth-seeded Chang also took a leaf out of Ivanisevic's book by hammering down 7 aces in the 2hrs 50 minute encounter.

Chang now plays Stefan Edberg for a place in the quarter-finals.

Edberg, 30, who lost to Chang in the 1989 final and who is making his last appearance at the championships before his retirement at the end of the year, earlier produced dream tennis on the Centre-Court to beat Carlos Moya of Spain 6-2, 6-2, 6-1.

In the women's singles, defending champion Steffi Graf took another step down the road to a possible showdown with great rival Monica Seles in the final Saturday week when she raced to a classy 6-2, 6-2 victory over Australian Nicole Bradke in just 50 minutes.

'I am not surprised. I always said that Pete is the type of player who can win on any surface because he's talented enough and he has the strokes to beat anybody on any surface.'

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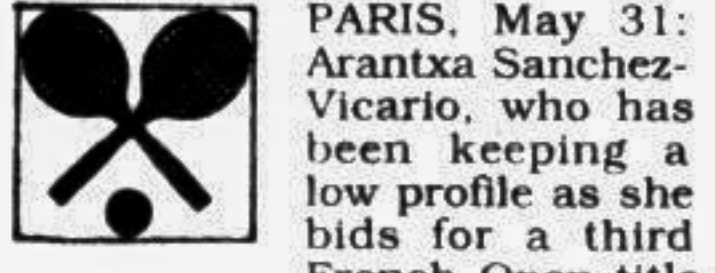
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Sacchi's mixed feelings

MILAN, Italy, May 31: Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi gave his squad the day off on Thursday, after having his worst fears and best hopes confirmed for the European Championships, reports AFP.

The bad news in Wednesday night's 2-2 draw with Belgium was that Italy still deserve their reputation for begin late-starters, and that a defence which can be the best in the world can also be the worst.

Italy were two goals down after barely 18 minutes, with goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi, Juventus hero in the penalty shoot-out with Ajax in last week's European Cup final, turning villain for his national team.

His mistake allowed in Geoffrey Clarys shot after five minutes, and then defender Amedeo Carboni turned in an own goal six minutes later, compounding the sort of miserable start Sacchi had been dreading.

However, the damage was being done in the absence of skipper Paolo Maldini and his AC Milan teammate Alessandro Costacurta, both first team regulars who missed the match through injury.

The team had a successful workout at their Milanello training base on Wednesday and both should be available

'However, if the defence was not that convincing, the fault was also down to the midfield who were letting too much through. But I'm not worried.'

'We were frightened of what would happen when we lost Franco Baresi at the 1994 World Cup, but we pulled through without him. And I'm sure we'll be able to overcome this problems.'

One concern Sacchi did admit to though was the condition of Ciro Ferrara, who could become the second member of the original 22 to miss the European Championships.

Ferrara pulled a thigh muscle at Cremona on Wednesday night and may join Juventus teammate Antonio Conte as a television spectator at the European Championships.

However, the brighter side seen against Belgium was the same fighting spirit which often brought Italy back from the brink of defeat, right through to the World Cup final two years ago.

Alessandro del Piero, the Juventus forward who Sacchi is tipping as one of the potential stars of Euro 96, pulled a goal back and Enrico Chiesa, this season's revelation in Italian football, headed an equaliser within minutes of coming on as a second-half substitute.

'We didn't start well and after 12 minutes were already two goals down. The work we've been doing in practice over the last few days had obviously taken its toll a bit on people's attention and concentration.'



ARRIGO SACCHI

for Saturday's friendly against Hungary in Budapest, Italy's last before heading for England.

Sacchi, who cancelled a scheduled training session at Milanello on Thursday morning, said: 'We found ourselves up against an opponent who created more problems than we had expected.'

'We didn't start well and after 12 minutes were already two goals down. The work we've been doing in practice over the last few days had obviously taken its toll a bit on people's attention and concentration.'



All about spot reduction

Many people ask me to show an exercise which can reduce fat from a specific part of the body. Most of us share the misperception that our exercise can fulfil their need but this is not correct. Today I will try to explain why.

'Spot' reduction or the loss of weight from specific areas of the body simply by exercising that area, is sometimes promised by certain health institutions. However, research has shown convincingly that spot reduction does not occur. Fat is burned from all body tissues as a result of exercise, rather than just the region of muscle being exercised. Exercises which are commonly used in spot reduction programmes e.g. sit-ups, trunk twists, arm circles, side-lying leg raises, back bicycle, hip walk, windmills and leg extensions.

Spot reduction is often promoted to eliminate the so-called cellulite in specific areas of the body. Cellulite is just another name for subcutaneous fat that has a dimpled appearance, found on the neck, breasts, arms and particularly thighs of some people - generally women. Like other fat tissue it can only be reduced through aerobic exercise plus limited calorie intake. No oils, lotions, rubs or other external treatments will aid in the long-term loss of cellulite.

Studies have shown that 'spot reduction' exercises has too mild effect on body fat. The only way to get rid of fat deposits is through proper diet and exercise. Exercise, even when localised, draws from all the fat stores of the body and not just from selected fat depots. For example, sit-ups will increase the muscle tone of the abdomen, but will not burn off the 'tummy roll.'



Sit-ups and side-lying leg raises are good for toning abdomen and legs after aerobics.

The concept of spot reduction is scientifically ineffective, which should not be adopted