

Sahara Cup decider today

TORONTO, Sept 22: Organisers of the five-match limited-overs Sahara Cup cricket series between India and Pakistan were forced to postpone the fifth and deciding match today because of rain, reports AP.

The match has been rescheduled for Monday. India and Pakistan are tied at 2-2.

Greatbatch back in Kiwi squad

WELLINGTON, Sept 22: New Zealand's cricket selectors Sunday pulled out no surprises when they named a 15-member squad for the Sharjah tournament in October and a tour of Pakistan later this year, reports AP.

Batsman Mark Greatbatch is back in the squad after being shunned last season during the coaching term of Glen Turner.

New Zealand's coach is now Australian Steve Rixon. The New Zealand squad was announced in a statement by the chairman of selectors, Ross Dykes.

In the Sharjah tournament New Zealand play world champions Sri Lanka and Pakistan, before taking on Pakistan in three one-day matches and two Tests.

SQUAD

Lee Germon (captain), Nathan Astle, Chris Cairns, Stephen Fleming, Chris Harris, Simon Doull, Blair Pootock, Mark Greatbatch, Craig Spearman, Adam Parore, Chris Pringle, Dipsak Patel, Danny Morrison, Mark Haslam, Gavin Larsen.

WC qualifiers Indian booters off the mark

DOHA, Qatar, Sept 22: India scored twice in the last 10 minutes to beat the Philippines 2-0 Saturday in the opening World Cup qualifying match for both teams, reports AP.

Both teams played cautiously until the last 15 minutes when India attacked while the Philippines failed to finish several chances.

Raman Vijayan, playing in his first international debut for India, struck in the 81st minute, heading a throw in from Bruno Coutinho.

Four minutes later, Coutinho fired a 25-metre shot past the Filipino goalkeeper Carpio.

A meager 800 were held in Khalifa Stadium for the match, the second of six over eight days in Doha that will determine the Group 10 winner. The winners of the 10, first-round Asian groups advance to second round.

Group 10 will take Sunday off before restarting Monday with the Philippines facing the host Qataris. India plays Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

Commotion over Games' logo

SYDNEY, Sept 22: The Sydney 2000 Olympics logo featuring boomerangs in the shape of a running athlete, has become the focus of a legal action by four sisters who insist it was based on their design, reports AP.

Just eight days after the design was unveiled here, the sisters, who run a graphic design studio known as Leuver, Leuver, Leuver and Leuver, said Sunday that unless their claim is settled soon they will launch proceedings for a six-figure settlement.

They say the official logo, developed by FHA Image Design of Melbourne, bears such a close resemblance to the one they submitted first in 1991 and again 18 months ago that it could not have been coincidental.

Featuring a stylised image of the Sydney Opera House above three boomerangs symbolising an athlete, the official logo has already drawn its share of controversy.

A three-dimensional model of the logo, which has also been likened to a rooster crowing, was blown down by a gust of wind, photographed by a passing photographer and revealed on the front pages of newspapers two days before its official unveiling.

FHA creative director Travon Flett said the majority of the designs submitted featured images of the Opera House or boomerangs in some form and that the Leuver sisters' design was one of them.

The sisters, Marita, Vanessa, Tehrese and Jonie, said they had attended an unsatisfactory meeting with SOCOG officials on Friday and are now in process of sending a letter.

Pakistan level series 2-2

Ijaz lords over Indians



TORONTO, Canada, Sept 22: Ijaz Ahmed's middle-order 90 led Pakistan to 258 for eight and a 97-run victory over India on Saturday to even the five-match Sahara Cup one-day series at two matches apiece, reports AP.

After accumulating their total in 50 overs on being asked to bat first by Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar, Pakistan bowled India out for 161 in 39.2 overs.

India won the first and third matches of the series and Pakistan prevailed in the second and fourth to set up a thrilling decider for Sunday.

Ijaz near century laid the foundation of the Pakistan innings after their top-order once again failed to come to terms with the Indian bowling.

Off-spinner Saqlain Mush-taq set India to defeat by claiming three wickets for nine runs in a seven-over spell after Wasim Akram accounted for the opening pair of Nayan Mongia and Tendulkar.

India never recovered from



IJAZ ... m-o-m

the early loss of Tendulkar, who was caught by Salim Malik at point for three as he executed a full-blooded stroke off Akram.

Moin earlier had failed again in his experimental role as a batsman, caught by Ijaz at gully.

Rahul Dravid, who scored run-a-ball 25, and Mohammed Azharuddin fashioned a minor recovery before Saqlain began his assault.

He had Dravid caught by wicketkeeper Moin Khan on the leg-side, a decision that did not satisfy the batsman and forced Azharuddin to give Salim Elahi a catch at silly-point.

Sunil Joshi was Saqlain's third dismissal with Moin diving full length to pick up an as-

tonishing catch. Ajay Jadeja put up some resistance but Pakistan already had control. Jadeja scored 47 runs off 81 balls with three boundaries.

Earlier, Ijaz scored his 90 from 110 deliveries and propped up the Pakistan middle-order in an 86-run fifth-wicket Partnership with Inzamam-ul Haq, who contributed 40 runs.

Pakistan started with openers Aamir Sohail and Saeed Anwar putting on 42 runs off 57 balls. The stand was broken when Anwar was beaten by medium-pace Venkatesh Prasad's slow delivery and had his stumps shattered.

Anwar's 26-ball stand of 35 included four boundaries and a solitary six off paceman Javagal Srinath over mid-off.

Salim Elahi lasted only three deliveries to score one run before Srinath trapped him leg before.

Sohail, having returned to his opening slot after batting third in the last game, fell for 23 after adding 41 runs with Ijaz for the third wicket.

Salim Malik, man-of-the-match in Pakistan's win in the second one-day Tuesday, did not get a chance to settle down as he got run out in a mix-up with Ijaz.

Malik, who scored only one, took off from the non-striker's end after Ijaz had steered off-spinner Ashish Kapoor to Vinod Kambli at short third-man.

Ijaz did not see Malik charging down, and the two ended up at the same end. Wicketkeeper Mongia relayed the ball from Kambli to Kapoor, who broke the stumps.

Ijaz and Inzamam stemmed the slide and steadily built the innings. Inzamam, looking set for a big score, was run out by point fielder Ajay Jadeja's direct hit to the non-striker's end with the batsmen yards out of the crease.

Inzamam struck one six off left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi during his 67-ball stand.

Ijaz added a further 37 in partnership with Moin Khan and was set to score the first century of the series when he fell trying to whack leg-spinner Anil Kumble through the off-side corner.

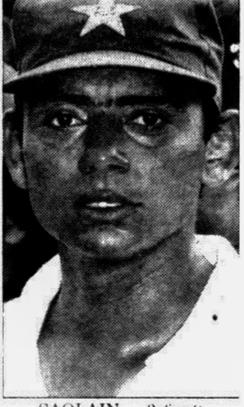
His 90 equaled the top score of the current series also held by middle-order batsman Rahul Dravid. He was beaten by a Kumble top-spinner that found the gap between the bat and pad as Ijaz shaped for a cover drive.

Moin clouted sixes off Srinath and Joshi before being beaten stumped by Mongia off Tendulkar for 33 which came off 21 balls.

Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international of the Sahara Cup between Pakistan and India, played at the

Toronto Club ground on Saturday:

PAKISTAN				
Sohail c Srinath b Joshi	23			
Anwar b Prasad	35			
Elahi lbw Srinath	1			
Ijaz b Kumble	90			
Malik run out	40			
Inzamam run out	40			
Moin st Mongia b Tendulkar	33			
Akram c Prasad b Kumble	10			
Saqlain not out	0			
Waqar not out	0			
Extras (b-3, lb-8, w-4):	15			
Total (for 8 wks, 50 overs)	258			
Fall of wickets: 24-1; 43-2; 84-3; 91-4; 177-5; 214-6; 235-7; 248-8.				
INDIA				
Mongia c Ijaz b Akram	0			
Tendulkar c Malik b Akram	3			
Dravid c Moin b Saqlain	25			
Azharuddin c Elahi b Saqlain	16			
Kambli run out	6			
Jadeja st Moin b Malik	47			
Joshi c Moin b Saqlain	1			



SAQLAIN... 3 for 9

Kapoor c Moin b Younis 19
Kumble c Sohail b Malik 16
Srinath c Saqlain b Younis 10
Prasad not out 0
Extras (b-8, lb-7, w-3) 18

Total (all out, 39.2 overs): 161
Fall of wickets: 4-1; 9-2; 41-3; 58-4; 63-5; 64-6; 118-7; 148-8; 160-9; 161.

Bowling O M R W
Akram 6 2 11 2
Younis 8 0 51 2
Saqlain 7 1 9 3
Sohail 10 0 36 0
Mushtaq 7 0 33 0
Malik 12 0 6 2

Result: Pakistan won by 97 runs series levelled at 2-2

Man-of-the-match: Ijaz Ahmed.
Umpires: David Shepherd, Lloyd Barker.
Fifth and final match to be played on Sunday

Windies win HK Sixes trophy

HONG KONG, Sept 22: West Indies captured three wickets in the first seven balls of India's innings on their way to an eight-run victory in the final of the Hong Kong Sixes on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Captain Nehemiah Perry captured the wickets of Atul Wassan and Atul Bedade in the first over and Kenny Benjamin claimed Robin Singh from the first ball of the next over as India slumped to four for three.

West Indies, who arrived in Hong Kong only nine hours before they played their first match on Saturday, looked in trouble after scoring just 75.

But they gained the upper hand with those early strikes. The Hong Kong Sixes, a big-hitting, six-a-side version of cricket with matches reduced to five overs each, attracted eight Test-playing nations.

In the semifinals, Laurie Williams took three wickets to help West Indies to a 24-run win over holders South Africa.

Williams dismissed Adrian Kuiper, Bradley Player and captain Hansie Cronje to rip the heart out of the innings.

India skipper Sanjay Manjrekar hit a swashbuckling 44, including four sixes, in the one-wicket semifinal win over World Cup holders Sri Lanka.

Seles too good for Sanchez

TOKYO, Sept 22: Top seeded Yugoslav-American Monica Seles won the Nichirei tournament here on Sunday when she beat Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain 6-1, 6-4 in the rain-delayed final, reports Reuter.

Seles, who won the event in 1991 and 1992, pocketed 79,000 dollars with her fifth victory of the year.

Seles said she was impressed by thousands of fans braving heavy rain and gusts caused by Typhoon Violet and told them: "I love this tournament."

Both Seles and Sanchez-Vicario seemed to have trouble concentrating as the final was delayed by 70 minutes due to rain leaking through the closed retractable roof at the Ariake Coliseum.

Second seed Sanchez, who has won only one of her 13 career matches against Seles, took the lead in the second set 4-3, but Seles took the next three games to end the match.

Although Sanchez hit more winners than Seles, she produced almost twice as many unforced errors.

An Olympic obstinacy!

PARIS, Sept 22: A major French sporting goods store conceded Thursday it had fired an employee who took a leave to go to Atlanta to compete in the Olympic Games, reports AP.

The Decathlon store in Villeneuve d'Ascq, near Lille, admits making "an error" and is looking for a way to "make things up" to 24-year-old Eric Agueh, said Eric Julhiet, director of human resources.

Agueh, who sells athletic goods at Decathlon, was selected to participate on the Olympic team of his homeland, Benin, running in the 100-metre event. His employer, saying July was a busy month, refused his request for an unpaid leave of absence.

Agueh went anyway. On the day of the opening ceremonies in Atlanta, he received notice that he had lost his job.

Nonetheless, he competed in the 100 metres and took eighth in his heat with a 10.98 seconds. Donovyan Bailey of Canada, who went on to take the Olympic gold in a world record 9.84, won the heat.

Agueh also anchored his 400-metre relay that also failed to qualify, coming in sixth in their heat with a time of 40.79.

Decathlon, a nationwide store, is among those formally backing the candidacy of nearby Lille as the site of the 2004 Olympics.

Fed Cup b'ball Sports Reporter

Title contenders The Greys Club registered their second successive win within a span of 24 hours over lowly Chandpur in the 8th Federation Cup basketball championship at the Dhanmondi wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

The Greys, who had an effortless passage against Falcon Club of Jessore against the latter failed to appear in their scheduled clash on Saturday, staged a trial of strength against Chandpur in an otherwise one-sided affair last evening with Fazle leading the winners from the front.

Fazle scored 28 points followed by Anup with 22 as Greys, who were leading the first session 58-30, wrapped up the match 116-69 points.

Chavez returns to ring Oct 12

LAS VEGAS, Sept 22: Julio Cesar Chavez will return to the ring for the first time since his loss to Oscar de La Hoya when he fights Oct 12 in Anaheim, California, reports AP.

Chavez will fight Joey Gamache in a bout that was to have taken place the same day in Las Vegas on the undercard of the Oscar de La Hoya-Miguel Angel Gonzalez title fight.

The main event was postponed earlier this week, however, because of tendinitis in De La Hoya's shoulder.

Gonzalez will also be on the card at the Anaheim Pond in a 10-round fight against an opponent to be named later.



Yugoslav-born American Monica Seles poses with the trophy after beating Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain in the final of the Nichirei Open in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

Leicesters' dark days end



LONDON, Sept 22: Leicestershire secured the English county cricket championship title on the penultimate day of the season on Saturday — thanks to a pragmatic move from Surrey captain Alex Stewart at The Oval, reports Reuter.

Stewart's decision to forfeit Surrey's first innings against Worcestershire meant that with no batting bonus points even a Surrey victory could not overturn Leicestershire's lead at the top of the table.

After rain ruined much of the first two days, Stewart was left with little option as he needs a positive result to ensure his side do not slip lower than second in the final reckoning, which despite his bold move still looks probable.

That will matter little to Leicestershire, who left the field at Grace Road at tea of the third day of their match against Middlesex, to find they had been confirmed as champions.

It was an announcement that sparked wild celebrations of their first title since their only previous success in 1975 and followed a sparkling batting display earlier on that virtually ensured the draw they required for the championship.

Jack Birkenshaw, Leicestershire's delighted coach and a member of their previous title-

winning side, said: "This is the highlight of my career. This is even better than playing Test cricket for England."

"People kept telling us that Surrey had forfeited and we were champions but we didn't believe them at first. We rang The Oval in the end and they confirmed it. It's a great feeling. There were a few moist eyes in the dressing room."

On the field, Middlesex were 194 for five at the close with England seamer Alan Mullally again in fine form with three

for 40, with only Mark Ramprakash (78) offering much resistance before he was bowled by Adrian Pierson.

Earlier, Leicestershire were finally dismissed for an imposing 512 in their first innings, a lead of 322, with Phil Simmons left unbeaten on 142.

Mullally offered him valuable support before he was eventually bowled by Angus Fraser for 75.

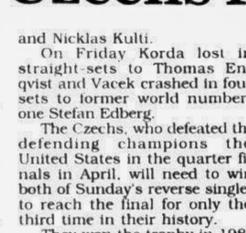
In what is now the battle for second spot, Surrey are in danger of defeat against Worcestershire after the visitors were all out for 362 in 106 overs with Vikram Solanki hitting 90.

With Surrey forfeiting, Worcestershire chose to bat again, adding 61 runs in a frustrating 31 overs for the home side before declaring.

Surrey struggled to 15 for one at the close, leaving them still needing more than 400 runs to win after Tom Moody snapped up the wicket of Mark Butcher.

Derbyshire recorded the victory expected of them over Durham by eight wickets with captain Dean Jones leading the way with a top-scoring 71 not out.

The home side cruised to 220 for two in just 46.3 overs after Durham were dismissed for 332 with youngster David Cox making a stylish 91. Stewart Hutton could only add a single to his overnight 85.



SIMMONS ... 142 n.o

French, Czechs fightback



PARIS, Sept 22: France and the Czech Republic who both trailed 0-2 after making a disastrous start in the Davis Cup semifinals on Friday, kept their hopes alive by winning the doubles on Saturday, report agencies.

Guy Forget and Guillaume Raoux needed less than two hours on the fast indoor surface at the Beaulieu Stadium in Nantes to restore battered French pride with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Nalys and Andrea Gaudenzi and Diego Nargiso.

Just 24 hours earlier Cedric Pioline and Arnaud Boetsch crashed in four-set matches in the same arena — Pioline being beaten by Gaudenzi and Boetsch going down to Renzo Furlan.

Forget and surprise selection Raoux, playing together for only the second time, didn't drop serve all match.

And the bespectacled Raoux, who was named by captain Yannick Noah for the doubles instead of Boetsch, was by far the best player on court.

In contrast, Nargiso served eight double faults and the Italians — previously unbeaten in Davis Cup play — struggled as a combination.

The crowd cheered the French duo on, repeatedly chanting "Guillaume, Guillaume."

On Friday, Andrea Gaudenzi beat Cedric Pioline 5-7, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 and Renzo Furlan dominated Boetsch 7-5, 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/5).

The French comeback followed those disastrous opening results that came despite partisan home support and a faster indoor surface especially chosen to upset Italy's clay court specialists.

France had gone into the tie oozing confidence after posting 5-0 victories over Denmark and Germany in previous rounds.

"To lose 3-0 at home, on our surface, would have been a humiliation," Forget said. "I am sure that Cedric and Arnaud are strong enough to win tomorrow and put us into the final."

To add to the Italians' growing concerns, Gaudenzi is a doubtful starter in the reverse singles against Boetsch. He has a left wrist injury, Italian captain Adriano Panatta announced.

Stefano Pescosolido, ranked 102 in the world, or Nargiso, ranked 301, are possible replacements but Furlan can book Italy's passage into the final if he beats Pioline in the first reverse singles.

In Prague, Petr Korda and Daniel Vacek put their first-day singles losses behind them, and rallied for a four-set doubles victory over Jonas Bjorkman

and Nicklas Kulti.

On Friday Korda lost in straight-sets to Thomas Enqvist and Vacek crashed in four sets to former world number-one Stefan Edberg.

The Czechs, who defeated the defending champions the United States in the quarter-finals in April, will need to win both of Sunday's reverse singles to reach the final for only the third time in their history.

They won the trophy in 1980 and reached the final in 1975.

In the World Group qualifying round, Brazil was awarded a 4-1 victory over Austria because Thomas Muster walked off court in the doubles match at Sao Paulo in protest at the behaviour of Brazilian fans.

According to the London-based International Tennis Federation, Muster defaulted the doubles match, which gave Brazil a 2-1 lead, and also was disqualified from playing in Sunday's reverse singles. He

and Nicklas Kulti.

On Friday Davis Cup action, hosts Ukraine clinched a victory 4-1 over Norway on Sunday, after three days of play dominated by Ukrainian golden child Andrei Medvedev.

Top-seed Medvedev easily defeated Norway's No. 1, Christian Ruud, in singles play 6-2, 6-1.

Ukrainian Denis Yakimenko had a tougher time against Norway's energetic Jan Frod Andersen. Andersen defeated Yakimenko 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 in the last match of the play-off.

In Taipei, Bonit Wiryawan ousted Chen Chih-jung 8-6 in the final set Sunday as Indonesia won the last two singles and beat Taiwan 3-2 in the Asia-Pacific Zone Group 1 encounter.

Bonit beat Chen 6-2, 1-6, 2-6, 7-5, 8-6 and Andrian Raturandang defeated Tsai Chia-yen 4-6, 7-5, 7-6, 6-3.

Wiryawan and Sulistyo Wibowo beat Taiwan's Chen and Lien Yu-hui 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 in doubles play Saturday.

On Friday, Taiwan's Tsai beat Wiryawan 7-5, 6-4, 6-3, and Chen defeated Raturandang 6-4, 6-0, 6-3.

Indonesia's victory in the best of five competition eliminated Taiwan from further Group 1 competition.

Tillman in an abyss

SANTA MONICA, California, Sept 22: Henry Tillman, a former heavyweight boxer and 1984 Olympic gold medalist, has been returned to Los Angeles from state prison to face murder charges, reports AP.

Tillman, 36, was awaiting trial on credit card fraud charges when he allegedly shot Terrence Thomas to death on Jan. 10 outside a Westchester nightclub.

Babes wise up weird spin



COLOMBO, Sept 22(AFP): Zimbabwe cricketers return home sad but wiser after trying to cope with turning wickets and the world champions during their tour of Sri Lanka.

Most of the Zimbabwe team failed to come to terms with the vicious spin of Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan and Jayantha Silva, the destroyers in the two-test series.

However, team manager Dennis Streak is convinced that Test cricket's babes have taken a very valuable lesson.

"We have learnt a lot on how to play top spin," said Streak on the eve of the squad's departure for home on Monday.

Zimbabwe lost the first Test by an innings and 77 runs but fared somewhat better when they went past the 200-run mark in the second innings of the final Test to make Sri Lanka bat twice.

Streak said the improvement, although minor, could be attributed to his batsmen being able to confront Muralitharan with a better understanding of the bowler's wicket-taking off-cutters.

"If you take Muralitharan's figures in the second innings of the last Test, you could see he conceded almost a hundred runs. It's an indication that our batsmen have learnt how to play him," said Streak.

Muralitharan, who was judged man-of-the-series for a haul of 14 wickets, bowled as many as 41 overs to capture three wickets while conceding 94 runs in the second innings of the second and final Test.