

SL arrive in India Nov 12

MUMBAI, Aug 14: Sri Lanka's cricketers will arrive in India on November 12 to play three Tests, two three-day matches and three one-day internationals against the hosts between November 14 and December 28, reports PTI.

The three Tests and two three-day ties will be held before the three one-day internationals scheduled for December 22, 25 and 28.

The Lankans are scheduled to return home at the end of the three-Test series, around December 9, when India will be engaged in the four-nation Sharjah Cup (December 11-19) along with the West Indies, England and Pakistan.

The emerald islanders will return after the short break to play the one-day international series.

The venues of all the 19 international matches for the season, including a three-day tie, three Tests (against Australia in February-March) and a seven-match one-day international triangular tournament involving India, Australia and Zimbabwe, is to be decided by a special BCCI committee.

Warwicks, Sussex in NatWest Trophy final

LONDON, Aug 14: Warwickshire will face Essex in their fourth NatWest Trophy final in five years after fast bowler Allan Donald fired the county to an emphatic 105-run victory over Sussex at Edgbaston today.

Resuming on 43 for two, chasing Warwickshire's formidable 342 for three, outsiders Sussex were dismissed for 237 in 53.1 overs, after weather interruptions took the semi-final into a second day.

South African paceman Donald, who is to receive the Presidential Sports Award's gold medal from President Nelson Mandela in Pretoria, finished with five for 37 as Sussex lost their last six wickets for 115 runs in 20 overs.

Sussex's unlikely victory hopes were effectively ended when Donald uprooted Bill Athey's leg-stump in the fifth over of the day and six overs later Neil Taylor was run out, backing up too far when Trevor Penney swooped from cover.

Mike Newell maintained Sussex's brief hopes, but when Donald also removed his off-stump after a 113-ball 79 with five boundaries, Warwickshire's fans began planning their trip to Lord's to face Essex on September 6.

Donald ended the Sussex hopes by bowling captain Peter Moores for 45 to leave last man Mark Robinson unbeaten on three.

Base Matiur BAF h'ball champs

JESSORE, Aug 14: Hosts Base Matiur Rahman clinched the BAF inter-base handball championship title here today.

They beat Air Headquarters 20-10 in the final. Winners led the first half 9-6.

Flying officer Mahmud of the hosts was adjudged the best player. He scored 39 goals in the meet.

Assistant Chief of Air Staff Air Commodore Shamsher Ali witnessed the final as chief guest and distributed trophies.

BWSF milad mahfil

Sports Reporter

A milad mahfil, organised by Bangladesh Women Sports Federation (BWSF) to observe the 22nd death anniversary of Bangabandhu and his family, was held at the Sultana Kamal Women Sports Complex yesterday.

Bruguera advances

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, Aug 14: Second-seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain carved up Byron Black of Zimbabwe 6-3, 6-2 in a second-round match on a rain-abbreviated day at the Pilot Pen tennis tournament Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Pak greats' glittering gallery

KARACHI, Aug 14: Pakistan, which marks its 50th anniversary of independence from Britain today, has produced a glittering roll-call of sports stars and sporting legends, reports AFP.

Leading the champions list are squash supremo Jahangir Khan and cricket hero Imran Khan, followed by others like reigning squash world champion Jansher Khan, little master cricketer Hanif Mohammad, mercurial hockey star Shahbaz Ahmed and ebullient cricketer Javed Miandad.

Imran Khan, 44, led Pakistan to its finest hour by win-

ning with six world titles. Jahangir was among a lineage of squash champions to be produced by Pakistan, which saw its first fame with Hashim Khan, who won seven British Open titles, the first in 1951.

The baton of squash supremacy was passed to current world number one Jansher Khan in 1992. The lithe, energetic and unpredictable Jansher has so far won six British Open titles at a trot and eight world titles, the most by any player.

In cricket, Javed Miandad is still the most popular sportsman for the commonman in Pakistan. Miandad, with his 8,324 runs in 124 Tests, is the

fast bowlers Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis have also enrolled themselves in Pakistan's gallery of sporting greats, one of their best moments was when they ran through the English ranks in 1992. Present skipper Akram is the only bowler in the world who has scalped more than 300 wickets in both Tests and one-day internationals.

Another Pakistani, 17-year-old Shahid Afridi, holds the world record for scoring the fastest century in one-day internationals in just 37 balls.

Hockey celebrity Shahbaz Ahmed earned world fame by single-handedly taking Pak-

istan to the World Cup title in Sydney in 1994. The lanky player's stick handling earned him the tag of best player-of-the-tournament on no less than 12 occasions.

At 30 years old, even after his retirement, he is the most expensive player the game has seen, earning nearly 100,000 dollars in the Dutch league each season.

Fazal was instrumental in Pakistan's Lucknow win over India in 1952-53, the Oval victory in 1952, a win over Australia in 1956-57 and over West Indies in 1958-59.

Hanif attained greatness in the 1957-58 Bridgetown Test when he compiled an incredibly patient 337 which spanned over 16 hours and 30 minutes — the longest innings in Test history.

SHAHBAZ AHMED

JANSHER KHAN

JAVED MIANDAD

third highest Test run-scorer after Allan Border of Australia and Sunil Gavaskar of India.

Hanif Mohammad and Fazal Mahmood were Pakistan's cricketing heroes in the first 25 years after the country was founded on August 14, 1947.

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Jahangir Khan ruled the squash world in the 1980s, taking 10 British Open titles from 1982 to 1991 and an invincible winning run that saw him walk

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While Indians at home were preparing for independence day celebrations Friday, the national cricket team was in Colombo facing Sri Lanka in a series of one-dayers. The two teams drew the second Test on Wednesday, and were to meet again Sunday for the first one-day.

Office workers gathered around televisions for the games beamed from this Indian Ocean island off the southern tip of India.

Typically, television viewership in India jumps to 60 to 75 per cent from an average 10 per cent when a cricket match is on. Office attendance drops as fans stay home to watch, and pilots flying for state-run Indian Airlines announce the status of matches along with landing times and weather on the ground.

"One of the few good things that the British left behind is the game of cricket," said Bishen Singh Bedi, a former top-class Indian spinner who has mesmerised many a world class batsman with his magic fingers.

There are an estimated

50,000 first-class cricket players across the country, where the game has the same appeal as football in the United States or soccer in Argentina.

The game in schools, as well as on the beaches of the west coast city of Mumbai, in the narrow lanes of slums and ghettos in the eastern city of Calcutta, in parks in the capital, New Delhi.

India's vibrant array of ethnic, religious and caste groups who so often seem to be pulling apart can be counted on to pull together for cricket. The national team has had Muslim captains — Muslims make up 10 per cent of a predominantly Hindu population — and re-

gional teams are often cultural mosaics.

The fans, certainly, come from all walks of life.

"This is one sport that is understood by all — from a grand-

Tyrian legal child of Imran!

LOS ANGELES, Aug 14: Former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan was declared the legal father of a four-year-old girl born out of wedlock to the daughter of a late British tycoon, reports AFP.

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father to a grandchild," said Jagmohan Dalmiya, a former BCCI executive. "An Indian feels as much at home with cricket as a fish in water."

Dalmiya lives in Calcutta, capital of sports-crazy West Bengal state and the city where the British introduced the game in a systematic way. The Calcutta Cricket Club, where even today visitors must follow a strict dress code, was established in 1825, making it the second oldest such club in the world. The cricket stadium was later named Eden Gardens after a sister of a British viceroy.

"No cricket player from any part of the world's, is a full Test player unless he has played at the famous Eden Garden," former England skipper Mike Brearley once said.

In the old days, maharajas, rajahs and a few chosen subjects wore spotless white clothing to play the "gentlemen's game," had Marmite soup, roast chicken and fish fillets for lunch and sipped the best of tea during tea break.

Boldon has had enough

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Aug 14: Trinidadian track star Ato Boldon is threatening to quit running for his country if its National Amateur Athletic Association doesn't get a shake-up, reports AP.

"It's about time power rests with the athletes," Boldon said in an interview published Thursday in the Trinidad Express newspaper.

"I'll have to decide what kind of action to take. But it's very possible I will not run for the country until something is done," he warned.

Boldon's latest complaint against the association is that officials did not have a Trinidad and Tobago flag available for him to carry on his victory lap when he won the gold medal for the 200 metres at the World Championship in Athens last week.

White, who is the daughter of the late Lord Gordon White, a British businessman, and her daughter live in Beverly Hills.

Neither Imran nor his at-

torneys appeared at the Los Angeles Superior court, and Commissioner Anthony Jones entered a "default judgement" against him, ruling him father of Tyrian Jade, born on June 15, 1992.

The girl's mother Sita White claims she met Imran — when the captain of the Pakistan cricket team — in 1986 and conceived the child with him in October 1991.

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Sport

MSC meet Pohang tomorrow

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club take on Pohang Steelers Football Club of South Korea in their home match of the two-tier Asian Club Championship first round at the Mirpur Stadium tomorrow evening.

A 24-member Pohang squad, who thrashed Mohammedans 11-0 in their home match last Saturday, will arrive in the city this afternoon.

Winners of this round will meet either Tribhuvan Club of Nepal or Victory Football Club of Maldives either on October 4 and 15.

Ganesh Thapa, the former Mohammedan booter and currently Nepalese football boss, will be the match commissioner in tomorrow's tie which will be conducted by four Indian referees — Khan Enayetullah, Jairam Ravishankar, Choz Akkak Sethudhayan and Shushanta Kumar Ghosh.

Bangladesh Television and Betar will cover the match from 6 pm onwards. Gallery and VIP enclosure ticket rates have been fixed at Tk 20 and 50 respectively. Tickets will be on sale from 3 pm tomorrow at the stadium counter.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader will be present as chief guest and introduced with both the local and visiting teams.

Schools chess

Sports Reporter

Ruhul Islam Bobby of Monipur High School maintained his solo lead in the 12th schools chess tournament with his eighth successive victory at the NSC yesterday.

In the penultimate round of the nine round Swiss League meet, Bobby, the national sub-junior champion, recorded an easy victory over Mohammad Javed of Armanitola Govt High School.

Mehdi Hasan Parag of Shergaonagar Govt High School, Sanveer Hasan of Oxford International and Naim Arefin Ratul of Dhamondi International School were second a point behind.

Among other seeded players advancing to the round of 16 were third seed Amanda Coetzter of South Africa, a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 winner over qualifier Nathalie Dechy of France, fourth-seeded American Lindsay Davenport, 6-2, 7-6, over Al Sugiyama of Japan and fifth seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, 6-2, 6-1 over American Anne Millar.

Tenth-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez defeated compatriot Nicole Arendt 6-4, 6-2 and another all-American confrontation was won by 11th-seeded Kimberly Po, 6-3, 6-2 over unseeded Jennifer Capriati.

"This definitely wasn't Jen-

ifer's best match," said the 17th-ranked Po. "She missed a lot but it really wasn't our best tennis because it was pretty windy."

"I felt a lack of stamina, a lack of fitness out there," said the 33rd-ranked Capriati, playing her second match in as many days after returning from three months off due to an ankle injury. "I think that just bad for my first match since Wimbledon."

Top-seeded Monica Seles won her third-round match by beating 16th-seeded Sabine Apolmans of Belgium 6-3, 7-5.

The third-ranked Seles will have Thursday off before meeting the winner of a match between sixth-seeded Mary Pierce of France and qualifier Rita Grande of Italy in the quarterfinals on Friday.

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