

Champions' Trophy

Aussies keep on cruising

ADELAIDE, Oct 14: Australia became favourites for one of Sunday's two final spots after remaining unbeaten in the 19th Champions' Trophy field hockey tournament with a 2-0 win over Germany here today, reports AFP.

The Australians, rebuilding under new coach Terry Walsh, stretched their lead to five points over defending champions Netherlands and Germany, although the Dutch, Atlanta Olympic gold medalists, can pick up ground against Spain Wednesday.

Australia led 1-0 at halftime through a 17th minute field goal from forward Stephen Davies off a pass from midfielder David Wansborough. Germany had their chances to level but failed to convert two penalty corners in the first half.

After three further unsuccessful penalty corner attempts from Germany, the Australians pulled away with a field goal from a lunging James Elmer. Elmer snatched the ball into the back of the net off a pass from Davies which beat goalkeeper Nils Kowalczyk in the 51st minute.

The victory evens the score between Australia and Germany, with two wins each from their four meetings this year. Germany play South Korea Wednesday.

ROK BEAT PAK

Earlier, South Korea ended Pakistan's tournament chances with a 3-1 victory over the labouring World Cup champions, who remain winless after three matches.

Midfielder Keon Wook Kang scored two of the Koreans' goals, a field goal in the 29th minute and a well-controlled shot through Pakistan goalkeeper Ahmed Mansoor's legs in the 64th.

New Sino sensation

SHANGHAI, Oct 14: China has uncovered a 15-year-old table tennis prodigy already dubbed 'the killer of the stars' for her big name scalps at the national games here, reports AFP.

Even by Chinese tough standards in the sport, Zhang Ying is something special with six straight wins in the games team event.

The Beijing teenager has beaten world number two Li Ju, former doubles world champion Qiao Hong and world number seven Yang Ying.

The baby faced Zhang may look innocent to her opponents, but her forehead and backhand loops have proved devastating.

In the women's team final, in which Jiangsu province beat Beijing, Zhang fought back to beat Yang Ying 8-21, 21-18, 21-12.

Ind-Pak cricket Oldies' duel on Oct 20

BHUBANESWAR, Oct 14: The stage is set for the veterans' one-day international match between India and Pakistan to be played at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack on October 20 next, according to Dev Mohapatra, secretary of the Veterans Cricket Association of Orissa, reports PTI.

This would be the second of the five-match one-day international series for the Independence Cup between the two teams.

"Preparation of the pitch and other arrangements had been completed and we are looking forward to a good match," Mohapatra told a news conference here today.

The teams, who are scheduled to play the series opener at Hyderabad on October 17, would arrive here the next day, he said.

Mohinder Amarnath would lead the Indians which would have at least eight of the 1983 World Cup heroes while Pakistan would be captained by the prolific batsman of yesteryears, Zaheer Abbas.

Kiwi team for Aussie tour

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Oct 14: New Zealand dropped four players today who took part in its recent Zimbabwe tour from its squad for the forthcoming tour of Australia, reports AFP.

Gavin Larsen, Craig Spearman, David Sewell and Paul Wiseman all lost their places. Spearman was replaced by Craig McMillan.

Convener of selectors Ross Dykes said McMillan deserved his place on current form. The 14-strong squad has been selected for the three Test matches against Australia with the first Test starting in Brisbane on November 7.

A specialist one-day team will be named later this year to play Australia and South Africa across the Tasman in the World Series Cup between December and January.

Stephen Fleming (captain), Bryan Young, Blair Pocock, Matt Horne, Nathan Astle, Chris Cairns, Craig McMillan, Adam Parore, Chris Harris, Simon Doull, Geoff Allott, Heath Davis, Daniel Vettori, Shayene O'Connor.

Sweetest of all the shaves!

JAKARTA, Oct 14: Thailand's Vissanu Sophanich was so happy to win the title of South East Asia's fastest man Tuesday that he sat down on the track and shaved his head, reports AP.

"I'm so happy, I've waited so long for this," he said as his coaches poured water over his head and dug into his hair with a razor and small pair of scissors.

The Thai sprinter won the 100 metres in 10.45 seconds, well off the SEA Games record of 10.36 set by Thailand's Sumet Proma in 1987 but good enough to edge out compatriot Kongdech Natanee.

Kongdech took the silver with a time of 10.52 and Watson Nyambek of Malaysia won the bronze at 10.53.

Vissanu, who was competing in his first SEA Games, said he vowed before he came to Indonesia to shave off his hair if he won. His coaches were waiting at the finish line with the razor and scissors.

In the women's 100, Malaysia's Shanti Govindasamy won with a time of 11.61. Burma's Htay Than Than was second in 11.66 and Thailand's Dokjun Dokduang was third in 11.71.

The women's race got off to a false start from Vietnam's Hoang Thi Lan Anh and was further slowed by a moderate headwind, which Govindasamy said was a factor in the mediocre time.

Her personal best is 11.50. "I was quite confident that I would win," said Govindasamy, who is a Kuala Lumpur bank employee when not training. "I knew after about 50 meters that I had it."

FIFA unmasks Europe's who's who

ZURICH, Oct 14 (Agencies). Three-time winners Italy were left with the draw they did not want on Monday when they were paired with Russia in the World Cup play-offs.

But while the Italians, who have failed to qualify for the finals only once, in 1958, contemplate the unthinkable, either their first appearance after they were drawn together.

Yugoslavia got the prime draw - Hungary - while Belgium will be happy to face Ireland.

The ties, first legs at home on October 29 and second legs away on November 15 or 16, will be decided on aggregate scores, with away goals counting double in the event of a tie.

If the outcome is still undecided, (sudden death) extra-time will be played.

Italy's under-fire coach Cesare Maldini was trying to stay positive after learning of the tough draw.

"It suits me quite well. I know very little about the Russian team but I'm still confident," he said. "We have the second game at home but at this level that's not much of an advantage."

However his best player Paolo, who is his son and national captain disagreed.

"Along with Croatia, Russia were the one team I wanted to avoid. I am really unhappy," Paolo said.

Italian league president Franco Carraro put a brave face on the outcome of a draw.

"At this level, you can't expect to get any weak opponents," Carraro said.

"Russia are tough opponents, but it's risky to comment on draws - it's better to make a judgement on what you see them do on the pitch," he added.

The Italians, who beat Russia 2-1 in Euro '96 on their only previous meeting, must travel to Moscow for the first leg on October 29.

Russia lost out to Bulgaria in a weak Group Five but coach Boris Ignatiev is warning there is improvement coming. "We didn't fulfil our goals in qualifying but something is shaping up in Russian football which you will soon see," he said.

He will certainly hope so as "Italy are the worst team we could have got among the other runners-up, what's more, all I've got a really bad memory of the defeat at the Euro, where we deserved to lose," he added.

Kolyvanov is one of three Russians playing in the Serie A, the others being Reggiana's Igor Simutenkov and former Everton winger Andrei Kanchelskis at Fiorentina.

Vyacheslav Koloskov, head of the Russian Football Union (RFU) said that he was confident of overcoming the 'Azzurri'.

Koloskov said Moscow Dynamo's stadium would probably be used for the first leg.

Soderberg, 49, who takes over from Tommy Svensson, inherits a team whose lack of finishing power relegated them to third place in Group Four behind Austria and Scotland.

Several of the players who helped Sweden to third place in the 1994 finals are likely to be discarded by the man who has just guided his under-21 team to a berth in the European Championship finals.

The affable Soderberg was the sole candidate for the post. Turning to full-time coaching after 17 years as a school teacher, Soderberg led AIK Stockholm to the Swedish championship in 1992, the only time the title has been wrested from IFK Gothenburg in the 1990s.

During his years of working with student footballers, the thought of one day reaching the pinnacle of Swedish soccer never entered his mind, he said.

"Maybe in a dream," he said. "Today it's reality." Soderberg said he had yet to formulate detailed plans for the national side, adding that he might accept invitations to play an overseas friendly in January. His early goal is to "have a team that is smiling."

The SFA also announced on Monday the launching next year of a talent search programme with full-time coaches to be appointed in each of nine regions of the country to augment district level coaches.

poor performances in the 1994 finals and Euro '96 both cost the then coach his job.

Konstantin Beskov, who coached the Soviet Union to a 1963 win over Italy in the European Championship qualifiers (winning 2-0 at home and drawing 1-1 in Italy) said: "We picked the toughest choice."

"But I'm looking forward to seeing a game between two

ably host the first leg as Russia's main playing field Luchnik, is in a poor condition.

Ukraine, hard-running and well-drilled, were one of the surprises of qualifying as they pushed Germany all the way and beat off the challenge of Portugal.

Classy Croatia, who looked so impressive in Euro '96 before falling to Germany in the quarter

over half the players play for Serie A teams.

"We have nothing to lose. The way we came second was miraculous so it shows anything can happen," Lazlo said.

Yugoslav officials and players let out a loud cheer when they heard the draw.

"I think we got what we all wished for," said coach Slobodan Santrac.



FIFA secretary general Sepp Blatter (C) demonstrates the draw of the European Zone World Cup qualifying play-offs in Zurich on Monday. UEFA boss Lennart Johansson (R) and Michel Plantini, co-president of 1998 World Cup organising committee, are also seen.

teams whose style and recent record are so dramatically different. The match will help us evaluate the true level of Russian soccer."

The two countries were in the same European Championship finals group in 1996, Italy winning 2-1 at Anfield with two goals by Pierluigi Casiraghi. Neither country made it to the quarterfinals.

Veteran Russian international Igor Kolyvanov, who has spent six seasons playing in Italy, was blunt about the draw. "It really is a rotten draw for us," he said.

"Italy are the worst team we could have got among the other runners-up, what's more, all I've got a really bad memory of the defeat at the Euro, where we deserved to lose," he added.

Kolyvanov is one of three Russians playing in the Serie A, the others being Reggiana's Igor Simutenkov and former Everton winger Andrei Kanchelskis at Fiorentina.

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terfinals, finished second behind Denmark in Group One and the game is an intriguing clash of styles.

"I know Ukraine quite well and have played some of their teams in the past," said Croatia coach Miroslav Blazevic.

"Of course, the teams have

changed since I saw them but I know the way they play - they are very strong."

Hungary made it to the playoffs at the expense of Finland with a last minute own-goal equaliser in Helsinki and face a difficult challenge against Yugoslavia, who were a safe second in Group Six behind Spain.

The Hungarian general manager, Attila, Lazlo was not phased by the ominous prospect of taking on a pair for whom

Irland, who had a poor qualifying campaign, limping in a full 10 points behind Romania in Group Eight, will need to improve to overcome Belgium. Who were pipped by the Netherlands in Group Eight.

Pat Quigley, president of the Irish Football Federation, said he had seen enough weaknesses in the Belgians 3-2 win over Wales on to feel confident - with certain reservations.

"Obviously like all the other sides we would have liked to have drawn Hungary and I would have preferred to have played the second leg at home but I am reasonably happy," Quigley said.

Belgian coach George Leekens, formerly boss of Mouscron, wasn't worried by taking on the Irish.

"It's a dream draw, the one I was hoping for this afternoon, sometimes when you wish for something hard enough you get it, it's clear that they are not a very good team," Leekens said.

"Belgium don't deserve to go to the finals if they cannot cope with Ireland. It's a very favourable draw," said Belgium Soccer Union spokesman Guido de Windt.

PAIRINGS

Italy vs Russia
Belgium v Ireland
Croatia v Ukraine
Yugoslavia v Hungary
First leg: Oct 29 (Home)
Second leg: Nov 15 or 16 (Away)

Violence no violation

ZURICH, Oct 14: Neither England nor Italy are in danger of being thrown out of next year's World Cup finals as a result of violence at Saturday's qualifying match in Rome, the sports' ruling body said on Monday, report agencies.

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter, speaking at the draw for the World Cup play-offs, said that soccer's world governing body would wait for their investigations to be completed before deciding whether any punishment was necessary but confirmed that expulsion was not one of the options.

Fans from both countries were involved with clashes with Italian riot police before, during and after the match, which was drawn 0-0 sending England through and Italy into a two leg play-off against Russia.

"It was an unpleasant situation but we will wait for reports from our commissioner and our special envoy at the match," said Blatter.

"We will then ask the two associations what they have done to prevent it and take action if necessary."

"Nevertheless, we cannot always avoid this situation in football."

Blatter said that the past behaviour of each country's fans would not be taken into consideration. "It will be a very objective view," he said. "After it, if necessary, the disciplinary committee will take the appropriate action."

Meanwhile, Italian Police Unions hit back here on Monday over criticism of their treatment of English football supporters during Saturday's World Cup qualifiers praising them for their brilliant work.

Both Lisipo, a right wing union, and SAP, an independent union, supported their members against the onslaught they had received both from the English press, who referred to the police as Italian thugs and bands of pigs, and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who had criticised the handling of the situation.

The police performed brilliantly, they were superbly directed by those responsible and

it they hadn't acted like they did then a real disaster could have occurred," Lisipo said in a statement.

"The English press attack on the police is unjustified, the English hooligans behaved as if Italy was just another part of their enormous empire and they could do what they wanted."

"The individuals who expelled all the off licenses in Rome came up against a country and a police force who respected all the laws," it added.

The other union SAP laid the blame on the British government and the Football Association, English football's governing body.

"The statements made by the English authorities against the law enforcement officers are more serious than the climate of tension that the English created in our country," their statement read.

A total of 28 people, 24 of whom were English fans, were arrested during the evening while 69 people, including 33 and English supporters, were injured in fighting before, during and after the match.

Harbans' dream SEA debut

JAKARTA, Oct 14: Narinde Harbans Singh of Malaysia marked his South East Asian Games debut here with a gold medal and an event record in the 20,000m men's walk Tuesday, reports AFP.

The 22-year-old University of Malaysia student clocked one hour 29 minutes and 13 seconds, rewriting the six-year-old record of 1:35:30 set by Tun Tin of Burma (Myanmar) in Manila in 1991.

Singh's win erased the memory of his 1995 humiliation at the Senayan Stadium here when he collapsed during the Asian Track and Field Championships.

"It was too hot then but today, I was not bothered by the heat," he told AFP.

Sakchai Samutkao, 35, of Thailand sped past the finish line at 1:31:54 to take silver and another Malaysian, Thiruku Balaysendaan won the bronze with a time of 1:33:56.

He said he was looking forward to leading Malaysia's bid to win medals when it hosts the Commonwealth Games next year.

He complained however at the conduct of a Burmese athlete. "He was hitting me with his elbow. It was rude. It was stupid," he said.

In the men's hammer, Yim Tuck Wong of Singapore won

his first SEA Games gold throwing 58 metres.

Malaysia's Kue Tee Wong, holder of the SEA Games record, settled for the silver medal with a throw of 56.16m and Hin Ong Kok of hosts Indonesia claimed bronze (53.34m).

"I feel okay. I expected to win. I am trying to win," said the Singaporean hammer thrower, who also to compete in the men's discus.

More than 4,000 athletes from Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are competing in the 19th SEA Games here.

Indonesia lead the medal standings with 40 gold medals, 18 silvers and 25 bronzes, followed by Thailand with 15 golds, 18 silvers and 21 bronze medals.

The Philippines are third, followed by Vietnam and Malaysia.

MEDALS TABLE table with columns Country, G, S, B, and medal counts for Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Burma (Mya), Laos, Cambodia, and Brunei.



King Fen in action in the 46-kg event at the eighth Chinese national games in Shanghai on Monday. The Guangdong strongwoman snatched 85-kg and jerked up 117.5-kg to win in the category with a world record.

Thais, hosts finish atop

JAKARTA, Oct 14: Fierce rivals Indonesia and Thailand finished atop their respective soccer preliminary groups Tuesday to stay on course to meet in the South East Asian Games final, reports AP.

Thailand drew 0-0 in a defensive struggle with Singapore to lead Group A and set up a semifinal Thursday against Malaysia.

Malaysia were a surprise 1-0 loser to Laos and both semifinal teams are struggling with the heavy workload.

Indonesia were unbeaten in their four games and were not in action Tuesday.

Second place in Pool A went to Singapore, who face a difficult semifinal in the 110,000 seat Senayan Stadium against the hosts.

"These players have played four games in eight days. They are absolutely shattered," said Singapore coach Barry Whitbread, who hit out at criticism of his team from reporters.

The Daily Star TV Guide

Wednesday 15th October (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programme.)

BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:30 World Living: Airport 7:00 BBC World News Inc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 10:00 BBC World News 11:30 World Focus: Reporters 11:30 BBC Newsdesk 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 2:00 World Focus: Reporters 2:30 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: Airport 5:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:30 World Focus: Reporters 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC NewsHour Asia & Pacific 8:30 World Living: Floyd On France 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Living: The Travel Show 11:00 The World Today 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: The Money Programme 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Living: Top Gear 3:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc. World Business Report/24 Hours 5:00

CHANNEL V

6:00 Hebat VJ Alessandra 7:00 Turn On T [V] 8:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 9:30 Turn On T [V] 1:30 By Demand VJ Trey 2:30 Liberty-First Day First Show 3:00 Simply South VJ Su-chitra 3:30 Rexona Deo-Turn On T [V] 5:30 Eveready Red Alert - News Update 5:33 Turn On T [V] 6:30 Eveready Red Alert - News Update 6:33 Turn On T [V] 7:00 By Demand VJ Trey-Live 7:30 Eveready Red Alert - News Update 7:33 By Demand VJ Trey-Live 8:00 Turn On T [V] 8:30 Eveready Red Alert-News Update 8:33 Turn On T [V] 9:30 Winner-Mangta Hai VJ Meghna Reddy 10:00 Liberty-First Day First Show 10:30 Turn On T [V] 11:00 Amped- #15 11:30 Turn On T [V] 1:00 Haysha VJ Dania 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 The Ride 4:00 Billboard US Countdown

STAR MOVIES

7:45 Second Best (15) 9:30 A Cry in the Wild (11) 11:30 Dominyant And Eugene (15) (M) 1:30 L A Story (15) 3:00 Guns of Honour (Part-2) (15) 5:15 Guns of Honour (Part-1) (15) 7:00 Extreme Close-Up 7:30

STAR SPORTS

12:30 Asia Sport Show 1:00 Formula Nippon Round 8 2:00 XFL Sea Games 6:00 Heineken Open-Semi Finals 9:00 ITU World Triathlon Series 1997 10:00 XIX Sea Games 2:00 Trans World Sport 3:00 Outdoor Quest Mild Seven 4:00 Table Tennis, ITTF China Open-Final 6:00 XIX Sea Games 10:00 A Foller's Travels 10:30 European PGA Tour, Toyota World Matchplay Championship

PTV

8:00 TILAWAT AUR TARJUMA/ HAMD/NAAT 8:20 CARTOON 8:30 KHABRAINI 8:45 MANSOORAJAAT BARAI KHUD KAFALAT 9:00 SUR SAVARIA & Sehra Ka Safar & Sada-E-Kasmi 9:40 SHANA BA SHANA 9:50 AAJ Ki Kori-SHAB-AIK NAZM 10:05 Boor Kay Laddo 10:30 ENGLISH FILM: CHIP AND DALE 10:55

EL TV

7:00 Yeadon Ki Barat 7:30 Haseen Pal 7:40 Sur Taal 8:20 Bajaj Darpan 8:30 Juggilee Toofan Tey Punclure 9:00 Serial: South Parade 9:30 Righty (Serial) 10:00 Hindi Feature Film 1:00 Parcol-Superhit Hangama 2:00 No Problem 2:30 Chalo Cinema 3:00 Naye Nagme 3:30 Dillagi 4:00 Scandal 4:30 HFF 7:20 Haseen Pal 7:30

ATN

7:00 Bhakti Bhavna 8:30 Bhabishay 9:00 Tere Sur Mere Geet 9:30 Once More-Hindi Film Trailer Show 10:00 Spinning the Wheel 10:30 Gurjan 11:00 Nil Tarana 11:30 Latest Film Series 12:00 Over Drive 12:30 Sangeet 1:00 Telebrand Show / Maine Dekha Tune Dekha 1:30 Parag-Andaz Apna Apna 2:00 Gujrat Prog 3:00 Hindi Feature Film 5:00 TSN 5:30 Geet Gata Chal 6:00 On Line 7:30 Bangladeshi Prog-Series: Goenda Kahini Ep-3 (Khalil, Tony Dayles, Mita) 8:00 Maysa-puri-lu 8:30 Spinning the Wheel 9:00 Stardust Hot 20 Songs 10:00 Chill Out Zone 10:30 Once More-Hindi Film Trailer Show 11:00 Hindi Film 11:30 Flight On (Pop Songs) 12:00 Hot Mix 12:30 Bhanga Tron Songs 1:00 The Health & Shopping Prog 1:30 Home Shopping 2:00 Film Songs

ZEE TV

6:00 Ghoomba Aaina 6:30 Zee News & Zee Business 7:00 Bhakti Songs 7:30 Jagran 8:00 Insight 8:30 Zee News Update & Business 9:00 Disney Hour 10:00 Gaane Anjaane 10:30 Khana Kazana 11:00 Choti Chote Baatein 11:30 Satuday Suspense 12:00 Saturday 12:30 Hum Apke Hain...Woh! 1:00 Naye Nazren 1:30 Hai Zindagi Bai Zindagi 2:00 Hum Panch (Rpt.) 2:30 Karz (Rpt.) 3:00 Parvarish 3:30 Dhara-Zalke Ka Safar 4:00

ESPAN

9:00 World Cup 98 Qualifying Matches- Bulgaria Vs Russia 11:30 NFL Yearbook 1996 12:00 Sportscenter-Live 1:00 PGA Tour Golf 3:00 Firestone Indy Lights Champ. 4:00 Motorsports Asia 4:30 19th Net's Champions Trophy 1997 6:00 Germany Vs Korea-Live ISKA Karate 7:30 Sportscenter 8:00 Inside Cricket 8:30 ISKA Karate 9:00 19th Net's Champions Trophy 1997 9:30 Germany Vs Korea-Live ISKA Karate 11:30 Alfred Dunhill Cup 1996

ZEE CINEMA

7:30 Film: Oatil (BW) 9:30 Film: Heera Moti 12:15 Tarana 12:30 Film: Kala Dhandra Gore Log 3:15 Zandu Film: Kotwal Saab 6:45 Box Office 7:15 Film: Saajan Ki Saheli 10:00 Khatian Kids Pe Ikke 10:30 Film: Hukumat ('Dharmendra) 1:15 Filler 1:45 Film: Sindoor Ki Keemat 4:30 Filler 4:45 Film: Jangle Love (18)