

## ROK's offer to DPRK

SEOUL, Jan 1: South Korea said today it had picked 10 cities to host the 2002 World Cup finals which it will share with Japan, but that the door remained open for North Korea to hold some matches, reports AFP.

"We had invited North Korea to participate with us in the World Cup, but we have not yet received anything official from them, and so we can't unilaterally include them," said a statement by the 2002 World Cup committee in Seoul.

But if North Korea decides to participate, then "we can at least let them stage one match," it said.

In a dramatic change in FIFA's position, president Joao Havelange said last month he would try to visit North Korea next year to offer the Stalinist country stage the chance to hold some matches.

Havelange also promised to invite North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and the next South Korean president to next year's World Cup opening ceremonies in France.

But FIFA has not yet had a reply from Pyongyang.

FIFA had earlier said it would be difficult to allow games in North Korea before the unification of the Korean peninsula.

South Korea's football association president Chung Mong-Joon, however, has pushed North Korea's possible participation since South Korea and Japan were named last year to hold the first-ever co-hosted World Cup.

The 2002 World Cup committee said it had chosen Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Kwangju, Ulsan, Taejeon, Incheon, Suwon, Chonju and Gwangju in Cheju Island.

The committee was yet to make a final decision on Seoul, which had not yet submitted its stadium facility construction plans.

Japan will host half the matches.

## WTA's top 20

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Jan 1: (Reuters) Top 20 women's tennis players, according to the WTA Tour rankings issued on Monday:

Player	Points
1. Hingis	6,264
2. Novotna	3,711
3. Davenport	3,661
4. Coetz	3,131
5. Seles	2,988
6. Majoli	2,867
7. Pierce	2,861
8. Spilvea	2,494
9. Vicario	2,317
10. Fernandez	2,114
11. Tauziat	1,998
12. Martinez	1,987
13. Huber	1,822
14. Testud	1,811
15. McCarthy	1,497
16. Appelmans	1,434
17. Raymond	1,393
18. Van Roost	1,393
19. Dragomir	1,323
20. Basuki	1,226

## Yelena voted athlete-of-year

MOSCOW, Jan 1: Nordic skiing star Yelena Vialbe, winner of five titles at this year's World Championships, was Friday named as athlete-of-the-year in a poll of Russian sports journalists, reports AFP.

Four-time Olympic gold medalist Alexander Popov (swimming) was placed second and world super-heavyweight weightlifting champion Andrei Chmerkin finished third.

Vialbe completed the first clean sweep of the women's titles in 23 years at the World Championships in Trondheim, Norway.

Vialbe won golds in the 30km classic cross country, the 15km freestyle and the 5km classic as well as in the 10km pursuit and the 4.5km relay.

## Tennis without Steffi

Please read "1997 turned out to be the most disastrous year for her but by 1996 she has won..." The inadvertent mistake is regretted.

## Sydney Test starts today

SYDNEY, Jan 1 (Reuters/AP): Failed Test batsman Michael Bevan looks set to resume his Test career as a bowler in a spin combination with Shane Warne in the second Test against South Africa, starting on Friday.

Both Australian captain Mark Taylor and South African counterpart Hansie Cronje believe the pitch at the Sydney Cricket Ground will assist the spinners.

Bevan, who was dropped as a batsman in July after a string of low scores during the Ashes tour to England, was recalled to a 12-man squad as a specialist bowler.

South Africa are also considering promoting left-arm spinner Paul Adams to their starting line-up for his 12th Test appearance, probably in tandem with veteran off-spinner Pat Symcox.

The South Africans, inspired by a maiden Test century from number three Jacques Kallis, batted out the fifth and final day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday, to save the game.

After twice being dropped by Australia's selectors as a bats-

man Bevan has conceded that his bowling now offers his best chance of playing Test cricket.

"I just got the feeling I would always get back as a bowler, not as a batsman," Bevan said.

"I set my sights on playing in the SCG Test this year."

Australia's vice-captain Steve Waugh had no doubts Bevan would be promoted as the main back-up for leg-spinner Warne.

"You've got to have two or three spinners playing here," said Waugh, who will be making his landmark 100th Test appearance this weekend, becoming only the third Australian behind Allan Border and David Boon to achieve the feat.

(Bevan) has been called into the squad because he's a talented spinner and I think that's the way to beat these guys (the South Africans), particularly on this wicket," Waugh told the Australian newspaper on Thursday.

In his immediate post-match comments after the first Test, Cronje said Adams would be a strong candidate for selection.

"He can genuinely spin the ball and although it's possible to read him out of the hand, a batsman still has to play him," Cronje said.

Warne, who has reportedly been troubled by soreness in his shoulder this season, bowled a marathon 44 overs in South Africa's second innings, taking three wickets at a cost of 97 runs.

That heavy workload came on top of 42 overs — and three more wickets — in the first innings, prompting Australia to give Warne a day off from training on Wednesday.

In the corresponding match four years ago, Warne took 12 wickets but he was unable to prevent South Africa winning the match by five runs on the way to a drawn three-Test series.

South African coach Bob Woolmer said that Warne has a psychological hold over his star batsman Darryl Cullinan.

Cullinan has an average of 37 in Test matches, but less

than 13 against Australia and is set to be dropped for the second Test.

Cullinan's vulnerability to spin was highlighted by an average of 8.00 in three Tests in Pakistan in October.

Bevan has taken 27 wickets in 17 Tests at an average of 23.29 but his opportunities to bowl this season have been limited because of a back injury.

He has claimed only three first-class wickets for New South Wales at an average of 84.



MARK TAYLOR

Ironically, given his selection as a specialist bowler and his previous inclusion as a batsman, Bevan tops the Australian first-class batting averages with 578 runs at 96.33.

The likely teams (12th men to be named):

**AUSTRALIA:** Mark Taylor (captain), Matthew Elliott, Greg Blewett, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Michael Bevan, Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Michael Kasprovic, Glenn McGrath.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Gary Kirsten, Adam Bacher, Jacques Kallis, Darryl Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (captain), Brian McMillan, Shaun Pollock, Lance Klusener, David Richardson, Pat Symcox, Allan Donald, Paul Adams.

HANSIE CRONJE

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## Karpov & Anand face off

PARIS, Jan 1: Russian Anatoly Karpov will open the defence of his world chess federation (FIDE) title in Switzerland on Friday, against 28-year-old Indian Grand Master Viswanathan Anand, reports AFP.

Anand, nicknamed the 'tiger of Madras', won the right to challenge for the world crown after defeating Britain's

24-game competition lasting anything up to two months.

FIDE chairman Kirsan Ilumzhinov hopes the new system will help chess shed its rather staid image by eventually introducing a knockout formula more akin to a tennis tournament.

Anand, ranked third in the world, had to see off six other potential challengers, including Adams, before booking his ticket to Lausanne.

A reigning world champion, Karpov, 46, was automatically guaranteed his place in the final, although future competitions may see the title holder forced to compete with the challengers in the qualifying rounds.

Karpov, who is fifth in the world rankings, last defended

his title in the Russian city of Elista in July 1996, when he saw off American Gata Kamsky with a score of 10.5 points to 7.5.

Kasparov regained the FIDE title in 1993, beating Jan Timman of the Netherlands to take the crown vacated by world number one Garry Kasparov, who split with FIDE to form the Professional Chess Association (PCA).

Azerbaijani-born Kasparov,



ANATOLY KARPOV

Michael Adams in a play-off on Tuesday in the Dutch city of Groningen.

The title clash in Lausanne, with more than two million dollars in prize money at stake, will be held under a new six-game formula running until January 9.

In the event of a draw after matches, a "tie-break" game will be held to decide the eventual winner.

The formula is a drastic break from the marathon World Championships of the past, which involved a gruelling

## Argentina's fight against rowdism

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 1: Tough new measures to combat hooliganism in Argentine football came into force here on Wednesday after President Carlos Menem signed a decree making it law, reports AFP.

The measures, which include close circuit cameras inside the ground and a database on known hooligans or 'barbaras' as they are known in Argentina, have been introduced after four deaths in the last six months.

The authorities finally reacted to growing pressure after a fan was shot dead following the Huracan-San Lorenzo match a fortnight ago.

Julio Grondona, president of the Argentine football federation, said he was satisfied with the law.

"I am more interested in the fight against hooliganism than winning the 1998 World Cup," he said.



V ANAND

34, who refused to take part in the challenger play offs in Groningen, had ended arch-rival Karpov's 10-year-reign as champion in 1985.

Anand, known for the incredible speed with which he worked out his moves, is widely considered the most talented player on the current international circuit.

The Indian Grand Master took the world junior title in 1987, but was humbled by Kasparov whom he challenged for the PCA crown in New York in 1995.

## Gough misses Caribbean tour

LONDON, Jan 1: Injury-plagued pace bowler Darren Gough has pulled out of England's tour of the West Indies, this time with a hamstring injury, reports AP.

The 27-year-old Yorkshire bowler, who was expected to lead England's attack in the Caribbean, has a degenerative condition of the left hamstring tendon, an injury which has bothered him for several months.

His place in the squad, who will play five Tests and five one-day internationals, will be taken by Yorkshire teammate Chris Silverwood.

The powerfully-built Gough, who can bowl with genuine pace and gets great results with his inswinging yorker, has suffered from frequent injury problems over the past two seasons, such as shin splints and shoulder and back pains.

Because of this lingering injury, which flares up whenever he tries to run and bowl at full pace, he missed the last two tests of last season's Ashes series as well as the remainder of the country season.

Silverwood, a 22-year-old comparative newcomer who has been in Kenya with the England A team, will join up with the senior squad when they fly out to the West Indies on Saturday.

## Fingers crossed for snow

NAGANO, Japan, Jan 1: Nagano Olympic organisers used a traditional New Year's Day Buddhist rite here Thursday to pray for snow which has been limited apparently by the El Nino weather phenomena, reports AFP.

"I sincerely prayed for the success of the Nagano Olympics and for more snowfalls which have been limited by El Nino," Makoto Kobayashi, director general of the Nagano Organising Committee (NOC), told reporters.

With 37 days to go before the opening of the Games, he led about 25 NOC executives to the 1,400-year-old Zenkoji temple in the middle of this apple-growing Japanese Alps region.

"We have no worries whatsoever as we have made sufficient preparations," the former vice minister of home affairs said. "Now we'll just leave the rest to heaven's will."

A lack of snow, which has disrupted the World Cup calendar in Europe, is also plaguing this province affecting 80 per cent of its 100 skiing grounds.

On Sunday, fine snow fell at Hakuba, a mountain resort which will host most Alpine skiing races as well as ski-jumping and cross-country events, a day after local officials prayed to Shinto Gods for snow.

The state meteorological agency has forecast that the El Nino weather effect would warm water in the eastern Pacific around the equator, leading to a shortage of snow at Olympic ski resorts.

The NOAC has insisted that enough snow-making machines would be ready at Alpine venues and truckloads of snow could be brought in for cross-country events.

But the NOAC officials seized on the New Year rite to show that they have not lost a sense of humour.

They mingled with tens of thousands of pilgrims to the temple and displayed the several Games mascot dolls "snowlets" with people inside.

Then they attended a prayer service at the main hall and received an arrow, a good luck charm meant to shoot down evil.

At midnight in Hakuba, fireworks lit the ski-jumping stadium for the Winter Olympic during an all-night rock concert before 7,000 skiers and villagers.

## Khulna cricket

KHULNA, Jan 1: The Second Division cricket league began at the Divisional Stadium here today, reports BSS.

In the inaugural match, Tiger Sporting Club defeated Elephant Sporting Club by 31 runs.



Jorginho, Kashima Antlers Brazilian right-back, is being challenged by a Yokohama Flügels defender during the final of the Emperor's Cup in Tokyo yesterday. Antlers won 3-0.

## Hopman Cup begins tomorrow

PERTH, Jan 1: Spain are favourites to win the 900,000 Australian dollars (\$67,880 US) Hopman Cup mixed teams tennis tournament starting here Saturday, reports AFP.

Carlos Moya, ranked seventh in the world, and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, ninth, are top seeds in the eight-day, nine-nation contest at Burswood Dome.

Spain have won the competition once before — in 1990, Sanchez-Vicario and her brother, Emilio overcame Americans John McEnroe and Pam Shriver in the final.

Second seeds in this year's tournament, the 10th since the novel mixed teams concept was introduced, are France, represented by Mary Pierce (seventh in the world) and Cedric Pioline (20th).

France have taken part in the Hopman Cup every year, but have never won, despite advancing to the semifinals three times.

They fought through to the last four in the third tournament before Guy Forget and Catherine Tanvier were eliminated by Yugoslavia's Goran Prpic and Monica Seles, the eventual winners.

Two years later, France's Forget and Nathalie Tauziat lost their semi-final against Germany's Michael Stich and Steffi Graf, who won the final.

Two years on, France were again beaten in a semi-final by Germany when Jean-Philippe Fleurba and Julie Halard went down to Boris Becker and Anke Huber, who later clinched the crown.

South Africa's Wayne Ferreira and Amanda Coetzer, beaten by the United States' unseeded Justin Gimelstob and Chanda Rubin in last year's final, are seeded third.

The American pair, who caused a major upset, will be in action again, but they have not been seeded.

Fourth seeds are Australia, whose hopes rest with United States Open winner Patrick Rafter, ranked second in the world, and Anabel Ellwood (93rd).

When the tournament starts Saturday, Romania's Dinu Pescariu and Irina Spirlea clash with Slovak Republic pair, Karol Kucera and Karina Habusdova, in a play-off to decide which country qualifies for the final eight.

On Sunday, Australian pair will be tested by Sweden's Thomas Enqvist and Asa Carlsson.

## TEAMS

**GROUP A:** Spain: Carlos Moya/Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (X1). Australia: Patrick Rafter/Anabel Ellwood (X4). Sweden: Thomas Enqvist/Asa Carlsson. Slovak Republic: Karol Kucera/Karina Habusdova. Romania: Dinu Pescariu/Irina Spirlea (to be decided by play-off).

**GROUP B:** France: Cedric Pioline/Mary Pierce (X2). South Africa: Wayne Ferreira/Amanda Coetzer. (X3). United States: Justin Gimelstob/Chanda Rubin. Germany: Tommy Haas/Anke Huber.

X denotes seed.

## Taylor takes heart from it

SYDNEY, Jan 1 (AFP): Australian captain Mark Taylor enters 1998 typically optimistic after surviving the worst year of his otherwise impressive cricket career.

The positive-thinking Taylor's New Year resolution is: "Just to enjoy my cricket, and if I do that I generally enjoy what I do outside the game as well."

Taylor said here today on the eve of the second Test against South Africa at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

"I had the same one last year but I went into the new year not batting all that well. This year things are different."

On Friday 33-year-old Taylor will lead Australia in his 90th Test averaging 48.83 from the four Tests this season.

Yet for the first six months of 1997 he batted so poorly that many former Test captains were calling for his head.

Taylor said today a determination to find joy in the game, even when it treated him so cruelly, had helped his fight-back.

Coming back from a productive short tour of India in late 1996, Taylor had a wretched season at home against the West Indies and things deteriorated on the tour of South Africa where he sat out

the last five one-day international.

Starting the second innings of the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston in June, Australia trailed England by a massive 360 runs and Taylor hadn't made a 50 in 22 Test innings.

He admitted in his recently released book that he would have given the game away unless he made a decent contribution.

A fast first 50 was followed by an agonisingly slow second 50 until finally one of Test cricket's greatest centuries was attained.

Four single figure scores followed, as if the Edgbaston effort had drained him of his lifeblood, but Taylor was back in form to clinch the series at Trent Bridge.

To cap off the turnaround he was man-of-the-series against New Zealand last month, having saved Australia from 53 for four on the opening day with a classy 112.

"It always tests you, this game," he said. "I don't just say it because I've come through it but I think the test of all players is to come through the tough times whether you're a batsman, bowler or a keeper."

"One thing I tried to do during my trot was to try to get through it with the same enjoyment level as if I was playing

## Gustavo given wild card

ADELAIDE, Jan 1: French Open tennis champion Gustavo Kuerten accepted a wild card Thursday to play in next week's Australian men's hardcourt championships, reports AP.

The Brazilian took the wild card after it was offered to him following the withdrawal from the event of Australia's Mark Philippoussis because of a shoulder injury.

Tournament director Colin Stubs said Kuerten's manager approached him about playing in Adelaide on Tuesday.

The hardcourt starts on Monday and it was expected Kuerten would play his first-round match Tuesday evening. World fourth-ranked Jonas Bjorkman is the top seed in the tournament.

Philippoussis, meanwhile, said he was a certain starter for the Australian Open that begins on Jan. 19 in Melbourne.

## The Daily Star TV Guide

### Friday 2nd January

(All programmes are in local time but subject to last minute change.)

### BTB

**Morning Session**  
8:00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Programme summary 8:10 Patriotic Songs 8:15 Alor Dishari 8:35 Kira Jagat 9:00 News in Bangla 9:10 Avinandan 9:40 Cartoon Film 10:00 The News 10:05 Modar Gorob Modar Aasha 10:35 Aalapan 11:05 Galpakhya 11:30 Description 11:45 English Debate 12:25 Second session programme summary.

### Evening Session

3:00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Programme summary 3:10 Reflection from the Tripkai 3:15 Patriotic Songs 3:20 Mancha Natak 4:00 News in Bangla 5:15 Film Show: 5:50 Malancha 6:30 "Koshilari Juddha" Bangladesh Senababini 7:00 The News 7:05 Chittagong Certificate Programme 7:25 25th March Programme 8:00 News in Bangla 8:35 Film Show: "The Adventure of Sindbad 9:00 Surer Bhobana 10:00 The News 10:55 Film Show: The X-File 11:30 The News 11:35 Tomorrow's programme summary 11:40 Close down.

### BBC

6:00am BBC World Headlines

6:05 World Focus: World Review 97 6:30 World Living: The Clothes Show 7:00 BBC World News Inc. Asia Today World Business Report, 24 Hours 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: World Review '97 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 Hard Talk 12:00noon The World Today 1:30 BBC World News 2:30 World Focus: World Review '97 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: The Clothes Show 5:00 The World Today 6:30 Wild World: Nomads Of The Wind 7:00 BBC World News Inc. World Business Report 7:30 The World Today 8:30 World Living: Classic Adventure 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 HardTalk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Question Time India 11:30 World Living: Top Gear 12:00noon The World Today 1:30 HardTalk 2:30 Europe Direct 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 World Living: Film Of The Year 4:00 BBC World News Inc. World Business Report

### CHANNEL V

6:00am Turn On T (V) 6:30 V News 7:00 Rewind 7:00 Turn On T (V) 7:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:30 Turn On T (V) 2:30 Liberty First Day First Show 3:30 Videocon Flashback 3:30 Turn On T (V) 6:00 Billboard US Countdown 8:30 Turn On T (V) 9:00 The Indian Day First Show 10:30 The Ticket

10:45 Turn On T (V) 11:00 V Spot 11:30 Turn On T (V) 2:30 V News 3:00 Sayu Manu VJ Joey 3:30 Turn On T (V) 4:00 Sigaw Mania VJ Joey 4:30 Sigaw Mania 5:00 Turn On T (V) 5:30 The Trickster

### STAR PLUS

6:30am Ninaad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:30 Ek Din Ek Jeevan 10:00 Ek Lamha Saath Tumhare 10:30 Post Card From Pakistan 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Media TV 12:30 Are You Being Served 1:00 Nine to Five 1:30 Murder She Wrote 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Santa Barbara 4:00 The Crystal Maze 5:00 The Wonder Years 5:30 Small Wonder 6:00pm Kaleidoscope 6:30 Philips Meri Awaz 7:00 Gulistan 7:15 The Trial Show 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Ashok Masale Meri Pasand 8:30 Suneel Varma's Style Gurus 9:00 Master Card Family Fortunes 9:30 Star News 10:00 Rendezvous With Simi Garwal 10:30 Due South 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00am Santa Barbara 1:00 Star News 1:30 Worlds Funniest Comedy Duo 2:30 Burke's Law 3:00 Yega 4:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:30 21 Jump Street

### STAR MOVIES