

**Hunte honoured**

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 1 (Reuters/Internet): Former West Indies opener Conrad Hunte has been awarded the "Knight of St. Andrew," the highest honour of the Barbados government, it was announced in Johannesburg on Monday.

In a statement released by the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), Hunte was awarded the honour for "his outstanding service in the development of cricket."

Hunte has been national development coach for the UCB-SA's development programme over the past seven years.

The award was made on the 32nd anniversary of Barbados Independence.

Hunte returns to Barbados in February to take up an appointment as a consultant to the Sports and Youth Affairs ministry.

**'83 heroes to show them how to do it**

NEW DELHI, Dec 1: Kapil Dev, captain of the Indian team that won the cricket World Cup in 1983, on Monday offered to play a match between the team led by him and the one going to England, reports PTI.

It can be for 35 or 40 overs each side. It will be our way of expressing the wish that they repeat what we did way back in 1983, the all-rounder said at the launch of 'good luck, India' campaign by his 'devils' consisting of a short film featuring the heroes of '83, to be released on TV networks soon.

There was no lack of backer for the match proposed to be held before the team leaves for England next summer as Brijmohan Lall Munjal, chairman of Hero Honda, sponsors of Monday's function, immediately offered to provide all the necessary support.

For the sizable gathering at the ball room of the Oberoi hotel here, it was a trip down nostalgia lane.

All the 'devils' of Kapil were there except Ravi Shastri, Krish Srikant and Kirti Azad. They might not have looked as fit as they did 15 years ago, but the zest and spirit that made them conquerors were still there in abundance.

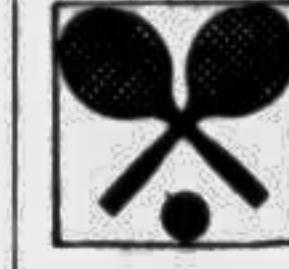
In their short speeches, the ace cricketers may have joked about each other and themselves too, but they were serious about their desire to see India emerge at the top once again.

India 'did it' when the World Cup was held in England last time. Will it repeat the performance when the tournament gets back to the country of its birth once again?

Only Azhar, Tendulkar, Ganguly, Kumble, Srinath and company can provide the answer.

**Booster on loan**

TENERIFE, Spain, Dec 1 (Reuters/Internet): Brazilian striker Leandro Machado has joined Tenerife on loan from Sporting Lisbon, the Spanish first division club said on Tuesday.

**Italy's chance to prove critics wrong**

ROME, Dec 1 (Reuters): If Italy beat Sweden in the Davis Cup final this week it will be little short of miraculous.

Indeed the fact Italy are in the final at all is a minor miracle and testifies how far the nation's tennis has come since they bowed out of last year's tournament with a 4-1 semi-final defeat at the hands of the Swedes.

Then, Italian tennis was in a state of civil war.

Tournament captain Adriano Panatta had resigned as technical director of the Italian Tennis Federation, saying he could no longer work with president Paolo Galgani.

The players had come out in support of Panatta and had threatened to boycott the semi-final in Norrkoping.

Galgani, authoritarian head of the federation for 20 years, had subsequently stepped down in a bid to defuse an increasingly bitter and public row.

Not surprisingly, the Italians came back from Scandinavia defeated and divided things had to change.

Panatta was brought back into the fold, his former doubles partner Paolo Bertolucci was named as new Davis Cup captain and Francesco Ritti Bitti took over as federation president.

One year on, Italian tennis

has never looked so healthy.

Bertolucci's team gear up for the final at Milan's forum Di Assago knowing that, although they are clearly underdogs, they are closer now to claiming the biggest prize in World Team tennis than they have been for two decades.

Italy have not reached a Davis Cup final since 1980 when a team built around Panatta and Bertolucci was crushed 4-1 by a Czechoslovakia side inspired by Ivan Lendl.

Four years before that Azzurri won the Davis Cup for the only time in their history when they beat Chile 4-1 in Santiago.

Bertolucci's team for the 1998 final is the one which chalked up a famous win over the United States in the semifinals in September. Andrea Gaudenzi, Diego Nargiso, David Sanguineti and Gianluca Pozzi.

Gaudenzi and Nargiso will play doubles against the formidable pairing of Jonas Bjorkman and Nicklas Kulli, while Gaudenzi and Sanguineti remain Italy's best hopes for success in the singles.

Gaudenzi is Italy's number one player and much will depend on how far he has recovered from a shoulder injury which needed an operation last month, days after the win over the Americans.

The 25-year-old right-hander

started playing again only this month and the Italians are taking a big risk in throwing him in against Sweden.

Gaudenzi proved his ability in March this year when he won a 210,000 ATP tournament in Casablanca but he has never really shone on the big occasions. His best performance in a Grand Slam tournament was a 16th showing at the French Open in 1994.

Sanguineti, the pin-up of Italian tennis, came on to the scene two years ago and has been the most consistently in form Italian on the ATP circuit since then.

Left Hander Nargiso is Italy's only true doubles specialist and is likely to struggle in the singles, where he has a combined 2-11 head to head record against the Swedes.

His net play is razor sharp but his serve has often let him down at key moments.

While Gaudenzi, Sanguineti and Nargiso were always certain to be in Italy's side for the final, the fourth berth was hotly contested between Pozzi, Renzo Furlan and teenager Marzio Martelli.

In the end Bertolucci opted for left-handed veteran Pozzi on the basis of his straight sets victory over American Justin Gimelstob in the semifinals.

Italy's tennis watchers are talking up their team in the run up to the first Davis Cup final ever to be held in the country.

**Asian Games soccer****Kuwait crush Mongolia**

BANGKOK, Dec 1 (Reuters/Internet): Kuwait demolished hapless Mongolia 11-0 in their opening Asian Games tie on Tuesday while Japan, favourite for the gold medal, cruised to a 5-0 rout of Nepal.

Iran, another medals contender and like Japan a participant in this year's World Cup in France, battled to a 2-0 victory in a closely fought game with Kazakhstan, while in group D Tajikistan beat the tiny Maldives 3-0.

Jasem Al-huwaidi netted four and teammate Faraj Laheeb a hat-trick in Kuwait's Group G walkover in the northern city of Chiang Mai.

In Japan's Group C game, Kenji Fukuda struck twice within two minutes early in the first half and Junichi Inamoto managed two in the second. Shinji Ono, just 18, who debuted in the World Cup in France, scored from a 30-yard free kick on 31 minutes.

In Sisaket in the northeast of Thailand, Iran had a tougher ride in their Group H match, but grabbed their chances while the luck went against a plucky Kazakh side.

Iran, with a dozen members of their 1998 World Cup squad to call on, went ahead through Vahid Hashemian Korbekandi within seconds of the kickoff.

Kazakhstan battled back immediately after the restart only to see a certain goal cleared off the line.

They were again unlucky not to equalise shortly before the end of the first half when Iranian keeper Nima Nakisa, his defence beaten, blocked with his legs. Vahid scored Iran's second in the 55th.

The top two teams in each of the eight preliminary round groups advance to the second round of the tournament.

In their opening group games on Monday, Oman, China and Turkmenistan all won.

China, in Group B, the beaten finalists in the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima, are another favourite for the gold.

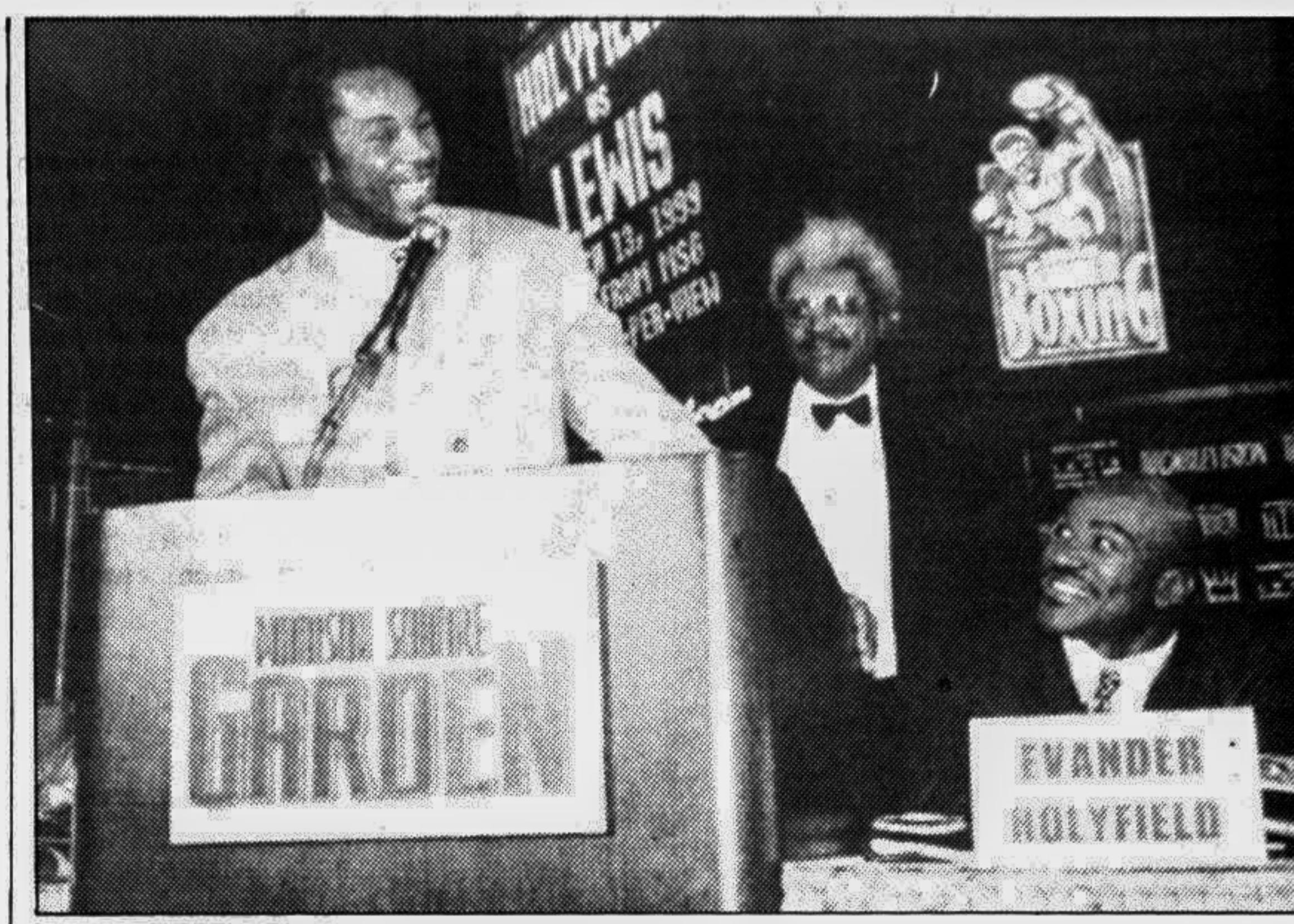
**Laurent defends his crown**

PARIS, Dec 1: Laurent Boudouani defended his WBA super welterweight title on Monday, stopping an exhausted Terry Norris in the final seconds of the ninth round, reports AP.

It was the Frenchman's fourth successful defence of the title he first won in 1996 by beating Julio Vasquez.

After a close start, Boudouani began to dominate and, by the ninth, Norris was barely able to keep his feet after a succession of thundering right hand blows from the champion.

Norris, desperate for a win to boost his flagging career after two consecutive defeats, was lively and attacked from the



Briton Lennox Lewis (L) shares a laugh with American Evander Holyfield during their news conference in New York on Nov 30. Fight promoter Don King watches in the background. —AP/UNB photo

**Evander, Lennox exaggerate**

NEW YORK, Dec 1 (Reuters): Evander Holyfield, relaxed and unusually confident in public, said on Monday

his heavyweight unification fight against Lennox Lewis in March will be "easy."

Holyfield, who holds two thirds of boxing's main titles, made a point of saying that one of his strengths is "Knowing I'm flexible, I don't break, I bend. I'm a point where I beat people who can't bend."

"I'll break Lewis," said Holyfield, champion of the World Boxing Association and the International Boxing Federation.

For his part, Lewis — the World Boxing Council champion — said his superior size "is very important, definitely an asset" in their March 13 fight in New York's Madison Square Garden.

"It doesn't matter, Evander

Holyfield hasn't seen nothing like me and my power," said Lewis.

Lewis, born in England of a Jamaican mother and the winner of a gold medal in the 1988 Olympics for Canada, acknowledged he is not well-known in the United States and is "just waiting to prove everyone wrong. All those reporters making negative comments about me."

Holyfield, who ran through the long history of boxing policies that have kept the two from fighting, brushed off Lewis' size, saying, "You don't judge a business man by his height. It's the smart guy who will prevail."

"Lennox is a guy that wants to knock you out, but he never had anybody put pressure on him. I'll hit him when I want to hit him. The question is how

heavier than Holyfield (36-3), the Briton, 33, also is three years younger than Holyfield and certainly is a stronger puncher than the American.

Furthermore, Lewis said the long delay in arranging the fight was a mistake by Holyfield because it allowed the Briton to become a better fighter.

Lewis, who will receive about eight million dollars would not reveal specifically how he has improved. Instead, in his typically oblique style, Lewis said: "I was like a piece of meat in a pot cooking nice and slowly."

But Lewis did say he would be able to counter anything Holyfield tried in the scheduled 12-round fight. He said he expected Holyfield to try various tactics, including the relentless brawling of his earlier career.

Lewis (34-1) is about three inches (7.5 cm) taller and will likely be 30 pounds (14 kg)

**Referee pays the price**

SINGAPORE, Dec 1: A Singapore soccer referee has been fined for eight months and fined 6,200 US dollars for his part in game-fixing in the island's professional league, the Straits Times said today, reports AFP.

Ramasamy Rajandran, 45, was found guilty Monday of accepting 1,800 dollars in bribes from bookies in exchange for helping to rig a Singapore league match in August 1996 between a police team and a community club.

Holyfield, who ran through the long history of boxing policies that have kept the two from fighting, brushed off Lewis' size, saying, "You don't judge a business man by his height. It's the smart guy who will prevail."

"Lennox is a guy that wants to knock you out, but he never had anybody put pressure on him. I'll hit him when I want to hit him. The question is how

durable he is," said Holyfield who will be paid at least 20 million dollars.

"Either I'm gonna knock him out good, or I'm gonna knock him out bad," Holyfield said.

**Winter cycling in Dinajpur**

The three-day winter cycling championship, organised by Dinajpur Cycling Parishad under the auspices of Bangladesh Cycling Federation, will begin in Dinajpur on December 17, reports UNB.

**Euro 2008****Nordic neighbours plan joint bid**

COPENHAGEN, Dec 1 (Reuters/Internet): Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland plan a joint bid to host the 2008 European Championship finals, top soccer officials of the four Nordic countries decided on Monday.

"We have decided today to submit a joint bid for the European Championship final tournament in 2008," Lars Berndt, spokesman of the Danish soccer federation, told a news conference.

The chairmen and secretaries-general of the four countries met in Copenhagen on Monday to finalise the details of their application, called Scandinavia 2008. Sweden hosted the 1992 European Championship, won by Denmark.

**DD Int'l****DD Channel-1**

5:55 Vande Mataram & Thought of the Day 6:00 DV

Music: Aradhana 6:30 For The

Universities 7:00 UGC Prog.

7:30 Samachar 7:30

UGC Program 8:30 Business

Hindi 10:30 Zee News

Hindi 11:00 Mystery Unfold

12:30 Zee Sports Show

1:00 The Diplomacy Show

1:20 Zee News 12:00 Shot Gun

1:30 Zee The Bold & The

Beautiful 3:00 The Wonder

Years 3:30 Mr Belvedere 4:00

Aerobics Oz Style 4:30 World

News 5:00 Home Improvement

5:30 Candid Camera

8:00 Zee News-English 8:50 Zee

Music To Face 9:00 Zee Bharat

9:30 Zee News 10:00 Zee Heedi

10:00 Center Stage 10:30 Zee News

Hindi 10:30 Zee Business News

Hindi 11:00 Mystery Unfold

12:30 Zee The Bold & The

Beautiful 1:00 Shot Gun

1:30 Zee Sports Show

1:45 Zee Home Improvement

2:00 Zee Zee Feature Film (B/W)

2:30 Zee Home Show 3:00 Hum

3:30 Zee Matinee Hindi

4:00 Zee Matinee Hindi

4:30 Zee Matinee Hindi

5:00 Zee Matinee Hindi

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