

Waugh, Warne to testify to Pak inquiry

HOBBART, Dec 19 (Reuters/Internet): Mark Waugh and Shane Warne will testify via a live video link to a Pakistan inquiry into match-fixing, the Australian Cricket Board said on Saturday.

The pair, who have accused former Pakistan captain Salim Malik of offering them a bribe, were summoned to appear at the inquiry after admitting last week that they had taken money from an illegal Indian bookmaker to provide pitch and weather information during Australia's 1994 tour of Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The two were secretly fined by the ACB in early 1995 but the incident was not made public until last week.

Waugh and Warne had been reluctant to travel to Pakistan but have agreed to provide evidence on the video link up, an ACB spokesman said.

Warne told reporters on Saturday that he was quite happy to repeat his allegations to the inquiry although he said nothing had changed since he gave his previous statutory declaration.

"I'll be saying the same things that I said four years ago, nothing's changed since then," Warne said.

Their (Pakistan) players have testified against Salim Malik. We've testified against him. It's up to the judge to see what he's finding.

Warne, Waugh and former Test spinner Tim May accused Malik of offering them bribes to play poorly during Australia's tour of Pakistan in 1994.

The charges were dismissed by the original inquiry which investigated them four years ago but an interim report released by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in September recommended a fresh investigation into match-fixing and betting in cricket.

Waugh, accompanied by Australian captain Mark Taylor, testified at the current inquiry while Australia was visiting Pakistan but neither Warne, who was injured, or May, who has retired, were in Pakistan at the time.

The investigating judge, Malik Quayum, summoned Waugh and Warne to provide new testimonies after news of their own involvement with illegal bookmakers surfaced a week ago.

Northants appoint Hayden skipper

LONDON, Dec 19: Former Australian opener Matthew Hayden signed for English county side Northamptonshire on Friday and was immediately made captain, reports AFP.

The 27-year-old left-hander, who made the last of his seven Test appearances in South Africa nearly two years ago, has agreed a two-year playing contract, and succeeds Zimbabwean Kevin Curran as skipper.

It will be the second stint in English county cricket for Hayden, who played for Queensland in the Sheffield Shield, after a successful season with Hampshire in 1997.

He scored 2,426 runs in all competitions, including 1,438 in the championship with four centuries.

"I'm very excited about this. I enjoyed my summer with Hampshire and I just hope I can make a really good fist of it for Northants," Hayden said from his home in Brisbane.

"Obviously there's a whole new set-up at the club with my appointment a part of that, and I'm looking forward to meeting up with all the players when I arrive in April," he added.

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Dec 19: Abahani Krira Chakra earned full points in the CJKP First Division football super league beating current champions Regency Sports Club by a solitary goal at M A Aziz Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Abahani now reached the top position on the points table obtaining 13 points from five matches while Regency in the second position with 12-point from the same number of matches.

The first half of the match ended goalless.

Iqbal scored the all-important goal.

Floyd defends his WBC belt

MIAMI, Dec 19: If you weren't part of Floyd Mayweather's title-winning celebration, don't feel slighted, reports AP.

Even Mayweather had little time to rejoice, returning to the gym quickly after stopping Genaro Hernandez for the WBC super-featherweight title on October 5.

Mayweather, the first boxer from the 1996 US Olympic team to win a world title as a pro, makes the first defence of his 130-pound (59-kilogram) title Saturday night against Angel Manfredy of Gary, Indiana.

"I don't want to be known as someone who ducked opponents," Mayweather said last week from Big Bear, California, where he completed a six-week training session before heading to South Florida. "Angel Manfredy is a good fighter, determined to win. I have to be ready."

Mayweather, who has won all 18 of his professional fights, including 13 by knockout, is not concerned about facing Manfredy (25-2-1, 19 KO) in such a short time after winning the title.

"I'm young and I know what I'm capable of," said Mayweather, of Las Vegas. "Winning a world title won't distract me. I'm very dedicated to this sport."



Olga Shishigina of Kazakhstan smiles after winning gold in the 100m hurdles in a new Games' record time on December 19. — AFP photo

Olga, Taib triumphant

BANGKOK, Dec 19: While China's athletes were under close scrutiny for drugs at the Asian Games, a runner who served a two-year drug ban for the same substance that Ben Johnson used set a meet record in the 100-metre hurdles Saturday, reports AP.

Kazakhstan's Olga Shishigina, who missed the Olympics because of testing positive for stanozolol, set a Games record of 12.63 seconds. Johnson was found to have the steroid in his system at the 1988 Olympics.

Qatar's Mohammed Taib took his fifth Asian Games gold medal by capturing the 5,000 metres — his first 5,000 since 1990 — after taking his third straight 1,500 earlier in the week.

China, who had been battling Japan for supremacy in the athletic events, took over the overall lead in golds by winning three of eight events Saturday. It had 15 golds to 12 for Japan, which won the men's 4x400 relay. Only the men's marathon remained, on the Games' closing day Sunday.

China's total, however, was well below its 1994 total of 22, set with the help of runners from coach Ma Junren's group, who did not run here.

Shishigina had tested positive in a meet in early 1996 and was banned in May of that year, although the IAAF, the sport's governing body, cut the original four-year ban to two.

She had been considered one of the favourites for the 1996 Olympics gold medal after a time of 12.44 seconds — still the Asian record — in 1995 and a second place behind American Gail Devers at the 1995 worlds.

The best in the 100 hurdles this year was 12.44 by Nigeria's Glory Alozie.

So far in these Games, China's athletes have passed all their drug tests after falling 11 in 1994. This time, Chinese officials said, extensive tests were carried out before the Games to make sure the athletes were clean.

Tests at the Games so far have turned up two positive results, leading to disqualification for one weightlifter from Jordan and one from Kuwait.

Shishigina, who returned to competition at the Asian track championships in July, ran Saturday's 12.63 into a wind, breaking the games record of 12.73 set by China's Liu Huijin in 1990.

China's Liu Jing was second in 12.82.

Shishigina avoided talk about drugs in the past.

In the men's 110 hurdles, China's Chen Yanhao won easily in 13.65 seconds, far off the 13.30 Games mark set by another Chinese, Li Tong, in 1994. He won by two metres over Kazakhstan's Andrei Sklyarenko, 13.86.

In Taib's race, the pace quickened with two laps to go. South Korea's Baek Seung-do took the lead, and Taib and Qatar's Ahmed Hashim followed.

In the final lap, Taib moved easily in front with 200 metres to go and established a large lead before slowing at the finish to win in 13 minutes, 55.79 seconds. Hashim took the silver in 13:56.65, with Baek third in 13:57.11.

China added gold medals in two women's events. Cai Weiyuan and Sun Caiyun, both former record holders in the pole vault, were first and third, with Japan's Masumi Ono second, all clearing 4.00 metres.

China also held off India in the women's 4x400 relay. China's Chen Yuxiang saw a large lead in the final 100 metres almost disintegrate when India's 800 and 1,500 winner, Jyotirmoy Sikdhar, made a late charge that fell short by about a metre, 3:32.03 to 3:32.20.

The men's relay went to Japan in an Asian Games record, 3:01.70, breaking a 12-year-old mark of 3:02.33.

Uzbekistan's Sergi Voinov won the men's javelin with a toss of 79.70 putting Asian Games record holder Zhang Lianbiao into second with 78.58. Zhang did more than 83 metres in 1994.

Sergei Arzamassov of Kazakhstan beat another Chinese for the gold in the triple jump by two centimeters, 17.00 to 16.98.

Although China led 15-12 in golds, its women have faltered, losing all the middle distance races that they dominated between 1993 and 1994, when member of Ma's training groupset world records in the 1,500, 3,000 and 5,000.

At these Games, aside from Shishigina's hurdles time, the only other world-class mark for the women was in the marathon, where Japan's Naoko Takahashi set the fifth best time ever in the event, just one minute off the world's best.

The men had Koji Ito of Japan, the 100-metre gold medalist, running an Asian record of 10.00 seconds in the semifinals, just missing the sub-10 barrier.

Asian Games roundup

BANGKOK, Dec 19 (AP): Hong Kong cyclist Wong Kam Po scored a victory for the little teams at the Asian Games Saturday, while sports giant China swept six gold medals in rowing and five in wushu and defended their men's basketball title.

Thailand, who won two of the silver medals in the ancient Chinese combat art of wushu, protested that the judging was biased, and their officials urged a boycott of China in that sport.

The Chinese also won three of the day's eight gold medals in track and field, lifting their overall gold total to 129 with just three more golds left to be decided in these Games. They won 135 in the last Games in 1994.

South Korea, a 112-92 loser to China in the men's basketball final, stood second with 64 golds, and Japan had 52 after winning the men's 4x400-metre relay on the track and the individual show jumping event of equestrian competition.

In the men's 200-kilometre cycling road race, Wong Kam Po gave Hong Kong their fifth gold these Asian Games. The territory, which still competes independently although it was returned to Chinese rule last year, is having by far its best games, with golds so far in bowling, billiards, wushu, yachting and cycling. In all previous games, it had won only one gold medal — in bowling in 1986.

Wong, silver medalist Makoto Iijima of Japan and bronze medalist Victor Espiritu of the Philippines all were timed in 4 hours, 39 minutes, 27.23 seconds.

Thailand's Banna Kumfu won the women's 100-kilometre race ahead of Japan's Kaori Sakashita and China's Wang Shuqing. All three were timed in 3:01:25.93.

The Thais also won two gold medals in the Southeast Asian sport of sepak takraw, beating Myanmar in both the men's and women's circle competition.

With gold in the women's beach volleyball, for a 12-8, 12-5 victory over Japan, the Thais boosted their gold total to 24 — double their original target of 12.

China won the men's beach volleyball gold with a 1-12, 12-10, 12-7 victory over Indonesia.

At the wushu matches, Thai officials walked out in protest against what they called bias by a Chinese referee.

"All final decisions came from the head judge, with great favour to his own country's fighters. It was unfair," Thai assistant chief referee Voranot Disayabuth said at a news conference.

He urged other Asian countries to boycott China by not joining in future wushu events.

Thais took silver medals in two of the weight classes decided Saturday, while Chinese won all five golds.

Against the Chinese rowers, Japan took three silver medals in Saturday's six 2,000-metre races, but never came closer than 2.6 seconds.

With Saturday's victories, the Chinese completed a sweep of all 11 Asian Games rowing golds.

The feat re-established their perfection in the sport in Asia after they missed one of the 12 decided at the last Games in 1994. China had swept all four in 1982 and all 12 in 1990.

Kazakhstan won the water polo gold medal ahead of Uzbekistan and China. In Saturday's final Games, Kazakhstan beat Japan 12-4. Uzbekistan beat Iran 11-7, and China trounced Singapore 20-1.

A back injury also forced Thorpe out of the final two matches of the 2-1 summer series win over South Africa and the one-off Test humiliation by Sri Lanka at the Oval.

Graveney said: "We are hoped that we will be having some good news about Graham over the next couple of months because he is a loss to England at both Test and one-day cricket."

"In one-day cricket, especially, I believe we have missed in the last year the way he is able to knock the ball around in the middle of the innings and make life difficult for the bowlers."

"He is a key player — but he appreciates that he would have to go to the Sharjah Cup in order to be a valid selection for the World Cup."

"He has only just come back home and at present is getting over the disappointment of not being involved in Australia."

"A specialist will be looking at the back in the coming days and then we will go from there."

England fly out to Sharjah on March 29 and, after a couple of warm-up matches, open the competition against India on April 7.

B&H Snooker & Pool Akbar Ali, Asif Aziz lift titles

Sports Reporter The Benson and Hedges Snooker and Pool Tournament, organised by Dhaka Billiards Centre (DBC) in co-operation with British American Tobacco, concluded at the DBC billiards room in Gulshan on Friday night.

KP Akbar Ali of Gulshan Club clinched the snooker championship defeating Sohail Asif of host DBC in the final.

DBC's Asif Aziz won the pool title defeating his team-mate Mosehuddin Mahmud.

AK Faizur Rahman, president of DBC, distributed prizes among the winners of the ten-day long quarterly meet.

India regain Asiad hockey title

BANGKOK, Dec 19: India regained the Asian Games men's hockey gold medal after 32 years when they edged out holders South Korea 4-2 in the penalty stroke shoot out after the two teams were deadlocked 1-1 at the end of regulation times and 15 minutes extra time in the final here today, reports PTI.

Veteran Mukesh Kumar pushed in a weak grounder to the left to the Korean goalkeeper to seal a memorable triumph, as India regained the title which they won for the first and only time in 1966 at the Thai capital.

The gold medal also ensured the eight-time Olympic champions a direct entry to the 2000 Sydney Games.

Steve in the runs

SYDNEY, Dec 19 (Reuters/Internet): Steve Waugh, playing his final Sheffield Shield match of the season because of his commitments to the national side, scored a century for New South Wales on the opening day of the match against Victoria on Saturday.

Waugh made 116 of his side's 303 for five. He and brother Mark, who made 64, put on 136 for the third wicket.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne continued his comeback from shoulder surgery by bowling 26 overs. He failed to take a wicket but said he was delighted with his form.

"This is the best I've bowled since I returned. I didn't bowl too much garbage, they were all up there," Warne said.

"I got some good turn, some good bounce and created a few half chances."

Tasmania were in a strong position after bowling out Queensland for 164 at the Gabba. Greg Rowell and Gerard Denton each claiming four wickets, opener Matthew Hayden made 78.

Tasmania had replied with 98 for two by the close. David Fitzgerald blasted a career-best 167 at the WACA in Perth to lift South Australia to 340 for four against Western Australia.

Thorpe told what to do

LONDON, Dec 19: England batsman Graham Thorpe, who had to return home last week from the Ashes series in Australia because of a back injury, was told on Friday that he must play in the Sharjah Trophy in early April if he is to be considered for the World Cup finals next summer, reports AFP.

England chairman of selectors David Graveney stressed that the Surrey batsman had been set that dead line to prove his fitness following his back problem, which has persistently troubled him.

The left-handed batsman, whose strokeplay was sorely missed in the third Test in Adelaide where England crashed to defeat handing Australia the Ashes for the sixth successive series, has been ruled out of the triangular one-day competition in Australia next month against the host nation and Sri Lanka.

A back injury also forced Thorpe out of the final two matches of the 2-1 summer series win over South Africa and the one-off Test humiliation by Sri Lanka at the Oval.

Graveney said: "We are hoped that we will be having some good news about Graham over the next couple of months because he is a loss to England at both Test and one-day cricket."

"In one-day cricket, especially, I believe we have missed in the last year the way he is able to knock the ball around in the middle of the innings and make life difficult for the bowlers."

"He is a key player — but he appreciates that he would have to go to the Sharjah Cup in order to be a valid selection for the World Cup."

"He has only just come back home and at present is getting over the disappointment of not being involved in Australia."

"A specialist will be looking at the back in the coming days and then we will go from there."

England fly out to Sharjah on March 29 and, after a couple of warm-up matches, open the competition against India on April 7.

Senegal soccer coach fired

DAKAR, Dec 19: Senegal sacked national soccer coach Amata Fall on Friday, reports Reuters.



Winners of the Dhaka Billiards Centre snooker and pool tournament pose with Nuruzzaman Latif, chairman of the tournament committee, during the prize-giving ceremony on Friday.

FA accused of 'bribery'

LONDON, Dec 19: The head of England's bid to stage the 2006 World Cup on Friday defended the use of the campaign's funds in helping developing football countries amid fresh accusations in the cash-for-votes scandal, reports AFP.

It has been revealed that the salary of former England striker Peter Withe as the new Thailand coach is being partly funded by the English Football Association (FA).

A report in Friday's Daily Mirror claimed that the FA's generosity was motivated by attempting to influence Thailand's FIFA representative Worwi Makudi, who is one of the 24 members of the world governing body which chooses the host country for the 2006 World Cup.

However, the FA insisted that Withe's appointment was just one of a multitude of projects undertaken to help out developing countries, with cash coming from several budgets, including the bid to host the World Cup.

Alec McGivan, the director of the 2006 campaign, maintained that it was England's duty to do so as one of the leading football nations and that bid rival Germany were doing no different.

"We are seen in the Third World as a wealthy footballing country and some of those countries we talk to are looking for help," McGivan said in a statement.

"Yes, indirectly it may benefit the bid. But what is wrong with that, as long as you are funding genuine footballing projects?"

"We are asking people to vote for us, what is more natural than for them to say 'Is there any way you can help us?' that's

the real world. "We are supporting genuine football projects. Such activities are common among other comparable associations like Germany and the Dutch."

He added: "The FA gives all sorts of help to many footballing countries. In the specific case of Thailand, we are partially funding Peter Withe."

"We are also funding a project to help street kids to play football in Bangkok. The FA has been doing things like this for many years."

"Through our activity in support of the bid, there has become an increased awareness of the need of other countries and that we should do more to help. We should be doing these things and we will be doing more."

The FA has already carried out work in Botswana, which also has a FIFA representative, and Malawi, which does not, in the provision of kit and the training of referees, while a similar programme is being considered in the African Kingdom of Lesotho.

The FA are keen to emphasize that these programmes should be considered in the context of the extensive work they have been doing overseas for many years rather than that of the recent scandal involving chief executive Graham Kelly.

Kelly resigned after the FA's executive committee, which also passed a vote of no confidence in chairman Keith Wiseman, investigated an alleged promise of a 3.2 million pound (5.2 million dollars) grant or loan to the FA of Wales.

That is alleged to have been part of a concerted move to see Wiseman elected as the British representative on the FIFA executive to be able to push England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup.

Concerns have now been raised that the funding for the

overseas projects such as Withe's appointment comes partly from the 2006 World Cup coffers, as well as the technical, refereeing commercial and finance budgets at the FA.

The FA, however, stressed that it was not an isolated case and they are planning to fund other coaches overseas in the future.

Beijing not Sydney

SYDNEY, Dec 19: Sydney probably would have lost the 2000 Olympic Games to Beijing if the bidding process was different, International Olympic Committee (IOC) member Phil Coles said Saturday, reports AP.

The Australian official said if the decision to select the Olympic venue was left to the 11-strong IOC executive board, the Chinese capital would have been the likely winner.

"I know of three or four of the executive board in 1993 before the decision was made who were committed to China so if the decision was left to them, my guess is that Sydney would not have won it," Coles said.

In the wake of recent corruption allegations, IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch is now understood to favour a system whereby a commission — including experts in areas such as security, transport and construction — would evaluate bidding cities.

It would then report to the executive board, whose members would also visit contenders before making a decision.

Coles said during the bidding period in 1992-93, 72 members of the 114-strong IOC visited Sydney.

"I would estimate that 75 per cent of the members who came here had never been to Australia before so they only had a vision of Sydney from a plan on paper," he said.

"But once they saw the plan for transport, the stadium, the harbor, our hotels, beaches and our culture, many were very impressed."

"I, myself, have had a vision about a bidding city and changed my mind when I've done an inspection visit."

Coles said "maybe four" members of the IOC executive board did not visit Sydney and had "closed minds" about the Australian bid.

Senior IOC member Marc Hodler said recently that a group of agents, including an IOC member, claimed to have successfully bought votes in the past.

The IOC has now formed a committee headed by vice-president and lawyer Dick Pound to look into Hodler's allegations. It is expected to finish its inquiry by the end of January.

Coles said he would wait until the outcome of the inquiry before commenting on how the bidding process should be changed.

"I've heard that Mr Hodler has now said that the allegations were hearsay, so I don't know where the inquiry stands at the moment," he said.

"There may be a need to rationalise the current system but I want to see what the commission of inquiry comes up with and then debate where we go from there."

Bangkok notebook

BANGKOK, Dec 19 (AP): With more than 6,000 bowls served a day, noodles have won the taste buds of athletes at the Asian Games.

Organizers say noodles of assorted varieties are the No. 1 choice among more than 300 dishes offered daily at the Athletes Village.

Another top favorite is the spicy Thai shrimp soup, tom yam kung.

Bananas have emerged as top fruit, while orange juice and milk are the most popular beverages.

KIM KIN COUNT SOARS: In what they describe as a pizza delivery boy's worst nightmare, Asian Games officials have discovered 199 Korean athletes with the surname Kim, surpassing their earlier count of 113.

And they say more Kims may be lurking within the official delegations of North and South Korea.

Following announcement of the earlier count, one South Korean journalist tried, apparently without success, to find out whether South Korea and more Kims that its political archrival to the north.

HOME TOWN ADVANTAGE: If further proof was needed that hometown teams have the advantage, it has come again at the Asian Games.

The host Thais had notched their best ever Asian Games performance — 79 medals, including 20 golds, by the end of Friday's competition. Their earlier best was 42 medals at the 1978 Games — also in Bangkok.

India, who normally produces lackluster results, were fifth in the gold medal race when it staged the Games in 1982, and headed the standings at the first Games, held in New Delhi 47 years ago.

The Philippines were third at the Manila Games of 1954, Indonesia ranked fourth in the 1962 Jakarta Games and Iran stood second when the Games were in Tehran in 1974.

The Thais were third at the 1966 and 1970 Asian Games, both staged in Bangkok.

ROYAL FAREWELL: Thailand's Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn is to preside over the two-hour closing ceremony of the 13th Asian Games Sunday, when games' flags will be passed to South Korea.

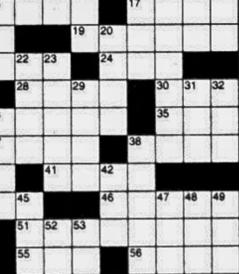
The ceremony is include a Buddhist pageant, brass bands and the traditional march of some 6,000 athletes who took part in the games.

Flags of the Asian Games and Olympic Council of Asia will be handed to the mayor of Pusan, the South Korean port city that will hold the next games in 2002.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Chutzpah
5 Obtained
8 Meat product
12 It's a Sin
13 pro nobis
14 Waikiki wiggles
15 Study
17 Pub orders
18 Thurn in Clinton's side
19 Short sock
21 Related
24 Tic-tac-toe win
25 Slobbered
28 Barber shop item
30 Through
33 — Dhabi
34 Cloner's concern
35 Freddy Krueger's street
36 Rather's employer
37 Notion
38 Clumsy fleet
39 Possessed

2 Oodles
3 Trevi fountain
4 Coin
6 Four-star
7 review
9 Jewish festival
10 State
11 Actress
16 Tiber city type
18 Cohan's "grand old name" support
16 Mork's home planet
20 Heads, in slang
22 On the rocks
23 Canonical hour
25 G.I.'s colleague
26 Fleeced
27 Easy mark
29 Brunch, for one
31 Sport
32 Early hrs.
34 The "immoralist" author
38 Despises
40 Murphy's son
42 Dunder-head
43 Pull an all-nighter
44 Stromboli spillage
45 Tater
47 Acknowledged
48 Disaster aid org.
49 Unlikely trick-taker
52 "What Kind of Fool —"
53 Getz's instrument



Solution time: 21 mins.
JOEL POTI SANG