

SL unveils U-19 cricket WC logo

COLOMBO, Oct 26: Sri Lanka cricket officials on Monday unveiled the logo for the upcoming Under-19 World Cup...

Streak out of first Test

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 26 (Internet report): Zimbabwe suffered a major blow on Monday when chief strike bowler Heath Streak was ruled out of the first Test against South Africa...

SQUAD

Alistair Campbell (captain), Andrew Flower, Grant Flower, Murray Goodwin, Neil Johnson, Gavin Rennie, Guy Whittall, Mpuemelelo Mbangwa, David Mtsheni, Henry Olonga, Bryan Strang, Trevor Gripper...

Latin soccer scene

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct 26: A top-of-the-table match in Peru was suspended when a firecracker landed on the pitch and injured a player...

BRAZIL

Two Brazilian championship matches were swung by controversial penalties as referees again came under scrutiny.

ARGENTINA

No matches were played at the weekend because of presidential elections. River Plate lead the Apertura championship...

CHILE

Universidad de Chile stayed on course for the title by beating Palestino 3-1, extending their unbeaten run in the championship to a record-breaking 32 matches.

2nd SAARC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

20th - 22nd January 2000



Chief of Army Staff and Kurmitola Golf Club president Lt Gen M Mustafizur Rahman (L) talking to press during the briefing yesterday.

SAARC Golf at Kurmitola

Lenin Gani

The 2nd SAARC Golf Championship will be held at the picturesque Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) course from January 20. This was formally announced by president of the KGC and Chief of Army Staff, Lt General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, BB, at the clubhouse yesterday during a press briefing.

The inaugural championship was held in January 1997 in the Silicon city of Bangalore. The tournament was won by India.

The KGC president said he would tee-off the competitors. He also mentioned that the Finance Minister would be chief patron while State Minister for Youth and Sports will attend the concluding day as chief guest.

The organisers stressed upon the tournament being an opportunity for Bangladesh to become known as an international golf venue.

They hoped to rotate the SAARC Championship among the participating countries; thus making it an annual one in the region's calendar.

An estimated budget of Taka forty lakh has been earmarked. Bharat Petroleum Limited are the main sponsors of the tournament.

Chairman of the organising committee and KGC vice-president Maj General Hasan Mashud Chowdhury, publicity committee chairman Kazi Habib Sattar and Bharat Petroleum's Arjun Hira also spoke on the occasion.

AXA upset with FA, MU

LONDON, Oct 26: FA Cup sponsor AXA insurance said Monday they were dismayed at the seemingly "set in stone" stance of both the Football Association and Manchester United...

AXA believe the competition will be seriously devalued if a compromise is not reached within the next few days enabling United to defend the trophy they won in May on their way to the treble.

No agreement seems near and FA executive director David Davies admitted at the weekend that the chances of any settlement were extremely slim.

United's presence in the World Club Championship in Brazil in January is seen as being of paramount importance to the FA and the Government if England are to stage the 2006 World Cup finals, despite FIFA's remarks to the contrary.

One offer proposed by AXA was to fly United's fourth round opponents to Brazil for the tie, but the FA "didn't like the idea", according to AXA spokesman Phil Hickley.

Chang crosses first hurdle

STUTTGART, Oct 26: Michael Chang won an opening-round challenge Monday at the 2.45-million-dollar Eurocard Open, then said he remains hungry for success despite standing more than 70 spots below his career best...

The 73rd-ranked Chinese-American benefited from a wild card entry into the Mercedes Super Nine event and gratefully repaid organisers with a knockout of German Rainer Schuttler 3-6, 7-6, 6-2.

"I'm even more eager now because my ranking has dropped," said the 27-year-old who won the French Open a decade ago and stood second in the world just a few seasons ago.

"I'm hungry to get back," Chang, a quarterfinalist this month in Shanghai and who last won a title in October 1998, refused to be pinned down about how far his ambitions stretch at this point in his career.

"In my heart, I have the faith that I can get back there," he said of his standing on the computer. "I don't know when and I don't know if it's going to happen. But I have faith."

Chang, a favourite with Asian fans, next plays Swede Thomas Enqvist, another competitor who has seen better days. He now stands 18th after a run inside the Top 10.

Chang said that he does not rule out a miracle career turnaround such as the one made from the depths of the 140s to the top of the heap by double 1999 Grand Slam winner and contemporary Andre Agassi, the top seed here.

Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands beat Frenchman Arnaud Clement 7-5, 7-6, while Romania's Andrei Pavel stopped Brazilian Fernando Meligeni 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Action picks up Tuesday when four seeds, led by Dutch holder Richard Krajicek, go into action. Also playing for third-round spots: number 5 Briton Greg Rusedski, number seven Nicolas Pietrangeli and number 13 Enqvist against Chang.

Missing from the elite field through injury are world number three Pete Sampras and Australian Pat Rafter, who underwent shoulder surgery Sunday.

Philippoussis is trying to keep Australia's looming Davis Cup finale against France in December in Nice out of his mind.

"I'm not thinking about it," said the world number 22. "When the time comes, I will."

While keeping the big event in the distance, Philippoussis did admit: "There will be no pressure on us. It's all on them, they're playing at home on indoor clay in front of their own fans. We're the underdogs."

Philippoussis tried to stifle frustration at his modest comeback progress so far this autumn since returning three events ago in Singapore to the ATP Tour.

"Of course, I'd like to have had some great wins," he said. "But I've got to be realistic."

"I've trained hard, I feel great. But it takes a while." The Australian recovered from two break points down in the 11th game of the final set against Pozzi before powering ahead for the victory which now pits him against Agassi.

"It will be a very exciting match. I'm looking forward to it. He's number one and has had an unbelievable year. But that doesn't matter to me. I don't care who is on the other side of the net -- there's no reason why I can't beat him."

In the late match, Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic showed his current patchy form, coming within two points of victory against Czech Jiri Novak, who eventually advanced 6-2, 3-6, 7-6.

Ivanisevic struck two consecutive double-faults to lose all concentration while holding a 5-4 lead in the final set.

After breaking for 5-all, Novak carried on to win the first-round contest in a tiebreaker as Ivanisevic's game collapsed.

Twose, Styris to join Black Caps in India

WELLINGTON, Oct 26: Middle order batsman Roger Twose and medium pace bowler Scott Styris would top up a depleted New Zealand cricket squad for the upcoming five-match, one day international series against India...

The original 15-man squad for the three match Test series in India would be reduced to 14 for the ODI series, Cricket NZ said in a statement.

A selection panel has picked Twose as a "straight substitute" for opening batsman Matthew Bell.

Roger is an outstanding one day player and his form at the World Cup, when he averaged 79.50 underlined that, selection panel convenor Ross Dykes said.

The recent retirement of Gavin Larsen had provided an opportunity for 24-year-old Styris, Dykes said.

Scott Styris is a medium pace bowling all-rounder who is ideally suited to one day cricket and the prevailing conditions in India.

Bell, pace bowler Andrew Penn, spin bowler Paul Wiseman and injured batsman Craig McMillan would return to New Zealand. McMillan's replacement for the Test series, Gary Stead, will remain in India for the ODI, Cricket NZ said.

Twose and Styris leave for India on October 28.

ACCC to probe Sydney ticket sales

SYDNEY, Oct 26: Sydney's Olympic ticket sales tactics are to be investigated by Australia's top consumer watchdog, officials said Tuesday, reports AFP.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) said it wanted to see if the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) had contravened provisions of the Trade Practices Act.

ACCC chairman Professor Alan Fels said SOCOG may have used bait advertising in an endeavour to sell more tickets.

He has requested documentation from SOCOG on the ticket offer and has asked SOCOG to consider a number of initiatives including refunds to some consumers.

New South Wales state Olympics Minister Michael Knight said Games organisers would be happy to cooperate with an inquiry into the ticketing fiasco.

SOCOG has informed the ACCC that it will be cooperating fully with their inquiry and will expect to have a good result at the end of that," he said.

He said he was confident a full investigation would alleviate any concerns Fels might have about the way tickets to the 2000 Olympics had been allocated.

Air crash kills golf star Payne

MIAMI, Florida, Oct 26: US Open golf champion Payne Stewart and up to five other people were killed when their Learjet veered off course, flew uncontrolled across the United States and crashed in South Dakota, a family spokesman said, reports AFP.

The Learjet took off Monday from Orlando, Florida, on a flight to Dallas, Texas, but for unknown reasons strayed off course and lost radio contact with the ground soon after.

It crashed in a field near the town of Mina, South Dakota, after flying over a vast swathe of the United States. Initial reports indicated the jet may have lost pressurisation, leaving passengers and crew without oxygen, but continued on its course until it ran out of fuel.

"We appreciate the heartfelt love and kindness shown by our friends and loved ones in our loss and pain," Stewart's family said in a statement read by spokesman Bill Curry in Orlando, Florida.

The US Professional Golf Association (PGA) in Florida also mourned the 42-year-old charismatic golfer, who twice won the US Open.

"It is difficult to express our sense of shock and sadness over the death of Payne Stewart," a PGA statement read. "This is a tremendous loss for the entire golfing community and all of sports."

The tragic accident, which was followed closely by US television stations from the moment it became clear the plane was out of control, made headlines across the country.

President Bill Clinton was alerted to the unfolding tragedy, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said.

The jet lost radio contact with authorities shortly before 10:00 a.m. (1400 GMT) over Gainesville, Florida, the Federal Aviation Administration said.

Two US Air Force F-16 fighter jets were dispatched to locate the runaway jet, and tracked it as it crossed a great swathe of the Midwest, the US Air Force said.

The pilots, who were sent up to establish visual contact, noticed frost on the Lear's windshield -- a sign that the jet had lost pressurisation.

Without using the emergency supplies of oxygen on board, the passengers and crew would have run out of oxygen in a matter of seconds, pilot Chris Hamilton told a press conference.

The impact "totally destroyed" the plane, according to South Dakota governor spokesman Bob Mercer.

"We assume it ran out of fuel," said Major Tom Dravland, assistant superintendent of South Dakota Highway Patrol, adding: "The wreckage is smouldering but there is no fire."

Investigators from the NTSB and the Federal Aviation Administration were dispatched to the crash site, officials said.

The crash impact -- the plane was flying at an altitude of 45,000 feet according to the National Transportation Safety Board -- would make it difficult for investigators to identify the remains of the crew and passengers, Mercer said.

In addition to Stewart, pilots Michael Kling and Stephanie Bellegarrigue and Payne's agents Robert Farley and Van Ardan were also aboard the plane, Mercer said.

The NTSB later added that figure upwards to six people based on figures from the plane operator.

Golf legend Jack Nicklaus said Monday that golf course designer Bruce Borland was also on board. Nicklaus, who employed Borland, said the designer wanted to work with Stewart on a new golf course.

In Florida, family spokesman Bill Curry said Stewart's wife Tracey and their children Chelsea and Aaron were "just trying to survive right now."

"Everyone just direct their prayers to the Stewart family... That's the best thing that anybody can do for the Stewarts right now," he added.

Stewart, who won the 1989 PGA Championship and the 1991 and 1999 US Open, has won many of golf's top titles, but one of his proudest moments came last month when he won the Ryder Cup with the US team against Europe.

He even conceded a putt on the 18th hole to Scotland's Colin Montgomerie -- the man the Americans loved to hate -- to spare him the insults and catcalls that forced Montgomerie's father to leave the course in anger.

and he was as well known for his idiosyncratic dress sense -- he dressed in plus fours and a tam o'shanter hat -- as his sense of fairplay.



An AFP file photo of US golf star Payne Stewart who died in a tragic plane crash at South Dakota on October 25.

Hearing on Tyson Friday

LAS VEGAS, Oct 26: Mike Tyson will have to wait a few more days to collect the 8.7 million dollars he made for his aborted fight with Orlin Norris. And when he finally gets his check, he could find a few dollars missing, reports AP.

Nevada boxing regulators will meet Friday to discuss Tyson's latest antics in the ring, and decide whether to take any action against him for a late blow that prematurely ended his fight with Norris after the first round Saturday night.

Tyson could be fined for his actions, but the Nevada Athletic Commission is not expected to take any action to suspend Tyson from the ring or change the decision in the fight from a no contest to a disqualification.

Commission chairman Dr Elias Ghanem does not view what happened Saturday as serious as Tyson's biting of Evander Holyfield's ears. That cost Tyson 3 million dollars and got him banned from boxing.

"If there was a disqualification it would have been a different ball game," Ghanem said. "When he (referee) Richard Steele deducted two points, that means the fight could continue. That's the big difference."

Steele's ruling in the ring that the left hook that dropped Norris after the bell sounded was not deliberate may help Tyson avoid any penalties for the late blow, which ended the fight when Norris dislocated his knee on the way down to the canvas.

The important thing is that it was an accidental foul and that was the determination that was made," said Marc Ratner, the commission's executive director.

Under Nevada law, which was changed in the wake of Tyson's biting of Holyfield, a boxer's can be fined his entire purse for an infraction.

Tyson is not expected to attend Friday's commission meeting, which was called in the wake of the ending that caused fans to boo both fighters.

He said after the fight that he did not hear the bell, even though it rang five times as Steele moved in to try and separate the fighters in the middle of the ring.

Ratner said Monday there was no dispute that Tyson hit Norris after the bell. But he noted that hitting after the bell is relatively common in fights.

Felix Trinidad did the same thing to Oscar De La Hoya twice in the middle rounds of their welterweight title fight last month, and was not penalised.

Steele took two points from Tyson after Norris went back to his corner. But the fight did not resume after Norris said he could not continue because of an injured knee.

An MRI exam showed his knee had been dislocated, and doctors said Norris might need surgery.

Norris said he did not think Tyson hit him deliberately after the bell. He said it was lost in the ring and hard to hear the bell.

OUT OF COURT SETTLEMENT

Meanwhile another report from Los Angeles says, a sexual battery lawsuit filed against Tyson by a female photographer has been settled out of court.

Ladywault's Superior court complaint against Tyson was scheduled to go to trial Monday, but the parties settled the matter Friday, according to the court clerk for Judge Paul Boland.

Je's attorney, Steven M Kramer of Beverly Hills, said he wasn't allowed to disclose the amount of money involved, but added, "My client's extremely satisfied."

Je, who sought unspecified damages, said she posed with Tyson for two photographs. She claimed he pinned her against him, lifted her left leg "to his middle body," raised her blouse and ordered someone to "take a picture of this."

Je who described herself in court papers as a "well-known" celebrity photographer, filed the suit without an attorney, but later hired Kramer.



American Michael Chang playing a double handed return against Germany's Rainer Schuttler during their Eurocard Open match at Stuttgart on October 25. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes crossword puzzle grid and clues for Across and Down words.