

Tour of Pakistan
India to decide
end of Sept

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: Indian cricket authorities said on Wednesday they would decide at the end of this month whether to accept an invitation to tour Pakistan, reports Reuters.

India have not played a full Test series in neighbouring Pakistan since 1989 and the proposed tour remains in doubt due to the ongoing political dispute between the two countries over Kashmir.

The 1983 World Cup winners are due to play three Tests and five one-day internationals from December to February but the Indian government wants to sever sporting links with Pakistan in light of the trouble in Kashmir.

Over the past decade the Indian team have travelled to Pakistan only once, for a one-day series two years ago.

Pakistan broke the Test deadlock between the two nations when they toured India for a three-Test series in 1999, after a gap of 12 years.

"We are going to discuss the proposed tour at a general body meeting on the 29th (of September)," J. Y. Lele, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), told by telephone from Baroda.

On Tuesday the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had urged India to end the uncertainty over the tour.

"India must set us a deadline so we can make alternative arrangements. We would either play a series against Bangladesh or invite a World XI in case India refuse to come," PCB chairman General Tausif Zia said.

"Whenever I meet Indian Board officials they show an inclination to play Pakistan but their decisions are taken by their government."

The two sides were expected to meet in the Sahara Cup in Toronto later this month but India have already pulled out of the tournament.

**Ban on Malik
doesn't exist?**

KARACHI, Sept 7: A lawyer for former Pakistani cricket captain Salim Malik said Thursday the life ban against the player was not legally imposed and his client was ready to challenge it, reports AFP.

To the best of my knowledge Malik is not in receipt of any order of Pakistan Cricket Board imposing on him the punishment recommended in Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum's report," lawyer Shahid Hamid told this news agency.

"PCB served a show cause notice on Malik asking him why recommendations of Justice Qayyum be not imposed and Malik has given a detailed reply and gave reasons why the punishments be not imposed," he said.

PCB made public Justice Qayyum's report into allegations of match fixing in May last year in which Malik and pacer Ataur Rahman were banned for life and fined one million rupees (20,000 US dollars) each.

Wasim Akram, Saeed Anwar, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Inzamamul Haq and Aman Raza were each fined between 100,000 to 300,000 rupees following recommendations.

PCB has said the recommendations were implemented immediately.

The legal process is not followed, Malik has given a comprehensive reply," Hamid said.

PCB chairman General Tausif Zia told reporters on Tuesday that Malik's reply to the notice had been rejected by PCB and should be presented to a court of law.

Malik was given ten days to supply another response to the notice.

"I have myself read General Zia's statement in the press, we have not been given anything in writing," the lawyer said.

Once we get a letter that reply to show cause notice has been rejected we will decide about our next move," he said.

Hamid said his client deserves a personal hearing.

Pistol Pete shoots Richard



NEW YORK, Sept 7: Thirteen-time Grand Slam winner Pete Sampras escaped defeat here Wednesday to rally from a set down and four set points in the second set tie-breaker to subdue hard-serving Dutchman Richard Krajicek and reach the semifinals of the 15 million-dollar Grand Slam hardcourt event, reports AFP.

Krajicek had double break point in the sixth game to even it but Sampras lined up four straight points to maintain the lead, then broke the Dutchman a final time in the 7th game to serve out the match on a 131-mile-per-hour first serve winner.

"The fourth set was a disaster. That's the one I'm really disappointed about. I should have stayed with him on serve."

Sampras will face in Sunday's semifinals Australian teen-ager Lleyton Hewitt, who

reached his first Grand Slam Semi Final. The 19-year-old Australian, the number 9th seed, beat 37-ranked Clement 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 in 1 hour and 53 minutes while serving 18 aces along the way.

"Lleyton is playing great," Sampras said. "He gave me a lesson at the Queens Club (Hewitt beat Sampras 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Wimbledon tune-up tournament). He's a feisty young guy that's not going to give me any free points. He's one of the futures of the game."

Hewitt, whose ATP high four titles this year match those of Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten, Spain's Alex Corretja and Magnus Norman of Sweden, will be the youngest man to make it to the last four here since Pete Sampras in 1990.

"Richard was outplaying me," Sampras said. "I just felt I was going to lose the second set and be down two sets to love. I thought I was finished. There was nothing I could do. He was doing everything a little better than me."

"The way he was serving, you just pray. My prayers were answered I got a little bit fortunate in the tie-breaker," he added.

The victory was reminiscent of this year's Wimbledon final between Sampras and Australian Patrick Rafter. There, Sampras also rallied from a set and 4-1 down in the second set tie-breaker before pulling out a four-set victory to claim his 7th Wimbledon crown.

The whole match was a carbon copy of the Wimbledon final. I was thinking about it a lot after the second set. With the tiebreak, the whole match changed within a couple of minutes," Sampras said.

"Richard got maybe a touch down on himself. I started playing a little bit better."

The four-time US Open champion, who only dropped his serve once before his quarterfinal match, was broken in the 9th game of the opening set when his forehand volley sailed wide. The ceaseless net-rushing Dutchman and Sampras exchanged service breaks in the beginning of the second set.

Krajicek opened a 6-2 lead in the tie-breaker and had four set points but Sampras reeled off six consecutive points to even the match at one set apiece.

"I don't think I did anything wrong. I didn't have the feeling I could really blame my self in the

American Pete Sampras is exultant after winning against Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands in the quarterfinals of the US Open in New York on September 6. - AFP photo

SYDNEY SIDELINES

SYDNEY, Sept 7 (AP): When Franklin Servan-Schreiber granted access for a television documentary about the inner workings of the International Olympic Committee, he thought it would help portray the IOC in a positive light.

Instead, the footage ended up in the hands of one of the IOC's most vocal critics - and Servan-Schreiber nearly lost his job.

Servan-Schreiber, the IOC's communications director and chief spokesman, survived pressure for his dismissal Thursday. While his position is safe, at least for now, he will likely have a less visible role during the upcoming Sydney Games.

Servan-Schreiber, a 34-year-old Frenchman, was hired in 1996 to head the IOC's Internet operations. Within months, he was promoted to the PR job at the height of the Salt Lake City bribery scandal.

Earlier this year, he authorised exclusive, behind-the-scenes access to a German TV crew in a bid to show how the IOC was opening up and rebuilding after the scandal.

Without the IOC's knowledge, the German producers provided the material to other outlets. The footage was used for a documentary presented by Andrew Jennings, the British journalist and author who has been highly critical of the IOC.

The documentary first aired two weeks ago in Britain on the BBC. It has since been shown in Australia and other countries.

The programme features interviews with Servan-Schreiber and IOC executive board mem-

bers Kevan Gosper of Australia, Dick Pound of Canada, Jacques Rogge of Belgium and Kim Young of South Korea. The commentary is mostly critical and spins off Jennings' new book, "the great Olympic Swindle."

In one particularly embarrassing scene, Gosper argues with Servan-Schreiber over who is in charge during a photo shot of IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch at Sydney's Olympic stadium.

In another, Gosper - unaware that he is being recorded - is overheard whispering to Servan-Schreiber about his daughter's controversial role as the first Australian to run with the Olympic torch after the flame lighting ceremony in Greece.

Sydney organising committee chief Michael Knight, who has had tense relations with Servan-Schreiber, met with Samaranch this week to push for his firing, according to Olympic sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The executive board held a special two-hour meeting Wednesday night to watch the programme and assess Servan-Schreiber's position.

NUMBERS CRUNCH

The IOC has ironed out a customs and immigrations mix-up that could have left athletes traveling to Australia stranded at airports in Europe and Asia.

IOC executive Jacques Rogge said athletes traveling through Vienna and Bangkok airports had encountered difficulties with airline staff.

The Olympic credential serves as official entry visa to Australia under a special agreement between the Australian government and the IOC.

Rogge said authorities had noticed all airlines and airport administrators of the visa arrangements, but the information had not filtered through to all levels.

"Some airline companies were requesting normal visas - those problems have been addressed," he said. "No athlete has been left behind at an airport."

IOC officials declined to name the airlines involved or when the trouble occurred.

VISA MIXUP

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1/5-Cyberwar

6:00 World Headlines

6:30 Made in India: Moneywise

7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report

7:30 Talking Movies (Presenter: Tom Brook)

8:00 BBC World News 8:30

9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Asia

10:00 BBC World News 10:30

11:00 World Business Report 10:30

Made in India: Question Time

11:30 World Business Report 11:45

12:30 Hardtalk (Presenter: Tim Sebastian)

1:00 World Sport 12:30 Hardtalk (Presenter: Tim Sebastian)

1:30 World Sport 12:30 Hardtalk (