

## Pakistan shocked

ISLAMABAD, Nov 18: Islamabad on Friday deplored New Delhi's statement that it called off its cricket team's tour of Pakistan because of hostile propaganda and calls for a holy war, reports AFP.

"I would only like to say that we deplore the outbursts of Indian officials against Pakistan," a foreign office spokesman said in a statement to the official Associated Press of Pakistan.

The Indian team was due here in December to play three Test matches and five one-day internationals.

But New Delhi cancelled its team's first Test tour of Pakistan in 11 years on Wednesday saying the atmosphere was not conducive for cricket.

On Thursday, an Indian foreign ministry spokesman said Pakistan's "hostile propaganda and constant calls for jihad (holy war)" provoked the cancellation.

The Pakistani official described the statement as "unwarranted, propagandistic and part of Indian policy of keeping tension high."

The cancellation of the tour is a matter between the cricket authorities of the two countries, he said.

Pakistan Cricket Board has now threatened to boycott all future matches with India.

"This puts us in a position where we would like to review our relationship with India and may not play them even in offshore, tri-national, one-day events," the Board's chairman, General Tauqir Zia, said Wednesday.

## Replay incident makes Kiwis unhappy

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Nov 18: New Zealand expressed their disappointment on Friday after a television umpiring system failed in their first Test against South Africa, reports Reuters.

Jacques Kallis was 76 not out on the first day when a straight drive from batting partner Daryl Cullinan was deflected onto the non-striker's stumps by bowler Shayne O'Connor.

However, replays supplied to third umpire Rudi Koertzen did not enable him to make a conclusive decision on whether Kallis was run out.

Kallis went on to make an undefeated 153 as South Africa reached the close on 270 to three.

But a replay of the incident included in a subsequent highlights package of the day's play showed Kallis had made his ground.

However, that was not the issue as far as New Zealand coach David Trist was concerned.

"It was disappointing that they didn't have the technology available to the third umpire when he required it to make a decision," Trist told reporters.

If the technology is going to fail, it does make the game very frustrating not only for the players but for the public as well."

Trist was asked whether the incident had angered the New Zealand players.

"No, because once it's gone, it's gone and you've got to press on," Trist said. "You can't carry that kind of baggage with you because the next ball's the major issue."

Vince Gibbons, executive producer of the television broadcast, said: "The video tape operator rewound the tape to play the incident back and the machine indicated that it had a real error."

"It kept on rewinding to a point where he couldn't identify the tape any longer."

**World Indoor Soccer**  
**Boys from Brazil start favourites**

GUATEMALA, Nov 18: Brazil head a group of South American teams here this Saturday in an unprecedented campaign for a fourth world indoor football title, reports AFP.

An early Christmas present perhaps but Brazil will be used to such accolades by now having won the three previously staged events in Holland (1989), Hong Kong (1992) and Barcelona (1996).

With 16 national teams present for this FIFA-accredited event Brazil are favourites for a fourth consecutive title with Spain, Brazil's 1996 finalists, hotly favoured from among the five-time European group.

The first day of competition at the specially-built "Domo" (Dome) pits hosts Guatemala against Portugal in Group A, while fellow Group opponents Kazakhstan have the unenviable task of squaring up to Brazil.

The hosts are largely expected to be eliminated before the quarter-finals, the reason being that indoor football is a relatively new phenomenon in this country.

But still the boys from Brazil are taking no chances and coach Fernando Cardoso has recalled Fredy Garcia, Claudio Rojas and goalscorer Carlos Ruiz.

Also included in the South American group are Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba and Uruguay.

Europe will be counting on Spain, Portugal, Holland, Russia, Croatia, while Asia is represented by Iran, Kazakhstan and Thailand.

Oceania has one representative in Australia while Africa look to Egypt to do the continent proud.



Manchester United's David Beckham (R) is ecstatic after scoring against old rivals Manchester City in their Premiership match yesterday. — AFP photo

## Premiership

# Beck breaks City hearts



LONDON, Nov 18: A goal by England captain David Beckham after just two minutes was enough to give Premiership leaders Manchester United a 1-0 win over local rivals Manchester City in the 125th Manchester derby at Maine Road Saturday, reports AFP.

Dead-ball specialist Beckham curled a superb free-kick past City goalkeeper Nicky Weaver after Albie Haaland had clattered into Paul Scholes just outside the penalty area.

The goal was particularly sweet for Beckham who was pelted with missiles thrown by City fans when taking corner kicks.

United, with nine wins from their last 10 games, take a five point lead at the top of the table although second-placed Arsenal may close the gap should they win at Everton later Saturday.

City, competing in their first local derby for four-and-a-half years, have lost their last four league games and are still dangerously close to the relegation zone.

The Trinidadian's first touch was a poor one, forcing him away from the City goal, but he still managed to get in a low shot which Weaver did well to turn away for a corner.

Eleven minutes later, the home side came close to leveling the scores.

Wright-Phillips broke the United offside trap with a beautifully timed pass and put Haaland through on goal with just Fabien Barthez to beat.

The City skipper tried to go

son Mark's wedding, leaving assistant coach Steve McLaren in charge.

City were unable to get into their stride in front of a passionate home crowd with United finding the back of the net after just 95 seconds.

Haaland cut down Scholes 30 yards out from goal in a central position and City rather foolishly decided not to form a wall for the free-kick.

Up stepped Beckham and his trusty right foot curled an unstoppable shot past Weaver and into the top right-hand corner.

City tried to respond - Nicky Butt made a great saving tackle on Haaland in the box and Jeff Whitley's shot from the rebound was blocked.

Wright-Phillips shot over the bar as City went in search of an equaliser but after 22 minutes Dwight Yorke should have doubled United's advantage.

In a swift counter attack, Beckham's long pass found Scholes with space on the left wing and his low cross ran into Yorke's path.

Barthez managed to prevent Haaland getting a clean contact on a close-range header but the City captain's effort still travelled towards goal only for Brown to thump the ball away with the goal gaping.

Despite enjoying the lion's share of the possession, United failed to increase their lead further and City almost made them pay with 20 minutes to go.

Barthez managed to prevent Haaland getting a clean contact on a close-range header but the City captain's effort still travelled towards goal only for Brown to thump the ball away with the goal gaping.

Five minutes later Scholes fired into the side-netting with an open goal to aim at and then Weaver blocked Yorke's low effort with an outstretched leg.

Temper boiled over in the closing stages with both sets of players involved in niggly exchanges but United kept their nerve to take all three points.

round the French international but Barthez stretched out a hand to force Haaland wide and the chance was gone.

Four minutes from the interval Butt was denied by Weaver who came rushing out of goal to tackle the England international.

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## ICC has \$4m to probe 'fix'

LAHORE, Nov 18 (Reuters): International Cricket Council (ICC) President Malcolm Gray said on Friday the council's anti-corruption unit had a 4 million US dollar budget to investigate wrong-doing in the game.

He said the unit's leader, former London police chief Paul Condon, would send investigators around the world to collect evidence.

"In terms of criminality we have no power at all," Gray told a news conference here, adding each country was conducting its own inquiries.

The anti-corruption unit will give its first report next April to the code of conduct committee headed by Lord Griffith who will look into the findings before taking any action against an individual or cricket board," he said.

"I believe they have enormous job to carry out. Membership of ICC of any board found violating the code of conduct could be suspended by the ICC."

Cricket has been rocked by a series of corruption scandals in recent months, the most high-profile being the admission by former South Africa captain Hansie Cronje that he took money to fix matches.

Earlier this month a preliminary report by India's Central Bureau of Investigation named nine former international captains as being involved in match-fixing or having been linked with Indian bookmakers in different ways.

Gray meanwhile admitted that the proposal of shifting the ICC headquarters from London was in the pipeline.

He said in Singapore, discussions were held on the next location, "Holland, Monaco, Switzerland, Singapore and England are under consideration."

He said the ICC was also considering the appointment of both the third country umpires. He added that at the moment, the ICC was reviewing the standard of umpiring.

The ball fell kindly to Yorke who lofted the rebound towards goal but Steve Howey ran back in time to boot the ball to safety.

Beckham, who was booted with every touch by the home fans, stepped up to take the corner and was showered with coins before police moved in.

Butt almost doubled United's tally after 56 minutes when a Beckham free-kick fell to him in the City penalty area but he shot lazily over the bar with the goal gaping.

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Veron out for one month

ROME, Nov 18: Lazio's Argentinian international midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron will be sidelined for almost a month after picking up an injury to his left leg in his country's match with Chile this week, reports AFP.

Club doctor Andrea Campi examined Veron shortly after he arrived back at the San Giacomo Hospital and said the player would be unavailable for selection from three to four weeks.

"His leg was put in a cast and although he can continue working in the gym he will be unable to kick a ball for 20 days and may only be able to return in his club's last match before Christmas."

Veron picked up the injury during the 2-0 victory over Chile.

J-League

## Miura back with a bang

TOKYO, Nov 18: Atsuhiko Miura proved he is back in form after an injury at the Asian Cup by scoring a goal and assisting for another to lead Yokohama Marinos to a 2-1 win over Cerezo Osaka in the J-League on Saturday, reports AFP.

It was the first game for the 26-year-old midfielder after he suffered a sprained lumbar during a first-stage match against Qatar in Beirut at the Asian Cup, which eventually Japan went on to win for a second time.

Only two minutes after Cerezo opened the scoring in the 19th minute, Miura dribbled through down the left for an equalizer.

Miura fired a sparkling shot in the 56th minute, which Osaka goalkeeper Seigo Shimokawa saved, but Korean defender Yoo Sang-Chul quickly collected the ball for a right-foot winner.

"I was able to move very well, trying to control the ball as many times as possible. That's what I'm satisfied with," said Miura after the first-stage winners' seventh win against five losses and a draw for 22 points.

"The result is that, every time I get injured, they tell me to rest and take my time."

No doubt, if he is to add the French league title he helped Monaco attain this year with a Premiership title next year, Barthez will be accepting every word of affection the staff, and players, can gently send his way.

FABIEN BARTHEZ

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But still the boys from Brazil are taking no chances and coach Fernando Cardoso has recalled Fredy Garcia, Claudio Rojas and goalscorer Carlos Ruiz.

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# Thais take Tiger Cup



BANGKOK, Nov 18: Worrawut Sri-maka scored a hattrick to steer Thailand to a comfortable 4-1 victory over Indonesia in the final to lift the Tiger Cup trophy at the Rajamangala Stadium Saturday night.

Srimaka, suspended for the semifinal match against Malaysia, was in his element, scoring all three goals in the first half before he was substituted early in the second half.

He said the unit's leader, former London police chief Paul Condon, would send investigators around the world to collect evidence.

"In terms of criminality we have no power at all," Gray told a news conference here, adding each country was conducting its own inquiries.

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It was Thailand's Srimaka who tested Indonesian goalkeeper Hendro Kartika as early as the fourth minute. He latched on to a cross from the left but his shot went straight to Kartika.

Indonesia, who received 40,000 dollars as runners-up, caused Thailand some trouble, but not seriously as Thailand continued their relentless attack and the crowd of over 50,000 had something to scream about when Srimaka scored in the 18th minute, again through Srimaka.

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