

Spotakova sets WR in javelin

AFP, Stuttgart

Olympic champion Barbora Spotakova of the Czech Republic set a new world javelin record with a throw of 72.28m here at the IAAF World Athletics Final on Saturday.

The reigning world and Olympic champion smashed the old record by 58cm as she broke the previous mark of 71.70m set by Cuba's Oseleidis Menendez at the 2005 World Athletics Championships in Helsinki.

Spotakova, whose personal best at the beginning of season was 67.12m, broke the European record with a throw of 71.42m at last month's Beijing Olympic Games with her sixth and last attempt.

It gave her an Olympic gold medal and saw her beat Russian Maria Abakumova who had also broken the continental mark with a throw of 70.78m just minutes earlier.

'Advantage with India'

PTI, New Delhi

With the Australian attack losing the venom of the recent past and two rookie spinners in the visiting squad, India has a bright chance to avenge their 2004 series loss in next month's Test series, feels former Sri Lanka coach Dav Whatmore.

Whatmore, now director (cricket operations) of the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore said Anil Kumble's boys should capitalise on the inexperienced Australian bowling to beat the world champions.

"I think in the series they (India) are fairly fortunate. There is no Warne, no McGrath (in the Australian squad), that is over 1000 wickets taken out. India have got advantage. Generally, speaking you would need everyone firing for Australia to win a Test match," he said.

"The attack that's coming over is not as experienced as what has been. They (India) will enjoy that, they will capitalise on that, get enough runs, protect and bowl the opposition out twice," the Australian told cricketnirvana.com.

He, though, had a word of caution and said India would do well if they allow their pace spearhead Brett Lee and captain Ricky Ponting little success.

"(It) is an inexperienced side coming over. But even in this inexperienced team there are a couple of match-winners in Lee and Ponting. We cannot overlook that.

"We can never write Ponting off. He has enough experience in the subcontinent. He has played enough in Pakistan, India, as well as Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in recent times. He has enough experience here to come along and start to play the ball not coming onto the bat as much as these guys like," said the 1996 World Cup winning coach.

PCB invites WI for two Tests

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan have "formally invited" West Indies to play two Tests in November in another attempt to fill the gap created by the postponement of the Champions Trophy.

"We have formally invited the West Indies board to send their team to play two Tests in Pakistan immediately after the three-match one-day series ends in Abu Dhabi," Shafqat Naghmi, the PCB's chief operating officer, told PTI. "We are hopeful West Indies will respond positively or else this year we just have the one-day series in Abu Dhabi and a Twenty20 four-nation event in October."

The Pakistan board had initially proposed a tri-series in South Africa but the plan fell through after Cricket South Africa said their players were fatigued following a long tour of England. They then tried to set up an ODI series against Sri Lanka but had received "ridiculously low figures" for the television rights.

Pakistan have been deprived of Test cricket in 2008 after Australia postponed their tour of the country for Test and ODI series, scheduled for March, because of security concerns. They hosted the Asia Cup in June-July, but the Champions Trophy, which was supposed to begin on September 12, was also postponed after five countries said they wouldn't participate in the tournament due to security fears.

Academy draw

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in just 60.5 overs. Also the captain, Nayem, slammed ten boundaries in his 183-ball knock.

The highlight for Bangladesh in the match was definitely Shamsur Rahman's first innings 125 which gave the visitors a big first innings score.

The visitors will play the second four-dayer from September 16 at the Premadasa Stadium.

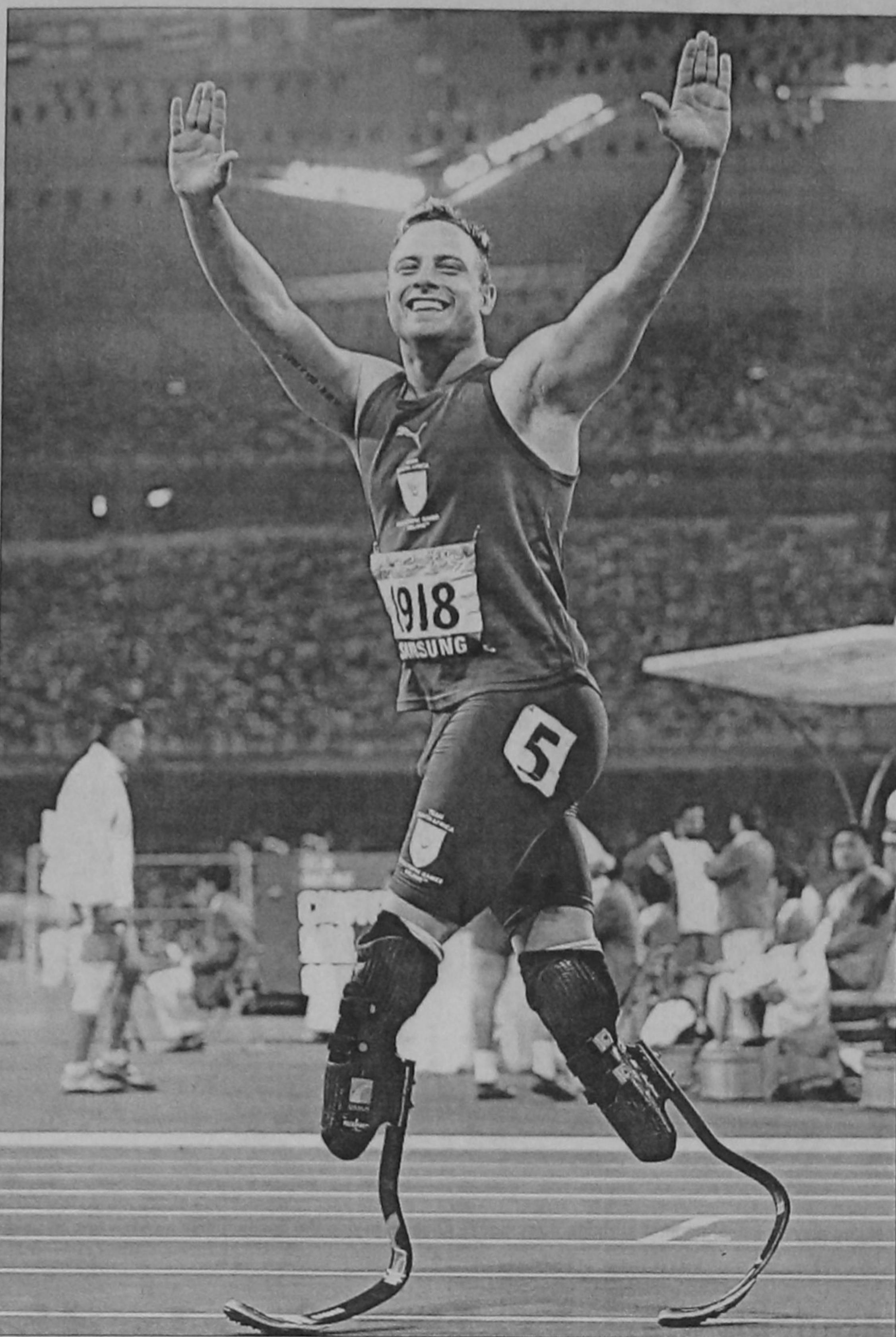
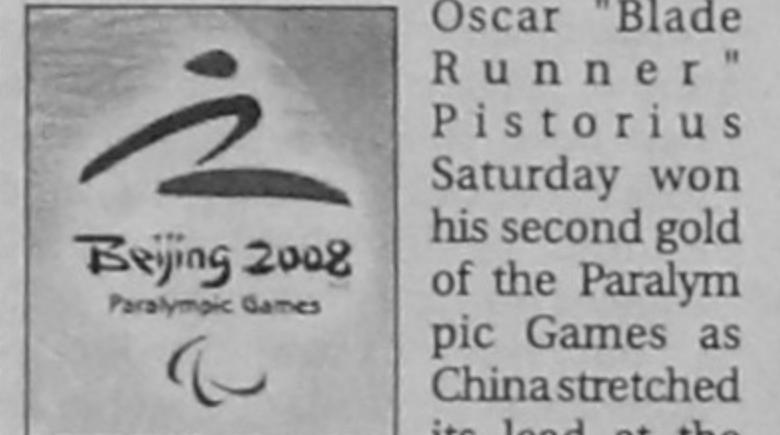


PHOTO: AFP

Oscar Pistorius of South Africa celebrates after winning the final of the men's 200 metre T44 classification event at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games on Saturday.

Pistorius wins 200m gold

AFP, Beijing



Oscar "Blade Runner" Pistorius Saturday won his second gold of the Paralympic Games as China stretched its lead at the medals table.

And there was controversy as Iran abruptly withdrew from their men's wheelchair basketball quarterfinal with the United States complaining of a change in schedule. Pistorius -- aiming for a sprint treble here -- was dominant down the home straight, finishing in 21.67secs, almost a second clear of Jim Bob Bizzell from the United States, with Britain's Ian Jones in third.

"I'm really looking forward to the 400m. If those two races, if it goes like that, then I'll be extremely happy," said the South African, the world record holder in his category in all three events.

Nicknamed after the carbon fibre blades he wears, Pistorius won a court battle to take part in the Olympics after proving himself a strong competitor against able-bodied athletes.

He eventually failed to qualify for the Beijing Olympics, blaming in part the distraction of his court battle, but he is targeting the London 2012 Games.

In the pool, Erin Popovich of the United States missed out on the chance to add to her clutch of four gold medals, losing to China's Huang Min in the women's 50m butterfly.

China had 48 golds and 129 medals in total Saturday evening -- boosted by 22 athletics golds and eight in table tennis -- with Britain's 37 golds and 80 medals overall.

Meanwhile, the Iranian wheelchair basketball team had been due to play the United States in a morning clash but forfeited the game.

"This is definitely one of the most amazing nights ever. It's really been a good memory."

Pistorius has just one race left,

the 400m, in which he is targeting a world record.

One potential semifinal opponent for Iran had been Israel.

But a member of the Iranian delegation told AFP: "The main reason for not participating is the change of competition time by the organisers" after the game was rescheduled to 9:00am from 11:15am.

Controversies have taken some of the gloss off what has otherwise been a celebration of disabled sports, led by the performances of South African Olympian Natalie du Toit, who has won four golds in the pool, and Pistorius.

So far four athletes, including three powerlifters, have been kicked out of the Games for doping offences.

And Irish sports chiefs Thursday announced that athlete Derek Malone had been banned from the Paralympics because authorities had deemed him not disabled enough.

A total of 641 doping tests had been carried out at the Games, both in and out of competition, by the end of Thursday.

At the Athens Games, a total of 680 doping tests were conducted, resulting in 10 violations.

More than 4,000 competitors from nearly 150 countries and regions are battling for 472 gold medals in 20 sports at the Paralympics.

Hosts score 8 to reach final

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Hattricks from Mahbub and Jahangir gave Manikganj a fantastic 8-2 win over Tangail as they reached the final of the Dhaka Range Police Football League at the local police line ground yesterday.

Apart from their hattricks, Raja and Rafiq added one goal each.

But the game was in defending champions Tangail's grasp when Satyendra and Mahbub scored to give them a 2-0 lead.

But that was enough encouragement for the hosts as they smashed eight goals and reached the final.

Babel blows

FROM PAGE 17

United, though, Giggs ultimately lost it for Ferguson's men when he allowed Mascherano to steal possession in the touchline in front of The Kop.

Giggs should have cleared, but Mascherano claimed the ball and squared to Babel, who netted from 12 yards to cap a dramatic Liverpool fightback.

Durham now stand on 15 points at third in the table after picking up a full complement of bonus points.

ICC's lost chance

INTERNET, undated

The postponement of the ICC Champions Trophy was not only a monetary loss for host nation Pakistan but the chance to hold the international captains' meet by the ICC is lost too.

There used to be a practice of arranging an international cricket captains' meeting by the ICC every year.

"No, we have not stopped that practice. The meetings still take place but now we do so during ICC events where all captains are in a single location," ICC's media manager Brian Murgatroyd told Cricketnext.com.

ICC's General Manager (Cricket) David Richardson will not be able to meet all captains together until next year. He, however, may meet few captains occasionally and discuss the prospects of the game.

Richardson is believed to have met India's Test captain Anil Kumble (during India's recent tour of Sri Lanka) but his meeting with ODI and Twenty20 captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni is now deferred.

Modi to head Champions League

INTERNET, undated

BCCI vice-president and Indian Premier League's chairman and commissioner, Lalit Modi was on Friday appointed the Chairman of the board of the Champions League Twenty20.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the three founding member boards the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Cricket Australia and Cricket South Africa, a media release said here on Friday.

Lalit Modi, the Chairman and Commissioner of the DLF Indian Premier League and the guiding force behind the event, is also the President of the Rajasthan Cricket Association.

Lalit Modi was listed among India's 20 most powerful people by India Today magazine. Under his astute and enterprising leadership, the BCCI's revenues have increased seven-fold since he joined the board in 2005.

In the August 2008 issue of the leading British sports magazine Sports Pro he is ranked number 17 in the Power List of Global figures connected with sports.

He was also featured on the cover page of the magazine in its July issue. He is further hailed as the Best Rain Maker (money maker) for any sports body in the history of sports globally. In the short time that he has been a sports administrator he has raised over 4 billion dollars for his organisation.

The inaugural Champions League Twenty20 season will be held from December 3 to 10, 2008 where eight teams are expected to take part.

The second edition of the tournament will be contested by 12 scheduled to be held from September 25 and October 10, 2009.

The prize money of 6 million dollars, will be shared between the teams and their players. The Governing Council of the event together with its founding cricket boards believes that the significant prize money to be shared by teams and players will ensure that the benefits of the event will foster cricket's development by injecting new funding into domestic-level cricket.

At the same time will handover rewards to domestic-level cricketers and provide a unique opportunity for a higher public profile for players at the level below international cricket.

"I don't see it as a backwards step that Beau Casson is gone,"

Crossword By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Logic, 1 Singer, 37 Cyber, 5 Witticism, 8 Fal, 12 Lotion, 13 Onassis, 14 Dandling, 15, 45, 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513,