

India may miss **BB Boxing event**

Chances of Indian Boxing team's participation in the Second Benazir Bhutto Shaheed International Boxing Championship are looking bleak due to non-issuance of clearance chit from the Pakistan Interior Ministry.

Inside sources have confirmed to this scribe that more than 20 countries are participating in the Championship organised by the Pakistan Boxing Federation (PBF). Indian boxers were all set to participate in the tournament and federation has applied for their visas and sought NOC for thirteen Indian boxers on December 2.

When this correspondent contacted Pakistan Interior Ministry to seek their point of view, a source on condition of anonymity said that the ministry can't issue clearance chit to them at a very short notice as the entire visa process needs at least four weeks to complete and it would be very difficult to issue visas at such a short notice.

Meanwhile, Indian boxers were scheduled to reach Pakistan via Wahga border on Monday; the team comprises of ten boxers, two coaches and a manager. When this correspondent contacted the PBF about the whole episode, they confirmed that the Interior Ministry was contacted for issuance of clearance to Indian boxers and they are in close contact with Interior Ministry in this regard.

PBF is looking for some suitable person to fill the gap left by the absence of both Aamir Khan and Mike Tyson, expected to attend the inauguration ceremony but now backed out at the eleventh hour, which left the PBF in a fix and are trying to arrange other personality for the opening ceremony. PM Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani will attend the opening ceremony on Dec 22.