

Nehemiah for blood tests

NEW YORK, Apr 8: Former world 110-metre high hurdles record holder Renaldo Nehemiah yesterday called on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and world sports federations to begin blood testing to wipe out doping in Olympic sports, reports Reuter.

"People are beating the (urine) test. Testosterone and human growth hormone cannot be detected. The only way to do away with this is to give a blood test," Nehemiah said during a telephone news conference.

Currently the IOC uses only urine tests to detect doping. But both Nehemiah and fellow American Thomas Jefferson, the 1984 Olympic 200-metre bronze medalist, said they believed doping remains a problem in athletics.

"I fully don't believe that everyone in this country is clean, especially in the sprints," Jefferson said.

The chairman of the IOC medical commission, Prince Alexandre De Merode, wanted to introduce experimental blood testing at the Albertville Winter Olympics, but met opposition within the IOC. He later announced that more than 10,000 tests would be conducted in several European countries to study blood testing.

Dr Don Catlin, a US member of the IOC medical commission's subcommittee for doping, said on Tuesday chances were "60-40" for some type of blood testing at the Barcelona Olympics.

DLV decision raises a storm



BONN, Apr 8: German athletics has lost all its credibility by lifting the doping ban on double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe, former Olympic high jump champion Dietmar Moegenburg said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"I think our credibility has gone as far as the athletics federation, Krabbe and everybody is concerned," the 1984 Olympic champion told the German magazine Stern.

"The basic message from all this to the athletes as far as doping is concerned is: Just do what you want. It is now time to start saying the unthinkable. Send private detectives after the athletes, for example. But do something."

The German Athletics Federation (DLV) were due to meet in Frankfurt later on Tuesday to discuss Sunday's ruling by its legal commission to lift the four-year ban on Krabbe and teammates Grit Breuer and Silke Mecler for rigging dope tests.

The three athletes, who provided identical urine samples during a training test in South Africa in January, were cleared because the commission could not rule out the possibility of their samples being tampered with by someone else.

DLV anti-doping officials have said the ruling will make it very difficult to carry out

flawless tests in the future. Resignations are expected in the top hierarchy of the federation after the Tuesday meeting.

As the public debate over the affair continued, the athletes' coach Tomas



KATRIN KRABBE

Springstein, who was sacked by the DLV after the ban, told a news conference in Krabbe's home town of Neubrandenburg that he expected to be reinstated.

"We are going to talk about it this week. I hope that we come to an agreement," Springstein said.

Krabbe, the 100m and 200m champion at last year's World Championships, told journalists at the same news conference that she knew she now had enemies.

Krabbe must wait till May for IAAF clearance

BONN, Apr 8: German sprinter Katrin Krabbe will not know until the end of May whether she will be allowed to take part in the Olympic Games, reports AFP.

The 22-year-old double world champion was cleared on Sunday of tampering with drug test samples and a four-year ban on competing in Germany was lifted.

But she needs clearance from the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) to take part in international events. August Kirsch, a member of the IAAF executive, said here Tuesday the matter would not be discussed until meeting of the world governing body in Toronto from May 29 to May 31.

Krabbe again insisted on Tuesday that she was counting on taking part in the Barcelona Olympics at the end of July.

She also said she would not be taking legal action against the German Athletics Federation (DLV) and was ready to "start talks with the DLV to normalise relations."

Shahjahan's death condoled

Minister of State for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka yesterday expressed his profound shock and grief at the death of renowned footballer of the sub-continent Mohammed Shahjahan, reports BSS.

A former captain of the Calcutta Mohammedan Sporting Club in British India, Mohammed Shahjahan died of a heart attack at Gulshan Clinic midnight Tuesday night. The deceased was admitted to the clinic following a massive heart attack five days ago.

In a condolence message the State Minister said late Shahjahan, who donned the Mohammedan colours in pre-partition days and captained the team, was a great player and son of the soil. He said in his death the nation had lost a great sports personality.

He said a recipient of the National award for football, Mohammed Shahjahan also proved his worth as a sports organiser and commentator.

The State Minister also expressed his sympathies to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Additional Secretary, in-charge of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Nazrul Islam also condoled the death of Mohammed Shahjahan. He said the death of the renowned footballer would create a void in the sports arena. He also prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

AC Milan boss under fire



ROME, Apr 8: Gianni Rivera, former AC Milan and Italy star, said Milan president Silvio Berlusconi could ruin soccer in the country if he continued to sign up many of the game's stars, reports Reuter.

Milan, unbeaten in the league all season, have turned the Italian league into a one-horse race and have the title virtually won with seven games left to play.

Berlusconi, Italy's leading media magnate, has made no secret of his plan to create two teams for next season — one for league games and another for midweek cup and European ties.

But Rivera, a star of the Milan side which won the European Cup twice in the 1960s, believes this will harm soccer.

"Now there are those who can enlarge their squads to the point of infinity like Berlusconi and those who cannot. This means in a few years there will be a dictatorial regime in soccer," Rivera said in an interview with Italian daily Corriere dello Sport published on Wednesday.

"Milan will be like Real Madrid in the 1950s. They won in Spain and abroad without meeting resistance. But I don't think people enjoyed it

very much." Rivera, a politician re-elected to the Italian parliament in weekend elections, said the Italian soccer federation should intervene to limit activity in the transfer market.



FRANK RIJKAARD

tions or it'll be the end," he said.

For next season the federation proposes no restrictions on the number of foreign players a club has under contract but only three of these will be allowed to play in the league each week.

Milan already have Dutch trio Frank Rijkaard, Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten on their books.

They recently signed Brazil's under-21 striker Giovane Elber, while Red Star Belgrade midfielder Dejan

Savicevic joins them next season and Marseille striker Jean-Pierre Papin will also possibly move to Milan. The International Football Federation (FIFA), concerned at a growing tendency of some wealthy clubs signing players and then parking them with teams in other countries, said on Wednesday they were planning to curb the practice.

City hold United

LONDON, Apr 8: Manchester United could only extend their English soccer lead to two points yesterday when they were held to a 1-1 draw by a Manchester City team reduced to 10 men for the last 36 minutes, reports Reuter.

City fullback Neil Pointon was sent off in the 54th minute for a professional foul with his team trailing to a 20th-minute strike by young player-of-the-year Ryan Giggs.

But that did not stop them from snatching the equaliser after United defender and skipper Steve Bruce needlessly floored David White on the left side of the box in the 62nd minute.

City captain Keith Curle calmly drove the ball into the roof of the net past Peter Schmeichel to level the score.

Japan exits from America's Cup

SAN DIEGO, California, Apr 8: Japan is out of the America's Cup, and France is teetering on the edge as a result of challengers' racing on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

In confusing challengers' racing, New Zealand beat Nippon (Japan) by 31 seconds and 11 Moro di Venezia (Italy) beat Ville de Paris (France) by one minute 28 seconds.

Italy has secured her slot in the challenger finals with Tuesday's victory. New Zealand looks the most likely to join Italy, though France could still replace the Kiwis.

In points, Italy and New Zealand are now tied in first place with five victories and one loss each in semifinal racing. France has three victories and four losses, and Japan 1-6.

The day was full of delays and protests.

Both Italy and Nippon had asked for delays to the starts because of equipment trouble. And 11 Moro and Ville de Paris had to resail their race after both crossed the line early.

Italy immediately returned and restarted, but the race committee failed to fly the blue recall flag to notify France until 20 seconds after Ville de Paris skipper Marc Pajot had crossed the line.

At first the race committee disqualified the French, but the French sailed on, flying a red protest flag.

Athletes affected by Chernobyl disaster promised IOC help



MINSK (Belarus), Apr 8: The president of the International Olympic Committee on Tuesday promised help to young athletes living in areas contaminated by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, reports AP.

"The IOC and the Olympic movement are ready to give you both moral and material help," Juan Antonio Samaranch told leaders of the Belarus Olympic Committee during his tour of former Soviet republics. Seventy per cent of the territory of Belarus was affected by the 1986 accident at the nuclear reactor in Chernobyl in neighboring Ukraine.

Two million people in Belarus, including 800,000 children, are living in regions experiencing the effects of radiation, local organizations said. About 150,000 sports training schools for youngsters are located in those areas.

"There are 150,000 children practicing sports in Belarus and more than half live in contaminated areas," said Vladimir Ryzhenkov, president of the National Olympic Committee.

Samaranch asked the committee to send him a letter with suggestions for helping the children. He promised to respond before this summer's



SAMARANCH

Olympic Games in Barcelona. Ryzhenkov said he hoped the IOC could help arrange for thousands of children, aged between eight to 14, to attend training camps in western Europe.

"Ideally, we would like to send at least 50,000 children but realistically we hope that at least 5,000 will be able to go," he said.

Ryzhenkov said the Chernobyl victims are also in urgent need of medicines and medical equipment.

"We have found that the athletics capability of children is lower than before," he said. "They are often sick. Their

physical condition is suffering." The Chernobyl problem dominated Samaranch's discussions with sports and government leaders in Belarus.

"You can be sure the IOC would like to do something for these young boys and girls from the Chernobyl area," Samaranch told the Belarus head of state, Stanislav Shushkevich.

The IOC president urged Belarus to maintain close co-operation with sports organisations in other former Soviet republics.

Although the Soviet Union no longer exists, Belarus should continue to open sports training centers to other republics, Samaranch said.

Athletes from Belarus have won 63 gold medals as part of the Soviet Olympic team, including 17 at the 1988 Games in Seoul.

Belarus and 11 other former republics will compete as a united team for the last time this summer in Barcelona.

From Minsk, Samaranch flew to Kiev, capital of Ukraine, the fifth leg of his six-country tour. His last stop will be Moldova.

Super horse Arazi announces his arrival

ST CLOUD (France), Apr 8: Arazi, described by his owner and jockey as well below peak form, bolstered his status as the Kentucky Derby favourite with a runaway victory Tuesday in his only tune-up race, reports AP.

"If he is just about 60 per cent now, what will he be like at 100 per cent?" Wondered co-owner Allen Paulson. "He'll be awesome, a super, super horse."

Arazi, last year's 2-year-old horse-of-the-year, won by more than five lengths over a small, weak field after trailing in fifth position most of the first half of the 1,600-meter distance. His time of 1 minute, 48 seconds didn't threaten any records, but his jockey, Steve

Cauthen, was pleased.

"He's only 75 per cent right now, if that," Cauthen said.

"It's what he needed now." The colt, part of a three-horse entry by trainer Francois Boutin, was a 1-10 favourite in the 120,000-franc (dhs 21,450) Prix Omnium II. Arazi started moving on early leader Carson Day entering the straight. At the top of the stretch he took the lead and pulled away easily. Under tight control from Cauthen, he could have won by even more.

Two US-bred horses, Supremec and River Majesty, came in second and third. Cauthen, who rode Triple Crown winner Affirmed in 1978, was impressed with Arazi.

"He is very much like Affirmed — he can switch on and

off as you need him," Cauthen said. "As soon as he hits the front, he doesn't pull up but he relaxes. He wasn't doing that much in the last furlong."

Boutin said he was nervous about the horse's 3-year-old debut.

"Over the winter he gained strength but I was a bit worried until about three weeks ago," Boutin said. "He re-found all his dynamism and desire."

"Each time I ride him I am more impressed with the horse, with his temperament, with his intelligence, with his ability," Cauthen said. "I have ridden a lot of good horses but he is the first one I can compare to Affirmed. Potentially he has the skill to be a great horse."

Cauthen said Arazi is the horse to beat in the Kentucky

Derby. "In any big race, like the Olympics, no matter how good an athlete you are, you need a hit of luck," Cauthen said. "But barring bad luck, he should win."

The Eclipse Award winner — already an 8-5 favourite for the Kentucky Derby — showed he was fit following surgery last November to remove some arthritic spurs.

"The operation on his knees was a great success," Paulson said. "The yet who did the operation said it went perfect."

Arazi burst into prominence last November. He handled the field with ease at the Breeder's Cup Juvenile Stakes in Louisville last November, heading to a five-lengths victory in his first race on dirt.

Arazi won seven out of eight races last year, losing only his first. His career earnings are more than dhs 1 million.

Were he to capture the Triple Crown, the horse could win more than dhs 5 million. Boutin, however, is interested in a double of the Kentucky Derby and the English Derby.

The English race is June 3, meaning the colt would have to bypass both the Preakness (May 16) and the Belmont Stakes (June 6).

Boutin said it was his dream to win both Derbies but he has two owners to contend with. Paulson sold a half-interest in Arazi for dhs 9 million to Sheikh Mohammed al Maktoum of Dubai.

Paulson said the decision whether the horse will attempt the English Derby double will be made after the Kentucky Derby.

"It will be a three-part decision, between myself, Mohammed al Maktoum and the trainer," Paulson said. "We want to do what's best for the horse."

"However, I'm a Yankee and that should tell you where my preference is," Paulson added.

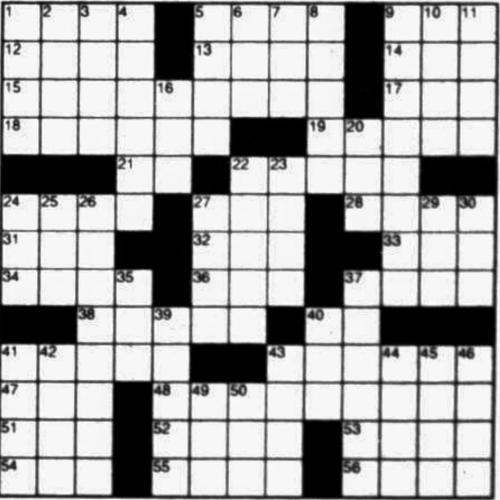


Sheikh Mohammed Haktoum of Dubai (C) pats his horse Arazi after he won the Prize Omnium II while American jockey Steve Cauthen (R) looks on in Saint Cloud, France on April 7. Man at left unidentified. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Spot of wine? 5 Arm or leg 9 County-fair prize winner? 12 Proceed 13 Tom Joad, e.g. 14 Fuss 15 10 cents face 17 60 sec. 18 Dress 19 Gerontologist's concern 21 Nyet canceler 22 Twangy 24 Bistro 27 School dance 28 Command to Fido 31 Stick figure? 32 — You Lonesome Tonight? 33 Praiseful verse 34 Do a pre-Yule chore 36 Send documents 37 Comes to a halt 38 Irangate VIP 40 Chopper 41 Tillstrom puppet 43 Have at 47 — See You in My Dreams 48 5 cent face 51 Blackbird 52 Pavarotti solo 53 "Look — I'm as..." 54 Chap concern 55 German address 56 "Quien — ?" DOWN 1 Taj Mahal site 2 Santa's laundry 23 Culmination 24 Former heifer 25 Schedule abbr. 26 \$100 face 27 Sword handle 29 Put 2 and 2 together 30 Positively 35 Candidate, for short 37 Mob-scene employees 39 Hindu prince 40 Devoured 41 New England Patriots owner 42 Arm bone shipper's place? 44 "The Thin Man" pooch 45 Rooster's pride 46 Football player's trouble spot 49 Previous to 50 Evergreen

LAST RIM SWEW ARIA OCA PILE MILLIBAR OLID BLOUSE TITLES SIR ASTI HAM STA MEANS APIS ASS DROP GELID PEG DRY LANE VIS ANIMAL IRKING PIKE MILLINER ODAS ELL NOME OENE ROE SNOW



CRYPTOQUIP ETR PADP PAX NDZTSG EXRGODOXU OSFKHGAXU HG D NUX X ZDE, AX 'G FDIY HE IHUISKDPHTE Today's Cryptiquip clue: O equals P The Cryptiquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.