

Miandad criticises Imran's plans



KARACHI, Apr 9: Pakistan's prolific run-getter and vice-captain Javed Miandad attacked skipper Imran Khan's call for changing the domestic cricket structure here Thursday, reports AFP.

Speaking to reporters, Miandad, 35, who made his Test debut in 1975, said "Imran's call to change the format of domestic cricket is based on a lack of knowledge of domestic cricket as he hasn't played it since the early '80s."



Imran Khan (L) and Javed Miandad discuss a point.

He was also disappointed that Imran had not said a word about his team members in his World Cup victory speech. "I think because of the team Imran got so much respect and he should not have forgotten the players," Miandad said, adding "I am personally very much hurt by this."

Miandad, who was praised by Imran for playing an anchor role in Pakistan's World Cup victory despite suffering back trouble, contested Imran's praise of English county cricket as a crowd getter. "Not more than 100 or 200 people, the majority of whom are pensioners, watch the match with a mug of beer and their pets," he said. He agreed, however, that there was a need that the organisations who hired players develop more grounds and play a greater role in promoting cricket.

create funds for raising and training various teams. "It is necessary to take such a step now that the economy is being deregulated and financial institutions may not find it worthwhile to patronise so many cricketers without actively contributing in revenue like an industry by those involved in it," Haseeb said.

"In his book All Round View, Imran maintains that county cricket makes a cricketer very sound tactically; yet he had ridiculed the same system when he wrote in the Daily Telegraph that 'County cricket is so poor that it cannot prepare a player for Test manhood'."

Bokhari said the West Indian Board had set a good example by dropping Vivian Richards simply because he did not play Red Stripe domestic cricket.

Qamar Ahmed, a London-based cricket writer said "While pleading for changing the format of domestic cricket Imran forgets the socio-economic system of Pakistan which is much different from other countries." Ahmed said Imran was also wrong to claim that only by playing a county-type system could Pakistan perform better in world cricket.

There was a time when Pakistan had about nine players playing for various counties in England yet the only overseas tour won was in New Zealand, Ahmed said. But now Pakistan have beaten India in India and won the World Cup with players who excelled and proved their mettle on Pakistan's so-called "dead wickets" which Imran condemns, he said.

Nat'l youth cricket from today

The twelfth national youth cricket championship begins in six zones of the country today April 10. Forty-two teams are competing in the knock-out tournament.

The participating sides are: Sylhet Zone: Chittagong, Habiganj, Feni, Moulvi Bazar, Tangail, Chandpur and Comilla. Tangail Zone: Mymensingh, Munshiganj, Sylhet, Narayanganj, Manikganj, Sherpur and Faridpur. Jessore Zone: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bholia, Patuakhali, Meherpur, Chuadanga and Kushtia. Barisal Zone: Khulna, Satkhira, Magura, Madaripur, Sirajganj, Jhenidah and Jessore. Pabna Zone: Rajshahi, Gaibandha, Jyoyrhat, Thakurgaon, Natore, Kurigram and Bogra. Thakurgaon Zone: Pabna, Panchagarh, Nawabganj, Rangpur, Naogaon, Nilphamari and Dinajpur.

The final round of the tournament will begin on April 18 in Dhaka.

Tyson unlikely to get bail

INDIANAPOLIS, Apr 9: The Indiana Supreme Court shouldn't consider Mike Tyson's request to be released on bail while he appeals his rape conviction, the state's attorney general argues, reports AP. But if Indiana's highest court decides to rule on the bail request, the five justices should deny Tyson his freedom because he poses a threat to flee or commit a violent crime again, the state's attorneys claim in briefs filed Wednesday. "Our position is Mr Tyson deserves the same rights and procedures that every other criminal in Indiana gets," said William Daily, a deputy attorney general. "He's gotten that in this case, and that's where it ends. Mr Tyson has already gone through the normal rights and procedures."

Aussies to tour Lanka in August

MELBOURNE, Apr 9: Australia will play three Tests and three one-day internationals as part of its five-week tour of Sri Lanka in August and September, the Australian Cricket Board announced Thursday, reports AP.

Colombo not far from where the New Zealand team were staying. Allan Border's Australian team will play one warm-up match in Kandy in central Sri Lanka, but the bulk of the tour is centred on Colombo. Each of the three Tests will include a rest day while the second one-day match at Khetarama will be played as a day-night game.

Ethnic violence on Sri Lanka has ruled out international cricket since 1987, but the Australians have been given assurances of the team's security and are scheduled to arrive in Colombo on Aug 8. New Zealand's 1987 tour was abandoned after just one Test when a bomb exploded in

Chappell's team won the single Test in Kandy by an innings and four runs. The tour itinerary is: Aug. 11-13: vs. Central districts, Kandy. Aug 15: One-day international, Khetarama. Aug 17-22: 1st Test, Colombo. Aug 24-26: vs. Southern districts, Matale. Aug 28-Sept 2: 2nd Test, Khetarama. Sept 4: One-day international, Khetarama. Sept 6: One-day international, Sara. Sept 8-13: 3rd Test, Moratuwa.

Pak player fails dope test

KARACHI, Apr 9: Pakistan could lose the bronze medal it won at the 14th Champions Trophy world hockey tournament in February if the International Hockey Federation (FIH) takes action against centre forward Mussadaq Hussain for a positive dope test, reports AFP.

commission said "initial positive tests had been carried out on Mussadaq and there are some chances of a negative result in the remaining tests to be conducted shortly."

Peshawar-born Hussain, was among eight picked at random for dope testing after Pakistan's six-nation Champions Trophy world hockey tournament match against the Netherlands on February 23. Pakistan took the bronze medal in the tournament, but may have to return it depending on what action is taken by the FIH. While Pakistan hockey officials were engaged in damage control measures, Waqar Zaidi, a member of the FIH medical

disciplinary committee. According to FIH rules, the team of which a player has tested positive or refused a test could face "disqualification from the tournament in which the positive test or refusal occurred with all results of the matches played in that tournament being struck from the record." The disqualification, the FIH rule said "will automatically result in any trophy or medals awarded to that team at the tournament being returned to FIH or in the case of Olympic Games to the International Olympic Committee (IOC). A player who returns after suspension due to positive tests will be subject to further tests outside the normal random testing. The International Olympic Committee has listed 37 banned drugs for athletes affiliated by the national sports federations.

Krabbe to run next month

NEUBRANDENBURG, Germany, Apr 9: Katrin Krabbe will make her first appearance of the outdoor season at a meeting in eastern Germany next month - the day before the sport's ruling body meets in Toronto to discuss the lifting of a four-year ban on the world sprint champion, reports Reuter. Krabbe's manager Jos Hermens said she would run in Jena on May 28. In another development on Wednesday, the German Athletics Federation (DLV) said Krabbe's trainer Thomas Springstein would not have his contract renewed following the alleged tampering of urine samples by Krabbe and teammates Grit Breuer and Silke Moeller. The decision came after the DLV executive met in Frankfurt for five hours on Tuesday night to discuss Sunday's ruling by its legal commission to lift the ban on Krabbe, Breuer and Moeller for rigging dope tests in South Africa in January. The ban was lifted because the commission could not rule out the possibility of the trio's samples being tampered with by someone else. Ruediger Nickel, head of the DLV's anti-doping commission, said the contract decision was taken after Springs-

tein failed to join other DLV trainers in signing an anti-doping declaration. Nickle said he had considered resigning himself over the affair, but decided to stay on "to fight on for clear sport." When it meets in Toronto on May 29, the International Amateur Athletics Federation Council could decide to submit the Krabbe doping case to its arbitration panel of three independent jurists.

Ex-Soviet trainers for Chinese sports

BEIJING, Apr 9: China has hired 13 trainers from the former Soviet Union to boost its chances at the Barcelona Olympics, a spokesman for the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission said today, reports Reuter. The trainers, once part of the mighty Soviet Olympic squad, will be paid 90-180 dollar a month to put athletes through their paces in gymnastics, track and field, fencing, wrestling, and other sports, he said. "Some of these trainers have helped to develop world and European champions, as well as national record-holders in the former Soviet Union," Shanghai's Wen Hui Bao newspaper said.

"Whether you took home a gold, a silver, bronze, or simply just gave it your best, in my book in the book of your countrymen you are all winners, indeed heroes," Bush said. Among the Olympic stars on hand were ice skating gold medalist Kristie Yamaguchi whom Bush called "the real Special K," as well as speed skating gold medalist Bonnie Blair. "All of you here today mirror America's Olympic spirit, the work ethic, the desire to give of yourself and of your heart, the love of victory, and above all, competition," Bush told the team members who gathered in their colorful warmup suits on steps leading to the White House.

Bush greets Olympic squad at White House

WASHINGTON, Apr 9: President Bush welcomed the nation's 1992 Winter Olympics team to the White House on Wednesday calling the athletes heroes to their president and their countrymen, reports AP. Bush recognized the 180 skiers, ice skaters, sledgers and other members of the team that represented the United States in Albertville, France, in a brief ceremony on the south grounds of the White House. "Whether you took home a gold, a silver, bronze, or simply just gave it your best, in my book in the book of your countrymen you are all winners, indeed heroes," Bush said. Among the Olympic stars on hand were ice skating gold medalist Kristie Yamaguchi whom Bush called "the real Special K," as well as speed skating gold medalist Bonnie Blair. "All of you here today mirror America's Olympic spirit, the work ethic, the desire to give of yourself and of your heart, the love of victory, and above all, competition," Bush told the team members who gathered in their colorful warmup suits on steps leading to the White House.

Soccer league resumes today

The First Division football league resumes today after a week-long gap because of Eid-ul-Fitr. The original schedule of two matches per day, cut down to just one because of the holy Ramadan, will be revived with Sadharan Bima playing BJMC in the first match at 5 pm and Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club meeting MuktiJoddha Sangsad in the day's second match at 7 pm. Both the matches will be played at the Dhaka Stadium.

BFF receives Pak players' list

Pakistan has sent a 31-member players' list in for the fifth Asian youth under-16 football tournament Group Three scheduled to be held in Rajshahi from May 1 to 10, reports BSS. Five countries - Pakistan, India, Nepal, Maldives and hosts Bangladesh - will take part in the qualifiers to earn a berth in the final round. Hafiz Salman Butt is the manager of the team. The other members of the team are: Major M Nasir Awan (assistant manager), Hafiz Shoaib Butt (coach), Muhammad Younus (assistant coach), Dr Tanvirul Hasan Zuberi (doctor), Bayazid Ahmed Khan (journalist), Anjad Rafiq, Abu Bakr, Shahid Imran, Khalid Amir Ahmed Khan, Iftikhar Ali, Kashif Nasir, Adil Sarfaraz, Naim Khalid, Iftikhar Ghani, Atahar Mahmud Khan, Ramzan Yasmin, Mattin Ahmed, Ejaz Ahmed Khan, Ghulam Mostafa, M Asif Khan, Obada Tariq, Muhammad Sagir, Zia Sartain, Muhammad Ayub, Samayel Anjum, Faruq Aziz, Laliq Shah, M Asgar Khan and Aqil Ahmed Khan.

50 refs picked for AFC course

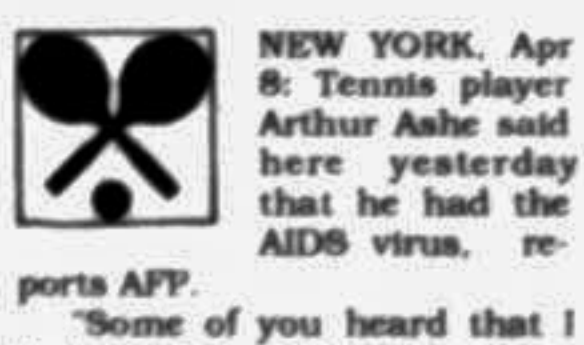
A six-day special referees' training course under the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will get underway on April 15 in the city, says a press release. Malaysian FIFA referee Kaderval, who will conduct the course, is expected to reach Dhaka by April 13. Selected referees have been asked to contact Z Alam, Secretary of the BFF's referees board at 6:30 pm on April 14. Following are the referees nominated to attend the training:

- DHAKA: Abdul Aziz, Abdul Khaleq, Zahurul Huq, Nazir Hossain, R Alam, Sk Badruddin, M R Mukul, Rafiqul Islam, Monirul Islam, Golam Hafiz, Shahidullah, Mozaffar Hossain, Nasir Chowdhury, Abdul Hamid, Shah Alam, Mir Mahabb, Mahmudul Huq, Liaquat Ali, Nurul Islam, Sekander Ali, Adul Hashem Sikder, Golam Mostafa, Md Shamsuddin and Shahadat Hossain Badal. CHITTAGONG: Alauddin Ahmed and Bimal Kar. RAJSHAH: Hashmat Hossain, Abdul Huq and Shawkat Anju. JESSORE: Ansarul Islam Mintoo, Shahidur Rahman and Ram Krishna Ghosh. SYLHET: Abdul Jalil, Faizul Islam and Jamal Uddin Ahmed. NOAKHALI: Abul Qasem and Jahangir Alam. FENI: Abdul Halim. KHULNA: Sk Abdul Hamid, Ehsanul Huq and S M Mansur. BOGRA: Nizamuddin. RANGPUR: Najmul Huq Montu. COMILLA: Manik Lal Dey. GAIBANDHA: Syed Azharul Huq. BAGERHAT: Syed Altaf Hossain Tpu. MANIKGANJ: Subhash Chandra Roy. BANDARBAN: Bir Bahadur RANGAMATI: Ranabir Dey.

Benfica join race to sign Barnes

LONDON, Apr 9: Portuguese giants Benfica are reported to have joined the chase for England winger John Barnes, who is expected to leave Liverpool for the European mainland in the close season, reports AFP. French club AS Monaco are also said to be interested in the Jamaican-born 28-year-old, who is likely to go for 1.5 million pounds. Liverpool may also be involved in a multi-million-pound summer swap with Scottish side Celtic involving Republic of Ireland midfielder Ray Houghton and Scotland midfielder Paul McCstay. England striker Alan Smith could be on his way back to the Midlands, Arsenal's former Leicester forward is reported to have had talks with Aston Villa.

Ashe admits to having AIDS



NEW YORK, Apr 8: Tennis player Arthur Ashe said here yesterday that he had the AIDS virus, reports AFP.

"Some of you heard that I had tested positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. That is indeed the case," Ashe told a press conference where he was flanked by New York Mayor David Dinkins, his wife and doctors. The virus was transmitted through a blood transfusion during one of two heart operations he underwent in 1979 and 1983, Ashe said.

He found out when he went into hospital again for a brain operation in September 1988, Ashe said. Dinkins said he was "deeply sad" to learn that Ashe had AIDS. Close friend Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder said earlier Wednesday that Ashe, the first Black man to win one of tennis' Grand Slam tournaments, accepts the diagnosis as "something he has to live with."

It is the second time in six months that a prominent US athlete has announced that he has the AIDS virus. Magic Johnson, one of basketball's greatest players, announced in November that he was infected with the AIDS virus and was immediately retiring from the Los Angeles Lakers. Governor Wilder said Ashe had telephoned him and given him the news earlier Wednesday. Ashe told him he had been diagnosed as having the acquired immune deficiency syndrome virus some three

and a half years ago and decided to go public now because of rumours that he had the virus. "We're good friends," Wilder said. "It hits home very, very hard."

In 1968, Ashe became the first Black man to win one of tennis' Grand Slam tournaments when he captured the US Open singles title. He also won the Australian Open in 1970 and Wimbledon in 1975. Ashe was ranked number one in the world in 1968 and again in 1975. He won 33 singles titles over the course of his career, which ended in 1980. In 1979 he suffered a heart attack and underwent quadruple bypass surgery in New York. He had another heart operation in 1983. Ashe was an outspoken civil rights activist and helped get South Africa banned from Davis Cup play because of that country's apartheid policies. He also addressed the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Since retiring, Ashe has captained the US Davis Cup team and currently is employed as a television commentator.

Ashe said he contacted Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan on Wednesday before his news conference to get word to the President. Sullivan reached Barbara Bush, and the President called Ashe shortly after noon. They spoke for a few minutes and Bush "wished him well," said White House spokeswoman Judy Smith. "At some stage I will get involved in the President's Commission on AIDS," Ashe said, without elaborating. There are no seats currently open on the 15-member commission, whose members include AIDS-infected basketball star Magic Johnson. But White House spokeswoman Smith said, referring to Ashe, that Bush believes "there are several ways he can help educate the American public" about AIDS. Johnson recently threatened to quit the commission unless the Administration commits more money for AIDS projects. This year's spending on AIDS research, treatment and prevention is \$4.3 billion.

Bush's wishes

WASHINGTON, Apr 9: President Bush telephoned Arthur Ashe on Wednesday and wished him well in his battle against AIDS, reports AP. Ashe announced at a news conference Wednesday that he had been infected with the deadly virus during a 1983 heart operation. Ashe said he contacted Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan on Wednesday before his news conference to get word to the President. Sullivan reached Barbara Bush, and the President called Ashe shortly after noon. They spoke for a few minutes and Bush "wished him well," said White House spokeswoman Judy Smith. "At some stage I will get involved in the President's Commission on AIDS," Ashe said, without elaborating. There are no seats currently open on the 15-member commission, whose members include AIDS-infected basketball star Magic Johnson. But White House spokeswoman Smith said, referring to Ashe, that Bush believes "there are several ways he can help educate the American public" about AIDS. Johnson recently threatened to quit the commission unless the Administration commits more money for AIDS projects. This year's spending on AIDS research, treatment and prevention is \$4.3 billion.

Friends, acquaintances praise Ashe

The AIDS virus, which continues to rob thousands of our nation's citizens of their precious lives, is totally indiscriminate. It ravages the young and the old with no regard for colour, status, sexual orientation or, for that matter, athletic ability. Ashe revealed he has known about having the AIDS virus since 1988. He said he was certain he got the virus during heart surgery in 1979 or 1983, when blood was not yet being screened for the HIV virus. Sharpe James, Mayor of Newark, NJ, praised his friend and fellow tennis devotee. "Arthur Ashe represents the best. His stands against apartheid are legend," James said. "He used his tennis racket to open the door for so many athletes." "Arthur is one of the great human beings ever to play the game of tennis," Chris Evert said. "It just seems so unfair that in his young life he has had a heart attack, open-heart surgery and now has to be stricken with this virus. I've known Arthur for 20 years and he's always been a gentleman and a great ambassador for tennis. I'm praying for him," she said. Magic Johnson, who retired from the Los Angeles Lakers on Nov 7

Edberg, Courier advance to qtrs

TOKYO, Apr 9: Stefan Edberg and Jim Courier, locked in a tight battle for the world's top ranking, advanced to the quarterfinals with identical 6-3, 6-3 victories Thursday in the dirls 1.19 Japan Open Tennis Championships, reports AP. Edberg, now leading Courier by just 22 points in the battle for No. 1, scored more with service winners than his favourite serve-and-volley game as he beat 15th-seeded Australian Wally Masur in a third-round match on the hard court of Ariake Coliseum.

Edberg let three match points slip away in the ninth game before firing a passing shot to wrap up the 75-minute match. He had 23 service winners, including four aces. "I feel good coming here and I like the court here very much," said Edberg, who won this tournament in 1987, 1989, 1990 and 1991. American Courier, who briefly held the No. 1 ranking earlier this year, beat 16th-seeded Italian Gianluca Pozzi. Courier broke in the sixth game of the first set and the third, seventh and ninth games of the second set, while Pozzi broke back in the second set's second game. In other third-round matches, third-seeded Michael Stich of Germany downed 19th-seeded Anders Jarryd of Sweden 7-5, 6-2. Fourth-seeded Michael Chang of the United States defeated Markus Zoccke of Germany, the 13th seed, 6-4.

His serve faltered briefly, however, when he led 2-1 in the second set. The Swede doublefaulted twice and, after five deuces, Masur broke with a passing shot. "I was hitting against the wind and was a little bit tight" in that game, Edberg said later.

Samaranch tours CIS

CHISINAU, Moldova, Apr 9: Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch arrived here yesterday on his whistle-stop tour of the Commonwealth of Independent States - and picked up an invitation from Eduard Shevardnadze to visit CIS outsider Georgia, reports AP. Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, fact-finding mission, is accompanied by IOC director general Francois Carrard and Jacques Rogge, head of the Association of European Olympic Committees. Samaranch was due for talks here with Vitaly Smirnov, an IOC vice-president and head of the CIS Olympic Committees, and later with Moldovan Premier Valerim Muravski and local Olympic officials. But his visit to the former Soviet Union could take longer than expected. Since Friday, he has visited the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, plus Belarus and the Ukraine. He was due to return to Lausanne on Thursday. But Shevardnadze, the former Soviet Foreign Minister and now leader of the parliament in Tbilisi, invited him on Wednesday to prolong his stay and visit Georgia, which is not

Lendl forced to drop a set

BARCELONA, Spain, Apr 9: Second seed Ivan Lendl dropped a set to Frenchman Thierry Champion before progressing to the third round of the Spanish Open tennis tournament yesterday, reports Reuter. The Czechoslovak former world number one lost the first set 4-7 in a tie-break but recovered to win the second-round encounter 6-7, 6-3, 6-1. Both players stuck to the baseline for much of the match, with Lendl relying on his superior control and heavier serve - exemplified by three cracking aces in the first game of the third set. Spaniards Javier Sanchez Vicario and Francisco Clavet, seeded 14th and ninth respectively, also qualified. Sanchez had a tough ride against Christian Minussi of Argentina, who rallied from 5-0 down in the first set and forced tie-breaks in both sets before succumbing 7-6 (12-10), 7-6 (9-7). Minussi squandered two set points in the first tie-break and one more in the second before conceding the match on a double fault. Sanchez now meets Dutchman Jacco Eltingh, who eliminated sixth seed Andre Agassi on Tuesday.

CIS to hold trials for Olympic squad

KIEV, Apr 9: An open qualifying tournament will be held to pick athletes from the Unified Team, representing the Commonwealth of Independent States at Barcelona, the head of the CIS's Olympic Organisation said here Wednesday, reports AP. However, the final selection will rest with the heads of the National Olympic Committees of the new republics. Valery Borzov, head of Ukraine's Olympic Committee and former international sprinter, said that "Judges should also pay heed to the advice of the coaches and of the Olympic Committee presidents, who must admit representatives from all the former Soviet republics."