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Miandad calls it a day

KARACHI, Apr 6: Pakistan's former Test cricket captain Javed Miandad tearfully announced his retirement from international cricket Wednesday saying he had been insulted and humiliated by selectors, reports AFP.

Miandad, 36, who started his Test career in 1976-77 against New Zealand at Lahore, said there was a group of people who wanted him out.

Even after being replaced recently by Wasim Akram as captain, he had remained in the national side, he said.

He said he intended to continue playing domestic cricket for the Habib Bank.

Miandad was dropped from the team that toured New Zealand this year. He was again dropped from the team that will play the Sharjah Cup later this month.

His retirement leaves him 1,168 runs short of the coveted 10,000 runs in Test cricket.

Miandad played 124 Test matches in his career, scoring 8,832 runs with an average of 52.57. He scored 23 centuries and his highest score in Test cricket was 280 not out against India at Hyderabad in 1982-83.

He was also the youngest player to score a double century, in his debut series, at

Karachi against New Zealand. The cricketer captained 34 Test matches, winning 14, losing six and drawing 14. His success rate was 61.6 per cent, making him Pakistan's best captain in numerical terms.



MIANDAD... tearful adieu

Nirman cricket

Sports Reporter

Khulna Zilla School and Scholastica moved into their respective group finals, eliminating their semifinal opponents in style at different venues across the capital yesterday.

Khulna Zilla School, riding on some useful batting, trounce Udayan Bidyalaya by 87 runs at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Batting first, the Khulna school piled up a massive 225 for eight in the stipulated 40 overs with Ujjal notching up the highest individual score of 64, followed by opener Suman Das and skipper Tota who contributed 48 and 47 respectively.

In their turn, the Dhaka school folded their innings on 138 in 37.3 overs. Opening batsman Rana, Faisal and Mizan made 43, 23 and 27 respectively.

Tota followed up his wonderful work with the willow with fantastic bowling figures of four for 11 in six overs.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Scholastica, another Dhaka school, registered an easy six-wicket victory over Nilphamari Islamia High School.

Scholastica reached the victory target of 112 with four balls to spare for the loss of four wickets after bowling the Nilphamari school out for 111 in 34.2 overs.

Meanwhile, the tournament committee made slight adjustment in the fixture for 'unavoidable reason.' Today's matches, following the re-adjustment, will be played tomorrow.

De Silva upset

COLOMBO, Apr 6: Sri Lanka's star batsman and vice-captain Aravinda de Silva Wednesday questioned the validity of a fitness test that led to his removal from the team for next week's tour of Sharjah, reports AFP.

"I am not upset over being dropped. What I am upset about is the way the test was done and the results... I am shocked about the standard of fitness I am supposed to have attained," De Silva told reporters here.

De Silva and four others were not considered for selection because they failed a physical fitness test, the Sports Ministry announced here Tuesday.

However, the results of individual fitness ratings have not been made public.

De Silva, 29, recently scored a double hundred for his nondescript cricket club in the premier domestic tournament and followed it up with a match-winning performance in a day-night club cricket final here on March 28.

He said he had to undergo the test the following morning and that no clear procedures were applied in determining his fitness.

"I think I am pretty fit. I don't have any injuries and I have been performing well in the (domestic) matches," De Silva said.

De Silva, a veteran of 131 one-day internationals and 41 Tests, was left out of a 14-member squad to Sharjah together with Test spinner Don Anurashiri and youngsters Ravindra Pushpakumara, Sanjeeva Ranatunga and Ajith Ekanayake.

The fitness examination followed last month's decision by Sports Minister Nanda Mathew to subject sportsmen to a comprehensive physical check if they hoped to qualify for international events.

Lalith Ratnayake, a doctor who conducted the test, said that most of the cricketers in the 26-member pool did not meet international physical fitness requirements.

But the ministry was forced to lower the standard and settle for a 55 per cent fitness score in order to field a team for Sharjah, Ratnayake said. Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, India and the United Arab Emirates will vie for the Australasia Cup in Sharjah from April 13 to April 22.

Barcelona unlucky

RIO DE JANEIRO, Apr 6: Barcelona of Ecuador, Libertadores Cup finalists in 1991, missed a chance to guarantee their place in the second round of this year's competition when they were beaten 2-1 away by Peruvians Alianza on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

A draw would have been enough for Barcelona to advance in Group Three, but they fell behind from a 20th-minute header by Alianza defender Mario Rodriguez and were buried by a second half goal from Peruvian international Jorge Soto.

Argentine striker Ruben Insua scored an 81st minute consolation goal for Barcelona.

Way back to echoing green



LOS ANGELES, Apr 6: The kids of Nickerson Gardens should remember the 1994 World Cup long after the last ball has been kicked and final whistle blown, reports Reuter.

The inner city community, in a rough district of south-central Los Angeles beset by gang violence and drug-related crime, last month received a new soccer field to formally launch "World Cup Legacy Tour '94."

The facility was a gift from the World Cup, working in conjunction with city authorities and sponsors.

"Not far from where things were burning just a few years ago, we now have a field — a brand new state-of-the-art small size facility," said Brand Rothenberg, the assistant vice-president of Legacy promotions.

"These people were effusive. They had nothing. This is one of the worst projects in the city and therefore in the country," Rothenberg, oldest son of World Cup USA 1994 chairman Alan Rothenberg, told Reuters.

"These kids have a brand new, pristine soccer field to play on that they didn't have before. Twelve hundred kids now get to use it as a resource... they love it."

The ceremony, converting to soccer use an old patch of community ground once used for baseball and football, was only the first of many such "legacies" planned across the United States this summer by World Cup organisers.

"We're going to do this in every (venue) city. That's just one of a menu of things," promised Rothenberg.

This month the show hits the road with a convoy of 18-wheel trucks, cars and vans

starting out in Los Angeles on a voyage that will culminate June 14 in Chicago three days before the month-long competition kicks off there.

The aim is to highlight what the World Cup is doing in the nine venues by bringing soccer to the people, getting them interested and then leaving facilities, or legacies, to nurture the game and encourage youngsters.

"We actually advertise this as the next best thing to World Cup," said Rothenberg of the roadshow.

"It's for those who couldn't afford the tickets or just didn't get tickets in time as most were sold out. This gives them a taste of World Cup fever."

"It's also a very grassroots event. It's fun and it's free. It's not meant to intimidate a mother or father who normally takes their kids to the game and drops them off."

"It's meant to include them too. They're as interested in winning a new car as anybody," he added, referring to prizes on offer to participants.

Ethnic communities, particularly those from the 24 nations in the championship, are a prime target.

The tour will comprise three distinct stages: One — three weeks of "soccer skills events."

Two — one weekend of "soccer celebration."

Three — "Legacy week," following the celebration.

The first stage of the tour, which will run over three weekends, began last Saturday in Los Angeles with skills events in schools and parks

PSG's run ends

PARIS, Apr 6: Paris St Germain fell to their first defeat in 28 matches, 3-0 away to Nantes in the French First Division on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Maradona to be at WC finals

BUENOS AIRES, Apr 6: Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona on Tuesday said he had finally made up his mind to play in the coming World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

The mercurial midfielder, who had kept Argentine fans on tenterhooks over the weekend with his threat to quit the national side, told a radio interviewer he will tell coach Alfio "Coco" Basile Tuesday night that he wants to continue on the team.

"This morning my daughter Dalma told me in her child talk that I must play again, that she wants to see me back on a football pitch," the 33-year-old star told the private radio Rivadavia.

Maradona, who has seen almost no match play since he broke off with his Newell's Old Boys Club in February, added that he thinks he can get in snap in the 60 days left to the finals.

Once regarded as the world's best player, Maradona led Argentina to their second World title in 1986 and to second place in the 1990 finals before his career went downhill due to his dabbling with drugs.

The one-time UNICEF goodwill ambassador was banned from the sport for 15 months in 1991 for cocaine abuse. Later that year he was arrested in Buenos Aires for drug possession.

Since then he has failed to hold on to a job for more than one season and is constantly struggling to get in shape.

He got deeper into trouble in February when, fed up with media hounding his home, he shot at reporters with an air rifle, injuring four.

In his interview with radio Rivadavia, the moody player said he was also staying on the team to prove his critics wrong.

Havelange happy, UEFA too

ZURICH, Apr 6: European soccer's governing body UEFA said on Tuesday it agreed to support

Joao Havelange for a sixth and final four-year term as FIFA president after receiving guarantees from the world game's top authority, reports Reuter.

FIFA had said earlier, in a statement issued after a crisis meeting of the heads of its five continental confederations, that all agreed to support the Brazilian's candidacy.

UEFA said it withdrew its opposing candidate, Italian Antonio Matarrese, after receiving unspecified guarantees from the world body in the meeting at FIFA's Zurich headquarters.

UEFA president Lennart Johansson told a news conference the European body had already asked Matarrese, head of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC), to stand against Havelange in the formal election to be held in Chicago

on June 16, the eve of the World Cup finals.

"There were things that we had to get answers for (from FIFA) and as the answers were sufficient we saw no reason for going against the rest of the world," Johansson said.

Speculation had been rife that UEFA, wary of losing its strong powerbase in the world game and World Cup places to the emerging soccer nations, planned to put forward a rival candidate to Havelange.

Under Havelange, who turns 78 next month and has been FIFA president for 20 years, the emerging continents have made considerable gain on the world stage.

The World Cup tournament was increased to 24 teams at the 1982 finals in Spain from the previous 16 to accommodate more African, Asian and CONCACAF (Central and North American and Caribbean) finalists. Further places for them in future World Cups could signify less spots for Europe.

Havelange said the meeting had been frank. "We each expressed opinions and after one hour of debate, no presentations, I offered my candidacy," he said.

Johansson declined to specify what guarantees FIFA had given UEFA but said: "We are quite happy with the outcome of the discussions and the role of UEFA for the future is protected."

The Swede said Matarrese, UEFA's vice-president, had not asked to be proposed as a candidate and UEFA was not prepared to embarrass him by having him stand if there was no chance of his being elected.

"Why should we let Matarrese suffer when we asked him (to stand)," Johansson said.

Election as president of FIFA requires two thirds of the 178 votes to be cast at the FIFA Congress in Chicago. UEFA commands 45 votes, or 25 per cent, of the total.

Sepp Blatter, FIFA's general secretary, declined to say whether he would run for the presidency in 1998, adding that he was very happy in his current position.

"We don't know what will happen in 1998," Blatter said. Johansson said FIFA's 1998 election was not discussed at the meeting.

FA will not take any risk

LONDON, Apr 6: England on Wednesday called off a soccer game against Germany scheduled for Adolf Hitler's birthday because of fears of violence by political extremists, reports AP.

"The game is off," Football Association spokesman David Bloomfield told reporters after an hour-long meeting of the FA's executive committee.

A news conference was scheduled for later in the day. It had been expected the FA would call off the April 20 exhibition in Berlin because of the potential for clashes involving neo-Nazis and their left-wing opponents.

There was no immediate official reaction from the German soccer officials, who had pressed for the game to go ahead. Egidius Braun, president of the German Soccer Federation (DFB), said earlier

it would be a mistake to give in to threats by radicals.

"We are not going to chicken out," Braun said Tuesday. "If we capitulate, the negative consequences for the sport and for the society would be far-reaching."

The game was originally scheduled for Hamburg but was moved to Berlin after Hamburg officials said they could not guarantee security. Berlin officials maintained they could ensure the safety of England players and fans.

Authorities feared the game could be a flashpoint for hooligans and political extremists from Germany, England, the Netherlands and other countries.

Berlin's violence-prone leftist groups pushed for the game to be cancelled and called for demonstrations this Saturday. They say it is unacceptable for the game to be staged at the Olympic Stadium,

built by Hitler as a Nazi showcase for the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Leftists smashed windows and splashed acid into the offices of the Berlin soccer authority two weeks ago.

British and German leftists said at a news conference in Berlin Wednesday that the Olympic Stadium would become a battleground if the game were held.

English officials appeared reluctant to become involved in any incidents which could tarnish their image before England host the next European Championships in 1996.

German Soccer Federation spokesman Bernd Barutta said each national association stands to lose millions of dollars by canceling the match. He said the game can not be rescheduled because "there is no date left on the match schedule" with the World Cup imminent.



Nantes' Christophe Pignol (R) and David Ginola of Paris Saint Germain are involved in an aerial tussle during their French First Division match at Nantes on Tuesday. —AFP photo

The Daily Star

WorldCupUSA94 Quiz Competition

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Quiz 1.

Read the instructions carefully. Then tick (✓) the answer which you think is correct.

- When was the inaugural World Cup held? 1930 1932 1934
- Who were the first World Cup champions? Brazil Chile Uruguay
- How many teams took part in the first World Cup? 12 13 16
- Which country hosted the second World Cup? Spain Italy Brazil
- Which country has played in all the World Cup finals? Italy Brazil France
- How many goals were scored in the 1938 final? 4 5 6
- When did England make its World Cup debut? 1938 1934 1950
- How many goals did French striker Just Fontaine score in the 1958 tournament? 11 12 13
- When did Pele make his World Cup debut? 1954 1958 1962
- How many hattricks were scored in Italia-90? 1 2 3

COMPETITION RULES

- The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '94, is a series of 6 (six) Quiz Competitions on World Cup Football. Sets of questions will be published for 10 (ten) consecutive days in the Sports Page of The Daily Star for the first 5 (five) Quiz Competitions. For the last and final Bumper Quiz Competition, a set of questions will be published for one month in the Sports Page of The Daily Star according to the schedule (Picture of the Rounds) as fixed by The Daily Star authorities.
- For the first 5 (five) Quiz Competitions there will be 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5 (five) consolation prizes. The prizes will be Colour TV, Black & White TV, Super Turbo 2-in-1 Stereo Recorder and light bulbs respectively.
- Any taxes or levies, as per rule, for all the above prizes, will have to be borne by the winners.
- Names and addresses of all prizewinners will be published in The Daily Star. Winners will be responsible for collecting their prizes from The Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.
- For the Bumper Quiz Competition, there will be the BUMPER PRIZE consisting of a ticket to the World Cup Final match, along with an Economy Class return air ticket (Dhaka-Los Angeles-Dhaka) and an amount for incidental expenses. The Daily Star does NOT take any responsibility for any visa or other travel documents that may be required. The BUMPER PRIZE Winner will have to make his/her own arrangements in this regard. In case of the Bumper Prize winner's inability to travel to the USA he/she may choose to receive a sum of Tk. 100,000/- in cash in lieu of the air fare and living expenses.

RULES

- Residents of Bangladesh, subject to these rules, will be eligible to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '94. All personnel of The Daily Star, Unirend (advertising agency) and Transcom Electronics Ltd. and all its affiliate companies shall be deemed disqualified to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '94.
- Participants are to cut the original form along the indicated dotted lines. All entries must be submitted on the original form printed in The Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
- Participants are to put a tick (✓) mark in the box which they think is the correct answer to the question. A person may send as many entries in his/her own name and address.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

FATHER'S NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Write with a ball-point pen in clear, CAPITAL LETTERS. Cut along the dotted lines and mail it to us FAST!