

Akram Imran's choice

ISLAMABAD, Aug 25: Former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan has suggested to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to appoint fast bowler Wasim Akram as captain for the 1996 World Cup, according to official news agency, APP, reports PTI.

scandals and the problems had been further complicated by alleged failure of PCB to appoint a captain on a long term basis.

Akram an all-rounder, lost his captaincy following a rebellion by teammates against him last year who refused to play under his leadership.

With Javed Miandad ruling himself out of the series

about Pakistan's chances of retaining the World Cup.

In this regard, Imran quoted the example of England which has retained Mike Atherton as skipper to the World Cup.

"I had to plan one year in advance for the 1992 World Cup, studying the merits and demerits of each player and their abilities to face challenge of such an eminent competition," Imran who led the Pakistan team to victory in the last World Cup said.

The former Test star also criticised PCB for dragging the controversy relating to former captain Salim Malik too far, "If there is no evidence of Salim's involvement in the bribery case, he should be re-instated immediately to strengthen the team," he added.

Malik's fate is yet to be decided by PCB which had issued notice to him after two Australian players accused him of trying to bribe them during a cricket series in Pakistan last year. Malik has claimed that he was innocent and the two Australian players have also reportedly refused to depose before an inquiry committee in Pakistan.



WASIM AKRAM against Sri Lanka later this month. Imran felt that the best bet for captaincy was Akram if PCB was serious

Rain plays foul in Kandy

KANDY, Sri Lanka, Aug 25: Intermittent rain washed out the first day's play in the third and final under-24 Test between South Africa and Sri Lanka at the Asgiriya Stadium here Thursday, reports AFP.

The opening day's play was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to wet conditions in the area surrounding the pitch.

South Africa won the second Test by eight wickets while the first Test was drawn.

US Open begins Monday

Top guns face tall orders

NEW YORK, Aug 25: Top seed Andre Agassi could be tested right out of the gate after drawing potentially dangerous first-round opponents Thursday for the US Open tennis championships starting Monday, reports Reuter.

Stich, who could meet in the fourth round in a rematch of the recent Los Angeles final won by Stich.

Third seeded French Open champion Thomas Muster of Austria meets crazy American Luke Jensen in the first round.

But Muster, the world's best clay court player, will have a most difficult time surviving his quarter of the draw, which includes 14th seed Jim Courier, big serving Dutchman Richard Krajicek, seeded 12, and the always dangerous Michael Chang.

The fifth-seeded Chang has made a habit the last four years of only losing to the tournament's eventual winner, which may bode well for Sampras who could well face Chang in the semifinals.

The luck of the draw was with returning superstar Monica Seles who received what looks to be a fairly smooth ride to the final if her physical conditioning allows her to get that far.

Not that two-time champion Seles is going to need luck, judging by her demolition of opponents last week in Toronto in her first tournament since she was stabbed in the back in Hamburg more than two years ago.

Wimbledon and French Open champion Steffi Graf will be seeded first, while co-world number one Seles is the second seed for the year's final Grand Slam and Seles' first since the 1993 Australian Open.

That left the fiercely competitive defending US Open champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario seeded third.

Whichever half of the draw she landed in was automatically going to be tougher, with no more dangerous a semifinal opponent than the second-ranked Sanchez in the 128-woman field.

The speedy Spaniard was drawn into Graf's half with her less dangerous compatriot, fourth seed Conchita Martinez, in Seles' path to

the final.

That pattern continued as sixth seed Mary Pierce, the Australian Open champion and a serious contender, fell into Graf's path, while fifth seed Jana Novotna, whose history of choking in big matches is legendary, landed in Seles' half.

In the first round, Graf



ANDRE AGASSI

World number one Agassi begins defence of his title against fellow-American Bryan Shelton, who picked off Germany's Michael Stich earlier this year at Wimbledon.

Twice champion and men's second seed Pete Sampras has a first-round date with Brazilian left-hander Fernando Meligeni before an opportunity for sweet revenge in the second round.

The second-ranked American's likely second-round opponent will be Peruvian Jamie Yzaga, who stunned Sampras in the fourth round last year with a five-set upset.

Agassi looks likely to run into the most dangerous floaters in the third round in two-time champion Stefan Edberg, whose erratic form of late has dropped him to 20th in the world.

But with a couple of wins under his belt and the excitement of a major tournament, Edberg could rise to the occasion against Agassi in the most intriguing of the early-round match-ups.

Agassi, who takes a 20-match winning streak into the tournament, could also have a serious fourth-round test from 16th-seeded Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev before a potential quarter-final with Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who beat Agassi at the French Open this year.

The seventh-seeded Kafelnikov opens against volatile American Jeff Tarango, which should keep the Californian from earning enough money to pay off the record fines from his outrageous Wimbledon behaviour.

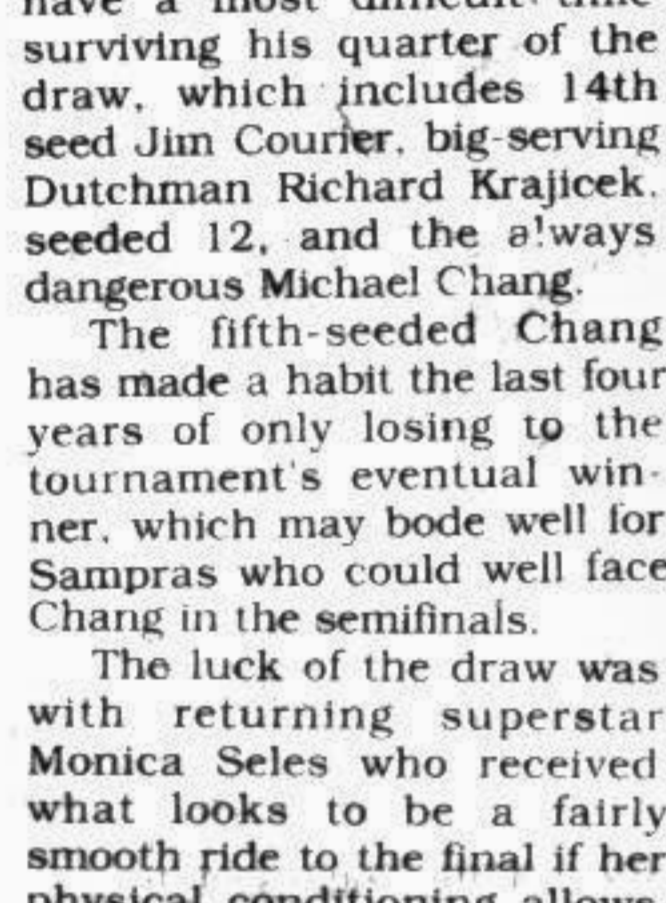
If form holds, which is rare on the men's side, Agassi would meet fourth seed Boris Becker in the semifinals in a rematch of their Wimbledon semifinal.

Becker, the 1989 Open winner and three-time Wimbledon champion, plays Spaniard Alex Lopez Moron in the first round.

The German finds himself in the same quarter of the draw as 13th seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland and unpredictable Croat Goran Ivanisevic.

The sixth-seeded Ivanisevic, who has a history of poor results at the Open, should at least be relieved to find himself in the opposite half of the draw from ninth-seeded Swede Thomas Enqvist, who has beaten the Croatian four straight times this summer.

Sampras has a likely fourth-round date with 15th-seeded compatriot Todd Martin, a semifinalist last year. His potential quarter-final opponents include rising star Enqvist and eighth-seed



STEFFI GRAF

most face dangerous South African Amanda Coetzer, the only player to beat the German star this year, while Seles opens against lightly-regarded Romanian Ruxandra Dragomir.

Graf then has a potential third-round test from top-20 player Nathalie Tauziat of France, followed by a possible fourth-round challenge from 15th-seeded Czech veteran Helena Sukova, the 1993 Open runner-up.

If three-time champion Graf clears those hurdles, which she should, Pierce and Sanchez loom on the horizon.

By contrast, Seles looks to have her first minor test in the third round when she could face hard-hitting American Marianne Werdel-Witmeier, before a likely fourth-round encounter with 11th-seeded German Anke Huber, who Seles dispatched in straight sets last week.

Novotna looks to be the 21-year-old Seles' probable fourth-round victim.



STEFFI GRAF

Wrexham's Philip Hardy (R) tries to shrug off a challenge from Petrolul Ploiesti's Claudiu Andreicut during their second leg European Cup Winners' Cup qualifying match at Ploiesti, Romania on August 24. Petrolul moved into the next round with a 1-0 victory.



Wrexham's Philip Hardy (R) tries to shrug off a challenge from Petrolul Ploiesti's Claudiu Andreicut during their second leg European Cup Winners' Cup qualifying match at Ploiesti, Romania on August 24. Petrolul moved into the next round with a 1-0 victory.

Windies 50 for one at stumps

LONDON, Aug 25: West Indies were 50 for one wicket at close of play in reply to England's first innings total of 454 on the second day of the sixth and final Test at The Oval today, reports Reuter.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard Friday at the end of England's first innings on the second day of the sixth Test between England and the West Indies at the Oval:

ENGLAND: First innings

Atherton	c Lara b Benjamin	36
Gallian	c Hooper b Ambrose	0
Crawley	c Richardson b Hooper	50
Thorpe	c Browne b Ambrose	74
Hick	c Williams b Benjamin	96
Wells	c Campbell b Ambrose	0
Russell	b Ambrose	0
Watkinson	c Browne b Walsh	13
Cork	b Ambrose	33
Fraser	not out	10
Malcolm	c Lara b Benjamin	10
Extras		41
Total		454

Fall of wickets: 1-9; 2-60; 3-126; 4-192; 5-192; 6-336; 7-372; 8-419; 9-443

Bowling

Ambrose	O	M	R	W
Walsh	42	10	96	5
Bishop	32	6	84	1
Benjamin	35	5	111	0
Hooper	27	6	81	3
	23	7	56	1

(Incomplete)

Symonds' 16 sixes

CARDIFF, Aug 25: Andrew Symonds struck a world record 16 sixes for Gloucestershire at Glamorgan on Friday, the first batsman to hit as many sixes in a single first-class innings anywhere in the world, reports AP.

After losing two partners in quick succession, Symonds — who had 13 sixes to his name at the start of the day's play — took two more in a single over off Steve Watkin to equal the previous best mark set by New Zealand's John Reid while playing for Wellington against Northern Districts in the 1962-63 season.

Two overs later, he set the standard by hoisting Watkin straight back over his head and out of the ground.

Symonds, who went on to complete an unbeaten 254, tried to play down his achievement.

"Batting is a bit like riding a bike, really. Once you get into the habit it's easy," the middle-order batsman said.

"But it is a very good batting strip here. The occasional ball bounces a bit higher than you might expect it to but in general it's a good wicket."

"I was helped by the fact that there is a short boundary on one side of the ground and so I was able to take my chances but that was not the case when I first came in to bat yesterday."

"We were 79 for four then and 79 for five a couple of balls later. We could have collapsed in a heap and been all out for 100 or so from that position, so it was definitely not the time to start taking risks."

"But I was never under any instructions to bat a certain way and as things got better for us I was able to relax and chance my arm."

Born in Birmingham, Symonds emigrated with his family to Australia when he was 18-months-old and is a product of the Australian Cricket Academy.

His registration with Gloucestershire at the start of the season had to be ratified by the TCCB because he was doubly qualified and eligible to play for both England and Australia.

Denmark's Mette Jacobsen exults after winning the women's 100 metres backstroke at the European Swimming Championships in Vienna on August 24.

Denmark's Mette Jacobsen exults after winning the women's 100 metres backstroke at the European Swimming Championships in Vienna on August 24. — AFP/UNB photo

Almsick the ace accumulator



VIENNA, Aug 25: Franziska Van Almsick returned to majestic winning ways at the European Swimming Championships on Thursday, claiming two more gold medals to make her the most prolific women's winner in the history of championships, reports Reuter.

Van Almsick, who won six golds at the 1993 championships in Sheffield, took her Vienna tally to four and her aggregate to 10 — one more than the haul of fellow former East German Ute Geweniger.

After Wednesday's fiasco, when she failed to qualify for the 200 metres freestyle final, the 17-year-old German made no mistake in the 400 freestyle and produced a stunning lead off performance to propel Germany towards victory in the 4x100 freestyle relay.

World and Olympic champion Alexander Popov triumphed in the men's 100 metres freestyle for the third successive time and world champion Vladimir Selkov retained his 200 metres backstroke crown to take Russia's gold haul here to 11, two more than Germany.

Denmark's Mette Jacobsen European 200 freestyle champion in 1991, celebrated her return to form by adding the women's 100 metres backstroke gold to her 100 freestyle silver and 200 freestyle bronze.

But Van Almsick, winner of four medals at 14 at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, stole the show.

Despite her botched heat on Wednesday, she swam the fastest 200 freestyle of the year in the consolation B final.

She demonstrated similar supremacy on Thursday with



VAN ALMSICK

1995 bests in the 400 freestyle and the 100 freestyle in which her relay lead-off leg of 55.08 was better than her 55.34 victory in the individual 100 freestyle on Tuesday.

Van Almsick led from start to finish in her first effort at a 400 freestyle in a major international championships and was one second inside world record schedule at 100 metres and still on course at 200 metres.

She won in four minutes

8.37 seconds outside the 4:03.85 world mark of American Janet Evans but way ahead of the opposition.

Carla Guerts of the Netherlands took the silver in 4:10.73 and 1991 European champion Irenis Dalby of Norway the bronze in 4:13.44.

"I knew my chance lay in a fast early pace, the last 100 metres were very hard. I can certainly develop my 400 performance," Van Almsick said.

Van Almsick's relay effort was superb especially as she had swum the demanding 400 just under an hour earlier. Germany won by nearly two seconds from Sweden with a Britain third.

After the dramas of Wednesday, when she squandered the chance of eventually amassing an unprecedented seven golds here, Van Almsick now seems relieved the burden of expectation has been lifted.

"I think the tension and nervousness and the whole thing with the media all built up. I was getting very emotional and it was simply too much," she said. "The knot is broken."

Van Almsick has a chance of two more golds in Saturday's medley relay and Sunday's 50 freestyle but if successful, would still be one title behind West German Michael Gross, who won 13 European golds in his career.

Popov, who has won every major championship 100

freestyle he has contested since his first European triumph in Athens in 1991, once again proved himself in a class of his own.

The Russian, who had a cold and high temperature here last week won in 49.10, well outside his 48.21 world mark but 0.05 seconds inside his 1993 championship record and well clear of German Torsten Spannenberg (49.67) and Bjoern Zikarsky (50.23).

"I always swim to win but today was nothing special, next year in Atlanta (at the Olympics) it will count again. I am not in the best of health at the moment," Popov said.

Selkov, inside world record schedule for the first 100 metres, won the 200 backstroke easily in 1:58.48 in the absence of his old Spanish rival Olympic champion Martin Lopez Zubero, who has a back injury.

"I'm not satisfied with my performance. I've probably competed too often this year," he said. "The competition would probably have been harder if Lopez Zubero had been here."

Jacobsen, by contrast, was astonished and overjoyed to inherit the 100 backstroke title vacated by Hungarian Krisztina Egerszegi, who won Tuesday's 400 individual medley but contests nothing else here except the 200 backstroke.

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MEDALS TABLE

Medals table after the eighth day of the 11-day European Swimming Championships on Thursday:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Russia	11	2	4
Germany	9	8	4
Hungary	2	1	0
Finland	2	0	1
Belgium	2	0	0
Holland	1	3	0
Denmark	1	1	1
Sweden	0	5	0
France	0	3	1
Ukraine	0	2	1
Poland	0	1	2
Ireland	0	1	0
Romania	0	1	0
Italy	0	0	6
Britain	0	0	5
Belarus	0	0	1
Czech Republic	0	0	1
Greece	0	0	1
Norway	0	0	1

(Note: There were two bronze medals in the women's 200 metres freestyle)

Kafelnikov hardly breaks a sweat

COMMACK, New York, 25: Top seed and defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov routed fellow Russian Alexander Volkov 6-1, 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals of the \$28,000 dollars Hamlet Cup on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Kafelnikov, 21, needed just 46 minutes to subdue Volkov, who is seven years his senior. The winner of three titles this year, Kafelnikov won 33 of 45 points on his serve and saved the lone break point he faced.

"I'm feeling very confident in the way I'm playing," Kafelnikov said. "With the US Open coming up, you don't want to be out there any longer than you have to, so it's good to win like that."

In other second-round matches, Renzo Furlan of Italy upset fourth-seed Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine 6-4, 6-0, and qualifier Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan overwhelmed Andrei Chesnokov of Russia 6-2, 6-3.

UEFA's 'Visions' shake FIFA



GENEVA, Aug 25: UEFA president Lennart Johansson has won wide support for a radical reform of world soccer that would lessen the influence of FIFA and give more power to regional confederations, reports Reuter.

The announcement, after a meeting in Brussels on Tuesday between the various confederations, appeared to herald a new power struggle between Europe's UEFA and Joao Havelange's world body FIFA — which immediately contested the UEFA claim.

UEFA said in a statement that Johansson had submitted two strategy documents, "Vision" and "Vision II", to FIFA president Havelange and the heads of the other confederations from Africa, North and Central America, South America, Asia and Oceania.

Johansson's basic premise — although UEFA did not spell it out — is that FIFA has mishandled the marketing of the World Cup finals and that the kind of money generated by the Olympic Games should also be available for the World's premier sport.

UEFA said five of the six confederations — South America's CONMEBOL were absent — were represented at the Brussels meeting, held on the fringes of the centenary celebrations of the Belgian Football Federation.

The confederations agreed on the main principle of the first Vision document, meaning that the rule of the confederations will be "considerably strengthened."

But UEFA said a proposal by Johansson that the president of FIFA should be appointed every four years from among the heads of the confederations had already been dropped.

According to Johansson's plans, FIFA would "mainly be responsible for intercontinental matters," for the organisation of the World Cup finals and the finals of youth, women's and five-a-side tournaments after the 1998 FIFA congress, which is due to elect Havelange's successor.

The confederations also agreed to UEFA's proposal that the World Cup finals should be staged in a fixed sequence in a different continent every four years — a powerful incentive to confed-

erations in Africa or Latin America.

UEFA said it was only announcing Johansson's plans because details of FIFA's reaction to it had become public "due to an indiscretion."

In a separate communique sent out at almost the same time as UEFA's, FIFA announced that its emergency committee would meet to discuss the Vision proposals at FIFA headquarters in Zurich on September 8. The committee comprises the heads of all the confederations, including Johansson.

In its statement, FIFA said its general secretary Sepp Blatter had expressed regret that the discussion had "filtered to the public". But FIFA pointedly noted that Johansson's plan "has not been welcomed by all the confederations".

If a power struggle does take place, it could be a

bloody one. In 20 years at the head of FIFA, Havelange has made his position next to unassailable. He easily defused an attempt by UEFA to unseat him last year, mainly by offering eight extra places in the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

Since then dissatisfaction with his rule has grown and African soccer officials are said still to be fuming with FIFA's decision to move this year's world youth championship from Nigeria to Qatar.

Johansson's clincher could come with his second strategy document, Vision II, which the confederations did not discuss in depth in Brussels.

UEFA said the principle underlying that document was that FIFA's marketing deals for the World Cup finals, struck in 1987, expire in 1998 and "there has been a tremendous development in this specific sector."

End of Border era?

BRISBANE, Aug 25: Former Australian captain Allan Border said Friday he is contemplating retirement from first-class cricket. He cited a lack of motivation as the reason, reports AP.

Border, 40, said he was re-thinking his decision to play another season with the Queensland state team, which last season won the Sheffield Shield for the first time.

"Having got back into (training) again, I have found that my motivation was not as high as I thought it would be," Border said.

"I've also got a few personal factors which I have to consider and the body has been sending me a few messages as well."

Border announced last month that he would play on, but he is believed to be interested in filling the vacancy on the Australian selection panel left by the recent retirement of Lawrie Sawle.

Border retired from international cricket last year after playing in a world record 156 tests and scoring 11,174 runs.

বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation

Feeder Service

Notice to Consignees/Shippers

Banglar Robi

Feeder vessel Banglar Robi Voy 54 W/55 E Imp/Exp Rot Nos. 778/95/744/95 respectively is due to arrive at Chittagong on 26-8-95 ETD for Mongla 28-8-95 with BSC and other main line containers relayed at Singapore A/C Lloyd Triestino, Benline, Nol, Hapag Lloyd, New Ship, Hanoin, Apl, Jkt, Mitsui Osk, Pnocl N Misc:

Consignees are requested to clear their consignments immediately on discharge or within 45 days from the date of unloading. Failure to which will be guided by Customs Act. All FCL containers are to be cleared/detuffed by consignees at their own risk and expenses within 5 (five) days free time from the date of discharge.

Vessel will load for Singapore/various global destinations for booking of containers/containerised cargo and for any information relating to container/feeder service please contact at following address:

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"BSC Ghaban" Saotigha Road, Chittagong	28/1, Toyenbee Circular Road, Motijheel C/A Dhaka	KDA Bldg (2nd Floor) Lower Jessore Rd Khulna
Tel: Office 031- 505062-8, 506049, 502295 & 505071	Tel: Office 258378, 250830, 251411 & 251455	Tel: Office 22326, 21142 & 23702
Tlx: 66277, 66253 & 66359 BSC BJ	Tlx: 632204 N 642231 BSC BJ	Tlx: 633327 BSC BJ
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