

IOC won't let IFs expand

AFP, Lausanne

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Wednesday declared war on international sports federations (IF) who are pushing to increase the size of the Olympics. The IOC unveiled the programme for the 2004 Athens Games here and IOC sports director Gilbert Felli admitted he was expecting a battle from IFs unhappy with the plans. One of the most affected sports will be boxing. Instead of 12 weights it has been told to reduce the total to 11. The super heavyweight is expected to be scrapped with the other weight limits being changed. The total number of boxers taking part must be reduced by 26. Wrestling has been told that they can have a women's event but only if

they cut down on the number of men's events. Fencing has also been told it can have an extra women's event but must reduce else where. The number of competitors must remain the same. Swimming's request for a 50-metre race and open water race to be added to the programme was rejected. Athletics have been told to introduce a maximum quota. Football is one of the few sports allowed an increase. The number of women's teams competing will be increased from eight to ten. FIFA had asked for the total to be raised to 12. "This is the first time for years that we have not increased the number of events for an Olympics. For the first time we are trying to

apply the rules," said Felli. "No doubt some federations will be very unhappy but so be it." Badminton, baseball and tennis had all asked for extra events but the IOC firmly rejected the demands. "We are trying to limit the number of events to 300 and the number of athletes to 10,000," explained Felli. The IFs have until December to agree to the changes or put forward another solution. However the International Tug of War Federation's hopes of being allowed back into the Olympics were boosted when Felli confirmed that the sport was to be recognised as an Olympic sport. The last time the tug of war was in an Olympics was in the 1920 Games in Amsterdam.

USTA donates \$1m for WTC relief fund

AFP, New York

Ten days after completing the US Open, their annual multi-million dollar money-maker here, the US Tennis Association donated one million dollars to the World Trade Centre relief effort. "This tragedy is an incalculable loss to the city and the nation," said USTA President Merv Heller. The sport's national governing body delayed a Davis Cup relegation tie against India originally set for this weekend to October 12-14. The competition will remain in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, with the loser out of contention for the trophy in 2002.

Kowshik

FROM PAGE 13 and the more he plays the better he will become," said Mainul at a press briefing at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Besides, captain of the shadow national team Khaled Mahmud and Mushfiquur Rahman will also fight for the all-rounder slot in the national team. The 14-member team is once again is a combination of youth and experience. Apart from Kowshik, the selectors also invested in newcomers wicketkeeper Anwar Hossain, middle-order batsman Tushar Imran, opener Rafiqul and BKSP paceman Anwar Hossain Munir. Tushar and Munir have recently returned from a three-week course at the world famous Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy in Australia. Experienced left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique has been handed a chance to regain his place back in the Test squad. The tour would also open the door for two middle-order batsmen Sanwar Hossain and Hasanuzzaman, who played well in the National and the Premier Leagues. Although the selectors could argue that they chose the best possible team, however young middle-order batsman Mazharul Huq can claim that he deserves a better treatment. The right-hander was not only impressive with the willow in the practice matches at the BUET ground but also shed a several pounds in an effort to appease selectors, not happy about his weight. The Bangladesh A team will leave for India on October 13. They will play four three-day games and four limited-overs matches in different parts of western India.

SQUAD Khaled Mahmud (captain), Mehrab Hossain, Rafiqul Islam, Sanwar Hossain, Sanwar Hossain, Mohammed Ashrafur, Tushar Imran, Anwar Hossain (wicketkeeper), Mohammed Rafique, Fahim Muntasir, Mushfiquur Rahman, Bikash Ranjan Das, Masrafe-bin Murtoza Kowshik and Anwar Hossain. Standby: Hannan Sarker, Rajin Saleh, Sabbir Khan, Neeyamur Rashid, Sajjad Kadir, Mohammed Alamgir and Ahsanullah Hasan Rana. break point in the fourth set, and I could have won that match... so you can never (say) someone (Hewitt) is unbeatable." Hewitt said he was taking the confidence gained in recent matches into the Cup semi-final having beaten Sampras, Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andy Roddick to lift the US Open title. "It's been pretty full-on since the US Open, especially after all the incidents in New York, and it all comes with being a grand slam champion," Hewitt said. "At the start of the US Open I was probably thinking about the Davis Cup more than the Open, but as the thing went on and I saw myself as having a bit more of a chance, I tried to block out all about the Davis Cup. "Now I'm concentrating on how I'm going to attack the matches here and I don't want anything to slip up now that I've won a big tournament a week ago, and knowing what the four of us have been through down in Brazil (quarter-final). "We had some tough matches to get this opportunity of playing at home and we don't want to let Pat (Rafter) down and not make the final." Rafter is playing probably his last year of Davis Cup for his country.

Swedes prefer Bjorkman

Tennis

AFP, Sydney

Jonas Bjorkman's intimate knowledge of Australian tennis and superior form has pushed him into a heavy workload for Sweden in this weekend's Davis Cup tennis semi-final here. The 29-year-old journeyman was Thursday nominated ahead of Thomas Enqvist for Friday's opening singles and he was paired with Magnus Larsson for Saturday's pivotal doubles rubber against the announced lineup of Todd Woodbridge and Wayne Arthurs. Bjorkman, who has partnered Pat Rafter and Woodbridge in Grand Slam doubles, will take on newly-crowned US Open champion Lleyton Hewitt, while Thomas Johansson plays two-time US Open winner Rafter in the first singles rubber. Enqvist had been expected to play singles this weekend, but Swedish captain Carl-Axel Hageskog decided before Thursday's official draw at the Sydney Opera House that he would go with Bjorkman in Sweden's bid to reach the November 30-December 2 final against France or the Netherlands. "Jonas has been playing so good that it's not a 50-50 bet, rather it's 70-70," said Hageskog at a press conference. Bjorkman said his strength was his knowledge of the Australian team, but added "you also have to look at the other side, that they know my game pretty well as well." "With the way I'm hitting the ball now, I'm hopefully going to be ready for tomorrow and play some really good tennis." Poker-faced Enqvist, sitting alongside Bjorkman at the Swedish team briefing, said of his omission: "As part of the team you have to respect your captain's decision and my job now is to support my friends and teammates and do my best from the bench." Bjorkman said Sweden would relish the underdog role against a Hewitt-led Australia.



PHOTO: AFP

US Open champion Lleyton Hewitt speaks to the press while his Australian Davis Cup teammate Pat Rafter looks on in Sydney yesterday.

"Lleyton's definitely in his greatest form ever and we all know he has a tremendous future ahead of him, but all the pressure is on him... we come here as underdogs for the first time in 10 years and that's going to help us," said Bjorkman.

Bjorkman was talking up his chances of playing the red-hot Hewitt, who beat Pete Sampras in the US Open final earlier this month



JONAS BJORKMAN

in New York. "I was one point away in Melbourne during the Australian Open when I was 2-1 sets up and

Tamarine, Jelena in qtrs

Tennis

AFP, Tokyo

Thai star Tamarine Tanasugarn shrugged off a second set lapse to beat Australian Nicole Pratt in the second round of the Princess Cup tennis tournament on Thursday. Playing her first tournament since a first-round loss at the US Open, the seventh-seeded Thai needed one hour and 55 minutes to defeat Pratt 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. Third seed Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia, who captured her first career title at the Italian Open in May, powered her way through to the next round with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Russian teenager Lina Krasnoroutskaya. Tamarine double-faulted at 0-40 to lose the first game of the second set and soon found herself 1-3 down with Pratt hitting an array of fore-hand winners. The Thai star eventually lost the set with another service break in the ninth game. But she recovered in the final giving away only four points on her serve and the match with a beautiful backhand down the line. "I was rushing a bit in the second



AI SUGIYAMA



PHOTO: AFP

Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia hits a return against Russian Lina Krasnoroutskaya during their Princess Cup match yesterday.

Seeds sail

AFP, Quebec

Luxembourg's Anne Kremer and Croatia's Iva Majoli led a sweep by five seeded players here Wednesday in first-round matches at the 170,000-dollar WTA Challenge. Third seed Kremer, runner-up at the Budapest Open in April, ousted Canadian lucky loser Diana Srebnovic 6-2, 6-0.

TV watch

FROM PAGE 13 Super Selector 9:00 pm Cricket Classics Boycott's best England vs New Zealand Third Test 1986 11:00 pm

Irakli slays Gimelstob

Tennis

AFP, Shanghai

Georgian tennis giant-killer Irakli Labadze shook off the shock of his upset win over Andre Agassi, reaching a second quarterfinal in two months with a 6-7, 7-6, 6-2 comeback against American Justin Gimelstob Thursday at the 400,000-dollar Heineken Open. The 20-year-old followed up his last eight placing at a new event in Sopot, Poland, as he ousted the American, preventing Gimelstob from serving out victory on three occasions. On Tuesday, Labadze sent the tournament draw into a tailspin when he beat top-seeded drawcard Agassi in straight sets, the biggest win of his career. "I'm still in shock," admitted the youngster. "Even this morning, I woke up excited." Dane Kenneth Carlsen, another success story in the making, moved into a Friday confrontation with Labadze through his 6-4, 6-3 second-round defeat of Brazil's Andre Sa in the pair's first career meeting. Carlsen only came back to the game in June after 18 months out with shoulder problems, which required two operations. He reached the semifinals on grass at Newport in the US, but went out with cramps in the first round of the US Open. The 28-year-old is glad to be back in competition after so long away. "I'm just happy to be back on tour, there are a lot of young guys coming up. It's going to be tough having been out for so long," he said. "The game is improving all the time and I have to improve with it." After his showing so far this week in China's sprawling commercial capital of 17 million, the Dane is keen to keep up his new-found momentum. "I have to look at the positive side -- I'm 100 per cent motivated. I think I can recover my game even better than before. Being away has helped me to realise how lucky we are -- how much I love to play, how much I love to compete."

set and my concentration was a little bit off," said Tamarine, 24. "She started to play more aggressive and her serve was going well. It was very hard for me to come (to the net), her slice was very deep. "I started well in the third. I tried to come a lot to the net and tried to cool myself down and tried to play my game. I realised that I have to come to the net. That helped me a lot. That was good in the third." In Friday's quarterfinals, Tamarine will take on either French Open finalist and top seed Kim Clijsters of Belgium or Cara Black of Zimbabwe. Dokic, who received a first-round bye and was playing her first match since a loss in the final of the Brazilian Open on Saturday, had no problem against Krasnoroutskaya and was on the court for only 68 minutes. "It's been a long trip. I still have jet lag, so I was very happy to get through and play well," said Dokic, 18. "I was glad that I was up all the time and kept the pressure on her. It would have been tough in a third set

... I'm sure as the tournament goes on, I'll be feeling a lot better," she added. On Friday, Dokic will play American Meilen Tu, the winner over Liezel Huber of South Africa 6-7, 6-1, 7-5.

Only the best in Paris show

AFP, Paris

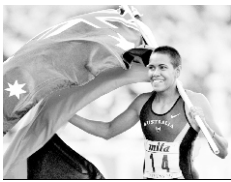
The world's leading players have confirmed they will take part in the Paris Indoor Open from October 29 to November 4, the French Tennis Federation announced here Wednesday. The tournament will feature the winners of the year's four Grand Slams - America's Andre Agassi, who won in Australia, Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten, who was the winner of the French Open, Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia as well as Leyton Hewitt of Australia who clinched the US Open crown earlier this month. champion Marat Safin.

Freeman eyes comeback

Athletics

REUTERS, Sydney

Australia's Olympic 400 metres gold medalist Cathy Freeman says she has finally rediscovered her competitive juices after taking a year off. Australia's most prominent Aboriginal sportswoman said she has planning to resume training in about six weeks time and was targeting next year's Commonwealth Games as her immediate goal. "The tingly feeling's definitely back," Freeman told a corporate luncheon in Sydney on Thursday. "There's a time and a place for



CATHY FREEMAN as her sabbatical.

everything and when I check-in on the first day of November I'll be ready to get back into it, go hard (and) try and win in the Commonwealth Games next year." Freeman became one of the world's best known athletes when she lit the flame at the opening ceremony for the Sydney 2000 Olympics before winning gold. Freeman also won the 400m at the 1997 and 1999 World Championships but did not compete at this year's titles in Edmonton after deciding to take a year's sabbatical.



PHOTO: DRU

Notable sports commentator Abdul Hamid recalls the deeds of his former colleague Ataul Huque Mullick at a commemorative meeting at the auditorium of Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Spanish feline 5 Greek letter 8 Some-where out there 12 Composer Khachaturian 13 Young Highlander 14 Rover's playmate 15 Venue for FDR's "chats" 17 Pebbles' dad 18 Large wine bottle 19 Greek moon goddess 21 Sternward 22 "Piggies" 23 Brit. fliers 26 Fine, to NASA 28 Burn with steam 31 Grand-scale 33 Zero 35 "Fish Magic" painter 36 Knapsack part 38 Dr.'s ken 40 Long time period 41 Epoch-related 43 Cranberry territory 45 Mottled marking 47 Highest point 51 Fashion magazine for 52 Diaghilev ballet, with "The" 54 Touch 55 Ring call 56 One of A.A. Milne's A's 57 Cleaning cloths 58 Longing 59 Information 61 Swindle (slang) 62 Seed 63 Scarlett's acreage 64 Greek letter 65 Former president 66 Swindled 67 That is 68 Damon's pal 69 "50% off" event, maybe 70 Port of Yemen 71 Took the bus 72 Couch 73 Dawn goddess 74 Dos' followers 75 Suitable 76 Hydrant 77 Kipling lad 78 Virgo neighbor 79 Hideaway 80 Rugs 81 Chrysler model 82 Chum 83 Chowder-head 84 Southpaw 85 Turn 86 "Dark Angel" sta Jessica 87 Arizona river 88 Part of Q.E.D. 89 Novelist Ferber 90 Marnie's man

Solution time: 21 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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M J S M H B E H Q B L J E S T  
G U O M E T W R B Q Q S T  
S T B F U Y B T M J B L B S M J B I  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IT MIGHT E CLAIMED THAT LEARNING TO BE A GOOD FIF CHIEF IS A MARSHAL ART.  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals E

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands f another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout it puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostroph give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.