

# Maradona behind bars

**BUENOS AIRES, Apr 27:** Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona was arrested on Friday afternoon on suspicion of possessing drugs, shocking the nation which had idolised his rags-to-riches hero, reports Reuter.

Police said Maradona, 30, was being held at Drug Squad Headquarters after his arrest with two other men at a flat in a Buenos Aires suburb.

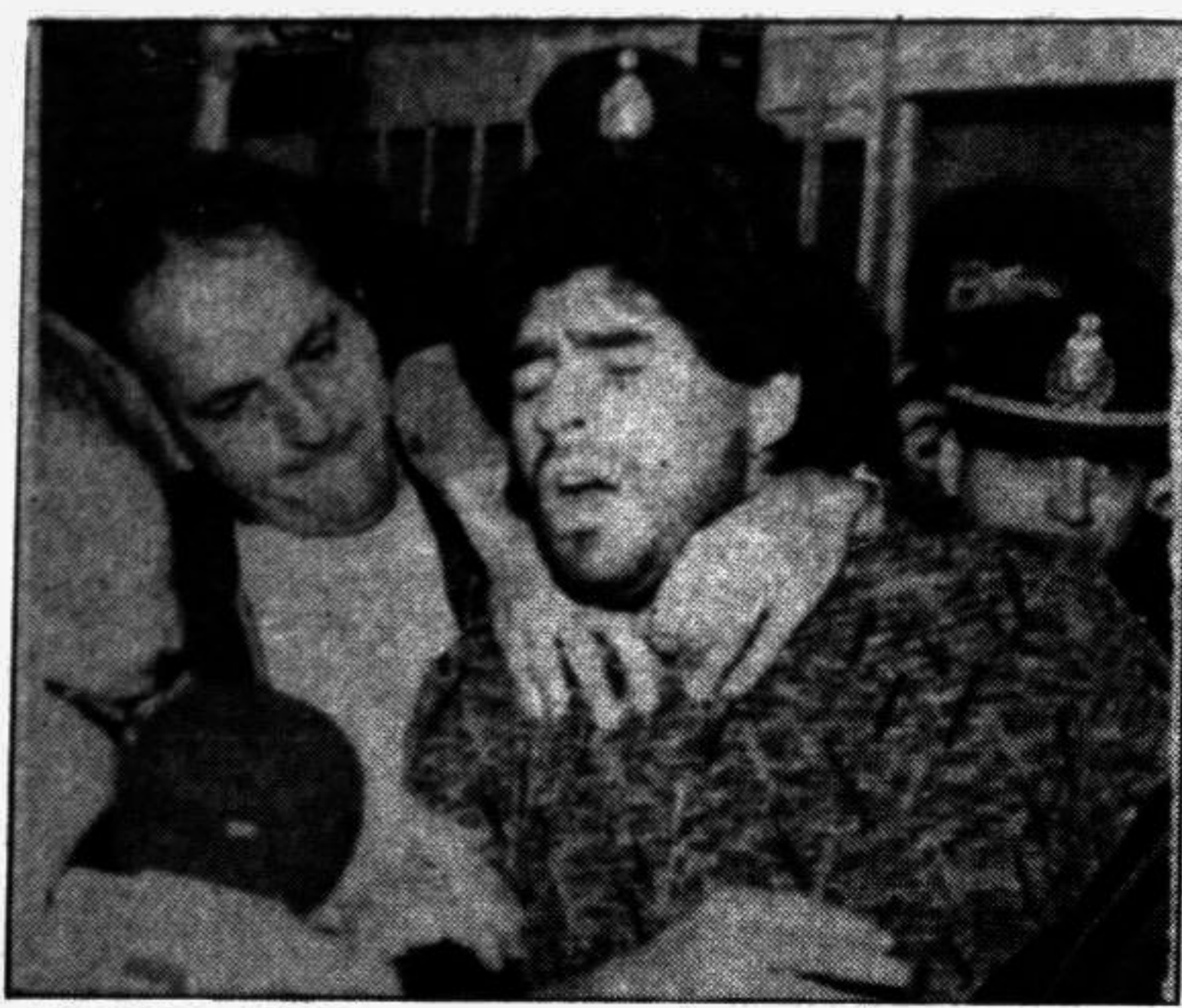
Television interrupted programmes to flash scenes of the stocky midfielder being hustled into a police car. He had been recently banned by the Italian Soccer League from playing anywhere in the world for 15 months after traces of cocaine were found in a urine sample.

Viewers saw their national hero, who had risen from a Buenos Aires slum to become one of the world's highest paid and best known athletes, eyes glazed and head lolling, smiled at onlookers as he left the building supported by another man.

Maradona appeared to be sobbing when he arrived at Drug Squad Headquarters, where he is likely to be held over the weekend before bail can be considered.

"I fell sorry for him. He looked awful. He just can't take the pressure," said housewife Maria Garcia.

"He's an idiot. He's thrown everything to hell," commented Jose Lorenzo, a waiter in a downtown bar where conversation centred on the man whose genius on the pitch had



**BUENOS AIRES:** Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona (R) is removed by unidentified police from a Buenos Aires apartment April 26 after being arrested for possession of a half-kilo cocaine. Two other men were also arrested according to the official news agency Noticias Argentinas. Maradona was suspended by the Italian League March 29 after an analysis of his urine tested positive for cocaine.

—AFP photo

led Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title but whose personal problems had left his career in tatters.

Legal sources said Maradona faced a prison sentence of one to six years if found guilty of possessing drugs if convicted of supplying drugs to others, the sentence could be up to 16 years.

Argentine goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea, Maradona's teammate in the 1990 World

Cup, said in a televised interview: "It's a really ugly situation. Very tough, we have got to support him because he has done so many good things."

Residents of the apartment block said Maradona and the two men had been at the first floor flat since Thursday afternoon. When drug squad cars pulled up outside they had seen Maradona throw a packet, later recovered by police, from the window.

The judge in charge of the

case denied a report by the official news agency Telam that a packet confiscated by police contained half a kilo of cocaine.

The names of the two other men have not been released although Maradona's agent Juan Marco Franchi said he understood they were childhood friends of the 30-year-old star.

Despite his problems in Italy, Maradona is still worshipped in Argentina where fans nurture the hope he will reconsider his decision to abandon international soccer and return to the national side he captained in 1986 and to second place in the 1990 finals.

Argentine manager Alfio Basile has repeatedly said the door was always open if Maradona wanted to return to the team.

Since signing with Napoli seven years ago, he helped the club win its first two Italian league championships and one European Football Union Cup.

But over the past two years his career went sour. He skipped practices and missed matches. His name was mentioned in connection with drug and prostitution rings, deepening his feud with Napoli's authorities, who are suing him for damaging the club's image.

When he returned to Argentina from Italy earlier this month with his wife and two daughters, Maradona said he wanted to abandon the game forever because he was fed up with professional soccer.

## Nat'l snooker gets underway

**Sports Reporter**  
The eighth national snooker championship organised by the Bangladesh Billiards and Snooker Federation began at the Dhaka Club yesterday.

Nuruddin Ahmed, President of Dhaka Club formally inaugurated the fortnight-long championship in the evening at the snooker room.

Prof. Dr. M M Hussain and Riazur Rahman Sohel, President and General Secretary respectively of the federation, also spoke on the occasion.

A record 55 players from eight clubs are participating in this year's competition.

The champion and runners-up will qualify to represent Bangladesh in the eighth Asian championships, to be held in Karachi, Pakistan, from June 26 to July 5.

The participating clubs are: Dhaka Club, Narayanjan Club, Engineers' Club, Comilla Club, Chittagong Club, Chittagong Catholic Club, Comilla Station Club and Gulshan Club.

The players have been divided in to eight groups for the first phase league matches. The top two teams of each group will qualify for the pre-quarter finals, to be played on knock-out basis.

Three matches were decided on the opening day. Eighteen matches are scheduled for today, beginning from 10 am.

The final will held on May 12.

## Ctg girls top Divisional meet

**CHITTAGONG, Apr 27:** Chittagong district became champions in the Chittagong Divisional women's athletics competition held today at local stadium under the auspices of the Chittagong Divisional Women's Sports Association by securing 31 points. Feni district finished runners-up with 19 points.

Marzina Banu, who was adjudged the fastest woman in Chittagong Division; won the individual championship with 13 points while Tulika Haq of Chittagong became the individual runner-up with 11 points.

Principal Hamida Ali, President of the Bangladesh Women's Sports Association, and Sharifunnahar Bari, President of Chittagong Divisional Women's Sports Association gave away the championship and the runners-up trophies.

Earlier, in the morning, Commissioner of Chittagong Division M A Bari inaugurated the competition.

The girls of Dr. Khastagir High School performed a beautiful physical display in the opening function. Saranika Chakma and Nihur Akhtar and Anamika carried the torch. Bhakta took the oath on behalf of all participants.

Nine district women's sports associations namely, Chittagong, Feni, Noakhali, Chandpur, Rangamati, Sylhet, Moulvi Bazar, Bandarban and Brahmanbaria participated in the meet.



Kalpna Akhter (R) beat her Ansars teammate Pushpa Rani for the under-48 kg class gold on the opening day of the national judo championships at the NSC gym yesterday.

# Ansars judokas lead

**Sports Reporter**  
All the five women's events were decided yesterday while two of the men's events were also completed. The following are the results of yesterday's events:

**WOMEN:**  
-40 kgs: (1) Bibha Sangma, (Ansars); (2) Nurunnahar (Ansars); (3) Jyotsna (VDP) and Jesmin Akhter (Chudanga).

-44 kgs: (1) Fahmda Rahman (BTMC); (2) Mina Akhter (Ansars); (3) Rina (VDP) and Rikta (Ansars).

-52 kgs: (1) Naina Chowdhury (BTMC); (2) Mithila Sangma (Ansars); (3) Ayesha (VDP).

-48 kgs: (1) Kalpna Akhter (Ansars); (2) Pushpa Rani (Ansars); (3) Jharna and Saleha (VDP).

+ 52 kgs: (1) Nurjahan (Ansars); (2) Yasmin Akhter (BTMC); (3) Rahima Akhter (Ansars) and Kamala (VDP).

**MEN:**  
-55 kgs: (1) Nagendranath Ray (Police); (2) Jalal Uddin (BDR); (3) Osman Ghani (BDR) and Asghar Ali (Police).

**Open weight:** (1) Birendranath Ray (Police); (2) Bellal Hossain (BDR); (3) Hashmat Ali (Police) and Ahmed Karim (BDR).

The remaining seven men's events will be held today, the concluding day.

M. Strajuddin, president of BJKF, formally inaugurated the meet in the morning.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas will attend

# China, Korea reach medal round

**CHIBA, Japan, Apr 27:** Defending champions China and the first joint Korean team reached the women's team medal round with a clean sweep of their seven ties in the first stage at the World table tennis championships here today, reports AFP.

But the fourth day of the week-long team event was upset when Germany handed China a walkover, claiming stomach aches, in a men's preliminary match.

German coach Eva Jelen said the Germans withdrew after winning the first two singles as China, determined to regain the men's title from Sweden, tried to throw away

the tie in order to avoid Sweden in the early stages of the final knockout tournament.

The championship jury was expected to meet later to discuss a protest from China and possible sanctions including Germany's disqualification and the nullification of their earlier results.

The Chinese women, sidelining singles title-holder and world number one Qiao Hong, beat Hungary 3-0 in their final match in the preliminary Group 'A'.

Hungary, fourth at the last 1989 championships at Dortmund, finished second in the eight-team group with five wins and two losses.

They also reached the final knockout tournament bringing together six teams each from

the elite 'A' and 'B' groups and four from the lower-ranked groups.

In the women's Group 'B' Korea beat Hong Kong 3-0 with world number three Li Bun-Hui from the north playing only in the doubles rubber.

Hong Kong, the 1989 bronze medalist, finished the Group 'A' first stage behind Korea with six wins and one loss.

The winning team in Group 'A' will be seeded in the same half of the final tournament with the runners-up in Group 'B' and vice-versa.

We will continue to use Yu Sun-Bok effectively, Korean coach Yoon Sang-Moon said. Yoon, world number 17 from the north, took the first singles against Hong Kong's Chai

Po Wa 5-21, 22-20, 21-17.

South Korean ace Hyun Jung-Hwa beat Chan Tan Liu 21-19, 21-17 before combining with Li Bun Hui to beat Chai and Chan 21-19, 21-12 in the doubles.

The coach said, Chai is known to confuse their opponents but we will make preparations to cope with the situation.

In the men's first stage Group 'A' Sweden, Korea and Yugoslavia won their sixth ties and stood level at five wins and one loss before their final preliminary matchups in the afternoon.

The China-Yugoslav tie in Group 'B' was listed as a 3-2 win leaving China unbeaten with six wins. Germany trailed four wins and two losses.

# Germany face disqualification

**CHIBA, Japan, Apr 27:** Germany faced disqualification from the men's team competition at the table tennis championships after sensationally withdrawing from their match with group leaders China when leading 2-0 today, reports Reuter.

The fine is massive by Soviet standards, but galloping inflation has gradually reduced the value of the rouble to a fraction of the official exchange rate, which stands at 1.7 dollars to the rouble.

The Moscow side attracted crowds of around 100,000 for the home games in the European Cup against Napoli, Real Madrid and Marseille and will also have earned valuable hard currency during the tournament in Japan.

Spartak, who lost to Marseille in the European Cup on Wednesday, are seventh in the First Division.

German manager Eva Jelen defaulted the match, saying her players were all suffering from stomach complaints.

She also accused the Chinese, who fielded an under-strength team, of deliberately trying to lose the tie to avoid joining defending champions Sweden in their half of the draw during the knockout stage of the championship, being held in Japan.

"The Chinese wanted to lose the match—they played very badly. They wanted to choose their position in their group to avoid Sweden," she said.

**NZ beat Malaysia**  
WELLINGTON, Apr 27: New Zealand beat Malaysia 2-1 in the first of two men's hockey Tests here today after leading 2-0 at half-time, reports AFP.

The second international will be played here Sunday.

Today's Test was the best performance the Malaysians have put up so far on their tour. They played two matches before the first Test and were beaten 6-1 by Canterbury and 3-1 by a New Zealand invitation team.

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) jury will meet later today to decide whether Germany should be disqualified from the championships.

"Things do not look good for the German team," said championship referee Cindy Leung of Hong Kong.

"It is not good for the sport for them to withdraw like that and give the match to China on default."

"The Germans claimed they were not well but it seemed to me they were quite well after all they were leading 2-0. The jury has the power to disqualify them from the rest of the team championships."

Chinese men's team coach Xi Enting was outraged by the incident.

"We cannot believe they defaulted a tie in an official world championship. We cannot believe the reasons," he said.

"I know Germany think we wanted to lose the match intentionally but that is not so. We rested our top players and fielded other players to give them experience."

"We wanted to win. Fielding under-strength teams is common in world championships. Against us on Friday Poland left out top player (Andrezej) Grubba."

Xi signed the official result form, giving China a 3-2 win in Group 'B', under protest.

Jelen refused to comment on the nature of the alleged stomach complaints suffered by the German players.

China's top two players, Ma Wenge and Zhang Lei, were not in the starting line-up against the Germans who had only lost one game in Groups 'B' before Saturday. China were unbeaten.

Peter Franz defeated Yu Shentong 21-15, 21-17 and Steffen Fetzner overcame Wang Tao 21-16, 21-17 in the two matches that were player.

**Shamsun Nahar Hall reception**  
By DU Correspondent

Shamsun Nahar Hall of Dhaka University will accord a reception to the best sports personalities of the hall for the years 1989-91 today (Sunday) at 7 pm at the hall auditorium.

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. Maniruzzaman Miah will give away the trophies.

Pro-vice Chancellor Prof. Wakil Ahmed and Dean of the Social Science Faculty Prof. Anwarullah Chowdhury will attend as special guests.

## Venables against Gazza joining Lazio

**LONDON, Apr 27:** Tottenham manager Terry Venables said on Friday England midfielder Paul Gascoigne would be making a big mistake if he agreed to join Italian soccer club Lazio, reports Reuter.

Reacting to reports that Nat Solomon, chairman of the club's holding company, was in Italy negotiating a transfer, Venables said: "As far as I am concerned, it is by no means a one-in-a-lifetime proposition for him (Gascoigne)."

"He is only 23 and there are bigger and better clubs for him. I don't think it will be good for him to go to Lazio and I don't think there is enough money in it."

Rome-based Lazio, midway down the Italian First Division,

offered Tottenham a record 16 billion lire (15 million dollars) for the midfielder last month.

That sum would help pay off part of Spurs' estimated 12 million pounds (20 million dollar) debt.

But Lazio denied on Friday they were on the point of signing Gascoigne, with sports director Carlo Regalia saying he had "no idea" whether Solomon was in Rome.

Gascoigne became a national sporting hero in last year's World Cup finals and had scored 19 goals for Tottenham this season despite constant injury problems.

Venables still believes that he and a consortium of businessmen can save Spurs — without selling Gascoigne — if they are given enough time to present a 20 million pound sterling

## Becker destroys Chesnokov

**MONTE CARLO, Apr 27:** Boris Becker emphatically beat holder Andrei Chesnokov at his own baseline game on Friday to reach the semifinals of the Monte Carlo Open tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

The German world number two, playing like a born clay-court specialist systematically

destroyed the Soviet eight shots, he took the next four to lead 6-1 and 1-0 in 30 minutes.

In the second set Chesnokov showed some signs of a recovery, holding his first two serves and breaking back for 4-3 after losing his third service game to two superb passing shots by the German.

But there was no denying Becker. He broke again for 5-3 and went on to seal victory in one hour and 13 minutes.

"Today I discovered his game on clay. It will be different next time, if I have not given up tennis by then," said a slightly bemused Chesnokov.

Becker, who lost in the final of the Monte Carlo event to Argentine Alberto Mancini, in 1989, refused to talk of his chances against Pripic, who has yet to drop a set in the tournament.

"I don't know why I'm doing so well."

## Lodhi in the lead

**Sports Reporter**  
Pakistan's international Master Mahmud Akhter Lodhi led the field with two points from two wins in the United Insurance International Masters' chess tournament after the second day's play yesterday at the Bangladesh Chess Federation chess room.

Lodhi, who beat India's Vishal Sareen in his opening game Friday, yesterday beat Rezaul Haq after the Bangladeshi FIDE Master fell behind the clock. Playing over Indian International Master Bipin Shenoy. Playing white, Almas forced Shenoy to resign after 51 moves. In his opening match Friday Almas was beaten by Niraj Misra.

But perhaps the most remarkable result on the second day was the surprise win of Bangladesh's Almasur Rahman over Indian International Master Bipin Shenoy. Playing white, Almas forced Shenoy to resign after 51 moves. In his opening match Friday Almas was beaten by Niraj Misra.

The match between former Bangladesh champion Yunus Hassan and V. Koshi of India was in progress at the time of filing this report.

The match between Zillur Rahman Champak and Indian International Master T. N. Parameshwaran, who arrived only yesterday, was adjourned yesterday evening.

Fourteen players, including six foreigners — five from India and one from Pakistan — are taking part in this 13-round Swiss league tournament sponsored by United Insurance Company.

## Spain hold Aussies

**MADRID, Apr 27:** Australia gradually finding their feet after 35 hour trip from down under, were held 3-3 by Spain here on Friday in the six nations hockey tournament, reports Reuter.

The Australians, who beat Argentina 2-0 on Thursday, went two goals ahead in a two minute spell. Newcomer Paul Lewis and veteran striker Mark Hager, who had an outstanding game, gave them a great start.

But Spain's penalty corner ace Joaquin Malgosa struck twice to equalise before half-time.

Lee Bodimead put Australia back ahead three minutes after the interval with his first goal in only his second international.

But the ever-dangerous Jose Casanas pegged them back in the 59th minute.

Spain play Argentina in the last Group 'B' match today to decide who goes into Sunday's final.

## Spain hold Aussies

"Of course would like to win this tournament but we also expect to play a top sided team on Sunday," Australian coach Franck Murray said.

"Spain are favourites against Argentina. Let's hope they only win by a one goal margin so we can play in the final."

Lewis, who came on as a substitute yesterday for his seventh international, scored his first goal for Australia in the 18th minute. He blasted in a cross from 19-year-old Greg Corbitt on the left.

Hager rounded off another flowing move in the next minute.

But Spain refused to buckle and reduced the deficit when Malgosa stroked in Xavi Escude's second successive penalty corner.

Spain then played their best hockey of the match and forced another penalty corner for Malgosa to equalise in the 27th minute when goalkeeper Lachlan Dreher blundered.

The pace slackened off in the second half. Bodimead made it 3-2 after a neat move but fast, Tricky Casas escaped to snatch a draw.



India's V.Koshi (L) in action against Bangladesh's Younus Hassan on the second day of the United Insurance international Masters' chess at the BCF chess room yesterday.

## Chavez remains unbeaten

**CULIACAN, Mexico, Apr 27:** Julio Cesar Chavez, the world super lightweight champion, remained unbeaten in 75 fights when he knocked out Tommy Small Friday night in the fourth round of a non-title bout, reports AP.