

Maradona to move to Florida

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 6: Argentina's fallen soccer idol Diego Maradona said in an interview published on Sunday that he would take up residence in the U.S. state of Florida this year, reports Reuter.

Maradona, who faces cocaine possession and trafficking charges in Argentina, told the newspaper La Nacion he was planning to move with his wife Claudia and infant daughters Dalma and Gianna to an unnamed coastal city in Florida in about three months.

"We don't want to say right now where we are moving to. It will be hard for my wife and the kids but I have already taken a decision. We've even rented the house where we will live," Maradona told the Buenos Aires Daily in an interview.

He said he had turned down an invitation from Cuban leader Fidel Castro to move to the communist-ruled island to establish soccer clinics for children.

Maradona was arrested in April at a Buenos Aires flat where police found cocaine and was released a few hours later after paying 20,000 dollars bail.

The soccer star told La Nacion that he had admitted before the judge hearing the case that he had used cocaine but denied the possession and trafficking charges.

Before his arrest, the Italian soccer league had banned Maradona, a Napoli midfielder, from playing for 15 months af-

ter his urine sample showed traces of cocaine. The International Football Federation later extended the ban worldwide.

In his interview, Maradona said he had finished a 36,000 dollar, three-month rehabilitation programme and repeated that he would not return to professional soccer.



Maradona with wife and daughter in happier days

Maradona, who reckoned he was about 12 kg (25 LB) over his ideal weight, said he was the victim of a plot designed to destroy him and spoke bitterly about having been used by Argentine politicians.

He argued that the Italian soccer league had banned him in revenge for Argentina's victory over Italy's squad in the 1990 World Cup semifinals.

That suspension was to

make me pay for everything that happened during the world cup in Italy, and nobody can make me think otherwise," he said.

When they yanked me from soccer they killed me. Sports-wise, they put me in a coma. And when I returned to Argentina, they finished me off," he said.

The two Russian booters arrive. Two footballers of the Russian youth team arrived in the city yesterday to play for the Dhaka Senior Division league champions Abahani KC in the coming season, reports UNB.

The Metropolitan Senior Division football league begins next Friday at the Mirpur National Stadium with 20 teams participating on a single league basis.

The two Russian footballers Sergei Zhukov (21) and Arefiv (22) repeatedly played in the last World Youth Championship. They played for the Moscow Torpedo Club which finished third in the last national championship.

Another Russian youth footballer, Ulianov, is expected to reach here next Monday to join the Abahani camp.

All the three Russian booters will stay in Dhaka till the completion of the league, club sources said.

League champions Abahani KC will meet newcomers Bangladesh Police in the inaugural match on Friday, January 10, at the Mirpur National Stadium at 4 pm.

Rahmatganj MFS will take on Sadharan Bima KS in the other league match on the opening day at 6 pm.

On the next day, Jan 11, Victoria SC will meet Farnshaganj SC at 3 pm while Mohammedan SC will face another newcomer, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha, at 5 pm.

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Fischer refuses to bite the bait

REGGIO EMILIA, Italy, Jan 6: When the greatest players in chess gathered in Italy for a nostalgic reunion, the name on all their lips was that of the one former world champion who did not turn up—the elusive Bobby Fischer, reports Reuter.

All 14 Grandmasters attending an international category 18 tournament here—the highest-ranked event in chess history—are still pondering what made Fischer give up after winning the world title 20 years ago.

"Fischer and Alexander Alekhine are the best players in history," said current world champion Garry Kasparov.

"There must have been a reason why he left chess and it's a great pity for the chess world that he has not played for

20 years. He was a chess genius."

The only one of seven surviving world chess champions not to show up for the tournament here, which ends today, the 48-year-old American has lived a reclusive life since giving up competitive chess after his 1972 victory.

One of the few still in touch with him is Boris Spassky, the former Soviet champion who lost to Fischer in that epic battle in Iceland at the height of the Cold War.

"I've met Bobby several times in the last two years, but I don't like to talk about it because Bobby does not like publicity," said Spassky.

Fischer's obsession with avoiding the limelight is legendary, and a recent visit to Pasadena, California, where he now lives only served to in-

crease the mystique surrounding him.

Staff at the local post office said an old lady usually picked up his mail. Fischer came in person only about once a fortnight.

Fischer lost his crown by default to Anatoly Karpov in 1975 after falling out with the

are competing in the tournament here. Former champions Mikhail Botvinnik and Vasily Smyslov arrived in Italy on Thursday to watch the closing rounds and were joined by Spassky and Mikhail Tal on Sunday, leaving Fischer as the only one of the surviving champions to stay away.

Alekhine died in 1949 when he was still champion.

Chicago-born Fischer, who learned to play chess at the age of six and became the youngest Grandmaster in history aged 15, almost lost his chance for the 1972 title by turning up late for his match with Spassky.

"I could have won the match without a fight because Bobby didn't come to the match on time. If I had won without a fight I would always have been ashamed of myself and felt I was not a real champion because I did not play Fischer," Spassky said.

"It seems our match in Reykjavik killed both of us," he added. "Fischer because he never played in public again and me because I lost the title."

"Bobby was like a fish in my hands in that encounter, a fish that I always thought I was going to land but one which always escaped my grasp."

Luis Rentero, who organises chess tournaments in Spain, spoke with Fischer on a recent visit to Los Angeles and said the American was still angry that the Russians took away his title.

"I offered him two million dollars to play some of the world's leading Grandmasters, but he has yet to answer. He is still in good chess shape still considers himself champion of the world," Rentero said.



BOBBY FISCHER

World Chess Federation.

"I very much wanted to play that match against Bobby," Karpov said.

"I was optimistic about my chances but I believe Fischer was frightened of losing that match. He kept putting off the start."

Both Kasparov and Karpov

Anand optimistic of winning title

REGGIO EMILIA, Italy, Jan 6: Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand believes he will win the annual Reggio Emilia chess tournament in Italy today, reports Reuter.

Speaking during Sunday's rest day prior to the final round, Anand said he had the best draw of the joint tournament leaders, Russian Garry Kasparov, Boris Gelfand of Belarus and himself.

"I have the best chance of all because I'm playing against the least in-form player of the tournament, Belyavski, who is currently last."

"If I tie with world champion Kasparov, then I will win the tournament because I beat him in our direct confrontation."

Earlier on Sunday, Russian Valery Salov won his first game of the tournament, beating compatriot Alexander Khalifman.

Salov won the eighth round

match, which had been carried over from Saturday, in 61 moves and thus became the 10th of the 10 Grandmasters competing in Reggio Emilia to win a game.

Previously in a sixth round adjourned game Salov had been beaten by the Russian Lev Polugayevski, after 76 moves.

Draw for today's final round: Garry Kasparov (Russia) v Alexander Khalifman (Russia) Boris Gelfand (Belarus) v Anatoly Karpov (Russia) Alexander Belyavski (Russia) v Viswanathan Anand (India) Vasily Ivanchuk (Russia) v Lev Polugayevski (Russia)

Valery Salov (Russia) v Mikhail Gurevich (Belgium). Standings after the eighth round:

Kasparov, Gelfand and Anand	5 points
Karpov	4
Gurevich, Ivanchuk, Khalifman and Polugayevski	4
Salov	3
Belyavski	1-1/2

Ivanisevic's title

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 6: Top-seeded Goran Ivanisevic recovered from a slow start and used a strong serve to beat Christian Bergstrom in the final Sunday night of the dhrs 182,500 Australian Hardcourt tennis championships, reports AP.

The tall, powerful left-hander defeated the unseeded Bergstrom 1-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 in a war of attrition that lasted almost 2 1/2 hours. Ivanisevic had 15 service aces in the match.

It was Ivanisevic's third IBM/ATP tour event victory, but he said it was his first representing the breakaway Yugoslav republic of Croatia.

"This is the first tournament I'm playing for Croatia. It will always be special for me," he said.

Bergstrom, 24, was playing in the first final of his career and wilted toward the end in cold and windy conditions at Memorial Drive.

'92 may be McEnroe's last

ADELAIDE, Jan 6: Three-time Wimbledon and four-time US Open champion John McEnroe repeated Monday that 1992 was likely to be his last on the international tennis circuit, reports AP.

The 32-year-old American,

be that much together to possibly win a big tournament."

McEnroe returned to Australia on Monday for the first time in two years.

The left-hander is preparing for his fifth assault on the Australian Open, where he has never advanced beyond the semifinals.

McEnroe was defaulted in the fourth round of the 1990 tournament during the fourth set of his match against Sweden's Mikael Pernfors.

Chair umpire Gerry Armstrong threw out the explosive McEnroe for using abusive language.

McEnroe said he had no ill-feelings against Australia following the incident.

"As far as I was concerned it had nothing to do with Australia, it was just to do with me not knowing the rules and overdoing it," he said. "It was just one of those things that it happened here."

The winner of 77 career singles titles, McEnroe said he was conscious he had not won a Grand Slam title since 1984.

"It's been six or seven years since I've won a major, I haven't been in the finals of a major for four or five years so at a certain stage you have to make a decision," he said. "This is not saying 'I'm retiring', it's just to let people know so they don't need to ask me or whatever."

"I'm going to stay in shape and I may still feel like playing in a US Open or Australia Open."

McEnroe won only one tournament in 1991, beating his brother Patrick in the final at Chicago.

"It was the worst year I've had in 15 years as far as my tennis goes," he said. "I had a great year in that my baby girl (Emily) was born, but as far as my job it was all bad."

"Where I am now speaks for itself."

McEnroe said the lifestyle suited younger players.

"It's not set up for players with families and payers that don't want to travel as much," he said.

Villa force a replay with Spurs

LONDON, Jan 6: Tottenham Hotspur began their defence of the English FA Cup in a dour defensive fashion when they held Aston Villa to a goalless draw at Villa Park on Sunday, reports AFP.

Peter Shreeves Killjoys set out to blunt Aston Villa's exciting, attacking instincts—and succeeded superbly to take the tie back to a white hart lane replay.

And if Paul Walsh had enjoyed a little better luck in the closing minutes, Spurs would have stolen through without the need for a second match.

He was presented with a great opening by Paul McGrath's 83rd minute slip, but allowed the big Irish defender time to recover and then reacted furiously when Dwight Yorke's penalty box

challenge soon afterwards went unpunished.

For all their pressure Villa produced just one decent chance, a Cyrille Regis miss in the first half, and after three consecutive away defeats, their chances of progressing looked slim.

It was a Cup tie brimming with tradition, as between them the sides have won the trophy 15 times, and although the last of Villa's seven triumphs was back in 1957, they included on fewer than five winners from other clubs.

Spurs, again without Gordon Duric, had to defend in depth, but their occasional breaks carried more flair.

Their most anxious moment came seven minutes before the break when Steve Staunton's free kick sailed towards the back post, where Regis, at full-stretch, headed wide.

The tie of the round, between Leeds and Manchester United, was washed out by overnight rain and will now go ahead on January 15.

England under-21 international Tommy Johnson and skipper Phil Turner scored the goals that eased Notts County into the FA Cup fourth round with a 2-0 victory over Third Division Wigan.

And in London, Charlton subdued league newcomers Barnet at Upton Park with a 3-1 win.

The Fourth Division side went ahead in the 31st minute through Mark Carter but five minutes later Steve Gattling levelled and in the second half, Nippy winger Robert Lee made the other two goals, for Carl Leaburn after 66 minutes and substitute Kim Grant 13 minutes later.

Tough time for seeds in Sydney

SYDNEY, Jan 6: It's a good thing David Wheaton and Guy Forget don't expect competitors to treat them any differently coming off the biggest victories of their careers, reports AP.

Both had their hands full

Nawab Katra win big in Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Nawab Katra Juba Sangha had a wonderful time yesterday when they trounced their much weaker opponents Dhaka Dynamo Club 5-0 in a Group B match of the West Zone in the 1991 Janata Bank Pioneer football league yesterday at the Outer Stadium.

Nawab Katra had no real difficulty in getting the better of Dynamo in this one-sided affair.

Zahid and Shahi slotted two goals each while Zahoor scored the other one for the winners.

The other match of the group at the same venue, between Lalbagh Krira Chakra and Chankhar Pool Kishore Sangha, ended in a 1-1 draw.

Aganagar PMS edged past Abakash Tarun Sangha 1-0 in the Group-B match of East Zone at the Dhoopkhola ground.

Selim scored the all-important goal for Aganagar.

The other match of the same group at the venue, between Anirban Pathagar and Muradpur Ekota XI, ended goalless.

At the Jagannath University College ground, two matches of the Group-A (East Zone) were decided.

In the first match, Mokim Bazar Krira Chakra got the better of Shatalal Samajik-0-Sangskritik Sangha 2-0.

Bablu slammed home both the goals for the winners.

to the second round of the New South Wales Open.

Defending champion Forget, who won six individual titles last year and then played a key part in France's Davis Cup championship, downed American Richey Reneberg 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

American Wheaton, making his first appearance since taking the dhrs 2 million top prize in the Grand Slam Cup last month, fended off local hero Wally Masur 7-5, 7-5.

It was typical of the difficult day for seeded players.

No 8 Derrick Rostagno of the United States was the first casualty, losing 6-2, 6-4, to Cristiano, Caratti of Italy.

Austria's Barbara Paulus, who became the women's No 17 seed when Manuela Malcuva-Fragner of Switzerland withdrew, quickly followed, losing 6-0, 6-2 to American Amy Frazier.

No 11 Sabine Appelmans of Belgium needed three sets to down Renae Stubbs of Australia 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, while No 12 Lori McNeil of the United States struggled early before ousting the Netherlands' Patrick Schulz 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

American Patrick McEnroe was ousted by France's Oliver Delaitre 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (4-3).

Stefano Pescosolido of Italy was defaulted after injuring a spectator when he dropped-kicked his racket during a qualifying match. The racket flew over a fence and cut the woman over the right eye. She was carried off by stretcher and taken to a nearby hospital. Pescosolido was fined dhrs 1,500.

Wheaton said it wasn't hard getting psyched to play in a tournament with a first prize of dhrs 33,800 after winning the Grand Slam Cup.

"I don't feel any differently," he said. "I wasn't really playing with much lower-ranked players as they advanced Monday

TT training

A three-week table tennis training course for boys and girls under-14 years of age, organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, begins at the National Coaching Centre on January 12 at 3 pm.

Intending boys and girls have been advised to send their names to the federation office at the National Stadium by January 11, a federation press release said yesterday.

for money in the first place. Every time I thought like that (during the Grand Slam Cup), I played really badly. I had to put that out of my mind."

Besides, he knew that if he didn't play well here, he'd quickly be sitting on the sidelines.

"All the guys who weren't seeded are good," he said. "I wasn't expecting to have things my own way."

The Forget-Reneberg match was contrast in styles—the lanky left-handed Frenchman relying on his powerful serve and blistering forehand; the stocky, right-handed Reneberg charging the net at every opportunity.

After Reneberg served an ace to take the second set, Forget was warned for ball abuse when he hit one that went out of the stands on a bounce. He admonished himself as he sat during the changeover.

"I actually let him win the second set," Forget said afterward. "All of a sudden I didn't serve as well... didn't hit the ball as hard as I can."

After taking off three weeks, "I need to find my marks."

And Forget said he wasn't overconfident in the aftermath of last month's Davis Cup tri-

umph, France's first in more than a half-century.

"I realized one of my biggest dreams, but I'm not different all," he said. "I just want to play well. I have plenty of satisfaction with my wife, my child and my friends. Tennis is just part of that."

Forget, ranked seventh in the world, was the highest seed to see action on the first day of the tournament, played under clear blue summer skies on the Roundabout Ace courts at the White City, complex in midtown Sydney.

Wimbledon champion Michael Stich of Germany, the top seed and ranked fourth in the world, and No 2 seed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia will have their first matches Tuesday in the 32-man field. Stich lost to Forget in last year's final here.

Women's top seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, ranked third in the world, and the other top seven women's seeds had first-round byes in the 56-woman field. Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia, the No 3 seed, is the defending champion.

The dhrs 500,000 tournament is a warm-up for the Australian Open, the two-week Grand Slam event that starts next Monday in Melbourne.



JOHN MCENROE

whose ranking slipped to a 15-year low of 28 at the end of 1991, said he would quit if his results did not improve.

"Unless there's a drastic change, this is going to be my last year," McEnroe told reporters at Memorial Drive, where he will play in the Rio Challenge six-man exhibition series from Wednesday through Saturday.

"I feel good about it because you have to make a decision and I feel good about the decision."

"I'm leaving the door open, but I also realize for me that as each year passes it's going to



GOAL! : Chankhar Pool Kishore Sangha and Lalbagh KC drew their Pioneer soccer league match 1-1 at the Outer Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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| ACROSS | DOWN | concern |
| 1 Mischief maker | 1 Saddam's land | 23 Kazoo-band instrument |
| 4 Unwilling to listen | 2 Waitress' handout | 24 Parrot |
| 8 Moist monarch, 1509-47 | 3 Corn concoction | 25 Apple-pie baker? |
| 12 Old Oids | 4 Ketch-am's 1 | 26 Yon chap |
| 13 Parisienne's magazine | 46 "Hud" Oscar winner | 27 Namath or Di-Maggio |
| 14 Malefic | 47 Male swan | 28 Squid's squirt |
| 15 Abby's sis | 48 Director Riefenstahl | 29 Tank fill |
| 16 Trim | 49 Jane Austen novel | 30 Mellowed |
| 17 Yield | 50 Farm femme | 31 TV's Griffin |
| 18 British monarch, 1837-1901 | 51 Kidney, e.g. | 32 Cigar flick |
| 21 Conk out | 52 Stupefied | 33 Ambush |
| 22 Elephant fodder | 53 Steve of baseball | 34 Repeat-edly |
| 23 Band-leader Harry | | 37 Writer's woe |
| 26 Whammy | | 38 TV newsman Marvin |
| 27 Some-times it's up | | 39 Words of understanding |
| 30 Fairy-tale preposition | | 40 1492 ship |
| 31 Disen-cumbered | | 41 Megalo-maniacal captain |
| 32 "Who's the Boss?" role | | 42 Summer-time desserts |
| 33 Jewel | | 43 Hawk-eyes' home |
| 34 Intent | | 44 Mountain goat |
| 35 There are 52 in a year | | |

Solution time: 23 mins.

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