

**Bangladesh draw with China in Asian jr hockey**

Bangladesh drew goalless with China in their first group match of the Junior Asia Cup hockey championship at Kuala Lumpur Friday, the opening day of the tournament, reports UNB.

Bangladesh had a slight edge over their opponents with five penalty corners against two for China but could not utilise the opportunities for lack of a scorer, according to a message received in Dhaka from the Malaysian capital.

The Bangladesh boys probed the Chinese territory a number of times and missed at least four close chances.

Bangladesh play Singapore today, Saturday.

**Naim for Seoul**

**Sports Reporter**

Abdur Rahim Naim of Bangladesh Navy, who set a new national 400m hurdles mark in the inaugural Power summer athletic meet which concluded Thursday, will leave for the South Korean capital Seoul to take part in the fourth World Junior under-20 athletic meet to be held there from September 16 to 20.

Naim's new mark of 52.24 seconds shaved .33 seconds from the mark set by Wazir Rahman of BTMC in 1990.

Naim represented the country in the fifth SAF Games held last December in Colombo.

Farukul Islam, a director of the National Sports Council and a member of the Bangladesh Amateur Athletic Federation, is likely to accompany Naim as manager.

**Div III soccer**

**Sports Reporter**

Maghbazar Krira Chakra shared points with Rahmatganj Sporting Club after their keenly contested encounter ended in a two-all draw in the Pragati Insurance Third Division football league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Alamgir put Maghbazar ahead in the 23rd minute.

Masud Rana drew level for Rahmatganj in the 65th minute. Awlad Hossain made it 2-1 for Rahmatganj in the 68th minute. Nijamuddin restored parity for Maghbazar in the 70th minute.

Badda Jagarani Sansad drew with Purbachal Parishad 1-1 earlier in the afternoon at the same venue.

Abul Hasan scored for Purbachal in the 27th minute while Hamdul Huq drew level for Jagarani in the sixth minute of the second half.

Shafiqul Islam of Jagarani and Shahabuddin of Rahmatganj received the yellow cards.

At the Mahakhali T&T ground, Lalmatia Club beat Gandaria Famous Sporting Club by a solitary goal.

Amzudul Islam Sujon was the scorer.

On Thursday, Bashabo Tarun Sangha beat Little Friends Club 1-0 while Mutauli Juba Sangha shared points with Dilkusha Sporting Club in a goalless draw at the Outer Stadium.

Shyamol Bhowmik got the only goal of the day.

Khalilur Rahman of Little Friends received the red card for intentionally intercepting the ball with the hands.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

East End Boys vs Kadamtala (3 pm: Outer Stadium)

Aminbazar KS vs Maghbazar KS (4:30 pm: Outer Stadium)

**Panthers, Eagles cagers win**

**Sports Reporter**

Panthers Sporting Club and Eagles Club won their Partex First Division basketball league matches yesterday by convincing margins at the wooden-floor gymnasium.

Against the Josephites Club it was a bit of a struggle for the Panthers cagers in the first half which they trailed 22-24.

But in the second half the Josephites seemed to have lost their touch, mustering only 19 points against the 44 scored by the Panthers.

The final score read 66-43.

Manju and Parvez notched up 18 and 13 points respectively for the winners while Shezad and Kim scored 13 and 12 for the losers.

In the other match of the day, Eagles Club displayed a superior blend of pace and skill to rout the under-rated Back Stroke Boys 89-64.

Towhid (19) and Mahfuz (13) led a joint assault on the infirm Back Stroke defence to steer their side to a winning lead of 36-22 at the recess.

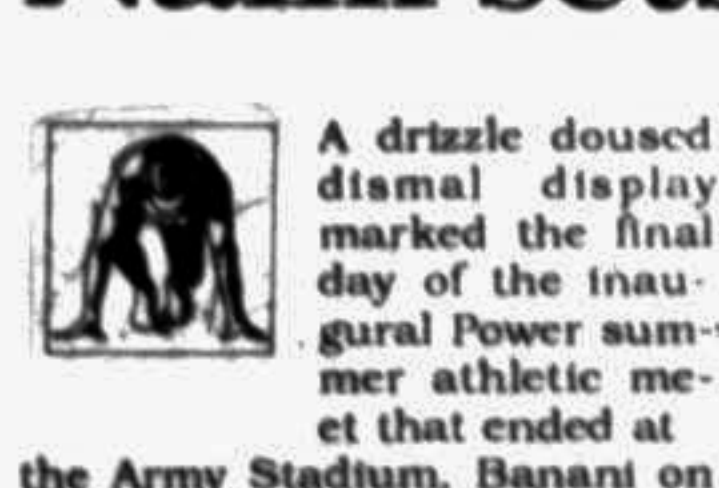
Ronny, Babu and Lincoln each scored 16 points for the vanquished but that was not enough.

**Allahma Gold Cup**

Sylhet Zila Driver Samiti beat Alinagar XI 2-0 in the third Mustafa Allahma Gold Cup football tournament at the Golapganj Dhaka Dakshin School Stadium in Sylhet on Thursday last, says a press release.

Jewel Rana and Jalal scored for the winners.

**Army, led by Ambia, top the table Naim sets 400m hurdles mark**



A drizzle doused a dismal display marked the final day of the inaugural Power summer athletic meet that ended at the Army Stadium, Banani on Thursday.

With Bangladesh Army's Golam Ambia retaining the mantle of the fastest man of the country quite nonchalantly, the fear of the cake of interest turning into dough was somewhat saved by Bangladesh Navy's Abdur Rahim and BTMC's Feroza Khatoon.

Ambia emerged as the most successful athlete, bagging four golds.

Only one new record on the day — the fourth of this three-day competition — was created by Naim who galloped the 400m hurdles in a time of 52.24 seconds, .33 seconds quicker than the previous record of 52.57 secs set by BTMC's Wazir Rahman two years ago. Rahim's feat earned an immediate reward — a trip to South Korea tomorrow as the sole representative of the country in the fourth World Junior (under-20) athletic championships Sept 16-20.

Feroza Khatoon of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) deposed Lovely Begum of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) as the quickest woman in the country by racing the 100 metres in 12.22 seconds.

Lovely, who took 13 seconds exactly, settled for the silver. Her teammate Nilufar Yasmin bagged the bronze.

Like Ambia, Feroza Khatoon finished on a high, taking three golds and one silver.

Nk Mohammad Ali of Army took the gold in marathon, reaching the mark in 2 hours 38 minutes, 37.1 seconds.

Nk Abdul Hamid of Army pocketed the silver with a timing of 2 hr 38 min and 43 secs.

His peer Ilyas Shahabuddin took 2 hr 39 min 64 seconds

to claim the bronze.

Golam Ambia took 10.63 seconds to sprint past a distance of 100 metres, good enough to stave off the challenges of his teammate Lnk Hannan Mollah who took 10.70 seconds.

Bimal Chandra Tarafder of BJMC finished third in 10.90 secs to take the bronze medal.

Havildar Jahangir Alam of Army cleared 3.60m to take



SHAMIMA SATTAR MIMU

the gold in the men's pole vault.

Mofazzal Hossain of Navy earned the silver while Kamrul Haasan of Air Force completed the services trio by taking the bronze.

In the men's discus Imran Ali of BTMC got the gold by hurling the sporting missile a distance of 39.83 metres.

7.12m to take the men's long jump gold.

Nk Nasiruddin, also of Army won the silver for his 7.04m while Manzoor Moshed of BJMC finished third, flying across only 6.83 metres.

In the men's 5000m, L Nk Zakir Hossain of Army snatched the gold by reaching the mark in 15 min 36.36 secs.

Aslam Khan of Ansars & VDP took 15 min 53 secs to settle for the silver while Ajmal Hossain of Customs won the bronze for his timing of 15 min 58.36 secs.

Shamima Sattar Mimu of BTMC was the lone medal winner in the women's high jump. She won the gold medal by clearing a height of 1.40 metre.

Three other competitors of this event — Murcil Gomes of Dhaka Division, Shamsunnahar Mille of BJMC and Shirin Akhtar of the same team — failed to reach the qualifying mark to add to the hilarity of a nondescript competition in solitude.

Abdur Rahim Naim's feat apart on the final day, only four national marks were set in this out of season competition. Nelly Jasmine set it in the women's shot put. Monimul Huq of Army did it in men's hammer throw and Mashur Rahman of Army rewrote the extant record in men's high jump.

State Minister for Sports and Youth Sadek Hossain distributed the prizes as the chief guest.

About 200 athletes including 60 women from eight teams took part in this competition, organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Athletic Federation with Bata Shoe Company playing the role of sponsors.

One wonders what prompted the organisers to stage a so-called national-level meet in sickening heat that doubted the competitors as well as the spectators, infaillibly outnumbered by the officials, on each day of the competition.

**S Bima karate ends**

**Sports Reporter**

The three-day Sadharan Bima Karate Cup competition officially ended yesterday at the National Sports Council gymnasium without deciding the winners of four events.

The finals of these events — the men's under-50kg, under-45kg, under-40kg and the women's under-35kg — will be held today.

The Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation, the organisers, blamed the lack of time for this delay.

Over the last three days, ten of the 14 events were finalised, three on the first day and seven in the last two days.

In the men's under-87kg event, Masudur Rahman of Shao Lin School won the gold while Pradip Kumar got the silver and Atiqur Rahman the bronze.

Mahmud of Sun Rising Club won the men's under-77kg gold.

Anwar of Bengal Tiger Kungfu Academy and Mizanur Rahman of Shao Lin School got the silver and bronze respectively.

In the gold of the men's under-68kg weight category, went to Md Hasan Tarek of Chittagong Young Dragon. Aminul Islam of Royal Bengal Karate-Kungfu Institute and Abul Khair of Shao Lin School finished second and third respectively.

In the under-60kg event, Nazrul Islam of Young Dragon Martial Art Centre won the

gold. Aminul Islam of Swatokan Karate Academy got the silver while Jaan-e-Alam of Martial Karate Fighter Club bagged the bronze.

Md Sultan Mahmud of Upakon Karate Club of Sirajganj won the men's under-55kg title. Maifuzul Islam of Swatokan Karate Academy finished second while Anwar Hossain of Chandpur Wushu School got the bronze.

Khatme Awlad Hossain Jahan of Sirajganj Fighter Club won the women's under-45kg event title. Kaniz Fatema of Chandpur Wushu School and Labani of Bengal Tiger Kungfu Academy finished second and third respectively.

In the women's under-40kg, Mariam Smriti of Shao Lin School won the gold while Lucky Sultan Bithi of Young Dragon Martial Art centre and Ayesha Yasmeen Chowdhury of Swatokan Karate Academy bagged the silver and bronze respectively.

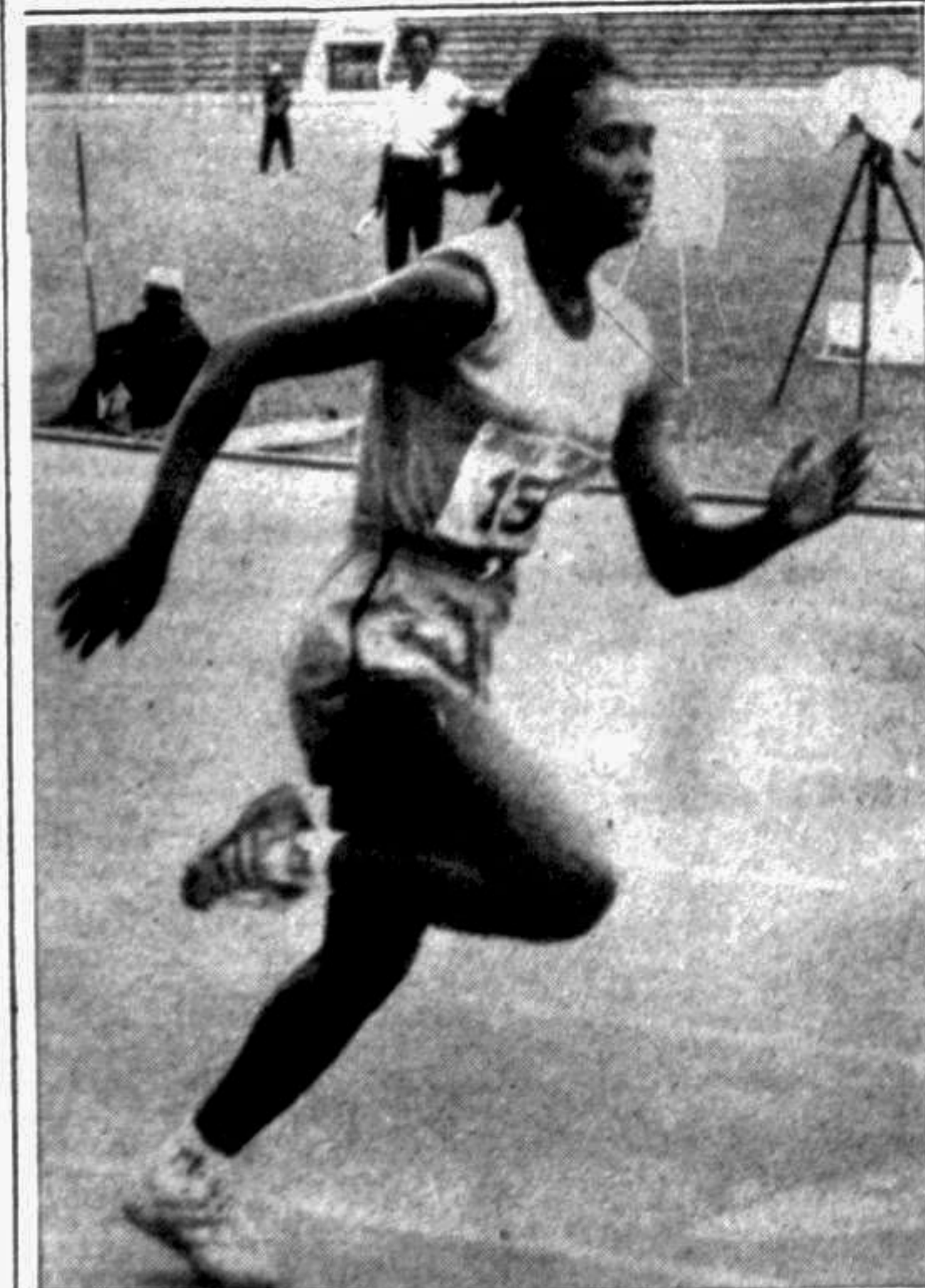
In the men's open weight category Md Basat of Bangladesh Martial Arts Association won the gold while Jhimu of DOHS Club took the women's under-56kg gold and Marufa Akhter Shima of Young Martial Fighter Club secured the under-50 kg gold on Wednesday, the inaugural day.

Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain witnessed some of yesterday's proceedings as chief guest.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

East End Boys vs Kadamtala (3 pm: Outer Stadium)

Aminbazar KS vs Maghbazar KS (4:30 pm: Outer Stadium)



Feroza Khatoon of BTMC won the women's 100m gold at the Army Stadium on Thursday. — Star photo

**Morceli's plans for future**

**ALGIERS, Sept 11:** Algeria's Noureddine Morceli said on Thursday he plans next season to add the 2,000, 3,000 metres and one mile marks to the 1,500 metres world record he already holds, reports Reuter.

Morceli was speaking on his return home from Italy where he broke Moroccan Said Aoutia's seven-year-old 1,500 metres record last Sunday.

He said he was doubly pleased to have set the new mark, not only because it made him the first man to break three minutes 29 seconds for the distance but also because it compensated for his failure at the Barcelona Olympics where he managed only seventh place.

Morceli said he believed he could improve on his new mark of 3:28.86 and would aim to reduce the time to around 3:26.

**MEDALS TABLE**

Following is the final medals table (Tabulate under gold, silver and bronzes):

B Army	18	12	9
BJMC	7	11	7
BTMC	6	2	4
B Navy	2	2	3
B Ansars	1	3	4
B Customs	0	2	4
B Air Force	0	1	2
Dhaka Division	0	0	1

Note: two bronzes were given in pole vault (men) and no silver and bronze were given in the women's high jump.

**Olympic Solidarity course begins in city today**

**Sports Reporter**

The second Olympic Solidarity sports leadership course under Dr W K Low of Hong Kong will begin in the city tomorrow.

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) has selected 40 persons including three sports journalists for the five-day programme which ends on September 17.

The first five-day programme concluded last Thursday at the Chittagong Club auditorium.

Thirty-eight people took part in the course jointly organised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the BOA.

President of the BOA Gias Kamal Chowdhury attended the closing ceremony as chief guest and distributed certificates among the participants.



Abdur Rahim Naim of Bangladesh Navy on his way to a new national 400m hurdles mark in the Power summer athletic meet at the Army Stadium on Thursday. — Star photo

**Maradona set to join Sevilla**

**MADRID, Sept 11:** Argentine soccer superstar Diego Maradona looks set to join Sevilla football club Sept 20 once the final touches are put to a secret transfer deal already hammered out with Napoli, a newspaper reported Friday, reports AP.

The leading daily El Pais said Maradona's agent Marcos Franchi was expected to fly to Sevilla shortly to conclude the deal forged between Sevilla — managed by former Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo — and the Italian club Sept 2.

The paper said details of the deal would next be disclosed until next week.

According to the paper, Maradona, 31, has sought legal permission in Argentina to travel to Spain between Saturday and Tuesday and may attend the club's game against Deportivo de la Coruna on Sunday.

Maradona completed a 15-month suspension for cocaine use July 1. Since then he has refused to return to Napoli, where he is under contract for a final season.

Napoli have insisted that the player is not for sale and that he must fulfil his contract, which runs until June next year.

"I'd like to play soon (for Sevilla), even for 10 minutes this Sunday if it were possible," Maradona was quoted in the leading sports daily Marca Friday.

"I am ready to play now, but if it's not on Sept 20 then it will never be, and I swear by my daughters, you can't play around with a person like that," Maradona told the paper.

Officials at the club could not be contacted for comment on the reports, but club president Luis Cuervos told reporters Thursday he was virtually certain of signing soccer superstar Diego Maradona within a week.

Cuervos' statement came a day after Maradona said he would retire from soccer if Napoli not approve his transfer to Sevilla by this weekend.



DIEGO MARADONA

If confirmed, the transfer would see the much-awaited return of Maradona to soccer and bring to an end a lengthy saga of speculation and negotiations concerning the player.

Sevilla are reported to have offered Napoli 9 million dollars for the contract rights to the soccer idol.

An earlier Reuter report from Buenos Aires said: Sevilla manager Carlos Bilardo said on Thursday he expected the transfer of Diego Maradona to his Spanish club to be wound up Friday.

"The transfer of Diego Maradona will be settled tomorrow and even though the transfer goes through it would be very difficult for him to play

this Sunday," Bilardo told Argentina's official news agency Tclam.

Maradona, widely regarded as the best soccer player of his generation, told the Buenos Aires daily La Nacion he was preparing to leave Argentina for Sevilla on Saturday.

"This Saturday, almost certainly, I am going to Spain. I'd like to play right away, even if for only 10 minutes, but some papers and the international transfer have still to be signed," the 31-year-old midfielder said in an interview.

"I'll make my debut on the 20th," he added.

Since his return to Argentina, Maradona has insisted he would never again play for Napoli.

Italian Football Federation president Corrado Ferlaino had told him he might relent and allow Maradona to move to Sevilla provided the player did not later rejoin another Italian club.

Press reports said Sevilla would pay Maradona a 3 million dollars salary in the first year, while Napoli would receive a 15 million dollar transfer fee.

Other clubs, including Spain's Real Madrid and France's Marseille, had shown interest in Maradona, who under Bilardo's guidance led Argentina to their 1986 World Cup triumph in Mexico and to the final in Italy four years later.

But Bilardo said Napoli were only interested in selling Maradona to Sevilla as the other clubs were potential rivals in European club competitions.

**Abahani reach quarter-finals**

**Sports Reporter**

The Dhaka First Division soccer league champions Abahani Krira Chakra have moved into the quarter-finals of the Lokopriya Bordoloi football tournament, now being held in Guahati, Assam, India, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Abahani trounced Assam Police 5-0 in the pre-quarter-final held on Thursday last.

Earlier, in the Indian Independence Day tournament which ended in Nowgong last week, Abahani had outplayed Assam Police 6-0 in the quarter-finals.

Abahani finished runners-up in that tournament after losing to Border Security Force (BSF), Jalandhar, by three goals to nil.

Abahani will now play Nepal Airlines in the quarter-final tomorrow, Sunday.

Brothers Union's gifted winger Wasim Iqbal scored two goals while Ghaus, Rumi and Mamun Joarder netted one each for Abahani.

**Div II soccer**

Roycebarz AC edged past Chalandika KC 1-0 in the Sonali Bank Second Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Dipu scored the decider in the 25th minute of play.

Azad Sporting Club drew with Shantinagar Club 1-1 in the other match of the day.

Amzad put Azad Sporting in the lead in the 14th minute while Ataur Rahman restored parity for Shantinagar in the 20th minute.

On Thursday, Jurain Janata Club beat Bangladesh Government (BG) Press 2-1.

Moinul Islam slammed both the goals for the winners while Md Asgar Khan pulled one back for the losers.

Mahakhali XI shared points with East Bengal Club in a one-all draw in Thursday's other match.

Md Alauddin Apu scored for Mahakhali and Md Imam Hossain for East Bengal.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

Dhaka WASA vs Janata Club (3 pm: Dhaka Stadium)

East End Club vs Bangladesh Boys (4:30 pm: Dhaka Stadium)

**Reefat draws**

**Sports Reporter**

Reefat Bin-Sattar, the national champion, was placed ninth in the points table of the under-20 age group while Shawkat Hossain Pallab, the subjunior champion, held the seventh position in the under-16 age group competitions at the end of the eighth round of the Asian Junior chess championships yesterday in Doha, Qatar.

Reefat drew his last match with Elliot Boyd of New Zealand. Reefat now has four points.

Vladislav Katchev of Kazakhstan and Kazi Hameed Mansoor were jointly leading the points table with six points each.

Pallab defeated Saito Koshiki in the eighth round of the under-16 category competition.

Farouk Amanatov of Tajikistan was the leader in the points table of this category with seven and a half points.

**QUALIFIERS BEGIN**

Meanwhile, the qualifying competition for the international rating chess competition scheduled to begin at the end of October under the aegis of the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) began yesterday at the chess room of the National Sports Council.

One hundred and four players are taking part in the eight-round Swiss league competition.

Thirty-five players won their respective matches on the first day.

Players securing the first twelve positions will become eligible for the international rating championship.

**Spassky surges ahead as Fischer falters**

**SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia, Sept 11:** Chess legends Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky on drew Thursday after 61 moves and more than seven hours of play in the sixth game of their epic \$5 million US dollar rematch, reports Reuter.

Spassky, playing white and leading 2-1, came close to a third consecutive victory in the replay series between the chess giants in the Montenegrin resort of Sveti Stefan.

But the game ended in stalemate after both players made several serious errors.

"I missed many chances, may be too many," Spassky said.

"This was a very difficult game," Fischer said, sounding relieved. "I didn't play it exactly somehow, it was lousy... I was very, very bad, but somehow I slipped out."

The arch rivals played a queen's gambit accepted to

open, a move Fischer played only twice as black in his 700-game career.

Thursday's game began very much the same as the fourth, which Spassky won, until the 10th move when Fischer changed tactics and pressed ahead with his pawn.

The game was even until the 18th move when Spassky won a pawn.

Fischer's form slumped suddenly in the 23rd move when he made what experts said was a big mistake by playing his knight to E4.

"After this Fischer's position became very bad indeed," said Svetozar Gligoric, Yugoslav Grandmaster and chief appeals referee.

Elderly Hungarian Grandmaster Andree Lillanthall, who analysed the game together with Spassky's seconds Yuri Balashov and Alexander Nikitin, called the move "a huge mistake".

At this point it seemed that Fischer could not possibly stave off another defeat at the

hands of his Russian foe.

"Spassky is playing with great self-assurance, and Fischer is in great difficulty," said Balashov.

"Fischer is playing dimly, never in his career has he made so many mistakes in a single game," remarked veteran Yugoslav chess correspondent Ivica Strncevic.

Yugoslav Grandmaster Dimitrije Bilejica commented: "The difference between the Fischer we are seeing now and the child prodigy we knew lies in two decades."

But just when Fischer's situation seemed hopeless, when he was a pawn down with his king in a bad position, it was Spassky's turn to make several consecutive poor moves which threw a lifeline to his opponent.

Yasser Seirawan, one of the best US players and official commentator at the match, said: "Spassky threw a lifeline to Fischer after the 40th move by making several grave mistakes."

Fischer was playing under severe pressure after his poor performance on Wednesday when he lost with white figures. His fans despaired in mid-game.

"I learned how to play because of Bobby," he said.

Spassky and Fischer will have a rest day today with the seventh game scheduled for Saturday.

**SPASSKY WINS 6TH**

Earlier on Wednesday, Fischer surrendered to Spassky in the fifth game of their \$5 million dollar match, giving Spassky a 2-1 lead in the series.

After five hours and 15 minutes of play Fischer, in a hopeless position, shook hands with the opponent he beat in Reykjavik in 1972 when he became the first American to win the world chess title.

The game in the Montenegrin resort of Sveti Stefan started with caution on both sides and Fischer, playing white, again used his favourite Ruy Lopez opening.