



Monica Seles of Yugoslavia talks to newsmen after retaining the women's singles crown of the US Open on Saturday at the National Tennis Centre, New York. —Star TV photo

## Maradona just wants to play again

SEVILLE, Spain, Sept 14: Diego Maradona, set to sign for Sevilla, said on Sunday he had paid his dues and now just wanted to be allowed to play soccer at the Spanish club, reports Reuters.

"I had to pay what they made me pay, now I hope they can let me play," he told a late news conference after watching his prospective club crash 3-1 to Deportivo Coruna in a league game.

The former Argentine captain, who has served a 15-month ban from world soccer for cocaine abuse, is still technically under contract to Italy's Napoli until June 30, 1993.

But he said he hoped the bitter row over his transfer could be settled peacefully on Tuesday.

"According to (my manager) Marcos (Franchi), it's all set and now the International Football Federation (FIFA) has to decide," he said.

"If on Tuesday, which seems to be the key day, it isn't solved, my wife Claudia and I will go back to Argentina with the girls," he said.

But he added: "I'm very confident they can release me or sell me... We never wanted to put Napoli out, we never wanted to cost them a penny."

Napoli on Friday backed down after months of deadlock and agreed to sell the

31-year-old midfielder. "It's time they let me go", Maradona agreed.

In Seville, his transfer was taken for granted. Cheering fans waving "welcome Diego" banners packed the club's Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium and Maradona blew them kisses from the stand.

The slimmed-down player, looking relaxed and smiling broadly, he said he was in good shape. "I'm okay with the weight," he said. "What I need is training, matches, pressure."

A Sevilla club official said they hoped a newly-signed Maradona would make his debut on September 23, probably against an invitation European team, before Sevilla's next home match, against Logrones on September 27.

Maradona gave no financial details of Sevilla's bid, but said press reports he had demanded 12 million US dollars to return to the Italian club were "lies".

Newspaper reports say Sevilla have offered Napoli a 15 million US dollar transfer fee and will pay Maradona 3 million US dollar for a first season, rising to more than 5 million US dollars for a second.

Maradona, who led Argentina to World Cup victory in Mexico in 1986 and as runners-up in the 1990 World Cup final in Italy, said he was looking forward to linking up with former Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo, now coaching the

southern Spanish club. Maradona, who turns 32 next month, said Sevilla had given him a chance after his ban. "I'm going to make the most of it because I haven't got long left in my career."

"Anyone who signs me won't regret it," he promised. Sevilla fans certainly hope so. "On today's showing, I think we'll need two Maradona," said one about Sevilla's defeat.

Napoli issued a strongly-worded statement before their league match at Foggia on Sunday in which they said there had been no offer from Sevilla for Maradona.

"There have been no negotiations with Sevilla, no official offer... Just pressure, press articles and advertising benefits from which Sevilla are already profiting," it said.

The statement condemned what it termed "The unprincipled example of undeserved violence which could conditioned the work and tranquility of the club and the team."

It said under such circumstances Napoli would postpone any discussion of the proposed transfer until they had travelled to play Spanish club Valencia in a UEFA Cup first round first leg tie on Wednesday.

It added Napoli expected the Italian Soccer Federation and the International Football Federation (FIFA) to respect its call for a delay.

## Fernandez and Zvereva's 3rd Grand Slam title

NEW YORK, Sept 14: The Grand Slam tournaments have proved to be doubles magic for Gigi Fernandez and Natalia Zvereva in 1992.

The No 3-seeded team at the US Open captured their third Grand Slam doubles title of the year Sunday with a 7-6(7-4), 6-1 victory over the top-seeded tandem of Jana Novotna and Larisa Savchenko-Neiland, reports AP.

The twosome also won the French Open and Wimbledon, and with their latest victory evened the career head-to-heads between these two teams to 2-2.

The victors split 184,000, while the runners-up shared 92,000.

Zvereva was the steady force, leading her team to the winner's circle. She faced two break points on her serve, but never faltered.

All three of the other competitors dropped their serve during the match.

Fernandez lost her serve on three of six occasions; Novotna fell behind on three of five service breaks against her serve. Savchenko-Neiland dropped her serve three of eight times.

The winning duo served rather consistently throughout the match — Fernandez at 72 per cent and Zvereva at 77 per cent.

All four of the finalists have had Grand Slam success in doubles.

Fernandez, from Aspen, Colo, and Zvereva, from Belarus, each have won six Slams. Novotna, from Czechoslovakia, has won four, including the 1991 French Open where Fernandez was her partner.

Savchenko-Neiland, of Latvia, won both of her Grand Slam titles with Zvereva.

## Ashe's condition is stable

NEW YORK, Sept 14: Tennis great Arthur Ashe, who revealed earlier this year that he had the AIDS virus, was in stable condition at a New York hospital on Sunday after suffering a minor heart attack, reports Reuters.

Ashe, 49, a former Wimbledon and US Open champion, had a minor attack that doctors at New York hospital — Cornell Medical Centre said — was unrelated to his being infected with the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome virus.

Hospital administrator Judith Lalvois said on Sunday that Ashe arrived at the hospital on Thursday complaining of chest pains.

"His physicians determined that he had suffered a minor heart attack," Lalvois said. He remains in stable condition and is resting comfortably.

A heart attack forced him to retire from competitive tennis in 1979, and he was infected with the AIDS virus from tainted blood he received as he recovered from heart surgery, most likely after his second operation in 1983.

Ashe became one of 4,500 Americans who have contracted AIDS through a transfusion of contaminated blood.

Washington police arrested Ashe on Wednesday as he and several hundred others protested against President George Bush's policy of forcibly repatriating Haitian refugees.

A modest and quiet man, Ashe has spent a lifetime beating huge odds — from his youth in segregated Virginia to Wimbledon, where in 1975 he became the first and only black man to win the final.

In a career that brought him to the pinnacle of sporting fame, Ashe also won the US and Australian Opens and was the first black to play on the US Davis Cup team.

## Volleyball coaching

Sports Reporter

Twenty-two players under 20 years of age have been selected for higher coaching in volleyball which begins today at the Outer Stadium volleyball court under the aegis of the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation, says a press release.

The players were selected from the 21-day preliminary open camp which concluded yesterday.

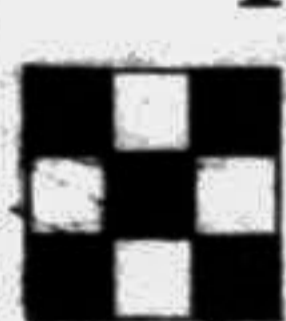
Following are the selected players: Rokonzaman, Abdur Rahim, Jamal Talokder, Hasibur Rahman Khan, Nazrul Islam, Sharifuddin, Mizanur Rahman, Milton, Asiful Islam, Abdur Hakim, Sanwar Hossain, Saiful Islam, Farid Ahmed, Aslam Mia, Mosharruf Hossain, Ayub Ali, Shoeb, Shawkat Akbar, Harun-ur-Rashid, Akhteruzzaman, Nazrul Islam and Mezbahuddin.

AM Saidduzzaman Badesah, AM Nuruzzaman Monju, Safer Ali and Fazul Haq will conduct the coaching programme which will end on September 30.



Natalia Zvereva of the CIS and Gigi Fernandez of the United States hold aloft their women's doubles trophy at the US Open after Sunday's final. —Star TV photo

## A Spassky slip puts Fischer ahead



SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia, Sept 14: US chess star Bobby Fischer beat Boris Spassky on Sunday in the eighth game of their comeback tournament after his old rival, in physical discomfort, made a slip that cost him certain victory, reports Reuters.

Fischer's win put him 3-2 ahead in the 5 million replay series.

Spassky, playing white, kept the initiative into the middle game with Samisch's variation of the King's Indian defence. But in the 31st move he had a fatal lapse of concentration overlooking Fischer's knight.

Spassky went on to yield his queen for a poor exchange and, in a hopeless position, resigned on the 40th move.

Spassky's concentration appeared to have been impaired, by an ailment that in Saturday's seventh game forced him to leave his seat 27 times.

Sources close to the organizers said the 55-year-old Spassky had prostate gland trouble and might ask for one of the four time-outs allowed to each player for the match.

In spite of his illness, Spassky showed no visible signs of discomfort on Sunday

and played confidently until his blunder.

Spassky's error allowed Fischer to give away a rook for knight enabling his queen to advance into the white's camp to dominate the end game.

"Spassky had a much better position but lost because of a fatal mistake," veteran Hungarian Grandmaster Andree Lilienthal said.

The current series will be played until one of the players scores 10 points, with one point for a victory but draws not being counted.

The two chess Titans are playing what organisers call the revenge match of the century.

Their last encounter 20 years ago in Reykjavik ended with Fischer winning the world chess championship title, the only American to take home the coveted crown and interrupt decades of uncontested Soviet chess supremacy.

Before the opening of the match on September 2, Spassky asked for a urologist to be included in the medical team looking after the players.

Apparently this request was not met, since the three-man medical team consists of a general physician, neurologist and sports medicine specialist.

The next match will be played on Wednesday. The two players will hold a joint news conference today.

## Fischer's secret

SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia, Sept 14: Basking in the lead after two straight victories over Boris Spassky, Bobby Fischer said Monday an eyeshade he's taken to wearing may have given him an edge, reports AP.

"It's a help," Fischer told reporters. "You keep a little more privacy for your eyes so your opponent can't see what you're looking at."

Fischer beat Spassky, a Russian who is a naturalised French citizen, in an exciting 40-move match Sunday to take a 3-2 lead. The American also had won Saturday wearing his "riverboat gambler" visor, and now appears to have the momentum in the duel that will give him 3.35 million to the first player to win 10 games.

Fischer, who hadn't played in a chess competition since 1972 when he beat Spassky for the world championship, said he disagreed with the expert consensus that too many mistakes are being made in this rematch of former chess champs.

## Mansell to retire end of season



MONZA, Italy, Sept 14: World champion Nigel Mansell, in an emotional announcement hours before starting in the Italian Grand Prix, said Sunday he will retire at the end of the season, reports AP.

Mansell said he made his decision after failing to extend his contract with the Williams-Renault team. The 39-year-old Briton said his relationship with the team had broken down.

"To say that I have been badly treated, I think, is a gross understatement," a tense-looking Mansell told reporters after outpacing the competition in the morning warm-up. "It all comes down to fair play, or the lack of it."

Mansell had once before announced his retirement from F-1. In 1990 while at Ferrari, but changed his mind when Williams-Renault made an offer for 1991.

Mansell said he planned to stay in motor racing by competing in the Indy Car series in the United States.

The driver, who lives in Clearwater, Fla, met with officials of the Lola team, which competes in the World Series, during feverish negotiations before the announcement.

Mansell also talked to team manager Frank Williams and to McLaren's boss Ron Dennis soon after capturing the pole position in Saturday's final qualifying session.

"I am not yet ready to retire completely. I still love motor racing and I still want to win. So, I may look at the Indy Car World Series and see what opportunities are available, if any," Mansell said.

The Williams team said it "deeply regrets" Mansell's decision and wished him well.

## World Jr Athletics Championship in Seoul

SEOUL, Sept 14: The fourth World Junior Athletics Championships will begin on Wednesday at the Olympic Stadium in Seoul with 589 male and 452 female athletes from 107 countries including Bangladesh, competing, the South Korean Organizing Committee announced here Monday, reports AFP.

There are a total of 41 gold medals at stake in the five-day championships with men taking part in 22 events and women in 19.

Mansell disclosed that three-time world champion Alain Prost, who took a year off after being dismissed by Ferrari, had been committed for months to drive with Williams in 1993.

Mansell could not say who will be Prost's teammate at Williams next year.

Prost, a three-time Formula One champion, said on the French television network TF1 that he has been negotiating with the Williams-Renault team and will continue talks Monday.

Ayrton Senna, the de-throned world champion who is rumored as a possible Williams driver, said Sunday he had not signed any contract with the British-French team.

"I am really sorry for Nigel's decision. I am not the cause of his retirement. His problems were triggered by Prost's arrival at Williams," said Senna, who was second to Mansell in qualifying and was at his side in the starting grid.

However, Mansell said his problems with Williams were started by Senna's offer to drive "for nothing" with the team, which dominated the 1992 Championship and is expected to be the best again in 1993.

Senna made his bid soon after the Hungarian Grand Prix last month, when Mansell clinched the world drivers title five races before the end of the championship.

Senna, who drives with McLaren, said he wanted to join a winning team to boost his chances to win his fourth world title.

Mansell, who has a record of 28 pole positions and 29 Grands Prix wins, said money was not an issue in his negotiations with Williams.

However, he said he had been asked to accept a large reduction in pay.

Senna's transfer to Williams still looked uncertain despite Mansell's retirement. The Brazilian and Prost had bitter relations when they were teammates at McLaren.

"Now I am relaxed, and I hope to go to the race with a clear mind. I want to try to win," said Mansell.

Mansell, nicknamed the British Lion for his aggressive, fearless driving, had become the first English driver to win a world F-1 title following James Hunt in 1976.

World Formula One racing champion Nigel Mansell of Britain announcing his plans to retire at the end of the season hours before the start of the Italian Grand Prix at Monza on Sept 13.

—Star TV photo

## Three unlucky Americans

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 14: Three Americans narrowly missed medals in the marathon events Sunday as the competition phase of the 1992 Paralympic Games came to a close, reports AP.

Scott Hollonbeck took fourth in the men's wheelchair marathon, while DeAnna Sodoma was fourth in the women's wheelchair race.

In the level-3 blind race, Rick George was ultimately awarded fourth place after a protest that the third-place finisher had been helped across the finish line was denied.

All that remains of these Games is the closing ceremonies Monday night at Montjuic Stadium, where the official handing over of the Paralympic flag to the city of Atlanta, the 1996 host, will take place.

Elsewhere, the US men's wheelchair basketball team successfully defended its gold medal with a 39-36 win over The Netherlands at the Palau d'Esports in Badalona. Tim Kazee led the Americans with 12 points, seven rebounds and a pair of steals, while Reggie Colton added nine points and 11 rebounds.

The US women were not so fortunate. Chantal Benoit scored 18 points and Judie Millard had 11 rebounds as Canada earned the gold medal with a 35-26 win over the United States in the championship game.

In blind judo, Brett Lewis earned the silver medal in the 78-kilogram (171.6 pound) class when he lost the final to France's Joel Gichtenacre. Yu-Sung An of Korea captured the bronze.

In the men's table tennis open for sitting competitors 1-5, Mike Dempsey took the silver medal following a 2-0 loss to Guy Tisserant of France in the final.

Iran won the sitting volleyball competition by defeating The Netherlands, 15-12, 8-15, 15-13, 15-10. Germany came in third.

In goalball for the blind, Italy downed Finland, 2-1 to win the men's gold medal, but US hopes for the bronze fell short. The Americans suffered a 6-5 loss to Egypt in the third-place game despite four goals from Daniel Foppiano.

In women's goalball, Finland posted a 4-1 victory over Denmark in the final.

## Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Government (BG) Press beat East Bengal Sporting Club by two goals to one in the Sonali Bank Second Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Towhidur Rahman and Atiqullah scored for the winners while Asgar Khan pulled one back for the losers.

Asit Barman and Sanwar Hossain of East Bengal and Aminul Islam of BG Press received yellow cards.

Mahakhali XI shared points with Abhijatrik Malibagh in a one-all draw in the other match of the day.

Alauddin Apu put Mahakhali ahead in the seventh minute of play while Wahab Khan restored parity for Abhijatrik Malibagh in the 30th minute.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

City Club vs Shantinagar Club (3pm Dhaka Stadium)

Azad SC vs Rayerbazar AC (4.30 pm Dhaka Stadium)

## Shah Cup soccer

Sports Reporter

The final of the third Shah Sports Cup football tournament, which was scheduled for today, will now be held on September 17 at the Hazratnagar Park ground.

Swadesh Samaj Sangha will take on Kashmitola Shahin Smriti Sangsad in the final of the competition organised by the Ganaktuli Kishore Football Eleven.

## Kibet collects \$ 20,000

EDINBURGH, Sept 14: Kenyan David Kibet collected the 20,000 dollars first prize in the inaugural Princes Street mile through the centre of Edinburgh on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Kibet, making his debut in a road mile, held off Olympic 1,500 metres bronze medalist Mohammed Suleiman of Qatar, both men clocked three minutes 53 seconds.

## Punchers pave the way

LAGOS, Sept 14: Three Nigerian boxers are to fight in South Africa in the first official sporting link between the two countries since the republic's return to international sport, reports AFP.

The three professionals were reported Sunday by the official News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) to have left for South Africa.

Nigeria resumed trade links with South Africa earlier this year.

## Silent spectators for blind players

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 14: Forget rowdy soccer crowds—if you go to a goalball match you have to be prepared to sit in silence so the players can hear the ball, reports Reuters.

The sport, one of the 15 events at the Paralympic Games, is played by blind athletes who rely on tinkling bells inside the ball to guide them and help them score. Goalball

and boceria, for sufferers of cerebral palsy, are the only two sports at the Games especially designed for the physically or mentally impaired.

Others, such as basketball, archery and athletics, feature rule changes to adjust to various disabilities and practical modifications to allow a range of competitors to take part.

Visitors flocked to the Vail D'Hebron Stadium to watch the goalball event, which culminated with the finals on Sunday, the penultimate day of the Games.

In the men's final Italy beat Finland 2-1 and in the women's Finland beat Denmark 4-1.

The players, in teams of three, wear dark goggles to equalise different levels of visual impairment. They all play in attack as well as defence, aiming to score in goals placed at either end of the field.

The field itself is marked out with raised lines so players can judge where they are.

The referees shout their instructions on the progress of the match or infringements of the rules, which include holding the ball to long or touching the eye-mask. Much less in-

tense, though no less impassioned, is the sport of boceria, which is believed to date from 16th century Italy and which some say can even be traced to Roman times. Similar to the French game petanque, or bowls, participants take turns at throwing or kicking a ball across a 12-by-six-metre court, aiming to land it closest to a white target ball. The athletes—all accompanied, although their assistants must not give advice—are wheelchair-bound and divided into two classes according to their level of self-mobility.

Men and women participate together in the team event.

Spain's Antonio Cid, a 34-year-old from the north-western city of Orense who trains 10 hours a week, won individual gold, and Spain also triumphed in the team event, while favourites Korea had to be content with bronze.

But Korea's team, protesting against a judge's decision to remove them from the final against Spain after a technical infringement of the rules in their semifinal, threw their bronze medals on the floor in disgust at the medal ceremony.



A scene from the fourth round matches of the qualifying tournament at the NSC chess room yesterday. —Star photo