

Bangladesh finish fifth

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh national junior hockey squad returns today after competing in the recently concluded Junior Asia Cup championship held in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur.

Bangladesh finished fifth in the tournament beating China in the fifth and sixth place decider on Wednesday.

Pakistan defeated Malaysia 3-0 Wednesday night to win the championship for the second straight year.

Pakistan, Malaysia and South Korea — who defeated India 6-3 Wednesday for third place — all qualified for the World Junior Cup championship in Terrasa, Spain, next September.

Div III super league from today

Sports Reporter
Gandaria Famous Sporting Club will take on Lalmita Club today at the Mirpur Stadium in the inaugural match of the eight team super-league of the Pragati Insurance Third Division football championship.

The six other teams who have qualified for the super league are Maghbazar Kishalya Sangha, Parbachal Parishad, Matuati Juba Sangha, Badda Jagaranti Sangsad, Bashaba Tarun Sangha and Kadamata Sangsad.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter
Lalbag Sporting Club and City Club recorded victories in the two group matches of Sonali Bank Second Division football league yesterday.

In the first match of the day at the Dhaka Stadium City Club defeated Rayerbazar AC by a solitary goal. Shahriar Habib scored the all important goal. With this win City advanced to the eight team super-league scheduled to begin soon after the completion of the first phase.

Lalbag won the second match of the day at the same venue by the odd goal in three. Ahmed Sharif put the winners ahead with a goal in the 33rd minute of the first half.

Badrul Amin Munna of Azad Sporting Club drew level 30 minutes into the second-half.

Enamul Hassan of Lalbag sealed the fate of the match two minutes later.

Sonali soccer

Sports Reporter
Sadarghat Principal Office team beat BTA principal office team by a solitary goal in yesterday's first match of Sonali Bank inter-regional football tournament at the Notre Dame College ground.

Noor Mohammed scored the match winner.

In the other match of the day, BSF team dumped Dikusha principal office by three goals to nil.

Hassan, Prochitra and Ilias scored one goal each for the victors.

An unkind draw irks India

NEW DELHI, Sept 24: India were ruing an unkind draw Thursday after seeing a resurgent Jeremy Bates win the chance of giving Britain a 1-0 advantage in their Davis Cup World Group qualifier here, reports AFP.

The 30-year-old British number one, who reached the fourth round at Wimbledon this year, is favoured to win when he plays Indian number-two Leander Paes in the first singles Friday.

India's top player, Ramesh Krishnan, will take on Mark Petchey, 22, in the second singles on the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association's fast and bouncy grasscourts.

The hosts had been hoping Krishnan, 31, would play the first match, win, lessen the pressure on the 19-year-old Paes and get a much-needed breather before Saturday's crucial doubles.

But the touch artist, who fought off a nagging back injury just in time for the tie, has his work cut out over the next three days.

"The draw could have been kinder," India's non-playing captain Naresh Kumar said after Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao drew the lots.

GMCC's finishing flourish

Sports Reporter
Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club, looking lost beyond repair at one stage of this year's inter-club transfers of cricketers, finished in style on the last day of the week-long transfer yesterday at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB).

GMCC bagged Jahangir Talukdar Dulu, the pool player of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club for a reported fee of Taka one lakh sixty thousand. If the wrangle over Dulu's fate reigns the ether of the stadium arena for the last couple of days the signing of Shri Lankan cricketer Sanjeeva Weerasinghe proved to be the

coup de grace of the final day. The right-arm leg-break bowler who played a Test against Kapil Dev's India way back in 1985 featured prominently in the sporadic successes of Lalmita last year.

With Saiful, Dulu, Prince (not the national player) and Weerasinghe in the attack GMCC will keep the batsmen of their opponents guessing this year. The team, however, is a wee bit vulnerable in batting which, with a due sense of urgency of its team officials,

Pakistan, WI, NZ top seeds for 6-a-side cricket

HONG KONG, Sept 24: Pakistan, the West Indies and New Zealand were seeded as the top three teams Thursday for the inaugural Cathay Pacific-Wharf Holdings Hong Kong International Cricket Sixes tournament, reports AP.

The two-day six-a-side tournament opens on Oct 4 with nine teams divided into three groups for preliminary play. Each group's winner advances to the final round.

In the draw, Pakistan were grouped with Australia and Hong Kong.

New Zealand's group includes India and Zimbabwe, while the West Indies face England and Sri Lanka in the opening round.

Brian Catton, director of Cricket World International, organizer of the tournament, said seeding the teams was difficult as there is "no history of an international sixes" as big as the Hong Kong event.

He said Pakistan were clearly the favourite as the Pakistanis will be fielding players from the team that won the cricket World Cup earlier this year.

Cummins agrees to join Durham

DURHAM, England, Sept 24: West Indian pacesman Anderson Cummins has agreed to join English county Durham as their overseas player for next season, reports AFP.

The 26-year-old, who has played in 16 one-day internationals, but has yet to make his Test debut, has signed a one-year contract to be the replacement for Australian batsman Dean Jones.

He is likely to be unavailable because of the Australians' tour to England next summer.

Abdul Alim Smriti cricket

Sports Reporter
Rising Star, with the help of a few national stars, defeated Natunbagh Sangsad by four wickets in the final of the first Abdul Alim Smriti cricket championship at the Khilgaon Govt High School ground on Wednesday.

Natunbagh Sangsad, who decided to bat first after winning the toss, managed to score 100 runs in the stipulated 22 overs, thanks to a 64-run fourth wicket partnership of Halim Shah and Sajid 28. Khaled Mahmud Sujon, former national junior skipper, took three wickets for only 15 runs.

In reply, Rising Star scored 102 for six with 21 overs. Shovon was the highest scorer for the victors with 30. Sujon and Rupam scored 18 and 17 respectively.

Sujon won the man-of-the-match award.

Ali to complete treatment

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC, Sept 24: Muhammad Ali was expected to complete his latest series of treatment for Parkinson's syndrome on Thursday, reports AP.

The symptoms, similar to Parkinson's disease, have worsened since Ali's last treatment 18 months ago, according to the doctor treating him here.

The former heavyweight champion has been travelling extensively, making public appearances on behalf of Islamic causes.

Dr Rajko Medenica, his physician at Hilton Head Hospital, said Ali was to have been receiving bimonthly treatments. But his travels and the birth of his son, Asaad, kept him away.

"He came now because he wasn't feeling well," Medenica said Tuesday after treating Ali at his clinic.

After his three-hour treatment — the second of three scheduled this week — Ali was quiet and slow in his movements. But he managed to strike a few boxing poses for the camera when he wasn't holding or gently kissing 17-month-old Asaad.

Sports Reporter
The approach worked and Nadir, perhaps for a better financial offer, finally submitted his token in favour of Kalabagan Krita Chakra.

Ziaul Islam Masood, drew the attention of the news hounds yesterday by returning to Mohammedans from GMCC. The balding former national player, known for his ability to work up a fair amount of pace at the cost of direction in his salad days, has not been involved in active cricket for the



DULU

can be overcome by a solid batsman from abroad. Besides, Weerasinghe is himself no mean batsman.

Nadir Shah, the lanky seasoned cricketer tried his best to save the transaction from prolonged boredom in his own inimitable manner. He was actually drawn into it. Nadir had earlier made up his mind to play for Surja Tarun but Kalabagan officials reportedly contacted Nadir's mother to do her best to persuade her

cricketer son to change his mind. The approach worked and Nadir, perhaps for a better financial offer, finally submitted his token in favour of Kalabagan Krita Chakra.

Ziaul Islam Masood, drew the attention of the news hounds yesterday by returning to Mohammedans from GMCC. The balding former national player, known for his ability to work up a fair amount of pace at the cost of direction in his salad days, has not been involved in active cricket for the



MASOOD

last couple of years. His signing, however, allayed the fears of Mohammedan officials of running short of players in the middle of the season through injuries or some other reason. Scare this year scared Mohammedan officials but never really pounced upon them as Waheedul Ghani, almost a bonafide Mohammedan man, stayed in his old club, for another season.

Twenty-eight players sought transfers on the last day.

Maradona insists on speaking his mind

ROME, Sept 24: Diego Maradona is ready to defy the clause in his new contract with Sevilla not to criticize football's governing bodies, reports Reuter.

He told Italian television: "I will never sign an agreement which prevents me from speaking my mind."

The Argentine's remarks, which included further criticism of Napoli president, Corrado Ferlaino, followed the conclusion of protracted and turbulent negotiations in Zurich on Tuesday, where the Italian club accepted a 7.5 million dollar offer from Sevilla for Maradona.

The International Football Federation, FIFA, mediated the deal, which should end Maradona's 21-month absence from the soccer field.

But FIFA Secretary General Josef Blatter warned: "Maradona must now do everything possible to show that he is worth all that we, the football family, have done for him."

He must let his talent explode on the pitch and stop making negative and offensive

remarks against football leaders, at club, federation and international level.

A draft agreement between the clubs included a clause on Maradona's behaviour. "Maradona must understand that there are not only sporting rules, but also regulations in civil and private life," said Blatter.

But only hours later, Maradona took a shot at Ferlaino, a favourite target, accusing him of breaking a promise made in 1989 to allow the player move to French club Olympique Marseille.

He told the private Italia I network: "President Ferlaino promised me the day after the UEFA Cup semifinal that, if we won the trophy, he would let me go to Marseille, who had made a good offer. But we know what that produced."

His subsequent behaviour, including turning up late at training, was the result of Ferlaino not keeping his promise, Maradona said in a telephone interview late Tuesday.

"I am not going back to Napoli because one of us had to go," he said.

Poura Gold Cup on in Narayanganj

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 24: Fancied Mohsin club of Narayanganj outplayed Gazipur Brothers Union by three goals to one in the inaugural match of the Narayanganj Poura Gold Cup football tournament at the local Osmanli Stadium this afternoon. The winners thus reached the quarterfinals.

The exciting first half of the match which produced all four goals was followed by a somewhat anticlimactic second session in which neither side exerted enough to please the encouraging crowd that gathered to witness the game.

Naquib put Mohsin Club ahead in the very third minute of play but the Gazipur side drew level in the 18th minute through skipper Liton (1-1). However, this was to prove the sole success for the visitors as Liton himself had an off day, missing at least three sitters.

Mohsin Club once again gained the upper hand when Riyadh made it 2-1 in the 27th-minute. A second strike by Naquib in the 39th minute effectively sealed the fate of the match and spelt the exit of the Gazipur boys from this 14-team knockout competition.

FIFA referee Nazir Hossain who conducted the match had to caution Ata of Mohsin Club with the yellow card.

Earlier, Habibur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Narayanganj inaugurated the meet organised by the local district sports association.

Six teams from the Dhaka Senior Division league are taking part in this year's tournament. They are Rahmatganj MFS, Arambagh KS, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha, Muktiyoddha KS,

Dhaka Wanderers, and Victoria Sporting Club. The other entrants are Rekabi Bazar SC from Munshiganj, Nitaiganj KC, Shuktara Juba Sangha, Mirpur Players Association, Narsingdi Sher-e-Bangla Cup and BSEC Dockyard.

Shuktara JS will take on Mirpur Players Association on Friday, Sept 25.

The final is scheduled for October 9.

Arch-rivals draw

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Sept 24: South American soccer arch-rivals Argentina and Uruguay drew 0-0 in a hard-fought friendly match on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

In the tradition of river plate rough play, both squads based their game on a harsh defence, giving Uruguay goalkeeper Robert Siboldi and his Argentine counterpart Luis Islas little to do through out the match.

Argentine coach Alfio Basile, who fielded a team with none of the stars playing with European teams, still managed to extend to 20 — his streak of unbeaten matches since taking charge of the national side in December, 1990.

Uruguay's talented winger Walter Pelletti and midfielder Jose Zalazar were the only ones who came close to scoring, while the Argentines failed to set up any good opportunities for their attackers Alberto Acosta and Ramon Medina Bellow.

"It was so full of holes we had to resort to long, high passes, which is how the Uruguayans like to play because they are taller than US," he said.

Seles makes it in 42 mins

TOKYO, Sept 24: Monica Seles crushed Taiwan's Wang Shi-ting 6-0, 6-1 in 42 minutes Thursday in her first match in the Nichirei International Ladies Tennis Championship, reports AP.

The world's top-ranked player, who started from the second round after a first-round bye, said a brief lapse in concentration cost her the one game, when she was leading 4-0 in the second set.

The victory improved the Yugoslav star's match record this year to 59 victories against five defeats.

Wang, who like Seles is 18, is ranked No. 83 among the world's women tennis players.

"I had never played her or met her before, but she had a nice forehand. I was more stable and a more experienced player," said Seles, from Yugoslavia, who has won the Australian, US and French opens this year and was a finalist at Wimbledon. She also won this tournament last year.

Third-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States trounced Australian Jenny Byrne 6-1, 6-1 in another second round match at the Ariake Coliseum.

Fernandez took control after keeping the fifth game after five deuces for a 4-1 lead.

Japan's Kimiko Date, the seventh seed, needed less than an hour to beat American qualifier Shaun Stafford 6-1, 6-1.

Eighth-seeded Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan struggled to beat American Kimberly Po 7-6 (7-3), 6-4.

Japanese qualifier Kyoko Nagatsuka upset fifth-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, ranked 16th in the world, 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 in more than two hours.

"I couldn't believe it, even while taking my shower" after the match, said Nagatsuka, ranked 170th in the world. "I moved pretty well today."

In an all-American match, Marianne Werdel defeated Robin White 6-1, 6-3.

The singles winner receives dls 70,000 and the runner-up dls 31,500.

Maradona to make his debut for Sevilla on Monday

SEVILLE, Spain, Sept 24: Sevilla confirmed on Wednesday that Diego Maradona would make his debut in a friendly against Bayern Munich next Monday, reports Reuter.

The Spanish First Division club, who secured the Argentine transfer from Napoli for 7.5 million dollar on Tuesday, said the game at Sevilla's Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium would kick off at 2000 GMT.

Sevilla hope for a capacity crowd of 70,000 and an estimated 1.5 million dollar in television rights.

Their next league match against Logrones has been brought forward from Sunday to Saturday to allow them to stage the friendly on Monday.

Former Argentine captain Maradona, who in June completed a 15-month worldwide ban from soccer for cocaine abuse, refused to return to Napoli with whom he had a contract until mid-1993.

The Italian club for several weeks declined to release Maradona despite offers from several clubs and the Argentine threatened to quit the game.

Adarraga knocks Norman out

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 24: Former world champion Ross Norman became the first major casualty in the World Squash Championships here on Wednesday when he was beaten in the second round by Austin Adarraga, reports AFP.

The Australian-born Spaniard reversed the result of their second round encounter at last year's World Championships, after which Adarraga allegedly threatened a referee and received a three-month ban.

This time the talented but sometimes impetuous 25-year-old was far more disciplined in his conduct and in his squash, beating Norman 15-8, 15-9, 15-4.

Midway through the second game, when Norman wore a retrieving drop shot into the tin, it was clear that the qualifier was getting on top.

Adarraga said: "I noticed towards the end of that game that he was starting to slow, and in the third game he stopped."

There had been a suspicion that Norman was suffering from a pulled muscle in his right buttock, which was not helped by the unusually cold conditions.

The London-based Kiwi, seeded seventh, was also keen to get on a plane back to England as quickly as possible, because his wife, expecting their first child, went into labour Tuesday night.

Battle of the Sexes III today

LAS VEGAS, Sept 24: When Bobby Riggs faced Billie Jean King 19 years ago, his handicap was age. Friday night, Jimmy Connors will give up half the doubles' lane and be limited to one serve to even up his match

favourite to win the latest mixed-gender battle in a match he believes will even the score for Riggs' loss to King two decades ago.

"I've been waiting 20 years to get even," Connors said.

"It's been playing on my mind for 20 years. I want to set it straight."



FRIENDS OR FOES... Jimmy Connors and Martina Navratilova are seen sharing a joke.

Connors and Navratilova will be playing for dls 500,000 in the best-of-3-sets match.

Both players reportedly are also receiving another dls 500,000 each in appearance money.

"The money will be a nice bonus, but that's not what we're playing for," Navratilova said. "I'd rather give up the dls 500,000 and win."

Caesars Palace oddsmakers agree, making Connors a 4-1

match 19 years ago, where Riggs played the role of a male chauvinistic pig, both Navratilova and Connors have been low-key in promoting their encounter.

The event carries none of the hype of the Riggs-King match, although both did their part Wednesday to try to build it up.

"It's an entertainment event," said Navratilova, winner of 160 singles titles. "It's not as much an emotional battle of the sexes, if we'd played it 20 years ago, it would be more like that because of the times."

The only real discord between the two players has been over the negotiations, which ended with Connors agreeing to give up half the doubles' lane and a serve.

"She's made a controversy over everything," Connors complained. "She's talking about how the lines are painted, what kind of balls should be used. Let's just play the thing and get it over with."

Connors said losing a serve wouldn't put him at much of a disadvantage since he tends to land a lot of his first serves anyway. He's more concerned about having to cover additional territory.

"People don't realize it's 78 square feet (7 square metres) on each side she gets," he said. "The mental challenge I have is to go through and go and hit the ball that far out."

Connors said he expects Navratilova to play more aggressively than she would against a woman opponent with whom she might be content to trade groundstrokes.

"She's going to play like a man. I'm going to play like I always have," Connors said.

Legend limps off the court

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 24: Squash legend Jahangir Khan sensationally quit his second round match Wednesday on his quest for a seventh world title, and said if he had his way he would retire immediately, reports AFP.

Jahangir, the most successful player of all time, but out of the game for six months with a back injury, stood at two games all with the British national champion Peter Marshall when he suddenly shook hands, conceded the match and hurriedly left the arena.

He said: "It looks like it was my last match but I want to speak to my father first."

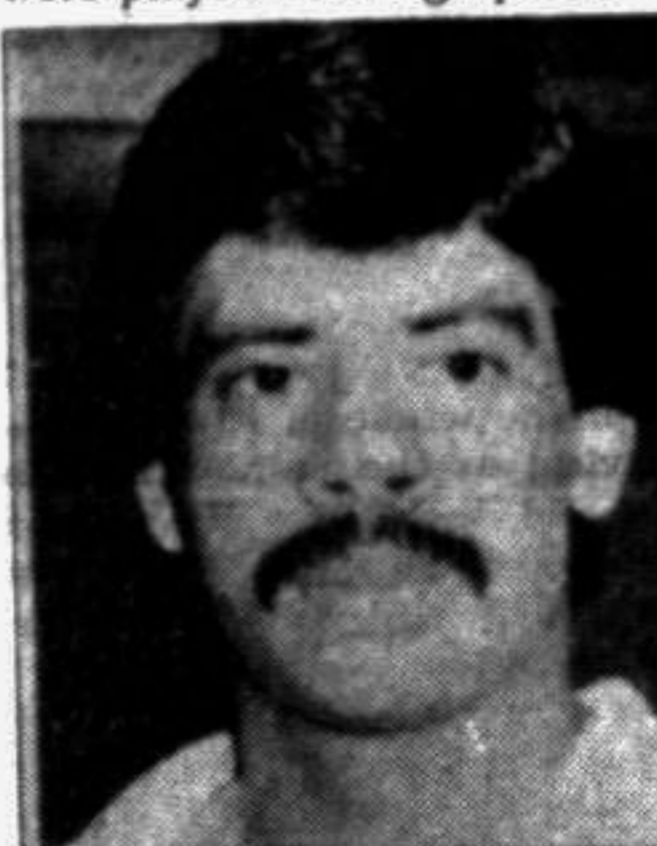
"If it was left to me I would quit now. I suddenly felt I couldn't move in the third game because of the pain in my back. I can't keep playing at this level."

The legendary Pakistani, who just two days ago announced his retirement at the end of this season, was clearly tiring after the third game and was also holding his back from time to time near the end, when he retired with the score at 12-15, 13-15, 15-2, 15-7.

A combination of tiredness and pain almost certainly caused the retirement, which

could now become permanent, despite his statement Monday that he might play the British Open in April.

The four games lasted 80 minutes, and for the first hour were played at a high pace.



JAHANGIR KHAN

Jahangir won the first after 24 minutes, often producing flashes of brilliance with his cut-off volleys and backhand drops.

However, he appeared to be slowing a little in the second game, during which Marshall several times complained his opponent was blocking him as he tried to stretch forward for short balls.

Once the Englishman came out of the door to argue with the referee and on another occasion hurled his racket furiously into the corner, for which he was given a code of conduct warning.

In the third game, however, the match changed character immediately. Marshall raced to a lead of 8-0 in only four minutes with little resistance from Jahangir, and after taking that game in only nine minutes was soon 5-0 up in the fourth game.

It was then that Jahangir made his last desperate push for survival, suddenly recovering some mobility and battling back to 6-8.

But a no-let decision against him at 9-8 appeared to make him lose heart. The crowd jeered the referee's verdict and Jahangir came out to argue and offer his racket, saying: "You come and play."

The legend then hardly contested the remaining points, leaving Marshall both delighted and dazed with his sudden and spectacular success.

"He is the player I have admired ever since I was a young boy, and so it is very special to beat him," said Marshall.

"Although it was a sad way for him to lose, I could see he was getting tired after the second game."

Marshall's next opponent is the unseeded Australian-born qualifier Austin Adarraga of Spain.

Mac wants to replace Gorman

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept 24: It's an uneasy alliance these days between John McEnroe and US Davis Cup captain Tom Gorman. McEnroe is publicly campaigning for a job that Gorman is not ready to give up, reports AP.

The captain serves as coach and adviser to the team, which this weekend meets Sweden in the semifinal on the red clay at Target Centre. And McEnroe, the top player in US Davis Cup history, says he'd be perfect for the job.

"I've been doing this for a long time. September of '78 was my first match," said McEnroe, who'll be paired with Pete Sampras against Sweden's Stefan Edberg-Anders Jarryd doubles team. "For me, it would be a great transition."

Gorman, in his seventh year, is noticeably uncomfortable discussing the situation.

"It's tough for me to talk about somebody (coveting) my position," he said. "I know he wants to be captain. John and I have talked a number of times about the position. I personally think John would be a good captain. But I don't know if next year is the time."

That's because Gorman still wants to be captain next year. Besides, he thinks the 33-year-old McEnroe still has plenty to offer as a player.

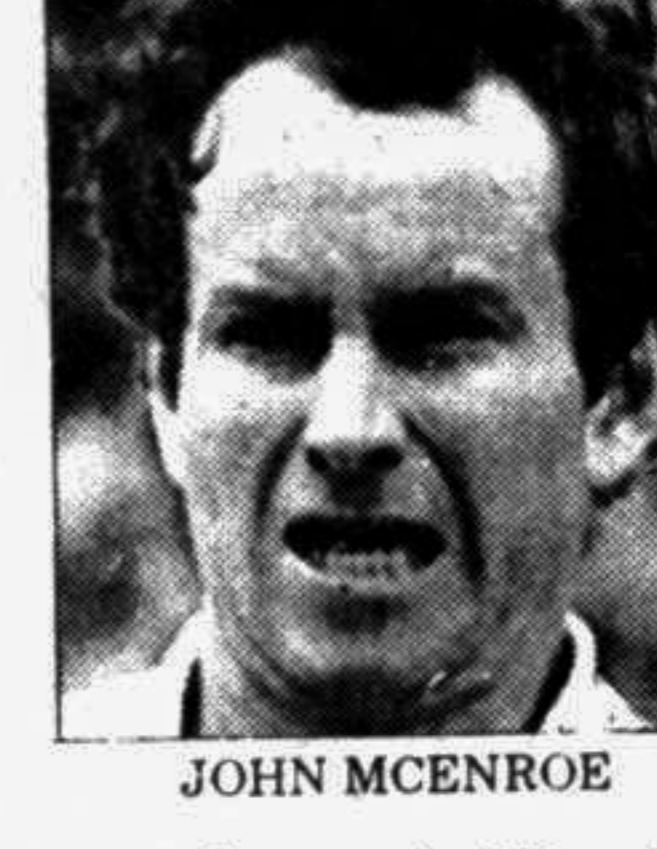
McEnroe, however, suggested strongly that he feels Gorman has already served too long.

"When so many people would like to do it, whether it's me or not, there's a question of how long a guy should do it. McEnroe said, 'I don't know if there should be a moratorium, five years or

whatever, but I think that's something to consider."

Andre Agassi, who along with Jim Courier will be playing singles beginning Friday, likes the idea of McEnroe as captain.

Davis Cup captain Tom Gorman. McEnroe is publicly campaigning for a job that Gorman is not ready to give up, reports AP.



JOHN MCENROE

"Nothing against Tom. Tom has been great with the players. He's really open to learning from them, understanding them and working with them as individuals. But I think John would be great," Agassi said.

"I, like a lot of players, have been inspired by John. Just watching his commitment to Davis Cup, watching his commitment to telling things like it is as opposed to what people want to hear."

He's there for me when I ask him his thoughts. You don't have to second-guess. You just take it and go with it. If anybody else tells you things, you have to wonder what part of that information is good and what part isn't."

McEnroe is by far the most successful Davis Cup player in US history, going 41-8 in singles matches and 16-2 in doubles for a combined 57-10 mark that puts him 19 victories ahead of the next-win-

ningest American, Vic Seixas. He led the US team to titles in 1978, 1979, 1981 and 1982.

Nevertheless, McEnroe's volatile on-court history and his open disdain for USA officials — he derisively calls them "bluecoats" — might make him a politically incorrect choice.

"All I can say is I want to do it," McEnroe said. "I feel the players that I'd work with, we'd work together well. But if someone wants to concentrate on how I yelled at an umpire or whatever..."

McEnroe didn't play for the 1985 Davis Cup because he refused to sign a pledge of conduct. He missed 1986 because then-USA President Randy Gregson didn't like his personality. He wasn't chosen to play in the last year's championship-round loss to host France.

"I felt I could have made the difference between winning and losing last year," he said. "Right now, with some of the past difficulties that I've had, I'm happy even to be on the team."

One thing nobody can question is McEnroe's Davis Cup commitment.

"Playing for your country is just about the biggest honour you can get," he said.

Borg gets a wild card entry

BASLE, Sept 24: Bjorn Borg has been given a wild card for next week's Basle tennis tournament, the organisers said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Borg, five times, Wimbledon champion, will be the fourth former world number one after Boris Becker, Ivan Lendl and Jimmy Connors to enter the 775,000-dollar indoor event.