

**Devoy wants to quit in style**

VANCOUVER, Canada, Oct 16: World Champion Susan Devoy gave notice she plans to quit squash in style on Thursday night, leading New Zealand to a 3-0 quarter-final victory over Canada in the women's world team championship, reports Reuter.

Devoy, who announced after winning the individual title for the fourth time last week that she was retiring. Showed her determination as she staged a great recovery to beat Canada's world number six Heather Wallace 5-9, 7-9, 9-2, 9-1, 9-3 in 55 minutes.

"Just because I am retiring I am not just going to give up against anybody," she said.

Devoy faces another stern test on Friday when she is likely to meet England's number one Cassie Jackman, one of the players she tips to take over from her at the top. England are top seeds in the team event, having held the title since 1985.

Second seeds Australia ended South Africa's hopes with a 3-0 victory.

Individual runner-up Michelle Martin beat Claire Nitch 10-9, 9-4, 9-3, while Robyn Lambourne achieved a 9-0, 9-0, 9-0 whitewash over Thelma Holt.

Australia now meet the Netherlands, who came through a tough battle against Germany 2-1.

**Switzerland get an ITF snubbing**

LONDON, Oct 16: Davis Cup finalists Switzerland were surprisingly snubbed by the International Tennis Federation when they announced the seedings for next year's competition here yesterday, reports AFP.

Having reached the final for the first time, they could have expected to be ranked in the top two alongside the United States, whom they meet for the trophy in Texas in December.

But the ITF's Davis Cup committee decided otherwise, preferring to place Germany, who were beaten in the first round by Brazil, alongside the Americans.

The Swiss, who crushed the Brazilians 5-0 in the semi-finals, will share the third and fourth seeding with Sweden.

The other seedings in the world group see France and Spain fill fifth and sixth, while Czechoslovakia and Italy take seventh and eighth.

Eight more countries will make up the top flight in next Tuesday's draw, including Russia, who will replace the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Croatia take over from Yugoslavia in the European zone.

**Zia back in second spot**

**FIDE** Master and former national champion Ziaur Rahman captured the second slot in the points table with a fine win against Yemeni IM Hameed Mansour Qazi in the 8th round of the ninth Q M Hussain chess tournament at the conference room of the NSC yesterday.



I M Krishnamurthy Murugan of India (L) and Reefat-bin-Sattar, national champion, in their eighth round match of the ninth Dr Q M H International Masters' chess competition at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Playing with the black pieces, Zia adopted the stonewall gambit and won the match in the 50th move.

Indian IM Arun Vaidya scored a fortuitous victory against reigning champion Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi. Vaidya, who resorted to the King's Indian defence, put a dead wood on Lodhi who committed an unwarranted blunder in the middle game. The Pakistani IM

**Boris Spassky pulls one back**

BELOGRADE, Oct 16: Former world chess champion Boris Spassky defeated Bobby Fischer in the 20th Game of their 5 million dollar series on Thursday, narrowing Fischer's overall lead to 7-4, reports Reuter.

Spassky, playing white, won in the 43rd move, his first victory since September 30.

The Paris-based Russian opened for the first time with king's pawn and Fischer, who won the world title from Spassky 20 years ago, responded with Sicilian Defence, presenting a new variation on the eighth move.

Friday is a rest day and the next game will take place on Saturday.

**Sports Reporter**

gave up after 43 moves. Bangladeshi IM Zillur Rahman Champak beat Rahul Shetty of India in another match of the day.

Champak, who played with white, wrung out submission from his opponent in 42 moves with a Sicilian defence.

Rani Hamid, the Bangladeshi IWM and the lone female competitor, finally opened her

Murugan leads the points table with seven points followed by Zia who has six.

Indian Lanka Ravi and Yemeni Hameed Qazi are in the third position with five points.

Arun Vaidya, Rahul Shetty of India and Mahmud Lodhi of Pakistan have four and half points each.

Reefat of Bangladesh and

account. Yesterday she drew with Saifuddin Lavlu to pick up the face-saving half point. Rani, who played with black, adopted a Sicilian defence and agreed to a draw after 50 moves.

Indian IM Lanka Ravi won his match against Khandaker Kayes Hassan. Ravi, who played with black pieces, adopted the French opening and forced his Bangladeshi counterpart to surrender after 30 moves.

Table leader Krishnamurthy Murugan, the Indian IM, stumbled once again as Bangladeshi national champion and FIDE Master Reefat Bin-Sattar held him to a draw.

Reefat, who played with black, Murugan's countered knight opening move with a Knight in Rating opening variation.

After 22 moves the contestants settled for a draw.

FIDE Master and former national champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman drew his match with PDS Girmath of India. Playing with King's Indian defence, the players agreed to a draw after 38 moves.

The match between Jamilur Rahman of Bangladesh and Atanu Lahiri of India was adjourned after 60 moves.

After the eighth round

Girmath have four points; having played seven matches.

Champak has three and half points, also from seven matches. Kayes, who has played a match more than Champak, has three and half points.

Saifuddin Lavlu is the lone man to get three points.

Tahmid and Jamil of Bangladesh have two and a half points each from seven matches apiece.

Atanu Lahiri the rated Indian player has one half point from seven matches while Rani Hameed has half point.

**Saudi booters rout USA**

RIYADH, Oct 16: More than 75,000 fans watched Saudi Arabia hammer World Cup hosts, the United States, with three second-half goals in the first match of the Intercontinental Cup here on Thursday, reports AFP.

Fahd Hirfi opened the floodgates with a 51st minute penalty, which was followed by goals by Youssef Thounayan and Khaled Messaed in the 75th and 84th minutes respectively.

**Sevilla come up with an excuse**

SEVILLE, Spain, Oct 16: A senior Sevilla soccer club officials said bureaucratic problems had held up the club's initial payment of 3 million dollars to Napoli for the transfer of Diego Maradona, reports Reuter.

Vice-president Jose Maria del Nido told the Spanish news agency EFE on Thursday that Sevilla had written confirmation from a Swiss Bank where the money was deposited that it would be sent to Napoli as soon as formalities were completed.

Napoli asked FIFA on Thursday to prevent the former Argentine captain playing for Sevilla until the question of payment was settled.

"FIFA has at no time given Sevilla an ultimatum. It has simply urged that the matter be settled finally," Del Nido said.

Maradona moved to Sevilla last month in a tortuous transfer deal with Napoli involving a total fee of 7.5 million dollars—3 million dollar payable at once and 4.5 million dollars more over two years.

Del Nido said the Italian club was also complaining because guarantees for the outstanding 4.5 million dollars has not come direct from Sevilla but from a company responsible for promoting a series of friendly matches Maradona will play with the club.

This "error of wording" was being corrected, Del Nido said.

Maradona, who has scored once in two league matches for Sevilla, returned to football after completing a 15-month world ban for cocaine abuse. He is due to play next in Sunday's away match at Espanol of Barcelona.

**FIFA says Sevilla has paid initial payment**

ZURICH, Switzerland, Oct 16: FIFA on Friday said it had proof that Sevilla had paid Italian First-Division club Napoli the first installment of the dir 7.5 million transfer fee for Argentine striker Diego Maradona, reports AP.

"We have a bank document proving that the money was transferred," said FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren.

Napoli on Thursday demanded the annulment of the transfer, saying the Spanish team had failed to make initial payment of dir 3 million.

However, Sevilla manager Manuel Vizcaino insisted his team had indeed paid the agreed dir 3 million over to the Italian club.

The reason for the confusion was not clear. Sevilla said Thursday they had made the payment through Diarma, the company Maradona established to handle all of his business transactions.

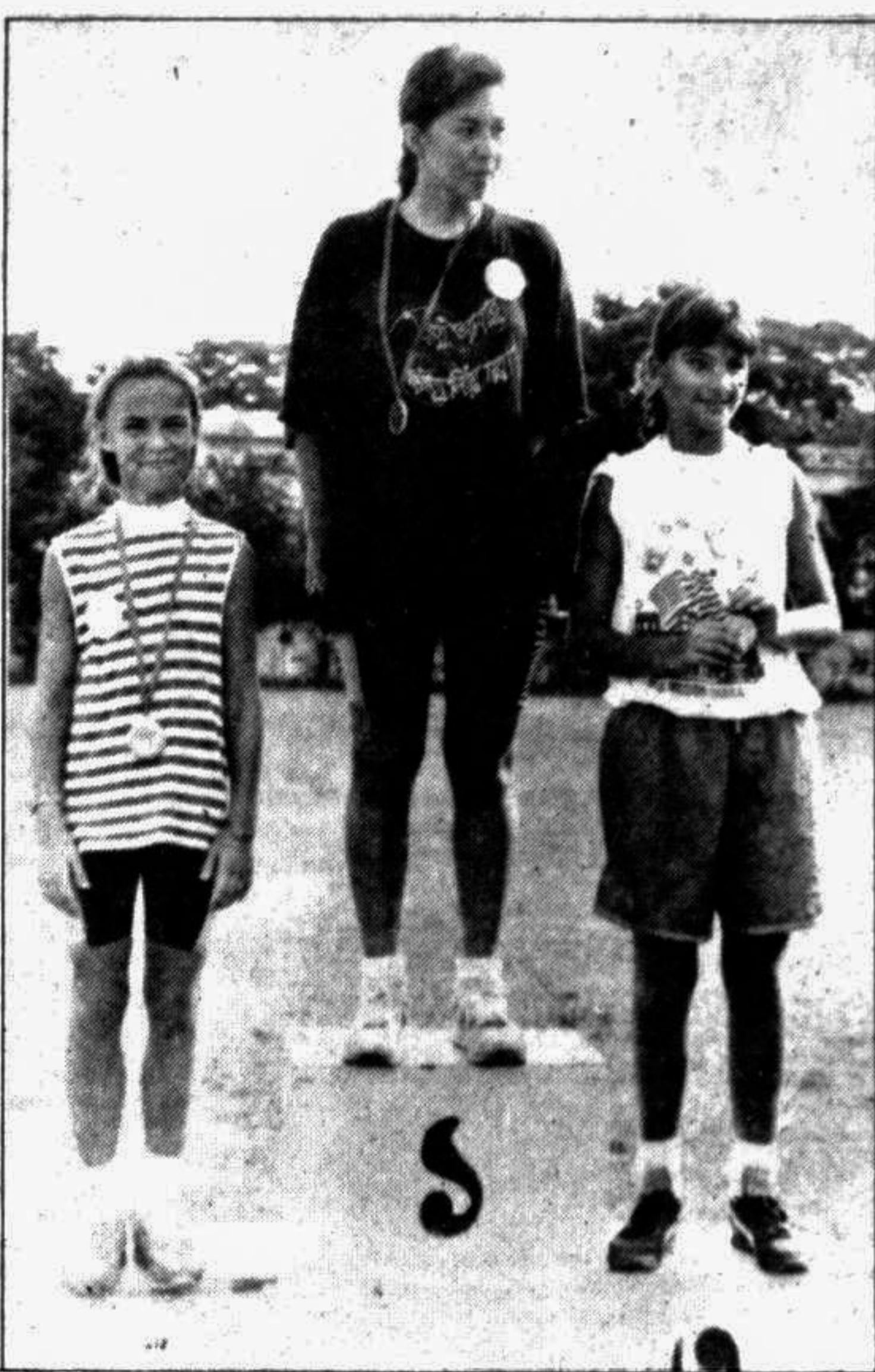
Under an agreement reached at FIFA headquarters in Zurich last month, Sevilla promised to pay dir 3 million by Oct. 7. The remaining dir 4.5 million is to be paid in four installments at six month intervals.

"The agreements that were made in Zurich have until now been fulfilled," said Herren in a telephone interview. "For us, that's good enough."

FIFA was a key mediator in the row between Napoli and Sevilla over the Maradona transfer.

Maradona, who in June finished a 15-month suspension for failing a drug test, refused to report to Napoli for the final season of his contract.

Napoli at first refused to release him. Under pressure from FIFA, the finally agreed on Sept. 23 to sell the 31-year-old player who led the team to two Italian League titles and the 1989 UEFA Cup. He captained Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title and runner-up finish in 1990.



The top three female finishers of the mini-marathon held in Dhaka yesterday in observance of the UN Day.

**Cheshire's cherished win over Cram**

SYDNEY, Oct 16: Kenya's unlucky Joseph Cheshire on Friday took some financial comfort following a third Olympic fourth placing in Barcelona by edging out Britain's Steve Cram in a dramatic finish to Sydney's annual Street Mile race, reports Reuter.

Cheshire, 34, collected the first prize of Australian dollar 10,000 (US dollar 7,200) and a new car when he forged narrowly ahead of the world mile record holder with about 100 metres to go to win by half a stride in three minutes 57.2 seconds.

Cram, who won last year's inaugural event through Sydney's central business district, finished in three minutes 57.5 seconds, narrowly ahead of Australia's Shaun Creighton.

Cheshire, who finished fourth in the 1500 metres at the Los Angeles, Seoul and Barcelona Olympics, opened up an early lead over Cram who fought back in the latter stages of the race to close on the Kenyan.

But Cheshire, cheered on by a crowd of more than 50,000

who lined the streets, found a little extra to edge ahead of Cram who had only last month beaten him in a street mile race in Edinburgh.

The mile race between

Decker-Slaney, 34, led from start to finish to win the event for the second year, finishing in four minutes 22.68 seconds. Half a second faster than last year and an emphatic nine seconds ahead of the second placed Budd-Pieterse.

It was only the 26-year-old Budd-Pieterse's second road race and, still recovering from a liver disorder, she was never confident of challenging the American.

"In the circumstances, I was pleased to come second," she said.

Decker-Slaney, a former mile record holder who missed out on Barcelona because of injury, said the win was good preparation for a possible indoor racing season in the run-up to next year's World Championships in Stuttgart.

Cram, whose mile record of three minutes 46.32 seconds has stood since 1985, had admitted before the race that he was not in top racing shape and was not disappointed by his second placing.

"It was no disgrace to be beaten by Joseph—he is one of the World's top milers," Cram told reporters.

**Spotlight on Premier League**

LONDON, Oct 16: With Paul Gascoigne back in Italy following his inspired sowing in England's 1-1 World Cup tie against Norway, attention has reverted to the battle for supremacy in the English Premier League, reports AP.

The leadership could change hands this Saturday when Norwich host Queens Park Rangers in one of nine league games. With front-running Blackburn Rovers idle until next Monday, Norwich could regain the top spot with a win over rejuvenated QPR.

Blackburn lead Norwich by one point, 24-23, after 11 matches. Coventry lie in third place with 21 points, followed by QPR with 20.

QPR captain Alan McDonald knows the Norwich players will be out to prove themselves following their humiliating 7-1 loss at Blackburn two weeks ago.

"Norwich have done very well," he said. "I'm sure that 7-1 result was just a 'one off'. They like to try and play football just like we do so it promises to be a very good game."

McDonald says QPR has established itself as a legitimate title contender under the leadership of Gerry Francis, who took over as manager last season. In their last game, Rangers whipped Tottenham 4-1.

"If you look at our record since Gerry has taken over then we must rank up there in the top three," McDonald said. "He has produced a team that is playing attractive football and the type of football that I think people want to see. Not just that, but a team that's getting results."

"We find it more than a bit disappointing that we don't get more praise for what we have done and what we are doing."

Norwich will be without goalkeeper Bryan Gunn, who has been given indefinite leave following the death of his two-year-old daughter from a rare form of leukemia.

Norwich have also been hit by injuries to midfielder Gary Megson (calf) and defender

**Scotland in qtrs at USA's cost**

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Oct 16: A strong protest by Scotland was upheld at the women's world team squash championship on Thursday, giving them a quarter-final place at the expense of the United States, reports Reuter.

Scotland had beaten the Americans 2-1 on Wednesday to earn a place in the last eight and a match against holders England.

But the US had successfully appealed, claiming a refereeing error had given Scotland's Emma Donaldson victory over their own Ellie Pierce.

The two players were ordered to replay the match from the point the error was made with Donaldson leading 8-6 in the final game, just one point from victory.

Donaldson, however, was ill on returning to her hotel and the match was awarded to the Americans when she failed to appear for the replay.

Some countries had said they would seriously consider walking out of the tournament unless the decision was reversed.

**UN staff hold 'mini-Olympics'**

To mark the United Nations title of Bangladesh Olympic under the aegis of the UNDP Staff Association in Bangladesh. The day-long 'Olympics' included a 5-km marathon/walkathon, track and field event, tennis, swimming, volleyball and soccer.

Members of UN agencies and representatives from the donor countries, embassies and government agencies participated in the programme.

Apart from the marathon, all other sporting events were held at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

**Army volleyball**

Savar Area team clinched the title of Bangladesh Army volleyball championship which ended at the Rangpur Cantonment on Thursday, reports UNB.

They became unbeaten champion defeating host Rangpur Area team in the final match by three straight sets of 15-1, 15-3, and 15-9 points, according to ISPR here.

Habibul Mohammad Sur-Uz-Zaman Munshi of Rangpur Area team was adjudged the best player.

Chief of General Staff Bangladesh Army Major General Muhammad Abdus Salam distributed prizes among the winners.

**WC matches take toll on league leaders**

LONDON, Oct 16: A rash of injuries during midweek World Cup matches have upset the plans of both league leaders AC Milan and their Sunday opponents Lazio, reports Reuter.

Milan are almost certain to be without central defender Paolo Maldini, who pulled a muscle in training, and Alberto Evani, who twisted an ankle in the national side's 2-2 draw with Switzerland on Wednesday.

More importantly, the reigning champions may be missing Dutchman Frank Rijkaard, who was substituted in the second half of Holland's 2-2 draw with Poland because of an ankle injury.

Rijkaard's absence could open the way for Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin to return to the side and partner Dutchman Marco van Basten in attack.

Milan's third Dutchman Ruud Gullit, who opted out of the Poland tie, but shone in Milan's last 7-3 league win against Fiorentina, is expected to play.

Lazio will be without Giuseppe Signori, the season's leading goalscorer, who badly twisted a knee in training with Italy and they have doubts about Dutchman Aron Winter, who pulled out of the Dutch team minutes before their tie because of a muscle strain.

But they will be pleased that their expensive English signing Paul Gascoigne came through 90 minutes of his first international for 20 months unscathed at Wembley.

Juventus are another side with injury problems since their first choice central defenders Brazilian Julio Cesar and German Jergen Kohler, will miss Sunday's home game against Brescia.

Their absence should guarantee a place for both German Andreas Moeller and Englishman David Platt, scorer of England's goal in their 1-1 draw with Norway.

After their dramatic 3-2 win over Real Madrid in their

last home game unheralded Spanish league leaders Deportivo Courrua will be after another illustrious scalp on Saturday.

Deportivo host champions

Second-placed Eintracht Frankfurt, two points behind Munich, travel to Nuremberg on Saturday.

Frankfurt's star scorer, Ghanaian international Anthony

a victory for the Netherlands will lead his club's attack against newcomers Cambuur Leeuwarden, while his goalkeeper Stanley Menzo will pray he does not stumble again.

Menzo took the blame for the first goal, when he dropped the slippery ball to give the Poles an easy chance to open the score.

PSV Eindhoven defender Berry van Aerle, who had trouble keeping the national defence closed, accompanies league leaders to Willem II Tilbur. PSV have 13 points from seven matches. FC Twente Enschede, two points behind, host go ahead Eagles Deventer.

Champions Marseille and upstarts Nantes battle it out in the highlight match of the French league on Saturday.

Fourth-placed Marseille, who suffered their first defeat in eight months in Bordeaux last week, desperately need to win on home ground to keep World Cup qualifier on Wednesday, hope to make fewer mistakes in the league this weekend.

Ajax Amsterdam striker Dennis Bergkamp, who missed several chances to bring home

Barcelona as they strive to show they are serious title contenders and that their fine start to the season was no fluke. Deportivo head the table with 10 points from six games, one ahead of Barcelona and Atletico Madrid.

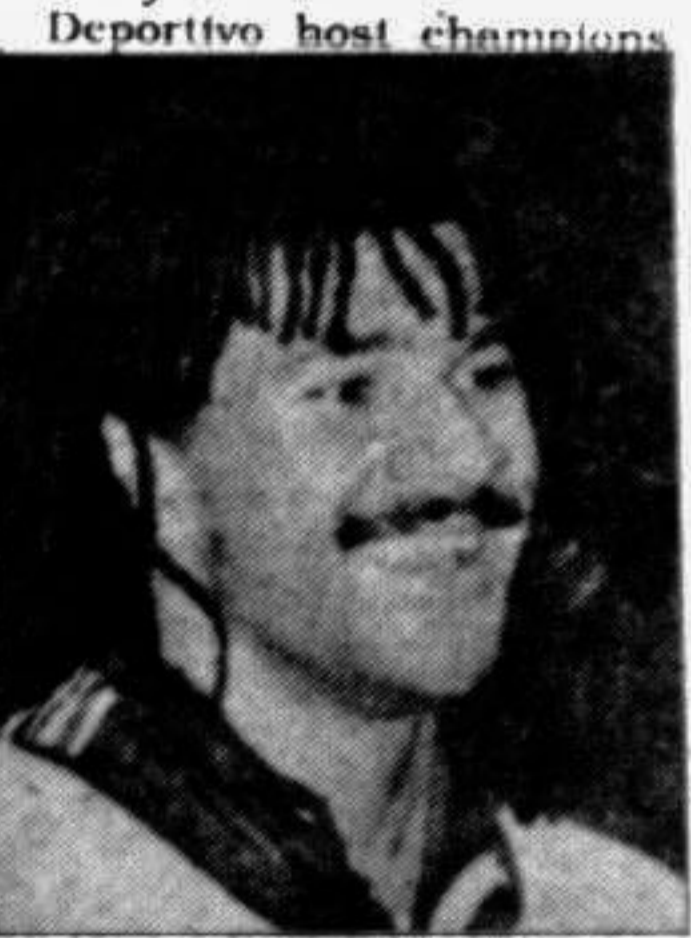
Atletico Madrid take on Sporting Gijon at Vicente Calderon Stadium on Sunday with their confidence high after a 4-1 away win last week against Real Oviedo. They should be too strong for the northerners.

The return of international midfielder Rafael Martin Vazquez to Real Madrid after a two-year absence with Torino and Olympique Marseille will be the main attraction when last season's runners-up travel to Logrones.

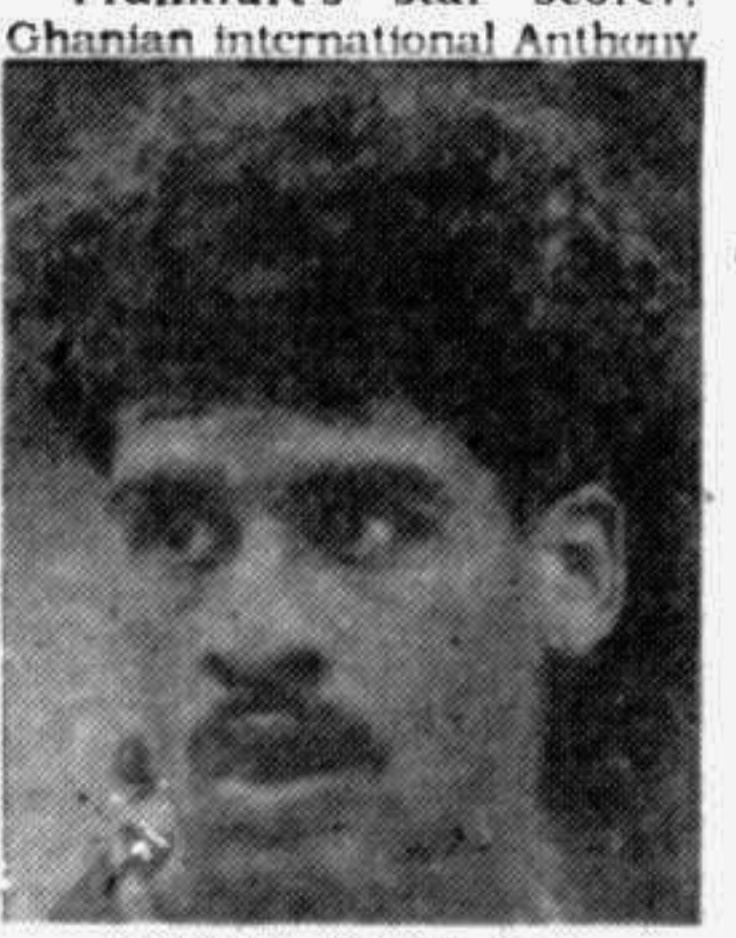
Unfashionable Serria Stadium in Barcelona, home of Espanol, can expect a near capacity 40,000 crowd for the visit of Sevilla and Diego Maradona on Sunday while the Basque Country stages its own private war when Athletic Bilbao clash with Real Sociedad of San Sebastian.

In Germany undefeated leaders Bayern Munich travel on Saturday to Saarbruecken, where they have never won a match.

"We will be the first team to beat Bayern," Saarbruecken coach Peter Neurer said. But his side, lying 11th in the league, have not won for three games.



RUUD GULLIT



FRANK RIJKAARD

Yeboah, has notched up seven goals this season, more than the entire Nuremberg team. Leading Dutch players, angry they allowed Poland to escape with a 2-2 draw in their World Cup qualifier on Wednesday, hope to make fewer mistakes in the league this weekend.

Ajax Amsterdam striker Dennis Bergkamp, who missed several chances to bring home



Runners assemble in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban for the start of the UN Day Games 5 km marathon/walkathon yesterday morning as part of the Oct 24 UN Day celebrations.