

# Maradona scores for Sevilla

MADRID, Nov 9: A 20th-minute penalty goal by superstar Diego Maradona followed by fellow Argentine Diego Simeone's last-minute score helped Sevilla beat Rayo Vallecano 3-2 Sunday, reports AP.

Deportivo de La Coruna stayed atop of the Spanish First Division by drawing 1-1 in an away match against Albacete.

Meanwhile, two goals by Chilean striker Ivan "The Terrible" Zamorano in the 46th and 56th minutes allowed Real Madrid to stay in second place with a 3-1 victory over Espanol.

Second-half substitute Alfonso Perez scored Madrid's third goal in the 89th while Russian striker Igor Kornev notched Espanol's only goal on a penalty shot in the 30th minute.

Two-time defending league champion Barcelona stayed No. 3, behind Real Madrid on goal difference, after beating Athletic de Bilbao 2-1 Saturday on goals by Jose Maria Bakero and Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov.

Bilbao's goal came from an own goal by defender Juan Carlos Rodriguez.

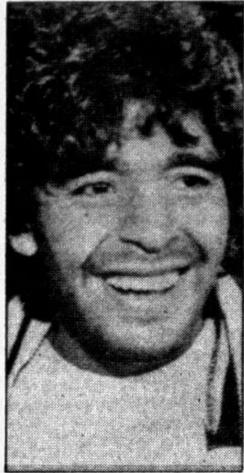
Stoichkov remained the league's top scorer with 10 goals.

In Sevilla, Maradona's goal came 13 minutes after Rayo Vallecano had gone ahead with seventh-minute goal by defender Jose Tomas "Josete" Valdomino.

The Argentine forward almost made it 2-1 minutes later when a powerful shot launched

from outside the penalty area thundered off the left upright post.

The goal was Maradona's second — both from penalties — since he joined Sevilla from Italian club Napoli in September three months after



**MARADONA...goal** ending a 15-month drug suspension.

Rayo's Pedro Riesco put the visitors ahead again in the 53rd minute but a sneaky header one yard (meter) off the line in the closing seconds by Simeone gave Sevilla the victory.

Sevilla with a 5-3-2 record now is in fifth place in the 20-team division while Rayo dropped to No. 14.

Deportivo's draw against

Albacete allowed the north-western team to stay in first place, where it has been since the season's start.

Forward Claudio Barragan put the visitors up 1-0 in the 35th minute, but Albacete's Delfi Geli Roura scored the equaliser five minutes into the second half.

Deportivo now has 16 points and a record of 7-2-1, while Albacete with a 2-2-6 record is No. 17.

Athletic de Madrid stayed in fourth place after beating middle-ranking Celta 2-0 on a 77th-minute goal by Manuel Alfaro de La Torre and a final-minute score by Portuguese ace Paulo Futre.

Meanwhile, Welshman John Toshack's Real Sociedad gained two valuable points by beating Cadiz 3-0 with goals from Miguel Angel Fuentes, Andoni Imaz and Bosnian Meho Kodro.

Sociedad now is No. 16 while Cadiz dipped to No. 18.

Elsewhere, Zaragoza drew 2-2 away to Tenerife with goals for the visitors by Gustavo Poyet and Jesus Seba, while Ezequiel Marcelo Castillo and Italian Pier Luigi Cherubino Loggi netted for the Canary Islanders.

Serbian defender Pedrag Spasic's first-minute goal helped Osasuna beat Oviedo 2-1 at home. Oviedo drew level in the 25th minute with a goal from defender Cristobal Parralo Aguilera, but Osasuna's Miguel Angel Merino gave the home side the winning second goal in the 42nd minute.

In other 10th-round matches Sunday, it was Burgos 2, Logrones 2, and Sporting de Gijon defeated Valencia 1-0.

## Brass bands & bullets bid 'bye to Fischer

BELGRADE, Nov 9: With brass bands and bullets, Bobby Fischer on Sunday formally ended his spectacular reentry into the chess world that was capped by a 30-game series defeat of his old nemesis Boris Spassky, reports AP.

The farewell ceremony looked more like a royal wedding. Scores of curious onlookers lined Belgrade's streets as a van carrying a TV camera led three horse-drawn carriages, each with a brass band, followed by over a dozen balloon-festooned cars carrying the players, organisers and assorted chess grandmasters.

The 49-year-old Fischer beat Spassky 10 games to 5 in the much-touted chess series, which was played in defiance of international sanctions on Yugoslavia because of war in neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The procession ended at a Belgrade racetrack owned by a bank controlled by Belgrade businessman Jezdimir Vasiljevic, who put up \$5 million in prize money for the match.

"Thank you very much for coming," was all Fischer had to say to the guests. The 55-year-old Russian-born Spassky thrilled them with a few words in Serbian.

After a boisterous serenade by the brass band and a farewell lunch, the chess masters posed for pictures with the sponsors, Vasiljevic pulled a pistol from his belt for one picture with Spassky.

And as the guests filed out, the ever-present security guards hired to protect Fischer fired their guns into the air.

# Becker is back with a bang

PARIS, Nov 9: The real Boris Becker has resurfaced at last.

Becker won the Paris Open title by displaying the type of tennis that kept him ranked in the top three for most of the last seven years until recently, reports AP.

The German outgunned defending champion Guy Forget 7-6 (7-3), 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 Sunday to win the title for the third time in the seven-year history of the tournament.

More important for Becker was the return to the level of tennis that he has been known for after dropping down in the world rankings.

Two weeks ago, Becker fell to No. 10 in the ATP Tour rankings, his lowest level since he won Wimbledon for the first time in July 1985 as a 17 year old.

Since then, he won Wimbledon twice more and added Australian Open and US Open titles. He was No. 1 in the world briefly in 1991, but since then has seen his game slip.

"I had a bad period for my standard," Becker said. "You don't always win, and I had a down period for the last six months."

Becker said he started to work harder with a new coach, Gunther Bresnik, but wondered if it would be worth it.

"I am a normal human being and I have doubts, too," Becker said. "To come back the way I have this week is just great for me."

It was Becker's 35th career title, and he did it in impressive fashion.

All Becker did in five matches was beat John McEnroe; old nemesis Brad Gilbert; the No. 1 player in the world, Jim Courier; the hottest player on the tour, Goran Ivanisevic, and then top it off by beating defending Paris Open champion Forget before a partisan French crowd.

"The way I played in the last five days is top three level," Becker said. "It's been the best week of the year for me."

Becker had previously won three tournaments this year, but he was seeded ninth at the Paris Open. The top three players in the world — Courier, Pete Sampras and Stefan Edberg — failed to reach the semifinals.

"I have had to struggle the last 12 months," Becker said. "But now I am playing the kind of tennis I did in the past."

Becker and Forget came out firing in the final, each getting 21 aces.

Becker and Forget fought on almost even terms in the first set. But the tide changed when Forget's serve failed him.

In the tiebreak Forget had two aces. When Forget had to go to a second serve, he was in trouble. Becker had a winning

service return then came in behind a service return to go up 4-1. He held that advantage until 6-3, then closed out the set with an ace.

In the second set, Becker turned up the pressure.

Forget double-faulted to set up a break point in the second game. Becker got his service break with a backhand passing shot down the line.

The pair held serve the rest of the way. Becker fought off a

**MAKES ATP FINALS**  
Becker's win ensured his place in the ATP finals in Frankfurt, starting on November 17.

Becker was the seventh player to qualify for Frankfurt



German star Boris Becker holds his trophy after winning the Paris Open title beating Frenchman Guy Forget, the defending champion, in Sunday's final. Becker won 7-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

# Van Basten, Baggio net 4 each

ROME, Nov 9: Marco van Basten scored four goals to lead AC Milan to a 5-1 rout of struggling Napoli on Sunday and keep his unbeaten club two points clear at the top of the Italian soccer First Division, reports Reuter.

Roberto Baggio also hit four as Juventus hammered Udinese 5-1, while second-placed Torino notched a 2-1 away win at Lazio.

Napoli, bundled out of the UEFA Cup by Paris St Germain on Wednesday, plunged into the relegation zone after their thrashing on home turf by Milan as they continued their descent since winning the championship in 1990.

Milan, who have not lost a league game for a year and a half, went ahead after only six minutes when Van Basten pounced on a wayward clearance.

The Dutch striker's second was a gift from Napoli goalkeeper Giovanni Galli who bungled a kick at what should have been a routine save.

With Napoli supporters jeering their thoroughly demoralised team, midfielder Stefano Eranio piled on the agony 15 minutes after the interval with Milan's third.

Van Basten scored his third and fourth in the space of just two minutes midway through the second half to bang another nail into the coffin of Napoli's beleaguered manager Claudio Ranieri.

Napoli were spared a whitewash when midfielder Gianfranco Zola netted in the 83rd minute.

Third-placed Internazionale Milan were held to a goalless draw at home to Sampdoria, squandering their chance of victory when Uruguayan Ruben Sosa missed a penalty.

Juventus, badly beaten two

weeks ago by Internazionale, bounced back with their five-goal spree and joined Inter on 12 points from nine matches — three points behind Milan.

Visitors Udinese collapsed after 20 minutes when Baggio struck twice in quick succession, second from a pass by German Andreas Moeller.

A carbon-copy goal soon afterwards was attributed to Udinese defender Stefano Pellegrini, who deflected Baggio's shot.



**VAN BASTEN... four goals** Baggio's third came just before halftime and his last was a

fine effort just two minutes before the end.

Argentine Abel Balbo scored Udinese's only goal.

Internazionale's clash with Sampdoria was much tighter, with Sosa fluffing the best chance of the match when Inter were awarded a penalty for English defender Des Walker's harsh 14th-minute challenge on Nicola Bertini.

Sampdoria remain in sixth place with a game in hand.

Lazio, without English mid-



**BAGGIO... four goals** fielder Paul Gascoigne who has flu, battled bravely against Torino after having German Thomas Doll sent off in the 33rd minute for arguing with a linesman.

## Roma fans wave Nazi flag

FLORENCE, Nov 9: Roma fans waved a Nazi banner during their team's major league soccer match against Fiorentina Sunday, while the home team's supporters yelled out anti-Semitic insults, the Italian news agency ANSA reported, reports AP.

Meanwhile, in Rome, a fan was arrested for setting fire to a banner with the Jewish star of David, the news agency said.

In Florence, some fans waved a banner that had the Italian flag on one side and the Nazi swastika emblem on the other.

"Fiorentina fans, in turn, tried to taunt the Roma supporters with an anti-Semitic cry: 'you are like Jews,'" the agency reported. Witnesses said some Roma fans thrust out their arms in the Italian fascist salute and held up banners of the youth organisation of the Italian Social Movement, a small neo-fascist party.

Italy in recent days has witnessed a rash of anti-Semitic vandalism.

A "skinhead" group based in Rome has drawn many of its supporters from Roma fan clubs.

ANSA reported Sunday evening that police had arrested a fan at the Lazio-Torino game at Rome's Olympic stadium.

It said Andrea Insabato, 33, known to police as an extreme right-wing activist, set fire to a flag with the Star of David after yelling some remarks against Jews, according to police. He apparently brought the flag to the game, the agency said.

Police, who had beefed up their presence in the stadium to prevent anti-Semitic incidents, swiftly put out the fire.

ANSA reported that Rome police chief Fernando Maione issued an order barring Insabato from attending any future sports events. The fan was charged with arson and staging a fascist demonstration, ANSA said.

## Beckenbauer's big Japanese deal

TOKYO, Nov 9: Franz Beckenbauer has signed a four-year contract with a top Japanese company as adviser to their team in the new Japanese soccer league, reports Reuter.

Beckenbauer, who coached Germany to World Cup triumph in 1990, has signed a deal estimated by Japanese media at four million marks (2.6 million US dollars) with Mitsubishi Motors to promote their sales and advise their club Mitsubishi Urawa.

This contract specifies that Beckenbauer will be the worldwide spokesman for Mitsubishi Motors' sales promotion activities during the four years starting on January 1, 1993, the company said in a statement on Monday.

Mitsubishi Urawa are one of 10 sides taking part in Japan's first professional soccer league, which starts next May.

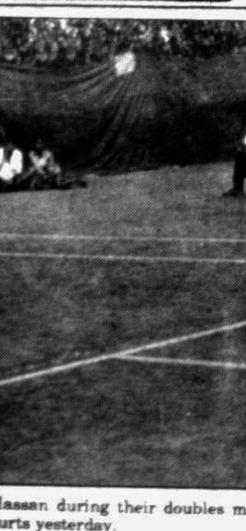
## Soccer result

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Nov 9: Jamaica beat Bermuda 3-2 (halftime 2-0) in a CONCACAF Zone second round Group B World Cup soccer qualifier on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Jamaica: Hector Wright (5th, 85th minutes), Roderick Reed (8th).

Bermuda: Neil Paynter (66th), Shawn Goater (68th).

Attendance: 20,000



Shafiqul Islam and Kamrul Hassan during their doubles match in the Nasiruddin memorial tennis tournament at the Officers' Club, Bailey Road courts yesterday.

## Mexicans win 4-0

KINGSTOWN, St Vincent, Nov 9: Mexico routed St Vincent 4-0 Sunday in a World Cup soccer qualifier, reports AP.

Dittmar won the final 9-15, 15-10, 15-8, 15-9, having beaten former world champion Martin in the World Open semifinal and the Singapore Open final in September.

Fourth seed Martin was well below his usual standard and once second-seeded Dittmar had emerged from a slow beginning and hit his stride, there was only one winner.

Both players were slower on the turn than might have been expected.

"This is a good court but the floor is hard and by the end of the week you are feeling it in the legs," Dittmar said.

"This was not one of the great games, but I am happy to have the European Open title and another win over Rodney."

"Everyone hates playing Rodney but over the years I have always had the better of him. He always makes a few mistakes."

Certainly, this was Martin's day for mistakes — five in the second game, four in the third and five in the fourth.

# Seles too good for Navratilova

OAKLAND, Nov 9: Monica Seles, who didn't drop a set all week, used blistering returns to defeat Martina Navratilova 6-3, 6-4 Sunday in the \$350,000 Bank of the West Classic and win her ninth title of the year, reports AP.

Meeting Navratilova in the finals of this tournament for the third consecutive year, Seles won for the second time.

The world's No. 1 player has established her dominance over Navratilova, 18 years her senior, by winning five of the last seven matches they have played.

This time, Seles fired bullet returns at the 36-year-old Navratilova throughout the

match, with many landing at her opponent's feet. Seles lost her serve only once, in the first set, and sealed the match with a service break in the seventh game of the second week.

"Today's match was two sets; but it was one or two points that decided the whole



**MONICA SELES... 9th title**

match, and I was a little bit lucky," Seles said. "It was a close match, and Martina is still very tough."

With the second set tied at 3 Seles hit two straight returns that put Navratilova off balance and got the break with a forehand return. Navratilova took her to deuce twice in the next game, but Seles held when her opponent dumped a forehand into the net.

"I practiced a little more on my returns yesterday," Seles said. "I knew I had to (return well), because Martina doesn't give you many chances. With Martina, you have a lot of pressures holding your own serve."

The two stayed on serve the rest of the way as Seles claimed \$70,000 for the victory.

Navratilova said Seles' returns kept her handcuffed most of the match.

"She was hitting it low and I had a hard time getting down low, especially on my forehand volley," she said. "It was right at my feet and I was stuck. There's nothing you can do.

## Dittmar wins European title

KIEL, Germany, Nov 9: World number two Chris Dittmar landed the European Open squash crown on Sunday with a 51-minute triumph that underlined his recent superiority over fellow Australian Rodney Martin, reports Reuter.

## Volleyball entry date extended

Sports Reporter

The entry date for registration in the qualifying meet for the forthcoming Second Division volleyball league has been extended to November 14 from November 12, says a press release.

Teams of the Dhaka Metropolitan including Tongi, Narayanganj and Demra will be eligible to participate in the meet.

Interested clubs have been asked to contact the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation at the Dhaka Stadium with an entry fee of two hundred taka soon.

## Courier top seed in EC tennis

ANTWERP, Belgium, Nov 9: World number one Jim Courier was named top seed on Sunday for the 1.11 million dollar European Community Tennis Championship and will play Jimmy Connors in the first round.

The tournament, famous for a diamond-studded golden trophy shaped like a racket, its debut on the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) tour today with 16 players ranked among the world's top 25.

Courier, who plays Connors on Tuesday, has won his previous two encounters with the 40-year-old.

The top seed should meet inform Frenchman Guy Forget in the quarter-finals if the seedings are respected.

Second seed American Michael Chang faces a potentially haggard first-round encounter with world number 17 Alexander Volkov of the CIS today.

Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi pulled out of the event on Friday with a pulled high muscle, effectively ending his chances of reaching the year-ending ATP tour championship in Antwerp, an official said.

The season's top eight players qualify for Frankfurt but Agassi, currently eighth, will be overtaken by Boris Becker.

The EC tournament, first organised in 1981, is an invitation event traditionally reserved for the winners and finalists of Grand Slam and European ATP tournaments.

## Army athletics on

The annual athletics meet of Bangladesh Army got underway at the Army Stadium, Banani, yesterday, reports UNB.

On the opening day two events were decided with Lt Nk Mir Mohammad Zakir Hossain of Dhaka Engineers getting the first gold in the 1500 meters, setting a new Army record in the process.

In the shot put, Nk Saleh Ahmed of Chittagong area team won the gold medal.