

## Sevilla get in Maradona's way

**BUENOS AIRES, Sept 13:** Diego Maradona's hopes of playing for Argentina in a World Cup play-off against Australia on Oct 31 are being delayed by his former club Sevilla, reports AFP.

The Spanish side have refused to sign the international papers releasing Maradona to play for Argentine club Newell's Old Boys.

Maradona was sacked by Sevilla in June but his agent, Marcos Franchi, said they were dragging their feet because they had not finished paying Napoli. Maradona was transferred from the Italian club to Sevilla last year after almost two years out of the game for cocaine use.

Sevilla's vice-president Miguel del Nido said from Spain his club had no reason to release Maradona as the player had not fulfilled his contracted obligations.

However, Argentine Football Association president Julio Grondona said he would ask Sevilla to speed up the transfer.

Argentina, forced to play Australia after a humiliating 5-0 home defeat by Colombia, play the first leg at Sydney on Oct 31. The return is in Buenos Aires on Nov 14.

Newell's Old Boys, without Maradona, lost their opening match of the new Argentine season 3-1 away to Deportivo Mandiyu.

## Venezuela's first

**PUERTO ORAZO, Venezuela, Sept 13:** Venezuela won their first full international since 1989 when they beat Ecuador 2-1 in a World Cup qualifier on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Luis Morales scored the winner for Venezuela in the 48th minute, running to the byline and beating Ecuador goalkeeper Jacinto Espinoza from an acute angle with what appeared to be an attempted cross.

Venezuela, who have one of the worst records in international soccer, had conceded 33 goals on their way to losing their previous seven games in South America Group B.

It was only the second World Cup win ever for Venezuela, who first competed in the qualifiers for the 1996 finals.

But they made a spirited recovery and showed some good touches after Ecuador had taken a first-minute lead with a header through defender Byron Tenorio.

Striker Juan Garcia put Venezuela on their way four minutes later when he beat Espinoza and Dannes Cornejo to a cross to head the equaliser.

Both teams had already been eliminated before Sunday's game.

## Bosnian athletes to train far away from bullets

**CHANTILLY, Va, Sept 13:** Most of them have been exposed to the horrors of war. Some haven't seen their families for almost a year. All of them, however, have high hopes of being Olympians, reports AP.

Sunday, the first group of Bosnian athletes invited to America by the United States Olympic Committee arrived at Washington Dulles International Airport on their way to training facilities in South Carolina and Florida.

Eight tennis players ranging in age from 14 to 19 will spend at least the next three months training at one of three tennis camps in Florida and South Carolina.

They are the first Bosnians to reach America since the United States and 11 other countries extended invitations to help them train outside their war-ravaged country. In cooperation with the Olympic Committee of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the effort has already placed some athletes in Turkey and Greece.

Three other tennis players and more than a dozen swimmers will make the trip to the United States later this year.

Many of the athletes spoke at least some English.

"I am very happy to be here," said Alen Odic, a 17-year-old who left Sarajevo in April of 1992 to attend a tennis camp in relatively peaceful Umag, Croatia. "I miss my family, especially my sister. It is very hard at night, very hard to sleep."

"I last heard from my family about a month ago," said 19-year-old Alma Damadzic, the only female of the group. "They don't even know I'm in America yet. Communication is very difficult, because (in Bosnia) we can't make phone calls or write letters."

While many of the athletes were removed from the front lines of the fighting, nearly all said they knew at least one person who had either been wounded or killed.

"I guess may be 10 people I knew were killed or wounded," Odic said.

The USOC worked with the US Tennis Association to arrange training sites.

## Victoria, towards stability



Victoria Sporting Club kept their last ditch battle on to stay afloat when the traditional club scored a vital win against Public Works Department (PWD) in the lone Star Premier Division football league encounter at the Dhaka

### Sports Reporter

Full points in their 16th encounter helped Victoria raise their tally to 12.

PWD, who have also played 16 matches, remain on their previous collection of 13. Aman, Iqbal, Jewel, Zia Babu and Farhad of Victoria SC and Haran of PWD SC were cautioned with the yellow card

hand, stay glued to their former slot with 13 points from 14 matches.

Sagar of East End Club received the yellow card during the match.

### TEAMS

**EAST END CLUB:** Sheikh Mohsin, Mohsin Mia, Manik Jr.



Action from yesterday's Star First Division encounter between Bima Krira Sangatha at the Hockey Stadium. East End went home with a comfortable 3-1 triumph. — Star photo

Stadium yesterday. The winners led the first half one-nil.

On a slippery ground, neither side controlled the match to swing the outcome decisively in their favour.

Positive attacks were very few in number as both sides displayed a strange want of will to launch offensives.

PWD, who held fancied Brothers Union in the previous match to a goalless draw, did not appear motivated enough yesterday. And one of the reasons could well be their relatively better position in the points table.

Before yesterday's match, PWD had accumulated 13 points from 15 matches and with the practice of point-bartering rampant in the local soccer league one would not be to unjustified to smell some sort of predestination in last night's result.

The two points were of immense value for Victoria who have tried all the tricks in their bag ranging from hiring foreign players to buying points.

However, it was not one of their foreign players who did the needful yesterday. Rather it was the very local Iqbal who spectacularly headed home a neat cross in the 52nd minute.

for rough charging.

### TEAMS

**VICTORIA SC:** Arun, Aman, Sohail, Farhad, Iqbal, Jewel, Zia Babu, Leekamnerchatai (Zakir), Rubel (Towfiq), Konglik and Hero.

**PWD SC:** Saidur, Shamim Sr, Kakon, Montu, Mansur, Shamim Jr (Tipu), Biplob, Babu (Haran), Prince (Salam), Toy and Mushatq.

Referee: R Alam.

### EAST END WIN

In the other match of the day, a Star First Division encounter played at the Hockey Stadium, East End Club thrashed Bima 3-1.

Mahmudul Huq Liton, the former star striker, showed some of his old sparks scoring twice while Manik scored the other goal for the winners.

Ayub pulled one back for the losers.

The winners led the first half two-nil with Liton scoring in the 22nd and 25th minutes.

Ayub of Bima reduced the margin 26 minutes into the second half. Manik confirmed East End's win with a goal three minutes from time.

The win catapults East End to the second position in the points table with 17 points from 14 matches. Bima, on the other

Sagar, Dipu, Manik Sr, Marul, Ujjal (Sumon), Mamun Babu (Shahadat), Selim and Liton.

**SADHARAN BIMA:** Himu, Motaleb, Ayub, Jasim, Mitu (Shimul), Chisty, Biswajit, Munna, Jahangir, Basu and Mitu.

Referee: Golam Mustafa.

### FOREIGN REFEREES

Meanwhile, two Malaysian referees — Nik Ahmed Haji Yaakub and Che Mud Bin Haji Che Mamat — were due in the city last night to officiate the crucial matches of the Star Premier Division league.

They are likely to conduct today's vital Premier Division match between title aspirants Mohammedans and Brothers Union. The match, 29th between the two teams, will begin at 6:30 pm at the Dhaka Stadium. Mohammedans have so far recorded 13 wins out of the 28 matches while Brothers could taste win on three occasions only.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**  
Dhanmndi Vs Wanderers 2:00 (Hockey Stadium)  
Farashganj Vs BRTC 4:00 (Hockey Stadium)  
Mohammedans Vs Brothers Union 6:30 (Dhaka Stadium)

## Uruguay relive WC hopes



**MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Sept 13:** Daniel Fonseca scored on twisting, volleying shot in first-half injury time Sunday, giving Uruguay a 2-1 victory over Bolivia and keeping alive their hopes of qualifying for the 1994 World Cup, reports AP.

With only one game remaining in South American Group B, neither of the two berths are settled. All three teams that still have a chance — Bolivia, Brazil and Uruguay — have 10 points with only next week's game remaining.

**Ganashiksha Gold Cup soccer**  
FARIDPUR, Sept 13: Allabad Union Parishad became sadhar thana champions beating Kanaipur Union Parishad by two goals to one in the first leg of the Ganashiksha Gold Cup football championship played recently at the local stadium, reports BSS.

The first-half score was 1-1. Health and Family Welfare Minister Kamal Iqbal witnessed the match and distributed trophies among the winners.

Eleven Union Parishad teams of sadhar thana participated in the first leg. The final round will be played among the champions of eight thanas of the district.

The Gold Cup Ganashiksha was arranged to popularise the mass education programme.

**Sadat College indoor games ends**  
TANGAIL, Sept 13: The sixtieth indoor games championship of the Sadat University College concluded here recently, reports BSS.

A total of one hundred and eighty seven students, took part in five event including chess and table tennis.

Mainur Rahman Talukder and Ashish Kumar Shahab became joint champions in boys' group while Nasrin Rashid Happy clinched individual championship.

Professor Taheruddin Ahmed, principal of the college, distributed prizes among the winners.

Brazil and Bolivia need only draws to qualify while Uruguay needs a victory, or a draw and a Bolivian loss, to get to the World Cup.

Bolivia will play Ecuador in Guayaquil while Brazil and Uruguay face-off in Rio de Janeiro.

The loss was the second straight for Bolivia, who opened with five consecutive victories.

Bolivia's Spanish coach Xavier Azkargorta told a news conference he was "indignant" over several calls by Colombian referee Armando Perez Hoyos, including penalty kick that gave Uruguay a 1-0 lead in the second minute.

"I don't want to detract from the Uruguayan victory," but "I would like to see some of those plays over again."

Uruguayan coach Ildo Maneiro said he did not share Azkargorta's concern over the referee's performance and suggested that the Spaniard was not accustomed to the South American style of play.

"This was a game like all the others," Maneiro said. "Perhaps he has that idea because he

doesn't know that here in South America the elimination games are just like war." Enzo Francescoli gave Uruguay the lead in the second minute, converting a penalty after Hoyos whistled Bolivia's Sergio Rivero for tripping Fonseca inside the area.

William Ramallo drew Bolivia even at 23 minutes. Uruguayan keeper Roberto Siboldi blocked the Erwin Sanchez's initial shot off a direct kick from outside the corner of the penalty area, but the rebound fell near the left post at the feet of Ramallo, who poked it under Siboldi.

Fonseca then brought the 60,000 fans at Centenario Stadium to their feet, running on to a high, looping pass and pivoting 180 degrees to beat Bolivian keeper Carlos Trucco high into the left corner from about 8 metres.

The Uruguayans constantly tried to increase the advantage behind attacks led by Fonseca, Carlos Aguilera and Gabriel Cedres, backed by Francescoli and Diego Dorta. Fonseca had an initial goal nullified in the 23rd minute, an offside call.

## Zimbabwe 53-1 against Kent

**CANTERBURY, England, Sept 13:** Zimbabwe were 53 for one when rain forced an early close on the second day of their three-day match against Kent on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Scores: Kent 264 (S Marsh 111, D Spencer 75, D Brain 648). Zimbabwe 53-1.

## Glamorgan, Kent to fight it out

**LONDON, Sept 13:** Glamorgan and Kent remained on course to decide the Sunday League cricket title next week after rain affected all but one match on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The two sides will clash at Canterbury level on points at the top after Glamorgan's match with Essex was washed out with Essex on 7-2.

Kent were not scheduled to play on Sunday because of their tour match against Zimbabwe.

Kent can take the title on run rate at Canterbury next week if there is a similar washout, but Glamorgan need to win to secure their first title in 24 years. Both teams have 52 points with 12 wins from 16 games.

West Indian captain Richie Richardson marked his return to Sunday play after a three-week injury absence with 89 off 116 balls in Yorkshire's 21-run win over Sussex.

Richardson hit two sixes and seven fours and shared in a stand of 146 in 29 overs with Richard Blakey, who made 61 from 83 deliveries including two sixes and four fours.

Rain prevented results in the other matches. But though the contest between Middlesex and Lancashire was abandoned after just 20 overs, that was enough time for opener Mike Roseberry to hammer 51 for his second Sunday League half-century of the season as Middlesex reached 75 for four.

Somerset were condemned to bottom place in the competition for the first time following their washout against Warwickshire at Edgbaston.

## FIFA precaution

**ZURICH, Sept 13:** South America's two decisive World Cup games have been ordered by FIFA to kick off at the same time next Sunday to avoid any accusations of manipulation, reports Reuter.

FIFA told Ecuador on Monday to put their game in Guayaquil against Bolivia back half an hour to coincide with the kick-off in the Brazil-Uruguay game as the two matches will determine who qualifies for the World Cup finals.

Brazil, Uruguay and Bolivia are all level on 10 points going into Sunday's final Group B games and goal difference could play a part.

FIFA said the Ecuador-Bolivia tie would now be played at 1500 local time and not 1530 as planned.

The Brazil-Uruguay tie in Rio de Janeiro would still be played at 1700 local time as scheduled.

## BDR v'ball ends

**SYLHET, Sept 13:** The inter-sector volleyball tournament of Bangladesh Rifles '93, organised by Sylhet sector, concluded here yesterday at Sylhet sector ground, says a BDR press release, reports BSS.

Rangpur Sector emerged champions when they defeated Comilla Sector 15-8, 15-5 and 15-10 in the final. Havilder Md Safiz Uddin of Rangpur sector was adjudged best-player-of-the-championship.

The nine-day competition was participated by 12 sector teams of BDR.

Major General Mohammed Anwar Hossain BP, PSC, Director General of Bangladesh Rifles witnessed the final match as chief guest and distributed prizes among the participants.

## Pace, SA key to prominence



**COLOMBO, Sept 13:** South African coach Mike Procter believes he has the pace bowlers to make the Springboks a major force in international cricket, reports Reuter.

South Africa are already 1-0 up in the three-Test series against Sri Lanka and are confident their pace quartet of Allan Donald, Brett Schultz, Richard Snell and Brian McMillan will sweep them to victory in the final match starting on Tuesday.

The pacemen captured 32 of the 36 wickets Sri Lanka lost in the first two Tests.

"With Donald and Schultz coming through so well, we could have potentially a top quality world-class opening attack," said Procter.

"With three or four guys back home unlucky not to come on the trip, our seam and pace bowling department is very strong. I think we will go from strength to strength."

Procter formed a formidable pace attack with Peter Pollock when South Africa thrashed Australia 4-0 in 1970 — their last Test series before the international sports boycott.

South Africa trounced Sri Lanka in the second Test last week, winning by an innings and 206 runs. The first Test was drawn.

Sri Lanka have been forced to make at least one change because of injury.

Number three batsman Asanka Gurusinha has not recovered from a groin injury and

said Sri Lanka manager Dulleep Mendis.

"This will allow Hashan Tillekeratne to play in his normal number six slot. Hashan coming in at this position gives the Sri Lanka batting a lot of depth."

Sri Lanka are hoping paceman Pramodya Wickremasinghe, who pulled a hamstring muscle during practice on Sunday, will be fit for the third Test.

Mendis said Wickremasinghe's injury was a "mild one" and was being treated.

**TEAMS**

**SRI LANKA (from):** Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Roshan Mahanama, Chandika Hathurusinghe, Pubudu Dassanayake, Aravinda de Silva, Hashan Tillekeratne, Sanath Jayasuriya, Muttiah Muralidharan, Kumara Dharmasena, Pramodya Wickremasinghe, Champaka Ramanayake, Dulleep Liyanage, Ruwan Kalpage, Upul Chandana, Dulleep Samaraweera.

**SOUTH AFRICA (from):** Keshler Weasels (captain), Andrew Hudson, Hansie Cronje, Darryl Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan, David Richardson, Pat Symcox, Richard Snell, Allan Donald, Brett Schultz, Fanie de Villiers, Jimmy Cook.

**MIKE PROCTER**

his place will be taken by wicketkeeper Pubudu Dassanayake, who batted with composure for nearly 90 minutes against South Africa's pacemen in the second Test.

"Dassanayake bats in this position for his club and the position is nothing new to him,"

## A happy birthday for Johnson



**NEW DELHI, Sept 13:** Sprinter Michael Johnson celebrated his birthday in style on Monday.

Arriving in India with a jet lag, the 400-metre world champion easily won a 200 metres race to set up a triple American crown on the opening day of the ITC International Athletic Meet here, reports AP.

A former 200-metre world champion, Johnson clocked 20.38 seconds Monday for a new meet record as he reached the finishing line six metres ahead of his next rival, Kennedy Ondiek of Kenya, in the opening race of the two-day track and field competition.

Later, long jump world champion Mike Powell fouled four of his six jumps; but with an 8.28-metre leap in his final attempt, he left other competitors far behind. The silver medal was taken by Kenyan James Sabulei with 7.64 metres. Powell also set a new meet record, beating the old one by 10 centimetres. His world mark is 8.95 metres.

Middle distance champion Butch Reynolds stamped the US supremacy by winning the last racing event, the 400 metres, in 44.87 seconds.

Reynolds, who finished sec-

ond to Johnson in the 400 metres at the World Championships in Stuttgart last month, is the world record

holder with 43.29 seconds, which he ran in 1988 in Zurich to break a 20-year-old record.

Johnson, who reached 26 years of age on Monday, and the other three American competitors, including pole vaulter

Schott Huffman, arrived a little before noon from London and plunged straight into the competition that was inaugurated by Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao.

On a rainless day after weeklong showers, the contests began at sundown with a spectacular song and dance show by school children and capped by pinpoint parajumping by Indian air force airmen who glided into the stadium, jumping from a helicopter flying at 8,000 feet.

Johnson, who has been the 400 metre world champion for the last four years, said he plans to shift to 10 metres next year. Asked if that was contrary to the trend of athletes shifting to longer distances as they grow older, the Texan replied: "I am different. I do a lot of things a different ways."

In the other event, local hero Bahadur Prasad ran wonderfully to defeat Kenyan teenager Muskoya Nguku in the 5,000 metres. The two were abreast until the last two laps when Prasad took an unbeatable 20-metre lead.

The main attraction on Tuesday will be the pole vault in which Sergi Bubka and his brother Vasily are competing.

About 200 athletes from 21 countries are participating in the events.

## Another world mark tumbles



**BEIJING, Sept 13:** Wang Junxia spearheaded a further Chinese assault on women's athletics on Monday, slashing six seconds from her own day-old world record in the women's 3,000 metres at China's National Games, reports Reuter.

Wang, 20, who shattered the 10,000 metres world record last week, clocked an officially amended time of eight minutes 06.11 seconds in the 3,000 metres final to eclipse her own world mark of 8:12.19 set in a preliminary heat on Sunday.

Wang's Sunday record had slashed 10 seconds from the world mark of 8:22.62 set in 1984 by Soviet Tatiana Kazankina.

Wang's Liaoning province teammate Qu Yunxia, 21, also bested Sunday's record in a time of 8:12.18 to finish second.

Other members of brash trainer Ma Junren's Liaoning squad took the next three places.

Wang and Qu have led a breathtaking Chinese assault on the women's athletics record

book at the National Games — putting both on the defensive against noisy whispers overseas alleging use of stimulants.

Wang started things off last Wednesday by slashing an astonishing 42 seconds from the world 10,000 metres mark. Wang had won the 10,000 metre World Championship last month in Stuttgart.

Qu, the 3,000 metres world champion at Stuttgart, grabbed the limelight on Saturday with a world record in the 1,500 metres, trimming two seconds from the 13-year-old world mark.

Wang answered back with her 3,000-metre world record on Sunday afternoon and kept going a day later, improving to her new world mark on Monday afternoon despite a warmer and less favourable race-time temperature of about 28 degrees Celsius (82° F).

The runners and their coach have denied taking performance enhancing drugs banned by the International Olympic Committee.

They attributed their explosion to the top of world athletics to hard work including marathon-style altitude training and a Chinese tonic made from caterpillar fungus.

## Junxia's double distinction



**BEIJING, Sept 13:** Wang Junxia on Sunday became the first woman to hold officially the world 3,000 and

10,000 metres re-cords simultaneously when she broke the 3,000 mark at China's seventh National Games, reports Reuter.

Italy's Paola Pignini held both records in 1970 before either event was recognised by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, for record purposes.

Wang, 20, slashed more than 10 seconds off the previous 3,000 record on Sunday with a time of eight minutes 12.20 seconds.

Last Wednesday Wang kicked 42 seconds off the world 10,000 metres record and on Saturday she bettered the previous world 1,500 mark while finishing second to compatriot Qu Yunxia.

Qu's mark of 3:50.46 was more than two seconds inside Tatiana Kazankina's previous record.

Kazankina's second world record, which had survived since 1984, tumbled on Sunday when Wang edged the 3,000 to her 10,000 mark to underline

the astonishing emergence of the Chinese women this year.

Chinese women won gold medals in the 1,500, 3,000 and 10,000 at last month's Stuttgart World Championships but it is their performances in the National Games which have excited most interest and, inevitably, suspicion.

Former world cross country champion Lynn Jennings, who finished fifth behind Wang in the Stuttgart 10,000 final, broke down in tears when told about Wang's 10,000 world record.

"I believe these performances are out of scale," Jennings said. "I believe they are derived from something illicit."

"Here is a 20-year-old coming out of the blue. It goes against everything in athletics — you train to progress and get better. There is no progression with the Chinese. It doesn't make sense."

Ma Junren, coach of the record-breakers, angrily rejected accusations of drug taking after Qu's record.

"The Chinese people don't rely on anything," he said. "These two (Qu and Wang) didn't rely on anything."

