

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 OROAZ, 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 1986 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 Coronel 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."

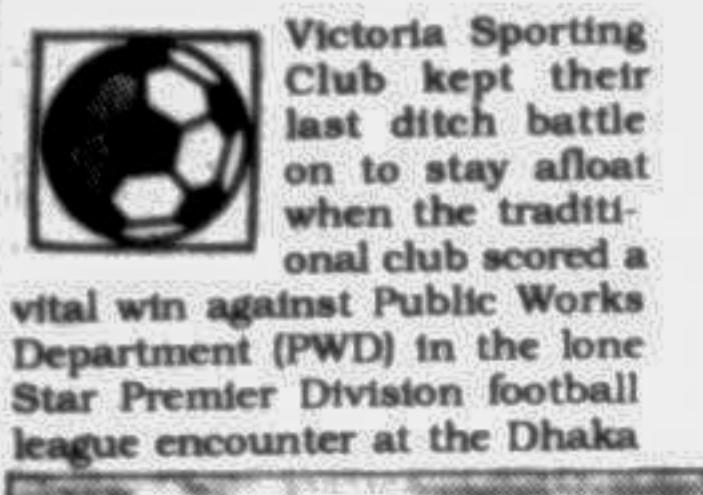
"I last heard from my family about a month ago," said 19-year-old Alma Damadzic, the only female of the group. "They don't even know I'm in America yet. Communication is very difficult, because (in Bosnia) we can't make phone calls or write letters."

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



Sports Reporter

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

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 East End Club and Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha 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-battering 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, Sohel, Farhad, Iqbal, Jewel, Zia Babu, Leekamnerchatai (Zakir), Rabi (Towfig), Konglith and Hero.

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

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 (Suman), 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

Dhamondi 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



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 Ilde Manero 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," Manero said. "Perhaps he has that idea because he

is the first half score was 1-1.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Kamal Ibne Yusuf witnessed the match and distributed trophies among the winners.

Eleven Union Parishad teams of sadar 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 sixty-sixth 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.

Mamun Rahim Talukder and Ashish Kumar Shaha 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.



Bolivian Miguel Rimba gets his foot on the ball ahead of Uruguayan Gabriel Cedres during their World Cup qualifying match in Montevideo on September 12. Uruguay edged the Bolivians 2-1. — AFP photo

Sport

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 6-48); 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.

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 final.

Brazil, Uruguay and Bolivia are all level on 10 points going into Sunday's final Group B game, 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. Havildar Md Saifuddin 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.

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

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.

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

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

said Shri Lankan manager Duleep Mendis.

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

Shri 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

SHRI 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 Ranasinghe, Duleep Liyanage, Ruwan Kalpage, Upul Chandana, Duleep Samaraweera.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Kepier Wessels (captain), Andrew Hudson, Hanse Crome, Darryl Cullinan, Jonny