



Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona congratulates President Carlos Menem in Buenos Aires on May 14 on his election as President for a second successive term. — AFP/UNB photo

Berlusconi's double standard

MILAN, Italy, May 16: Italian soccer powerhouse AC Milan have contradicted the austerity claims of club president and former premier Silvio Berlusconi by signing Liberian-born striker George Weah in a deal estimated at 10 million dollars, reports AP.

record of 8 goals in 10 Champions' Cup matches. His transfer was finalised in the French resort of Cannes on Monday, following a meeting between AC Milan officials, the player and PSG's president Michel Denzot.

is owned by the Agnelli family of auto tycoons. Milan badly needed a strongly-built, high-scoring striker such as Weah to make-up for the long absence of Dutch centre forward Marco Van Basten, who has been sidelined with a slow-healing ankle injury since May 1993.

Slaney striving for success

NEW YORK, May 16: Mary Decker Slaney, America's star-crossed premier middle distance runner, still hopes next year's Olympics will end 20 years of personal disappointments, reports Reuter.

Slaney, who says she has not run a track race since the summer of 1992, spoke at a news conference on Monday that marked the 10-year anniversary of her triumph as the overall winner of the first IAAF Mobil Grand Prix outdoor track series.



MARY DECKER SLANEY

Brussels to join 2004 Games' bid race

BRUSSELS, May 16: The Belgian capital of Brussels is likely to join the list of candidates to host the 2004 Summer Olympic Games, reports Reuter.

Belgian Prince Alexandre de Merode, deputy chairman of the International Olympic Committee, said he expected no problems for the Brussels bid.

Van Basten may retire this week

BRUSSELS, May 16: Marco van Basten, AC Milan's Dutch international striker, is expected to announce his retirement this week after losing a two-year battle with a persistent ankle injury, reports AFP.



VAN BASTEN

The decision comes a week before his present club AC Milan face Ajax, his former club, in the European Champions-Cup final in Vienna.

Pele needs more time to sign Maradona

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 16: An attempt by Brazilian soccer king Pele to require two more weeks of negotiations, one of Pele's business partners said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Chang tames a Goliath

ROME, May 16: Michael Chang faced the giant of the tournament and Malival Washington took on one of the favorites. They both won Monday to lead an American sweep in first round play at the Italian Open, reports AP.



MICHAEL CHANG

Chang, the No. 2 seed and at 5-foot-9 (1.75 m) one of the shortest players on the tour, extended his winning streak to 11 consecutive matches in dispatching the 6-foot-4 (1.94m) 18-year-old Australian Mark Philippoussis. He did it with seeming ease, 6-4, 6-3.

Steven sends Pat McEnroe packing

CORAL SPRINGS, Florida, May 16: Fifth-seeded Brett Steven of New Zealand won a tough 2-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-0 victory over Patrick McEnroe at the 255,000 dollars America's Red Clay tennis championships on Monday, reports Reuter.

2-5-4 with a service break. But McEnroe lost his serve in the 10th game of the second set at love and never recovered.

Wimbledon live on Star TV for 3 yrs

HONG KONG, May 16: Star TV continues to bring premier international sporting events to Asia with live and delayed broadcast from the grass courts of Wimbledon.

Kelly Butler, General Manager of Prime Sports added, "Tennis fans young and old can enjoy live action from the world's best players, complemented by an experienced commentary team led by Vijay Amritraj and Brian Langley.

WTA's top 20

- ST PETERSBURG, Florida, May 16: Top 20 women's tennis players, according to rankings issued by the WTA Tour, reports Reuter.



Team New Zealand syndicate chief Peter Blake (L) and helmsman Russell Coutts (R) hold the America's Cup at the San Diego Yacht Club on May 15. Team New Zealand won the cup beating Team Stars and Stripes in five straight races. — AFP/UNB photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution time of 24 min.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a 10x10 grid of letters and numbers.

TW' H G NPKW RUEAT EN G V G K - A E E R G I H E V W EN AT W K E E I S W H G U W V P H P K O. Saturday's Cryptoquip: HE'S SO UNAMBITIOUS THAT HE'S ABLE TO FALL ASLEEP IN THE MIDDLE OF A NAP.