

National karate concludes

Two-day eighth national karate championship concluded yesterday at the National Coaching Centre.

Ten events were decided on the final day. Sports Minister Mirza Abbas gave away the prize among the winners.

Twenty-two sports organizations: Dhaka University, Rajshahi Education Board, Madrasa Education Board, Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation, Chittagong Port Authority, Jahangirnagar University, BTMC, Bangladesh Ansar, VDP, Chittagong DSA, Jessore DSA, Rajshahi DSA, Backerganj DSA, Muktiyoddha Sangshad, Naogaon DSA, Rangpur DSA, Kishoreganj DSA, Bogra DSA, Joypurhat DSA, Rangamati DSA, Narayanganj DSA, and Pabna DSA.

151 participants including 19 women took part in the championship.

Results in five events were available while filing this report.

Results:

KATA (mens): 1. Jamaluddin (Ansar)
2. Md Rafiqul Islam (Ansar)
3. Asad Chowdhury Selim (Ansar)

KATA (women): 1. Shamima Akhter, (Ansar)
2. Bilquis Rani Padansee (BTMC)

43 kg (Women): 1. Rubina Akhter (Ansar) 2. Shamima Ibrahim (VDP), 3. Koli (BTMC) and Ferdous Begum (DU)

Sports reporter

—48 kg (Women): 1. Shamima Akhter (Ansar) 2. Rokya (VDP) 3. Rehana Hashem Luna (BTMC) and Zohura Begum (Rajshahi).

+ 48 kg (Women): 1. Bilquis Rani Padansee (BTMC), 2. Laila Noor (DU), 3. Nasreen Raj (Ansar) and Ayesha (Steel Mill Corporation)



Action from yesterday's concluding day of the 8th national karate championship at the NSC gym —Star photo

National judo from today

Sports Reporter

The two-day long 14th national judo championships organised by the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation will begin today at the National Coaching Centre gym.

Ninety judokas including 29 women from eight teams will be taking part in the competition. The eight teams are: Bangladesh Ansars, Bogra DSA, Chuadanga DSA, Bangladesh Rifles, BTMC, Chittagong Port Authority, VDP, and Bangladesh Police. The teams will be competing in 13 weight categories.

Mohammed Sirajuddin, Member Planning Commission and president of the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation will formally inaugurate the meet.

Sports Minister, Mirza Abbas will be the chief guest on the concluding day.

Jabbar boli khela

CHITTAGONG, Apr 26: Ayub Boli of Rajan became champion in the 82nd Jabbar Boli Khela (Jabbar wrestling) competition held at the Laldighi Maidan here this afternoon, reports BSS.

Ayub Boli (33) beat one challenger and drew with another.

A total of 66 wrestlers participated in the competition.

Thousands of spectators enjoyed the competition, held in the traditional rural style in a sandy ring.

Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police M Wahidul Haq gave away prizes

Spain hold Aussies

MARDIR, Apr 26: Spain twice came from behind to draw 3-3 with Champions' Trophy holders Australia at a six-nation men's hockey tournament on Friday, reports Reuter.

Simpson amazed

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Apr 26: Australian cricket coach Bobby Simpson replied on Thursday to the astonishing attack on him by West Indian captain Viv Richards, reports Reuter.

Richards, speaking after the West Indies had taken a winning 2-0 lead in the Test series on Wednesday, called Simpson, a veteran of 62 Tests as a player and many more as coach, "sour" and a "moaner" and "bad loser".

He added he had "no respect for Bobby Simpson".

Simpson, who has successfully sued for defamation in the past, issued a statement saying: "I am amazed, disappointed and shocked by this extraordinary outburst and I will be looking further into it to see what action I might take."

"As far as I am concerned my only contacts with Viv Richards have been pleasant ones, there has never been a cross word between us."

Officials of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control were not available for comment on the affair.

The fifth Test opens in Antigua on Saturday.

Champak, Lodhi win openers

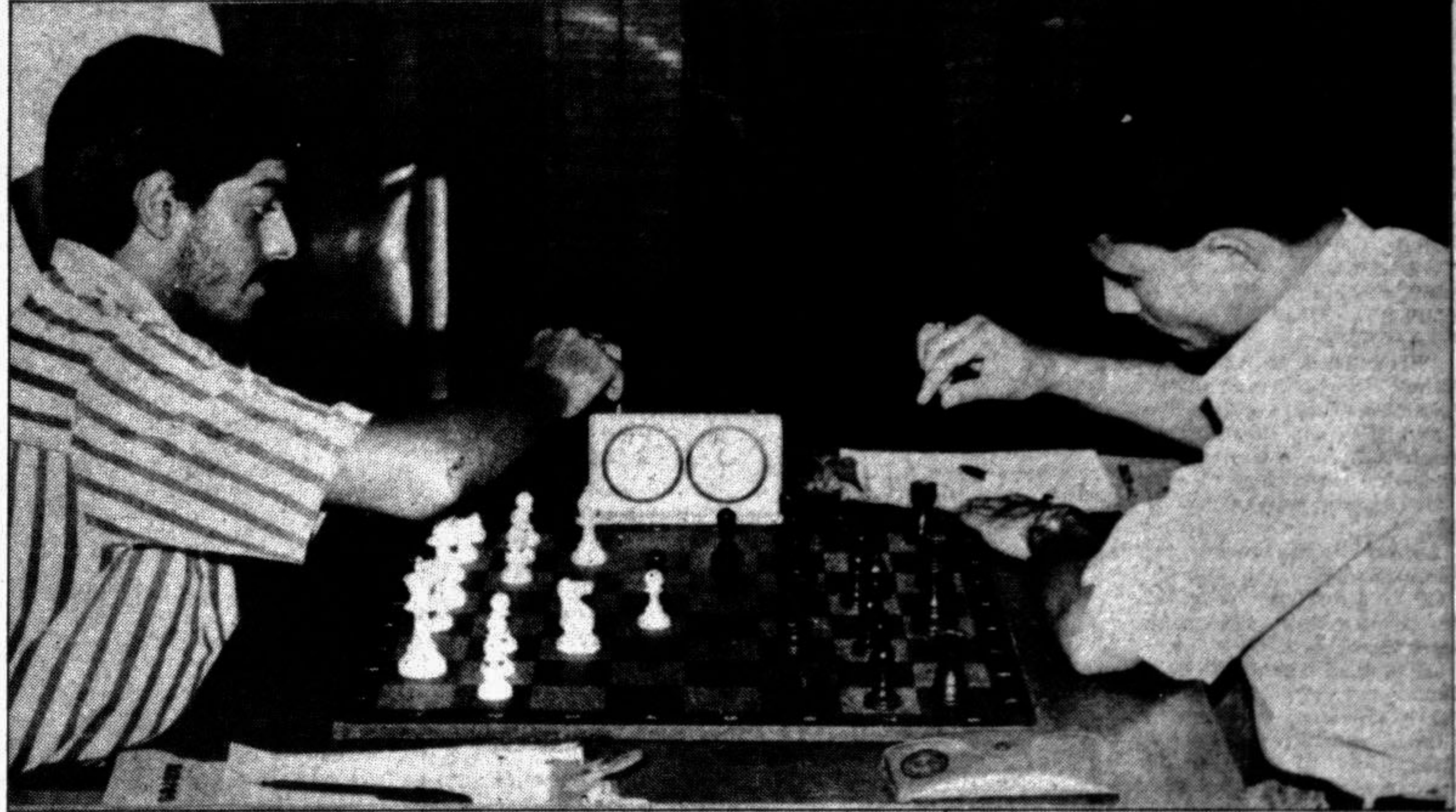
Sports Reporter

Bangladesh's International Master Zillur Rahman Champak, Pakistan's International

Maruf Ahmed of Bangladesh ended in a draw after 36 moves. The other scheduled

Master Vishal Sareen after 33 moves. India's Nitro Kumar Misra

Paremeswaran arrives then he will be playing against Younus Hasan.



Pakistani International Master Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi (R) beat India's Vishal Sareen in their opening United Insurance Masters' chess match at the NSC yesterday —Star photo

Master Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi, India's Nitro Kumar Misra, FIDE Master Rezaul Haque and Syed Tahmidur Rahman recorded victories in their first round matches on the first day of play in the United Insurance International Masters' chess tournament yesterday at the Bangladesh Chess Federation chess room.

The game between Indian FIDE Master Bipin Shenoy and

match of the day, between Younus Hasan of Bangladesh and T.N. Paremeswaran of India could not be held as the letter failed to arrive.

Paremeswaran is expected to arrive today and his game with Younus will be held today in the afternoon.

Zillur Rahman Champak defeated FIDE Master Jamilur Rahman. Pakistan's Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi beat Indian FIDE

outplayed Almasur Rahman of Bangladesh in only 31 moves.

Rezaul Haque of Bangladesh won against India's V. Kashi in 42 moves.

Syed Tahmidur Rahman of Bangladesh registered victory over compatriot Ashraf Hossain

Nannoo when the letter faced time problems and fell behind the clock.

Today is the rest day. If

Tomorrow's fixture: Rezaul Haque vs M.A. Lodhi Maroof Ahmed vs B. Sareen Almasur Rahman vs B. Shenoy

Tahmidur Rahman vs N.K. Misra

Jamilur Rahman vs Ashraf Hossain

Paremeswaran vs Zillur Rahman

V. Koshi vs Younus Hasan.

A chance for Bishop

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Apr 26: Injured fast bowler Ian Bishop was given a last chance to prove his fitness by the West Indies selectors on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The selectors named only 15 of the 16-man party to tour England next month, leaving the door ajar for Bishop, who has been suffering from a stress fracture of his lower vertebra since January, to claim the last bowling spot.

Bishop, 23, has taken more than 50 wickets at less than 20 runs apiece in only 11 Tests.

Should he fail to satisfy the selectors of his fitness, Ezra Mosley or Ian Allen would likely fill the vacancy.

The decision will be made in the next few days.

Of the 15 selected only two did not tour in 1988 when England were beaten 4-0. They are Trinidad's talented left-hand batsman Brian Lara, 22 next week, and 20-year-old uncapped Hamesh Anthony, a pace bowler from Antigua who gained experience with Glamorgan last year.

The West Indies, who arrive in England on May 9, will play five Tests and three one-day internationals in a three-month long tour.

It is expected to be the last tour for such stalwarts as captain Viv Richards, Gordon Greenidge and Jeff Dujon.

One-day internationals
May 23, Edgbaston, Birmingham
25 Old Trafford, Manchester
27 Lord's

Tests:
June 6-10 first Test, Headingley, Leeds
20-24 Second Test, Lord's
July 4-9 third Test, Trent Bridge, Nottingham (rest day 7th)
25-29 fourth Test, Edgbaston
Aug 8-12 fifth Test, the Oval

Bat donations

An AFP report adds from Johannesburg: The British Government donated cricket bats worth 25,000 rands (9,900 dollars) to young cricketers in black townships on Thursday.

British Ambassador Sir Robin Rea said the bats were the first part of a 125,000 rand (48,675 dollars) grant to mark the decision by South Africa's rival cricket bodies to merge.

On Sunday the white-led South African Cricket Union and the anti-apartheid South African Cricket board announced they would form a single non-racial federation, the United Cricket Board of South Africa, on June 29.

British Prime Minister John Major announced the grant after meeting South African President Frederik De Clerk in London.

Derbyshire on a run riot

LONDON, Apr 26: Derbyshire rewrote the Benson and Hedges Cup records on Thursday, setting the highest total in the history of the limited over cricket competition, reports Reuter.

The combined universities could do nothing as Derbyshire amassed 326 for four, beating Essex's 196-year-old record of 350 for three, also set against the University students.

Peter Bowler led the run spree with a century and shared in an opening stand of 177 with captain Kim Barnett, who made 82.

The universities finished on 160 for six.

Phil Defreitas collected four wickets for 15 as holders Lancashire cruised to a six-wicket win over Kent at Old Trafford, reaching the target of 167 with more than 17 overs to spare.

An unbeaten century by former England opener Chris Broad, his second in five days, saw Nottinghamshire cruise home by seven wickets with four balls to spare against Yorkshire.

Broad, who hit 14 boundaries before reaching his century with a six, put on 177 for the first wicket with Derek Randall (86) and was 108 not out when Nottinghamshire passed Yorkshire's total of 234 for eight.

Dhaka in semis

CHITTAGONG, Apr 26: Dhaka DSA moved into the semifinal of Seraj Memorial national junior cricket championship beating Rajshahi DSA by 50 runs in the inaugural match of the final round at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Dhaka will face Comilla in the second semifinal on April 29.

Dhaka batted first and scored 154 for eight in the stipulated 40 overs.

Opi of Dhaka, a student of Class Seven, top scored with 70 runs playing 82 balls. He hit four boundaries. Momin 23, Chayan 15 and Masud 12 were the other double-figure scorers of Dhaka. The partnership between Opi and Momin brought 60 runs.

Toray of Rajshahi took four wickets for 32 runs, followed by Mamun two for 19 runs.

In reply, Rajshahi were all out for 104 in 25.3 overs.

Sujoy 18, Zafar 16, Moni 15 and Ashraf 13 were the main scorers for Rajshahi.

Shanto and Motinul of Dhaka captured two wickets each for 20 and 11 runs respectively. Pavel, Masud and Opi took one wicket each.

Earlier, Chairman of the Chittagong Port Authority, Captain Zakaria inaugurated the competition. Five teams, the zonal champions, are participating in the competition. They are: Dhaka, Comilla, Rajshahi, Bangladesh Krira Shikkhya Protisthan and Mymensingh.

Mac in Davis Cup

NEW YORK, Apr 26: American Davis Cup team members said on Thursday that the addition of John McEnroe virtually eliminated any chance that Spain might upset the defending champions in their quarter-final tie in June, reports Reuter.

"Now the team we have weakens their team dramatically," said Brad Gilbert, who led the United States past Mexico in a surprisingly tough first round tie in Mexico City last month.

"If it had been me with somebody like (richy) Rensberg or (David) Wheaton the Spanish could say maybe we have a shot," Gilbert said. "Now with me and Mac, they've got to eringe a little."

Borg returns, but for how long?

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Apr 26: In the space of 24 hours, Bjorn Borg's comeback bid has taken a jolt from two sides — on the court and on the homefront, reports AP.

First, Borg was soundly beaten Tuesday in his first tournament match in eight years. Then he learned Wednesday morning that his Italian wife, Loredana Berte, had been hospitalized in Milan after swallowing barbiturates in an apparent suicide attempt.

Berte, a flamboyant 39-year-old rock singer, was reported out of danger after doctors pumped her stomach.

The incident only complicates what already appears to be a longshot attempt by Borg to return to the top of his tennis game at the age of 34.

No one has written him off completely, but the early consensus is that Borg won't go very far.

In his first match since coming out of retirement, the former Swedish great looked like an average touring pro Tuesday in losing 6-2, 6-3, to Jordi Arrese in the Monte Carlo Open.

It quickly became clear that Stefan Edberg, Boris Becker and Ivan Lendl won't have to look over their shoulders at Borg.

Experts, in fact, wonder whether he is capable of breaking into the top 100 again, let alone the top 10.

That's a humbling prospect for a man who held the No. 1 ranking for 104 weeks during his career. He won 62 singles titles, including 11 Grand Slams.

"He might be able to exist in the 60s or 70s (of the rankings), but I doubt he would be satisfied with that," said Richard Evans, a veteran British tennis columnist and the ATP Tour's director of communications in Europe.

"He may have to reassess what he wants."

"He might be able to win some matches or small tournaments, but not the big events," said Borg's former

game emerged immediately. He's slower. His timing is off. He's not sure where to place his shots. He's prone to unforced errors. He has little power.

more powerful graphite composite models.

"He has no weapons with that racket against people who hit the ball at least 20 per cent faster," Evans said.

Ten years ago, Borg could often win matches — especially on clay — by simply outlasting his opponents with patience and steadiness. But the new rackets have revolutionized the game, making way for a new breed of all-court sluggers.

"The game has changed," said Nick Bollettieri, coach of Andre Agassi, leader of the new pack. "There are now people who can not only keep the ball in play but can also hit winners. There are too many big hitters who can hurt you."

Borg insisted the racket had nothing to do with his poor showing in Monte Carlo. He said he just needs more tournament matches under his belt.

"After so many years it's difficult to play your best tennis right from the start," he said. "After a few tournaments I will get my confidence back."

But the solution may not be that simple. Borg's next scheduled appearance will be at the Italian Open next month, followed by the French Open and Wimbledon.

As an unseeded wildcard entry at those events, Borg will be at the mercy of the draw. He is likely to come up against tough opponents in the first round. If he continues to lose early, some tournaments might think twice before offering him a wild card.

"I think he would have been better served pocketing a bit of pride and playing a (smaller) Challenger Series event," Evans said. "I wish he would find a tournament in which he has a reasonable chance of winning matches."

"He has to get used to winning again. If he gets tough

draws in Rome and Paris and loses in the first round, then where is he? His confidence will be shattered."

Why Borg decided to return to the courts in the first place remains a subject of debate. Borg says he just missed the game and wanted to see if he could excel again.

Others speculate he is doing it for the money or to escape his personal problems.

Borg divorced his Romanian wife, Mariana Simionescu, and fathered a son with Swedish model Janike Bjorling. Then followed an ugly breakup and prolonged child custody battle. Meanwhile, Borg's design and sportswear company went bankrupt.

In February 1989, Borg was hospitalized in Milan and had his stomach pumped. Italian media called it a suicide attempt; Borg blamed a case of food poisoning.

Berte's hospitalization Wednesday came only two days after she telephoned Italian journalists in Monte Carlo in an agitated state.

She reportedly complained that Borg was more devoted to his physical and conditioning trainer, Ron Thatcher, a 79-year-old martial arts expert who goes by the name Tai Honsai, or simply "The Professor."

"The last thing anyone would want would be for Bjorn to suffer a series of defeats by players who, at his peak, would have been lucky to take more than one or two token games from him," said Philippe Chatrier, President of the International Tennis Federation.

"That would not only be sad for him but would also taint too many memories of one of the game's great champions." Evans was more blunt: "We hope he doesn't make a fool of himself."

experience we had to have sooner or later. Yugoslavia was quite a team and they have always played well in the double."

In the women's Group A, China, seeking a ninth straight team title, beat the Soviet Union 3-0 and Czechoslovakia 3-1, with singles title-holder Qiao Hong out of action.

Korea whipped both Sweden, eighth at the last championships in 1989, and Japan 3-0 in Group B, spearheaded by northern ace Li Bun-Hui, the world's number three, and fifth-ranked Hyun Jung-Hwa from the South.

Hong Kong, third at the 1989 event at Dortmund, Germany, trounced both the United States and Sweden 3-0 in Group-B.

Koreans offered '92 Asian TT meet

CHIBA, Japan, Apr 26: The two Korean Table Tennis Associations have been asked to hold the 1992 Asian championships jointly in Seoul and Pyongyang, a South Korean official said on Friday, reports Reuter.

Park Do-Chun, press secretary of the South Korean Table Tennis Association, said the Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU) made the request after their meeting on Friday.

"We can make no decision before talks with our North Korean counterparts," Park said. "We will try our best to make it possible."

Park said a decision would be made before the ATTU's July meeting in the Philippines.

The championships, scheduled for November 1992, were originally due to be staged in Dhaka, Bangladesh, but their association was forced to withdraw because of the lack of facilities.

North Korea refused entry visas to players from the South for the 1979 World Table Tennis championships in Pyongyang.

However, a joint Korean team is competing at the World Table Tennis championships here.



A 1988 file photo of Bjorn Borg and his Italian wife Loredana Berte. —AFP photo

coach, Lennart Bergelin. "Age is against him." The shortcomings of Borg's

Part of the problem is his obsolete wooden racket. Everyone else now uses bigger,