

A day of major upsets

Sports Reporter

It was a most eventful day yesterday in the 17th national chess championship at the NSC chess room with four leading players including the defending champion suffering shock defeats against less famous opponents.

Also yesterday, national junior champion Riflat-bin-Sattar suffered his first setback in the current championship, being held to a draw by Khandaker Kayes Hassan of Bangladesh Ansars. It was the first spanner in the hitherto unhindered march of the young Biman player who still remained comfortably poised at the top of the table with a tally of six and a half points after seven rounds.

Four players are jointly tied a distant second behind Riflat with only four and a half points after seven games each. They are Anisur Rahman of Dhaka Metropolis, Rani Hamid of Biman, Shahinor Hossain of Dhaka Metropolis and Ziaul Kader Tuhiin, also of Dhaka Metropolis.

Anisur Rahman scored an important victory yesterday beating former national women's champion Rani Hamid, handing the International Woman Master her first defeat after three previous draws.

Reigning champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman of Biman,

who started the tourney rather tentatively being forced to split the points in his two opening games, yesterday provided the major upset of the meet by losing to the unfancied Shabana Parveen Nipa of Faridpur. Nipa, the only other female in the 16-strong field besides Rani Hamid, had lost her first two games but her win yesterday over Tahmid took her total to two and a half points, the same as Rezaul Haq, Jamilur Rahman, Sheikh Anwar Hossain and Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury of Dhaka Metropolis.

Shahinor Hossain of Dhaka Metropolis scored a good victory over former national champion and last year's runner-up Younus Hassan. The defeat left Younus in joint third place with Mainuddin Mamoon on three and a half points.

Shahabuddin Qureshi of Sylhet provided the other major upset on the day by getting the better of another former champion Jamilur Rahman of Ansars. Jamil now has only two and a half points and must abandon all hopes of posing a title challenge to Riflat or anybody else for that matter in this 15-round competition.

Ziaul Kader Tuhiin of Dhaka Metropolis enhanced his position by beating Sheikh Anwar Hossain of Dhaka DSA while Rezaul Haq scored an easy win over Shahadat Hossain Ratna of Bogra, who had topped the qualifying competition for this

year's nationals. Ratna is now at the bottom of the table with just one point to his credit from two draws and five losses. Obviously the newcomer to the big league must be finding the competition a bit too much for his limited abilities.

Khandaker Kayes Hassan's drawn encounter with Riflat took the Ansars player's collection to three points.

Although Riflat must have felt bitter that his winning streak was halted by Kayes yesterday yet the other results of the day, especially the defeats suffered by Rani Hamid, Tahmidur Rahman and Younus Hassan must have helped to cheer the youngster's spirits a bit.

Today is a rest day in the competition.

Play resumes tomorrow (Sunday) according to the following fixture:

Syed Tahmidur Rahman vs Sheikh Shahadat Hossain Ratna

Sheikh Anwar Hossain vs Shabana Parveen Nipa

Anisur Rahman vs Ziaul Kader Tuhiin

Jamilur Rahman vs Rani Hamid

Mainuddin Mamoon vs Shahabuddin Ahmed Qureshi

Riflat-bin-Sattar vs Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury

Younus Hassan vs Khandaker Kayes Hassan

Rezaul Haq vs Shahinor Hossain



Defending national champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman of Biman (R) went down crashing to less-fancied Shabana Parveen Nipa of Faridpur in the seventh round of the 17th national chess championship yesterday in the NSC chess room. — Star photo

Noah may play doubles in Davis Cup



TOULOUSE, France, Oct 4: French captain Yannick Noah may call himself up for the first time when French play the United States in the Davis Cup final next month, reports Reuter.

Noah, who has played little tennis this year, said he was considering playing in the doubles in the final which is being staged in Lyon from November 29 to December 1.

Noah lost his first round singles match at the 300,000-dollar Toulouse tournament on Monday, ironically to one of his Davis Cup squad, Thierry Champ.

But he played well in a tight

5-7, 7-5, 6-3 defeat. "From a technical point of view, I was felling the ball well," he said. "I just had some physical difficulties, like speed and stamina for example."



YANNICK NOAH ties, like speed and stamina for example. "But I have a month before I need to decide whether I can

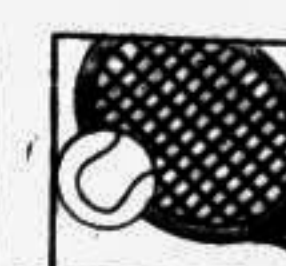
play the Davis Cup doubles. In my opinion, I can do it. I'm entering the Berlin, Lyon and Paris tournaments to test myself."

Noah, for years a stalwart of France's Davis Cup team, became non-playing captain this season and has not picked up a racket as France advanced into the final for the first time in nine years.

In the doubles, he would either partner top singles player Guy Forget or team up again with his old Davis Cup teammate Henri Leconte.

FRANCE PREFERS FAST SURFACE
Meanwhile another report said, France chose a synthetic

Edberg believes he'll stay world No 1 for next 3 yrs



SYDNEY, Oct 4: Stefan Edberg says he deserves to be the world No. 1 after his mercurial US Open triumph and believes he can stay at the top of tennis for the next three years, reports AFP.

Edberg is expected to increase his 277 point lead over sidelined rival Boris Becker on the ATP computer here and next week in Tokyo.

He resumed his tournament schedule with a restrained 6-3, 6-4 second round win over fellow Swede Peter Lundgren in the Australian indoor championships here Wednesday.

"I can see myself playing at least another three years, playing at the same level where I have been at the last five years," Edberg said.

"After that, it all depends on how much motivation I've got, how much I want to work. If you want to stay up there, your priority has to be tennis."

"I can promise you that I won't be playing at the level of Jimmy Connors at 39," he added.



STEFAN EDBERG

The laconic Swede has had an easy time since retrieving top spot from Becker after his breath taking three-set win over Jim Courier at Flushing meadow last month.

"It's a lot easier being back on the circuit after a big win, because winning tournaments gives you the motivation."

"After the way I played in winning the US Open, may be I deserve to be back at the top again."

"The good thing about being No. 1 is never having to answer the question," when are you going to become No. 1? "because I had that for four or five years."

"I've solved that problem."

Lundgren, 109 runs below Edberg on the ATP computer, had only taken one set off his celebrated compatriot in six previous meetings and looked headed for a brief time on court when Edberg zipped through the opening five games in their match here on Wednesday.

Cram runs away with Jakarta mile

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Oct 4: British champion Steve Cram took the Jakarta diris 1 million one-mile race on Thursday, as the Indonesian Open track and



STEVE CRAM

field championships began, reports AP.

American long-jumper Mike Powell and Soviet pole-vaulter Sergey Bubka held special exhibitions at the track championship, but failed to break their own records.

Cram came in at three minutes, 52.11 seconds, followed by Peter Rono of Kenya with 03:52:64, Simon Doyle of Australia with 03:58:49, Jens Peter Harold of Germany with 04:01:20 and Jose Luis Gonzales of Spain with 04:02:09.

Cram's 3:46.32 in 1985 set the current world record.

A total of nine top middle-distance runners competed in the race, including Said Aouit of Morocco, Cache Fermin of Spain, Terrance Herrington of the US and William Tanni of Kenya.

At the track championships, Powell's best jump — 7.92 meters — came on his second attempt. That didn't come close to his 8.95 meter record set in Tokyo on August 30 when he shattered fellow American Bob Beamon's long-standing record of 8.90 meters.

McEnroe in Toulouse quarters

TOULOUSE, France, Oct 4: John McEnroe breezed into the quarterfinals of the 300,000 dollar use Grand Prix tennis tournament Thursday, but third-seeded Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland lost, reports AP.

McEnroe, the No 6 seed, topped Tomas Carbonell of Spain, 6-1, 6-4. In the quarterfinals, he will meet hard-serving Richard Krajcek of the Netherlands, who beat Hlasek, 6-2, 6-4.

McEnroe is hoping for a quick return to France as part of the US team in the Davis Cup final.

"I would love to play Davis Cup. I already won it four times," McEnroe said Wednesday.

The United States faces France starting Nov 29 in Lyon, and McEnroe thinks he deserves a spot on the team, especially in doubles.

"In doubles I am probably the best US player," McEnroe said. "If the captain wants me to play doubles in the Davis Cup, I don't have to prove anything here. He should know the level of my past."

The American captain, Tom Gorman, has yet to choose his squad. The United States won the Davis Cup last year and also won it in France in 1982, when McEnroe triumphed in singles and doubles.

The surface for the final in Lyon will be Supreme Court, used at most indoor tournaments.

"The choice of Supreme as a surface is very good for the USA but it's also good for



JOHN MCENROE

France," McEnroe said. "The USA is going to win." Meanwhile a Reuter report said: McEnroe, who led the United States to Davis Cup victory nine years ago in France, said on Wednesday he was a candidate for the doubles in next month's final against the

French.

"I'm a candidate and I don't have to play doubles in tournaments to prove my level to the American selectors," McEnroe said after beating French Davis Cup doubles player Arnaud Boicisch 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 in the first round of the tournament.

Holders the United States meet France in Lyon from November 29 to December 1. It is France's first final since a 4-1 loss to McEnroe's Americans in Grenoble in 1982.

There have been question marks over the US doubles pairing for the final since Scott Davis and David Pate lost their match in the semifinals against Germany.

McEnroe suggested he could play doubles with either former US Open champion Pete Sampras or with his own younger brother Patrick.

The ex-world number one said the French decision to choose a synthetic Supreme Court surface suited the US perfectly. "It seems the French think the same thing, which means it's an excellent choice for the Davis Cup," he said. "Anyway, we are going to win."

Americans won't have to leave home next yr



LONDON, Oct 4: The United States, which will travel to France next month to try to defend its Davis Cup championship, will not have to leave home to reach the semifinals of the tennis competition next year, reports AP.

The American team was drawn on Wednesday to host Argentina in the first round of the 1992 World Group on Jan. 31-Feb. 2 at a site to be selected later. The United States has a 7-3 record against Argentina, which has trouble on surfaces other than clay, and won their last meeting in 1988 in Buenos Aires.

The United States would then play either Czechoslovakia or Belgium at home in the second round on

March 27-29. The Americans defeated Czechoslovakia in Prague in 1990 and have never lost to Belgium.

The probable semifinal opponent for the United States would be Australia, which lost last year's final in St.

Petersburg, Fla. Australia would host a 1992 semifinal. Other first-round matches in the World Group next year have Britain at France, Switzerland at the Netherlands, Germany at Brazil, Spain at Italy, Australia at Yugoslavia, Sweden at Canada and Belgium at Czechoslovakia.

International Tennis Federation officials said Australia's match in Yugoslavia may be moved, based on the situation in that war-torn Balkan country.

Even though Yugoslavia was

a semifinalist this year, the ITF decided not to seed that nation because of its current problems and because it fielded a weak team in its semifinal loss to France. The nation's top two players, Goran Ivanisvic and Goran Prpic, are Croatians and have refused to play for Yugoslavia.

The ITF also announced Wednesday that it had conditionally readmitted South Africa, which would return to Davis Cup play next year for the first time since 1978. The South Africans would play in a special round-robin tournament of six African nations in Tunisia in late April.

ITF President Brian Tobin said full membership for South Africa will depend on the three tennis groups in that nation merging into one body, a move expected later this

month.

"We believe and they believe the time is right to use sport as a positive step," Tobin said, adding that the ITF is willing to provide financial and coaching help to South Africa.

Tobin also said the ITF has received applications for membership from the newly independent Baltic nations of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, all of which were ITF members between the world wars. A vote on membership for them is expected later this month, he said.

The ITF president said a request for membership also has been received from Croatia, but that it cannot be considered at present because Croatia is not recognized internationally as an independent nation.

Frost unseeded in Danish Open

COPENHAGEN, Oct 4: Morten Frost, one of the great names in badminton, is unseeded in the Danish Open later this month, the first time in 14 years he has not been seeded in a major international event, the Dane believes, reports Reuter.

"I think we have to go back

Tyson accuser asks gag order be lifted

INDIANAPOLIS, Oct 4: A lawyer representing the beauty pageant contestant who is accusing former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson of rape has asked a judge for permission to lift a gag order in the case, reports AP.

The women's lawyer, David R Hennessy of Indianapolis, asked Marion Superior Court Judge Patricia J Gifford to lift the order barring all parties connected to the case from making public statements so he could defend his client from remarks made by Tyson and his allies.

"The victim is an 18-year-old college freshman and has been besieged enough and suffered enough turmoil," Hennessy said. "Her chosen representatives must be allowed to speak up for her."

At the request of Tyson's lawyers, Gifford issued the gag order Sept 13. Hennessy alleged that Gifford imposed the restriction improperly because the woman's lawyer did not get an opportunity to oppose it.

In a motion filed Thursday seeking to lift the gag order, Hennessy said: "The defendant (Tyson), his promoter (Don King) and others... accused the victim of hiding and referred to her as a rifle."

"The defendant has many people who derive an economic benefit from their association with him, other than his attorneys, that can and have spoken on his behalf without regard for the court's order of plain decency towards the victim."

to the Malmo World Championship in 1977 to find the last tournament I played in without a seeding," he said.

The draw shows English-based Frost is not due to meet a seeded player until the third round, when he is set to play England's Darren Hall, who the Dane once coached.

Indonesia's Bambang Suprianto is top-seeded ahead of China's Liu J Jun. The women's top two are old rivals Susi Susanti, also from Indonesia, and Huang Hua of China.

The Danish Open is Frost's first major tournament since his shock first-round defeat in the World Championships here in May prompted his announcement that he was quitting top-level badminton.

Last month Frost said he had been misunderstood and would still play some top-class badminton, but without setting himself his previous demanding goals.

RANKINGS

The following are leading world rankings issued by the International Badminton Federation (IBF) in London on Thursday: **Men**

1. Ardy Wiranata (Indonesia)
2. Zhao Jianhua (China)
3. Wu Wenkai (China)
4. Joko Suprianto (Indonesia)
5. Rashid Sidek (Malaysia)

Lebanese lifter may be paralysed

DONAUESCHINGEN, Germany, Oct 4: Lebanese lifter Jamal Traboulsi is in danger of being partially paralysed for life after suffering neck injuries in an accident at the World Weightlifting Championships, doctors said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"It cannot be assumed that Jamal Traboulsi will make a full recovery," German team doctor Bernd Doerr said after talking to surgeons at the Freiburg Hospital where the lifter underwent an operation following Tuesday's accident. "At the most there will possibly be a partial reversal of the symptoms of paralysis," he said.

Ferreira's dream turns into nightmare

SYDNEY, Oct 4: Young South African Wayne Ferreira's dream win over his tennis idol Ivan Lendl quickly turned into a nightmare today when he was beaten in the Australian indoor championships in straight sets by American Brad Gilbert, reports Reuter.

The wily Gilbert, seeded night, took only 66 minutes to win a place in the semifinals and teach the 20-year-old Ferreira a swift lesson in how to handle tennis at the top.

"He's been playing for some many years. I am just learning the mental game, so he's got the edge," Ferreira said after Gilbert had tormented and treated him to win 6-1, 6-4.

"All the guys say that after a big win it's difficult to come out the next day and play the same game. I just realised today what it's like," said Ferreira, ranked 64 in the world.

Ferreira's third-round win over Lendl, the number two

seed, was the biggest in his career and the veteran Gilbert knew what he would be feeling.

"I thought he might be a bit sluggish at the start after last night's singles and later doubles. I had a good game plan. I didn't give him much rhythm, the 25th-ranked Gilbert said.

Graf hurts her playing wrist

LEIPZIG, Germany, Oct 4: Steffi Graf's unlucky run of injuries this year took a new turn on Thursday when she hurt her playing wrist at the Leipzig women's tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

The German world number two, who has recently returned from a four-week layoff with a shoulder injury, left for treatment in the south German city of Heidelberg immediately after a 6-1, 7-6 quarter-final victory over Austrian Judith Wiesner.

Eighth-seeded Michael Chang must have been wishing that Gilbert could have passed on a similar strategy for his quarter-final match against world number one Stefan Edberg.

The Swede beat Chang 6-4, 7-5 to win a semifinal berth in the one million US dollars

"I'm not well at all," said Graf, who started to feel pain in her right wrist before Thursday's match.

Tournament organisers were unsure whether she would take her place in Saturday's semifinals.

The 22-year-old German, who became the youngest woman player to win 500 singles matches in professional tennis on Wednesday, was forced to drop out of the Federation Cup in July because of a torn tendon in her right shoulder.



China's female weightlifter Han Lixie screams out during her clear and jerk performances in the World Weightlifting Championships in Donaueschingen, Germany, on Oct 1. Lixie failed in her third trial to lift the new world record weight of 117.5 kgs. — AFP photo

Boost for Lewis

LONDON, Oct 4: Anglo-Canadian boxer Lennox Lewis is a tougher nut than Mike Tyson, according to the man Lewis beat in a European heavyweight title bout here reports AFP.

Glenn McCrory, a former sparring partner of Tyson, backed Lewis to be a contender for the world title with either holder Evander Holyfield or the former champion.

McCrory a former International Boxing Federation cruiserweight champion, was knocked out in just four and a half minutes by Lewis on Monday night.

He said of Lewis's brutal, punching power: "Tyson never manhandled me like that, Lewis is very much up there with him and Evander Holyfield."

"He is so fast. I've been in with a number of world class fighters and no-one has done that to me."

Lewis, who won the Olympic title for Canada, is now unbeaten in 17 professional fights. He will now be on

Foreman, Holyfield settle dispute

HOUSTON, Texas, Oct 3: George Foreman and world heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield have settled their row over a re-match, reports AFP.

Foreman, who was beaten in April 1990, had threatened legal action if he didn't get to fight Holyfield again.

But the two boxers have now reached a private agreement, with Foreman hoping to take on the winner of Holyfield's bout with Mike Tyson on November 8 in Las Vegas.