

Tanima national chess queen

Sports Reporter
Tanima Parveen is the new national women's chess champion.

On the concluding day of the national championship at the NSC chess room yesterday, Tanima edged out Syeda Parveen Nipa in the tie-break after both players had finished the seven-round Swiss league competition level on six points each. The Buscholtz tie-break system, applied in such cases to determine positions, gave Chittagong girl Tanima a score of 31.5 to Nipa's 27.5.

Afroza Khanam Babee, who went into her last match of the tournament enjoying a half-point lead over both Tanima and Shabana Nipa with a haul of five and a half points from her six previous games, fell short of the goal when Nipa beat her in a thrilling contest.

Tanima beat Masuda Begum in her last match.

In the end Afroza had to settle for third place, thanks to the tie-break once again, which gave her a score of 32.5 over former national chess queen Rani Hamid's 31. The country's only International Woman Master, Rani Hamid also finished on five and a half points after beating Rukhsana Gulshan in her last encounter.

The prizes will be distributed today, coinciding with the conclusion of the national sub-junior meet at the same venue.

Nat'l basketball final today

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Bangladesh Navy will take on Dhaka University in today's final of the 15th national basketball championship for the BGIC Cup at the wooden-floor gymnasium. The match starts at 4:30 pm.

State Minister for Textiles Maj (Retd) Abdul Mannan will attend as chief guest and give away the trophies.

In the semifinals Navy beat Bangladesh Rifles while Dhaka University upset strong favourites Bangladesh Army in a cliff-hanger on Friday by 50 points to 48.

However, Army earned some solace when they beat Bangladesh Rifles 84-72 in the third-place deciding play-off between the losing semifinalists yesterday afternoon.

Army produced a terrific second half rally to come back and win the match after trailing the Riflemen by two points — 35-37 — at the breather.

As usual, Rahim was Army's best cager with 25 points while Siddiq netted 15 points. Aminul, 24, and Ayub, 23, excelled for BDR.

ITF paves way for SA's return

HAMBURG, Germany, July 13: The International Tennis Federation (ITF) paved the way on Friday for South Africa to return to world tennis after being suspended for a decade because of its race policies, reports Reuter.

The ITF annual general meeting decided to send a delegation to South Africa within the month to assist in the reunification of the country's three separate tennis bodies.

The move followed ITF recognition of an interim committee representative of the three bodies — the South African Tennis Union, the Tennis Federation of South Africa and the Tennis Association of South Africa.

The ITF management committee had said in Rome in May that it was ready to welcome South Africa back once it unified its tennis bodies and the country was reinstated by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Earlier this week, the IOC announced that South Africa was being reinstated following the government's steps to end its apartheid policies.

Lendl pulls out

WASHINGTON, July 14: Ivan Lendl has withdrawn from the Washington tennis classic, just four days after he accepted a wild card entry as the top seed, reports AFP.

Lendl, ranked third in the world, underwent minor surgery last week for a recurrent infection of his right hand and decided to skip the tournament on the advice of his doctor.

Andre Agassi, ranked sixth, now will be the top seed for the tournament, which also features John McEnroe. The first round gets under way on Monday.

And, away in Gstaad, Switzerland, Sergi Bruguera and Emilio Sanchez set up an all-Spanish final in the 350,000 dollar Swiss Open on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Top seed Bruguera, the losing finalist last year, gave himself another crack at the title by defeating Yugoslav fourth seed Goran Ivanisevic 6-1, 7-5 in the first semifinal.

Colombia shock Brazil

VINA DEL MAR, Chile, July 14: Colombia, rediscovering their 1990 World Cup flair, defeated

South American soccer championship holders Brazil 2-0 in a Group B match on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Badly missing their best strikers, tied up with European clubs, Brazil were never able to take the initiative in a game dominated by Colombian midfielders Valderrama and Rincon.

Brazil lacked imagination and speed and had no co-ordination in midfield until coach Paulo Roberto Falcão brought on Careca at halftime.

Colombia penetrated Brazil's defence repeatedly, creating numerous goal-scoring opportunities.

A centre pass by Valderrama, headed no by full-back Escobar, was volleyed into the net by striker Anthony De Avila in the 35th minute to put Colombia ahead.

Brazil hardly penetrated Colombia's area in the first half.

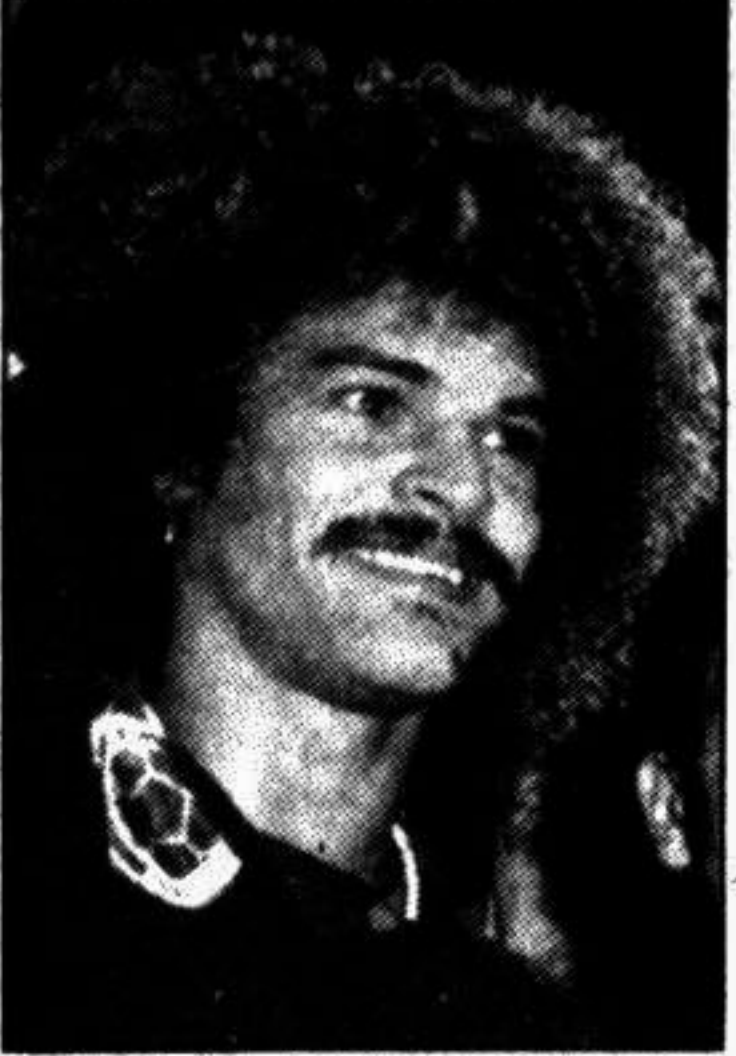
Falcão substituted Careca for captain Neto and Luiz Henrique at half time in a bid to inject lift into Brazil's attack.

But Brazil came close to scoring only once with a shot by Careca that forced goalkeeper Higuita to push the ball over the bar.

Araldo Iguaran scored the

second goal in the 66th from a back heel by De Avila that Valderrama left for Iguaran, who was clear on the edge of the goal area.

Falcão's team has been lambasted by the Brazilian press as "grotesque" and a "festival of Errors" for their poor showing



CARLOS VALDERRAMA so far in the Copa America. It is the former international's first official tournament as coach.

Brazil beat a weak Bolivian side 2-1 and managed only a 1-1 draw with an inexperienced Uruguayan squad.

TEAMS

BRAZIL: Taffarel, Marcio, Gattardo, Ricardo Rocha, Branco, Mauro Silva, Mazinho, Neto (Careca), Renato, Rai (Luiz Henrique), Joao Paulo.

COLOMBIA: Higuita, Herrera, Perea, Escobar, Osorio, Redin, Alvarez, Rincon, Valderrama, De Avila, Iguaran.

Ecuador sustain hopes Meanwhile, in another Group B game, Ecuador knocked out Bolivia 4-0 on Saturday to keep alive their hopes of qualifying for the finals.

Alex Aguinaga, quickly taking advantage of a fallen Bolivian goalkeeper, opened the scoring in the 32nd minute with a magnificent 35 meter shot off a rebound by Aviles.

Aviles, in turn, headed in a centre by Aguinaga in the 42nd, to put Ecuador 2-0 up at halftime.

Bolivia lost its best chance to score when Ramiro Castillo failed to convert a penalty in the 60th, blocked by goalkeeper Erwin Ramirez.

Ecuador kept up the pressure and Aviles scored off a centre by Nicon Carcelen in the 73rd.

Six minutes later Aviles was brought down just inside the area and goalkeeper Ramirez converted.

Ecuador faces Brazil on Monday and Colombia players Uruguay to decide which two teams go through to the round-robin finals between four nations.

Brazil, Group B favourites, lost 4-0 to Colombia in a surprise upset on Saturday and are currently standing fourth on goal average.

All-Indonesian final at Jakarta



BANDUNG, July 14: World number one Ardy Wiranata crushed South Korean Lee Kwang-Jin 15-5,

15-2 in the Indonesian Open badminton semifinals on Saturday and will face Joko Suprianto in an all-Indonesian final today, reports Reuter.

Suprianto, seeded joint fifth, followed up Friday's quarter-final win over second-seeded Wu Wenkai of China by overcoming joint third seed Kusuma 15-4, 3-15, 15-11.

All-England champion Wiranata made a slow start against the unseeded Lee, who forced him on the defensive with strong smashes.

But the top seed recovered with good angled returns to take the first game in 18 minutes and he raced through the second, Lee finding no answer to the Indonesian's powerful baseline smashes.

"Lee may become a good player in the future but I think he was very tired after winning his quarter-final yesterday," Wiranata said, recalling the South Korean's upset win over joint third seed Liu Jun of China on Friday.

In the women's singles, All-England champion, Susi Susanti of Indonesia beat unseeded South Korean Bang Soon-Hyun 11-3, 12-9 and will meet another South Korean, Lee Heung-Soon, in the final. Lee, joint fifth seed.

Frugal flame!

SHEFFIELD, July 14: The flame at the World Student Games will burn fully for only 15 minutes after being lit by British astronaut Helen Sharman at today's opening ceremony, reports Reuter.

To save money and protect the environment it will then be dimmed until the closing ceremony on July 25 when it will be turned up full again for another 15 minutes.

Burning the flame fully in the ceremonial bowl for the entire 12 days would have cost at least 80,000 dollars and local sponsors were unwilling to foot the bill.

After today the athletics programme begins next Saturday.

Ray Gridley, director of Games administration, said: "The flame will not die. The miner's lamp that has carried the flame all the way from Sapporo (venue of the Winter Student Games) will continue to shield the dimmed flame throughout the Games."

The northern city of Sheffield lies in an area with a long history of coal mining.

The soccer competition started on Saturday with Germany drawing 1-1 against Mexico at Hillsborough, home of English First Division Sheffield Wednesday.

Athens to bid again

ATHENS, July 13: Encouraged by the success of the 11th Mediterranean Games, the organisers said on Friday the Greek capital would make another bid for the Olympics, reports Reuter.

Bridge results

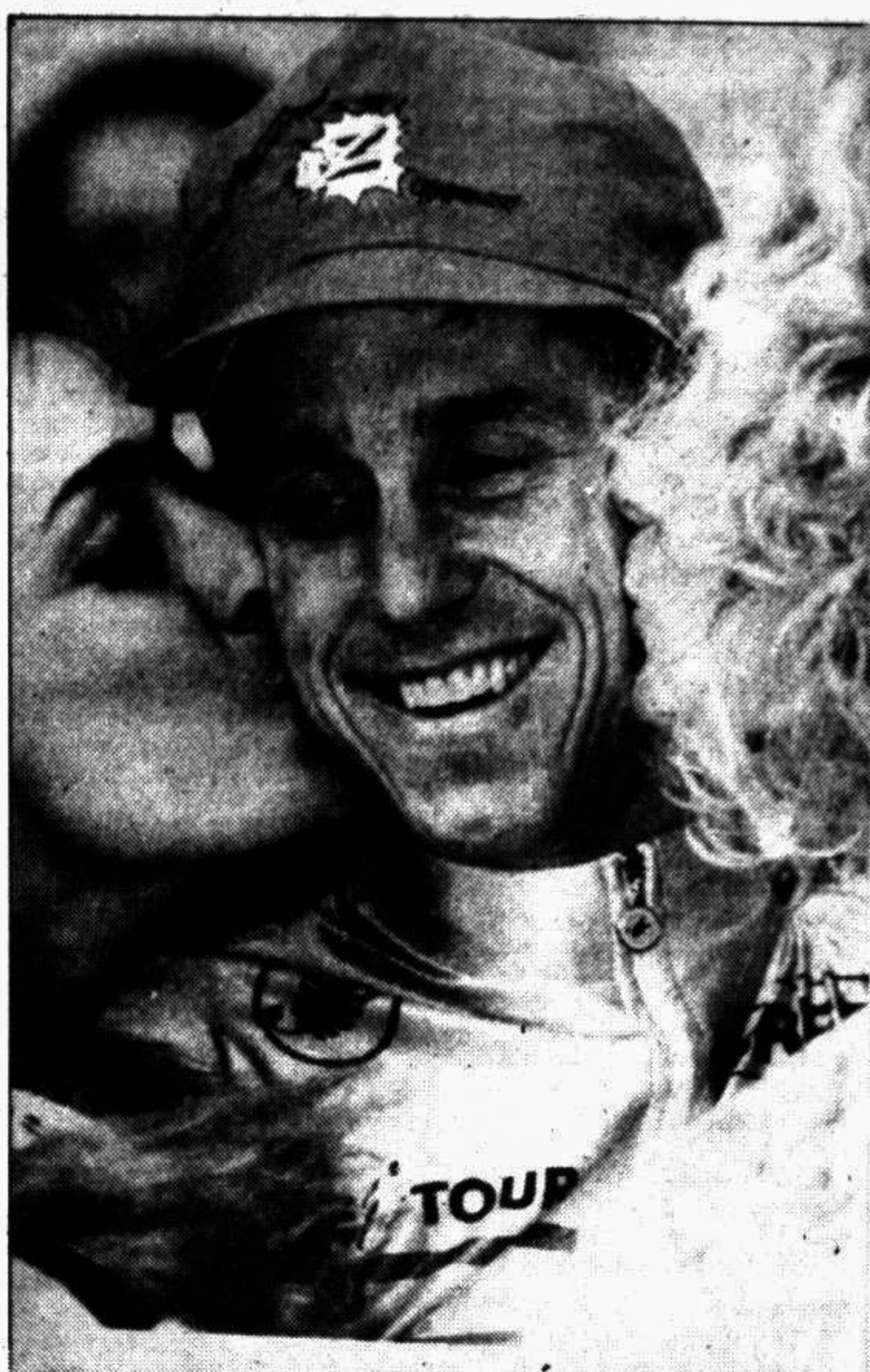
NEW DELHI, July 14: Egypt and India qualified for the ladies team event final scoring 182 and 148 victory points (VP) respectively after the qualifying round robin matches in the Gold Flake Asia and Middle East bridge championship here yesterday, reports PTI.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka finished third and fourth with 114 and 89 VPs respectively.

Volleyball result

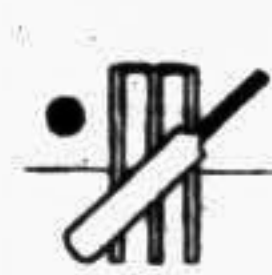
ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, July 14: Cuba beat the Netherlands 3-1 in their world league volleyball match here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Cuba 3 Netherlands 1 (15-8, 13-15, 15-9, 17-15).



American cyclist Greg LeMond gets kissed on the podium on July 13 as he regains the leader's yellow jersey after the time trial of the 8th stage of the Tour de France.—AFP photo

Hick in good nick



LONDON, July 14: Graeme Hick emerged from his batting doldrums with a brightly struck 88 for

Worcestershire before bad light and rain curtailed their Benson and Hedges Cup final against Lancashire at Lord's on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The final will resume today evenly poised with Lancashire on 55 for three after 18 overs in reply to Worcester's 236 for eight from their allotted 55 overs.

Hick, whose introduction to Test cricket this season has turned into a nightmare, hit 10 sparkling boundaries from 126 deliveries to bolster Worcester after they had been sent in to bat on an overcast day.

He went to the crease after Worcester lost their first wicket with only four runs on the board and was denied a well-deserved century only by Paul Allott's athletic return catch. But Worcester, who have lost each of their six one-day knock-out finals, looked to beheading for another defeat when they lost five wickets in the space of five overs.

However, Neal Radford and Richard Illingworth added a valuable 33 in an unbroken ninth-wicket stand to make the score more respectable.

Seamer Radford then struck back with the wickets of Gahan Mendis and Mike Atherton, and Damian D'Oliveira brilliantly ran out Neil Fairbrother to leave Lancashire struggling and the match nicely poised.

Nastase, Vilas in Hall of Fame



NEWPORT, Rhode Island, July 14: Ilie Nastase, who mixed showmanship with shot

making brilliance, crowned his controversial career on Saturday by leading a trio into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, reports Reuter.

"I've been on the bad side of tennis, so it's nice to go to the other side," said Nastase at the induction ceremony at the Newport Casino. "This is the first time in 25 years that I've won any kind of award. I'm very glad to win the best one."

over American favorite Jimmy Connors as a highlight of his 61 career singles titles.

"I was playing against Connors and I didn't expect them to be behind me," the 38-year-old Vilas said about the crowd.

"The people went into the court and took me onto their shoulders. Since then, I'm in love with America."

Vilas's finest season was in 1977 when he also won the French Open, 13 other tournaments and had a 50-match winning streak.

SOCCER SCENARIO

Souness' record breaking bid for Saunders



SAUNDERS

LONDON, July 14: Liverpool manager Graham Souness has signed England international Mark Wright and made a record-breaking bid for his Derby teammate Dean Saunders, reports Reuter.

Wright, who signed a five-year contract on Friday night for 2.2 million pounds sterling (3.5 million dollars), was the first signing by Souness since he arrived at Anfield in April.

The defender will be a key part of the club's European campaign next season. Liverpool, with 11 non-English first team squad players, will only be allowed four foreigners in the UEFA Cup.

The Welsh striker was put on the transfer list by his relegated club after last season.

Spanish clubs can sign 4 foreigners

MADRID, July 14: Spanish First Division clubs can have four foreign players from next season but only three will be allowed on the pitch at once, Spanish Football Federation officials said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The fourth foreigner will only be able to substitute another non-Spanish player.

Leading Copa America scorers

STATAGO, July 14: Leading scorers in the South American nations soccer championship after games played on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Four goals: Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina); Three goals: Ivan Zambrano (Chile), Luis Monzon (Paraguay); Two goals: Caniggia (Argentina), Tony de Avila (Colombia); Alex Aguinaga and Raul Aviles (Ecuador), Eugenio La Rosa and Jose del Solar (Peru), Peter Mendez (Uruguay).

Japanese keep winning

TOKYO, July 14: Japan defeated Indonesia 3-1 in the final Group F match in the Asian football qualifier for the Barcelona Olympics at Gifu Memorial Center Nagarawa Stadium in western Japan Saturday, reports AFP.

Japan already clinched the victory in the group when they trounced Hong Kong 3-0 in Ehime Stadium, also in western Japan, last Sunday.

The winners of the six preliminary groups will play in a round-robin final league with the top three teams winning the births in the Olympics.

Natun Kuri Sangha run riot

Rampura Natun Kuri Sangha trounced residential Model College 10-1 in the Khilkhet Youth Cup football tournament in city yesterday, reports BSS.

Javed and Shipon scored three goals each, Milon netted twice and Jamal and Mizan scored one each for Rampura Natun Kuri.

Gaby keeps Gunze crown



OSAKA, Japan, July 14: Defending champion Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina narrowly eclipsed

Katrina Maleeva of Bulgaria in the first set to retain her singles title for a third consecutive year at the 125,000



Tanima Parveen—the new national chess queen pondering her next move in yesterday's concluding game at NSC.

dollar Gunze world tennis tournament here today, reports AFP.

The 21-year-old who beat Magdalena Maleeva Saturday, erased three set points against her in the 10th game of the first set before winning 7-6 (7-3), 6-2.

"I've been winning many

matches from being down set point or match point. At those moments, the only chance you have is to work for the shots," said Sabatini, who survived two match points to beat Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia in the French Open quarter-finals.

"That gave me confidence to know I could be set point down or match point down in every match and I can win, added the US Open champion.

Maleeva, ranked 12th in the world, broke Sabatini in the ninth game at love to lead 5-4 and was 40-30 when the Argentine fired a marvelous service return winner.

She could have won the set but I hit a very good backhand return. I just went for the shot. It was a great shot, said Sabatini.

Maleeva lost two more set points on her advantage — one a double fault — giving Sabatini the chance to break back and pull level to 5-5 after deuce was called six times.

The two women exchanged breaks to 2-2 in the second set, but when Sabatini broke again at love and then kept her own service, surviving three break points in the following two games, the match was apparently in the Argentine's hands.

The world number three clinched the match with a service winner.

"All the games were so tough with deuce and advantage and I played better at both moments," she said.

Sabatini received the 40,000 dollar first prize, while Maleeva pocketed 18,000 dollars.

Courier pip Chang for title

OSAKA, Japan, July 14: Jim Courier of the United States took the men's singles title at

the 250,000 dollar Gunze world tennis tournament here Sunday, reports AFP.

Courier gunned down his countryman Michael Chang 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 in the men's final, a duel between the current and former French Open champions.

Courier pocketed 40,000 dollars and the loser got 18,000 dollars.

The 19-year-old Chang, who became the youngest-ever champion at Roland Garros

two years ago, overcame the loss of the first set, breaking Courier twice to take the second set.

But the hard-hitting Courier, who has a unique baseball player-like backhand in his arsenal, broke Chang in the ninth game for a 5-4 lead, and then kept his service in a love game to clinch the victory.

In the women's singles final Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina defeated Katrina Maleeva of Bulgaria 7-6 (7-3), 6-2 for her third consecutive title victory in the meet.

Sabatini—the top seed, who is world number three, also collected 40,000 dollars and Maleeva got 18,000.

Later in the day, Maleeva gained some consolation when she took the mixed doubles title teaming up with American Patrick McEnroe.

Maleeva and McEnroe outplayed the Japanese-American duo of Kimiko Date and Chang 6-3, 6-1.

The winning pair collected 20,000 dollars, while the runners-up paycheck was 10,000 dollars.

Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina) beat Katrina Maleeva (Bulgaria) 7-6(7/3), 6-2.

Men's singles final: Jim Courier (USA) defeated Michael Chang (USA) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

Johnson's the man to beat



LONDON, July 13: Michael Johnson and John Regis confirmed they will be the men to beat in the Tokyo World Championships 200 metres with magnificent performances at the London Grand Prix athletics meeting on Friday.

Johnson stepped up a distance to defeat Olympic 400 metres gold medalist Steve Lewis and European champion Roger Black while Regis held off world 100 metres record holder Leroy Burrell to win the 200.

American Johnson, unbeaten since April 1990 and fastest in the world this year over both the 200 and 400, came powerfully off the final bend with his distinctive high-stepping style to win in 44.86 seconds.

He was followed by Black and Lewis in 54.14 and 45.28

seconds respectively, with American champion Antonio Pettigrew fourth.

Johnson has opted to run the 200 only in Tokyo next month when he will come up against Britain's European champion Regis.

The powerful Briton led into the straight with Burrell Chasinghard, holding on to win in 20.40 seconds with the American 0.03 of a second behind in second place.

Johnson said he had chosen the 200 over the 400 in Tokyo because he believed it was his best distance.

"Everything I'm doing now is geared to winning the World Championships," he said.

"But I'm starting to like the 400 a lot."

"Every time I line up for a 400 it's a challenge and when I come out with a victory or a good time I'm happy with that."

Black, whose strong showing against the traditionally

powerful Americans was one of the more significant performances of the evening, said: "For me, it was a very pleasing race. It was a test of my character tonight."

"It's great to beat people like Steve Lewis and Antonio Pettigrew."

Burrell, who aims for the sprint double in Tokyo, was outwardly unworried about losing to Regis.

"I'm still learning the 200, it's just a matter of time," he said.

The American, who smashed compatriot Carl Lewis's 100 metres record last month, added that Regis would be tough competition in Tokyo but Johnson remained the man to beat.

Despite being handicapped by a cool evening and an unpredictable wind, the sprinters provided the high spots of a sell-out meeting.

Britain's European champion Linford Christie just

pipped compatriot Michael Rosswess to win the 100 metres in a photo finish. Both men clocked 10.29 seconds.

The Olympic silver medalist trailed until the final strides and might well have lost if Rosswess had not glanced across near the line and lost a fraction of a second.

Katrin Krabbe, the European women's champion, edged fellow German Heike Drechsler to win the 100 metres and Jamaican Merlene Ottey made no contest of the women's 200.

Drechsler went on to win the women's long jump ahead of Briton Fiona May while Czechoslovak Jan Zelezny handed Britain's Steve Backley a rare defeat in the men's javelin.

Zelezny threw 89.86 metres with his first attempt while Backley, returning to competition after a fortnight's injury layoff, was second with 88.04.