

## 17th national chess meet Qualifiers end today

Sports Reporter

Thirteen players — Riffat Bin Sattar, Rezaul Haque, Jamilur Rahman, Rani Hamid, Badrul Alam, Khandokar Kayes Hasan, Shamsul Kabir, Shahadat Hasan, Anwar Hossain, Shahnoor Hossain, Anisur Rahman, Ziaul Kader Tuhtin and Motuuddin Mamoon enhanced their chances to qualify for the final round when they jointly led the points table with each six-and-a-half points after the completion of the eighth round of the seventeenth national chess qualifying tournament yesterday at the National Sports Council chess room.

Iqbal Iman, Shabana Parveen, Sumon Mallick, Abdul Majid, Niamul Haque, Sharifuzzaman and Shahabuddin Qureshi were placed jointly in the second position with each five-and-a-half points.

A total of one hundred and

two players from all over the country are taking part in these qualifiers for the seventeenth national championship which is scheduled to begin in Dhaka from September 23.

Besides these thirteen leading players, the seven players who were placed in the second position with each 5½ points have equal chances to move into the final round of the meet.

Following are some of the results of yesterday's matches.

Riffat Bin Sattar drew against Sheikh Anwar, Rezaul Haque drew with Shahnoor, Jamilur Rahman drew against Ziaul Kader, Rani Hamid drew against Anisur Rahman, Badrul Alam beat Abdul Khaleque, Shamsul Kabir received walkover Rafiqul Islam and Shahadat Hasan drew against Shahabuddin Qureshi.

The last and final round of these qualifiers will begin today at 3.00 pm at the NSC's chess room.

## International rowing India, Singapore, Myanmar confirm participations

The first ever international rowing competition in the country will be held on October 9.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the chief patron of the championship, will give away the prizes to the winners of the day-long meet.

Bangladesh Rowing Federation (BRF) will organise the championship in river Buriganga near the capital, Federation's General Secretary Hajee Khurshed Alam told UNB.

Myanmar (Burma), Singapore and India have already confirmed their participation in the meet. The organisers expect participation of three more foreign teams from Indonesia, Malaysia and China.

Two men's and four women's teams will represent Bangladesh in the 800-meter contest.

A 28-member team both from Singapore and India and a 37-member team from Myanmar are expected to arrive in the city on October 6.

Meanwhile, a 115-member organising committee headed by Agricultural Minister Major General (Retd) Majid-ul-Huq has been formed.

National Sports Council Chairman Major General Mahbubur Rahman has been made the Vice-President, BRF President Captain Golam Rabbani, convenor and BRF General Secretary Hajee Khurshed Alam, the organising secretary of the competition.

The Organising Committee in its first meeting, held Sept 3, approved a budget of Tk 20 lakh and formed six sub-committees for the smooth holding of the prestigious meet.

The foreign teams will practice on October 7 and 8 near Buriganga Bridge, the venue of the meet, sources added.

## Chinese coaches arrive

Sports Reporter

Six Chinese coaches of six different disciplines, arrived in Dhaka yesterday to train Bangladeshi players who are scheduled to take part in SAF Games beginning in the third week of December in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The six Chinese coaches will separately train athletes, shooters, weightlifters, swimmers, table tennis and basketball players.

## Calcutta MSC in Bordoloi semis

GUAHATI, Sept 14: Mohammedan Sporting Club, Calcutta, marched into the semifinals of the Bordoloi Trophy football tournament thrashing Shillong Eleven 6-1 in a Group 'A' quarter-final league match played at the Nehru Stadium here yesterday, reports PTI.

The winners led 4-1 at half time.

For Mohammedan Sporting Godfrey Pereira scored two goals and one each by Chibuzor, Gurucharan Das, Iftekar Ahmed and Mustaz Ali.

The Calcutta outfit played flawlessly to dominate a young and inexperienced Shillong side.

## New Azad SC office-bearers

Syed Anwar Hossain and Qazi Anisur Rahman have been made President and General Secretary of Azad Sporting Club for a two-year term, reports BSS.

This was decided at the general meeting of the club held here on Friday, according to a press release.

The other officials of the 26-member executive committee are: Vice Presidents — Mahbubul Islam Bachchoo, Abdul Khaleque Chowdhury S A Zaman Mukta and M A Rashid. Treasurer — Golam Rahman.

Joint Secretaries — Reza Ali Bulu and Rafiq Ahmed, Organising Secretary — Mujibur Rahman.

Members — Syed Shahidul Islam, Anwar Hossain, Anzam Hossain, Abdur Raquib, S A Siddique, Ranjit Kumar Das, M A Kashem, Ilias Talukdar Noim, Mostafa Kamal, Afzal Hossain Chobi, Yousuf Ali, Sirajul Huq Sikdar, Sharif Hossain Khan.

# Zmeskal's perfection has Boguinskaya crying foul

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Sept 14: Kim Zmeskal of the United States won the gold medal in a controversial women's all-around competition, but the defending champion from the Soviet Union said the judges were unfair at the World Gymnastics Championships on Friday, reports Reuter.

Zmeskal, 15, barely out-pointed silver medalist and defending champion Svetlana Boguinskaya of the Soviet Union, 39.848 to 39.736. Romania's Cristina Bontas took the bronze followed by American Betty Okino, Soviet Tatiana Gutsu and American Shannon Miller.

Zmeskal, the first American to win a World all-around title, scored 9.937 on the uneven bars, 9.962 on the vault and balance beam and clinched the title with a 9.987 on the floor exercise, a routine for which two of three of six judges awarded her a perfect mark of 10.0.

Some of the most spirited competition was in the post-event press conference where Boguinskaya, the defending world all-around champion, and Zmeskal's trainer Bela Karolyi.

Boguinskaya, 18, received a 9.962 on the vault, 9.912 on the uneven bars and the balance beam and 9.950 on the floor exercise.

"I am 100 per cent convinced that I would have won if this competition had been held in Europe," said Boguinskaya, who claimed she was badly underscored on the vault and the balance beam.

"America is America. When you're competing at home, you get higher scores. The judges weren't especially fair."

The response enraged Karolyi, the Romanian native who coached Nadia Comaneci to an Olympic title in 1976 and did the same with Mary Lou Retton in 1984.

"Boguinskaya is a beautiful gymnast," Karolyi said in front of both competitors. "But with all due respect to her, her time is over... How can you talk about the judges? We had only

two judges (of 24) in the whole competition. It is not sporting to suggest an advantage."

The two gymnasts were a study in contrast. Zmeskal, 15, is the shorter of the two and appears to compete without fear.

Boguinskaya, 18, is a page from a classical era — long-

coach had no doubt he could have had the same results with other members of the Soviet team.

"(Igor) Korobchinsky and (Valeri) Belenki are equal in level to the medalists," coach Leonid Arkaev said. "(Alexei) Voropaev is quite young and not as experienced."

Arkaev isn't certain about the future, but believes the Soviets will remain a world power in the immediate future.

"The federation of gymnastics in the USSR is watching very carefully that gymnastics gets developed in every republic," he said. "We support in every republic the coaches of gymnastics and when they come to see us in Moscow, we share ideas that they bring back to their republics."

Misutin won the gold with a score of 59.05. Scherbo captured the silver with 58.95 and Liukin took the bronze with 58.5.

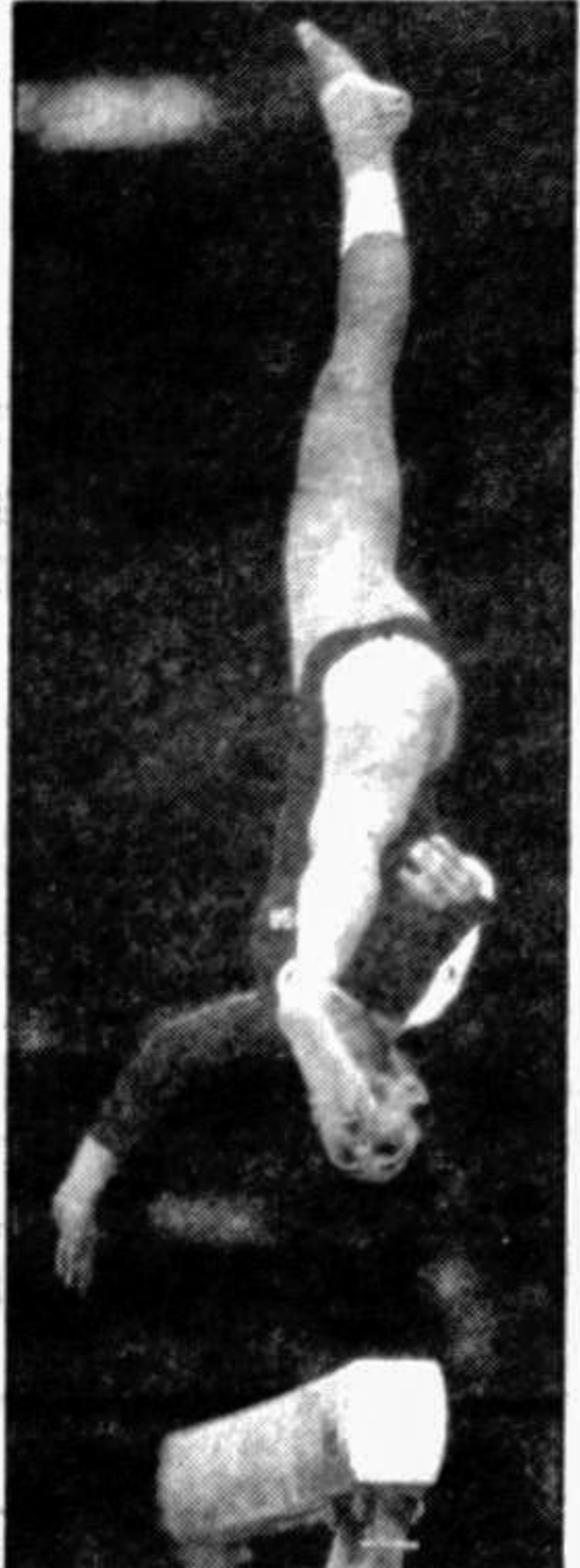
The sweep was the latest instalment in a display of awesome talent that has given the Soviet Union eight world championship team titles since 1954. The Soviet men also have won the all-around title at every World Championship since 1978.

"Before they came here they had a programme. They worked on this programme many times," Arkaev said. "There was nothing unexpected tonight for the athletes and the coach."

## WOMEN'S ALL-AROUND RESULTS

The scores Friday in the women's all-around competition in the World Gymnastics Championships at the Hoosier Dome:

1. Kim Zmeskal, Houston, 39.848 points. 2. Svetlana Boguinskaya, Soviet Union, 39.736. 3. Cristina Bontas, Romania, 39.711. 4. Betty Okino, Elmhurst, Ill., 39.661. 5. Tatiana Gutsu, Soviet Union, 39.636. 6. Shannon Miller, Edmond, Okla., 39.586. 7. Lavinia Milosovici, Romania, 39.474. 8. Mircela Pasca, Romania, 39.336. 9. Li Li, China, 39.236.



KIM ZMESKAL

limbed and elegant, the finest dancer in the competition.

"This is like a dream for me," Zmeskal said. "When they announced the award for me instead of Svetlana, I was almost scared to walk up there because I wasn't sure I heard right."

An earlier AP report said: Grigori Misutin, Vitaly Scherbo and Valeri Liukin swept the medals in Thursday's men's all-around finals at the Championships and their



SVETLANA BOGUINSKAYA

## Germans beat the Pakistanis 4-3

BERLIN, Sept 14: An inspired performance by 19-year-old student Sven Meinhardt helped European hockey champions Germany snatch a thrilling 4-3 victory over Pakistan in the opening match of the men's Champions' Trophy hockey tournament on Friday, reports Reuter.

Meinhardt scored Germany's first and third goals and laid on the other two for Andreas Becker and substitute Christian Blunck.

The youngster's speed took him clear of the Pakistan defence in the eighth minute. But the Asian champions came back strongly to take a 2-1 lead with goals by Qamar Ibrahim and their brilliant captain Shahbaz

Becker then levelled the scores at 2-2 after 24 minutes with a smart deflection from a centre by Meinhardt.

Pakistan found themselves 3-2 behind when Meinhardt converted a penalty stroke two minutes after the interval, but they equalised again with Khalid Bashir converting their seventh corner in the 47th minute.

Five minutes later Meinhardt cracked a fierce shot against an upright and Blunck found the roof of the net for the winner when the ball rebounded to him at the top of the circle.

Pakistan, who had won seven of their eight internationals in Europe prior to arriving in Berlin, hardly deserved to lose after delighting the crowd with fluent, attacking play.

## SOCCER SCENARIO

### Argentine fed wants Maradona in charity tie

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 14: The Argentine football federation said Friday it will ask permission from the international governing body for Diego Maradona to be freed from a lengthy ban so he can play in a charity match, reports AFP.

The federation want him to play in an Argentina side against a Rest of the World XI in Buenos Aires on October 29 to raise money for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Aids Research.

The former national captain was banned until June 1992 by the international body FIFA after testing positive for drugs at the end of an Italian league game for Napoli in March.

The Argentine star also faces drugs charges in Italian and Argentine courts. He said he was retiring, but has kept in training and was reported to having talks to play in Japan at the end of his ban.

### Hansa Rostock stumble at home

ROSTOCK, Sept 14: Former East German champions Hansa Rostock, who began the German league season in superb style, stumbled to their first home defeat of the season when they lost 2-1 to Karlsruhe on Friday, reports Reuter.

Michael Wittwer's shot from 35 metres in the 89th minute sealed Karlsruhe's win and continued Hansa's rapidly declining form.

Wolfgang Rolf had earlier put the visitors ahead with a goal in the 49th minute. Juri Schluenz equalised in the 85th minute.

After shooting to the top of the table, Hansa have lost their form in the last two weeks. They lost to Second Division Fortuna Cologne in the German Cup and suffered a 2-0 defeat at newly-promoted Duisburg last weekend.

Hansa are now seventh in the table, one point behind leaders Eintracht Frankfurt and second-placed VfB Stuttgart who both play today.

### Mabbutt slams crackdown on fouls

LONDON, Sept 14: Tottenham captain Gary Mabbutt urged football's governing body here on Friday to think again over their crackdown on the professional foul, reports AFP.

The former England central defender complains that new FIFA regulations allow referees no leeway to apply commonsense.

"In nearly 15 years as a professional I've never been sent off and neither has Gary Lincker," said the FA Cup holders' skipper.

"There aren't many defenders in England who can claim a disciplinary record as good as that and I'm proud of it, but it's all at risk now."

"I welcome any attempt to cut out the cynical foul, but you only have to be a fraction late with a tackle and the referee has no alternative. FIFA say off you go."

"I wouldn't quibble with that punishment for incidents like Willie Youn's tackle on Paul Allen in the Arsenal West Ham 1980 FA Cup final."

"But players are going off these days if they miss the ball by a fraction. It's putting a lot of pressure on defenders and referees. They must make decisions in a split second."

"The number of dismissals make the game look bad. FIFA should allow referees to use more discretion instead of automatically reaching for the red card."

### Raris St Germain remain unbeaten

PARIS, Sept 14: Paris St Germain, the only French First Division side not to have lost this season, retained their unbeaten record on Friday with a 2-0 home win over Lille, reports Reuter.

A 40th minute goal from striker Daniel Bravo and a second two minutes from time by winger Christian Perez sealed both points for PSG against a depleted Lille side.

Lille played most of the match with 10 men after three players had to leave the field with injury in the first half.

Only two substitutes are allowed.

Paris St Germain moved up to third place on 14 points, four behind leaders Monaco, who won 1-0 in St Etienne on Thursday.

## Persson lifts World Cup

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 14: World champion Jorgen Persson of Sweden won the World Cup men's table tennis title in fine style on Saturday, beating Frenchmen Jean Philippe Gatien 21-14, 21-16, 25-23 to take the 20,000 dollars first prize, reports Reuter.

The Swedish top seed, tentative in his earlier matches, found his best form of the week and gave the sixth-seeded Gatien little chance in the first two games.

Mixing hard smashes with deceptive underspin, the Lanky Persson wrapped up the first game in eight minutes after Gatien had surprisingly led 5-0.

Persson led all the way in the second but the third game was a thriller.

Varying his shots well, Gatien led 18-15 before Persson drew level at 18-18 with some powerful sideline smashes.

They were level four more times until Gatien netted a return to give Persson a 24-23 lead. The Swede ended it with a powerful backhand flick to Gatien's body.

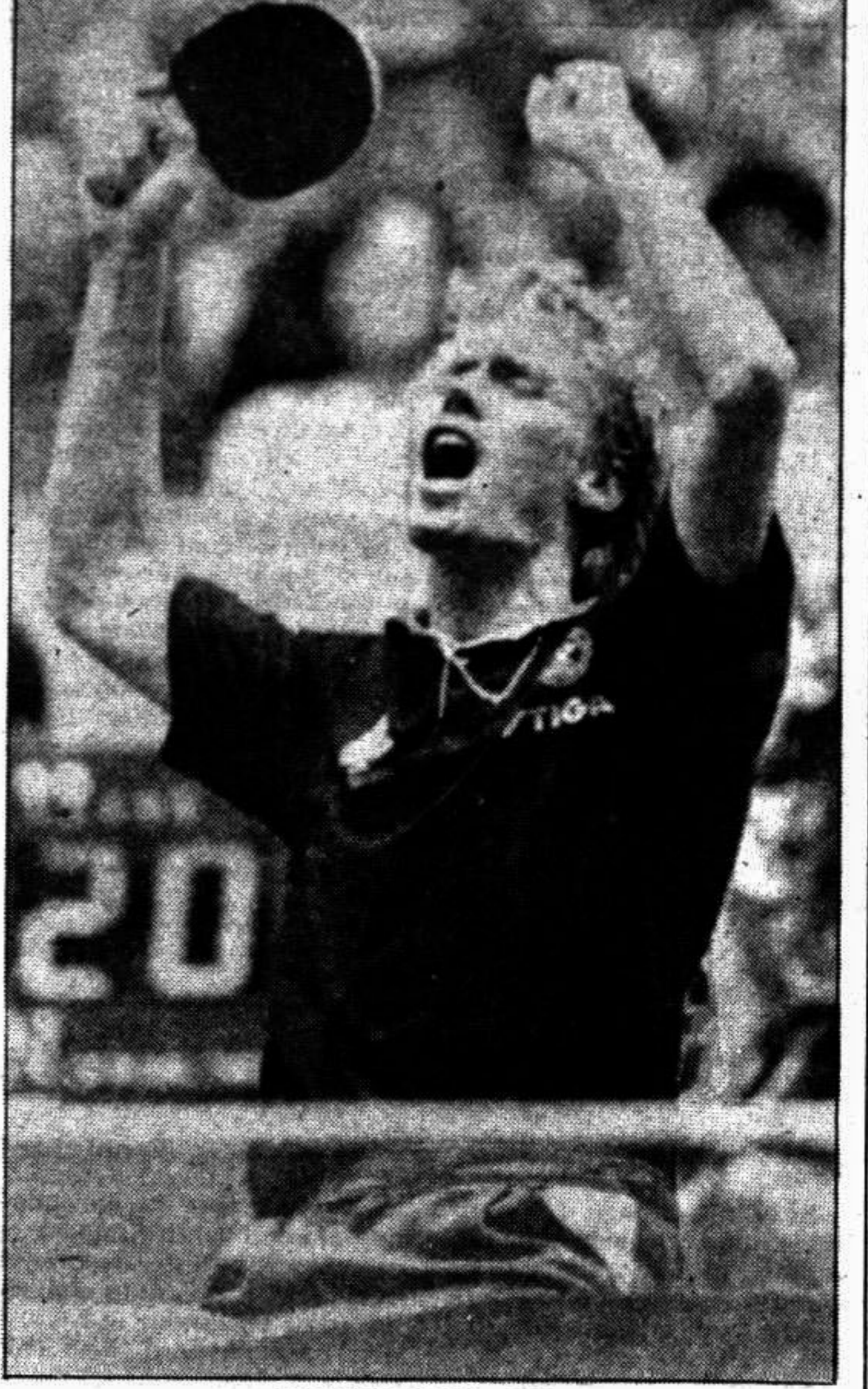
"I played badly in the early matches and did not expect to win," said Persson. "But I was in top form today."

Gatien won 12,000 dollars.

World champion and top seed Jorgen Persson of Sweden won a five-game thriller against Andrzej Grubba of Poland to reach the semifinals of the 555 World Cup table tennis championship on Friday.

Persson, who has scored tentative here, had to find his best form to beat the veteran Pole 21-18, 19-21, 19-21, 23-21, 21-8.

After powering his way through the first game, Persson became unstuck in the next two as the third-seeded Grubba countered his smashes with stout defending and looping drives.



JORGEN PERSSON

In the crucial fourth game, the two were tied at 7-7, 17-17, 19-19 and 21-21 before Persson won the last two points with smashes. A tired Grubba lost the last game without a fight.

Canadian Jonny Huang could not sustain his giant-killing run and lost to Jean Michel Saive of Belgium while the last Chinese, fourth-seeded Ma Wenge, was beaten

by second seeded Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden in straight games.

Persson will meet Waldner in one semifinal today while in the other, Saive will play Frenchman Jean Philippe Gatien, who defeated South Korean Kim Tack-Soo in the quarter-finals.

The final will also be played today.

# Latvia, Estonia won't play under Soviet flag

RIGA, Latvia, Sept 14: The newly independent Baltic states of Latvia and Estonia on Friday snubbed an invitation to join a Soviet team for next year's Olympics, reports Reuter.

Ulyana Semyonova, vice-president of Latvia's Olympic Committee, said the republic would "by no means" accept Thursday's appeal from Soviet republican sports chiefs to form a joint squad for the Albertville and Barcelona Games.

"We have become a separate state and we have nothing to do with the USSR," said Semyonova, a former star of several Soviet European and World Championship basketball teams.

Mart Tarmak, a member of Estonia's Olympic Committee, said his republic planned to put forward its own team, independent of the Soviet Union's, for both the Winter and Summer Games.

"Of course we will not compete in this (Soviet) team," he said.

There was no immediate comment from the third Baltic state, Lithuania. But officials, have already said its Olympic Committee will meet later this month to consider its own team for the games.

The reactions dealt a blow to hopes in Moscow that the Soviet sporting empire could somehow survive intact despite the country's political turmoil. The Soviet Union swept 66 gold medals at the Seoul and Calgary Games in 1988, 20 more than second-placed East Germany.

Republican sports leaders on Thursday said they appealed to the three Baltic states "to take part in joint work to train and compete as a national team in the 1992 Olympiad."

Russian Sports Minister Vasily Machuga proposed a compromise solution whereby athletes in a joint Soviet team could wear emblems denoting their individual republics.

But Latvia's Semyonova said she was confident Latvian athletes would do well on their own in the Olympics.

"We have several very good athletes and we can give them great opportunities to participate as representatives of their country," she said. "In some of the sports, actually, we are hoping for gold medals."

She cited Bobsleigh as Latvia's best medal prospect, followed by basketball, volleyball and hockey, and said Soviet teams could be crippled by the absence of Latvian athletes in those sports.

Semyonova said that until the republic passed new laws on citizenship, individual athletes could choose whether to

represent Latvia or the Soviet Union — but those who chose the latter risked being excluded from future Latvian teams.

A player who has chosen to play for the Soviet Union "has shown disloyalty," Semyonova said.

She added that the president of Latvia's Olympic Committee, Vilnis Baltins, had travelled to Berlin to seek membership of the International Olympic Committee at its executive meeting there next week.

## An all-French final

BORDEAUX, France, Sept 14: Unseeded Olivier Delaitre sprung another surprise on Saturday to set up an all-French final with top seed Guy Forget in the 300,000-dollar Bordeaux men's tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

Delaitre, who had earlier accounted for second seed Jonas Svensson of Sweden and seventh seed Alexander

Mronz of Germany, added the scalp of compatriot Thierry Champion, seeded three.

The world's 83rd-ranked player needed little more than an hour to win 6-3, 6-1 against Champion, who said later he was handicapped by a thigh injury.

Champion said afterwards he may have to pull out of France's Davis Cup team to face Yugoslavia next week in a world group semifinal.

Forget beat sixth-seeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline, also by 6-3, 6-1 and said Pioline had suffered a let-down after his shock win over Forget's Davis Cup partner Fabrice Santoro on Friday.

## Muster upsets Bruguera

GENEVA, Sept 14: Unseeded Austrian Thomas Muster caused a big upset in the 250,000-dollar Geneva Open tennis tournament on Friday, beating top seed Sergi Bruguera 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the quarter-finals, reports Reuter.

Bruguera, world ranked ninth and losing finalist here last year, looked on course for a semifinal berth when he led 4-2, 40-0 on his serve serve in the second set.

But Muster, world ranked sixth two years ago but now in 46th place, rallied strongly to break the Spaniard, level and then go on to win the match.

Muster's compatriot, titleholder Horst Skoff, the fourth and sole surviving seed, also needed three sets to dispose of Argentine Iloracio De La Pena 7-6, 4-6, 6-1.

## Stolle's success story ends

BRASILIA, Sept 14: Unseeded Australian Sanson Stolle's run of success in the Brasilia tennis tournament came to an abrupt end on Friday when he lost in the quarter-finals to ninth seed Bryan Shelton, reports Reuter.

Stolle, ranked 205th in the world, knocked out top seed Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia and 15th seeded Ramesh Krishnan of India in the previous two rounds.

But on Friday he was unable to find an answer to the American's powerful service and went down 7-5, 6-4.

The best performance of the day came from 11th seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador who overcame Argentine Martin Jaite, the fourth seed, 6-3, 6-3.

Gomez is desperately trying to recover his place in the world rankings. In June last year he reached fourth but has since slipped to 142nd.

## Bridge results

Sports Reporter

Aces Bridge Club (Alpha) became champions in the Metropolitan Bridge League 1991 on Thursday at the Bangladesh Bank Club premises.

The champions secured 143 victory points from seven super league matches, followed by Motijheel Colony Club with 139 points, who finished runners-up.

Azimpur Community Centre was third with 120 points.

Aces Club clinched 143 points out of a possible 175. The league concluded on Sept 12.

Meanwhile, the weekly bridge competition held on Friday at the same venue shows the following results:

North-South: First — Md Shamsul Alam and R H Siddique (57.01 per cent), Second — Aminullah and M A Quddus (53.98 per cent), Third — N C Saha and Abul Hossain (52.65 per cent).

East-West: First — Shamsuzzaman Kamal and Habibur Bashem (61.35 per cent), Second — Dr Anwar and Baqui (55.30 per cent) and Third — Russell and Shahabuddin (55.30 per cent).

## Navy handball concludes

The annual handball championship of the Bangladesh Navy concluded at BNS Titumir in Khulna on Thursday, an ISPR press release issued in Dhaka said yesterday.

BNS Haji Mohsin team became champions defeating the BN Dockyard team by 8-2 goals in the final of the five-day meet. The winners led the first half 3-2.