

Riffat remains comfortable at top

Sports Reporter



Riffat bin-Sattar further consolidated his lead in the points table of the 17th national chess championship by scoring yet another victory in his eighth round match against Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury of Dhaka Metropolis at the NSC chess room yesterday.

The win, Riffat's seventh in eight games, came so easily that it suggested the day's rest Saturday following a week's competition had refreshed the junior national champion and must augur well for his team Bangladesh Biman after the dismal showing of his fellow Biman teammate Syed Tahmidur Rahman, the defending champion. Tahmidur, who made such a poor start in this year's competition, was still way down the points list and still locked in battle in his eighth round clash against Sheikh Shahadat Hossain Ratna of Bonga at the time of going to press last night.

Playing white, the young Riffat made full use of the openings provided by some weak moves on the part of Shamsul Kabir and quickly wrapped up the game in only 18 moves after a Caroan opening. Kabir was left with two and a half points.

Riffat now has seven and a half points out of a possible eight in this 15-round league championship being participated by 16 players including two women.

Shamsul Kader Tuhin of Dhaka Metropolis, who had shared the second spot in the table along with Rani Hamid, Anisur Rahman and Shahinor Hossain at the end of the seventh round Friday, yesterday took sole occupancy of that spot by scoring an important victory over his teammate Anisur Rahman. Tuhin now has five and a half points and with another seven rounds to go, his chances of taking the title cannot be ruled out.

Yesterday, playing black, Tuhin needed only 27 moves to checkmate Anis in a game of the Kings Indian defence opening.

Indian, Burmese rowing teams in city

Rowing teams from Myanmar (Burma) and India are now in Dhaka to participate in the first-ever international rowing championship in the country.

The competition, along with 15th national rowing (boat race) championship, is scheduled to be held on October 9 near China-Bangladesh Friendship bridge on the river Buriganga.

The 26-member Myanmar team reached the capital on Saturday while a 26-member Indian team arrived here yesterday. A team from Singapore is also expected to arrive very soon to participate in the meet.

The two foreign teams, already in the capital, will have practice runs on the river Buriganga today (Monday) and Tuesday.

Bangladesh will be represented by two teams — Red and Green. Two international events of 25-crew will be held, one for the enlisted teams and the other open to all.

Besides, four national events will also be held on the same day. These are: 8-crew national event for women, 25-crew national event for men, 50-crew chip boat event for men and 50-crew Sarengi for men.

A 115-member organising committee headed by Agriculture Minister Major General Majid-ul-Haque was formed earlier to make the meet a success.

Edberg leads money winners

MONTE CARLO, Oct 6: Leading money winners in men's tennis issued by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Saturday:

1. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)	1,367,840 dollars
2. Jim Courier (US)	1,290,911
3. Michael Stich (Germany)	1,108,936
4. Boris Becker (Germany)	860,123
5. Ivan Lendl (Czechoslovakia)	739,653
6. Emilio Sanchez (Spain)	662,094
7. Guy Forget (France)	628,532
8. Magnus Gustafsson (Sweden)	535,137
9. Karel Novacek (Czechoslovakia)	523,189
10. Jakob Hlasek (Switzerland)	503,487
11. Pete Sampras (US)	494,288
12. Andre Agassi (US)	480,366
13. Anders Jarryd (Sweden)	467,939
14. Petr Korda (Czechoslovakia)	450,760
15. Goran Ivanisevic (Yugoslavia)	430,005
16. Serg Bruguera (Spain)	428,720
17. David Wheaton (US)	408,414
18. Goran Popic (Yugoslavia)	382,545
19. John Pascual (US)	365,248
20. Omar Camporese (Italy)	342,064

This Star file photo shows ex-heavy weight champion Mike Tyson (left) with D'Amato Tyson, 16 months old, and Natalie Fears (right), 26, who filed a 12 million US dollar paternity-palimony suit against Tyson and his promoter, Don King on Oct 2 in a Los Angeles court.

Shahabuddin Ahmed Gureishi of Sylhet moved past former national champion and last year's runner-up Younus Hassan and Mainuddin Mamoon — both of Ansars — to take the third place with five points following his win yesterday over Mainuddin Mamoon.

Playing with black, Gureishi forced Mamoon to resign in the 41st move in this match of the Sicilian variation. Mamoon's points tally remained on three and a half.

In the seventh round Friday Gureishi had scored a major upset against another former national champion Jamilur Rahman, also of Ansars.

Former national women's champion and International Woman Master Rani Hamid, until yesterday sharing the second place, was relegated to joint fourth position along with Ansur Rahman after her 38th move defeat at the hands of Jamilur Rahman. Time trouble brought about Rani Hamid's second successive defeat of the meet after Jamil appeared to hold the advantage in another game of the Sicilian defence.

Younus Hassan, a close finisher behind champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman last year, appeared to be having an indif-

ferent meet this year, similar to his Biman rival and was left languishing in fifth place after the eighth round with only four points to his credit following his unexciting draw with teammate Khandaker Kayes Hassan.

Both the Ansars stars agreed upon a draw after just 18 moves in a game of the Scotch opening. Kayes now has three and a half points, the same as Jamilur Rahman.

Sheikh Anwar Hossain of Dhaka DSA and Faridpur's Shabana Parveen Nipa played out another draw yesterday in a Petroff variation.

Nipa and Anwar both have three points each.

In another unfinished tie last night (till going to press), Rezaul Haq was playing Shahinor Hossain of Ansars.

Sheikh Shahadat Hossain Ratna, a newcomer to the national championship finals, was at the bottom of the table with a solitary point in his collection.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Shahinor Hossain vs Sheikh Shahadat Hossain Ratna
Rezaul Haq vs Khandaker Kayes Hassan

Younus Hassan vs Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury
Riffat-bin-Sattar vs Shahabuddin Ahmed Gureishi
Rani Hamid vs Mainuddin Mamoon

Jamilur Rahman vs Ziaul Kader Tuhin
Shabana Parveen Nipa vs Ansur Rahman
Syed Tahmidur Rahman vs Sheikh Anwar Hossain

Xie takes her only timeout

MANILA, Oct 6: Chinese challenger Xie Jun, reeling from two straight losses, took her only timeout here today in the women's World Chess Championship series against Soviet world champion Maya Chiburdanidze, organizers said, reports AFP.

The sixth game will now be played Monday, chief arbiter Bob Wade said.

Xie who started the 16 game series by winning the third game after two draws, was defeated by Chiburdanidze in the fourth and fifth games.

The 20-year-old from Beijing now faces the uphill task of having to score at least 6.5 points over the remaining 11 games to become the new world champion.

A win earns a full point while a draw is worth a half point. The 31-year-old Georgian has the comparatively easier target of five points to retain her crown as, under tournament rules, the champion retains her crown in the event that the series ends at 8-all.

Xie, said to be nursing a cold, will have additional rest days on Tuesday and Wednesday, when the series takes a two-day break. Chiburdanidze still has to use her timeout.

Bata schools handball starts today
Sports Reporter

The fourth Bata schools handball competition, organised by the Bangladesh Handball Federation, starts today at the Outer Stadium handball court, says a press release.

Last year's runners-up Narinda Govt High School will meet Bangladesh Rifles School in the opening match of the scheduled for a 3.30 start this afternoon.

Twelve metropolitan school teams are participating in this year's competition. They are: Ansar and VDP High School, K L Jubilee School and College, Baunia Abdul Jalil High School, Rajarbagh Police Lines High School, Bangladesh Rifles High School, Shaheed Nabi High School, Narinda Govt High School, Bhashanik High School, Loretto School, Cosmik International School, Shaheed Srimati High School and Rahmatullah Model High School.

The teams have been divided into two groups with the top two teams from each group playing in the semifinals.

Textiles Minister Major (Reid) A Mannan will be the chief guest at the opening ceremony while Mr M Oldroyd, Managing Director of Bata-Bangladesh will be a special guest on the occasion.

Graf shrugs off wrist injury

LEIPZIG, Germany, Oct 6: Steffi Graf shrugged off a wrist injury to cruise into the final of the Leipzig women's tennis tournament with a 6-1, 6-1 semifinal victory over Austrian Barbara Paulus on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The German world number two, who has been suffering from a strained tendon in her playing wrist, took just 38 minutes to dispose of the eighth seed who had problems dealing with the fast pace of the game.

In today's final, Graf will meet Czechoslovak third seed

Azhar retains job, Vengsarkar dropped

FARIDABAD, Oct 6: Mohammed Azharuddin has been retained captain of Indian cricket team for the Sharjah Cup three-nation one-day cricket championship at Sharjah and against the Pakistan series in India while former skipper Dilip Vengsarkar does not feature in the list of 22 probables announced today, reports PTI.

According to the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Mr C Nagaraj, a conditioning camp for the probables will be held in Delhi from October nine till the team's departure for Sharjah.

The probables: Md. Azharuddin (Capt), Ravi Shastri, W V Raman, Navjot Sidhu, Sanjay Manjrekar, Sachin Tendulkar, Vinod Kamli, Praveen Amre, Ajay Jadeja, Saurav Ganguly, Kapil Dev, Manoj Prabhakar, J Srinath, Subroto Bannerjee, Prashant Vaidya, Chetan Sharma, Ashish Winston Zaidi, Anil Kumble, Sharadendu Mukherjee, Venkatakrishna Raju, Kiran More, Chandrakant Pandit.

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