

# Riffat remains comfortable at top

Sports Reporter



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. Tahmid, 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 Barga 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 Caro-Kann 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.

Ziaul Kader Tuhin of Dhaka Metropolis, who had shared the second spot in the table along with Rani Hamid, Anisur Rahman and Shahinur 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 club boat event for men and 50-crew Sarengi for men.

A 115-member organising committee headed by Agriculture Minister Major General Majid-ul-Hoque 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)	960,123
5. Ivan Lendl (Czechoslovakia)	739,653
6. Emilio Sanchez (Spain)	662,094
7. Guy Forget (France)	629,532
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)	490,366
13. Anders Jarryd (Sweden)	467,939
14. Petr Korda (Czechoslovakia)	450,760
15. Goran Ivanisevic (Yugoslavia)	430,005
16. Sergi Bruguera (Spain)	428,720
17. David Wheaton (US)	408,414
18. Goran Pripic (Yugoslavia)	382,543
19. John Fitzgerald (US)	365,248
20. Omar Camporese (Italy)	342,064

Shahabuddin Ahmed Qureshi 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, Qureshi 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 Qureshi 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 Anisur 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 Shahinur 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

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

Younus Hassan vs Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury  
Riffat bin-Sattar vs Shahabuddin Ahmed Qureshi  
Rani Hamid vs Mainuddin Mamoon  
Jamilur Rahman vs Ziaul Kader Tuhin  
Shabana Parveen Nipa vs Anisur 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 8-4.

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. I. Jubilee School and College, Baunia Abdul Jafir High School, Rajarbagh Police Lines High School, Bangladesh Rifles High School, Shaheed Nabi High School, Narinda Govt High School, Bhashantek High School, Loreto School, Cosmik International School, Shaheed Smriti 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 (Retd) 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 Reuter.

The German world number two, who has been suffering with strained tendons 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 Jana Novotna, who beat Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario with surprising ease, 6-3, 6-2, in her semifinal.

Graf, who has recently returned from a four-week layoff with a shoulder injury, flew back to Leipzig on Friday after a 12-hour visit to Heidelberg for treatment on her right wrist.

The German, who on Wednesday became the youngest woman to win 500 singles matches in professional tennis, suffered severe pains in the wrist during her quarterfinal victory over Austrian Judith Wiesner on Thursday.



National junior champion Riffat bin-Sattar of Biman (L) making a move against Dhaka Metropolis' Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury whom he defeated in the eighth round yesterday to climb further up the points table of the 17th national chess championship now being held in the chess room of National Sports Council. — Star photo

# Edberg Aussie indoor champion

SYDNEY, Oct 6: Top-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden crushed American Brad Gilbert 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 on Sunday and won the dollars one million Australian indoor tennis title, reports AP.

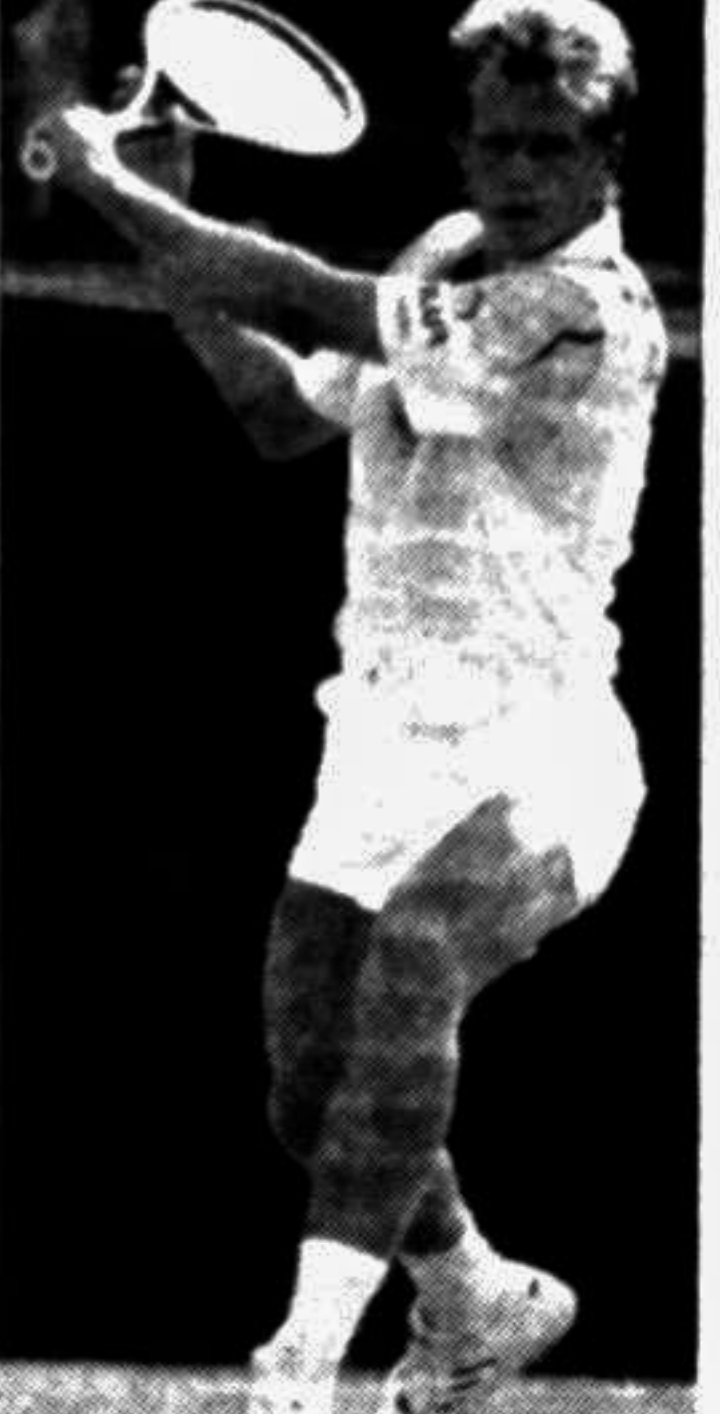
The world's No. 1-ranked player simply overwhelmed the out-gunned Gilbert with precise serve-and-volley play in 1 hour and 37 minutes. He earned \$122,700 for the 32nd title of his career.

He won his 12th straight match since his victory in the US Open last month.

"It was a match I felt in control of pretty much from the start," Edberg said. "I was never threatened."

"I did everything well, but I didn't try to do anything fancy."

Gilbert, the ninth seed from Oakland, Calif., collected \$16,000 after his third final defeat of the year. He still is without a tournament title in 1991.



STEFAN EDBERG  
Gilbert saved five match points in the last two games.

but was only delaying the inevitable.

The slick Swede broke as early as the third game of the match and was never under pressure.

Edberg volleyed superbly, while Gilbert never found the range with his backhand.

"I was worried I might be tired, but I just felt great today," he said.

Gilbert paid tribute to Edberg, who now has won 11 of their 15 meetings.

"I wish I could have put up a better fight," he said. "But it is only fitting the best player in the world should win this event, probably the best organized indoor event in the world."

"He played really aggressively today and if he gets ahead on you he can really pick up his game."

Edberg celebrated his triumph by spraying champagne into the air — and then drinking it straight from the bottle. The normally taciturn Swede then threw a number of sweaty

tennis shirts into the crowd of 9,000, much to the delight of squealing teen-age fans.

"Champagne tastes really good after you've won," said Edberg, who does not normally drink while on the circuit.

Edberg's victory lifted him further ahead of second-place Boris Becker of Germany on the IBM/ATP computer rankings.

Becker won the Sydney event last year, but missed the 1991 tournament with a back injury.

Edberg and Becker both are in the field for next week's Seiko Super Tennis tournament in Tokyo.

"I'm feeling confident going into the next few indoor tournaments," Edberg said. "I know that if I am playing good tennis, a guy will need to play really well to beat me."

Unseeded Americans Jim Grabb and Richey Reneberg won the doubles final, 6-4, 6-4, over the fifth-seeded pair of Australian Laurie Warder and American Luke Jensen.

# Martina's new milestone

MILAN, Italy, Oct 6: Martina Navratilova bettered Chris Evert's all time record of match wins on Saturday when a semifinal victory over Mary Joe Fernandez in the Milan indoor tournament took her to 1,310, reports Reuter.

Evert, now retired from playing, won 1,309 matches in a career spanning 20 years.

The 34-year-old Navratilova, whose first win came in 1973, could equal her fellow American's other record of 157 tournament titles if she beats world number one Monica Seles in today's final of the 225,000-dollar Milan tournament.

But Navratilova, number four in the world standings

and seeded second here, lost to Seles in straight sets the



NAVRA TILOVA  
last time they met, in the final of the US Open a month ago. Navratilova beat Fernandez

6-2, 3-6, 6-4 in the Milan semifinals while Yugoslavia's Seles defeated Spain's Conchita Martinez 6-3, 6-3.

Navratilova needed more than two hours to beat Fernandez and was 2-4 down in the third set, after losing the second, before she went on the offensive and won four games in a row with some aggressive play.

"It was a very difficult match," she said. "I am happy that I reached the final but most of all I'm happy for having beaten Chris Evert's record."

Asked if she was afraid of playing the 17-year-old Seles today, Navratilova said, "Absolutely not. A surgeon does not stop operating because he's older. I respect Monica but it's an open match."

# Star-studded Seiko Super starts today

TOKYO, Oct 6: World number one Stefan Edberg of Sweden, crowned US Open champion last month, will be called on to repeat his Flushing Meadows form if he is to triumph in the one million dollar Seiko Super men's tennis tournament here from Monday, reports AFP.

The top-seeded Swede, who overtook Boris Becker of Germany in the rankings following his US Open win, stretched his points lead when he beat American Brad Gilbert in straight sets to win the Australian Indoor championship in Sydney on Sunday.

But here the going will be tougher and he faces threats from Becker, Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, Americans Andre Agassi, David Wheaton and Michael Chang, and Goran

Ivanisevic of Yugoslavia.

To make the road harder for the 25-year-old Swede, the organisers have changed the surface of the artificial indoor courts at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium. They are slower than last year.

Lendl, who picked up a wild card this week, outshone Edberg and Becker to win the title last year for the third time. After repeatedly complaining the surface was "as fast as grass" and "favours serve-and-volley players."

The defending champion practised on the court Sunday and said he was well satisfied.

The top 16 seeds get first-round byes for the tournament carrying a top prize of 122,700 dollars and 230 points counting toward the ATP computer rankings.

Edberg's second round opponent will be either David Pate or John Sobel, both from

the United States, in the top quarter, which includes 15th seed Frederic Fontang of France, baseline specialists Chang, eighth seed, and Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union, ninth seed.

Fourth-seeded Agassi, seeking to draw blood from Ivanisevic for his 5-7, 6-7 (3-7) defeat in Sydney on Friday, should come up to meet the sixth-seeded Yugoslav in the other quarter of the upper half of the draw.

Second-seeded Becker, back in action after a five-week lay-off due to a pulled thigh muscle, will take on the winner between Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden and Daniel Orsanic of Argentina in the second round.

He is drawn with 16th seed Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan, seventh seed Derrick Rostagno and 10th seed Richey Reneberg of the United

States.

Third-seeded Lendl, whose 1991 Wimbledon dream was stopped by David Wheaton of the United States in the third round, will aim for vengeance over his fifth-seeded nemesis in a possible quarter-final match.

Other seeded players are: Number 11 Todd Woodbridge of Australia; number 12 Malawi Washington of the United States; number 13 Wally Masur of Australia and number 14 Wayne Ferreira of South Africa.

## Arrese moves up

ATHENS, Oct 6: Spain's Jordi Arrese beat compatriot Francisco Clavet 7-5, 6-2 on Saturday, but had to wait until Sunday morning to find out who he would play in the final of the Athens International championship, reports AP.

# Johannesburg to host world doubles final

PONTE VEDRA, Florida, Oct 6: The Association of Tennis Professionals ended its ban on tournaments in South Africa and will sanction two events in Johannesburg next month, the ATP Tour board of directors announced on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The ATP board said conditions it had set for the return of men's tennis to South Africa had been met, clearing the way for the world doubles final to be held at the Standard Bank arena in Johannesburg from November 18-24.

The doubles championships and a smaller challenger circuit event to be held at the same indoor arena a week later will be the first sanctioned tournaments held in South Africa since the ATP took over the men's tennis tour at the end of the 1989 season.

The ATP decision followed an announcement on Wednesday that the International Tennis Federation (ITF) had provisionally re-admitted South Africa, allowing its players to take part in major team competition such as the Davis Cup, Federation Cup and the Olympics.

The November tournaments

will be hosted by the newly-established Tennis South Africa (TSA), which represents a non-racial Union of South African Tennis Organisations.

In August, 1989 the ATP board of directors withdrew sanctions for events in Cape Town and Johannesburg on the recommendation of the players council as a protest against South Africa's apartheid policies.

"We are really pleased with the progress which has been made in South Africa over the past two years," Mark Miles, chief executive officer of the ATP tour, said in a release. Miles said the establish-

ment of TSA last month as the unified government body for South African tennis was one of the conditions that led to reinstatement.

Miles and TSA president Chris Ngcobo said that Tennis South Africa had now been recognised as the single controlling body for the sport in South Africa by the republic's National Olympic Committee.

ITF president Brian Tobin said earlier in the week from London that recognition of TSA by the South African National Olympic Committee was necessary for the republic to regain full ITF membership.



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