

Riffat closer to title

Sports Reporter

Riffat bin-Sattar of Bangladesh Biman further brightened his chances of clinching the

title of the 17th national chess championship by registering his ninth win in ten rounds at the NSC chess room yesterday.

With nine and a half points to his credit, Riffat now looks more and more certain of dethroning defending champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman who suffered another setback yesterday, going down to Anisur Rahman of Dhaka Metropolis.

Riffat, whose winning streak was interrupted just once, when Khandaker Kayes Hassan of Ansars held him to a draw in their seventh round game, now enjoys a clear lead of three points over his nearest challenger Shahinor, Hossain of Dhaka Metropolis who has six and a half points.

Should Riffat win his 11th round match against Ziaul Kader Tuhin today and should Shahinor Hossain lose his clash against Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury, it would leave the former national junior champion clear to add his name to the roll of honour of national champions. Of course Shahinor would still, at least mathematically, stay in the race, but then it would need a real coincidence of four successive defeats for Riffat in his last four game — and as many wins for Shahinor — to tie the score. Even in such a scenario, the Buscholtz method of tie-break would deem Riffat the winner.

Riffat yesterday outplayed former national women's champion and his Biman teammate Rani Hamid, handing the International Woman Master her third defeat of the meet. Playing white Riffat got Rani to opt for the Sicilian defence and after a brief lull Rani was left no choice but to resign. Rani now has five and a half points to tie in third place in the 16-strong field.

Ziaul Kader Tuhin of Dhaka Metropolis, who also had collected five and a half points by the end of the ninth round Monday, was still locked in battle against his teammate Mainuddin Mamoon at the time of filing this report last night.

Three players, including last year's champion and runner-up were tied on six points each after yesterday's play.

Biman's Syed Tahmidur Rahman's chances of retaining his mantle of national champion, though remote until Monday, must have taken a bad beating following his defeat yesterday at the hands of Anisur Rahman of Ansars.

Playing with the white pieces, Anis made an English opening move and by the 37th had taken one of Tahmid's bishops a loss that forced the bearded, bespectacled champion to resign just a couple of moves later.

Last year's runner-up and former champion Younus Hassan of Ansars played with greater confidence yesterday to overpower Sylhet's

Shahabuddin Ahmed Qureshi in only 30 moves of a Sicilian variation. Qureshi now has five points after his ten games in the 15-round competition.



RIFFAT BIN SATTAR Sheikh Anwar Hossain of Dhaka DSA needed more time than anyone else to beat Sheikh Shahadat Hossain Ratna of Bogra, the underdog of the meet. Starting with the King's Indian opening, Anwar Hossain needed 60 moves to corner Ratna with a possible checkmate, at which stage Ratna decided he has had enough and had no route to

escape. Anwar has four points, the same as Shabana Parveen Nipa of Faridpur.

The Faridpur girl, the only other female in the meet besides Rani Hamid, yesterday added another half a point to her overnight 3.5 by holding former national champion Jamilur Rahman of Ansars to a draw.

The draw took Jamil's collection to 4.5 points from three wins, three draws and four losses.

Shahadat Hossain still remains stuck on one point from two drawn encounters.

Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury of Dhaka Metropolis gained one more point to take his collection to three and half with a victory over Rezaul Haq of Biman. Once again, Rezaul Haq ran into time trouble and just couldn't make the necessary number of moves within the stipulated time, leaving Shamsul Kabir the winner of their tenth-round clash.

Reza has three points so far.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Riffat-bin-Sattar vs Ziaul Kader Tuhin.

Shabana Parveen Nipa vs Mainuddin Mamoon.

Syed Tahmidur Rahman vs Jamilur Rahman.

Anisur Rahman vs Sheikh Anwar Hossain.

Khandaker Kayes Hassan vs Sheikh Shahadat Hossain Ratna.

Shahinor Hossain vs Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury.

Rezaul Haq vs Shahabuddin Ahmed Qureshi.

Younus Hassan vs Rani Hamid.

Chiburdanidze retains lead

MANILA, Oct 8: Soviet holder Maya Chiburdanidze drew with Chinese challenger Xie Jun in 24 moves on Monday and retained her one-point lead after six games



MAYA CHIBURDANIDZE in the World Women's chess championship, reports Reuter. Playing white, Chiburdanidze offered the draw after capturing one of Xie's pawns, and the 20-year-old housewife from Beijing accepted.

Chiburdanidze leads the 16-game series being played in the Philippine capital Manila by a score of 3.5 to 2.5.

The first player to score 8.5 points wins. A victory counts for one point and a draw for half a point.

The seventh game is to be played on Thursday.

Here are the moves in Game Six.

Chiburdanidze (white) Xie (black)

1. E4	25
2. NF3	NC6
3. BB5	A6
4. BA4	NF6
5. O-O	BE7
6. BXC6	DXC6
7. D3	ND7
8. B3	O-O
9. BB2	F6
10. NC3	NC5
11. NE2	RF7
12. NH4	NE6
13. NF5	BF8
14. QD2	C5
15. F4	NXF4
16. NXF4	EXF5
17. EXF5	QD6
18. QXF4	QXF4
19. RAE1	QXF4
20. RXF4	RE7
21. RFE4	KF7
22. KF2	RD8
23. KF3	O6
24. FXC6	Draw



Making his pitch: England captain Graham Gooch swapped his cricket whites for a more American mode of dress as he helped to promote the fifth World Corporate Games — a festival of competitive sports — with a game of softball at Chelmsford, Essex late last month.

51 countries to take part in World Amateur meet

SYDNEY, Oct 8: A record 51 countries will contest the World Amateur Boxing Championships in Sydney next month, eight more than the last tournament in Moscow two years ago, reports Reuter.

The three giants of the amateur code, Cuba, the United States and the Soviet Union, are expected to dominate the finals to be held from November 15 to 23, the chairman of the organising committee Arthur Tunstall, told Reuter today.

Germany would also be taking part for the first time as a united country in the world amateur boxing arena, Tunstall said.

Further entries from the African continent, in particular Kenya, were also expected in the next few weeks following last month's All-Africa championships.

All four of Cuba's 1989 world champions will defend their titles. Bantamweight: Enrique Carrion, lightweight: Julio Gonzalez, heavyweight: Felix Savon and super-heavy-

weight: Robertuy Balandu. The Cubans are also bringing their light flyweight silver-medallist Rogelio Marcelo and featherweight bronze-medallist Arnaldo Mesa, plus six other who will also be contenders for next year's Olympic Games.

The powerful American 12 include defending light flyweight champion Eric Griffin and 1989 welterweight bronze medallist Raul Marquez no a light middleweight.

Details of the Soviet and many of the other teams have yet to be received.

Other countries taking part include Canada, England, Scotland, Italy, Spain, Holland, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, Nigeria, Algeria, China, Mongolia, Mexico and Israel.

Bruno will return to the ring

AMSTERDAM, Oct 8: British heavyweight Frank Bruno is set to return to the ring for the first time for more than two years to fight John Emmen, the Dutch boxer's manager Henk Ruhling said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The fight will take place at London's royal Albert Hall on November 20, subject to the contract being signed on Thursday.

The agreement is there, but the contract is not yet signed, Ruhling said.

Bruno faced his boxing career was over after having surgery last April on a torn retina tough to have been inflicted during his world title defeat by the then champion, Mike Tyson, in February 1989.

But Bruno announced last June that after seeing an eye specialist he had been given the all-clear to resume fighting.

He has not fought since he was stopped in five rounds by Tyson.

Emmen is Dutch and Benelux heavyweight champion.

Boxer McCrory eyes acting career

LONDON, Oct 8: Britain's Glenn McCrory, former International Boxing Federation (IBF) cruiserweight world champion, said on Monday he was quitting to take up a career in acting, reports Reuter.

McCrory, 27, was knocked out in the second round of a European heavyweight title fight by compatriot Lennox Lewis last week and said the defeat had helped make his mind up.

"In my heart of hearts I know something is missing now," said McCrory, whose first feature film is due to appear later in October, he has a supporting role as a detective.

Steinbrenner offered an alternate role

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado, Oct 8: Businessman and banned baseball team owner George Steinbrenner, who had to give up a seat on the Atlanta organising committee for the 1996 Olympics has been recommended for an alternate role on the panel, the US Olympic Committee (USOC) said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The officials of the USOC made the recommendation and the job was offered to Steinbrenner in a letter from William Hybl, the newly elected president of the USOC.

Steinbrenner, the majority owner of the New York Yankees who was barred from day-to-day operations of the Major League baseball team because of his dealings with a gambler, had to yield his seat on the Atlanta committee to Hybl when previous USOC chief Robert Hellick who had appointed him, resigned. Hellick who resigned the

president of the USOC last month amid allegations of conflict of interest arising out of his business dealings had two seats on the Atlanta committee, one because of his USOC position and one as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Los Angeles attorney Mike Lenard, like Steinbrenner a USOC vice president, has offered to give up his alternate role if Steinbrenner wants it.

Steinbrenner's office said he was travelling and could not be reached for comment.

Decision on SA next week

LONDON, Oct 8: A decision on whether to include South Africa in the cricket World Cup in Australia and New Zealand next February and March is expected this week, reports Reuter.

Colin Cowdrey, chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), will probably announce his verdict on Friday

after giving the eight teams already in the limited over competition one last chance to comment.

"The ultimate decision has to rest with Colin," said ICC secretary John Stephenson on Monday. "And the time has come to make that decision."

Joint hosts Australia and New Zealand believe South Africa, who were readmitted to the ICC last July following the removal of the Republic's apartheid laws, can be accommodated alongside England, West Indies, Pakistan, India,

Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe without extending the five week Cup programme.

The West Indian and Pakistan cricket authorities have already voted against South Africa taking part, though West Indies have indicated they would not block the South African team's inclusion.

"Whatever decision is reached it is bound to please some, people and upset others," said Stephenson. "We have to do what we think is best for cricket."

C'wealth Games bid

African nations back KL

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 8: Fifteen of the 17 African countries in the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) strongly support Malaysia's bid to host the 1998 Commonwealth Games, local sports journalists reported last week, reports AFP.

Malaysian Youth and Sports Minister Annuar Musa told reporters on his return from the All-Africa Games in Cairo late Friday that Adelaide was Malaysia's main rival but had

not been doing much to bid for the Games.

Feedback gathered at the Pan-American Games in Cuba and the South Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea recently showed that Malaysia stood a very good chance of getting to host the Games, held once every four years, Annuar said.

Malaysia would hold its final promotion at the South Asian Games in Sri Lanka in December before submitting its offer to the CGF in January.

Bata handball

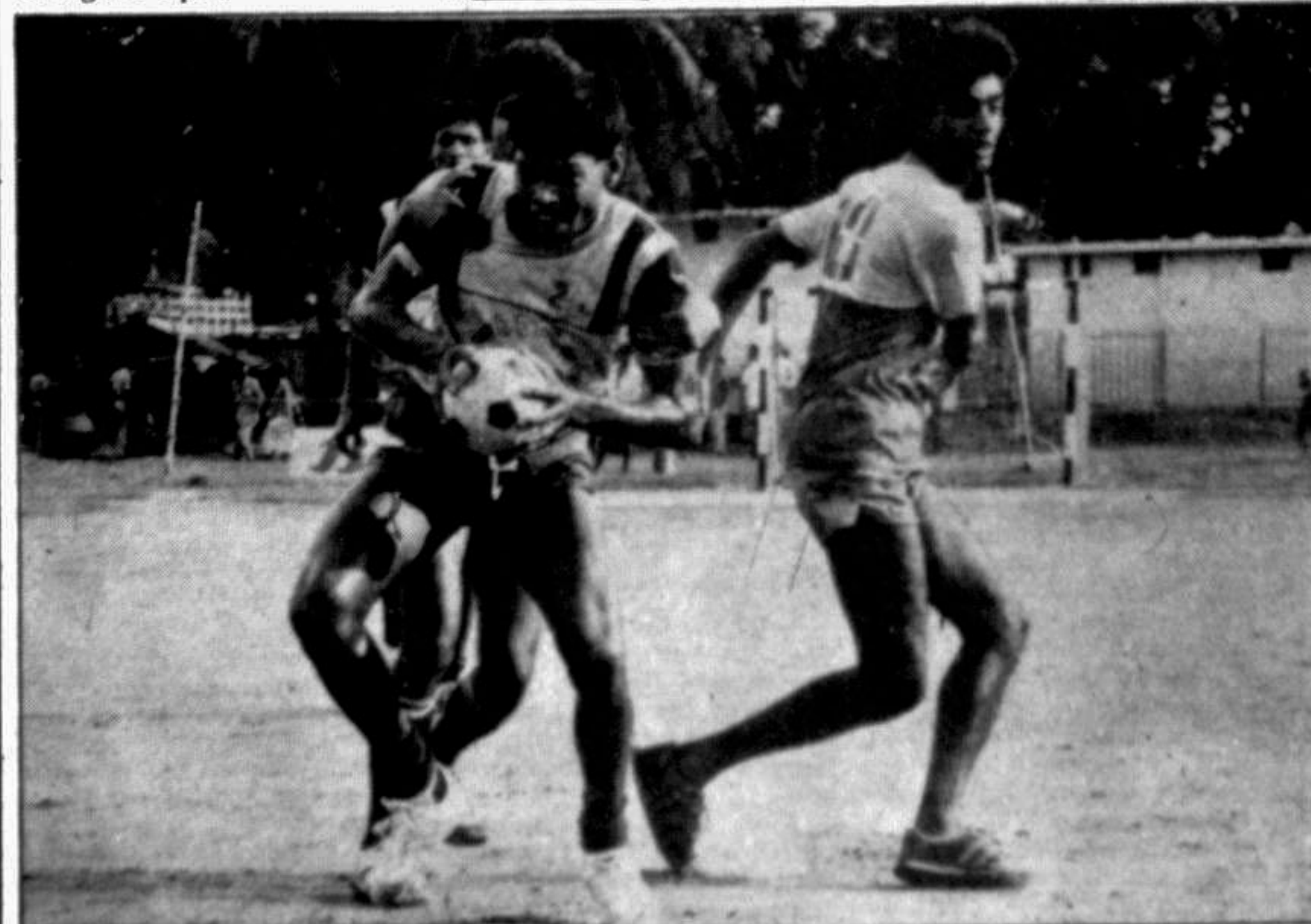
Sports Reporter

Shaheed Nabi High School beat Ansar and VDP High School by 18-17 goals in a keenly-contested match of the 4th Bata Schools handball tournament yesterday at the Outer Stadium handball court.

The winners trailed 6-12 in the first half.

Yousuf scored 6, Ariful 4 and Saidur 3 for the Shaheed Nabi School while Ripon netted 7, Delwar 4 and Zakir 3 for Ansar and VDP School.

Rahmatullah Model High School will take on Shaheed Smriti High School today at 3 pm while Loretto School will face KL Jubilee School and College at 4 pm.



Action from yesterday's Ansar and VDP School versus Shaheed Nabi High School match of the fourth Bata schools handball tournament at the Outer Stadium handball court. Shaheed Nabi won 18-17.

Go ahead for Gutteridge

LONDON, Oct 8: Pole vaulter Jeff Gutteridge, the only British international athlete to incur a life ban for failing a drugs test, has been given the go-ahead to compete again, reports Reuter.

The decision by the newly formed British Athletics Federation Council announced on Monday, will enable Gutteridge to make a comeback in the 1993 season.

The council have brought their penalties in line with those introduced by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) at their Congress in Tokyo in August.

Instead of banning athletes for life, they will now abide by the IAAF's four-year penalty for those caught taking steroids.

Under the new rule, Gutteridge would have been eligible to seek selection for next year's Barcelona Olympics but because he has not satisfied the IAAF requirement of being available for testing for one year he must wait until at least next October.

Gutteridge, silver medallist at the 1982 Commonwealth Games, in Brisbane, was banned after two tests taken during training in the Canary Islands revealed he had taken anabolic steroids. He lost an appeal against the suspension.

Jamil Afsar jr tennis champ

Jamil Martin Johnny clinched the title of the Afsar age-group (under-12) junior tennis championships beating Rumi 6-3, 6-4 in the final at the National Tennis Complex in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Seven players took part in the final round of the meet, organised by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation.

Nancarrow banned

CARDIFF, Oct 8: Tristan Nancarrow, the Australian world number eight, has been banned for six months for aggravated behaviour at the World Open.

Three months after a second investigation into his behaviour at the World Open squash tournament in Adelaide, reports Reuter.

Nancarrow was originally banned for six months by the International Squash Players Association (ISPA) for racket and verbal abuse plus 'aggravated behaviour' — the term used when players caused trouble on or off court during the Adelaide event in August.

This punishment was reduced to a one month ban plus a 500 pounds starting (865 dollars) fine after an appeal in which Nancarrow alleged that the ISPA had not followed correct procedures.

The new three month ban, announced on Monday, follows reconsideration by the ISPA board of the aggravated behaviour charge Nancarrow's suspension will start when the amended one-month ban ends on October 15.

Austic Adarraga, the Australian born Spanish number one, has also been banned for three months and fined 500 pounds for offences at the World Open.

Adarraga has appealed against his original suspension of one month for aggravated behaviour — also complaining that the ISPA had failed to adhere to correct disciplinary procedures — but the players board extended his ban to three months starting from November 1.

Both players will miss the Kiel Open in Germany in November plus December's World Cup in Dubai and the Dutch Open in Amsterdam three of the international circuit's top tournaments which

boost combined prize money of 335,000 dollars.

Another Australian Billy Haddrell, has been banned for six months for aggravated behaviour at the World Open.

Sydney hosts first marathon swimming in November

SYDNEY, Oct 8: The world's leading marathon swimmers will take to Sydney harbour next month for an inaugural 70,000 dollar (\$5,600 US) international marathon race, organisers announced here today, reports AFP.

The 30 kilometre (18.6 mile) event, which has attracted 28 swimmers from 11 countries, is part of a worldwide initiative to have marathon swimming included in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

The race on November 10 has confirmed entries from Argentina's three-time world champion Diego Degano and Claudio Pitt, England's Alison Streeter, the first woman to complete a triple crossing of the English Channel, Hungarian champion Rita Kovacs and Dutch World Open water champion Irene Van Der Laan.

There are also swimmers entered from Germany, Japan, USA, Canada, Italy and Egypt. The overseas swimmers will be matched with Australian champions David O'Brien, winner of this year's Capri to Naples race, and Shelly Taylor-Smith, winner of the first 25 kilometre (15.5 mile) race at last January's Pina World Championships in Perth, Australia.

Swimmers will be protected from sharks during the race by patrolling divers on underwater mechanised aquaprt aqua scooters.