

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 lie 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, Anta made an English opening move and by the 37th had taken one of Tahmidur'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 Gurishchi in only 30 moves of a Sicilian variation. Gurishchi now has five points after his ten games in the 15-round competition.

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 Ratan.

Shahinor Hossain vs Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury.

Rezaul Haq vs Shahabuddin Ahmed Gurishchi.

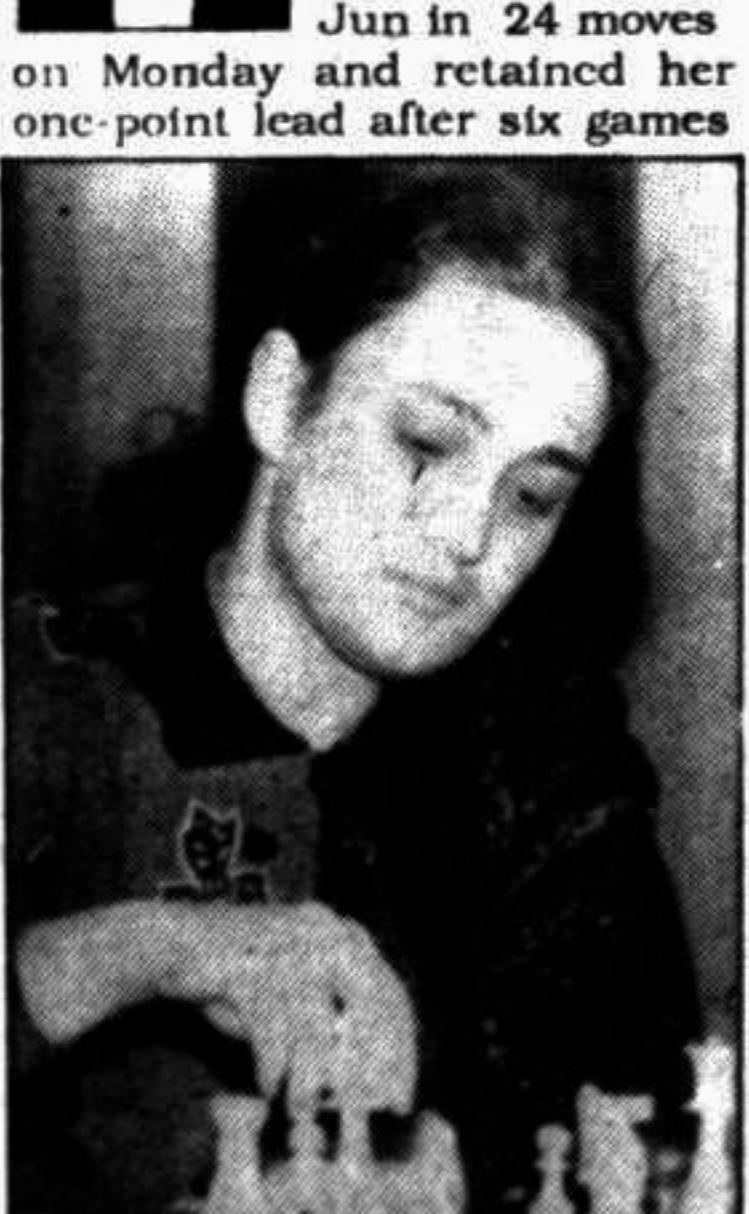
Younus Hassan vs Rani Hamid.

RIFFAT BIN SATTAR

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

Chiburdanidze retains lead

MANILA, Oct 8 : Soviet holder Maya Chiburdanidze drew with Chinese challenger Xie Jun in 24 moves on Monday and retained a 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. 0-0	BE7
6. BXC6	DXC6
7. D3	ND7
8. B3	0-0
9. BB2	F6
10. NC3	NC5
11. NE2	RF7
12. NH4	NE6
13. NF5	BF8
14. QD2	C5
15. F4	NXF4
16. NXF4	BXF5
17. EXF5	EXF4
18. QXF4	QD6
19. RAE1	QXF4
20. RXF4	RE7
21. RFE4	KF7
22. KF2	RD8
23. KF3	Q6
24. FXG6	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.

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 overs 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,

"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."

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

The West Indian and Pakistani 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.

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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.



Action from yesterday's Anzar 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.

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-heavyweight:

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," 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 Heltick who had appointed him, resigned.

Hybl, who resigned the

Edberg top money earner

MONTE CARLO, Oct 8 : Leading moneywinners in men's tennis issued by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) on

However, New South Wales Labour Council secretary Michael Easson said last week he was calling for a postponement of the 24-hour strike until after 25 members of the International Olympic Committee had left the city.

"I believe it is inappropriate for anyone to play politics with this issue or to score cheap political points," he told reporters.

"The labour movement in this state intends to show its maturity and responsibility by deferring this action."

No new date for a strike has been set.

Easson said the union movement fully supported the Olympics bid and would do nothing to harm Sydney's chances.

Officials of the Olympics bid said the strike would have had a dire effect on Sydney's chances of landing the Games.

Union leaders said earlier they expected most of the 900,000 workers in state and federal unions in New South Wales would join the strike.

The action would have closed schools and government departments and affected public transport, port operations, manufacturing and building.

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Jamil Afsar jr tennis champ

Jamil Matin Johnny clinched the title of the Afsar age-group (under-12) junior tennis championships, beating Rumit 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.