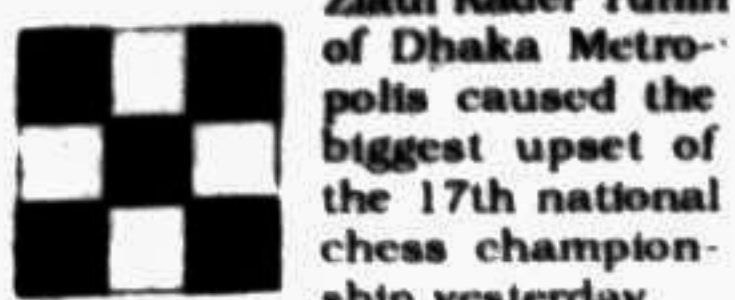


Tuhin spanner in Riffat march

Sports Reporter



Ziaul Kader Tuhin of Dhaka Metropolitan caused the biggest upset of the 17th national chess championship yesterday when he handed the hitherto unstoppable leader Riffat bin-Saitar of Bangladesh Biman his first defeat of the meet in the 11th round of the competition at the NSC chess room.

Just when it had appeared the current meet had lost all its charm after Riffat opened up a seemingly unbridgeable three point lead with just four more rounds to play, Tuhin suddenly chose to play the David to Riffat's Goliath and infused fresh interest in the title race by narrowing down the points margin between the leader and his nearest rival to a more surmountable two only.

Should Tuhin maintain his lately found form, and should Riffat falter again, it could indeed become a most absorbing tussle for the national champion's mantle between the two.

Until yesterday's mishap, Riffat had dropped only half a point, way back in the seventh round when Khandaker Kayes Hassan of Ansars had held him to a draw. Riffat now has 9.5 points out of 11, still very much clearly in the lead.

It was a gripping contest

between the two youngsters at the NSC chess room yesterday afternoon with Tuhin playing with white pieces and former national junior champion Riffat opting for a French defence.

Playing with a certain aggressiveness, Tuhin made his moves wisely and forced Riffat to resign after 42 moves.

The victory took Tuhin's tally to 7.5 points and left him the only undefeated player in the 16-strong field which includes two ladies. Tuhin has now won four and drawn seven of his 11 games against only one draw and a loss for Riffat.

A win for last year's runner-up Younus Hassan, a former national champion, against International Woman Master Rani Hamid yesterday boosted the Ansars player's position, placing him third in the table with seven points. It was the third consecutive defeat for the former national women's champion whose collection remains at 5.5 points.

Younus, playing black, adopted the Sicilian defence to force a decision on Rani in the 39th move.

Defending champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman shares the fourth position along with Dhaka Metropolitan players Anisur Rahman and Shahinoor Hossain. Tahmid was held to a draw by another former na-

tional champion Jamilur Rahman while Shahinoor Hossain, who was in second place behind Riffat at the end of Tuesday's tenth round with 6.5 points, suffered a costly defeat at the hands of Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury, his metropolitan teammate. Shamsul Kabir increased his points tally to 4.5.

Anisur Rahman drew with Sheikh Anwar Hossain of Dhaka DSA. Anwar now has 4.5 points.

It was another barren day for newcomer Sheikh Shahadat Hossain Ratna. The promising player from Bogra, who shone so well by topping the qualifiers for this year's nationals ahead of many established players, failed once again to reverse his run of defeats in the competition by going down to Khandaker Kayes Hassan of Ansars. Poor Ratna's collection remains a measly one point, accruing from two drawn encounters early in the meet.

Rezaul Haq of Biman yet again ran foul of the clock and forfeited his match against Shahabuddin Ahmed Qureshi of Sylhet by failing once again to make the necessary number of moves within the stipulated time. Reza has only three points to Shahabuddin Qureshi's six.

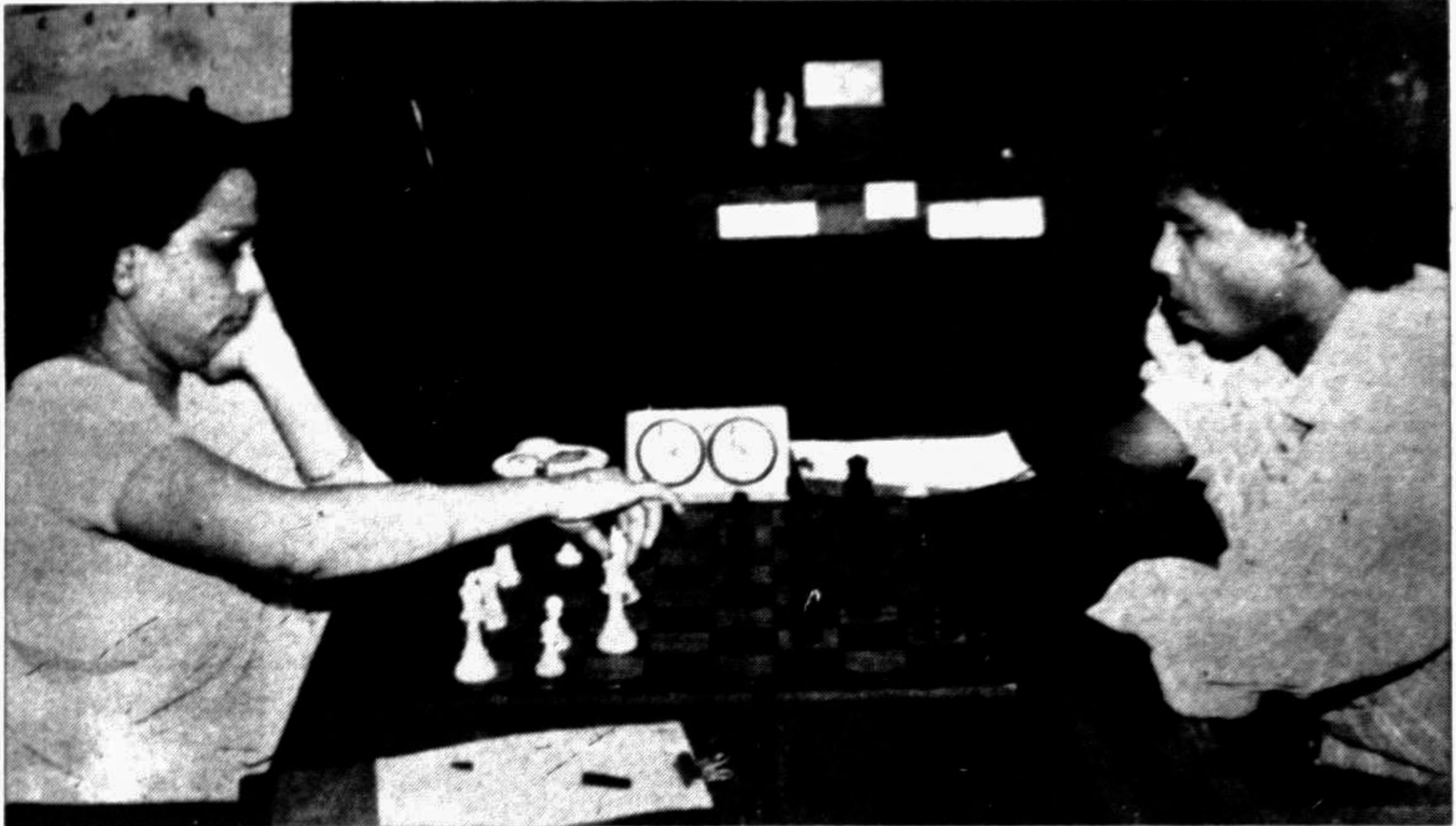
Faridpur girl Shabana Parveen Nipa drew her match against Mainuddin Mamoon of Dhaka Metropolitan, leaving both players on 4.5 points.

Last night's result, while boosting Tuhin's morale and giving him more confidence will also, no doubt, make Riffat more cautious and strengthen his resolve to reach the goal — that of the championship title — which until the eventful eleventh round looked all his for the taking. Unless Riffat panics, the odds against him being pipped to the post are indeed still rather high.

Yet everyone following this year's championship keenly will no doubt want to see more fireworks and a really thrilling run till the very final fifteenth round.

TODAY'S MATCHES

- Riffat-bin-Saitar vs Shabana Parveen Nipa
- Younus Hassan vs Ziaul Kader Tuhin
- Jamilur Rahman vs Sheikh Anwar Hossain
- Syed Tahmidur Rahman vs Mainuddin Mamoon
- Rezaul Haq vs Rani Hamid
- Shahinoor Hossain vs Shahabuddin Ahmed Qureshi
- Khandaker Kayes Hassan vs Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury
- Anisur Rahman vs Sheikh Shahadat Hossain Ratna



International Woman Master Rani Hamid (L), who suffered her third consecutive defeat in the 17th national championship yesterday, makes a move during her 11th round match against Younus Hassan (R) — last year's runner-up — at the NSC chess room.

ICC decision delayed

LONDON, Oct 9: A decision by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on whether to include South Africa in next year's World Cup has been delayed, reports Reuters.

ICC chairman Colin Cowdrey was due to announce the verdict on Friday, but plans for a press conference were postponed on Thursday following what ICC secretary John Stephenson described as "a new turn of events."

Stephenson refused to go into details, but one reason for the delay may be that one or more countries are concerned at a decision being made without holding a vote.

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 without extending the five-week Cup programme in February and March.

But India said on Tuesday they were loath to back South Africa's late inclusion and both the West Indian and Pakistani cricket authorities have voted against South Africa taking part, although West Indies have indicated they would not block their inclusion.

The South African plea for inclusion is backed by the African National Congress (ANC) leader, Nelson Mandela.

All Blacks in quarter-finals

GLOUCESTER, England, Oct 9: World Cup rugby holders New Zealand clinched their place in the quarter-finals with a comfortable 46-6 victory over the United States in pool one here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

The All Blacks, who won their opening match against England last week, scored eight tries.

Arsenal buy Liverpool reject

LONDON, Oct 9: Liverpool winger Jimmy Carter signed for English league champions Arsenal for an estimated 500,000 pounds sterling (\$865,000 dollars) on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

The move will further intensify competition for places among forward players at Arsenal, who recently signed England striker Ian Wright from Crystal Palace for 2.5 million pounds (4.35 million dollars).

An earlier report said: Arsenal manager George Graham took another dip in the transfer market on Tuesday to sign Liverpool's Jimmy Carter for 500,000 pounds.

The homesick winger moves back to London only two weeks after Arsenal paid Crystal Palace 2.5 million pounds for England striker Ian Wright. And Carter joins the Football League's most over-manned strike force.

Graham has also agreed to pay 500,000 pounds for Norwegian defender Pal Lydersen. That depends on Lydersen getting a British work permit though.

Carter, 25, only moved to Liverpool from Millwall in January. But he has been unable to get a regular first team place and his prospects were not improved by the arrival of Mark Walters this season.

"It is a dream come true. Arsenal are the club I have always wanted to play for," said Carter. "I was born just around

Fresh itinerary to include Springboks being prepared

SYDNEY, Oct 9: A special 39-match programme is being prepared to accommodate South Africa if they get a late invitation this week to compete in next year's cricket World Cup, organisers said here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Speaking at the launch of the Australian 1991-92 cricket season, World Cup committee joint chairman Malcolm Gray said a new itinerary would be available "within a matter of days", of a decision by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to include South Africa.

Reports from London say ICC chairman Colin Cowdrey is expected to announce his verdict on Friday after giving the eight competing nations a last chance to comment.

The organising committee has already framed a 31-match draw incorporating limited-day matches for Pakistan, India, England, New Zealand, West Indies, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and defending champions Australia for the February 22-March 25 World Cup.

"The committee has undertaken a feasibility study should such an eventuality occur," said Gray. "We can increase the number of matches to 39 should South Africa be invited and that decision could be made within a matter of days after the decision."

The ICC decision is imminent following its consideration of reports by each of the cricket-playing nations on whether to admit South Africa to the World Cup as the Republic dismantles the apartheid structures.

Reports overnight from New Delhi quoted Board of Control for Cricket in India President Madhavrao Scindia as advising ICC chairman Cowdrey by letter against hurrying into a decision to include South Africa in the World Cup.

While West Indies' Cricket Board secretary Steve Camacho has been reported as saying his nation's objections to South Africa's re-admittance to the ICC and to its participation in the World Cup were procedural rather than political.

"This issue had nothing to do with politics and everything to do with cricket," Camacho was quoted as telling a South African newspaper.

"South Africa is a de facto member of the ICC and we are very pleased that they are back in the family of cricketing nations."

Organisers Wednesday announced that next year's fifth World Cup would be worth 50,000 dollars (39,560 US dollars) to the winning team with 25,000 dollars (19,800 US dollars) to the runners-up in the March 25 final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

As part of the forthcoming season, Australia will play a five-Test series against India and in a World Series Cup triangular one-day series from December 6-January 22 with India and the West Indies leading up to the World Cup.

David Richards, the Australian Cricket Board's (ACB) chief executive, said at the launch that the three-year ICC rule experimentation of one short pitched ball per batsman per over had become effective on October 1 this year. He said a minimum 90

overs in a Test day would be enforced through lines.

Playing conditions stipulate that for each over short of the daily target, five per cent of the match fees of each player from the offending team will be deducted.

Richards said the new ICC code of conduct will be administered by appointed independent match referees, former England captains, Mike Smith and Peter May, who will share duties in the Australia-India Tests.

India arrive in Perth on November 11 with their first tour match, a one-day, scheduled four days later against an ACB chairman's XI at Lilac Hill.

International rowing today

The first international rowing competition and the 15th national boat race begin on River Buriganga near the Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge today.

The chairman of the organising committee of the International Rowing Agriculture, Flood Control and Irrigation Minister Major General Majedul Huq, will inaugurate the competition, at 11 am.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas is likely to be the chief guest at the closing ceremony and distribute the prizes among the winners at 4 in the afternoon.

Rowing teams from India and Myanmar (Burma) are already in the city to take part in the international meet, first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Thirty boats from different parts of the country will participate in the national boat race, also to start in the morning.

Bata handball

Sports Reporter

Shaheed Smriti High School recorded a big 20-2 goals victory over Rahmatullah Model High School in the fourth Bata school handball tournament match yesterday at the Outer Stadium handball court.

The winners led 11-2 at the breather.

Altaf topscored with twelve goals followed by Aftab with six goals.

The day's other match, K L Jubilee School received walkover when Loretto School failed to turn-up at the scheduled time.

India loath to back S Africa

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: India are loath to back South Africa's late inclusion in next year's cricket World Cup, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) sources said on Tuesday.

The Indian cricket board proposed South Africa's readmission to the International Cricket Council (ICC) as a Test-playing nation three months ago.

But the sources quoted BCCI president Madhavrao Scindia as advising ICC chairman Colin Cowdrey, in a letter sent last weekend, against hurrying into a decision to include South Africa as a ninth team in the World Cup.

Cowdrey is expected to announce the decision this week.

The South African plea for inclusion is backed by the African National Congress (ANC) leader, Nelson Mandela.

The World Cup is being hosted next February and March by Australia and New Zealand who have both already announced their willingness to accommodate South Africa.

Kiwis win big

ADELAIDE, Oct 9: New Zealand beat South Australia by seven wickets in a one-day 50 overs cricket match on Wednesday.

Scores: South Australia 166 for seven — 50 overs (T. May 54 not out, T. Nielsen 54). New Zealand 168 for three — 42.2 overs (M. Greatbatch 80, A. Jones 58 not out).

Border sees way around bouncer laws for Indian series

MELBOURNE, Oct 9: Captain Allan Border believes Australia can work around the new restrictive bouncer law for this summer's Test series against India.

The International Cricket Council introduced a three-year experimental law which took effect on October 1 limiting bowler to only one bouncer per batsman during an over.

The Australian camp believes many Indian batsmen have a weakness against the short rising ball and Border said here Wednesday that the Australians should be able to work around the law for the series, beginning in Brisbane on November 29.

"I can understand the theory behind it, but I don't like the actual legislation," border said.

"If you're bowling to a class player, sometimes you want to get up him a little hit more than one bouncer per over."

"I think the umpires should be strong enough to step in if the short ball is being over-used and I'm not for the actual legislation," he said.

The West Indians and their battery of pacemen have been blamed for the proliferation of bouncers in recent times and Border said this method would also work for his side.

It's the fast bowler's major weapon and (the new rule) will hamstring him a little hit, but

over Australia's Mark Woodforde.

The only seed to fall on the day was South African Wayne Ferreira, who claimed the notable scalp of Ivan Lendl at the Australian indoor championship in Sydney last week. Ferreira, seeded 14th, went down 7-6, 6-4 to American Jeff Tarango.

Agassi's 65-minute match looked very even until he broke Herrera's serve in the 12th game with brilliant forehand passing shot. He had no further problems.

"I was pretty lucky to win the first set. I think he looked a little bit tired and I took advantage," Agassi said.

For the 21-year-old American, the main difficulty was concentrating, with three matches on adjacent courts simultaneously.

"It was a little different for me to get used to," he said. Chang, seeded eighth, came up with some superb backhand topspin lobs when Woodforde dashed to the net.

"I think it was a good match for me. I think the first set took him a lot of time to get used to everything," the former French Open champion said.

Seeds sail smoothly in Tokyo

TOKYO, Oct 9: Boris Becker of Germany, emerged in triumph from a five-week injury lay-off to beat Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden in the second round of the one-million dollar, Seiko Super men's tennis tournament here Wednesday, reports agencies.

The second-seeded German, playing his first match since a third-round defeat in the US Open due to a pulled thigh muscle and back injury, showed no ill effects on his way to a 6-2, 6-4 win.

"I could not almost walk for two weeks after the US Open," said the 23-year-old Berman, who skipped the Australian indoor championships in Sydney last week.

"I needed one more week to get everything well, to practice and play myself into good shape," added the Australian Open champion.

His rivals, world number one Stefan Edberg of Sweden and Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, also coasted to comfortable second round victories, while 11th-seeded Todd Woodbridge of Australia went down to Gianluca Pozzi of Italy 6-7 (0/7), 3-6.

Top-seeded Edberg, fresh from victories in the US Open and in Sydney, outgunned David Pate of the United States 6-2, 6-4, while defending champion Lendl, third seed, brushed aside another American, Scott Davis, 6-2, 6-3.

In the third round, Edberg will play 15th seed Frederic Fontang of France, who eliminated Gary Muller of South Africa 7-6 (7/3), 6-4.

Lendl will take on 13th-seeded Wally Masur of Australia, who beat Glenn Michibata of Canada 6-0, 6-3.

In other matches, fifth-seeded David Wheaton edged past Jim Grabb 7-6 (7/2), 3-6, 6-2 in an all-American match, while sixth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Yugoslavia breezed past Dimitri Poliakov of the Soviet Union 6-4, 6-2.

Becker, who became number one in the world twice this year, returned to the sport in

devastating form, winning the first four games in a row against Gunnarsson.

The 69th-ranked Swede, who had to concentrate on his serve more than ever and fired four consecutive service winners to hold the fifth, converted his first break point in the following game to trail 2-4.

But it turned out to be his final break opportunity throughout the match.

Although the Swede served well in the second set, the German never gave him a chance, allowing Gunnarsson to take only three points on Becker's service games.

Becker scored the only break in the ninth game after a deuce and then completed the 62-minute match with a service winner.

"I didn't play a tournament match for five weeks. To win 6-2, 6-4 in the first match, I didn't expect that," he said.

"He started to serve better, but I also served better. He had a tough time to win points on my serve and it was always close on his serve," added Becker, who fired 17 aces and four service winners.

In the third round Thursday, the German plays either 16th seed Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan or Robbie Weiss of the United States, who will face each other later

Graf, Sabatini advance in Zurich

ZURICH, Oct 9: Top seeds Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini advanced with straight-set victories yesterday in the opening round of the 350,000 dollars BMW European Indoors championship.

Defending champion Graf, the tournament's top seed, took care of Eva Pfaff, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4), while second-seeded Sabatini struggled in her match Eugenia Maniokova, 6-3, 7-5.

In other first-round matches, Helena Sukova, the fifth seed, easily beat Ginger Helgesson, 6-2, 6-3, Gigi Fernandez outlasted Emanuela Zardo, 6-3, 7-6, and Americans Lori McNeill and Pam Shriver each advanced.

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Walter Masemola, a 16-year-old pace bowler from Johannesburg and 17-year-old left arm allrounder Leslie Duiker of Bloemfontein will be under the guidance of head academy coach and former Australian Test wicketkeeper Rod Marsh.

The pair were selected for the Australian visit from a coaching clinic for 70 young black South Africans conducted by former West Indian captain Clive Lloyd.

They will train with the academy until November 7, during which time they will be accompanied by African National Congress (ANC) member Ngconde Balfour.

Marsh said Wednesday the teenagers will be treated the same as all other scholarship holders, who generally develop into first class Sheffield Shield cricketers.

SA boys at AIS

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ALLAN BORDER

78 although its last series here was six years ago.

Of the 45 Tests between the two countries since 1947, Australia has won 20, lost eight, drawn 16 with one tied.

"We will be up against it this summer with their batting, but

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Perez climbs up the ladder

INGLEWOOD, California, Oct 9: Mexico's Raul Perez stepped up a division to win the WBA junior featherweight title here Monday with a split decision over Colombia's Luis Mendoza, reports AFP.

Perez, who lost his WBC bantamweight title to American Greg Haugen in February, took the initiative from the start. Mendoza, defending for the fifth time, was always troubled by the Mexican's left jab but was never in danger of a knock-down.

Two judges scored the fight 115-114 and 116-114 for Perez's 48th win while the third had the Colombian winning easily by 117-11.

"I was robbed. I won every round from the seventh onwards," Mendoza said after his third defeat in 37 fights.

Another English date for Jackson

BIRMINGHAM, England, Oct 9: American John David Jackson puts his World Boxing Organisation light-midweight title on the line for a second time in England here next month, reports AFP.

He takes on British champion Wally Swift in his home town a year after defending successfully against Chris Pyatt at his base.

The fight is provisionally scheduled to take place on November 30, but the date has yet to be finalised.

Swift said: "This will be a dream come true for me."

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STEFAN EDBERG

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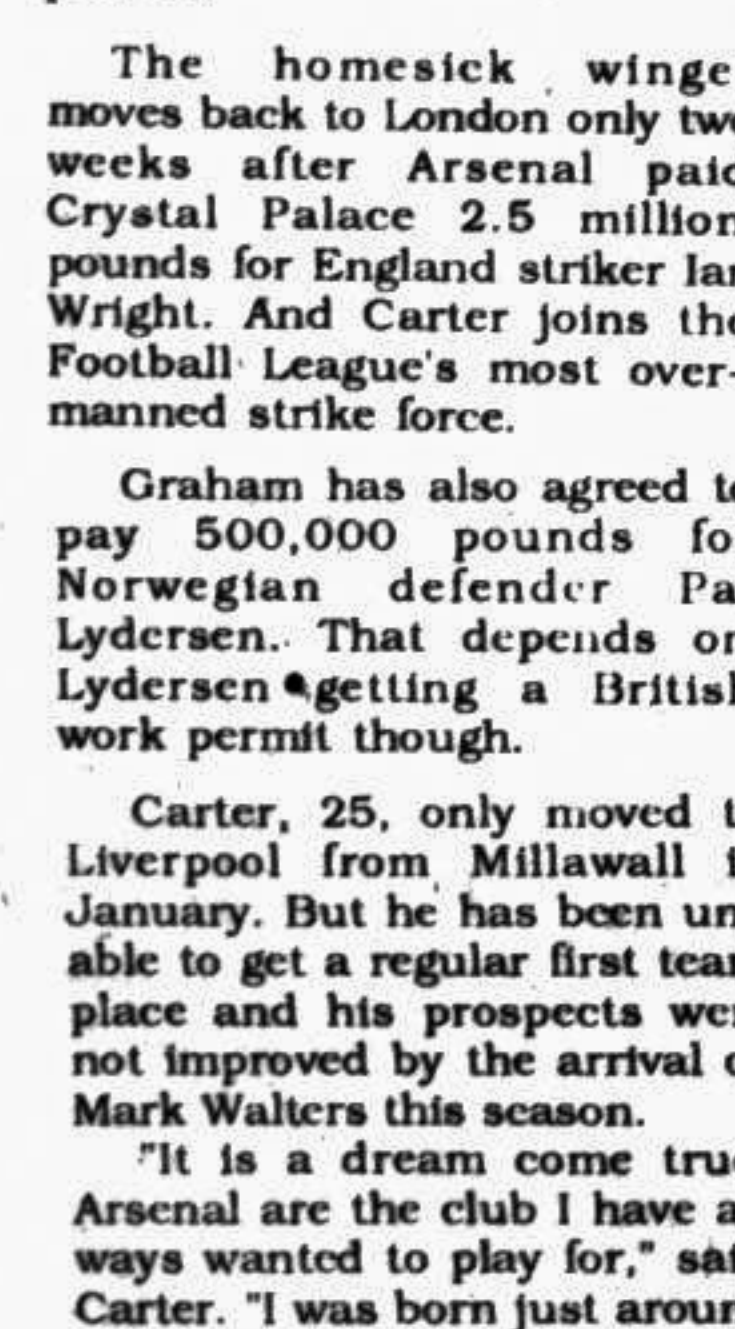
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Wanderers goalkeeper Arun dives to thwart an onrushing Mohammedan winger Reaz in yesterday's Fed Cup Group A robin league match at Dhaka Stadium.

— Star photo