

Riffat needs only a draw

Sports Reporter

The 15th and final round of the 17th national chess championship begins at the NSC chess room this afternoon with two players out of the 16 participants still in with a chance of clinching the title.

Bitman's former national junior champion Riffat bin-Sattar led the field with 11 points after 14 rounds completed on Saturday. Yesterday was a rest day.

Riffat is closely followed by Ziaul Kader Tuhin of Dhaka Metropolis who has ten points from his 14 games. Riffat needs only a draw against Dhaka Metro's Anisur Rahman in his final game today to dethrone last year's champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman. But should Riffat lose, and should Tuhin manage to beat his last opponent Khandaker Kayes Hassan of Bangladesh Ansars,

then Tuhin with 11 points would tie Riffat on points but, under the Buschowitz tie-breaking method, he is deemed the champion by virtue of his having beaten Riffat in their 11th round clash last week. Moreover, Tuhin would then finish the championship unbeaten — he has won six and drawn eight of his 14 matches. On the other hand Riffat, who has been in the lead throughout the duration of the competition and at one stage threatened to settle the issue as a runaway winner until his first loss in the 11th round, has suffered two defeats in succession. He lost his 12th round match to Shabana Parveen Nipa of Faridpur the day after suffering his maiden loss to Tuhin.

Riffat's Bitman teammate Tahmidur Rahman the defending champion, is tied in third position with Anisur Rahman, both having collected 8.5

points each. In two adjourned matches played at the NSC yesterday, Khandaker Kayes Hassan of Ansars beat former national women's champion and International Woman Master Rani Hamid of Biman while last year's runner-up Younus Hasan of Ansars split with Shabana Parveen Nipa of Faridpur.

Chiburdanidze ploy backfires

MANILA, Oct 13: Chinese challenger Xie Jun squeezed out a win in 56 moves against Soviet holder Maya Chiburdanidze on Saturday to level their battle for the women's World Chess title halfway through the 16-game series, reports Reuter.

Xie exploited listless play by Chiburdanidze, who, analysts said, tried to stick to the strategy she used to win Game Four.

Playing black, Xie seized control on the 24th move but had to overcome stubborn defence before forcing the victory.

The Chinese player is seeking to end six decades of Soviet dominance over the women's chess title.

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

Chiburdanidze retains the title in the event of an 8-8 tie.

Game Nine will be played on Monday. Following is the move by move account of Game Eight.

Chiburdanidze (white) Xie (black)

- 3. bb5
- 4. ba 4
- 5. 0-0
- 6. rc 1
- 7. bb 3
- 8. d3
- 9. e3
- 10. b c 2
- 11. nb d 2
- 12. nf 1



XIE JUN

13. h3

14. ng 3

15. nf 5

16. nx e 7

17. a 4

bb 7

bf 8

ne 7

bx e 7

b8

18. bg5

19. bh 4

20. d4

21. d X e 5

22. qe 2

23. red 1

24. nh 2

25. c X b 4

26. nf 3

27. b X e 7

28. g 3

29. kh 2

30. ra 3

31. re 3

32. qf 1

33. rb 1

34. qb 1

35. b 3

a 6

nf 6

bc 7

bb 5

0-0

d 6

na 5

c 5

re 8

nc 6

h6

bc 7

qe 7

d X e 5

c 4

qe 5

b 4

q X b 4

nh 5

q X e 7

qe 6

nf 6

a 5

bc 8

rb 8

ba 6

rb 4

reb 8

nd 7

q X e 4

a X b 4

qb 3

a X d 1

18. bg5

19. bh 4

20. d4

21. d X e 5

22. qe 2

23. red 1

24. nh 2

25. c X b 4

26. nf 3

27. b X e 7

28. g 3

29. kh 2

30. ra 3

31. re 3

32. qf 1

33. rb 1

34. qb 1

35. b 3

36. b X e 4

37. reb 3

38. r X b 4

39. bb 3

40. q d 1

41. r X d 1

42. rb 1

43. rb 2

44. n X e 5

45. r X b 3

46. rb 2

47. nd 3

48. g 4

49. nc 5

50. ne 4

51. ng 3

52. ne 2

53. nc 3

54. rb 1

55. kg 1

56. kf 1

57. Resigns.

58. Resigns.

59. Resigns.

60. Resigns.

61. Resigns.

62. Resigns.

63. Resigns.

64. Resigns.

65. Resigns.

66. Resigns.

67. Resigns.

68. Resigns.

69. Resigns.

70. Resigns.

71. Resigns.

72. Resigns.

73. Resigns.

74. Resigns.

75. Resigns.

76. Resigns.

77. Resigns.

78. Resigns.

79. Resigns.

80. Resigns.

81. Resigns.

82. Resigns.

83. Resigns.

Edberg keeps Seiko crown

TOKYO, Oct 13: Stefan Edberg fought off another barrage of service aces Sunday to win his third tournament in a row, beating giant-killer Derrick Rostagno 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 in the final of the dollar one million Seiko Super tennis tournament, reports AP.

Rostagno, who reached the final by beating Boris Becker of Germany and Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, slammed in 12 aces against one by Edberg, the world's No 1-ranked player.

But a couple of volley errors when he was serving at 2-3 in the deciding set ended his streak. Edberg thus added the Seiko title to his triumph last week in the Australian Indoor Open and his US Open championship in early September.

On Saturday, Goran Ivanisevic of Yugoslavia bombarded Edberg with 21 aces before the Swede prevailed 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 7-5.

Against No 7-seeded Rostagno of the United States, Edberg broke service in the fourth game after three deuces, was broken himself on a double fault, and then broke

again in the sixth game after two deuces. Rostagno started the second set with three aces in the

Edberg broke again in the eighth game to wrap up the 96-minute match on the artificial court of the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

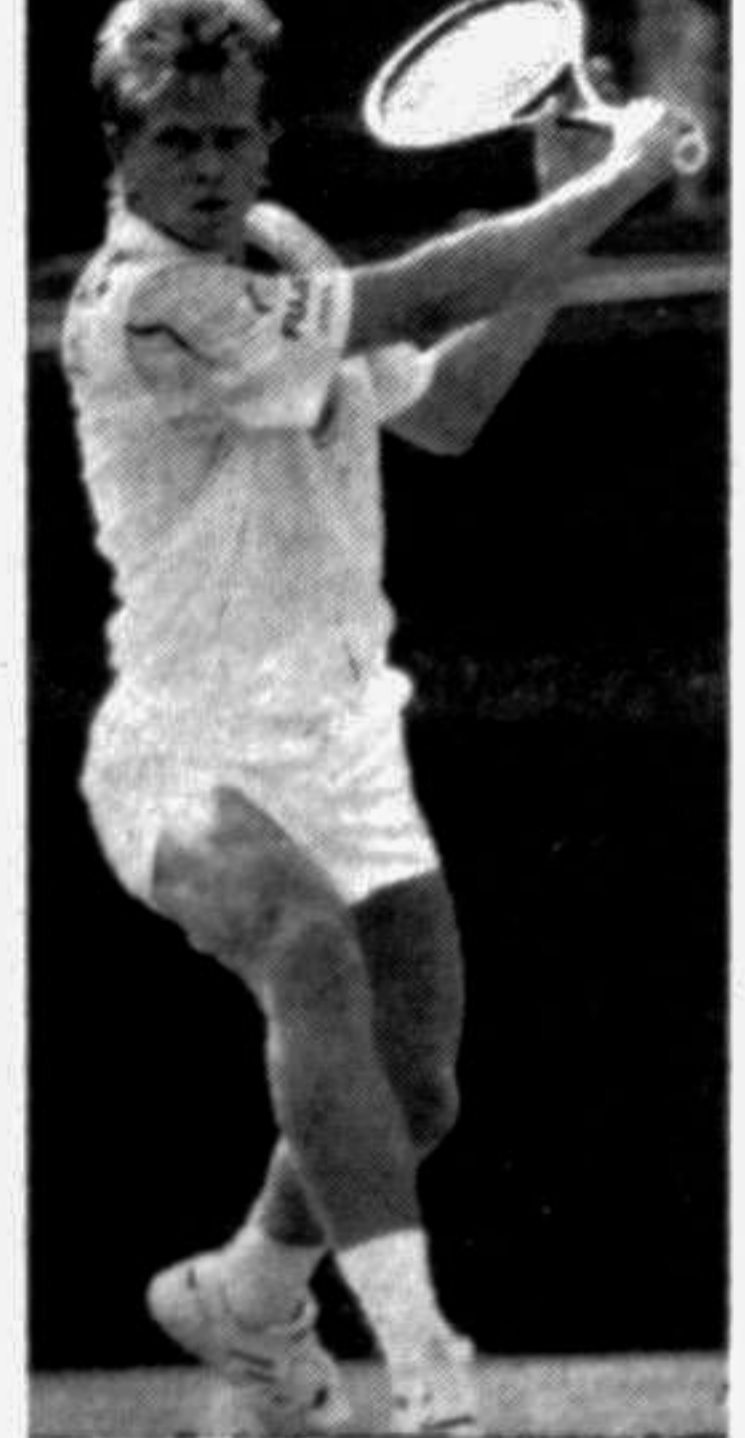
"I think the US Open did a lot for my confidence, really believing in myself," Edberg said. "I played great tennis and just kept playing good tennis and very solid tennis."

He added that he also was having "a little bit of luck." Rostagno said of his week: "I really shouldn't complain."

Edberg reached the finals by beating American David Pate 6-2, 6-4, Frederic Fontang of France 6-2, 7-5, eighth-seeded Michael Chang of the United States 6-2, 6-2 and sixth-seeded Ivanisevic 4-6, 7-6, 7-5.

The unseeded pair of Jim Grabb and Richey Reneberg defeated top-seeded fellow Americans Scott Davis and David Pate 7-5, 2-6, 7-6 (7-3) for the men's doubles title.

Edberg, the Swedish champ who came to Japan after winning the Australian Indoor Open Tennis Championships last Sunday, received dollars 122,700 for his sixth victory of the season and Rostagno pocketed dls 66,000.



STEFAN EDBERG

Men's Olympic qualifiers begin today

Germans, Kiwis win in Auckland

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Oct 13: Franziska Hentschel scored on a penalty corner 22 minutes into the game Sunday, leading Germany past South Korea 1-0 in a women's field hockey Olympic qualifying match, reports AP.

Hentschel's goal was her fifth in two matches. She scored all four German goals in a shutout victory Saturday over the United States.

AFP adds: The New Zealand women celebrated their second Olympic qualifying hurdle today when they posted a 2-0 win over France.

New Zealand beat Japan 1-0 in their opening pool match yesterday.

They were slow to get going today but found their form in the second half when they scored two brilliant field goals after missing opportunities in the first half.

After a couple of early probes into the goal circle in the second half, New Zealand had a goal disallowed in the 50th minute for shepherding. They again found the back of the net in the 55th minute from a penalty corner, only to have the shot ruled too high.

Bell, New Zealand's most incisive forward, finally broke

the drought when she dribbled past three defenders and beat the goalkeeper.

She later sent a perfect cross into the goal circle and Anna Lawrence drove home from close range.

New Zealand were rarely pressured in defence. They were favoured in the penalty count 12-4, allowing the French just one penalty corner in the second half.

Germany and New Zealand

New tour planned?

PARIS, Oct 13 ATP Tour officials declined comment Thursday night on reported plans to restructure the men's professional tennis circuit and sharply increase the prominence of certain events, reports AP.

According to the French sports daily L'Equipe, the ATP Tour will designate nine events, along with the four Grand Slams, to constitute a super series that will produce a No 1 player at the end of the season.

Anna Legnani, a spokesman for the ATP Tour office in Monaco, said she knew of no major imminent announcements and would not confirm

head Pool A and have a vital match Wednesday against each other.

In other matches Sunday, Canada edged Ireland 3-2 for its second victory in two days, China beat Italy 4-2, Argentina shut out Britain 2-0 and Japan, with goals by Hisayo Takahashi and Akiko.

The women are idle on Monday, when the men's qualifying tournament, headlined by India, New Zealand and the Soviet Union, begins.

The French press said that the new series will be made public at the ATP Tour World Championship in Frankfurt, Germany, in November.

The nine tournaments would be worth more money, reports AP.

SHEFFIELD, England, Oct 13: England's men and women beat Japan in the second and final badminton international in Sheffield on Tuesday, reports AP.

England's men won at Birmingham on Monday 3-2, and the women 4-1. On Tuesday the men won 4-1 and women 3-2.



Khandaker Kayes Hassan (L) defeated IWM Rani Hamid of Biman (R) in their adjourned 14th round match held last evening at National Sports Council's chess room.

Graf, Tauziat in Zurich final

ZURICH, Switzerland, Oct 13: Top-seeded Steffi Graf of Germany said she played persistent wrist inflammation and pain but still beat fifth-seeded Helena Sukova 6-4, 6-3 to reach the final of the dls 350,000 European Indoors, reports AP.

Graf will face in Sunday's final Frenchwoman Nathalie Tauziat, who had a slightly more difficult time overcoming fourth-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-5).

Sukova, who defeated her third-seeded Czechoslovak compatriot Jana Novotna in the quarterfinals, crumbled under relentless pressure from 22-year-old Graf in their 64-minute match.

Despite the pain and inflammation, Graf said it would not prevent her from playing on Sunday. However, she said she will take two weeks off from competition after the Zurich final.

For Tauziat it was her second upset in as many days after ousting No 2-seed Gabriela Sabatini in the quarterfinals.

Maleeva-Fragniere, a native Bulgarian, seemed rattled by several contested line calls in the first set.

In a baseline duel, the world's No 10 missed several easy chances and never managed to impose her game against the more consistent 23-year-old Frenchwoman.

Korca pips Jarryd

BERLIN, Oct 13: Fourth-seeded Petr Korca of Czechoslovakia defeated seventh-seeded Anders Jarryd 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 and Arnaud Boetsch of France beat Germany's Patrik Kuehnen 6-2, 6-3, Saturday in the semifinals of the dollars 300,000 Berlin Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

Boetsch, 22, alternated his play with slow, top-spinning volleys and hard passing shots to down the likewise unseeded German. Kuehnen, a former German Davis Cup team player, could not recover after Boetsch got an early break to lead 3-1 in the first set.

Boetsch, who has never won a major tournament, needed just an hour and five minutes to defeat Kuehnen.

In the other match, Korca had no trouble controlling Jarryd in the first set, but starting missing in the second, allowing the Swede to win the set easily.

Beijing marathon

BEIJING, Oct 13: Negash Dube of Ethiopia defeated Japan's Taisuke Kodama by 11 seconds Sunday to win men's title in the Beijing International marathon, reports AP.

Deborah Noy of Britain won the women's division in 2:36:18. China's Li Yemei was second in 2:36:52 and Jill Costley of New Zealand third in 2:37:38, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Dube finished in 2 hours, 12 minutes, 54 seconds. Kodama was second in 2:13:05 and Cai Shangyan of China third in 2:13:49, Xinhua said.

BAF handball

CHITTAGONG, Oct 13: BAF Base Zahurul Haque team defeated BAF Base Matur Rahman team 16-8 in a qualifying match of Bangladesh Air Force annual handball championship held at the BAF Base Zahurul Haque here this morning, reports BSS.

BAF Base Bashar defeated Air Headquarters Unit 12-0 in another match played on Saturday afternoon.

TT league from tomorrow

The AB Bank Metropolis table tennis league, organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF), begins tomorrow, Tuesday, at the National Coaching Centre.

On the opening day Tuesday, defending champions Armanitola JS will take on newcomers Renaissance Club, Village Defence Party (VDP) will meet Paschim Jatrabari, Young Boys Club face Bangladesh Bank Club and Bangladesh Biman take on Purbachal Parishad. All these matches are scheduled for a simultaneous start at 4:00 pm.

Matches will be played on a best-of-five sets of four singles and a doubles on the new Swathling league system.

Arab, Bangladesh Bank Limited, sponsoring the league for the second time, will bear the total expense of the league amounting to Taka seventy thousand.

Twenty-eight city teams, divided into four groups of seven teams each will participate in the first phase of the league which will conclude on October 31. There are nine fresh teams in this year's league.

The participating teams are: Group A: Armanitola JS, Village Defence Party (VDP), Young Boys, Ajax SC, Bangladesh Bank Club, West Jatrabari and Renaissance.

Group B: Bangladesh Biman, Young Stars, Swamibagh TTS,

Pallima Sangsad, Kalpa Taru Club, Kasaitully and Purbachal Parishad.

Group C: Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), Armanitola Juniors, Young Pegasus, Victoria SC, Dhaka Medical College, Combined SC and Swamibagh Boys.

Group D: Bangladesh Ansar, Wari Club, Brothers Union, NMS, Lalmatia Club, Cynthia Sporting and Dhaka Mariners Youngs Club.

Eight teams made up of the two top teams from each of the four groups will qualify for the super league.

The league championship will be decided on the points earned in the super league. The points of first phase will not count in the super league.

Two foreign players will be permitted to play for a team in the league after due approval from the BTTF and clearance

of the player's national federation.

Addressing a press conference at the National Sports Council yesterday evening, president of the BTTF Syed Yusuf Hossain said his federation would organise a junior league either late this year or early next year.

He also said the federation was planning to supply table tennis gear to at least five schools within this year.

The press briefing was also attended by Kazi Moinuzzaman Pila, the BTTF Secretary, Ishtiaque Ahmed Karen and Alauddin Ahmed, Vice President of AB Bank Limited.

Paschim Jatrabari, Renaissance Club, Pallima Sangsad, Kalpa Taru, Kasaitully, Dhaka Medical College, Swamibagh Boys, NMS and Lalmatia Club are the new entrants in this year's league.

India to take part in Asian T&F meet

NEW DELHI, Oct 13: The Amateur Athletic Federation of India (AAFI) yesterday decided to send its full contingent of 30 athletes to the ninth Asian Track and Field Championships to be held at Kuala Lumpur from October 19 to 23, reports PTI.

The AAFI president, Mr Suresh Kalmadi, said the federation would bear the full cost of the contingent which attained the qualifying mark laid down by the selection committee of the federation.

Mr Kalmadi, MP, said the four members originally cleared by the government did not include top athletes like Shiny Wilson, Ashwini Nachappa, K Saramma and it would be 'unimaginable' on the part of the federation not to send these athletes who have brought glory to India in earlier international meets.

The AAFI chief said at a time when Indian athletes needed maximum exposure and encouragement they should not be denied and opportunity like this.

The selection trials held yesterday, the 4X400m relay team of B Bajju, PV Raju, DK Malviya and Arjun Deviah clocked only 3:09.59 against the qualifying mark of 3:09.50. However, the AAFI has decided to send them also.

Junior cycling

A junior open cycling competition, organised by the Bangladesh Cycling Federation, will be held on October 25 around the Suharawady Uddyan