

**Div Two chess gets underway**

**Sports Reporter**

The Second Division chess league, organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation, commenced yesterday at the National Coaching Centre chess room.

Twenty-six teams are taking part in this seven-round Swiss league team competition.

The opening day saw Sirajangj DSA score a 4-0 points win over Friends Chess Club, Narayanganj Chess Club beat Kotoler Bagh Krira Chakra 3-1, Agha Masih Lane Chess Club beat Champions Chess Club 3-1 and Notre Dame Chess Club beat Gulbagh Krishnachura Krira Chakra by 4-0 points.

Several other matches were in progress at the time of filing this report last night.

**Soccer result**

MANAMA, Oct 26: Rifaa West of Bahrain beat Yemen's Al-Tilal 1-0 here on Friday in the first leg of their Asian Champions Cup qualifier, reports AFP.

Khami said snatched the winner in the 83rd minute.

The second leg will be played in Aden on November 1.

**Result**  
Rifaa West, Bahrain 1 (Said 83) Al-Tilal, Yemen 0.

**Judo meet ends**

**Sports Reporter**

Four different weight classes were decided on the concluding day of the Metropolis Judo competition yesterday at National Coaching Centre.

The two-day competition was organised by the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation.

As many as twenty-two judokas of six teams participated in the meet.

**Bata handball final put back**

**Sports Reporter**

The scheduled final of the fourth Bata schools handball tournament between Shaheed Nabi High School and Narinda Govt Boys' High School at the Outer Stadium was not held yesterday.

A press release signed by the tournament committee secretary of the Bangladesh Handball Federation said the fixture could not be held due to 'unavoidable circumstances'. The match will now be held, hopefully, on Tuesday, November 5.

**Viqarunnissa girls win comfortably**

**Sports Reporter**

Viqarunnissa Noon School were off to a flying start on the inaugural day of the fourth Bata schoolgirls' handball tournament at Dhanmendi Women's Sports Complex yesterday afternoon.

Dominating in every department of the game the Viqarunnissa girls comfortably defeated Dhanmendi Government Girls High School 8-0 in a completely one-sided mismatch.

Fourteen girls' schools of Dhaka metropolis are participating in the competition organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation.

Minister for Works Rafiqul Islam Mia inaugurated the meet.

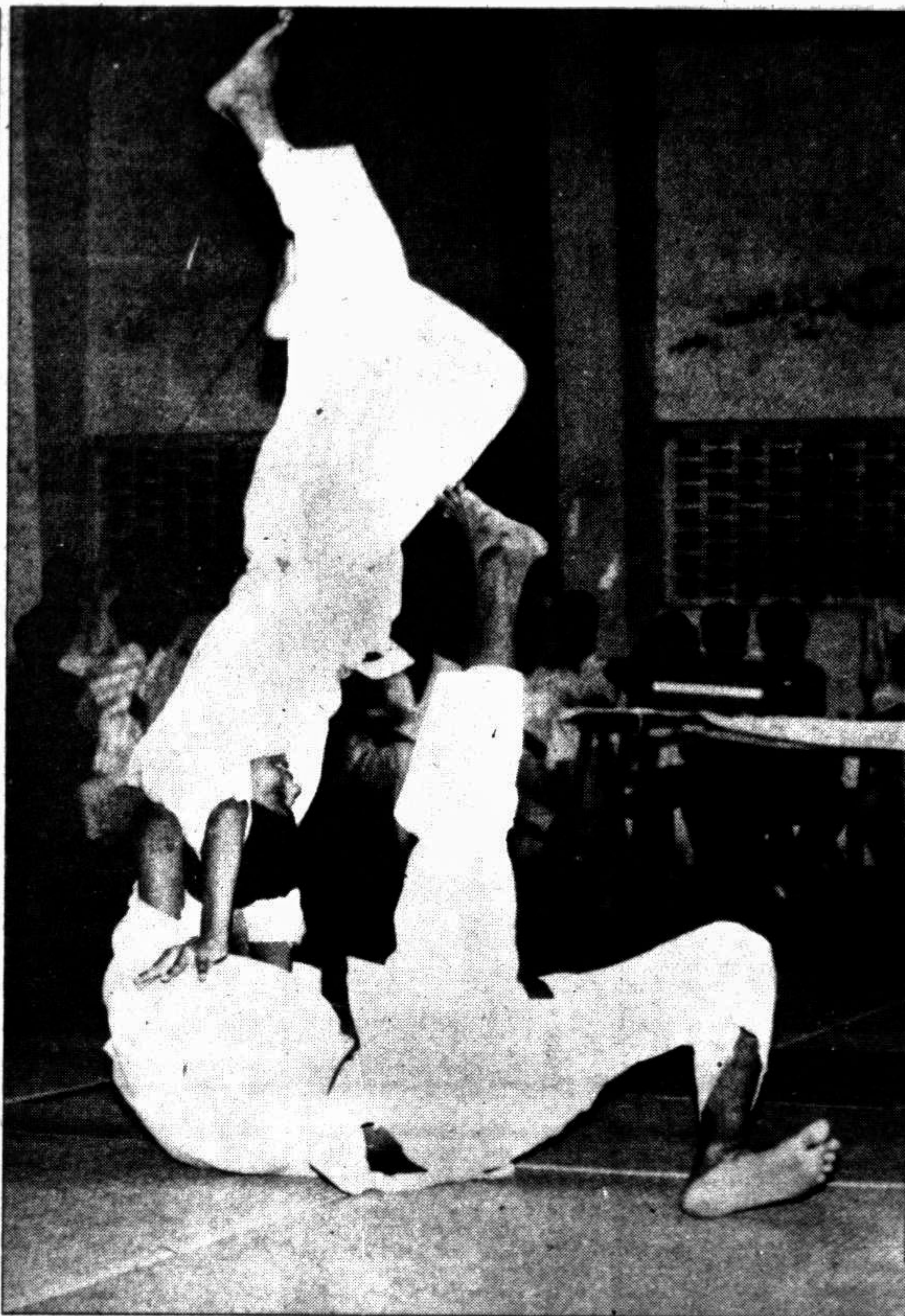
**BDR volley ball**

The inter sector volley ball competition of Bangladesh Rifles, organised by Sylhet Sector started yesterday at the Sylhet Sector ground, says a press release.

Lt Col A K M Akhtiaruzzaman, Sector Commander Bangladesh Rifles, Sylhet, inaugurated the competition as chief guest.

Teams from 11 BDR sectors are taking part in meet.

Officers, JCOs and personnel of different ranks of BDR were also present during the inaugural session.



Action from the metropolis judo competition which concluded at the National Coaching Centre yesterday. —Star photo

**Young Star win yet again**

**Sports Reporter**

It was another day of one-sided encounters in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

Village Defence Party (VDP), Bangladesh Bank, Renaissance Club and Azampur Young Star Club all registered facile 3-0 sets victories over their respective opponents on the day.

VDP handed Azampur Young Boys Club their second defeat on successive days, following their first setback against champions Armanitola JS on Friday, to leave the Young Boys with two losses from their six Group A matches.

Rashed gave VDP the lead by beating Munir in the opening singles 21-12, 22-20 while Muhammad won a three-setter against Young Boys' Mona 21-16, 18-21, and 21-18.

Muhammad and Iqbal then clinched the match for VDP by winning the doubles against Munir and Mona 21-17, 21-11.

It was VDP's fifth straight win in as many encounters. Bangladesh Bank, after having suffered defeats in their four previous Group A encounters, at last found the winning touch when they thrashed league newcomers West Jatrabari 3-0 sets, the fifth consecutive loss for the Jatrabari paddlers.

Sujit of Bangladesh Bank beat Saiful of Jatrabari 21-11, 21-10. Israil beat Mahfuzur Rahman 21-16, 21-13 while Sujit and Mattiur were stretched by Jatrabari's Mahfuz and Arab 21-5, 16-21 and 21-9 to give the state bankers their second win in six games.

Renaissance Club also scored a thumping 3-0 win in another Group A match, against Ajax Sporting Club.

It was the second successive win for Renaissance Club, one of the nine newcomers in this year's league, while Ajax have only one win from their five matches so far — their only victory coming against hapless West Jatrabari on Friday.

Mustafa won the first singles for Renaissance 21-13, 21-18 over Ajax's Ashique while Masud outplayed Jewel 21-17, 21-15.

The deciding doubles match was won by Renaissance's Masud and Sumon 21-10, 24-22 over Ashique and Tanim.

The day's other match, a Group B fixture between Azampur Young Star Club and Swamibagh TTS, saw the former prevailing 3-0 over the senior Swamibagh side.

Manash struggled 13-21, 21-7, 21-13 before rallying to beat Swamibagh's Joyal. Ritu reassured the Young Star nerves by beating Gerries 21-18, 21-12 while Manash and Shaon won the doubles over Gerries and Ismail of Swamibagh 21-10, 23-21.

The result helped Young Stars to maintain a clean slate after five matches while for Swamibagh it was their second loss in six games.

Young Star now share the lead in the group along with Bangladesh Biman.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**  
Pallima Sangshad vs Purbachal Parishad  
Kalpataru vs Kashiattuly Armanitola Jr vs Young Pegasus  
Victoria SC vs Swamibagh Boys

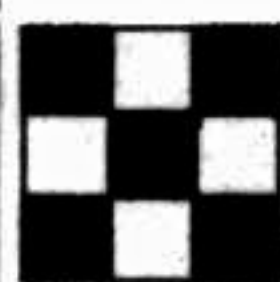
**Lendl skips Paris Open**  
PARIS, Oct 26: Three-time French Open champion Ivan Lendl has withdrawn from the dlr 2 million Paris Open indoor tennis tournament, organizers announced Friday, reports AP.

Lendl, ranked fifth on the ATP Tour, was suffering from a groin injury following his loss to Czechoslovakia's Petr Korda in the Stockholm Open Thursday, organizers said.

Following other late forfeits, four more players were added directly to the main draw: Carl-Uwe Steeb of Germany, France's Thierry Champion and Australian Todd Woodbridge.

The tournament starts Monday with 22 of the top 25 players in the world competing for a first prize of dlr 270,000. Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker, who have won the last two Paris Opens, are the top two seeds.

**Old adversaries face to face**



TILBURG, Netherlands, Oct 26: The two men who have dominated the chess world for 16 years met in the seventh round of the Interpolis Tilburg tournament on Friday, and after a titanic struggle adjourned on move 61, reports Reuter.

The 158th meeting between world champion Garry Kasparov and ex-world champion Anatoly Karpov came as Kasparov led the tournament after playing some spectacular chess.

Karpov, champion from 1975 for 10 years until he lost to Kasparov, was looking for his first win in seven games.

It began conventionally enough as a king's Indian defence, with Karpov as white expanding on the queen's side and Kasparov attacking on the king's side.

Each neglected defence to press home their attack. When the tactical dust cleared a fascinating and complex strategic struggle was set, with most of the watching grandmasters favouring Karpov. By move 30 he had three minor pieces for a rook and four pawns.

Karpov, with five draws and a loss at Tilburg, was itching for a win, and pressed on even when observers were convinced a draw was certain. The game resumes today.

**Xie a point away from world crown**

MANILA, Oct 26: Xie Jun of China goes into the 14th game of the women's World Chess Champions today needing just one more victory to unseat reigning women's chess champion Maya Chiburdanidze of the Soviet Union, reports AFP.

Xie defeated Chiburdanidze in the 13th game in this Philippine city late Friday, giving the Chinese challenger 7.5 points against the Georgian's 5.5.

The 20-year-old sports student from Beijing now needs only one more victory or draws in the remaining three games in the tournament to topple 31-year-old Chiburdanidze.

If Xie reaches a score of 8.5 in this 16-game tournament, she automatically becomes the new champion, ending not only Chiburdanidze's 13-year reign but the Soviet Union's nearly seven-decade dominance of women's chess.

Xie would become the first Asian ever to win the women's World Chess Championship.

Chiburdanidze, as a reigning champion, needs only to reach a score of eight ahead of Xie to retain her crown.

At the 13th game, the Chinese challenger, playing white, used a Ruy Lopez opening and later exploited a two-pawn advantage to threaten Chiburdanidze with a knight and pawn end game, forcing her to resign after 51 moves.

Xie grabbed the lead after the 11th game last week and hung on to it with a draw on the 12th game.

Chiburdanidze will be playing white at the 14th game today.

Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman blitzed his white pieces through Viktor Korchnoi's French defence in 25 moves.

The 60-year-old Soviet emigre played an ambitious pawn advance on move 10, when observers thought a defensive move would be in order.

Timman shortly afterwards sacrificed a knight for one of the pawns shielding Korchnoi's castled king, and in a devastating assault forced the naked king out into the centre of the board where he was easy mate for checks.

British Grandmaster Nigel Short, as white, impressively beat Gata Kamsky in a 33-move Sicilian defence when the 17-year-old ran out of time.

India's Viswanathan Anand continued his good run with a 52-move win with black against competition tailender Yevgeny Barev.

They played the Slav variation of the queen's gambit declined, and the Soviet player, desperate for points, pushed too hard, playing a double rook sacrifice.

Anand returned one of the rooks for a superior rook against bishop ending.

With five wins in seven games, Anand is looking on good form, experts said. If Kasparov draws, Anand will be breathing down his neck just half a point away.

Anand, rated by his ELO grading of results at number nine in the world, is very much considered a world championship contender in the future.

He may be a winner here, and he is certainly a world championship candidate, Soviet grandmaster Genna Sosonko said. But the tall, bespectacled Anand is modest.

"I really think it is quite sensible that you don't think about it (being world champion) until you are number two in the world. It is more of a dream than an ambition yet, he told Reuter.

Kasparov's next defence of his title is likely to be in 1993. But Anand's dreams of challenging him were rudely shattered in August when he narrowly lost his quarterfinal eliminator in Brussels to ex-world champion Anatoly Karpov, despite playing some elegant and exciting chess.

On Thursday Anand had his revenge by beating Karpov in a dramatic game in the sixth round of the Interpolis tournament in this southern Dutch town.

The whole game is just strewn with mistakes (on both sides), Anand said as he looked over the game afterwards.

"I don't care if it is not so nice, so long as I win. I played so many beautiful games and have not won he said, referring to the eight-game Brussels match which he lost 4-1/2 to 3-1/2.

A measure of Anand's progress is that Thursday's win has given him better than 50 per cent in his encounters with Karpov, a man who for 10 years was unassailable as world champion and is still the world's top three.

But Anand must still hone aspects of his play to get the best out of his open attacking style.

Experts here say he could easily have won all his first four Tilburg games if only he had not played so quickly.

Anand concedes there is some truth in this, citing his lost game in the second round against Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman.

"In a winning position against Timman I just completely relaxed, I thought 'Ah this is it', he said.

After Timman played a couple of good moves Anand failed to appreciate the change in the position.

"In played even the next two moves instantly. Only after that did it dawn on me that I'm not better—I'm not even equal, he said.

Sometimes the speed works. He took only 44 minutes to demolish 17-year-old

The 14-round all-play-all tournament lasts until November 4.

**Seventh round results**  
Barev 0 Anand 1  
Karpov 1/2 Kasparov 1/2  
Short 1 Kamsky 6  
Timman 1 Korchnoi 0

**Total score after seven rounds**  
1. Kasparov 5 points and one unfinished  
2. Anand 5  
3. Short 4 1/2  
4. Timman 3 1/2  
5. Kamsky 3  
6. Karpov 2 1/2 and one unfinished  
7. Korchnoi 2  
8. Barev 1 1/2

**Anand does India proud**



TILBURG, Netherlands, Oct 26: Chess may have been invented in India thousands of years ago, but India never had a grandmaster to grace the modern game until Viswanathan Anand qualified in 1988, reports Reuter.

Now the 21-year-old former junior world champion is in second place in the toughest chess tournament of all time, with only Soviet world champion Garry Kasparov ahead of him.

With a single point between them, there are eight rounds left for Anand to make his mark.

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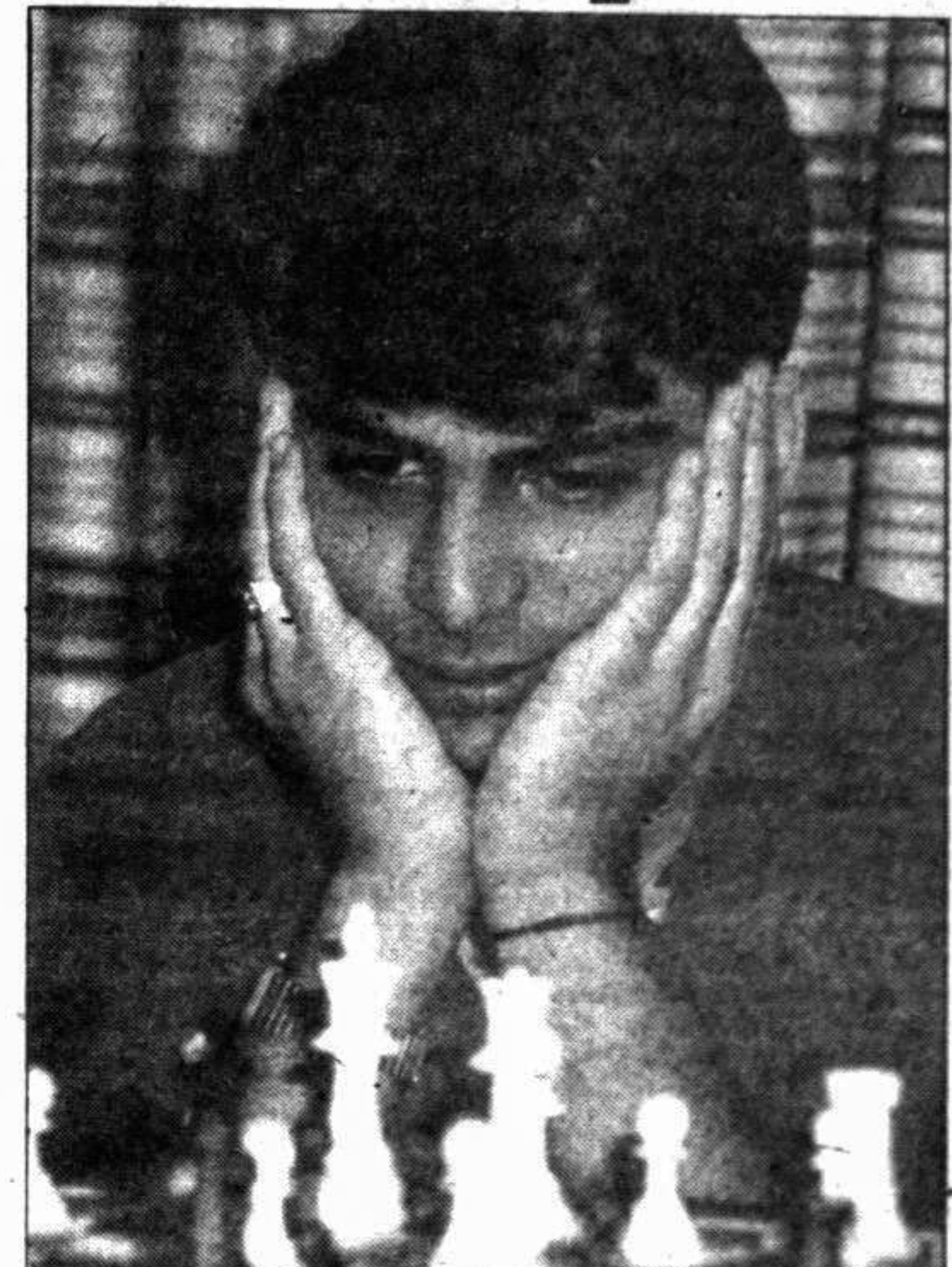
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Indian genius Viswanathan Anand

US-based prodigy Gata Kamsky in 38 moves in the fourth round. He could have used two hours before the 40-move time control.

Anand was brought up in Madras and was taught chess at the age of six by his mother, unusually in this male-dominated game. By eight or nine he was playing in local tournaments.

He does not recall having a boyhood hero in chess, though he played for a club whose name was taken from the almost legendary Soviet player Mikhail Tal.

"After a while I came to like (US former world champion) Bobby Fischer a lot, he said.

For India, Anand is a great example. With its 800 million people, the subcontinent should be able to produce a wealth of chess talent in future years to challenge the enduring dominance of the Soviet Union.

The process is already beginning, in February Dibyendu Barua qualified to become India's second grandmaster.

**Graf in Midland Bank semis**



BRIGHTON, Oct 26: Top-seeded Steffi Graf of Germany advanced Friday to the semifinals of the 350,000 Dollars Midland Bank tennis championships, but second-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria was eliminated, reports AP.

Graf was pushed in a tight first set by seventh-seeded Lori McNeil of the United States before advancing 7-5, 6-2 while Maleeva fell 6-2, 7-6 (7-3) to unseeded Caterina Lindqvist of Sweden.

Graf will play fifth-seeded Barbara Paulus of Austria in Saturday's semifinals. Paulus advanced when her quarterfinal opponent, No. 4 Nathalie Tauziat, pulled out with a stomach virus.

Third-seeded Zina Garrison faced No. 8 Radka Zrbakova in the other quarter-final match Thursday night.

Graf tried to play an attacking game in the first set against McNeil but was often caught off balance. The German twice lost her serve and only squeezed through on her third set point after 48 minutes of play.

"I was trying to be aggressive in the first set but I think I came to the net too much," Graf said. "It was very frustrating because I either missed or I got passed when I came in (to net). But then in the second set it paid off."

Despite losing her serve at 1-0 in the second set, Graf always looked in control although McNeil's accurate serve and volley play meant that the German had to work hard for her points.

"She is a very difficult player for me to play because she takes the pace off the ball and does a lot of different things," Graf said.

**Title retained**

SEOUL, Oct 26: South Korea's Choi Hi-Yong retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) minimum-weight title with a unanimous points decision over compatriot and former holder Kim Bong-Jun on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Choi proved the more aggressive in the opening rounds, rocking Kim with a series of crisp jabs before the more compact challenger found his length in round seven.

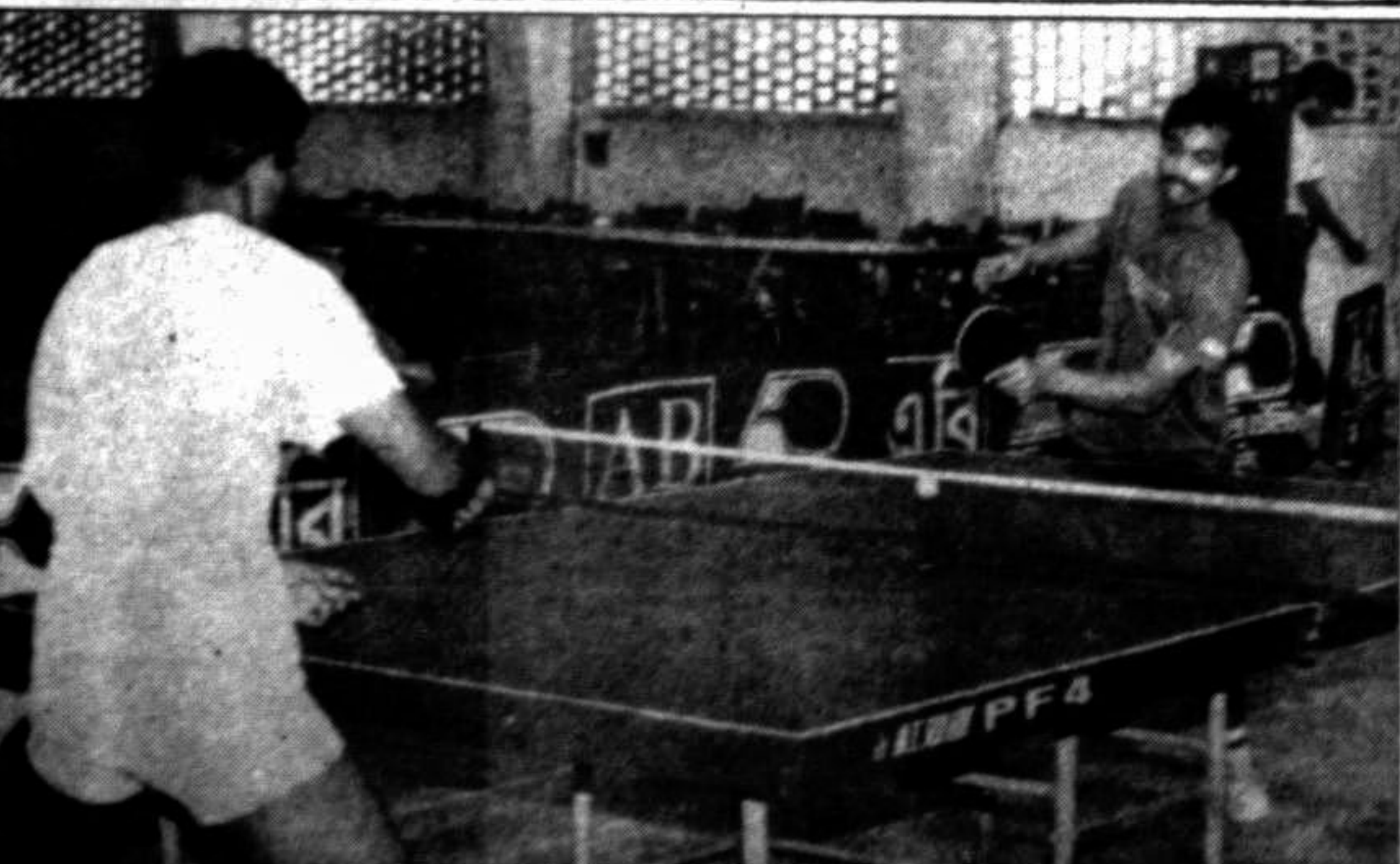
But Kim had left it too late and went down to a 118-111, 118-112, 117-112 loss in the 12-round bout.

Choi wrested the crown from Kim in February and defended it successfully against Sugar Ray Mike of the Philippines in June.

The win brings Choi's career record to 12 straight wins, five by knockouts.



Scene from the Bata handball competition for city schoolgirls at the Dhanmendi Women's Sports Complex yesterday. Viqarunnissa Noon school beat Dhanmendi Govt. Girls High School in the inaugural match. —Star photo



Action from yesterday's AB Bank table tennis league match between VDP and Azampur Young Boys at the NSC gym. VDP won in straight sets. —Star photo