

Damal Summer meet from Nov 7

Sports Reporter

The thirteenth Damal Summer cricket tournament, under the aegis of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, will begin in the city on November 7 (Thursday).

Wari Club will meet Surjo Tarun Club in the opening fixture of the 45-overs-a-side knockout tournament at the Dhaka Stadium.

Twenty-two teams, made up of a dozen Premier Division and ten First Division sides, split in four groups will be competing in this year's meet which was put back by a week from its originally scheduled start on Nov 1 following requests by some of the participating teams.

The four semifinals of last year's competition —

Lankans ready to tour India as Pakistan pull out

COLOMBO, Oct 29: The Sri Lankan Cricket Board said today that they had contacted the Indian Cricket Board with an offer to tour India in place of Pakistan, reports Reuter.

Pakistan was due to tour India beginning this week for a five-match one-day series but called off the tour on Sunday because of threats by Hindu militants to sabotage it.

"We have contacted the Indian Cricket Board authorities expressing our willingness to undertake a tour on the same lines as the original Pakistan tour and we are awaiting a reply from them", said Neil Perera, secretary of

the Sri Lanka Cricket Board. Mohammedans, Abahani Krira Chakra, Brothers Union and the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) have been made the seeded teams this year.

The group fixtures are scheduled to run until Nov 18 after which the four group champions will qualify for the semifinals.

The winners of the opening day's match between Wari Club and Surjo Tarun will meet defending champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting on Nov 13.

Brothers Union will play the winners of the Group C opening tie between Rupali Bank and Shadharan Bima on November 15.

Abahani Krira Chakra take on Ajax Sporting Club — who won promotion to the Mlars First Division league this season — in a Group D match on November 11.

Last year's Navana League runners-up Bangladesh Bima will play their first Group D match against Bangladesh PWD on Nov 12.

On Nov 13, GMCC will meet the winners of the Group B clash between Young Pegasus and newly-promoted First Divisioners City Club.

The teams are: Group A - Mohammedan SC, Surjo Tarun Club, Kalabagan KC, Wari Club, Udiity Club and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha.

Group B - GMCC, Young Pegasus, Victoria SC, Lalmatia Club, Agrani Bank and City Club.

Group C - Brothers Union, Rupali Bank, Gulshan Youth, Sadharan Bima and Bangladesh Railway.

Group D - Abahani KC, Bangladesh Bima, Wanderers Club, PWD SC and Ajax SC.

Following is the fixture for the first six days of the tournament, from Nov 7 till Nov 12, as announced by the BCCB:

November 7 - Wari Club vs Surjo Tarun (Dhaka Stadium).

November 8 - Eskaton Sabuj Sangha vs Udiity Club (Dhaka Stadium).

November 9 - Young Pegasus Club vs City Club (Dhaka Stadium).

November 10 - Lalmatia Club vs Agrani Bank (Dhaka Stadium) and Sadharan Bima vs Rupali Bank (Dhanmondi cricket stadium).

November 11 - Bangladesh Railway vs Gulshan Youth (Dhanmondi cricket stadium) and Abahani KC vs Ajax SC (Dhaka Stadium).

November 12 - Brothers Union vs PWD SC (Dhaka Stadium).

Gating in MCC line-up to face Springboks

CRADLEY HEATH, England, Oct 29: Mike Gating, the former England cricket captain banned from Test cricket following a so-called rebel tour to South Africa two years ago, is to face a team from the Republic again, reports AFP.

The hard-hitting Middlesex batsman is included in an England side to take on the Springboks in an indoor Test here on November 1.

Although South Africa's return to official international cricket waiting for his personal ban to be lifted.

Mustafiz regrets cancellation of Pak tour of India

Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman, who is also the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, yesterday expressed his dismay at the cancellation of the Pakistan cricket team's visit to India as it "runs contrary to the SAARC spirit," reports BSS.

"If the two South Asian neighbours could play at Sharjah, why cannot they play in a country of their own region?" He asked while replying to a question at a press conference here.

The Foreign Minister said sports and culture constituted an important area where the SAARC nations were supposed to forge greater links and added that the circumstances leading to the cancellation of the Pakistan cricket team's impending visit to India could come only as a big disappointment for those who love cricket and espouse the SAARC spirit.

"We might discuss the issue at the coming SAARC summit in Colombo since it ran counter to the SAARC spirit," Mr Rahman said, adding "I have already spoken about this matter with the president of the Cricket Control Board of India in Sharjah."

The Foreign Minister said sports could act as a catalyst in bringing the SAARC nations even closer.

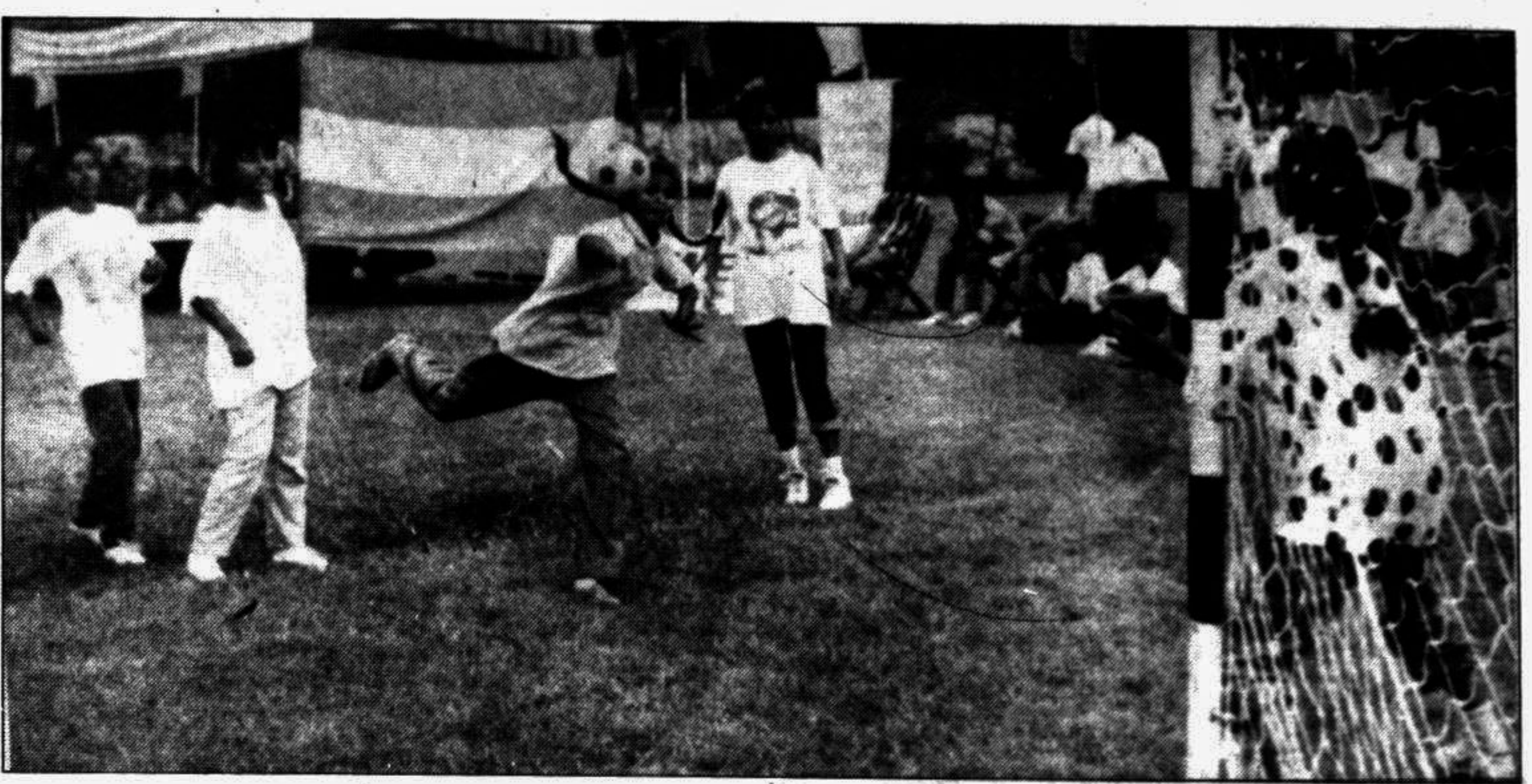
Federation Cup squash results

Sports Reporter

Five more matches were decided on the fifth day of the inaugural Federation Cup squash tournament at the Dhaka Club squash court yesterday.

Ram Jagadish beat A Lakhani 9-6, 9-1; Col J Abbas defeated Col Mahubb 10-8, 3-9 and 9-2; Shahjahan Sikdar beat Shahidul Haq 9-4, 9-5; Gopal Chauhan beat Nasim 9-1, 9-3; and Sohail Hamid defeated Rana 9-2, 9-1.

The final of the meet, organised by the Bangladesh Squash Rackets Federation, will be held on Nov 2. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka will attend as chief guest.



Actions from yesterday's Bata schools handball league match between Bottomley Homes and Bangladesh Rifles High School at Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex. BDR School won 14-2. — Star photo

Xie dethrones Chiburdanidze

MANILA, Oct 29: Chinese challenger Xie Jun on Tuesday ended six decades of Soviet domination of women's chess by defeating Soviet world champion Maya Chiburdanidze in a 16-game contest for the title in Manila, reports Reuter.

Xie drew the 15th game in 62 moves, giving her a winning 8.5-6.5 lead over Chiburdanidze, who had held the title

for 13 years since winning it in 1978. The first player to score 8.5 points wins the title.

Xie is the first Asian to win a world chess title, breaking a 64-year hold by Soviet women over the crown.

The 20-year-old sports student from Beijing battled back from a one game deficit early in the match to defeat the champion from the Soviet Republic of Georgia.

Chiburdanidze, 31, has defended the title she won from fellow Soviet Nona Gaprindashvili four times.

Playing black, Xie withstood a game-long siege by the Soviet holder to secure the draw which ensured her victory in

the series which began last month.

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Bhagyashree Asia's new chess queen

BHOPAL, Oct 29: Bahagyashree Thipsay of India was today crowned the new Asian women's chess queen when she drew her final round match with Shabana Parveen of Bangladesh and emerged as the only player to secure 7.5 points in the fifth Asian women's chess championship, reports PTI.

Thirty-year-old Dhagyashree today needed only half a point to emerge the winner in the championship in which ten players from five countries took part.

After 30 moves Bhagyashree and Parveen reached a draw position in the ninth round game with queen and rook ending and decided to end the match with a draw.

Another report says, Bhagyashree is of the view that chess should be given adequate coverage on television so that it can become popular with the masses.

In an interview to PTI after winning the championship, Bhagyashree said though Doordarshan was even telecasting games like carom, it seemed to have no time for chess. She said it was only through TV coverage that many people began to understand games like billiards and snooker which were almost unknown till sometime back.

Bhagyashree, who came here along with her husband Pravin Thipsay, is grateful for the advice given by him during her career which began in 1979.

According to Pravin, till 1984 when they got to know each other, Bhagyashree had been given incorrect coaching because of which she did not know some basics of the game.

The new Asian chess queen said she was happy to win the championship particularly because she had not prepared well for it.

Sampras moves up, Stich pulls out

PARIS, Oct 29: Pete Sampras of the United States reached the third round of the dollars two-million Paris Open tennis tournament Tuesday after a 7-6, (7-3), 6-2 victory over Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union, reports AP.

Sixth-seeded Sampras struggled in the first set as the players went into a tiebreaker. Then Sampras went up 6-0 before Cherkasov took advantage of two unforced errors from the American and a smash to close to 6-3 before Sampras finished things with an ace.

In the second set Sampras dominated the Soviet with a heavy serve and breezed, 6-2, collecting 11 aces and a number of service winners throughout.

Earlier in the day, Wimbledon champion and No 4 seed Michael Stich of Germany withdrew from the tournament with an elbow injury. He said he injured in the Vienna tournament two weeks ago. Last week he lost in his first round match against Aaron Krickstein at the Stockholm tournament.

ATP officials said that Stich is hopeful of playing the ATP Tour World Championship in Frankfurt starting Nov 12.

Stich's place in the draw was taken by South African Wayne Ferreira against Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch.

Later Tuesday, John McEnroe followed Sampras on the court to play Sweden's Christian Bergstrom.

Title bout

SYDNEY, Oct 29: World-rated Troy Waters will defend his Australian junior middleweight boxing title against unbeaten Chris Seny on Dec 6, promoter Craig Mordey announced Tuesday, reports AP.

Waters, rated No 3 in the division by the World Boxing Council, is making a comeback after a 13-month absence from the ring with two jaw injuries.

He has a 16-2 record. The 12-round bout will be held at Eitalong, 80 miles (80 kilometers) north of Sydney.

DU, Noor-e-Alam clubs share lead

Sports Reporter

Dhaka University Chess Club and Noor-e-Alam Khan Chess Sanghad were jointly leading the points table with nine-and-a-half points each after the completion of the third round matches of the second division chess league yesterday at the National Sports Council's chess room.

Dhaka University CC defeated Narayanganj Chess Club 2.5 to 1.5 points while Noor-e-Alam Khan CS won their third round tie against Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan Krira Sangha also by an identical score.

Q. Chess Club with 8 1/2 points is lying in the second place while Champion Chess Club with eight points occupies the third position.

Sabera's body now arrives on Friday

Sports Reporter

The dead body of Sabera Haq, wife of Syed Ashraf Haq, Joint Secretary of the Asian Cricket Conference, who was killed in a road accident in Sharjah on Oct 24, will reach Dhaka at 9:30 am on Friday, Nov 1.

Close family sources told the Daily Star last night that the arrival of the dead body of the former Bangladesh Cricket Control Board Secretary's wife, earlier scheduled for today (Wednesday), has been delayed by a couple of days because Sabera's husband Ashraf, who was seriously injured in the mishap, will have to report to the Public Prosecutor's office today Oct 30 in connection with the investigations into the tragedy.

Ashraf, who has been released by the Dubai hospital where he was admitted for treatment following the accident, will accompany the body to Dhaka.

The namaz-e-janaza of Mrs Sabera Haq will be held at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque after Juma prayers and she is likely to be buried at her family graveyard in Azimpur the same day.

McEnroe's woes

PARIS, Oct 29: John McEnroe lost a chance to play the doubles in the Paris Open that may cost him the chance to compete in the Davis Cup tournament, reports AP.

Tom Gorman, the US captain, is still looking for a doubles team to face France in the Davis Cup final in Lyon, France next Nov 29-Dec 1.

After Scott Davis and David Pate lost in the semifinals of the Davis Cup against Germany and the US top pair Ken Flach and Robert Seguso indicated they are not interested in playing. Gorman is still searching for a competitive pair to play against the French, still to be named.

McEnroe, who had some hopes to be named to the team, was scheduled to play the doubles of the Paris Open along with another former US Open champion, Pete Sampras.

But an hour before the qualifying double matches Sunday morning, Sampras elected to withdraw from the match, claiming a bruised elbow.

Participants ponder in pin-drop silence in team events of the Second Division chess league yesterday at National Sports Council's chess room. — Star photo



Participants ponder in pin-drop silence in team events of the Second Division chess league yesterday at National Sports Council's chess room. — Star photo

Wills Trophy at Sharjah: A retrospection

A M Chowdhury

Pakistan once again proved that the desert cricketing venue of Sharjah is their happy hunting ground when they registered an emphatic 72-run victory over India in the final and lifted the Sharjah Cup, named the Wills Trophy this year, for the fifth consecutive time. Their victory looked impressive by any count.

At the initial stage of the tournament Pakistan lost their first two matches; against the West Indies by one wicket and against India by 60 runs, and it looked uncertain whether they would make it to the final.

Against the powerful West Indian attack they could compile only 215 and against the none-too-venomous Indian attack they could only reach 178 chasing a total of 238. It appeared the Pakistani batting had some initial 'teething problems'. Only Rameez Raja (49 and 35) and Miandad (47 and 61) seemed to have negotiated the opponents with some confidence.

In their return match against the Windies, however Pakistan made a dramatic comeback by clinching a thrilling one-run victory; Waqar Yunus yoking Bishop with the last ball. Thanks to the efforts of Raja (90) and Imran (77) Pakistan had put up 236 and the Windies, led by a brilliant batting display by their skipper Richardson (122), were almost there to edge Pakistan out of the tournament. Pakistan regained their fighting spirit after this victory and in the last match of the league they needed only to compile 198 runs in order to reach the final, even if they

were to lose to India. By then India, in their return match against the Caribbeans, had succeeded in edging their opponents out of the tournament by a convincing 7-wicket victory. The Caribbeans could only hope for Pakistan not reaching 198 in their match against India, which would have given them a place in the final on a slightly better run rate.

But that were not to happen. Pakistan, suffering the loss of Raja and Miandad due to injury, had to call upon fresh replacements. It was the performance of two of the late entrants, Aamer Sohail (91) and Zahid Fazal (39), backed up by Salim Malik (42) and Imran Khan (43) that helped Pakistan ensure a place in the final. They not only crossed 198 (the coveted figure in the mathematical calculations typical of one-day tournaments), but piled up a winning total of 257 for 7. The long Indian batting line-up, which had so far won all the three matches rather easily, could reach only 253 for 7, losing the match by just four runs.

Legitimate complaints about the playing condition during the last 3/4 overs when the street lights were put on at Sharjah being granted, one cannot ignore the emphatic batting display by Pakistan in the match. It appeared that their batsmen, including the late replacements, had figured out the Indian bowling and found it to their liking.

And this was proved beyond any doubt in the final. One may wonder why Azhar put Pakistan in after winning the toss. One may also wonder what would have been the outcome of the match had India batted first. How could Azhar

forget that Pakistan did waver under pressure in their first match when they batted last chasing a total of 238? India came close to reaching the big total of 257, and did this make Azhar a little complacent about his team's batting capability? Did he forget that batting in a tension-free atmosphere, which was the case in their second match against Pakistan, is not the same as batting under the pressure of a big total? These after-thoughts make cricket interesting to its followers, but the realities that took place have the final say. And the reality was that the weakness of the Indian bowling was fully exposed. If Azhar could not read this exposition in the preceding match, none else could be blamed.

Pakistan compiled the highest total of the tournament (262 for 6) and in reply the strong Indian line-up, under pressure for the first time in the tournament, did not come up to the challenge. Of course, the turning point was the 14th over of the innings, when Aaqub Javed (in his third over) wrecked the Indian batting by claiming the wickets of Shastri, Azharuddin and Tendulkar with three successive balls — all trapped lbw. India could never repair this landslide and their innings folded up at 190 in the 46th over.

Aaqub achieved the best bowling figures in one-day cricket (7 for 47) beating the record held by West Indian Winston Davis (7 for 51 against Australia in the 1983 World Cup). Pakistan's comprehensive victory was definitely due to their domination in both batting and bowling. The superb effort of Aaqub Javed made it look so easy.

TILBURG, Netherlands, Oct 29: Garry Kasparov was the victim of an innovation in opening theory by Viktor Korchnoi in the ninth round of the Tilburg Interpolis tournament on Monday. But by playing accurately Kasparov was able to maintain his one-point lead.

The world champion, who has made much of his depth of preparation for this tournament, played black and was surprised after 12 moves by Korchnoi's new advanced post for a white rook.

"I had to play very accurately to make a draw after this," Kasparov told Reuter afterwards.

The draw was agreed on move 27, when Korchnoi had only four minutes to make 13 moves but seemed to have a guaranteed repetition of

moves. British grandmaster Nigel Short faced ex-world champion Anatoly Karpov ahead of their World Championship semifinal in Linares next April.

Clearly determined not to reveal his plans in his normal opening repertoire ahead of that match, Short with white launched into the unusual Vienna game, obtaining a good position.

I just got a massive position after the opening... he had no counterplay at all, Short said after the game.

However, by missing a crucial pawn advance which could have been played on several occasions, Short's advantage dwindled, and a draw by repetition was agreed on move 47.

Gate Kamsky, Tilburg joint-winner in 1990, became the latest player to humble world number four Yevgeny Barycev. Having found difficulty against

the Rubenstein version of the French defence in Sunday's game, the 17-year-old Soviet born player responded to Barycev's French with a reversed-colour king's Indian.

Barycev's luck seemed to turn as Kamsky overlooked the loss of the exchange for a pawn, and the game seemed over.

Kamsky told me his game was lost (here) but only told his father he was slightly worse, watching Grandmaster Genna Sosonko said.

But Barycev let his advantage slip away with the unnecessary loss of a central pawn and followed up by miscalculating a combination, losing a book and the game.

Dutchman Jan Timman and second-place player Viswanathan Anand played the Petroff's defence, with Timman as white finding an innovation over the board.



XIE JUN — world's new chess queen



CHIBURDANIDZE — end of 13-year reign.