Sports Reporter FIDE Master Zillur Rahman Champak annexed the Azad Products holiday (weekly) chess tournament at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Champak collected six poirits while Saifuddin Lavlu finished as runner-up with five and a half points.

Abdul Khaleque, Hasibul Hassan Hanif and Waliullah Patwari filled the slots between the third and fifth positions.

Khorshed Alam, Ali Amjad Mintu, Santanu Das and Shoeb Ahmed shared the places between the sixth and nine posi-

The champion won a cash award of Taka 2500.

Organised by Anirban Chess School, the seven-round Swiss league tournament featured 32 competitors.

Mohsin Gold Cup chess starts

Mohsin Smriti Gold Cup, an open chess competition organised by the Narayanganj Recreation Association in memory of late S A Mohsin, the association's founder, begins at the association auditorium this afternoon.

National women's champion International Woman Master Rani Hamid will inaugurate the meet as chief guest.



Wimbledon winner American Andre Agassi is seen talking to newsmen after the draw ceremony to determine the pairings for the US team's Davis Cup semifinal matches against Sweden in Minneapolis 25-27 September. Agassi beat World number one Stefan Edberg in the second singles played on Friday. -AFP photo

Agassi beats Edberg

US two up against Sweden in Davis Cup



Agassi completed a first-day United beating the world's top-ranked player, Stefan

Edberg, in four sets Friday night for a 2-0 lead over Sweden in the Davis Cup semifinals, reports AP. Agassi's 5-7, 6-3, 7-6(7-1),

6-3 victory followed Jim Courier's 4-6, 7-6 (7-1), 6-3, .7-5 triumph over Nicklas Kulti on the red clay at Target Centre. The Americans can win the

best-of-5 semifinal as early as Saturday, when the doubles team of John McEnroe and Pete Sampras initially were scheduled to take on Edberg and Anders Jarryd. Both Agassi and US captain Tom Gorman said late Friday that a different combinations might be used.

There will be two more singles matches Sunday— Edberg vs. Courier and Agassi vs Kulti but the United States might not need victories to ad vance to the Dec. 4-6 final against the winner of the Switzerland-Brazil semifinals.

Switzerland took a 2-0 lead Friday.

Like Courier, Agassi lost the first set only to survive several break points and rally to victory. And like Courier, Agassi used a lopsided tiebreaker win to establish Agassi's serve was broken

three times in the first set. He served for the set at 5-3 but was broken twice in losing the last four games. Edberg was also broken twice in the set but his aggressive serve-volley game confounded Agassi. Agassi again served at 5-3 in

the second set. This time, the world's sixth-ranked player put Edberg away by lobbing over the hard-charging Swede.

In the third, Agassi trailed 3-4 and was down 0-40 on his serve before winning five successive points, passing Edberg three times. Both players held their next two serves to reach the tiebreaker, when Agassi made life at the net miserable for Edberg.

Twice the American used topsin lobs for winners. Twice he passed Edberg with crisp backhanders. And the winner

came when Agassi got to Edberg's drop shot and smashed a forehand. Edberg's double fault at

15-40 gave Agassi a 2-0 lead in the fourth set. Edberg broke back but so did Agassi, who when held serve twice for the Agassi celebrated by high-

fiving his teammates. Earlier, Courier was much more demonstrative, jumping into McEnroe's arms and embracing US captain Tom Gorman after holding off Kulti. The smile on Courier's face

spelled joy. And relief. Kulti was up 5-3 in the second and fourth sets and served for each set at 5-4, but lost

each time.

"If he holds two more service games, I'm sitting here with a frown instead of a smile," Courier said. "I would have preferred to be up in those sets, but the bottom line is that I won."

Courier has been the world's top-ranked player most of the year, falling to No. 2 after Edberg won the US Open earlier this month. Meanwhile, Kulti is ranked 71st and wasn't even on Sweden's Davis Cup team until Magnus Gustafsson injured his ankle last week.

The turning point came in the second set. Kulti was serving at 5-4 but, 30-40, wasn't able to return an overhead by Courier. Courier used two service

winners to go up 6-5 in the second set and the crowd of 12,604, which had been quiet through most of the match, began chanting, "U-S-A" ! U-S-Kulti pulled even and forced

a tiebreaker, but lost all four points on his serve, including his first double fault of the match. Courier closed out the second set with an ace, one of 15 for the night. After Courier dominated

the third set. Kulti opened the fourth by breaking the American. Again, the 21-yearold Swede served for the set at 5-4, but his unforced error gave Courier his first break of the set and Kulti lost the game by missing a wide-open court with an overhead.

Courier won eight of the last nine points for the victory.

Christie, Farmer-Patrick shine in Havana

1:46.06.

Tasuí unaware.

Other men's winners were

Olympic bronze medalist Addis

Adebe of Ethiopia in the

10,000 in 28:44.38 and Ivan



26: British's Linford Christie solidified his claim as the world's top sprinter and San-

dra Farmer-Patrick won her second consecutive title in the 400-metre hurdles Friday night in the rain-plagued World Cup track and field meet, reports AP.

The confident and cocky Christie, the Olympic 100metre gold medalist and selfappointed No 1 in the world, won his second straight World Cup crown.

Two other Olympic gold medalists were winners Friday night in this three-day, finalsonly competition among hemisphere, continental and national teams. They were shotputter Mike Stulce of the United States and women's Olympic 400-metre champion Marie Jose Perec of France, who captured the 200 Friday

Competing on a wet track and against a field watered down by the absence of Olympic runnerup Frank Fredericks of Namibia and world record-holder Carl Lewis, Christie prevailed in 10.21 seconds on a hot, humid night. Fredericks was injured and Lewis chose not to com-

After false starts by two of his key rivals, former world record-holder Calvin Smith of the United States and Robson Da Silva of Brazil, the patient Christie got a good start and carried it through to the finish, beating runnerup Olapade Adeniken of Nigeria by nearly a

Adeniken was timed in 10:26, with Smith third in 10.33 and Da Silva fourth in 10.44.

Asked about the world rankings, which won't be announced until the end of the year, Christie, who has been avoiding a confrontation with Lewis since the the Barcelona Games, said: "There's no question about it this year. I'm just glad to win this one. "My body's a wreck. I'm

dead tired. I'm not as young as I used to be," the 32-year-old Christie added. The usually flamboyant

Farmer-Patrick took the 400 hurdles in 55.38, much slower than the meet record of 53.84 she set three years ago at Barcelona.

The only other American woman to repeat was Evelyn Ashford, winner of both the 100 and 200 in 1979 and "I can't believe it's over,"

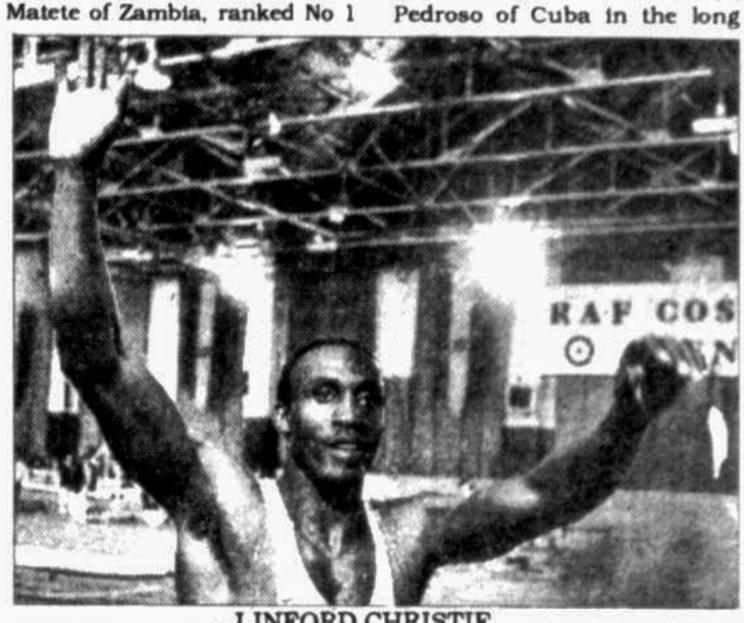
Farmer-Patrick, the Olympic silver medalist, said of the long season." "I'm tired, mentally more than physically. The

Games are over and the motiman's 800, as David Sharpe of vational level is over." Britain whipped past him with three metres left and won in

In 1989, Farmer-Patrick and her husband, David, swept the men's and women's 400metre hurdles titles in the World Cup, a first for an American couple in a major in-

ternational championship. David was scheduled to defend his title Friday night, but withdrew because he didn't

With Patrick absent, Samuel



(7.97 metres).

in the world last year, took the men's 400 hurdles in 48.88. Matete, biding his time, didn't forge into the lead until the last five metres, passing Britain's Jon Ridgeon.

Nat Page, Patrick's replacement, finished last in the field of seven, as the United States failed to win the event for the first time in six World Cup meets.

Stulce, in his first competition since the Olympics, won the shot put at 70 feet, 1/4 inch (21.34 metres), nearly 4 feet (1.21 metre) ahead of Sergei Nikolayev of the United "This was nice," said Stulce,

testing positive for testosterone. "It reinforced the Olympics and gave me something to build on for the fu-Stulcie said he will probably

who was suspended for two

years in the spring of after

take the next year or so off to finish school at Texas A & M. "It's tough with no financing

- working, training and going to school. It wears on you, but for one year, for the Olympics, it was worth it." "Even if I do nothing for the

rest of my life, this was a great Perec, dropping from the

400 to the 200, won handily in

Olympic gold medalist William Tanui of Kenya suffered a surprising defeat in the jump at 26 feet, 1 3/4 inches



FARMER-PATRICK

The other women's winners were Ekaterina Todkopaeva of the Unified Team in the 1,500 in 4:17.60, Li Huirong of China in the triple jump at 45 feet 6 1/2 inches (13.88 metres), loamnet quintero of Cuba in the high jump at 6 feet 4 1/4 inch (1:94 metres; and the Americas Team in the 1,600 relay in 3:29.73.

After six men's events, Britain led with 37 points, two ahead of Africa and 12 in front of defending champion United

After six women's events, the Unified Team led with 39 points, followed by the Europe Select with 35 points and the United States with 30.

States, tied for fifth with 25.

Sharpe's decisive move came just after Tanui had Rain forced postponement passed Jose Luiz Barbosa of Brazil and Andrea Benvenuti of of the opening ceremonies and the women's javelin until Italy and appeared to catch

Guzman wins WBA flyweight title

Saturday.

SEOUL, Sept 26: Aquiles Guzman of Venezuela wrested the World Boxing Association flyweight title from Kim Yonggang of South Korea Saturday with a unanimous 12-round decision, reports AP.

There were no knockdowns in the fight in the southeastern port of Pohang, which the three judges scored 117-112, 117-111 and 116-113 in Guzman's favour.

Kim, attempting his third defense of the title he won in June 1991, out-punched Guzman in the first four rounds with quick straights and jabs.

But Guzman became more aggressive in the fifth round, hurling powerful uppercuts and hooks. Kim, 26, wobbled on the ropes in the sixth round, tolerating numerous punches.

Guzman, 27, now has a record of 12 wins, one draw and four defeats. It was Kim's fourth defeat against 25 victo-

Mansell holds pole position in Portuguese GP ESTORIL, Portugal, Sept

26: Britain's Nigel Mansell held on to the pole position for the Portuguese Grand Prix Saturday after no one bettered his Friday qualifying time. Reports AP. The Briton's had the top

time Friday with 1 minute 13.041 seconds on the 4.5kilometre (2.703-mile) Autodrome circuit to average 214.4 kph (133.222 mph). Mansell's best on Saturday

was 1:13.961, fastest of the day in the windy conditions, Early rain had wet the track but it was dry by the afternoon session started.

Mansell took his 29th pole position of his career to move into third on the all-time list, breaking a tie with Argentina's Juan Fangio, Mansell's next target is the late Jim Clark with 33 pole starts, Ayrton Senna is the all-time leader with 64, a maken will make

It was Mansell's 11th pole position of the season in 14

He will be the first South

African to compete in Latin

will compete international

Sunday's race is 71 laps. Mansell has won in 1986 and

Switzerland first into final



26: Marc Rosset and Jakob Hlasek combined for a doubles victory over Cassio Motta

and Fernando Roese of Brazil on Saturday to move Switzerland into the finals of the Davis Cup in December. reports AP. Switzerland will face the

winner of the semifinal round

Indians back in Davis Cup world group

NEW DELHI, Sept 26: India moved into the Davic Cup World Group Saturday, winning a decisive 3-0 lead over Great Britain with a convincing fourset doubles victory, reports AP. India's Ramesh Krishnan

and Leander Paes defeated Britain's Mark Petchey and Neil Broad 6-4,3-6,6-3,6-1. "We won it positively," said non-playing captain Naresh Kumar. They played very well,

but our boys played much bet-Earlier, Krishnan completed a five-set win over Petchey that was interrupted Friday evening by fading light at two sets apiece. He won 6-3,3-6,6-3,6-7 (7-2), 6-1 on the

Tennis Association. Krishanan eastly took the fifth set, breaking Petchey twice with accurate slicing service returns.

grass court of the Delhi Lawn

Britain's top player Jeremy Bates, who lost to Paes on Friday, pulled out of the doubles, complaining of a pulled stomach muscle.

Krishanan, 31, who has been playing in the Davis Cup for 15 years, admitted after playing nine sets in two days that he was feeling his age.

"You have to prepare yourself to take this kind of beating. When you're younger, you do it automatically," he said.

The British team, apparently upset by an often jeering crowed, declined to attend the obligatory post-match news conference.

It was the first time India has beaten Britain in three Davis Cup matches. In the last meeting in 1955, the losing Indian team was led by Krishnan's father, Ramanathan Krishanan.

between Sweden and the the match quickly United States. The United States led that best-of-five

day's doubles in Minneapolis. Rosset and Hlasek, who had each won their singles matehes on Friday, beat Motta and Roese 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 to give Switzerland a 3-0 lead in the best-of-five series.

match 2-0 going into Satur-

An earlier Reuter report said: Switzerland were one step away from reaching the Davis Cup tennis final for the first time after Marc Rosset and Jakob Hlasek gave them a 2-0 lead over Brazil in their World Grop semifinal on

Big-serving Olympic champion Rosset comfortably beat Jaime Oncins 6-3,7-5, 7in the first match while Hlasek was forced to four sets by Luiz Matter before winning 6-2, 6-3,6-7,6-3

The winners of the best-offive tie will play either last year's runners-up the United States or former champions Sweden in December's final. Clay court specialist Oncins

had no answer to the cannon-

ball serving of Rosset and had

to taste defeat for the first

time after winning nine successive Davis Cup singles, all of his favourite surface. Rosset hit 27 aces and 22 first-service winners in the 138-minute match while the Brazilian stood helpless on the baseline as the ball whizzed

200 KPH. Oncins said: "There was nothing I could do. I hardly saw the ball sometimes."

past him at an average speed of

Serve and volley specialist Hlasek seemed to be cruising to an easy win over Mattar on the fast carpet court after taking command in the first two

With a superb exhibition of attacking tennis, he dropped only four points on his serve in the first set and five in the But then he squandered two

break points in the fifth game of the third set by netting two easy volleys. He faltered again in the third set tiebreak. From 5-2 up he surrendered five points

in a row, hitting two double

faults along the way. After a rest period, Hlasek returned determined to end

One break in the sixth game, helped by a lapse of concentration from Mattar who found the 18,300 home fans distracting, was enough to give Hlasek victory.

Hlasek said: "I think I was

over-confident in the tiebreak. They were stupid mistakes but I settled everything in the fourth set." The Brazilians had sensationally beaten former cham-

pions Germany and Italy on slow clay in the previous rounds but found the fast indoor court much harder to cope with. French Open champions Rosset and Hlasek team up in

the doubles today against

Fernando Roese and Cassio

CIS take 3-0

lead over ROK MOSCOW, Sept 26: Andrei Cherkasov and Andrei Osolsky clinched a Davis Cup victory over South Korea Saturday as President Boris Yeltsin looked on, winning a doubles match that elevated Russia to the World Group next year, reports

Cherkasov and Osolsky, playing for the Commonwealth of Independent States, defeated Kim Jaz-Ski and Kim Chi-Wan 6-2, 6-4, 7-5 to give the CIS an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the best of five match.

Next year's Davis Cup team officially will represent Russia, not the commonwealth, as the huge ex-Soviet sports establishment is formally broken up among its 15 former republics.

The CIS had taken a 2-0 lead on Friday when Cherkasov defeated Shin Han-Czhol 6-2. 6-4, 6-0, and Alexander Volkov breezed past Chang Hui-Jong 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. Yeltsin, an avid tennis fan

and player, was among the

spectators at the Moscow ten-

nis complex.

Besides his love for the game, fans speculated he may have showed up as a diplomatic gesture to former foe South Korea, which he will visit in November. If the latter, Yeltsin's cause was hardly helped when, at the beginning of the match, technicians accidentally played the national anthem of Communist North Korea in honour of the team from South Korea.



year, told Bush he was sorry he had to write such a letter. "But I am afraid there is little that will be accomplished in the next four months (the remain-Division basketball league between Josephites Club and der of Bush's current term in Backstroke Boys Club at the Outer Stadium yesterday. Josephites won 67-57, -Star photo

The anger that drives Petranoff on HAVANA, Sept interview on Friday.

'dropping the ball'



26: Burning anger at the US officials who banned him from competition continues to dri-

ve American-born South African Tom Petranoff, reports Reuter. Their insanity is the reason

throw far," the former javelin

world record holder said in an

LOS ANGELÉS, Sept 26:

Basketball legend Earvin "Ma-

gic" Johnson resigned on

Friday from the US National

Commission on AIDS, accusing

President George Bush of

"dropping the ball" in the fight

against the deadly disease, re-

Johnson, whose announce-

ment last year that he had the

HIV virus that causes Acquired

Immune Deficiency Syndrome

shocked the world, said in a

letter to Bush he could no

longer serve on a body 'whose

important work is so utterly

ignored by your administra-

one of the nation's most visible

AIDS patient, to the commis-

sion in January, seven months

later Johnson was on the US

"Dream Team" that won the

gold medal in the Summer

son recalled meeting the pres-

ident in January. "I have you a

letter in which I expressed my

hope that you would become

more actively involved in the

team may be, I said it won't

win the championship without

the owner fully in the game. I

am disappointed that you have

dropped the ball, and that your

administration is not doing ev-

erything that it must to fight

professional basketball last

Johnson, who retired from

this disease."

"No matter how good the

fight against AIDS," he said.

In his letter to Bush, John-

Olympics in Barcelona.

Bush appointed Johnson,

ports Reuter.

Petranoff, 34, who is competing for Africa in the threeday athletics World Cup here.

for six years by US officials after he took part in a rebel tour of South Africa in 1988. He was reinstated earlier I'm here and why I think I can

this year when International Amateur Athletic Federation lifted its ban on South African athletes

"Accordingly, I have regret

fully decided to resign your

appointment to the National

Johnson told Bush he was

MAGIC JOHNSON

grateful to have had the oppor

tunity to serve on the commis-

sion "because it has given me

the chance to learn so much

about AIDS and what must be

missioners as a wonderful

group of caring and dedicated

people who had worked hard

and effectively to develop a

plan of action the nation

should follow in the fight

becoming a very frustrated

with my fellow commission

members, I have been increas-

ingly frustrated by the lack of

support, and even the opposi-

tion, of your administration to

our recommendations - rec-

ommendations which have an

urgent priority for which there

is abroad consensus in the

medical and AIDS communi-

ttes," Johnson wrote.

"But the commission was

"As I think you know, along

He praised his fellow com

done to fight it."

against AIDS.

body", he said.

Commission on AIDS."

America or the Caribbean for 30 years. was banned from competition "They (US officials) told me when they banned me that you can't, you won't and you never

"My philosophy is that I can and I will, and I want them to watch me step back in." Petranoff said he did not have any animosity toward the Magic blames Bush for

again," Petranoff said.

United States or the American people, but was still upset at his suspension. "Ben Johnson was banned at the same time I was and he

only got a two-year suspension for the world's great doping scandal and I was banned for six years," Petranoff said. The former Southern California resident admitted he was mistaken in travelling to

laws were still in effect. was politically naive," he said. "I didn't have the whole picture.

South Africa while apartheid

But he said he had no regrets in moving to South

"I'm a born-again javelin

thrower," said Petranoff, who earlier this year improved his personal best to 87.26 metres, almost two metres ahead of his US record of 85.38. A South African citizen since 1991, Petranoff, his wife

and four daughters live in Johannesburg where Petranoff works as a consultant with a large mineral resources company and spends many hours running throwing clinics. "So I've got to go another four year to Atlanta (site of the

1996 Olympics) to prove my point," he said. the United states?

Does he miss anything about "The Mexican food," Petranoff replied.

Climbing feat KATMANDU, Sept 26: A

Nepalese Sherpa guide climbed the world's tallest peak, Mount Everest, for the eighth time, creating a record in mountaineering, reports from a base camp said Saturday, reports AP. The message from a Span-

ish expedition team said 44year-old mountain guide Ang Rita, reached the top of the 8,848-metre (29,028-ft) high mountain from the traditional southeast ridge route Friday.