

Zia starts well but Champak disappoints

FIDE Master Zia earned the distinction of becoming the first local player to record a victory against a foreign competitor in the ninth Gazi Motahar Hossain International Masters' chess tournament at the conference room of the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

Zia, who is looking for his second norm for the status of an International Master, beat Indian IM Arun Vaidya in 58 moves.

Playing with white pieces, Zia adopted an English Opening to outwit his opponent with more titular weight on board number six.

In a clash of national champions, men's champion Reefat Bin-Sattar, playing with

Sports Reporter black, disposed of compatriot Bangladesh women's champ IWM Rani Hamid in 37 moves, on board number eight. In the four-hour-long battle Reefat successfully countered Rani's challenges with a French defence opening.

In the longest match of the day, on board number two, Indian IM Krishnamurthy Murugan defeated Bangladesh FIDE Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman. Murugan had Tahmid checkedmated in 60 moves after six long hours. Murugan adopted the Queen's gambit.

Zillur Rahman Champak, the solitary International Master of the country, cut a sorry figure after having made so much fuss before the tournament.

He lost to Yemeni International Master Hameed Mansour Gazi in 37 moves on board five.

The Yemeni IM with kinky curls played with French defence opening.

On Board One, Kayes Hassan, playing with a King's Indian defence, beat Saifuddin Lavlu in 42 moves.

Indian International Master Lanka Ravi was the winner on Board Four. He got the better of Jamilur Rahman in 41 moves. Playing with white Ravi started with a rating opening and had Jamil struggling as the Bangladesh player lost his knight.

Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi, the International Master of Pakistan who played with black pieces, was the winner on Board Three. The defending champion finished off Indian Anu Lahiri in 37 moves with a Nimzo Indian variation.

Rahul Shetty of India drew with his compatriot IM PDS Binrath on board seven. The match, which saw both players adopting a Sicilian defence, ended in a stalemate after 37 moves.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Reefat vs Kayes (Board 1)
Rani vs Shetty (Board 2)
Girinath vs Vaidya (Board 3)
Zia vs Lanka (Board 4)
Jamil vs Lodhi (Board 5)
Champak vs Anu (Board 6)
Mansour vs Murugan (Board 7)

Fischer up 6-3

BELGRADE, Oct 8: The Fischer-Spassky chess match scheduled for today was put until the weekend at the request of Russian-born Boris Spassky who said he was suffering from stress after his opponent's win earlier in the week, reports AFP.

The match was postponed until Saturday.

American Bobby Fischer won the 16th game played here Wednesday to keep him in the lead with six wins over Spassky's three.

The victor will be the first to win 10 games.

It was the second time Spassky, now a French national, had requested a postponement. Each player can ask for up to four postponements, though Fischer has requested none.



Top seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden, who won this year's US Open, makes a forehand return in his first round match of the Australian Indoor Championship in Sydney on October 7. — AFP photo

Cricket comes back



Sports Reporter

Cricket, lovely cricket, is back again. The domestic cricket season gets underway today with defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra taking on babes City Club in the inaugural match of 14th Damal Summer Cricket tournament at 9.30 am at Dhaka Stadium.

Foreign Minister and BCCB president ASM Mustafizur Rahman will officially inaugurate the tournament at 9 am.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will also be present as a special guest.

Tickets for the first phase of the tournament have been fixed at Taka 20 daily for VIP, Gate-1 Taka 15 for VIP Gate

Singles quarterfinals today



RAJSHAHI, Oct 8: Two lesser known Indians made amends for the disappointing display by their more distinguished compatriot, number two seed Zeeshan Ali, on the opening day by making it to the quarterfinals of the ITF Gold Leaf men's satellite circuit tennis championships here today.

Pakistan's Rashid Malik, the fourth seed who has represented his country in the Davis Cup, joined the growing list of favourites gone to seed when T Walter of Germany got the better of him 6-4, 6-3.

Defending champion Laurence Tielemans of Italy faced some unexpected late resistance from Hiralal, the sole Bangladeshi to have made the round of 16, the champion prevailing in the end 6-1, 7-6.

Third seeded Sean Cole of Britain beat his Japanese opponent Takeshi Murkami 6-3, 6-2 but tenth seeded Daiji Momi kept up the Japanese challenge when he outplayed eighth seeded Sofronio Palahang of the Philippines 6-4, 6-3.

Another Japanese, Gakuji Okada, the 12th seed, wasn't

so lucky, going down 4-6, 5-7 to Dutchman Joren Heinhuis.

Giant-killer Karoly Gyorgy continued his fine run by outclassing Dimitri Tondeur of Belgium 6-1, 6-3.

In the doubles, apart from Natarak and Kirtane, the other pairs who reached the quarterfinals are Jason Giavara (USA) and Humayun Parvez of Pakistan, Palahang and Murakami, the Belgian pair of Dennis Van Uffelen and Tondeur, the Japanese pair of Okada and Momi, Robert Kraus (Germany) and Karoly Gyorgy of Hungary, Rafael Chajdas (USA) and Matthias Muller of Germany, and the Dutch duo of Heinhuis and Erik Brunmuller.

In the singles quarterfinals Friday, Tielemans faces Momi, Walter will play Heinhuis, Natarak will take on Karoly Gyorgy, and Kirtane meets Sean Cole.

Top two in round 2

TOULOUSE, France, Oct 8: Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia and Guy Forget of France, the top seeds in the dlr 315,000 Toulouse Open tennis tournament, advanced Wednesday into the second round, reports AP.

Korda, a finalist at the French Open in June, beat Sweden's Thomas Hogstadt, 6-4, 6-1. Forget, the defending champion and No 2 seed, struggled past Michael Schapers of Netherlands, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5.

In second round matches Wednesday, No 3 seed Brad Gilbert of the United States beat Rodolphe Gilbert of France, 6-3, 6-1. Jonas Svensson of Sweden eliminated No 8 seed, Italy's Omar Capomprese, 6-3, 6-4, and Arnaud Boetsch beat fellow Frenchman Cedric Pioline, 6-2, 6-2.

Norway win

SAN MARINO, Oct 8: Norway beat underdog San Marino 2-0 Wednesday night in a World Cup qualifying match to strengthen its lead atop the Group 2 standings, reports AP.

Forward Jahn Ivar Jakobsen opened the scoring in the seventh minute, and Jostein Flo added the second goal in the 19th.

Norway routed San Marino, a tiny republic in central Italy, 10-0 in their first match on Sept 9 at Oslo.

ACB fines Mathews



MELBOURNE, Oct 8: The Australian Cricket Board, whose main sponsor is a cigarette company, has heavily penalized all-rounder Greg Mathews for taking part in an anti-smoking campaign, reports AP.

The ACB said Thursday it fined Mathews 25 per cent of his 1992 players' contract, amounting to several thousand dollars.

The penalty was imposed in June after he was pictured in "Woman's Day" magazine crushing a packet of cigarettes manufactured by the Benson and Hedges Group, the ACB's sponsor.

Despite the advertisement Mathews he said Thursday that he had resumed smoking during a recent Australian test tour of Sri Lanka.

ACB chairman Alan Crompton said players were not allowed to "denigrate" sponsors under the terms of their contracts.

"This is a normal, sensible and commercial provision and the nature of the sponsor's

product is irrelevant," Crompton said adding that Benson and Hedges had not asked for action against Mathews.

Recently the Australian government said it will ban tobacco sponsorship of sport within three years' although the ACB has until the end of the 1995-96 season to find a new sponsor.

"Mathews' action has exposed the sheer hypocrisy of tobacco companies sponsoring sport and challenges the association between sport and a product that undermines sporting performance," Health Services Minister Peter Staples said.

The swift action in fining Mathews highlights the ACB's immense sensitivity to being sponsored by a product that contributes to the death of one in three people if taken as prescribed.

However, former Australian captain Ian Chappell supported the ACB saying it was unfair for Mathews to accept sponsorship support from Benson and Hedges and then publicly criticize it.

Leeds lads all fired up



LEEDS, England, Oct 8: English champions Leeds United will need no team talk for their European Cup first round play-off against German club Stuttgart at Barcelona on Friday night, reports AFP.

Howard Wilkinson's side are furious that Stuttgart have been allowed a third match by UEFA after fielding too many

foreign players in the second leg here last week.

"If people are looking for reasons why we should try even harder than usual, then I'm sure there are plenty of those around after what has happened to us this past week," said the Leeds manager.

"The lads are very keen to make sure they get into the next round and meet Glasgow Rangers on merit, certainly they fancy their chances."

No player is more determined than Welsh international Gary Speed, whom Stuttgart wrongly tried to claim was a foreign player. They were subsequently fined for wasting UEFA's time.

"There is anger among the lads at being let down," he said. "We should have gone straight through without the need for this match and you can be sure we'll be fired up for it."

Wilkinson is expected to field the side who demolished the German club 4-1 in the second leg.

Wilkinson may have forward Rod Wallace available again after a month of the sidelines with a hamstring injury, but he is more likely to sit on the bench.

The Leeds boss said: "I haven't ruled him out of my plans yet. We will have to wait and see."

Wilkinson was also decide whether to keep David Batty at right back after a disappointing performance at Ipswich on Saturday or switch him to his more familiar ball winning role in midfield.

This would allow Chris Fairclough or Jon Newsome to fill the problem right back position.

Papin's pair leads Milan's march



MILAN, Italy, Oct 8: Part-time striker Jean-Pierre Papin scored two goals as he led league champion AC Milan to a 3-0 victory against Cagliari in a third-round, first leg match of the Italian Cup Wednesday night, reports AP.

Roma routed Fiorentina 4-2 at the Olympic stadium.

Defending Cup champion Parma earned a narrow 1-0 victory against second-division Venice.

Two other B-league teams, Bari and Cesena, held first division Torino and Lazio to surprising 1-1 draws.

Mighty Juventus of Turin beat Genoa 1-0.

Uruguayan forward Daniel Fonseca scored the decisive goal in Napoli's 2-1 home victory against Verona.

In an early Cup match Tuesday, underdog Foggia held Internazionale Milan to a goalless draw.

Papin, often relegated to the substitute bench of the star-studded Milan team, made a sensational comeback at Milan's San Siro stadium scoring two goals in two minutes.

in the 25th and 26th, with precise headers.

Gianluigi Lentini, one of the most expensive Italian players signed by Milan this year, made it 3-0 in the 63rd.

Fiorentina, trounced by Milan 7-3 in a league game last Sunday, suffered another beating in Rome.

Two goals by Italian forward Andrea Carnevale and two by Yugoslav midfielder Sinisa Mihajilovic gave Roma a 4-0 lead by the 53rd minute.

Newly-hired German midfielder Stefan Effenberg tallied two goals in the 79th and 83rd — the second on a penalty kick — to reduce the extent of the rout.

In Naples, Brazilian centre-forward Carca put Napoli in the lead in the 52nd minute.

Forward Claudio Lunini scored Verona's equalizer three minutes later.

Fonseca put in his 12th goal of this season as he headed home Napoli's winner in the 81st minute.

Belgian midfielder Vincenzo Scifo gave Torino a 1-0 lead in the 15th minute at Bari.

Bari's centreforward Bernardino Capocchiano evened

Exhausted Agassi would like a break



SYDNEY, Oct 8: Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi admitted he was paying a price for his gruelling travelling schedule after a breezy introduction to the 1.1 million US dollar Australian Indoor Tennis championships here Wednesday night, reports AP.

Agassi, the third seed, pounded countryman Jim Grabb 6-4, 6-2 in just over an hour to set up a round of 16 today with unseeded German Patrik Kuhnen.

But it was only afterwards when Agassi, draped in a towel and looking drained and wheezing from a cold, that the full merit of his win became apparent.

"I'm not at my physical best right now," Agassi said, in between splutters and sniffs.

"But it hasn't really gone that way and unfortunately a lot of that has to do with the Davis Cup, that's some thing I feel strong about, but it takes a toll on you even if you didn't play those exos," he said in a reference to the exhibition matches against John McEnroe in Singapore, Seoul

and Melbourne.

Yet despite Agassi's run-down state, he still looked in excellent touch against the mismatched Grabb, winning a total of 61 per cent of all the points on offer.

"Ideally I would like a week off, but that's not going to happen, so I have to be ready as I can be, but if I'm hitting the ball like this I'm not going to have to worry about fatiguing in matches."

"I'm not really giving the person a chance to move me around a lot... I feel like I'm hitting, returning and serving well, so I have to be concerned with how I'm playing, not the way I'm feeling."

But for Agassi, with the box-office appeal, his whistle-stops around the world's tennis stadiums are taking their toll.

"It's easy to commit to things a year in advance, then you're not sure how fatigued you're going to be."

"There's so much happening in a year that you've just got to throw the dice."

"This has been a little bit too much for me, but you've got to tough through those times and still be ready to play."

Maradona's first in 18 months

SEVILLE, Spain, Oct 8: Argentine striker Diego Maradona scored his first goal since returning to soccer after being suspended for drug use 18 months ago in Sevilla's 1-0 victory Wednesday over Zaragoza in a Spanish first-division match, reports AP.

Maradona, playing his first home league match in Seville, delighted a crowd of about 50,000 when he scored in the 53rd minute on a penalty from 12 metres (yards) with a well-placed shot high and to the right of the Zaragoza goalie.

Maradona took the penalty after Argentine teammate Diego Pablo Simeone was tripped as he broke free in the area.

The 31-year-old superstar, who completed a 15-month suspension in June for drug use, was sold last month to Sevilla for dlr 7.5 million by Napoli after he refused to play the final year of his contract for the Italian club.

Maradona, who turns 32 on Oct 30, returned to soccer on Sept 28 and assisted on two goals in Sevilla's 3-1 exhibition-game victory over Bayern Munich. On Sunday, Maradona helped set up Sevilla's lone goal in a 3-1 loss at Athletic de Bilbao — his first league appearance.

Maradona played the full 90 minutes of Wednesday's match after playing only 72 minutes on Sunday when he was forced to the sidelines with a sprained ankle.

Angels cagers win

Sports Reporter

Reigning champions Angels Club gave an auspicious start to their campaign for this year's title with a 76-65 victory over Dhaka Winners Club, runners-up by default last year, in the first match of the Partex First Division basketball super league at the Wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

The victors led the first half 34-28.

Lanky Dural of Angels was their top scorer with 24, followed by Siddiq with 20 and Mintu with 11.

Asif Zafar was the main scorer for the losers with 16. Tanu with 13 and Asif Hossain with 13 were the other scorers.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain formally inaugurated the six-team super league.

DU, JU emerge jt. champions

By JU Correspondent

Defending champions Dhaka University and hosts Jahangirnagar University shared the inter-university soccer championship trophy at the Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall playground yesterday.

The stipulated 90 minutes of the keenly contested final ended in a scoreless stalemate. Insufficiency of light compelled the organisers to declare the finalists joint champions.

Both teams played attacking football from the very kick off but failed to score despite a handful of chances.

Strong determination from the Jahangirnagar University defenders, and goalkeeper Hakim in particular thwarted the Dhaka University booters.

Roxy and Lipu of Dhaka University kept the host defence under pressure till the last whistle. It was sheer bad luck for the visitors when a couple of shots by Lipu hit the Jahangirnagar woodwork.

Jahangirnagar's counter-attacks were manoeuvred by Zahed, Babu and Hiru but the home crowd felt let down when these forwards the failed to produce any goals.

Faisal of Dhaka University and Salim and Rafiq of Jahangirnagar were shown yellow cards for rough play.

Babu of Jahangirnagar was adjudged the best player of the meet.

Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, VC of Khulna University Dr Golam Rahman, Pro-VC of Dhaka University Prof Wakil Ahmed distributed the trophies.

Pak booters in city

Sports Reporter

A 21-member Wahab Club soccer team from Pakistan arrived in Dhaka yesterday to play the first leg match of the Central Zone final of the 12th Asian Club Cup championship against Brothers Union, the Federation Cup champions of Bangladesh.

The party consists of 18 players and three officials. Seven more members of the contingent would join the rest of the party today from Pakistan.

The match will begin at 6:30 pm at the Mirpur Stadium.

Tickets for the match have been fixed at Taka 10 for the galleries, while entrants of Gate 3A and 3B will have to pay Taka 20 each.

Div Two soccer

Sports Reporter

Muslim Institute and Jurain Janata won their respective Sonali Bank Second Division super league matches at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Muslim Institute squeezed through to a 2-1 over Prantik Krira Chakra in the day's first match.

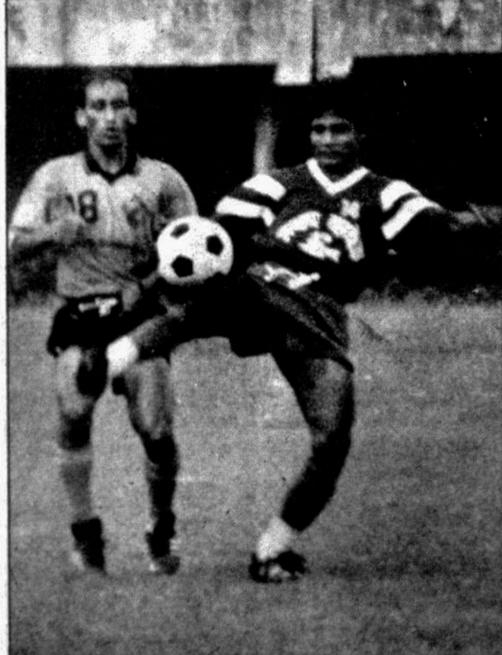
Aynal Huq and Ashish Kumar scored one goal each for the victors while Anisul Karim netted Prantik KC's consolation goal.

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

In yesterday's only Third Division super league match, Badda Jagorani Sangsad outplayed Bashabo Tarun Sangha 2-0 at the Mirpur Stadium.

Zahidul Islam and Alok Kumar netted once for the winners



Action from yesterday's Sonali Bank Second Division super league football match between Muslim Institute and Prantik Boys Club at the Hockey Stadium. Muslim Institute edged past 2-1. — Star photo

High-flying Coventry crash



LONDON, Oct 8: High-flying English Premier League club Coventry City were brought crashing down to earth on Wednesday night by Third Division minnows Scarborough who blasted them to a 3-0 defeat in the League Cup, reports AP.

Three late goals from Tommy Mooney, Darren Foreman and Lee Hirst fired the Yorkshire side into the third round on a 3-2 aggregate.

Coventry manager Bobby Gould was forced to admit, "Scarborough were the better team and we have to accept it. Even if the game had gone to extra-time, I think they would still have won."

Middlesbrough also bowed out, but their 3-1 home defeat by unbeaten First Division leaders Newcastle was scarcely a surprise.

Two goals from David Kelly and another from Liam O'Brien sank Boro, who had equalised through Paul Wilkinson.

Arsenal had goalkeeper David Seaman to thank for not joining Coventry and Boro on the Cup scrapheap. He produced a hat-trick of superb penalty saves in a shoot-out to send the Gunners through 3-1 against First Division Millwall.

The London rivals had been

locked at 2-2 overall after extra time, with a Lee Dixon own goal having cancelled out Arsenal's opener from Kevin Campbell in the second leg.

A last-kick extra-time goal by Rick Holden saved Manchester City from similar penalty drama at First Division Bristol Rovers, who went down 2-1 on the night and on aggregate.

N'ganj Poura Cup final today

Sports Reporter

Local favourites Mohsin Club will be up against Dhaka First Division leaguers Muktojjodha Krira Sangsad in the final of the Poura Gold Cup soccer championship at the Narayanjanj Osmani Stadium this afternoon.

Muktojjodha defeated BSEC (Dockyard) 7-6 in the semifinal while Mohsin Club won their semifinal against Dhaka First Division veterans Rahmatganj MFS 6-4, also in the tiebreaker.

Minister for Home Affairs Abdul Matin Chowdhury will distribute prizes among the winners as chief guest.

The 14-team knockout tournament began on September 24 under the auspices of the Narayanjanj DSA.