



Mahmud Lodhi, the national champion of Pakistan, and Reefat-bin-Sattar, his Bangladeshi counterpart, engrossed in their seventh-round match at the NSC conference room yesterday. — Star photo

Girinath holds Murugan

Indian IM Krishnamurthy Murugan retained his top position in the points table despite drawing his sixth round match with compatriot PDS Girinath in the ninth Q M Hossain chess tournament at the conference room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Playing with white, Murugan, who now has five and half points, opened with d4. The short-statured Girinath, a rated player, opted for a King's Indian defence. After a stalemate in the middle game position both players agreed to a draw after 30 moves.

National champion Reefat bin-Sattar finally found his touch as he defeated defending champion, Pakistani IM Mahmood Lodhi in 34 moves.

Playing with black pieces the Bangladesh FIDE Master adopted an English opening. Lodhi bungled in the 14th move with e4. With two pawns down the aggressive Pakistani conceded defeat after 34 moves.

Hamed Mansour Qazi, the Yemeni, IM, and rated Indian player Rahul Shetty jointly held the second position in the points table with four and half points each at the end of the sixth round.

Yesterday Lanka Ravi defeated Rahul Shetty, in 49 moves. Playing with white Ravi opened with d4. Shetty declined with Queen's gambit of the Meran variation.

Hamed Qazi won against Atanu Lahiri from Calcutta in 40 moves. Playing with white, Qazi opened with d4. Lahiri adopted a King's Indian defence. The young Indian threw away the advantage with two bad moves. — BfB in the 20th move and Rd7 in the 30th move. The rated Indian player succumbed under time pressure in the 40th move.

Indian IM Arun Vaidya recorded a win against Khand-

Sports Reporter

ker Kayes Hassan. Vaidya, the bald seasoned Indian campaigner, defended Kayes' e4 opening with a Sicilian Paulson variation. Vaidya wrestled control from the 15th move onwards. Vaidya's game, which resembled the informant 42 as demonstrated by Giorgiev, took the fight out of Kayes and it was all over after 37 moves.

Jamilur Rahman beat compatriot Syed Tahmidur Rahman, a FIDE Master and fellow former national champion, in another match of the day. Tahmid buckled under time pressure after 37 moves as Jamil cleverly manipulated his black pieces in a match that saw the winner adopt a Dutch defence.

Zillur Rahman Champak, the lone Bangladeshi IM, defeated IWM and the solitary female competitor of this tournament Rani Hamed yesterday. Rani, who adopted the Sicilian Paulson's defence, lost

Affection can take its toll

TOKYO, Oct 14: A Japanese man has been charged with killing his son's soccer coach, apparently because the boy had been dropped from the team, a police spokesman said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Yasuhiro Kajihara, 47, died on Tuesday after suffering stab wounds to the neck and chest in an incident near his home in Kokubunji-cho, Kagawa prefecture.

Police who rushed to the scene found Shuzo Kunikoshi, 47, standing near the body with a knife in his hand. They had been alerted by a panicked phone call by Kajihara's wife. "My husband is being chased by a neighbour with a knife," she said.

Kunikoshi's son was recently dropped from the youth football team to which he had belonged for three years, police said.

pieces in the middle game against Champak who opened with e4.

At the end of the sixth round which began after a day's rest yesterday the standing of the players in the points table is as follows:

Murugan	5.5 points
Shetty and H M Qazi	4.5 "
L Ravi and Zia	4 "
Lodhi	3.5 "
Vaidya, Reefat and Kayes	3 "
Girinath and Lavlu	2.5 "
Jamil and Tahmid	2 "
Atanu and Champak	1 "
Rani Hamed	00

Karpov exits

TILBURG, Netherlands, Oct 14: Former world champion Anatoly Karpov has been eliminated in the second round of the Interpolis international chess tournament, reports Reuter.

Second-seeded Karpov is joined by three other seeds, Mikhail Gurevich (12th), Curt Hanssen (11th) and Lev Polugaevsky (10th).

The others go through to the third round, starting on Wednesday.

Karpov was unceremoniously knocked out by the low-ranking Hungarian Jan Rogers (64) Alexander Chernin during the third-day tie-break session. Chernin beat Karpov in the first of the 30-minute deciding matches with black, then drew with white in the best win of his career.

Sixth-seeded Nigel Short of Britain finally overcame the tenacious Australian Ian Rogers and will now meet Margreit Johansson of Iceland in the third round.

Short's win has kept a tantalising encounter with Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman alive.

A meeting here between the two Grandmasters would serve as a dress rehearsal for their big clash in Linares, Spain, in January for the right to contest Garry Kasparov's world crown a few months later.

Berlin may make a profit from 2000 Games, says Mayor

BERLIN, Oct 14: Berlin's Mayor on Tuesday rebutted charges that staging the Olympic Games in the year 2000 would be a waste of taxpayers' money and said the city could make a profit if it hosted the event, reports Reuter.

Presenting a financial plan for the city's bid, governing Mayor Eberhard Diepgen told reporters he expected a 190 million mark (129 million dollar) profit from the Games.

He called on German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Finance Minister Theo Waigel to provide the start-up finance for the city's Olympic venture. This would be paid back from the income generated later, he said.

The German government has been reluctant to back Berlin because it faces a huge bill for rescuing the collapsed economy of former communist East Germany.

Diepgen said the financial plan proved the Games would cost the city no more than 3.3 billion marks (2.2 billion dollar). This would be covered by income of 3.5 billion marks (2.3 billion dollar).

The International Olympic Committee will decide in September 1993 where the 2000 Games will be held.

Berlin, which last hosted the Games in 1936 under Adolf Hitler, is competing with Sydney, Beijing, Istanbul, Milan Manchester, Brasilia and Tashkent.

Berlin's bid has been ill-starred from the start, with sports personalities refusing to give their backing.

Heysel Stadium to be rebuilt

BRUSSELS, Oct 14: Belgian officials may reach agreement before the end of the year on rebuilding part of the Heysel Stadium where 39 people died in rioting before the 1985 European Cup final, reports Reuter.

Belgian Soccer Federation general secretary Alain Courtois said on Tuesday: "Everybody's ready to talk. I'm convinced that something will be unblocked before December 31."

"I see an evolution in the way that the national government now wants to tackle the problem... For the first time in a long time, the city, the region and the central state... are on the same wavelength, have the same goal," he said.

The 39 supporters who died were at the final between Italian club Juventus and England's Liverpool.

Five years later the Belgian Interior Ministry banned matches at Heysel because of safety concerns about the stadium, built in the 1930s. Plans to rebuild the stadium have been stalled because of insufficient funds.

Courtois said the stadium would not be entirely razed and replaced by a new complex.

The Belgian Soccer Federation uses Anderlecht's modern stadium for its internationals.

Army volleyball

RANGPUR, Oct 14: The hosts Rangpur Area team qualified for the final of the annual Army volleyball championship, reports BSS.

They beat the Bogra Area team by 3-1 sets of 17-15, 7-15, 15-12 and 15-11 points in the semifinal match at the Rangpur Cantonment today, and ISPR press release said.

The Rangpur Area team will now meet the Savar Area team in the final match tomorrow.

Athletes press IAAF for concessions

LONDON, Oct 14: Linford Christie will not have to qualify for next year's World Championships if the athletes get their way, reports AFP.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation is studying demands from the sport's top earners for Olympic champions and world champions to have automatic invitations to the next major event.

If that had been the case for the Barcelona Olympics then Christie might not have won the 100 metres as Carl Lewis could have been eligible and the Briton has never beaten the world record-holder. As it was, Lewis failed to qualify for the US team.

The International Association of Athletes' Representatives (IAAR), which looks after the interests of 90 per cent of competitors in the world top 50, has also asked for nine million dollars in prize money for the Stuttgart championships.

Gold medal winners in the 41 events would earn 100,000 dollars, silver medal winners 50,000 dollars and bronze medal winners 25,000 dollars.

Prize money would go all the way down to eight place in

each final. World records would be worth 100,000 dollars and championship records 50,000



CARL LEWIS

dollars. Tome Jennings, secretary of the IAAR, said: "There would be no World Championships

without the athletes and the time has come for them to share in the millions of dollars which they are generating



LINFORD CHRISTIE

through sponsorship and television. IAAF president Primo Nebiolo called his Council

members together for a working meeting on Tuesday but an IAAF spokesman declined to speculate on how they had reacted to the demands.

"A decision will be made at the calendar congress in Prague," she said. That meeting is scheduled for Oct 21-24.

The IAAF Grand Prix Commission has already proposed to treble prize money at next year's Grand Prix final in London.

In return for boosting prize money to 2.3 million dollars for the circuit's showpiece on September 10, there will be no appearance money.

Overall Grand Prix winners will take home 100,000 dollars, while winners of the 13 events on the programme will receive 30,000 dollars each.

Only athletes who have competed in at least five of the 16 Grand Prix meeting will qualify for the final.

The meetings will take place at San Paulo, New York, San Jose, Seattle, Rome, Lille, Stockholm, Lausanne, Oslo, Nice, London, Cologne, Zurich, Monte Carlo, Berlin and Brussels.

All the decisions will need to be formally approved by the IAAF Council meeting in Jakarta in January.

Zimbabwe — a sporting nation comes of age

HARARE, Oct 14: Suffering the worst drought of the century and unprecedented economic hardship, Zimbabweans have little to smile about — except an unexpected renaissance in their soccer and cricket, reports Reuter.

After 12 years of forgettable performances, the national soccer team suddenly bloomed this year and are challenging the domination of sides from West and North Africa.

In cricket, Zimbabwe have at long last attained Test status and play their first match this weekend against India followed by two Tests against New Zealand next month.

"It may not amount to much... But at least we have something to gloat about, something to lift our spirits in these times of severe depression," said sociologist Rene Loewenson. "These recent successes have become some kind of refuge."

Drought and related economic problems have led to rationing of water power and food for most Zimbabweans.

The only commodity in plentiful supply is soccer talent and local commentators say much credit must go to technical adviser Reinhard Fabisch, brought in on a two-year contract as part of Germany's foreign aid programme.

Fabisch, a shrewd tactician and firm believer in discipline, has in four months transformed a feeble-hearted Zimbabwean outfit into a side to be reckoned with.

Since August the Zimbabwe Warriors have advanced their African Nations Cup campaign

with a 4-1 victory over South Africa and a 1-0 triumph over Mauritius. They also beat Togo 1-0 in a World Cup preliminary game.

"Our players have responded magnificently to Fabisch's inspiration and to the challenge," former Zimbabwe national team boss Mick Poole said in a recent magazine commentary.

Fabisch has built his team around four Europe-based players — veteran Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, exciting 19-year-old Coventry City Striker Peter Ndlovu and hard-running midfielders Ephraim Chawanda and Henry Mkop, who play for German Third Division side Bonner.

For the first time since the country joined international competition at independence in 1980, the Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) has introduced hefty victory bonuses.

The recent successes have won Zimbabwean footballers world attention. Half a dozen have been wooed to South African clubs since August and European scouts have become regular visitors.

"Our players should be going north not south... to Europe where football is more competitive, and that's what we are encouraging them to do," said ZIFA senior administrative secretary Lazarus Mhushomona.

After clinching Test status, the Zimbabwe Cricket Union plans to play its under-21 team in a new South African provincial competition to help sharpen local players.

In Rugby, local authorities regard Zimbabwe's game as the best in black-ruled Africa, winning the right to represent the continent in the last two World Cups.

The teams mere presence at the tournaments was viewed locally as a great success despite their failure to advance beyond the first round.

NEGLECTED SPORTS

But the picture is less bright for other sports.

Lacking facilities, hundreds of teenagers play tennis on dusty township roads where games are interrupted by traffic. The few courts available are run-down and overcrowded.

The Junior Tennis Association of Zimbabwe has appealed to state and private companies for millions of dollars to develop facilities and make international competition possible.

But little help is available because of the crippled economy.

"Everyone is looking for support for one thing or another but in our current state I am sorry to say that many aid seekers are whistling in the dark," said a spokesman for the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries, umbrella group for the country's major manufacturers.

Since a women's hockey team led Zimbabwe into world sports with a dramatic gold medal win at the Moscow Olympics in 1980, hockey has joined several games, including athletics and basketball, suffering from lack of financial support and growth.

"Our sporting activities can only develop and succeed if we invest both time and money in them... and the games spread from their current small urban bases to the larger rural areas," a senior official of the state-backed Sports Commission said.

"We cannot have an impact on the continent and in the world until we do the right things. And that is what we are trying to do now," he said.

Osashi dethrones Choi to lift, WBA strawweight crown

TOKYO, Oct 14: Japanese challenger Hideyuki Osashi wrestled away the World Boxing Association strawweight title Wednesday night, scoring a unanimous decision over champion Choi Hi-yong of South Korea, reports AP.

There were no knockdowns in the 12-round title bout at the Kokugikan-sumo arena in downtown Tokyo.

American judge Fritz Werner scored the fight 117-111, Thai Pinat Prayadsab saw it 118-110 and Silvestre Abaiza of the Philippines had it 116-112, all for Osashi.

Both fighters started aggressively, with Choi unleashing flurries of short punches. Osashi countered with hooks and then uppercuts.

Choi was in control in the first few rounds, but Osashi's counter-punches began to take effect later.

Osashi, 27, a former World Boxing Council strawweight champion ranked third by the WBA, scored his 19th career victory against four losses. He has won 12 fights by knockout.

It was Osashi's first world title match since October 1990, when he lost his WBC title to Ricardo Lopez of Mexico by a fifth-round technical knockout in Tokyo.

Choi was attempting his fifth defense of the title he won from compatriot Kim Bong-jum in February 1991. He now has a record of one loss against 14 victories, including seven knockouts.

"He was a good and tough fighter," Osashi said of Choi after the nationally televised bout. Choi never backedpedaled throughout the fight, in which both fighters kept moving and hitting until the final gong.

"I hope my next fight will take place in South Korea," Osashi said, without elaborating.

Both Choi and Osashi weighed 47.6 kilograms (104.4 pounds).

French climbers missing

KATMANDU, Oct 14: Two French mountaineers who fell into a crevice in the World's ninth-tallest peak are missing, the Tourism Ministry said Wednesday, reports AP.

Pierre Beghin, 42, from Chamechaude and Jean Christophe Lafaille, 27, from Gap, plummeted 300 metres (1,000 feet) into a chasm in Mount Assapurna on Saturday, the ministry said.

They fell from a height of 7,200 metres (23,780 feet) while scaling the 8,091-metre (26,700-foot) mountain from the south face.

A Slovenian team that also was climbing the show-laden peak reported seeing one of the Frenchmen slowly descending from the mountain in bad weather on Tuesday.

The Frenchman, who could not be identified, descended to a height of 6,500 metres (21,450 feet) but it was not known if he was alive or dead, the Slovenians were quoted as saying.

Juniors lose, can seniors win?

PETERBOROUGH, England, Oct 14: England under-21 went down 2-0 to Norway here on Tuesday and gave up bad example to their seniors preparing for a World Cup encounter with the Viking surprise package, reports AFP.

Egil Ostenstad's second minute course bounced off Italian referee Ceccarino Piro into the path of Frank Strandli who shot Norway into the lead in the European under-21 championship qualifier.

Tottenham goalkeeper Ian Walker seemed to be at fault when England failed to clear a Sander Solberg corner and Alf Inge Haland scrambled in the second after 67 minutes.

Norway's youngsters are now unbeaten in nine matches in the qualifying competition and were just as effective as their national side who top World Cup qualifying Group 6.

Strandli, who may sign for English champions Leeds

United, might have had a second goal he picked up an Ostenstad through pass. But Walker managed to clear that shot.

It was a well-deserved victory against an England side whose chances were few and far between. Norway were a better team with greater skill and understanding.

Only Arsenal's Ray Parlour, shrugging off a leg muscle injury, made much impact and England now face an uphill task to qualify for the quarter-finals for a tournament they won in 1982 and 1984.

England seniors start their World Cup qualifying campaign against Norway at Wemble on Wednesday.

Scotland's hopes of repeating last season's appearance in the semi-finals of the UEFA under-21 championship were set back when they were held 0-0 by Portugal at Perth.

Scotland, who went down 2-0 to Switzerland last month, again failed to score in a match the Portuguese should have

won. Scotland were indebted to captain Kevin Bain, of Dundee, who cleared a Rui Costa shot off the line three minutes into the second-half.

BELGIANS WIN

Meanwhile, a Reuter report from Seraing, Belgium said: Belgium beat Romania 1-0 (halftime 0-0) in their European under-21 soccer championship Group Four qualifying match on Tuesday.

Bertrand Crasson scored in the 89th minute.

Waddell dead

GLASGOW, Scotland, Oct 14: Willie Waddell, one of the top names in Scottish soccer, died of a heart attack at the age of 71, officials announced Wednesday, reports AP.

Waddell made his name as a winger with Rangers and later became the club's manager, bringing the European Cup Winners Cup to Glasgow in 1972.

He made his debut for Rangers in 1938 and achieved success throughout the 1940s and 50s, playing 17 times for the Scottish national team.

He took charge of Kilmarnock and led the club to the first division championship in 1964-65. In 1969, he succeeded Davie White at Rangers and took on the role of general manager soon after the European triumph over Moscow Dynamo.

French govt to build new soccer stadium in Corsica

PARIS, Oct 13: The French government on Tuesday promised financial support for plans to build a new soccer stadium in Corsica to replace the Furiani ground where 15 people were killed in May when a temporary stand collapsed, reports Reuter.

French sports minister Frederique Bredin said the government would provide seven million francs (1.4 million dollar) over two years for a modern stadium for 10,000 spectators in Bastia.

Plans for a new stadium have been stalled because of a row over financing and location. Second Division Bastia have been playing home matches in Ajaccio, three hours drive away.



Syed Hassan Kanan, the Mohammedan custodian, takes the ball into his safe grip in yesterday's fund-raiser between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Brothers Union at the Mirpur Stadium. — Star photo

Dunhill Cup golf draw

ST ANDREWS, Scotland, Oct 14: The top-seeded United States team, with Fred Couples, Tom Kite and Davis Love III on the lineup, was matched against Ireland, Korea and New Zealand when the draw was made Wednesday for the 1.7 million Dunhill Cup golf tournament, reports AP.

The Americans will play New Zealand on the opening day Thursday, Korea Friday and eighth seed Ireland, a two-time champion, on Saturday.

In a new format, the 16 teams are split into four groups and the winner of each advances to the semifinal Sunday. The final also will be played Sunday.

Defending champion Sweden is drawn with Scotland, Canada and France, England, playing without world No 1 Nick Faldo, meets Spain, Italy and Japan and Australia, seeded two and with Greg Norman, Rodger Davis and Ian Baker-Finch on the team, faces South Africa, Germany and Thailand.