

Short stumbles

TILBURG, Netherlands, Oct 18: Britain's Nigel Short, the number six seed, lost his opening fourth-round match, playing white against Israeli Ilia Smirin on Saturday at the Interpolis chess tournament, reports Reuter.

As has so often been the case at this tournament, Short must come from behind again to keep his chances of reaching the final alive.

"The match seemed pretty even, but Short fell gradually behind and eventually had to concede the point to Smirin," commented Dutch international master Cor van Wijgerden.

"Tomorrow Short plays with black and that can become a very awkward assignment for him," Wijgerden said.

Michael Adams, seeded 15th, kept the British flag flying, beating Russian Andrej Kovalev who was playing black.

Predrag Nikolic of Croatia, seeded 14th, subdued Russia's Alexey Vyznainin to go one up.

Victor Korchnoi (black) and former world champion Vassily Smyslov (white) drew their matches with Sergei Tiviakov and Evgeny Sveshnikov respectively.

Number one seed Vassily Ivanchuk of Ukraine showed signs of strain for the first time this tournament, dropping half a point to number 16 seed Yassar Seirawan of the United States.

Playing white, Ivanchuk got into difficulty when he lost a pawn midway through the game, but the sturdy Ukrainian held firm in the endplay.

Observers felt Seirawan had let slip a realistic chance to take the lead.

Gata Kamsky, seeded eighth, lost to Artur Yusupov, seeded ninth, who dictated play from the first move.

Players switch colour on Sunday, followed by possible fourth round tiebreak matches on Monday.

The tournament will reach its climax on either October 27 when the second final match is played, or October 28 if tiebreak matches become necessary.

Press Club chess

Kazi Pownak Hossain of Dainik Bangla became unbeaten champion in the Jatya Press Club chess competition yesterday, reports BSS.

Rownak got full five points among 12 competitors who participated in the competition which was played on five-round Swiss league system.

Ahmed Nure-Alam also of Dainik Bangla became runner-up with four points. Four players bagged three points each.

Monwar Ahmed of Chitrali got third place after the decision was made through tie-breaking.

The other three players who had three points each are: Abu Musa Hasan (Purbakone), Abdur Rahman Khan (Telegraph), Habibur Rahman Salam (Janata). Those who secured two points are: Shaktat Rushti (Canadian High Commission) and Abu Taher Khokon (Morning Sun). Amirul Islam of Dinkal got one point.

Bitter memories of Tiananmen won't hurt Beijing bid

BEIJING, Oct 18: The negative impact of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown will gradually fade away as China's reforms advance and will not hurt Beijing's bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games, a vice mayor said Sunday, reports AFP.

The west had made a "mountain out of a mole hill" with regard to the June 4, 1989, crackdown, vice mayor Zhang Baifa told a press conference on Beijing's bid to host the Games.

"It's unfair that some people have been setting the June 4th issue to make a mountain out of a mole hill," Zhang said.

"Why don't people talk about the Los Angeles riots, or the seizing of a country's president by another country. I think this is unfair," Zhang said, in an indirect attack at US racial inequality and the US invasion of Panama.

He acknowledged that the suppression of the 1989 pro-democracy movement had some impact on Beijing's Olympic bid, but did not pose a major obstacle.

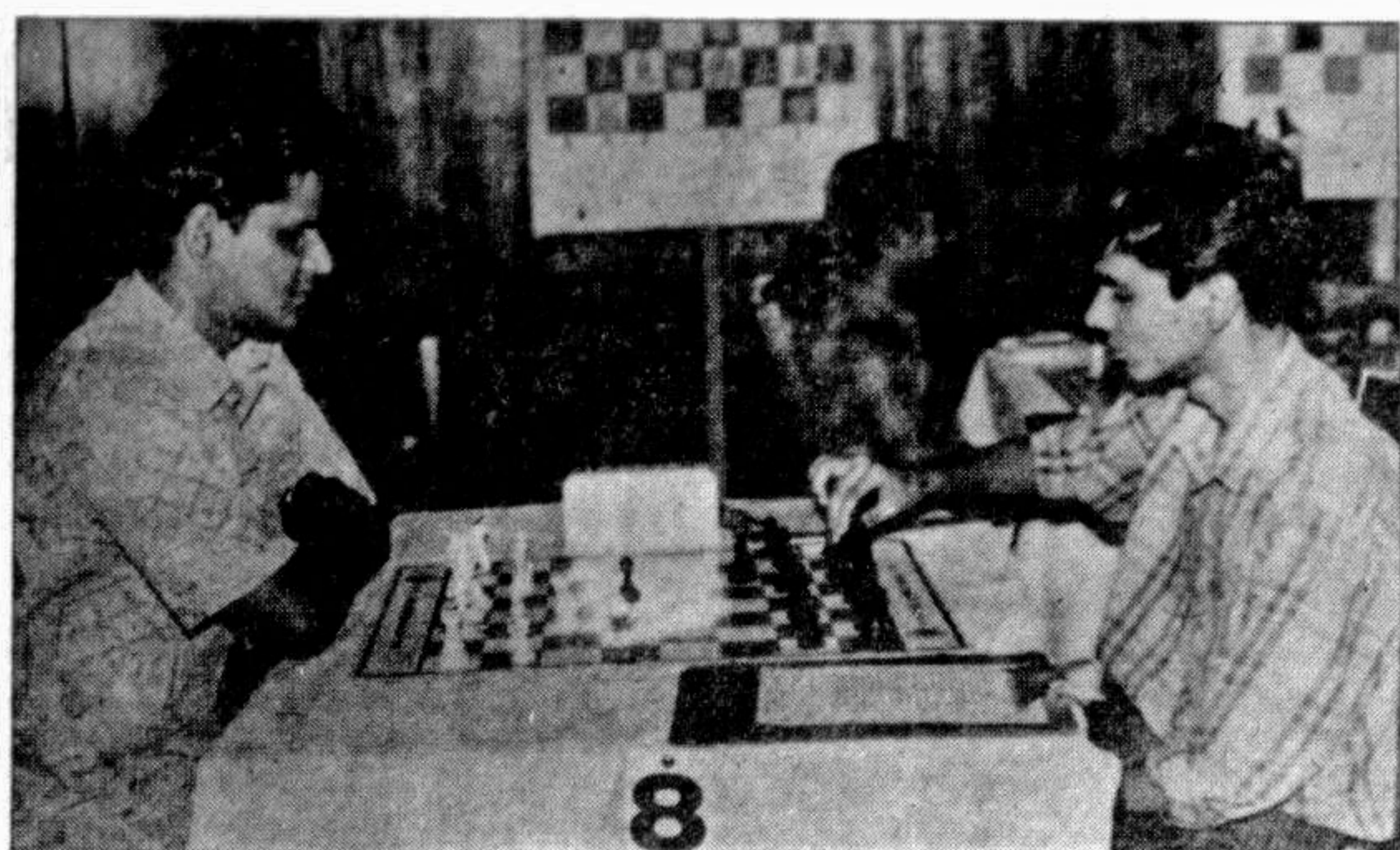
"I'm not suggesting that the June 4th incident has no impact on our bid at all. It does have some impact. But I'm sure... Further reform and opening up will gradually eliminate this," he said.

To improve the Chinese capital's image, he said, greater effort would be made to "introduce ourselves to the outside world in a better fashion" and to invite more Westerners to visit.

"That's the way to solve the problem," Zhan said.

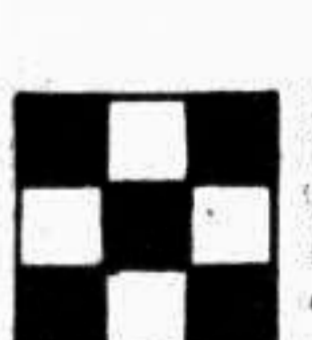
Beijing plans on making about 100 million dollars if it succeeds in hosting the 2000 Games.

The international Olympic Committee will make a decision at a meeting in Monaco in September next year. Other contenders are Berlin, Brasilia, Istanbul, Manchester, Milan, Sydney and Tashkent.



In the all-Bangladeshi tenth round affair at the NSC conference room yesterday Jamilur Rahman (L) and Ziaur Rahman. Zia won the match to share the top position in the points table along with Indian IM Krishnamurthy Murugan. — Star photo

Zia takes joint lead



IM norm seeker Bangladeshi FIDE Master Ziaur Rahman continued determined progress towards his goal with another win while Indian IM Krishnamurthy Murugan faltered but managed to jointly lead the points table with eight points at the end of the tenth round of the ninth QM Hussain International Masters chess tournament at the conference room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Ziaur Rahman, a former national champion, beat compatriot Jamilur Rahman to be at par with Murugan in the points table. The lanky, vivacious young man opted for the Sicilian defence to tackle Jamil's opening e4 move of the close Sicilian variation. Playing with white Jamil made a mistake in the 18th move which was Rxe7 and after 30 moves the older player surrendered.

Bangladeshi IM Zillur Rahman Champak put his nightmarish start behind with another remarkable win against Lanka Ravi, the Indian IM. Ravi, who played with black pieces, adopted a French defence but gave up after 41 moves in the face of attacking play by the bespectacled Champak.

Atanu Lahiri, who looked very much down in the mouth the other day, came back strongly to pull off a win against compatriot PDS Girinath after 34 moves.

Rahul Shetty of India played in the Sicilian Boleslavsky system with his black pieces to defeat Saifuddin Lavlu of Bangladesh after 23 moves. Lavlu's ninth Bg5 move proved fatal for him.

Pakistani IM and defending champion Mahmood Ahmed Lodhi won his match against Kayes Hassan of Bangladesh after 60 moves. Playing with black Lodhi adopted a Ruy Lopez defence and had Kayes

in trouble 39th move onwards. IM Hameed Mansour Qadhi of Yemen had few problems in registering a victory against Bangladeshi IWM Rani Hamid. Rani used the Sicilian Paulson's variation against Mansour's e4 opening move, but surrendered after 31 moves.

IM Krishnamurthy Murugan of India drew with compatriot Arun Vaidya, also an IM. Murugan opened with d4

which encouraged Vaidya to adopt a system, which for want of information can be passed as the Yugoslavian system. Later it was transposed into a Sicilian defence. After 41 moves the players settled for a draw, leaving a very complicated state of stalemate on the board.

The adjourned match between Jamil and Kayes will be played today, a rest day for the other competitors.

Sports Reporter

IM Hameed Mansour Qadhi of Yemen had few problems in registering a victory against Bangladeshi IWM Rani Hamid. Rani used the Sicilian Paulson's variation against Mansour's e4 opening move, but surrendered after 31 moves.

IM Krishnamurthy Murugan of India drew with compatriot Arun Vaidya, also an IM. Murugan opened with d4

which encouraged Vaidya to adopt a system, which for want of information can be passed as the Yugoslavian system. Later it was transposed into a Sicilian defence. After 41 moves the players settled for a draw, leaving a very complicated state of stalemate on the board.

The adjourned match between Jamil and Kayes will be played today, a rest day for the other competitors.

Fischer takes 8-4 lead

BEograd, Oct 18: Bobby Fischer won down Boris Spassky in a grueling duel Saturday to win the 21st game of their \$5 million chess rematch and take an 8-4 lead, reports AP.

grandmaster Dragutin Sahovic that the American was winning.

But after the 50th move, two other experts said the game was again open. "Black's pieces are too active for white to win despite his extra pawn," said another Yugoslav grandmaster, Bozidar Ivanovic.

Later, Fischer again took the upper hand.

"Bobby plays like (Serbian President Slobodan) Milosevic — very strong," Ivanovic said.

For the first time in the match, Fischer chose to answer Spassky's Sicilian Defence with the sharp opening variation, moving his queen's pawn ahead two positions, instead of the quieter closed system he had used in earlier games.

Of the many sharp Sicilian variations at his disposal, Spassky used the strategically complex Taimanov Variation, also known as the Paulsen System.

The first player to win 10 games takes the \$3.35 million first prize, and the loser gets \$1.65 million. Draws do not count, and there are no adjournments.

The match, sponsored by Yugoslav businessman Jездimir Vasiljevic, started Sept. 2 in the Montenegro coastal resort of Sveti Stefan and moved to Belgrade after Fischer had won five games.

Games are scheduled every Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

Fischer had a slight edge early on, and after the 40th move most press observers concurred with Yugoslav

Superbike series results

PHILLIP ISLAND, Australia, Oct 18: Australian Kevin Magee overcame pain from four broken bones in his left foot and dominated Sunday's 12th round of the world superbike motorcycle series, reports AP.

Magee won the first race around the Phillip Island, circuit on his Yamaha and then was second behind Frenchman Raymond Roche, riding a Ducati, in the second race.

Magee hopes to gain a ride in next season's 500 cc world championship.

Reigning world champion Doug Polen of the United States, who was fastest in qualifying, finished second in the first heat and fourth in the second heat on his Ducati.

The 32-year-old Texan holds a 26-point lead over Roche going into the 13th and final leg of the championship next Sunday in New Zealand.

Jahangir may play in Pakistan Open

KARACHI, Oct 18: Pakistan's Jahangir Khan, who has won the British squash Open 10 times, denied here yesterday reports that he had retired from the game, indicating he would compete in the Pakistan Open in December, reports AFP.

Jahangir, currently ranked fifth in the world, said emphatically "I have not retired from the game."

He had to concede a match in the World Open this year due to back trouble which had earlier forced him to stay away from the British Open and other international events.

Describing the retirement rumours as "baseless," the squash legend said, "I will consider retirement after the season," which ends in May 1993.

Jahangir said he was preparing to defend his title in the Pakistan Open beginning here on December 1, but much would depend on his fitness.

"There is still time and I am improving," he said.

WC qualifier postponed

HARARE, Oct 18: Security fears in Angola have forced the World Cup qualifier between Angola and Zimbabwe to be postponed indefinitely, a Zimbabwean soccer official said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The match had been due to take place in Luanda on October 25.

"It is FIFA's view that the present situation in the Angola capital is not conducive to the soccer match being played," said Zimbabwe FA Secretary General John Nkathazo.

"We have been advised that the game is off until further notice. FIFA have arrived at the decision after consultations with the authorities in Angola," he added.

In the past week, there have been violent clashes in Luanda between Angolan security forces and former guerrillas of the rebel UNITA movement in which several people were killed.

Russia's first soccer champs

MOSCOW, Oct 18: Spartak Moscow, who meet Liverpool in the European Cup Winners' Cup next week, won the first Russian football championship on Saturday, reports AFP.

A 4-1 win over Lokomotiv Moscow put them five points clear of second-placed Spartak de Vladikavkaz with two matches to play.

The Trades Union Club won the Soviet Championship 11 times, the last time in 1989, and the Soviet Cup nine times. They also won the CIS Cup last season.

They are coached by Oleg Romansev and have nine internationals in their side.

England upset US to reach Dunhill Cup team golf

ST ANDREWS, Scotland, Oct 18: England upset the top-seeded Americans and Scotland downed No. 2 seed Australia Sunday to gain the final of the \$1.7 million Dunhill Cup team golf tournament, reports AP.

David Gilford came from behind to nip Masters champion Fred Couples by one stroke after shooting a 3-under-par and Steven Richardson downed Davis Love III by three with a 68. US Open tittlest Tom Kite, with a 71, gained some consolation by beating Jamie Spence by one but by this time he knew his team had lost.

In the other semifinal, Scotland's Colin Montgomerie, with a 68, beat Ian Baker-Finch by four and Sandy Lyle had the same winning margin over Roger Davis after shooting 69.

Greg Norman, who had to beat scoring aggregate of any of the 48 players in the 16-team competition.

Coetzer landed several heavy blows and a clear-cut Bruno victory suddenly appeared in doubt. But in the eighth Bruno scored several telling blows, with a left uppercut and two heavy rights sending Coetzer against the ropes and down for a count of four.

Coetzer, dismissed by the English press before the fight and labouring under a 20 pound (10 kilogram) disadvantage, pushed Bruno throughout the bout until stopped in the eighth of a scheduled 10-rounds.

Bruno punished the South African in early rounds of the International Boxing Federation official heavyweight title eliminator bout, but the Englishman was obviously tired after the fifth.

Coetzer landed several heavy blows and a clear-cut Bruno victory suddenly appeared in doubt. But in the eighth Bruno scored several telling blows, with a left uppercut and two heavy rights sending Coetzer against the ropes and down for a count of four.

Coetzer, dismissed by the English press before the fight and labouring under a 20 pound (10 kilogram) disadvantage, pushed Bruno throughout the bout until stopped in the eighth of a scheduled 10-rounds.

Bruno punished the South African in early rounds of the International Boxing Federation official heavyweight title eliminator bout, but the Englishman was obviously tired after the fifth.

Coetzer landed several heavy blows and a clear-cut Bruno victory suddenly appeared in doubt. But in the eighth Bruno scored several telling blows, with a left uppercut and two heavy rights sending Coetzer against the ropes and down for a count of four.

Coetzer, dismissed by the English press before the fight and labouring under a 20 pound (10 kilogram) disadvantage, pushed Bruno throughout the bout until stopped in the eighth of a scheduled 10-rounds.

Bruno punished the South African in early rounds of the International Boxing Federation official heavyweight title eliminator bout, but the Englishman was obviously tired after the fifth.



China's Wu Dan, who was sent home from the Barcelona Olympics because of a positive drug test, instructs teammates during the game against the USA in the Super Challenge Cup volleyball in Hong Kong on Friday. China won 3-0 sets. — AFP photo

China retain title at Cuba's cost



HONG KONG, Oct 18: China regained some lost prestige by retaining the 100,000 US dollar women's volleyball Super Challenge Cup here Sunday, reports AFP.

Although succumbing to a 3-0 loss at the hands of Cuba in the final match, China retained the Cup — plus a winner's purse of 50,000 dollars — because of their better points average.

Both China and Cuba won the same number of matches, but as China lost a lesser number of sets they finished on top.

The Cubans, who were largely lacklustre for the first two days, came to life against China as they swept to a 15-12, 15-7, 15-11 victory on Sunday.

But the sweetness of winning for Cuba was mixed with the bitterness of knowing that whatever the outcome China would win the tournament.

Cuba's downfall was their shock loss to the United States in four sets on Saturday and the set they conceded in their victory over the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on the opening day.

Despite losing to Olympic gold medalists Cuba, the Chinese were highly satisfied with their performance as it went some way towards atoning a poor performance at this year's Olympics.

Having gone to Barcelona with the tag of favourites, the Chinese team fared badly, losing all three of their preliminary group matches to finish seventh out of the eight teams.

Out to erase those memories, the Chinese women were fired up and played inspirationally throughout the tournament.

Outstanding for China were established stars Li Yucming and Wu Dan and the up-and-coming Sun Yue and Wang Yi.

The Chinese whitewashed the United States and the CIS, and were only made to look ordinary by a revitalised Cuban team.

The CIS gained minor consolation by defeating the United States 3-1 earlier.

Silver medalists at the Olympics, the CIS bounced back from defeats at the hands of China and Cuba to inflict a crushing 15-4, 0-15, 15-6, 15-6 victory over the Americans.

The star of the CIS team, and one of the favourites at the tournament was undoubtedly Yevgeniya Artamonova. Standing 1.89 metres tall, she thrilled the crowd with her smashing serves and played a major role in her team's triumph Sunday.

Earlier an AFP report said: An inexperienced United States team scored a shock 3-1 victory over Olympic champions Cuba in the 100,000 US dollar women's volleyball Super Challenge Cup here yesterday.

Cuba, gold medalists at this summer's Barcelona Olympics, were unable to counter the volatile Americans as they tumbled to a 12-15, 15-11, 15-13 defeat.

The other top team at the Olympics, silver medal winners the Commonwealth of Independent States, were also at the receiving end, losing 3-0 to China.

Schools handball

Sports Reporter

Seven matches of the fifth schools handball competition for girls were decided at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday, the second day of the five-day meet.

Dhanmondi Govt Girls' High School trounced Moghbazar Isphani School 16-1, Bashabo Girls' School beat Cosmic International School 9-5, Moghbazar Girls' School outplayed T&T School 14-2 and Bangladesh Rifles School drubbed BCIC School 24-2 in the morning.

Viqarunnessa Noon Girls' High School swept aside Cosmic International 29-2, Dhanmondi Girls' School got the better of Bashabo School 15-1 and Mohammadpur Preparatory School beat Moghbazar School by nine goals to eight in the afternoon.

Eleven schools in two groups are taking part in the competition organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation.

US spikers rally to beat Japan

NEW YORK, Oct 18: The United States came back from a 10-6 deficit in the fourth game to beat Japan 3-1 here Saturday in the USA-Japan volleyball summit at Madison Square Garden, reports AFP.

Fielding a mainly new team — Lori Endicott, Tammy Liley, Daiva Tomkus, Deitre Collins, Janet Cobbs and Kristin Klein — the United States started slowly against Cuba, but built up steam as the match wore on. After losing the first set 12-15, the Americans came out firing and in an inspirational burst took the second set in just seven minutes.

With the crowd wildly cheering them on, the Americans rushed to a 9-3 lead in the third set and then piled on the pressure on to take a psychological 2-1 advantage.

Cuba briefly sparked in the fourth set, but failed to find the winning touches as the Americans blocked superbly to win the match.

"This is a great win. Our's is a young team and to beat the Olympic champions is unbelievable," American coach Taras Lisekevich said.

A resurgent China completely outplayed CIS in the other game winning 15-13, 15-10, 15-10.

China, who started out as favourites to win the gold at the Barcelona Olympics but only finished seventh, were fired up in a match they controlled despite the close scoreline.

Having beaten the United States 3-0, on the opening day, China are well on course to winning the top prize of 50,000 US dollars.

Cuba's loss has virtually handed the tournament to China, the only unbeaten side remaining in the four team tournament. The two countries will meet in their final outing Sunday tomorrow.

Bruno stops Coetzer's challenge



WEMBLEY, England, Oct 18: England's Frank Bruno, twice defeated in world heavyweight bouts, moved a step closer to a third challenge with an eight round defeat of South Africa's Pierre Coetzer at Wembley Saturday, reports AP.

Coetzer, dismissed by the English press before the fight and labouring under a 20 pound (10 kilogram) disadvantage, pushed Bruno throughout the bout until stopped in the eighth of a scheduled 10-rounds.

Bruno punished the South African in early rounds of the International Boxing Federation official heavyweight title eliminator bout, but the Englishman was obviously tired after the fifth.

Coetzer landed several heavy blows and a clear-cut Bruno victory suddenly appeared in doubt. But in the eighth Bruno scored several telling blows, with a left uppercut and two heavy rights sending Coetzer against the ropes and down for a count of four.

Coetzer, dismissed by the English press before the fight and labouring under a 20 pound (10 kilogram) disadvantage, pushed Bruno throughout the bout until stopped in the eighth of a scheduled 10-rounds.

Bruno punished the South African in early rounds of the International Boxing Federation official heavyweight title eliminator bout, but the Englishman was obviously tired after the fifth.

Coetzer landed several heavy blows and a clear-cut Bruno victory suddenly appeared in doubt. But in the eighth Bruno scored several telling blows, with a left uppercut and two heavy rights sending Coetzer against the ropes and down for a count of four.

Coetzer, dismissed by the English press before the fight and labouring under a 20 pound (10 kilogram) disadvantage, pushed Bruno throughout the bout until stopped in the eighth of a scheduled 10-rounds.

Bruno punished the South African in early rounds of the International Boxing Federation official heavyweight title eliminator bout, but the Englishman was obviously tired after the fifth.

Coetzer landed several heavy blows and a clear-cut Bruno victory suddenly appeared in doubt. But in the eighth Bruno scored several telling blows, with a left uppercut and two heavy rights sending Coetzer against the ropes and down for a count of four.

Coetzer, dismissed by the English press before the fight and labouring under a 20 pound (10 kilogram) disadvantage, pushed Bruno throughout the bout until stopped in the eighth of a scheduled 10-rounds.



FRANK BRUNO

He regained his feet during the rest of the mandatory eight count, but Bruno then trapped Coetzer in his own corner and referee Roy Francis stepped in after 2:17 of the eighth to stop the fight.

Bruno said: "I can only get better. He was a real tough nut, really game and I was glad to get that one out of the way. Now I've got to sit down and talk to my promoter Mickey Duff. If he can get me a world title fight, I'm ready."

Duff said: "We can make the fight against world champion Evander Holyfield. I agree with Frank, he's ready."

Holyfield fights challenger Riddick Bowe in Las Vegas next month. The victor is likely to refuse challengers until Bruno has fought the winner of the Oct. 31 London heavyweight eliminator bout between Lennox Lewis and Donovan "Razor" Ruddock.

Lewis said: "Bruno took far too long to prise him open. I'm now more confident than ever

Okuda edges past Mackay to win Asahi-Bier Golf

SUSONO, Japan, Oct 18: Japan's Seiki Okuda shot a 3-under-par 68 Sunday, edging Australia's Roger Mackay by one shot in the 150 million yen (US \$1.25 million) Asahi Beer-Golf Digest Tournament, reports AP.

The two started the final round tied for the lead and still were tied after 15 holes, but Mackay fell back with a bogey on the 16th. Both birdied the final two holes.

Okuda shot six birdies against three birdies in Sunday's round, finishing with a 12-under-par 272 total. He received 27 million yen (US \$225,000) for his second victory of this season and of his career.

Mackay, the JCB classic Sendai champion in June, had five birdies and three bogeys in a round of 69 and finished at 273. He received 15 million yen (US \$125,000).

American Todd Hamilton, last month's Maruman Open champion, was third at 275 after a 70 Sunday on the 6,801-yard, par-71 Tomei Country Club course in Susono, southwest of Tokyo.

Curtis Strange shot a 66 and shared fourth place at 276 with fellow American Mark Calcavecchia and Japan's Katsunari Takahashi and Tetsu Nishikawa. Calcavecchia shot 70, Takahashi tied for the day's best score at 65, and Nishikawa shot 68.



Sonali Bank Second Division football league unbeaten champions Bangladesh Boys Club players pose for photographers at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh Boys ended their triumphant campaign with a 2-0 victory over Shantigan Club.