



Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh and Indian PDS Girinath during their twelfth round match at the NSC conference room yesterday. Zia drew but maintained his lead in the Dr Q M Hossain International Masters' chess competition. — Star photo

## Zia maintains his lead

**Sports Reporter**

Ziaur Rahman retained his lead at the end of the 12th round of QM Hussain chess tournament at the conference room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

He drew with Indian rated player PDS Girinath, an engineer by profession. Playing with white Zia, who is bidding for a norm that will elevate him to an International Master from his present status of a FIDE Master, opened with c4. In a game of the English opening, the players settled for a draw after 28 moves.

Zia now singularly heads the points table with nine and half points.

Indian rated player Rahul Shetty earned full point against Hameed Monsour Qadhi in another match of the day. Playing with white Qadhi, the Yemeni IM, opened his campaign with e4. Shetty opted for a Sicilian defence and after 46 moves squeezed out the submission from his Arab counterpart with the kinky curls.

Syed Tahmidur Rahman, a former national champion and Bangladesh FIDE Master, was fortunate to win against Indian IM Arun Vaidya when the veteran Indian virtually threw away the advantage in a match that lasted 28 moves.

Vaidya played Knight f6 to counter Tahmid's initial move of d4. In a game that followed the Queen's Indian pattern, Vaidya had a piece up but failed to drive home the advantage.

Lanka Ravi the Indian IM was the winner on Board 3. He beat Saifuddin Lablu in 42 moves in a game of the Reti opening. Lablu, who played with white pieces, began with Knight f6.

Zillur Rahman Champak, the lone Bangladeshi IM suffered a rather unexpected defeat to unfancied compatriot Khandaker Kayes Hassan in a match lasting 57 moves.

Refaat bin-Sattar, the national champion, beat Atanu Lahiri, the rated Indian player, in 47 moves. Lahiri, who played with white, had a distinct advantage over his Bangladeshi opponent.

The supposed match of the day between defending champion and Pakistani IM Mahmood Ahmed Lodhi and Indian IM Krishnamurthy Murugan was drawn.

Rani Hamid, the IWM, succumbed to yet another defeat, this time to compatriot Jamilur Rahman in a battle lasting 49 moves.

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## Magic ready for more

INGLEWOOD, California, Oct 21: Magic Johnson says he is feeling fine after a tough, 10-day training camp with the Los Angeles Lakers, and looking forward to whatever the National Basketball Association season throws at him, reports AFP.

Johnson, skipped last season after learning he had the virus that causes AIDS, but decided to return to pro ball because he felt to deterioration in his health.

He originally said he would play 50-60 games of the 82-game season, but now he says he could play more.

"I can't tell you how many I'll play, but I've already added one exhibition game, and there will probably be some I add again," he said. "Once the war of the season starts, we will see what happens."

"Yeah, I am an HIV guinea pig. I don't mind that. If people want to use me as an experiment, fine."

Doctors had recommended Johnson avoid playing back-to-back games to preserve his stamina. Now Johnson says he might play consecutive games, if they do not involve too much travel across time-zones.

"I can play Phoenix (Arizona) and come home and play Sacramento (California) and come home," he said. "Those are not hard trips."

Johnson's teammates will welcome him on the court anytime.

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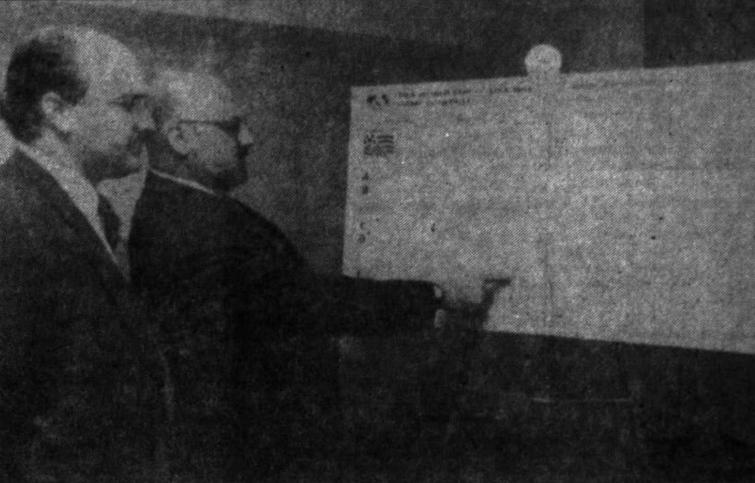
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Jay Shaw, the director of the New York venue and deputy director Charlie Stillitano reviewing the World Cup '94 draw on October 20. World Cup '94 will kick off in Chicago and end at the Los Angeles Rose Bowl. — AFP photo

## '94 World Cup kicks off June 17

NEW YORK, Oct 21: Defending champion Germany will open the 1994 World Cup in Chicago and each of the nine venues will host at least two top seeds during the month-long tournament, organisers said Tuesday, reports AP.

Each of the six first-round groups of four teams will be placed in one of three three-city groups, with Chicago paired with Boston and Dallas; Los Angeles grouped with San Francisco and Detroit; and New York placed with Orlando, Florida and Washington.

In a World Cup first, each of the six top seeds will be required to travel once during the first round, scheduled for June 17-30.

When the nine venues were announced in March, FIFA and World Cup organisers said the

reason for requiring the top seeds to travel was to make the competition more fair for the non-seeded teams.

Another first in the schedule announced Tuesday was that two games will be played on the opening day of the tournament, Friday, June 17.

Besides the opening game of Group C in Chicago, Germany versus an undetermined opponent, Dallas will stage a game between the other two teams in Group C later in the day.

It has been reported that the United States will be assigned to Group A and play the first indoor World Cup game on Saturday, June 18, in the Pontiac, Michigan, Silverdome near Detroit.

John Griffin, deputy press officer for World Cup USA 1994, told a news conference that it was a "working assumption" that the United States

would be placed in that group, although no definite decision has been made.

The second round, which will involve the top two teams from each group and the four next best teams, will be held from July 2-5 in every city that the first round was played in except Detroit.

After three rest days, the quarterfinals will take place July 9-10 in San Francisco, Boston, Dallas and New York.

Also for the first time, the semifinals will be played on the same day, July 13, in New York and Los Angeles. The semifinals are traditionally played on succeeding days, but US organisers wanted to avoid a conflict with the US Major League Baseball All-Star game, set for July 12.

The World Cup final is scheduled for July 17 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif near Los Angeles.

## Nebiolo dismisses boycott threat

PARIS, Oct 21: Primo Nebiolo, head of the athletics world body, has brushed aside talk of a stars' boycott of next year's World Championships over payments, reports AFP.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation president said the threat was "unrealistic" in an interview with L'Equipe newspaper published Tuesday.

Nebiolo is to meet Tom Jennings, secretary of the International Amateur Athletics Representatives, in Prague this week to discuss demands for more money from the sport's big names.

But he said he was not worried about demands being made by Jennings and his association, whose members manage nearly all Olympic and world title holders.

Jennings has said the IAAF will have to guarantee between nine and to million dollars to medal winners at the Stuttgart World Championships to avoid a boycott.

But Nebiolo hinted that he will pursue the line that no athlete is bigger than the sport, when he starts negotiat-

ing. "Where would Samuel Matec be without the 400m hurdles title he won in Tokyo. He has doubled the number of contracts with sponsors."

"Quite honestly, this threat

encouraged by Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, to take a firm line in the battle.

Because of athletics status as the main Olympic draw "any mistake could hit the whole Games," said Nebiolo.

The IAAF leader said he regretted the money battle and bad publicity from the drug controversies involving Ben Johnson, Katrin Krabbe, Butch Reynolds and others.

"But the atmosphere remains excellent and athletics still has a great future ahead. My biggest regret is that in the drugs field the tough policy we pursue has made the IAAF look like a sort of police federation while other federations close their eyes."

"That is the case in tennis. They let the players make the rules so there are no controls," said Nebiolo. "That is serious. Drugs are a problem for all sports."

He added that he would be relying on federation in member countries to press their best performers to attend. "I cannot see the federations not sending their best athletes to the World Championships."

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of a boycott if we do not pay athletes at the World Championships is unrealistic. I run the IAAF like a big family... But not like a bank."

## Game 23 begins

BELGRADE, Oct 21: Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky settled for a quiet opening Wednesday as they started the 23rd game of their 5 million dollars chess rematch, reports AP.

Fischer leads 8-4 and needs only two more victories to take the match.

US meet Aussies in Davis Cup next March

LONDON, Oct 21: Davis Cup giants United States and Australia face a March showdown in the first round of next year's men's tennis team tournament, reports AFP.

Tuesday's World Group draw here clinched a meeting between the two most successful countries in the competition from March 26 to 28 in Australia.

It is a rerun of the 1990 final in the USA, which the Americans won 3-2 to score their 29th triumph.

The Swiss must visit India, who qualified for the group by routing Great Britain 4-1 in New Delhi last month.

## Magdalena in Brighton Indoor second round

BRIGHTON, England, Oct 21: Magdalena Maleeva, the youngest of the talented tennis sisters from Bulgaria, maintained her recent fine form on Tuesday to cruise into the second round of the Brighton Indoor Championship, reports AFP.

The 17-year-old, who shocked former world champion Martina Navratilova in the second round of the US Open last month, ignored a blistered foot to trounce Belgian Sabine Appelmans 6-4, 6-1.

Maleeva, winner of the San Marino title in July, trailed 2-4 in the first set before suddenly finding top gear. She allowed Appelmans — ranked one place above her at 20 in the world — just one more game.

Fourth-round: Billy Snaddon (Scotland) bt James Wattana (Thailand) 5-3, Nigel Bond (England) bt Bill Oliver (England) 5-2.

## Rosset rallies to his coach's defence

LYON, France, Oct 21: Olympic gold medalist Marc Rosset said on Tuesday he would withdraw from all future Davis Cup competitions if Swiss team coach Georges Deniau is forced to quit, reports AFP.

Rosset's threat, which would not affect the Davis Cup finals against the United States in Fort Worth, Texas, between December 4 and 6 next, revolves around pressure on Deniau to agree to a new location for the Swiss Tennis Association's national training centre.

"It will be war," the 42nd ranked player said after his victory over France's Olivier Delatire 6-4, 6-1 in the first round of the Grand Prix de Lyon.

"Personally, I will take action: I will not participate in any federal event, and notably the Davis Cup," he said.

## La Coruna's 88-year-old dream comes true

MADRID, Oct 21: It's been a long wait — 88 years to be exact — but the Atlantic port city of La Coruna finally have climbed to the top of the Spanish First Division, reports AP.

This is such a completely unexpected situation, it's hard to describe," said Jose Maria Guimaraens, a sports writer for La Coruna's "La Voz de Galicia" newspaper and a veteran of covering FC Deportivo.

"We have suffered like nobody with weak teams, and we know this might end, but right now we're enjoying it like nobody," Guimaraens added in a telephone interview. "When the team wins, the city shakes like you can't believe."

It's been a welcome shake for the city of 250,000 — the largest in the northwestern region of Galicia, a relatively poor, isolated area known for producing much of the Spanish emigration abroad.

Deportivo have led since the first week of the season, winning six of seven matches, including Saturday's 1-0 vic-

tory over two-time defending league and European Champions Cup champion FC Barcelona and a 3-2 win over perennial powerhouse Real Madrid.

Most of the praise is going to 61-year-old coach Arsenio Iglesias, a native of the area who took over what was then a Second Division club in 1990-91 and got it promoted to the First Division last season.

This past summer, he convinced club management to spend an estimated \$15 million for two Brazilian internationals — striker Jose Roberto "Bebeto" Gama de Oliveira and midfielder Mauro da Silva.

Bebeto, obtained from Brazil's Vasco da Gama, shares the league scoring lead with Barcelona's Hristo Stoichkov and Bilbao's Jose Angel Ciganda of six goals, including Saturday's game winner.

The 24-year-old da Silva, a fixture on the Brazilian national team the last few seasons, has greatly solidified the defence.

The difference this year is the Brazilians — particularly

Bebeto," said Xose Hermida, who covers the team for the Madrid-based daily El Pais. "This team couldn't score last year. Now when Bebeto gets the ball in the area, he scores."

Deportivo have had scant success since then founding in 1904. They reached their all-time best finish in 1949-50 — second place in the First Division.

Then return last season to the First Division followed 17 seasons in the Second Division and one (1974-75) in the third. Last season, they finished 17th with a 8-15-15 record and came within one goal of being demoted in a June playoff.

"Nobody thinks we can go from last to first and win the league, but this is a good team that can stay in the top five or six and qualify for European Cup play," Hermida said.

A berth European Cup play would be a first, which observers say is a more realistic goal than thinking about a league title just seven weeks into the 38-week season.

In addition to the Brazilian

duo, other key Iglesias acquisitions include defender Fernando "Nando" Martinez, from Valencia and midfielder Adolfo Aldana from Real Madrid.

The 28-year-old Bebeto, known for his talent and tantrums, seems settled in his new home after leading both Flamengo of Rio de Janeiro and Vasco da Gama to national titles. Nicknamed "crybaby" because of frequent injuries, it was an injury that sidelined him during the 1990 World Cup.

So far he has remained healthy and might have finally matured into one of the world's top players.

Bebeto also seems comfortable that he can use his native Portuguese in Galicia, where the local language — Gallego — is closer to Portuguese than it is to Spanish.

"He's also said he's happy here since he got his wife and children out of the crime problems in Rio de Janeiro," Hermida said. "I can guarantee you the public (here) is happy with him."

## Kaiserslautern reap rich at home

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany, Oct 21: Two goals in two minutes broke the plucky defence of a 10-man Sheffield Wednesday team here on Tuesday to give Kaiserslautern a hefty 3-1 win in the UEFA Cup second round, reports AFP.

Marcus Marin scored in the 55th minute followed by Marcel Witeczek in the 57th as the Germans bore down on the

English Premier League side, reeling from two harsh refereeing decisions.

Fussy French referee Joel Quiniou had sent off Wednesday scorer David Hirst in the first half, after he tangled with Kaiserslautern defender Marco Haber.

Wednesday claimed the German over-reacted but their pleas fell on deaf ears. Quiniou made his international mark in the 1986 World Cup in a match between Uruguay and Scotland and made headlines by sending off Uruguayan Jose Batista after only 54 seconds.

Hirst, in only his second game since recovering from a broken ankle in August, headed in Chris Waddle's cross in the fifth minute to give the visitors side an early boost.

But it did not last long. Quiniou ruled that Viv Anderson had brought down Witeczek inside the penalty area and, although Wednesday claimed the offence was committed outside the box, Wolfgang Funkel beat England international goalkeeper Chris Woods to leave the teams deadlocked at halftime.

The two-goal burst in the

second leaves Wednesday with a huge mountain to climb in the return leg in Sheffield.

It could have been worse for Wednesday.

Kaiserslautern substitute Thomas Vogel wasted two good openings and Witeczek shot badly wide before Wednesday staged a late rally.

England midfielder Carlton Palmer twice threatened. Goalkeeper Gerald Hermann beat away one close range shot and then he missed when completely free in front of goal.

It had been a significant European Cup debut for Hirst with his sixth goal in seven games this season and a sending off. Wednesday will sorely miss him in the return match in two weeks' time.

Sheffield Wednesday manager Trevor Francis said Hirst's sending-off cost them the match.

"At the time it was 1-1 and we were playing well. We would not have lost if we had had 11 men," he said.

Francis was unhappy with the German penalty.

"The penalty was quite obviously outside the box but you have to accept the decisions of the referee," he said.



German Michael Stich, last year's Wimbledon winner, returns a volley in his match against Czech Martin Damm at the Marlboro Championships on October 20. Stich had a comfortable 6-3, 6-3 victory. — AFP photo.

## Fenech advised to take a break

SYDNEY, Oct 21: Three-time world boxing champion Jeff Fenech was ordered Wednesday to take a break from training for six weeks — wrecking the Australian's plans for a comeback bout next month, reports AP.

Fenech suffered a fractured sternum in a recent training session, forcing him to pull out of an Oct 25 super-featherweight bout against Colombian Jimmy Garcia.

Promoter Bill Morley had hoped to reschedule the bout for November, but it now has been scrapped.

Fenech has not fought since his first career loss, to World Boxing Council super-featherweight champion Arumah Nelson, in Melbourne on March 1. The former world title holder at bantamweight, super-bantamweight and featherweight now will not fight until January at the earliest, Morley said.

Morley said he would instead promote a bill at Melbourne's Festival Hall on Nov 13 with unbeaten Russian junior-welterweight Kostya Tsyu fighting veteran Puerto Rican Sammy Fuentes in a 10-round contest.</