



Scene from the sixth round of the second Prantik International chess tournament now being played in the chess room of the NSC. — Star photo

Lodhi, Sareen share lead

Sports Reporter

Pakistan International Master (IM) Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi peaked the second Prantik chess points table following his marathon 96-move drawn game with Indian rated player Atanu Lahiri at the end of the sixth round at the chess room of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday.

Playing with black, Lodhi was drawn into an engrossing cerebral struggle as Atanu adopted a Nimzo Indian defence. After 96 moves both players left the board half a point richer with Lodhi upping his points tally to five.

However, Lodhi has a co-sharer in Vishal Sareen, the rated Indian player who also raised his score to five by beat-

ing Hamed Mansour Qadhi, the IM from Yemen. Sareen, who resorted to the Sicilian Paulson's defence needed only 18 moves.

Sekhar Chandra Sahu, the Indian IM, defeated Amir Hossain of Bangladesh to secure the second position.

In a game of the Ruy Lopez variation Sahu, who played with white, won in 45 moves.

Besides, Swapan Mitra, another rated Indian player beat Safuddin Lablu to be at par with Atanu Lahiri and Qadhi who have four and half points to their credit.

National champion and FIDE Master (FM) Reefat bin-Sattar outwitted IM Zillur Rahman Champak in 37 moves. Playing with black Reefat adopted the Tarasch variation

of the French defence. Reefat has four points.

In other matches of the day, involving Bangladeshi chess players, Niyamul Haq Niru beat Ali Amjad, Simaul got past Ruhul Kabir Shipulu, Litu downed Kalimullah Kalam, Kayes Hassan won against Rafiqur Rahman Ronny, Ziaul Qader Tuhin defeated Altimul Huq, Hanif checkedmate Shabbir Chowdhury, Sharfuddin outplayed Arifuzzaman, Khorsheed Alam circumvented Shaukat Hossain and Mujib snatched Mamunur Rashid to complete the list of the decided encounters.

The matches between Rezaul Huq and Shaukat Hossain Pallab, and between Faruq and Rashid Hossain, ended in draws.

Sampdoria romp past Genoa

ROME, Nov 2: Sampdoria beat Genoa 4-1 during a game whose start was delayed when Genoa fans unhappy with their team's management lit flares that sent smoke pouring onto the field. The game was delayed again in the second half when angry Genoa fans threw toilet paper and other objects onto the field, reports AP.

After Sunday's game, three points divide the teams, who still must play their postponed game against each other.

Sampdoria had been crushed 4-0 on the road at Fiorentina the previous week, but was happy to welcome back captain and indispensable playmaker Roberto Mancini after a three-match suspension.

Genoa went into the game undefeated, with six draws and one win. Despite the season's decent start, fans have been unhappy about club management and in the second half their protests spilled over onto the field.

The start of the match was delayed for a few minutes to allow smoke from flares lit by Genoa supporters to clear. Just two minutes after the start Sampdoria took the lead when a free kick from Mancini was deflected by Genoa defender Andrea Fortunato into his own goal.

A well organised Sampdoria protected their lead, and increased it at the 38th minute on a header by Marco Lanna, to lead 2-0 at half time.

During the second half, Genoa supporters launched a

barrage of toilet rolls, small change and various other objects that transformed Sampdoria goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca's penalty area into a rubbish dump. Appeals by Genoa club president Aldo Spinelli for calm were ignored.

Play resumed after a nearly 10-minute delay, and Sampdoria went on to control the game for half an hour.

At 38 minutes Genoa defender Nicola Caricola was expelled for a foul on Mancini, but five minutes later striker Michele Padovano reduced the deficit to 2-1. Genoa then had chances to draw level but failed.

After the game Sampdoria's Swedish coach Sven Goran Eriksson was happy with the result, but cautious about their significance.

Lewis may have last laugh

LONDON, Nov 2: Americans, not without justification, joke about "Horizontal British Heavyweights."

But Lennox Lewis could have the last laugh, reports Reuter.

He stopped Canada's Donovan "Razor" Ruddock after less than four minutes of their World Boxing Council eliminator on Sunday for a tilt at the title in 1993.

"Lennox was like an old-time champion who could take a man out with one punch," said Lou Duva, trainer to reigning undisputed champion Evander Holyfield.

Lewis' American trainer Peope Correa, who used to work with Sugar Ray Leonard, said: "He's the next heavyweight champion of the world. He will not be denied."

Hype or not, US-based ringside reporters were genuinely impressed by the outcome: it was all a long way from the usual jibes about battling Britons.

When Frank Bruno fought Mike Tyson in 1989, the Ring Magazine remarked, paragonizing the great American humorist Dorothy Parker, "If all the British heavyweights were laid end to end, we wouldn't be surprised."

When Don Cockell fought the legendary Rocky Marciano in 1965, he was dubbed by another wit to be "The biggest thing on canvas since The Wreck of the Hesperus."

Britain has not had a heavyweight champion since Bob Fitzsimmons in 1897 but London-born Lewis, the Olympic super-heavyweight champion for Canada in 1988, has revived draws.

The 12,000-strong audience at Earl's Court, more familiar with brave challengers like Bruno, could scarcely believe their eyes as Lewis knocked down Ruddock three times.

"The first right hand did it. It was like a gunshot," said Lewis, calm and confident throughout.

Ruddock, who fought Mike Tyson twice in 1991 and

lasted eight rounds with a broken jaw in the second fight before losing on points, looked utterly shocked by the blow.

Billed as the champion in waiting, the pundits and the bookmakers' favourite, the Canadian went down twice

"I thought Razor would use the jab but he didn't, which was disappointing. Lewis just threw good shots."

The outcome made a mockery of the pre-fight hype and put Lewis, now unbeaten in 22 fights, closer to the world title than just about any British heavyweight in living memory.

Under his contract he is guaranteed a shot against whoever wins the next title showdown between Holyfield and fellow American Riddick Bowe on November 13 in Las Vegas.

Should Bowe beat Holyfield and then renege on the deal to fight Lewis, who demolished him in the 1988 Olympic final, then the British fighter would become WBC champion by default.

Lewis, the seventh British heavyweight challenger since World War Two, felt he had at least proved his worth to those who had doubted him.

"There were a lot of unanswered questions about Lennox Lewis," he said. "I believe I answered most of them tonight."

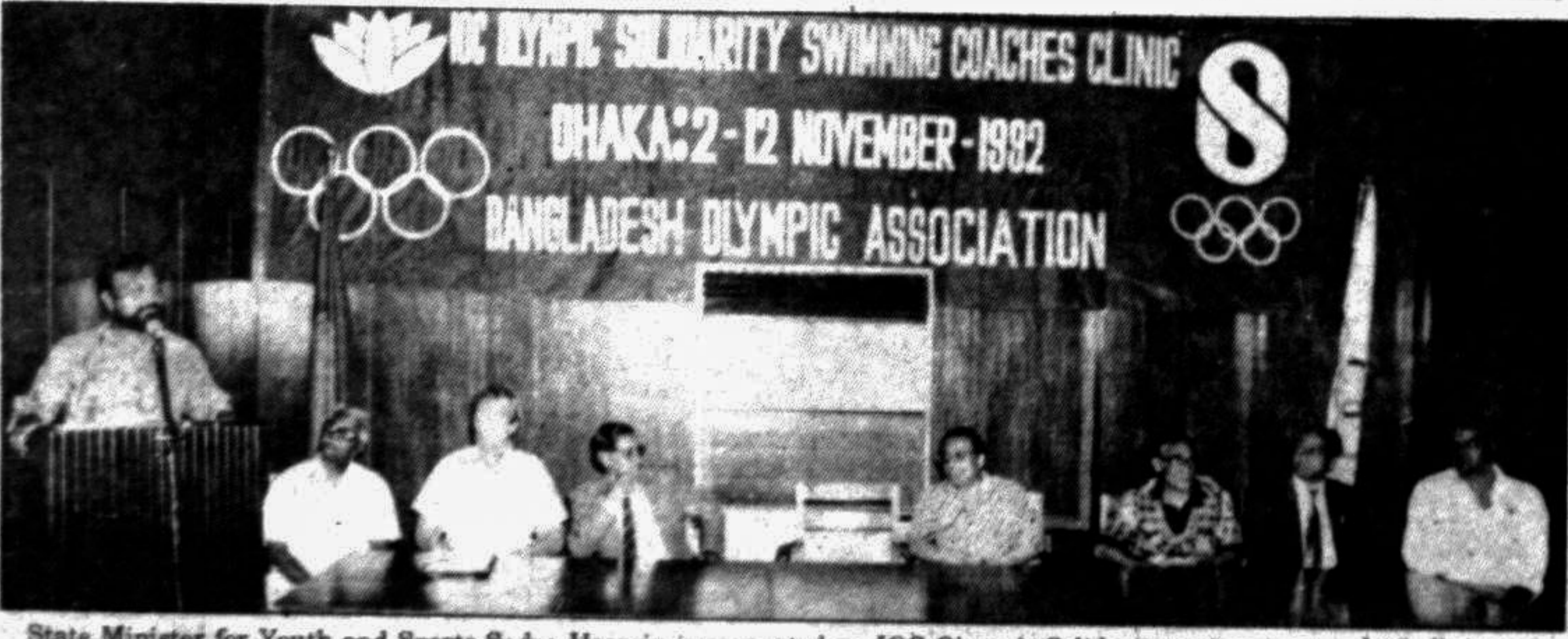
"I'd prefer to fight Holyfield to Bowe because he's unbeaten and I want to be the first man to defeat him. But Bowe wants to fight me and if it's that, then great, I'll take him."



LENNOX LEWIS

again in the second round before the referee stepped in.

Former world champion Floyd Patterson, Ruddock's trainer, said: "Razor just got caught cold. It's happened to me."



State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain inaugurated an IOC Olympic Solidarity swimming coaches' clinic at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Fischer's wait prolonged

BELGRADE, Nov 2: Chess star Boris Spassky held his opponent Bobby Fischer to a draw in the 28th game of their dollar 5 million revenge match on Sunday, leaving the American stuck just one game away from outright victory, reports Reuter.

With draws not counting towards the overall total, Fischer still leads 9-5 in the series. Under tournament rules, the best Spassky can now hope for is a 9-9 draw.

Sunday's game began unusually briskly with a common variation on the King's Indian Defence.

A similar opening led to defeat for Fischer in the 12th game of the series. But match organiser Janos Kubat suspected that Fischer, playing black, might have had a particular reason for taking risks — the desire to get back to his 19-year-old girlfriend Zita Raczanyi who lives in Hungary.

"He wanted to go to Budapest to meet her on Tuesday, but since he failed to win this is no longer possible," Kubat said.

Raczanyi, who was instrumental in luring Fischer, 49, out of 20 years of self-imposed seclusion, will now come to Belgrade on Wednesday, the added.

FRG grant for BFF

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany will donate sports equipment worth about Taka one lakh 25 thousand to the Bangladesh Football Federation, reports BSS.

German Charge d' Affaires in Dhaka Ronald Grafé will formally hand over the equipment to Bangladesh Football Federation officials at the Dhaka Stadium on November 5 at 11.30 am.

Besides, a German football coach, Holger Obermann, arrived in the city on October 31 to conduct a training course for the football coaches.

The nine-day course began Sunday with 35 coaches from Dhaka and some other districts.

Besides being a well-known sports commentator, Obermann was the first league coach for German team Kickers Offenbach and coach of the Ele football school in New York.

He had also been in Dhaka early this year on a German-Bangladesh cooperation programme for the training of local football coaches.

Olympic Solidarity course for swimming coaches

Sports Reporter

That Bangladesh should pursue a pragmatic sports policy in keeping with the country's economic framework and resources was the more succinct summation of the eloquent and neat speech by the visiting British swimming expert, John Verrier at the press conference for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Solidarity swimming coaches' training that began at the conference room of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday.

The sixty-six year-old natant expert is here to conduct an eleven-day coaching programme for 25 swimming coaches selected by the Bangladesh Swimming Federation from all over the country.

Paying glowing tribute to Brojen Das, the first swimmer from the subcontinent to cross the English Channel, Verrier stressed on will as the single most important factor for a champion swimmer. The vastly experienced coach who has been to many countries around the globe as an expert referred to an English girl who recently crossed the Channel to achieve a feat yet to be emulated by any Englishman.

Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain inaugurated the Olympic Solidarity programme as the chief guest. Among others who spoke on the occasion were Anasuddowa, the president of the Bangladesh Swimming Federation, and Bangladesh Olympic Committee vice president Capt (Ret'd) Siddiq Ahmed.

Saudi Arabia well on course

HIROSHIMA, Japan, Nov 2: Two-time champions Saudi Arabia overpowered Thailand 4-0 here today to book the first semifinal berth in the Asian Cup football championships, reports AFP.

The Saudis stamped their authority on the game from the first whistle and were one up after only four minutes when midfielder Saeed Owairan shot home after latching on to Khalid al Muwallid's pass in the penalty area.

Six minutes later, Muwallid was again the provider, heading on a corner kick for Yousef al Thunyan to nod in from close range and make it 2-0.

Thailand struggled bravely to make a game of it, but Thunyan dashed any slim hopes they may have had of staging a comeback when he slotted home Saudi Arabia's third in the 64th minute.

Bishi then rounded off a fine performance with his second goal in the 72nd minute to make it 4-0.

The win left Saudi Arabia with four points from their three matches in Group B of the preliminary round-robin competition.

"As we planned, I asked my players to attack from the middle and from the two wings. In fact, the Saudi team did very well today," said the Saudi's Brazilian coach Nelson Rosa Martins.

Thailand's German coach Peter Stubbe said his players had suffered from their physical inferiority.

"I don't want to say it as an excuse, but the reason was my biggest player was not as big as the smallest player of Saudi Arabia," he said.

CHINA IN SEMIS

In the second match China gained sweet revenge for their loss in the 1990 World Cup qualifying tournament when they came from behind to beat Qatar 2-1 and secure the second semifinal spot.

Khalifa Khamis al Sulaiti opened the scoring for Qatar in the 20th minute converting

But winger Peng Wetgo made sure that China went into the interval on level terms with a header in the 44th minute.

China clinched it in the 85th minute when Hao Haidong executed a perfect through which Peng turned in for his second of the night.

Qatar outshot China 18-13. Saudi Arabia and China ended the preliminary round robin with one victory each against two draws and no defeats. Saudi Arabia placed first because they scored more goals than China.

Qatar were third and Thailand fourth, both with one loss and two draws.

In the semifinals on Friday, Saudi Arabia meet the runner-up of the Group A preliminary tournament, and China play the Group A winner.

On Tuesday, in the last Group A games North Korea meet the United Arab Emirates and 1990 Asian Games gold medalist Iran play Japan.

El Salvador beat Bermuda 4-1

SAN SALVADOR, Nov 2: El Salvador beat Bermuda 4-1 here today in a CONCACAF qualifying match for the 1994 football World Cup finals, reports APF.

Next weekend they play Canada, the second round Group B table leaders who beat Jamaica 1-0 today.

Canada have four points from three games, El Salvador and Bermuda have three and Jamaica two points.

Canada edge past Jamaica

TORONTO, Nov 2: Canada beat Jamaica 1-0 in bitterly cold conditions in Sunday's CONCACAF zone World Cup qualifier here thanks to a 53rd minute goal by Alex Bunbury, reports APF.

It was Canada's first group victory after draws against El Salvador and Jamaica.

Their next clash will be a return against El Salvador in Vancouver on November 8.

Torino give Milan a bumpy ride

PARIS, Nov 2: AC Milan's perfect start to the Italian season faltered on Sunday when second-placed Torino held them to a goalless draw, despite playing the last half hour with only ten men after defender Roberto Mussi was sent off, reports AFP.

It was the first point Fabio Capello's side had dropped in seven league matches this season.

In France Paris St Germain failed to take a golden chance to recapture the leadership of the First Division after slumping to their first defeat of the season against lowly Nimes.

Three goals in 14 minutes put Bayern Munich back on a winning track and enabled the German League pacesetters to stay two points clear of their nearest rivals.

And in Spain, La Coruna stayed top with a 2-1 home victory over Gijon. Barcelona and Real Madrid kept up their pressure with away wins, and fourth placed Atletico Madrid saw off Albacete in a five-goal thriller.

Despite the slip, Milan remain two points clear of Torino with one game in hand.

Inter Milan moved into third place with a 4-1 win at Pescara. Sergio Battistini, Russian midfielder Igor Shalimov, Stefano Desideri and German international Matthias Sammar got the goals.

Sampdoria skipper Roberto Mancini got his side off to a flying start with a goal after only two minutes in the derby against Genoa. Defender Marco Lanna put Sampdoria two up in the 38th minute. Former Napoli striker Michele Padovano pulled a goal back three minutes from time but two late goals from Serb Vladimir Jugovic and Mauro Bertarelli wrapped up a convincing win for last year's European Cup finalists.

Juventus's 5-1 win over Ancona was a family affair with defender Dino Baggio opening the scoring in the 20th minute and big brother Roberto adding two in the second half. Marco de Marchi and Paolo di Canio got the other goals for Juventus.

Monczuck struck back to put the struggling southern side in control.

David Olmo equalised just after the hour mark but a second from Vercurryse ten minutes from time ensured Nimes of two badly needed points.

Champions Marseille looked to be heading for a third defeat in a month but were saved by a

goal two minutes from the end.

Kitwi striker Wynton Rufer, who got two goals in Werder Bremen's shock win over Bayern last week, brought his season alive with two more goals against Wattenscheid.

Werder's 3-0 win saw their charge up the table gather pace and push them closer to third placed Bayer Leverkusen who could only draw 0-0 at Dynamo Dresden.

A last minute goal from midfielder Juul Ellerman allowed PSV Eindhoven to extend their lead at the top of the Dutch League with a 2-1 win over second placed FC Twente Enschede.

Ajax, fourth but with two games in hand, slipped up against FC Den Bosch and only an injury time strike from Stefan Petterson earned them a 2-2 draw.

In Spain, Barcelona and Real Madrid kept up "a pressure on leaders La Coruna with wins over Logrones and Zaragoza.

Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov gave Johan Cruyff's European champions a 2-1 win over Logrones with a strike just after the break while a goal after only two minutes from Ivan Zamorano earned Real the points at Zaragoza.

But 24 hours later La Coruna scored a 2-1 home win over Sporting Gijon thanks to goals from Fran (6) and Bebeto (77). Escoto scored for the visitors two minutes from time.

In Portugal's big match, league leaders FC Porto and Bobby Robson's Sporting Lisbon drew 1-1, with both goals coming in the first eight minutes of play.



ROBERTO BAGGIO

last minute goal from Jean-Marc Ferreri. It earned them a 2-2 draw at Sochaux.

BAYERN BACK ON TRACK

Three goals in 14 minutes gave Bayern Munich a 3-2 away win over champions VfB Stuttgart and kept them on top of the German League.

Bruno Labbadia scored within a minute of Fritz Walier's 53rd minute penalty and Harald Cerry and Christian Ziege rammed home the Bayern advantage. In front of a 53,000 crowd, Andre Gloke got Stuttgart's second consolation goal.

AC Milan's Dutch duo of Frank Rijkaard and Ruud Gullit were both out with injury and consequently Croatian midfielder Zvonimir Boban got a rare taste of first team football. But he failed to impress as the Torino defence stifled Marco van Basten and Jean-Pierre Papin.

PSG MISS A GOLDEN CHANCE

In France Paris Saint Germain were presented with a glorious opportunity to recapture the number one spot after leaders Nantes crashed to a 1-0 defeat to revitalised St Etienne on Thursday.

But PSG went down 2-3 to visiting Nimes — their first defeat of the season — and stayed one point adrift.

Brazilian midfielder Valdo curled a 25-yard free-kick into the top corner to give PSG an 11th minute lead. But Philippe Vercurryse and Didier

Mtolo, Ondieki win NY City Marathon

NEW YORK, Nov 2: South African Willie Mtolo, running in his first international race since his country was allowed back into the Olympic movement, won the New York City Marathon yesterday, reports Reuter.

Australia's Lisa Ondieki, who failed to finish at the Barcelona Olympics after being among the leaders most of the way, won the women's race in a time of two hours, 24 minutes and 40 seconds — shaving 50 seconds off the course record.

Mtolo, 28, who finished in 2:9:28, said: "It means a lot because I've been waiting for so long to complete outside [South Africa]."

Ondieki, 32, said: "People have always been saying and writing that I'm the bridesmaid, not the bride, so that is why I'm glad I didn't win in 2:27 or 2:28. I won it by smashing the course record so just don't tell me that I'm not that good."

Andres Espinosa of Mexico was second in the men's race in 2:10:53, just one second ahead of Kim Wan-Ki of South Korea, who was third.

Russian Olga Markova was second in the women's race and Yoshiko Yamamoto of Japan was third.

Mtolo won dollar 20,000 and a luxury sports car. Ondieki, 32, won dollar 50,000 — dollar 30,000 for beating the course record — and a Mercedes also.

The most dramatic part of the 26.2 mile (42.16 km) race came when, with three miles (4.8 km) to go, Mtolo surged ahead of Espinosa and took the lead among the 25,000 runners.

Running with long, loping strides with the leaves of Central Park shimmering gold and red in the sunshine, he soon left the Mexican runner far behind.

Mtolo, who earns 400 dollars a month as a bank marketing representative, was the men's favourite. He was the fastest man in the field, having run a marathon six years ago in 2:8:15, the world's 18th best time.

"I just can't believe it," he said after crossing the finish line. "The people in south Africa will be very happy."

But Mtolo, a soft-spoken Zulu taking part in his first major international marathon outside South Africa, said he might have broken into the lead too early, thus reducing his chances for a better time.

Before the race, Mtolo said he was hoping to finish among the top five. "If I break 2:10 I'll be happy," he said.

His victory was a triumph for South Africa, which had been banned from international sports for more than two decades because of its apartheid laws of racial discrimination. It was only allowed back in the Olympics this year.

Last month, another black South African, David Tsebe, won the Berlin Marathon in the year's fastest time.

Ondieki, who disappointingly failed to finish in Barcelona in July after being among the leaders, shattered the course record of 2:25:38 set by Allison Roe of New Zealand in 1981.

But Ondieki said she had no thoughts of the prize money.

"I just wanted a really good result," she said. "I'm just happy for my husband, who spent so many hours training me."

I had a little thing in the back of my mind that I would never win New York," she added.

An estimated two million people watched the runners from 91 countries who took part in the marathon.

After a lead pack of a dozen runners crossed the halfway point, a group of about six led by Espinosa and Lameek Aguta of Kenya broke to the front at 14 miles.

Espinosa and Aguta shot to the front at 16 miles, running past throngs, and continued to duel shoulder to shoulder for the next three miles.

Espinosa, 29, broke away at the 19th mile mark as Aguta gateway to pre-race favourite Mtolo, to give chase. Mtolo caught up at mile 22 and took the lead in the next mile.

Ondieki sprinted to the front in the very first mile, opening up a nearly 30 second, 100-yard lead over Markova.

"I run best when I go out," Ondieki said. "I don't like 50 women around me. I like to get rid of people early and run hard and make other people work hard."

Markova, this year's Boston Marathon winner and favourite for New York, gave chase the entire way, but never seriously challenged.



LISA ONDIEKI

Inter-service volleyball ends

CHITTAGONG, Nov 2: The inter-service volleyball championship '92, organised by Bangladesh Navy, concluded at BNS Issa Khan here on Sunday, reports BSS.

The hosts, Bangladesh Navy, emerged champions with 4 points while Bangladesh Army finished runners-up with 2 points.

Hav Shuruj-uz-Zaman of Bangladesh Army was adjudged the best player of the three-day meet.

Bangladesh Navy beat Bangladesh Army 15-9, 15-11 and 15-4 in the concluding match at the three-day meet yesterday.