

Schools b'ball

Saint Nicholas School and Tejgaon Shaheen School qualified for the final of the National King Fan schools basketball tournament winning their respective semis at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday. reports UNB.

Saint Nicholas School eliminated Nabakumar Institution 32-30 in a keenly contested encounter. The winners were trailing 11-12 in the first session.

Nirmal scored 10 and Satya six for the winners while Nazrul caged 16 and Azrul seven for the losers.

In the second semifinal, Tejgaon Shaheen School overcame Kurmitola Shaheen School 44-43. The match was locked at 20-20 at the breather.

Sadek contributed 13 and Rezwan 14 for the winners while Mahmudul made 16 and Moudud 11 for the losers.

The final match between Saint Nicholas School and Tejgaon Shaheen School will be held today at 3 pm.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will be chief guest in the final while the Managing Director of the sponsors National Electrical Industries M Habibullah will be present as a special guest.

Kabaddi league

Sports Reporter

Suryakamal finished Group B runners-up when they beat Jagarani Sangsad 38-8 in the last group match in the Metropolitan kabaddi league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

The winners, who led the first half by a comfortable 14-4 scoreline, earned three lonas.

Suryakamal topped their tally to four points from three matches, two ahead from the group leaders Sonali Bank Club, who have won all their group engagements to finish with six points.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Jurain Janata Club vs Maniknagar Unnayan Samity
Bangladesh Boys Club vs Srijani Sangsad.

Shah Sports Cup soccer results

Sports Reporter

Saat Rawja Nabean Sangha defeated Dhaka Football Coaching Centre by a solitary goal at the Outer Stadium yesterday in the Shah Sports Cup juvenile football tournament.

Abed scored the match-winning in the 11th minute of the first half from spot kick.

In the other match of the day, Tejgunipara Rafiq Smriti Sangsad drew one-all with Chandnighat Tarun Sangha.

Apu scored for the Tejgunipara side six minutes of the second half while Harun restored parity thirteen minutes later.

Maldives to send 67-strong squad for SAF Games

Maldives will send a 67-member team to the sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games to be held in Dhaka from December 20-27 next, reports BSS.

According to the SAF Games organising committee, the Maldives contingent includes 53 athletes and players and 14 officials. The island country will take part in seven of the 11 disciplines in the Games being held in Dhaka for the second time.

Inter-service swimming on

The inter service swimming championship '93 got underway at the naval headquarters complex swimming pool at Banani yesterday under the auspices of the Bangladesh Navy, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

Out of the three final events held yesterday, Salim Mia of Bangladesh Navy improved inter services and national record in 200 metre butterfly, covering the distance in 2 minutes 17.82 secs. The previous record in the event was 2 minutes 19.15 secs.

Mukhlisur Rahman CPO, also of Bangladesh Navy improved inter service record in 100 metre breaststrokes. He took 1 minute 10 secs while the previous record was 1 minutes 10.93 secs.

Earlier, the chief of air staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury inaugurated the four-day meet and later distributed prizes among the winners in different events.

Army v'ball

COMILLA, Sept 26: Four matches of the Bangladesh Army annual volleyball championship were held at the Comilla Cantonment here, reports BSS.

Anti-Aircraft Artillery trounced Dhaka Signals 15-11, 15-2 and 15-6 while Mythen-singh Area beat Dhaka Infantry 15-17, 15-12, 16-14 and 15-5 this morning.

Earlier, on Saturday afternoon, Savar Area defeated Chittagong Area 15-12, 15-12 and 15-9 while Comilla Area beat Bogra Area 15-9, 11-15, 15-10 and 15-7.

Abahani steal a march on rivals

Nannu quits Mohammedans

Sports Reporter



Club after seven long years when the star batsman returned to his old side Abahani on the second day of cricketers' inter-club transfer.



PARTING WAYS: Minhazul Abedin Nannu sets his seven-year old relationship with Mohammedans at naught with one stroke of a pen. The former captain of the national team joined his old club Abahani yesterday, the second day of the cricketers' inter-club transfers. — Star photo

In a day of resounding success, reigning Navana Premier League champions Abahani also roped in Saiful Islam, reputedly the fastest bowler of the land and wicket keeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu.



SAIFUL ISLAM

While it will be young Saiful's first year with one of the giants of local cricket both Nannu and Nasu should find the change of tents as some sort of homecoming, having spent considerable time of their ca-

reers with Abahani. Although Nannu's fans among Mohammedan supporters have reasons to feel shocked, the move was always on the cards for the knowing circle. The temperamental cricketer from Chittagong was having problems with the management of Mohammedans from the middle of last season.

On a day when Abahani succeeded in retaining five of their old players including the redoubtable Akram Khan, Gulshan stumper Nasu's joining was a big bonus for the Dhanmudi Club. The former Abahani player Nasu really excelled in his job behind the stumps last year for Gulshan Youth. The roping in of Nasu will not cause Abahani any unnecessary hassle as a recent BCCB ruling exempted wicket-keepers from the pool comprising 17 national players. Every Premier league team is allowed to register maximum four players from the pool.

Akram, who took token and submitted in favour of Abahani once again, along with Khaled Mahmud Sujon, Ziauddin Shovon, Khairuzzaman Babu and Ripon give rise to the number of pool players in Abahani to four with the inclusions of Nannu and Saiful.

However, the calculation is valid as long as Faruq Ahmed, a pool player, does not seek new allegiance. A very talented batsman who is yet to fulfil his promise, Faruq had an indifferent and luckless season last year. With veteran Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu almost sure to lead Abahani in the forthcoming season, the middle order batting may be too crammed to make room for Faruq at his favourite number three position, and if Abahani persists with the notion of having an allrounder batsman like Athar Ali, Faruq may well switch to a new club, possibly Mohammedans.

GMCC, one of the better teams known for their giant killing acts, had a successful day too. They succeeded in caging Mahbubur Rahman Selim, a pool player who played for Biman last year. Also joined him was Zakir Hossain, the right arm medium pacer who had a fairly ordinary season with Mohammedans last year.

Notable among others who changed teams was Sajid Hassan. The young opening batsman better known for his filial connection with former national skipper Roqibul Hassan, yesterday parted with Victoria to join Gulshan Youth.

Nine out of eighteen players who took tokens changed teams on the second day of cricketers' transfer which will close on Thursday, September 30.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) yesterday announced a 19-member squad for the BCCB XI which will leave Dhaka on October 5 for India to play a number of exhibition matches as a part of Bangladesh's preparation for the ICC trophy to be held in Kenya in February next year. This will be the second visit of the BCCB team to India following their recent package trip which included participation in over-limit competition apart from number of exhibition matches.

Left arm paceman Golam Nowsher Prince has been appointed captain while all-rounder Athar Ali Khan has been chosen as his deputy. Former Indian Test cricketer Mohinder Amarnath, who is expected to be in the city by October 1, will accompany the team as the coach.

Former national cricketers Roqibul Hassan and Ahmed Iqbal Bachchu will be on the trip as manager and assistant manager respectively.

The other members of the squad are: Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Akram Khan, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Faruq Ahmed, Sajad Ahmed Shipon, Naimur Rahman Durjoy, Jahangir Alam, Al Shahriar Rokon, Enamul Hujum Mond, Waheedul Ghani, Saiful Islam, Naimur Rashid Rahul, Anisur Rahman, and Nasir Ahmed Nasu.

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Jansher pays off old scores

DUBAI, Sept 26: World squash champion Jansher Khan took his revenge on Australian Rodney Martin to win the inaugural Dubai Classic on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Jansher, beaten by Martin in the semifinals of the Hong Kong Open three weeks ago, played magnificent attacking squash to sweep to his 15-7, 15-8, 15-7 victory in 40 minutes.

"I have not been in top form for a little while, but today I got my act together again," said Jansher.

"I concentrated well and played some very good shots. I am very happy again."

Martin said: "Jansher was too good today. He put me under a lot of pressure and I was unable to play my natural game."

"But I'm looking forward to playing him again. He is not invincible and a lot of players are starting to realise they can beat him."

Jansher's game plan was clear from the start. In Hong Kong, he allowed Martin to take the initiative, but he was determined not to let it happen again.

He opened at a tremendous pace, trying to play winners from all angles. Martin stayed with him and led 7-6 before the 24-year-old world number one went into overdrive.

After that, the 27-year-old Australian might as well have been a spectator. If Jansher didn't hit a winner, then the desperate Martin was forced into an error.

The Pakistani won nine points in succession to take the game in 13 minutes.

Martin attempted a recovery in the second game, but it became a carbon copy of the first. Jansher again won nine points in a row to seal the game.

The result was inevitable after Jansher sailed into an early 3-0 lead in the third game.

Courier tipped favourite in Salem Open

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 26: Jim Courier is the man to beat in the inaugural edition of the 300,000 dollars Salem Open tennis tournament which starts on Monday in the Malaysian capital, reports Reuter.

But the world number two will be challenged by hard-serving Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine and fellow American Michael Chang, ranked seventh and eighth in the world respectively on the hardcourts at the National Tennis Centre.

Australia's Wally Masur, Jason Stoltenberg, Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde are flying in from India, fresh from their Davis Cup semifinal victory.

Other notable singles players in the tournament are Henrik Holm and Jonas Svensson of Sweden and Brad Gilbert of the United States.

The tournament features men's singles and doubles. The two top doubles pairs are reigning Wimbledon doubles champions, Woodforde and Woodbridge, and third-ranked Paul Haarhuis and Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands.

The Salem Open is part of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour World Series of four Asian cities, which also takes in Hong Kong, Osaka and Beijing.

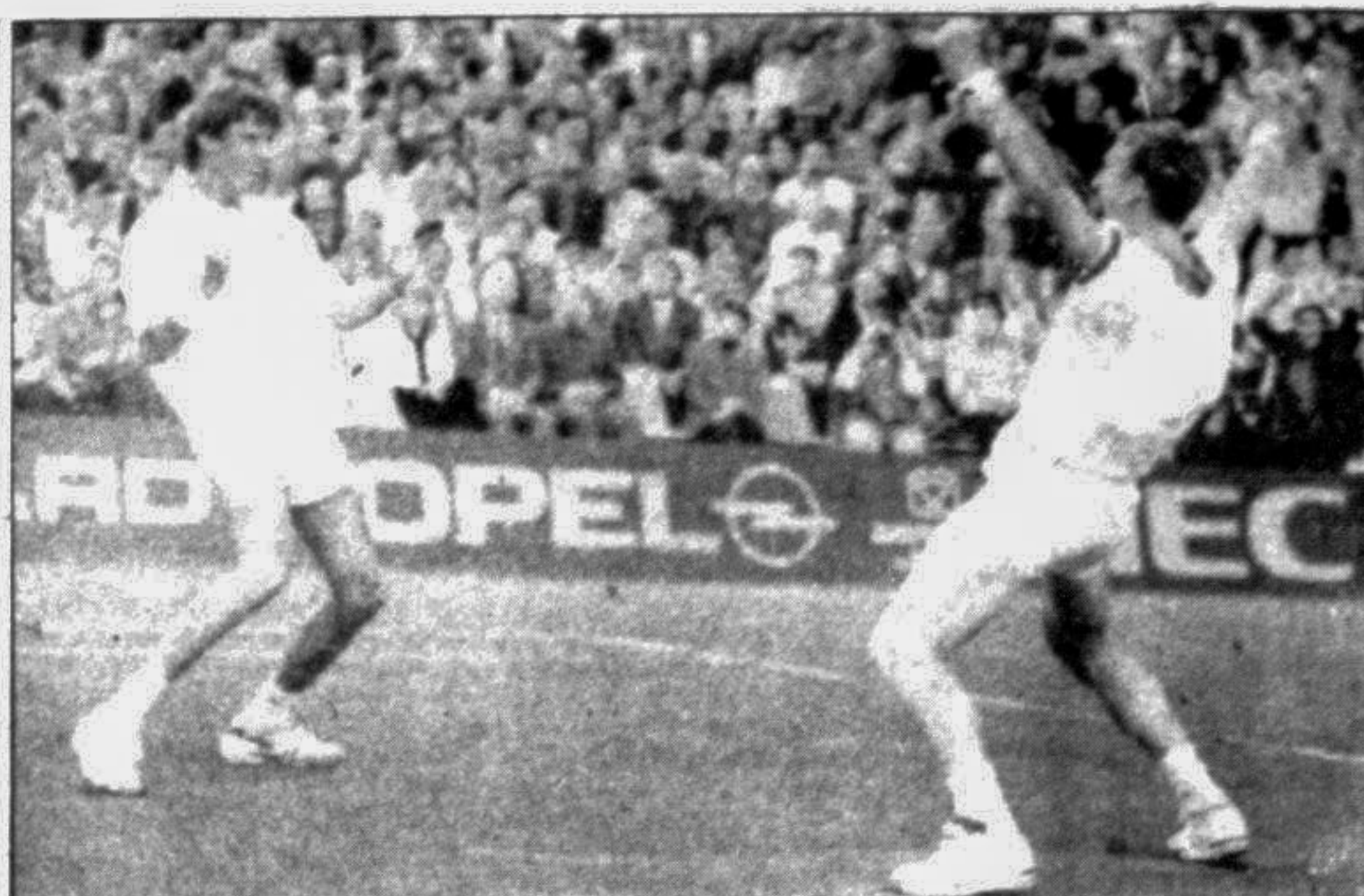
ROK beat Aussies

SEOUL, Sept 26: A header by Choi Mun-Shik gave South Korea a 1-0 victory over Australia Sunday in a tune-up game for the two teams' final qualifying matches or World Cup soccer, reports AP.

Choi scored with 15 minutes left to play, heading in a low lob from fellow forward Lee Ki-Bum at Seoul's East Gate stadium.

The two teams fought to a 1-1 draw in their first warm-up match on Friday.

Australia face Argentina in their final World Cup qualifying round on Oct. 31 and in mid-November. South Korea face Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Japan and North Korea in the final Asian qualifying round in mid-October.



German Michael Stich (L) and Patrick Kuehnen express joy after beating Swedish doubles team of Jarryd and Holm in the Davis Cup semifinal in Borlange, Sweden on Sept 25. The Germans won 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (9-7) to ensure their place in the final. Germany will take on the Aussies in the finals. — AFP photo

Germany through to final



LONDON, Sept 26: On an anti-climactic Sunday in Davis Cup play, Australia and Germany went through the motions on the way to their championship final in December, reports AP.

Australia finished off a 5-0 rout of India without losing a set in the three-day competition. Wally Masur defeated India's No. 1 Leander Paes 6-4, 6-2, and Jason Stoltenberg rolled over Zeeshan Ali 6-3, 6-3 in the reverse singles.

Ali was a last-minute substitute for Ramesh Krishnan, who was reported to be feeling ill.

Later, Germany, who will host the final on Dec. 3-5, went into the reverse singles with an unbeatable 3-0 lead over Sweden.

Australia, playing in the final for the 43rd time, will be seeking their 27th title. Only the United States, with 30, have more. Germany will be making their fifth appearance in the championship series, which they won in 1988 and 1989.

Australia and Germany have never met in the final, although the Australians hold a 3-1 lifetime record over the Germans in the Davis Cup play.

Elsewhere, a dramatic marathon match in New Zealand ended with an Austrian player accusing officials of favouritism. Nevertheless, Austria won the qualifying round series, 3-2.

Also in the qualifying round, Spain won two meaningless singles matches in a 5-0 win over South Korea.

Later Sunday, Russia went into play with an insurmountable 3-0 lead over Cuba, and defending champions United States was also up 3-0 over the Bahamas.

Hungary took a 2-1 lead into the final day against Argentina, and Denmark were up 2-1 over Croatia. Belgium led Brazil 2-0 after Saturday's doubles match was rained out.

On Friday, Israel beat last year's runners-up Switzerland 3-2 in a qualifying round match begun early because of the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur.

The winners in the qualifying round advance to the 16-nation World Group in 1994, while the losers drop to regional competition.

Also Sunday, South Africa played out a 3-0 lead over Senegal, and Romania was up 2-1 over Morocco in Euro-African Zone promotion play-offs.

The most dramatic match of the day happened on the indoor court at Christchurch, where Alex Antonitsch needed 5 1/2 hours to win a five-set comeback thriller over Kelly Evernden, keeping Austria in the World Group.

Antonitsch beat Evernden 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 6-7 (2-7), 7-6 (7-5), 6-2 in match punctuated with disputed line calls, protests from the captains and verbal exchanges between the players. In addition, play was suspended for 20 minutes in the fifth set after a power failure.

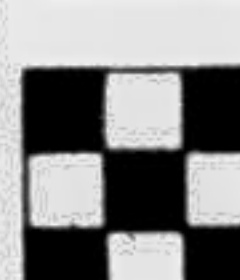
After the match, Antonitsch accused the officials of favouring New Zealand.

"I got the feeling they smelled the chance and they (officials) tried everything — foot faults and bad calls on important points," Antonitsch said.

Earlier, New Zealand's Brett Steven tied the series at 2-2 with a 7-6 (7-3), 6-1, 6-3 victory over Horst Skoff, who was troubled by a foot injury.

At Seoul's Olympic hard court, Spain finished off their victory when French Open champion Sergi Bruguera beat Shin Han-chul 6-3, 6-1, and Alberto Berasategui defeated Chang Yi-jong 6-3, 6-2.

Karpov closer to FIDE crown



AMSTERDAM, Sept 26: Russian former world champion Anatoly Karpov and Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman drew the 12th game of the FIDE World Chess Championship on Saturday not knowing if the second half of the match will take place, reports Reuter.

Karpov is seven points to five ahead, which could make him champion if FIDE is both unable to rescue the second half of the match and does not want to nullify the games played so far.

The first game of the second leg of the match was due to start on October 3 in the Gulf State of Oman, but on Thursday, after a series of rumours, a spokesman for the organisers there said Oman had never made a commitment to fund prize-money. While the two Grandmasters played a delicate Grunfeld Defence, on Saturday, Florencio Campomanes, president of the world chess body FIDE, was himself on the defensive as reporters demanded to know what would happen to the championship.

The responsibility of FIDE is mainly to the two players, and everything has been done to keep them abreast of development," Campomanes said. Campomanes said a new venue would be announced on October 2, but held out little hope of replacing the two million Swiss francs (dollar 1.39 million) FIDE said was promised by Oman.

FIDE is in a tight corner and has little time. Its own rules say a world title match must have a minimum one million Swiss franc (700,000 dollar) purse.

The Dutch organisers were unable to raise any prize-money, only enough to cover the cost of staging the first 12 games.

Karpov began with his favoured D-pawn advance. Timman, playing black, chose a Grunfeld Defence and the two went down the lines of a game they played in Malaysia in 1990.

"This was played in Game Four (in Malaysia), I think. White stands slightly better," said "Grandmaster Ron Henley, one of Karpov's seconds (expert assistants).

"Karpov won after a long struggle, though it was nothing to do with the opening," Henley said.

Both players put pressure on the centre, and after 29 moves of subtle strategic manoeuvring,

Timman was judged to have a solid position though Karpov was slightly better.

Long pawn chains strung across the board were broken on the C-File and after a series of exchanges, a level endgame was reached, though both players soldiered on to Move 51 before agreeing a draw.

Timman's confidant and second Yasser Seirawan said the Dutchman was very upset by the fiasco with the prize-money.

"He feels totally destroyed, totally depressed. When he heard the Dutch had raised no money, he often referred to himself as the joker in the match, playing for free. But with no prize fund at all, now, he is very shaken," Seirawan said.

FIDE, which has been organising World Chess Championships since 1946, is also under severe pressure because of the rival Times World Chess Championship currently taking place in London between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short.

FIDE disqualified reigning champion Kasparov and official challenger Short in March after they rejected FIDE's planned venue and formed the break-away Professional Chess Association.

ACOG defends site changes



ATLANTA, Sept 26: Atlanta Olympic officials defended their decision to move the sites of several events for the 1996 Games, saying cost and logistics were forcing them to make changes, reports AP.

Billy Payne, president of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, said officials are trying to come up with sites that can handle permanent structures so the Games will leave a legacy.

Payne made the comments in response to a remark by an International Olympic

Committee official who said he was losing patience with frequent relocation of event sites in Atlanta, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Saturday.

Dick Pound, head of the IOC's 1996 Olympics coordinating commission, said he was irritated by the gradual disintegration of what was supposed to be a complex of venues at Stone Mountain Park in Dekalb County.

Atlanta's bid for the 1996 Games called the state park Olympic Park. It was billed as a huge green setting for six sports, including equestrian, shooting and rowing.

Now, only tennis, archery and cycling remain and the ACOG is considering moving cycling.

"Stone Mountain was a major part of their bid; that's part of what sold us on Atlanta," Pound said during an IOC meeting this week at Monte Carlo, Monaco.

But Payne said the moves were either suggested by the sports federations or were made because of practical concerns, such as the expense of modifying the lake at Stone Mountain.

He also said most of the changes involve turning a temporary venue into a permanent structure.

Routine staff for Martin

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 26: Top seed Michelle Martin needed just 27 minutes to beat fellow-Australian Liz Irving in the women's World Open squash final on Saturday, reports Reuter.

In a lop-sided match, Martin won 9-2, 9-2, 9-1 to capture her first world title.

She completed the week here without losing a game, emulating her feat earlier this year when she took the British Open crown.

Becker pulls out

BASLE, Switzerland, Sept 26: Defending champion and top seed Boris Becker of Germany has pulled out of the Basle indoor tennis tournament starting on Tuesday because of a foot injury, reports Reuter.

Organisers said Sweden's Stefan Edberg will take over as top seed.

Nigeria nip Ivory Coast

LAGOS, Sept 26: Nigeria beat Ivory Coast 4-1 (Half-time 2-0) in a World Cup African Zone Group A second-round qualifying match on Saturday, reports Reuter.