



Grandmaster Anatoly Karpov of Russia makes the opening move in the 16th game of his International Chess Federation (FIDE) series against the Netherlands' Jan Timman in Jakarta yesterday. Karpov leads 9.5-5.5. —AFP photo

Sampras, Pioline in Lyon Open qtrs

LYON, France, Oct 22: Pete Sampras and Cedric Pioline, the finalists in the US open, advanced to the quarterfinals of the \$1.5 million Lyon Open tennis tournament Thursday with straight set victories, reports AP.

Sampras, the two-time defending champion, defeated Markus Naewie of Germany, 6-3, 6-3. Pioline, who also lost to Sampras in the final here last year, routed David Rikl of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-1.

Sampras is the No. 1 player in the world and top seed. If he wins a third time in the Lyon tournament he will receive a diamond-studded trophy worth more than \$500,000.

Gamez fills the void

TOKYO, Oct 22: Leo Gamez of Venezuela obtained the vacant World Boxing Association (WBA) junior flyweight title on Thursday by beating third-ranked Shiro Yahiro of Japan by a ninth-round technical knockout, reports AP.

Thirty-year-old Gamez, a former WBA strawweight champion, overwhelmed the Japanese from the first round. He is to defend his title against top-ranked Juan Torres of Panama within 90 days.

The title was left vacant following the retirement of South Korea's Yuh Myung Woo in September.



Leo Gamez of Venezuela gives vent to his ecstatic feelings while receiving the winner's trophy after beating his Japanese opponent Shiro Yahiro in the World Boxing Association (WBA) junior flyweight title bout on Oct 21 in Tokyo. —AFP photo

Karpov has Timman in toils

JAKARTA, Oct 22: Anatoly Karpov of Russia held all the trumps against Jan Timman of the Netherlands during the 16th game of the official World Chess Championship on Friday, reports Reuter.

Karpov already enjoys a four-point advantage in the match and experts said the position he had achieved by the middle of this game admirably suited his Boa Constrictor style.

Arriving five minutes early for the game and playing with the black pieces, Timman tried the complicated King's Indian defence for the first time in the match but was surprised by an inspired new move by the Russian.

Timman soon fell behind on the clock, trying to find a way to counter Karpov's new idea. However, a misguided Queen Manoeuvre left Timman in difficulties.

"I don't like Jan's position," said aide Jeroen Piket

after Timman's 17th move. "He couldn't take Karpov's pawn."

Karpov continued gaining space move by move until Timman's position became totally passive.

Timman needs a big defensive effort and a lot of hope," said Dutch Journalist Dirk Jan Ten Geuzendam.

Karpov, 42, leads 41-year-old Timman by 9.5 points to 5.5 in the best of 24 games series which has a prize fund of one million Swiss francs.

Karpov and Timman are playing for the official World Chess Championship. Garri Kasparov of Russia, the world number one, and Nigel Short, his English challenger, broke away from the World Chess Federation to organise a more lucrative contest which ended on Thursday in London with victory for the Russian.

Kasparov, who had held the world title since defeating Karpov in 1985, was stripped of it by the world federation in April. Both Kasparov and Short were banned from official

World Championship play for the next three years.

Kasparov won the rebel match 12.5-7.5 and claimed it as a successful defence of his title.

However, the World Chess Federation has said its 151 member federations will recognise only the winner of the Karpov-Timman match as the true world champion.

It regards Kasparov's claim to the title as "legally and morally invalid."

Karpov, the likely winner in the Jakarta contest, is ranked only second in the world and is ten years older than Kasparov. He is unlikely seriously to challenge his younger rival in future tournaments, leaving his credibility as world champion in doubt.

The next game between Timman and Karpov will be played on Saturday with Timman having the advantage of the white pieces.

The winner of the match will be the first player to score 12.5 points.

Of Chinese tennis players

BEIJING, Oct 22: There aren't enough challenging players to practice against, the training literature is in foreign languages, China's top players haven't won a set and the girls prefer Michael Chang,

writes AP. Things can only get better for tennis in China, and that's exactly what's happening, with a big push from a booming economy and encouragement from some very elite fans.

"They (top Communist Party leaders) have helped a lot," said

Chinese coach Wang Fuzhang at this week's Salem Open. "Two years ago there were fewer than 100 courts in Beijing. Now there are more than 300."

And Salem, trying to promote its cigarettes in the billion-plus China market, has brought in the country's first ATP tour event, at the same time that Marlboro is sponsoring a non-ATP event in Hong Kong.

China's two top men, Pan Bing and Xia Jiaping, have played Asian tournaments and Davis Cup matches, but they're newcomers to the ATP scene and it showed.

We need to play more international tournaments to climb the steps of the ladder, said the 22-year-old Pan after losing his first ever ATP match, 6-3, 6-2, to No. 36-ranked Jonas Svensson of Sweden.

Xia, playing in his second ATP tournament, dropped his first-round match 6-1, 6-3 to Germany's Alexander Mronz, ranked No. 173 in the world. The two Chinese teamed up in doubles and lost there too.

Both said they admire the American-born Chang, the No. 1 seed and a big draw here because of his Chinese heritage, but world No. 1 Pete Sampras is their favourite.

"Sampras is like a killer on the court. His stare is great," said Xia, 23.

Pan, whose father is an ambulance driver in the grimy industrial city of Wuhan, said he took up the game at 11 when a tennis coach visited his school.

"I liked soccer and pingpong. Tennis was very rare in China. I just thought it was a new thing and decided to give it a try. When I began to play, I liked it."

Xia is from Shanghai, where the game is better-known because of the city's large prewar foreign community. His great-uncle was a top player in the 1950s, before sports were de-emphasized for many years by the ruling Communist Party on the theory that they diverted energy from agriculture and industry.

Politically, China's top-ranked player is probably 77-year-old Wan Li, now retired but a long-time right-hand man for paramount leader Deng Xiaoping.

Che Xitong, who headed Beijing's unsuccessful bid for the 2000 Olympics earlier this year and was mayor during the bloody suppression of the Tiananmen democracy movement in 1989, is known as a scrappy tennis player.

Kasparov draws but wins anyway

LONDON, Oct 22: Russian chess genius Garri Kasparov secured outright victory in the Professional Chess Association (PCA) world chess tournament here Thursday, drawing the 20th game with challenger Nigel Short, reports AFP.

Kasparov, playing black agreed a draw with Short on the 36th move of their match at the Savoy Theatre.

The draw gave him 12.5 points to Short's 7.5 in the 24-match series of their Professional Chess Association final. The pair set up the PCA when they broke with FIDE, the official world chess organisation.

The extra half point meant Kasparov will receive the lion's share of the 1.7 million pound (2.55 million dollar) prize money put up by the Times newspaper, which sponsored the contest.

Chang edges past Matsuoka

BEIJING, Oct 22: Top seed Michael Chang of the United States faced unexpected pressure from Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan but finally edged his way into the final eight of the 300,000 dollars Salem '93 Open, reports Reuter.

"It was a tough match and Matsuoka is a very dangerous player," Chang said after the more than three-hour match at Beijing's National Olympic Sports Centre on Thursday night. He won 6-4, 6-7 (3-7), 7-5.

Matsuoka had 12 aces to five for Chang, the world's seventh ranked player.

Chang took the first set with strong serving and aggressive groundstrokes and appeared to be on his way to an easy win.

But Matsuoka, Asia's top player, took advantage of Chang's cautious second set play and pushed to a 5-2 lead.

Chang came back with four straight points, sending the set to a tie-breaker — only to lose it and the set.

Both played strongly in the third set, until Chang broke Matsuoka's service to lead 5-3. Matsuoka's fine ground shots evened the set at 5-5 and Chang missed three match points.

In the decisive 12th game of the final set, the 26-year-old Matsuoka appeared to lose his confidence, missing two balls and netting a volley to trail 0-40 on his service. He then double-faulted to send Chang into the quarter-finals.

In other singles matches, Christian Bergstrom of Sweden beat Alexander Mronz of Germany 6-3, 6-2. Brad Gilbert of the US defeated Patrick Rafter of Australia 7-6 (7-3), 4-6, 6-2 and Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden beat Christo van Rensburg of South Africa 6-4, 6-4.

Huber, Pierce in Brighton in door quarterfinals

BRIGHTON, England, Oct 22: Second seed Anke Huber of Germany dropped a set before she overpowered Romania's Irina Spirlea 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 Thursday to reach the quarter-final of the \$375,000 Brighton Indoor women's tennis tournament, reports AP.

Third seed Mary Pierce of France moved smoothly into the last eight, however, by downing experienced Liz Smylie of Australia 6-2, 6-0.



Russian Garri Kasparov (R) shakes hands with his beaten challenger Britain's Nigel Short after retaining his World Professional Chess Association (PCA) championship title at Savoy Theatre on Oct 21. The pair set up the PCA when they broke with FIDE, the official chess organisation. — AFP photo

McEnroe not dead but in limbo

HONG KONG, Oct 22: John McEnroe was tumbled out of the \$98,000 dollar Hong Kong Championships here Thursday, but maintains that he will return to competitive tennis soon, reports

APF. The American legend was beaten 6-4, 6-4 in a preliminary group match by big-serving Dutchman Richard Krajcek who advanced to Saturday's semifinals.

But McEnroe, who has taken a self-enforced sabbatical this year from top level tennis, refused to admit that the time is drawing close when he would have to bow out of the professional circuit.

"I'm in limbo right now. I have not announced my retirement, but at the same time I'm not playing competitive tennis too," said McEnroe.

"I have set no deadline on when I will retire. I still feel I'm not that far out of touch. I'm working out and still feel I am there," added the 34-year-old McEnroe.

While his competitive spirit was very much in evidence, his ageing legs let him down on a couple of occasions against world number 11 Krajcek on Thursday.

"I'm not getting younger while everyone else is getting and it is a notch in their belt to beat me," admitted McEnroe, who is currently ranked 413.

The former "bad boy" of tennis showed only glimpses of the form that has earned him 77 singles titles in an illustrious career.

Krajcek, who was to partner Peruvian Jaime Yzaga in a doubles match later Thursday, pulled out to undergo physio-

therapy on a hurt left knee. They conceded the match to Japan's Daijro Furusho and Ryuzo Tsujino.

In the Silver Group, third-seed Todd Martin of the United States defeated Sweden's Anders Jarryd 6-7 (4-7), 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 Thursday. Martin meets South African Wayne Ferreira on Friday to decide who advances to the last four from their group.

Top-seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden needs only to win one set against Spain's Carlos Costa on Friday to battle for a semifinal berth in the Gold Group.

The 12 players participating in the tournament were divided into four groups of three each, with the winners advancing to the semifinals.

Defending champion Ivan Lendl of the United States and Peru's Jaime Yzaga also meets on Friday to battle for a semifinal berth in the Gold Group.

The number 23 shirt, signed by Jordan after he had worn it in a game, had been hanging in a frame at the museum in downtown Chicago.

Memento missing

CHICAGO, Illinois, Oct 22: A Chicago Bulls jersey signed by basketball superstar Michael Jordan was discovered missing from the museum of broadcast communication here Wednesday, reports AP.

The number 23 shirt, signed by Jordan after he had worn it in a game, had been hanging in a frame at the museum in downtown Chicago.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution for 'CRYPTOQUIP' and a 'POW ESP' section with words like SOLA, ATLAS, ALONE, CHOICE, WALK, THEPLANK, LBS, THERE, REO, PLUS, MEMO, PACED, PADDY, BOGS, LADS, OUR, BAUTE, DIS, BREAKSTHEBANK, SEDATE, DONNY, DATES, OAKS, MER, ORE.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-55 and letters A-Z.

CRYPTOQUIP
RBS ZJOUBDJOQ YGU
JZGVDJOQO F YGUGP
ZQGDJOQF G DGRPQ
AZVAUDQUDF
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SAID MY TAILOR FRIEND TO DIFFICULT CUSTOMER: 'SUIT YOURSELF!'
Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals F
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.