



Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands concentrates on a backhand return against Ivan Lendl of the US in their semifinal match at the Hong Kong Open yesterday. Krajicek won the match 6-3, 1-6, 6-0. — AFP photo

Top three in Austrian Open semis

VIENNA, Austria, Oct 23: For Austria's Thomas Muster, the favourite, and Czech Petr Korda, the third seed, it was a walkover Friday into the semifinals of the 335,000 Austrian Open ATP indoor tennis tournament, reports AP. Korda advanced from the quarterfinal without competing against sixth-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland, who retired because of a stomach ailment. And the tennis court appearance of Jan Siemerink from the Netherlands against Muster lasted no more than 29 minutes. With Muster having moved into a comfortable 5-2 lead in the first set, his Dutch opponent had to give up because of leg injury — a strained muscle. Muster's hands-down victory put him for the fourth time into the semifinals of the Vienna tournament he hopes to win on Sunday. But the Austrian, who has some hope of surging among the world's top eight players to participate in the Masters Tournament in Frankfurt, Germany, late this year, has yet to beat Sweden's Thomas Enqvist in the semifinals. Enqvist, while unseeded, had no trouble overcoming Richey Reneberg of the United States 6-2, 6-3 and may give Muster a hard time on Saturday.

Ukrainian club offers Jordan

MOSCOW, Oct 23: Weeks after announcing his retirement, basketball giant Michael Jordan is being wooed to stay in the game — by an obscure side from Ukraine, reports Reuter. The Russian newspaper Sport Express said on Friday that Tit, a club founded last year in the city of Kharkov, had decided to send a fax to the multi-millionaire star inviting him to join the side. It said the offer was prompted by reports that Jordan, although retiring.

Lathi Khela held in city

In observance of Tourism Month '93 a stick play (lathi khela) was held yesterday at the National Hockey Stadium, says a press release. Shipping Minister M K Anwar was present as chief guest and inaugurated the function. Saiful Azam, MP was a special guest. Among others present on the occasion were State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, Secretary, Ministry of the Civil Aviation and Tourism, Afzalur Rahman, Chairman, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, Bazul Ghani Pathway and high officials and a large number of spectators enjoyed the show. Fifty-five participants — 20 from Pabna and 35 from Kushtia — took part in the lathi khela. Among them were two women. The viewers were enthralled by the participants' splendid stick-work. Ustad Munnaf Ali of Kushtia secured the first position while Shorab Bepari of Pabna was second and the children's team from Kushtia bagged the third position. Later, the chief guest distributed prizes among the winners. As part of the current Tourism Month '93 a 'Dress-as-you-like' competition will be held today at the Abahani playground, Dhanmondi.

Edberg hopes to end drought

HONG KONG, Oct 23: Swede Stefan Edberg is just one match away from ending a six-month title drought, after fighting his way into the final of the 698,000 US Marlboro Hong Kong tennis championships here Saturday, reports AP. Top seed Edberg defeated American Todd Martin 6-2, 7-6, (11-9) in the semifinals, to set up a clash against Dutchman Richard Krajicek in Sunday's final. Krajicek defeated defending champion Ivan Lendl 6-3, 1-11, 6-0 in a blistering 69-minute semifinal to book his final berth. Lendl's loss signalled the end of the Czech-born American's domination of this competition. Bidding to win his fourth successive title here, Lendl was totally outgunned by the big-serving Krajicek in a power-packed match. Krajicek fired in a total of 13 aces as he took his career record over Lendl to 3-1. "I was not moving well at all. I hurt my calf muscle earlier in the tournament, and I have not recovered from it," said Lendl after his quick exit. Lendl said he was a doubtful starter for the Paris Open, starting November 1. "If I recover, I will play in Paris next. But if I don't, that's it for this year," said Lendl, who has had a dismal year, losing nine times in the first round and slipping to 18th in the rankings. Krajicek, meanwhile, was in fine form, especially with his serving. "I felt pretty good today and I'm happy to have won," said the 21-year-old Krajicek, who is ranked 11th in the world. Edberg, who has had a barren spell since winning the Madrid clay court tournament in April — his only title this year — rated his chances of winning the final as good. Earlier on Friday, defending champion Ivan Lendl and Swede Stefan Edberg advanced to the semifinals. Czech-born American Lendl booked his berth with an emphatic 6-3, 6-4 victory over diminutive Peruvian Jaime Yzaga. Seeking his fourth consecutive title here, Lendl will meet Dutchman Richard Krajicek in the semifinal today. In the other semifinal, the tournament's highest ranked player, Edberg will meet American Todd Martin. Lendl, winner of last week's Seiko Super tournament in Tokyo, continued his impressive run of form with another fluent display. He was given a few anxious moments by Yzaga in the second set when serving for the match, he failed to convert a match point at 40-30, fluffing an easy overhead smash. Lendl, who fired 11 aces in the match, then had to survive two break points before completing a fine victory. In contrast to Lendl's accomplished progress, Edberg scored an unconvincing 4-5, 6-3, 7-6 (10-8) win over Spaniard Carlos Costa in his final group

Prost does it for the 13th time

SUZUKA, Japan, Oct 23: Alain Prost won pole position Saturday for the 13th time in 15 Grand Prix races this year, pulling out a close victory for the second day of qualifying in a row at the Japanese Grand Prix, reports AP. Prost's fastest lap time on the 5.864-kilometre (3.644-mile) Suzuka circuit was 1 minute, 37.154 seconds for an average speed of 217.288 kph (135.017 mph). Ayrton Senna was second in his McLaren Ford with a fastest time of 1:37.284, while teammate Mika Hakkinen was third with 1:37.326. Prost has already clinched the 1993 drivers championship with 87 points to 62 for Williams-Renault teammate Damon Hill. The 38-year-old Frenchman has announced that this will be his last season in Formula One. But he has shown no sign of letting up in his penultimate race. After suffering engine trouble Friday morning and trailing most of the time trial, he nipped German Michael Schumacher by 0.002 seconds in the last few minutes. Again Saturday Prost let other drivers set the pace, then sped to his best time with about five minutes left in the one-hour qualifying round. Hill will start from his worst position of the season after he was forced to pull out halfway due to an accident. He began spinning suddenly on a straightaway and slid off the track. The tricky track at Suzuka claimed two other victims as both Andrea De Cesaris in a Tyrrell-Yamaha and Rubens Barrichello in a Jordan-Hart crashed after turns. De Cesaris slid off the track to the right after a high-speed turn, then spun across and crashed into the fence on the left, sending his rear wing flying into the air. Barrichello spun into fence after failing to navigate an S-curve. De Cesaris was not hurt but his car had to be removed under a 13-minute red flag. In other news, Team Sauber announced that it will replace Finnish driver J J Lehto with Heinz-Harald Frentzen of Germany for the 1994 season. Frentzen, who drove in the Japanese Formula 3000 championship this year will be joining former Mercedes junior teammate Karl Wendlinger on the Sauber team. Lehto said he has received overtures from other teams for next season but declined to name them.



A scene from yesterday's stick play (lathi khela) competition in observance of Tourism Month '93 at the Hockey Stadium. — Star photo

Chang meets Rusedski in Salem final

BEIJING, Oct 23: Michael Chang's solid groundstrokes and steady overall play made quick work of Tommy Ho in an all-Chinese-American semifinal Saturday at the Selem Open, reports AP. "It's the first time I've played against a Chinese-American at this level," said Chang, after his 6-2, 6-3 victory. "It's kind of fitting being here in Beijing." In the other semifinal, rising Canadian star Greg Rusedski blew past veteran Brad Gilbert, 6-3, 6-4, with a booming serve and crackling ground strokes. Chang, the first seed and world No. 7, had little trouble with the left-handed Ho, who is ranked 150th. He pinned Ho to the baseline in long rallies and often left Ho out of position or drew an unforced error. Ho tried to rush the net but netted several drop shots and lost points on Chang's passing shots and offensive lobs. "It seemed like any time I had a good shot, it came back better," said Ho. Chang, who speaks a little Chinese, delighted Chinese reporters after the match by saying he felt more Chinese than American. "We're a close-knit family, we were taught respect for elders and to be a good representative of the family," said Chang. Ho, whose family is from Taiwan, said he was glad both Chinese-Americans reached the semifinal here because "it sets a good tempo for tennis here." Rusedski lost only one point on his serve, in the second set. Rusedski, 20, was ranked only 130th in the world two weeks ago, but advanced to 77th place with a strong performance in last week's Seiko Super tennis tournament in Tokyo. Rusedski, who beat Chang in a third-set tie-breaker last week, attributed his quick rise to improved confidence. "I'm more relaxed about being in a final. I'm more relaxed about the key points. I used to only sleep three to four hours the night before a big match but now I'm used to it I can get sleep," he said.

Lyon tennis results

LYON, France, Oct 23: Wimbledon and United States Open champion Pete Sampras took another step towards a third consecutive victory in the 600,000 dollar indoor ATP tournament here Friday when he defeated Frenchman Stephane Simonian straight-sets, reports AP. The top-seeded Sampras, able to make the most of his serve-and-volley style on the fast surface, scored a stylish 6-4, 7-4 win. Afterwards the American paid a warm tribute to the man he is seeded to play in Sunday's final-Cedric Pioline. Sampras, who defeated the French number-one in the final of the United States Open, admitted: Pioline is one of the most improved players on the circuit. He will be in the top-ten for a long time to come. Certainly the second-seeded Pioline looked very much at home while defeating Martin Damm of the Czech Republic 7-5, 6-2. The day's other winners were Richard Fromberg of Australia and Jacob Hlasek of Switzerland. Fromberg snatched a thrilling 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 7-5 (7-5) win over French giant-killer Lionel Barthez who earlier this week defeated Boris Becker.

Ku stretches her lead

KARASUYAMA, Japan, Oct 23: Ku Ok-hee of South Korea Saturday stretched her lead to seven strokes with the second-round 71 in the Karasuyama-Itsuki Classic women's golf tournament, reports AP. Ku had three birdies and two bogeys and compiled a seven-under-par 137 going into the final round over the 6,276-yard, par-72 Karasuyama Country Club course northeast of Tokyo. Aki Takamura fired a 73 for 144 and was seven shots behind Ku. Jan Higgins of New Zealand turned in a 70 for 145 that included Kumiko Hiyoshi and Michiko Okada. Hiyoshi shot a 74 and Okada a 76. New Zealander McGuire and three Japanese — Akiko Fukushima, Nobuko Kizawa and Kaori Harada were at 146.

Time lingers Karpov's gain

JAKARTA, Oct 23: Anatoly Karpov of Russia scored his third consecutive victory over Jan Timman of the Netherlands on Friday to win the 16th game of the official World Chess Championship, reports Reuter. The game began slowly but turned into one of the longest and most dramatic of the match. Karpov, 42, a former world champion playing with the advantage of the white pieces, took control of the game in the opening moves and should have won easily. But Timman, 41, defended resiliently, sacrificing material in order to reach a difficult endgame. On the 45th move Karpov was struck by an incredible case of chess blindness, missing a chance for a chance for a quick checkmate. "Please play rook to d3, please" entreated his aide, US Grandmaster Ron Henley to the public demonstration board as Karpov considered the move for almost half an hour. Karpov, in the separate

playing hall, could not hear his friend's pleas and did not see the obvious move which would have caused Timman to resign immediately. The Dutchman was visibly stunned when he returned from his private room behind the stage to discover that Karpov had overlooked the obvious rook move. But, showing his legendary determination, Karpov recovered the lost ground over the next 10 moves and eventually gained a decisive advantage again. Timman finally resigned after 59 moves and seven hours' play. Karpov now leads 10.5 to 5.5 in the 24-game series and needs only two more points to recapture the world title he lost to compatriot Gari Kasparov in 1985. Timman arrived for the game in a determined mood and employed the combative king's Indian defence for the first time in the match but was unnerved by a new eighth move by Karpov. Timman thought long and hard over his next few moves but could only find a dubious queen manoeuvre which soon gave Karpov an advantage in

both time and space. Karpov's classic Boa-constrictor style forced Timman back move by move until the Dutchman decided to break free with a desperate sacrifice of rook for knight. For a short time it seemed as if he had generated some counterplay but Karpov's material advantage could not be overcome, despite Karpov's amazing missed chance. "Anatoly is playing with great energy, which makes him tired at the end of a long game like this," Henley said, trying to explain how his player overlooked an obvious checkmating idea. Karpov and Timman are playing for the official World Championship because Kasparov, the world number one, and Nigel Short, his English challenger, broke away from the World Chess Federation to organise a more lucrative contest in London. The rebel world title match concluded on Thursday with Kasparov winning 12.5-7.5. The next game between Karpov and Timman will be played today with Timman having the white pieces. The winner of the match will be the first player to score 12.5 points.

PCA, a challenge for Kasparov

LONDON, Oct 23: Gari Kasparov, newly crowned as the first Professional Chess Association (PCA) world champion, now faces a greater challenge of turning the fledgling body he helped found into a major force in top-flight chess, reports Reuter. Kasparov, 30, drew Game 20 of his 24-game title defence against British challenger Nigel Short on Thursday to win 12-1/2 to 7-1/2 after six wins, one loss and 13 draws. Among with the title, his reward was a purse of more than a million pounds (1.48 million dollars) from the 1.7 million pounds (2.5 million dollars) prize fund sponsored by The Times of London newspaper. It established Kasparov as clearly the world's strongest player. To many chess experts, he is the best player in the history of the game. But his toughest task will be using his influence to gain credibility for the new-born PCA, which he and Short established earlier this year after a split with international governing body FIDE, in charge of the World Championship since 1948. FIDE is the second largest

sporting organisation in the world after soccer authority FIFA, and has a comprehensive world wide qualifying system. Kasparov won the FIDE title in 1985 against arch-rival Anatoly Karpov and defended it against him in 1986, 1987 and 1990. Kasparov and Short were outlawed by FIDE and stripped of their world rankings following their founding of the PCA after a bitter dispute over the venue and terms of their title contest. The Azeri-born champion has been in strident conflict with FIDE, and its controversial president Florencio Campomanes, for most of his career, and has consistently questioned its ability to handle professional players and negotiations with major sponsors. The PCA scored its first publicity victory when the rival FIDE contest, now resumed in the Indonesian capital Jakarta, floundered in financial chaos. FIDE announced that their official match between Karpov and Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman would have a prize fund of 1.8 million pounds (2.7 million dollars) even higher than the London match. But the duel between two men eliminated by Short earlier in the FIDE cycle suffered real credibility problems. The organisers of the first half of the tournament in the Netherlands announced they had failed to raise a penny towards their half of the prize fund. Then the organisers of the second half in Oman withdrew completely, leaving the match homeless and penniless. After a three-week delay, a frantic search for a match sponsor resulted in the contest moving to Jakarta, where FIDE is guaranteeing only a minimum prize of one million Swiss francs (700,000 dollars). Kasparov insists there is no danger that he will become a reclusive champion, and promises to defend his title against the next PCA challenger in 1995. Sceptical observers await confirmation that the PCA has the framework and cash to run a successful qualifying cycle. But the organisation has promised to reveal specifics

later this month in London after announcements of major sponsors and a full calendar of elite events. The PCA title eliminator, which will reduce 50 title hopefuls to seven candidates joining Short in a series of knock-out matches, is already scheduled for late December in the Dutch town Groningen. HK-Beijing rally begins HONG KONG, Oct 23: Thirty-two cars roared off from the British colony Saturday on the first leg of the 3,800-kilometre (2,356-mile) 555 Hong Kong-Beijing Rally, an event that was last run in 1987, reports AP. Leading the drivers as they set off from a tourist district on Kowloon peninsula for the neighboring Chinese city of Shenzhen were former World Rally Champion Ari Vatanen of Finland and his co-driver, Bruno Berglund of Sweden, in a Subaru Legacy. Other top drivers included Colin McRae of Britain and Kenjiro Shinozuka of Japan, both driving a Subaru Legacy, and Possum Bourne of New Zealand, who was in a Mitsubishi Lancer. The race, which ends next Friday in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, covers five Chinese provinces. The event, which first began in 1985, was halted in 1987 because its sponsor, British-American Tobacco Co, decided its marketing efforts fell short of expectations. But with the recent formation of BAT China Ltd, in Hong Kong and a network of office throughout China, organizers said they were in a better position to promote their products in China. An estimated 9 million spectators watched the rally in 1987 and a similar number is expected this time, the organizers said. For the Chinese, the race also comes amid a recent surge of interest in motor sports. The southern Chinese city of Zhuhai earlier this year staged China's first car race on a twisting street circuit. Plans to bring Formula One racing to Zhuhai are also being considered.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 26 mins and a solution key at the bottom.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a 10x11 grid of letters and numbers for solving.

CRYPTOQUIP O Z A R O R D L I H I H X X N E N B I W I B Z Z X P B L Z H D X E B P A Z O P E M R X M H P X Z. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BIG FURNITURE MANUFACTURER'S MANUAL FEATURES A TABLE OF CONTENTS. Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals P. 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.