



Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda giving away the trophy to Brothers Union captain after the final of the MA Khan Memorial tournament yesterday. Brothers beat Ansars 17-14. — Star photo

Edberg eyes Sampras' spot

HONG KONG, Oct 21: Former champion Stefan Edberg has warned that Pete Sampras could soon lose his world number one title after a bad run of injuries, reports AFP.

With Sampras coming back from injury after playing just one tournament in the last four months, Sweden's Edberg predicted Sampras could lose his mantle as the world's best



PETE SAMPRAS

player early in the new year. Sampras' main enemy, Edberg said, would be the ATP Tour's ranking computer.

The 23-year-old American built a seemingly unassailable lead by winning eight tournaments this year culminating in his successful Wimbledon defence in July and must now defend the points he earned with those wins.

Anything less than a successful defence of those eight titles will see points deducted from his total according to where he finishes in each event.

Sampras currently holds a

1,500 point lead over Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, with Germany's Michael Stich another 300 points adrift in third.

Himself ranked fifth in the world, former number one Edberg warned that Sampras must perform well over the next month to give himself a cushion for next year.

"It is very possible that Pete will be caught after what has happened," Edberg said. "Up to Wimbledon he won a tremendous amount of points, but since then he has only played one tournament in three or four months."

"It all depends on what happens over the next couple of months. If he has a bad fall (autumn) he is going to face a lot of pressure next year."

"If one of the top guys has a good fall and wins a couple of big ones, it is possible to catch him."

Sampras began his comeback from injury this week in the Marlboro Championships exhibition tournament here and is now looking for solid performances at tournaments in Stockholm and Paris before the IBM/ATP Tour World Championship in Frankfurt from November 13.

Admitting that he is now struggling after not reaching the final of a Grand Slam event for the first time since 1986, 28-year-old Edberg believes he must reconstruct his once flawless serve if he is to continue threatening the top players.

"My biggest problem is consistency on my first serve," he said.

"When I was 19, 20 or 21 I could wake up in the middle of the night and go out and serve

wherever I wanted to. That's a lot harder now."

"If I can add another edge to my serve I will be back playing good tennis."

Edberg completed a relatively simple 6-4, 6-1 win over Dutch doubles specialist Jacco Eltingh to top his round robin group and qualify for the semi-finals.

Eltingh and compatriot Paul Haarhuis are the world's number one doubles pairing, with Haarhuis beating Zimbabwe's



STEFAN EDBERG

Wayne Black 6-4, 6-1.

Haarhuis will now play Sampras today for another semifinal berth.

Black combined with his more famous brother, Byron, to topple a jovial Sampras and Todd Martin 5-7, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 in the doubles.

Martin earlier received an easy passage through to the semifinals when Sweden's Magnus Larsson withdrew from his round robin group with a torn shoulder ligament.

In the final group, world number four Sergi Bruguera will meet Dutchman Richard Krajicek today.

Reefat leads

Sports Reporter

Bangladeshi International Master Reefat bin Sattar singularly led the points table at the end of the third round of the eleventh Dr Qazi Motahar Hossain International Masters' chess tournament at the conference room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Reefat picked up his third win beating compatriot Tayebur Rahman Suman in 46 moves.

Two Indians International Master Lanka Ravi and Sharvanan, who trailed Reefat with two and a half points each, won their respective matches on the day too.

Ravi got the better of his experienced compatriot International Master Shekhar Sahu while Sharvanan downed Bangladesh's Kalimullah Khan.

Hasibul Hassan Hanif, who pulled off a surprise win against runners-up Ziaur Rahman, the Bangladeshi IM, on the opening day lost to compatriot Nahid Miyazid.

Ziaur Rahman, who was quite well placed during his second round match against holder Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi, the Pakistani IM, in Thursday's adjourned match, settled for a draw.

Zia went on to draw his third round match with Indian IM Ravi Hegde.

Lodhi was playing Bangladeshi FM Tahmid at the time of writing this report.

BU lift MA Khan h'ball title

Sports Reporter

Brothers Union clinched the MA Khan Memorial handball tournament beating Bangladesh Ansars 17-14 in the final of the first-ever tourney in memory of the late navy chief at the handball court yesterday.

The winners led the first half 9-6.

Neiland shows Martinez way out

BRIGHTON, England, Oct 21: Larisa Neiland of Latvia emerged as the player to beat at the international women's indoor tournament here on Thursday when she hammered top-seed Conchita Martinez 6-1, 6-3, reports AFP.

Neiland, ranked 47th, needed just 51 minutes to send Spain's Wimbledon champion packing and her win immediately raised speculation about Martinez's performance.

Organisers had agreed to fly Martinez in a private jet to Zurich today so that she could attend her coach's wedding. Her Thursday defeat means this will no longer be necessary.

Neiland, who hadn't taken a set off Martinez in four previous encounters, claimed after her win that she had sensed that Martinez was "Not ready to give me a fight."

"I could see it in her face that she was relaxing. I had a feeling that if I won the first set then I would win the second."

Other winners were second seed Jana Novotna, fellow-Czech Helena Sukova, Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria and Nathalie Tauziat of France.

Novotna saw off Canada's former Hong Kong Federation Cup player Patricia by 6-2, 6-2.

Sukova dropped only three games to American Tami Whitlinger-Jones. Maleeva won a hard-fought duel with Maria Vento of Venezuela 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, and Tauziat put out last weekend's Filderstadt winner Anke Huber 7-5, 6-4.

English paddlers stage fightback

MANSFIELD, England, Oct 21: England, two down in the series of six against China, won the third badminton international at Mansfield Thursday night by taking the first three rubbers, reports AFP.

The introduction of new faces to the England side produced a turn in their fortunes with Julie Bradbury figuring in two of their wins.

Bradbury and Joanne Wright, Commonwealth Games silver medalists, were playing for the first time in the series and drew first blood in the opening women's doubles rubber.

They resisted a late recovery by Xu Li and Zeng Yaquong to win 15-9, 15-11.

Press Club sports

The three-day Ananda Mela and sports competitions for the children, organised by the Jatiya Press Club marking its 40th founding anniversary concluded at the club here yesterday, reports BSS.

The children's events included race, recitation, biscuit race, dress as you like, pillow passing.

President of the club Hasan Shahriar distributed the prizes among the winners.



Glimpse from a third round match between Abdullah-Al-Rakib (L) and Maruf Ahmed in the QM Hossain tournament at the chessroom of the NSC yesterday. The players split points. — AFP photo

Hide fires first salvo

HONG KONG, Oct 21: England's Herbie Hide said on Thursday that Tommy Morrison of the United States would have to kill him to wrest the World Boxing Organisation's (WBO) heavyweight crown from his grasp in Hong Kong on Sunday, reports Reuters.

"But I respect Herbie Hide who is talented and has great hand speed. I will be aggressive against him and I'm sure there will be a lot of things changing hands at the end of the fight."

Bentt, who is in Hong Kong to commentate on the fight for television, gives Hide the edge. "I think Herbie (Hide) will win but he will be taken the distance (12 rounds)," said Bentt.

Also on Sunday's bill in Hong Kong is a non-championship heavyweight bout between England's favourite boxing son Frank Bruno and American Ray "merciless" Mercer, the former WBO champion.

sort of fighter who fights to the level of the opposition and against (Michael Bentt) I did not think he could beat me with a baseball bat.

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"I am in very good shape and fitter and stronger than I was when I fought Bentt. I am really motivated for this one."

Morrison, 25, was touted as the best white American heavyweight around after he punished former world champion George Foreman for 12 rounds to capture the WBO title in June last year. But he looked a completely different fighter when Bentt took the crown from him last October.

"The last few fights I have had have not been that impressive," said Morrison, who has won 35 of his 44 fights with knock-outs. "I am the

Ulyett upsets Lareau

PONTE VEDRA, Fla, Oct 21: Kevin Ulyett of South Africa upset No 2 seed Sebastian Lareau of Canada 6-4, 6-3 Thursday in the quarterfinals of the ATP Tour pro tennis classic, reports AP.

Ulyett will face No 4 Michael Joyce of Los Angeles in the semifinals. Joyce advanced with a 6-1, 6-1 decision over Daniel Nestor of Canada.



Fighters who will meet in the Oct 23 High Noon Boxing event in Hong Kong display their colours at a press conference in the colony yesterday. From centre are Herbie Hide (4L) who will defend his WBO heavyweight crown against Tommy Morrison (4R), Frank Bruno (3L) who will meet Ray Mercer (3R) in a heavyweight bout, Billy Schwer (2L) who challenge Rafael Ruelas (2R) IBF lightweight title and Steve Collins (L) who will defend his WBO middleweight title against Lonny Beasley (R). — AFP photo

Christie, Colin Jackson need

Norman no more

LONDON, Oct 21: Linford Christie and Colin Jackson, Britain's top two athletes, have split from agent Andy Norman to run their own business affairs in future, a spokesman for the athletes said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Norman was sacked as promotions director by the British Athletic Federation six months ago for spreading false rumours about journalist Cliff Temple, who committed suicide in January.

But Sue Barrett, spokeswoman for Christie and Jackson and their management company Nuff Respect, said Norman's troubles had nothing to do with their decision. Norman has been working as an agent since his dismissal from the BAF.

"From a logistical point of view it makes sense to coordinate everything here," she said. "From a business point of view, all the money remains in-house."

Christie, the Olympic world, European and Commonwealth 100 metres champion, will bid to add a new title to his glittering collection next year when he runs at the World Indoor Championships in Barcelona — an event which has not yet yielded him a gold medal.

He will prepare for the championships, and lay the foundations for the summer World Championship season, with two months training in Australia from mid-December.

Nuff Respect will also represent World Cup winners Horie Regis and Tony Jarrett, who plan to join Christie at the indoor championships, although Jackson has decided to miss the event.

Edwards to be tested again

LONDON, Oct 21: British shot-putter Paul Edwards faces a second positive drug test result, from a test that followed his return from the European Championships in Helsinki two months ago, reports AFP.

The Sports Council will reveal the result of the B sample analysed on Wednesday and the British Athletic Federation is staying high, tipped ahead of a meeting of its drugs advisory group on Sunday.

But the 35-year-old national champion, accused of taking anabolic steroids, is expected to be told that the sample backed up the test analysis.

Edwards also tested positive in Helsinki. That B sample has been confirmed although he claims that, contrary to regulations, he was not given the chance to have a representative present at the time.

Edwards, who was represented for Wednesday's analysis, now faces a BAF disciplinary hearing which will decide whether to endorse a four-year ban from the sport.

Maita ahead

CHIBA, Japan, Oct 21: Unheralded Kivoshi Maita shot a 6-under-par 66 Thursday and took the first-round lead in the 120 million yen (dls 1.2 million) Bridgestone Open golf tournament, reports AP.

Nick Price of Zimbabwe, winner of this season's British Open and the US PGA Championship, was among six golfers at 68. He shot seven birdies against three bogeys.

Australian Roger Mackay shot eight birdies — including four in a row on Nos 10, 13, but bogeyed one hole and double-bogeyed the 17th in a round of 67 that tied him for second with Daisuke Serizawa and Tomohiro Maruyama, both of Japan.

Ivanisevic, Agassi advance

VIENNA, Oct 21: Top-seeded Goran Ivanisevic fired 16 aces, many at critical break points, to beat Canadian Greg Rusedski on Thursday and reach the quarterfinals of the C A Trophy tennis tournament, reports AP.

Rusedski used his own blistering serve to take his Croatian opponent to two tiebreaks, but Ivanisevic found the necessary power at just the right moments to escape in straight sets 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (11-9).

In other play, flamboyant US star Andre Agassi, the No 3 seed, looked comfortable in a 6-0, 6-0 drubbing of Australian Mark Woodforde. No 2 seed Michael Stich of Germany also advanced, beating countryman Carsten Braasch 6-3, 6-4.

Fourth-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria had a scare when he was beset by wrist and knee pain in the middle of his second set against the Czech Republic's David Rikl, but he held on to win 6-1, 7-6 (7-4).

In an earlier match, unseeded Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands defeated

Germany's Marc-Kevin Goellner, 6-3, 7-5.

Ivanisevic fell five points behind Rusedski in the second tiebreak, but bounded back and capped the win with his 16th ace.

Courier disposes of Boetsch

PARIS, Oct 21: Former world number-one Jim Courier continued his one-man demolition of French tennis Thursday when he beat Arnaud Boetsch 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) to reach the quarter-finals at the Lyon ATP event, reports AFP.

In the first round Courier, who is seeded fourth, defeated another French hope — Guy Forget.

Top-seeded Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev chalked up an easy 6-3, 6-2 win over Henrik Dreckmann — the German making too many unforced errors in the first set and Medvedev saving his best tennis for the second.

The young Ukrainian now faces Australian Davis Cup player Patrick Rafter who scored a 6-3, 6-4, win over Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek.



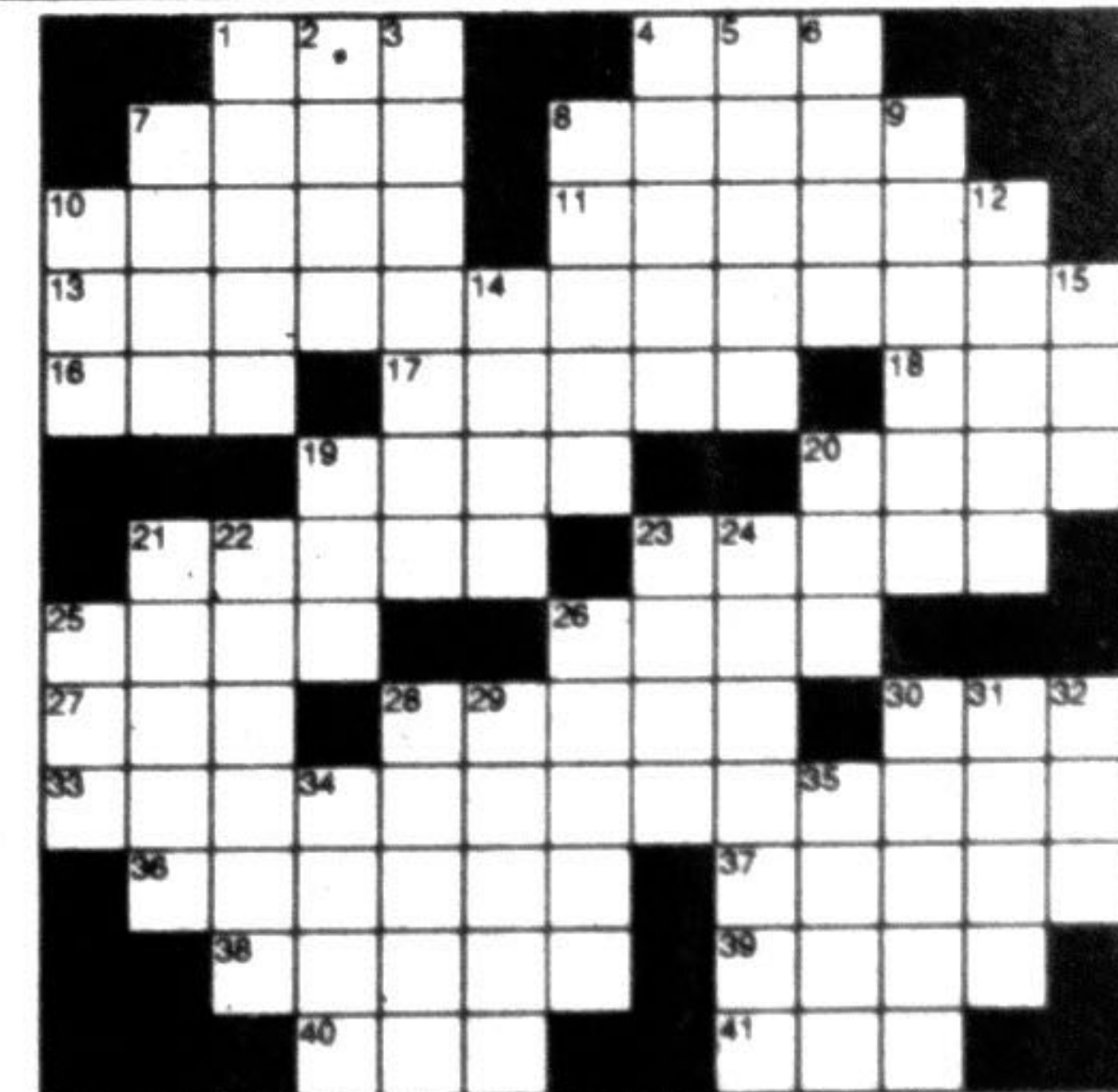
Youngsters in action during a 100 metres race on the concluding day of a three-day sports event marking the 40th anniversary of the Jatiya Press Club at the club's premises yesterday. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	28 Faith	3 Inter-	15 AAA job
1 Sea-shell	30 Rudimen-	locked,	19 Young'un
seller of	tary trio	as gears	20 Tooth-
song?	33 He played	4 Skedaddle	paste type
4 Hot tub	Paul Drake	5 Dog	21 He hit 61
7 Alda or	36 Spirited	6 Late-	in '61
Arkin	session?	show actor	22 Horn
8 Act the	37 Comeback	Mr. Ray	23 Talk
Xanthippe	38 Milieux of	7 Wings	effusively
10 Word on	Lemieux	8 Concise	24 Snappy
the street?	39 Unbeliev-	9 Under-	answers
11 Jinx	able	study or	25 Constitu-
13 Mock	40 Bad: prefix	stand-in	tion
tribunal	41 Eyesore	10 Firmament	compon-
16 Neverthe-	DOWN	12 Mythical	ent
less	1 Perspective	hunter	26 Exhaust
17 Brooks	2 Knack	14 36 Across	et al.
of C&W		noises	28 Lacking
18 Resume			resonance
19 Withheld			29 Depart-
20 Radiance			ment
21 Yum-Yum,			store
Peep-Bo,			array
and Pitti-			30 Put into
Sing			effect
23 Aptly			31 Whom
surnamed			Watson
golfer			aided
Hubert			32 Whoop
25 Settle			34 Deposited
26 Encourage			35 Sphag-
27 Picasso's			num
output			derivative

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-2



CRYPTOQUIP

D S D Q U G C N N T G X C D T
N U T D G N D C D Z N I P G S J
I R N : U D ' H N X T D Z I Y
P I T J X C B Y I T Q D G C R N H

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AMBITIOUS MAGICIAN CAN BE GETTING DIS-ILLUSIONED.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: P equals W
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single words and words using an apostrophe give interesting vowels. Solution is by trial and error.