

Swati leads chess board

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian Swati Ghatge maintained her lead in the East Asian Zonal Chess Championship with full three points at the end of the third round at NSC's chess room yesterday.

Her compatriots Aarthie Ramaswamy and Minakshie Subbaraman were in second place with 2.5 points each.

In the third round games, Swati beat Zakia, Aarthie drew with Nipa and Minakshie shared point with Nisha.

The men's competition begins today.



Indian Aarthie Ramaswamy (R) makes a move while Bangladesh's Shabana Parveen Nipa looks on during their third round engagement in the Asian Zonal Chess Championship at NSC yesterday.

All-Argentine final

Tennis

AFP, Basel

Argentina's David Nalbandian brushed aside the challenge of top-seeded and US Open champion Andy Roddick 7-5, 7-5 in the semifinals of the one-million-euro Swiss Indoors here on Saturday.

As well as strengthening his chances of grabbing the eighth and final spot for the season-ending Masters Cup in Houston next month, the win also prevented Roddick from regaining the ATP Champions Race lead from Juan Carlos Ferrero who didn't play here this week.

"I feel great. I'm playing very good this week," said Nalbandian.

"It was a very close match. He didn't serve very well today, that was the difference."

On Sunday, Nalbandian meets

countryman Guillermo Coria, who advanced to his seventh final of the year, cruising past Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic 6-4, 6-4.

Coria, who is seeking his fifth title of the year, can pass Andre Agassi for fourth position in the ATP Champions Race if he wins the title on Sunday.

Despite the defeat, Roddick was still optimistic about his chances for the rest of the season starting in Paris next week.

"I was a little erratic on my forehand, besides that I was pretty happy," said the 21-year-old.

"Maybe I didn't play my best at the right time. I'm not disappointed with the way I played. He was just playing better."

"I feel like I'm on the verge of playing very well. I feel optimistic for the next couple of weeks. I got a couple of tough matches here."

Pollock puts

FROM PAGE 13

Moin c Gibbs b Kallis	18
Mushtaq lbw b Pollock	6
Shabbir not out	24
Kaneria c Smith b Pollock	0
Extras: (b-3, lb-8, nb-1, w-1)	13
Total: (All out in 116.2 overs)	348
Fall of wickets: 1-137, 2-178, 3-248, 4-251, 5-257, 6-261, 7-293, 8-309, 9-339	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	29.2	9	78	6
Ntini	29	9	64	2
Kallis	22	4	57	1
Peterson	8	1	40	0
Adams	25	5	82	1
Smith	3	0	16	0

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings
Smith lbw b Shabbir 65
Gibbs lbw b Kaneria 20
Dippenaar lbw b Malik 21
Kirsten not out 27
McKenzie not out 0

Extras: (lb-1, lb-2, nb-2, w-1) 7
Total: (For 3 wks 44 overs) 140

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-93, 3-128

To bat: Kallis, Boucher, Pollock, Peterson, Adams, Ntini

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shabbir	11	3	23	0
Razzaq	4	1	25	0
Kaneria	10	1	36	1
Malik	11	4	21	0
Mushtaq	8	3	32	0

Tigers promise

FROM PAGE 13
"I thought Rafique and Mashrafe would stay at the wicket for some time as they did in the first innings. But cricket is a funny old game," said Mushfiq predicting that the second Test will be more exciting.

Chittagong

FROM PAGE 13
Meanwhile, Khaled Mahmud's men arrived in the port city at last night. Michael Vaughan and his troops are expected to reach here this afternoon.

England won the first Test in Dhaka by seven wickets.

Sponsors of the series Standard Chartered bank and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will jointly host a dinner in honour of both teams at the Chittagong Club poolside this evening.

Tajikistan first

FROM PAGE 13
with the latest development.

Bangladesh's participation in the World Cup qualifiers comes after a lot of controversy and uncertainty.

The SA Sultan-led federation in a surprise move had decided against taking part in the venture as a sheer waste of money.

But they had an even more surprising change of heart following the insistence of none other than FIFA president Blatter who told Sultan to make sure that Bangladesh entered its name in the qualifying round.

Since first playing in the qualifiers in 1984 for the finals in Mexico in 1986, Bangladesh have competed in every qualifying round.

Strong English media side

UNB, Dhaka

England media team beat their Bangladesh counterparts by seven wickets in the RC Cola Media cricket match at the Jagannath Hall ground in Dhaka University yesterday.

Sent in to bat, the Bangladesh media side scored 137 for 5 in the stipulated 25 overs with vice-captain Kaiser hammering an unbeaten 51. His 63-ball knock included four fours and a six.

In reply, the touring journalists' team reached their target making 140 for the loss of three wickets in just 19 overs with opener Richard Nowell hammering 51 with the help of eight boundaries.

Later, Kaiser and Nowell were jointly adjudged man-of-the-match.

Earlier, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the friendly match in the morning. President of Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA) Arif Rahman Shibly and President of Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) Rezaul Rahman Sohag were also present.

A closing ceremony was also held at the end. BCB adviser-cum-marketing committee chairman Aziz Al Kaiser Tito and BCB Development Committee chairman Arafat Rahman were present and distributed token prizes among the participants.

BRIEF SCORES

BANGLADESH MEDIA TEAM: 137 for 5 in 25 overs (Kaiser 51 not out, Shamim 48, Bable 12; Marks 2-12, Abraham 1-23 and Brieses 1-24)

ENGLAND MEDIA TEAM: 140 for 3 in 19 overs (Nowell 51 not out, Fraser 40, Mann 24; Bable 2-27 and Shamim 1-19)

Result: England media team won by 7 wickets.

Brothers' Fed

FROM PAGE 13
Chakra and Dhanmondi Club. Brothers have been pencilled in one group with Arambagh Kriya Sangha, Bangladesh Army, Prantik Kriya Chakra, Dipali Jubo Sangha, Wari Club, Bangladesh Police, Dhaka Wanderers, Farashganj SC and Victoria SC.

The other group comprises Sheikh Russell K.C. BRTS SC, Bangladesh Under-20 team, Mahakhali Ekadash, Bangladesh Navy, Sadharan Bima KS, Badda Jagarani Sangsad, Agrani Bank, Bangladesh Air Force, Fakirerpool YMC and Rahmatganj MFS.

The first round matches will also be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Ganguly might

FROM PAGE 13
problem and said on Sunday his return would be delayed for some time yet.

"I am ruled out until November 1 and it could be any game after that," a limping Ganguly told reporters after he was discharged on Sunday having spent eight days in hospital.

A doctor attending Ganguly said the player might miss the game against New Zealand on November 6 and return only for the November 12 tie against Australia in Bangalore.

"We are yet to decide whether he can play on November 6," said Dr Sukumar Mukherjee.

Ganguly was forced to miss last week's second and final test against New Zealand after overcoming a painful boil in the groin area to score 100 not out in the first game in Ahmedabad.

An infection in the abscess forced him to be hospitalised and he required seven stitches to close the wound and had to be sedated for changing the dressing.

"We plan to remove the stitches in the next seven to 10 days and then start physiotherapy," Mukherjee said. "We have advised him to rest for 10 days."



Members of the England media team and Bangladesh media side pose for photographers at the Dhaka University's Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Sargsian-Kuerten showdown

Tennis

REUTERS, Petersburg

Unseeded Armenian Sargis Sargsian will meet Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten in the St Petersburg final after knocking out top seed Rainer Schuettler 6-3, 6-3 in Saturday's semi-finals.

Sargsian will contest his second final this month, having reached the last stage of the Kremlin Cup in Moscow before losing to American Taylor Dent.

"It wasn't as easy as it might have looked," Sargsian said. "He (Schuettler) didn't play his best

match and I also had some luck on my side today."

Germany's Schuettler, ranked number six in the world, had not dropped a set in his three previous matches but he failed to produce his usually reliable game against a persistent Sargsian.

The 30-year-old Armenian, who had not reached a final in six years before finally breaking his dry spell in Moscow, attributes his current form to his new Austrian coach Gunter Bresnik.

"Since I met him two years ago, my game has found a different level," said Sargsian, who broke into the top 50 for the first time in his career after Moscow.

Marseille back on track

FROM PAGE 16
just their third win in 33 vists to Nantes.

After back-to-back draws at home against Sochaux in the French league and Bayern Munich in the Champions League, Lyon showed they are in the running to defend their title, with Nantes now sitting in fifth position after their first loss at home this season.

Strasbourg meanwhile were quickly brought back down to earth following last weekend's hammering of Marseille with goals in either half from striker Toifilou Maoulida giving neighbour Metz a 2-0 win.

Montpellier also scored an away win a 1-0 reversal of struggling

Burgundy outfit Auxerre.

Two late strikes gave Lens a 2-1 victory in their northern derby with Lille ending their run of three straight losses, with Lille still searching for their first win since August 16.

Guingamp also stopped the rot with a 1-0 home win against Toulouse, while fourth placed Paris SG had to settle for a 0-0 stalemate at Ajaccio.

Bordeaux's new coach Michel Pavon failed to inspire his side to a vintage performance with a dour 0-0 at Nice, which leaves the western French side wallowing in 16th position.

Bastia were held to a 1-1 draw at bottom table Le Mans.

Tristan does the trick

FROM PAGE 16
Real boss Carlos Queiroz.

"It was a difficult game, we all know that. In the end we finished well and what I can say is that after we went a goal behind, we played with intelligence and patience."

Raul found the net from close range with 12 minutes to go after Luis Figo had managed to turn the ball back from the line.

His fifth goal of the season came in the dying seconds after Santiago Solari had his shot parried away by Racing keeper Ricardo Lopez and the ball fell to his feet for an easy tap into an empty goal.

However, it was the only mistake of the match by the former Manchester United man, who was ironically playing under Real coach Queiroz at Old Trafford last season before his move to the Spanish capital.

Queiroz later put in a plea for his former player to add to his two Spanish caps.

"We could have had more goals but Ricardo was fantastic. He

stopped strikes by Zidane Figo and Roberto Carlos in the last few minutes."

Racing's Israeli international Yossi Benayoun silenced the sell-out Santiago Bernabeu stadium by firing a Fernando Moran cross past Real goalie Iker Casillas on the half-volley after 15 minutes.

Zinedine Zidane levelled the scores 11 minutes later, with a right foot volley from a pass from Ronaldo, but Racing several times threatened to add a second goal before Raul got his brace of late goals.

Racing coach Lucas Alcaraz was naturally less-than-happy at the outcome, with Real often looking shaky in the midfield in the absence of the injured David Beckham.

"We deserved at least a draw. A scoreline like this leaves a sour taste in the mouth. We tried hard and I can't complain about the effort of my players," said Alcaraz.

"Nor can I complain about the referee, and for once I am not being ironic."

Ex-India captain Adhikari dies

AFP, New Delhi

Former Indian cricket captain Hemu Adhikari, part of the record Indian last-wicket stand against Pakistan in 1952-53, has died aged 84, the Press Trust of India reported Sunday.

He died Saturday at a hospital in the western state of Maharashtra after a brief illness, the news agency said.

Adhikari, who led the country against the West Indies at home in 1958-59, scored 872 runs in 21 Test matches, hitting one hundred and four half-centuries.

He helped his side to victory with a record Indian last-wicket stand of 109 with Ghulam Ahmed against Pakistan at Delhi in 1952-53.

The former army officer was also the manager of Ajit Wadekar's team that won the first-ever Test series in England in 1971.

Tendulkar

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bracken	10	0	53	3
Williams	10	0	67	1
Bichel	7	0	39	0
Harvey	8	0	46	0
Hogg	10	0	47	0
Symonds	5	0	24	0

AUSTRALIA: Ricky Ponting, Matthew Hayden, Adam Gilchrist, Damien Martyn, Andrew Symonds, Michael Bevan, Ian Harvey, Brad Hogg, Andy Bichel, Brad Williams, Nathan Bracken

Fulham humble

FROM PAGE 16
Newcastle continued their strong revival, brushing aside Portsmouth 3-0 at home with goals from Gary Speed, Alan Shearer - his 10th this season in the league - and Shola Ameobi.

However Blackburn's recent miserable run continued, as James Beattie and Leandre Griffit condemned Graeme Souness's men to a 2-0 defeat against Southampton at St Mary's.

Souness' afternoon was made even worse after former England striker Andy Cole was dismissed for punching Michael Svensson.

Current England international wonder boy Wayne Rooney was unable to celebrate his 18th birthday of Friday with a goal, as his Everton side squeezed out a 0-0 draw at Aston Villa.

In the other early game, Birmingham cemented their impressive fourth spot in the league by edging a 1-0 victory away at Bolton.

The goal was somewhat farcical. Christophe Dugary charged down the right, but his scuffed cross bobbed slowly towards a crowd of Bolton defenders.

However Simon Charlton slipped horribly on the rain-soaked grass and Mikael Forssell, on loan from Chelsea, reacted quickest to poke the ball past fellow Finn Jussi Jaaskelainen.

Fish ends Enqvist run

Tennis

AFP, Stockholm

Fifth seed Mardy Fish will aim to net his first title from four finals this season after knocking three-time holder Thomas Enqvist out of the semifinals of the 650,000-euro (766,000-dollar) Stockholm Open in straight sets here on Saturday.

The American won through 6-4, 7-5 and next meets Swedish teenager Robin Soderling, who is determined to bring an initial men's title of the season to his proud tennis nation after reaching his first career final 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/5) over Italian

Davide Sanguinetti.

"It would be great to win my first career title, to leave a city without losing," said Fish, who lost serve for the first time this week. "That would be something I'd never forget."

"Serving big is always the key to my game, I like to try and end the points quickly. But if you'd told me I'd lose serve only once on the way to the title, I'd have asked where to sign up."

Soderling, at 19, is one of the hopes for the future of the Swedish game. The teenager gave away a dozen years to Sanguinetti, a grey-streaked veteran whose play reminded Soderling of his father.



American Mardy Fish stretches to make a return against Thomas Enqvist of Sweden in the Stockholm Open semifinal on October 25.

4th successive win for SL A

CRICINFO, undated

Sri Lanka A, continuing their quest to show that the senior team's loss to Kenya in the 2003 World Cup was an aberration, won their fourth consecutive one-dayer against Kenya on Saturday.

They now lead their five-game series 4-0.

The match was reduced to 25-overs-a-side because parts of the outfield were wet, and Sri Lanka batting first, made 171 for 9.

Kenya could only make 125 in reply.

Nuwan Zoysa was the star for Sri Lanka, though strangely with the bat and not ball.

Opening the innings, he slammed a quickfire 39, and the momentum he established helped Sri Lanka set Kenya almost seven an over to win.

A slew of early wickets robbed Kenya of any chance they had, though Collins Obuya (29 not out) and Thomas Odoyo (20) put up a gutsy lower-order resistance.

Rangana Herath and Wijekoon Ranyakumara took three wickets each, bowling with accuracy and control to peg Kenya back.

Woodbridge equals world mark

AFP, Stockholm

Todd Woodbridge Sunday pulled level on 78 doubles titles with Dutchman Tom Okker and now has his sights set on breaking the all-time mark next week in the final event of the ATP regular season.

Woodbridge, 32, and Swedish partner Jonas Bjorkman, lifted the trophy at the 650,000-euro Stockholm Open, defeating Australians Wayne Arthurs and Paul Hanley, 6-3, 6-4.

Arthurs and Woodbridge play Davis Cup doubles for Australia and are likely to combine from November 28-30 in Melbourne in the final on grass against Spain.

Woodbridge and Bjorkman claimed their fourth title of the season after Halle, Wimbledon and the US Open.

Venus set to make a return

AFP, Philadelphia

Venus Williams is set to make her return to the WTA Tour here next week as the top seed in the \$85,000-dollar Advanta Championships.

Williams, 23, is ranked sixth despite not having played since losing the Wimbledon final to her younger sister Serena. Venus Williams has suffered from pulled abdominal muscles.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

38 White House nickname
40 Melodic fragment
42 Summer NYC hrs.
44 Grand opening
46 Skilled
50 Island garb
52 Get
54 Uniform decorations
11 Spicer's material
12 Sleep
56 Votes for
57 Alabama city
DOWN

3 Boldness
4 Now Havon collegian
5 Went for a walk
6 Old Italian bread
7 Concerning
8 "Harper Valley"
9 Huge sand-wiches
10 Suitable
11 Spicer's material
12 Sleep
39 Jump for joy
41 Deadly wine
42 Noted full-figure model
43 Hamilton-Burr event
45 Disarray
47 Soother
48 Succo-lash ingredient
49 Navy rank (Abbr.)
51 Brit's raincoat
53 Fresno newspaper

1 Women of the knight?
6 Pomeranian, e.g.
12 Uprising
13 Amount received
14 Magic potion
15 D.C. airport
16 South of France
17 Bad sign
19 Zoe
20 Big name in scat
22 Seesaw quorum
24 Actress Thurman
27 Pierce
29 Won't share
32 1947 Oscar-winning song
35 Greatly enjoying
36 Demanding-entertainer
37 Catch sight of

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57

CRYPTOQUIP
F E T C D C U D K M E R P O D
X W D K B S U K M G D P O D
W T J I M S M A P O F V G O D
J M A W I B D P X M W W T K D I ?
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: NEW FILM IN WHICH A GROUP OF MOLLUSKS REFUSES TO SPEAK: "SILENCE OF THE CLAMS."
Today's Cryptiquip Clue: K equals R

The Cryptiquip 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.