

Tahmid, Younus earn IM norms Lodhi United Insurance champ

Sports Reporter

In rather anti-climatic circumstances, Mahmood Ahmed Lodhi annexed the inaugural United Insurance International Masters' chess title when his last opponent in the 13-round Swiss league competition Bipin Shenoy of India conceded a walkover to give the Pakistani International Master a haul of ten points, half a point more than his nearest rivals.

In the 16-day competition, which concluded at the NSC chess room yesterday, Bangladeshi Fide Masters Syed Tahmidur Rahman and Younus Hassan both earned their first IM norms by finishing with 9.5 points each. Both players, one the present and one a past national champion, needed exactly 9.5 points to earn their IM norms. However, while Syed Tahmidur Rahman, the current Bangladesh champion, played with all earnestness against all his opponents in the meet some of Younus Hassan's victories and drawn decisions appeared to have been contrived. There was a strong rumour among the local chess circle that Younus had "managed" his necessary points in order to expedite his elevation to the International Master's rank. The tie-break made Younus second, while Tahmid settled for the fourth position, behind TN Parameswaran.

Tahmid, who led the field until the tenth round, for some inexplicable reasons failed to sustain the early momentum and at times he appeared a shade fatigued by the exertions in his earlier matches. A defeat by Indian International Master TN Parameswaran on May 6 halted Tahmid's winning spree and he conceded a subsequent defeat and was held to a couple of draws by lesser op-



Pakistani IM Mahmood Ahmed Lodhi is all smiles after winning the United Insurance International Masters' Chess Championship at NSC's chess room yesterday. - Star photo

ponents. As for Lodhi, the amiable Pakistani, he recovered well from some early setbacks including a defeat at the hands of Tahmid and four drawn encounters and pressed on with determination. That Lodhi was the best bet for the title became quite apparent after the tenth round matches, especially after Tahmid started faltering. His last opponent, Shenoy, could not take the table yesterday having been hospitalised nearly a week ago with chest complaints. The Indian Fide Master managed only 2.5 points.

In his last game yesterday, Tahmid beat former Bangladesh champion Zillur Rahman Champak whose performance in the meet has been most pedestrian. He finished eighth in the 14-man field that included five Indians and a Pakistani. Younus beat another

former national champion and Fide Master Jamilur Rahman. In other concluding day games, Parameswaran beat compatriot V Koshi, who finished sixth with eight points, behind fifth-placed Indian Fide Master Neeraj Kumar Misra who collected 8.5 points following his victory over Maruf Ahmed yesterday. Almasur Rahman of Bangladesh inflicted yet another defeat — the 12th — on wooden-spoonist Ashraf Hossain Nannu who had only one half a point worth draw to show for all his toils.

PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

The prize-giving ceremony of the meet will be held today at the conference room of the National Sports Council. National Professor and a chess buff Prof Abdur Razzak will do the honours as chief guest while State Minister for Youth

and Sports Mirza Abbas and NSC Chairman Maj Gen Mahbubur Rahman will attend as special invitees.

The ceremony is scheduled for five in the afternoon.

STANDINGS

Following are the final standings:

Mahmood Ahmed Lodhi (Pakistan)	10
Younus Hassan (Bangladesh)	9.5
Parameswaran (India)	9.5
Tahmidur Rahman (Bangladesh)	9.5
NK Misra (India)	8.5
V Koshi (India)	8
V Sareen (India)	7.5
Zillur Rahman Champak (Bangladesh)	7
Rezaul Haq (Bangladesh)	6
Almasur Rahman (Bangladesh)	5.5
Jamilur Rahman (Bangladesh)	3.5
Maruf Ahmed (Bangladesh)	3.5
Bipin Shenoy (India)	2.5
A H Nannu (Bangladesh)	0.5

DCPA's blood donation today

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Cricket Players Association has arranged a day-long blood donation programme in aid of the cyclone victims at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office today.

The State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas and National Sports Council Chairman Major General Mahbubur Rahman will be present during the programme.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will supervise the DCPA's noble efforts.

Middlesex falter against Sussex

LONDON, May 11: English county cricket champions Middlesex continued their shaky start to the season on Friday as they slid towards an embarrassing defeat by Sussex at Lord's, reports Reuter.

Alan Wells hit 120 and former England batsman David Smith 90 as Sussex, bottom of the table last year, rattled up 376 in reply to Middlesex's modest first innings total of 227.

By the close Middlesex, inconsistent with bat and ball, had slipped to 46 for three, still 103 adrift with two days to play.

South African paceman Allan Donald wrecked Yorkshire's batting at Headingley as the home side lost their last nine wickets for 65 runs.

Donald took five for 42 as Yorkshire subsided to 165 all out, and Warwickshire had extended their lead to 176 by the close.

Essex's Paul Prichard recorded the day's highest score, hitting 190 out of Essex's 428 for seven against Northamptonshire. Derek Pringle, who took five wickets on the first, contributed 68.

Hugh Morris compiled 141 to steer Glamorgan to 353 for eight declared against Somerset, but rival opener Peter Roebuck promptly replied with 101 as the home side finished the day on 259 for six.

Lancashire look well placed against Worcestershire despite Ian Botham's first day century. Half-centuries from Graeme Fowler and Mike Atherton lifted them to 205 for two, 134 behind with eight wickets in hand.

S Africans have to achieve unity

JOHANNESBURG, May 11: South Africa is in a good position to hold the 1993 African Athletics Championships, visiting International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) delegation leader Lamine Diack said Friday, reports AFP.

He told state-run television that in order to achieve this, however, South African sporting bodies would have to achieve unity first.

He was speaking after two days of talks with South African Athletics bodies. The IAAF delegation which arrived in South Africa for a three-day visit on Wednesday, were due to leave the country this weekend.

Charity matches resume today

Sports Reporter



Brothers Union will meet the national under-side picked up for the pre-Olympic soccer qualifiers starting in Seoul next week, in today's revised fixture of the charity matches arranged in aid of April 29 cyclone victims at Dhaka Stadium.

The locals giants and arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club will clash in tomorrow's fixture.

All the matches will kick-off at 6.30 pm.

Bangladesh Football Federation has organised the tourney to raise the funds for the victims of the recent devastating cyclone storm in the coastal belt that left tens of thousands dead and lakhs of survivors in a

most pathetic conditions without food and shelter in the affected areas. Unfortunately a very sparse crowd turned up to witness the opening match against Mohammedans and under-23 national side with 41,790 Taka tickets being sold.

One hopes the crowd responses will improve over the next few matches to make the BFF's noble endeavour worthwhile.

Meanwhile BFF said in a press release Samrat, who was earlier named in the squad for the pre-Olympic soccer, was replaced by Uttam.

Samrat, who is a regular player of Brothers Union Club, was found to have crossed the age limit in a late scrutiny by BFF's selection committee.

Canadians may sue IBF

COPENHAGEN, May 11: Canadian officials at the World Championships are considering suing the International Badminton Federation (IBF) in the continuing row over the defeat of their women's singles player Deng Si-an.

Such legal action is believed to be unprecedented in the sport, but the Canadians are incensed at the circumstances of Chinese-born Deng's third round defeat by Denmark's Pernille Nedergaard on Wednesday.

The Dane spent several minutes in the second game receiving treatment from her physiotherapist for severe cramp, despite a rule saying no team official is allowed on court during the match.

A Canadian appeal was turned down by a referees' panel which ruled abnormal circumstances because the tournament doctor had been unavailable when the Dane was in great pain.

An all-Asian affair



BRONDBY, Denmark, May 11: Europe's challenge to the world badminton singles titles was wiped out in the quarterfinals on Friday night, but not until Soviet 'giantkiller' Andrei Antropov had given top men's seed Arly Wiranata a terrific scare, reports AFP.

The All-England champion from Indonesia was within three points of joining Danish master Morten Frost and English champion Darren Hall on Antropov's list of seeded victims.

But Wiranata showed why he is the tournament favourite with a fightback of pure class from 5-11 and 13-15 down in the decider to scrape into the semifinal with a 15-4, 10-15, 18-15 triumph.

"That was my most difficult match of the tournament so far," he said. "I didn't think I would lose, but I didn't think I would win."

"He played very well, but I made a lot of mistakes in the second set. I was slackening a bit."

Wiranata admitted he nearly threw away the match with an elementary error in the final game when he flicked back Antropov's serve with a 13-12 lead while looking at the floor.

The 21-year-old world Grand Prix leader protested to Swedish referee Roger Johansson when the point was given to Antropov, but Wiranata later conceded: "I was in the wrong."

The Jakarta economics student now meets former All-England champion Zhao Jianhua, whom he beat in the Sudirman Cup last weeks and who ended home hopes with a 15-10, 18-13 success over Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen on Friday.

But Wiranata, who saved two match-points against the Chinese left-hander last week, believes his first win over him in six attempts will count for nothing today.

"I fear all of the players left in the tournament, but one of the players I fear most is Zhao," he reasoned.

The other men's semifinal will also be a China-Indonesia affair, between Finnish Open champion Liu Jun and joint fifth seed Allan Budi Kusuma.

Liu knocked out fellow joint ninth seed Joko Suprianto of

Indonesia 11-15, 15-6, 15-8, while Kusuma produced a minor surprise with his 9-15, 11-4, 17-14 victory over world number one Wu Wenkai.

The Chinese left-hander has lived dangerously all week, with three-set wins in his last two matches against lowly opponents, so his defeat was scarcely a major shock.

It was not a good night for China's second seeds as Huang Hua was beaten 2-11, 11-4, 11-6 in the women's singles by Lee Hwang Soon, the joint fifth seed from South Korea.

Lee will now play Indonesian Sarwendah Kusumawardhani, who gave former European champion Helen Troke — suffering from a thigh injury — no respite with a 11-0, 11-3 drubbing.

The semifinal in the top half of the draw will, like the men, be a China-Indonesia clash, top seed Susi Susanti taking on Asian champion Tang Juhong.

Susanti outwitted Tang's teammate Zhou Lei, 11-5, 11-6 on Friday, while Tang overwhelmed Danish left-hander Pernille Nedergaard 11-7, 11-1.

Seles—soaring above rest



ROME, May 11: Monica Seles, the world's top-ranked women's tennis player, has warned her opponents they must start looking up to her literally, reports Reuter.

If her 6-0, 6-1 win over Soviet girl Leila Meshki on Friday was not impressive enough, Seles claimed she is fast outgrowing her fellow players off court as well.

"I have the feeling I've grown even since Hamburg. I'm not kidding. Seles said with a smile.

"When I look at other players now, I realise that there were some who were the same height three weeks ago and now I look down at them."

Seles, sporting a new short haircut, came to Rome to de-



Seles, who took over the number one spot from Steffi Graf of Germany in March, said it is not easy adjusting to being the world's best.

"I didn't think the change from number two to number one would be so great," said Seles, currently inundated with contract offers.

It's difficult because this is all so new to me. It's hard to say no to all those interesting offers.

"And I still must train a lot though because I can still improve."

Seles said she would not be satisfied with anything less than victory at Wimbledon

why my serve is better." The 17-year-old Yugoslav said she would like to grow to 1.80 or 1.81 metres and weigh 61 kilos, eight more than her present 53 kilos (118 pounds).

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Edberg exits

HAMBURG, Germany, May 11: Top seed Stefan Edberg was swept out of the German Open men's clay court tennis championships on Friday by Germany's rising Davis Cup player Michael Stich, reports Reuter.

The Swedish world number one, who has struggled to adapt his strong serve-and-volley game to slower clay courts in the last two seasons, was outplayed in just one hour 26 minutes.

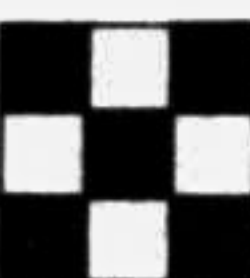
Stich, who has risen to 15th in the world rankings after a superb start to the year, described his 6-2, 7-6 quarter-final victory as the best of his career.

"That's the biggest win. It is my best performance on clay ever."

"That's the first time I have ever won against a player from the top three. I won because I pushed myself until the end."

Stich looked sharper than Edberg on the big points. When the second set went to a tie-break, he made a crucial break of serve to lead 4-3 before sealing the tie-break 7-4.

Kasparov ends drought



AMSTERDAM, May 11: World chess champion Garry Kasparov threw off a run of six disappointing draws to beat veterans grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi in the seventh round of the tough Veronigde Spaarbank tournament on Friday.

But Kasparov will find it all but impossible to catch up and win this international tournament, which at category 16 is the toughest type in the chess calendar.

Wielding the black pieces, Kasparov mounted a strong king side attack to force the bespectacled Soviet emigre Korchnoi to resign in 31 moves. "It was a classic mating attack from the king's Indian (opening)", said one chess expert.

The joint tournament leaders after seven of nine rounds played are 26-year old Briton Nigel Short and Soviet Grandmaster Valery Salov, with five points each, one more than Kasparov. Short and Salov play each other today.

"Whoever wins tomorrow



GARRY KASPAROV will win the tournament. Short said after Friday's match. Kasparov's form has been in doubt since he lost a tournament for the first time in 10 years at Linares in Spain in March. "Kasparov is on bad form at the moment," Soviet-born Grandmaster Genna Sosonko said during the match. "But he is doing very well today." Korchnoi, 60, is no stranger to defeat at this level. He three

times failed to beat former world champion Anatoly Karpov.

Kasparov, 28, who in 1985 toppled Karpov from the world championship, managed only to scrape a draw with his old rival on Thursday.

"Against Karpov he was clearly lost," Sosonko said. "But Karpov became nervous and was unable to force a win," he added.

Seventh round results:

Lubomir Ljubojevic	0
Johann Hjartarsson	1
Viktor Korchnoi	0
Garry Kasparov	1
Anatoly Karpov	1
Jan Timman	0
Mikhail Grevich	1/2
Nigel Short	1/2
Valery Salov	0
John Van der Wiel	0
Scores after seven rounds are as follows:	
1/2 Short/Salov	5
3. Karpov	4 1/2
4. Kasparov	4
5. Korchnoi	3 1/2
6. Hjartarsson	3
7/10. Ljubojevic, Van der Wiel, Timman, Gurevic	2 1/2

SOCCER SCENARIO

Japanese eager to sign up Zico



Zico, who played in the World Cup in 1978, 1982 and 1986, served as Brazil's secretary of sport for a year until last month.

His lawyer Antonio Simoes will arrive here Wednesday to finalize the talks, the reports said, and Zico might come in late May to sign the contract.

"Since Zico will be 40 years old when the pro-league starts, he might not be able to play full-time," Tadao Murata, Executive Secretary of the Japan Football Association, was quoted as saying.

"But, with his superb passwork and goal play, he can give great inspiration to other players," he added.

Lightning kills booters

JOHANNESBURG, May 11: Two soccer players were killed by lightning while practising on a school pitch at Clermont in Natal province, South African Radio reported on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Nationale nip Highlanders

CAIRO, May 11: Nationale of Egypt beat Zimbabwe Highlanders 3-1 in a first-leg last-sixteen African Champions' Cup clash here Friday, reports AFP.

Mercedes put Highlanders ahead after half-an-hour but goals from Tarek Khalil (42), Anouar (46) and Rabi Yassin (87) sunk the visitors' hopes.

The return match is scheduled for May 26.

Mali manager quits

BAMAKO, May 11: Mali's football manager Kidan Diallo has resigned after violent criticism of his team's 0-2 home defeat in an African Cup qualifier against Cameroon on April 28, reports AFP.

Martinez even with Martina



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA has more titles than the combined Italian Open field. Currently the world's fourth-ranked player behind Seles, Germany's Steffi Graf, and Sabatini, she is still the only real serve-and-volley player in women's tennis. And she is adored in Rome, even in a tournament that features Sabatini and US teenager Jennifer Capriati, both of whom are of Italian descent.

Martinez will face No. 2 seed Gabriela Sabatini in one of Saturday's semifinals. Top-seeded Monica Seles will play No. 4 Mary Joe Fernandez in the other.

"I wish I could have stayed out there longer," Navratilova said disconsolately after the 68-minute loss. "I didn't play badly. She was just too good. But I wanted to go on. These fans are dynamite. I just wanted to play another match. Or another set."

Conchita Martinez was 2 years old when Navratilova reached her first Italian Open in 1974. South African Elna Reinach, Navratilova's second round opponent on Wednesday, was 5, and German hopeful Anke Huber, whom Navratilova defeated on Thursday to reach the quarterfinals, were yet to be born.

While her Rome opponents were in grade school, Martina dominated women's tennis, holding the No. 1 ranking from 1978-79, and from 1982 through mid-1987. With 153 career wins, including 18 Grand Slam titles and record nine Wimbledon triumphs, she



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Martinez hit passing shots for two hours to prepare for her match against Navratilova. "I had my trainer attack to my backhand, and serve to my backhand, because I knew that this was what Martina would go," she said.

Navratilova had already shown signs of being ripe for an upset. Always more at home on hard surfaces than clay, she was the only of the top five seeds to have lost a set in the first two rounds. More significantly, she was having problems coming to the net.

"I wasn't hitting my approach shots well," she admitted. "The balls were heavier and just weren't going deep enough. I didn't volley much either. And when I did, I

didn't get enough stick on it." Navratilova plans to return to the United States for five weeks before playing the Eastbourne grass court tournament in June in preparation for her attempt to win her 10th Wimbledon title.

"Until I stop having fun," she said. "Just as long as I keep loving tennis."

SUPERB SELES, SABATINI

Seles and Sabatini steamrollered their opponents. Seles crushed Soviet eighth seed Leila Meshki 6-0, 6-1 and Sabatini hammered American Jennifer Capriati, the seventh seed, 6-0, 6-2.

Fernandez, the fourth seed, beat Bettina Fulco of Argentina 6-3, 6-2.

Martinez held the edge over Navratilova, setting up openings with sharp forehand top-spin drives and following with well-placed passing shots.

On three occasions the nine-times Wimbledon champion, losing finalist in Rome a year ago, broke Martinez, only for the Spaniard to break straight back.

Martinez avenged a crushing 6-0, 6-2 defeat by the American at the same stage last year that left her in tears.

Martinez, who turned 19 last month, said she was well-prepared to counter Navratilova's strong backhand.

"It's very hard to pass Martina. She goes up to the net well and you have to hit good shots," she said.

Seles' demolition of Meshki was matched by Sabatini's slaughter of the 15-year-old Capriati.

Seles never gave Meshki a chance to find her rhythm. She hit winning shots from almost every conceivable angle and Meshki finished in tears of frustration in the arms of her trainer.

Sabatini was in superb form apart from an erratic second serve as she handed Capriati her first 6-0 set defeat in her career, including junior events.

CAPRIATI'S CONFESSION

Capriati was more angry than disappointed. "She played very well. She made no mistakes, but I made it easier for her," the American said. "I tried to change my game but she wouldn't let me. She kept me on the baseline with her topspin."

Capriati said the match confirmed she still had a lot of work to do to reach the top. "I'm still a level behind," Capriati, who turned professional just over a year ago, said.

Toney knocks out Nunn

DAVENPORT, Iowa, May 11: James Toney, trailing on all three judges' scorecards, unloaded a devastating left hook to the jaw that knocked down champion Michael Nunn and led to the referee stopping the fight in the 11th round to give Toney the International Boxing Federation (IBF) middleweight title on Friday, reports Reuter.

Nunn was leading 99-91, 98-92 and 97-93 after 10 rounds.

Nunn barely got to his feet by the count of nine and was still wobbly after Toney flattened him with the left hook.

TENNIS TIDINGS

Agassi attains wild card



Andre Agassi will be the highest ranked player in the tournament behind world number two Boris Becker.

ROME, May 11: American Andre Agassi, ranked fourth in the world, has gained a wild card entry into next week's Italian Open, organisers said on Friday, reports Reuter.

But world number five Guy Forget has withdrawn after spraining an ankle while on Davis Cup duty for France against Australia last weekend.

Compatriot Yannick Noah, Italian champion in 1985, has also been granted a wild card behind world number two Boris Becker.

Yzaga sends Chang packing

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina, May 11: Unseeded Jaime Yzaga, playing a calm, consistent baseline game, upset top-seed Michael Chang 7-6 (7-0), 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the US men's clay court tennis championships on Friday, reports Reuter.

In another upset, unseeded Malvai Washington surprised third seed David Wheaton 6-7 (3-7), 6-1, 6-2.

Fifth seeded Jimmy Arias coasted past fourth seed Richey Reneberg 6-4, 6-2.