

Sport

Niru shocks Reefat

Sports Reporter

National champion Reefat bin Sattar suffered a shock defeat, his second when compatriot Niamul Huq Niru beat the young International Master (IM) in one of the eighth round matches of the Dr. Q M Hossain International Masters' chess tournament at Purbani Hotel yesterday.

Reefat who had earlier lost to arch-rival and Ziaur Rahman, also an IM, in fact the only third from Bangladesh yesterday opened with white pieces but ran into trouble in French defence opening game and accepted defeat after 34 moves.

Undaunted by his coeval's fall from grace Zia recorded a fine win against Indian IM Shekhar Chandra Sahu. The win helped Zia to attain top position in the points table along with Pakistani IM Lodhi and Sharvanan.

Sharvanan, another Indian beat Ziaul Qader Tuhin in 21 moves in another match.

Wins for BJMC, BG Press

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) and BG Press won their respective matches in the Metropolitan Sonali Bank Second Division football league yesterday, reports UNB.

In the first match, BJMC Sporting Club beat Mohakhali Eleven 2-0 at the Outer Stadium in the afternoon.

Azad Hossain put BJMC ahead in the 32nd minute while Resaur Rahman sealed the victory adding one more goal in the 69th minute.

Dhaka WASA lost by a similar margin (2-0) against BG Press at the same venue. Asgar and Mahub scored one goal apiece for the winners.

Div II hockey

Cantonian Sporting Club registered a solitary goal victory over Dhaka Young Stars in the Metropolitan Green Delta Second Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Fazlul Islam netted the crucial goal for the Cantonians from a penalty corner in the 32nd minute.

In the day's other match between Mukta Bihanga Tarun Sangha and Shishu Kishore Sangha, ended in a goalless draw at the same venue.

Burnak Samaj will take on Farashganj SC at 2.15 pm while Victoria SC face Uddy Club at 3.45 pm today, the last day of the group matches.

Div III soccer begins today

The Pragati Insurance Third Division football league, organised by Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA), begins today at the Outer Stadium, reports UNB.

Maghbazar Kisholay Sangha will take on Sunrise Sporting Club in the opening match at 3.15 pm.

State Minister for Education Principal Md Eunus Khan will formally inaugurate the league to be participated by 18 metropolitan teams, initially in two groups.

The participating teams are: Group A — Maghbazar Kisholay Sangha, Matuall Jubo Sangha, Bashabo Tarun Sangha, Kadamtala Sangad, East End Boys Club, Little Friends Club, Dikusha SC, Amin Bazar KS and Sunrise SC.

Group B — East Bengal SC, Chalandika KC, Ganderia Famous SC, Purbachal Parasad, Dhaka Sporting Club, Fire Service, Rahmatganj SC, Maghbazar KC and Govt Printing Press.

The Japanese spikers, the winners over Australia on Saturday, scored a 3-0 (15-2, 15-8, 15-3) win for their second consecutive victory in the three-nation round robin competition at the Miyakonojo Culture Centre, western Japan.

Kazakhstan ended at second with one win against one loss, and Australia third with two defeats.

Hellmann Cup tennis results

SANTIAGO, Chile, Oct 31: Emilio Sanchez Vicario of Spain beat top seeded Jaime Yzaga of Peru 6-1, 6-7 (5-7), 7-5 Saturday to make the finals in the Hellmann's Cup tennis tournament, reports AP.

In the other semifinal, Argentina's Javier Frana was leading Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay 6-4, 1-3 when heavy rain forced a halt in the match.

Two hours later, play remained suspended and it wasn't clear whether it would resume.

Faruque to lead Bangladesh

Sports Reporter



Faruque Ahmed has come of age. Long mooted as a durable captain for the Bangladesh national cricket team, the talented Abahani middle order batsman has finally got the job. It was disclosed yesterday as the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) announced a fourteen-member squad for the Gold Leaf two-match one-day series starting from November 3.

A gutsy performer with a rich repertoire of strokes Faruque who is also an excellent fielder will lead the full-fledged national team for the first time having shouldered the responsibility in outstation matches.

Dogged by inexplicable streak of failure, Faruque emerged the most consistent batsman of an experimental Bangladesh team which returned home from Sri Lanka yesterday after a twin preparatory trip to the Deccan and Sri Lanka. Bangladesh is in the thick of its preparation for next year's ICC trophy in Kenya which will pave the path for three top finishers to compete in the one-day world cricket championship scheduled to be held in the subcontinent a couple of years later.

The man whom Faruque dethroned is Athar Ali Khan who captained the BCCB XI in the Sri Lanka tour replacing Golan Nowsher Prince, skipper for the earlier Deccan tour. However, Athar is very much there as one of the 14 members. The other players are Sajjad Ahmed Shipon, Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Shah Nawaz Shaheed

the ICC trophy. Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, the long serving former Bangladesh captain will be adjudicator for the man-of-the-match award for the first match while Roqibul Hassan, another former national captain will pick the player of the second one-dayer.

Last minute touches are being given to smoothen the outfield, damaged of the Dhaka Stadium, venue for the two matches. Footballers in league with the monsoon rain left the stadium in a pathetic state as country's sports authorities pursued the penny wise pound foolish theory too long.

Season and daily tickets for the Gold Leaf one-day series are on sale, at 14 Agrani Bank branches.

Meanwhile, the march of foreign players to take part in this year's domestic Premier league cricket championship began yesterday. Two players both from Delhi — Bhaskar Pillai and GP Singh came to the BCCB office to confirm their participation. Pillai a dashing middle order batsman will play for Bangladesh Biman alongside Pakistani Wasim Haider.

GP Singh is the other player from Delhi who signed for league champions Abahani. A hard hitting batsman and a useful medium pacer Singh plays for Elworth Cricket Club in Cheshire league, England.

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Bayern stay on Eintracht's heels

BONN, Oct 31: Bayern Munich crushed Kaiserslautern 4-0 to close in on league leaders Eintracht Frankfurt, who were held to a scoreless draw against lowly Wattenscheid in the German First Division soccer on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The Bavarians, now unbeaten in seven games, moved into second place, three points behind Frankfurt, who lead with 22 points.

The goals were scored by Christian Ziege in the 16th minute, Adolfo Valencia in the 29th and 59th minutes and by Lothar Matthaeus on a penalty in the 68th.

"A very stable performance, Bayern vice president Franz Beckenbauer said after the match before a home crowd of 58,000 in Munich's Olympic Stadium.

Midfielder Ziege clearly outshone Kaiserslautern's Andreas Brehme, a former Bayern player, on the left flank.

Brehme, who scored the penalty which clinched the Germans the 1990 World Cup final against Argentina in Rome, opted out of international football after last year's European Championship with 74 caps to his name.

But there are strong rumours that national coach Bert Vogts may want to take advantage of Brehme's experience at the 1994 finals in the United States.

But it was not Kaiserslautern's day in Munich and it took 51 minutes before the visitors had their first and only scoring chance.

"We dominated the match from the first minute and every player was on the move," said Erich Ribbeck, coach of record 12-times champions Bayern, who are bidding for their first title since 1990.

"I am very, very satisfied. I hope we will be able to preserve this from for the return match against Norwich," he added in reference to the UEFA Cup match at Norwich City in five days.

Frankfurt only managed a scoreless draw away against second-from bottom Wattenscheid after failing to capitalise on scoring chances by, above all, Rudi Bommer and Polish international Jan Furtok.

Title defenders Werder Bremen slipped into third place in the standings after being held 2-2 away against seventh-placed Bayer Leverkusen.

Four days before the return match against Sofia, Bulgaria, in the European Cup, Bremen played convincingly and took an early lead through goals by Marco Bode in the sixth and New Zealander Wynton Rufer in the 40th minute.

But Leverkusen hit back in the 43rd minute with a goal by Andres Thom and Ralf Becker hit the equaliser in the 64th.

Ken Rutherford made 47. Andrew Jones 44 and Bryan Young 43 while NSW's former Test of spinner Greg Matthews and Test candidate paceman Glenn McGrath took two wickets each.

Earlier, NSW crashed in for 61 for four overnight to be all out for 109.

New Zealand pace spearhead Danny Morrison captured 6-54 and spinner Dipak Patel 3-35.

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Argentine captain Diego Maradona (R) manoeuvres past Australian captain Paul Wade (L) during the first leg of the World Cup qualifying series in Sydney yesterday. Two-times World Cup champions Argentina drew 1-1 with the Socceroos after Maradona set up a goal from the corner. The second leg will be played in Buenos Aires on Nov 17. — AFP photo

Magnificent Maradona relives magic but Aussies hold Argentines

SYDNEY, Oct 31: Argentina take a crucial away goal back to Buenos Aires for next month's return leg after holding a

committed Australia to a 1-1 draw in their World Cup football eliminator here Sunday night, reports AFP.

Skipper Diego Maradona, just turned 33 and playing his first international for eight months, was largely shackled by his Australian counterpart Paul Wade over the 90 minutes, but inspired Argentina's vital goal with a flash of genius.

Maradona evaded his marker in the 37th minute to cross from the right for Roma striker Abel Balbo to deftly beat diving goalkeeper Mark Bosnich with a header into the top right hand corner.

Australia showcased their dramatic improvement in the world game by striking back five minutes later with a superb team goal, engineered by German-based Ned Zelic.

Zelic split the defence with a ball to overlapping right back Tony Vidmar, whose pass across the face of goal was put away by his Belgian-based brother Aurelio.

The two teams meet again in the River Plate Stadium in Buenos Aires on November 17 to claim a ticket to the World Cup finals in the United States next June.

Argentine coach Alfio Basile used the halftime break to instruct his midfield to improve their support for front-runners, Gabriel Batistuta and Balbo and the two-time World Cup champions dominated the second half for long periods with possession football.

Maradona became one of five yellow card recipients in the match for showing dissent to Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl. Similar warnings were given to Australian midfielder Robbie Slater and substitute forward David Mitchell as well as Argentina's Carlos McAllister and Perez.

Roared on by a ground record 44,000 home crowd, Australia, fielding seven

European-based team members were good value for the draw, especially in the first half when, spearheaded by pacy French-based midfielder Slater, they threatened Sergio Goycochea's goal.

Arnold had another chance in the 23rd minute when Redondo dithered and was dispossessed 30 metres in front of his goal but Arnold shot tamely wide.

Maradona almost conjured a second goal for his team just nine minutes after halftime when he cheekily chipped the Australian defence from a free-kick for Balbo to back-heel across the goalmouth, but nobody was on hand to apply the finishing touch.

"I'm not very happy with the result, but I'm very happy with the way we played," said Australian coach Eddie Thomson afterwards.

"We played some super stuff in the first half, but except for one mistake for which we were punished, we did really well."

"We've got (suspended) Frank Farina to come back for the Buenos Aires match and we're still got a good chance of going through to the World Cup finals."

English-born Wade celebrated equaling the most number of international caps with 64 by keeping Maradona, the player of his generation, largely quiet.

"It's still one of the toughest jobs in football," said Wade in his marking assignment. "I followed him around for 90 minutes and in a few seconds he can cause so much damage.... It just shows they the Argentine public demanded him to be in the national team."

Anfield makes Flowers rue

LONDON, Oct 31: Liverpool strike force Robbie Fowler and Ian Rush punished Southampton's England goalkeeper Tim Flowers on Saturday for turning down a prestige move to Anfield, reports AFP.

Fowler and Rush scored twice each as Liverpool hammered Southampton 4-2.

Eighteen-year-old Fowler beat Flowers with a 15th minute header from a Rob Jones. Twelve minutes later he scored from the edge of the penalty box with a low angled drive.

But struggling Saints, who were unbeaten in their three previous games, hit back just before half-time through Matthew Le Tissier.