

IM chess meet opens today

Sports Reporter

The second United Insurance International Masters chess tournament will be formally inaugurated at the conference room of the National Sports Council today although the actual contest is scheduled for a start from tomorrow, at a yet undecided venue.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain will open the eleven-round Swiss league meet starting five foreigners, along with 35 local participants.

The cock of the walk among the foreign quintet will be the too familiar and frequenting Pakistani International Master Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi, enjoying the highest rating of 2475.

The four Indians will be Priton Singh, Paritosh Bhattacharya, Suryashekar Ganguly and Shubhrajit Saha.

Of the quartet eleven-year-old Suryashekar Ganguly is the youngest with a rating of 2131 points.

The local challenge will be led by national champion Reefat Bin Sattar, who confirmed his participation albeit belatedly to spare the blushes of organisers Bangladesh Chess Federation.

The tournament at one stage ran the risk of being jeopardised nomenclaturally as Reefat jibbed to participate on grounds of examination cutting down the number of International Masters (minimum three for an International meet) to two — Pakistani IM Mahmood Lodhi and Bangladeshi IM Ziaur Rahman.

Matters, however, were too ripe at that state to be spoiled by one man's inconvenience and a cajoled Reefat duly obliged.

Cash prizes of Taka 60,000 will be up for grabs.

All good for Allgood

Sports Reporter

John Allgood clinched the title of the 22nd Aga Khan Gold Cup golf tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

On the concluding day of the two-day meet, John Allgood scored 148 point to lift the trophy of the most prestigious and oldest tournament of the country.

Sadique Qudus become runners-up with 154 points while M-S Khor finished first in the ladies group.

Office league hockey starts today

Sports Reporter

The first ever Sonali Bank office hockey league begins today with Bangladesh Army taking on Bangladesh Navy in the inaugural match at the Hockey Stadium. The bully-off will be at 3-30 pm.

This was disclosed in a press briefing held at the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) office yesterday.

Eight teams — Dhaka Ansars, Public Works Department SC, Bangladesh Air force, Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, Police SC, Shadharan Bima KS and Sonali Bank — will participate in this round robin league tournament.

The top four finishers in the first leg will fight it out for the championship in super league. No team will be relegated this year.

Shamsul Bari, the BHF general secretary, revealed that the budget for the tournament is earmarked at Taka 1,25,000 and Sonali Bank, the sponsors, will take care of the expenses.

Secretary General of the Bangladesh Olympic Association Bashir Ahmed, who is also a DGM of Sonali Bank, represented the sponsors in the press briefing, presided over by vice-president of BHF Mirza Farid Mili.

The price of tickets for the galleries has been fixed at Taka three.

Soccer friendly on April 3

Sports Reporter

The Korean Ulsan University football team will play a friendly match against a Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) XI in the capital on April 3.

The BFF originally planned to arrange two friendlies against the two local giants — Abahani and Mohammedans — but the visitors declined and agreed to play only one.

The BFF XI will comprise players from Abahani and Mohammedans.

Lee Jongwha will lead the 25-member squad from Korea.

BVCA elections

The election of the Bangladesh Volleyball Club Association (BVCA) will be held at the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation office this afternoon, said a Dhaka Metropolis Volleyball Club Association press release issued yesterday.

Boon follows Taylor's lead

Cape Town Test nicely poised



CAPE TOWN, Mar 19: Australia and South Africa continued their battle to consolidate their position in the second Test as another painful day unfolded at the Newlands on Saturday, reports AP.

In reply to South Africa's 361, Australia trudged their way to 336 for five at stumps on the third day, managing just 224 runs in 90 overs in front of a record crowd.

With two days left and Australia still 25 runs behind, a draw looks inevitable unless leg-spinner Shane Warne can prove otherwise.

David Boon provided the backbone of Australia's innings with a masterly 96 and was supported by Mark Taylor (70), skipper Allan Border (45) and Steve Waugh (45 not out).

With the wicket getting slow and low in pace, the Australian batsmen struggled all the way through. Had it not been for Boon, the innings would have nose-dived.

Boon laid the initial foundation, with Taylor figuring in a 105-run stand for the second wicket. Then, joined by Border, he steadied the Australian innings, sharing 91 runs in five minutes under three hours.

South African medium pacemen struck in the morning session under helpful conditions, removing Taylor and Mark Waugh in the space of four overs.

Taylor touched a Fanie de Villiers out-swing to wicket-keeper Dave Richardson while Waugh (7) was brilliantly caught by an airborne Peter Kirsten at gully.

Taylor's innings lasted 211 minutes and included six fours off 147 balls.

Australia managed just 51 runs in 27 overs in the morning session and despite Border

struggling they did little better in scoring 75 runs.

Border took 107 minutes (70 balls) to reach double figures and contributed just six runs in the first 50 stand with Boon.

Boon lit up the afternoon session, hitting fast bowler Allan Donald for three boundaries in successive balls and following it up with two more off Craig Matthews.

He was unlucky to miss his 19th Test century and fell to an in-judicious drive, chasing a de Villiers wide outside off stump, in the sixth over with the second newball.

He batted for 354 minutes and hit 11 boundaries off 251 balls.

Steve Waugh accelerated



DAVID BOON 96

Australia's scoring and dominated the 66-run stand for the fifth wicket with the skipper.

Border never looked at ease against the menacing South African pace quartet but fought his way through until he gloved

a hook off Matthews to Richardson for 45 runs.

His 204-ball knock lasted 274 minutes and included five boundaries.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the second Test here Friday between Australia and South Africa:

SOUTH AFRICA: 1st innings (overnight 237-5)

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Hudson run out | 102 |
| G.Kirsten run out | 29 |
| Cronje b McGrath | 2 |
| Wessels c M Waugh | 11 |
| b McDermott | 11 |
| P Kirsten lbw b Warne | 70 |
| Rhodes lbw b McGrath | 5 |
| McMillan b Warne | 74 |
| J Richardson lbw | 34 |
| b McDermott | 7 |
| Mathews not out | 7 |
| De Villiers | 7 |
| Donald c Healy b McGrath | 7 |
| Extras: (lb-6 nb-7) | 13 |
| Total: (all out) | 361 |

Overs: 144.1

Fall of wickets: 1-71; 2-78; 3-100; 4-189; 5-198; 6-260; 7-335; 8-339; 9-348

| Bowling: | O | M | R | W |
|-----------|------|----|----|---|
| McDermott | 27 | 6 | 80 | 2 |
| Hughes | 20 | 1 | 80 | 0 |
| McGrath | 26.1 | 4 | 65 | 3 |
| S Waugh | 9 | 3 | 20 | 0 |
| Warne | 47 | 18 | 78 | 3 |
| M Waugh | 10 | 3 | 23 | 0 |
| Border | 6 | 2 | 9 | 0 |

AUSTRALIA: First innings

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Slater c P Kirsten | 26 |
| b De Villiers | 57 |
| Taylor not out | 26 |
| Boon not out | 26 |
| Extras: (lb-1 lb-1 b-1) | 3 |
| Total: (one wicket) | 112 |

Total overs: 36

Fall of wicket: 1-40

| Bowling: | O | M | R | W |
|-------------|----|---|----|---|
| Donald | 11 | 3 | 34 | 0 |
| De Villiers | 11 | 3 | 38 | 1 |
| Mathews | 6 | 1 | 17 | 0 |
| McMillan | 7 | 1 | 18 | 0 |
| G Kirsten | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

To bat: M Waugh, A Border, S Waugh, I Healy, S Warne, M Hughes, C McDermott, G McGrath.

(Incomplete)

Richards may be in trouble

LONDON, Mar 19: A small English cricket club are considering suing former West Indies master batsman Viv Richards for reneging on a promise to play for them in the coming season, reports Reuter.

Cheshire league club Denton said they had a commitment from Richards to join them after he quit playing English county cricket with Glamorgan at the end of last season.

"We believe Viv has treated us shabbily. Denton may be a little club in the eyes of a world star but we are big enough in regional cricket. We will seek legal advice," said club secretary Steve Marsland.

"We kept asking him for a personal letter, rather than one from his agent, to confirm he would be with us but he insisted that his word was good enough."

"As far as we are concerned Viv has ended his career in shame, not in triumph," said Marsland.

Speaking in Antigua, Richards said: "I made a verbal commitment to Denton but in the end I thought I had had enough."

"I had a wonderful season with Glamorgan and I thought that was the perfect way in terms of how I would like my last dance. There isn't any more cricket."

Jansher Khan's hectic weekend

ZURICH, Mar 19: World champion Jansher Khan successfully completed the first part of a hectic weekend when he won his first two matches in the Grasshopper Cup squash tournament, reports Reuter.

The Pakistani disposed of Swiss players Peter Frey and Reto Donatsch in quick succession to earn a semifinal place prior to flying to Paris today for a league match before returning to complete this tournament.

Adding to his problems was an experimental scoring system being employed in Zurich.

The annual invitation tournament is the first involving leading players using a tennis scoring system, being tried as an experiment in a bid to give squash more "crucial" points and television appeal.

Jansher beat Frey 5-1, 5-0 and Donatsch 5-4, 5-4 although he admitted being somewhat bemused by the scoring.

"I was not really too sure about what I was doing today with the scoring and at times who was supposed to serve. But I just played squash and got more points than they did."

Australian world number two Brett Martin had a little more trouble coming to terms with the format, struggling at times to defeat Joel Kirsch of Israel 5-2, 5-4.

The other leading players involved also came through against Swiss opponents — world number five Rodney Eyles of Australia beating Andreas Fritsch 5-0, 5-4 and England's fourth ranked Peter Marshall beating Roland Weber 5-2, 5-2.



Pakistan spearhead Kamran Ashraf (R) drives one through the pads of Spanish goalkeeper Jufresa to take his side one up in the Champions Trophy hockey tournament in Lahore on Friday. Pakistan ran out 3-1 winners. — AFP photo

Germany struggle to top



LAHORE, Mar 19: Olympic champions Germany, playing without captain Christian Blunck, beat Britain 1-0 and joined hosts Pakistan at the top of the table in the Champions Trophy men's hockey tournament today, reports Reuter.

The Germans had to work hard in the absence of Blunck, who was suspended for one match on a misconduct charge.

They could not penetrate a solid British defence until the 53rd minute when a penalty stroke from Frederick Ness gave them their goal.

German forward Dirk Dörflinger was blocked by British captain Russel Garcia inside the circle and Pakistani umpire Masoodur Rehman signalled a penalty stroke.

Ness made no mistake from the spot, beating goalkeeper Simon Mason to condemn Britain to their second successive defeat.

"I think the absence of Blunck was felt because he is our main player," German coach Paul Lissek said. "We are a bit lucky with this narrow win."

British coach David Whittaker blamed the defeat, which left his side bottom of the six teams, on a lack of training.

"We got seven short corners but failed with them all as well as with other opportunities," he said.

"We had practically no training and just got together at Heathrow (Airport) for the

flight to Pakistan."

On Friday, hosts Pakistan beat Spain 3-1 for their second successive victory in the tournament.

Holders Australia, who lost to Germany in their opening match, secured their first triumph with a 3-2 win over world champions Netherlands.

Pakistan, attempting to win the trophy for the first time since 1980, followed Thursday, 4-1 win over Britain with another well-worked victory.

They went ahead in the 14th minute through lively attacker Kamran Ashraf who seized a penalty corner rebound.

But some solid Spanish defence held them back until the second half.

Spain, who held the Dutch to a surprising 4-4 draw on Thursday, equalised five minutes into the second half when Pablo Garcia, playing his 71st international, broke through to beat goalkeeper Mansoor Ahmad with a crisp drive.

Pakistan should have regained the lead in the 54th minute when forward Mohammad Shahbaz was brought down inside the circle and Dutch umpire Peter von Reth signalled a penalty. But to the dismay of nearly 10,000 home fans, Tahir Zaman shot wide from the spot.

However, Pakistan did go ahead 10 minutes later when Zaman scored after a superb pass from Shahbaz.

Pakistan sealed their success three minutes from time when Shahbaz made it 3-1 after Kamran Ashraf set up the

chance.

Australia had a poor start against the Dutch, falling behind after only three minutes when Taco van Den Honert scored from the Netherlands first penalty corner.

But they equalised in the seventh minute when Jay Stacy struck after a pass from rookie Daniel Sproule.

Australia went 2-1 ahead in the 19th minute when Lachlan Elmer dragged their first short-corner past the Dutch defence.

An error by Dutch goalkeeper Ronald Jensen in the 35th minute allowed Raoul Lewis to rob the ball of his pads and set up a pass to Sproule who scored his first senior international goal to make it 3-1.

The Dutch made it 3-2 when Floris Jan Bovelander converted a penalty corner in the 41st minute.

Germany will be without captain Christian Blunck when they face Britain today.

Blunck was suspended for failing to control the behaviour of his teammates when they rounded on Pakistani umpire Rashid Ali Khan during Thursday's match against Australia.

STANDINGS

| Standings (tabulate under played, won, lost, drawn, goals for, against, points): | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|--|
| Pakistan | 2 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 4 | |
| Germany | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 | |
| Australia | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | |
| Netherlands | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 1 | |
| Spain | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 1 | |
| Britain | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 0 | |

Rain thwarts India's progress on Day One

Kiwis off to jittery start



HAMILTON, New Zealand, Mar 19: India were in a promising position at the close of play on the first day of the Test against New Zealand today limiting the host batsmen to 81 for the loss of three wickets, reports Reuter.

Play was delayed until after the scheduled lunch break after heavy overnight rain and morning showers. The clouds threatened throughout the day and bad light finally drove the players from the field 25 minutes early.

By the close, medium pacer Javagal Srinath had taken two wickets and veteran Kapil Dev one. At tea, New Zealand were 41 for two.

India made almost immediate inroads into the batting lineup. Kapil Dev, who showed he has lost most of his pace but none of his swing, tempted opener Blair Hatland into edging an outswinger. Rajesh Chauhan held the chance at second slip, leaving New Zealand at one for one.

Kiwi captain Ken Rutherford, disdaining a helmet, joined Buyan Young at the crease and the pair looked comfortable until, with the score at 21, Young fended off a delivery from Srinath into the

hands of Anil Kumble at gully.

Rutherford and Mark Greatbatch managed to take New Zealand safely through to tea, although Rutherford had to survive a confident appeal for lbw in Srinath's eighth over.

Rutherford, as is his way, looked prepared to attack anything short and hooked Kapil Dev several times, ignoring a trap set for the shot.

Indian skipper Mohammad Azharuddin introduced spin in the 17th over and all three spinners, Anil Kumble, Venkatesh Raju and Chauhan, were used.

Greatbatch was circumspect, taking 15 deliveries to score his first run. After taking 57 minutes to score 12 runs, and with the score at 49, he fended off a short ball off Srinath which flew high in the air before falling to Azharuddin, who had run forward from third slip to take the catch.

Three balls later, Srinath almost made Stephen Fleming's first innings in Test cricket a miserable one. Fleming edged uncertainly at a ball outside off stump but this time Azharuddin could not hold the chance.

Srinath continued to torment the batsmen, Rutherford jabbing a ball that just failed to

carry to short leg.

Fleming took 16 balls to get off the mark but when he did it was with a classical off-drive off Srinath.

When bad light brought play to a halt, only 38.5 overs had been played. With widespread rain over the whole country, the prospects are for further interruptions on the second day.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after the first day of the cricket Test between India and New Zealand today:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| B Hatland c Chauhan | 0 |
| b Kapil Dev | 0 |
| b Young c Kumble | 13 |
| b Srinath | 43 |
| K Rutherford not out | 13 |
| M Greatbatch c Azharuddin | 12 |
| b Srinath | 10 |
| S Fleming not out | 3 |
| Extras (lb-2, nb-1) | 81 |
| Total: For three wickets | 81 |

To bat: S Thomson, A Parore, M Hart, D Nash, D Morrison, C Pringle.

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-21; 3-49.

| Bowling: | O | M | R | W |
|-----------|-----|---|----|---|
| Srinath | 15 | 6 | 26 | 2 |
| Kapil Dev | 8.5 | 2 | 24 | 1 |
| Kumble | 3 | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Raju | 3 | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Chauhan | 9 | 1 | 19 | 0 |

Brown basks in glory

BRISBANE, Mar 19: Schoolgirl Rebecca Brown, who set a world 200 metres breaststroke record on Wednesday, broke her won Commonwealth record in the 100 metres on Friday, reports Reuter.

The 16-year-old Brown clocked one minute 08.45 seconds, just 0.44 seconds outside German Silke Horner's world record of 1:07.91 set in August 1987.

She sliced 0.23 seconds off the Commonwealth mark she had set on her way to reaching the final earlier at the Australian National Championships.

"I was hoping I'd come home a little bit stronger but I'm just happy to do my best time," said Brown who has been taken aback by the media attention her world record has attracted.

"I just want to go back to normal again for a while," she said. "It's all been a bit overwhelming."

Brown pushed Barcelona Olympics bronze medalist Samantha Riley to a personal best of 1:06.92 in Friday's race.



India's veteran new-ball bowler Kapil Dev digs one short only to meet with a vigorous reply from Kiwi captain Ken Rutherford on the rain-rained first day of the one-off Test between India and New Zealand at Auckland yesterday. New Zealand were 81 for three when stumps were drawn. — AFP photo

Arbi no respecter of record



BIRMINGHAM, England, Mar 19: Indonesia's Herianto Arbi retained his men's All-England badminton title today with a 15-12, 17-14 victory over compatriot Ardy Wiranata, the 1991 winner, reports Reuter.

Arbi, 22, produced his best badminton of the week, smashing decisively to outplay Wiranata, the silver medalist at the Barcelona Olympics.

Wiranata, 24, managed a brave comeback from 7-14 down in the second game to level at 14-14 as the younger man looked, as though he

would lose his nerve with the crown insight.

Wiranata saved two match points but Arbi was not to be denied in their 51-minute encounter.

It was a success against the form book for Arbi who had won only one of their previous seven matches.

The men's singles has been a total triumph for the Indonesians who unprecedentedly provided all four semifinalists.

Arbi, who beat world champion Joko Suprianto in last year's All-England final, has earned the nickname of "jumping jack" in Europe for

his spectacular, leaping cross-court smashes.

Wiranata, no mean smasher himself when he needs to be, had no answer on Saturday.

But Arbi admitted: "When I was 14-7 up in the second game I was in too much of a hurry to get it over and