

Sport

Shabana atop in nat'l chess

Sports Reporter
Shabana Parveen Nipa notched two points and the top position in the points table at the end of the second round of the 15th women's national chess championship at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Playing with black pieces Nipa needed only 20 moves to force resignation from Jahannara Huq Rumi.

Reigning champion Zakia Sultana made short work of Afana Parveen Nira in a game of French defence in 40 moves.

Forty was the fateful number of moves in the match between Tanima Parveen and Selina Banu, which saw the former prevail quite easily.

In another match Rukshana Gulshan Nikkon beat Noor-Un-Nahar while the match between IWM Rani Hamid and Afroza Khanam Bablee was in progress at the time of filing this report.

Meanwhile, the qualifying meet for the 20th national chess championship will get underway from April 28, Thursday. Open for all, the deadline for registration of the qualifying tourney is April 27. Interested players have been requested to contact the NSC chess room with Taka 60 entry fees for each contestant.

Sixteen qualifiers will earn passage to the first round of the original meet.

DMFA Cup now on Apr 27

Sports Reporter
Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) office yesterday.

Nineteen teams divided into four groups will compete in the first round which will be played in a knock-out basis. The group champions will then be joined by last year's four semi-finalists in the round robin league.

DMFA, which earlier purchased the three Calcutta giants — East Bengal, Mohun Bagan and Calcutta Mohammedan for the curtain-raising meet shelved the idea of foreign participation as the confirmation of the Calcutta trio was not to come before DMFA's August 7 deadline in any case.

Muktijoddha Sangsad who stole the show in this year's football players' transfers buying 11 of the so called pool players from mohammedans, Abahani and Brothers Union, have been placed in Group A along with Rahmatganj MFS, Dhanomdi and East End.

Five teams — Agrani Bank, PWD, Farashganj, Eskaton and Third Division football league champions Bashabo Tarun Sangha have been put in Group B.

In Group C, the Pioneer Eleven groomed by DMFA will vie for advancement with Wari Club, Bangladesh Boys, Dhaka Wanderers and Muslim Institute.

IR to meet Finance in DU cricket final

Sports Reporter
The Department of International Relations entered the final of the inter-department cricket championship of Dhaka University eliminating Department of Physics by 24 runs in the second semi-final at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Sent in to bat, the IR Department compiled a modest 178 for six wickets in the possible 34 overs, with Sohail making an excellent 63.

Mowla, the other twenty plus scorer for the winners, chipped in with 24. Mansur and Nicholas claimed two wickets apiece for Physics.

Needing 179 for victory, Physics could muster 154 runs for eight wickets in their quota of 34 overs.

The Physics total was built around a valiant effort from the Sohail duo. Sohail (sr) hammered a sparkling 70 while Sohail (jr) made 26.

Atiq was the most successful among the IR bowlers who finished with four for 34 while Afzal took two for 19.

The final between International Relations and Finance will be held on Thursday at the same venue.

A redeemed, rewarded Lara

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Apr 19: Brian Lara sat alone in the pavilion at the Sydney Cricket Ground last year, knowing a silly run-out had cost him a wonderful chance to achieve the ultimate in cricket, reports Reuter.

No matter that he had just scored 277, his first Test century, against Australia. Beneath the undeniable pride lay a trace of disappointment that Sir Garfield Sobers' world record of 365 not out remained intact.

West Indies coach Rohan Kanhai, one of his country's words of the Sydney Morning Herald, Lara was so dominant he "might have been playing with a stick of celery."

"When I got to 265, I began counting down. Everyone knew the record I was looking for," said Lara at the time, reflecting on his eight-hour effort which included 38 boundaries.

"I was dreaming of this day and it's nice that it's come so early. I have put a lot of pressure on myself but I have done it before and I can do it again."

Lara, 25 next month, has been as good as his word in the Caribbean in recent months. He scored a record 715 runs in the Red Stripe



CONGRATULATIONS! West Indian batsman Brian Lara is felicitated by Sir Gary Sobers after he became the highest individual Test scorer beating Sobers' 365 during the fifth Test against England in St John's, Antigua on Monday. Lara made 375. — AFP photo

India waltz into final

SHARJAH, Apr 19: Indian opener Ajay Jadeja slammed a career best 87 to lead the team to a magnificent seven-wicket victory over Australia in the first semi-final of the six-nation cricket Australasia Cup Tuesday, reports AP.

With one-down batsman Navjot Singh Sidhu performing determinedly to score 80 and left-hander Vinod Kambli striking 88 off seven balls to remain unbeaten, Indians now go into the final to meet the winner of the Pakistan and New Zealand encounter on Wednesday.

Australia, playing without opening batsman Michael Slater, elected to bat after winning the toss and posted a total of 244 for nine.

India, managed temporarily by former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar, replied with 245 for three, winning the match with 26 balls to spare.

Left-handed powerhouse Kambli hit the winning runs with a massive boundary off paceman Damien Fleming. The Indians are in Sharjah after a lapse of nearly three years following a controversial defeat by Pakistan, after which the Indians refused to come for the tournaments here.

India began badly against the pace attack of Glen McGrath and Paul Reiffel, who was celebrating his 25th birthday today.

Star batsman Sachin Tendulkar fell to the agility of Australian captain Mark Taylor for a paltry six runs off seven balls.

In the last ball of the third over, McGrath bowled a short pitched delivery which came on to the bat quickly and which made Tendulkar offer the high ball to Taylor who did not fail. Tendulkar had a boundary in his total.

Sidhu joined Jadeja who was on five and the two put India on the road to a morale-boosting victory.



AJAY JADEJA, m-o-m

Their second wicket partnership of 130 runs were realised in 172 balls before Jadeja was tempted by leg-spinner Shane Warne to sweep to deep square leg where David Boon caught without trouble.

Jadeja's 87, which came via 12 fours and one six off 106 balls, surpassed the previous highest of 65 scored in the New Zealand tour recently. His

Captain Mohammed Azharuddin had 36 off 34 balls which included two boundaries.

Australia appeared flustered with the bowling strategy employed by India. Six bowlers tried their hand in several spells to put Australia onto the ropes in the first 20 overs which saw them at 65 for three.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Australasia Cup cricket semifinal between Australia and India today.

AUSTRALIA	
Taylor b Srinath	11
Boon b Kumble	21
M. Waugh run out	16
S. Waugh c Mongia b Srinath	53
Bevan c Jadeja b Kumble	25
Hayden c Jadeja b Kumble	48
Langer run out	36
Reiffel c Tendulkar b Srinath	7
Warne run out	4
Fleming not out	2
McGrath not out	0
Extras: (lb-14, w-6, nb-1)	21
Total: (for nine wickets)	244
Fall of wickets: 1-29; 2-53; 3-62; 4-115; 5-158; 6-222; 7-227; 8-241; 9-244.	
Bowling	
O M R W	
Srinath	9 1 32 3
Prasad	8 1 39 0
Kumble	10 1 50 3
Chauhan	10 2 37 0
Tendulkar	8 0 39 0
Jadeja	5 0 33 0
INDIA	
Jadeja c Boon b Warne	87
Tendulkar c Taylor b McGrath	6
Sidhu st Langer b Warne	80
Azharuddin not out	36
Kambli not out	28
Extras: (lb-4, w-2, nb-2)	8
Total: (3 wickets, 45.4 overs)	245
Fall of wickets: 1-11; 2-141; 3-210	
Bowling	
O M R W	
McGrath	8 0 35 1
Reiffel	8 0 32 0
S. Waugh	8 0 52 0
Fleming	9 4 59 0
Warne	9 0 40 2
M. Waugh	3 0 23 0

India won by seven wickets
Man of the Match: Ajay Jadeja

Senior Division hockey league far-away

Sports Reporter
The First Division hockey league if gets started at all this year will not be before November. This was implied message emanating from the meeting of the newly formed executive committee of Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) held at the BHF office yesterday.

Shackled by tide domestic and international schedule, the BHF officials could only announce a rather inconsequential deadline for players transfers on August 7.

With a series of competition awaiting for the national team BHF looks set to groom young talents instead of conducting the league.

Bangladesh hockey team which will take part in the Hiroshima Asiad scheduled for October 16 is also expected to take part in the Himo Gold Cup which will be held in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh from May 1.

The five-member selection committee of BHF will select the players for the camp which will start April 25.

The residential camp for Hiroshima Asiad is expected to start at BKSP from July 1.

The committee has also decided to hold the national championship from May 8.

Uzbekistan to bid for 2004 Olympiad

ALMA-ATA, Kazakhstan, Apr 19: Tashkent, capital of the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, may bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games, officials said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The newly-independent Central Asian nation put in a bid for the 2000 Olympics but withdrew from the running before the Games were awarded to Sydney last September.

Lenzi's plight

BLOOMING, Indiana, Apr 19: Barcelona Olympic 3-metre diving champion Mark Lenzi, struggling to find money to pay his rent, is preparing to sell his gold medal to the highest bidder to attend a flight school, reports AFP.

"I'm sure this will cause shock waves, but the simple fact remains I'm broke. Drastic times require drastic measures. I really don't want to do it. But if worst comes to worst, I will have to."

Lenzi plans to sell his medal to the highest bidder unless he can find some other way to raise 25,000 dollars tuition to attend Comair Flight School near Orlando, Florida.

Bruguera tunes up

MONTE CARLO, Apr 19: Sergi Bruguera of Spain, twice a winner of the prestigious Monte Carlo Open, warned his rivals he was back for more by crushing Swede Lars Jonsson 6-0, 6-1 in a first round match on Monday, reports Reuter.

Bruguera, who burst into the limelight by winning here in 1991 before establishing himself as arguably the world's best player on clay with another win last year, took only 47 minutes to demolish Jonsson.

The Spaniard, who took the French Open title just six weeks after his 1993 triumph in the principality, was due to play Horacio de La Pena but the Argentine baseliner retired for medical reasons and was replaced by qualifier Jonsson.

Frenchman Cedric Pioline, who fell to Bruguera in last year's final, became the first seed to tumble in the 1.2 million dollars tournament.

A string of unforced errors sent fifth seed Pioline down to a 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 defeat by unheralded Czech David Rikl.

Pioline, recovering from an ankle injury, did not look for excuses. "I didn't feel any pain," said the Frenchman. "He just put a lot of pressure on me by taking the net all the time and it worked."

Another seed, number four Goran Ivanisevic, looked like he might follow Pioline out. But the Croat saved four match points and overcame Haitian veteran Ronald Agener 6-4, 6-7, 7-5.

"It's more fun to live dangerously," said Ivanisevic.

most distinguished ex-batsmen, approached the 23-year-old Trinidadian with words which now burn with significance. "Your next innings starts at zero," Kanhai told the young left-hander. "Don't worry about it. It's gone now. You have to start all over again."

At the recreation ground in Antigua on Monday, the brilliant Lara proved that cricket can be a game of second chances. As he eclipsed some of the greatest names in the sport's history, even the watching Sobers could scarcely feel wronged or deprived.

After England's Graham Gooch scored 333 against India at Lord's in 1990 it seemed Sobers' 1958 record against Pakistan would be safe into the next century.

Gooch's was the first triple century in Test cricket for 16 years and the predominance of fast bowlers and improved modern fielding suggested 365 would remain an almost mythical figure in the game, a monument to Sobers' unique all-round genius.

Instead, the record has fallen to the son of a tender age of 20.

He hit 139 in five and a half hours in his debut first-class innings for the West Indies but, after securing his initial Test cap in Pakistan in December 1990, the national selectors decided his development should not be rushed.

Tales soon began to surface that the shy off-field figure was not sufficiently disciplined on it.

In a match against the touring Australians in St Vincent in 1991, he came to the crease to face off-spinner Peter Taylor, played the first ball defensively, then shouted to his partner: "Is it turning much?"

Informed it wasn't, Lara danced up the pitch and drove Taylor for four. He repeated the stroke next ball, was agast to see it turn, and was duly stumped.

In any event, despite local newspaper outrage, it was 16 months before he played his second Test against South Africa in Bridgetown, and the fateful Sydney match was only his fifth Test appearance.

Any inexperience scarcely showed at the SCG. In the

THE TRIPLE-CENTURY CLUB

- List of triple-century makers in Test history:
- 375 Brian Lara (West Indies) v England, St John's, 1994
 - 365+ Garfield Sobers (West Indies) v Pakistan, Kingston, 1958
 - 364 Len Hutton (England) v Australia, The Oval, 1938
 - 337 Hanif Mohammad (Pakistan) v West Indies, Bridgetown, 1958
 - 336+ Wally Hammond (England) v New Zealand, Auckland, 1933
 - 334 Don Bradman (Australia) v England, Leeds, 1930
 - 333 Graham Gooch (England) v India, Lord's, 1990
 - 325 Andy Sandham (England) v West Indies, Kingston, 1930
 - 311 Bobby Simpson (Australia) v England, Manchester, 1964
 - 310+ John Edrich (England) v New Zealand, Leeds, 1965
 - 307 Bob Cowper (Australia) v England, Melbourne, 1966
 - 304 Don Bradman (Australia) v England, Leeds, 1934
 - 302 Lawrence Rowe (West Indies) v England, Bridgetown, 1974 (+ denotes not out)



Uta Pipping of Germany breasts the ticker-tape in the women's category of the Boston Marathon on Monday. Pipping broke the extant record with a time of 2 hours 21 minutes 45 seconds. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 36 Bochco series
- 37 Michener novel
- 40 Intention
- 41 Fine
- 42 Bettor's combo
- 47 Gary Hart's downfall
- 48 Lose out at an auction
- 49 Cupid's field
- 50 Aurora's a/k/a
- 51 Venomous vipers

DOWN

- 1 Writer Kingsley
- 5 Plant bristle
- 8 "At Long — Love"
- 12 Hodge-podge
- 14 Puzzle-dom
- 15 Annie's song
- 16 Cause of Ninja
- 17 Infinitesimal
- 18 American
- 20 Handled roughly
- 23 Big rig
- 24 Dry
- 25 Mrs. Theseus
- 28 Naught
- 29 Rose protector
- 30 Polar employee
- 32 Breezes
- 34 Zoo structure
- 35 Site off coherent light

China's history

Doctrine

Packed away

Farm fraction

Abbott's first baseman

Count-down time

Brezhnev

Dimension

Genealogist's draft

Incensed

So be it

Peace

to Pablo Neighbor of Calif.

Clean the slate

23 Strand

25 Body-builder's pride

26 Authentic

27 Plankton, in part

29 Siamese

31 A mere handful

33 Contestant

34 Tourist's sine qua non

36 Occupation

37 Circle dance

38 Actor

39 City in the news, 1993

40 Lends a hand

43 Important

44 Scale abbr.

45 Sass

46 Commercials

CRYPTOQUIP

Y I R E O S I E F Z E S R H I D D O

H G Q R X Z Y Q V I Q V R A

X G L A L Z E Z L Z I E R H U

F G G Z Y E R H U A

Saturday's Cryptoquip: SAID BANDLEADER TO COOL PERCUSSIONIST, "DRUM UPSOME BUSINESS."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: L equals W

The Cryptoquip 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.

Oh Harding!

PORTLAND, Oregon, Apr 19: Tonya Harding, who admitted withholding evidence in a plot to injure figure skating rival Nancy Kerrigan, purchased a full-page newspaper advertisement to thank supporters, reports AFP.

Harding has kept away from public attention since ending her amateur career last month. But she spent 480 dollars on an ad headlined "Tonya Says Thank You."

Her message was an appreciation for "encouragement and support, love and prayers" and also said "thanks for believing in me." She also told of receiving thousands of cards, letters and messages, saying, "You will always be very special people to me, even if we never meet in person."

Ndeti wins Boston Marathon

BOSTON, Apr 19: Cosmas Ndeti of Kenya won the 98th Boston Marathon Monday, setting a new course record with a winning time of two hours seven minutes and 15 seconds. Andres Espinosa of Mexico finished a close second and Jackson Kibogo, also of Kenya, was third, reports Reuter.

Trinidadians proud

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Apr 19: Trinidad celebrated on Monday after their countryman Brian Lara scored a record breaking 375 runs during the fifth cricket Test between the West Indies and England in Antigua, reports Reuter.

There was jubilation throughout the country as work stopped in the city and thousands sat glued to television sets in malls, parks, and private homes to watch the Test.

Lara, 24, broke Sir Gary Sobers' world record for the highest individual score in Test cricket, moving past the previous record of 365 not out scored by fellow West Indian Sobers against Pakistan at Kingston in 1958.

In a congratulatory message, Trinidad's Prime Minister Patrick Manning said several great batsmen had attempted to break the record set by Sobers, of Barbados.

Lara struck 45 fours in the innings that lasted 766 minutes on the third day of the fifth Test.

At Lara's home in the Santa Cruz Valley in north Trinidad, his mother, Pearl Lara, told Reuters: "I am happy that he has broken the record. He has done well for himself. It was something he had always wanted. He always wanted to play cricket and play at his best."

Lara, the son of a Trinidadian agriculture station manager, and the youngest of 11 children, has long been referred to as "The Prince" by his fellow Trinidadians.

Trinidad and Tobago's Sports Minister Jean Pierre was in Antigua to see Lara beat the world record.