



Indian V Sharavanan, who is currently leading the points table, makes a move against Reefat bin Sattar, the Bangladeshi IM while the Pakistani IM and holder Mamud Ahmed Khan Lodhi watches. Sharavanan and Reefat drew their tenth round match of the eleventh GM Hossain chess championship at the NSC conference room yesterday. —Star photo

Sharavanan stays at top

V Sharavanan of India drew with Bangladeshi International Master Reefat bin Sattar in the tenth round of the 11th Dr QM Hossain IMs' chess championship at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday to stay at the top of the points table.

V Sharavanan, who now have eight points, defended his black pieces well in the line of French Defence system and by the 10th move the fate of the match was sealed.

Reefat, who had his ninth round match against Indian IM Lanka Ravi postponed until November 1, followed Sharavanan with a collection of seven and a half points, same as reigning champion Pakistani IM Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi. Lodhi, the jovial Pathan, found Indian IM Ravi Hegde's Kings Indian Defence hard to penetrate and settled for a draw after 34 moves.

Half a point behind Reefat and Lodhi in the third place was Lanka Ravi after drawing with local Abdullah al Rakib. Rakib adopted the Maran variation of the Queen's gambit against Ravi's black pieces and played with determination to

force a draw in 51 moves. Rakib upped his collection to five points.

Ravi's fellow countrymen IM Shekhar Chandra Sahu also found his Bangladeshi opponent Taiyebur Rahman tough nut to crack and although Rahman accepted the Ravi-Indi-Queen's gambit on 51st move it was evident the match had only one destiny — a draw. Sahu raised his collection to six and Rahman to one and a half.

Bangladeshi national champion IM Ziaur Rahman employed the Alapine variation of the Sicilian Defence effectively against compatriot Nahid Miyazid's white pieces and made his opponent surrender on the 56th move.

Zia, who made a nightmare start to this year's campaign, now holds the fourth position with six and a half points while Miyazid has two and a half.

The Alapine variation of the Sicilian Defence also paid well for Maruf Ahmed who won resignation from Hasibul Hassan after 48 moves. The win upped Maruf's haul to three and a half points against Hassan's two.

Also winning the tenth round match with black pieces was FIDE Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman, winner against Kalmullah Khan. Rahman, who adopted the Modern defence for his triumph yesterday, stayed half a point ahead of Khan with two and a half points.

Victoria will take on their last robin league match against Raktim Sangha on Monday.

In the other match of the day, Combined SC and Raktim Sangha split points in a goal-less draw.

Sri Lanka-Zimbabwe 3rd Test heads for a draw

Houghton shines at Harare

HARARE, Oct 29: Dave Houghton followed his second Test double century with an unbeaten 125 on Friday as Zimbabwe almost certainly ensured the third and final Test against Sri Lanka would mirror the previous two and end in a draw.

The former Zimbabwe captain combined with Alistair Campbell in a record Zimbabwe partnership for any wicket of 194 as the home side reached 276 for four by the end of the third day in response to Sri Lanka's 402.

By that stage any hope of a result in the deadlocked series looked to have disappeared. Only a considerable increase in Zimbabwe's run rate on the fourth day looks to provide them with any hope of a declaration to give them time to bowl out Sri Lanka and record their first Test win.

Their scoring rate on Friday gave little indication that was uppermost in their minds as they added just 266 runs during the day for the loss of three wickets.

Resuming at 10 for one, Zimbabwe lost left-handed opener Mark Dekker for 14 in

the sixth over of the day but Houghton and Campbell ensured there were no further traumas.

Neither took any risks as they reached 72 for two by lunch and added a further 76 runs in the afternoon session without being parted.

Campbell reached 99 but was denied a century an hour

before the close when he drove loosely at Pushpakumara and edged a catch to wicket-keeper Hashan Tillekeratne.

Four overs later Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower gloved a catch to Tillekeratne to be out for 10 but that was the final success of the day for Sri Lanka.

Houghton, who hit a Zimbabwe record 266 in the second Test, reached his third Test century with a hooked four off

McCall-Holmes bout in Jan

NEW YORK, Oct 29: Oliver McCall will make his first defence of the World Boxing Council heavyweight title he won last month against former champion Larry Holmes in January, promoter Don King announced on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

McCall, who has a record of 25-5, won the crown on September 24 when he stopped Britain's Lennox Lewis in the second round of their title bout in London.

Holmes, who was heavyweight champion for more than seven years, will be fighting for the title he first won in 1978.

The 61-4 Holmes turns 45-years old next week. McCall, a former sparring partner of Mike Tyson, is 29.

The bout will take place on January 21, but no site has been selected, King said.

Pakistan take on Australia today in Wills final

Sports Reporter

World Cup champions Pakistan take on 1987 winners Australia today in the final of the Wills three-nation limited overs cricket tournament in Lahore.

Hosts Pakistan earlier played the visitors twice in the preliminary round, losing the first by seven wickets in Multan on October 14 and winning the next by nine wickets in Rawalpindi on October 22. The other scheduled match at Gujranwala was rained out although the two teams played a 15-overs-a-side affair to placate the 50,000 crowd.

The other country in the fray is South Africa, who finished without a win.

Div II b'ball

Kurmitola Young Stars registered their second consecutive victory in the Mohsin Cup Second Division basketball league beating Physical Education College KC 77-44 at the NSC wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

The Kurmitola eagles, who started their league campaign outplaying Baksibazar Club, dominated the first half 34-20.

Shishir with 22 and Haroon with 19 were leading scorers for the winners while Raj and Tarek scored 10 points each for the losers.

In the day's other match, Rising Force SC defeated Old Faujians Association 72-64 after trailing the first session 24-25.

Pappu scored 20 and Rony 13 points for the winners, while Tridev caged 17 and Karim 14 for the losers.

Eves h'ball

Sports Reporter

Rangpur recorded a thumping 22-5 victory over Mymensingh in one of the two second round matches of the national under-19 women's handball championship at the Dharmadhi Women's complex yesterday.

The winners led 8-2 at the breather.

Firoza and Akhtera scored six goals each for the winners who powered 14 more goals in the second half to complete the Mymensingh rout.

In the other match of the day, Dhaka and Jessore shared points in a 15-15 draw.

Deaf badminton

The sixth national deaf badminton competition, organised by the Bangladesh Deaf Sports Federations, ended at the wooden-floor gymnasium here yesterday, reports BSS.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain was chief guest on the concluding day and distributed prizes among the winners.

Thirty shuttlers representing 10 organisations took part in 18 events of the three-day meet.

Iftekhar Hossain of the Dhaka Deaf Organisation became champion in the singles and Sharif Nurul Ashraf of the Dhaka Deaf Sports Organisation was runner-up.

In the doubles, Iftekhar Hossain and Nazrul of the Dhaka Deaf Organisation clinched championship while Sharif Nurul Ashraf and Tanvir Raihan of the Dhaka Deaf Sports Organisation became runners-up.

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Oct 29: Sea Customs earned full points in the CJKP First Division football league beating Ispat Ekadosh 2-1 at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Customs club led the first half 1-0. Basu and Chenamong scored once each for the winners while Resaluddin netted the lone goal for Ispat.

Sea Customs have 19 points from 15 matches while Ispat, eight, also from 15 outings.

Depressing day for England

PERTH, Oct 29: England squandered an excellent start by collapsing in familiar fashion on the first day of their opening first-class tour match against Western Australia at the WACA on Saturday, reports Reuters.

With left-arm pace bowler Bruce Reid claiming four for 70 and debutant seamer Sean Cary picking up three for 55, England slipped from 149 for one in mid-afternoon to close at 241 for nine.

Only a disciplined, unbeaten 36 from John Crawley avoided complete embarrassment for the touring side, who lost five wickets for 50 in their initial collapse and then three wickets for two runs at the end of the day.

Cary's effort was all the more praiseworthy as he was only drafted in as a late replacement for injured pacerman Brendon Julian.

It had all begun so well for England after Mike Atherton had won the toss as he and Graham Gooch, opening the innings in place of the injured Alec Stewart, added 77.

Then, after Gooch had fallen for 38, caught in the gully off Reid, Graeme Hick (41) helped his captain put on 72 for the second wicket.

But Atherton's fall, caught at long leg for 68 when he mis-cued a hook shot at a good bounce from Cary after batting for just over three hours, was the signal for England to fall apart.

The early morning sunshine was replaced by cloud cover, but although the ball swung around, Hick, Graham Thorpe (4) and Mike Gatting (7) could hardly blame the conditions for their dismissals.

Thorpe, playing a series of wild shots, was dropped at square leg first ball before edging a loose drive at Cary to wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist.

Hick cut a long hop from his county colleague Tom Moody straight to backward point, and Gatting miscued a pull to mid-wicket after batting for almost an hour.

Gatting had earlier survived an appeal for a catch when he edged Cary to Mike Valetta at third slip when he had made three. The former England captain held his ground thinking he had hit the ball into the ground and umpire Steve Davis agreed, but television replays suggested he had been fortunate.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day

ENGLAND: First innings				
Gooch c Coulson b Reid	38			
Atherton c Coulson b Cary	68			
Hick c Lavender b Moody	41			
Thorpe c Gilchrist b Cary	4			
Gatting c Goodwin b Reid	7			
Crawley not out	36			
Rhodes c Gilchrist b Cary	13			
DeFreitas c Hogg b Reid	20			
McCague c Valetta b Coulson	1			
Benjamin b Reid	1			
Extra: (b-1, lb-1, nb-10)	12			
Total: (for nine wickets)	241			
Fall of wickets: 1 77; 2 149; 3 153; 4 157; 5 171; 6 199; 7 239; 8 240; 9 241.				
To bat: D Malcolm				
WESTERN AUSTRALIA: D				
Martyn, M Valetta, M Laven-				

Naturalised Englishman Graeme Hick plays a delivery from Tom Moody during the first day of the four-day match between Western Australia and England at the WACA on Saturday.

Agassi knows his stakes

PARIS, Oct 29: Andre Agassi will be hoping to erase an eminently forgettable milestone in his career when he plays in next week's 2,250,000 dollar Paris Indoor Open inside the grass-walled Bercy Stadium to the east of the French capital, reports AFP.

Two years ago the flamboyant American, making his debut in the event, was booed off court by the notoriously undisciplined Bercy crowd after crashing 6-1, 6-2 in just 73 minutes at the first hurdle to compatriot Brad Gilbert.

Twelve months ago, injury prevented Agassi from returning to the world's richest championship series tournament, but this year the reigning United States Open Champion is determined to set the record straight.

Agassi, who will be among 19 of the world's top-20 players taking part in the 48-player event which offers a prize of 330,000 dollars, has been enjoying plenty of late season success since his triumph at Flushing Meadow in September.

Last weekend he won the ATP event in Vienna when he outplayed Michael Stich in four sets, and only a tense third set tie-break against Goran Ivanisevic on Friday separated him from a semi-final berth in

Edwards escapes life suspension

MONACO, Oct 29: British shot putter Paul Edwards has escaped a life ban after the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) ruled that two positive dope tests in August should be treated as one offence, reports Reuters.

IAAF spokesman Christopher Winner said on Friday Edwards did not know of the result of the first test when the second was conducted.

Edwards tested positive for a number of steroids at the European Athletics Championships in Helsinki then failed an out-of-competition test within 48 hours before flying to the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada.

"The athlete was not aware of the result of the first test," Winner said. "It will be treated as one offence and he will be banned for four years pending an appeal."

IAAF rules provide a minimum four-year suspension for taking steroids with a second offence automatically incurring a life ban.

According to IAAF doctors, Edwards' samples contained a mixture of steroids plus the performance-enhancing drug clenbuterol.

"There were enough substances in there in high quantities to cause real long-term physical harm," Winner said. "The Edwards' case should help to demonstrate to young athletes what they should never do at the risk of losing their lives."

Indians play Caribbeans today

Sports Reporter

Table leaders India play the West Indies in a crucial match of the three-nation one day cricket tournament in Kanpur today.

Hosts India have already advanced to the final with two consecutive wins with one against the Caribbeans in the inaugural match.

The West Indies, who collected two fortuitous points by virtue of a rain-ruined tie against New Zealand, the other participants of the triangular tourney after being skittled out for a paltry 123, cannot afford to take today's match lightly.

India went on to crush Kiwis by seven wickets Friday after posting a four-wicket win against the West Indies in the opener on October 23.

Ban on Brazilian booter goes

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct 29: Brazilian soccer authorities on Friday overturned a ban on a player who failed to take a dope test because he could not provide a urine sample after a game, reports Reuters.

The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), who had banned Vasco da Gama midfielder William for 30 days, also overturned their decision to deduct the team five league points after the player broke the ban.

But a director of the Rio de Janeiro club who ordered William to leave the stadium without giving a test so they could catch a plane, was handed a 90-day touchline ban.

William was selected for the doping test after a Brazilian championship match away to Guarani, but after waiting in vain for one hour 45 minutes to provide a sample he left the stadium with the rest of the team.

Club director Eurico Miranda ordered him to leave because he said had the team waited any longer they would have missed the last plane back to Rio.

Miranda compounded the problem by ordering William to play in a Brazilian championship match after the original ban had been handed down.

Ouedec's goals put Nantes atop

PARIS, Oct 29: Two goals from Nicolas Ouedec on his 23rd birthday helped Nantes to a 3-0 win over Strasbourg on Friday as the "Canaries" moved six points clear at the top of the French league, reports Reuters.

Ouedec, who took the place of Jean-Pierre Papin in the French national team earlier this month, struck in the 24th minute and then netted his ninth goal of the season from the penalty spot seven minutes later.

Midfielder Claude Makelele completed an impressive performance by Nantes against a team which had started the day in third place with a third goal in the 74th minute.

Champions Paris St Germain, lately finding league form to match their superb run in the European Cup, romped to a 3-1 win over Montpellier.

Paul le Guen started the ball rolling with a speculative effort from 40 metres in the 34th minute. Brazilian Rai made it two from the spot early in the second half after George Weah was brought down in the box and Weah himself made it three before Bruno Carrotti grabbed a consolation goal.

The Parisians moved ahead of Lyon who drew 1-1 with Bordeaux on Thursday, on goal difference.

Verdy keep on winning

TOKYO, Oct 29: Brazilian midfielder Bismarck fired a tie-breaking goal and Tsyoshi Kitazawa added one more as Verdy Kawasaki beat JEF United Ichihara 3-1 Saturday and kept their one-game second-stage lead in the Japanese professional soccer league, reports AP.

Nearly 15,000 spectators at Inachihara, southeast of Tokyo, saw Bismarck make his goal from the middle of the penalty area 30 minutes into the second half and Kitazawa made his goal with six minutes to play.

It was Verdy's 13th victory against three defeats and one game ahead of Bellmare Hiratsuka.

Before 48,157 spectators at Tokyo's National Stadium, Argentine striker Diaz struck goals in each period, leading the Yokohama Marinos to a 3-1 victory over the Shimizu S-Pulse.

Brazilian midfielder Betinho began a four-goal attack on a penalty kick five minutes into the second half as Bellmare went on to beat the Nagoya Grampus Eight 4-0 with 23,899 spectators attending the game at Nagaragawa in central Japan. Bellmare are now 12-4.



PAVING PATH FOR CRICKET: Labourers doing the ground work for laying the pitch at the Dhaka Stadium in connection with imminent cricket season. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman