

Karpov widens the gap

ELISIA, Russia, July 3: A day after missing a chance for a key victory, Gata Kamsky lost to Anatoly Karpov on Tuesday in a defeat that put him on the brink of elimination in the FIDE World Chess Championship, reports AP.

Playing with the advantage of the white pieces, the American resigned after 61 moves and now faces a nearly insurmountable 9-5 deficit against Russia's Karpov, who could clinch the title as soon as Saturday.

The first player to reach 10-1-2 points wins the championship and 937,500 dollars. The loser gets 562,500 dollars.

Kamsky had an opportunity to cut Karpov's lead to two points on Monday when he built a two-pawn advantage in the 13th game. But he ended up settling for a draw in a game that lasted more than nine hours over two days, and analysts said it may have demoralised him.

Yesterday's draw when Kamsky had two extra pawns, affected the American said Yevgeny Vasukov, an international Master from Russia. He played this game under his abilities, and Karpov was on his game.

If he wins, the 46-year old Karpov hopes for another chance at his old nemesis Gari Kasparov also of Russia. Kasparov, the world's highest-ranked player and list of the breakaway Professional Chess Association is widely regarded as the true world champion. But experts say he no longer appears dominant and could be vulnerable to Karpov.

The next game is Thursday. Paperchess

Weah to sing for distressed countrymen

MILAN, July 3: George Weah, soccer's world player-of-the-year, will sing and dance in a concert in Milan later this month to raise money to help refugees from his homeland of Liberia, organisers said on Tuesday.

They said the AC Milan striker would go in Italian blues musician Zucchero and some of Africa's top bands in the "World rhythm festival" at the San Siro soccer stadium on July 17.

The musicians taking part include Senegal's Youssou N'dour, Guinea's Mory Kanté and Salif Keita of Mali.

Organisers said that the money raised would help projects of the World Food Programme which is helping Liberian refugees in Ivory Coast and Guinea, as well as in Liberia.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation warned last month that Liberia, with tens of thousands fleeing the country after recent fighting, faced severe food shortages and possible starvation if a fragile peace accord failed.

Adidas want a piece of Marseille

HERZOGENAUACH, Germany, July 3: Adidas, the German sports goods manufacturer, have offered to buy a stake in Olympique Marseille football club it was announced here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

The 1993 European Cup winners were promoted from Division Two last season after being relegated for financial improprieties and match fixing committed by former president Bernard Tapie - ironically a former owner of Adidas. Peter Csanadi, an Adidas spokesman, said that talks were still underway but that a statement would be released today.

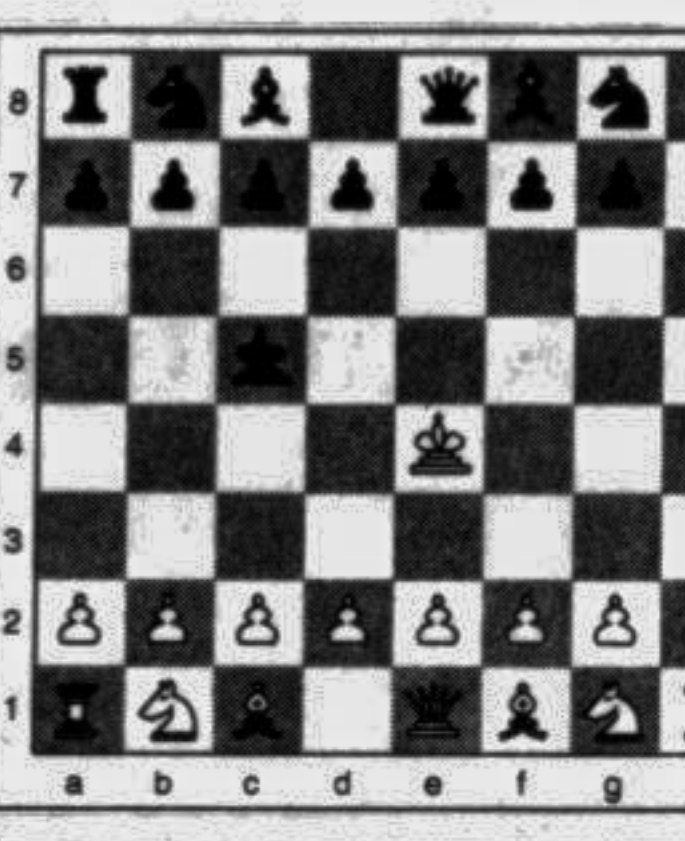
Should Adidas take a stake in Marseille they will have to pay the local council, who have owned the club since May 1995. 20 million franc (3.5 million dollars) the club still owes city authorities.

The council is currently assessing three separate bids for the club.

PAPERCHESS

No-10 If everything was crystal clear on a chess board, then the game of chess would not have survived for so long. Even to an expert eye many things remain hidden, and sometimes when they are revealed, they seem almost unreal.

I don't believe it. He whispered to himself, but every body could hear him on television. Therefore, if you are human and you sit in front of a chess board you are positively in for a shock at some point, regardless of your level of play.



squares away from the white pawn and can easily attack it better than a snowball's in hell. Well, not quite. What if I say this game is a draw. If this surprises you, no one can really blame you. One of my friends made wagers on this position and actually earned some money from players who insisted that it was a win for black. Can find the right move for white which leads to a draw?

Clue: Concentrate on the path of the white king. Remember that from the centre, you can pose a threat in all directions. Solution: 1.K-g7 Now if 1...h4 then 2.k-f6 h3 (if k-b6 then 3.k-e5) 3.k-c7 H2 4. c7 k-b7 5.k-d7. Both sides get a queen. Or if 1...k-b6 then 2.k-f6 h4 3.k-e5 h3 4.k-d6 h2 5.c7 once Again both sides queen at the same time. In both cases the game is drawn.

(Niaz Murshed is the sub-continent's first Grand Master)

Krajicek in last eight

LONDON, July 3: Dutchman Richard Krajicek underlined his status as a Wimbledon dangerman by blasting his way past 1991 champion Michael Stich on Tuesday to set up a quarter-final clash with current titleholder Pete Sampras, reports Reuter.

The 1.95-metre Krajicek had too much firepower on serve and in his groundstrokes as he powered past the 10th-seeded German 6-4, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4.

The performance put him into today's quarter-finals against Sampras, and Krajicek, 24, wasted no time formulating a strategy to prevent the American from getting any nearer a fourth successive title.

"The best tactic is just to win the last point," he said. "I think I just have to concentrate on holding serve, try to make a few returns and see what happens," he added more seriously.

Sampras overcame his fourth-round rival Cedric Pioline 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 and described the match as his best so far even though Pioline induced a few volleying errors from him in the second set.

"Returned about as well as I could. I didn't serve that great but it was a really solid performance. I was really pleased the way things worked out," he said.

Sampras frightened himself and his followers briefly at the start of the third set when he chased a shot and had to leap over a chair to avoid crashing into a net post.

"I had only one place to go and that was up and over the chair. I landed on the ball box and kind of tweaked my back a little bit. It's not too bad but it was a little bit of a scary situation there," he said.

The winner of the Sampras-Krajicek duel will go forward to a semifinal against either fourth seed Goran Ivanisevic or unseeded Australian Jason Stoltenberg, who set up their clash with wins on Monday, when rain delayed the schedule.

American Todd Martin, seeded 13th and the only seed left in the bottom half of the draw, completed a 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-2 victory over Swede Thomas Johansson in match suspended after three sets on Monday.

He will feel the whole country against him when he faces unseeded upstart Tim Henman - the first British man to reach the quarter-finals for 23 years.

"The match is of interest, but not for the same reasons for me as for you," he told a local reporter dryly.

Germany's Romanian-born, 91st-ranked Alex Radulescu continued his stealthy advance through the tournament with a 6-3, 6-0, 6-4 trouncing of South African qualifier Neville Godwin, the beneficiary of Boris Becker's wrist injury sustained in their third-round encounter last Friday.

"I think I am dreaming and I hope nobody wakes me up," Radulescu, a resident of bad Hamburg, near Frankfurt said. He will face unseeded American Malival Washington, the 20th ranked player who ousted Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 on Tuesday.

Washington needed treatment on his back during the match. "I don't know what it was. I was flowing pretty good then I just went for a shot and I felt it go a little bit.

"I strained it or it spasmed, or something," said Washington, who beat Sampras in an exhibition match just before Wimbledon.

Sampras never allowed Pioline, the 16th seed who took Boris Becker to five sets here last year, to settle, threatening his serve the first two times he faced it and then breaking it in the fifth game of the opening set.

The fifth game of the second set provided the only break he needed to move further ahead and Sampras sewed it up in an hour and 39 minutes.

Pioline played the big points badly. Sampras played them well and the Frenchman, trudging wearily around the court with his head bowed in the final set, had no answers.

Krajicek against Stich was not just a big service battle despite the 13-9 ace count in favour of the Dutchman, who was promoted into Thomas Muster's place in the draw after the Austrian seventh seed withdrew before the tournament through injury.



Dutchman Richard Krajicek plays a backhand return against German Michael Stich during their Wimbledon fourth round match on July 2. Krajicek won 6-4, 7-6, 6-4. -AFP/UNB photo

Euro Jr tennis Rohan off to join Asian quartet

Sports Reporter Nadeem Kamran Khan Rohan, selected as a member in the four-man Asian boys team, will leave for London today.

According to the Bangladesh Tennis Federation sources, Rohan will join Mohammad Salman of India and two Pakistanis - Ezzaz Ahmed and Nomi Kamar - in the team which will participate in five European junior tennis tournaments.

Besides, Radhika Tulpule of India, Dec Sumantree of Indonesia, Zami Ang of Singapore and Thai girl Chatriya Thimjapo will team up for the girls events.

The following is the tour itinerary of the Asian junior tennis team: Date Tournament Country 8-13 July Windmill Cup Holland 14-21 July Karl Cup Belgium 22-28 July Orange Cup Holland 29 July-4 August Intern Junctest Cup Germany 5-11 August TAGA Cup France.

Germany gets 2002 & 2006 WC TV rights

ZURICH, July 3: FIFA, football's governing body, has awarded the television rights for the 2002 and 2006 World Cups to Sporis/Kirch Group, reports AFP.

The German media corporation has guaranteed for 1.3 billion Swiss francs (1.04 billion dollars) plus a share of excess revenue for the 2002 World Cup to be held jointly by Japan and South Korea.

The same company paid a quarter of that sum for the 1990, 1994 and 1998 World Cup - 340 million Swiss francs (283 million dollars). However, the deal for the 1998 World Cup in France has been improved to 230 million Swiss francs (191 million dollars) because the tournament has been extended from 24 to 32 countries.

Negotiations for marketing for 2002 will not begin until South Korea and Japan have sorted out the organisational problems.

Sporis/Kirch Group bid 1.5 billion Swiss francs (1.2 billion dollars) for the 2006 finals. In both cases the agreements do not cover the United States.

Fandi named AFC player-of-month

KUALA LUMPUR, July 3: Fandi Ahmad of Singapore's Geylang United has been declared player-of-the-month for June by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), reports AFP.

Fandi was the joint top scorer as Geylang won the first phase of the newly-formed professional S-League in Singapore, the AFC said Wednesday in a statement released here.

The national striker and captain of Geylang also scored the goal that gave his side the halfway stage title as they drew 2-2 with nearest rivals Woodlands Wellington," the AFC said.

Geylang are now set to take the overall title when the S-League resumes later this year, it said.

Iran's Mohammad Mayeli Kohan won coach-of-the-month award when his team IR Iran qualified for the Asian Cup finals to be held in the United Arab Emirates in December.

IR Iran qualified from Group Five, which also featured Oman, Sri Lanka and Nepal, with the maximum points from six matches. They scored 27 goals while conceding only one.

Fahd Mubarak of Kuwait's Al-Jahra team clinched the goal-of-the-month award.

Mubarak headed in the goal in Kuwait Cup final from just inside the penalty area. Unfortunately for Al-Jahra, the goal was not enough to stop Al-Arabi from taking the trophy.



England footballer Paul Gascoigne accompanied by his wife Sheryl are en route for San Francisco from where it is believed they will continue to Hawaii for a honeymoon. - AFP/UNB photo

Out of the question!

LONDON, July 3: Proposals for a status of England football star Paul Gascoigne in Trafalgar Square were turned down Wednesday by an arts organisation - because his fame is unlikely to last past the next two generations, reports AFP.

For more than 150 years a large plinth in the square opposite the statue of George IV has remained empty.

About 1,000 suggestions came from the public when the idea was first mooted by the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.

They included ideas for a Gazza figure, Nelson Mandela, the Queen, and Margaret Thatcher.

Chairman Prue Leith said: "There was a lot of quite daft suggestions like Gazza. Mrs Thatcher was suggested by three people in the early days but there is no question we would ever have a politician.

"However wonderful you are it is just dangerous to have a living hero. A lot of living heroes were put up around London but 50 years later people wondered 'Who the hell are they?'"

Crying shame, some will say. There is always the prospect, perhaps, of creating a Gazza-style fountain.

Serie A goes for goal

MILAN, July 3: Italy's top clubs are planning a goal bonanza in the Italian league next season, with both Juventus and AC Milan saying on Tuesday they will switch to a three man attack, reports AFP.

Juventus coach Marcello Lippi is preparing for a tough season without skipper Gianluca Vialli, now at Chelsea, while Uruguayan Oscar Tabarez takes over the hot seat from Fabio Capello, who has gone to Real Madrid, at champions Milan.

Lippi clearly wants to build on the success of the three-striker format used against Ajax Amsterdam in the European Cup final.

"This is certainly our plan," he said. "Last season, we chopped and changed the tactical format, but we went for the three-man attack in the final against Ajax after a frank discussion with (Alessandro) del Piero, Vialli and (Fabrizio) Ravanelli.

"We will play most of our matches like this next season. However, I'm not going to be dogmatic about it, we might also play sometimes with two men up front and four in midfield."

Comparing 1996/97 to 95/96, Lippi said: "I would sign on for another season like the last one, second in Italy and first in Europe. The next one will be demanding, but also exhilarating, and the players will have to be more motivated than ever. The team to beat will be Milan, for lots of reasons - their technical abilities, their mental resilience and their excellent moves on the transfer market."

"We will be fighting on several fronts, and it will be hard. But we must remember who we are - Juventus."

Lippi was philosophical about losing his skipper, saying: "Vialli is a great player and a wonderful person, and he helped me to settle in at Juventus. But relationships do come to an end, that's football."

"He was the undisputed leader in the dressing room, now the players and I have to choose a new one."

Lippi denied his choice as Vialli's replacement, Croatia's Alan Boksic, who over the past three seasons has scored few goals in his playmaking role behind the strikers at Lazio.

"Boksic is a talented striker, he's fast and physically strong," Lippi told the Corriere dello Sport. "When he played a alongside Rudi Voller at Olympique Marseille he scored 23 goals. I've got faith in him."

Lippi's opposite number at Milan, Tabarez, takes over from Capello in a couple of weeks. But he is already planning changes to a team which even some club officials feels is overly defensive.

Tabarez told the Gazzetta dello Sport from Montevideo: "I don't think it will be like last season, when there were only two or three sides fighting for the title. This time, there will be more like six or seven. All have strengthened their squads with a lot of good players."

"We'll play with four men at the back, that's for sure."

"From there, it will either be four in midfield and two up front, or three and three. It will depend on the match and the situation."

A three-man attack would mean moving forward Dejan Savicevic, dubbed 'the genius' in Italy for his playmaking skills, to play alongside two from Liberian world-footballer-of-the-year George Weah, Roberto Baggio and new recruit Christophe Dugarry, signed from Bordeaux.

Tabarez said of Savicevic: "Why not in attack? I've seen him play well in lots of positions."

"They are all great players and I'm sure we'll soon find a solution. Like them, I want to win. I've signed a one-year contract, but I want it to be renewed on the basis of my results."

With Inter Milan and Parma both active on the transfer market, Fiorentina preparing for another assault on the title and both the Rome clubs Lazio and AS Roma finishing strongly last season, Tabarez knows he can expect a tough campaign in 1996/97.

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FIFA gets ball rolling

ZURICH, July 3: Top officials of world soccer body FIFA met on Tuesday to work out first steps in organising the 2002 World Cup finals, which are to be jointly hosted by South Korea and Japan, reports Reuter.

FIFA decided last month that the two Asian rivals should co-host the tournament after bitter campaigning by the two countries made it impossible to choose between them.

A three-man working group, comprising FIFA vice-presidents Guillermo Canedo of Mexico and Antonio Mattarese of Italy and FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter, met on Tuesday.

They agreed that each of the three should draw up a checklist of organisational points requiring clarification and that they would meet again informally during the Olympic soccer tournament in Atlanta later this month.

They will hold their next formal meeting in Zurich in September and will invite Japan and South Korea to send delegations to that meeting.

The working group will visit Japan and South Korea in the second half of this year for discussions with government officials and said to report back to the FIFA executive committee when it meets in Barcelona on December 8.

Meanwhile, a bitter power struggle between world soccer boss Joao Havelange and UEFA chief Lennart Johansson is reflected in a draft of amendments to FIFA statutes to be presented to FIFA's 50th congress.

Among 18 proposals before the two-day congress is one from Germany which will give 180-odd member associations full autonomy in legal matters. FIFA chiefs are reported to be against the move.

Another, from Scotland, will set an age limit of 70 on members of FIFA's committees as from 1998 - effectively barring the 80-year-old Havelange from standing for reelection when his sixth four-year term as president expires.

The proposal would allow European Football Union head Johansson, who will be 68 at the time of the FIFA congress in 1998, to slip in under the gate as it slams shut.

Havelange is not the only elderly man still wielding power in the gerontocratic world of soccer so the proposal is unlikely to win the three-quarters majority needed for a change in FIFA statutes.

A more realistic proposal is that the procedure for appointing members of FIFA's standing committees - its referees committee, for example - be made clearer. Havelange was bitterly criticised after pushing through his own candidates at the last congress in Chicago in 1994.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Thursday 4th July (All programmes are in local time. We recommend programmes printed in bold. There may be changes in the programmes)

BTV 3:00 Opening Announcement: Al-Duran Programme Summary 3:10 Recitation from the Goeta 3:15 Rerecited of selected programme from TV Archive 4:00 News in Bangla 4:15 Khejar Jagot 4:45 Cartoon Film: Tom And Jerry 5:00 News in Bangla 5:25 National Television School Debate 6:00 News in Bangla 6:30 Esho Para Shikhi: Mass Education 7:00 The News 7:05 Jhomer Alo 7:25 Nazrul Songs 8:00 News in Bangla 8:40 E-Shapthar Natok 10:00 News in English 10:25 Janmabhama 10:35 Film Show: The Equalizer 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Friday's programme 11:40 Close down

BBC 6:00am BBC Newsroom etc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 9:00 BBC World Headlines 9:05 The Tourist 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: The Contenders 11:00 The World Today 1:00 BBC World Headlines 1:05 Correspondent 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 3:00 BBC World Report etc. World Business Report/24 Hours 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newnight

CHANNEL V 7:00am Revind VJ Sophia 8:00 Jump Start VJ Trey 8:00 Frame by Frame 12:00noon The Vibe VJ Luke 1:00 By Demand VJ Trey 2:00 Revind VJ Sophia 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 By Demand VJ Trey 5:30 Music Update Tokyo 6:00 Revind VJ Sophia 6:30 The Vibe VJ Luke 7:30 First Day First Show 8:00 Zig Bang VJ Alessandra 9:00 Videocon Flashback 9:30 Classic Rock 10:30 First Day First Show 11:00 House of VJ Luke 12:00 The Ride VJ Trey 1:00

STAR PLUS 6:30am Voltor 7:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 7:30 Gijoe 8:00 Sabar Rider And The Star Sheriff 8:30 The Adventures Of Black Beauty 9:00 Aerobics Or

STAR MOVIES 7:30am Comedy: Spider and Rose 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 10:00 Family: Tommy Tricker and the Stamp Traveller (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Family: The Sandlot 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Classic: Ion of the Sixth Happiness 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 4:00 Classic: Little Shop Of Horrors 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Family: Thumbelina G (Hindi Dubbed) 6:30 Family: White Fang 15 (Hindi Dubbed) 7:30 Romance: A Woman Named Jackie (Hindi Subtitles) 9:00 US Top Ten 9:30 Romance: A Woman Named Jackie (Hindi Subtitles) 12:00 Thriller: Betrayal of Silence 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 1:30 Comedy: Privates On Parade 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 2:30 After Dark: Sirens 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 5:30 1/2 in Club: The Unbelievable Truth: 8 (Arabic Subtitles)

STAR Sports 7:30am Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships Highlights 8:30 International Motorsports News 9:30 Gillette World Sport Special 10:30 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships 1996 From London, G B Men's Singles Quarter-finals 4:00 US PGA Tour Car: Greater Hartford Open Day 4:30 World Cup of Squash 6:30 TBC 7:00 Futbol Mundial 7:30 Atlanta Games 1996 Preview 8:30 TBC 9:00 1996 Omega Sailing Magazine 10:00 Same Day Delay Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships 1996 Ladies: Singles Semi-finals & Men's Doubles Semi-finals 4:00 International Motorsports News 5:00 Atlanta Games 1996 Preview

Sky Shop 2:30 Tara 3:00 Film Chakkor 3:30 Captain Cook Shab Dawat 4:00 Film Deewane 4:30 Jaanbar 5:00 A-Zal Computer 5:30 Hingiri Kar: 6:00 Hum Honge Kaamyaab: 9:30 Ad Mad Show 7:00 Zaika Ka Safar 7:30 Gaane Anjaane 8:00 Rasna Kyaa Scene Ha 8:30 Gopaljee 9:00 Yeedol-Ae-On 9:30 Dastaan 10:00 Duniya 10:30 The News 11:00 Mano Ya No Mano 11:30 Hum Paanch 12:00 Tara 12:30 Parampara 1:00 Asian Paints Yeadon Ka Rang 1:30 Film Chakkor 2:00 Celeste 3:30 Zee Arabia Infotainment TMM.

PTV 8:00am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma Hamd/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 9:30 Khabar 8:45 Car Piece 9:20 Aahang & Roshni 9:45 Phool Chandi 10:05 Sona Chandi (Drama Serial) 10:30 Buttons & Rustys (Eng Film) 10:55 Milli Naagma 11:00 Khabar 11:10 Aabshar (Music Programme) 11:55 Tele Play (Drama Serial) 12:45pm Qawaali 12:55 Duran-e-Hakeem & Bismillah 1:15 Muqaddar (Drama Serial) 2:45 Perspective & Health Forum

Message Meri Geet 2:00 Yeadon Ki Barar DD 7 8:10am Shastriyo Sangeet 8:20 Binodan 8:30 Sur Sangeet 9:00 Janani 9:30 Naksha 10:00 Nazrul Geet 10:15 Lokgeet 10:30 Chuti Chuti 12:00noon ETV Programme 12:30 Nahi Ganyo Daitya (Serial) 1:00 Janani (Serial) 1:30 Bengali Movie Club Film Show 5:00 Nepali Programme 5:30 News 5:35 Sahitya Samakshi: 6:00 Pali Katha 6:30 Chakre Khabar 6:55 Ajab Saja 7:30 Bangla Sambaad 8:00 Dhaw (Serial) 8:30 TBA 8:50 Darparchurno 9:30 Swapner Bazar (Serial) 10:00 Bengali Movie Club Film Show

EL TV 8:00 Music Time 8:00 Torane Aur Fasane 9:00 Best Of The Best 10:00 Sargam 10:30 The Music Show-Real Countdown 11:00 Namaskar 11:30 Shatranj 12:00 Special 3:00 Anar Pur 3:30 Zalka Ke Safar 4:00 Hit Hai Hit Thi 4:30 Advance Booking 5:00 Yongbaz 5:00 Special 7:30 Shidhanta 8:00 Sath Sath 8:30 Public Demand 9:30 Gambler 10:00 Navaras 10:30 News Live 11:00 Special 12:00 Chud Chad