



British Grand Master Nigel Short (R) pondering his next move against Bangladeshi Grand Master Niaz Mursheed yesterday. —Star photo

Asprilla warned by federation

BOGOTA, Feb 27 (Reuters/Internet): Volatile Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla was told to stop criticising his national soccer federation on Friday.

Last week, he complained that he had to fly economy class after representing his country.

The Colombian Football Federation (FCF) said it had written to Asprilla telling him not to grumble in public.

Asprilla, kicked out of Colombia's World Cup squad in France for his criticism of then coach Hernan Dario Gomez, could be disciplined for a repeat outburst, the FCF said.

The Parma player scored twice in a 3-3 draw with Germany in Miami earlier this month after being recalled by new coach Javier Alvarez.

But he celebrated by launching a blistering attack on the Colombian federation and its directors.

"To belong to the national team is to suffer," he said.

He later exempted FCF president Alvaro Fina from his criticism, saying the problem was those who surround him.

Asprilla complained that he returned to Italy in economy class and received a bonus of only 200 dollars from the federation.

Cruyff hails Ginola as a world great

LONDON, Feb 27 (Reuters/Internet): Dutch great Johan Cruyff hailed Tottenham Hotspur's French winger David Ginola on Saturday as "probably the most exciting player in the world".

"On his day, he is as good as anybody. At the moment he is having more of those days than anyone else," the former World Cup star told the Mirror newspaper.

"He is a tremendous talent and it is easy to see why England has taken him to their hearts."

Ginola, 31, was named player of the month in England in January and is having his best spell in the premier league since he arrived in English soccer in 1995. Tottenham have reached the League Cup final and F.A. Cup quarter-finals.

Cruyff has invited the Frenchman and seven other premier league players to take part.

In a 24-strong squad for his testimonial in Barcelona on March 10.

Niaz shakes Short hands

Sports Reporter

Grand Master Jaan Ehvest of Estonia joined Belarus Grand Master Yury Shulman atop the 4th United Insurance Grand Masters Chess Tournament when he drew with Polish Grand Master Alexander Wojtkiewicz in the ninth round held at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Yesterday was a day-off for Shulman, the leader of the 13-player meet.

Ehvest, playing with black pieces against the Rui Lopez opening of Wojtkiewicz, offered a draw to his Polish counterpart after only 12 moves.

Meanwhile, bad luck continued for former World runner-up, English Grand Master Nigel Short, who was compelled to his fourth draw by local Grand Master, an out-of-touch Niaz Mursheed.

Playing with whites, Niaz made an English opening against his illustrious counterpart and played brilliantly before they shook hands after 31 moves.

With the draw, Short, who was beaten by Indian International Master Neelotpal Das in the eighth round, remained sec-

ond in the table with six points. On the other hand, Niaz, who lost four matches against two wins and two draws, raised his tally to three points.

International Master Ziaur Rahman was beaten by Kunte in



the ninth round. Playing with black pieces, Zia was checkmated by the Pune-based Kunte after 44 moves.

In the day's other matches, International Master Reesab bin-Sattar defeated Interna-

tional Master Abdullah Al-Rakib while Indian International Master Neelotpal Das drew with Hungarian Grand Master Peter Szkele.

The other match between Uzbekistan Grand Master Sergei Zagrebely and FIDE master Enamul Hossain Rajib was going on till the writing of this report.

The tenth round will start at the same venue today at 2 pm. Grand Master Jaan Ehvest of Estonia will have a rest day today.

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