

## Sport

## Jadeja was ideal: Imran

MUMBAI, Aug 3: Former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan says Ajay Jadeja would have been a better choice to lead the Indian team than batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar, reports PTI.

In a website ([www.mid-day.com](http://www.mid-day.com)) chat from Karachi with Mumbai Daily Mid-Day, the cricketer-turned-politician touched upon various issues including Indo-Pak cricket and match-fixing.

"I have always found deposed Indian captain, Mohammad Azharuddin, a very likable person. Though I am very fond of Azhar, I have always felt it was more of a burden on him rather than a responsibility while watching him captain the side," he added on Sunday.

"I think it was the right decision to let him go. Whether Sachin is the right choice or not remains to be seen. However, I feel Jadeja was someone who loved the responsibility and I think it might have been worth giving him a chance and keeping the responsibility away from Sachin," Imran Khan said.

"Sachin is a highly intelligent cricketer apart from being the world's top batsman. Now it is up to him to handle the team and there is no reason why he cannot," Imran Khan added.

On Indo-Pak cricketing ties, Imran Khan said, "cricket can only promote peace between the two countries when there is no hostility to begin with. When the hostilities are as high as they are right now, then instead of actually promoting ties it is going to cause more hatred."

"Obviously we cannot wait for the cricketing ties to resume before the Kashmir issue is resolved, because that is the root cause of problems between the two countries. The hatred between the two countries was mutual and hence it is not the right time to start any cricket series. There should be a cooling off period and only then they may resume playing," he added.

"I also feel that cricket will start promoting good relations between the two countries once the root cause is solved," Imran said.

Asked for his views on his protege Wasim Akram's alleged involvement in the match-fixing episode, Imran Khan said "I don't know which of the individuals have indulged in it and I have no reasons or proof to believe that Akram would indulge in any match-fixing."

"I certainly know neither Akram nor any of the players were involved in any match-fixing during the recent World Cup but I think four or five years back the team was involved in match-fixing especially after a few Australian players accused some Pakistani cricketers [of] involvement," he added.

## Warne as fit as a fiddle

ADELAIDE, Australia, Aug 3 (AFP): Shane Warne says he's fighting fit and ready to go on Australia's cricket tour of Sri Lanka this month after a respite from cricket at home with his family.

The Australian leg-spinner, who underwent a reconstruction of his right bowling arm in April last year, said tests Monday revealed his shoulder was fine with just a couple of small areas he needed to continue strengthening.

"Basically, I've got a brand new shoulder that hasn't had many miles in it so ... it's quite exciting what the future holds and I think the way I'm bowling again, hopefully I can play both forms of the game," Warne told a local radio station here.

Dropped from the last Test against the West Indies in April, Warne said he was looking forward to the tour of Sri Lanka, starting later this month, and was not concerned about local security despite last week's suicide bombing in Colombo.

"As I've always said, I enjoy going to Sri Lanka. A lot of people have put it out of perspective," Warne said.

"My only problem, I suppose, in the past has been with [former Sri Lankan captain] Arjuna Ranatunga and I think the feeling's mutual, he doesn't like me and I don't particularly like him."

"But I've got no problem with the Sri Lankan players. I've got no problem with the Sri Lankan public, they've been fantastic the couple of times I've been there and I'm looking forward to it."

Asked if he thought he and Ranatunga would overcome their differences, Warne said: "I think we probably will over time, I mean, he's said a lot of stuff and I've said probably too much as well."

"But look, there's lots of different things why he doesn't like me and vice versa but I'm looking forward to the tour of Sri Lanka because I think it's a good place and I've enjoyed the times there."

## Sugiyama shocks Pierce

CARLSBAD, California, Aug 3: Unseeded Ai Sugiyama, who lost earlier in the day in the qualifying tournament, pulled a stunning turnaround in the evening with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 first-round win over fifth-seeded Mary Pierce Monday night at the 520,000 dollars TIG Classic, reports AP.

Sugiyama failed to gain one of the four qualifying spots when she lost to Meleni Tu, 3-6, 7-5, 6-1. However, she got a reprieve when Magdalena Maleeva, Pierce's opponent, withdrew because of a recurring problem with a stress fracture in her left arm.



Some Malaysian students admire the Cyber Alang (Cyber Bird), the mascot for the 2006 Asian Games which was formally unveiled in a ceremony in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

## Malaysia enters bid for 2006 Asian Games

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3: Malaysia today officially launched its campaign to host the 2006 Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur, reports AFP.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi started the 8.2 million ringgit (2.2 million dollar) campaign insisting: "Our offer is based on the experience, infrastructure and our collective will to ensure the Games success."

Malaysia hopes to capitalise on its experience in hosting the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur last September. But it is expected to face tough competition for the 2006 Games from Hong Kong, New Delhi, Hong Doha in Qatar and the Uzbekistan capital, Tashkent.

The Olympic Council of Asia is expected to make a decision next year.

"Give us the opportunity and we promise we will try our best to make this one of the most memorable games in its history," Abdullah said.

The resounding success of the Commonwealth Games in 1998 was a watershed in Malaysian sporting history. It showed to the world that Malaysia was capable of organising such a major event," he said.

"It was this success that gave us the added confidence of not only first attempting to host the Asian Games, but eventually the 2008 Olympics as well."

## Careless Havana

HAVANA, Aug 3: Cuban baseball fans seemed to care little that some of their athletes, even a baseball player, defected during the Pan American Games, reports AP.

Crowded around televisions in living rooms to watch Cuba beat the United States 5-1 Monday night for the gold medal in baseball, the only important thing was who stayed — and played.

"Orestes Kindelan, home run!" Teresa Menendez shouted at the small colour television set in her modest living room as the slugger hit one of two during the game. "That's the way to do it, Go, Cuba!"

Menendez and her family shrugged off news that 19-year-old pitcher Danys Baez left the team on Sunday; some said they were not convinced it was true.

"The ballplayers never stay behind," said Menendez as she sat on the linoleum floor of the front room, scruched between relatives and neighbours while a skeletal floor fan built from scrap metal and a washing machine motor hummed nearby.

"Even if it is true, we would have no way of knowing," added her 34-year-old son, Alejandro Duarte, an unemployed tourism worker who watched the win from a carved wooden rocking chair in his Adidas swim trunks. "These things never come out on television or in the press here."

Because all national media is controlled by the communist government, Cubans generally learn of such things through calls from relatives in the United States, unconfirmed rumors passed among co-workers and neighbours, or reports on the US government's Radio Marti.

It wasn't until a few days ago that the Menendez-Duarte family heard about the defection of a group of Cuban basketball players in Puerto Rico last month. "Oh, I thought that was in Winnipeg," commented a young neighbour.

Randall came in, sat between her and another girl and rearranged the blanket over them.

The woman was close to tears as she said Randall put her hand under her bra and touched her breast. He then took her left hand and forced it through his underpants onto his erect penis.

Randall is Australia's most experienced international cricket umpire with a record 36 Tests to his name. The trial continues Wednesday.

STEVE RANDELL

Cross-examined by Randall's counsel Peter Barker, the woman said she thought the first incident was "strange and slightly inappropriate rather than wrong". After the second, Later in the year, Randall came to her own home and again stroked her chest and pubic area, kissing her with his tongue, the court heard. He also put her hand on his penis.

However, the woman, who was 11 at the time, denied she had fantasised about him.

She was the second of two women to tell the Tasmanian Supreme Court that he had fondled her and placed her hand on his penis in 1982.

Randall, 43, has pleaded not guilty to 18 charges of indecent assault involving 10 young girls while he was teaching at a school in Burnie, Tasmania, in 1981 and 1982.

The woman said that early in 1982 Randall was "very helpful and consoling" when she discussed family problems with him.

Around the middle of the year he came into the bedroom of a friend's home where she was staying and sat on the bed. She said he put his hand under the covers and nightdress and stroked her chest and stomach.

Cross-examined by Randall's counsel Peter Barker, the woman said she thought the first incident was "strange and slightly inappropriate rather than wrong". After the second,



matches, in which each player had 25 minutes plus 10 seconds per move per game. Tal Shaked and Alex Yermolinsky advanced.

Shaked, the former world junior champion, missed a win in the first game of this set, but pressed home a strong attack on the Queenside to win the second game over Vlastimil Babula of the Czech Republic. Shaked, seeded 91st, became the lowest-ranked player to advance.

Yermolinsky defeated Kevin Spraggert of Canada in their first game of the day. Spraggert was eliminated when the second game ended in a draw.

Sergei Dolmatov of Russia, Lev Psakis of Israel, Anthony Miles of England and Karen Asrian of Armenia all followed Yermolinsky's example by winning their first game and drawing their second to qualify for Tuesday's second round.

Asrian was quite fortunate to even be involved in the playoffs. He had lost his first game of Round 1 to Andre Rodriguez of Uruguay on Saturday. Rodriguez, who needed only a draw in Sunday's second game, spurned an opportunity to force the tie, and played for a win. Asrian made no such mistake.

Miles also had been lucky to reach the playoffs. The Englishman, in a must-win situation, had somehow gained a victory out of a position that most grandmasters deemed completely even against Ralf Akeson of Sweden on Sunday.

Dibyendu Barua of India, spectators were on the edge of their seats, and in many cases standing on them, as Peter Nielsen of Denmark, playing the white pieces, upset former US champion Joel Benjamin in the first game of their sudden death match. Gurevich, who has won many important tournaments in Las Vegas, was unable to convert an advantage in the first set.

Americans fared better earlier in the day. In the first set of playoff

Hannes Stefansson of Iceland, Aleksei Dreev of Russia and Nielsen all managed to come through with victories in the second game of this set while facing elimination after either a loss or a draw.

Dreev staged his comeback against Robert Zelci of Croatia, while Stefansson evened things up with Alexander Zubarov, and Nielsen tied his match against Benjamin.

Barua was a huge underdog after losing the set's first game against the higher seeded Alexander Khalifman of Russia. Barua's fate seemed sealed when the Russian attained a solid, even position in the second game.

Khalifman decided to win a pawn however, and Barua used the opportunity to harass his opponent's Queen and conjure up a decisive attack.

Tiviakov and Gurevich moved to the next set of matches by drawing both of their games.

The second playoff set allowed only 15 minutes plus 10 seconds per move to each player per game.

Stefansson and Dreev each won their first game and held on for a draw in the second to secure their places in the next round.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

In the second game it was Khalifman who held the early advantage. But Barua managed to build a seemingly impregnable fortress.

Dibyendu Barua after his win over Khalifman in the second round of the World Chess Championship.

Barua, a must-win situation, had somehow gained a victory out of a position that most grandmasters deemed completely even against Ralf Akeson of Sweden on Sunday.

Dibyendu Barua after his win over Khalifman in the second round of the World Chess Championship.

Barua, a must-win situation, had somehow gained a victory out of a position that most grandmasters deemed completely even against Ralf Akeson of Sweden on Sunday.

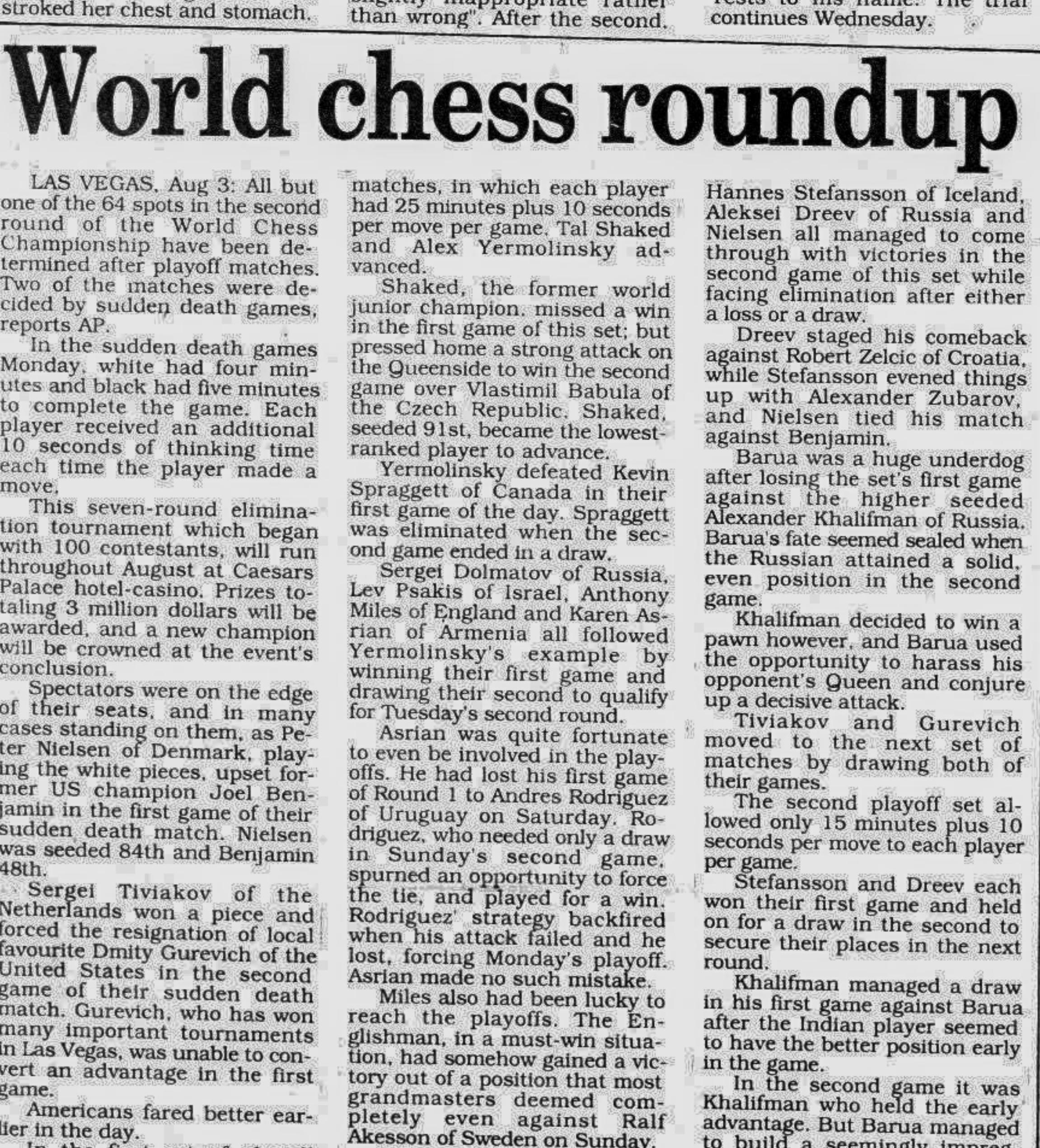
Dibyendu Barua after his win over Khalifman in the second round of the World Chess Championship.

Barua, a must-win situation, had somehow gained a victory out of a position that most grandmasters deemed completely even against Ralf Akeson of Sweden on Sunday.

Dibyendu Barua after his win over Khalifman in the second round of the World Chess Championship.

Barua, a must-win situation, had somehow gained a victory out of a position that most grandmasters deemed completely even against Ralf Akeson of Sweden on Sunday.

Dibyendu Barua after his win over Khalifman in the second round of the World Chess Championship.



World chess roundup

Hannes Stefansson of Iceland, Aleksei Dreev of Russia and Nielsen all managed to come through with victories in the second game of this set while facing elimination after either a loss or a draw.

Dreev staged his comeback against Robert Zelci of Croatia, while Stefansson evened things up with Alexander Zubarov, and Nielsen tied his match against Benjamin.

Barua was a huge underdog after losing the set's first game against the higher seeded Alexander Khalifman of Russia. Barua's fate seemed sealed when the Russian attained a solid, even position in the second game.

Khalifman decided to win a pawn however, and Barua used the opportunity to harass his opponent's Queen and conjure up a decisive attack.

Tiviakov and Gurevich moved to the next set of matches by drawing both of their games.

The second playoff set allowed only 15 minutes plus 10 seconds per move to each player per game.

Stefansson and Dreev each won their first game and held on for a draw in the second to secure their places in the next round.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

In the second game it was Khalifman who held the early advantage. But Barua managed to build a seemingly impregnable fortress.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the Indian player seemed to have the better position early in the game.

Khalifman managed a draw in his first game against Barua after the