SPORTS REPORTER

Alexandar Volzhin of Russia maintained his one-point lead over top seed Jaan Ehlvest of Latvia on completion of the tenth round of the 5th United Insurance Grand Masters Chess Tournament at the NSC conference room yesterday.

The cerebral battle between the two Grand Masters ended in a draw only after 11 moves.

The outcome of the match kept Volzhin atop the table with a collection of seven out of ten possible points. Ehlvest is now sharing the second spot along with Uzbekistan International Master (IM) Vakhidov Tahir, with each having managed six points.

Tahir, in Wednesday's round, defeated Indian IM GB Prakash

after 47 moves. Meanwhile, FIDE Master Enamul Hossain Rajib kept his hopes for his maiden IM norm alive with an inspiring draw against GM Niaz

Murshed. Rajib, who raised his tally to 4.5 points, needs two more points from his remaining three matches

to earn the norm. When Rajib is gradually heading towards his goal, his much illustrious compatriot Reefat-bin-Sattar squandered his last chance for a GM norm after he drew with English GM Nigel Davies.

Reefat, who needs nine points for his maiden GM norm, have so far collected 5.5 points.

In the other matches of the day, GM Alexi Barsov beat Indian IM Sandipan Chanda while two Bangladeshi IMs -- Ziaur Rahman and Abdullah Al-Rakib -- drew with GM Igor Rausis and GM Meizis.

Points table: 7 points--Volzhin, 6 points--Ehlvest, Tahir, 5.5 points--Niaz, Reefat, Davies, Barsov, 5 points -- Meizis, 4.5 points --Rajib, Rakib, Rausis and Prakash, 4 points--Zia and 2 points--Sandipan.

*The eleventh round bigins at 2:30 pm today at the same venue: Today's fixture: Ehlvest v rakib, Sandipan v Volzhin, Tahir v Barsov, Rausis v Prakash, davies v Zia, Niaz v Reefat and Meizis v Rajib.

Quader orders

FROM PAGE 13

I strongly believe that we must be honest in our minds before we start with the responsibility of developing cricket in this country," said Saber.

Saber also asserted that that if any one of the newly elected officials were found involved in any criminal offense or are under police investigation, he would also lose his job in the Board.

On the whole controversy, Saber said that no system of election could be absolutely free and fair unless the persons involved were themselves honest.

"That is the our main problem and none can help in this regard other than the individual himself, Saber added.

Underarm Chappell

FROM PAGE 13 tions the following year. He also accompanied the Sri Lankan team in Dhaka during the Asia Cup last

Born on October 12, 1952, Trevor played three Tests and 20 ODIs in his brief international career. He never had the same talent that his brothers possessed and had to struggle firstly to Shef field Shield status and then on to Test level. He was however member of the Australian World Cup team in 1983.

Saber meanwhile said the contract with Golster would be on tour by tour basis. "Gloster is scheduled to arrive on August 15 and will accompany the team till the end of Bangladesh's tour o Zimbabwe," Saber said.

Bangladesh will play two Tests and three one-day internationals during their month long African

Aussies take

FROM PAGE 13	
AUSTRALIA: First inn	ings
(overnight 49-1)	B
Slater b Agarkar	10
Hayden c Mongia b Srinath	119
Langer c Dravid b Harbhajan	19
M Waugh c Ganguly b Harbhajan	0
SWaugh c Dravid b Sanghvi	15
Ponting c Das b Harbhajan	0
Gilchrist st Mongia b Harbhajan	122
Warne c Tendulkar b Sanghvi	39
Gillespie c Mongia b Srinath	0
Fleming c Srinath b Agarkar	6
McGrath not out	0
Extras: (b-13, lb-3, nb-3)	19
Total: (All out in 73.2 overs)	349
Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-71, 3	-71.
1-98, 5-99, 6-296, 7-326, 8-327	. 9-
349	
Bowler O M R	W

Bowler	0	M	R	W
Srinath	16	3	60	2
Agarkar	12	1	50	2
Harbhajan	28	3	121	4
Sanghvi	10.2	2	67	2
Tendulkar	7	1	35	0

Oravid not out Mongia retired hurt endulkar not out uras: (b-1) otal: (For 2 wkts in 30 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-57

CGrath

prepared for the second test.

NZ take series with a bang

Cricket

AFP, Dunedin

Nathan Astle blasted a brilliant century as New Zealand ended their miserable losing streak to beat Pakistan by four wickets and clinch the one-day series 3-2 here Wednesday.

Astle blasted 119 as New Zealand finished on 290 for six to romp home ahead of Pakistan's total of 285 with 11 balls to spare in front of a noisy crowd of 10,000.

It halted an unprecedented run of three straight home series defeats during the past year. New Zealand captain Stephen it

Flening said it was a welcome change of fortune but warned the side still had a way to go before they put the misery of the Zimbabye and Sti Lauka series losses Youhana.

this summer and Pakistan were the third wicket. Youhana hitting going to be the team to beat. We his 15th one-day 50, then he and knew we had a big job on our voungster Imran Farhat put on 68 hands and it was a good test of off 73 balls. character," he said.

We're not saying we're worldbeaters but it's nice to put something on the board."

Pakistan captain Moin Khan slammed his side's fielding effort and felt the team were 20 runs short of an ideal batting total.

"It was a pathetic performance from our side." Moin said.

"It was a good target to defend but we missed opportunities. They grabbed their chances and deserved to win."

From 193 without loss, New Zealand slumped to 252 for six in the 43rd over before Chris Harris and Jacob Oram guided them

The highlight was the record opening stand off 197 balls between Astle and Fleming, New Zealand's highest partnership for any wicket.

The previous best of 180 was scored by Ken Rutherford and Adam Parore for the third wicket against India at Baroda in 1994-95. The first wicket didn't fall until

the 33rd over when Fleming was bowled by Wagar Younis for 60 off 91 balls. The partnership was helped no end by three dropped catches in

another forgettable fielding effort. Shoaib Akhtar dropped Astle on 13 and Fleming on 17. Shahid Afridi also put down Fleming on 39, and all three were straightforward Akhtar, who returned after

missing the previous two matches. also aggravated his left thigh injury in his fifth over after taking none

He returned to the field off a short run to take the wickets of Lou Vincent and Adam Parore with consecutive balls.

Fleming passed his previous highest score as an opener of 12 in his seventh innings while Astle reached his 27th one-day 50 off just 48 balls.

13th over and was clocked at 151km/h but soon left the field. Wasim Akram also suffered a side strain late in the match and left

the field. Astle reached his ninth oneday century in the 29th over after in eight days' time. just two hours at the crease, including 19 fours.

Wright and Martin Crowe's opening partnership record of 158 against Bangladesh in Sharjah in

Fleming, after reaching his Afridic Parore b Harris 25th one-day half-century, was then beaten by a sharp Younis delivery to end the epic stand.

No. 3 Roger Twose, in possibly his last one-day match, was dropped first ball by Azhar Mahmood at slip off Younis but was later gone for 17 before Astle's marathon knock came to an end.

He was caught in the deep off Akram just one short of his highest score of 120. He hit 21 fours and fed off the width he was given by the Pakistan bowlers.

Craig McMillan, Vincent and Parore fell quickly before the cool heads of Harris and Oram finished Pakistan more than justified

their decision to bat first, led by a

whirlwind 65 off 55 balls by opener Shahid Afridi and 68 from Yousuf Abdur Razzaq scored a patient "We're delighted. We looked at 41 and with Youhana added 66 for

Razzaq c Parore b Tuffey Youhana lbw b McMillan Farhat c Vettori b McMillan Elahi e Astle b Tuffey Moin c Astle b Oram Akram b McMillan Mahmood c Tuffey b Oram Younis run out Akhtar not out Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-5) Total: (All out in 49.3 overs) 285

Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-91, 3-157, 4-225, 5-226, 6-259, 7-281, 8-282, 9-285. Bowler Franklin McMillan

NEW ZEALAND Fleming b Younis Astle c Elahi b Younis Twose c Afridi b Akram McMillan c Elahi b Younis Vincent c Afridi b Akhtar Harris not out Parore b Akhtar



PHOTO AFP New Zealand opener Nathan Astle (R), who was later named man-of-thematch, being congratulated by captain Stephen Fleming after he reached the hundred against Pakistan yesterday.

Craig McMillan's introduction Oram not out Akhtar was brought on in the in the 43rd over did the trick as he removed Youhana and Farhat in the space of three balls.

Moin Khan smashed 36 off 20 balls but the last four wickets fell in the space of eight balls. The first test starts in Auckland

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fifth and final The pair also passed John one-day cricket international between Pakistan and New Zealand on Wednesday:

PAKISTAN Anwar c Parore b Franklin Extras: (b-1, lb-8, w-25, nb-5) Total: (For 6 wkts in 48.1 overs) 290 Fall of wickets: 1-193, 2-213, 3-

Bowler	0	M	R	
Akram	10	0	44	
Younis	10	1	66	
Mahmood	10	0	63	
Akhtar	9.1	0	67	
Razzaq	7	0	26	
Afridi	s2	0	15	
Result:	New	Zealand	won	1

four wickets, win series 3-2. Man-of-the-match: Nathan 12 Astle.

Nat'l Badminton Biman conquer all

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman reigned supreme in the 23rd National Bad minton Championship winning all the five titles as the competition ended at Pabna yesterday.

Div II cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Nobin Sangha and New Eaglets Club won their respective matches in the Acme Second Division Cricket League yesterday.

Nobin Sangha defeated Mill Barrack by 65 runs at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. New Eaglets earned a facile 81-run victory over PWD.

It's no longer a secret to Warne

INTERNET, Mumbai

Shane Warne, whose last visit to India was a disappointment, thinks he has found the answer to greater success this time.

As reported in rediff.com. Warne has chosen to bowl a slower stock delivery than normal, which he feels will help him take advantage of the playing conditions in India.

Warne took 4/47 in helping Australia dismiss India for 176 on the first day of the opening Test of the series.

Warne said: "I bowled really well; if I continue this way I should pick up a few more wickets in the series. I am bowling slower to adapt to the wickets. I'm not hurling donkey drops, but it's still slower than what I normally

Three years ago, Warne was hammered by Sachin Tendulkar as Australia were beaten 2-1 in the Test series. Australia's master legspinner took just 10 wickets in the three Tests at an average of 54.

Apart from bowling a slower delivery than usual, Warne also chose to bowl around the wicket much of the time.

helping me a lot in India. I get a better side-on view and I find I'm able to turn the ball more." he commented.

However, he is not allowing the early success to make him believe he will be more successful this time. He pointed out: "I picked up four wickets for 80-odd runs in the first Test in the 1998 Indian series but did not get too many wickets after that. I hope things don't fall into a similar pattern."

Shoaib could be sent home

AP, Dunedin

Pakistan's cricket tour management is considering sending Shoaib Akhtar home after the fast bowler broke down for the second time in as many matches on Wednesday.

Shoaib, who returned from a back and side injury after a 10month absence, strained his quadriceps in his second comeback match last week but again aggravated it during Pakistan's one-day series defeat at Carisbrook on Wednesday.

The tourists will be reinforced for the Tests with the arrival of three players - batsman Younis Khan, off-spinner Arshad Khan and wicketkeeper/batsman Humayun Farhat - while three players will return home.

All-rounder Shahid Afridi and batsman Imran Nazir are two of the three players making way for the new arrivals.

Shoaib could be the third player Pakistan bound and a decision will be made as soon as the team arrives in Christchurch in preparation for the first Test starting in Auckland on March 8.

Boycott nets new Pak deal

INTERNET, Karachi

Former England opener Geoffrey Boycott is returning to Pakistan for margin of defeat suggests that his showed they were completely a second coaching stint and is thought to be considering further visits in the future. According to the Pakistan

Cricket Board (PCB), Boycott will work for a week beginning on May 21. Chairman of the board Taugir Zia said: "He has confirmed his availability for one week. He will inform us about his tour plans in September and October later."

Boycott reportedly earned 30,000 pounds for his last visit to the country and there is thought to be a similar arrangement this time around. He will be joined by Essex groundsman Andy Atkinson, who has been recruited to help prepare pitches.

Taugir added: "If he (Atkinson) completes soil testing of the pitches in time, we expect that he would prepare surfaces for the home series against New Zealand." The PCB are also thought to be keen on securing Boycott's services during the series against the Kiwis later this year.



Patrick Rafter of Australia plays forehand against Ukranian Andrei Medvedev during their Dubai Tennis Open match yesterday. Medvedev won 7-6, 4-6. 6-1.

Corretja crashes

Tennis

Alex Corretja, hero of Spain's first capture of the Davis Cup, admitted after first round defeat at the has not fully recovered since the feel there was something wrong triumph two months ago.

made more mistakes today Corretja. than in one year," the fourthseeded former champion ac- control 15,000 people. Maybe the Lars Burgsmuller, ranked down at much into it." 122 in the world.

Davis Cup final because I was so Lleyton Hewitt because "it's a tired at the end of a long year. And different kind of relationship I we can work something out," Safin this is only my second tournament have with him compared with the said. since, but I was terrible.

"I was serving bad; so, so bad. I Corretja also said that he choose him - he's a clever guy had no rhythm and I was slow - it would speak to Wimbledon referee and he knows what my game is was strange," added Corretja, al- Alan Mills, who is also the referee like, and it can work between us I most certainly anxious not to risk here, about the seeding contro- am sure." a repeat of his predicament of two versy which caused Corretja and years ago when it took him many Albert Costa to boycott the grass know whether it actually will. months to recover from a virus.

It was even stranger that Corpletely, because he was quickly 4-1 will mean they will respect our and to have fun. up against Burgsmuller. But once rankings," said Corretja, who said the German broke back he proved that he still did not know how he top and to try to make history in an unexpectedly assertive oppo- would react to this year's Wimble- my country. But it really depends nent, breaking three times in four don.

tive ingredients to Corretja's day. he was seeking the help of former He had, he said, apologised to world number one Mats Wilander Patrick Rafter if the Australian had after beginning with an unconfelt that the crowd behaved badly vincing 7-5, 6-2 win over David during the Davis Cup final.

"I rested for a month after the would not have apologised to said. other Australians.

court Grand Slam last year.

Later Marat Safin, the top- needs the help."

There were however two posi- seeded U.S. Open champion, said Prinosil of Germany.

"He had said the crowd were Salin went a break down early Dubai Open on Tuesday that he too much and I don't want him to on and included in several bouts of head-shaking, afterwards acbecause we are all good guys," said knowledging that his lack of confidence was a problem he did not "But maybe it is difficult to know how to solve.

"I haven't had good results for knowledged after losing 6-4, 6-2 to people in Barcelona were too a few weeks and I don't know why - I want to do something to make But Corretja added that he it better," the 21-year-old Russian "I will talk with Mats and see if

"There are many reasons to

But Safin admitted he didn't

"The trouble is he has a family "I have heard there will be a and he doesn't need the money. retja should fall apart so com- change, but I don't know if that But he does want to be on the tour

"I want a few years more at the on him, because I am the guy who

Jayasuriya justifies it

Cricket

AFP. Colombo Sri Lanka skipper Sanath Javasuriva has rushed to the defence of his players after four of his team were fined following the ill-

tempered First Test with England.

part of the Sri Lankan game to

Jayasuriya said it was a natural

appeal constantly, dismissing gripes from England's players and management. Four Sri Lankans were fined 25 Fletcher has added to the umpirpercent of their match fees for ing controversy, although he unnecessary appealing and running towards the umpire following

the First Test against England at Monday. Spin-king Muttiah Muralitha-Arnold and Kumar Sangakkara

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

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stone's

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team, go!"

were all hit by a fine from ICC by local commentators here. match referee Hanumant Singh. But Jayasuriya was unrepent-

ant at his player's conduct.

last

stand

raphy

41 Picture

cards

43 Showed

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40 Autobiog-

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54 Put into

words

52"- Brock-

38 Crockett's 55 Ocean

"The players are human beings and they are used to appealing." Javasuriva said.

ball is always turning and keeping low, we tend to be appealing all the time," he added. England captain Nasser Hussain tried to maintain a safe dis-

tance from earning the wrath of

the ICC earlier this week, giving

only guarded criticism of the umpiring. But England coach Duncan stopped short of explicitly con-

"All I can say is if you were the Galle International Stadium on watching and didn't see what happened, you must be blind."

demning the umpires.

By Eugene Sheffer

— two" 26 Author

motion

56 Larch or

lobioliy

1 React In

horror

2 Initial

stake

4 Petioles

mouse

7 Bumped

8 Trattoria

offering

9 Alien

10 Carrots'

mates

11 Rue the

run

Solution time: 25 mins.

5 Treaty

6 Man-

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3 "Knit one,

DOWN

16 Still

22 AOL

24 Chart

20 Paleozoic.

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25 "Leaving

- Jet

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29 Bullring

30 Snare

35 Wapiti

39 Valuable

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37 Bulk

41 Big

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42 On the

Love

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44 God of

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46 Hamlet,

49 Numerical

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50 Free

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43 Lessen in

strength

portrayer

alternative

Hussain's comments, includran. Mahela Javawardene, Russel ing the criticism of overappealing, have been rubbished

"He is entitled to his own opinion on the umpires, but the margin of defeat suggests that his capital of Kandy next week.

side was totally outplayed," said commentator Sa'adi Thawfeeg.

He said England went spinning "In these conditions where the to defeat because they were unprepared to face the local tweakers and ended up making a bowler out of skipper Sanath Jayasuriya who is only a part-time left-arm spin-

Jayasuriya ended up with eight test wickets, his career best. Muralitharan, who is still recovering from a groin injury, took seven

"Apart from the umpiring controversies, the England team showed they were completely unprepared for the spin attack and they made part time bowler Java-

suriva a real Test bowler," Thaw-

Meanwhile, officials said police will be armed with blankets to cover potential streakers at the second cricket Test between England and Sri Lanka in the hill

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CRYPTOQUIP

QMFOVXYP, NHF WYDKWBYU

LMFDNFMKUX SKFNZBK GVKKS

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CANNIBALS ARE SUCH SYCOPHANTS: THEY REALLY BUTTER UP THEIR BOSSES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals I

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 puzzie. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Streakers won't get candy at Kandy Tourists stay apprehensive

Cricket

AFP, Colombo Police will be armed with blankets to cover potential streakers at the second cricket Test between England and Sri Lanka in the hill capital of Kandy next week.

will be given blankets to quickly tackle any streaker before making a splash in front of television cameras and the crowds, local officials It comes after two foreign spectators were fined 50 US cents for streaking during a rugby match

in Kandy last year, 112 kilometres

An inner ring of policemen at

the Asgiriya International Stadium

(72 miles) north-east of the capital Colombo, police said. For the two teams, they have bigger problems at hand.

England skipper Nassar Hussain. smarting under a humiliating defeat at the southern town of feared a repeat of controversial said Tuesday. umpiring an excessive appealing by the home side.

ralitharan who was fined 25 per- newspaper here. cent of his match takings for excessive appealing at the Galle First ments and signed all the necessary Test, will be playing on home turf in Kandy and the home crowd pen," he said. 58 | support for him will be formida-

The bad taste left after the Saudi Arabia in 1995 with Nigeria these conditions where the ball is Galle test lingered as both teams winning 2-1, A three-day practice match talks over friendlies with Norway time," said captain Jayasuriya in between England and Sri Lankan and Italy later in the year.

Colts XI was reduced to a one-day side was totally outplayed," said game on March 3 as the visitors commentator and sports writer found it too tedious to travel to the Sa'adi Thawfeeg. match venue in knamegala, offi-

their innings and 28 run defeat at skipper Sanath Jayasuriya who is the first Test that ended a winning only a part-time left-arm spinner, spell for the England team. England's Hussain questioned test wickets, his career best. Mudecisions by the umpires while at ralitharan, the feared leg-spinner,

lost to a superior team. "He is entitled to his own

Nigeria, Japan to meet in October

AFP, Lagos

Nigeria will play against Japan in a friendly on October 7 in London, Galle, has made it plain that he Nigeria's Dutch coach Jo Bonfrere

"Japan have agreed to play us on October 7. The match will be Spin wizard Muttiah Mu- played in London," Bonfrere told a "I have made all the arrange-

> papers. So, the match will hap-The two countries last clashed at the Inter-Continental Cup in

He said England went spinning to defeat as they were unprepared Local commentators also ac- to face the local tweakers and cused the visitors of whinging after ended up making a bowler out of

the same time admitting his team who was still recovering from a groin injury took seven wickets. "Apart from the umpiring conopinion on the umpires, but the troversies, the England team unprepared for the spin attack and

they made part time bowler Jaya-

suriya a real Test bowler," Thaw-

Jayasuriya ended up with eight

feeg said. Hussain tried to maintain a safe distance from earning the wrath of the International Cricket Council as he cautiously criticised England Coach Duncan

Fletcher too has added to the umpiring controversy, but stopped short of out rightly condemning the umpires. " All I can say is if you were watching and didn't see what happened, you must be blind." Hussain's comments, including the criticism of over appealing,

have not gone down well with the

winning side.

"The players are human beings and they are used to appealing. In always turning and keeping low, Bonfrere said he was also in we tend to be appealing all the defence of his players.

"Going round the wicket is