

Div II chess on Aug 30

SPORTS REPORTER

The Second Division Chess League starts on August 30 at the National Sports Council auditorium.

Interested teams have been asked to complete entry formalities on or before August 28.

Top two teams will qualify for next year's First Division from the nine round Swiss-League competition.

Cute handball

UNB, Dhaka

Arambagh KS defeated Dhaka Wanderers Club 14-6 in the CUTE Premier Division Handball League at the court next to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Arambagh KS led the first half 6-3. Sajal scored six and Likhon five goals for the winners while Faruqul Islam netted six for the losers.

The day's other match between Menjis KC and Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club ended in a 23-23 draw at the same venue.

Menjis dominated the first half 13-11. Hanif made team highest 12 for Menjis while Koko Wai 13 for Mariner.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Bangladesh Police vs Narinda Progoti Boys.

Rusedski rallies

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Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean. Haas said that it was different against Rusedski.

After a set and a half in which he broke in the second game of the first set and raced to 2-1 in the second with two love games, his physical problems returned.

"I started to feel my arm and elbow tiring a little bit," said the 24-year-old. "That was even more frustrating than the loss. I had no pain on Friday and then it came back."

"I can't focus on what I want to do." Haas said his game slowly collapsed. "I started losing my timing, my arm didn't give me the strength I needed. I'm doing a lot for it every day and it's not getting better."

BFF's EGM

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September to allow the national coach George Kottan to start camp for the Asian Games.

Bangladesh, who are scheduled to play their opening group C match against India on September 27 in Asiad, are likely to go to Bangkok to play four practice matches before they Korea for the Games.

Sultan also condemned the latest 'human-trafficking' scandal in connection with Chittagong Abahani's current tour of England. He said no one would go unpunished if found guilty by the three-member BFF probe committee headed by its member Kazi Usha Mishu. "The committee is trying hard to complete their report by Wednesday as we want to discuss the matter in our EC meeting on the following day," he said.

Like father

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knew I had to go for it." Ali has improved her record to 12-0 with nine knockouts, and has no plans to stop just yet.

"I'm just going to keep fighting, pick it up and go after the girls that have belts," said Ali.

Sharing the top of the bill was the fight between Armenia's William Abelyan and Panama's Orlando Solo for the NABO featherweight title.

Abelyan stopped Solo in the 10th round for a 20-4-1 record.

Duncan staying on



BBC, London

Duncan Fletcher says that he would like to remain as England coach for another three years.

There had been speculation that the former Zimbabwe captain, 53, would step down from the post when his current contract runs out in September 2003.

But he said that he would like to finish the job, and sign another two-year deal.

"At this stage I'd really like to

FACTBOX
1999/2000: England lost in SA 2-1
2000: Eng beat Zim 1-0 at home
2000/01: Eng won in Pak 1-0
2000/01: Eng won in SL 2-1
2001: Eng drew with Pak 1-1 at home
2001: Eng lost to Aus 4-1 at home
2001/02: Eng lost in Ind 1-0
2001/02: Eng drew in NZ 1-1
2002: Eng beat SL 2-0 at home

carry on," he told the Mail on Sunday.

"With the group of players we have now, our bases are covered and there is a lot of young talent around as well.

"As long as we don't start messing around, I think English cricket is



DUNCAN FLETCHER

in for an exciting two or three years."

England face a tough test over the next year, with a gruelling schedule beginning with the ICC Champions Trophy one-day tournament in Sri Lanka.

A five-Test Ashes tour to Australia also involves a triangular one-day

series, and that is before the World Cup, beginning in South Africa in February.

If they are to move up from fifth place in the ICC Test Championship, England will have to successfully negotiate home-and-away ties with South Africa and West Indies.

And they may have to do so without their inspirational captain if Nasser Hussain goes through with his threat to retire after the World Cup.

Since joining the side at the end of the 1999 season, Fletcher has formed a formidable team with Hussain, both on and off the pitch.

A 4-1 Ashes thrashing at home last summer was the low point in an otherwise successful spell for the pair, including away series victories in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

But Fletcher will have a chance to remedy that when Australia tour again in the summer of 2005.

The side that is 1-0 up against India with two Tests to play is a stark contrast to the one that had just slumped to bottom of the Test table when he took over.

"For me it is like building a house," Fletcher added.

"When I arrived there weren't even foundations let alone walls.

"Now I genuinely believe that we are close to putting on the roof."

Lankans outclass Pakistan



REUTERS, Tangiers

Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya made a brilliant 97 before leading his bowlers to an emphatic 39-run victory over Pakistan in the fourth match of the Morocco Cup tri-series.

Jayasuriya had fought an almost lone battle for his 97 off just 94 balls as his team limped to a total of 242 all out, before medium pacer Pulasthi Gunaratne claimed four wickets for 44 runs to bundle Pakistan out for just 203 in reply.

The result leaves Sri Lanka comfortably placed at the top of the triangular standings with nine points from three games. The final group match sees Sri Lanka square up to South Africa on Monday.

Jayasuriya was typically explosive blasting 12 fours and a six to most parts of the ground while his most important assistance came from Mahela Jayawardene who

crafted a far more sedate 43 during a fourth wicket stand of 111 that repaired some early damage and effectively won the match.

Russel Arnold worked hard during an innings of 34 from 51 balls as Waqar Younis (3-43), Abdur Razzak (2-37) and particularly Wasim Akram (2-29) maintained a tight grip on the closing overs when Sri Lanka seemed destined for a score of at least 260.

Yousuf Youhana, like Jayasuriya, fought an often lonely battle at the top of the order compiling a polished 80 from 91 balls but he received even less support than Jayasuriya with just two fellow batsmen reaching the 20s.

Shahid Afridi belted three sixes during a cameo of 26 from 16 balls and Abdur Razzak had 25 to his name when Mutiah Muralitharan trapped him lbw with a fizzing off break.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Morocco Cup one-day international between Sri Lanka and Pakistan on Saturday.

SRI LANKA: 242 all out in 49.5 overs (Jayasuriya 97)

PAKISTAN

Anwar c Jayawardene b Gunaratne 3

Nazir b Gunaratne 10

Youshan c Sangakkara b Gunaratne 80

Inzimum c Jayawardene b Vaas 5

Younis Khan c Vaas b Chandana 15

Razzak lbw b Muralitharan 25

Akram c Jayawardene b Vaas 19

Latif c Sangakkara b Vaas 3

Afridi c Chandana b Gunaratne 26

Waqar lbw b Fernando 5

Sami not out 0

Extras: (lb-3, nb-6, w-3) 12

Total: (All out in 43.4 overs) 203

Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-18; 3-29; 4-57; 5-127; 6-157; 7-168; 8-168; 9-179.

Bowler O M R W

Vaas 9 2 30 3

Gunaratne 9.4 0 44 4

Fernando 8 0 41 1

Chandana 7 0 35 1

Muralitharan 8 1 30 1

Jayasuriya 2 0 20 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by 39 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Sanath Jayasuriya.

Hi-tech coaching



BBC, London

Few areas of cricket have advanced as much in recent years as the art of coaching.

It was not so long ago the height of tactical invention was 20 laps of the boundary rope and 30 minutes in the nets.

And some recent England team officials seemed to reckon a hearty rendition of a patriotic ditty, before bounding onto the pitch with a few Gazza-esque war cries was sufficient to flay hapless foreign foe.

In April came the appointment of Malcolm Ashton as England team analyst.

Impressed by advances in software and video technology, coach Duncan Fletcher had asked Ashton to undertake a detailed assessment of player performance during last winter's tours in India and New Zealand.

Impressed by the results, the job quickly became full time.

"We'd previously used the Crisstat monitoring system", Ashton said.

"It allows you to log every ball for later use in a coaching and tactical

environment."

"However, in New Zealand, we saw a very sophisticated and more portable software package called Erickit, which provides a feed of the play into a TV screen incorporated into my laptop.

"I record this onto my hard drive and afterwards we can isolate each delivery, freeze the play and slow it down as far as 1/16th speed.

"The system generates its own scorecard, so finding a particular delivery or passage of play is easy. Duncan and Nasser can then identify specific areas of a player's game to work on."

Steve Harmison's technique has been analysed.

Each player's performance can then be stored on a CD.

Ashton explained: "After the Trent Bridge Test, we sent copies to Michael Vaughan, Craig White and Mark Butcher as well as our two debutants, Robert Key and Steve Harmison.

"The software allows us to draw angles, so we can assess arm movement or the position of the feet.

"For instance, with Steve Harmison, we've been analysing where he places his feet during the delivery stride, with the aim of correcting any faults and making him more efficient."

When his attention was drawn to the matter, the BCB president said he would soon meet with a lawyer to discuss the problem and if needed, he would go to court for permission to form an interim committee.

"I will do everything as per court's order," he said.

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India draw tour game

AFP, Chelmsford

India turned the final day of their four-day tour match against Essex here Saturday into a practice session for the third Test against England.

Ahead of renewing hostilities with Nasser Hussain's side at Headingley on Thursday, India captain Sourav Ganguly saw his team have the better of a draw against the England skipper's county.

That result seemed the most likely outcome after India, resuming on 231 for two, batted for a further 28 overs Saturday before Ganguly declared on 327 for six. That left Essex needing a huge 565 for victory.

Second time around they did not collapse against the off-spin of Harbhajan Singh (seven for 83 in the first innings) making 186 for three after 56 overs before Ganguly and Essex captain Ronnie Irani decided enough was enough.

Virender Sehwag took two for 52 with his gentle off-breaks, Richard Clinton (53) and Rav Bopara (47 not out) the main Essex scorers.

Opening batsman Sanjay Bangar added just a single to his overnight score before falling lbw to former England left-arm pacer Mark Ilett for 74 off 178 balls, striking nine boundaries.

The third-wicket pair had added only six runs when Bangar departed to leave India on 237 for three.

Then 237 for three became 241 for four with Wasim Jaffer (four) another Ilett lbw victim.

Venkatsai Laxman made a brisk 42 off 79 balls including one six and five fours before he was caught and bowled by slow left-arm Tim Phillips - to leave India 280 for five.

Ganguly (six) did not last long, caught and bowled by Ilett, who finished with four for 67.

Harbhajan Singh then smashed four fours and a six - driven off Ilett to long-on - to finish unbeaten on 29 from 21 balls, while wicket-keeper Ajay Ratna was 17 not out.

AB Bank TT

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Biman registered their second successive win in the AB Bank Metropolis Table Tennis Super League beating Brothers Union Club 3-0 at the NSC Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

Hamlet defeated Badal 21-11, 21-12, Mahubub beat Ripon 21-12, 21-14 and Goutam beat Shahed 21-15, 21-11 to earn the straight win for Biman.

Inter Sports beat Armanitola JS 3-1 in another super-league match with Munna beating Tuhin 21-13, 25-23, Munir losing to Baban 21-23, 19-21, Mona getting walkover and Munna beating Baban 21-13, 20-22, 21-13.

In the First Division Super League matches, Mariner Youngs Club beat Cynthia SC 3-0, Ajax SC beat Swamibagh TTS 3-0 and Khealaghar SKS beat Orka Club 3-0.

In the women's league, Biman Red defeated Swamibagh Gils 3-0, Biman Green beat Swamibagh Girls 3-0 and Khealaghar SKS 3-0, Ajax SC beat Surf Knitting 3-0 and Azimpur Young Star beat Ajax SC 3-0.

Ws burn S Africa

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four runs an over.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Pakistan innings in the Morocco Cup one-day international against South Africa on Sunday:

SOUTH AFRICA

Gibbs c Latif b Akram 5

Smith lbw b Akram 0

Kallis b Waqar 3

Dippenaar run out 55

Ontong c and b Waqar 10

Rhodes c Latif b Mahmood 11

Boucher b Mahmood 57

Kluserner not out 28

Boje b Akram 1

Pollock not out 13

Extras: (lb-2, w-4, nb-7) 13

Total: (All out for eight wickets in 50 overs) 196

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-8, 3-10, 4-29, 5-49, 6-127, 7-167, 8-171

Bowling: O M R W

Akram 10 2 31 3

Waqar 10 0 48 2

Mahmood 9 0 33 2

Razzak 10 0 39 0

Afridi 10 0 28 0

Malik 1 0 15 0

Umpires: Daryl Harper (Aus) and Simon Taufel (Aus)

Third umpire: Srinivas Venkataraghavan (Ind)

Match referee: Gundappa Viswanath (Ind)

Blake baffles Agassi



AFP, Washington

American James Blake recorded the biggest victory of his career to reach the final of the 800,000 dollar ATP event here on Saturday.

The 22-year-old Blake registered 25 winners and stunned compatriot and top seed Andre Agassi 6-3, 6-4 in just over an hour to advance to the title match of the hardcourt event.

Blake will take on Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand in Sunday's final. The 14th seed rallied past fifth seed Marcelo Rios of Chile 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 to move into the final at the William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Centre.

Surprisingly, Blake overpowered Agassi. Blake dropped just three points on his serve en route to taking the opening set.

Then, he broke Agassi's serve in the first and third games of the second set and jumped out to a 4-0

lead.

Agassi finally managed to break Blake's serve in the eighth game of the second set and pulled within 4-5. But Blake converted his first match point.

Blake will attempt to capture his first ATP crown on Sunday. He has reached two finals this year, losing at Memphis and Newport.

Agassi, a five-time champion

here, was competing in his seventh career semi-final at this tournament. But the seven-time Grand Slam winner appeared sluggish following his three-set quarter-final battle on Friday night against Thomas Enqvist.

Agassi recorded 19 unforced errors as his all-time mark here fell to 38-9.

He has four titles this year. He won the Scottsdale, TMS - Miami and Los Angeles hardcourt events and the TMS - Rome claycourt tournament.

Srichaphan advanced to his first ATP final since the opening week of the year, when he was the runner-up at Chennai, India.

The 23-year-old Srichaphan is gunning for his first title.

Rios also was a semi-finalist at Miami in April at the NASDAQ 100 Open.

Always a strong hardcourt player, the Chilean also reached the quarter-finals in Sydney and the Australian Open in January.

will see the benefit later on in the year."

However the volatile Irishman is facing a potentially troubled time off the field. Haaland - who has not completed a full match since Keane's tackle on him last season - is intent on going ahead with his legal case.

The Norwegian said on Friday he was taking Keane and Manchester United to court after Keane admitted in his long-awaited autobiography 'Keane - The Autobiography' that his tackle was meant to avenge the Manchester City player who had accused Keane of feigning injury during another incident.

"I waited until five minutes before the end," Keane stated in his book.

"I hit him hard. The ball was there (I think). I didn't even wait for the referee to show the red card. I turned and walked to the dressing room."

Although it is thought that Haaland was carrying an injury into the Manchester duel and his current knee problems, which may force him to retire, are actually related to his left leg, rather than the right one which Keane struck, he still believes he has a case.

Keane claims to have a clear conscience - although attempts were made late Saturday to diffuse the situation as the ghost writer responsible for penning his autobiography claimed he used "artistic licence" and "paraphrased" Keane's opinions.

"We thought it would be a nice football book, that it would be no problem," journalist and former footballer Eamon Dun