

Man, machine go level

AFP, New York  
Chess Grand Master Garry Kasparov showed his human side with a simple blunder that saw the supercomputer Deep Junior take the third match of their man-versus-machine showdown and level the six-game series.

Kasparov held his head in his hands Thursday night after a mistimed pawn sacrifice was pounced on by the Israeli computer programme, which went on to grind out its first win as the former world champion resigned on the 36th move.

Kasparov had won the first match in just 27 moves, while the second ended in a draw.

"I had a complete blackout," Kasparov, 39, said after the game. The Azerbaijan-born chess legend, who is still the number-one ranked player in the world, is being paid 500,000 dollars for taking part in the tournament, which is sanctioned by the World Chess Federation.

The match winner takes 300,000 dollars, and the loser gets 200,000 dollars. If the match is a draw, each side gets 250,000 dollars, according to the organisers.

Kasparov is still smarting from his 1997 defeat in a series of matches in Philadelphia against an IBM supercomputer known as Deep Blue.

Propaganda war

REUTERS, Melbourne

European Tour golfer Tony Johnstone believes the International Cricket Council (ICC) is wrong to insist World Cup matches should go ahead in his native Zimbabwe later this month.

Johnstone, who lives in England and visited Zimbabwe last March, says the safety of players cannot be guaranteed.

The players will be used as propaganda tools by President Robert Mugabe, which will make them perfect targets for protests by opposition parties, he said.

"I think if the players were sensible, they wouldn't be prepared to put their lives at risk and why should they," Johnstone was quoted as saying in the Herald Sun newspaper on Saturday.

"Anybody who doesn't think Zimbabwe isn't an absolute unadulterated shambles, they have got their heads in the sand."

"I wouldn't be going somewhere to play golf if they couldn't guarantee my safety. I think there are serious concerns about their safety."

WC's six-man

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technical committee: Ali Bacher (South Africa). World Cup executive director and captain of the last team to play official test cricket during the apartheid era. Responsible for the tournament's format, including giving six games to Zimbabwe and two to Kenya.

Malcolm Speed (Australia). ICC chief executive. The ICC has maintained that it is concerned solely with security and not political or moral issues.

Sunil Gavaskar (India). Chairman of the ICC cricket committee. Scored a world record 34 test centuries for India before pursuing a career in administration. The Asian countries support playing in Zimbabwe and Kenya.

Michael Holding (West Indies). The world's fastest bowler in the late 1970s and now a perceptive television commentator. A man of independent views, he announced he would not commentate on any West Indies matches after the selectors appointed Carl Hooper as captain.

Campbell Jamieson (Australia). ICC commercial manager. One of several Australians involved in the world governing body.

Brian Basson (South Africa). A former umpire who was involved in working out the World Cup schedule.

Lighter Inzamam

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play and need to lead by example. I have to carry the younger boys and they will only succeed if I am there in the centre to guide them, exactly the way Javed Miandad did in the 1992 World Cup," said Inzamam whose best score in the tournament remains 81.

He admitted that Pakistan had a rough last couple of months. But stressed that it was now a rejuvenated team and there has been a sudden change in the attitude of the players.

It's a quality they will need when they face bitter rivals Australia in their opening game here on February 11.

Pakistan lost to the Australians in the final at Lord's in 1999.

"We play against Australia first and irrespective of the result, we would know that we wouldn't face them again until the semi-final or the final," said Inzamam.

"That would allow the boys to stay focused on the remaining games, including against India."

"We played excellent and aggressive cricket in 1999 but suddenly the graph went down and we lost badly in the final. Now we can only learn from that."

Jeff wants it in SA

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

AFP, Pretoria

New Zealand's cricket team remained hopeful of playing its match against Kenya at a South African venue, Kiwi manager Jeff Crowe said Friday, following the team's earlier announcement that it would not travel to Nairobi.

"All the documentation is in the hands of the International Cricket Council, so I don't want to elaborate right now," said Crowe.

"But from Sunday the role of administering the World Cup moves to the technical committee and they then can make the relevant decisions on match scheduling," he told the SAPA news agency.

New Zealand bowled the first bouncer of the 2003 tournament by announcing Friday they would not play in their World Cup match in Kenya on February 21 due to fears for the safety and security of players.

The announcement was met with disappointment by both the organisers and Kenyan cricket authorities, who Friday extended a fresh invitation to the Black Caps to play the fixture in the east African country.

Later Friday, the ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed said that he recognised the Kiwis' concerns and that he would be working to see if there was any prospect of the match proceeding or being rescheduled.

"The issue of safety and security is clearly the main concern of both the ICC and New Zealand Cricket and, at present, NZC is not satisfied

that it is safe to play in Kenya," said Speed.

"We will make available our intelligence and security advisors to provide a detailed briefing on the advice that we have received in relation to this game."

"There are also independent processes available to the NZC through which it can seek a review of the ICC's judgement and decision. NZC is entitled to seek this



JEFF CROWE

review." However, the ICC technical committee is unlikely to reverse a decision by its own body that the games in Kenya and Zimbabwe should go ahead.

New Zealand's announcement effectively puts Kenya at the top of Group B just over a week before the official start of the tournament, while putting the Kiwis at a points disadvantage which could make a difference when qualifying for the Super Sixes, the second stage of the event.

Kiwi vice captain Chris Cairns said the loss of points was a non-issue.

"That is for New Zealand cricket and for the politicians, not for me. I just want to focus on the event and right now all that's important for me is our first match against Sri Lanka," said Cairns.

Earlier Friday, New Zealand Cricket chief Martin Snedden announced in Auckland the team would not be playing in Kenya.

"The board concluded that on the basis of the information currently available the safety and security risk for our players is too high," Snedden said.

He said the ICC security delegation to Kenya had received information there was a "terrorist threat" in the east African country, specifically the capital of Nairobi.

Last year New Zealand pulled out of a tour of Pakistan after a car bomb exploded outside their hotel in Karachi while, in 2001, they were playing in Sri Lanka when an attack by Tamil Tiger rebels on Colombo airport left 18 people dead.

Zimbabwe is due to host six matches in the World Cup; Kenya, two.

The remaining 46 games in the tournament, opening in Cape Town on February 8, will take place in South Africa.

Kenya has been hit twice by terror attacks linked to the al-Qaeda network of Osama bin Laden.

In 1998, more than 200 people were killed when the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam, in Tanzania, were bombed and last November, 11 people were killed in a car-bombing attack on a hotel in the coastal city of Mombasa.

NIA keep their eyes skinned for punters

REUTERS, Cape Town

Suspected cricket fraudsters have been targeted by South Africa's National Intelligence Agency (NIA) with just a week to go before the World Cup opens, it was reported on Saturday.

Vusi Mavimbela, head of the NIA, said that his organisation was monitoring arrivals in South Africa for individuals named on an International Cricket Council (ICC) Anti-Corruption Unit's list of suspects having links to cricket betting scams.

"We have to protect the integrity of the World Cup and if we have information that one or more people on the list were coming into the country, we will monitor them," Mavimbela was quoted as saying in Independent Group newspapers.

"We know that there are third parties normally involved and if they are communicating over the internet they may be using codes, so it is a huge task."

"But we will do as much as we can to make sure that this World Cup and its integrity is not compromised."

Mavimbela also said that his organisation believed South Africa was free of the threat of terrorism.

"The information at our disposal shows that there is nothing that will disrupt the games," he said.

"We have offices in all nine provinces (of South Africa) and the World Cup has been made a priority."

The tournament starts on February 9 with a match between South Africa and West Indies in Cape Town.

The World Cup is based in South Africa from February 9 to March 23. Six of the 54 games are taking place in Zimbabwe and one in Kenya.

FedEx Capt Cup golf held

PRESS RELEASE

Fafizul Islam and Mrs Haesim became men's and ladies' champions in the FedEx Captain Cup Golf Tournament that was held at the Savar Golf Club on Friday.

A total of 150 golfers including 19 female, 12 junior golfers from Kurmitola, Army Club, Bhatary, Jessore, Mainamati, Ordnance Factory and host Savar Golf Club took part in the tournament.

Besides, Lt Col Shah Farooq Hassan and Hamida Salam became first runner-up respectively. Maj Gen Abu Rosde Rokonuddowla became second Runner up in men's group.

Lt Gen Mahboob (Retd) and Mr Razzak became the senior winner and senior runner-up respectively. Redwan Bin Rokon became champion in the junior group while Sameo became runner-up.

Later, chief of Army Staff, and the president of Savar Golf Club Lieutenant General Hasan Mashud Chowdhury distributed the prizes among the winners.

Friendly cricket

UNB, Dhaka

The visiting University of St Andrews Cricket Club lost by seven-wickets to Beximco XI in their first limited-over match at the City Club ground yesterday.

Put into bat, The Scottish university team were all out for 136 in the stipulated 40 overs. One down M Bryan top-scored with 75 off 113 balls that included 12 fours and a six.

Murshed Ali Khan Sumon took two wickets for 15 runs, Neeyamur Rashid Rahul two for 11, Sajib two for 9 and Masudur Rahman Mukul two for 16.

Beximco XI easily reached the target in 17.1 overs losing three wickets in. Adil made an unbeaten 60 off 52 deliveries featuring nine fours while Rahul added 26 off 19 balls.

ICC softens

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through which it can seek a review of the ICC's judgement and decision.

"New Zealand Cricket is entitled to seek this review in light of any concerns it may hold and it is appropriate that the ICC's decisions are thoroughly scrutinised in this way."

The ICC has contingency plans in place should security issues put any World Cup fixtures in doubt.

And this is the clearest sign yet that it is willing to soften its initial stance and consider New Zealand's request to have the game against Kenya switched to South Africa.

The possible options include asking an independent ICC committee of up to five members to hear the dispute or arbitration through the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

And on Sunday responsibility for the tournament passes from the ICC's executive board to the six-man World Cup event technical committee, which could still decide to move the match.

If they are not satisfied with any decision, New Zealand could then appeal to one of three independent commissioners sitting alone.



Scene from the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National Chess Championship preliminary phase matches yesterday.

SA given wake up call

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

INTERNET, undated

South Africa were given a rude awakening just eight days before the start of the World Cup as they were taken apart by Western Province.

Neil Johnson smashed 71 off just 53 balls to take the state side home after their bowlers had dismissed the national team cheaply early in the day.

Youngster Quinton Friend took four for 33 as South Africa were bowled out with seven balls of their 40 overs remaining.

Skipper Shaun Pollock chose to bat after winning the toss, but his 26 was the highest score.

They suffered an early setback when Gary Kirsten was run out for two in the sixth over and Boeta Dippenaar soon followed when he was caught behind off Friend for six.

Jacques Kallis produced a frenetic display, collecting four boundaries from the seven balls he faced before being bowled by Charl Willooby for 17.

Opener Herschelle Gibbs lacked

his normal fluency in making 18 off 33 deliveries before he was caught by Ashwell Prince off the bowling of Roger Telemachus with the total on 49.

Western Province captain Graeme Smith, a controversial omission from the World Cup squad, turned to spin in the 13th over with Paul Adams coming into the attack.

It was a move which paid off immediately as the edge of Mark Boucher's bat and he edged to wicket-keeper Thami Tsolekile.

Adams followed up by dismissing Jonty Rhodes for 12 in the next over, as Renier Munnik took the catch at mid-on.

Pollock and Lance Klusener (19) added 46 for the seven wicket - the highest partnership of the innings - before Friend returned to polish off the tail.

The 20-year-old had Pollock caught by Adams and then removed Robin Peterson (17) and Allan Donald as Makhaya Ntini was left high and dry on 13 not out.

In reply, Western Province started steadily, with left-handers Graeme Smith and Andrew Puttick putting on 34 in 11 overs before a run out saw the end of Puttick for 13.

Smith went on to make 36 before Allan Donald bowled him but at 58-2 the state side were still on track.

And when Johnson and Ashwell Prince came together, the scoring rate surged.

All-American final

AFP, Tokyo

Top-seeded Monica Seles faced a scare before overcoming Chanda Rubin on Saturday for a place against two-time champion Lindsay Davenport in the finals of the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament.

Seles stormed back from one set down and a service break down in the second set for a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory in the first match of the all-American semifinals.

Third-seed Davenport, the winner here in 1998 and 2001, beat Lisa Raymond, her "best friend on the tour" and her doubles partner, with 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, sealing the match with her 13th ace of the day.



Winners of the FedEx Captain Cup golf tournament are seen with the Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Hasan Mashud Chowdhury (6th from left) at the Savar Golf Club on Friday.

Hosts have to defy odds

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

REUTERS, Cape Town

South Africa are well aware that no team have ever won the World Cup on home soil. They also know that, by all criteria, champions Australia are the team to beat in 2003.

No matter what the history books record, however, South Africa will still be under enormous pressure to win the trophy for the first time.

Memories in the republic are short and extend little further back than Edgbaston in 1999, when South Africa tied with Australia after a farcical mix-up between last-pair Lance Klusener and Allan Donald cost them a place in the final.

No South African - fan or player - has ever tried to hide the desire to avenge a moment still painfully seared into South African cricket's collective conscience.

There is certainly plenty of raw talent in the side - they have just crushed Pakistan and Sri Lanka in one-day series to prove the point - but it is as much in the mind that South Africa's players will be tested.

Along with the burden of expectation comes an anxiety to prove that world champions Australia are not their nemesis.

Defiance will be offered largely in the shape of the square blade and cussed aggression of the world's best all-rounder, Jacques Kallis,

who is at the heart of a strong core of regulars in the South African line-up.

Kallis has become as dependable and indispensable as the proverbial wheel for his side, and would try to win the tournament single-handedly if possible.

Only Australia's Glenn McGrath, meanwhile, can match Shaun Pollock for probing containment with the new ball and the South African captain's batting has also grown in authority since the last World Cup.

Fellow fast bowler Makhaya Ntini may be short of the finished article but he has developed into a genuine strike partner for Pollock.

Opening batsman Herschelle Gibbs is another trump card for South Africa and has begun to deliver on the promise that marked him out as one of the most gifted young players in the world.

South Africa will rely heavily on his ability to give the innings an injection of pace from the start, allowing all-rounders such as Pollock, Nicky Boje and Klusener to capitalise lower down the order.

"Attitude", in contrasting forms, will be epitomised by Jonty Rhodes and Mark Boucher.

Supreme fielder Rhodes will be at his fourth and final World Cup.

South Africa have so often in the past dived to his inspirational tune and his leadership from backward point will once again set the tone.

Wicketkeeper Boucher offers motivation of a different kind and is

the one player in the South African team capable of matching the snarling, confrontational approach often adopted by the Australians.

For South Africa, the World Cup will not just be about beating Australia. It will also offer an opportunity for the African nation to unite behind a team that is broadly representative of the whole country.

The United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa publicly committed itself to selecting five non-white players in South Africa's final squad of 15.

The last stages of selection will certainly have caused much head-shaking and hand-wringing around the country but the players themselves have been assured by board chief executive Gerald Majola that only the best 11 will take the field.

To win the World Cup, South Africa will almost certainly need to beat Australia - and perhaps more than once.

Victory for the host nation in the tournament final at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on March 23 would mean a great deal more than just the glory earned by the champions.

It would be a demonstration to the nation and to the world that change can be embraced by South Africa, without compromising the quest for success. However the journey has to be taken over a long and difficult road.

Brand Essex's

AFP, London

Australia's left arm paceman Scott Brand has been snapped up by Essex as their second overseas player for the 2003 season, the English county announced on Friday.

The 20-year-old Harare-born bowler will team up with Zimbabwe wicket-keeper batsman Andy Flower, who is set to return to Chelmsford for a second season following his international commitments.

Essex chief executive David East said: "We are delighted that Scott will be joining us this year."



LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan (C), flanked by State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman (3rd from left) and BFF president SA Sultan (3rd from right), inaugurates the HH Textiles Pioneer Football League at the Outer Stadium yesterday. The matches start today.



Chairperson of Scholastica Yasmeen Murshed gives away prizes at the end of the two-day annual sports competition of the school's middle and senior sections at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex on January 29.

Biggies made to sweat

<b>FROM PAGE 13</b>	Sanjay	10	1	50	1	Ziaur run out	43				
Nayan c Riyad b Rubayat	18	Jahangir	7	2	19	0	Hasan b Tapu	22			
Anis b Rubayat	3	Raihan	9	0	38	0	Mosaddek b Tapu	38			
Selim not out	21	Arafat	8	1	39	0	Mortuza not out	10			
Manjarul run out	48	Imran	7	1	23	1	Extras: (lb-8, w-11)	22			
Sabbir not out	4	Kabir	9	0	39	1	Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)	205			
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-9, nb-3)	17	<b>INDIRA ROAD KC</b>					<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Total: (For 7 wts in 41.5 overs)	144	Kabir c Nafis b Arif				74	Fall of wickets: 1/1, 2-25, 3-59, 4-63,				
Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-26, 3-34, 4-57, 5-68, 6-69, 7-140		Bappi lbw b Enamul				9	5-102, 6-151, 7-159, 8-205				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>			<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Shafaq	8.5	1	38	0			Lucky	10	4	31	3
Ziaur	10	3	25	3			Kamal	10	0	53	1
Enamul	10	1	26	1			Saju	10	0	40	1
Rubayat	6	0	14	2			Jewel	8	0	24	0
Arafat	3	0	14	0			Tapu	9	2	27	2
Ashique	2	0	19	0			Rashed	3	0	22	0
Nayem	2	0	7	0			<b>ORIENT SC</b>				
<b>Result: Victoria SC won by 3 wickets.</b>							Masum b Anis				8
<b>Mohammedan SC vs Indira Road KC</b>							Rabby run out				26
Venue: DCS							Sajat run out				15
<b>MOHAMMEDAN SC</b>							Jewel c Hasan b Ziaur				85
Javed lbw b Sanjay	15						Rashed c Aminul b Bhola				25
Nafis b Kabir	52						Nadim c Jahangir b Hasan				4
Anwar run											