

Singer chess

SPORTS REPORTER

The second round of the preliminary phase Singer 30th National Chess Championship completed yesterday with 19 players were sharing the lead securing maximum points at the NSC.

They are FM Shakil, Chanchal, Pollab, FM Amin, Lavlu, Maleq, Parag, Reza, Debaraj, Javed, Sohel, Anwar, Enayet, Nazrul, Mithu, Monir Khan, Sawpan, Naser and Bhawajit.

In this round Shakil beat Siraj, Chanchal beat Farhad, Pollab beat Main, Amin beat Apel, Lavlu beat Mahmud, Maleq beat Shamsu, Parag beat Anis, Debaraj beat Zahir, Reza beat Bisnu, Javed beat Moni, Naser beat Lipon, Sohel beat Ali, Mithu beat Rokon, Anwar beat Aslam, Enayet beat Tapu, Delu beat Janu, Monir beat Padma and Sawpan beat Eman.

StanChart school cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Donavan High School earned an exciting one-run victory over Jaintkathi High School in the inaugural match of the Standard Chartered 22nd National School Cricket Championship at the local stadium yesterday.

Batting first Donavan made 88 runs, Lokman captured five wickets without conceding any run.

In reply, Jaintkathi were bundled out for 87 runs.

Lokman was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Peace returns

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He failed to cleanly head in an Alfa cross from a vantage position.

Badda, who are struggling at the bottom of the table with four points, had their lone share of opportunity in the 20th minute when Moloy fired a sudden thunderous shot. But Brothers and second choice national custodian Biplob brilliantly fisted the ball away for a corner.

Yellow card: Iqbal (Brothers)

TEAMS

BROTHERS UNION: Biplob, Nazrul, Sujon, Titu, Liton, Iqbal, Monwar, Okelo (Abul), Arman (Rikta), Alfa and Victor.

BADDA JAGORANI: Al-Amin, Hafiz, Sumon, Nazir, Arup, Benu, Jahid (Tapu), Belal, Moloy, Johnny (Milon), and Pukul (Sabuj).

Referee: R Alam.

MSC apply

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reacting.

Mohammedan captain Jewel Rana also refuted the allegation that he rushed to sideline to assault assistant referee.

"I just appealed to him to cancel the goal."

Manager Amirul Isam Babu also countered the allegation that he became incensed on Thursday night. Vice-president Aminul Haq Moni and assistant general secretary Alamgir Iqbal also spoke on the occasion.

Mixed day

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No results of the girls' singles matches were available when this report was being filed.

The International Tennis Federation approved Group 3 meet features 178 players including 67 girls.

Besides the singles events the boys' and girls' doubles will be contested during the week-long competition at the Ramna National Tennis Complex.

Michael Leon of the Solomon Islands and India's Madura Ranganathan are the respective top seeds and earned a direct entry in the main draw.

Venus very serious

Australian Open

REUTERS, Melbourne

world like a carefree tourist down under.

She smiled and laughed as she answered questions from the media.

Well might she laugh. Even after a six-month break from the courts -- she has not played a tournament since the Wimbledon final last July -- Venus is still considered a favourite to win her maiden Australian Open crown when the Grand Slam kicks off Monday.

As at Wimbledon, Venus is runner-up to her youngest sister Serena here last year. She plans to go one better this time round.

The abdominal injury that ruined her season is now a thing of the past, Venus said: "I don't feel rusty at all -- I feel eager... I am bursting with energy."

"I started feeling ready to go about last November or early

December.

"I didn't like being away from the game. I don't like having to accept things... I am a person who usually makes things happen so I didn't like that at all."

However, once she had accepted she must rest the woman with two Wimbledon crowns and two US Open titles decided to make the most of it.

"I just took it easy, you know. Actually I was having a lot of fun. I was busier than ever."

"Then one day I looked at my tennis bag and I hadn't picked it up for months. So just putting it over my shoulder was real fun."

With a kind draw and injured second seed Kim Clijsters in her half of the draw, if third seed Venus lives up to her promise she will be having a lot more fun over the next two weeks.

India wait on Agarkar

BBC ONLINE, undated

Having drawn the Test series, India are looking to beat Australia for the first time in the one-day leg of their tour.

The two sides are clear favourites to reach the Victoria Bitter Series final with Zimbabwe having lost all three matches so far.

But India need to raise their game in Brisbane on Sunday after losing by 18 runs when they last met Australia in the opening match of the triangular competition.

They will not finalise their team until all-rounder Ajit Agarkar has undergone a check on a calf muscle problem.

If he is ruled out, Amit Bhandari would join Lakshmipti Balaji and Irfan Pathan in a seam attack with plenty of enthusiasm but desperately short of experience. Bhandari was discarded after taking 2-75 against Pakistan in June 2000 in his debut one-day appearance, but has earned a recall after some impressive displays for India A.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (from): Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn, Ricky Ponting, Andrew Symonds, Michael Clarke, Michael Bevan, Brad Hogg, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Brad Williams, Andrew Bichel, Ian Harvey.

INDIA (from): Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Saurav Ganguly, VVS Laxman, Rahul Dravid, Hemang Badani, Yuvraj Singh, Ajit Agarkar, Amlukul Kumbale, Lakshmipti Balaji, Irfan Pathan, Amit Bhandari.

PAKISTAN

	4	0	29	0
Hameed McCullum b Oram	48			
Farhat Mills b Oram	8			
Mahmood b Mills	2			
Youhana McCullum b Mills	0			
Inzamam run out (Marshall/Vettori)	67			
Moin b Styris	52			
Razzaq c Marshall Adams	89			
Malik st McCullum b Vettori	0			
Akhtar run out (Marshall/McCullum)	9			
Samitou not	3			
Shabbir run out (Styris/McCullum)	2			
Extras: (b-4lb-6, w-11, nb-2)	23			
Total: (All out in 49.3 overs)	303			
Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-53, 3-57, 4-73, 5-171, 6-265, 7-266, 8-294, 9-294				

Bowler O M R W

Mills	9.3	1	65	2
Oram	10	2	28	2
Adams	9	0	69	1
Cairns	3	0	16	0
Vettori	10	0	62	1
Styris	8	0	53	1

Result: New Zealand won 4 runs and take the series 4-1.

Man-of-the-match: Abdul Razzaq.

Toss: New Zealand.

Umpires: Darrell Hair (Australia), Billy Bowden (New Zealand).

Unimpressive

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while chasing such a paltry target.

They reached 91 in 21.4 overs with Habibul Bashar making team highest 27 off 38 balls.

Right-arm pacer Talha Jubair, vice-captain of the Bangladesh Under-19 team for the upcoming ICC U-19 World Cup, captured two wickets conceding 18 runs in 6 overs.

The seniors also won their first practice match against the same opponents by 117 runs at the Bangabandhu National Stadium where they play another limited-overs practice match tomorrow.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH UNDER-19: 90 all out in 33.2 overs (Nayeem 21, Dhiman 10, Aftab 14, Nazimuddin 10, Nader 6, Ashiqu 6, Abdul Bashar 2, Rubaiyat 4, Talha 1, Enamul Jr 6, Nazmul 0 not out; Mahmud 2-18, Rana 5-13, Rafique 3-10)

BANGLADESH NATIONAL TEAM: 91 for 4 in 21.4 overs (Hannan 20, Shahriar 1, Bashar 27, Rajin 12 not out, Ashraful 0, Kapali 15 not out; Rubaiyat 1-20, Talha 2-18, Enamul Jr 1-20)

Bowler O M R W

Akhtar	10	1	46	2
Shabbir	10	0	63	0
Sami	10	0	73	2
Mahmud	6	0	38	0
Malik	10	0	55	0

Result: New Zealand won 4 runs and take the series 4-1.

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Azlan Shah Cup final today

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Defending champions and favourites Pakistan know they are in for a tough final against Australia in the Azlan Shah Cup here Sunday and are likely to opt for calculated play, avoiding defence-exposing risks.

"The final is going to be tough as the Australians are peaking at the right moment," said coach Dutchman Roelant Oltmans, who has helped the Pakistanis to a recent revival of fortunes.

"The Aussies are strong mentally and my team will have to bide for the right moment to strike."

Australia held Pakistan to a 2-2 draw in the preliminary round match Thursday, when Pakistan had already booked their spot in the final.

Australian assistant coach Colin Batch said his team were ready for a good fight.

"The Pakistanis start off as the favourites in the final but we aim to make it tough for them," he said.

The Azlan Shah Cup has been held 13 times, but the two teams have only met six times, with the Australians winning four of the clashes and one match ending in a draw.

Pakistan have won the trophy three times, in 2003, 2000 and 1999. Australia won the inaugural tournament in 1983 and also in 1998, when they went on to win the Commonwealth Games gold medal.

WEST INDIES: Lara, Gayle, Ganga, Sarwan, Chanderpaul, Smith, Jacobs, Drakes, Dillon, Collymore, Edwards.

Bowler O M R W

Smith	24	5	90	0
Dillon	20	2	100	1
Drakes	33	5	101	0
Collymore	26	5	91	2
Gayle	7	0	39	0
Sarwan	14	0	55	2
Smith	3	0	9	0
Ganga	9	0	16	0

Extras: (b-1,lb-7, nb-6)

Total: (For 4 wkt in 136 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-301, 2-373, 3-422, 4-446

To bat: Boucher, Pollock, Hall, Ntini, Nel

Bowler O M R W

Boucher	13	4	40	1
Pollock	17	4	54	1
Hall	20	6	55	1
Ntini	16	3	41	1

Extras: (b-11,lb-7, nb-6)

Total: (For 8 wkt in 101 overs)

Fall of wkt: 1-5, 2-21, 3-39, 4-66, 5-90, 6-188, 7-215, 8-242.

Bowler O M R W

Deobrata	10	3	15	1
Sabir	41	13	76	0
Raihan	13	2	43	2
Hasan	36	12	99	5
Faisal	1	0	4	0

Extras: (b-11,lb-7, nb-6)

Total: (For 8 wkt in 101 overs)

Fall of wkt: 1-3, 2-21, 3-39, 4-66, 5-90, 6-188, 7-215, 8-242.