

## Chess Olympiad Men's team lose again

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh men's team suffered another defeat in the 36th Chess Olympiad at Calvia in Spain on Sunday when they went down 2.5-1.5 to Italy.

Three boards were drawn but International Master Reefat bin Sattar lost to IM Fernando Braga.

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman drew with GM Michele Godena, IM Abdullah Al Rakib shared point with IM Carlo D'Amero and Sheikh Nasir Ahmed held IM Giulio Borgo as Bangladesh raised their collection to 18.5 points after nine rounds.

The women's team, however, drew with Ireland to push their tally to 11 points.

Shabana Parveen Nipa drew with Suzzane Connolly, Zakia Sultana split point with Gearoidin Ui Laighleis while Nazrana Khan Eva drew with Hannah Lowry.

## Marat Madrid master

AFP, Madrid

Marat Safin sent over 14 aces and devastated David Nalbandian with six breaks of serve Sunday to win his second career trophy in Spain with a title at the 2.425-million-euro Madrid Masters.

Four years after lifting the Barcelona title on clay, Safin crushed Argentine fourth seed Nalbandian 6-2, 6-4, 6-3, to win another event in Spain.

It was the 13th title of the Russian's career and second in a month after Beijing in September.

## JFA Cup football Narsinghdi in last four

SPORTS REPORTER

Narsinghdi reached the semifinal of the JFA Cup under-16 football tournament when they defeated Sirajgani 2-0 in yesterday's lone match at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Arif opened the account for Narsinghdi seven minutes into the match while Mobarak extended the margin in the 82nd minute.

Narsinghdi collected six points from three matches in the group while Sirajgani bowed out with just one point.

Feni and Meherpur, on four and three points respectively, will play in the remaining group match to decide the other semifinalists.

## Harbhajan scare

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India to a 2-1 victory over Australia in 2001, Harbhajan picked up 10 wickets in the first Test in Bangalore, won by Australia by 217 runs.

India are already without first-choice paceman Irfan Pathan, who sustained a side strain in the drawn second Test in Madras. His place will be taken by medium pacer Ajit Agarkar.

Captain Sourav Ganguly is suffering from a groin strain but said he would be fit to play.

The 32-year-old suffered the injury while fielding during the Bangalore Test.

"I have a bit of a problem, but it's not major. I'm all right," Ganguly said.

The occasional seamer bowled in the drawn second Test in Madras without discomfort but went for a scan late on Sunday.

"I'm just taking all precautions. I'll definitely play this Test," he said.

# Enter Kamran, exit Moin



REUTERS/AFP, Karachi

Pakistan have dropped wicket-keeper Moin Khan for the second Test against Sri Lanka starting on Thursday because of his indifferent form with the bat.

"Moin has been dropped from the team and we have called up Kamran Akmal for the second Test on the request of the team management," chief selector Wasim Bari told Reuters on Monday.

Bari said new coach Bob Woolmer had asked for Akmal to be added to the squad for the Test.

"We will decide after meeting the captain and coach," Bari said. "We will listen to them and we will let them know our point of view. We want to help them in a positive manner."

Pakistan lost the first Test in Faisalabad by a massive 201 runs and captain Inzamam-ul-Haq indicated that Moin may have played his last Test because of his recent poor form.

"Moin has been struggling for batting form and we are going to try out Akmal," Bari said.

Moin, who has played 69 Tests and 219 one-day internationals scored just five and one in the first Test.

Bari said 18-year-old reserve keeper Zulqarnain Haider would remain in the 15-members squad.

He added former captain Rashid Latif was also under consideration for a recall to the team.

Earlier reports say, Pakistan's fragile batting line-up is once again under scrutiny as the team seeks to

regroup from its 201-run rout against the Sri Lankans in time for the final Test.

Inzamam was in no mood for mincing words immediately after the Faisalabad loss as he got stuck into the batting line up, despite himself contributing only 32 and three.

"Bowlers did well in Faisalabad but batting let us down and our batsmen need to show more responsibility if we want to save the series," Inzamam said, before applying the blow torch to luckless wicketkeeper Moin Khan.

"There will definitely be some changes as we have given enough chances to Moin."

Woolmer also laid the much of the blame for the loss on the batting.

"We couldn't produce one hundred in the first Test match, got three fifties, so in reality we have to look where are we going in batting," said the Englishman, who was coaching Pakistan for the first time.

"Pakistan has produced greats like Hanif Mohammad, Majid Khan and Zaheer Abbas so these youngsters need to emulate them."

If players are dropped, opener Taufeeq Umer and middle order batsman Younis Khan are among the most likely to break into the team for the Karachi Test.

On the bowling side, paceman Mohammad Sami, whose 43 wickets in 16 Tests understates his huge potential, will most likely miss the second Test after straining his groin.

Teenager Riaz Afridi, who anchored Pakistan's junior World Cup triumph in Bangladesh earlier this year, is in line to replace Sami for his

Test debut.

Perched at number three in the International Cricket Council Test rankings, Pakistan needed to win both Tests to rise to their highest ever position at number two. But now they will struggle to hold their current ranking.

## Sachin, pitch take

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returns from injury.

Australia are eager to wrap up the series in Glenn McGrath's 100th Test.

"McGrath is one of Australia's greatest bowlers ever and it's been a privilege to belong to an era where we've played alongside him. It'll be a great day for him," Gilchrist said.

The visitors won the first Test in Bangalore by 217 runs. On their last tour of India in 2001, they had taken a 1-0 lead but the hosts hit back to pull off a 2-1 victory.

TEAMS

**INDIA (from):** Sourav Ganguly (captain), Akash Chopra, Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Vangipurappu Laxman, Mohammad Kaif, Parthiv Patel, Ajit Agarkar, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Yuvraj Singh.

**AUSTRALIA (from):** Adam Gilchrist (captain), Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Simon Katich, Damien Martyn, Darren Lehmann, Michael Clarke, Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie, Michael Kasprovicz, Brett Lee.

**Umpires:** David Shepherd (England) and Aleem Dar (Pakistan).

## Ponting plays mind game

PTI, Nagpur

Australian skipper Ricky Ponting on Sunday said batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar would be under pressure when he takes the field in the third Test against the visitors starting here on Tuesday.

"Sachin has not played for almost three months and makes his first appearance on Tuesday and therefore will naturally be under pressure when facing us," Ponting told newsmen here.

Ponting himself has not played a part in the series so far, having missed the first two Tests with a thumb injury. Adam Gilchrist would continue to deputise for him this week as well, as Ponting was expected to play only in the fourth Test in Mumbai from November 3 to 7.

Ponting, who suffered the injury in the ICC Champions Trophy in England in September, said that the break in Tendulkar's case (more than two months) was longer than in his. "He (Sachin) has not played for almost three months."

The 29-year-old Tasmanian said India too were under pressure to win the Test.

"The Nagpur Test will give us the series if we win, and hence India is also under pressure. We are well prepared to take on Indian challenges," he said.

Ponting said Nagpur was conducive to the Australians.

"The climatic condition was very much conducive for us, it was hot and humid in Madras," he said.

He observed that Virender Sehwag was in good form.

## Corporate cricket

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Twenty20 match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (DCS). Grameen-Phone finished third in the group with six points, behind Araf Apparels and Bangladesh Biman both of whom finished level on eight points.

Biman's unbeaten streak ended in the competition when the national airliner crashed to a 30-run defeat to Araf at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS). In reply to Araf's 125 in 19.4 overs, Biman were all out for 95 in 19.2 overs.

In the other Group B match, BEXIMCO (124-6) beat Ispahani (96) by 28 runs at BKSP ground in Savar.

Newcomers Robintex Group topped Group A with eight points and were followed into the Cup competition by cellular companies AKTEL (8 points) and CityCell (6).

Robintex (79-6) defeated AKTEL (76) by four wickets at the BNS, CityCell (118-4) beat Epyllion (114-7) by six wickets at the DCS while Partex (94-8) beat Acme Labora-tories (91) by three runs at BKSP.

The second phase will begin on October 28. Both the Cup and Plate groups will be played on single league basis with the top four teams playing in the semifinals.

**GROUPINGS**

**CUP:** Robintex, AKTEL, CityCell, Araf, Biman and GrameenPhone.

**PLATE:** Partex, Acme, Epyllion, BEXIMCO, Gazi tank and Ispahani.

## Mariners win

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Kamal and Ranjan each struck once apiece for the winners. Raju scored the consolation goal for First Division side Farashganj, who lost 7-0 to Abahani in their previous match.

In the day's earlier match, second half goals helped Ajax Sporting Club blank Railway 3-0. After a barren first, Ajax found the mark one minute into the second session through Tutul Kumar who converted a penalty corner. Late goals by Rahat and Toufiq earned three points for the Elephant Road outfit.

## Tk 800 tickets

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sheepishly, compare that with the foot defence of the Tigers' batters.

And yet, he has never been coached and has learnt everything by watching others! Surely this boy would find interest in the Test? Not quite. Rajib isn't even aware that two of his home city batsmen Nafees Iqbal and Aftab Ahmed might be playing together in a Test in Chittagong for the first time.

Interestingly, the more senior lads who had just completed a net session beside the main approach to the MA Aziz were also not much enthusiastic about the Test the next day.

"Just hope they do well. What can we do if we don't have the talent? I'll be watching it on TV," said one disheartened young man.

The mood is pretty similar everywhere you look. There were no signs of the long queues that one saw before the Test match against England last October and locals are pretty sure that the attendance will not match previous Tests here.

## Mashud cries for support

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day. Okay, we didn't do to well in Dhaka. We got beaten heavily. But the difference can be much closer," said the Australian who has concentrated heavily on batting since the Dhaka debacle.

"We have spoken to all the batsmen and we are still doing that now in an attempt to combat the areas I've spoken about -- first new ball, second new ball, keep the wickets, play straight, make them earn you wicket. You don't want to give them too many presents. We had to earn almost all their wickets."

Regarding the pitch and the toss, Whatmore was rather philosophical.

"The wicket here probably has a bit more bounce than Dhaka. But I don't think tosses are an advantage, as you have seen in Dhaka, unless you are prepared for the competition. Whether you bat first or bowl, you have to be ready."

The Bangladesh think-tank have picked a 12-man squad and left out paceman Tareq Aziz Khan. There is an intriguing possibility that that three left-arm spinners might play for the first time in the country's history with Enamul Haque (Jr) partnering the wily Mohammad Rafique and Manzarul Islam. Enamul last played a Test exactly a year ago at this very ground against England.

Sources close to the team management have hinted that it will be a direct fight between all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman and Alok Kapali for the final slot. That will mean both Chittagoneans Nafees Iqbal and

Aftab Ahmed will be playing in front of their home crowd in a Test for the first time.

Nafees ensured his position with an innings-high 49 in Bangladesh's second essay in Dhaka and will open with Javed Omar. If Aftab gets the nod, he will make his Test debut.

Whatmore however said that they would take time before selecting the final eleven.

"Anything is possible, even three spinners. But whoever we decide to leave out, it will be genuinely in the best interest of Bangladesh cricket."

New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming thought that the wicket, which is devoid of any grass with even the loose grass topping cleared, seemed a good one for batting.

"It looks pretty similar to Dhaka. We'll gauge in the morning how much moisture there is in the wicket but I believe it will be very good for batting in the first two days."

Fleming was determined not to lose the intensity of the Dhaka victory.

"We want to be as comprehensive as we were in the last Test. We have practised hard and I'm sure you will see a much better performance."

"We want to win this Test as convincingly and for that reason you won't see too many changes in the team. We will have a look at the wicket tomorrow to assess what the best combination will be and then go about winning this Test."

## Test-by-Test

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|     |              |      |
|-----|--------------|------|
| 152 | England      | 2003 |
| 173 | South Africa | 2003 |
| 194 | West Indies  | 2002 |

(Less than 200 runs)

Test centurions

| Score   | Player      | Team         | Year |
|---------|-------------|--------------|------|
| 222 n.o | J Rudolph   | South Africa | 2003 |
| 204 n.o | Y Youhana   | Pakistan     | 2002 |
| 177 n.o | B Dippenaar | South Africa | 2003 |
| 119     | Y Khan      | Pakistan     | 2002 |
| 114 n.o | A Flower    | Zimbabwe     | 2001 |
| 114     | C Wishart   | Zimbabwe     | 2001 |
| 112     | T Gripper   | Zimbabwe     | 2001 |
| 108     | H Bashar    | Bangladesh   | 2001 |

Highest scores by a Bangladesh player

| Score | Player   | Inns | Against      | Year |
|-------|----------|------|--------------|------|
| 108   | H Bashar | 1st  | Zimbabwe     | 2001 |
| 85    | A Kapali | 2nd  | West Indies  | 2002 |
| 80    | J Omar   | 2nd  | Zimbabwe     | 2001 |
| 76    | H Bashar | 2nd  | Zimbabwe     | 2001 |
| 75    | H Bashar | 2nd  | South Africa | 2003 |
| 71    | J Omar   | 2nd  | South Africa | 2003 |
| 60    | H Bashar | 1st  | South Africa | 2003 |
| 51    | H Bashar | 2nd  | Pakistan     | 2002 |

(Minimum 50 runs)

Highest partnerships for each wicket

|          |                           |          |      |
|----------|---------------------------|----------|------|
| 1st 126  | M Trescothick & M Vaughan | Eng v BD | 2003 |
| 2nd 131  | H Bashar & J Omar         | BD v SA  | 2003 |
| 3rd 429* | J Rudolph & B Dippenaar   | SA v BD  | 2003 |
| 4th 70   | Y Khan & Youhana          | Pak v BD | 2002 |
| 5th 116  | R Clarke & N Hussain      | Eng v BD | 2003 |
| 6th 123  | C Wishart & D Marillier   | Zim v BD | 2001 |
| 7th 73   | A Kapali & E Haque        | BD v WI  | 2002 |
| 8th 99   | S Mushtaq & Y Youhana     | Pak v BD | 2002 |
| 9th 36   | K Mashud & M Islam        | BD v WI  | 2002 |
| 10th 34  | K Mashud & M Sharif       | BD v Zim | 2001 |

Most wickets in a match

| No of wkts | Player      | Country | Year |
|------------|-------------|---------|------|
| 10         | P Adams     | SA      | 2003 |
| 9          | R Johnson   | Eng     | 2003 |
| 8          | G Flower    | Zim     | 2001 |
| 7          | S Mushtaq   | Pak     | 2001 |
| 6          | P Collins   | WI      | 2002 |
| 6          | T Baisya    | BD      | 2002 |
| 6          | D Marillier | Zim     | 2001 |
| 5          | M Rafique   | BD      | 2002 |
| 5          | W Younis    | Pak     | 2002 |

(Minimum 5 wickets)