

Four share lead in Open chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Aminul Islam, Mehdi Hassan Parag, Mohammed Javed and Saifuddin Lalu shared the lead in the Open FIDE Rating chess tournament with full points after the end of the fourth round games at the Chess Federation auditorium yesterday.

Aminul beat Kazi Rashed, Javed defeated FIDE Master Rezaul Haque, Parag beat Mohammad Ali and Lalu beat Khorshed Alam Debaraj Chatterjee, Shafiq Ahmed and Farhadur Imam were following the leaders closely with 3.5 points.

Hooke's murder Lehmann to give evidence

AFP, Sydney

Australian batsman Darren Lehmann returns home from India on Friday, preparing for what may prove traumatic evidence in a court case over the death of his close mate and former Test cricketer David Hooke.

Lehmann is returning ahead of the Australian team for intensive treatment on his torn hamstring ahead of the beginning of court proceedings on November 15 in Melbourne that will force him to relieve some bad memories.

He was Hooke's side the night he died outside a Melbourne pub last January and will be the first witness to give evidence at the trial of security guard Zdravko Micevic, 21, who has previously indicated he will plead not guilty to fatally attacking Hooke.

Three days later Australia are due to play New Zealand in the first of two Tests in Brisbane.

"I'm first up so I can get to Brisbane," Lehmann told Australian Associated Press in Mumbai Tuesday ahead of the fourth and final Test against India.

"I think about it (giving evidence), but it doesn't play on my mind. It's more of a case that it's going to be a pretty bad day, but I've had plenty of those in the last while. You've got to do it and it's there for a reason. The system will make whatever decision it makes."

A curate's egg

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The visitors were reeling at 94-5 before Cairns salvaged them with stroke-filled 83-ball 74. He hit five sixes in his 23rd half-century.

"With a better wicket the score could have been much more higher. Yet the way Chris batted we expected the score to reach at least around 250," said Vettori.

The two teams will now return to Dhaka to play the last two one-day internationals at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Friday and Sunday.



PHOTO: STAR

Abahani's Musa Miah (C) goes on the attack against Mariner Youngs during their Club Cup hockey tournament clash at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

'Pitch error costs India'

AFP, New Delhi



Pakistan's former captain Wasim Akram said Tuesday the Indian cricket team blundered by failing to secure a tailor-made pitch at Nagpur, where they lost the third Test to Australia last Friday.

"The team management should have told the ground staff in advance what kind of pitch they wanted," Akram said of India's humiliating 342-run loss on a pitch

suiting seam bowling.

Australia took a winning 2-0 lead in the four-match series, their first series victory in India in 35 years.

"You don't speak to the groundsmen just two days prior to the match but at least 10-15 days before it," said the legendary paceman at a press conference to announce his association with an Indian sports management firm.

There is nothing wrong in making the most of playing at home. The coach (John Wright) should have ensured a good pitch for spinners," told Akram, the only bowler in the world to have taken more than 400 wickets both in Tests and one-day internationals.

Akram also felt India did not have enough back up men to take on a top team like Australia.

"Irfan Pathan's absence was felt in the match. He is the best among the Indian pacemen right now but sadly there wasn't anyone who could fill in for him," he said.

Pathan was ruled out of the match because of a side strain and will also miss the last Test in Mumbai from Wednesday.

"India's pace bowlers lack consistency and fitness," said Akram. "You don't see any of them doing well on a consistent basis and that is sad because they have a lot of potential."



WASIM AKRAM

Bennett backs Brian

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

New West Indies coach Bennett King has given early support to captain Brian Lara as the Australian prepares to begin his job in the Caribbean.

It is yet to be decided whether Lara, who led the side to ICC Champions Trophy glory in September, will keep the job.

But King told BBC Sport: "I've watched him perform his captaincy duties on the field and I think he's quite intuitive."

In a three-week camp starting on

November 29 he will help choose a squad for a triangular one-day tournament in Australia.

King said: "My first priority is to have meetings with the selectors and get to know the players so the camp will be quite intense.

"I will have a look at the structures in place. If there are some basic things we can implement when I first get there it will help us build a strong base for the future."

He added that the Test match rankings, which place West Indies eighth out of 10 "tell a true picture" about the state of cricket in the Caribbean.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer



Solution time: 21 mins.

Spiraling wages were mostly to blame with Lazio paying players 101 million euros last season, topping revenue of 100.7 million euros.

The windows of 56-year-old Eriksson's four-storey home were damaged after stones were thrown on Sunday and Monday nights, police said, adding that no arrests had been made and that inquiries into the incidents were continuing.

"Sven Goran" was also written in silver spray paint on the white pillars outside the house, the Daily Mail newspaper reported.

Calvia Open chess Nasir starts with win

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Nasir Ahmed defeated Spain's Diez Asonio Jesus in the first round of the Calvia Open Chess Festival in Calvia, Spain on Monday.

The FIDEMaster, who represented the Bangladesh chess team in the recently concluded 36th Chess Olympiad stayed back in Spain for the 9-round Swiss League competition.

The other members of the Bangladesh team, which finished 41st in the Olympiad, returned home on Monday.

Sangakkara fined

AFP, Karachi

The International Cricket Council (ICC) fined Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara 30 per cent of his match fee on Monday for throwing his bat after being dismissed in the second innings of the second Test against Pakistan.

"Sangakkara was found violating the ICC code of conduct when he threw his bat," match referee Jeff Crowe said after the match.

Sangakkara threw his bat high in the air after edging a delivery from Navedul Hasan to wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal.

The bat landed on the crease and bounced into the wickets, knocking off the stumps.

Sangakkara had made a defiant 138 to help erase a first innings deficit of 270 runs, but his wicket sparked a middle order collapse that eventually led to Sri Lanka losing the second Test.

BANGLADESH-NZ SCOREBOARD

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Rafique	10	2	28	1
Saleh	6	0	31	0

BANGLADESH

Aftablbw Mills	4
Omar Fulton b Mills	3
Saleh c McMillan b Mills	4
Bashar lbw b Styris	22
Ashraful c McCullum b Mills	2
Manzurul c Styris b Vettori	13
Mashud lbw b Styris	2
Mahmud st McCullum b Vettori	14
Rafique c Styris b Harris	11
Baisya c Adams b Vettori	2
Nazmul not out	1
Extras: (nb-1, w-7)	8
Total: (All out in 31.5 overs)	86

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-10, 3-23, 4-27, 5-45, 6-51, 7-68, 8-79, 9-83

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mills	7	2	14	4
Adams	6	1	24	0
Cairns	4	2	5	0
Styris	6	3	13	2
Harris	5	0	21	1
Vettori	3.5	0	9	3

Result: New Zealand won by 138 runs and take 1-0 lead in the three-ODI series.

Man-of-the-match: Chris Cairns. Toss: New Zealand.

Umpires: Mark Benson (England) and Akhtaruddin (Bangladesh).

Second match: Nov 5, Dhaka (D/N).

Sachin may

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ing just 10 runs at Nagpur, as will Venkatesh Lakman who has managed just 53 runs in the series.

LIKELY TEAMS

INDIA: Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesh Lakman, Mohammad Kaif, Dinesh Karthik, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Murali Kartik, Zaheer Khan.

AUSTRALIA: Ricky Ponting (captain), Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Damien Martyn, Michael Clarke, Simon Katich, Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne, Jason Gillespie, Michael Kasprowicz, Glenn McGrath.

Discipline

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have managed single Test wins in 1977, 79, 80, 1981 and 1995.

Batting is still Pakistan's bane: they made heavy weather of the 137 run target they chased to win against Sri Lanka on Monday.

"It is an open secret that our openers haven't fired as yet but the positive was that we had Shoib Malik and Abdul Razzaq fought to ensure a win," said Woolmer, of Malik who finished 53 not out and Razzaq 35 not out, adding that Pakistan's strength laid in their bowling attack.

"I thought in the absence of Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami and Shabbir Ahmed in the second Test against Sri Lanka the back-up bowlers did a magnificent job. This is a plus for us."

Woolmer, who was leaving for home to celebrate his wedding anniversary on Tuesday, will join the team in India and then fly to Pakistan for a training camp before the start of the Australia tour.

Captain Inzamamul Haq said confidence would be key to doing well against the World Champions.

"If you go to Australia with a couple of victories behind you it helps you to adjust better to the Australian conditions. We are keen to go there with a win over India also," said Inzamam, who has made four tours to Australia starting with the 1992 World Cup.

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

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Preview

A mixed night for Capello



AFP, Paris

to their opposition.

Bayern will pin their hopes on Dutch international Roy Makaay, joint top-scorer in the Champions League with four goals, but the marksman is firing blanks and failed to net in October.

"Roy is in a difficult phase at the moment," admitted Magath. "He is not a machine who can score in every match."

Bayern have scored 16 goals in 11 Bundesliga matches this season and shackling Makaay seems to be the key to stopping them.

Claudio Pizarro and Makaay are set to lead the assault on the formidable Juve rearguard on Wednesday but injuries have left Magath with a major headache.

Brazilian midfielder Ze Roberto is out with concussion, Hasan Shahidzic has a groin trouble while Andreas Goritz has a knee complaint.

With Roque Santa Cruz and Alexander Zickler both long-term casualties and Sebastian Deisler still recovering from depression things look bleak in Munich.

If Bayern were hoping that Juventus are just coming to a point then they will have been disabused by the Italian side's Czech master playmaker Pavel Nedved.

While Juve are going to the clash in Munich in far better spirits than their opponents as the Germans inconsistent form returned on Saturday going down to a 2-0 defeat by Borussia Monchengladbach having beaten leaders VfL Wolfsburg in midweek.

While Juventus may find it a pleasant surprise to play in front of a crowd at their home matches are often underrated. Roma players may feel more at ease in taking on Bayer without having to cope with their hysterical supporters and claim their first point of the campaign.

They have been banned because of the missile thrown at flamboyant Swedish referee Anders Frisk in their Group B opener against Dynamo Kiev.

With experienced defender Christian Panucci and midfielder Daniele di Rossi suspended Roma face a tough task in overcoming a Leverkusen side that eased to a 3-1 victory in Germany a fortnight ago.

However their visitors have a less than impressive record in Italy with just one win in six trips and come in on the back of a 1-0 defeat at the weekend.

Roma though will look to temperamental star Francesco Totti and forward striker Vincenzo Montella to get them the win that will keep their faint hopes of making the last 16 alive.

The group's other match sees a still unconvincing Real Madrid travel to the imposing and icy fortress of Dynamo Kiev with the Spaniards probably being satisfied with a draw which would take both sides on to seven points with two matches remaining.

Real's in-form striker Michael Owen will be the man the Ukrainians will have to watch out for as he bids to score in his fifth successive match for the Spaniards.

However the former Liverpool star acknowledges that having spoken to his team-mates he cannot expect an easy time.

"Some of the lads at Real went there a few years ago and say they are very different at home so I know it isn't going to be easy to score," he said.

Group D could see French champions Lyon make the last 16 if they win at home against disunited Turkish outfit Fenerbahce and Manchester United defeat Czech Spartak Prague at Old Trafford.

Lyon have to do without Brazilian

skipper Claudio Cacapa and French international striker Sylv