

Leonine move further ahead

SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Leonine Chess Club increased their lead at the top of the Dutch-Bangla First Division Chess League when they won their 13th round game against Mohakhali Prodig Sangha 3.5-0.5 at the federation hall room yesterday.

Leonine improved their tally to 49 points while newcomers Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krra Chakra and holders Bangladesh Biman also won their respective matches to stay second and third respectively.

Muktiyoddha beat Narayanjan City Chess Club 3.5-0.5 to increase their tally to 44.5 and the national flag-carrier blanked Rajshahi Daba Unnyan Sangastha 4-0 to secure 41.5 points.

In the 13th round, Leonine GM Dao Thein Hai beat Almasur Rahman, GM Iuldashey Saidali beat Kazi Taherul Islam, GM Niaz Murshed beat Farhadur Rahman Sabab and Mohammed Monjur Alam drew with Md Ibrahim.

In the other matches, Destiny 2000 beat Friends Chess Power 3.5-0.5, Bangladesh Ansar beat Star Vision Chess Team 2.5-1.5, Titus club beat BM Uttarahikari Sangsad 3-1, Dhaka University Chess team beat Anushilan Daba KC 2.5-1.5 and Farashgan Sporting Club beat Sonali Bank 2.5-1.5.

NZ put Australia

FROM PAGE 13 series there's only one result you can have tomorrow to stay in the competition," he said.

"So it's the first time for a while they've been under pressure ... but I'm sure they'll respond in kind."

Ponting said pressure was welcome in the Australian camp as the players responded well in those situations.

"We know this is a game we have to win but one of the strengths of this team is that when we have been in tough situations -- games we know we have to win -- we've generally played our best cricket," he said.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (from): Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn, Darren Lehmann, Michael Clarke, Andrew Symonds, Simon Katich, Shane Watson, Brad Hogg, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath (two to be omitted).

NEW ZEALAND (from): Stephen Fleming (captain), Nathan Aspin, Mathew Sinclair, Scott Styris, Hamish Marshall, Chris Cairns, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum, Daniel Vettori, Kyle Mills, Ian Butler, Chris Harris (one to be omitted).

Harmison raring to go

Cricket

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Steve Harmison hopes to pick up where he left off when South Africa and England clash in the first Test in Port Elizabeth on December 17.

The lanky fast bowler finally made his mark on international cricket when he took four wickets in South Africa's second innings in the last Test at The Oval in 2003 to help England win the match and square the series.

"It was massive, from that game onward I felt I could play at this level," Harmison told a news conference on Tuesday. "It was make or break at The Oval, that changed everything for me."

Harmison, 26, has since risen through the ranks to become Test cricket's top-rated fast bowler but remains modest about the title ahead of the five-Test series.

"It's not something I'm going to shout from the rooftops," Harmison

said. "I can't see Graeme Smith being too fearful about that when I'm running in to bowl in Port Elizabeth. Batsmen are still going to hit a 98 mile-an-hour half-volley for four."



STEVE HARMISON

Despite his honesty, Harmison is keen to show South Africa just how far he has progressed since they last faced him.

"The West Indies and New Zealand have seen the best of me," he said, recalling his excellent displays which helped England to 10 Test wins out of 11 so far in 2004.

"South Africa haven't, but I hope they will on this tour."

Harmison withdrew from England's tour to Zimbabwe on moral grounds and believes the break has primed him for the series in South Africa.

"It was a long summer and it's been good to have three months off," Harmison said. "Some people may say that's too long, but I believe three months off was what I needed. I bowled off a full run for the first time yesterday and it felt good."

England planned to train at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Tuesday morning, but the rain that has been falling since Monday meant the session was postponed. The squad may be forced to move to the indoor nets at Centurion, half an hour from Johannesburg.

New faces for Proteas

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

Two uncapped players were named Tuesday in the South African squad for the first Test against England in Port Elizabeth starting December 17, but there was still no place for deposed wicketkeeper Mark Boucher.

Opening batsman Abraham (AB) de Villiers and fast bowler Dale Steyn, both from the Centurion-based Titans franchise, are the newcomers in a 13-man squad.

De Villiers, 20, looks likely to play as a specialist opening batsman to partner captain Graeme Smith. Former regular Herschelle Gibbs was not considered because of a finger injury.

Steyn, 21, made a sensational entry into top-level domestic cricket this season and is regarded as the fastest bowler currently in South Africa. His selection for the starting line-up could depend on pitch conditions at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth.

Left-arm spinner Nicky Boje was included in the squad but will have to pass a fitness test after undergoing surgery recently to remove a growth in his neck. He is the only spinner in the squad and no other spinner was named on standby in

case he does not play.

Boje was named as vice-captain. He was earlier appointed vice-captain of the team for the tour of India before withdrawing over concerns about possible arrest or detention by Indian police over his alleged involvement in the Hansie Cronje match-fixing case in 2000.

Gibbs also did not tour India because of concern about possible police action.

Justin Ontong, who bowled a mixture of leg-breaks and off-spin in the second Test against India in Kolkata last week, is the only player dropped from the side that lost by eight wickets.

The non-selection of the experienced Boucher, who played in 75 consecutive Tests -- a South African record -- before being dropped for the tour of India, came despite outspoken support for him by coach Ray Jennings, himself a former wicketkeeper, in a weekend newspaper interview.

Thami Tsolekile, who replaced Boucher, kept his place in the squad. Tsolekile missed two crucial chances in the first Test against India in Kanpur but had a better match in Kolkata.

Boucher was named for the South Africa A team to play against England in a three-day match starting in Potchefstroom Saturday. Haroon Lorgat, named as

interim convenor of selectors following the demotion of Omar Henry by the United Cricket Board at the weekend, said the panel had largely stood by the players who went to India.

"We have stuck, by and large, to those players who toured India, and displayed grit and courage in very tough circumstances. We need battle-hardened, mentally tough players for this series and I believe we have them."

Lorgat said of De Villiers and Steyn: "They are two of the most exciting young players in the country at the moment."

"AB has been in rich form in the (four-day) SuperSport Series both this season and last and has followed that up with good form in the (one-day) Standard Bank Cup. He will be a strong candidate to open the batting with Graeme Smith."

"Steyn has that rare commodity, real pace, and although he is relatively inexperienced, he has shown tremendous potential this season and his form has been outstanding," said Lorgat.

Fast bowler Andre Nel, who was one of South Africa's stars against the West Indies, last season, was not considered because he is not yet fully match fit after returning recently from injury.

England start their tour with a one-day match against a Nicky Oppenheimer XI at Randjesfontein, near Johannesburg on Wednesday.

TEST SQUAD

Graeme Smith (captain), Nicky Boje (vice-captain), Hashim Amla, Zander de Bruyn, AB de Villiers, Boeta Dippenaar, Andrew Hall, Jacques Kallis, Makhaya Ntini, Shaun Pollock, Jacques Rudolph, Dale Steyn, Thami Tsolekile.

ATEAM

HD Ackerman (captain), Justin Ontong (vice-captain), Mark Boucher, JP Duminy, Charl Langeveldt, Ethy Mhlati, Albie Morkel, Andrew Puttick, Alfonso Thomas, Martin van Jaarsveld, Charl Willoughby.

Lee eyeing

FROM PAGE 13 by Lee's performance but said it was unlikely Kasprzewicz would be dumped from the Test side because of one poor over.

"Kasprzewicz has been an outstanding performer over the last 12 months and he went for a few runs in one over in a one-day game and that can happen to anybody at any time," Hohns said.

Diego wants out

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Relaxed and lucid Diego Maradona said on Monday he was waiting for doctors' approval to permanently bolt the Cuban drug rehabilitation clinic he has been "shut inside" for more than two months.

"I went there to reaffirm what I had done in the clinic here in Buenos Aires, and I'm waiting for the doctors to give me permission to leave so I can get to work," Maradona said in a televised interview on Argentina's Telefe channel.

Maradona returned to Argentina on Sunday night to spend the end-of-year holidays with his family. Since late September he had been in treatment for cocaine addiction in Cuba, where he has spent much of the last four years.

Maradona's family forced him to enter a psychiatric clinic outside Buenos Aires after he was rushed to hospital in April with heart and breathing problems, spending 10 days in intensive care while throngs of fans held vigil.

On Monday evening, the soccer great attended his eldest daughter's high school graduation in a Buenos Aires suburb. Police blocked roads leading to the school until Maradona's vehicle had safely cruised away.

Maradona, who rose from abject poverty to lead Argentina to World Cup victory in 1986, said his daughter's graduation "is the first in the Maradona family."

Sporting a goatee beard a wearing casual shirt and trousers as opposed to his usual jogging suits, Maradona said he wanted to assure people he was doing well.

He looked in good spirits, laughing at the TV show's impersonators of famous soccer figures and of Cuban President Fidel Castro, who is Maradona's personal friend.

Premiership Viduka breaks jinx as Boro win

AFP, Middlesbrough

Australia international Mark Viduka ended his 12-match Premiership goal drought in fine style here on Monday as his double inspired Middlesbrough to a 3-2 victory over Manchester City.

Strike partner Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink grabbed the other to end a nine game drought for the Dutchman after Robbie Fowler, Viduka's former fellow striker at Leeds United, had briefly pulled City level with his first goal from open play since the opening match of the season.

City substitute Bradley Wright-Phillips showed that his brother Shaun and adopted father Ian are not the only footballing talents in the family as he reduced the deficit to 3-2 by scoring with a on his Premiership debut with 10 minutes remaining.

Victory kept Boro in fifth position -- 11 points behind leaders Chelsea -- but well in contention for a Champions League place next season while City saw a five match unbeaten run come to an end.

Hall signs

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He also impressed with the ball during South Africa's tour of England last year and is in the squad for the first Test against England in Port Elizabeth starting on December 17.

"Kent has a squad capable of being competitive in all forms of cricket and I very much hope that I will be able to help them achieve success in 2005," Hall told the club's official website.

"Being a pivotal player in helping the squad deliver is very motivating."

Holland, Spain

FROM PAGE 13

beat Dutch goalkeeper Guus Vogels but shot wide off the empty goal.

When the Dutch earned their fourth penalty corner towards the end, Taekema let Delmeke take the hit and the captain did not disappoint with a stinging shot to the right of the Pakistan keeper.

"I think the scoreline was a bit flattering," said Delmeke.

"We were lucky that Pakistan missed a few chances in the second half. I think we will have to play a lot better if we are to win this tournament."

Pakistan's Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans, who returns home after the tournament to take charge of his national team from Australian Terry Walsh, was not unduly disappointed.

"If you look at the board, it looks terrible, but this was one of the best matches Pakistan have played in a long time," he said.

"We attacked more than the rivals and kept them under pressure. It was just unfortunate we could not get more goals."

Earlier, Pau Quemada scored two penalty corners and Santiago Freixa netted a superb reverse flick after a solo run down the centre to bring Spain victory against the Kiwis after



PHOTO: AFP

ONLY MEMORIES REMAIN: Maria Jaci Ferreira Nunes, mother of Brazilian striker Cristiano de Lima Junior, who died while playing for his Indian club Dempo in Bangalore on Sunday, sit with all the jerseys her son had worn in his career at her house in Brasilia, Brazil on December 6. De Lima, 24, who was playing for Dempo Sports Club of Goa, scored the winning goal for his team in the 78th minute of the Federation Cup final and collapsed immediately thereafter. Reports in the Indian media suggest that De Lima's death was probably caused by a thump given by the opponent goalkeeper.

Battleground Rome

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

REUTERS, Rome

Nine-times European champions Real Madrid risk slipping out of the Champions League with barely a whimper on Wednesday when they take on AS Roma at a deserted Olympic Stadium.

The Spanish side must win the Group B game to guarantee a place in the knockout phase of the competition, and with Roma already eliminated from Europe their main enemy could be the deadening atmosphere at the game, which will be played behind closed doors.

The prospect of playing in an empty stadium prompted Real coach Garcia Remon to lead training at a deserted Bernabeu last week to prepare his players for what awaits them in the Italian capital.

Real clearly had one eye on the Roma game on Sunday when a weakened team gave a lacklustre performance in their 0-0 draw at Villarreal.

Missing Luis Figo, Zinedine Zidane, Roberto Carlos, Raul and Guti they failed to create any clear scoring chances and were fortunate to emerge from the game with a point.

But the performance failed to dim Roberto Carlos' optimism about his side's chances against the Italians, whom they defeated on their previous

two visits to the Olympic stadium.

"This is the most important game of the season so far," he said. "We want to continue in the Champions League and we are confident of getting a great result in Rome."

"I'm convinced we will go through because we have a very strong group of players and then we will go on to reach the final."

Dynamo Kiev top the group on 10 points, with Bayer Leverkusen and Real both on eight.

Because of their inferior head-to-head record against the Germans, a draw would be enough for Real only if Leverkusen lose at home to Kiev.

Apart from the long-term absence of Jonathan Woodgate, Real's only injury worry is Figo, but the Portuguese winger looks to have shaken off a minor ankle niggle and should play.

Figo's return will mean that David Beckham, who will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of his first appearance in the Champions League, will move back to a central midfield position after two undistinguished performances on the right.

The game will also mark the return of Argentine defender Walter Samuel to the Olympic stadium, following his 25 million euro (\$33.62 million) move to Real at the end of last season.

With Roma rooted to the bottom of the group on one point, coach Luigi Del Neri has admitted his priorities lie with Serie A.

Marseille 'Sorcerer' dead

Football

AFP, Brussels

European Cup winning manager Raymond Goethals died on Monday aged 83 after a long illness.

The Belgian won the 1993 European Cup with French side Marseille -- the only time a side from France has captured European club football's premier trophy -- and the 1978 Cup Winners Cup with Belgian

giants Anderlecht.

His tactics gained him the nicknames of 'Raymond the Scientist' and the 'Sorcerer'.

It was with Marseille that he enjoyed his most successful spell with a side packed with talent such as Didier Deschamps, Marcel Desailly and Rudi Voller.

It came to a climax with the 1993 1-0 victory over AC Milan but ended in tears when Marseille were relegated because of matchfixing by then club president Bernard Tapie.

Whatmore ready

FROM PAGE 13

Mortuza, Talha Jubair and Tapash Baishya bowling together in the same match.

"Two of them returned after a long injury absence and that's why we should handle them carefully. Talha played one-day matches after recovering but you know five-day matches are a different ball game."

Meanwhile, tickets for the first Test go on sale from today at five branches of ONE Bank in the capital.

The branches are: Principal, Gulshan, Dhanmondi, Uttara and Imamganj.

Butt stakes a claim

FROM PAGE 13

would rather he play in the four-day game and got four-day match fit than play in the one-day game so we changed it," he said.

Spinner Shoab Malik also missed the match after hurting his right bowling arm playing table soccer but Woolmer was hopeful he would be fit for the four-day fixture.

"Malik has had an injection which is supposed to cure it -- it takes 48 hours so hopefully he should be ok for the four-day game," Woolmer said.

Despite Pakistan's lack of bowling firepower, Australian Test opener and Chairman's XI captain Justin Langer never looked comfortable and was dismissed for just one after edging medium-pace Mohammad Khalil to rival skipper Inzamam-ul-Haq at slip.

Western Australian state team batsman Marcus North was more settled, rattling off two fours and a six before he was run out while backing up at the non-strikers end for 26.

North's teammate Chris Rogers top-scored for the Chairman's XI with 61.

Earlier, Salman, along with fellow opener Imran Farhat, had immediately adapted to the near-perfect conditions, clocking up 24 runs off the first two overs by retired Test bowler Geoff Lawson and local

quick Ben Edmondson.

The duo carried Pakistan to 54 before Farhat lofted a Lawson delivery to New South Wales all-rounder Dominic Thornely at mid-wicket.

His innings of 25 included one six and a four and came off 29 deliveries.

Inzamam, playing his first cricket on tour after resting in the opening match against a Western Australian second XI, had looked confident hitting two boundaries before misreading the line of Peter Worthington's pace to be bowled middle stump for 16.

Western Australian batsman Mike Hussey caused the most damage against Pakistan with his medium pace deliveries taking 3-28 off just four overs while for the tourists Rana Naveed took 3-36.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the one-day tour match between Pakistan and Cricket Australia Chairman's XI at Perth's Lilac Hill ground on Tuesday:

PAKISTAN					
Farhat c Thornely b Lawson	25				
Butt not out	115				
Hameed c Casson b Dodemaide	4				
Inzamam b Worthington	16				
Younah c Rogers b Casson	15				
Razzaq c Rogers b Hussey	24				
Afridi c Ronchi b Hussey	21				
Akmal b Hussey	8				
Naveed c North b Worthington	2				
Khalil b Edmondson	10				

Kaneira not out 4
Extras: (b-2, lb-4, w-4) 10
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs) 256

Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-73, 3-99, 4-130, 5-178, 6-205, 7-217, 8-246, 9-252

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lawson	6	0	31	1
Edmondson	8	0	47	1
Dodemaide	5	0	25	1
Thornely	10	1	31	0
Casson	8	1	42	1
Hussey	4	0	28	3
Worthington	9	0	46	2

CHAIRMAN'S XI
Langer c Inzamam b Khalil 1
North run out 26
Rogers c Imran b Afridi 61
Hussey c Imran b Afridi 8
Thornely run out 38
Goodwin c Yousef b Kaneira 8
Ronchi b Naveed 51
Worthington b Naveed 3
Casson lbw b Naveed 0
Edmondson not out 1
Dodemaide c Khalil b Kaneira 1
Extras: (lb-10, w-4, nb-1) 15
Total: (All out in 45.2 overs) 213

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-45, 3-77, 4-117, 5-133, 6-203, 7-207, 8-208, 9-210

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Naveed	10	1	36	3
Khalil	7	0	33	1
Razzaq	10	0	45	0
Afridi	10	0	49	2
Danish	8.2	1	40	2

Result: Pakistan won by 43 runs.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Chief of Army Staff and president of the Kurmitola Golf Club Lt. Gen. Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury and Partex Group vice-chairman Aziz Al-Kaiser inaugurating the Partex 20th Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday. The four-day event will end on December 10.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 George W.'s brother

4 October stone

8 Suitcase

12 Eventual aves

13 Heap

14 Profession

15 Grill

17 Tackles' team-mates

18 Halay's "Oz"

19 Myopic cartoon star

21 Use an acetylene torch

24 "Of course"

25 Bulling bravo

28 Pal of Snow White

28 Inventor

32 Saxophone range

34 Accept

36 Applause

36 Appella-

DOWN

1 Chore way

2 Space-

3 Predator mine the

4 Outcome

42 Society newbie

44 Stations

46 Base of a jug band's bass

50 Director

51 Howard

51 Mid-east title

52 Road-blocks

56 Destroy

57 Risque

58 Gullible one

59 Repair

60 "She Sweet"

61 Reserved

22 Earthenware pot

23 Plagiarize

27 Bill's partner

29 Noblewoman

30 Send out

31 Staying power

33 Vot

35 Bankroll

36 Nevertheless

40 Persistent searcher

43 Smith of football fame

45 Islander's finger food

46 Nearing the treasure

47 Malaria symptom

48 Leg part

49 Island near Java

53 Skeddadle

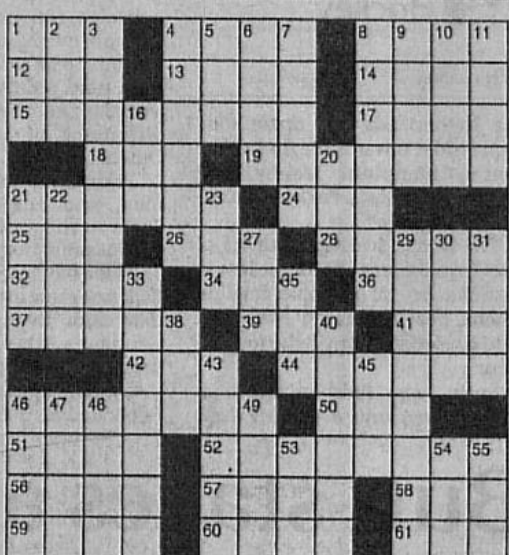
54 Cheer-leader's cry

55 Austin Powers, a.g.

Solution time: 25 mins.

ACROSS: 1. GEORGE W. BROTHER, 4. OCTOBER STONE, 8. SUITCASE, 12. EVENTUAL AVES, 13. HEAP, 14. PROFESSION, 15. GRILL, 17. TACKLES' TEAM-MATES, 18. HALAY'S "OZ", 19. MYOPIC CARTOON STAR, 21. USE AN ACETYLENE TORCH, 24. "OF COURSE", 25. BULLING BRAVO, 28. PAL OF SNOW WHITE, 28. INVENTOR, 32. SAXOPHONE RANGE, 34. ACCEPT, 36. APPLAUSE, 36. APPELLA-

DOWN: 1. CHORE WAY, 2. SPACE-, 3. PREDATOR MINE THE, 4. OUTCOME, 42. SOCIETY NEWBIE, 44. STATIONS, 46. BASE OF A JUG BAND'S BASS, 50. DIRECTOR, 51. HOWARD, 51. MID-EAST TITLE, 52. ROAD-BLOCKS, 56. DESTROY, 57. RISQUE, 58. GULLIBLE ONE, 59. REPAIR, 60. "SHE SWEET", 61. RESERVED, 22. EARTHWARE POT, 23. PLAGIARIZE, 27. BILL'S PARTNER, 29. NOBLEWOMAN, 30. SEND OUT, 31. STAYING POWER, 33. VOT, 35. BANKROLL, 36. NEVERTHELESS, 40. PERSISTENT SEARCHER, 43. SMITH OF FOOTBALL FAME, 45. ISLANDER'S FINGER FOOD, 46. NEARING THE TREASURE, 47. MALARIA SYMPTOM, 48. LEG PART, 49. ISLAND NEAR JAVA, 53. SKEDDADLE, 54. CHEER-LEADER'S CRY, 55. AUSTIN POWERS, A.G.



CRYPTOQUIP

R P K G K Q J F M V F Q I F V H
G K Y I T V R M V T F W R S S A F
U P K G Q R W R M K A K G V R

HYJJUHPTFHMKRAFS
Yesterday's Cryptogram: WHEN YOU CRY "I'M TENDING MY GARDEN NOW!" I SUPPOSE THAT'S A WEEDING ANNOUNCEMENT.

Today's Cryptogram Clue: S equals D

The Cryptogram 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.