

Sub-Jr chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Shamima Akhter Liza took solo lead in the 25th National Sub-Junior Chess Championship at the end of the sixth round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Liza beat three-time champion Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar to secure maximum six points. Sagar along with Abdullah Al-Saif, Arifa Khatun Moni, Rezaul Islam, Saima Almas, Saiful Islam Sayed, Olid Bin Munzil and Reza followed the leader with five points each.

ALL-KARATE OPEN

Farhana wins gold

UNB, Dhaka

Farhana Begum won gold medal in the first All-Karate Open International Championship that concluded in Kathmandu on Monday.

A 30-member team from Bangladesh Shit-Ryu Karate Do Association secured third position with one gold, eight silver and 10 bronze medals.

Nepal emerged champions while USA finished as runners-up.

A total of 250 players from USA, South Africa, Iran, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and hosts Nepal took part in the six-day meet.

Warne in two minds

AFP, Melbourne

Shane Warne left a return to one-day cricket as a possibility after revelling in his return to the limited-overs game in Monday's Tsunami Relief Appeal game against an Asian XI.

The master Australian leg-spinner took 2-27 to help a Rest of the World XI beat the Asian selection by 112 runs before 70,101 fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, which raised 14.6 million dollars (11 million US) for the victims of the December 26 disaster.

The 35-year-old has another three one-day internationals to further tempt him into re-thinking his limited-overs retirement after the 2003 World Cup in southern Africa.

Warne's one-day international comeback will extend into a series as skipper of a World XI to play New Zealand later this month.

And it may continue beyond that, with Test cricket's leading wicket-taker not quite closing the door on further limited-overs involvement.

Playing his first one-day international in more than two years, Warne took a wicket with his second delivery, tempting Indian Virender Sehwag to hit out to the outfield to be caught by West Indian Chris Gayle for 45.

Warne's effort prompted suggestions he should reconsider his retirement from one-day cricket.

"I did thoroughly enjoy it, but the reason I retired from one-day cricket was to give my body a break," Warne told a post-match press conference.

"The travelling involved in one-day cricket these days -- you play anywhere between 30 and 40 one-day internationals, two weeks here and two weeks there."

"At this stage, I'm still retired but I do enjoy playing it. Who knows down the track?"

Warne will captain a World XI in three limited-overs matches against New Zealand in a hastily-arranged replacement series for the postponed Sri Lanka tour.

He will be joined by Sri Lankan duo Muttiah Muralitharan and Sanath Jayasuriya at Christchurch on January 22, Wellington on January 24 and Hamilton on January 25 to raise more money for tsunami victims.



Syed Nurul Amin (L), managing director of ONE Bank, speaks at a press briefing in connection with the sale of tickets for the second Test and three one-day internationals between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at a local hotel yesterday. Khondokar Jamil Uddin (C), chairman of BCB's cricket and seating committee, was also present.

'Fire up or get fired'

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's cricket chief warned the national side's big guns to start firing during the rest of their Australian tour or face the chop following their 3-0 rout in the Test series.

"No player is bigger than the team," wrote Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan in a letter to players, the contents of which were made available to AFP by sources close to the board.

"As the team moves to the triangular (one-day) series in Australia it is an appropriate moment to convey the Boards and the public's concern at the disappointing performance in the Test matches," he wrote.

"No sensible observer expected Pakistan to win against the world champions but the required fighting spirit was not visible as the advantages in every Test were frittered away by lack of concentration, the inability to deliver the killer punch and the absence of key players due to injury."

He added: "Let me make it clear that a thorough review of management, player commitment and discipline is being carried out and

those found short on national pride and team commitment will not be saved by reputation or misplaced notions of indispensability."

Pakistan suffered a morale-sapping 491-run defeat against Australia in the first Test at Perth, losing a clear advantage after catching Australia napping at 78-5 in the first session of the series.

They went down by nine wickets each in the following two Tests in Melbourne and Sydney, again squandering early advantages in both matches.

The defeats were compounded by injuries to captain Inzamam-ul-Haq, who missed the last two Tests due to a back injury, all-rounders Abdul Razzaq (breathing problems), Shoaib Malik (split webbing) and fast bowler Mohammad Sami (heel and back trouble).

Pakistan begin a one-day tri-series with a match against Australia on Sunday with Inzamam still uncertain and a question mark hanging over fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar. The West Indies are the third team in the event.

Shaharyar wrote that he was concerned by the team's lack of fight. "The genuineness of the injuries is not in question but the will to fight it out on the field of battle was

clearly missing."

Former Pakistan great Imran Khan has also lashed out at the "spineless" performance of the team in Australia last week, calling for Inzamam's sacking as captain.

The PCB chief pointed out that after providing financial security through central contracts which give players a monthly salary and world class facilities through a foreign coach, trainer and physio-therapist, players must be held accountable for their performances.

"The team can draw positives from the performance of the younger players who will return mentally stronger and battle-hardened," he said. "We now need a committed team effort in the one-dayers to redeem our cricketing pride."

"I know captain Inzamam and his team have the spirit to achieve this objective," he concluded.

PCB chief Shaharyar had backed Inzamam and Pakistan's English coach Bob Woolmer after the Test defeats, saying they would not be sacked abruptly but a review of the team and management would be carried out after the tour next month.

Pakistan tour India next month to play three Tests and five one-day internationals.

Vaughan keen to deliver

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

England captain Michael Vaughan will be keen to lead by example as his team seek to return to winning ways in the fourth Test against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium Thursday.

Vaughan has come a long way since he made his Test debut at the same ground five seasons ago when he walked out to bat in the first Test of the 1999-2000 series with his team in crisis.

England were wobbling at two runs for two wickets when Vaughan went to the crease after two overs -- and they lost another two wickets without scoring another run before he got to face for the first time.

In the circumstances, Vaughan's top-scoring 33 was a fine effort, although he could not prevent England from being bowled out for 122 on the way to the first innings defeat suffered by England in 116 Tests against South Africa.

It was coach Duncan Fletcher's

first match in charge and Fletcher quickly established a reputation for stoic calm as he watched the carnage without betraying any anxiety.

Since then England have climbed into second place on the world Test rankings while Vaughan, briefly rated the best batsman in the game, led his team during an unbeaten run of 13 Tests during 2004.

England arrived in South Africa as favourites to beat a South African team in transition but they go into the Wanderers Test with the five-match series level at one-all after South Africa won the third Test in Cape Town by 196 runs.

Vaughan has struggled for personal batting form. He has reached double figures on all six occasions but he has batted but his top score is only 20.

After the Cape Town Test he acknowledged that he was one of the chief culprits in England failing to make big first innings totals.

"I'm probably at the top of the list for criticism," he said. "I keep getting 10s and 20s and then getting out and at this level you can't afford to

do that." England's batting was put under further pressure when the experienced Mark Butcher was ruled out of the tour Monday because of a wrist injury. It means Robert Key will keep his place in the team despite unconvincing innings of 0 and 41 in Cape Town.

"Last week, it was really very last minute," Key said Tuesday. "It was tough and go as to whether Butch would play. This may be my chance to nail my place down. Hopefully, with two decent wickets, this could be my big opportunity. I just have to make sure that I get some proper runs -- not just 30 here or 40 there."

The toss could be a crucial factor, as it was in December 1999 when South Africa sent England in on a lively pitch. There has been heavy rain in Johannesburg recently and there is still likely to be some moisture near the pitch surface at the start of the match.

South Africa, buoyed by the win in Cape Town -- their first in seven Tests -- are likely to include experienced wicketkeeper-batsman Mark Boucher, who was recalled to the squad after being dropped for the recent tour of India.

Real getting rid of English trio?

INTERNET SOURCE

Reports that Real Madrid are planning to off-load David Beckham, Michael Owen and Jonathan Woodgate have been laughingly dismissed in the Spanish capital as utterly ludicrous.

Before last night's 3-0 win over Atletico in the Madrid derby, sources rubbish the story -- published by three British Sunday newspapers, and utterly ignored by the Spanish press -- which suggested that new coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo was no fan of the three Englishmen and would look to sell them.

Were Beckham to depart, he would do so of his own volition not pushed by the club. While his performances, including his discreet display last night, have dipped and much as the possibility exists that Luxemburgo may not consider him fundamental in footballing terms, his marketing pull remains of enormous value to Madrid.

Even if Madrid were looking to sell Woodgate, which they insist they are not, they would be unable to find a buyer. Woodgate has suffered a recurrence of the torn thigh muscle that kept him out for nine months while at Newcastle and is not now expected to be fit until March at the earliest. Privately, medical staff fear that he may not return at all.

And although he is not currently first choice, despite boasting the best goals-per-game ratio in Spain, Owen, whose attitude and application have greatly impressed at the club, is one of the few first team members young enough to form part of a conscious plan to renew the Madrid squad.

However, he played just two minutes of last night's Madrid derby at the Vicente Calderon, his appearance designed more to whittle away the final seconds than anything else.

Hayden given short rest

AFP, Melbourne

Struggling opening batsman Matthew Hayden will be rested for Australia's first two matches in the triangular one-day cricket series against the West Indies and Pakistan, selectors said Tuesday.

The decision was made by the selectors in conjunction with Australian team management and Cricket Australia (CA) general manager of cricket operations, Michael Brown, a CA statement said.

Winning group

FROM PAGE 13  
As they usually came after a three or four day surrender. But this time they could relax.

"I don't have many words to express the feeling. Breaks in the past have been depressing most times but the victory means we can enjoy it this time around," said Bashar.

But Bashar was intent on staying focused on the unfinished business. "There is no scope for becoming overly enthusiastic because the job is only half done. We are looking forward to a first ever series win. The Zimbabweans showed their potential in Chittagong despite the huge defeat."

Murali, Howard

FROM PAGE 13  
Everybody -- he was in a completely different mood after that," Ashraf said.

Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland said it was pleasing that Muralitharan had been so warmly welcomed by Australian fans.

"Not just Murali, but I think everyone enjoyed a fantastic reception from the crowd last night -- there was just such a feeling of goodwill and positive energy," Sutherland said.

Sri Lanka are not scheduled to tour Australia again until 2008.

Don't call us Jewish!

Football

AFP, Amsterdam

Dutch football giants Ajax have stepped up efforts to rid itself of its image as a Jewish football team, Ajax chairman John Jaakke announced in his new year's speech this weekend.

"Ajax is being presented as a 'Jewish club' and some of our supporters have taken to calling themselves 'Jews' and an honorary nickname... I want to state for the record that Ajax wants to shed this image and will do what is necessary to achieve this," Jaakke said.

Ajax spokesman Simon Keizer told AFP on Monday that there is no historical basis for the club's Jewish image.

"It might be due to the fact that in the 1960s there were several players of Jewish descent but there is no historical basis for such an image," he explained.

After supporters of opposing teams started calling Ajax fans Jews, the fans adopted the nickname

themselves. At Ajax games fans wave the Israeli flag and have banners featuring the star of David.

Many hooligans from Ajax's infamous f-side stands have a tattoo of the star of David with a small 'f' inside.

"I am sure our supporters have no anti-semitic feelings. However, in a tense society such as we live in today, it can stir such feelings in others," Jaakke said.

Former Ajax board member Uri Coronel, who is Jewish himself, told the Parool newspaper that Ajax fans calling themselves Jews stirred anti-semitic reactions from supporters of rival clubs.

Many anti-Ajax chants refer to the Holocaust for instance.

Chants such as 'Hamas, Hamas, Jews to the gas' -- referring to both Palestinian Islamic militant group Hamas and the Nazi death camps -- are often heard from opposing fans during Ajax games.

Another macabre way of denouncing Ajax is hooligans from rival teams making hissing sounds to imitate the sound of gas flowing.

"I also remember a game where the opposing supporters chanted 'the Jews are goners, the Jews are goners'."

"That is really painful because in the recent past the Jews were almost wiped out. If Ajax distances itself from this Jewish identity we can also address other parties on their behaviour," Coronel said.

Recently in the Netherlands there has been a lively discussion about hurtful and discriminating chants during football matches.

Keizer said Jaakke's comments on shedding the Jewish image of Ajax were also a result of this discussion.

Keizer said the club had been trying to shed the image for a while.

"We do not want to launch a publicity campaign but we are intensifying the dialogue with our supporters and hope to create a mutual understanding on the matter," the spokesman added.

"The paradox that we have the image of being a Jewish club but that many Jews find it difficult to visit our games has to end," Jaakke stressed.



Garrincha (C) weaves his magic.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

The creator of Samba

Football

INTERNET SOURCE

If Pele had been the rightful King of Football, Garrincha has to be credited for putting the samba into samba football.

Even before the great one ascended to the throne as the planet's best player after his heroics in the 1958 World Cup in Sweden, Edson Arantes de Nascimento (Pele's real name) was not Brazil's first true football superstar.

That accolade belonged to Garrincha, a winger born with deformed legs, whose rise from poverty and exploits on the field encapsulated all that is spectacular, intoxicating and cheeky about joga bonito, the Beautiful Game.

Forget about his tragic descending into debauchery and alcoholism in his later life -- how he bled from his drinking habit and died penniless in 1983 at the age of 49.

Here was a man who, at his prime, symbolised arte-futebol, as the Brazilians call it.

The late Stanley Matthews has been hailed as the Wizard of Dribble, as did his contemporary Tom Finney, the Preston Flumber.

Both men were masters of the lost art of wing play, who had the knack of beating men.

But neither really had the ability to make absolute monkeys out of their markers.

Manuel Francisco dos Santos could. Under his alter ego, he was nimble, crafty and impossible to

catch. And some of his antics really takes the cake away from Pele.

It was this former textile factory worker who invented 'The Nutmeg' as a 19-year-old, when he put the ball through an opponent's legs during a trial match for Botafogo in 1950.

A referee once threatened to give him the red card for dribbling around the same marker too much.

In another instance, the flanker's artistry was not enough to keep a ball in play.

Nonetheless, the referee was so impressed by the player's artistry that he allowed Garrincha to carry on tormenting his marker on the running track.

The crowd pleaser is also credited for introducing the 'ole' cheers that is now a commonplace on the terraces. Taunting his opponents like a matador, the maverick invited tackles and casually side-stepped the challenges with an electrifying body swerve, which were richly rewarded with chants of 'ole' from the appreciative fans.

There was even one occasion when he deliberately left the ball behind and continued running. The poor defender in hot pursuit never realised this.

Off the field, the entertainer also endeared himself to the fans when his biographer revealed that the serial womaniser's manhood measured 25 centimetres long. Ole!

When Brazil played Fiorentina in a friendly in 1958, Garrincha dribbled past the entire backline, rounded the goalkeeper and waited for a defender to track back, wrong-footed him once more and sent the Italian tumbling

into the net before walking the ball into goal.

But beyond all the clowning is a footballer who achieved tremendous success on the pitch, too.

Brazil never lost a game whenever Garrincha and Pele played together.

In 60 appearances for the Selecao, the Angel with Bent Legs tasted defeat only once -- in his last international game against Hungary in the 1966 World Cup.

It has also been said that the World Cup has only been won single-handedly by two men.

Diego Maradona dragged Argentina all the way to the title in 1986. And Brazil, without the injured Pele, relied solely on the exciting and effective skills of the 'Little Bird' when they lifted the Jules Rimet trophy in 1962.

And this was all done with a smile, creating the carefree and infectious spirit that has since characterised samba football.

His heir apparent, the smiling Ronaldinho, is created from the same mould of men who played fast and lived life even faster.

But aside from his partying antics, Dutch midfielder Phillip Cocu revealed that the Barcelona man is a world-class footballer who is able to touch the ball four times in half a second. Garrincha would be proud.

Playing at the highest level and yet attaining enjoyment is a trait that is exclusive property of Brazil's.

Garrincha's spirit, essence and legacy lives on. Denilson, Ronaldo and new sensation Robinho are just three more examples of samba superstars who aim to follow in his footsteps.

PREVIEW: ITALIAN CUP

Juve on the edge

Football

AFP, Rome

Serie A leaders Juventus face early elimination from the Italian Cup if they fail to overturn a two goal deficit in their third round tie at home to Atalanta on Thursday.

Juve, who have a four point advantage over AC Milan at the top of the league, lost the first leg 2-0 and are on the brink of an ignominious exit at the hands of the league's bottom club.

With just one victory since their promotion, Atalanta look destined for a swift return to Serie B, but they are in a strong position against a team that has lifted the trophy nine times, more than any other club.

If Juventus are to recover from their first leg humiliation and reach the

quarter-finals, coach Fabio Capello may decide against selecting a second-string line-up, which he did to his dismay for the match in Bergamo.

He may even have David Trezeguet back if the club's doctors give the French striker the all clear to play. The French international striker has not played since October 3 having undergone surgery on his left shoulder.

In Thursday's other matches, cup holders Lazio entertain Cagliari, Udinese play at home to Puglian side Lecce and Roma visit Siena.

Lazio trail 2-1, Udinese have a 5-4 first leg lead, and Roma are 2-1 down.

On Wednesday, five-time winners AC Milan host Palermo at the San Siro holding a 2-1 advantage over the Sicilians, who held them to a goalless draw in the league on Sunday.

Torino, the only team outside of

Serie A left in the competition, face Sampdoria, who edged the first leg 1-0.

Fiorentina are well placed to reach the last eight after their 2-0 win over Parma, while Inter should have few problems ousting Bologna, who they beat 3-1 at the San Siro.

The Italian Cup is often lightly regarded by Serie A's top clubs, who have their eyes on bigger prizes, and their indifference is often reflected by a poor turnout by the fans.

FIXTURES

(all times GMT)  
Wednesday: Parma v Fiorentina (1400), Bologna v Inter Milan (1630), Sampdoria v Torino (1930), AC Milan v Palermo (2000)  
Thursday: Lazio v Cagliari (1400), Udinese v Lecce (1400), Siena v Roma (1630), Juventus v Atalanta (2000)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Stereo hookup  
5 "Cabaret" lyricist  
8 Fixed hems  
12 Particular  
13 Meadow  
14 "I cannot tell..."  
15 Strike-breaker  
16 Couple from Tennessee  
17 Comic Jay  
18 Seafood selection  
20 Paradise  
22 Scrooge's mutter  
23 "I -- Rock"  
24 Genealogy chart  
27 Liquid appetizer  
32 Tin Man's need  
33 Zilch  
34 Bobby of hockey  
35 Brunch entree  
38 Talk like an ass

DOWN  
1 Greet the villain  
2 Graving  
3 --  
4 Drink  
5 GOP  
6 Mascot  
7 Wild party  
8 Deil order  
9 Lift  
10 Som-  
11 concern  
12 Blanket  
13 Crocheled  
14 Grep  
15 Patriarch  
16 Wild party  
17 Deil order  
18 Som-  
19 meller's  
20 concern  
21 Night light  
22 Bell  
23 Barker  
24 Corn spike  
25 Excessively  
26 Periodic table list  
27 Trench  
28 Polish  
29 401(k)  
30 Alternative  
31 GOP  
32 Saute  
33 Mascot  
34 Music to  
35 17-  
36 Across' ears  
37 Superlative  
38 Suffix  
39 Word-finding  
40 Game  
41 --  
42 Course  
43 Oscar Madison, e.g.  
44 Waikiki winding  
45 ... and its entertainment  
46 Pay attention  
47 Con  
48 Fit in snugly  
49 Bob's longtime partner

Solution time: 25 mins.

ALBA PIT COPE  
TEAS ADO ANON  
ONTELLAM ELLI  
HAG ON BATHOS  
READ WEE  
SHOE LIMO JAW  
PUN RAVEL QAO  
YET OREO ABLE  
HOW SWAP  
BREAST PRINCE  
LAWY CHAT ELLI  
OJALI NOW GAAR  
GAYS TOO LOOS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14  
15 16 17  
18 19 20 21  
22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31  
32 33 34  
35 36 37 38  
39 40 41  
42 43 44 45 46 47 48  
49 50 51 52  
53 54 55  
56 57 58

CRYPTOQUIP  
XS OSH WYZKLY GBJG  
LYAO USUHJIA NSJU SUYA  
NB SHZX WY XHWYX  
BSG NYAKJZ?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN NUCLEAI CHEMISTS PASS AWAY, I SUPPOSE IT! COMPLETELY SUITABLE TO BARIUM.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals T  
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.

When the wait ended

FROM PAGE 13  
by Aamir Sohail, Ijaz Ahmed and Inzamam-ul-Haq, Pakistan fell 22 runs short of avoiding the follow-on.

The visitors crashed to 158 all out in the second innings with Inzamam making another Test fifty.

South Africa needed exactly a dozen matches before opening their account with an exciting one-wicket win over England at the Old Wanderers in 1906. In a game of fluctuating fortunes the South Africans reached their daunting 284-run target with one wicket spare.

Sri Lanka required one more game than South Africa for their maiden Test victory when beat India by 149 runs at the P. Saravanamuttu Stadium in 1985. The Lankans never looked back after amassing 385 in their first innings thanks to S Silva's 111, Roy Dias' 95, Rangan Madugalle (54) and Dileep Mendis with 51. Indian bowlers Chetan Sharma and Ravi Shastri shared eight wickets. The fancied Indians toiled before reaching 244. Notable contributors were Srikanth (64), legendary Sunil Gavaskar 52 and fellow World Cupper Jimmy Amarnath with 60. Lankan pace man Ravi Ratnayake bagged nine wickets in the match. India were set a victory target of 348 after Sri Lanka declared on 206-3. It was beyond their reach and the

mighty Indians were bowled out for 198.