

C'WEALTH CHESS 14th place for Zia

SPORTS REPORTER

British Grandmaster Nigel Short emerged unbeaten champion in the securing nine points in the Commonwealth Chess Championship which concluded in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Bangladeshi GM Ziaur Rahman finished 14th with seven points while his fellow GM Niaz Mosharraf clinched 35th place with six points.

In the final and tenth round, Zia beat Indian Woman Grandmaster Karavade Eesha while Niaz drew with Sethuamani of India.

Gibbs takes

FROM PAGE 17
plumb lbw playing across the line and then caught Justin Kemp first ball when the powerful right-hander chopped Sachin Tendulkar straight to him at point.

At 155-6 the Indians sensed an opening, but just as Kalis and Kemp had done in the second and third games, one man stood tall for South Africa.

This time it was Gibbs, who patiently worked the ball around and collected eight boundaries off 123 balls.

Pollock provided the late flourish, clubbing Sehwag and Tendulkar over the long-on fence in a 43-ball cameo, to help set another testing target for the Indians.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of South Africa innings in the fourth one-day international against India in Port Elizabeth on Wednesday:

SOUTHAFRICA

	O	M	R	W
Smith lbw Zaheer	8	1	38	1
Bosman lbw Sreesanth	7	1	29	1
Kallis c Dhoni b Kumble	5	0	33	0
Gibbs not out	93	0	28	0
De Villiers lbw Kumble	13	0	28	0
Boucher lbw Sehwag	29	0	28	0
Kemp c Sehwag b Tendulkar	0	0	28	0
Pollock run out	37	0	28	0
Hall run out	13	0	28	0
Nel not out	0	0	28	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, nb-2, w-2)	9	0	28	0
Total: (For 8 wkts 50 overs)	243	0	28	0
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-6, 3-75, 4-93, 5-154, 6-155, 7-216, 8-240.				
Did not bat: M. Ntini				

Bowler O M R W
Zaheer 8 1 38 1
Sreesanth 7 1 29 1
Agarkar 5 0 33 0
Pathan 7 0 28 0
Kumble 10 0 42 2
Sehwag 5 0 22 1
Tendulkar 8 0 46 1

Valencia put

FROM PAGE 20
The 24-year-old, who has struck five goals in 12 league appearances this campaign, is under contract at the Mestalla until June 2013.

"Villa is a crucial player for us now and in the future," added Soler.

Chelsea sporting director Frank Armesen is currently in Valencia with the Premiership champions' youth team, who play a friendly against their Valencia counterparts on Wednesday.

Armesen insisted he was unaware of any interest in Villa when quizzed on the subject by the Spanish media.

He said: "I don't know anything.

"That is an issue of the first team and those matters are dealt with by coach Jose Mourinho and chief executive Peter Kenyon."

Armesen, a former Valencia player, admitted he was a fan of Villa, but insisted the Blues already possessed a strong squad.

"He is a very good player, but at Chelsea we already have very good players," he added.

Ranatunga bats

FROM PAGE 17
performance. There can be issues within the side, but the country comes first and all these petty things are immaterial," said Ranatunga.

India, on a tour of South Africa, have conceded an unbeatable lead in a five-match one-day series. They lost two matches by over 100 runs with one match rained out. A three-Test series will follow the one-dayers.

"Ganguly is a match-winner and we had the utmost respect for him when we played against India," said 42-year-old Ranatunga, who led Sri Lanka to an epic World Cup triumph in 1996.

"As a captain he showed a lot of aggression as well, and it's he who showed recent Indian teams how to be ruthless. He certainly has been the toughest Indian captain in recent times," Ranatunga said.

"I feel sorry for India. It's a crime to keep out such a talented player, and I don't think India is picking its best team at the moment."

"The instances he must have missed out on personal landmarks, for the sake of the team, are numerous. I love those types of players and teams need them," said Ranatunga.

The former skipper also said India were capable of winning next year's World Cup in the West Indies.

"No team has such a batting line up. When you have Sachin (Tendulkar), (Virender) Sehwag, (Sourav) Ganguly, (Mohammad) Kaif, (Yuvra) Singh, (Rahul) Dravid and (Mahendra) Dhoni, you can chase any target."

"It's like our batting line up when we won the World Cup," said Ranatunga, a left-handed middle-order batsman who scored 5,105 runs in 93 Tests and 7,456 in 269 one-day internationals.



PHOTO: AFP

LONG-AWAITED RETURN: England Ashes-winning captain Michael Vaughan takes to the field at Richardson Park in Perth on Wednesday to complete his much-anticipated comeback from injury.

Vaughan scores duck on return



AFP, Perth

Despite failing to trouble the scorers in his comeback match, former England skipper Michael Vaughan hasn't ruled out a surprise Test return during the current Ashes series.

Vaughan was dismissed for a seven-ball duck as the England Academy XI were beaten by the West Australian Second XI here Wednesday, his first outing since the surgery on his troublesome right knee that sidelined him from the Ashes squad.

But the 2005 Ashes hero was in a buoyant mood after the game, his first since playing for Yorkshire in May.

Vaughan was pleased to get through the match unscathed and, with a game under his belt, said he hoped to accelerate his rehabilitation.

There has been plenty of speculation that Vaughan, who hasn't played Test cricket since November last year, could be in line for a surprise Ashes recall as early as the third Test at the WACA Ground, starting on December 14.

Asked about his Ashes chances, Vaughan wasn't ruling out the possibility.

"Certainly not the second (Test), as that is starting on Friday," he said after the day's play.

"I honestly don't know, this is the first day of what has been a long rehab programme."

"I just have to look to train hard over the next week, play the game next Wednesday and look to play a few more games and see where it takes us."

The England camp has maintained Vaughan would not play until the triangular one-day series, which starts mid-January.

Vaughan said he was already ahead of schedule, as he hadn't planned to play any cricket until January.

Although caught behind without scoring, a buoyant Vaughan said the positives far outweighed the negatives.

"I'm slightly disappointed I didn't get any runs," he said.

"To be honest, today was all about getting back playing cricket, so it is a huge positive for me that I am back on the field."

"It is early stages of a comeback, but six months ago I never thought I would get to the stage of playing cricket again and it was a really tough time."

Vaughan could have up to four outings before the Perth Test.

His next outing is expected to be in another England Academy game in Perth on December 6.

He is then tipped to play in the Lilac Hill Festival Match on December 8.

If the English are considering recalling Vaughan, he could also play in the two-day clash with Western Australia on December 9 and 10 at the WACA Ground.

"For me, it is a good day."

Coming in with his side in trouble at 2-4 in the fifth over, the elegant right-hander comfortably survived five balls from WA first-class pace bowler Ben Edmondson, most passing harmlessly through to the wicketkeeper.

However, when the 32-year-old regained the strike in the following

over he lasted just two more balls, fringe WA seamer Darren Wates having Vaughan caught behind.

Vaughan got an outside edge to a Wates outswinger as he pushed forward tentatively, his innings over almost before he had the chance to bat on ball.

The 32-year-old conceded he was desperately shory of match practice, but was confident his batting form would soon return.

Although caught behind without scoring, a buoyant Vaughan said the positives far outweighed the negatives.

"I'm slightly disappointed I didn't get any runs," he said.

"To be honest, today was all about getting back playing cricket, so it is a huge positive for me that I am back on the field."

"It is early stages of a comeback, but six months ago I never thought I would get to the stage of playing cricket again and it was a really tough time."

Vaughan could have up to four outings before the Perth Test.

His next outing is expected to be in another England Academy game in Perth on December 6.

He is then tipped to play in the Lilac Hill Festival Match on December 8.

If the English are considering recalling Vaughan, he could also play in the two-day clash with Western Australia on December 9 and 10 at the WACA Ground.

"For me, it is a good day."

Coming in with his side in trouble at 2-4 in the fifth over, the elegant right-hander comfortably survived five balls from WA first-class pace bowler Ben Edmondson, most passing harmlessly through to the wicketkeeper.

However, when the 32-year-old regained the strike in the following

over he lasted just two more balls, fringe WA seamer Darren Wates having Vaughan caught behind.

Vaughan got an outside edge to a Wates outswinger as he pushed forward tentatively, his innings over almost before he had the chance to bat on ball.

The 32-year-old conceded he was desperately shory of match practice, but was confident his batting form would soon return.

Although caught behind without scoring, a buoyant Vaughan said the positives far outweighed the negatives.

"I'm slightly disappointed I didn't get any runs," he said.

"To be honest, today was all about getting back playing cricket, so it is a huge positive for me that I am back on the field."

"It is early stages of a comeback, but six months ago I never thought I would get to the stage of playing cricket again and it was a really tough time."

Vaughan could have up to four outings before the Perth Test.

His next outing is expected to be in another England Academy game in Perth on December 6.

He is then tipped to play in the Lilac Hill Festival Match on December 8.

If the English are considering recalling Vaughan, he could also play in the two-day clash with Western Australia on December 9 and 10 at the WACA Ground.

"For me, it is a good day."

Coming in with his side in trouble at 2-4 in the fifth over, the elegant right-hander comfortably survived five balls from WA first-class pace bowler Ben Edmondson, most passing harmlessly through to the wicketkeeper.

However, when the 32-year-old regained the strike in the following

over he lasted just two more balls, fringe WA seamer Darren Wates having Vaughan caught behind.

Vaughan got an outside edge to a Wates outswinger as he pushed forward tentatively, his innings over almost before he had the chance to bat on ball.

The 32-year-old conceded he was desperately shory of match practice, but was confident his batting form would soon return.

Although caught behind without scoring, a buoyant Vaughan said the positives far outweighed the negatives.

"I'm slightly disappointed I didn't get any runs," he said.

"To be honest, today was all about getting back playing cricket, so it is a huge positive for me that I am back on the field."

"It is early stages of a comeback, but six months ago I never thought I would get to the stage of playing cricket again and it was a really tough time."

Vaughan could have up to four outings before the Perth Test.

His next outing is expected to be in another England Academy game in Perth on December 6.

He is then tipped to play in the Lilac Hill Festival Match on December 8.

If the English are considering recalling Vaughan, he could also play in the two-day clash with Western Australia on December 9 and 10 at the WACA Ground.

"For me, it is a good day."

Coming in with his side in trouble at 2-4 in the fifth over, the elegant right-hander comfortably survived five balls from WA first-class pace bowler Ben Edmondson, most passing harmlessly through to the wicketkeeper.

However, when the 32-year-old regained the strike in the following

over he lasted just two more balls, fringe WA seamer Darren Wates having Vaughan caught behind.

Vaughan got an outside edge to a Wates outswinger as he pushed forward tentatively, his innings over almost before he had the chance to bat on ball.

The 32-year-old conceded he was desperately shory of match practice, but was confident his batting form would soon return.

Although caught behind without scoring, a buoyant Vaughan said the positives far outweighed the negatives.

"I'm slightly disappointed I didn't get any runs," he said.

"To be honest, today was all about getting back playing cricket, so it is a huge positive for me that I am back on the field."

"It is early stages of a comeback, but six months ago I never thought I would get to the stage of playing cricket again and it was a really tough time."

Vaughan could have up to four outings before the Perth Test.

His next outing is expected to be in another England Academy game in Perth on December 6.

He is then tipped to play in the Lilac Hill Festival Match on December 8.

If the English are considering recalling Vaughan, he could also play in the two-day clash with Western Australia on December 9 and 10 at the WACA Ground.

"For me, it is a good day."

</