

STANCHART SCHOOL CHESS  
Sharif, Sayantan chasing title

## SPORTS REPORTER

Sharif Hossain of Nakhpara School and Sayantan Das of Kolkata Scottish Church School shared lead in the 9th Standard Chartered School Chess Tournament (Class VI-X Group) with full five points after the fifth round ended yesterday at the NSC conference room.

Shafiq Majumder of Kolkata Indira Gandhi School took solo lead in the girls' group with maximum five points while Mohammad Fahim of Titas Gas School, Shayan Majumder of Kolkata Indira Gandhi School, Mainuddin Ahmed Asif of Hazrat Shah Ali School and Saiful Islam of Aporajyo Bangladesh were jointly leading in the Class KG-V group.

## PCB not with ICL

## CRICKINFO, undated

Officials from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) have distanced themselves from the Indian Cricket League (ICL).

Shafiq Naghmi, PCB's chief operating officer, indicated the matter was the concern of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

"The ICL is happening in another country so it is not our business," said Naghmi.

The ICL was launched by India's Essel Group earlier this year.

However, Naghmi admitted that the PCB might get involved if some players contracted by the Board are approached by the organisers of the ICL.

"If some former [Pakistani] cricketer or a player who doesn't have a contract with the PCB decides to play in the series then we have no way to legally bind him against going to India."

"However, if any player contracted by us wants to go there then that would be a different case."

The PCB has not yet announced its list of contracted players for the upcoming season.

The ICL has generated controversy in India, with the BCCI revoking the pensions of players associating with the league. Kapil Dev is one of the former players to have joined the league, and has publicly criticised the BCCI for treating the ICL as a potential rival.

## Focus shifts

## FROM PAGE 17

"It's nice that Tamim (Iqbal) joined us because he is in good form since the World Cup but our other top order batsmen should play their role if we want to finish the series at a high note. In Test matches our main target is to survive but the case is totally different in the one-day game where we go for the win. And that's why bowlers also should give their best," he explained.

In Sri Lanka, a healthy contingent of people recall Bangladesh's World Cup adventure with fond memories and Ashraful believes that it is now their responsibility to enhance their reputation in the shorter-version game.

## Torres set

## FROM PAGE 20

Benitez said: "We know that Voronin is going to be another option for us. He has good game intelligence, he plays well between the lines and he has a lot of quality."

## Henry unties

## FROM PAGE 20

contrary to reports in today's press, his move to Barcelona was entirely for footballing reasons. We would ask the media to kindly respect the privacy of both parties at this difficult time."

The statement added that Henry would make no further comment.

## Lawson new

## FROM PAGE 17

"What changes when we get there? Well, there'll probably be quite a few. I'm hoping to take a few more Australian personnel with me as well," he said.

Woolmer's death in Jamaica was initially regarded as murder but police later said he had died from natural causes. Lawson told reporters this helped him make a decision after he received an approach from the PCB.

"Security to me seems to be fine and I don't have any personal concerns. That was one of the big hurdles to get over, to even go for an interview," he said.

"They know I am a very straightforward person, and they are the terms I got employed on," Lawson added.

"I see Pakistan as a highly talented but underachieving side and it will be a great challenge to get them playing at their best again."

"And if they don't want to be part of that, that'll be their downfall."

But he said that was not the impression he got when he spoke to the players at a training camp last month.



PHOTO: AFP

Australia's veteran striker Mark Viduka (R) controls the ball on his chest against Thailand's Niweat Siriwan during their group match of the Asian Cup in Bangkok yesterday.

## Japan, Australia in qtrs

AFF, Bangkok



Defending champions Japan stormed into the Asian Cup quarterfinals Monday, and were joined by Australia, minnows Vietnam, and Iraq.

Japan's 4-1 victory over

Vietnam

in Hanoi yet despite being beaten the tournament co-hosts still go through to the knockout rounds for the first time in 47 years after United Arab Emirates beat Gulf neighbours Qatar 2-1 in group B.

It means Japan remain in Hanoi for a quarter-final next Saturday against Australia, who hammered Thailand 4-0 to finish second in group A and relieve the pressure after a poor tournament till now.

Iraq topped group A after a dull goalless draw against Oman and remain in Bangkok to meet Vietnam in their quarterfinal, also on Saturday.

Japan ensured their fifth consecutive quarterfinal appearance with a brace from Seiichiro Maki and goals from Shunsuke Nakamura and Yasuhiro Endo.

"We were nervous at the outset and our opponents were aggressive. Lucky

or not, we were able to catch up early in the game and it made our life easier," Japan coach Iwica Osim said.

Despite the defeat, Vietnamese coach Alfred Riedl was over the moon.

"It is a sensation for Vietnamese football," said the Austrian.

"Only very few people had expected this result, a place in the quarterfinals."

In Bangkok, Australia had a late

Mark Viduka brace to thank for their

passage to the last eight in their first ever Asian Cup.

The Newcastle striker scored twice

in three minutes to give the Australians their much-needed win after they absorbed waves of Thai attacks.

Defender Michael Beauchamp and substitute Harry Kewell added the icing to the Socceroos' cake with the other goals, although the score didn't reflect the immense pressure Australia had to endure in a tense second half.

"We were tested at the back, they are a good side, but we managed to score some goals which is what it is about," said under-pressure Australian coach Graham Arnold.

"Things haven't gone well for us but we are looking forward to Japan."

Japan, bidding for a third straight continental title, struggled to penetrate a determined Vietnam defence early in the match before a raucous sell-out

crowd of 40,000 at the My Dinh National Stadium.

And Vietnam took the lead when Nguyen Vu Phong's corner kick from the left bounced off teammate Phan Van Tai Em and then Japanese midfielder Kenta Suzuki after a goalmouth scramble in the seventh minute.

But Japan hit back five minutes later when Maki headed home a left wing cross from Celctic playmaker Nakamura.

It was a signal for a one-sided match with Endo getting the second just after the half hour mark before a trademark Nakamura left-foot drive made it three. Maki wrapped it up with a fourth in the 59th minute.

In the other group B match in Ho Chi Minh City, Faisal Khalil ruined Qatar's ambitions with a last minute winner to prevent their Gulf neighbours making the quarterfinals.

A first penalty by Uruguay-born Sebastian Quintana Soria gave Qatar hopes but Al Sharjah striker Saeed Al Kaas brought them down to earth with a well-placed header on 59 minutes.

Faisal Khalil rubbed salt in their wounds when he pounced on a rebound from an Ismail Matar free-kick in stoppage time to consign Qatar to the bottom of the group.

Defender Michael Beauchamp and substitute Harry Kewell added the icing to the Socceroos' cake with the other goals, although the score didn't reflect the immense pressure Australia had to endure in a tense second half.

"We were tested at the back, they are a good side, but we managed to score some goals which is what it is about," said under-pressure Australian coach Graham Arnold.

"Things haven't gone well for us but we are looking forward to Japan."

Japan, bidding for a third straight continental title, struggled to penetrate a determined Vietnam defence early in the match before a raucous sell-out

which every cricketer aspires to," Broad, the 21-year-old son of former England opening batsman Chris, said before dismissing Zaheer Khan, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth and Mahendra Singh Dhoni to give England's Asia one-finnings lead.

His return completed a fine all-round performance for Broad, who scored 50 in the Lions' first innings.

It was a reminder that until late in his schoolboy career Broad was primarily a batsman.

At 6ft 5ins he would be the nearest like-for-like replacement for Harmison and could provide the England attack with an element of variety it might otherwise be lacking.

If the Leicester bowler does make his debut at Lord's, he and Chris Broad would be only the 12th father and son pairing to play Test cricket for England.

But Anderson, like Matthew Hoggard and left-arm Ryan Sidebottom, a swing bowler, has looked good in what county cricket has been possible during a rain-marred season.

When Harmison suffered his shin injury on the eve of the Mumbai Test in March last year, Anderson came in to take six wickets as England levelled the series.

The 24-year-old also featured three times in the 5-0 whitewashing by Australia but has not played a Test in England since 2004.

Hoggard, who has bowled just six overs since England completed a 3-0

series win against the West Indies at the Riverside on June 19, and England captain Michael Vaughan are the only survivors in the current squad from the team that played in the corresponding Test against India five years ago.

Someone else who played in that match is Andrew Flintoff, currently sidelined with a recurrence of a long-standing ankle problem.

## Rafique again!

FROM PAGE 17

failed to find their places for the one-day series.

However, it was a different story for Bashir. The 34-year-old ex-skippers had to leave the team silently midway through a series for the first time in his career because his bat didn't speak for him.

"It is the most painful day in my career because for the first time I have to leave the team midway through the series. True that I left the team during a series previously, but that was because of injury. This time I was not considered for the one-day team," said a frustrated Bashir on Sunday.

"I know it's a harsh reality for a cricketer. It might have been a different story had I scored some runs in the Test series," he added.

## Either Broad or Anderson

Cricket

AFF, London

England's selectors are set to decide between the uncapped Stuart Broad and James Anderson for the final place in their pace attack to take on India in the first Test at Lord's starting on Thursday.

The pair are in contention after strike fast bowler Stephen Harmison was rated extremely doubtful following a recurrence of his hernia injury.

Harmison's condition is due to be re-assessed later Monday but England's chairman of selectors, David Graveney, indicated the 28-year-old Durham quick was unlikely to be in the opening match of a three-Test series.

"The chances of him playing are slim but haven't been written off completely," Graveney said after announcing the 13-man squad on Sunday.

Broad, who has played nine one-day internationals but has yet to feature in a Test despite being on standby for the 2006-07 Ashes in Australia, celebrated his call-up by taking career-best figures of five for 76, against India, while playing for England Lions at Chelmsford on Sunday.

Hoggard, who has bowled just six

overs since England completed a 3-0 series win against the West Indies at the Riverside on June 19, and England captain Michael Vaughan are the only survivors in the current squad from the team that played in the corresponding Test against India five years ago.

Someone else who played in that match is Andrew Flintoff, currently sidelined with a recurrence of a long-standing ankle problem.

However, it was a different story for Bashir. The 34-year-old ex-skippers had to leave the team silently midway through a series for the first time in his career because his bat didn't speak for him.

"It is the most painful day in my career because for the first time I have to leave the team midway through the series. True that I left the team during a series previously, but that was because of injury. This time I was not considered for the one-day team," said a frustrated Bashir on Sunday.

"I know it's a harsh reality for a cricketer. It might have been a different story had I scored some runs in the Test series," he added.

## Bangladesh meet Hong Kong in semis today

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh women's cricket team face Hong Kong in the semifinal of the ACC Women's Cricket Tournament today at the IPTI ground in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

In the day's other semis, Nepal take on China at the Johor Cricket Academy (JCA).

Group B winners Bangladesh eves crushed the United Arab Emirates by 10 wickets, thrashed Singapore by the same margin and outplayed China by 86 runs in the group matches.

"They were trying to be mischievous," he told the newspaper. "They know very well it was our prerogative to pull out of Test cricket for a while and so the decision to resume similarly rests with us. But they wanted to take it out of our hands, and put it into the ICC's."

"The management board of the ICC tried to use a subordinate board -- the cricket committee -- to suspend us, which is simply unacceptable. But we were successful in

our efforts to block it from being tabled to the executive board.

"Happily the board is unconvinced by any of their cheap arguments and say they are not qualified to handle political issues anyway. They had planned beforehand that we would be stopped from playing Test cricket completely. But certainly we did better than we had initially thought, so I would say we had a very successful trip."

Chingoka did not name any of those either on the cricket committee or within the ICC who he believed acted against Zimbabwe, although his targets may well include Malcolm Speed, the ICC chief executive.

But the paper quoted a source who attended the ICC conference -- in which in reality restricts the options to Chingoka or his right-hand man Ozias Bvute -- as saying that West Indies had "bowed under pressure and are now being used."

The source added: "Whereas it was first seen as black versus white, the West Indies have been persuaded otherwise and the white elite can now sanctimoniously justify any adverse action taken against Zimbabwe."

And shortly after the end of the

## ZC slams few ICC nations

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Peter Chingoka, chairman of Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC), has hit out at certain boards who, he claimed, tried to block Zimbabwe's return to Test cricket.

In an article in the pro-government Sunday News, Chingoka attacked unnamed International Cricket Council (ICC) Full Member countries.

"They were trying to be mischievous," he told the newspaper. "They know very well it was our prerogative to pull out of Test cricket for a while and so the decision to resume similarly rests with us. But they wanted to take it out of our hands, and put it into the ICC's."

"The management board of the ICC tried to use a subordinate board -- the cricket committee -- to suspend us, which is simply unacceptable. But we were successful in

our efforts to block it from being tabled to the executive board.

"Happily the board is unconvinced by any of their cheap arguments and say they are not qualified to handle political issues anyway. They had planned beforehand that we would be stopped from playing Test cricket completely. But certainly we did better than we had initially thought, so I would say we had a very successful trip."

Chingoka did not name any of those either on the cricket committee or within the ICC who he believed acted against Zimbabwe, although his targets may well include Malcolm Speed, the ICC chief executive.

But the paper quoted a source who attended the ICC conference -- in