



Champion Prantik Roy (R) and local boy Abdullah Al Saif ponder over their moves during a final round match of the 9th Standard Chartered School Chess tournament at the BCF chess room yesterday.

Prantik has the last laugh

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian prodigy Prantik Roy of Kolkata Carmel School clinched the title in the senior group (Class VI-X) of the 9th Standard Chartered School Chess Tournament yesterday.

In the ninth and final round, the Kolkata student defeated contender Abdullah Al Saif of Quality School, Dhaka at the BCF chess room to settle eight points.

SAIF stuck to seven points along with four other players but he slipped to third place as Sayantan Das of Scottish Church School, Kolkata finished runner-up due to better progressive score.

Sharif Hossain of Nakhelpara School and Akshat Agarwal of Hansraj School, Delhi finished fourth and fifth respectively.

Bangladesh, however, kept the title in the junior group (KG-Class V) with Mainuddin Ahmed Asif emerging unbeaten champion with 8.5 points.

India's Shayan Majumder also collected 8.5 points but had to settle for runners-up after tiebreakers.

Eves to present ACC trophy to BCB boss

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh women's cricket team which won the first-ever Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Women's Cricket Tournament will formally hand over the championship trophy to Bangladesh Cricket Board president M Abdul Aziz today.

The BCB president will receive the trophy at 2.30pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium.

The Bangladesh eves returned home from Malaysia on Thursday after outplaying Nepal by eight wickets in the final.

Batting blues

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very confident during the lunch break that we can go on to win another game. We had a plan to complete fifty overs and Tamim and Nafees started according to plan but suddenly we lost them way. Our bowlers created an opportunity for us but the batsmen simply spoiled it," he said.

"I also had a plan to finish the game that's why I decided to go in at number five but I played a very very bad shot. The most frustrating thing was that the wicket behaved so good in the second session," he admitted like he has done in every occasions after making the same mistakes.

Fernando however said that Ashraful fell in their trap by playing the mistimed pull shot. "We know that Ashraful always loves to play the pull shot against the short pitch delivery and that was the reason I trapped him to play the shot," said the 28-year old paceman, who returned with his career best figure of 4-24 in the match.

It is impossible to comment whether the Bangladesh team will take any lesson from the defeat but Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene ensured that they definitely learnt a lesson despite the comprehensive victory.

"We have to be careful against them in the one-day game although we won the match by a quite convincing margin. In longer version game it was easy to put pressure on them but they can be dangerous in the shorter-version competition which is what they even proved today," said Mahela.

Australia recall Brett Lee

Football

AFP, Sydney

Australia on Friday confirmed it would field an almost unchanged World Cup winning team as its 15-man squad to contest the shorter version of the game in the Twenty20 World Championship in September.

An addition to the team which won its fourth trophy in the Caribbean in May will be paceman Brett Lee who has recovered from the ankle injury which dashed his World Cup hopes. Fellow fast bowler Glenn McGrath has retired.

"It's fantastic to have Brett Lee back, fully fit and resuming his spot in the Australian side. He's back to training and raring to go," chair of the national selectors Andrew Hilditch said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Australia A team to tour Pakistan was named with a view to the future of Australian cricket.

"We've taken the opportunity to take three spinners and also look at prominent all-rounders Andrew McDonald and James Hopes," Hilditch said.

Australia is scheduled to kick off its ICC World Twenty20 programme with a match against Zimbabwe in Cape Town on September 12. It will play England in Cape Town on September 14.

Australia's tour of India begins on September 25 while the

"We looked at the performances of some of the top domestic Twenty20 players, but ultimately we felt that the World Cup winning side would adapt well and deserved the opportunity to prove that they can perform to the highest standards in both shorter forms of the game," he said.

Cricket Australia said the same squad, with the exception of Brad Haddin, would tour India.

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The Twenty20 squad: Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist (vice captain), Nathan Bracken, Stuart Clark, Michael Clarke, Brad Haddin, Matthew Hayden, Brad Hodge, Brad Hogg, Michael Hussey, Mitchell Johnson, Brett Lee, Andrew Symonds, Shaun Tait and Shane Watson.

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Blake fights back

Tennis

AFP, Los Angeles

Second-seeded James Blake saved a match point en route to a three-set victory over Paul Goldstein here Thursday to book a quarterfinal berth in the 525,000-dollar ATP hardcourt tournament.

After fending off elimination, Blake won the final three games in a 6-0, 1-6, 7-5 second-round victory over his fellow American.

Blake had dominated in winning the first set in 23 minutes. But Goldstein charged back in the second.

Leading 5-4 in the deciding set, the 97th-ranked Goldstein was on the verge of a huge upset.

But Blake battled back to knot the set, broke Goldstein in the next game then served out the match.

Blake, ranked ninth in the world, next faces American Vince Spadea, celebrating his 33rd birthday by posting a comeback win over 2006 finalist Dmitry Tursunov.

Spadea, who was presented

Helguera signs for Valencia

INTERNET, undated

Real Madrid defender Ivan Helguera has signed for Valencia on a three-year deal after being released from his Real Madrid contract.

The Spain international, 32, won the Liga title three times and the Champions League twice in his eight-year career at the Santiago Bernabeu.

The last Spanish title triumph arrived last season on the final day when they beat Mallorca 3-1.

The player had asked Madrid, who were not keen on strengthening one of their major domestic rivals, to facilitate a transfer out of recognition of his contribution to their success.

Meanwhile Mallorca have signed Valencia defender Javi Navarro, who cannot play until September after he punched Internazionale's Nicolas Burdisso on the nose following a Champions League quarterfinal last season.

Totti

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his detractors.

"Now let the critics talk about me," he said. "Up till now they have massacred me. I am sure they won't be happy. I never answered them back, I was waiting to give my response on the pitch."

As his fitness improved, so did his performances, and he showed touches of genius in the 2-0 extra-time defeat of host nation Germany in the semifinals.

Totti is regarded as one of Italy's finest players, but he has often flattered to deceive when playing for his country with just nine goals in his 58 appearances.

Despite turning it on week in, week out in Serie A, there was a sense of unfulfilled potential about him at international level.

Perhaps his finest hour was the 2000 European championship in which his influence helped Italy reach the final, where they lost to France on a golden goal.

But at the World Cup in 2002, he failed to score in six matches and was sent off for diving in Italy's shock second-round exit at the hands of co-hosts South Korea.

He was tipped to inspire the Azzurri to success at the 2004 European championships, but instead left Portugal in disgrace after getting himself sent off for spitting in the face of Denmark's Christian Poulsen in the first game of the tournament.

Totti was given a three-match ban and Italy were knocked out in

Wickets tumble

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Kumble to dismiss left-handers Alastair Cook and Strauss.

Strauss, closing in on what would have been his 11th Test hundred and fourth in eight Tests at Lord's, fell to Kumble.

Having gone down the pitch, he played defensively, seemingly in a bid to counter a stumping chance, and edged to India captain Rahul Dravid at slip. Strauss batted for four hours and 25 minutes facing 186 balls with 16 fours.

Play was halted for bad light soon afterwards when Pietersen missed a hook at bouncer from Singh, who with fellow left-arm Zaheer Khan bowled with greater accuracy as the day progressed.

South Africa-born Pietersen made no mistake when Singh next dropped short, pulling him for four before bad light intervened again.

But when Singh came round the wicket he had had Vaughan, driving well outside off-stump, caught behind.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the first Test at Lord's here Friday:

ENGLAND: First Innings (overnight: 268-4)

Strauss c Dravid b Kumble

96
Cook lbw b Ganguly
Vaughan c Dhoni b Singh
Pietersen c Dhoni b Khan
Collingwood lbw b Kumble
Sidebottom b Singh
Bell b Khan
Prior lbw b Sreesanth
Tremlett lbw b Sreesanth
Panesar lbw b Sreesanth
Anderson not out
Extras (b9, lb10, w7, nb2) 28
Total (all out, 91.2 overs) 298
Fall of wickets: 1-76, 2-218, 3-252, 4-255, 5-272, 6-286, 7-287, 8-287, 9-297, 10-298.

BOWLER O M R W
Khan 18.2 4 62 2
Sreesanth 22 8 67 3
Singh 17 6 58 2
Ganguly 9 3 24 1
Kumble 23 2 60 2
Tendulkar 2 0 8 0

INDIA: First Innings
Karthik lbw b Sidebottom 5
Jaffer not out 21
Dravid c Prior b Anderson 2
Tendulkar not out 4
Extras (b4) 4
Total (2 wkt, 16 overs) 36
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-27.

BOWLER O M R W
Sidebottom 7 2 21 1
Anderson 8 2 11 1
Tremlett 1 1 0 0

Lord's to lose Test?

CRICINFO, undated

The MCC and the ECB will have urgent talks to discuss worries that Lord's may lose one of its summer Tests in 2009, when the new staging agreements take hold.

Lord's has traditionally received two Tests each summer, owing to being the home of cricket and its grandeur, but with increasing competition from other grounds, there are worries that one of the two Tests may be in jeopardy.

The MCC needs to make a good case to the ECB as to why they should continue to stage the amount of internationals that they do. Part of that will be capacity increases, which could be part of the redevelopment proposals.

Iain Wilton, the head of communications and public affairs, confirmed to Cricinfo that imminent talks were planned, but said that the £100million rumoured to be the cost of the planned redevelopment was "entirely speculative" at this stage.

He said: "The MCC Committee has yet to decide on how, for example, the ground's capacity should be increased - or by how much. When it has developed its thinking further, the club's first priority will be to consult its members."

Lord's is not the only traditional ground to think about redevelopment amid worries of increasing competition. Earlier this week, Surrey unveiled plans to overhaul The Oval in a 35 million pound revamp.

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