



Scene from yesterday's third open FIDE Rating Women Chess Tournament at the chess federation hall room.

PHOTO: STAR

Gazi Butt-ed

FROM PAGE 17 boundaries and a six. Number seven Sabbir Rahman played a quickfire 27 off 11 balls with the help of two fours and as many sixes.

Pakistani spinner Jafar Quraishi picked up three wickets for 43 runs for City.

In reply, Rashel Al Mamun and Rabiul Karim gave City a confident start before the latter was bowled by veteran Sandeep. The fall of the first wicket at 42 start the rot in the City innings and they were eventually bundled out for 150 runs.

Sanjamul Islam, Saklain Sajib and Sabbir Khan claimed two wickets each for Torun.

BRIEF SCORES

CCS: 285-4 in 50 overs (Uttam 37, Shabbaz 156 not out, Shuvogoto 39, Nizamuddin 33, extras 19; Robiul 1-38, Enamul 1-53, Nayeem 1-37).

GAZI TANK: 232-9 in 50 overs (Mithun 45, Anwar 41, Pravanjan 55, Ashraf 21, Nayeem 36 not out, extras 18; Monowar 1-25, Bishwanath 2-39, Elias 3-37, Shakil 1-45, Nizamuddin 2-46).

Result: CCS won by 53 runs.

DOHS: 205 all out in 49.5 overs (Newaz 51, Mehrab 50, Riyad 14, Monir 31, Abul 15 not out, extras 28; Niyamul 2-23, Rifatuzzaman 2-42, Mominul 2-36).

BKSP: 178 all out in 48.5 overs (Shaikat 30, Aizal 19, Imamul 12, Mominul 37, Zabid 14, Tanveer 12, Asif 11, Anamul 16 not out, extras 25, Kamrul 1-19, Abul 3-29, Monir 3-33, Mehrab 1-42, Riyad 1-32).

Result: Old DOHS won by 27 runs.

SURJO TORUN: 241-9 in 50 overs (Sandeep 33, Zunaed 31, Hannan 70, Rajin 23, Anisur 21, Sabbir 27, extras 13; Shafaq 2-28, Jafar 3-43, Raisul 2-50, Rashedul 1-35).

CITY: 150 all out in 41.4 overs (Mamun 42, Karim 12, Hossain 22, Raisul 15, Sirajul 24, extras 8; Sanjamul 2-23, Saklain 2-29, Sabbir 2-16).

Result: Surjo Torun won by 91 runs.

Hertha on

FROM PAGE 20 on the field today. The 2-1 scoreline isn't undeserved."

But Bayern boss Jurgen Klinsmann was fuming after his side missed a golden chance to go top of the table for the first time this season as they slumped to their second league defeat in their last three games.

"We're very disappointed, and angry about missing out on first place," said Klinsmann. "The lads are sitting in the dressing room and saying to themselves: 'that's unbelievable', but that's football."

Anelka hits

FROM PAGE 20 The result made Chelsea the first team into the quarterfinals because Saturday's other four fifth-round games were tied and will go to replays.

Christopher Samba scored a last minute equalizer in Blackburn's 2-2 draw with Coventry, another Championship club. West Ham and Middlesbrough drew 1-1 in a meeting of two Premier League teams, but Hull was held 1-1 by Sheffield United and Fulham tied 1-1 with Swansea.

Manchester United, which holds a record 11 FA Cup titles, visits League Championship side Derby on Sunday and Everton hosts Aston Villa in the highlight game of the fifth round.

On Monday, Arsenal hosts last season's runner-up Cardiff in a fourth-round replay that was postponed because of heavy snow. The winner faces Burnley.

Murray shocks Nadal

Tennis

AFP, Rotterdam

Andy Murray survived a contest riddled with seven breaks of serve in the second set to win the Rotterdam Open 6-3, 4-6, 6-0 over Rafael Nadal here on Sunday.

The erratic victory marked the second successive one for Murray over the Spanish world number 1 following a US Open semifinal win last September.

Murray showed no sign of his existing ankle problem as he lifted his tenth career title and improved his record against Nadal to 2-5.

Nadal was treated on his right thigh after the third game of the second set, sure signs of a week which has taken a toll on the Australian Open winner.

Murray became the first Briton to win Rotterdam after three runner-up finishes by Tim Henman. He improves to 13-1 on the season with titles in Doha and here.

Earlier on Saturday, Nadal took a breather with a 6-4, 6-4 defeat of Gael Monfils after a week of marathon matches to reach final with Andy Murray.

Spain's Australian Open champion was finally able to advance in energy-saving style after going the distance in his first three victories.

It still took him more than

90 minutes to defeat an opponent suffering with stomach problems.

The world number 1 will line up against Scottish second-seed Murray in a dream final for organisers.

Murray roared into the final Saturday with a lightning 6-1, 6-2 defeat of Mario Ancic but is facing a fitness test due to a sore right ankle. Monfils still managed ten aces and broke Nadal once in the Spaniard's first service game. Nadal now leads their series 4-1.

British world number 4 Murray was ruthless in a 61-minute victory after losing to Ancic in three of four previous encounters. But Murray said that he was occasionally troubled by his ankle and doesn't know how or when he picked up the problem.

Murray will be aiming for his second title of the season after starting 2009 with a trophy in Doha. The 21-year-old Scot has won his 12th match of 2009 against just one loss, in the Australian Open fourth round to Fernando Verdasco.

The second seed has been on a Rotterdam roll, claiming three of his four matches in straight sets. Murray will be bidding for his tenth career trophy after winning five of his first nine in a breakthrough 2008 season.

The Scot was never troubled by Ancic, the number 27 who

lost the Zagreb final last week to compatriot Marin Cilic.

Murray ran away with both sets as the shine went off the Croatian's game. Ancic has been on a recent comeback after dealing with illness and injury over the past two hard-luck seasons.

As the rout took shape, Ancic managed to save a bit of pride, winning his first game since early in the first set to climb to 1-4 in the second.

But the businesslike Murray put a stop to any upset hopes, advancing three games later on the first of three match points with a forehand winner to the corner.

Peer denied

FROM PAGE 20 actions with regard to the future of the Dubai tournament."

The two-million-dollar event is one of a handful of second-tier Premier level tournaments on the newly revised calendar.

Peer had been hoping to break more ground after managing to get herself into the WTA tournament in Doha in 2008, where she won two rounds. The controversial player has served in the Israeli army, and once stood as high as 15th in the world.

England

FROM PAGE 17 Only 10 balls were possible in the second Test before the umpires, after consultation with the two captains and the match referee chose to abort the Test.

West Indies led the series which now comprises five Tests 1-0, following an innings and 23-run victory in the opening match at Kingston inside four days.

The other two Tests in the series take place at Kensington Oval in Barbados from February 26 to March 2, and Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad from March 2 to 6.

TEAMS

WEST INDIES: Chris Gayle (captain), Devon Smith, Ramnareesh Sarwan, Ryan Hinds, Shivnarine Chandepaul, Brendan Nash, Denesh Ramdin, Jerome Taylor, Suleiman Benn, Daren Powell, Fidel Edwards.

ENGLAND: Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Owais Shah, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, Matt Prior, Stuart Broad, Steve Harmison, James Anderson, Monty Panesar.

Umpires: Rudi Koertzen and Daryl Harper.

Robinho

FROM PAGE 20 tactics and training.

Abramovich moved quickly to appoint Russia coach Guus Hiddink as Scolari's replacement but Manchester City forward Robinho is convinced he should have been given time to stamp his authority on the dressing room.

"I know Scolari very well and he talks a lot with the players. I don't understand why some Chelsea players have not accepted him and that has been the key to irregular results of recent weeks," the Brazil international told The People.

"I did not expect the sacking of Scolari but so many unexpected things happen in English football."

"Felipe is a great coach and he showed that with Brazil and Portugal. They have not given him the necessary time at Chelsea."

"It is another club and I should not get too involved, but I think they have got it wrong."

Sania finishes runner-up

PTI, Pattaya

Sania Mirza's quest for her second WTA singles title continued after the Indian ace went down fighting 5-7, 1-6 against world number five and top seed Vera Zvonareva in the final of the US\$ 220,000 Pattaya Open here on Sunday.

Sania fought her heart out against her formidable opponent but the Russian drew from her vast experience to halt the India's brilliant run in the one hour and 17 minutes contest.

The first set was fiercely fought and both the players traded many a breaks but unforced errors in pressure situations did Sania in.

Once she lost the first set, and squandered the chance to break Zvonareva in the opening game of the second set, Sania was all but out of the match.

Nevertheless, Sania's sizzling run in the event will boost her confidence and give a fillip to her plummeting WTA ranking which is currently 126th.

Sania could have got an early lead at the start of the match as she had two break points in the opening game but squandered both.

Symonds woes not to go away

PTI, Melbourne

Troubled Australia all-rounder Andrew Symonds's playing career has once come under cloud after he was forced to remain off the field with a sore knee on the first day of the Sheffield Shield match between Queensland and South Australia at Adelaide Oval on Saturday.

According to a report in the Daily Telegraph, Symonds, who in his two over spell before lunch picked up the wicket of Michael Klinger for figures of 1/3, did not take the field after the interval. He was later seen sitting in the dressing room with an icepack strapped to his right knee, the same one on which he had surgery on New Year's Eve.

A Queensland spokesman later confirmed that Symonds was "experiencing soreness in his right knee".

However, Queensland team management was hopeful that Symonds will take the field in the later stages of the match.

Symonds, who was playing only in his second match after being ruled out Australia's upcoming South Africa tour on disciplinary issues, had been experiencing a torrid time this summer because of his off-field run-ins with controversies.

Cricket Australia also made it clear that it would re-assess its stand on Symonds only at the end of the domestic season.

Mahela

FROM PAGE 17 Pakistan were left without a Test after Australia refused to tour over security fears in March last year.

Jayawardene said he enjoyed leading Sri Lanka.

"I just want to enjoy this last series as captain as I have enjoyed the last three years (of captaincy). I have three-four years of cricket left so I want to contribute as a batsman with all my experience," said Jayawardene.

Sri Lanka's 15-man squad includes uncapped opener Tharanga Paranavithana and paceman Suranga Lakmal -- both described as fast-rising players by Jayawardene.

Squad Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Malinda Warnapara, Tharanga Paranavithana, Kumar Sangakkara, Thilan Samaraweera, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Prasanna Jayawardene, Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralidaran, Ajantha Mendis, Chamara Kapugedera, Farveez Maharoof, Dilhara Fernando, Thilan Thushara, Suranga Lakmal.

Vettori

FROM PAGE 17 Australia's debutant captain, Brad Haddin, also paid credit to Adam Voges for the brilliant, high-wire boundary catch which removed the dangerous Brendon McCullum in the penultimate over of the match.

"He's got a very, very good cricket brain," Haddin said. "To think on your feet that quickly was an outstanding effort. As it turned out, it was a massive play like that we needed to win the match. He's an outstanding thinker in the game to be able to do that in a pressure situation. It went a long way to winning the game."

Strauss wants result

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, Antigua

England captain Andrew Strauss says his side can take advantage of what should be a result wicket in Antigua in the third Test against the West Indies that started on Sunday.

Friday's abandonment of the second Test at the Viv Richards Stadium saw a third, extra, Test hastily arranged at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG).

And, after two days' preparation time, it should be full of pace and bounce.

"If there is a bit of pace and bounce then we have the bowlers that can exploit that," said Strauss.

"Any wicket that offers the chance of a result is good for us at this stage, being 1-0 down in the series."

The ARG is predominantly used as a football venue these days, and on the pitch -- which England used for net practice ahead of the start of Friday's Test -- there is a ridge halfway down the wicket where the centre circle normally sits.

But Strauss insists it should have little impact on the bowlers, saying: "It is very much halfway down the wicket, so there shouldn't be too many balls bowled there."

"They will be getting the heavy roller out and making sure that it is as small as possible."

The pitch could prompt England to hand an instant recall to Steve Harmison, who was excluded on Friday due to the reverse swing expected at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, as they look to recover from their humiliating defeat in Jamaica in the first Test.

What about Zim: NZC

Cricket

CRICINFO, Wellington

Justin Vaughan, New Zealand Cricket's (NZC) chief executive, has sought clarification of his country's stance on touring Zimbabwe ahead of a scheduled visit later this year.

New Zealand are to play three one-day internationals in the troubled country in July and Vaughan said he would seek a meeting with Murray McCully, the minister of foreign affairs, and sport and recreation, within the next month.

"We're still assessing the situation and obviously there are numerous threads there," Vaughan said in Sydney. "We'll be looking to understand the government's position first and foremost, also the ICC task force are reporting back on Zimbabwe to the ICC conference (in June). There's a lot of information we need to get before we can make a decision on that."

During the ICC board meeting in Perth last week, an ICC-appointed task team presented an interim report on the state of the game in Zimbabwe, who voluntarily stepped away from Tests in 2006. The team was headed by Julian

"I think the players are reasonably understanding to think that the team you pick is the one that you think is going to give you the best chance of winning the Test match," said Strauss.

"In different conditions that means different personnel."

"No-one likes being left out, but I'm sure they'll be understanding. It's not ideal being picked one day and then not being picked two days later, but that is something we'll have to decide upon."

Conversely, West Indies captain Chris Gayle insists his side's gameplan will not alter despite the switch in venue.

"This requires new focus," said Gayle. "But it is not too difficult because we are here to play cricket and it is the same gameplan we had before."

"It's a new venue but we have to be ready for it and hopefully we can get things right again."

International cricket has not been played at the ARG since 2006 and, the last time it was, Gayle hit a triple hundred in a run-fest against South Africa.

It is also the ground where Brian Lara hit his world record unbeaten 400 against England five years ago.

However, the lack of preparation on the pitch should give the bowlers a better chance and Gayle admitted: "No-one knows what to expect. We had a practice there and the wicket played all right."

"We are here to play cricket and we have to get our heads around that."

"There are small things that can come into play when you switch venues but the guys have been around long enough to experience or expect those sort of things."

Hunte, the president of the West Indies board, and included ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat.

Vaughan expected to receive an update on the ICC task force appointed to assess the current situation of cricket in Zimbabwe, at the chief executives' conference in Johannesburg on February 24 and 25.

Lorgat said he expected New Zealand to tour for the good of the game in Zimbabwe. "I would hope so because whatever exposure those players can get to good competition would certainly enhance their development," he told NZPA. "If [NZC] didn't, we'd have to apply the principles that we've established."

New Zealand's last trip to Zimbabwe was in 2005, for two Tests and a one-day tri-series also featuring India, which they won. The prime minister at the time, Helen Clark, had strongly urged the team not to tour, and Vaughan remained unsure of what the present government's standpoint would be. "That [a government ban] would certainly take any decision away from me," he said.

In 2007, former Australian prime minister John Howard had ordered Australia not to tour Zimbabwe. The ICC described Howard's decision as 'unfortunate'.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17 during the occasion as the chief guest.

INT'L TENNIS

Six players reached the final round of the Dhaka Bank Tennis Tournament winning their respective last matches of the qualifying round at the Ramna National Tennis Complex.

In the day's matches, Kong Pop (Thailand) beat Vishwanath Savadi (India) 6-3, 6-4; Sen Li (China) beat Mohammed Ashraf Mohammed (India) 6-1, 6-1; Vishwajit Tirumurti (India) beat Yilun Wang (China) 2-6, 6-3, 6-3; Ching Hsu (Chinese Taipei) beat Yen Ju Ho (Chinese Taipei) 6-2, 6-2; Chi Shian Jao (Chinese Taipei) beat Yu Cheng Wang (Chinese Taipei) 6-4, 6-2; and Chieh Fu Wang (Chinese Taipei) beat Yuan Tao Pan (Chinese Taipei) 6-4, 6-0.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahsan Ali Sarker formally inaugurated the meet.

BIS TRIUMPHS

BIS emerged champions in the Sunnydale 6th Mini (Boys) Handball Tournament beating St Gregory High School by 11-8 goals in the final at the Outer Stadium Handball ground.

Prianka Sarker of BIS was adjudged the player of the tournament to receive Tk20,000 as prize money.

Earlier, in the place-deciding match, SOS Shishu Palli fin-

ished third in the tournament as Ansar & VDP High School failed to report in time.

Private Satellite channel ATN Bangla chairman Mahfuzur Rahman was the chief

guest on the occasion and distributed the prizes among the winners.

DIVI FOOTBALL

Swadhinata KS and The Muslim Institute won their respective matches of the Citycell 3rd Division Football League at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Stadium (BSSMMS) at Kamalapur.

In the first match, Swadhinata KS beat Mirpur XI by 2-0 goals with Aslam Hossain scoring both the goals.

In the other match, the Muslim Institute edged past Dhaka Juniors SC by a solitary goal scored by Shamim Sheikh.

WOMEN CHESS

13 players won their 1st round games to earn full points in the Begum Laila Alam 3rd Open FIDE Rating Women Chess Tournament.

In the 1st round Rani Hamid beat Amena, Liza beat Doly, Zakiya beat Ferdousi, Shirin beat Mahfuza, Masuda beat Khodeja, Mithila beat Protiva, Jahanara beat Tisha and Ahely beat Tani. Eva, Feroza, Liza and Shimmi got walk overs against their opponents.

Kirmani no fan of Dhoni's technique

CRICINFO, undated

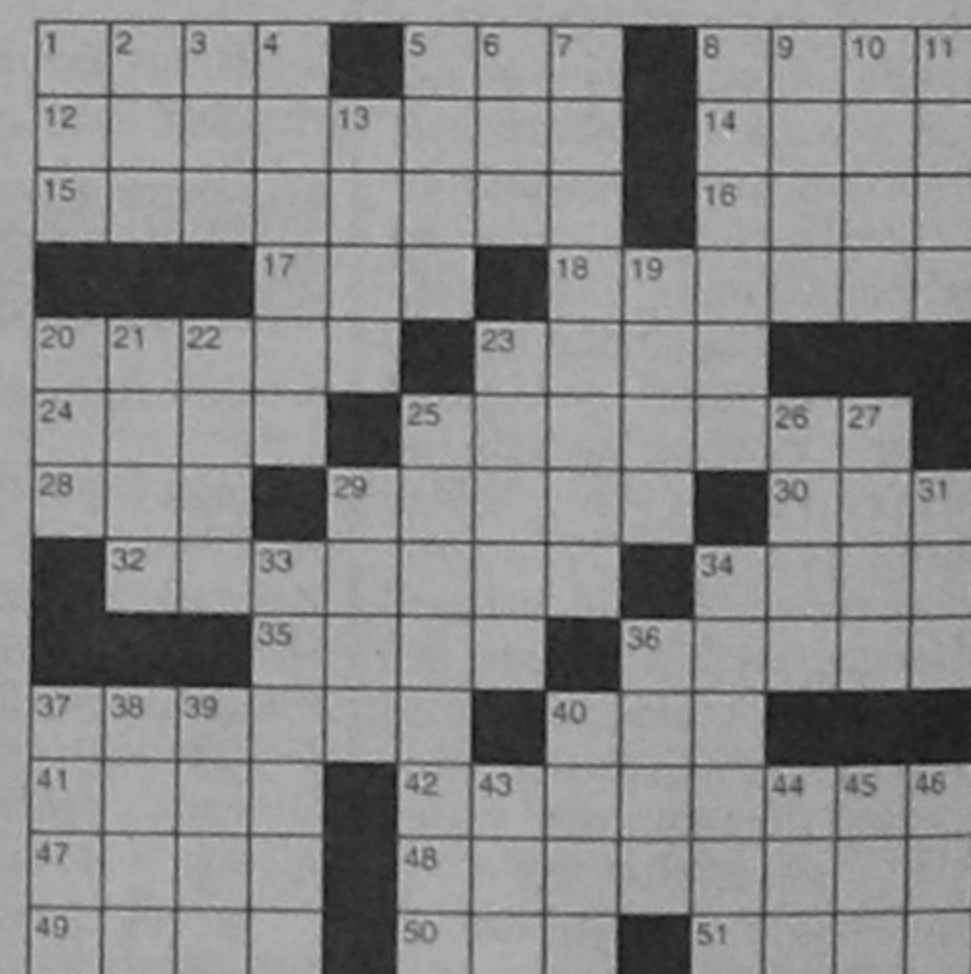
Syed Kirmani, the former India wicketkeeper, has criticised the wicketkeeping technique of Mahendra Singh Dhoni. He said Dhoni lacked the "copy-book basics" of a wicketkeeper and said the flaws were not attracting attention because the Indian team has been in top form in recent months.

"He is improving with every match, though he is not technically sound behind the wicket," IANS quoted Kirmani as saying. "He doesn't have the copy-book basics of a wicketkeeper. Dhoni does not have the natural instincts of an athlete, which is very important for a wicketkeeper."

Kirmani, 59, played 88 Tests for India in a 12-year career that started in 1976 and is one of India's greatest wicketkeepers. He was also concerned about Dhoni's long-term future as a wicketkeeper. "No player remains the same after four years. The agility and reflex of a player diminishes with age," said Kirmani. "The body and muscles start wearing out. And Dhoni is playing all three forms of the game round the year."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN	ACROSS	DOWN
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5 Banned insecticide	42 Ben & Jerry's product	5 Regimen	6 "CSI" find
8 Post-bout apparel	47 Settled down	7 Middle ear	23 Not urban
12 Examination	48 Choker, e.g.	8 Updated movie	25 Thief's task
14 Watched	49 Interoffice note	9 Court-room	26 Some-where out there
15 Reverele	50 Earth (Prefix)	10 Mercedes-	27 Lion's pride?
16 Repair	51 Mulligan	11 Icelandic epic	29 Unde-a dele
17 Speck	52 Mulligan	12 Helen's home	31 Morning moisture
18 Open square, in Italy	53 Mulligan	13 Cold War	33 Certain city area
20 With terror	54 Mulligan	14 Cold War	34 Finger-print spirals
23 Poolroom	55 Mulligan	15 Cold War	36 Use a straw
24 Dead instrument	56 Mulligan	16 Cold War	37 Junk e-mail goal
25 Ray of light	57 Mulligan	17 Cold War	38 Slender
28 Glutton	58 Mulligan	18 Cold War	40 Erle's style
29 Play the banjo	59 Mulligan	19 Cold War	43 Bee follower
30 Craze	60 Mulligan	20 Cold War	44 Chow down
32 Wrestling form	61 Mulligan	21 Cold War	45 Expert
34 Wendie	62 Mulligan	22 Cold War	46 Kitten's call
35 Get better	63 Mulligan	23 Cold War	
36 Shake-speare's Kate	64 Mulligan	24 Cold War	



CRYPTOQUIP

KB TSAHS JT FHHL ITEFV
ISTP CHJJKBC VHYVKUF.
MH MHSY YEE JTEA JT ASKBF
YB TUHYB PTJKTBLTJKTBL
Saturday's Cryptquip: WHEN SOME HENS ARE INITIALLY GETTING THEIR HOTEL ROOMS, WOULD YOU CALL IT A CHICKEN CHECK-IN?
Today's Cryptquip Clue: H equals E