

## GM chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master (GM) Reefat Bin Sattar and GM Abdullah Al Rakib secured full points while GM Enamul Hossain Razib stumbled in the 9th United Insurance and United Leasing GM Chess Tournament at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

Organisers, however, saw no problem on the weekly holiday after the annoying load shedding forced them to cancel all games at the venue where the generator went off after providing support for one-and-a-half hour during the load management.

The National Sports Council's engineer yesterday visited the venue and examined the generator while the NSC secretary assured the organisers to repair the air-conditioner of newly-built NSC Tower, the original venue of the tournament, in a couple of days.

Reefat defeated Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan, Rakib got a walkover against FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman, but Razib drew with FM Mehdi Hasan Parag.

Top rated Georgian GM Mikhail Mchedlishvili, as expected, got off to a winning start beating Sheikh Nasir Ahmed.

Indian GM Neelotpal Das beat Nepalese Badri Lal Nepali, Georgian GM Mehrab Gagunashvili beat Debaraj Chatterjee of Destiny, GM Anuar Ismagambetov of Kazakhstan beat Indian Vinod Kumar, GM Igor Rausis beat FM Mohammad Javed of Destiny, Indian GM Dibyendu Barua beat Jamal Uddin, Indian GM Tejaz Bakre beat Keshav Shrestha of Nepal.

## Aussies make

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replaced by Graeme Swann -- the only specialist spinner on either side.

The pitch had taken turn on Thursday and the pressure was on the off-break bowler to produce a match-winning spell.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at lunch on the second day of the fifth Ashes Test between England and Australia at The Oval on Friday:

ENGLAND: First innings

(overnight: 307-8)

Strauss c Haddin b Hilfenhaus 55

Cook c Ponting b Siddle 10

Bell b Siddle 72

Collingwood c Hussey b Siddle 24

Trott run out (Katich) 41

Prior c Watson b Johnson 18

Flintoff c Haddin b Johnson 7

Broad c Ponting b Hilfenhaus 37

Swann c Haddin b Siddle 18

Anderson lbw b Hilfenhaus 0

Harrison not out 12

Extras: (b-12, lb-5, w-3, nb-18) 38

Total: (All out in 90.5 overs) 332

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-114, 3-

176, 4-181, 5-229, 6-247, 7-

268, 8-307, 9-308.

Bowler O M R W

Hilfenhaus 21.5 5 71 3

Siddle 21 6 75 4

Clark 14 5 41 0

Johnson 15 0 69 2

North 14 3 33 0

Watson 5 0 26 0

AUSTRALIA: First innings

Watson not out 30

Katich not out 26

Extras: (lb-4, nb-1) 5

Total: (For loss in 20.2 overs) 61

To bat: Ponting, Hussey, Clarke, North, Haddin, Johnson, Siddle, Clark, Hilfenhaus.

Bowler O M R W

Anderson 6 2 20 0

Flintoff 6 3 7 0

Swann 4.2 1 15 0

Harrison 4 1 15 0

## MSC likely

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prepared making an uncertainty of the tournament.

The football's governing body, however, had cleared their stance saying they had no scope to defer the tournament and as a worst-case scenario they would start the third edition of professional football league scrapping the Federation Cup this season.

After having formed a 24-member football committee a couple of days ago, the popular black and white outfit also confirmed the services of rusty coach Marufi Haq, who successfully guided Mohammedan to win the Federation Cup and the Super Cup and helped them finish behind champions Abahani in the second edition of the professional football league.

Manager Amirul Islam Babu and coach Marufi Haq are scheduled to visit Mymensingh where they are supposed to start their preparation camp from Sunday.

Marufi believed the time he was getting to prepare the boys was short, but he was confident of giving a competitive shape to the squad.



Grand Master Reefat Bin Sattar (R) ponders his next move against Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan during the 9th United Insurance and United Leasing GM Chess Tournament at the NSC conference room yesterday.

PHOTO STAR

## Asif gets Pak recall

## Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan on Friday recalled controversial pace-man Mohammad Asif but omitted experienced all-rounder Abdul Razzaq from their 15-man squad for next month's Champions Trophy.

Pakistan, who were originally to host the tournament before it was moved over security fears, are in Group A of the eight-nation event, to be held in South Africa from September 22 to October 5.

Asif was brought back in following a one-year ban, due to expire on September 22, having proved his fitness to selectors during practice matches earlier this month.

The ban was imposed after the 26-year-old failed a dope test in the inaugural season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) last year.

Chief selector Iqbal Qasim said Asif was ready to go.

Asif is back after he satisfied with his fitness and this is the best possible team for an event which is regarded as the toughest of all the events as the world's top eight teams compete in it," Qasim told reporters in Lahore.

Asif, who burst onto the scene in 2005, has been one of Pakistan cricket's most colourful characters.

He hit the headlines for the wrong reasons in 2006 when, along with controversial fellow paceman Shoaib Akhtar, he tested positive for the banned steroid nandrolone.

Akhtar was banned for two years and Asif for one year, but the bans were overturned on appeal.

Asif was also detained at Dubai airport for 19 days while returning from India after featuring in the IPL in 2008.

He was found in possession of opium but

Dubai police deported him after they found the quantity of the drug was "insufficient" to make a case.

A Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) disciplinary committee fined him one million rupees (12,500 dollars) over the incident.

The PCB said on Friday Asif cannot attend preparation camp for Champions Trophy despite being recalled in the squad until his year-long doping ban expires.

"Contrary to media reports, we wish to clarify that as per the directives of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Asif cannot take part in training camp until his ban expires," the PCB said in a statement.

Doping ban on the 26-year-old fast bowler expires September 22, the day the Trophy starts in South Africa.

Asif, however, will be eligible to play Pakistan's first match against the West Indies on September 23 -- a day after his ban expires.

The Pakistan team is expected to attend a training camp in Lahore early next month before leaving for South Africa to participate in the Champions Trophy.

Asif is currently training at a local cricket academy under the guidance of former captain Rashid Latif. He refused to speak to media on Friday, saying he needed to get clearance from the PCB.

Razzaq, 29, struggled for fitness during Pakistan's tour of Sri Lanka earlier this month, the visitors losing the Tests 2-0 and one-day series 3-2.

## SQUAD

Younus Khan (captain), Imran Nazir, Misbah-ul-Haq, Umer Akmal, Shoaib Malik, Shahid Afridi, Rana Naved-ul-Hasan, Fawad Alam, Mohammad Yousuf, Kamran Akmal, Umar Gul, Mohammad Aamir, Mohammad Asif, Rao Iftikhar, Saeed Ajmal

## Rain threatens SL win

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before stumps when he was caught in the slips off Nuwan Kulasekara.

Martin Guptill was unbeaten on 17 and Ross Taylor was on eight when bad light stopped play with 14 overs remaining in the day.

Rain has been forecast during the final day's play on Saturday in which Sri Lanka have three sessions to bowl out the tourists and take the lead in the two-Test series.

New Zealand may be without influential batsman Jesse Ryder and wicket-keeper Brendon McCullum in their second knock after the duo suffered a stomach bug and were confined to their hotel rooms on Friday.

"They are sick, very sick, but we hope they will be able to bat if required," said Kiwi coach Andy Moles.

"It's been a difficult day. Not only those two, but 13 of our 15 players have been hit by the bug. At one stage today, two of our support staff were in whites ready to go out and field."

"But that won't be an excuse. We are only looking to save this match and I am confident it can be done if the batsmen show the application and determination they are capable of."

Sri Lanka accepted New Zealand's request to field reserve wicket-keeper Reece Young on Friday since Ryder had been nominated to don the gloves if McCullum got injured.

Rules do not normally allow anyone outside the

playing XI from keeping wicket.

Earlier, Thilan Thushara and Muttiah Muralidaran finished with four wickets each as New Zealand, replying to Sri Lanka's 452, were bowled out for 299 in their first innings.

Muralidaran, Test cricket's leading bowler, had Iain O'Brien caught behind to claim his 100th wicket at Galle and take his overall record tally to 774 wickets.

Thushara then bowled Daniel Vettori in his first over, but not before the New Zealand captain had contributed a defiant 42.

Dilshan, promoted to open the innings in this Test for the first time in his career, followed a brilliant 92 in the first innings with 12 boundaries and a six in his ninth Test century.

Dilshan held out little hope for New Zealand if bad weather did not interfere on Saturday.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Friday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 452 (Dilshan 92, Jayawardene 114, Samaraweera 159; Vettori 4-28, Martin 4-77)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 281-8)

McLish lbw b Muralidaran 69 Guttill lbw b Kulasekara 0 Taylor not out 24 Flynn b Mendis 14 Patel lbw b Muralidaran 26 Taylor c P Jayawardene b Thushara 35 Ryder b Kulasekara 42 McCullum b Thushara 1

Extras: (b-4, lb-1) 5 Total: (For one wkt in 13 overs) 30 Fall of wicket: 1-1

Bowler O M R W

Kulasekara 10 2 41 1

Thushara 23 2 81 4

Mendis 39 8 85 1

Muralidaran 42 10 73 4

Paranavitana 2 0 8 0

SRI LANKA: Second innings

Paranavitana c Taylor b O'Brien 5 Dilshan not out 123 Sangakkara run out 46 M Jayawardene c & b Patel 27 Samaraweera c Taylor b Vettori 20 P Jayawardene not out 30 Extras: (b-5, lb-3) 8 Total: (For 4 wkt in 49 overs) 259 Did not bat: Mathews, Muralidaran, Mendis, Thushara, Kulasekara.

Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-120, 3-174, 4-205.

Bowler O M R W

Martin 5 1 25 0

O'Brien 8 1 45 1

Oram 5 0 31 0

Vettori 19 3 81 1

Patel 12 0 69 1

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings

Guttill not out 17 Flynn c M Jayawardene b Kulasekara 0 Taylor not out 8 Extras: (b-4, lb-1) 5 Total: (For one wkt in 13 overs) 30 Fall of wicket: 1-1

Bowler O M R W

Kulasekara 3 0 10 1

Thushara 2 2 0 0

Mendis 4 1 9 0

Muralidaran 4 2 6 0

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