

## Zia 11th

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Ziaur Rahman finished 11th in the fourth Kolkata Open International Grandmasters Chess Tournament that concluded at Gorky Sadan in Kolkata yesterday.

GM Le Quang Liem of Vietnam emerged champion with eight points.

Zia defeated Indian IM MR Lalit Babu in the final round to raise his point tally to six and half, just half-a-point ahead of GM Reefat Bin Sattar, who became 34th after beating Indian Sayantan Das.

GM Enamul Hossain Rajib with five points finished 54th followed by FM Abu Sufian Shakil, who finished 81st with 4.5 points. Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar with four points finished 87th. In the final round, Shakil drew with Bitan Banerjee, Sagar drew with Swapnil Dhopade, Rajib lost to Anwesha Upadhyaya while Debaraj Chatterjee went down against Thakur Akash.

## Seminar on disabled today

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A seminar titled 'Inclusive sports towards facilitating education of children with disabilities' will be held at the National Sports Council (NSC) on Sunday.

The seminar will start at 4pm.

National Association of Sports for the Persons with Disability (NASPD) and Center for Disability in Development (CDD) will jointly organise the seminar where State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker will be present as chief guest.

## Cricketers'

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Captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is also going through a rehabilitation programme after having operation in his both knees for the second time in Australia.

After a week's fitness and fielding training the cricketers will go into the Eid break.

Zimbabwe will arrive in Bangladesh on October 21 to play a five-match one-day series in Dhaka and Chittagong against the Tigers, who achieved a historic Test and one-day series wins in the Caribbean followed by a 4-1 series victory over Zimbabwe.

But before the next international assignment the cricketers will get the chance to play the Premier Division Cricket League matches.

## Strike duo

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due to off-side six minute from time.

"From the word go, I was a bit nervous because it was my first match after recovering from the injury. But I was confident that I would reach the target and it could have been pleasure for me had the referee not ruled out my third goal," said Emily, who also praised Zahid Hossain.

In the day's other match, a depleted Brothers Union also began their campaign with a 2-0 win over Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan at Army Stadium.

Mamun put the All Oranges ahead in the 18th minute before Milon sealed the match seven minutes into the second half.

## TEAMS

**MOHAMMEDAN:** MN Shakil, Ariful Islam, Wali Faisal, Mofazzal Hossain Saikat (Mamun Mia), Nasiruddin, Zahid Hossain, Arman Aziz, Alamu Bukola (Nasir), Zahid Hasan Emily, Enamul Haq Sharif (Shakil Ahmed), Abdul Baten Komol.

**FENI SOCCER CLUB:** Piaruzzaman Piru, Jahangir Alam, Nurul Amin Shipon, Shainur Rahman Shahin, Akramuzzaman Liton, Monayem Khan Raju, Emrul Hasan, Asif Yusuf, Ibayed Hossain Komol (Amirul Islam), Ashraf Kader Manju, Anwar Hossain (Abu Sufian Zahid).

Referee: Tayeb Hasan

Yellow cards: Sharif (Mohammedan)



## Did U Know?

Jean Genevieve Garmerin was the first female parachutist, jumping from a hot air balloon in 1799.



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark blows a kiss after her victory over Melanie Oudin of the United States at the Flushing Meadows on Wednesday.

## Teen Ws in last four Oudin's whirlwind run ends

AFP, New York



Teen upstarts Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark and Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium fought through the tension to reach their first Grand Slam semifinals Wednesday with nerve-testing US Open triumphs.

Ninth seed Wozniacki, until now the top-ranked woman never in a Slam final eight, ousted 70th-ranked US teen Melanie Oudin 6-2, 6-2 while Wickmayer, never before past a Slam second round, beat Ukraine's Kateryna Bondarenko 7-5, 6-4.

The 19-year-olds will meet in a Friday semifinal with the winner to play for a US Open title Saturday against either defending champion Serena Williams, an 11-time Grand Slam champion, or Belgian Kim Clijsters, back after a two-year layoff to start a family.

Wozniacki shrugged off the cheers at Arthur Ashe Stadium for home-nation hero Oudin and snuffed out her comeback bid early in the second set.

Oudin, 17, was the giant killer of Flushing Meadows, ousting former world number one Maria Sharapova, fourth seed Elena Dementieva and 13th seed Nadia Petrova after dumping former world number one Jelena Jankovic at Wimbledon.

But after a 6-1 run in Grand Slam matches where she lost the first set, "Oudin" at last found a trap she could not escape.

Wickmayer, ranked 50th, joined compatriot

and idol Clijsters as the first pair of unseeded women in the last four at the same US Open.

Wozniacki became the first Danish man or woman to reach a Grand Slam semifinal, surpassing the 1978 Australian Open women's quarterfinals run by Dorte Ekner as her homeland's best showing.

By winning her 10th match in a row, Wozniacki is assured of rising to a career-high seventh in the rankings. She had been the youngest player in the top 20 and the highest in the rankings never to reach a Slam quarterfinal.

Oudin, who made 43 unforced errors to just 20 for Wozniacki, surrendered a break to drop the first set.

The relentless Dane rescued two break points in the third game of the second set when Oudin swatted errant forehands and saved two more to hold in the fifth game, the American sending a backhand wide and a forehand beyond the baseline.

Inspired Wozniacki never dropped another game, breaking Oudin in the sixth game when her forehand nicked the net cord and landed wide and again at the end when the American sent a backhand long to fall in 88 minutes.

Wickmayer, whose mother died of cancer at age nine and whose father gave up his construction job so his daughter could follow her tennis dream, won the last five games against Bondarenko to advance after one hour 41 minutes.

Wickmayer was broken serving for the first set at 5-4 but broke back in the next game, held for the set and broke Bondarenko to open the second set. The Ukraine 23-year-old broke her twice for a 4-1 edge but never won another game.

## Federer's 22nd semi

AFP, New York



Roger Federer will play Novak Djokovic in the US Open semifinals on Saturday, their third consecutive clash at Flushing Meadows after the final of 2007 and the semifinals of last year.

Top seed and defending champion Federer reached the last four for a record 22nd time in a Grand Slam tournament despite a stirring late show from Robin Soderling, winning 6-0, 6-3, 6-7, 7-6.

Fourth-seeded Djokovic won a dour, stamina-sapping encounter with Spain's Fernando Verdasco 7-6, 1-6, 7-5, 6-2 to reach the semifinals for the third consecutive year.

Federer, who is bidding to win a record-equaling sixth straight US Open title here, looked to be cruising toward a comfortable straight-sets win before Swede Soderling, with nothing to lose, opened his shoulders and blasted away with his huge forehand.

He stunned Federer by bouncing back from

0-4 down in the third set tie-break to force a fourth set and in that, in another tie-break, he even had a set-point to take it all the way before Federer won the final three points of the match.

Soderling, who lost for the 12th consecutive time to Federer, said that he had played so badly in the first two sets that it could only get better.

Djokovic looked distinctly out of sorts for most of his match against the 10th-seeded Verdasco, losing seven games in a row from a set and 1-0 up.

But he dug deep to counter his big-hitting opponent and after the Serb took a two sets to one lead, the Spaniard started showing signs that he was struggling with a stomach muscle strain.

Once Djokovic had broken serve in the fourth set, there was only one winner, with Verdasco struggling to push off on his serve and hit his trademark forehands.

The two remaining quarterfinals on Thursday will see Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina take on Marin Cilic of Croatia in a battle of giant 20-year-olds and third-seed Rafael Nadal go up against Chile's Fernando Gonzalez.

## From bad to worse

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further on hearing of his selection by phoning Maradona to ask if it was a hoax.

However, Maradona refused to accept that he had made any mistakes and went on the attack against his critics.

"I am not afraid of criticism. I am afraid of nobody. I am doing my job, I have my team and I am going to go forward," said Maradona, who has overseen four defeats in his six World Cup qualifiers since taking over.

"Since I have been 15-years-old, I have been scared of nobody. Now I am 48 and I am going to continue to battle with them (the press)," added Maradona, whose side face a home game against tailenders Peru and then a daunting away trip to Uruguay in October.

Ironically the two substitutes almost combined to grab an unlikely point - the Argentinians task made harder by the 53rd minute sending-off of veteran midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron - in the dying minutes but Schiavi could not quite get his outstretched boot to Palermo's downward header.

Paraguay deserved their victory with a scintillating first-half display capped by a stunning goal from Nelson Valdes, who played despite a nagging knee injury.

Earlier Argentina had slipped to fifth because Ecuador had beaten Bolivia 3-1 in La Paz.

Ecuador's victory - which included a goal by Manchester United's big summer signing Antonio Valencia - sees them edge closer to a third successive place at the World Cup finals.

Chile were unable to join Paraguay in the finals as they lost 4-2 away to already qualified Brazil, thanks largely to a hat-trick by the rarely used 25-year-old Villarreal striker Nilmar.

The Chileans - seeking a first appearance at the finals since 1998 - had pulled themselves back from 2-0 down to 2-2, thanks to a double from Humberto Suazo.

However, Nilmar struck twice to end Chile's hopes of bringing to an end Brazil's proud record of never losing a home World Cup tie and their 35-year-old unbeaten home record in competitive matches.

The one good piece of news for Argentina was that Uruguay beat Colombia 3-1 in Montevideo.

Had Colombia won they too would have moved above Argentina, but were unable to gain their first away win of the series while Uruguay prevailed after a run of four matches without a win.

In a fiery encounter both sides had one player sent-off, Uruguay's Carlos Valdes in the 30th minute when they were leading 1-0. The visitors were also reduced to 10-men when striker Teofilio Gutierrez was red carded for deliberate handball at the start of the second-half.

Uruguay wrapped up victory in the 88th minute largely thanks to the persistence of Atletico Madrid star Diego Forlan as he chased what seemed a lost cause when a shot was deflected and was heading out.

However, the veteran striker got to the ball and cut it back inside for Sebastian Eguren to rifle the ball home and rub salt into Colombia's wounds as his goal was the winner against the same opponents earlier in the campaign in what remains the Uruguayans' sole away victory.

Uruguay's win sees them climb above Colombia into sixth, a point behind Argentina.

Venezuela, the only South American side never to appear at World Cup finals, also moved to a point of Argentina with a fine 3-1 home win over bottom side Peru.

## BCB boss

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BCB president in July 2007 after the caretaker government had dismissed the executive committee of the board. A 12-member executive was also formed at that time.

As the board is gearing up for the preparation of the 2011 World Cup, speculations are also rife that a change at the top is also very much on the cards.

## NZ's fight for survival

CRICINFO, Colombo

Despite finding out the morning before their first match that Gautam Gambhir had aggravated a groin injury and would take no part in the tri-series, India's captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was confident of the side's chances. He has reason to be.

This is India's third one-day series in Sri Lanka over the last 13 months. Where for decades India's record here had been nothing to crow over -- they arrived for a tri-series in 2005 having won just nine of 33 matches -- a strong one-day outfit has turned that record around dramatically. They have won seven of ten matches since then and in their last two series proved the past now counts for little, beating Sri Lanka 3-2 last August and 4-1 in February.

## TEAMS

**INDIA** (probable): Dinesh Karthik, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Yusuf Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, Praveen Kumar, Ishant Sharma, Ashish Nehra.

**NEW ZEALAND** (probable): Brendon McCullum, Jesse Ryder, Martin Gupthill, Ross Taylor, Jacob Oram, Grant Elliott, Daniel Vettori (captain), Nathan McCullum, Ian Butler or Kyle Mills, Daryl Tuffey, Shane Bond.

## Never Be

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focused as she should've been," said her mother, Leslie Oudin. "All that comes with experience and she'll learn how to handle this better."

But trade the experience? Probably not.

"The thing for me is, I love to play tennis, and that all comes along with it if you do well and if you win," she said. "And I mean, I'm ready for that if that's what you have to do to do well in tennis. I'm not going to stop playing just because of that."

She still has to keep improving, though.

Part of the formula in her three come-from-behind wins was that she was playing hard-hitting Russians -- including Maria Sharapova -- who made plenty of mistakes and fell into error-filled traps against Oudin's steady counterpunching.

Against Wozniacki, the 19-year-old who has won more matches than anyone on the tour this year, Oudin essentially faced a carbon copy of herself.

"She plays incredible defense," Oudin said. "Makes me hit a thousand balls and really is a really great player. I mean, I don't know what else I could have done."

Still, an hour after the match, it was hard to tell who won and who lost on this night at Arthur Ashe Stadium, where almost all the 23,881 fans had Oudin's back, even cheering a few times when her opponent double-faulted.

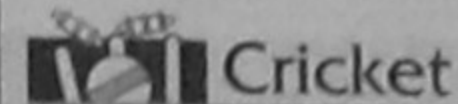
Wozniacki stepped out the front door of the building, with one person by her side, in mint-green sweatpants. She got a polite round of applause from a dozen or so fans who happened to be standing there.

Oudin was still in the players' courtyard doing TV interviews.

"I'm sorry that I won against Melanie today," Wozniacki had said earlier to the partisan fans in her postmatch interview.

No need to be sorry. After this whirlwind trip to the big city, it looks like Melanie will be just fine.

## Day-night Test not a reality until now



CRICINFO, undated

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has agreed to the ECB's request to appear in the first-ever day-night Test during the team's tour of England in May-June next year. However, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has not yet cleared the idea and its approval will be subject to suitable equipment being developed for the purpose.

The idea was first proposed by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) during its World Cricket Committee meeting at Lord's in July as a way of making the game's longest and oldest format more appealing. The other proposals included the use of pink balls and a World Test Championship.

The ICC has made it clear that though the concept of day-night Tests was discussed by its cricket committee, no decision has been taken yet. "The ICC cricket committee had last year agreed in principle that the notion of day-night Tests should be investigated," an ICC spokesperson said. "For now, we are happy for members to try this at the domestic level first and if it proves successful, the cricket committee would consider recommending this on a trial basis at the Test level."

Apparently, there are a number of key issues related to the concept that are still being discussed: the colour of players clothing, whether the suggested pink balls retains its colour or

needs to be changed frequently due to discoloration or wear and tear, to what extent would batting, bowling and fielding conditions vary and so on.

An MCC spokesman confirmed to Cricinfo that the World Cricket Committee would meet with the ICC in November. The future of Test cricket is on the agenda, and within that floodlit Tests will be discussed. "We are very keen to help in any way we can," the spokesman said, "and have been continuing with our trials of coloured balls to see if it will work on television."

The MCC could have a dual role in this process: as well as being fully behind floodlit Tests, Lord's could be the ground to host the match. One of the Bangladesh Tests is currently allocated to Headingly; the other is part of the bidding process, with Lord's in the running to hosting it. "We would like to host it and we have our brand new floodlights," said the spokesman.

The future of Test cricket has been the subject of debate within the ICC over the last year with the concept of a Test championship initially gaining ground. But the idea was opposed by the India and England cricket boards who did not find merit in sharing their substantial TV revenue that would have gone to a common pool.

India and England have subsequently backed the idea of day-night Test cricket as a way of taking the format forward amidst the rise of Twenty20 cricket. However, the ICC, which is finalising its Future Tours Programme post-2012, is yet to arrive at a decision on the matter. The ICC's executive board meets next in October, when the issue is likely to be discussed again.

## White whacks England



AFP, Southampton

Cameron White's maiden one-day international century was the cornerstone of Australia's six-wicket win against England here on Wednesday as they went 3-0 up in the seven-match series.

Australia, chasing 229 for victory under the Rose Bowl floodlights, finished on 230 for four with nine balls to spare as regular captain Ricky Ponting, back from his post-Ashe break, watched from the pavilion.

White, whose previous best of 53 came in Friday's series-opening four-run win at the Oval, made 105 before he hit Luke Wright to Ryan Sidebottom at mid-off with Australia needing nine runs off 16 balls for victory.

Together with stand-in skipper Michael Clarke (52), White shared a stand of 143 after Australia had been 52 for two.

Callum Ferguson and Michael Hussey completed the win.

Having survived two run-out chances, White should have been out for 92 only for Tim Bresnan at long-on to drop a routine chance off James Anderson.

Instead he went on to complete a 116-ball century with a six and nine fours in his 32nd match at this level.

Australia's bowlers had restricted England to 228 for nine, with medium-pace Shane Watson taking three wickets for 36 runs as the hosts top-order again failed to fire.

England were indebted to a ninth-wicket stand of 40 in 41 deliveries between Bresnan, 31 not out, and Sidebottom (24).

Only Strauss, who made 63, and his Middlesex teammate Eoin Morgan (43) managed more than Bresnan.

England had an early breakthrough in Australia's reply when Watson was lbw to Anderson.

White, nearly run out on 46 after Anderson at mid-on missed with an underarm shy, was given another let-off on 70 by the Lancashire quick, who hit fresh air with a backhand flick at the bowler's end.

White cashed in by on-driving left-arm seamer Sidebottom for six.

Clarke, a delivery after completing his fifty, was bowled by off-spinner Graeme Swann but the game had gone beyond England's reach.

Earlier, England saw several of their specialist batsmen get out when they failed to hit over the top.

## SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard in the third one-day international between England and Australia at the Rose Bowl in Southampton on Wednesday:

## ENGLAND

Strauss c Clarke b Hauritz 63  
Bopara c Hopes b Bracken 10  
Prior c Hopes b Johnson 0  
Shah lbw b Johnson 8  
Collingwood c Bracken b Watson 28  
Morgan c Johnson b Lee 43  
Wright c sub (Voges) b Hopes 9  
Bresnan not out 31  
Swann lbw b Watson 3  
Sidebottom c White b Watson 24  
Extras: (lb-1, w-4, nb-4) 9  
Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs) 228  
Did not bat: Anderson  
Fall of wickets: 1-41, 2-41, 3-62, 4-98, 5-132, 6-147, 7-183, 8-188, 9-228.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	9	1	58	1
Bracken	10	0	36	1
Johnson	10	1	39	2
Hopes	7	0	34	1
Hauritz	6	0	24	1
Watson	8	0	36	3

## AUSTRALIA

Watson lbw b Anderson 7  
Paine lbw b Collingwood 29  
White c Sidebottom b Wright 105  
Clarke b Swann 52  
Ferguson not out 20  
Hussey not out 8  
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-6) 9  
Total: (For 4 wks in 48.3 overs) 230  
Did not bat: Hopes, Johnson, Lee, Hauritz, Bracken.  
Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-52, 3-

195, 4-220.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	9.3	1	52	1
Sidebottom	10	1	39	0
Bresnan	10	1	46	0
Collingwood	7	0	39	1
Wright	7	1	16	1
Swann	5	0	35	1

Result: Australia won by six wickets and lead seven-match series 3-0.  
Man-of-the-match: Cameron White.

## Diego needs

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Which is more than can be said of Diego. He has called up 62 players in his short tenure, and given continuity to none. Ahead of their two biggest qualifiers he called up 29 players, many for the first time. This creates uncertainty within the squad and is a rookie mistake to avoid.

It would be all well and good to blame Maradona for this demise. But Diego hasn't turned a good situation bad, just a bad situation worse: Alfio Basile only resigned after a shocking series of results.

Julio Grondona, the man at the helm of the Argentine Football Association (AFA) should share at least part of the blame. The romantic notion of the Maradona and Carlos Bilardo combination resurrecting like they did some twenty-four years ago, is the kind of fantasy that sits well in children's storybooks. Reality is more like Brazil where Dunga's pragmatic approach has won less admirers but more games.

Football has moved on, and Maradona and the AFA needs to as well.

Worryingly, Grondona has never sacked a manager in his 30 years as the head of the AFA. So expect 35 million Argentines to be heartbroken come next summer. And along with them some scores of others across the world.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>38</b> Recede	<b>3</b> Leading	<b>24</b> Prized
<b>1</b> Mail carrier's	<b>40</b> Tears	<b>man</b>	<b>possession</b>
<b>6</b> Refuse	<b>42</b> Owns	<b>in the</b>	<b>25</b> Do some
<b>12</b> Carriage	<b>44</b> Badly	<b>theater</b>	<b>down-</b>
<b>13</b> Idle	<b>needing</b>	<b>4</b> Huck's	<b>sizing</b>
<b>14</b> Connective	<b>a map</b>	<b>pal</b>	<b>6</b> Top-notch
<b>land</b>	<b>46</b> Goldbrick	<b>5</b> Effluvia	<b>sized</b>
<b>areas</b>	<b>50</b> Formal	<b>6</b> Baffle	<b>28</b> Extra
<b>15</b> Coypu	<b>expulsion</b>	<b>7</b> Smack	<b>ingredient</b>
<b>16</b> Old	<b>52</b> Tristan's	<b>9</b> Variety of	<b>30</b> Mined-
<b>woman's</b>	<b>love</b>	<b>leather</b>	<b>over</b>
<b>home?</b>	<b>54</b> "Summer	<b>10</b> One side	<b>31</b> Ex-zee
<b>17</b> Gob			