

Sagar unbeaten champ

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar emerged unbeaten champion in the Mercantile Bank 36th National Championship after drawing against Debaraj Chatterjee in the final round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room yesterday.

The draw meant Sagar kept his solo lead to finish with 10 points from 12 games. It is the first national championship title for Sagar, who was junior champion for three years from 2007 to 2009. He qualified for the national champions in 2008 and continued to participate in both the junior and national championships.

FM Abu Sufian Shakil became runner-up with 9.5 points while GM Reefat Bin Sattar finished third with 8.5 points.

FM Mehdi Hasan Parag with 7.5 points, FM Mohammad Javed and Debaraj with seven points each finished fourth, fifth and seventh respectively.



FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar makes a move during his final round draw against Debaraj Chatterjee in the Mercantile Bank 36th National Championship at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room yesterday. The FIDE Master became unbeaten champion of the competition.

Mohammedan thump Ajax

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Titans Mohammedan got off to a flying start in the Super League of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League with a massive 8-1 win over Ajax Sporting Club at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Club Cup champions Mohammedan hardly faced any trouble against the opponents, who had suffered an 8-0 in the first meeting, and dominated the first half 5-1 after Qumruzzaman Rana gave a third minute lead through a field goal.

Forward Jahidul Islam Rajon doubled the advantage four minutes later before Ajax put up some spirited show to pull a goal back through Sharafat Jewel in the ninth minute

to indicate a come back in the game.

But they finally failed to press their mighty opponents and were under pressure for the rest of the game as Mamunur Rahman Chayan converted a penalty in the 12th minute before Rajon struck his second in the 31st minute.

One minute later, Sabbir Hossain Rana converted the second penalty corner to extend the margin to 5-1 and the Black and Whites went for a tension-free break.

After resumption, Rasel Mahmud Jimmy found the back of the board through a field goal while Chayan completed the rout converting two more penalty corners in the 63rd and 67th minutes.

With ten straight victories, Mohammedan consolidated their lead with 30 points, six ahead of rivals Abahani, who will take on Mariner Youngs Club in their 10th game today.



Mohammedan Sporting Club striker Rasel Mahmud Jimmy (R) drives the ball forward during their 8-1 thrashing of Ajax Sporting Club in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Scots call back Hamilton for Tigers ODI

CRICINFO

Former captain Gavin Hamilton has been recalled to Scotland's strong 14-member squad to face Bangladesh in the one-off ODI in Glasgow on July 19. Hamilton, who stepped down from his post last month, didn't participate in the ICC World Cricket League Division One in Netherlands recently.

Two players who were busy with county commitments, Kyle Coetzer and Josh Davey, have also been included. The squad includes the core group of players from the WCL, where the team won five out of seven games.

The teams last met in Scottish soil during the 1999 World Cup. The ground will also host the one-off match between Netherlands and Bangladesh on July 20.

SQUAD

Gordon Drummond (captain), Richie Berrington, Kyle Coetzer, Josh Davey, Gordon Goudie, Gavin Hamilton, Majid Haq, Moneeb Iqbal, Dougie Lockhart, Ross Lyons, Neil McCallum, Preston Mommson, Matthew Parker, Fraser Watts.

India draw tour game

CRICINFO

Lahiru Thirimanne joined the centuries club as Sri Lanka Board President's XI once again dominated the Indians, on the final day at Colts Cricket Club. Pragnan Ojha was the only Indian player to gain as he finished with three wickets -- to go with his first

innings with a lead of 223. Uplu Tharanga began aggressively but his knock came to a halt when he was caught by VVS Laxman off Ishant Sharma for 21 off 15 balls.

Porterfield

FROM PAGE 17 had little difficulty in rotating the strike and gradually pushing their team's score towards respectability. The 107-run partnership came to an end when Paul Stirling induced Shakib to take a risk, and had him caught at long-off.

Siddiqui, however, remained unperturbed, caressing O'Brien for a boundary in the next over and found the ropes with two streaky edges against the same bowler.

The middle and lower-order batsmen chipped in with useful contributions as Siddiqui moved towards his century.

BRIEF SCORES BANGLADESH: 234-9 in 50 overs (Junaed 100, Shakib 50; Rankin 3-43).

IRELAND: 235-3 in 45 overs (Porterfield 108, Stirling 52; Razzak 1-47).

Result: Ireland won by seven wickets.

Becks not

FROM PAGE 20 But he said he would relish the chance to be part of the Great Britain team at the 2012 London Olympics. "If I'm still playing and I'm still considered to make a difference to the team I'd love to, but if not then I'm definitely going to be there anyway.

"It's the east end of London - it's on my manor. To be part of getting the Olympics to the east end of London... it's one of the best experiences that I have ever experienced."

Oezil might

FROM PAGE 20 in another situation, we have to deal with it.

Oezil started his career at Schalke but joined Bremen in January 2008. He said on July 12 he plans to see out his contract with his current club this season.

Pakistan against record

Cricket

AFP, London

Pakistan faced a record-breaking pursuit of 440 to win the first Test against Australia at Lord's here on Thursday.

Australia were bowled out for 334 in their second innings at tea on the third day, with tail-ender Ben Hilfenhaus piling on the agony for Pakistan with a Test-best 56 not out.

The highest total ever scored in a fourth innings to win a Test is the 418 for seven made by the West Indies against Australia in Antigua in 2002-03.

Pakistan's equivalent record is the 315 for nine they compiled against Australia at Karachi in 1994.

These were daunting targets to better for a Pakistan team dismissed for just 148 in their first innings and including two debutant top-order batsmen in Azhar Ali and Umar Amin.

Simon Katich again proved a thorn in Pakistan's side before he fell in sight of a century for the second time in this match.

Pakistan's plight was then compounded by both Hilfenhaus and debutant wicketkeeper Tim Paine (47) making their highest Test scores, with the Tasmanians sharing a ninth-wicket stand of 74.

No 11 Doug Bollinger also chipped in with a Test-best 21 before he was last man out, bowled by leg-spinner Danish Kaneria to end a 10th-wicket partnership

worth 52.

Australia saw their lunch score of 188 for five become 188 for seven as they lost Katich and fellow left-hander Marcus North in quick succession.

Katich, having made 80 in the first innings, was on 83 when he pushed outside off-stump against seamer Umar Gul, who finished with four for 61, and edged to wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal.

But he had put Australia in a commanding position after facing 174 balls with 14 boundaries in a four-hour stay at the crease.

Two balls later North, on 20, was drawn into driving at a Mohammad Asif delivery that cut away before Kamran Akmal took a good diving catch.

Australia were 208 for eight when Steven Smith, also making his debut, was lbw to opposing leg-spinner Kaneria.

But Paine and Hilfenhaus kept the runs coming until the keeper was bowled by the leg-spin of Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi.

Hilfenhaus though came down the pitch and outside leg-stump to hoist paceman Mohammad Asif for six over extra-cover after Pakistan had taken the new ball.

And the seamer, whose previous Test-best was 20 against England at Edgbaston last year, completed a first fifty in his 10th match at this level when he pushed Kaneria for three.

Hilfenhaus, who reached the landmark in 81 balls with a six and six fours, saw his achievement applauded by team-

mates who had all gathered on the dressing room balcony in the pavilion.

Australia, after 15 wickets fell on Wednesday, resumed on 100 for four - a lead of 205.

Katich was 49 not out and nightwatchman Mitchell Johnson two not out after medium-pace Shane Watson had taken a Test-best five for 40.

Conditions, as they had been for most of the match, were overcast and helpful to swing bowling but Katich and Johnson still compiled a fifth-wicket partnership of 52.

Johnson registered a 30 featuring five fours before he was bowled by an inswinger to give Gul a century of Test wickets.

These matches are being played in England because of security concerns in Pakistan where international cricket was effectively suspended following an armed attack on Sri Lanka's team bus in Lahore in March last year.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 253 all out 76.5 overs (Katich 80, Hussey 56 not out, Clarke 47, Ponting 26; Aamer 4-72, Asif 3-63, Kaneria 2-49)

PAKISTAN: First innings 148 all out in 40.5 overs (Butt 63, Afridi 31, Azhar 16, Kaneria 14; Watson 5-40, Hilfenhaus 2-37, Bollinger 2-38)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 334 all out in 91 overs (Katich 83, Hilfenhaus 56 not out, Paine 47, Watson 31, Johnson 30; Gul 4-61, Asif 3-77, Kaneria 2-74)

Imran in Hall of Fame

Cricket

ANI, Dubai

Pakistan legend Imran Khan became the fourth Pakistani to be inducted formally into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame at Lord's on Wednesday.

The former captain received his commemorative cap from ICC Chief Executive Haroon Lorgat who was accompanied by Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman and International Cricket Council (ICC) director Jiaz Butt, Cricket Australia chairman and ICC director Jack Clarke and the MCC President John Barclay, who is a former Sussex teammate of Imran. Imran joins batsmen Hanif



IMRAN KHAN Mohammad and Javed Miandad as Pakistan's representatives in the initial intake of 55 players into the Hall of Fame, a joint venture between the ICC and the Federation of International

Cricketers' Associations (FICA). Wasim Akram who was voted in at the end of 2009 joined the trio last year.

After the presentation during lunch at the MCC Spirit of Cricket Test match between Pakistan and Australia, Imran said: "It is a great honour to be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame and to be recognised for my cricketing achievements for Pakistan.

"I achieved many things during my cricketing career, including winning a World Cup in 1992, but to be named amongst the initial 55 inductees, alongside Hanif and Javed makes me very proud."

Imran captained Pakistan in 48 of his 88 Test matches scoring 3,807 runs averaging 37.69, while with the ball he

claimed 362 Test wickets with an economy rate of 2.54.

His career averages put him at the top of the quartet of all-rounders (fellow Hall of Fame members Sir Ian Botham, Sir Richard Hadlee and Kapil Dev being the other three) who dominated Test cricket during the 1980s.

He led Pakistan to their first series victory in England in 1987, taking 10-77 to claim victory for the side at Headingley after every other match of the series had been drawn.

The crowning glory of his 21 years at the top of international cricket came in 1992 when he led Pakistan to victory in the cricket World Cup over Graham Gooch's England by 22 runs.

Nazma, Jewel

FROM PAGE 17 with a time of 1:12.40 minute while his teammate Khadiza bettered the 15-17 age group's 400m freestyle timing 5:38.40 minutes. The previous time was 5:39.02 minutes.

Khadiza also won gold medal in 100m and 400m freestyles to help her institution raise the medal tally.

Nadimul first

FROM PAGE 17 and Antara Islam (BKSP) won silver and bronze respectively.

In the women's team event of air pistol, Dhaka Rifles Club won the gold medal with 703 points.

Two-hundred participants from 23 different clubs from across the country are taking part in the competition.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar (C) meets participants at the inaugural ceremony of the 6th School Kho Kho Tournament at the Outer Stadium yesterday. As many as 500 students from 25 high schools are taking part in the four-day competition.

Silva finally

FROM PAGE 20 German international defender Jerome Boateng and Ivory Coast midfielder Yaya Toure from Barcelona.

"Roberto Mancini and Garry Cook have told me we are building a very good team with some of the best players in the world and we are going to fight for honours," added Silva, who will have a holiday before joining his new team.

AFC women's

FROM PAGE 17 the second round qualifiers to join Vietnam, Thailand and Chinese Taipei to play a single round-robin league and the champions will qualify for the six-team finals where Japan, Korea Republic, DPR Korea, China and Australia have been given direct entries.

FIXTURES

Sept 20 India v Iran Bangladesh v Jordan Sept 22 Iran v Bangladesh Jordan v India Sept 24 India v Bangladesh Jordan v Iran

Aduriz signs

FROM PAGE 20 quoted as saying.

Valencia finished third in La Liga two months ago to earn a place in next season's Champions League group stages.

CA plans huge changes

Cricket

CRICINFO

Split-innings games offering bowlers more incentives and the possibility of a batsman getting two lives are some of the options being considered by Cricket Australia as it plans a comprehensive makeover to revive the one-day format. The radical changes are part of an overhaul that will be trialled in next summer's domestic competition if the ideas gain board approval next month.

While viewer figures remain healthy for Australia's ODIs, crowd figures have fallen and there is a fear the concept will become irrelevant following the explosion of Twenty20 and the traditional popularity of Tests. Cricket Australia hopes that if the revamp is successful the rest of the cricketing world could be convinced that the format is worthy of being adopted for the 2015 World Cup.

The major adjustments involve a proposed reduction to 40 overs a side, which is split into two 20-over innings, and 10 wickets for each team. In the hope of maintaining interest in the contest for longer the other innovative additions include:

- One batsman dismissed in the first innings may be used again in the second innings, similar to a designated hitter in baseball

- A minimum of four bowlers to be used without any other restrictions
- Two bouncers between shoulder and head height allowed an over, an increase of one
- More generosity on legside wides
- Two fielders outside the inner fielding circle in the first five overs of each innings, and a maximum of four during overs six to 20

"One-day cricket is not in massive decline, but it is in slight decline and we need to do something to prevent a massive decline," Cricket Australia's marketing manager Julian Dunne said. "This plan is not signed off but it has been developed from 1200 surveys and six focus groups in Sydney and Melbourne. People tell us they love one-day cricket, but that there is an opportunity to improve it."

The opening round of the FR Cup, Australia's domestic limited-overs competition, is pencilled in for the new conditions before reverting to the standard 50-over fare until the one-day international representatives are required for duty. Split-innings fixtures will then conclude the season, including for the final.

While it is keen to experiment, Cricket Australia does not want to disrupt the preparations of Ricky Ponting's men in their push for a fourth World

Cup victory in a row in the subcontinent early next year. Under the trial a specialist ODI-player like James Hopes would appear in one split-innings match and four regular fixtures for Queensland. Australia's Test players will be briefed about the developments following the opening Test against Pakistan in London.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Solution time: 21 mins.

Solution to the crossword puzzle, showing the words filled into the grid.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers for solving.

CRYPTOQUIP

EW OSP CSNM F GMYNSR
SWW ZEJC BSUA ZFJMY SR F
NBFUAERD NPXXMY AFO, FYM
OSP NGYFOERD WSY XMYBO?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OLD FILM IN WHICH JAMES DEAN REJECTS THE USE OF GOOD GRAMMAR HABITS: "REBEL WITHOUT A CLAUSE." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals F