

World Chess C'ship on Anand 1, Gelfand 1

SPORTS REPORTER The World Chess Championship match between holder Viswanathan Anand of India and Boris Gelfand of Israel is underway in Moscow.

The first two games of the 12-game match have both ended in a draw, and the third game will take place on Monday.

BKSP thrash Indira Road

SPORTS REPORTER An unbeaten century by BKSP opener Farzana Akhtar and a four-wicket haul by Eka Mallick was too much for Indira Road Kriya Chakra who went down by 150 runs in the 4th Women's Club Cricket League match at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.

Batting first, the home side made 218-2 in 40 overs with Farzan hammering 105 off 112 balls with the help of eight boundaries. She shared a century opening stand with Sharmin who made 42 off 55 balls.

Army, Ansar champions

SPORTS REPORTER Bangladesh Army completed a hat-trick of titles in the National Volleyball Championship with a straight 3-0 win over Bangladesh Air Force in the final at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

Chargers in a crucial Indian Premier League match at PCA stadium in Mohali on Sunday. Skipper Hussey and Singh put on quick-fire unbeaten 45 runs for the seventh wicket to keep themselves in contention for the playoffs spot.

Young Gurkeerat smashed a six and four boundaries in his 12-ball 29 whirlwind knock. Hussey played a captain's knock as he whacked five sixes and four fours in his 35-ball blitzkrieg.

Chasing a massive 191-run target, Punjab were in trouble when they lost two wickets in the Dale Steyn's seventeenth over as they were reduced to 149/6 in 16.4 overs.

WI's Powell hits form

Cricket AFP, London Kieran Powell scored the first hundred of the West Indies tour of England as they avoided an embarrassing defeat against the England Lions on Saturday ahead of next week's first Test at Lord's.

West Indies were facing the possibility of being beaten with more than a day to spare in this four-day match at Northampton.

Man City

Yet incredibly instead of ramming home their advantage, City were left shellshocked as 10-man Rangers took a 2-1 lead in the 66th minute, Mackie heading in at the far post after Armand Traore's swift break from defence.

Amid unbearable tension, City looked set for a traumatic defeat until substitute Dzeko nodded in to equalise in the second of five minutes of injury time.

Then, out of nowhere, Aguero skipped clear of the Rangers defence to spark bedlam at Eastlands with the most dramatic winner imaginable.



US tennis player Serena Williams is overjoyed after beating Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in the final of the Madrid Masters at the Magic Box sports complex yesterday.

Madrid title Serena's

Tennis AP, Madrid Serena Williams overpowered Victoria Azarenka 6-1, 6-3 Sunday, winning the Madrid Masters and leaving her top-ranked opponent so exasperated she smashed her racket to the ground.

In a match between two of the tour's heaviest hitters, Williams battered Azarenka on the new blue clay court with big serves and fierce returns. The 13-time Grand Slam winner captured the first four games and had no trouble the rest of the way.

"I can still do better," said Williams, who took a year-long absence because of illness in 2011. "This is really good. I have been working hard. I had some tough battles and really unfortunate circumstances so I really love this."

Williams served 14 aces on her way to avenging her only loss in six previous meetings with Azarenka. She was beaten by the Belarus star in the 2009 final in Miami.

Williams won the 41st title of her career and second this season. She is unbeaten in her last 13 matches on clay. Azarenka had won her four previous tournaments.

Williams broke in Azarenka's first service game when the Australian Open winner could only stab her stinging returns into the stands. Williams's strong start left Azarenka shaken, and she committed three double-faults to cede her serve again and trail 3-0. The flustered Azarenka netted a forehand after Williams had fallen on the slick surface and left the entire court open. She then produced another double-fault to conclude a dreadful first set.

Williams kept the momentum going, hitting her fifth and sixth aces to hold for love at the start of the second set.

As her frustration boiled over, Azarenka smashed her racket to the ground moments before Williams blasted a return by her to break her yet again.

Williams sealed the victory in 64 minutes with her final ace. "I want to congratulate Serena for a great week," Azarenka said. "She did a great job."

Punjab win a thriller

AGENCIES, New Delhi Late charge by David Hussey (65 not out) and Gurkeerat Singh (29 not out) helped Kings XI Punjab snatch a last-ball victory over Deccan Chargers in a crucial Indian Premier League match at PCA stadium in Mohali on Sunday.

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Young Gurkeerat smashed a six and four boundaries in his 12-ball 29 whirlwind knock. Hussey played a captain's knock as he whacked five sixes and four fours in his 35-ball blitzkrieg.

Chasing a massive 191-run target, Punjab were in trouble when they lost two wickets in the Dale Steyn's seventeenth over as they were reduced to 149/6 in 16.4 overs.

Steyn struck twice in an over to dismiss Piyush Chawla (8) and Siddharth Chitnis (11) to put Deccan on top for a while but it eventually went in vain.

Punjab lost Azhar Mahmood (31) after he

revive their run chase with Hussey in the middle overs.

Earlier, electing to bat, Shikhar Dhawan (71) and Cameron White (67 not out) shared quick 96-run stand to help Deccan Chargers post 190-4 on a batting-friendly wicket.

Dhawan continued his good run in this season as he smashed three huge sixes and four boundaries in his quick-fire 50 balls innings. Praveen Kumar dismissed Dhawan in the seventeenth over to halt the Dhawan-White juggernaut.

White hit a six and eight boundaries in his whirlwind 41-ball knock as he also added 44 runs for the fourth wicket with Dan Christian (24) to push the score further. Christian smacked two sixes and a four in his 10-ball blitzkrieg.

SCORES IN BRIEF: DECCAN CHARGERS: 190 for 4 in 20 overs (Dhawan 71, White 67; Azhar Mahmood 2-39) KINGS XI PUNJAB: 194 for 6 in 20 overs (D Hussey 65 not out, Gurkeerat 29 not out; Dale Steyn 2-26) Result: Kings XI Punjab won by 4 wickets. Man-of-the-match: David Hussey

WI's Powell hits form

Cricket AFP, London Kieran Powell scored the first hundred of the West Indies tour of England as they avoided an embarrassing defeat against the England Lions on Saturday ahead of next week's first Test at Lord's.

West Indies were facing the possibility of being beaten with more than a day to spare in this four-day match at Northampton.

At the start of Saturday's third day, they resumed on 28 for three in their second innings, still 166 adrift of the 341 first innings score posted by the Lions, England A side.

But Powell (108) shared successive century stands with Darren Bravo (57) and Shivnarine Chanderpaul (77) and by stumps the West Indies had advanced to 377 for eight -- ahead of 183.

West Indies' batting is considered to be the most vulnerable aspect of their game and the way they folded to 147 all out, albeit in seam-friendly conditions, in the first innings did not augur well for Lord's.

Nor did Friday's top-order collapse but Powell and Bravo, whose fifty was his second of the match, both cashed in after they each survived a difficult chance while still in the teens.

Powell, who spent two years at the elite Millfield School in Somerset, where the former pupils also include England's Simon Jones and Craig Kieswetter, said: "I'm pretty much as acquainted with the conditions as anyone else in the team."

"It's always important to have good days in practice matches and spend as much time as possible in the middle. It is good that we got some time in the middle that was well needed."

However, a cautious Powell added: "You will have to play according to the conditions. We do not know what Lord's is going to provide differently to this ground or any other ground."

Man City

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QPR's defeat was not enough to send the Londoners down into the Championship however as their rivals for the last relegation spot Bolton could only draw 2-2 at Stoke.

In the other issues to be settled on Sunday, Arsenal clinched third place with a 3-2 win at West Bromwich Albion while Tottenham sealed fourth place with a 2-0 win over Fulham at White Hart Lane.

U-15s fight to safety

SPORTS REPORTER Resolute stonewalling in the second innings helped the Bangladesh Under-15s earn a draw against Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Under-15s in the first three-day game at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.

The home side finished the third and final day on 151-5 after CAB had taken a 124-run first innings lead, having declared their first innings on 283-9.

CAB called back their last pair after batting 10.3 overs in the morning, leaving Bangladesh Under-15s 80 overs to deal with.

Omar Faruk and Aryan Fahim added 50 for the first wicket before the former fell to Subhrajit Das in the 25th over. Aryan made 46 off 143 balls in over three hours but after he became the fourth wicket to fall in the 49th over and the fifth wicket fell, the wobble was fixed by Jalaluddin (unbeaten on 29 off 144 balls) and skipper Rabbi Hasan (unbeaten on 29 off 70) who held out for 25.5 overs at the end of the day.

The second and final three-dayer between the two sides will begin on May 16 at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna.

Wu pips Phelps

AFP, Charlotte China's Wu Peng used an impressive finishing kick to beat Michael Phelps in the 200-metre butterfly on Saturday at the Charlotte UltraSwim Grand Prix meet.

Wu passed both Phelps and Sebastien Rousseau and touched the wall to win in a time of one minute, 56.69 seconds. American Phelps finished second in 1:56.87 while South Africa's Rousseau was third in 1:57.54.

Wu will be chasing his first Olympic medal in the 200 butterfly at the London Games.

Nasir the crowd

FROM PAGE 16 were sitting, and spent a considerable amount of time in signing autographs and taking pictures with everyone who requested him to," said Mahir Khan, a Toronto resident who was at the game.

"Bangladeshi jerseys and flags dominated the small crowd that showed up for the match, and Nasir easily had the biggest support from the stands in the match," he added.

BSF mulling

FROM PAGE 16 bound swimmer Mahfizur Rahman Sagor and he believes he could improve the timing of Sagor, who finished 63rd out of 123 swimmers in the World Swimming Competition," said Shaheen.

"If he can improve Sagor's timing, we will discuss with him about staying here up to the next SA Games, although we are also in touch with an Italian swimming coach," said the BSF general secretary.

Bule suits Federer

Tennis REUTERS, Madrid Roger Federer left a lasting impression on the Madrid Open's controversial blue claycourt by grinding out a 3-6 7-5 7-5 victory against Czech Tomas Berdych to match Rafa Nadal's record of 20 Masters titles on Sunday.

Spianard Nadal, who fell in the third round and will lose his number two ranking to his great Swiss rival, was one of the most vocal opponents of the new surface, which he said was dangerously slippery.

Federer, however, proved better able to adapt to the testing conditions and secured his fourth title of the season, and the 74th of his illustrious career, after edging a gripping final at the futuristic Magic Box arena.

"It feels amazing," Federer told spectators sweltering in the Madrid heat inside the Manolo Santana show court as his wife and twin daughters looked on.

"Look, it's been a tough tournament and tough to move but you just go on with it and try to make the best out of it," added the 30-year-old.

"There was some good tennis and there

was some bad tennis as well, you see that in all the tournaments, but I thought the level of play under the circumstances was very good."

Federer came into the tournament following a month-long rest and is looking in ominous form as the world's top players prepare for the French Open starting in Paris later this month.

The 2009 Roland Garros champion had already won titles this year in Rotterdam, Dubai and Indian Wells and has only lost three times since falling to Djokovic in the U.S. Open semi-finals last September.

Czech sixth seed Berdych, who ended Federer's dream of Olympic gold in Athens in 2004 and knocked him out of Wimbledon in the quarter-finals two years ago, made the stronger start and a break of his opponent's serve in the second game was enough to settle an otherwise desperately tight first set.

The crowd, including American actor Will Smith, tried their best to lift the hugely-popular Federer, champion in 2006 and 2009, and he responded with two breaks in the second set that helped him level the match.

Bairstow gets Test call

Cricket AFP, London Jonathan Bairstow was named in an England Test squad for the first time Sunday when he was included in a 13-man party for the series opener against the West Indies at Lord's starting Thursday.

The 22-year-old Yorkshireman is set to bat at number six if selected after all-rounder Ravi Bopara, in line to fill that middle-order spot, was omitted from the squad after suffering a thigh injury playing for Essex.

Bairstow, who has played in six one-day internationals and six Twenty20 internationals, is the only player in the squad yet to be capped at Test level.

Since making an impressive ODI debut against India in Cardiff last September, he has also continued to shine in the longer format, with two centuries already in this season's County Championship.

He has also made a fifty in the ongoing tour match between the second-string England Lions and the West Indies which concludes at Northampton on Sunday.

And were he to be selected on Thursday, Bairstow would complete a notable family double as he is the son of the late Yorkshire and England wicketkeeper David Bairstow, who appeared in four Tests from 1979 to 1981.

"Jonny Bairstow has put in a number of impressive performances both for England Lions and Yorkshire and has been working hard on the England Performance Programme over the last couple of years," England national selector Geoff Miller said after announcing the squad.

"He is an exciting young player, who now has an opportunity to experience the Test environment," added Miller, a former England off-spinner who played international cricket alongside David Bairstow.

England's squad, once more captained by opening batsman Andrew Strauss, also included five seamers in Steven Finn, Tim Bresnan and Graham Onions, as well as likely new ball duo James Anderson and Stuart Broad.

"We have selected a very strong 13-man squad which allows us to consider a number of options before making a decision about Thursday's side," said Miller.

"We have included five seam bowlers who have all demonstrated that they are capable of winning Test matches for England."

England won just once in five Tests during their winter series against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates and away to Sri Lanka after reaching the top of the International Cricket Council rankings at home last year.

SQUAD

Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Jonathan Trott, Kevin Pietersen, Ian Bell, Matt Prior, Stuart Broad, Tim Bresnan, Graeme Swann, Steven Finn, James Anderson, Jonathan Bairstow, Graham Onions.

SPANISH GP Maldonado's maiden crown

AFP, Barcelona Venezuela's Pastor Maldonado claimed his maiden Formula One win, and handed Williams their first victory since 2004 with a dramatic finish in the Spanish Grand Prix here on Sunday.

Spaniard Fernando Alonso finished second with Finn Kimi Raikkonen in third as Maldonado made the most of inheriting pole position from Lewis Hamilton after the Briton was relegated to the back of the pack on Saturday.

McLaren driver Hamilton finished in eighth place at over a minute behind as Maldonado won a thrilling duel with Ferrari's former two-time world champion Alonso.

Alonso's runner-up place gave him 18 points and the championship lead at the expense of defending world champion Sebastian Vettel, who was sixth in a Red Bull having started from seventh on the grid.

Rajasthan

FROM PAGE 16 the second wicket between Watson (58) and opener Rahane (61) after captain Rahul Dravid (21) departed early.

Watson threatened to take Rajasthan to a much bigger total with a flurry of boundaries in his 31-ball knock before he was out in the 15th over. He hit six fours and four sixes in his innings.

SCORES IN BRIEF: RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 170 for 4 (Rahane 61, Watson 58; Nehra 3-23)

PUNE WARRIORS: 125 for 9 (Smith 37; Chandila 4-13)

Result: Rajasthan Royals won by 45 runs. Man-of-the-match: Ajit Chandila.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP R J X P D - D J X D W A J X B C C G A K J X J A B D X E K C E J O A C G O B J G B R B J R I Z G P R C M W R V J G W X M W D R V : F Z A I D V F C M B K . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT EXTREMELY GREGARIOUS GUY TENDS TO SCROUNGE A LOT. I HEAR HE CALLS IT MIXING AND MOOCHING. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals W