

Rajib keeps solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Enamul Hossain Rajib is holding sole lead with 7 points after the eighth round of the Vizag Grandmasters International Open Chess Tournament yesterday.

Rajib beat and GM Andrey Vovk of Ukraine in the eighth round which took place at the Rajib Gandhi Indoor Stadium at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh in India. GM Abdullah Al Rakib and GM Niaz Murshed are sharing third position with 6 points each along with other 9 players. GM Ziaur Rahman and IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar earned 5.5 points each. IM Abu Sufian Shakil has 5 points while FM Taibur Rahman, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag and WIM Shamima Akter Liza have 4.5 points each.

In the eighth round, Niaz beat IM Rahul Sangma of India, Sagar beat IM Murali Krishnan of India, Zia lost to GM Martyn Kravtsov of Ukraine, Rakib lost to GM Davit Petrosian of Armenia, Taibur lost against IM Rathnakaran of India, Shakil drew with Arjun Tiwari of India and Liza lost to IM Swayams Mishra of India.

Nannu also

FROM PAGE 16 involved with the franchises. Nannu's comments marked the second BPL-related complaint of the month following Tamim Iqbal's recent complaint. Tamim had earlier claimed that a cheque worth Tk 1 crore, which he received from Chittagong Kings, bounced. "I couldn't cash the cheque since there was no money in that account," Tamim had said.

Echoing Nannu's views, the left-handed opener stated that he had repeatedly contacted the owner of Chittagong Kings for his money. It was, however, all in vain as he was given a number of excuses. Earlier, a report on ESPNcricinfo had stated that 54 players in the BPL were yet to receive their wages. The report had stated that six foreign players, including the likes of Muttiah Muralitharan, who played for Chittagong Kings hadn't received their full payment.

Barca off

FROM PAGE 16 an Alexis Sanchez header and a shot by Iniesta from the edge of the area before Villa fired Barca ahead on 40 minutes as he crashed a shot in off the crossbar after receiving a long ball from Iniesta.

The roles were reversed five minutes after the restart as Villa set up Iniesta for a curling 20-yard strike which nestled in the top corner.

Fabregas ensured a comfortable second leg at the Nou Camp with a header two minutes from the end.

RESULTS
Llagostera 0 Valencia 2 (Jonas 45, Valdez 68)
Alaves 0 Barcelona 3 (Villa 40, Iniesta 50, Fabregas 88)

**WOMEN'S ASIA CUP
India lift title**



PTI, Guanggong

Indian women's cricket team lifted the inaugural Asian Cricket Council's Twenty20 Asia Cup after beating arch-rivals Pakistan by 18 runs in a low-scoring final here on Wednesday.

India's decision to bat first seemed to have backfired when the team folded for 81 but the bowlers did a splendid job to dismiss Pakistan to 63 in 19.1 overs.

What was particularly impressive about the Indian bowlers was their discipline, giving away just a couple of wickets from 19.1 overs, which they took to bowl out their opponents.

Electing to bat first, Indian women did not have a good beginning as they lost both their openers within the first couple of overs.

Anuja Patil was the first one to be shown the way to the pavilion by Sadia Yousuf. Sulakshana Naik soon followed suit to leave India tottering at two for four.

Poonam Raut (25) and stand-in skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (20) tried to resurrect the Indian innings. The duo mixed caution with aggression to raise 32 runs for the third wicket before Poonam fall prey to tweaker Bismah Maroof.

With Amita Sharma returning to the dugout in a hurry, Harmanpreet joined hands with Reema Malhotra (18) to take the Indian innings ahead. However, the two couldn't do much as skipper was made to pay for her impetuosity by leg-spinner Sana Mir.

Indian tail couldn't offer much with the bat as it was bundled out for just 81. Mona Meshram was the last casualty, playing the last ball of the innings straight down to long on.

Pakistan, after an initial jolt in the form of Qanita Jalil (2), tried to build their innings on the back of Bismah Maroof (18) and skipper Sana Mir's (11) stand of 27 runs.

But with both the batters falling within a span of one over things never looked the same for Pakistan as they kept on losing the wickets on regular intervals.

The team lost nine wickets for the addition of just 32 runs to hand India a comfortable 18-run win.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 81 all out (Raut 25, Kaur 20, Malhotra 18; Sana 4-13, Bismah 2-14)
PAKISTAN: 63 all out (Bismah 18, Sana 11, Nain 13; Das 2-12, Niranjana 2-14)
Result: India won by 18 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Poonam Raut.
Player-of-the-series: Bismah Maroof.

'Not about blaming BCB'

FROM PAGE 16

their preparation and conditioning. When I was coaching the Titans and the Cobras the national players like (Dale) Steyn, (Jacques) Kallis, (Mark) Boucher, (Graeme) Smith, etc. aren't being nursed by Gary Kirsten and his staff. That's the way the system works, it's the same in Australia and England. They come back, train and play. It's their job to make sure they are ready and prepare well, they have their programmes, it's their job to follow them. It's how you challenge them to grow and be accountable for their game. In my experience if you treat someone as an adult they will act like one. If you want to remove accountability from a player for his fitness and preparation he always has someone else to blame other than himself when he doesn't play well.

What you do need to do is monitor and manage the players' workloads so that that they are fit and ready when you need them to peak. You need to control where and when they play so that is not being controlled by the clubs. It needs to be centralised and carefully managed, this needs to be supported by the High Performance program that myself and Richard McInnes proposed which creates as much strength in depth within the system as possible. This would give the national side an A team which is strong and puts pressure on all the

players within the system to produce high standards consistently.

What you need are professional class first-class set ups, with professional coaches and support staff that mirror what is in place in the national side. This is how the other sides in world cricket operate. This isn't rocket science, it's common sense.

The board has a full time support staff who are based in Dhaka to manage this.

Lastly, if the board weren't happy with the arrangement they could have declined the third time round after I turned them down twice, it would have saved us both a lot of inconvenience and upset.

DSS: Ex-President, Mr Kamal had said that you were quite happy with the facilities in Bangladesh, but a problem arose when you couldn't convince your family to come to Dhaka. Is that true?

RP: It wasn't about my family going to Dhaka, it was apparent with the fixtures and travelling that that wasn't going to work as we have four children at various ages of their schooling and one about to go to university. That is why I didn't accept the post first two times it was offered. The reason I eventually agreed to the post was on the basis that I could get home between tours to see the family, it was never about 'leave'. I'd made that absolutely clear.

My sincere best wishes to the players and staff as they prepare for the Windies series.

Shooting coach

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50-meter Three Position Rifle team event in Kathmandu in 1999 while she won a silver and bronze medal in the individual event of Three Position Rifle and 50-meter prone respectively in the same event. After their retirement as shooters, both Pakhi and Ankhi started coaching and took their first coaching certificate in 2007 from a coaches' education course organized by International Olympic Committee in Finland. They participated in few more coaching courses in China, South Korea and in Australia later on and founded a Shooting Academy named Ankhi Army Shooting Association.

The death of the famous shooter cast a spell of gloom across the sporting community as the news filtered quickly across the nation. Commonwealth Games gold

medallist shooter Asif Hossain Khan, who is also a nephew of Pakhi said the untimely death of Pakhi is not only a big loss for the nation's shooting but also a huge personal setback for him.

"When Pakhi mama left Pabna for Dhaka he presented me with all of his shooting gears and I became a shooter training with those," said Asif.

"He was my coach, guardian and idol. I will feel his absence in every turns and twists of my career," said Asif.

The bodies of the dead were to their ancestral residence at about 3pm yesterday amid heartrending scenes. Cross section of people rushed to the residence to see their proud son. The namaz-e-janaza of the deceased was held at the Pabna Zila School at about and they were later buried at the Arifpur graveyard in the night.

Reputation rather than

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before the series. Anyway we are looking forward to the second round matches that will start from Friday," added the selection committee boss.

The series will kick off with the three-day warm-up match between BCB XI and the West Indians at BKSP starting from November 8. The first Test of the two-match series will start from November 13 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and after that the teams will travel to Khulna to play the second Test and first two ODIs before returning to Dhaka to play three more ODIs and lone T20.

Akram hinted that there is a good chance to see a few new faces like left-handed batsman Mominul Haque in the Test squad.

"There are few names like Mominul, Sohag Gazi and Anamul Haque in our minds and left-arm spinner Enamul Haque is also in there but we are yet to

decide about anything. Few changes from the last squad are not unlikely," said Akram.

The chief selector also hoped that pace bowler Rubel Hossain, who had a successful operation on his right shoulder last May in South Africa, will be available for selection as the right-arm paceman looked fit during the first round match of the National Cricket League.

"He is an automatic choice if he is fit and the good news is that Rubel bowled well during the first round match," said Akram.

It's however all but confirmed that Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is not going to make his return to longer-version cricket.

"You know Mashrafe himself has said several times that he is not ready to return to longer-version cricket and he also didn't play the first round game of the National Cricket League. And what we believe is that physically he is not in a position to play the longer form," opined Akram.

Cook guides from front

AFP, Mumbai

Alastair Cook began his reign as England's full-time Test captain with an unbeaten century that revived the tourists in their opening match of the Indian tour on Wednesday.

The left-handed opener was on 112 and Samit Patel made 82 not out as England fought back to post 286-4 by stumps on the second day of the three-day match against India A at the Brabourne stadium in Mumbai.

The tourists, preparing for the four-Test series against India which starts in Ahmedabad on November 15, are still 83 behind the 369 made by India A in their first innings.

Jonathan Trott scored 56 during a second-wicket stand of 95 with Cook after rookie opener Nick Compton, grandson of former England batsman Denis Compton, failed to score.

Kevin Pietersen, playing for the first time in an England shirt since August, hit a six and three boundaries before being dismissed for 23.

Yuvraj Singh followed his 59 on Tuesday with the wickets of Pietersen and Ian Bell in successive overs of left-arm spin to reduce the tourists to 133-4 midway through the post-lunch session.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA A: First innings 369 (Mukund 73, Yuvraj 59, Tiwary 93, Pathan 46; Swann 3-90, Bresnan 3-59)
ENGLAND: First innings 286-4 (Cook 112 not out, Trott 56, Pietersen 23, Patel 82 not out; Yuvraj 2-52)

Shane

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The coach, who had earlier worked closely with the Bangladesh pacers, had special praise for Rubel Hossain, who recently recovered from a shoulder injury. "I think Rubel Hossain is one of the bowlers who was performing well before his injury. He had improved a lot. At that point of time, he could bowl well no matter what kind of wicket it was. And personally, as the bowling coach of the team, it was a very sad day for me when he got injured. He is fit now, we have to wait and see if he can make it to the squad," said Jurgensen.

India not impressed by day-night Tests



AFP, Mumbai

India are unlikely to embrace the concept of day-night Test matches, a top official said on Wednesday, because a previous experiment in first-class cricket fell flat.

The International Cricket Council announced this week that Tests can now be played under lights, with rival teams deciding on the hours of play and the colour of the ball to be used.

Cricket Australia applauded the move, but the powerful Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was lukewarm towards the idea despite having tried the concept in a domestic final in 1997.

"We were the first to experiment with this and our experience was not so great," said the BCCI's chief administrative officer Ratnakar Shetty. "At this stage we have no such proposal."

The BCCI held the five-day Ranji Trophy final between Mumbai and Delhi

under lights in Gwalior in April 1997. Bowlers struggled due to the heavy evening dew and frequent changes of the white ball.

Just two innings were completed in five days. Mumbai, who made 630 after batting first, were declared winners after Delhi were dismissed for 559 on the last day.

Four bowlers from each sides conceded more than 100 runs apiece, their plight worsened by fielders unable to spot the ball both in the air and on the ground, especially in the outfield.

Crowds are dwindling at Test matches in India even as one-day and Twenty20 cricket enjoys wide interest.

Cricket Australia conceded on Tuesday that day-night Tests were not imminent, since an ideal ball had yet to be found.

Red balls used in Tests were not easily visible at night, while white balls used in limited-overs matches were found not durable enough for Tests.

Experiments have included playing with pink, orange and yellow balls.

It's not true that I'm gay: Thorpe



AFP, Sydney

Swimming legend Ian Thorpe admits he is a nerdy bookworm who hardly fits the stereotype of an Australian sportsman, but says rumours he is gay are simply not true.

Launching his autobiography "This is Me" on Wednesday, the five-time Olympic gold medalist opened up about his battle with depression and his failure to qualify for the London Games in his much-anticipated comeback.

"This is a very different book than I intended," said Thorpe, now 30, adding that it was supposed to be the story of someone who got back in the pool and achieved "the success he had in the past".

"Unfortunately... it didn't turn out that way. I didn't qualify for the Olympics and I didn't have the ending that I anticipated and also hoped for."

Thorpe, who won his first world title at the age of 15 and was just 17 when he first won Olympic gold, grew up in the media spotlight, and said from the age of 20 he sometimes felt like leaving the sport.

He held on to sensationally quit swimming at the age of 24, and writes in the book that he knew he was retiring prematurely and could have achieved more but was "bitter with the constant pursuit, accusations and innuendo".

On his sexuality, he writes: "I accept there's nothing else I can say or do.

"There'll always be people who are sceptical; people who want me to be gay, and others who'll try and use it against me.

"It should have been over and done with a long time ago but people have remained obsessed with it and need to find an explanation which suits their perspective."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 That guy
4 Autumnal abbr.
7 Colorful parrot
12 Big bother
13 Winter ailment
14 Foolish
15 Cross-word-page abbr.
16 What a trigger triggers
18 Discoverer's cry
19 "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" writer
20 Inmates
22 Mandela's old org.
23 Pop
27 Illumination unit
29 Quaint fashion accessory
31 Urge

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47 Mimic
48 Certain fastener
52 Opposite of "trans-"
53 Pelvis-related
54 Tokyo's old name
55 Trench
56 Choppers
57 —
58 Type squares
24 Chances, for short
25 Conk out
26 Pismire
28 Half of bi-
30 Exist
31 "Yada yada yada"
32 Solidify
33 Wildebeest
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37 Pretentious
40 Recorded
42 Mother-of-pearl
43 Poppy product
44 Defeats
45 Leave a good impression
46 Grandson of Eve
48 Perch
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51 Nosh

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHICH SUN-BLOCKING CAPS SHOULD COUNSEL-GIVING WORKERS PROBABLY ALWAYS WEAR? ADVISORS' VISORS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T