Rajib on top in Vizag chess

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Enamul Hossain Rajib took the solo lead in the Vizag Grandmasters International Open Chess Tournament at the close of the ninth round at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium in

Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh in India.

Rajib, with black pieces drew his ninth board against Armenian GM Davit Petrosian in the 31st move and secured 7.5 points from nine games to top the points-table while compatriots GM Ziaur Rahman, GM Abdullah Al Rakib, GM Niaz Murshed and IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar earned six

Rakib lost to Indian IM GA Stany, Niaz lost to Ukrainian GM Andrey Vovk, Zia drew against Indian FM Gagare Shardul, Sagar drew against Indian Akshat Chandra.

points each.

Mehdi Hasan Parag and WIM Shamima Akter Liza earned 5.5points each while IM Abu Sufian Shakil and Debaraj Chatterjee earned five points each.

Rain ruins 1st SL-NZ ODI

REUTERS, Kandy

Heavy rain prevented any play in the first one-day international between Sri Lanka and New Zealand at Pallekele on Thursday.

A one-off Twenty20 international between the two sides on Tuesday at the same venue was also affected by bad weather and ended in a no result with only 16 overs bowled in the entire match.

The teams travel to Colombo for the second and third one-day internationals in the five-match series to be played on Nov. 4 and 6.

Djokovic falls flat

AFP, Paris

Novak Djokovic crashed out of the Paris Masters in his first match, losing 0-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 to American journeyman Sam Querrey on Wednesday.

Third seed Andy Murray took full advantage of the situation at the last event of the ATP regular season before next week's World Tour Finals, beating Frenchman Paul-Henri Mathieu 7-5, 6-3 to reach the third round.

FIFA director

FROM PAGE 16

director himself might conduct the selection in

December. The football's governing body had earlier requested the youth and sports ministry to complete the Sylhet academy as soon as possible and the youth ministry sen a project proposal worth Tk 2.10 crore to finance minis-

try for approval. "Today [Thursday] the youth and sports ministry sent the project proposal to the finance ministry and we will be informed in the next week about the progress," said BFF vicepresident Badal Roy, who yesterday visited the ministry to learn about the

progress of the project. Roy also informed that if the Sylhet academy was not ready by January next, they would start training with the selected booters on a temporary basis before moving to the Sylhet.

Shooters mourn Pakhi

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Hundreds of relatives and mourners laid South Asian Games gold medal-winning shooter Firoz Hossain Pakhi, who along with his three-year-old daughter Pushpita and domestic help Aina died in a fatal road accident, to rest at Arifpur graveyard here on Wednesday night.

Pakhi was the country's fourth renowned athlete after SA Games goldwinning sprinters Shah Alam and Mahbub Alam and Test cricketer Manjarul Islam Rana to have met a fatal end in road mishaps.

Shah Alam, twice SA Games' fastest man, died in a motorcycle accident on May 29, 1990. Mahbub Alam, SA Games' 200m gold medalist, died in a car accident in Dhaka on December 4, 2010 while Test cricketer Manjarul Islam, along with his Khulna teammate Sajjadul Islam Setu, was killed in a motorcycle accident in Khulna on March 16, 2007.

Pakhi, after spending the eid vacation in his village home, had started for Dhaka in his car with his family on Wednesday morning. But a truck from the opposite direction in Banpara upazila of Natore hit their vehicle head-on, leaving the three dead.

Earlier, a lot of people attended his namaz-e-janaja. Renowned shooters Saiful Alam Rinki, Asif Hossain Khan, Sharmin Akhter, Sabrina Sultana and Sharmin Akhter Ratna were present to mourn the untimely death of Pakhi, who

Patel stakes

Samit Patel hit a century on Thursday to make a strong

bid for selection in England's team for the first Test

The stocky all-rounder made 104 to steer the tourists

The match petered out into a draw as the hosts, trailing

England's weakness against the turning ball was

Patel, a right-hand batsman who bowls left-arm spin,

Both Morgan and Bairstow, who were ignored for the

Patel made two Test appearances against Sri Lanka

The Nottinghamshire star, who turns 28 this month, is a

Alastair Cook and Patel added 16 runs to the overnight

exposed when part-time spinner Yuvraj Singh grabbed a

hit 14 boundaries during his five-hour vigil that could

hand him the number six Test spot ahead of Eoin Morgan

opening match, are likely to play in the remaining two

earlier this year, scoring 40 runs and taking three wickets.

but was ignored for the subsequent home Tests against

regular member of England's limited-overs squad with 31

score of 286-4 when the captain was caught behind of

ENGLAND: First innings 426 (Cook 119, Trott 56,

BCB chasing its own

any groundwork. The unsavoury experiences with the

above three issues also showcased how important the

It was expected that the new president would take a

courageous decision in yesterday's meeting regarding

the BPL problem, especially as he had he proclaimed

before taking the helm of the country's richest sports

body that 'discipline' would be his mission during his

tenure in the board. The BPL has become a laughing

stock after the way the board has set one deadline after

another for the franchises to solve the payment issue,

leaving many to wonder at the meaning of the word

'deadline'. In a professional environment the obvious

truth is that you have to reward assets, but it seems that

professionalism holds a different meaning for the BCB

For Papon solving the BPL crisis was the first major chal

lenge but forming yet another committee sends out al

the wrong signals. The decision gave the clear indication

that all three parties -- BPL governing council, Game On

(event management company that managed the BPL)

and the franchises -- are at fault regarding this issue, as

there would be no point in forming a separate committee

council, who should have taken all the responsibilities for

creating the mess, is indeed a funny decision. The most

important question arising from this is why a committee

consisting of board members would be formed while such a

body already exists. It creates a situation where board mem-

bers will be passing judgements on other board members

Although it is too early to make a definite comment on

the new president, if morning does tell the day, then his

first handling of the banana skin that is the BPL is omi-

who are members of a very influential committee.

Forming a committee without dissolving the governing

if a properly functioning one existed.

nous indeed.

one-day and 14 Twenty20 internationals under his belt.

to 426 in their first innings on the final day of the three-

day tour opener against India 'A' at the Brabourne sta-

by 57 runs on the first innings, scored 124-4 in their sec-

ond knock by stumps with Ajinkya Rahane making 54.

five-wicket haul to follow his 59 in the first innings.

practice matches ahead of the Ahmedabad Test.

the West Indies and South Africa.

seamer Ashok Dinda for 119.

INDIAA: First innings 369

Pietersen 23, Patel 104, Yuvraj 5-94)

post of an efficient CEO in the board is.

INDIAA: Second innings 124-4 (Rahane 54)

SCORES IN BRIEF

Result: Match drawn.

FROM PAGE 16

against India in Ahmedabad from November 15.

Test claim

Cricket

dium in Mumbai.

and Jonny Bairstow.

AFP, Mumbai

was working as a coach.

The shooters urged the government to ensure road safety across the country and take proper initiatives to prevent road accidents.

"He was an icon in the country and I still can't think of such accident which took him away from us and it is an unbearable pain for us," said Asif, the SA Games and Commonwealth Games gold medalist.

"We don't want to see any more shooters die in road accident and the government should take proper measures to prevent road accidents," said Ratna, gold medalist shooter in SA Games and Commonwealth Shooting Championships.

Pakhi's wife Lovely Chowdhury Ankhi, herself a SA Games gold-winning shooter, was also injured in the accident and was released from the Pabna Sadar Hospital Wednesday night after treatment, but she was not in any mood to talk after the irreparable losses.

"Give my son back," cried Pakhi's 80year-old mother Shaila Begum.

"The death of Pakhi bhai was not only a great loss to our family, but also a permanent damage to the country's shooting. We don't want to see any citizen die in road accident anymore," said Pakhi's younger brother Salim Hossain, demanding exemplary punishment to the culprit

Meanwhile police was yet to identify the culprit driver after the highway police filed a case with Gurudaspur thana.

CSA's yes to SL proposal

CRICINFO, Johannesburg

Cricket South Africa (CSA) have agreed to a request from the Sri Lanka board and postponed their Test series scheduled for next year until the middle of 2015.

Jacques Faul, CSA's acting chief executive, said the change would give South Africa's players an opportunity for rest after the Champions Trophy, which takes place in England next June.

Sri Lanka Cricket had asked for the three home Tests, due to have been played at some point in July and August 2013.

Last chance

FROM PAGE 16

The divisions have also been trying to bring in foreign players for the second round of the league. According to the rules of the NCL, a team can play two foreign players in the squad. Chittagong have already signed up players from Sri Lanka and with this round being the last for the national players, the other divisions are bound to follow suit.

Batting has

FROM PAGE 16

semifinal because we failed to perform as per our potential and the wicket also played a role due to rain," she added.

Salma informed that they will now engage in domestic competition, as the inter-district competition is likely to start from November 15, before their next international engagement against the England A team at home in January next year.

20 selected

FROM PAGE 16

excluded," interim head coach Saiful Bari Titu explained to reporters yesterday.

However, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Sheikh Russel finally released their players who joined the camp yesterday at the Birshreshtha Shaheed

"Our target is to play the played a game.



headquarters in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Pakistan due in India on Dec 22

CRICINFO, New Delhi

Pakistan will arrive in Bangalore for the India tour on December 22 and will play the first Twenty20 international on Christmas Day.

The schedule, announced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Thursday, has the second T20 in Ahmedabad on December 27; Chennai will host the first ODI three days later and the two remaining one-dayers will be played in Kolkata and Delhi on January 3 and 6.

The BCCI's announcement followed the Indian home ministry's approval of the tour on Tuesday. The series is sandwiched between two legs of England's tour of India. England play the second and final T20 international in Mumbai on December 22.

Shocking start

FROM PAGE 16

Siddikur in a season of bad starts after having finished in 46th position in the justconcluded CIMB Classic in Malaysia. The 27-year-old traded five bogeys and a double bogey for two birdies in a round he will want to forget in a hurry.

NSC meeting

said Yunus. International teams have not visited Pakistan since the attack on the bus carrying the Sri Lanka cricket team in 2009, but recently a Twenty20 match was played in Karachi between an all-star side including players from South Africa and Sri Lanka and a Pakistan all-star side.

West Indies' Tour of Bangladesh

Edwards in for Roach

Cricket

CRICINFO, Port of Spain

Kemar Roach, the West Indies fast bowler, has been ruled out of the Test series in Bangladesh in November because of a knee injury. Fidel Edwards has been chosen as the replacement and will join the squad before it leaves the Caribbean on November 3.

Roach sustained the injury during a club match in Barbados three weeks ago and West Indies physiotherapist CJ Clark said it was a right medial hamstring tendon tear. "Kemar has not recovered adequately

from the injury to join the squad for the tour," Clark said. "He has commenced rehabilitation and will undergo further assessment. He is expected to return to action in three to four weeks time."

Roach took 39 wickets at an average of 22.25 in seven Tests this year and was West Indies' most successful bowler. "It's a blow for us," West Indies coach Ottis Gibson said. "He's [Roach] been an outstanding Test bowler for us in the last 12 months. He's got a lot of wickets for us. "The news is not all bad. It's not a major,

major injury. He has started his rehab already, so hopefully, he can recover within the next three weeks and, perhaps, make the one-day series, which means he will get some cricket before the end of the year. "It's a difficult situation. He reckons he

feels OK sometimes, and other times, if he gets his knee in the wrong position, he feels it, and the pain is so severe, he can't do anything for a while. These things happen in sport."

Gibson said Edwards was an able replacement for Roach. Edwards' last Test series was in England this summer and he was left out of the home Tests against New Zealand in August.

"Fidel was a member of the squad that played in the recent ICC World Twenty20 tournament and he has been bowling [in club cricket in Barbados], so his bowling fitness will be right up there at its peak," Gibson said. "Along with Ravi Rampaul and Tino Best, we feel confident that they will all be able to do a good job for us in the Tests, whichever combination is selected."

'Fitness key to Yuvi'

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Yuvraj Singh's selection to the Indian and taking two wickets for India 'A'. team for a home Test series against England next month, skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said on Wednesday. "We have to assess whether Yuvraj is

ready to field for two days," said Dhoni when asked whether the skilful all-rounder would be picked for the four-Test series starting in Ahmedabad on November 15.

Yuvraj, who has not played Test cricket since last November, was treated for a rare germ-cell cancer between his lungs in the United States earlier this year.

The 30-year-old returned after chemotherapy treatment in April and played in the recent World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka. He also cracked a double-century in a

40 De Pablo

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of "NCIS"

domestic four-day game in Hyderabad this month.

Yuvraj has performed impressively in the ongoing three-day match against Fitness will be the key to cancer survivor England in Mumbai, scoring a half-century

> The Indian team for the opening Test will be named on Monday.

> "It is very difficult for me to comment on his [Yuvraj] fitness sitting over here. We have to understand that five-day format has its own uncertainties unlike ODIs or T20s," Dhoni was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India.

> "In ODIs, you know that you have to field for 50 overs only, while in Test cricket there may be a situation that a team might bat for one-and-a-half to two days.

> "Having said that it is Yuvraj who is the best judge about how he is feeling. He has played quite a few domestic games now and it is up to him to reflect on his game."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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That's why Sajib has been

Mostafa Kamal Stadium.

final but it would have been better for us if we could have played some matches in the group stage," said Titu adding that he was not able to assess anything about his charges until they

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T