

INT'L RATING CHESS Rakib on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Abdullah Al Rakib maintained his solo lead in the Shaheed Muktijoddha Mufti Mohammad Kased International Rating Chess Tournament at the close of the seventh round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday. Rakib drew against International Master Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar to secure 6.5 points from seven matches. Seven players including GM Ziaur Rahman are jointly in the second position with six points each.

Constitution

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The champion cricket organiser and administrator also lamented the clear division and dissatisfaction between the district and club organisers. It was a mooted desire of Saber to contest the BCB presidency, but now he wants unity among the cricket organisers. He also urged the organisers to sit together to find out a solution like they did in the 2000 AGM, where they approved a constitution acceptable to everyone.

"It's not good to chop and change the BCB constitution. I can recall spending a lot of time before coming to a compromise in that AGM in Cox's Bazar where we also adopted a resolution for an elected BCB president. It took 12 years to come to that point," said Saber. But like many others he is not sure the board is going to have a real elected president if it is held under the present BCB constitution.

BPL player

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Ziaur Rahman, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Abdur Razzak.

FOREIGN PLAYERS

Golden Category (base price 75,000 dollars): Shahid Afridi, Saeed Aijmal, Imran Nazir, Luke Wright, Owais Shah, Dimitri Mascarenhas, Tino Best, Sunil Narine, Dwayne Bravo, Kieron Pollard, Andre Russell, Fidel Edwards, Alfonso Thomas, Shaun Tait, Dirk Nannes, Brad Hodge.

Category A (base price: \$50,000): Umar Gul, Abdul Razaq, Wahab Riaz, Mohamad Sami, Kamran Akmal, Umar Akmal, Azhar Mahmood, Ravi Bopara, Micheal Lumb, Phil Mustard, Dwayne Smith, Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

Pioneer League

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Academy reached the final having won all 11 matches they played while Matuail Udayan Sangsad qualified for the final with nine wins and two draws. An exciting final between the two sides is expected today.

"We came to this stage with all-win record and are confident of keeping the momentum and win the league," said Khilgaon FA captain Mohammad Mithu at a pre-match briefing at the BFF House yesterday. Khilgaon FA, which scored 47 goals and conceded only three, have a good number of players from different age-group teams of the Bangladesh Football Federation.

"We are not thinking about the opponents, rather we are focused on our own game. We believe we can beat the opponents," said Matuail US vice captain Mohammad Jesi.



England skipper Alastair Cook (R) and spinner Monty Panesar are all smiles as they arrive in London yesterday after a successful Test series against India.

Anderson, Trott rested for ODIs



CRICINFO, New Delhi

England have rested fast bowler James Anderson and batsman Jonathan Trott from the ODI series in India in January and replaced them with Chris Woakes and Jos Buttler. They have also included batsman Joe Root in the Twenty20 squad for the two matches in December before they return home for Christmas.

"Woakes and Buttler replace Anderson and Trott in the India ODI squad as the selectors look to manage workloads," the ECB said in a statement.

Anderson had originally been selected only to play the first three matches of the five-ODI series, but he will now miss the entire contest after playing an important role in England's 2-1 victory in the Test series in India.

Woakes, who is currently playing domestic cricket in New Zealand, has played six ODIs, taking seven wickets at 29.14 and scoring 72 runs. Most of scalps came in one innings when he claimed 6 for 45 against Australia in Brisbane. He spent a lot of time around the squad during 2012 without commanding a regular place.

Buttler, the 22-year-old Somerset batsman, only has one ODI cap under his belt. In that match, against Pakistan in Dubai, he collected a second-ball duck.

Root was added to the T20 squad that was weakened by the injury to Stuart Broad, who will be replaced as captain as Eoin Morgan. Although Root face 229 balls for his 73 on debut, he also has a more flamboyant side to his game as he showed briefly in the second innings and has demonstrated for Yorkshire in the domestic Friends Life T20.

England play Twenty20 internationals on December 20 and 22 before returning home for Christmas and the New Year. They return to India in the first week of January for the ODI series.

SQUADS Twenty20: Jonny Bairstow, Tim Bresnan, Danny Briggs, Jos Buttler, Jade Dernbach, Alex Hales, Michael Lumb, Stuart Meaker, Eoin Morgan (capt), Samit Patel, James Tredwell, Luke Wright, Joe Root, James Harris. ODI: Alastair Cook (capt), Jonny Bairstow, Ian Bell, Tim Bresnan, Danny Briggs, Jade Dernbach, Steven Finn, Craig Kieswetter, Stuart Meaker, Eoin Morgan, Samit Patel, Kevin Pietersen, James Tredwell, Chris Woakes, Jos Buttler.

SL melt in Siddle & Starc heat

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was a tough Test match in the sense that we were chasing the game probably after the third or fourth day but we kept fighting, especially in the first innings," Jayawardene said. "Today we knew we had to bat through a couple of sessions sensibly, see what happens, and up until tea we were on target. And then two wickets after tea and that's when things probably went in the other direction."

Siddle struck in the fourth over after tea when Angelo Mathews needlessly flicked outside his off stump and nicked to Matthew Wade for 19, giving the Australians a glimmer of victory. Siddle gave the Australians more hope when he trapped Samaraweera leg before wicket for 49 off 140 balls.

A few overs later Prasanna Jayawardene, who has scored four Test centuries, could not avoid a spitting delivery from Starc and gloved to Mike Hussey at second slip for 21. Starc bowled a beautiful delivery to entice an edge off Nuwan Kulasekara who was caught behind for nine heading into the final 15 overs. The irresistible left-

armer bowled Rangana Herath for eight, leaving the Australians just one wicket from victory. Starc finished up the innings when he had Shaminda Eranga caught behind for six to end Sri Lanka's dogged resistance. The Australians had earlier removed key batsmen Mahela Jayawardene (19) and Sangakkara (63) but for a time were hitting a brick wall in their attempts to make further inroads.

At one stage Clarke even brought wicketkeeper Matthew Wade into the attack, with his lively medium pace utilised for a maiden final over before the tea adjournment. The big-hearted Siddle made the crucial breakthrough in the middle session, trapping Sangakkara leg before wicket for 63 off 226 balls in the 76th over. Australia removed Mahela Jayawardene midway through the morning session after Clarke, playing with an injured hamstring, bent low to take a sharp catch off Siddle in the 56th over. Jayawardene had resisted for 77 balls for his 19 and stubbornly put on 65 runs for the third wicket with Sangakkara off 193 balls.

Scoreboard table with columns for Team, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes Australia's 450 runs and Sri Lanka's 336 runs.

Women's h'ball team finish 2nd

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national women's handball team became runners-up in the IHF Trophy Tournament as they suffered a 16-44 defeat against eventual champions India in the final in Kathmandu, Nepal on Monday.

Bangladesh trailed the first half by 9-21 points. Minandar scored highest nine goals for India while Shilpi netted five goals for Bangladesh, said a press release yesterday.

Asian school chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Fahad Rahman shared the second position in the U-9 age-group of the Asian School Chess Championships at the close of the seventh round in New Delhi, India yesterday.

Fahad drew against India's Mohan Kushagra to stay in joint second position along with two others players with 5.5 points each.

Zoar lost against Goenka Saumya Sanjay in the seventh round to stay with previous three points.

If safe

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The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) proposed two matches to take place in Lahore from January 12-13, one of which would be a One-Day International and the other a Twenty20 International.

As per the future tours programme, Bangladesh were supposed to play three ODIs and two Tests in Pakistan in August 2010. That tour however was postponed due to security concerns.

The current proposal is an extension of the two-match tour that the boards had earlier agreed upon in April this year, when the two teams were scheduled to meet on the 29th and 30th. That series was postponed on April 19 after the Dhaka High Court ruled in favour of a four-month ban on the tour.

In March the International Cricket Council had introduced a special dispensation which would allow 'non-neutral match officials' during exceptional cases. The dispensation ensured that bilateral series take place even if the ruling body determined it unsafe to appoint its officials for a series.

'India paid the price'



PTI, London

India paid the price of thinking that preparing turning tracks would be enough to beat England in the just-concluded Test series as the visitors had better tweakers to exploit the dustbowls, feels former England captain Nasser Hussain.

India lost 1-2 against England in the four-match series that concluded with a draw on Monday in Nagpur, which was dominated by the Alastair Cook's men.

"India are not the side they were. If I was putting together a composite side from the two teams I would start by picking the whole England attack. England, for once, had better spinners than India in Indian conditions," Hussain wrote in his column for 'The Daily Mail'.

"The tourists were fitter, both physically and mentally, and hungrier for Test cricket. India would not have been able to take four wickets late in a day, after two sessions without a wicket, as England did on Saturday.

"India went one up and just thought they could prepare a turning pitch and England would crumble. They showed too much bravado. And England made them pay very heavily indeed for that," he added.

Looking back at the series, Hussain said England showed tremendous resolve to bounce back from the crushing nine-wicket loss in Ahmedabad.

"...but the second innings there proved a turning point both in this series and in the future of this team. Without it things could look very different now."

"...when Alastair Cook scored a big hundred in a losing cause in Ahmedabad in that second innings things changed. It was the moment the captain said to his team: 'Hang on, there are no demons here. The ball is not spinning both ways. If we show some character, application and belief we can do this.' And since then the transformation has been astonishing," Hussain said.

"Everything England have done since then has been right. And their business has been conducted in a quite ruthless manner. There has been no dilly-dallying, no worrying about reputations. This has been anything but a closed shop," he added.

He praised spinner Monty Panesar and attacking batsman Kevin Pietersen -- both of whom turned it around for England in the second Test in Mumbai.

"Tim Bresnan has been a very good cricketer for England but as soon as Cook and Andy Flower realised they had made a mistake in not picking Monty Panesar for the first Test the Yorkshireman was gone."

"England basically had to nail everything to win this series after going one down and they did it. Look at Kevin Pietersen. He was a frenetic wreck in the first Test and only had a couple of days to come up with a defensive technique against his old nemesis, left-arm spin. What happened? He went out and smashed 186 in Mumbai," he explained.

Clarke hails Siddle



AFP, Hobart

Skipper Michael Clarke paid tribute to his lionhearted fast bowler Peter Siddle and his player-of-the-match performance in Australia's gripping win over Sri Lanka in the first Hobart Test on Tuesday.

Siddle was outstanding again with four for 50 in Sri Lanka's second innings to finish with nine wickets for the match to spearhead Australia's 137-run win over the Sri Lankans that finished late on the final day.

"If everyone's got the heart that (Siddle) has, we'll get back to being number one in the world, no doubt," praised Clarke.

Although left-armer Mitchell Starc captured the last four Sri Lanka wickets to fall to finish with five for 63, it was Siddle who claimed the huge wickets of skipper Mahela Jayawardene (19) and Kumar Sangakkara (63) to gain the early momentum.

"Siddle continues to lead our attack. I think he has done so for a while now and he loves the opportunity to be our number one strike bowler," Clarke said.

"He really looks forward to the pressure situation. He doesn't care if he opens the bowling, or bowls first change. It's about helping the team have success."

Siddle has been the rock of the Australian bowlers this season with injuries sidelining James Pattinson and Ben Hilfenhaus and will again be the key paceman in the second Boxing Day Test against Sri Lanka in Melbourne.

Siddle, who bowled himself to a standstill in the drawn second Adelaide

Test against South Africa earlier this month, was rested from the final Perth Test where the Proteas went on to win the series in Perth.

"The (Hobart) wicket probably helped us a little bit but we still had to go about our processes, bowling in partnerships and bowling our maidens to build up pressure," Siddle said.

"As a group, I think we've been outstanding since lunch on the second day and we got our rewards."

Earlier, ICC match referee Chris Broad said he found no evidence of Australian ball-tampering during the first Hobart Test and would not be taking the matter any further.

Sri Lanka's team management had expressed concern at television match footage which it believed showed paceman Peter Siddle tampering with the ball during the Sri Lankan first innings.

NTC to be reorganised

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achieve results," said BFF president Kazi Salahuddin yesterday.

The nine-member NTC comprised of former footballers Khurshid Alam Babul, Mohammad Mohsin, Satyajit Das Rupu, Iqbal Hossain, Kazi Jasimuddin Joshi and BFF members Amirul Islam Babu, Shamsul Haq Chowdhury. The chairman of the committee BFF vice president Kazi Nabil Ahmed hinted the number of members might be reduced in the reorganised committee.

"We want to reach a higher level of standard and that's the reason behind reorganising the committee," said Nabil adding that the size of the committee might be smaller than the previous one.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword clues and solutions. Includes ACROSS and DOWN clues like 'Offering a nice view', 'Illegal steroid use', etc. and their corresponding solutions.

Grid for Cryptiquip puzzle with numbers 1-30 indicating starting positions for words.

CRYPTOQUIP

UZGHOG XLD PDSQY KUHTGHTF
OCZZQUPHOGHA KHAGCZQO
DVADPDZVCPFUZYQT
VPDXQZO: OUPSUYDZ YULPHU.

Saturday's Cryptiquip: I INFER THAT "THE FISH AREN'T BITING" AND "I LANDED A BIG ONE" ARE POPULAR CATCH PHRASES. Today's Cryptiquip Clue: D equals O