

**Niaz finishes twelfth**

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Niaz Murshed finished 12th in the 11th Delhi International Open Chess Festival in the Indian capital yesterday. The Bangladesh national champion drew with Indian IM Aditya Udeshin in the last round of the 10-round meet and finished with 6.5 points. Niaz won a cash award of twenty thousand Indian rupees, said a press release yesterday. GM Aleksandrov Aleksey of Belarus became champion with eight points. A total of 105 players from 11 countries including 17 GMs, 4 WGMs and 27 IMs participated in the meet.

**Feni soccer**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Comilla moved into the semifinals of the Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Gold Cup Football Tournament with a 3-2 win over Chandpur in a tiebreaker at the Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni yesterday.

The match rolled into shootout after the regulation time had failed to produce any goal.

Mohammad Dulal of Comilla was adjudged the player-of-the-match.

**Poor man's Sobers is no more**

CRICINFO, New Delhi

Former India all-rounder Rishi Surti, 76, died Sunday morning in Mumbai. The Queensland, Australia-based Surti had been put on life support in hospital after scans revealed he had suffered a massive stroke.

Surti, often called the "poor man's Garry Sobers", played 26 Tests for India from 1960 to 1969 before settling in Australia. He represented Queensland 35 times in the Sheffield Shield and also played for Gujarat and Rajasthan in the Ranji Trophy.

A sound left-hand batsman, a left-arm bowler who could bowl either medium-pace or spin and an outstanding fielder, Surti rendered valuable service to Indian cricket almost throughout the 1960s. He scored 1263 Test runs at an average of 28.70 and a highest score of 99 while also taking 42 wickets at 46.71.

Having debuted against Pakistan in Mumbai, Surti peaked on the tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1967-68.

**Rising TT**

FROM PAGE 16 expressed her optimism to win it for Abahani.

"I will give my hundred percent to help Abahani win the title and I am mentally prepared for any challenge," said Sumona.

Meanwhile, in the Senior Division League, Sheikh Russel thrashed Armanitola 3-0 before prevailing over Biman Bangladesh 3-2. Shishiron TT Club beat Ajax 3-0 and then won against Armanitola 3-2.

**Azad defeat**

FROM PAGE 16

**ORIENT SPORTING CLUB:** 124 all out in 42.1 overs (Babu 32; Rahat 3-25) v **TASIN HASIN CRICKET ACADEMY:** 93 all out in 28.5 overs (Arifur 36; Hossain 4-24, Towhidur 4-34) **KATHALBAGAN GREEN CRESCENT CLUB:** 170 all out in 46.3 overs (Prosenjit 41; Azmal 3-30) v **MAGNUM CRICKETERS:** 137 all out in 43.5 overs (Sukur 49; Nirjon 3-27, Rasel 2-20).



South Africa pace spearhead Dale Steyn (L) did the mop-up job on the third morning to make sure New Zealand follow on in the second and final Test at the St George's Park in Port Elizabeth yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

**Proteas not far away**

Cricket

AFP, Port Elizabeth

South Africa were on track for their second successive big win over New Zealand when they claimed four second innings wickets on the third afternoon of the second and final Test at St George's Park on Sunday.

New Zealand were 157 for four at the close, still 247 runs short of avoiding a second consecutive innings defeat, after being forced to follow on 404 runs behind.

Dale Steyn took five for 17 as New Zealand were bowled out for 121 in their first innings.

Left-arm spin bowler Robin Peterson took the first two wickets in the second innings and fast bowler Rory Kleinveldt followed up with two wickets off successive deliveries.

New Zealand wicket-keeper BJ Watling followed up an impressive first innings of 63 -- more than half his team's total -- with 41 not out as he shared an unbeaten fifth wicket stand of 73 with Dean Brownlie (44 not out) to delay South Africa's progress.

On a hot, sunny day, in contrast to the overcast, swing-friendly conditions in which New Zealand crashed to 47 for six on Saturday, South Africa

were made to work far harder for their wickets.

But they made steady progress and will be able to call for the second new ball 13 overs into the fourth day's play on Monday.

Captain Brendon McCullum and Martin Guptill made a cautious start in the second innings as New Zealand set out to try to avoid their second successive innings defeat.

They saw off the new ball attack of Steyn and Morne Morkel as they put on 40 for the first wicket.

But McCullum fell to Peterson for the third time in as many innings to provide South Africa with their first breakthrough.

After being dismissed by Peterson in the second innings in the first Test at Cape Town and in the first innings in the current match, McCullum played Peterson with exaggerated caution before missing a delivery which went straight on and trapped him leg before wicket for 11.

Kane Williamson attempted an aggressive back foot shot against Peterson but was bowled by a ball which kept low.

Guptill made 48 before he went back to a ball from Kleinveldt which veered in and hit his off-stump and Daniel Flynn was out first ball for his second duck of

the match when he edged Kleinveldt to wicketkeeper AB de Villiers.

**SCOREBOARD**

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 525-8 declared

**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings (overnight 47-6)

Guptill c Petersen b Steyn	1
McCullum c Kallis b Peterson	13
Williamson c Smith b Steyn	4
Brownlie c De Villiers b Kleinveldt	10
Flynn lbw b Kleinveldt	0
Watling c Smith b Morkel	63
Munro c Elgar b Peterson	0
Bracewell c De Villiers b Steyn	7
Wagner lbw b Steyn	0
Patel b Steyn	0
Boult not out	17
Extras: (lb-5, w-1)	6
Total: (All out in 44.5 overs)	121
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-8, 3-27, 4-27, 5-39, 6-39, 7-61, 8-62, 9-62	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	13	5	17	5
Morkel	12.4	6	26	1
Kleinveldt	11	3	53	2
Peterson	7	2	20	2
Kallis	1	1	0	0

**NEW ZEALAND:** Second innings

Guptill b Kleinveldt	48
McCullum lbw b Peterson	11
Williamson b Peterson	11
Brownlie not out	44
Flynn c De Villiers b Kleinveldt	0
Watling not out	41
Extras: (lb-1, w-1)	2
Total: (For 4 wickets in 67 overs)	157
To bat: Bracewell, Munro, Patel, Boult, Wagner	
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-64, 3-84, 4-84	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	13	1	41	0
Morkel	13	4	32	0
Kleinveldt	12	8	31	2
Peterson	20	11	29	2

**SL level powerfully**

FROM PAGE 16

on two for 12.

Skipper George Bailey struggled to 26 before Thirimanne took a leaping catch off a Malinga delivery.

David Hussey looked the man for a tough job, picking up occasional boundaries and putting on 39 with Bailey.

But Hussey only got to 29 when he hesitated going for a single and Dilshan knocked off the bails from mid-wicket.

Australia's inexperienced side needed a big innings from Haddin but he struggled as partners disappeared.

Steve Smith played a couple of good shots but went for eight, edging a Thisara Perera leg cutter to the wicketkeeper.

Cutting, another debutant, brought some composure and quickly hit his first international boundary.

for 57 proved Australia's best, but another edge to the keeper ended his innings on 27.

Kane Richardson on his debut and on his home ground was lbw for a duck off a deceptive slower ball from Malinga.

Clint McKay fended off the hat-trick ball but was given out for four after a review of a fine outside edge caught behind the wicket again by Kushal Perera.

Haddin tried to attack and struck a big six off Thisara Perera but on 50 he holed out to Thirimanne at midwicket off the bowling of Ajantha Mendis to close the innings.

The third game in the series takes place in Brisbane on Friday.

**SCOREBOARD**

AUSTRALIA	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Finch c J Mendis b Mathews	4				
Hughes lbw Kulasekera	3				
Bailey c Thirimanne b Malinga	26				
D Hussey run out	29				
Smith c K Perera b T Perera	8				
Maxwell c K Perera b Mathews	8				
Haddin c Thirimanne b A Mendis	50				

Cutting c K Perera b Malinga	27
Richardson lbw Malinga	0
McKay c K Perera b T Perera	4
Doherty not out	5
Extras: (lb-1, lb-1, w-4)	6
Total: (All out in 46.5 overs)	170
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-12, 3-51, 4-60, 5-82, 6-83, 7-140, 8-140, 9-146	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kulasekera	9	0	24	1
Mathews	10	1	24	2
T Perera	9	0	40	2
Malinga	9	0	32	3
A Mendis	7.5	0	41	1
J Mendis	2	0	7	0

**SRILANKA**  
Tharanga c Haddin b McKay  
Dilshan c Maxwell b Cutting

Thirimanne not out  
Perera not out  
Extras: (lb-3, w-2)

Total: (For 2 wickets in 40.1 overs) 172  
Did not bat: Jayawardene, Mathews, J Mendis, Perera, Kulasekera, Malinga, A Mendis

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-137

Bowler	O	M	R	W
McKay	10	0	43	1
Richardson	6	3	15	0
Cutting	10	0	42	1
Doherty	7	0	34	0
Smith	4	0	16	0
Maxwell	3.1	0	19	0

**Result:** Sri Lanka won by eight wickets and level in 5-match series: 1-1.

**PAKISTAN AWARDS  
Ajmal sweeps all bowling honours**

AFP, Lahore

Off-spinner Saeed Ajmal won all the bowling honours at Pakistan's inaugural cricket awards ceremony, after he was controversially left off the International Cricket Council's awards list.

Despite bagging 72 wickets in 12 Tests from August 2011 to August 2012, the 35-year-old was not included in any of the ICC shortlists when they were announced in September, sparking outrage in Pakistan at the perceived injustice.

Pakistan's protest over the omission went unheeded, but at the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) awards Saturday night Ajmal was declared best Pakistan bowler for 2012 in all three formats -- Test, one-day and T20.

Ajmal, who helped Pakistan rout then world number one Test side England 3-0 in the United Arab Emirates early last year, also won the PCB's special prize for best bowler of the year.

"To be named the best for the year from such a special group, for me this is an out of this world feeling," he said.

Ajmal took 39 wickets in six Tests last year while his tally stood at 31 in 17 one day matches and 25 in 16 Twenty20s.

All-rounder Mohammad Hafeez, captain of Pakistan's Twenty20 team, was named player of the year.

Hafeez was prolific in all three forms of the game last year -- both as batsman and bowler -- with 505 runs and eight wickets in Tests, 476 runs and 13 wickets in one-dayers, and 398 runs and 10 wickets in T20s.

**Will their**

FROM PAGE 16 almost confirmed. Apart from Mushfiqur, Shohag and Mominul, pacer Nazmul Hossain and Suhrawardi are expected to play in the starting eleven. As for the foreign players, Dwayne Smith and Nannes are expected to lead the pack. Chanderpaul, who played for Khulna last year, will also be in contention whereas Ireland's Paul Stirling, Masakadza and the Pakistani players will have to battle for the remaining places in the side.

**Serena clear favourite**

AFP, Melbourne



Serena Williams goes into the Australian Open a red-hot favourite in her quest for a sixth title with even world number one Victoria Azarenka admitting the American is the player to beat.

Williams gets her 13th Melbourne campaign underway Tuesday against Romania's Edina Gallovits-Hall, fresh from claiming her 47th career title in Brisbane and with a rare calendar-year Grand Slam in her sights.

But the formidable and newly focused American, 31, is doing her best to play down soaring expectations before the Grand Slam season gets underway at Melbourne Park on Monday.

Maybe someone else can. We'll see. But it's tough to say."

Williams, who won Wimbledon, the US Open and Olympic gold last year, is also halfway to holding all the major titles at once for the second time, after first completing the non-calendar year "Serena Slam" in 2002-2003.

The 15-time Grand Slam winner sits behind defending champion Azarenka and Maria Sharapova in the current world rankings, but when it comes to the opening major of the season, she is

peerless in the modern game. She won in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2010, and another Australian tournament victory would return her to world number one.

Azarenka, who withdrew from her Brisbane semifinal against Williams after failing to recover from a big toe infection, is happy for the American to be favourite, saying it takes the pressure off.

Reigning French Open champion Sharapova, who was beaten by Azarenka in last year's final, is one of the players wanting to topple Azarenka but her preparations have been hampered by a collarbone injury.

However, the world number two said she could play her way into the tournament, starting against fellow blonde Russian Olga Puchkova, ranked 105.

Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki could also be in contention, along with the in-form Agnieszka Radwanska, who has already won twice this year, and China's Li Na, the runner-up in 2011.

Li, 30, admitted that she was already feeling the pace after a frenetic start to the year.

Australian hopes rest with former US Open champion Samantha Stosur, who is yet to win a match this year.

**ICC stands by Pakistan**

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Cricket's governing body will continue to support Pakistan in its efforts to bring back the international game, but much depends on the security situation, an official said Saturday.

International cricket has been suspended in Pakistan since terrorists attacked the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore in 2009, leaving eight people dead and seven visiting players wounded.

It led foreign teams to shun tours to Pakistan due to security fears.

David Richardson, chief executive of the International Cricket Council (ICC) said Pakistan will continue to be supported.

"The ICC views Pakistan as a very important part of international cricket," Richardson told a media briefing in Lahore.

"It's our role to support Pakistan in its efforts to make sure that international cricket returns to the country."

But Richardson, a former South African wicketkeeper and batsman, said it was tough to give any time-frame for the return of the game.

**Novak chasing treble**

FROM PAGE 16

his way to London Olympics gold, and again in the US Open final as he became Britain's first male Grand Slam singles winner since Fred Perry in 1936.

Meanwhile four-time winner Federer, keen to extend his long stay at the top of men's tennis, opted out of playing a warm-up tournament. The Swiss has not reached the Melbourne final since his last win in 2010.

But he said it had allowed him to

feel fresh and eager for more Grand Slam glory as he prepared for his 53rd straight major.

David Ferrer, who won the most matches (76) and titles (seven) last year, is the fourth seed and is in good form having claimed a fourth ATP Auckland crown by beating Philipp Kohlschreiber in straight sets Saturday.

In Nadal's absence, he has a chance to climb above the fourth-ranked fellow Spaniard for the first time in his career.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>36</b> Point of view	<b>55</b> Gender	<b>25</b> "Meet Me -- Louis"
<b>1</b> Media watchdog	<b>37</b> Capital of org.	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>1</b> Karma
<b>4</b> Basin accessory	<b>39</b> Ostrich's cousin	<b>2</b> Family	<b>26</b> Mosque bigwig
<b>8</b> Jason's ship	<b>40</b> Cal.'s ocean	<b>3</b> Group of actors	<b>27</b> "Peter Pan"
<b>12</b> Carte lead-in	<b>41</b> Dutch exports	<b>4</b> Inuit pooch	<b>28</b> Snare
<b>13</b> Old woman's home?	<b>45</b> Shaving cream	<b>5</b> Puppy	<b>29</b> Cookie holder
<b>14</b> Cat call	<b>48</b> Capital of Uzbekistan	<b>6</b> A billion years	<b>32</b> Rich fabric
<b>15</b> Capital of Florida	<b>50</b> Sunup	<b>7</b> Gotten back	<b>33</b> "Be-Bop-"
<b>17</b> Elliptical	<b>51</b> One-on-one battle	<b>8</b> In the thick of	<b>35</b> Greek vowel
<b>18</b> Involve	<b>52</b> Wall climber	<b>9</b> Accelerate quickly	<b>36</b> With complacence
<b>19</b> Plant bristle	<b>53</b> News-paper pg.	<b>10</b> -- long way	<b>38</b> Knock over
<b>21</b> Mischievous tyke	<b>54</b> Bizarre (Var.)	<b>11</b> Hooter	<b>39</b> Bygone anesthetic
<b>22</b> Capital of Rwanda		<b>16</b> Hirsute	<b>42</b> Sacred Egyptian bird
<b>26</b> Prologue		<b>20</b> Humor	
<b>29</b> Fast flier		<b>23</b> Met melody	
<b>30</b> Director Howard		<b>24</b> Forsaken	
<b>31</b> Little lamb's owner			
<b>32</b> Prohibit			
<b>33</b> Ostentatious display			
<b>34</b> Santa -- winds			
<b>35</b> Blunder			



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
18						19	20			
		21				22		23	24	25
26	27	28			29			30		
31					32			33		
34			35				36			
37		38				39				
			40			41		42	43	44
45	46	47			48	49				
50					51			52		
53					54			55		

**CRYPTOQUIP**

GMIOZ XKHGZ IZU KZQFMIB  
PLJBG UZLZ EHLR JFQXZP