

Abhijeet retakes title in style

Pranesh finishes fifth with a resounding performance, gets GM-norm

CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Raising the bar when he needed to, Abhijeet Gupta pulled off a clinical win over Aleksey Aleksandrov to regain the title in the Delhi International Open Grandmasters chess tournament here on Thursday.

Winner in 2008 and 2014, Abhijeet tallied 8.5 points from 10 rounds to end the drought of an Indian champion since his last triumph in the richest prize-money event in the country. He ensured ₹6.50 lakh and a big-made trophy for his efforts.

Abhijeet scripted a dream comeback by scoring 6.5 points from the last seven rounds, following his third-round loss to Karthik Venkataraman. Interestingly, Aleksandrov who won the title in 2013 led at the start of every round but eventually finished second. Abhijeet never

led until his fourth successive victory decided the title.

“I’ve been in this situation at least 15 times in my career where I needed to win the last round for the title,” said Abhijeet and continued, “and this turned out to be my cleanest of the eight wins in the competition.

More challenging

“But honestly, I feel my ninth-round win over Dip-tayan Ghosh with black pieces was far more challenging, considering the fact that he hardly loses with white pieces,” said the 30-year-old champion.

The day also saw 13-year-old Tamil Nadu-lad M. Pranesh finish fifth with a resounding performance. This exceptional talent from Karaikudi scored eight points by remaining unbeaten and made a 10-game Grandmaster norm.

A trainee of noted coach R.B. Ramesh, Pranesh faced seven GMs and one Interna-

tional Master and scored six points off them. Rated 2317, the youngster gained a whopping 88 rating points by performing at 2645-level. **Important 10th round results (Indians unless stated):** Abhijeet Gupta (8.5) bt Aleksey Aleksandrov (Blr, 8); P. Shyam Nikhil (7) lost to Pavel Ponkratov (Rus, 8); Kirill Stupak (Blr, 7) lost to Levan Pantsulaia (Geo, 8); Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb, 7.5) drew with Alexie Fedorov (Blr, 7.5); N.R. Visakh (7) lost to Pranesh (8); M. Karthikeyan (7.5) bt Florian Kuczur (Ita, 6.5); Vishnu Prasanna (6.5) lost to Mikheil Mchedlishvili (Geo, 7.5); David Alberto (Ita, 7) drew with Karthik Venkataraman (7); M.R. Lalith Babu (7.5) bt Nguyen van Huy (6.5); K. Ratnakaran (7.5) bt Dip-tayan Ghosh (6.5).

Final standing (top-15): 1. Abhijeet (8.5 points), 2-5. Aleksandrov, Ponkratov, Pantsulaia, Pranesh (8 points each); 6-15. Yakubboev, Mchedlishvili, Fedorov, C.R.G. Krishna, Debashis Das, M. Karthikeyan, Ratnakaran, Cristhian Camilo Rios (Col), M.R. Lalit Babu and Harsha Bharathakoti (7.5 points each).



Student and guide: Abhijeet Gupta, with coach Vishal Sareen, after winning the Delhi International Open. ■ RAKESH RAO

Soumya eyes Asian youth c’ships gold

Y.B. SARANGI
GUWAHATI

For 14-year-old Soumya Dalvi, life has tasted so many flavours before settling for his father Sunil’s passion – weightlifting. The teenager learnt music and dance and did athletics before finding her calling in lifting weights.

The tiny Thane lifter, who began weightlifting about two years ago, quickly found her feet in the sport and started winning medals. She caught everyone’s attention by claiming the Khelo India youth gold medal in girls’ 40kg in Pune last year with a total of 113kg.

On Thursday, she defended her title in style by improving three kg and creating new (yet-to-be ratified) mark.

Interestingly, like previous year, Soumya got a stiff competition from her state mate Aarati Tatgunti, who again got the silver medal with 115kg. The lead-up to the competition was tougher

this year for Soumya. “Last year I reduced two kg, but this year I had to cut down four kg. I was so desperate that I did not eat and drink for nearly two days, did sauna bath and tried crying to reduce weight,” Soumya, smiling ear-to-ear displaying her wired-up teeth, told *The Hindu*.

“I did singing, dancing and athletics before my father, who was a National-level gold medal winning lifter and a Chhatrapati award winner, asked me to do some exercise at our home gym. Slowly, he got involved and I started training,” said Soumya, who took gold medals in Khelo India, National youth championships and Commonwealth youth championships in the last one year.

Now, Soumya, a Class IX student, wants to continue her gold-medal winning streak and shine at the Asian youth championships in Uzbekistan next month.

KHELO INDIA

Y.B. SARANGI
GUWAHATI

Harshada Garud raised her game to bag the under-17 girls’ 45kg youth title with an aggregate of 139kg on the opening day of weightlifting competitions at Khelo India youth Games here on Thursday.

Harshada’s showing, which was better than the National record of 132kg and is yet to be ratified, helped her top the combined list of under-17 and under-21 lifters. It also contributed in Maharashtra’s dominating performance of five medals, including three gold medals, in the weightlifting arena.

The Pune girl lifted 62kg in her final snatch attempt to lead the table. She failed in her first effort of 74kg in clean and jerk, but recovered to end up with 77kg and surge ahead.

Under-17 lifter Gyneshwari Yadav of Chhattisgarh (snatch 61kg, clean and jerk 76kg, total 137kg) and Haryana’s Komal Kohar, who

topped the under-21 category, (59kg, 75kg, 134kg) stayed behind Harshada in the overall list. Techi Nadam (58kg, 75kg, 133kg) of Arunachal Pradesh and Sufina Jasmin (57kg, 73kg, 130kg) placed second and third respectively in under-21 category.

Among other Maharashtra lifters, Soumya Dalvi (50kg, 66kg, 116kg) and Aarati Tatguni (50kg, 65kg, 115kg) claimed under-17 girls’ 40kg gold and silver respectively.

Mukund Aher claimed the first two places in boys’ under-17 49kg class.

Cycling: Karnataka’s Dhanamma Chichakha, Sahana Kudiganur, Keerthi Ramaswamy and Meghna Gugad won the girls’ under-21 team pursuit (4000m) gold with a timing of 5:38.298.

Andaman and Nicobar’s Celestina (12.928) and David Beckhame (10.891) took girls’ and boys’ sprint (200m) titles respectively to complete their respective individual double crowns.

Shooting: Haryana’s 13-year-old Shiva Narwal (243.2 points) pocketed the boys’



Top show: Harshada rose to the occasion to nail the u-17 girls’ 45kg gold. ■RITU RAJ KONWAR

under-17 10m air pistol gold. His state-mate Naveen Singh (246.1) was the under-21 champion.

Wrestling: Pankaj (Uttar Pradesh), Pradeep (Haryana)

Saddam (Maharashtra) won gold medals in boys’ under-21 Greco Roman 51kg, 55kg and 60kg respectively.

Maharashtra was firmly on top of the medals table with

125 medals, including 33 gold.

On Wednesday:

Volleyball: Kerala beat West Bengal 26-24, 25-16, 25-21 in the final and take the girls’

glittering career.

After four rounds, before Wednesday’s rest day, Wesley So led the field after beating overnight leader Alireza Firouzja in 47 moves.

In Group B, Surya Shekhar Ganguly defeated Dinara Saduakassova in 26 moves to lead with three points.

Compatriot Nihal Sarin (2.5 points), who also played black, recorded his first win after facing local Dutchman Max Warmerdam for 38 moves and shared the second spot with four others.

Fourth round results: Masters: Yu Yangyi (Chn, 1) drew with Viswanathan Anand (1.5); Wesley So (USA, 3) bt Alireza Firouzja (FIDE, 2.5); Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 2.5) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 2); Jeffery Xiong (USA, 2.5) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 2.5); Daniil Dubov (Rus, 2) drew with Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol, 2); Anish Giri (Ned, 2) drew with Nikita Vitiugov (Rus, 1.5); Vladislav Artemiev (Rus, 2.5) bt Vladislav Kovalev (Blr, 0.5).



Carlsen. ■GETTY IMAGES

been Carlsen’s two games before but he declined to include two victories he posted in the recent Norwegian league by saying, “I’m all for it (the record), too. I consider my streak against elite opposition is 109 and against good opposition is 111 and I am happy about that.”

But after escaping some trouble against van Foreest and then drawing the game, Carlsen well and truly held another world record in his

Bernardini primed for an encore

BENGALURU: Bernardini, who is in fine fettle, may score an encore in the Kempe Gowda Cup (1,600m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Friday (Jan. 17). False rails (width about 7.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1. YEDAMURI FALLS PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 20, 1:15 p.m.: 1. Iconic Princess (8) Shreyas Singh 60, 2. She’s Stylish (12) Vinod Shinde 60, 3. Show Girl (9) Vaibhav 60, 4. Adela (5) A. Imran 59, 5. Sky Moon (3) Jagadeesh 59, 6. Apollo Bay (10) Kiran Rai 58.5, 7. Desert Gilt (11) K. Raghu 58, 8. Love Music (1) Khurshad Alam 58, 9. Firestone (7) S. Imran 57.5, 10. Winx (6) T.S. Jodha 57.5, 11. Zala Princess (2) Nazerul 57.5 and 12. Purity (4) Antony 56.

1. SHOW GIRL, 2. SHE’S STYLISH, 3. ADELA

2. BLACK CAVIAR PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only. (Terms): 1-45: 1. Benignity (4) Antony 55, 2. Blazing Gold (9) Srinath 55, 3. Dream Chaser (3) Kiran Rai 55, 4. Jack Ryan (1) I. Chisty 55, 5. Nisus (10) Akshay Kumar 55, 6. Sherwin (6) Suraj 55, 7. Welcome Surprise (5) Darshan 55, 8. Arlette (7) Trevor 53.5, 9. Capital Gain (2) Rayan 53.5 and 10. Rani Jindan (8) David Allan 53.5.

1. RANI JINDAN, 2. SHERWIN, 3. NISUS

3. PREMIUM SPIRIT PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o & over, 2:15: 1. Paradiso (5) Darshan 60, 2. Agnar (9) J.H. Arul 59, 3. Dallas (2) Arvind Kumar 57.5, 4. Simply Magical (12) S. Hussain 55.5, 5. Unifier (11) Vaibhav 54.5, 6. Smile Of Peace (6) T.S. Jodha 54, 7. Turf Spirit (7) Rayan 54, 8. Nerva (4) Nazerul 53.5, 9. Perfect King (1) R. Marshall 53.5, 10. Zehnaseeb (10) Kiran Rai 53.5, 11. Zafrina (3) Raja Rao 53 and 12. Desert Gold (8) Arshad 52.5.

1. ZEHNASEEB, 2. PERFECT KING, 3. DALLAS

4. GADAG PLATE (1,100m), rated 15 to 35, 2:45: 1. Silver Swift (7) Chetan G 60, 2. Caesars Palace (12) S. Hussain 58.5, 3. Definitive (7) Dharshan Antony 57, 4. Desert Mirage (4) Kiran Rai 57, 5. Sandy Star (10) Vaibhav 57, 6. Singhsaab (9) M. Naveen 57, 7. Tazamour (8) R. Anand 56, 8. Caspian Beauty (11) Vinod Shinde 55.5, 9. Estella (5) J.H. Arul 55.5, 10. Mrs Thatcher (1) David Allan 55.5, 11. Elite Agent (6) I. Chisty 55 and 12. Eco Friendly (2) Shreyas Singh 54.5.

1. SILVER SWIFT, 2. SINGHSAAB, 3. MRS THATCHER

5. MAKYBE DIVA TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 5-y-o & over, 3:15: 1. Big Boon (8) R. Anand 60, 2. Wings Of Desire (4) A. Imran 60, 3. Secrets superstar (3) Suraj 58.5, 4. Royal Resolution (11) David Allan 58, 5. Varcasva (5)

C. Umesh 58, 6. Venus Bay (6) S. John 57.5, 7. Stari Grad (9) A. Vishwanath 56.5, 8. Tio Rico (12) Chetan G 56.5, 9. Stars In His Eyes (10) Khurshad Alam 56, 10. Aceros (2) Srinath 55.5, 11. Emidio (7) Naveen Kumar 55.5 and 12. Lawrence Of Arabia (1) Arvind Kumar 54.5.

1. SECRETSUPERSTAR, 2. ACEROS, 3. ROYAL RESOLUTION

6. DHARWAD PLATE (1,400m), rated 45 to 65, 3:45: 1. Ashwa Raftar (3) J.H. Arul 60, 2. Torsoro (8) A. Imran 58.5, 3. Blue Moon (6) I. Chisty 58, 4. Akita Pro (9) S. Shareef 57.5, 5. Excellent Sorrento (5) S. John 57.5, 6. Star Cracker (1) K. Raghu 57.5, 7. Corona Del Corsa (2) Akshay Kumar 57, 8. Good Time Indeed (4) R. Marshall 56 and 9. Bluejack (7) Jagadeesh 53.5.

1. AKITA PRO, 2. BLUE MOON, 3. TORSORO

7. KEMPE GOWDA CUP (1,600m), rated 60 & above, 4:15: 1. Brave Lady (8) S. John 64, 2. Bernardini (6) C. Umesh 61.5, 3. Into The Groove (1) J.H. Arul 60.5, 4. Super Success (9) Naveen Kumar 59, 5. Australis (5) Trevor 57.5, 6. The Lieutenant (7) Raja Rao 56, 7. Velocidad (2) Srinath 54.5, 8. Mystic Flame (4) I. Chisty 54 and 9. Corybantic (3) Akshay Kumar 50.

1. BERNARDINI, 2. MYSTIC FLAME, 3. AUSTRALIS

Thursday.

The scores: Group A: Dhirubhai Ambani International School 135/1 in 20 overs (Taher Kudrati 47, Abhiviraj Goel 59 n.o.) bt St. Mary’s School 124/8 in 20 overs (Hussain Daruwalla 46 n.o.; Veer Kapoor 2/29, Harshwardhan Jhaveri 3/12).

NBA to meet

Mastan YMCA

Nagpada Basketball Association (NBA) set up the mini boys (U-13) summit clash against Mastan YMCA in the NBA Invitational basketball tournament.

The results (semifinals): Mini boys:

Nagpada Basketball Association 38 (Hamza H. 8, Shakib K. 6, Aarush K. 6) bt Ghatkopar YMCA 9 (Vinit S. 5).

Mastan YMCA 46 (Sahil Qureshi 10, Umam Shaikh, 9, Likman A. 10) bt H/5 22 (Suraj Gupta 18).

CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CORRIGENDUM -2 CUM TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE

The following amendment is made in the e-tender published by this Office for the following work.

Name of work: Comprehensive Architectural Consultancy services for construction of JIPMER Sedarapet Campus at Sedarapet, Puducherry.

NIT No.04/2019-20/SE/EE/PCD

Last date of submission of Technical bid extended. Similar work definition modified vide Corrigendum-1 dated 13.01.2020.

Corrigendum 1 & 2 uploaded in tender wizard website: www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD and also available on www.eprocure.gov.in

Sd/-

The Executive Engineer, Pondicherry Central Division, CPWD, Puducherry-6.

MUMBAI LOCALS

Hekmat Singh strikes

Mumbai Customs's winner

Hekmat Singh’s winner helped Mumbai Customs edge past Maharashtra State Police 2-1 in the Elite Division of the Rustumjee-MDFA League at the Cooperage ground on Thursday.

The results:

Elite Div.: Mumbai Customs 2 (C.S. Naseef, Hekmat Singh) bt Maharashtra State Police 1 (Hekmat Singh-OG).

Second Div.: The Oranje FC 1 (Amrendra Singh) bt Sporting Options FC 0; Sara FA (Shahnawaz Khan) drew with Milan FA (Pawan Gurav).

Narrow win for DAIS

Dhirubhai Ambani International School (DAIS) recorded a 11-run victory against St. Mary’s School in Group A of the inaugural Bombay Gymkhana Inter-School T20 cricket tournament on

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