



CHESS MATE

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HISTORIC TRIUMPH FOR INDIA. India won the Asian Nations Cup defeating World and Olympiad champions China 2.5-1.5 to win the Asian Team Chess Championship for the third time at Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates earlier this month. India had previously won this event at Esfahan (Iran) in 2005 and Kolkata in 2009 when the Chinese did not play.

In this picture above are (from left) Grand Master R.B. Ramesh (coach), Krishnan Sasikiran, Deep Sengupta, S.P. Sethuraman, Baskaran Adhiban and Vidit S Gujrathi. From www.aicf.in See details on page 4.

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Sergey Karjakin (Russia, left) and **Fabiano Caruana** (USA, right) played a deciding final game at Moscow and the former emerged the challenger to world champion Magnus Carlsen with an all important victory. Pic: www.worldchess.com

Time Is Ripe For A Chess League In India

**Says R.B. Ramesh, One Of The World's
Leading Chess Trainers**

By Arvind Aaron

"We will have quite a few number of players breaching the 2700 (rating) mark in the near future," opined R.B. Ramesh, India's leading chess trainer describing the chess performance of the Indian team at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in April 2016.

Further, Ramesh seconds the opinion of Pentala Hari-krishna boldly appealing that the time is ripe for a Chess League in India. Ramesh had won the British Chess Championship in 2002 and the Commonwealth Chess Championship in 2007. He had become a Grand Master in 2003. He was Indian Under-17 Champion and twice won the Indian National Challengers. He was also Indian Rapid and Blitz Champion.

Born on April 20, 1976, Ramesh came into chess more by accident in the real sense. Younger brother of International Master G.B.Prakash,

Ramachandran Balagurunathan Ramesh started with cricket and had to lay off from cricket due to injury. When Anand won the World Junior in Baguio City, in the Philippines in 1987, Ramesh was swept into chess by the wave that followed.

Ramesh had a brief stint with Indian Bank as a chess recruit and a little longer one at Indian Oil Corporation before starting his own school, Chess Gurukul. He is married to Aarthie Ramaswamy who was World U-18G Champion in 1999. They are India's first GM couple.

Q: Everything is going right for Indian team chess since Tromso 2014. What can you tell us about this latest Abu Dhabi success?

A: Yes, for some time now things are going well as far as the Indian team performances in International events are concerned.



The latest success in Asian Nations Cup at Abu Dhabi is very important for various reasons. For one, we defeated China, once in Standard (Classical) chess and again in Rapid chess as well. It kind of helps overcome the impression that we may not be able to compete on equal terms with the Chinese in the short run. For another, our players are improving individually, becoming stronger and this was visible in the quality of the games they played. This shows we will be able to have quite a few number of players breaching the 2700 mark in the near future.

Q: Has greater maturity and professionalism come into our players recently?

A: This was what I was trying to stress with my answer to the previous question. Our young players are becoming more mature and professional in their approach to the game. They are more ambitious now that Harikrishna and Sasikiran (after Anand of course) have shown that it is

possible for Indians to move beyond 2700 and even 2750 levels and successfully stay there. Our young generation is no longer happy with looking up to others but want to be role models themselves to the coming generations. This is very good for Indian Chess.

Q: How significant is this victory since we have never finished ahead of China except for this and the 2006 Asian Games in Doha?

A: Well, the Chinese have quite a few players above 2700 rating level but in India we have a much larger base in the 2500/2600 level to build upon in the short and medium period. Few years back, we had very few players above 2500. Now the situation is similar in above 2600 level. Now we have many players over 2500 and even 2600 levels. Indian progress has been steady albeit gradually building up a large base of strong players. Hopefully we will have many players above the 2725 level soon (3 to 5 years from now) which is when we should seriously contend for the Olympiad and World Team Championship titles and the World individual champion title itself. In all this, I am not including our legendary Anand and looking at things from the view point of other players.

Q: What was the strategy behind Deep and Bhakti Kulkarni playing fewer games in reserve?

A: With regard to Bhakti Kulkarni, the coach for the Women's team Mr. Vishal Sareen would be in a better position to respond. As far as Deep Sengupta's place in the board order is concerned, we wanted to go by the FIDE rating order as we wanted to see how Adhiban and Vidit Gujrathi will be able to handle pressure from the top players on higher boards. Sethuraman is somewhat experienced in this with the Tromso Olympiad and World Team Championship last year. We wanted to play for the title this time and that meant we had to go with our higher rated players while playing the stronger opposition. Deep was helping out the players in analysing Opening positions and being constantly ready to jump in when there is a requirement. Everyone had an important role and they all played them well.

Q: Has Sethuraman changed his style to taking high risks not fearing defeats which coaches in team events do not like? His result was 6 wins, 3 losses, 0 draws!

A: Well, every player goes through various stages of evolution throughout his career, some planned and some unplanned. A player's form keeps varying for better or worse. Overall a player will be happy if his playing strength, analytical ability, motivation, decision making skills keep

improving for the better along with progress in Rating. I am not very worried about temporary loss of form of the players. As long as they stay motivated to work hard and improve, their hunger to learn new things, try new approaches, vary their style, willing to experiment, handle losses as lessons, I am quite happy. Professional chess in my opinion is not just winning but also doing things the way you want to do and still make it work, in the long run inventing yourself in the process. It is like an artist working on a rock to make a beautiful statue; only here, the artist, rock and the statue are the same person.

Sethuraman won important games for the team when it mattered. So I am quite happy with everyone's performance in the team.

Q: Vidit was in great form and Adhiban got into form.

A: Vidit is a universal player in the real sense. He can play any type of position with equal ease. All the players in the team, including Vidit, are very hard working. Vidit is both young and mature as a player. He does not let the game go out of hand that easily and controls it quite well. About Adhiban, he is steadily improving and his style is more adventurous than that of Sethuraman or Vidit. If Adhiban can learn to control the game a little more, he

would become even more formidable.

Q: Which win did the Indian team team enjoy the most and what happened against Mongolia?

A: Obviously, the win over China was quite pleasant for the whole team. We knew the tournament was in our control from then onwards. Against Mongolia, we could have even lost the match had Vidit not managed to draw a tough position on the third board. Probably some complacency had crept into the players mind as we were clearly the favourites rating wise and did not give our best. But it woke up the players and they became more professional from then onwards. In that sense the Mongolia match helped us play to our true potential thereafter.

Q: Did the win against China send a strong message that someone equal or stronger has emerged from China's neighbourhood?

A: I believe we still have some ground to cover before we can compare ourselves favourably with the Chinese and other strong teams like Russia, etc. This win will give us some confidence and self belief in the short run. Beyond that, what matters is how we nurture the talent that we have in plenty, right from when they are young to various stages of their growth. In the short run we need more players in the 2725 level to consistently take

on the best teams in the world on equal terms.

Q: Teams in the Baku Olympiad 2016 are now going to take India more seriously after this win particularly ahead of China?

A: I don't think the other top teams will be giving this win more importance than it deserves. Everyone will rather try to play to their strength than to worry about other teams' reputations. Our players will be thinking about improving their rating points, win more games and become better players than they are now. All professional players will be thinking along similar lines, I believe.

Q: The role of a coach is crucial in team events. How do you manage to calm yourself and the team?

A: I am not that calm during the events as people would like to believe! I involve myself completely into the tournament situation and put myself in the player's position before taking decisions. My role is to see that players maintain their faith in themselves throughout the event, especially when things go wrong. We have to stand by each other and trust each other completely. I do not believe in restricting a player's natural instincts under normal situations. Even in critical situations, one should not try to do things that do not come naturally. I trust my players com-

pletely and am happy whatever the outcome is. In the last World Team Championship, India did not do that well in the second half of the tournament. But I felt that the players learned a lot personally from the experience.

Every player in the team believes that they still have lots more to learn and they want to come back to form in the very next game after every loss. They don't lose motivation or hope so easily after a loss. They don't think that if they lose the whole world will blame them for it nor will other players

blame them for the loss. This gives them the freedom to play Chess the way they want and are capable of playing.

Q: Personally, how do you rate this win? How do you compare it with Tromso 2014?

A : The Tromso Olympiad Bronze was something very

In the airport file picture below, R.B. Ramesh and family had come to welcome Viswanathan Anand after the Indian had unseated Vladimir Kramnik for the world title.-Pic: Arvind Aaron.



special as it was the first medal for India in an Olympiad and we did it without the cream of Indian players in the team. This victory in the Asian would come right next to it as it is another milestone for the Indian team. Without a single player above 2700 we managed to beat a team with 3 players over 2700 and win the tournament comfortably. But I believe these successes reinforce our beliefs that we are going in the right direction, However, this process can be accelerated in the future.

Q: Harikrishna has said India should have a Chess League. Does having a league increase awareness for team events?

A: My belief is that India should not shy away from anything which will make Chess more competitive, bring big sponsors into the game and make the game more popular than it is among the common people. In that sense, closed tournaments (at all levels), a National Chess league, more women specific tournaments, training camp for young children and much more should all be considered! If we have to compete with the very best in the world we better match or do better than them in all respects. The time is ripe for a Chess league kind of event in our country. It will enable more top players of our country to play in India (currently this is not happening), our upcoming players can improve faster when they come in contact with

our top players over the board more often, more players will not move away from Chess to academics for fear of not being able to earn as much from a normal career than from Chess, Chess will probably gain more media attention and become more popular.

Q: All the Indian age group world champions were your students. Now, with this Asian success your reputation is at the level like Artur Yusupov and Mark Dvoretsky. Do you get overseas offers from Clubs in Bundesliga (German League) etc?

A: Thanks for the compliments but I believe I am just a beginner in the coaching field and have lot to learn myself before I can even dream of being compared to the greats like Dvoretsky and Yusupov.

My role is just that of a catalyst in a player's journey. A player's success to a large extent depends directly on his or her ability to learn, talent, hardworking ability, etc., than the role played by a coach. A coach can mould a player's personality, give the direction, teach the technicalities but it is the players' ability to absorb these things effectively and using his individual characteristic traits, apply them with utmost effect that is important. I have many students overseas individually but no offers from any clubs or establishments. I am quite happy the way things are!

At Abu Dhabi

India Wins Asian Nations Cup

Third Title For India; First Ever Ahead Of China

India won the Asian Nations Cup beating Vietnam 3-1 in the final round at Novotel Hotel in Abu Dhabi on April 5. On course to this brilliant showing, India had defeated Olympiad and World Champions China 2½-1½. India ceded only one point by a 2-2 draw against Mongolia.

This is the third time that India is winning this event. India had previously won at Esfahan, Iran in 2005 and Kolkata, 2009. Significantly, this is the first time we won finishing ahead of China.

India drew Mongolia and beat the rest of the teams in a 22-team nine round Swiss played on four boards with one Reserve. It is a great moment for Coach GM R.B.Ramesh and the team members: Adhiban 6½/9, Sethuraman 5/8, Vidit Gujrathi 7/9, Sasikiran 5/7 and Deep Sengupta 2½/3.

The India v China encounter lived up to the expectations of a great title battle. A few years back in China, there was blood on all the four boards with white winning 4-0 for a 2-2 result. This time around, it was Black's turn! Black went on to win all games except that Sasikiran playing white did not go by the popular trend and managed to draw! India won 2½-1½. Sasikiran was the only Indian with a rating higher

than his Chinese opponent's. So, this result goes down as one of the biggest upsets of the event since 1983 when Pakistan beat China.

In 1983, despite losing 1½-2½ to low rated Pakistan, China was able to win the Asian Team Championship at New Delhi. It is interesting to recall an incident from the 1983 Championship. In a key game in the Malaysia-Pakistan match the Appeals Committee overturned the Chief Arbiter's controversial decision to extend the 50-move draw rule by a few more moves which Pakistan sought in the game Mahmood Lodhi vs Jimmy Liew.

Lodhi had had a rook and bishop against the Malaysian's rook.

The story of the Abu Dhabi event evolved around India's historic victory over China. Adhiban picked up pawns and beat Bu on top board. Sethuraman lost to Wang Yue in a rook and minor piece ending. Vidit's extra pawns helped him win against Wei Yi in an opposite colour bishop ending. Sasikiran had a knight for advanced pawns of Lu Shanglei. He returned the knight in time for a stunning draw in a pawn ending. In the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Sasikiran had beaten Bu on top board in a

fantastic game. (The 2006 Asian Games was played with only two men and one woman per side with no Reserves. India beat China 3-0 through Sasikiran, Harikrishna and Humpy.)

India suffered a near disaster at the hands of Mongolia in Round Two. Every Indian was higher rated than his Mongolian opponent and a victory was expected. In this scenario, complacency set in. Vidit Gujrathi had a won position from the Opening but carelessly let the Mongolian get on top. Adhiban had won on top board against GM Gundavaa and Sethuraman had lost on second to GM Batchuluun. As Sasikiran had drawn on the 4th board with FM Sumiya Bilguun, the score was tied at 1½-1½, Therefore Mongolia's victory over India hinged on IM Munkhgal beating Vidit on Board 3. However, Vidit ingeniously saved the day for India by creating an impenetrable fortress into which Black could not penetrate. He drew the game and India drew 2-2.

India had won a team bronze medal at the 2014 Olympiad in Norway when China had won the gold medal. Later this year the two nations will battle for supremacy in the Baku Olympiad with nations like Russia, Ukraine etc., in the fray.

Right from the time when they made their Olympiad debut in Buenos Aires, 1978, China has surprised the West

with extraordinary performances in team events. Remarkably, for the first time since dominating world team chess, though fielding a team with a very high average of Elo 2694 they have been pushed to second place. They lost to India and played a 2-2 draw with Kazakhstan. All the three Chinese in the lower boards played below their rating expectations.

Hiccups of Chinese Women

China was the favourite to win the Asian Nations Cup Women Championship and they did win. But the course was not at all smooth. They lost to 7th seed Uzbekistan 1½-2½ and drew India 2-2. Only in the penultimate round did they overtake Uzbekistan. In their match with Uzbekistan China's Ju Wenjun lost to Nafisa Munimova and the rest of the games were drawn. Uzbekistan (Elo average 2258) won seven matches and lost to Kazakhstan and India to take the second place. The Uzbek women's team consisted of one WGM and four Woman International Masters only!

WIM Irina Gevorgyan (UZB) scored 7/8 and gained over 41 Elo from this one single event. She was rested against India while the other Uzbek players went down 0-4.

China (Average Elo 2521, seed No.1) was represented by GM Ju Wenjun, GM Zhao Xue, WGM Tan Zongyi, WGM Lei Tingjie and IM Guo Qi. Despite



this array of top stars doing duty for them, China struggled and stumbled to the gold medal. China won the Asian Nations Cup Women's event scoring 15 points losing to the Uzbeks and drawing India. Uzbekistan was second with 14 and Kazakhstan third with 13 points.

In the final round Vietnam drew Kazakhstan and offered India a podium opportunity. For this, India had to beat Iran but a draw pushed second seed India to fourth place with 12 points. India drew China, Iran, lost to Vietnam and Kazakhstan by 1½-2½ margins and beat the rest. Indian women scores: D.Harika 4½/7, Tania Sachdev 5/8, Padmini Rout 5/8, Soumya Swaminathan 7/9 and Bhakti Kulkarni 4/4.

Final placings (Match Points, Win=2, Draw=1, Defeat=0):

Open: 1 India 17/18, 2 China 15, 3 Kazakhstan 14, 4 Iran 12, 5 Uzbekistan 11, 6-8. Mongolia, Bangladesh, UAE-1 10 each, 9-14 Vietnam, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, Lebanon,

Krishnan Sasikiran and R.B. Ramesh were received at the Chennai airport by the chess officials.

Pic: TNSCA Photo release.

Afganistan, Oman 9 each; 15-16. Sri Lanka, Jordan 8 each, 17-18 Palestine, UAE-2 7 each, 19-20. Nepal, Kuwait 5 each, 21 Tajikistan 3, 22 UAE-3 2.

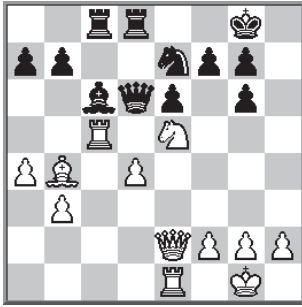
Women: 1 China 15/18; 2 Uzbekistan 14, 3 Kazakhstan 13, 4 India 12, 5 Vietnam 11, 6 Mongolia 10, 7 Iran 9, 8 UAE-2 3, 9 Sri Lanka 2, 10 UAE-1 1.

Analysis to the games are by Manuel Aaron:

Bu Xiangzhi (2724)
B Adhiban (2663)
 Slav Defence D16

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6
 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 e6 6.e3 c5
 7.Bxc4 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qe2
 0-0 10.Rd1 Bd7 A strange
 move, but black has a long
 range plan for this bishop.
 11.b3 cxd4 12.exd4 Bb4
 13.Bb2 Bxc3 14.Bxc3 Nd5
 15.Bd2 Rc8 16.Rac1 Nce7

17.Ne5 Bc6 18.Bd3 Qd6
 19.Rc5 Ng6 20.Rdc1 Nde7?!
 [The obvious move here led to
 equality: 20...Ndf4 21.Qe3
 Nxd3 22.Nxd3 Rfd8=] 21.Bxg6
 hxg6 22.Bb4 Rfd8 23.Re1?



[It is hard to understand
 the reasoning behind this
 pawn sacrifice. See annota-
 tions to white's 24th move. If
 23.Rxc6? Qxb4=; or if 23.R5c4
 Qd5 24.Qg4 Nf5 25.Bc5±]
 23...Qxd4 24.Ba3 [Perhaps
 white had sacrificed his d4
 pawn intending the knight sac:
 24.Nxf7 Qxb4 25.Qxe6 Qxe1+!
 (25...Qxc5 26.Ng5+ Kh8
 27.Qh3+ Kg8 28.Qh7+ Kf8
 29.Ne6+ Ke8 30.Nxc5+-)
 26.Qxe1 Kxf7 Black has R, B,
 N for Q + P. White had proba-
 bly overlooked 25.....Qxe1+
 when he sacrificed his d4 pawn.]
 24...Qd2 When materially
 ahead, exchange! 25.f3 Nf5
 26.b4? [It looks as though the
 Chinese player is completely
 upset. With this, he sheds a
 second pawn. Better was:
 26.Nxc6 Rxc6 27.Rxc6 bxc6
 28.Bc5 a6 29.Bb6 Qxe2
 30.Rxe2] 26...Qxe2 27.Rxe2
 Bxa4-+ 28.Rd2 g5 Preparing
 ...f6 to drive away white's cen-
 trally placed knight.

29.Rxd8+ Rxd8 30.Bc1 f6
 31.Ng4 Rd4! 32.Ne3 Rxb4!
 33.Nxf5 exf5 34.Rxf5-+ De-
 spite opposite colour bishops
 in this ending, black should
 win as he has two connected
 passed pawns. 34...b6 35.Rd5
 Rb1 36.Rd8+ Kf7 37.Rc8 Bd7
 38.Rc7 Ke6 39.Kf2 Kd6!
 40.Rc2 Ra1 41.Be3 Be6
 42.Ke2 Rb1 43.Rd2+ Bd5
 44.Rd1 Rb2+ 45.Rd2 Rb1
 46.Rd1 Rxd1 47.Kxd1 g4!
 Black has been improving his
 position every move. Now he
 ensures his doubled pawns are
 straightened out. 48.Ke2
 gxf3+ 49.gxf3 Kc6! 50.f4 a5
 51.Bd2 Kb5 52.Be3 Bc4+
 53.Kd1 Kc6 54.Bd2 Kd5
 55.Kc2 Ke4 56.Kb2 Kd3!
 57.Kc1 Be6 58.Be1 Ke2! He is
 not allowing white's bishop to
 attack his b6 pawn. 59.Bc3
 Ke3 60.Bd2+ Kf3 61.Kb2 Kg2
 62.Be3 b5 63.Bb6 a4 64.Bc7
 Bf5! [64...Kxh2?? 65.f5+!+-]
 65.Ka3 Kxh2 66.Kb4 Bd7
 67.Bd6 Kh3 68.Bf8 g5! 0-1.

S.P. Sethuraman (2658)
 Wang Yue (2718)
 Petroff Defence C42

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5
 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3
 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Qd2
 Be6 9.0-0-0 Qd7 10.Kb1 Bf6
 11.h4 0-0-0 12.Bg5 Qe7
 13.Qf4 h6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6
 15.Qxf6 gxf6 16.Be2 Rde8
 17.Rhe1 Rhg8 18.Bf1 Ne5
 19.Nd4 Bd7 20.Re3 Ng4
 21.Rf3 f5 22.Bb5 [If 22.Nxf5?!
 Ne5 23.Rf4 Rg4 24.Rxg4 Nxf4
 25.Bd3 Re5] 22...c6 23.Bd3
 Ne5 24.Nxf5 Kc7 25.Nxh6
 Rxg2 26.Rf4 Rh8 27.Nf5
 Bxf5 28.Rxf5 Rxh4 29.a3?

[⊖29.f4 Nxd3 30.Rxf7+ Kb6 31.cxd3 Rhh2 32.Ka1 Rd2! 33.Rb1 Rxd3⌘] 29...Rgg4 30.Rf1 Rf4 31.Rxf4 Rxf4 32.Kc1 d5 33.Kd2 Kd6 34.Ke3 Rf3+ 35.Ke2 c5 36.Rd1 Rf4 37.Ke3 Rh4 38.Be2 b6 39.Rg1 Ng6 40.Bf3 d4+ 41.cxd4 cxd4+ 42.Ke2 Ne5 43.Rg8 Rf4 44.Bh1 Nc4 45.Ra8?



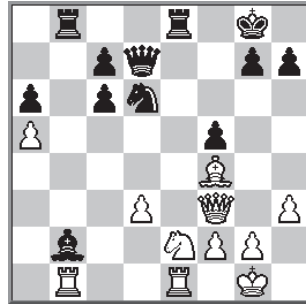
[After this black wins easily. White could equalise with: 45.Rd8+! Ke7 46.Ra8 Nxb2 47.Rxa7+ Kd8 48.Bd5=] 45...Nxb2 46.Rxa7 Na4 47.Ra8 Nc3+ 48.Kd3 Nd1 49.Ke2 [If 49.Rd8+ Kc7 50.Rxd4 Nxf2+ 51.Ke3 Rxd4+] 49...Nxf2 50.Bf3 Nh3 51.Rd8+ Kc7 52.Rg8 Rf6 53.Bg4 Nf4+ 54.Kf3 Ng6+ 55.Kg3 Ne5 56.Rc8+ Kb7 57.Rd8 Rg6 58.Rxd4 Kc6 59.Kh3 Kc5! 60.Rf4 Rxc4 61.Rxc4 Nxc4 62.Kxc4 Kd4 63.Kf5 Ke5+ 0-1.

Wei Yi (2714)

Vidit Santosh Gujrathi (2648)
Giuoco Piano C50

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Nbd2 Nb6 9.Bb5 Bd6!? Pulling back the bishop to defend e5 is a bold decision. Black must have

planned his future course of action which leads to active play for his pieces. 10.Re1 Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.Ne4 f5 13.Ng3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qd7 15.a4 a6 16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.c4= [17.a5 Nd5 18.Bd2=] 17...Rab8 18.a5 Nc8 19.c5 This exchanges his c4 pawn for black's more important e5 pawn, but it brings black's bishop into a powerful central square. 19...Bxc5 20.Rxe5 Bd4 21.Re1 Nd6 22.Ne2 Rfe8! Black's clever play has put white's disorganized pieces into confusion. 23.Bf4 Bxb2 24.Rab1



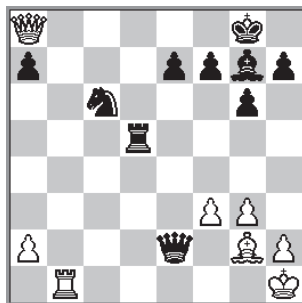
24...Nb5!! 25.Ng3 [If 25.Rxb2 Nd4! is a winning double attack.] 25...Bc3!⌘ 26.Rxe8+ Rxe8 27.Be3 g6 28.Qd1 Bxa5 29.Ra1 Bb6 30.Bxb6 cxb6 31.Rxa6 f4 32.Ne2 f3! 33.Nf4 Nd4 34.Ra1 [If 34.Rxb6 Qc7! is yet another winning double attack!] 34...Rf8! [Amazingly the white knight is trapped. After 34...Rf8 35.g3 (35.Qd2 Rxf4! 36.Qxf4 Ne2+-) 35...Rxf4 36.gxf4 Qxh3 37.Qf1 Ne2+-] 0-1.

Two positions from this event are part of Chess Magic on the facing page.

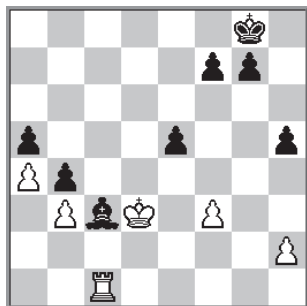
CHESS MAGIC



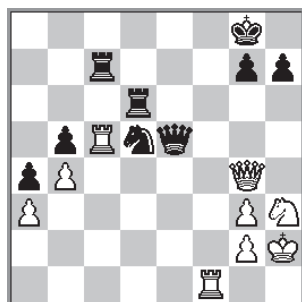
1. White to play and win



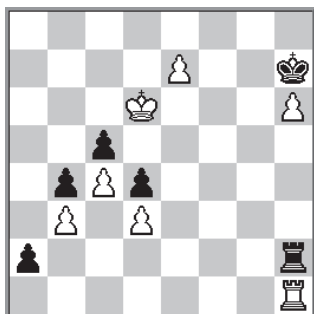
4. Black to play and win



2. White to play and win



5. White to play and win



3. White to play and win



6. White to play and win

Source: 1-2 Asian Nations Cup 2016; 3-6 Asian Youth 2016.

Selections: Arvind Aaron
Solutions: Next issue.

Moscow Candidates

Karjakin Is The Challenger



Sergey Karjakin (Press Meet pic above) of Russia is the Challenger to world champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway. This match will take place Nov 11-30, 2016 in New York this year. After many, many years, a Russian is getting a shot at the title.

In the 14th and final round of the 8-player double round Candidates Tournament, Karjakin beat Caruana while the other games were drawn. Caruana who was solid, even having an advantage at one time, allowed the Ukrainian born Russian to sacrifice and win.

Karjakin had moved from Ukraine to Russia when Kasparov retired. He works with Yuri Dokhoian, the erstwhile famous trainer of Kasparov.

Former world champion Viswanathan Anand drew

Svidler in a rook and minor piece ending to tie for second place and finish third in this double round all play all. Losing three games spoilt all his efforts and cost him the right to challenge Carlsen again.

Anand revealed his class winning four games to confirm that the Gibraltar slip earlier this year was a one off failure of form. One of his wins was over Karjakin, the eventual champion.

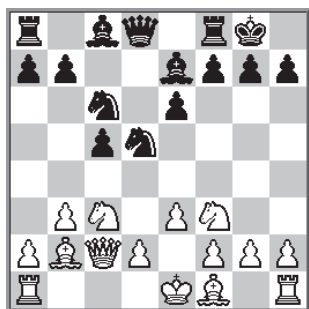
It was one of the most closely fought Candidates Tournaments in living memory. Four players were in the title race till the last two rounds: Karjakin, Anand, Caruana and Aronian.

Final placings: 1 Karjakin 8½/14; 2-3. Caruana, Anand 7½ each; 4-7. Giri, Nakamura, Aronian, Svidler 7 each; 8 Topalov 4½.

Analysis by Australian Grand Master Ian Rogers who is also based at Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

Sergey Karjakin (2760)
Viswanathan Anand (2762)
 Reti Opening A06 15.03.2016

1.Nf3 d5 2.e3!? At first sight this is simply avoiding opening theory, but in fact Karjakin had prepared his system in some depth.
 2...Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.b3 Be7
 5.Bb2 0-0 6.Nc3 c5 "I prepared more for [6...b6 or; 6...dxc4," admitted Karjakin.]
 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qc2 Nc6



9.h4!? "Our home preparation," said Karjakin. "I like this position because it is easy to play for White."
 9...b6 10.a3 "A good waiting move," said Karjakin. "I wanted to play [10.Ng5 but after 10...f5 I didn't see what to do.]"
 10...f5 11.Bb5 "I think I should probably have played [11.Nxd5 exd5 12.d4," said Karjakin, "when perhaps I can have an extra tempo compared to the game.]"
 11...Bb7
 12.Nxd5

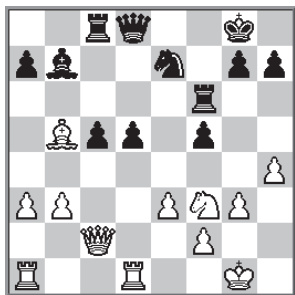


12...exd5 "Here [12... Qxd5 was possible, because after 13.Bc4 Qd7 14.Ng5 Nd8 is not so clear," said Karjakin. "In hindsight I regret playing 12...exd5," admitted Anand. "I was scared of 13.Bc4, but 12...exd5 just leaves me with a strategically bad position.]"
 13.d4 "I thought I was slightly better here," said Karjakin, "but of course it is nothing special."

13...Rc8?! Vachier-Lagrave pointed out that Black has the tactical opportunity here of playing [13...c4! 14.bxc4 a6! when Black cannot be prevented from obtaining counterplay, e.g. 15.Ba4 b5! 16.cxb5 axb5 17.Bb3 Na5, followed by ...Rc8 and ...Nc4.]

14.dxc5 bxc5 15.0-0 Bf6 16.Rfd1 "I cannot play [16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.Qxc5," said Karjakin, "because of 17...Ne5! 18. Qd4 Nxf3+ 19.gxf3 Qg6+ 20.Kh2 f4! when Black is fine.]"

16...Ne7 17.Bxf6 Rxf6
 18.g3



“The critical position,” said Karjakin. “I was worried about some waiting move like 18...Kh8, not because Black is lost after 18...Ba6 but because now it is very simple for White to play.” 18...Ba6? 19.Bxa6 Rxa6 20.Qc3! Rb6 21.Rac1 Qd6 “Maybe not the best but I was quite happy with this position,” said Karjakin. 22.Ne5! “Now there are big problems for Black,” said Karjakin. 22...Rb7 23.Nd3 c4 24.bxc4 Rxc4 25.Qe5 Qxe5 26.Nxe5 Rxc1 “I thought that Black should play [26...Rcc7 but it is probably still very bad for Black,” said Karjakin.] 27.Rxc1 g6 28.Rc5 Kg7



29.Ra5 “The endgame may not be easy to win but it is very easy for White to

play,” said Karjakin. The problem for Black is the pawn on f5, which leaves a weak e6 square and which makes it harder for Black’s king to participate in the game without allowing nasty tactics. 29...Kf6 30.Nd3 Rc7 31.Ra6+ Kg7 32.Nf4 Rd7 33.Kf1 Ng8 “I was expecting [33...Nc8 ,” said Karjakin, although even here the knight is not stable on b6 due to a4-a5, so White can simply advance his king.] 34.Ne6+ Kf7 35.Nd4 “This should be winning,” said Karjakin. 35...Ne7 36.Nb5 Nc8 37.a4 Rb7 38.Rc6 Ne7 39.Ra6 Nc8 40.Rc6 Ne7



41.Rd6! Rb6? Losing immediately, but Black is already dropping a pawn. 42.Rd7 a6 43.Nc3 The threat of 44.Rxe7+ decides. 1-0.

Levon Aronian 2786
Fabiano Caruana 2794
Dutch A77, 16.03.2016

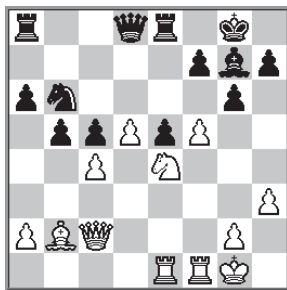
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 d6 5.Nc3 exd5 6.cxd5 g6 The Modern Benoni was a surprise but, as Caruana ex-

plained, "I have been trying to play the Benoni for a long time but nobody lets me!". "You are always [welcome to] play the Benoni against me," responded Aronian. **7.e4 Bg7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.Nd2 Nbd7**



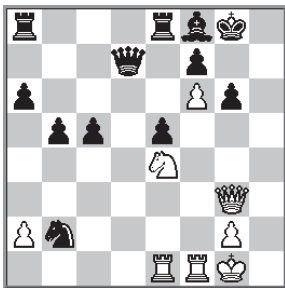
11.Qc2 [11.a4, here or next move, is more common.] **11...Ne5** [11...Nh5!? which won spectacularly for Fischer in his 1972 world title match against Spassky is no longer considered a main line because of the annoying idea **12.Bxh5 gxf5 13.h3!** always planning to meet ...Ne5 with f4.] **12.b3!** "Generally you want to play [12.f3 in such positions," said Aronian, "but he has 12...Nh5.]" **12...Bg4 13.Bxg4** "I felt that this gives me a comfortable plus," said Aronian, who was not too keen to investigate [13.f3 Bd7 14.h3 and now the typical Benoni sacrifice **14...Nh5!? 15.f4 Ng3** "which looks reasonable for Black."] **13...Nfxg4 14.Bb2 a6 15.h3!** "I got carried away here," admitted Aronian. "I should have played [15.a4! , though I didn't like 15...c4!? because my position has been weakened," said Aronian - comparing this line

with 14...c4!? which also gives some counterplay. However Caruana was not convinced by ...c4 ideas and was planning to play (15...Rb8, though Aronian held that this was a better version of the game for White after **16.h3 Nf6 17.f4 Ned7 18.Nc4.**)] **15...Nf6 16.f4 Ned7 17.Nc4 Nb6** "I was trying to make [17...Qc7 18.a4 Rab8 19.a5 b5 work," said Caruana, "but it seemed bad for me because after **20.axb6 Nxb6 21.Rxa6** (Aronian at first wanted to play **21.Na5** until Caruana pointed out the trick **21...Nxe4!**) **21...Nxc4 22.bxc4** White will have Nb5."] **18.Rae1 Nxc4 19.bxc4 Nd7** "[19...Nh5 20.g4 Ng3 (" **20...Bd4+ 21.Kg2 Nf6 22.Nd1!** was the sort of thing I was counting on," said Aronian.) **21.Rf3 Qh4** doesn't work very well because of **22.Qf2! Bd4 23.Ree3!** and I lose my knight," explained Caruana.] **20.e5!** "I decided - it's time to mate my opponent!" declared Aronian. **20...dxe5 21.f5! b5 22.Ne4 Nb6**



23.Bc1! "Maybe I messed a chance to mate here, but I didn't trust my gut feeling" said Aronian. "From a distance

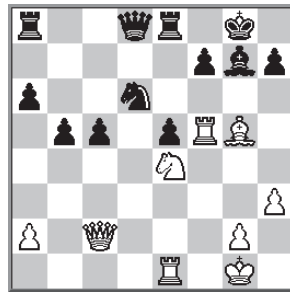
I [had hoped to play] [23.f6 Bf8 24.h4! Nxc4 25.h5! Qxd5 (Caruana suggested 25...Ra7 after which Aronian would have needed to find 26.Qf2! Qxd5 27.hxg6 fxg6 28.Rd1! to win.; 25...Nxb2 was also possible but after 26.hxg6 hxg6 27.Qb3 Black can delay the attack but not prevent it, e.g. 27...Qd7 28.Qg3 Nd3 29.Qxd3 Qg4 and now even 30.Qf3! Qxf3 31.Rxf3 leads to a mating attack along the h file.) 26.hxg6 hxg6 and now I only need two moves to mate. {Four moves, actually - Ng5, Qf2-h4-h7. IR} However after some time I realised it was not easy to get both the queen on h4 and the knight on g5 in time." However as he was analysing the game with Caruana in the post-game press conference, Aronian discovered 27.Qb3!! , with the amazing follow-up 27...Qd7 28.Qg3 Nxb2



Analysis diagram

29.Qh2!! Qg4 30.Re3! "It was hard to believe so I went for a safer line," said Aronian. "I could have mated Fabiano!"] 23...Nxc4 24.d6 gxf5 "I thought this was the only move because [24...Qd7 25.Bh6!? is extremely dangerous," said

Aronian, though Caruana was unconvinced after 25...gxf5 26.Bxg7 Kxg7 27.Ng3 Re6 and was more concerned by 25.g4 "when White holds his structure together and I didn't see what Black can do," he said.] 25.Rxf5 Nxd6 26.Bg5



26...Qa5 " [26...Qd7 27. Nf6 Bxf6 28.Rxf6 is extremely dangerous," said Aronian. Caruana analysed 28...Re6 29.Qd3 "which is just winning" but the computer indicates that 29...e4 30.Qg3 Ne8! hangs on for Black.] 27.Bd2 Qd8 "I considered [27...Qc7 , " said Caruana, "e.g. 28.Nf6+ Bxf6 29.Rxf6 Re6 30.Rxe6 fxe6 31.Rxe5 Nc4 but then I realised that the line is not only dangerous, but White can also play 32.Rg5+ Kh8 33.Qxc4!? bxc4 34.Bc3+ e5 35.Bxe5+ Qxe5 36.Rxe5 if he wants a drawn ending, so I didn't see the point. It seems like, despite my three pawn advantage, I have to take a draw!"] 28.Bg5 Qa5 29.Bd2 Qd8 30.Bg5 ½-½.

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Viswanathan Anand 2762

Peter Svidler 2757

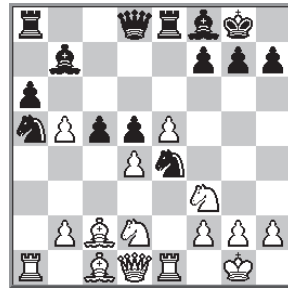
Anti-Marshall C88, 17.03.2016

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6
4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5
7.Bb3 0-0** Inviting Anand to take on the Marshall Gambit, which he had beaten in a key game against Aronian at the previous Candidates tournament in 2014. This time Anand prefers an anti-Marshall system. **8.a4 Bb7 9.d3**

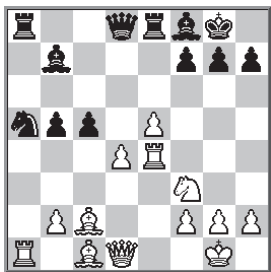


Anand's first pause for thought in the game. "I hadn't really checked up on 8...Bb7 so I was trying to remember stuff I analysed several years back," admitted Anand. **9...Re8** "I thought you might be trying to follow your game with Tomashevsky," said Anand. In that game, from the 2015 Grand Prix tournament in Khanty Mansiysk, Svidler was White and play continued [9...d6 10.Nbd2 Na5 11.Ba2 c5 12.Nf1 bxa4!? with a satisfactory position which Black eventually won. "This is a specific line which can only be played by one person on the face of the earth," responded Svidler. "I am not that person."] **10.Nbd2 Bf8 11.c3 Na5 12.Bc2 c5 13.d4** "I have to be

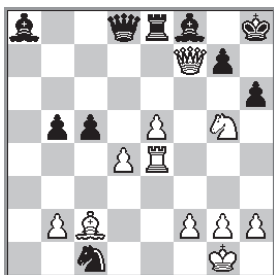
consistent and play this," said Anand, knowing that Black is almost ready to take the initiative with ...d5. **13...exd4** "This surprised me slightly," said Anand. "I expected [13...cxd4 14.cxd4 d5 or even(14...exd4 when I wasn't sure if I was better or not." "I feared 15.e5 Nd5 16.Ne4 but then I have 16 ...Nb4 of course," said Svidler.) **14.cxd4 d5 15.e5 Ne4**



16.axb5! "Here I spent a long time on [16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Rxe4 ,," said Anand. "But here 17...Nb3! works," responded Svidler. "Yes, though White has a draw with 18.Rh4 Bxf3 19.Bxh7+ Kh8 20.Rh3!!," added Anand. "Though for a while I was leaning towards 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Rxe4 Nb3 18. Ng5 Nxa1 19.Rh4." "Ah, but here I have 19...g6!," answered Svidler, "and not 19...Nxc2 20.Qh5 Be4 21.Rxe4 h6 22.Qxf7+ Kh8 23.Rh4! when I think you break through." "Also 19.Qh5 Qxg5! 20.Qxg5 Nxc2 21.Qh5 h6 22.Bxh6 g6! 23.Qg4 Rad8! didn't smell right," admitted Anand, who finally decided that he needed the a file open to make his attack work.] **16...axb5 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Rxe4**

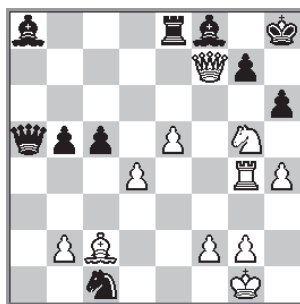


18...Nb3? “When I played 18...Nb3 I saw this entire line leading up to 24.h4,” said Svidler, “but I thought that my position was bad enough that I should still go for this.” This seems to be unnecessarily defeatist; after [18...g6 Black may not have full compensation for the pawn but any win for White is a long, long way off.] **19.Rxa8 Bxa8 20.Ng5!** Svidler hoped that Anand would be tempted by [20.Bg5 Be7 21.Bxe7 Rxe7 22.Rh4 when 22...Bxf3! 23.Bxh7+ Kf8 keeps the game alive, for example 24.Be4? Ra7!! and the tables have turned.] **20...Nxc1 21.Qh5 h6 22.Qxf7+ Kh8**



23.Rg4! “I honestly thought there should be two or three wins here,” said Anand, “for example [23.h4.” Svidler’s response 23...hxg5 loses to 24.Qh5+ Kg8 25.Rg4! but

Svidler remained convinced that he had made the right call on move 18, saying “It’s a tricky position and it’s possible for White to misplay it,” a belief reinforced when Anand admitted that he had been tempted by; 23.Qg6 before seeing the refutation 23...Qxg5 24.Qxe8 Ne2+!.] **23...Qa5** “For a moment this looks scary,” said Svidler, “since if 24.Kf1 I have 24...Qd2.” **24.h4!**



A slightly early resignation - typical of Svidler - who explained “24.h4 is an emphatic enough move to be the last move of the game.” Svidler was correct that after [24.h4 Qe1+ 25.Kh2 Ne2 26.Nh3! he had no defence against 27. Qg6, e.g. 26...Rd8 27.Qg6 Kg8 and now 28.e6 Bd6+ 29.f4 - the only move to avoid a loss! - 29...Bxf4+ 30.Rxf4 is good enough to guarantee a win for White.] **1-0.**

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Levon Aronian 2786
Hikaru Nakamura 2790

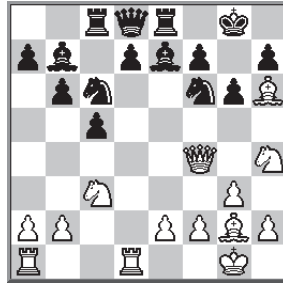
Queen's Indian E15 17.03.2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6
 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qc2 c5 6.d5 exd5
 7.cxd5 Bb7 8.Bg2 The gambit
 line which has almost completely
 superseded [8.e4 which
 also forces White to sacrifice a
 pawn after 8...Qe7.] 8...Nxd5
 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Rd1 Be7

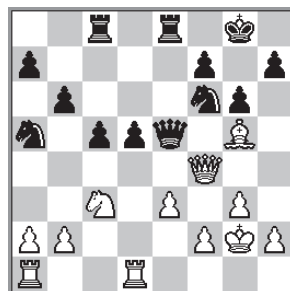


11.Qa4 “I looked at this line
 in 2008,” said Aronian. “It’s not
 a very intelligent line but dur-
 ing a game, if you are not fami-
 liar with the line, it is not easy
 to find [the right] moves for
 Black.” 11...Nf6 Aronian had
 played this position three
 times previously, beating Leko
 in 2013 with 12.e4 but twice
 choosing the twelfth move
 played in the game. 12.Nh4
 0-0 In 2009 Aronian twice
 faced [12...g6 beating Leko and
 drawing with Karjakin after
 13.Bh6 Bf8 14.Bxf8 Kxf8
 15.Nc3.] 13.Nc3 g6 14.Bg5
 Aronian was rather proud of
 this strange bishop ma-
 noeuvre. “The point is that if I
 play [14.Bh6 Re8 15.Qf4 at
 once he plays 15...Qb8,”
 Aronian explained. “With his
 rook on c8 in the game, ...Qb8 is
 not possible.” 14...Rb8 15.Bf4
 Rc8 [15...Ra8 would hand

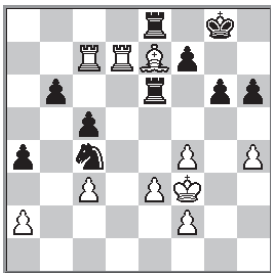
White a free move (Bf4) for noth-
 ing.] 16.Bh6 Re8 17.Qf4



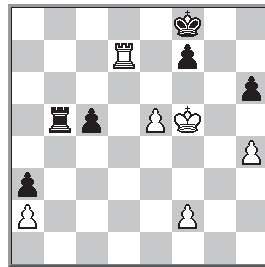
17...Na5 “ [17...Nh5? is al-
 ways welcome,” said Aronian,
 because of 18.Qxf7+!! Kxf7
 19.Bd5+ Kf6 20.Ne4+ Ke5
 21.f4+ and mate next move. “I
 was actually very surprised by
 17...Na5 because if Black
 plays; 17...Qc7 18.Qxc7 Rxc7
 19.Nb5 Rcc8 20.Nxa7 Ra8 it is
 only a very slight advantage
 for White.”] 18.Nf5 Bxg2
 19.Nxe7+?! “It’s hard to ex-
 plain the idiotic decision to
 take on e7,” said Aronian. “I
 think I was scared of some-
 thing like [19.Kxg2 Rc6
 20.Nxe7+ Rxe7 and 21...Qa8,
 but of course it is nonsense.”]
 19...Qxe7 20.Kxg2 Qe5! “Now
 the position is about to become
 equal,” said Aronian. “Now I
 couldn’t really figure out what
 to do.” 21.e3 d5 22.Bg5



22...Ne4?! "I thought that after [22...Kg7 the position is just equal," opined Aronian. "I would probably have played 23.Bh6+ Kg8 24.Bg5 as I couldn't see a way to pose problems for Black.]" **23.Rxd5 Qxf4 24.gxf4 Nxc3 25.bxc3** "I was extremely pleased with myself here - I thought this was a big advantage for White," said Aronian. **25...Kg7 26.Rd7 h6 27.Be7 Nc4 28.Rad1 a5 29.R1d5** "I was afraid that he would play ...b5, but I should just have brought up my king," said Aronian. **29...Rc6 30.Ra7 Re6 31.Rdd7 Kg8 32.h4** "Of course I realised that h5 was not a threat because it would only free him up," said Aronian. "It's a huge advantage for White but it's not easy to break through." **32...Kg7 33.Bd8 Kg8 34.Be7 Kg7 35.Rab7 Kg8 36.Rbc7 Na3 37.Bd8 Nc4 38.Be7 Na3 39.Rb7 Nc4** "Was it a threefold [repetition] here?" asked Aronian after the game. "I was terrified of that," said Aronian, who had been repeating moves to try to reach the time control at move 40. However his fears were unfounded - his rook was on a7 in the early versions of this position. **40.Kf3 a4 41.Rbc7**

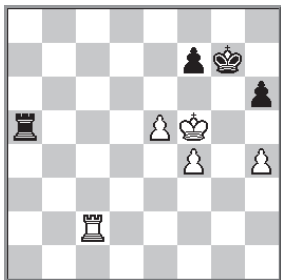


41...Nd2+ "I was very surprised - pleasantly surprised - by this decision," said Aronian. "After [41...Na3 I was afraid that we would just have more repetitions." However with time on the clock at the new time control, Aronian would no doubt have found the plan 42.e4! Nb5 43.Rb7 Nxc3 44.e5! with the nasty threat of Bd6. Black can try sacrificing the exchange on e7 but White is too fast, playing h5 and if gxh5, f5-f6.] **42.Rxd2 R6xe7 43.Rc6 Re6 44.Rxe6 Rxe6 45.c4** "Now Black has to play very precisely," said Aronian. "White has very good chances but the position is probably a draw." **45...Kg7 46.e4 Re8?!** "Here Hikaru played a number of inaccurate moves," said Aronian. "[46...Re7 made much more sense.]" **47.e5 Rb8 48.Rd7 Kf8** "Here I thought he had to play [48...Kg8, but it is already difficult because he has just wasted two moves.]" **49.f5 gxf5 50.Kf4** "This is probably winning already," said Aronian. **50...b5 51.cxb5 Rxb5 52.Kxf5 a3**



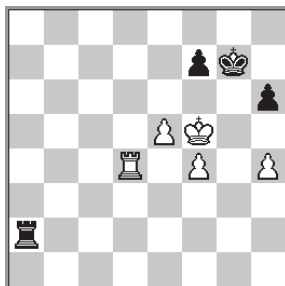
53.f4?! "Here I felt that there had to be an easy win, but why I didn't play [53.Kf6] is beyond me - just crazy," said

Aronian. "I spent a lot of time trying to see if he could create a fortress and in my mind I actually created a fortress for him! ♠ On 53...Rb6+ 54.Rd6 wins because 54...Rxd6+ 55.exd6 Ke8 56.Ke5 Kd7 57.Kd5 c4 58.Kxc4 Kxd6 59.Kb4 is hopeless for Black.] **53...Rb4** "I expected [53...Ra5 but of course I can reply 54.Kf6 - I completely forgot about 54...Ra6+ 55.Rd6," admitted Aronian.] **54.Ra7 c4 55.Rxa3 Rb2 56.Ra6 Kg7 57.a4 c3 58.Ra7 c2 59.Rc7 Rb4 60.a5 Ra4 61.Rxc2 Rxa5**



62.Rc4 "In any case," I know that this position is winning for White" said Aronian. "I could have played [62.h5 at once, but I wanted to pretend that I didn't know what I was doing. Basically this is winning because after Kf5-g4-f3, Black cannot prevent f4-f5-f6." Aronian's confidence that the endgame was winning probably arose from watching his best friend Sargissian lose to Lputian in a very similar rook endgame in the 1999 Armenian Championship. However endgame theory has moved on from them, most notably with the advent of seven piece

tablebases, and, although White has tremendous winning chances, the theoretical verdict in this endgame is a draw.] **62...Ra1 63.Rc7 Kf8 64.Rd7 Ra4 65.Rd3 Rc4 66.Re3 Ke7 67.Re4 Rc1 68.Rb4 Kf8 69.Rb6 Kg7 70.Rb7 Kf8 71.Rb8+ Kg7 72.Rb4 Ra1 73.Rd4 Ra2**

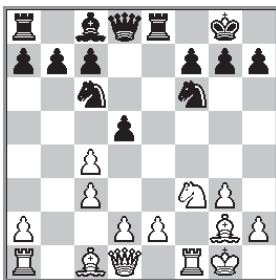


74.Rd7 The position is barely different from move 70, but Nakamura fails to perceive that Aronian is actually setting a trap. **74...Kf8?** Here Nakamura grasped his king, realised that **74...Kf8 75.Kf6!** was losing for him, said "J'adoube" and resumed thinking. Aronian immediately told him that he had to move his king, Nakamura looked confused and Aronian became more voluble, using a swear word to, as he said "convince Nakamura to follow his conscience". Fortunately the arbiter, Werner Stubenvoll, was watching the game closely and stepped in to force Nakamura to move his king, a direction which Nakamura followed without demur. [74...Ra4! would force Aronian to play his Kg4-f3 and f5 plan, which is technically drawn but in prac-

tice would almost certainly have won given Nakamura's 3 minutes to Aronian's 10.] **75.Kf6 Ra6+ 76.Rd6 Ra8 77.h5 Kg8 78.f5 Rb8 79.Rd7 Rb6+ 80.Ke7 Rb5 81.Rd8+ Kh7 82.Kf6 Rb6+ 83.Rd6 Rb7 1-0.**

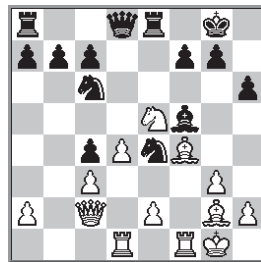
Fabiano Caruana 2794
Viswanathan Anand 2762
 English A29, 23.03.2016

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 Bb4 5.Bg2 [5.Nd5 e4 6.Nh4 was Nakamura's successful choice two rounds later.] **5...0-0 6.0-0 e4 7.Ng5 Bxc3 8.bxc3 Re8 9.f3 exf3** [9...e3!? was investigated heavily during the Kasparov-Karpov world title matches and used by Karjakin against Svidler in the eighth round.] **10.Nxf3 d5**



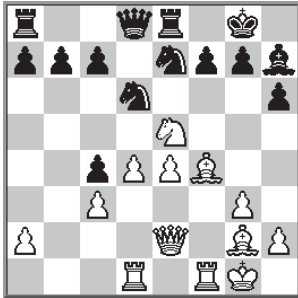
11.d4!? A gambit which was developed because Smyslov showed that Black had few problems after [11.cxd5 Qxd5 .] **11...dxc4 12.Qc2** "I am not sure if this is a new move but it is a fresh idea - Levon played [12.Bg5," said Caruana.] **12...h6** "One of the main moves," said Caruana. "Black

has so many choices here, for example [12...Qe7 is possible, while; 12...Ne4 transposes to another main line.]" **13.Bf4 Ne4** "One of the main moves," said Caruana. "After [13...Nd5 computers underestimate White's chances in this position. After 14.e4 Nxf4 15.gxf4 they say it is about equal but the position just looks like a disaster for Black to me because I start steamrolling down the centre. On; 13...Bg4 I would play 14.Rae1 .]" **14.Rad1 Bf5 15.Ne5!**



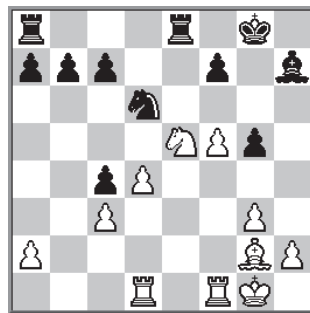
15...Nd6 "Again after [15...Nxc3 16.e4! Nxf1 17.exf5 the computer was saying that this was not so bad for Black," said Caruana, "but to me it looks like Black will be resigning after a few moves. "Over the board I was trying to figure out; 15...f6?! when 16.Bxh6 is possible, though it starts to look a bit messy. I was looking at 16...Nxc3 17.Rxf5 Nxf5 18.Nxc6 Qd7 but it is all pretty dangerous for Black. I had prepared [something like] this, but couldn't remember it." In this line, 16.Bc1 was also strong.] **16.e4 Bh7 17.Qe2!**

“After I saw 17.Qe2 I just thought that I had a tremendous advantage,” said Caruana. 17...Ne7



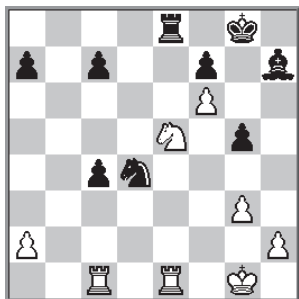
“This surprised me because I thought there should be a winning move here but I couldn’t find it,” admitted Caruana. “On [17...f6 18.Nxc6 bxc6 19.e5 looks devastating, for example after 19...Bd3 20.Qg4 (20.Rxd3 cxd3 21.Qxd3 was also strong. IR) 20...Bxf1 21.Bxh6 White is winning.” In this line 19...Qd7 was possible but then 20.Qh5! Ne4 looked forced but then 21.Bxe4 Bxe4 22.exf6 gxf6 23.Bxh6 leaves a very dangerous position for Black, with White having an attack for free.”] 18.Bxh6! “I wanted to find a knock-out. At first I wanted to play [18.Qh5 Ng6 19.Bxh6 because if 19... gxf6, 20.Ng4 is winning,” said Caruana, “but then I saw 19...Nxe5 20.dxe5 Bg6 which I thought was pretty unclear. ” Also; 18.Qg4 is met by 18...Qc8 which doesn’t seem to lead anywhere. “Maybe I could just have played; 18.h4!? when I have a big advantage in any

case.”] 18...gxf6 19.Qh5 “This looked very strong but after 19...Nef5 I can’t get more than I had in the game,” said Caruana. 19...Nef5?! Neither player seriously considered [19...Nd5! because of 20.Nxf7 (20.exd5 Qg5 is a much better version of the game for Black.) 20...Nf6!! when it seems that White has no clear win since if White avoids the draw (Nxf6+-f7+-h6+) then he must give up the e4 pawn after which anything can happen.] 20.exf5 “My first intention was [20.Rf4 Ng7 21.Qxh6 ,” said Caruana, “with the idea 22.Rh4, but then 21...Re6 22.Qh3 Qg5! disrupts everything and after 23.Rh4 Qe3+ 24.Kh1 Nxe4! Black wins.”] 20...Qg5 21.Qxg5+ “This ending is pleasant for White, but I felt as if there should have been more from the position I had,” admitted Caruana. 21...hgx5



22.f6 Ne4? “A big mistake,” said Caruana. “I was looking at [22...c6 23.Rde1 when I can later attack with h4. The knight on e5 and pawn on f6 work well and Black has no

pawn breaks.”] **23.Rfe1! Nxc3** “On [23...Nxf6 24.Bxb7 looks devastating,” said Caruana, “e.g. 24...Rab8 25.Ba6 winning the c4 pawn. ”On; 23...Nd6 24.Bd5 looks very strong, as if 24...c6 25.Nxc4 .”] **24.Rc1** ‘Now play is forced,” said Caruana. **24...Nb5 25.Bxb7 Rad8 26.Bc6 Nxd4 27.Bxe8 Rxe8**



28.Kf2! “The last important move,” said Caruana. **28...Nc2 29.Red1! Be4 30.Nxc4 Re6 31.Rd8+ Kh7 32.Kg1 Rxf6 33.Rf1** “Now I trade rooks,” said Caruana, “which is not the only way but seemed easily winning.” Anand agreed. **1-0.**

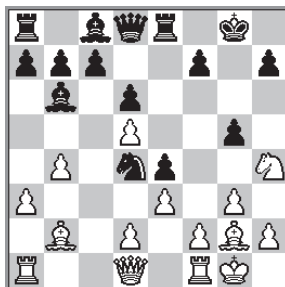
Hikaru Nakamura 2790
Viswanathan Anand 2762
 English A29, 25.03.2016

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 Bb4 5.Nd5 e4 6.Nh4!? 0-0 7.Bg2 d6 “This is the move Levon played against Topalov,” said Nakamura. [7...Re8 has been played far more frequently but after 8.0-0 Bc5 White can afford to play 9.e3! because the seemingly strong 9...g5?! 10.Nf5 d6

walks into 11.Nfe7+! .] **8.a3 Bc5 9.0-0 Re8 10.e3!? g5**

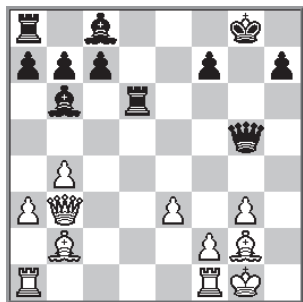


11.b4! “I prepared this line before the game,” said Nakamura, “and already the position is very critical. I was essentially gambling that Vishy could not be prepared for it and that he would play human-looking moves,” **11...Bb6?** “After this it is close to lost,” said Nakamura. “My computer said that Black had to play [11...gxh4! 12.Bb2 Nxd5 13.cxd5 Ne5 14.bxc5 Bg4 when it’s a very unusual position but after 15.Qc2 Nf3+ 16.Bxf3 Bxf3 and now either 17.h3 or first(17.cxd6 , it’s about equal. ”11...Bb6 is very natural but it ends up just losing.”)] **12.Bb2! Nxd5 13.cxd5 Nd4**



“I had not looked at this,” admitted Nakamura. “

[13...Ne5 also loses to 14.f4! Nc4 15.fxg5 Nxb2 16.Qh5! which is completely crushing for White."] **14.d3!** Played after 16 minutes thought. "I was worried, trying to figure out what was wrong with 13...Nd4." said Nakamura. "For a long time I thought I had to play [14.Bxd4 Bxd4 15.exd4 gxh4 16.Qh5 when maybe White is still better but Black can defend and it is going to be a long game, e.g. 16...Qf6 17.Rac1 Re7 18.Qxh4 Qxh4 19.gxh4 Bf5 when maybe Black gets in ...Bg6 and ...f5 with reasonable chances to hold this. "Then I tried to make; 14.f3 work - it did not work, so I was happy that I managed to make 14.d3 work."] **14...gxh4** "The point is that if he plays [14...exd3 then after 15.Nf3 it is completely over, e.g. 15...Ne2+ (15...Nc2!? 16.Qxd3 Nxa1 17.Qc3 f6 18.Nxg5 Nb3! keeps Black afloat. IR)] 16.Kh1 Bf5 17.Ne1 and everything falls apart right away."] **15.dxe4 Ne6 16.dxe6 Rxe6 17.e5!** "A very strong move, to open all the diagonals," explained Nakamura. **17...hxg3 18.hxg3 Qg5 19.exd6 Rxd6 20.Qb3**



20...h5?! "A little too slow," said Nakamura. "With one more move Black would be fine. I thought [20...Bg4 was better but I still think it is very unpleasant after 21.Qc3 f6 22.Bxb7 Re8 23.Qc4+ Kg7 24.Bd4 when maybe Black can defend but it's going to be very long and very unpleasant. It's just no fun."] **21.Rad1 Rh6 22.Rd5 Qe7 23.Qc4! Bg4** "On [23...Be6 24.Qf4 wins," said Nakamura.] **24.Qf4!** "Once I found the Qc4-f4 idea, it is just over," said Nakamura. **24...Rg6 25.Re5 Qd6 26.Be4** "After[26.Be4 f5 I wasn't sure what was best but (26...Rg7 27.Rg5!) 27.Bxf5 Rf8 28.Bxg6 Rxf4 29.gxf4 should just be winning with the mate threats.]" **1-0.**

Ebenezer Joseph (TN)

Promod Kumar Singh (Bhr)

Sicilian Dragon B76, 10th National Junior, Cuddalore (TN), 1980

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.h4 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Bd4 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Qa5 14.Qa4 [This was 1980. A quarter of a century later, in 2005, players tried: 14.h5 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Rd8 16.Qe3 Rd5 17.Kf2 which is good for black.] **14...Qc7 15.Ne2? Ne3 16.Kd2** Now starts a king hunt. **16...Rd8+!?** [Or 16...Qb6 17.Nc3 Rd8+ 18.Bd3 Bf5-+] **17.Kxe3 Qb6+! 18.Kf4 Qf2! 19.Qe4 Rd5 20.g4** [A better fight was: 20.Qxe7 Bd7 21.c4 Rf5+ 22.Ke4 Re8-+] **20...e5+ 21.Kg5 Kg7! 22.h5 h6# 0-1**

Diptayan Ghosh

By Bipin Shenoy in Kolkata

Diptayan Ghosh, born 1998, learnt the moves in 2004 from his grand-mother when only 5½. Seeing his interest in the game his father Sandip Ghosh enrolled him in a chess coaching centre in Lake Town, Kolkata. Today, at 17, Diptayan Ghosh has blossomed into a promising Grandmaster (GM) with a current rating of 2562. He is the youngest GM and the 7th from Bengal after Dibyendu Barua, Surya Sekhar Ganguly, Sandipan Chanda, Deep Sengupta, Neelotpal Das and Saptarshi Roychaudhury. He is now India's 43rd GM.

After the young Diptayan began to show promise his father took him to Alekhine Chess Club where his skills were refined by the late IM Sankar Roy (1976-2012) who honed his middle game and end game skills. Now he works with 39-year old Kolkata IM Raktim Bandyopadhyay. Diptayan became an IM in 2012. He got his final GM norm in the HD Bank Open in Ho Chin Minh, Vietnam this March. He had achieved his first norm in the 2013 Dubai Open and the 2nd from Pardubice, Czech Republic in 2015. At the 2015 Bangkok Open, Diptayan narrowly

missed his 3rd norm when he had needed a draw against Nigel Short for his final norm but lost a long, grinding bishop ending. But he was awarded the Best Junior prize in the tournament.

Diptayan has not burst in on the chess scene suddenly. For the last 10 years he has been consistently achieving successes though he sometimes failed by finishing 2nd, 3rd or 4th. After obtaining the IM title in 2012 he has taken 4 years to become a GM. But he has produced several sterling performances at the State, National and International levels over the past 10 years.

A student of the famed South Point High School, in Kolkata, Diptayan appeared for his Higher Secondary examinations this year. His school extends all help to him to play in tournaments and has also waived his fees from Class V. Though chess takes up a lot of time and he is hardly able to regularly attend school, Diptayan is good in academics. He plans to take up Economics after Class 12 and study at St. Stephens in Delhi or St. Xaviers in Kolkata.

In a 'mock' test conducted by a leading Institute in Kolkata, Diptayan had topped



in Economics revealed his father Sandip. He puts in about 4-5 hours of work on chess every day. He enjoys solving studies and combinations and also puts in a lot of effort to polish his endgame. "Of course, I study openings in detail too, before tournaments" he adds. Apart from chess he is a keen follower of cricket and football, though he doesn't play these sports. To keep himself fit, he swims regularly.

A quiet, soft spoken boy, Diptayan idolises Magnus Carlsen. He also likes the games of Tal and Morphy." I have learnt a lot about end-

game from Capablanca's games" said Diptayan. At present, he wants to break into the top 100. "Only then will I think of climbing another mountain" he signs off.

We give below a game annotated by the new Grandmaster.

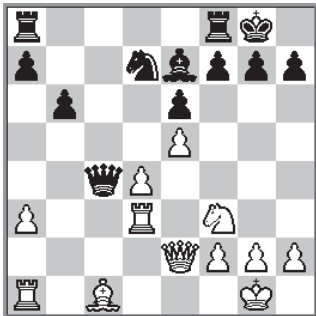
Diptayan Ghosh 2552
 Nguyen Anh Dung 2478
 Queen's Indian E12
 HD Bank Open
 Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, 2016

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6
 4.a3 Bb7 5.Nc3 d5 6.cxd5
 Nxd5 7.Qc2 Be7 8.e4 Nxc3
 9.bxc3 0-0 10.Bd3 c5 11.0-0
 cxd4 [11...Nd7; 11...Qc7]**

Diptayan Ghosh's significant gold medal performances are listed below:

- National U-9, Bangalore 2007
- Asian U-10, Tehran 2008
- Commonwealth U-10, Nagpur 2008
- Asian U-12, Delhi 2009
- National U-13, Puducherry 2010
- Asian Schools U-14, New Delhi 2011
- 49th WB State Champion, Kolkata 2011.
- Aeroflot Open, "Best Junior", Moscow 2012
- World Youth Olympiad, Chongqing, China 2013
- World Youth Olympiad, Győr, Hungary 2014

12.cxd4 Qc8 13.Qe2 Ba6 14.Rd1 Bxd3 15.Rxd3 Nd7 [15...Nc6 16.Bf4 (16.d5 exd5 17.exd5 Bf6) 16...Qa6 17.Rad1 (17.Rc1 Rac8 (17...Na5 18.d5 exd5 19.exd5 Nb3 20.Rc2 Nc5 21.Re3 Qxe2 22.Rcxe2 Bf6 23.g4 g6 24.g5 Bg7 25.Ne5) 18.d5) 17...Rad8 (17...Rfd8 18.Qc2 Rac8 19.Rc3) 18.Qc2 Rc8 19.Rc3±] **16.e5 Qc4** [16...h6 17.Ne1 Rd8 18.Bxh6! gxh6 19.Rg3+ Kh8 (or 19...Kh7 20.Qh5 Rf8 21.Rh3+; 19...Kf8 20.Qh5 Bg5 21.h4 Nf6 22.exf6 Bxf6 23.Qxh6+ Ke7 24.Rf3 Bxd4 25.Rc1! Qd7 26.Qf4!) 20.Qh5+]



17.Bg5 Bxg5? [17...f6 18.exf6 (18.Rc1 Qd5) 18...Bxf6 (18...Nxf6 19.Re1 Rac8 (19...Rae8 20.Qxe6+ Qxe6 21.Rxe6 Nd5 22.Bxe7 Rxe7 23.Rxe7 Nxe7 24.d5 Rd8 25.d6 Rc8 26.h4+-) 20.d5 Nxd5 21.Qxe6+-) 19.Rc1 Qd5 20.Bxf6 Nxf6 (20...Rxf6 21.Ne5 Raf8 22.f3 Rf5 23.Nc6) 21.Rdc3 Qf5 22.Rc6 Rae8 23.R1c2 Nd5 24.Ne5 Nf4 25.Qd2 Qg5 26.f3±]

18.Nxg5± h6 19.Ne4 f6 20.Nd6 Qd5 21.Re1 b5 22.Qd2 a5 23.Rg3 Kh7 24.Qd3+ f5 25.Nxb5+- Rac8 26.Nd6 Rc7 27.h4 Nb6 28.Rb1 Na4 [28...Nc8] 29.Qd2 Ra8 30.Kh2 Nc5 31.Rc3?! [31.Qc1 Na6 32.Qf4+-] **31...Raa7** [If 31...Ne4 32.Nxe4 Qxe4 33.Rxc7 Qxb1 34.Qc3+-] **32.f3 Na4 33.Rxc7 Rxc7 34.Rb5 Rc5 35.Rb7 Rc4 36.Qe1! Rxd4 37.Qg3 Rxh4+ 38.Qxh4 Qxe5+ 39.Qg3 f4 40.Qf2!**

The threat is 41 Qc2+ winning. 1-0

Eight Medals For India

India won three titles in the Asian Youth Chess Championship that concluded in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on April 14, 2016. India won three gold, two silver and three bronze medals.

R Pragganandhaa (U-12, 7½/9), Anwasha Mishra (U-14G, 8/9) and Divya Deshmukh (U-12G, 8/9) won gold medals at the Asian Classical Chess Championships. All three were undefeated.

Silver medals were won by P.Iniyan (U-16, 6½/9) and Harshita Guddanti (U-16G, 7/9). Bronze medals were won by Aditya Mittal (U-10, 7/9), Khushi Khandelwal (U-14G, 6½/9) and R Vaishali (U-16G, 7/9).

Many Indians at the top suffered unexpected final

round defeats and that led to the modest 3-2-3 medal count. Last round defeats were suffered by: Anagha (U-8G, eighth place), Kadakia Veer (U-8, seventh place), H.Bharath Subramaniam (U-10, fifth), L Jyothsna (U-12G, fourth), Rakshitta Ravi (U-12G, fifth), K Priyanka (U-16G, sixth), Rajdeep Sarkar (U-18, fourth).

Some positions from this event are taken in the Chess Magic on page 15. Large game selections were unable from the Mongolian sources.

This is the 400th issue of Chess Mate and subscription offers are on the front cover of this issue. Posting dates of Chess Mate is from 19-25 of the month and subscribers can expect copies from the end of the month.

Solutions To Chess Magic

(Six positions on page 19 of the March 2016 issue)

1. 41. h5! (The e5 rook loses support. White knight is supported by Qc8+) 1-0. Evgeniy Najer-Jorden Van Foreest.
2. 15. Nxe5! Bxe5 16. Qe1 (Theme: pin) f6 17. f4 1-0. Urii Eliseev-Alexey Sarana.
3. 39.Bxh6! gxh6 40.Rdg1! 1-0. Mateusz Bartel-Aleksandra Goryachkina.
4. 28. Rg6! Qh3 29. Bxg7+ Kg8 30. Bd5+ Rf7 31. Rg5 Be7 32. Bxf7+ Kxf7 33. Rf1+ 1-0. Aleksey Goganov-Baadur Jobava.
5. 53.e6! Qxe6 54.Nf5+ Kf6 55.Qf8+ Qf7 56.Qh6+ Qg6 57.Qh4+ 1-0. Boris Savchenko-Shen Yang.
6. 46.Rxf4! exf4 47.Qe6+ Kh8 48.d6 Qxb7 49.dxe7 Rxd2 50.Qf7 Rg2+ 51.Kh1! 1-0. Salem A.R. Saleh-Eldar Gasanov.

Tournament Calendar

FIDE/World/Asian Events www.fide.com

May 02-12 May Asian Junior Boys/Girls, New Delhi

Jul 09-18 Jul Asian Schools, Tehran, Iran

Aug 07-21 Aug World Junior, Bhubaneswar, India

Sep 01-06 Sep South Asian Amateur Chp. (U-2000 Elo) Srinagar

Sep 01-14 Sep 42nd Chess Olympiad, Baku, Azerbaijan

Sep 20-04 Oct World Youth U-14, 16, 18 Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia

Oct 18-31 Oct World Cadet U-8, 10, 12 Batumi, Georgia

Nov 11-30 Nov World Chp, Carlsen v Karjakin, New York

AICF/NATIONAL/Regional Championships www.aicf.in

May 15-19 May National Cities, Kankarbagh, Patna

Jun 11-14 Jun National Rapid/Blitz, Chp., Vizag 9885644300

Jun 17-25 Jun National Women's Challenger, Tamil Nadu

Jun 28-06 Jul National U-11 Boys/Girls, Chattisgarh

Jul 09-19 Jul National Challenger, Uttar Pradesh

Jul 22-30 Jul National U-13, Boys/Girls, Gujarat

Sep 18-26 Sep National Under-17 Boys/Girls, Puducherry

Nov 02-14 Nov National Women Premier, New Delhi

Nov 05-11 Nov National Amateur, Maharashtra

Nov 15-29 Nov National Premier, Uttar Pradesh

Nov 20-28 Nov National U-15 Boys/Girls, New Delhi

OPEN/Rating Tournaments

May 01-05 May Meenatai Women FIDE Rating, NBM, Sangli.

May 06-11 May BS FIDE Rated Open, NBM, Sangli, PF: 2L.

May 09-14 May Don Bosco FIDE Rated, Irinjalakuda, Kerala. PF: 2.51L. Tel. 9745802030

May 11-15 May Hatsun-Idhayam SCS FIDE Rated, Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu PF 4L. 9443360629

Jun 01-08 Jun Mumbai International Open, Mumbai

Jul 02-06 Jul Fischer Mem, Trivandrum PF: 3L.

9847427036/9847483707

Oct 08-11 Oct CA Kottayam Open Rating, Kerala PF 2.1L. Tel 9447100071; 8943857644.

Dec 19-24 Dec Bhopal FIDE Rating Open, Bhopal. Tel 9425016455.

ONE LINE HEADLINES

Moscow: Sergey Karjakin Is The New Challenger

Abu Dhabi: India Shocks China 2.5-1.5; Wins Asian Team

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia: India Wins 3 Gold, 2 Silver, 3 Bronze In The Asian Youth Chess Championship

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