



CHESS MATE

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USA won their first Chess Olympiad since Haifa 1976 when they won the 42nd Baku Chess Olympiad at Azerbaijan on September 13, 2016. USA and Ukraine tied for the first place with same match points but the Americans won on tie-break. From left: Hikaru Nakamura, John Donaldson (captain), Shankland Samuel L (with trophy), Robinson Ray, Wesley So, Fabiano Caruana. Picture: Maria Emelianova. Courtesy: www.bakuchessolympiad.com

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Baku Olympiad Pictures



India's Pentala Harikrishna (right) beat world championship challenger Sergey Karjakin of Russia in the top board of the tenth round at Baku. It helped India draw Russia 2-2 and finish fourth. Pictures: Maria Emelianova from www.bakuchessolympiad.com **Below:** World women's champion Hou Yifan (right) of China is seen at right making a move against Kosteniuk of Russia in the Women's Olympiad for the Vera Menchik Cup. Chinese Women beat Russia 2.5-1.5 to regain the title they last won in Calvia (Spain) 2004. Ju Wenjun looks on.



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The new National Under-17
champions, C Sai Vishwesh (TN)
and Aakanksha Hagawane (Mah)
are below. Photo release by Ben-
gal Chess Association. ↓



Baku Olympiad 2016

Indians Impress, But No Medals

Men Fourth, Women Fifth

India slid from third in the Tromso Olympiad to fourth place in the 42nd Chess Olympiad that concluded at Baku on September 13. India started as the ninth seed and played like a medal winning team for the first time ever. Although the performance appeared better than Norway 2014, they finished only fourth.

After six rounds, India was in the lead with maximum points. But in the crucial last five rounds India lost two, won one and drew two. The severe ½-3½ defeat inflicted by USA in Round 7 must have rattled the Indian rhythm a lot. But they bounced back to beat England 2½-1½ in the next round. The last three rounds of a Swiss Tournament are the most important for a good final standing, but they did not go our way. We did not win a single match losing 1½-2½ to Ukraine in Round 9 and drawing both Russia and Norway 2-2 in the last two games.

On Board 1, P.Harikrishna beat Karjakin (Rus) in Round 10 and drew Carlsen in the last round in a 47-move pawn ending. When Carlsen and Karjakin sit down to play the World Championship match in New York this November, their last played tournament game would have been against Harikrishna!

Harikrishna (5½/9) and Karthikeyan Murali (2/2) remained undefeated. They gain 9.8 and 3 Elo respectively. Super GM Pentala Harikrishna was the rock on which India built its score.

Understandably, Harikrishna was not played in the first two rounds. Thus, 17-year old National Champion Karthikeyan Murali on the 5th Board got his chance to play his first Olympiad games. And he won both! Perhaps coach GM R.B.Ramesh (40) considered him less experienced and did not explore him further.

Vidit Gujrathi, 22, an Olympiad debutant, deserves praise for his score of 8/11 on Board 3. He gained 17.4 Elo from Baku. Adhiban (6½/11) made +4.3 Elo on Board 2 and Sethuraman (5½/11) lost 6.7 Elo on Board 4.

USA Wins Sixth Oly Title

The USA regularly won the Olympiads in its early years in 1931, 1933, 1935 and 1937. Then post World War II, USSR started dominating. When the USSR and other Communist countries boycotted the 1976 Haifa Olympiad for political reasons (it was held in Israel), the USA won it. This year USA triumphed with the best of the world competing. Caruana (7/10) had a great top board

showing for USA. Nakamura (7½/11), Wesley So (8½/10), Shankland Samuels (5½/8), Ray Robinson (3/5) in Board order became a winning combination. For many years now, the American Olympiad team is captained by 58-year old IM John W Donaldson.

Immediately after Slovenia's Beliavsky resigned against Eljanov on top board and Ukraine tied for first the body language of the Ukraine players and coach GM Oleksandr Sulypa (44) appeared to indicate that they had won gold. But, on tie-break, Ukraine got only silver medals. In exactly the middle of the event, in Round 6, USA beat Ukraine 2½-1½. That turned out to be the key match of this Olympiad. Ukraine beat both Russia and China and was distinctly unlucky not to win this Olympiad.

Women's Olympiad

With Hou Yifan (5½/8) on top board, China won the Women's Olympiad for the fifth time. They had won the Olympiad four times in a row in 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004. After that Ukraine, Georgia and Russia took over. The last three editions were won by Russia with China as runner-up every time! The title match at Baku was decided in the eleventh and final round when China beat Russia 2½-1½.

The fifth seeded Indian Women finished fifth for a push performance. India met

Ukraine (2-2) and did not face either China or Russia. Top Board Dronavalli Harika (6/10: +3,=6,-1) suffered a rare defeat in her first game (to WIM Terao of Brazil) and lost 13.80 Elo, overall.

National Women Champion Padmini Rout (4½/10) playing on Board 2 was our big negative surprise, losing four games and 18.70 Elo. Obviously she was in poor form.

Tania's Roller Coaster



Tania Sachdev (see pic above by Eteri Kublashvili from www.bakuchessolympiad.com), had an up-down-up performance in her 7/10 score gaining a very small 2½ Elo. She had a flying start winning the first four games in a row. Then she lost the next three games. After being rested in the 8th round, she won her last three games! In hindsight, had she been rested after her 2nd

defeat she could have come back refreshed for a 4-0 sweep of the remaining four games and we could have been among the medals!



Soumya Swaminathan's (pic above, by Maria Emelianova from www.bakuchessolympiad.com) Board 4 score of 8/11 was the best Indian performance while Pratyusha on Board 5 was fielded in only three games by Coach IM Vishal Sareen (43), for her 2½/3. Soumya gains 7.4 Elo while Pratyusha a nominal two Elo.

Anand and Humpy would have certainly made a difference to the fortunes of our teams. The AICF has done its best, as attracting these greats to the team could help us do well. Hopefully, the 2018 Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia would see an upswing in our Olympiad performances.

The Olympiad is played every two years as a 11-Round Swiss on 4 Boards with one Re-



Vidit Gujrathi

Pic: Maria Emelianova from www.bakuchessolympiad.com

serve. The Olympiad is held for the Hamilton-Russell Cup donated in 1927. The Women's Olympiad is held from 1957 for the Vera Menchik Cup in honour of the first World Women's Champion Vera Menchik (1906-1944).

Strange, none of the three medal winners at Tromso 2014 managed to remain in the top three this time. China (13th), Hungary (15th) and India (4th) missed out on the team medals. Russia have been top seeds from 2004 to 2016 but never won any of the Olympiads in these years! They won in Bled 2002 with Kasparov on top board.

Handling Reserves

The two Reserves in our teams, Karthikeyan Murali and Bodda Pratyusha were given only 2 and 3 games in

this Olympiad. Both did well scoring 2/2 and 2½/3. These games did not really test the mettle of these players as their opponents were very lowly rated. Surprisingly, though these two did not lose a single game, their services were not used further!

In the 1980s, the Olympiad had graduated from Preliminary and Final all-play-all events to a 14-round Swiss with 2½ hours for first 40 moves and 16 moves for every additional hour, 4-Board Matches with two Reserve players and free days for sight-seeing! The Women's Olympiad was held on three Boards plus one Reserve.

In the 1984 Thessaloniki Olympiad the Soviet coach of the Indian Men and Women teams, GM Eduard Gufeld (1936-2002; he had an eye for art, fun and money!), did not field untitled Arun Vaidya and P.Mithrakanth for so long that the players rebelled! While these two were under-utilised, others like IMs P.M. Thipsay, Raja Ravi Sekhar, V. Ravikumar and untitled but already famous V.Anand (Board 4, Rated 2345; 7½/11) were given more games and it told on their performance.

For example, Thipsay (Board 1, rated 2445) played all 14 games and scored only 7 points. Gufeld is reported to have stated that he will not field Vaidya and Mithrakanth in the same round and never with black! "Never together

and never with Black" was his diktat! That meant that other players had to play more games with the black pieces which is not appealing! Both Vaidya (Reserve 1, Rated 2375, 1/4) and Mithrakanth (Reserve 2, Rated 2365; 2/5) became IMs later.

Gufeld was an interesting and practical person. He warned the Women Team members, "I will come to the Tournament Hall 10 minutes after games begin. All three of you should have castled by then!"

Let us now see how the other successful teams used their Board 5 players at Baku:

The winning Chinese Women's team spread its games almost evenly amongst its 5 players. Top Board Hou Yifan scored 5½/8, the same as their lowest rated player on Board 5, IM Guo Qi!

Almost the same could be said of the Open champion, USA (Caruana, Nakamura, Wesley So, Shankland Samuel and Ray Robson). Their 5th Board, GM Robson (2674), scored 3/5. He was dropped only for the last three rounds after he lost the 8th Round.

Ukraine who tied with USA for first and finished second very, very narrowly on tie-break had a similar story; every player played 9 games except former World Champion, Ruslan Ponomariov on Board 2 who played 8 games.

The same could be told of Russia who won the bronze

medal. They shared the 44 games in Board Order as follows: Karjakin 9; Kramnik 8, Tomashevsky 7; Nepomniacchi 10, Grischuk 10!

Top final placings (men): 1-2. USA, Ukraine 20 each (maximum 22); 3 Russia 18; 4-10. India, Norway, Turkey, Poland, France, England, Peru 16 each...180 teams.

Top final placings (women): 1 China 20; 2-3. Poland, Ukraine 17 each; 4-9 Russia, India, USA, Vietnam, Azerbaijan-1, Israel 16 each; 10 Georgia 15...140 teams.

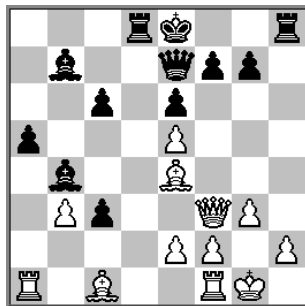
Shakhriyar Mamedyarov 2761

Pentala Harikrishna 2752

Semi-Slav D43 Az-1 v Ind

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 c6 5.g3 dxc4 6.Bg2 b5 7.0-0 Bb7 8.Ne5 a6 9.b3 [In Igor Nester (2354) vs Oleg Polishchuk (2248), Lubawka Op, 2007 white pursued a different idea but lost: 9.a4 Qc8 10.e4 Nbd7 11.f4 Bb4 12.f5 exf5 13.Rxf5 0-0 14.Bg5 Nxe5 15.dxe5 Nd7 16.Qh5 Nxe5 17.Rxe5 f6 and 0-1] **9...b4 10.Ne4 Nxe4 11.Bxe4 c3** This advanced passed pawn leads to white's downfall in the end. **12.a3 a5 13.axb4 Bxb4** [13...axb4 (Fritz)] **14.Qd3 Qe7 15.Bxh7** [15.Ra2 waiting for black to declare how he was going to complete his development.] **15...Nd7!** [This the best way to equalise the the game and reduce the pressure on his c6 pawn. The attempt to trap the bishop would violently boomerang on black: 15...g6?

16.Bxg6 fxe6 17.Qxg6+ Kf8 (17...Kd8 18.Bg5+-) **18.Bg5 Qe8** (18...Qg7 19.Qxe6 (Threat 20 Ng6+ winning)) **19.Bh6+ Ke7 20.Qg7+ Kd8 21.Qxb7+-] 16.Be4 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Rd8 18.Qf3**



18...Rd5!? White probably expected passive defence of c6 with an excellent game for himself. This could very well be the psychological turning point of the game. The acceptance of the exchange sacrifice would see a mass of black pawns moving down the c- and d-files. **19.Qg4 Kf8** [19...Rxe5 20.Qxg7 Reh5 21.Rd1! and if now 21...Rxb2? 22.Bg5+-] **20.Bxd5 exd5 21.Ra4 c5 22.Ba3 Rh6 23.Bxb4 axb4±** White is poised to attack down the a-file. **24.Rfa1** [Better is 24.Ra7 Kg8 25.Rfa1 Rb6 26.e3±] **24...Qe8 25.Ra7 Qc6 26.Qg5 Re6 27.Qd8+ Re8 28.Qd6+ Kg8! 29.Rxb7?**

[White thinks that he should win by returning the exchange as he fears the queen and bishop battery aimed at his king. Simpler to keep his advantage was: 29.f3!]

29...Qxb7 30.Qxc5 Rxe5

31.Ra7? [This leads to some exciting play in which black triumphs with a brilliant fightback. Better was: 31.e3+] **31...d4! 32.Qxd4 Rd5!** This is based on black's deep understanding of the ensuing rook endgame. **33.Rxb7 Rxd4** White has a pawn more but he is losing because of black's advanced passed pawn on c3. **34.Kg2** [If 34.Rc7 Rd2 35.e4 Rb2 36.Kg2 Rxb3+] **34...Rd1 0-1.**

Pentala Harikrishna 2752

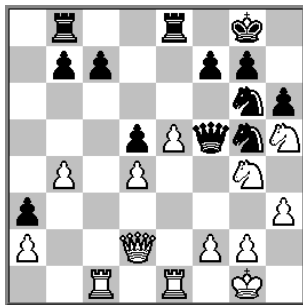
Sergey Karjakin 2769

Giucoco Piano C50, IND v RUS

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.h3 d6 7.c3 h6 8.Re1 a5 9.Bb3 Re8 10.Nbd2 At the highest level, Harikrishna does not play the fancy modern Opening variations, but what most of us have played in Club games in our younger days. We just played logically avoiding obvious errors. This has obviously upset the Challenger to the World Champion this year and he goes wrong in the middle-game. **10...Be6 11.Ba4**



Ba7= 12.Nf1 Rb8 He wants to play b7-b5. **13.Bb5 Bd7 14.Ng3 Ne7 15.Bxd7 Qxd7 16.d4 Ng6 17.Be3 exd4 18.Bxd4 Bxd4 19.cxd4 a4? 20.Rc1 d5 21.e5 Nh7 22.Nh2 Ng5 23.Nh5 a3 24.b4 Ne6 25.Qd2!** preventing Ngf4. **25...Ng5 26.Ng4** (White is threatening 27 Ngf6+! gxf6 28 Nxf6+ winning the Queen. Black avoids this trap but falls victim to a similar threat.) **26...Qf5?**



27.Nhf6+ Kh8 [27...gxf6 28.Nxh6+ wins the queen.] **28.Nxe8 Rxe8 29.Rxc7** After this, black's game falls apart easily. **29...Nf4!** (Black has a similar threat now: 30....Nfxh3+ 31 gxf3 Nf3+ winning the queen.) **30.Qe3 Nge6** [30...h5 31.Nh2 b5 32.h4 Ne4 33.f3 Ng3 34.Rc3+] **31.Rc3 Qg6** (threat 32...h5!) **32.Qg3 Ra8 33.Kh2! h5 34.Ne3 Qh7 35.Re1** (threatening mate with 36 Rc8+) **35...Qe4 36.Rc8+ Rxc8 37.Rxc8+ Kh7 38.Qf3 Qxf3 39.gxf3 Nxd4 40.Rc7 b5 41.Rxf7 Nde6 42.Rd7! d4 43.Nc2 d3 44.Ne1!** Black cannot save his d-pawn any further. 1-0.

Arkady Naiditch 2696
Vidit Gujrathi 2669

Vienna C44, Aze-1 v IND

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.g3

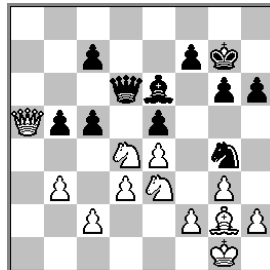
This is unusual, but played several times before by players who fear that the opponent is well-prepared in traditional openings. **3...Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 h6 7.Nc3 a6 8.Be3 0-0 9.Bxc5 dxc5** Despite the doubled pawns, black has the freer game as white's bishop has no prospects.

10.Nd2 b5!= preventing the opponent from playing Nc4. Such restrictive play dampens the spirit of the opponent. **11.a4 Rb8 12.axb5 axb5 13.Nd5 Be6** Black has gained an edge in this game. **14.Ne3 Qd7** Black is shutting down every prospect of white for a level game. **15.Nf3 Rfd8** Black threatens to gain a slight advantage with c5-c4. **16.b3 Ra8 17.Re1 g6 18.Qc1 Kg7** Black waits for the right moment to strike and in the meanwhile places his pieces on the best possible squares for both defence and attack. **19.Qb2 Qd6 20.Rxa8** [The alternative was also no better: **20.Nd5 Rxa1 21.Qxa1 Nxd5 22.exd5 Bxd5 23.Nxe5 Nd4!**±]

20...Rxa8 21.Ra1 [White could have tried the interesting: **21.c3 Rd8 (21...Qxd3? 22.Rd1 Qxe4 23.Ne1** the queen is trapped!) **22.Ra1 b4 23.Ra6 Bc8 24.Ra8 Nd7**] **21...Rxa1+ 22.Qxa1 Nd4 23.Qa5?** [After this, white's semblance of equality disappears. **23.Qd1** would have led to a defensible position.] **23...Ng4!** The first move of a deeply conceived



plan which at first sight appears faulty! **24.Nxd4 Qxd4!! 25. Nxg4 Bxg4 26.Bf1?** [White refuses to withdraw his queen from a5 where it is eyeing both the b5 and c7 pawns. This lets black fatally exclude the white queen from his own backyard. White's last chance to fight for equality was: **26.Qe1] 26...b4! 27.Qa2 Qc3 28.Qb1 Qd2 29.Qa1**



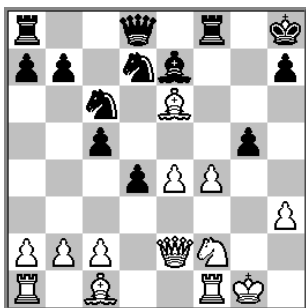
29...Qxc2!! An amazing combination, offering his e5 pawn with check. This must have been planned on move 26. **30.Qxe5+ Kh7 31.Qxc7 Qxb3 32.Qxc5 Qd1+** (threat...Bh3, mating) **33.Qc7 Be6 34.f4 b3! 35.f5 gxf5 36.exf5 Bd5 37.Qb6 Qf3!** A masterly victory by Vidit Gujrathi. **0-1**

Vladimir Kramnik 2808

Baskaran Adhiban 2671

Reti Opening A07, RUS v IND

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2
Bf5 4.0-0 c6 5.d3 e6 6.Nh4
Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.Qe1 Be7 9.f4
Nfd7 10.Nf3 f5 11.e4 Bxf3
12.Bxf3 0-0 13.Nc3 fxe4 14.
dxe4 d4 15.Nd1 e5 16.Nf2 c5
17.Qe2 Nc6 18.Bg4 Kh8 19.
Be6 exf4 20.gxf4 g5?



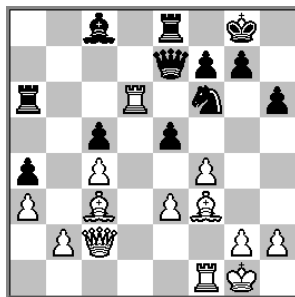
[So far black has kept the balance. With this apparently aggressive move he offers much scope for white's pieces to seize the initiative. Better was to tackle the Be6 immediately without exposing his own king by: 20...Qe8 (threat ...Qg6+) 21.f5 Nd8 22.Bc4 Bd6=] 21.Ng4 gxf4 22.Bxf4± Qe8 23.e5 Bh4 24.Bc4 Qg6 25.Kh1 Bg5 26.Bh2 Nb6 27.Bd3 Qe6 [If 27...Qh5 28.e6! Nd5 29.Ne5 Qxe2 30.Bxe2+-] 28.Qe4 Qd5 29.e6! Rae8 30.Rxf8+ Rxf8 31.Ne5 Qxe4+ 32.Bxe4 Nd8 33.a4 Nxe6 34.a5 Nc8 35.Nd7 Re8 36.Be5+ Ng7 [If 36...Kg8 37.Bd5 b6 38.Rf1+-] 37.Rg1 Bh6 38.Bxb7 Ne7 39.Nf6 Rf8 40.Be4 Ng8 41.Nxh7 Re8 42.Ng5! (Threat Nf7#) 42... Re7 43.Bd3 Bxg5 44.Rxg5 Nh6 45.Bxg7+! Rxg7 46.Rh5! 1-0.

Erwin L'Ami 2611

Baskaran Adhiban 2671

Nimzo-Indian E33, NED v IND

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3
Bb4 4.Qc2 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6
6.Bd2 Qe7 7.a3 Bxc3 8.Bxc3
a5 9.e3 0-0 10.Bd3 h6 11.0-0
e5 12.d5 Nb8 13.Nd2 a4 14.f4
Nbd7 15. Rae1 Re8 16.Bf5 c6
17.dxc6 bxc6 18.Ne4 Nxe4
19. Bxe4 Ra6 20.Rd1± Nf6
21.Bf3 c5 22.Rxd6



[With everything going smoothly for white, he hits on an idea that will bring him much grief. Better was: 22.fxe5 dxe5 23.Bd5=] 22...Rxd6 23.fxe5 Rd7 24.exf6 Qxe3+ 25.Kh1 Qd3 26.Qxd3 Rxd3 27.fxg7 Ba6 28.Bc6 Re2 29.Bd5 [If 29.Bxa4 Bb7 30.Rg1 h5-+] 29...Re7 30.Bf6 Re8 Black now threatens Rxd5! winning. 31.Rc1 Re2 32.Kg1 Red2 33.Bf3 Re3 34.Bc3 Rd6 35.Bd5+- Re7 36.Rd1 Bxc4! 37.Bf3 [37.Bxf7+?? Rxf7 38.Rxd6 Rf1#] 37...Rxd1+ 38.Bxd1 Bb5 39.Bf3 Re6 40.Kf2 Bc4 41.Bg4 Rd6 Black plans 42...f6 and ...Kxg7 putting an end to white's hopes. 42.Be5 Rd2+ 43.Ke3 Rxg2 44.h3 h5 45.Bd1 [45.Bxh5?? Rg5 is a double attack.] 45...h4

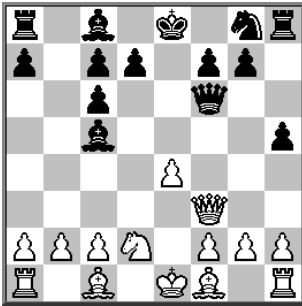
46.Kf4 Bd7 After this white has no effective resistance. 47.Bf3 Rg1 48.Bf6 Rf1 49.Ke3 Bxh3 50.Bxh4 Kxg7 51.Bc6 Rb1 52.Bxa4 Rxb2 53.Be7 c4 54.Bb4 Kg6 55.Kd4 Be6 56.Kc3 Ra2 57.Bc6 f5 58.a4 f4 59.a5 Kf5 60.Bb7 Ke5 61.a6 Bd5 62.Bc5 f3 63.Bd4+ Kd6 64.Bxd5 Kxd5 65.a7 Kc6 66.Kxc4 Kb7 0-1.

S.P. Sethuraman 2640

Nigel D Short 2666

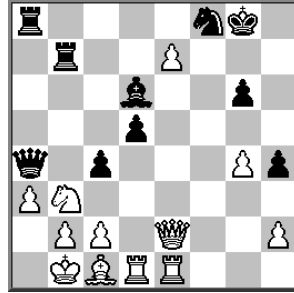
Scotch C45, IND v ENG

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qf6 5.Nxc6 Bc5 6.Qf3 bxc6 7.Nd2 h5



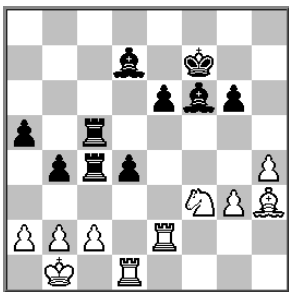
Atousa Pourkashiyan 2329 vs K.Humpy Asia Classical, 2006 went: 7...Qxf3 8.gxf3 d5 9.Nb3 Bd6 10.c4 Nf6 11.c5 Be7 12.Bd3 a5 13.Be3 0-0 14.Rc1 dxe4 15.fxe4 Ng4 16.Bf4 Rd8 17.Be2 a4 18.Nd2 Ra7 19.Rg1 Nf6 20.Bh6 g6 21.Bg5± and 61 0-1] 8.Nb3 Be7 9.Bc4 d6 10.Be3 Bg4 11.Qg3 d5 [If 11...Qxb2 12.Bd4 Qa3 (12...Qxc2? 13.Bd3+-) 13.h3 Bf6 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.hxg4+-] 12.e5 Qg6 13.Bd3 h4 14.Qf4 Qh5 15.e6 Bxe6 16.Qxc7 Rc8 17.Qxa7 Bd6 18.f3 Nf6 19.0-0-0 0-0 20.g4! Qh8□ 21.Kb1 Ra8 22.Qd4 Nd7

Black threatens ... c5. 23.Bf5 c5 24.Qd2 g6 25.Bxe6 fxe6 26.Qe2 Qe5 27.Rhe1 Rf7 28. f4 Qe4 29.Bc1 Qa4 30.a3 Nf8 31.f5 c4 32.fxe6 Rb7 33.e7?!



[This gives a chance for escape to black who does not avail it. Best is the near-winning: 33.Rxd5! Bxa3 (33...cxb3 34.Rxd6 bxc2+ 35. Qxc2 Qxa3 36.Qc4±) 34. bxa3 cxb3 35.c3 b2 36.Bxb2 Qxa3 37.Rb5±] 33...Bxe7?± [Black could escape with: 33...Rxe7! 34.Qd2 cxb3 35. Qxd5+ Kg7 36.cxb3 Qa5!= as black is threatening to exchange queens as well as win the rook on e1.] 34.Qf3 cxb3 35.Qxd5+ Kh8 36. cxb3+- Black loses as he is in a mess with both his queen and rook under attack and his bishop needs to be protected too. 36...Qa6 37.g5! (preventing ...Bf6 as well as threatening Re1-e4-x h4) 37...Kg7 38.Bf4 Bxa3 39.Be5+ Kh7 40. Re4! Ne6 41.Rxh4+ After 41. ..Kg8 42 Rh8+ Kf7 43 Qf3+ mates. 1-0.

Begin Chess by Manuel Aaron is the best book for chess trainers. You can procure it for Rs.400 + 60 (postage) = Rs.460.



S.P. Sethuraman 2640
 Anton Korobov 2675
 IND v UKR

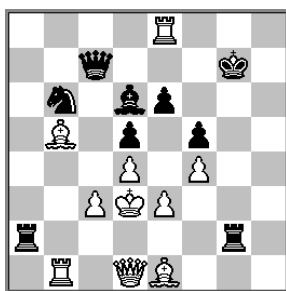
30.Ne1? [Here white could have seized the advantage with 30.Rf2! (threatening both Ng5+ followed by Ne4 as well as Bf1 targetting the locked Rc4.) 30...Kg7 31.Bf1±] 30...Re5 31.Rf2 Rf5? 32.Re2? [White could achieve a winning position by capturing the rook: 32.Bxf5! exf5 33.Nf3 Bb5 34.h5 Bc6 35.Nh4+!] 32...Bc6 33.g4 Re5 34.Rf2 Ke7 35.g5 Bh8 36.Nd3

[Better was 36.Bf1 d3 37.Bxd3 Rxh4 38.Bxg6 Rd5 39.Rf7+ Kd8 40.Nd3 Kc8 41.Re7 Rxg5 42.Bf7=]

36...Re3 37.Bf1 [Δ37.Nf4! Be4 38.Bxe6 Rc5 39.Bb3=] 37...Be4 38.Nf4 Rc8 39.Bd3 Rg8! 40.Ng2 Rf3 41.Re2 Bd5 42.Be4 Bxe4 43.Rxe4 Kd6 44.Ne1 Rf1 45.c3? [45.Kc1 45...bxc3 White cannot save the game after this. 46.bxc3 Rb8+ 47.Kc2 Rf2+ 48.Kd3 Rxa2 49.Nc2 dxc3 50. Rde1 Rd8 51.R1e2 Kc5+ 52.Ke3 Rd6 53.Rh2 Bg7 54. h5 gxh5 55.Reh4 Rd5 56. Rxh5 Kc4 57.Rh7 Rxg5 58. Ke4 Kb3 59.Rxg7 Rxg7 60.Nd4+ Ka3 61.Nb5+ Kb4! 0-1

Shankland Samuel L 2679
 S.P. Sethuraman 2640
 Slav D11, USA v IND

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bg4 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Nc3 e6 7.Qa4+ Nbd7 [7...Nfd7 has been played here in a 2006 game.] 8.Ne5 a6 9.f3 Bf5 10.g4 Bg6 11.h4 b5 12.Qd1 b4 13.h5 Bxh5 14.Nxd7 Nxd7 15.Rxh5 [If 15.Nxd5 Bxg4=] 15...bxc3 16.bxc3 Qc7 17.Bd2 Bd6 18.Bd3 Nb6 19.Ke2 h6 [Δ19...g6] 20.g5 Kd7 21.gxh6 gxh6 [Δ 21... Rxh6 22.Rxh6 gxh6 23.e4 Rg8 24.Qh1 Na4 25.e5 Be7=] 22.Rb1 Rag8 23.Bxa6 Rg2+ 24.Kd3 Ra8 25.Bb5+ Kd8 [Δ25...Ke7 to keep the first rank free for his rooks as well as avoid a white rook from invading his camp with a check.] 26.Rxh6 Rxa2 27.Rh8+ Ke7 (Black threatens a Q sacrifice with 28...Qc4+ 29 Bxc4 dxc4+ 30 Ke4 f5#! This threat keeps recurring in later variations too.) 28.Re8+ Kf6 29.Be1 Kg7+ 30.f4 f5!?



[This move also should win, but a certain win follows: 30...Nc4! 31.f5 exf5 32.Rb3 Na5 and black threatens mate with the same queen sacrifice ...Qc4+ as well as ...Nxb3.]

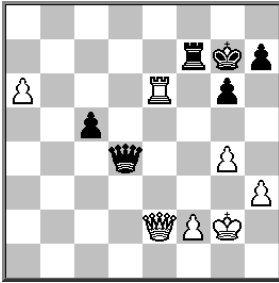
31.Qb3 Qf7? [More forceful was: 31...Bxf4!! 32.Rxe6 Bg3! (Black intends capturing the bishop on e1 and mate with either rook on d2) 33.Qxa2 Rxa2 34.Bd2 Nc4 35.Bc1 Qf7! 36.Ra6 f4! 37.e4 (37.Rxa2 Qf5+ 38.Ke2 f3+!) 37...Qe7! 38.e5 Qf7! 39.Rf6 Qh5 and white must give up.] **32.Qd1 Nc4** [Stronger was: 32...Rh2 33.Bc6 Nc4 34.Ra8 Rxa8 35.Bxa8 Qg6-+] **33.Rd8 Be7** [Black misses another devastating finish: 33...Nxe3 34.Kxe3 Bxf4+ 35.Kxf4 Rg4+ 36.Ke3 (36.Kf3 Qh5-+) 36...f4+ 37.Kf3 Rg3+ 38.Bxg3 Qh5+ 39.Kxf4 Qf5+ 40.Ke3 Qe4#] **34.Rd7** Black's winning advantage has slipped into a slight advantage. **34...Rab2 35.Bxc4 dxc4+ 36.Kxc4 Qe8** [If 36...e5+ 37.d5 Qf6 38.Ra1±] **37.Rxb2 Rxb2 38.Qa1 Rb8?+** [38...Rh2±] **39.Qa7 Kf8 40.Kd3 Ra8 41.Qb7 Rb8 42.Qh1 Qxd7 43.Qh8+ Kf7 44.Qxb8** Thus, white has two safe pawns in a queen and same colour bishop ending. Black now tries in vain to avoid losing. **44...Qc6 45.Qb2 Qe4+ 46.Kd2 Qg2+ 47.Kc1 Qf1 48.Kd1 Qd3+ 49.Qd2 Qc4 50.Qe2 Qa4+ 51.Qc2 Qc4 52.Kd2 Qf1 53.Qd3 Qh1 54.Qe2 Qe4 55.Qh2 Qb7 56.Ke2 Qb2+ 57.Bd2 Qb5+ 58.Kf2 Kg6 59.Qg2+ Kf7 60.Qf3** [Probably in time trouble, white has not made any positive move to further his victory chances. To win, he has to plan on moving c3-c4. He should therefore try: 60.Qf1 Qb2 61.Qe2 Bh4+ 62.Kg1 Ke7

63.c4+-] **60...Bh4+ 61.Kg2 Qd3 62.Qh5+ Kf8 63.Qd1 Kg7 64.Qg1!?** **Qxd2+** [Δ64...Kf7 65.Kh3 Bf6 and white has not succeeded in putting his two-pawn advantage to work.] **65.Kh3+ Kf8 66.Kxh4 Qxc3±** Black has recovered one pawn, but the white king has become an attacking force! **67.Kh5 Qc6 68.Kh6 Qf3** [if 68...e5+ 69.Qg6 Qh1+ 70.Kg5 exd4 71.Qd6+ Ke8 72.exd4 Qg2+ 73.Kf6 Qg6+ 74.Ke5!+-] **69.Qg7+ Ke8 70.Qe5 Kd7 71.Kg7 Qg4+ 72.Kf8 Qh4 73.Qg7+ Kd6 74.Ke8 Qh5+ 75.Qf7 1-0.**

**Fabiano Caruana 2808
Pavel Eljanov 2739**

Sicilian Rossolimo B31, USA v UKR
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.Re1 Nh6 7.c3 0-0 8.h3 f5 9.e5 Nf7 10.d3 Rb8 11.Na3 Ba6 12.Nc4 Bxc4 13.dxc4 d6 [After 13...e6 14.Qe2 black's doubled c-pawns may be a big liability.] **14.e6 Ne5 15.Nxe5 Bxe5 16.Bh6 Bg7 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Rb1 Qa5 19.a4 Rf6 20.Re3 Qa6 21.b3 Qc8 22.Qe1 a5 23.b4 axb4 24.cxb4 cxb4 25.Rxb4 Ra8** [Δ25...Rxb4 26.Qxb4 Rxe6 27.Rxe6 Qxe6 28.a5 Qe5 is completely equal.] **26.Qa1 f4** [Δ26...Kg8 27.c5 Rxe6 28.Qd4 Rxe3 29.Qxe3 Qc7 30.cxd6 Qxd6 31.Rb7 f4 32.Qb3+ Kf8 33.Rb4 Qe5±] **27.Re4 f3 28.g4 Kg8 29.Qd1 Rxe6 30.Qxf3 Rxe4 31.Qxe4 Qc7 32.c5 dxc5 33.Qc4+ Kg7 34.Qc3+ Kg8 35.Qc4+ Kg7 36.Qxc5 Qd6 37.Qc3+ Qf6 38.Qe3± Rf8? 39.Re4± Rf7**

40.Re5 Qd6 41.a5 Qd1+
42.Kg2 Qa1 43.Qe2 e6 44.a6
Qd4 45.Rxe6 c5



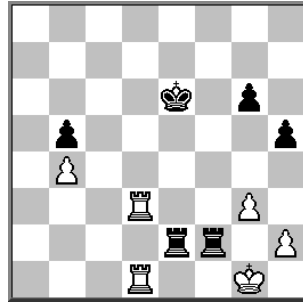
[Black can try the following interesting combination which fails because of white's outside passed pawn on the a-file.:
45...Rxf2+ 46.Qxf2 Qd5+ 47.Kg1 Qxe6 48.a7 Qe8 (48...Qc8? 49.Qb2+ Kh6 50.Qb8+-)
49.Qb2+ Kh6 50.Qd2+ Kg7 51.g5 h6 (51...Kf7 52.Qa2+Kg7 53.a8Q+-) 52.Qb2+ Kf7 53.gxh6+-] 46.Re7 Qd5+ 47.f3 c4 48. Rxf7+ Qxf7 49.Qe5+ Kh6 50. Qe3+ Kg7 51.Qd4+ Kh6 52.a7 Qb7 53.h4! If 53.. .Qe7 54 g5+ Kh5 55 Qg4# 1-0.

Anna Zatonskih 2449
Tania Sachdev 2402

Nimzo-Indian E32, USA v IND

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4
4.Qc2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3
d5 7.Bg5 b6 8.e3 dxc4 9.Bxc4
Bb7 10.f3 Nbd7 11.Ne2 Rc8
12.Qd3 c5 13.0-0 cxd4 14.
exd4 Qe7 15.Nc3 Rfd8 16.
Qe2 Nf8 17.Rad1 h6 18.Bc1
Nd5 19.Ne4 Ng6 20.Ba2 Ngf4
21.Bxf4 Nxf4 22.Qe3 Qc7 23.
Nc3 Rd7 24.Rd2 Rcd8 25.
Rfd1 Nd5 26.Nxd5 Bxd5±
White's isolated d-pawn grants
black a strong positional ad-
vantage. 27.Bb1 Bb7 28.Qd3

g6 29.Qe3 Kg7 30.Ba2 Bd5
31.Qe5+ f6 32.Qxc7 Rxc7
33.Bxd5 Rxd5 34.Kf2 Kf7
35.Ke3 h5 36.g3 Ke7 37.f4 b5
38.Rd3 a5 39.Rc3 Rcd7 40.b4
axb4 41.axb4 e5 42.fxe5 fxe5
43.Rcd3 Ke6 44.Ke4 Rc7 45.
dxe5 Rxe5+ 46.Kf3 Rf7+ 47.
Kg2 Re2+ 48.Kg1 Rff2



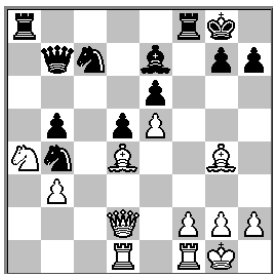
White has managed to exchange
off her isolated pawn, but her king is
driven to the back row and black has a
slight advantage in the ending.
49.Rd6+ Kf7 50.Rd7+ Kf6
51.Rf1 Rxf1+ 52.Kxf1 Re4!
Black cannot save her b-pawn.
53.Rd6+ Kf7 54.Rb6 Rxb4
55.Kf2 Rb3 56.Kg2 b4 57.Kh3
Rb2 58.Rb7+ Kf6 59.Rb6+
Kf5 60.Rb5+ Kf6 61.Rb6+
Kg5 62.Rb5+ Kh6 63.Rb6 b3
64.g4 Kg5 65.Rb5+ Kf4
66.gxh5 gxh5 67.Rxh5 Rd2
68.Rb5 b2 69.Rb8 Kf3 70.Rb7
Rc2 71.Rb8 Kf4 72.Rb7 Ke3
73.Kg3 Kd2 74.h4 Kc1 75.h5
Rc4 Black had to calculate this
ending precisely. 76.h6 b1Q
77.Rxb1+ Kxb1 78.h7 Rc8
0-1.

Tania Sachdev 2402
Masha Klinova 2290

English Opening A21, IND v ISR

1.d4 d6 2.c4 e5 3.Nc3 exd4
4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Qd2 Nf6 6.b3

a5 7.Bb2 a4 8.Rd1 axb3
 9.axb3 Be6 10.e3 Nb4 11.
 Nge2 Be7 12.Nd4 0-0 13.Be2
 d5 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.0-0 c6
 16.e4± Qb6 17.e5 Ne8 18.
 Bg4± Nc7 White's active
 pieces give her a clear advan-
 tage. 19.Na4 Qa7 20.Bc3
 [Stronger was: 20.Bd4 c5
 21.Qxb4 cxb4 22.Bxa7 Rxa7
 23.cxd5 exd5 24.Nb6 Ra3 25.
 Nxd5 Nxd5 26.Be6+ Kh8 27.
 Bxd5+-] 20...b5 [Δ20... Nba6
 21.cxd5 exd5 22.Ba5±] 21.cxb5
 cxb5 22.Bd4 Qb7



23.Nc5!+- Bxc5 24.Bxc5
 Nba6 25.Bxf8 Rxf8 26.b4
 Qb6 27.Qd4 Qxd4 28.Rxd4
 Re8 29.f4 g6 30.Rc1 Re7 31.
 Rc6 Kf7 32.Rb6 Ke8 33.Be2
 Kd7 34.Rxa6! After 34...Nxb6
 35 Bxb5+ Kc7 36 Bxa6, white
 has a bishop and a pawn more.
 1-0.

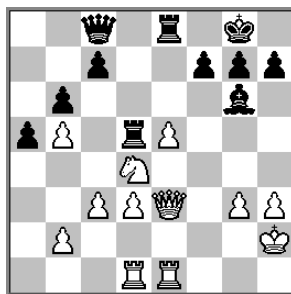
Gulnar Mammadova 2304

Tania Sachdev 2402

Giuoco Piano C50, Az-1 v IND

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4
 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.a4
 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Nbd2 Bg4
 9.h3 Bh5 10.Ne4 Be7 11.c3
 Nb6 12.Bb3 a5 13.Re1 Bg6
 14.Qe2 Qd7 15.Be3 Nd5=
 16.Rad1 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 Rad8
 18.Bc4!± Qc8 19.Nc5 b6?

[Δ19...Bxc5 20.Qxc5 Bh5!
 21.Qe3 Rfe8=] 20.Nb3 Bf6
 21.Bb5 Na7 22.Nxe5 Nxb5
 23.axb5 Rfe8 24.f4 Bh4 25.g3
 Bf6 [Δ25...Be7 26.Kh2 a4
 27.Nc1 Bd6 28.Qf3 Bxe5
 29.fxe5 Qd7=] 26.Kh2 Bxe5
 27.fxe5 Rd5 28.Nd4!



White's dominating knight
 carries the day! 28...Rdx5?
 [An erroneous judgment of the
 position. The resultant activi-
 ty of the white forces give
 white the advantage. Δ
 28...Bf5 29.g4 Bg6±] 29.Qxe5
 Rxe5 30.Rxe5 f6? [This con-
 cedes the e6 square to the
 knight and is the main cause of
 black's downfall. Better was:
 30...h5 31.Rde1 Qd7±] 31.Re7
 Qd8 32.Rxg7+! (The conse-
 quence of 30...f6?) 32...Kh8
 33.Re1 Bxd3? [This pawn is of
 no importance now. Better was
 to try to activate her queen by
 33...f5] 34.Ree7 Bg6 35.Rd7
 Qa8 36.Rge7! White has the
 winning plan of 37 Nc6! and 38
 Rd8+ 1-0.

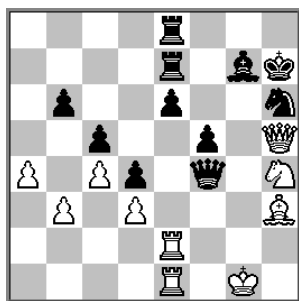
Dana Reizniece-Ozola 2243

Hou Yifan 2658

English A14, LAT v CHN

Dana Reizniece of Latvia is
 no stranger to Indian chess.

When Aarthie Ramaswamy won the World Under-18 Girls' Championship at Oropesa in 1999 her crucial 9th round victory was against Dana. See that game with Aarthie's analysis on page 840 of the Dec 1999 issue of Chess Mate. 1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 c5 7.e3 Nc6 8.d3 b6 9.Nc3 Ba6 10.Bb2 Rc8 11.Qe2 Qd7 12.Rad1 Rfd8 13.Nb5N Qe8 14.e4 d4 15.e5 Nd7 16.Bc1 Bb7 17.Bg5 Ndx e5 18.Nxe5 Bxg5 19.f4 Bf6 20.Nxa7 Nxa7 21.Bxb7 Rc7 22.Bg2 Nc8 23.a4 Nd6 24.g4 g6 25.Rde1 Bg7 26.h4 Kh8 27.Bh3 f6 28.Nf3 Re7 29.Qg2 Nf7 30.Re2 Qd7 31.Rfe1 Rde8 32.g5 f5 [32...Qd6 keeping her position elastic was better.] 33.h5 gxh5 34.Nh4 Qc7 35.Qf3! Kg8 36.g6!± Nh6 37.Qxh5 Qxf4 [Typically, the world champion plays a combative move instead of the more stubborn defence 37...Qd7 which might also lose in the long run.] 38.gxh7+ Kxh7



39.Bxf5+! exf5 40.Rxe7 Qg3+ 41.Ng2! Rxe7 42.Rxe7 f4 43.Qe5! Qg4 44.Qxf4 Qd1+ 45.Ne1! Qh5 46.Nf3! This

knight plays a big role in white's ultimate triumph. It defends when needed and attacks when the time is ripe! 46...Nf5 47.Rb7 Qg6+ 48.Qg5 Qe6 49.Qh5+ Kg8 [49...Nh6?? 50.Ng5+] 50.Rb8+ Bf8 51.Qg4+ If 51 Kf7 Ng5+ wins the queen. 1-0.

Monika Socko 2437
Hou Yifan 2658

Bogo-Indian E11, POL v CHN
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 a5 5.Bxb4 axb4 6.g3 b6N 7.Bg2 Bb7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nbd2 c5 10.Re1 d6 11.e4 Nc6 12.d5 exd5 13.cxd5 Ne7 14.Nc4 Ng6 15.a4 bxa3 16.Rxa3 b5 17.Rxa8 Bxa8 18.Na3 Re8 19.Nxb5 [If 19.Qd3 c4 20.Qc2 Qa5 21.Re3=] 19...Rxe4 20.Rxe4 Nxe4± 21.Qa4 Bxd5! 22.Nh4? [!22.Nd2 Nxd2 23.Bxd5 Qe8 24.Qd1 Qxb5 25.Qxd2µ] 22...Nxb4!-+ 23.Bxe4 Qe8! 24.gxh4 [24.Bxd5?? Qe1#] 24...Bxe4 25.Qa5 Qd7 26.h3 [No better was: 26.Nc3 Bf3 27.Kf1 g6 28.Nb5 (28.Qb5 Qh3+ 29.Ke1 Qxh2 30.Qe8+ Kg7 31.Qe3 Bc6-+)] 26...h6 27.Nc3 Bf3 28.Kh2 Qe7 29.Qa6 Qe5+ 30.Kg1 Qe6 31.Kh2 Qg6 32.Qf1 Qf6 33.Kg3 Bc6 34.Qe2 d5 35.Qg4 d4 36.Nb1 Qe5+ 37.Qf4 Qe1 38.Qf5 Qg1+ 39.Kf4 Qxf2+ 40.Ke5 f6+ If 41 Ke6 Bd7+ wins the queen. 0-1.

Pocket Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings by Eduard Gufeld and Nikolai Kalinichenko. Rs.215. Postage Rs.35. Total Rs.250. Available with Chess Mate.

Jeffery Xiong, Saduakassova Win Titles

SL Narayanan (bronze), Nandhidhaa (silver)
Win Two Medals For India

Jeffery Xiong of the United States of America and Dinara Saduakassova of Kazakhstan won the Kiit sponsored World Junior Chess Championship that concluded at Bhubaneswar this August.

While Xiong, 16, comfortably won with a round to spare and by a one point margin, Saduakassova, 20, won after a close fight and only by half a point.

Jeffery Xiong

Xiong started his chess career while seven and by 2014 had achieved the International Master title. Born in Plano, Texas, on 30 October 2000, he became a Grandmaster in 2015 by winning big Open Internationals in the USA facing severe Grandmaster competition. He is the second youngest Grandmaster in American history.

After 2014, Xiong's chess career has soared sky high. He won the 7th Saint Louis Grandmaster Invitational 2015 with a score of 7/9. He later received the organizer's wild card invitation to the 2016 US Chess Championship, where he finished 6th among 12 players, with 1 win, 1 loss, and 9 draws.



Jeffery Xiong

In February 2016 he entered FIDE's list of the Top 10 Under-20 players of the World. In March, he reached a FIDE rating of 2600 for the first time.

In July 2016, Jeffrey won both the Capablanca B group and the US Closed Junior Chess Championship. A month later, he won the Bhubaneswar World Junior!

Xiong is the youngest to win the World Junior title. He is the seventh American to win this title and the first in the last two decades.

Saduakassova

Born in Astana, Kazakhstan on 31 Oct 1996 Dinara Saduakassova became a Woman Grandmaster (WGM) in 2012.

She won the World U-14 Girls Championship in 2010 and the U-18 Girls in 2014. By winning the World Junior Girls Championship in Bhubaneswar, Saduakassova has qualified to the 2018 Women's World Championship.



Dinara Saduakassova

She has played for the Kazakhstani national team in four (!) Women's Chess Olympiads (2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014), two Women's World Team Chess Championships (2013 and 2015), three Women's Asian Nations Cups (2012, 2014, and 2016), and the 2011 World Youth Under-16 Chess Olympiad.

Surprisingly in the Girls' section, after 10 rounds, Frayna Janelle Mae of the Philippines emerged sole

leader with eight points by defeating P Michelle Catherina. At that point India's best chance appeared to be R Vaishali (7/10) who was one point behind the leader after beating higher rated Dinara Dordzhieva (Rus). Alina Bivol of Russia was in second place with 7½ points. Vaishali and Nandhidhaa shared the third place with three others on seven points.

After 10 rounds in the Open section, Xiong led with 8½/10 followed by top seed Vladislav Artemiev of Russia on 7½. Our players were virtually out of the title race as Karthikeyan Murali (6/10) suffered two defeats while Aravindh Chithambaram (6½/10) was two points below leader Xiong.

In the last three rounds, everything went favourable for Xiong, but in the Girl's section, there were violent upheavals and surprises.



P.V. Nandhidhaa

At the end, hosts India won two medals, seed No.24 P.V. Nandhidhaa (TN) winning the

silver in the Girls' section and tenth seed S.L. Narayanan (KE) winning the bronze in the World Junior Open section.

Vladislav Artemiev of Russia won the silver medal by defeating Aravindh Chitham-



baram in the last round on board two. S.L. Narayanan (see pic) finished on a winning note beating Grzegorz of Poland for bronze on better tie-break. After losing to an untitled Iranian in round eight, Narayanan finished strongly, winning the last three rounds in a row.

The medals split was three for Asia, two for Europe and one for the Americas. Clearly, Asians, mainly Indians benefited from this event being staged in India. Players from 36 nations took part in this event that was organised by the Odisha State Chess Association.

Nandhidhaa who started well also finished strongly to take the second place with nine points. She was the only player out of six who played the last round with eight points to win the game! She defeated last year's champion Nataliya Buksa of Ukraine with the black pieces to take the silver medal in style.

Nandhidhaa, trained by GM J Deepan Chakravarthy,

gains 85.6 Elo points and played at 2395. It was her career best show. Defeats against Asian opponents, compatriot Michelle Catherina and Mongolia's Uuriintuva cost her the title. She drew with champion Saduakassova in a third round game where she enjoyed some advantage.

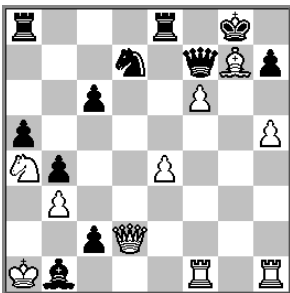
Top Standings (tie-break order): **Open:** 1 GM Jeffery Xiong (USA) 10½; 2 GM Vladislav Artemiev (Rus) 9½; 3-4. GM S.L. Narayanan (Ind), FM Xu Yi (Chn) 9 each; 5-9. GM Karthikeyan Murali (Ind), IM Masoud Mosadeghpour (Iri), Xu Yingjun (Chn), IM Nasuta Grzegorz (Pol), IM Svane Rasmus (Ger) 8½ each; 10-13. GM Aravindh Chithambaram (Ind), Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri), Bozidar Ivekovic (Cro), IM Shahin Lorparizangeneh (Iri) 8 each.

Girls: 1 WGM Dinara Saduakassova (Kaz) 9½/13; 2-3. WIM P.V. Nandhidhaa (Ind), WIM Dinara Dordzhieva (Rus) 9 each; 4-8. IM Reuda Paula Andrea Rodriguez (Col), WIM Frayna Janelle Mae (Phi), WIM R Vaishali (Ind), WIM Uuriintuva Uurtsaikh (Mgl), WIM Parnali Dharia (Ind) 8½ each; 9-13. WIM Alina Bivol (Rus), WIM P Michelle Catherina (Ind), WIM M Mahalakshmi (Ind), WIM Anna Styazhkina (Rus), Du Yuxin (Chn) 8 each.

Now for our large games section:

Jeffery Xiong 2633
Aravindh Chithambaram 2543
 Sicilian Rossolimo B31

This was probably the most exciting game of the World Junior with both players going for each others throats! **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.d3 Bg7 6.h3 b6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Re8 10.Nh2 e5 11.0-0 a5 12.Na4** [Lidia Semenova (2350) vs Svetlana Prudnikova (2210), USSR Ch. 1990 went: 12.g4 a4 13.Rdg1 Nd7 14.g5 Nf8 15.h4 Ne6 16.Ng4 and 0-1] **12...Be6 13.Kb1 Nd7 14.Ng4 Qe7 15.Nh6+ Kh8 16.h4 b5 17.Nc3 f6?** This does not strengthen but only weakens his castled position. Best was to continue his Q-side play with 17.... a4=**18.h5 Bxh6 19.Bxh6 g5** With this move, black probably thought that he had put the white bishop in jail. But the American youngster systematically works to bust open this 'jail'! **20.Rdf1 Qf7 21.g3 b4 22.Na4 Bxa2+ 23.Ka1 c4 24.f4 exf4 25.gxf4 cxd3 26.fxc5 dxc2 27.gxf6 Bb1 28.Bg7+ Kg8 29.b3**

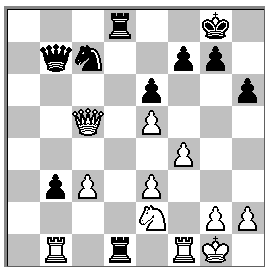


29...Nc5? [If **29...Qxb3?** 30.f7+! Kxg7 31.Rhg1+ Kh8 32.Qd4+ Ne5 33.f8Q+! Rxf8

34.Qxe5+ mates.; However, black missed a draw in the variation given below, although in all probability he was looking for a win, not a draw! Amazingly this variation has a pawn promoting to a queen as well as a knight! **29...c1Q! 30.Qxc1 Qxb3 31.f7+! Kxg7 32.fxe8N+!** (*32.h6+ Kh8 33.fxe8R+ Rxe8 34.Qxb1 Qxa4+ 35.Qa2±*) **32...Rxe8 33.Rhg1+ Kh8 34.Qxb1 Qxa4+ 35.Qa2 Qxa2+ 36.Kxa2 Nc5+** The material equivalent is knight and two pawns for a rook. In this position, it is unclear.] **30.Nxc5 a4 31.Kb2 axb3 32.Nxb3 c1Q+** [32...Rxe4 33.Qg5 Ra2+ 34.Kc1 Ra7 35.Bh6+ Kh8 36.Rhg1 with the winning threat 37.Qg7+!] **33.Nxc1 Bxe4 34.Rhg1 Ra5 35.Rg5 c5 36.Rfg1 c4 37.Qxb4** [A faster finish was: **37.Bh6+! Rxc5 38.Qxc3 Rb8+ 39.Nb3 Rxc5 40.Rxc5 Bc6** [More stubborn, but still losing was: **40...Bc6** (for **41 Ba4**) **41.Bh6+ Kh8 42.Rg7 Rxb3+ 43.Qxb3 Qxf6+ 44.Qc3! Qf2+ 45.Ka3 Qf8+ 46.Re7+ mates.] 41.Bh6+ Kh8 42.Rxd5 Rxb3+ [42...Qxd5 43.f7+ mates.] 43.Qxb3** One last try was: **43...Qxd5 44 Qb8+** (not **44 Qxd5??** stalemate!) **44....Qg8 45 Bg7#! 1-0.**

Bozidar Ivekovic (Cro, 2351)
Sunilduth L Narayanan 2515
 Queen's Gambit D58
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4

0-0 7.e3 b6 8.Rc1 Bb7 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Be2 Rc8 12.Ne5 Nf6 13.Bf3 c5 14.0-0 Nc6 15.Nb5 a6 16.Na3 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Ne8 18.Bxb7 [18.Nc4=] 18...Qxb7 19.Qb3 b5 20.Nb1 [20.Nc4? Qc7!±] 20...Qe4 21.f4 c4 22.Qa3 Rd8 23.Rf3 [White is defending his e3 from the threatened ...Rd3. If 23.Rfd1 b4 24.Qxb4 Qxe3+ 25.Kh1 Qxf4 26.Na3 Rxd1+ 27.Rxd1 Qxe5] 23...Rd3 24.Nc3 Qb7 25.Qb4 Rad8 Black is in complete command over the game as he controls the vital open d-file and the white rooks lack co-ordination. 26.a4 Nc7 27.axb5 axb5 28.Qc5 [By moving 28.Re1 white could release his Rf3 from the duty of defending the e3 pawn and deploy it for defence of his first and second ranks.] 28...b4 [Stronger was to continue positionally: 28...Rd2 29.Ra1 Rxb2 30.Ra7 Na6 31.Rxb7 Nxc5 32.Rxb5 Rxb5 33.Nxb5 Rb8 34.Nc3 Rb3 35.e4 Nd3! 36.Ne2 g5!-+] 29.Ne2 c3 30.bxc3 b3! Black has thus obtained a dangerous advanced passed pawn on the b-file. 31.Rb1 Rd1+ 32.Rf1



32...R1d2! [This pins the knight against the threatened

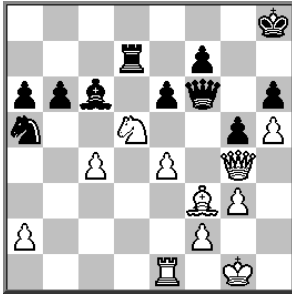
mate with ... Qxg2#. Also winning was: 32...Rxb1 33.Rxb1 Rd2 34.Kf2 Rxe2+ 35.Kxe2 Qxg2+ 36.Kd3 Qc2+ 37.Kd4 Qxb1 38.Qxc7 b2-+] 33.Qc4 b2 [33...b2 34.Rfe1 R8d3 35.Qb4 Qxb4 36.cxb4 Rxe3 37.Kf1 Nb5-+] 0-1.

Rudela Rodriguez (Col 2321)
PV Nandhidhaa 2151
Grunfeld Exchange D87

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.0-0 Qc7 11.Rc1 e6 12.Bb3 N Na5 13.dxc5 Rd8 14.Qc2 Bd7 15.c4 Bf8 16.Nf4 Bxc5?! Black has recovered her gambit pawn, but has had to part with her fianchettoed bishop in her castled position. She must proceed very cautiously against the Colombian IM. 17.Bxc5 Qxc5 18.Qe2 Bc6 19.Rfe1 Qg5 20.Qe3 Rd7 21.g3 a6 22.Bd1 [22.Rcd1=] 22...Rad8 With her rooks doubled along the only open file in the game, black has achieved a slight advantage. 23.Bf3 Qe5 24.Qb6 Qc7 25.Qc5 Rc8 26.Qg5 Qd8 27.Qg4 b6 28.h4 Kh8 29.h5 g5 [29...f5 30.Qh3 g5 31.Nxe6 Qf6] 30.Ng2 Qf6 [The queen is not significantly better placed at f6 than at d8. 30...Bb7 pressuring c4 gave more advantage to black.] 31.Ne3 Rcd8 32.Rcd1 h6 33.Rxd7 Rxd7 34.Nd5?

See diagram

White tries to turn the tide by some tactical trickery but unfortunately for her the knight offer need not be ac-



cepted. **34...Qd8** [The alternative is also good: **34...Qd4** (This defends her b6, pins e4 and threatens c4) **35.Ne3 Nxc4 36.Nxc4 Qxc4** and black is on

the road to victory.; Accepting the sacrifice was also good: **34...exd5 35.exd5 Ba4 36.c5 Rd8 37.c6 Bxc6 38.dxc6 Nxc6**] **35.Nb4 Bb7 36.e5 Rd4 37.Rd1! Rxd1+ 38.Bxd1 Nxc4!** The white queen has been overloaded with the defence of her c4 pawn and her bishop on d1. Black loses her second pawn and very quickly, the game. **39.Qe2 Qd4 40.Nd3 Qd5! 41.f3 Qd4+ 42.Kh2 Ne3 43.g4 Nd5 44.Bc2 Nf4 [44...Nf4 45.Nxf4 Qxf4+ 46.Kg2 Qxg4+] 0-1**

SOLUTIONS TO CHESS MAGIC

ON PAGE 29 OF SEPTEMBER 2016 ISSUE

National Under-17, Kolkata September 2016

1. 23... Qh2+ 24. Kf2 Bc5! (If **25.Qxc5 Nxe4+**) 0-1. P.L. Kavitha-Harshita Guddanti.

2. 16... hxc5! 17. hxc4 Bxf4 18. Qe2 Bh2+ 19. Kf2 Nd4 20. Qd2 Qg3+ (If **21 Ke3 f4#**) 0-1. Arpita Mukherjee - V Toshali. Arpita's defeat cost her the title and it happened in the final round and she could not recover!

3. 27. Rxf5!! Bb7 1-0. Ameya Audi-Mitrabha Guha.

4. 23. Nxc5 Nxf4 24. Nxe6+ Kh8 25. Nxc7 1-0. Karthik Venkatraman-S Adhithya.

5. 41. Rxf8+! Kxf8 42. Qb8+ Re8 43. Rf4+ Rf7 44. Rxf7+ Kxf7 45. Qxb7+ Kf6 46. Qxc6 Qxh5 47. b5 Rh8 48. Qd6 Qh1+ 49. Kf2 Rh5 50. g4 Rh3 51. Qf8+ Kg6 52. c5 Qa1 53. Qg8+ Kh6 54. g5+ Kh5 55. Qf7+ Kg4 56. Qxe6+ Kf4 57. Qxh3 Qb2+ 1-0. Karthik Venkatraman-S Jayakumar.

6. 28... Qd8!! 29. Rdc1 Qg5+ 30. Qg2 Qe3+ 31. Kh1 Rf3 32. Rc8+ Rxc8 33. Rxc8+ Kg7 34. Rc7+ Kh8 35. Kh2 Rf2 0-1. Rautela Saksham-M Barath Kalyam.

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National U-17, Kolkata

Sai Vishwesh, Aakanksha Win Titles

Eighth seed C Sai Vishwesh of Tamil Nadu and second seed Aakanksha Hagawane of Maharashtra won the National Under-17 Championships that concluded at Kolkata on Sep 17. Sai Vishwesh beat top seed and team-mate Harikrishnan and ran through his tough opponents to lead with 8½/9. In the last two games, he coasted to his first ever title by drawing Mitrabha Guha and Anustoop Biswas to gain 54.6 Elo and play at 2424.

Born 15 Dec 1999, Sai Vishwesh is a Standard XI student at National Public School in Chennai. He is the son of Chandrakaladaran, a Tax Consultant. For over 10 years he has been a student at T'Nagar Chess Academy run by AL Kasi and his group. The quality of his games played at Kolkata (some of them shown below) is of a very high order. He combines patience, brilliance and accuracy in his games. It is very certain that he would soon become a Grandmaster.

Fourth seed Karthik Venkatraman finished second with nine points losing one game to Sai Vishwesh and drawing with Sammed J Shete and Mitrabha Guha.

Second seed Aakanksha, 16, won the girls section on tie-break beating the top seed and 2014 World Amateur Girls champion WIM Sakshi Chitlange and Seed No. 4 Ivana Furtado (twice Asian Junior Girls Champion), on course to her title. She was undefeated.

Aakanksha is not new to National titles. She won the National U-13 Girls in Puducherry in 2013 and the U-15 Girls in Jammu in 2015.

Sakshi tied for first on 9/11 after losing to Aakanksha and Arpita in successive rounds with the black pieces. Arpita Mukherjee who was in joint lead with Aakanksha on 8½/10 lost the last round to Toshali and finished third.

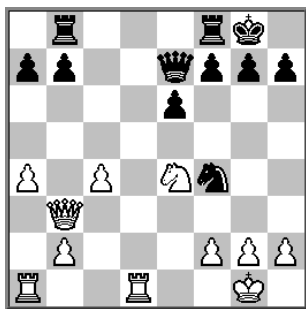
The event was organised by the Bengal Chess Association and hosted by the Amity University, Kolkata. Chief Arbiter was IA Swapnil Bansod.

Top final placings: **Open:** 1 C Sai Vishwesh (TN) 9½/11; 2 FM Karthik Venkatraman (TN) 9; 3-4. Kaustuv Kundu (WB), FM Mitrabha Guha (WB) 8 each; 5-7. S Jayakumar (TN), FM Rajdeep Sarkar (WB), Anustoop Biswas (WB) 7.5; 8-15. V Pra-navananda (AP), S Adhithya (TN), M Barath Kalyan (TN), Subhayan Kundu (WB), Hemanth Raam (TN), Koustav Chatterjee (WB), Saurabh Anand (Bih), CM Aronyak Ghosh (WB) 7 each.

Girls: 1-2 Aakanksha Hagawane, WIM Sakshi Chitlange (both Mah) 9/11 each; 3 WFM Arpita Mukherjee (WB) 8½; 4-5. V Toshali (AP), Vantika Agrawal (Del) 7½ each; 6-10. WCM Ananya Suresh (Kar), WFM Divya Deshmukh (Mah), WCM Chandreyee Hajra (WB), WIM Ivana Furtado (Goa), C.M.N. Sunyuktha (TN) 7 each..

C Sai Vishwesh 2253
 Kaustuv Kundu 2152
 Sicilian B22

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 Nf6
 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bc4
 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6 Qxd6
 9.0-0 Be6 10.Na3 Bxb3
 11.Qxb3 e6 12.Nb5 Qd7
 13.Nbxd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Be7
 15.Rd1 0-0 16.Be3 Qc8
 17.Nb5 Bc5 18.Bxc5 Qxc5
 19.Nd6 Rab8 20.a4 Nd5
 21.Ne4 Qe7 22.c4 Nf4?

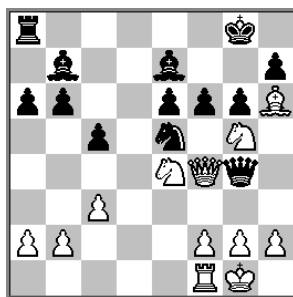


[This knight points at the king, but here, he cant do much with a single knight. This move costs a pawn through a double attack. Equal would be: 22...Nc7] 23.Qe3! Ng6 24.Qxa7 Qb4 25.Qd4 Rfd8 26.Nd6 b6 27.Qd2 Qc5 28.b4 Qc6 29.b5 Qc5 30.Qd4 Qg5 31.Qe3 With an extra pawn and a comfortable position, white improves his position with the threat of exchange of queens. 31...Qe7 32.c5 f5 33.Qb3! Kh8 34.Re1! Nf8 35.Nxf5! Qxc5 36.Ng3 Rd7 37.Ne4 Qf5 38.Qe3 Kg8 39.h3 Rd5 40.Rac1 Qf7 41.Qg3 Ra8 42.Nd6 Qd7 43.Nc4 Qd8 [43...Rxa4? 44.Nxb6 wins the exchange.] 44.Ra1 Rc5 45.Ne5 Qf6 46.Qe3 Rd5

47.Ra3 Rb8 48.Rd3 Rbd8
 49.Rxd5! exd5 50.Nc6 Ra8
 51.Ne7+ Kh8 52.Nxd5 Qd6
 53.Nxb6 Rb8 54.Nc4 Qb4
 55.Qe5! Ra8 56.Nb6 1-0.

Sammed Jaykumar Shete 2284
 C Sai Vishwesh 2253
 Sicilian Alapin B22

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5
 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 e6 6.0-0 d6
 7.d4 dxe5 8.dxe5 Be7 9.Qe2
 b6N 10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Re1 0-0
 12.Nf1 Rd8 13.Ng3 a6 14.Bd3
 g6 15.Qe4 Bb7 16.Bc2 Ndb4!
 17.Qe2 [If 17.cxb4 Nd4!
 18.Qd3 Nxf3+ 19.gxf3 Rxd3 20.
 Bxd3 c4 21.Bf1 (21.Be4 Qxe5!)
 21...Bxb4-+] 17...Nxc2 18.
 Qxc2 Qd7 19.Bh6 Na5 20.
 Rad1 Qb5 21.Ng5 Rxd1 22.
 Rxd1 Nc4 23.Qc1 [If 23. N5e4
 Qxb2 24.Qxb2 Nxb2 25. Rd7
 Bxe4 26.Nxe4 Rd8!⌘] 23
 ...Nxe5 24.Qf4 f6 25.N3e4
 [25.Nxe6? Qc6! is a deadly double
 attack.] 25...Qe2 26.Rf1
 Qg4!



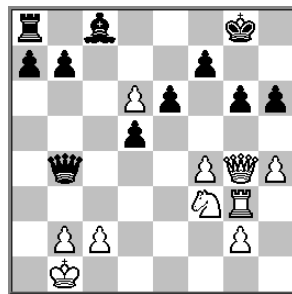
27.Qxf6! This move almost turns the tables on black, but black has the last laugh! 27...Qxg2+! [Not 27...Bxf6 28.Nxf6+ Kh8 29.Nxg4 Nxg4 30.Rd1=] 28.Kxg2 Bxf6 29.f3 Bxg5 30.Bxg5 Bxe4 31.fxe4 Ra7⌘ 32.Bh6 Nf7 33.Be3 Rd7

34.Rf6 Rd6 35.Bf4 Rc6 36.e5 g5! 37.Bg3 h5 38.h4 gxh4?! [⊖38...g4! 39.Bf4 Kg7 40.Kg3 b5⚡] 39.Bf4 c4 40.Kh3 Kf8 41.Kxh4 Ke7 42.Rg6 Rc5 43.Rg7 Rb5 44.b4 [If he tries to save his b-pawn, the e-pawn falls: 44.Rg2 Nxe5-+] 44... cxb3 45.axb3 Rxb3 46.Kxh5 Rb1 47.Rg2 Rb5 48.Rg7 Rb1 49.Rg2 a5 50.Kg6 Rb5! 51.Re2 Rc5 52.Bg3 [White has nothing positive to do, just defend his weak c- and e-pawns. 52.Re3 a4] 52...Rxc3 53.Bh4+ Ke8 54.Kf6 Rh3 55.Re4 Nd8 Black plays this game with great patience and determination. Nothing is given away for free though he has two extra pawns! 56.Rf4 b5 57.Kg7 Nc6 58.Rf8+ Kd7 59.Rf7+ Kc8 60.Rf8+ Kb7 61.Bf6 Re3 Black wants more! 62.Re8 Nxe5! 63.Re7+ Kc6 64.Rxe6+ Kd5 65.Rb6 Rg3+! Driving the king far from the theatre of operations, to the h-file, for if 66.Kf8? Nd7+ wins the rook. 66.Kh7 Rb3 67.Be7 a4 68.Rd6+ Kc4 69.Ra6 Rd3 70.Kh6 Kb3 71.Kg5 Nc4 72.Rc6 Rd5+ 73.Kf4 a3 74.Bf6 Rd6 Black used every opportunity to increase his advantage and zero in on the win. 0-1.

C Sai Vishwesh 2253
A Ra Harikrishnan 2353
French Defence C14

This is an instructive and inspiring attacking game of a high order. In 17-year old Sai Vishwesh do we have a Tal in our midst? 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4 h6 7.Bxe7 Qxe7

8.Qg4 0-0? 9.0-0-0 c5 10.Nb5 cxd4 11.f4 Nc6 12.Nf3 Nc5 13.Bd3 Nxd3+ 14.Rxd3 Nb4 15.Rxd4 Nxa2+ 16.Kb1 Nb4 17.Rxb4 N [J.C.Diaz 2365 vs Josef Klingler 2445, Havana, 1986, went: 17.Nd6 Nc6 18.Rd3 f6 19.Rb3 fxe5 20.fxe5 Rxf3 21.gxf3 Nxe5 22.Nxc8 Rxc8 23.Qd4 Nc4 24.Rg1 Rc7 25.f4 Nd6 26.Qxa7 Ne4 and 0-1] 17...Qxb4 18.Nd6 White's idea is to exclude the black queen from the king-side and concentrate on a mating attack, throwing away material if needed. 18...Rd8 [Black plans to return the exchange on d6 and remain two pawns up. If 18...f5 19.Qg6!! Qxf4 20.Ng5! hxg5 21.hxg5+] 19.Rh3! Rxd6 20.Rg3 g6 21.exd6

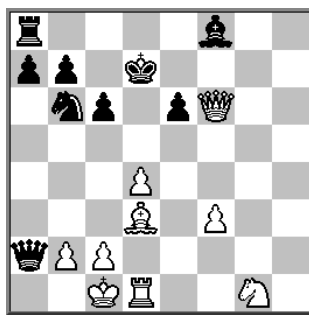


21...Qb5 [White hopes to draw by perpetual check along the f1-a6 diagonal. The main defence of black is smashed in the following instructive and authoritative attack: 21...Qxd6 22.Ne5 Qb4 (22...Qf8 23.h5!) 23.Nxg6! Qe1+ 24.Ka2 Qa5+ 25.Ra3 Qd8 26.Ne5+! Kf8 27.Qh5 Qf6 (27...Qe7 28.Qxh6+ Ke8 29.Rg3 Kd8 30.Rg7+-) 28.Rc3! (threatening both 29.Rxc8 to

be followed by Nd7+, and 29 Rc7, killing f7) 28...Qe7 29.Qxh6+ Ke8 30.Rg3 Kd8 31.Qh8+ Kc7 32.Rc3+ Kb6 33.Rxc8+- white's rook did a splendid job shielding his king from checks as well as attack.] **22.b3 e5** [22...Qc5 23.Qh5 Qxd6 (23...Kg7 24.Ne5 mates) 24.Rxg6+ fxg6 25.Qxg6+ Kf8 26.f5! (in a good position, good moves naturally occur!) 26...Qc7 27.f6 e5 28.Qxh6+ Ke8 29.Qh8+ Kd7 30.f7!] **23.Qh5 exf4 24.Rxg6+! fxg6 25.Qxg6+ Kf8 26.Qxh6+ Kg8** [If 26...Ke8 27.Ne5! mates.] **27.Qg6+ Kf8 28.Ng5! Qd7 29.Nh7+ 1-0.**

Ivana Maria Furtado 2102
B M Akshaya 1733
 Queen Pawn D00, 10.09.2016
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 Bf5 4.f3 e6 5.g4 Bg6 6.Qd2 c6 7.h4 h6 8.h5N Bh7 9.g5? [It seems as though white wants to desperately beat her opponent and throws caution to the winds. It was best to develop her pieces quietly and logically starting with the sober: 9.e3] **9...hxcg5 10.Bxcg5 Qc7 11.0-0-0 Nbd7 12.Bg2 Nb6** [12...Bb4!] **13.e4 Nc4 14.Qe1 Qa5 15.Bf1 Bg6!? 16.h6 Ng8! 17.exd5 Nb6** [An over-smart move which declares that the d5 pawn is pinned against the Bg5. Better was: 17...cxd5=] **18.h7=** [White can take the advantage with: 18.Nh3! Defending the Bg5 and threatening dxe6 winning.] **18... Bxh7** [If 18...Rxxh7 19.Rxxh7 Bxxh7 20.Qh4 Bf5 21.dxe6 Bxe6 22.Re1 Bb4 23.Re5 Nd5 24.

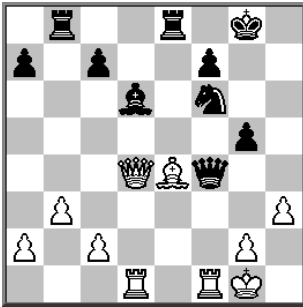
Nxd5 cxd5 25.a3 Bd6 26.Re3+! 19.Bd3 Nxd5 20.Qe5 Ngf6 21.Nxd5 Nxd5 22.Rxxh7 Rxxh7 23.Bxxh7 Qxa2 24.Bg6! Nb6 25.Bd3 f6 26.Bxf6 gxf6 27. Qxf6 Kd7



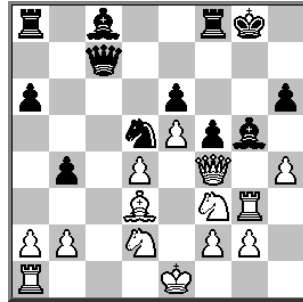
After the excitement of the previous many moves, black has emerged safer with no loss of material. White wants to prevent the consolidation of the black forces and throws her pieces at the black king in a do or die show. **28.d5?** **cx d5** [Stronger was: 28...Nxd5 29.Qf7+ Kd6 30.c4 Bh6+--] **29.Bb5+ Kd6 30.Qf4+ e5 31.Qf6+ Kc5 32.Bd3 Qa1+ 33.Kd2 Qxb2 34.Qf7 Bd6 35.Ne2 Rf8 36.Qh5 Qb4+ 37.Ke3 Nc4+ 38.Kf2 Nb2 39.Rc1 e4 40.Kg2 exf3+ 41.Kh1 fxe2 42.Bxe2 Qe4+ 0-1.**

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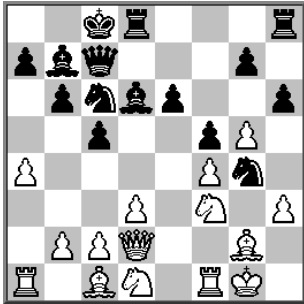
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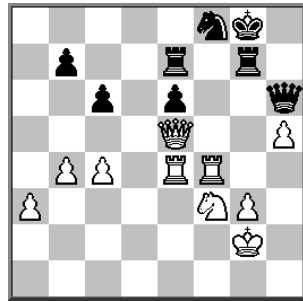
1. Black to play and win



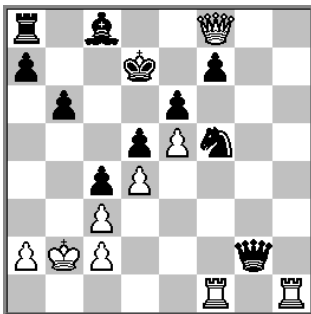
4. White to play and win



2. Black to play and win

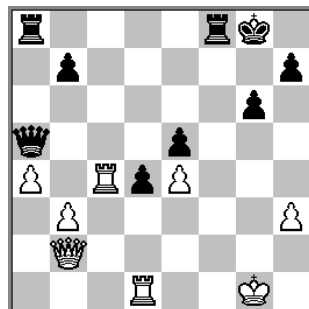


5. White to play and win



3. White to play and win

Source: National Under-17
Kolkata, Sep 2016.



6. Black to play and win

Selections: Arvind Aaron
Solutions: Page 23.

National U-9, Jalandhar

Shahil Dey, Savitha Win Titles

Shahil Dey of Assam and B Savitha Shri of Tamil Nadu emerged champions at the 30th National Under-9 Chess Championship that concluded at C.T.Public School in Jalandhar, Punjab, on August 30. Both won on tie-break in fiercely fought tournaments.

Second seed Dev Shah caught up with third seed Shahil Dey in the points tally after the final round but the Assam player had the better tie-break score. Both remained undefeated on 9½/11.

Top seed Bharath Subramaniam was defeated by the next two seeds and he additionally shed a draw to Tamil Nadu team-mate Ilamparthi to take the third place on 8½ points.

Shahil Dey shot into prominence when he became the first ever player from Assam to win a National (Under-7) title in Sep 2014. Now, two years down the line, he was won the Under-9 title.

The Girls' section was also closely fought. Here, top seed Savitha Shri (TN) and eleventh seed Sahithi Varshini (AP) both unbeaten, tied for first place with ten points. Second seed Prathivya Gupta of Delhi finished third after suffering a shock defeat to fifth seed Sinthia Sarkar (WB).

This event ran from August 21 to 31, 2016. By a strange coincidence, the World Under-10

championship runs on these very same days (Aug 21-31) in 2017 at Brasilia, Brazil. The top finishers in Jalandhar would represent India in the Asian and World Under-10 Chess Championships of 2017.

This is the fourth National Championship that Jalandhar has hosted. Earlier, the 1986 National Women Championship, the 1988 National Junior and the 2002 National 'B' were held here.

The event was organised by the Jalandhar Chess Association. IA Rajinder Sharma was the tournament director and IA Dharmendra Kumar was the Chief Arbiter.

Top final placings:

Open: 1-2. Shahil Dey (Asm), Dev Shah (Mah) 9½/11; 3-5. H.Bharath Subramaniam (TN), Suresh Harsh (TN), Subham Patnaik (Odi) 8½ each; 6-10. Adi Jain (Guj), Tanmay Jain (Pun), S Rohit (TN), A.R. Ilamparthi (TN), Thrish Karthik (TN) 8 each...157 players.

Girls: 1-2. B Savitha Shri (TN), M Sahithi Varshini (AP) 10/11 each; 3 Prathivya Gupta (Del) 9; 4-6. Riddhi R Patel (Guj), N Yashavishree (TN), R Tejaswi (TN) 8 each; 7-10. M.S. Harshavardhini (Pon), Sinthia Sarkar (WB), K Sindhusree (TN), Anishka Vikram (Del) 7½ each...101 players.

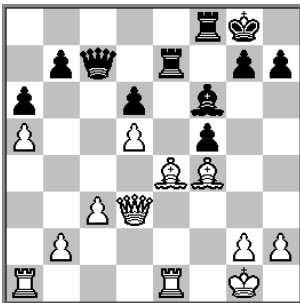


Shahil Dey from a 2015 picture in the All Assam Chess Association website.

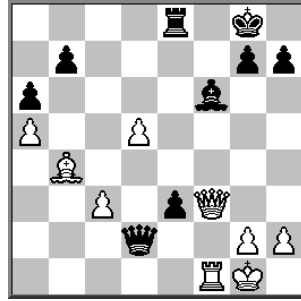
Shahil Dey 1726

Bharath Subramaniam H 1885
Sicilian Sveshnikov B33

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4 Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Be3 a6 13.Na3 f5 14.f4 exf4 15.Bxf4 Nc5 16.Nc4 Ne4 17.a5 Bf6 18.Bf3 Qc7 19.Qd3 Bd7 20.Nb6 Rae8 21.Nxd7 Qxd7 22.c3 Qc7 23.Rfe1 Re7 24.Bxe4



24...Rfe8! 25.Qg3! Rxe4 26.Rxe4 fxe4 27.Bxd6 Qc4 28.Rd1 Qb3 [28...Qe2 29.Rf1!±] 29.Rf1 e3! 30.Qf3 [30.Rxf6?? e2-+] 30...Qxb2-+ 31.Bb4 Qd2



[Black misses the win: 31...e2! 32.Re1 Qd2 33.Qf2 Bg5! (threat ...Be3) 34.Bc5 Qd1 35.c4 Bd2!-+] 32.Qd1 Bd4? [This must surely be a miscalculation! He thinks he is winning but to stay alive he has to move: 32...h6 33.d6 Bg5 34.Qb3+ Kh8=] 33.Qxd2 exd2+ 34.cxd4 The rest is mayhem. 34...Rd8 35.d6 g5 36.Rd1 Kf7 37.Rxd2 Ke6 38.d5+ Ke5 39.Kf2 Rf8+ 40.Ke3 Rf4 41.d7 Re4+ 42.Kf2 Rf4+ 43.Kg1 Rxb4 44.d8Q Rb1+ 45.Kf2 Ke4 46.Qe7+ Kf5 47.Qe6+ Kf4 48.g3# 1-0.

Shahil Dey 1726

Tanmay Jain 1471

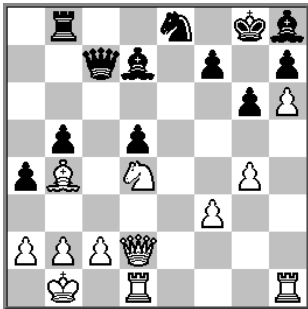
Sicilian Dragon B76

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 9.0-0-0 d5 10.Qe1 e6 11.g4 Qa5 12.Nb3 Qc7 13.Nb5N Qd8 [13...Qe5= But black probably feared his queen would get trapped. Or even

13...Qb8. By going to d8 the queen occupies the escape square of his rook which is lost.] 14.Bc5! Re8 15.Nd6 b6 [The exchange is lost anyway. For if 15...Re7 16.Nxc8 Rxc8 17.Bxe7 Qxe7±] 16.Ba3 Bd7 17.Nxe8 Bxe8 18.Kb1 a5 19.exd5 exd5 20.Bb5 a4 21. Bxc6 Bxc6 22.Nd4+ Bd7 23. h4 Qc7 24.h5 Rb8 25.h6 Bh8 26.Qd2 b5 27.Bb4! Ne8



B Savitha Shri www.aicf.in

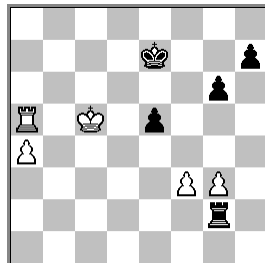


28.Nf5! Bxf5 29.gxf5 Qe5 30.Bc3 Qxf5 31.Bxh8 Kxh8 32.Qxd5 Qf6 33.Qd7 Kg8 34.Rhe1 Kf8 35.Re4 Qg5 36.Qd4! f6 [36...Qxh6?? 37.Qh8#] 37.Qa7 Rc8 38. Rxe8+! Kxe8 [38...Rxe8?? 39. Qg7#] 39.Qd7+ Kf8 40.Qxc8+ Kf7 41.Qd7+ Kf8 42.Qg7+ Ke8 43.Qd7+ Kf8 44.Qd8+ Kf7 45.Rd7+ Ke6 46.Qe7+ Kf5 47.Qe4# 1-0.

K Sindhusree 1184
B Savitha Shri 1391
King's Indian E92

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9. Bg5 Re8 10.0-0-0 c6 11. Nxe5 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Bxe5 13. Bf3 Be6 14.b3 Nd7 15.Rhe1 f6 16.Bh4 Bf4+ 17.Kb1 Be5 18. Bg3 Bxg3 19.hxg3 Rf8 20. Nd6 Ne5 21.Nxb7 Rab8 22.

Nc5 [Δ22.Na5 Bxc4 23.Rxe5 Bxb3 24.axb3 fxe5 25.Rd2 Rb5 26.Nxc6 Rxb3+ 27.Kc2 Rb5 28.Kd3+−] 22...Bxc4 [If 22... Bf5+ 23.Be4 Bxe4+ 24.Rxe4 Rfd8 25.Red4 Re8 26.Kc2 and white's extra pawn should win.] 23.Rxe5!?! [This sacrifice was not necessary. Better was: 23.Kc2±] 23...fxe5 24.Nd7 Bb5 25.Nb8 Rb8 26. Kc2 Re8 27.Be4 a5 28.a4 Ba6 29.Rd6 Bb7 30.Kc3 [Δ30.Rd7! Bc8 31. Ra7+−] 30...Kf8 31.Kc4 Ke7 32.Kc5 Rf8 33.f3 Rb8 34. Bxc6 [34. Bd3! for 35 Bc4 and 36 Re6+ crushes black.] 34... Bxc6 35. Rxc6 Rxb3 36. Ra6 [Better was: 36.Kd5 Rb2 37. Kxe5 Re2+ 38. Kd5 Rxc2 39. g4 Ra2 40.Ke5 Re2+ 41.Kf4 Ra2 42.Kg5 Rxa4 43.Rc7+ Kd6 44. Rxh7 Rb4 45.Kxg6 White should win.] 36...Rb2 37.Rxa5 Rxc2



38.Rb5? [Inexperience!]

The long way to win was: 38.Ra8 Rxb3 39.a5 Rxf3 40.a6 Ra3 41.a7 (Black is helpless against the threat of 42.Rh8! Rxa7 43.Rxb7+ skewering the rook.) 41...h5 42.Rh8 Rxa7 43.Rb7+ Ke6 44.Rxa7 (now it is a fight between the rook and black's three pawns.) 44...h4 45.Rh7 g5 46.Kc4 Kf5 47.Kd3 Kf4 48.Ke2 e4 49.Kf2 e3+ 50.Kg2 Kg4 51.Rh6 e2 52.Kf2 h3 53.Kxe2 Kg3 54.Kf1+] 38...Rxb3 39.a5 Rxf3 40.a6 Ra3 41.Rb7+ Kf6 42.Kb6 e4 43.Rxb7 e3 44.Rh1 [Hardly anything is achieved by this. Compulsory was to push the pawn and keep black under tension: 44.a7=] 44...Kf5 45.a7 Rb3+ 46.Kc5 [46.Kc7=] 46...Ra3 47.Kb6 Ke4 48.Rg1 Kf5 49.Kb7 Rb3+ 50.Ka6 Ra3+ 51.Kb7 e2!? 52.a8Q? [A big error which loses the game. She can hold the draw with 52.Re1! Rb3+ (52...Ra2? 53.Rxe2 Rxe2 54.a8Q+-) 53.Kc6 Rc3+ 54.Kb7=] 52...Rxa8 53.Kxa8-+ Kf4! [53...Ke4? 54.Rxb6 Kf3=] 54.Kb7 Kf3 55.Kc6 Kf2 56.Ra1 g5 57.Kd5 g4 58.Ke4 g3 59.Kd3 e1=Q 60.Rxe1 Kxe1 0-1.

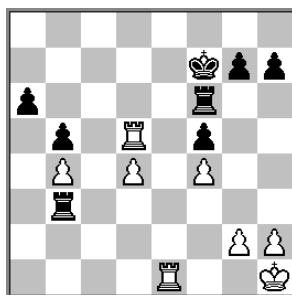
Prathivya Gupta 1318

N Yashavishree 1244

Sicilian Defence B82

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f4 Qc7 7.Nf3 e6 8.Bd3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Kh1 Nbd7 11.Qe1 b5 12.a3 Bb7 13.Bd2 [13.Be3 is the natural move here.] 13...Nc5 14.Qe2 Nxd3 15.cxd3 Rac8 16.Qf2 Nd7 17.Rad1 Nc5 18.Be3 f5 19.e5 dxe5 20.Nxe5 Nd7 21.Bd4 Bf6 22.Nxd7 Qxd7 23.

Bxf6 Rxf6 24.Qe3 Qd6 25.d4 Bd5 26.Qe5 Rc6 27.Rfe1 Qd7?! [27...Bb3=] 28.Nxd5 exd5 29.Qe8+ Qxe8 30.Rxe8+ Kf7 31.Re5 Rc2 Black counter-attacks instead of passively defending d5. The game is level. 32.b4 Ra2 33.Rxd5 Rxa3 34.Re1 [A more purposeful route to be tried was: 34.Rd7+ Kg6 35.d5 and advance her passed pawn as rapidly as possible.] 34...Rb3



[Black's best move appears to be 34...h5= the idea of which is to create a shelter for her king on h7 without getting trapped on h6 as happens in the game.] 35.Rd7+ Kg6 36.g3 Kh6 37.Ree7 Rg6 38.Kg2 [38.Rf7 Rxb4 39.Kg2 Rb2+ 40.Kh3 b4 41.Rxf5 b3 42.Rb7 Rd6 43.d5±] 38...Rxb4 39.Rf7 Rb2+? [Why drive the king to where he wants to go! Better 39...a5] 40.Kh3 a5 41.Rxf5 Rf6 42.Rg5 Rb6? [Black is in trouble, no doubt. But with this she jumps from the frying pan into the fire. But other options are also not pleasant: A 42...Rg6 43.Rc5! (threat 44.g4) 43...Re6 44.Rcc7 Rg6 45.f5 Rg5 46.g4+-; B 42...g6 43.Re5+-] 43.Rgxb4 44.f5 b3 45.Kg4 Rxh2 46.Rxb7# 1-0

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

FIDE/World/Asian Events www.fide.com

Oct 18-31 Oct World Youth Chp., Batumi, Georgia

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

Nov 20-28 Nov World Amateur Chp., Kaunas, Lithuania

http://sachmatumokykla.lt/watcc2016_en

Dec 02-12 Dec World Schools Individual Championship, Sochi, Russia <http://ruchess.ru/en/>

Dec 25-31 Dec World Rapid/Blitz Open/Women, Doha, Qatar

AICF/National/Regional Championships www.aicf.in

Oct 08-16 Oct National Junior Open/Girls, Rajahmundry, AP

Nov 02-14 Nov National Women Premier, New Delhi

Nov 05-11 Nov National Amateur, U-2300, Kandvili, Mumbai

Nov 15-29 Nov National Premier, Uttar Pradesh

Nov 20-28 Nov Natl U-15 Open/Girls, Nehru Stadium New Delhi

Open/Rating Tournaments

Oct 01-03 Oct DCA (U-1600) Rating, Delhi Prizes Rs.11 Lakhs 9891468906

Oct 06-09 Oct Adyar Times FIDE Rated, Santhome High School, Chennai TNSCA 044-25366464, Tel 9840458484

Oct 08-11 Oct Kottayam Rating, Kerala, PF2.1L 9447100071

Oct 08-12 Oct Rail Wheel Factory Rated, Bengaluru PF 5L. 9845226786

Oct 08-13 Oct Sunita Singh, Sanjay Kasliwal Mem Rating, Indore 9893164801

Oct 21-24 Oct Chess For Youth, Kolkata 9830194623

Nov 09-14 Nov 2nd Gayatri Devi Mem Rating, Utsav Parisar, Khabra, Muzaffarpur, Bihar E-mail: mdca1985@gmail.com

Nov 12-17 Nov Morphy Rating, Nashik PF 3L. 9689143925

Dec 19-24 Dec Bhopal FIDE Rating Open, MP 9425016455

ONE LINE HEADLINES

Baku: USA (Open), China (Women) Win Chess Olympiads. India Fourth (Open), Fifth (Women)

Bhubaneswar: Jeferry Xiong (USA), Dinara Saduakassova (Kaz) Win World Junior; Nandhidhaa (Namakkal, TN) Gets Silver, S.L. Narayanan (Thiruvananthapuram) Wins Bronze

Kolkata: C Sai Vishwesh (TN), Aakanksha (Mah) Win U-17 Titles

Jalandhar: Sahil Dey (Asm), B Savitha Shri (TN) Win U-9 Titles

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Different Faces At Baku



↑ Fabiano Caruana (USA, age 24, score 7/10) Pic: David Llada

↓ Ian Nepomniachtchi (RUS, age 26, score 8/10) Pic: Eteri Kublashvili

Marvori Nasriddinzoda (TJK, age 26, score 5/11) Pic: David Llada ↑

Desiree Di Benedetto (ITA, age 16, score 6/10) Pic: David Llada ↓

