Maran shocks GM Prasanna

Kolkata: Until now K Senthil Maran scored an upset victory over his fancied Tamil Nadu colleague and Grandmaster Vishnu Prasanna, while Karnataka’s Vishy Anand and defending Ukrainian GM Valery Novokh in the first round of the LIC Kolkata International Grandmasters Open which started at the New Town School in Kolkata on Monday.

Women’s International Master Baghaskar Anitha lost to Pime Master Vishy Anand, GMs S. Aravind and P. S. Priyadarshini and Rajamani Layman were the other big names who could not ouplay their lesser-rates rivals, being held by Kushager Khadkshetra, Sonej Chowdhuri and S. M. Singanand respectively.

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However, top seeded Nigel Short of England and the other top GMs in fray had a comparatively easier outing coating for easy victories in quick time. At the end of the first round, 64 players had scored a full point to maintain clean sheets.

In one of the last games to finish on the day, 13-year old Indian pro lifer International Master P. Srinivasa Rao held by 14-year old Sambit Panda, in a game which lasted more than four-and-a-half hours in a long Rook endgame.

In a Sicilian Najdorf game that delighted the spectators, Short with black pieces executed a copybook exchange sacrifice against the English attack of GM Mehdi Hasan Parag of Bangladesh. He chased the white king around in a fierce mating attack and won in just 36 moves.

A likewise attacking performance came from local GM Sandipan Chanda who played creatively with the Dutch defence and won with black pieces chasing out the white King to the 18 square. Another city GM Deep Sengupta too made a winning start, beating Sharath Bhumbar.

IMPORTANT RESULTS (RD 1)

Mehdi Hasan Parag (Bangla) lost to GM Nigel Short (Eng); Abhijit Gupta at S M Sharon (Bangla), Aditya Mittal lost to Murali Karthik, Faurish Amanatov (Tejil) drew Kushager Krishnnetra, H Bharat Subramaniam lost to Aravind Chithambaram, Ivan Rozum (RUS) bt Ajoy Karkhore, Syed Mahfuzzet Rahman lost to Sandipan Chanda, Deep Sengupta bt Sharath Bhumbar; Ananda Godbole lost to Adam Tulshif (Ukr), IM Niladri Sarin dw Sambit Panda.