

# Good start by Short

A STAFF REPORTER

**Calcutta:** Top seed Nigel Short had an easier outing in the first round of the LIC Kolkata Open International Grandmasters Chess tournament, at Newtown School, on Monday.

In a Sicilian Najdorf game, Nigel with black pieces executed a copy-book exchange sacrifice against the English attack of Mehdi Hasan Parag of Bangladesh.

He chased the white king around in a fierce mating attack and won in just 26 moves.

A likewise attacking performance came from Grandmaster Sandipan Chanda, who played creatively with Dutch Defence and won with black pieces chasing out the white king to the b3 square.

In one of the last games to finish, 13-year-old International Master Nihal Sarin was held to a draw by 14-year-old Sambit Panda of Odisha, in a game which lasted more than four-and-a-half hours in a long Rook endgame.