



(Left to right) Grandmasters Dibyendu Barua, Sandipan Chanda, Neelotpal Das, Saptarshi Roy Chowdhury and Deep Sengupta at the inauguration of the Kolkata International Grandmasters Open on Monday

Maran shocks GM Prasanna

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Untitled K Senthil Maran scored an upset victory over his fancied Tamil Nadu colleague and Grandmaster Vishnu Prasanna, while Karnataka's Vinayak Kulkarni defeated Ukraining GM Valery Neverov in the first round of the LIC Kolkata International Grandmasters Open which started at the Newtown School here on Monday.

Women's International Master Bagyashree Thipsay too suffered a defeat at the hands of Fide Master Rithvik Raja. GMs Farrukh Amonatov (Tajikistan), Andrei Deviatkin (Russia) and Rajaram Laxman were the other big names who could not outplay their lesser-rated rivals, being held by Kushager Krishnater, Soheli Chowdhury and S S Manigandan respectively.

KOLKATA GRANDMASTERS MEET

However, top-seeded Nigel Short of England and the other top GMs in fray had a comparatively easier outing coasting for easy victories in quick time. At the end of the first round, 84 players had scored a full point to maintain clean slates.

In one of the last games to finish on the day, 13-year-old Indian prodigy International Master Nihal Sarin was 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 which delighted the spectators, Short with black pieces executed a copy-book 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 26 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 b3 square. Another city GM Deep Sengupta too made a winning start, by beating Shantanu Bhambure.

IMPORTANT RESULTS (RD I)

Mehdi Hasan Parag (Bangla) lost to GM Nigel Short (Eng); Abhijeet Gupta bt S M Sharon (Bangla), Aditya Mittal lost to Murali Karthikeyan, Farrukh Amonatov (Tajik) drew Kushager Krishnater, H Bharat Subramaniam lost to Aravindh Chithambaram, Ivan Rozum (Rus) bt Ajay Karthikeyan, Syed Mahfuzur Rahman lost to Sandipan Chanda, Deep Sengupta bt Shantanu Bhambure, Atharva Godbole lost to Adam Tukhaev (Ukr), IM Nihal Sarin dw Sambit Panda.