

Vantika upsets GM Murali

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Teenaged Women International Master Vantika Agarwal of Delhi pulled off a sensational victory over two time national champion and Grandmaster Murali Karthikeyan (ONGC) in the second round of the LIC Kolkata International Grandmaster Open Chess tournament, conducted by the Dibyendu Barua Chess Academy and AllSport Foundation at the Newtown School here on Tuesday.

The other big upset of the came through 55-year-old International Master DV Prasad (IOC), who defeated Grandmaster Deepan Chakkravarty (ICF)

KOLKATA CHESS MEET

Former world junior champion Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta was lucky to escape with a draw against teenager Raja Rithvik on the second board, while teenagers Sai Vishvesh of India and Mohammed Fahad Rahman of Bangladesh held Grandmasters Adam Tukhaev and Rohit Lalithbabu to draws, respectively.

Playing the black side of a Kings Indian defence, Vantika went in for a pawn sacrifice on the 30th move which did not look sound enough. With both the players down to their last minute on the clock, she was rewarded for her risky play when Karthikeyan blundered on the 36th move. Vantika held her nerve to effect a simple combination involving a Knight fork and won material to force a win in 42 moves.

In a surprisingly one-sided middle game arising out of a Ruy Lopez Chigorin variation, Prasad showed glimpses of his class as he made inroads into Deepan's kingside and steadily won material to win flawlessly in 49 moves.

Abhijeet was under pressure from



Vantika Agarwal makes a move against Grandmaster Murali Karthikeyan in the Kolkata International Grandmaster Open Chess meet on Tuesday

the early middle game onwards, and was down a piece by the 42nd move. However, young Rahman couldn't keep his nerve in the final phase of the game and blundered on the 54th move to see his advantage evaporate.

Top seed Nigel Short played solidly to outplay Women International Master Vaishali in just 21 moves to maintain a perfect score.

As many as 29 players have full 2 points from as many rounds. Seven more rounds remain to be played.

SELECTED RESULTS (2ND ROUND)

Nigel Short (2) bt R Vaishali (1); Raja Rithvik (0.5) drew Abhijeet Gupta (0.5); Murali Karthikeyan (1) lost to Vantika Agarwal (2); Aravindh Chithambaram (2) bt Saurabh Arand (1); VPranav (1) lost to Ivan Rozum (2); Sandipan Chanda (2) bt Ankit Gajwa (1); B Sekar (1) lost to Deep Sengupta (2); Adam Tukhaev (0.5) drew Sai Vishvesh (0.5); Mohammad Fahad Rahman (0.5) drew MR Lalithbabu (0.5); Vladimir Burmakin (2) bt Vatsal Singhania (1); Aranyak Ghosh (1) lost to Narayanan Srinath (2); Shyam Sundar (2) bt Nivalgund Niranjan (1); Deaki Prasad (2) Beat Deepan Chakkravarty (1)