

Praggnanandhaa wins UzChess Cup Masters

Becomes top-ranked Indian and World No. 4

PTI, TASHKENT: Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa became India's top-ranked chess player in the live ratings after winning the UzChess Cup Masters 2025, here, on Friday.

The win took Praggnanandhaa's live rating to 2778.3, making him World No. 4 -- up three places -- as he achieved his highest career ranking.

The 19-year-old leapfrogged world champion D Gukesh (2776.6) and Arjun Erigaisi (2775.7), who was India's top-ranked player until Thursday but has now slipped to world No.6.

Magnus Carlsen (2839.2) remains No.1, followed by Hikaru Nakamura (2807.0) and Fabiano Caruana (2784.2). Praggnanandhaa started the final day a point behind local favourite Nodirbek Abdusattorov and half a point behind Javokhir Sindarov.

A crucial win over Abdusattorov in the final round helped him join both players at 5.5 points at the end of the round-robin stage.



Erigaisi missed a chance to make it a four-way tie after drawing with Aravindh Chithambaram.

In the first round of tie-breaks, a double round-robin blitz, all three players finished with two points. Abdusattorov and Sindarov drew both their games, while Praggnanandhaa beat both with white but lost with black.

In the second tiebreak, Praggnanandhaa drew with Abdusattorov with white and beat Sindarov with black. Sindarov's win over Abdusattorov sealed

the title for the Indian.

This was Praggnanandhaa's third title of the year, after wins at the Tata Steel Chess Tournament and the Grand Chess Tour Superbet Classic in Romania.

He was also runner-up at the Stepan Avagyan Memorial earlier this month.

Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand congratulated Praggnanandhaa on social media, posting: "Congrats to @rpraggnachess for winning the Uzbekistan Chess Cup."

"Third major classical victory this year. Of all his wins this year, this one seemed the least likely with just two rounds to go."

He continued: "However, he defeated Arjun Erigaisi and today in the crucial match defeated Nodirbek Abdusattorov to tie for first place. "In an impressive demonstration of character he won his third tiebreak of the year as well. He is deservedly the new number four in the chess world and the highest rated player in India," he concluded.

Minimum 7-day stand-down for players diagnosed with concussion, says ICC

Says new wide-ball rule to be trialled in LOIs, changes with regards to boundary catches

PTI, DUBAI: The ICC on Friday announced new playing conditions across formats including a minimum seven-day stand-down period for players diagnosed with concussion, trialling a new wide-ball rule in limited-overs cricket, besides changes with regards to boundary catches.

Cricket's global governing body said on its website that the new playing conditions for Tests were implemented with the start of the new World Test Championship cycle for 2025-2027 with Sri Lanka taking on Bangladesh in first Test at Galle from June 17-21.

The upcoming limited-overs series between the two countries will mark the start dates for new playing conditions for Limited Overs Internationals (LOIs) - ODIs and T20Is.

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh will play a three-match ODI series from July 2 and then move on to a three-match T20I rubber from July 10.

In context of concussion protocols, the ICC said there are two changes.

Teams will now have to nominate designated concussion replacements for every match, which is being brought in to curb the home team's advantage of being able to select from a larger group of players.

The ICC also announced a "minimum seven-day stand-down" period for any player diagnosed with concussion.

"A player diagnosed with a concussion during a match must observe a minimum stand-down period of a minimum of seven days before returning to play. This change has been recommended by the ICC Medical

Advisory Committee to support players' safety and well-being," the ICC said.

The ICC said two new rules will be trialled by full members for a period of six months starting from October 2025. It includes a new wide-ball rule for ODIs and T20Is, and is being brought in to offer a degree of leniency to a bowler who sees batter moving around "prior or during" a delivery.

"The position of the batter's legs at the point of delivery will now be used as the reference point for a wide, even if the batter subsequently moves across to the off side," the ICC said.

"The trial will see a ball that passes the popping crease between the leg stump and the protected area marker not being called a wide. To help with

this, the protected area marker line will be extended to the popping crease and act as a guide for the umpires."

Former South Africa captain Shaun Pollock, the media representative of ICC's cricket committee, had told PTI in January this year that the governing body is "working on something" to give bowlers "a bit more leeway on wides."

"Any leg side delivery that passes behind the batter's legs and outside of the line at the time the ball reaches the popping crease may still be called a wide. Previously, a wide had been called for a delivery that would not have been called wide if the batter had retained their normal batting position," the ICC said.

Another rule to be trialled is for domestic First-Class

cricket, in which teams can now name replacements for a player who suffers a "serious injury" after being picked in the XI.

"A player who suffers a serious injury on the field of play at any time after the match has started (including any pre-match warm-up period) may be replaced for the remainder of the match by a fully participating like-for-like player," the ICC said.

For the DRS dismissals, the ICC said wicket zone will now be the actual outline of the stumps and bails.

The governing body has also announced other major changes like bringing in stop-clock in Test cricket, a change in rule for boundary catches, and a move back to having only one ball after the 34th-over mark in ODIs.

Seales fined for Cummins send-off

AFP, BRIDGETOWN: West Indies fast bowler Jayden Seales was fined 15 per cent of his match fee for his send-off to Australia captain Pat Cummins in the ongoing first Test, the ICC said Thursday.

One demerit point has also been added to Seales' disciplinary record, according to the International Cricket Council, which said it was his second offence in a 24-month period.

The latest incident happened on the opening day of the match in Barbados on Wednesday when Seales gestured in the direction of the pavilion after dismissing Cummins for 28.

Afterwards Seales said his actions "did not really mean anything".

Lanka spinners leave Bangla on verge of innings defeat

AFP, COLOMBO: Spinners Dhananjaya de Silva and Prabath Jayasuriya rounded off another dominant day for Sri Lanka on Friday, taking two wickets each to leave them on the brink of a crushing innings victory over Bangladesh in the second Test.

By close of play on the third day at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo, the visitors had slumped to 115-6 in their second innings, still 96 runs away from making Sri Lanka bat again.

Bangladesh started their second innings with a daunting deficit of 211 after Kusal Mendis's forthright 84 had taken the Sri Lanka first innings to 458

all out earlier in the day.

All seven batters so far in the Bangladesh second innings made it into double figures but only Mushfiqur Rahim made it beyond 20, making 26 before being beaten all ends up by Jayasuriya.

With only four wickets in hand, it will be a tough ask of the Bangladesh lower order to see off the Sri Lanka spinners, who have been gaining plenty of turn, from wrapping up the Test and the two-match series. The first Test ended in a draw.

Leading from the front, skipper De Silva dealt twin blows with his off-spin in the evening session on Friday. He had Mominul

Haque (15) caught at first slip before trapping his opposite number Najmul Hossain Shanto (19) leg before. Left-arm spinner Jayasuriya, under pressure to keep his spot after a lean patch, also responded in style with a probing spell.

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 247 (Shadman Islam 46, Mushfiqur Rahim 35; Sonal Dinusha 3-22, Asitha Fernando 3-51). Sri Lanka: 458 (Pathum Nissanka 158, Dinesh Chandimal 93, Kasul Mendis 84; Tajjul Islam 5-131, Nayeem Hasan 3-87). Bangladesh second innings: 115-6 in 38.4 overs (Mushfiqur Rahim 26, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-13, Prabath Jayasuriya 2-47).

Twinkle suspended for doping

PTI, NEW DELHI: Multiple National Games medal-winning middle distance runner Twinkle Chaudhary has been provisionally suspended by Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) after testing positive for a prohibited steroid.

The 28-year-old Chaudhary had clinched a gold in 4x400m women's relay competition at the Uttarakhand edition of the National Games earlier this year. She had also won a silver in the 800m race and a bronze in the 4x400m mixed relay. Chaudhary tested positive for Methyltestosterone, a banned anabolic steroid. In its update, the AIU stated that the runner has been issued a "notice of allegation".

Suryavanshi powers India to 6-wkt win over England

PTI, HOVE: Fresh from their exploits in the IPL, young guns Vaibhav Suryavanshi and Ayush Mhatre blazed with the bat after a tidy bowling performance as India defeated England by six wickets in the first Youth ODI of their U-19 tour, here, on Friday.

India's bowling unit, led by the spin duo of Kanishk Chouhan (3/20) and Mohamed Enaan (2/37), along with seamers RS Ambrish (2/24) and Henil Patel

(2/41), combined superbly to bowl England out for 174 in 42.2 overs despite a fighting fifty by Rocky Flintoff (56 from 90 balls).

U-19 ODI SERIES

Chasing 175, India got off to a blazing start courtesy of Suryavanshi and Mhatre, who raced to 70 without loss in just seven overs but after their departure vice-captain Abhigyan Kundu sealed the

chase with 45 not out (34 balls; 4x4, 1x6). India won the game in just 24 overs to go 1-0 up in the five match series. Brief scores: England U-19: 174 all out in 42.2 overs (Rocky Flintoff 56, Isaac Mohammed 42; Kanishk Chouhan 3/20, Mohamed Enaan 2/37, RS Ambrish 2/24, Henil Patel 2/41) lost to India U-19: 178/4 in 24 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 48, Abhigyan Kundu 45 not out, Ayush Mhatre 21) by six wickets.

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