

Three-way lead after Round VII

A STAFF REPORTER

Calcutta: Top seed Nigel Short, Deep Sengupta and Srinath Narayanan are in a three-way lead after the seventh round of the LIC Kolkata International Open chess meet, being held at the Newtown School on Sunday.

Against overnight leader Ukrainian Adam Tukhaev, Short sacrificed a bishop for two pawns after being ahead by pawn. Eventually Short's passed pawns proved to be too powerful for Adam's bishop. Adam's luck ran out and Short's unstoppable pawns allowed him the win.

In Board No.2, local hero, GM Deep Sengupta defeated GM Farrukh Amonatov of Tajikistan in a Petroff's Defence.

The loss of c3 pawn in move no. 32 proved to be fatal as the c-pawn became a monster passed pawn which cost him a bishop and eventually

the entire game.

GM Srinath Narayanan continued his terrific form and made sure that GM Murali Karthikeyan's plan of Blumenfeld Gambit backfire as he eventually promoted the d-pawn into a Queen which helped Srinath bag the full point.

GM Ivan Rozum's game against against GM Vladimir Burmakin's draw was one of the most interesting draws of the day. Arising out of Centre Counter Opening, Burmakin sacrificed an exchange to expose Rozum's King, but Rozum defended well and Burmakin had to settle for a draw in the end.

GM Sandipan Chanda made a quick draw against GM Deepan Chakkravarthy in just 25 moves.

IM Nihal Sarin played fantastic in the endgame and defeated much more experienced GM Sundararajan Kidambi.