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27.10.2008

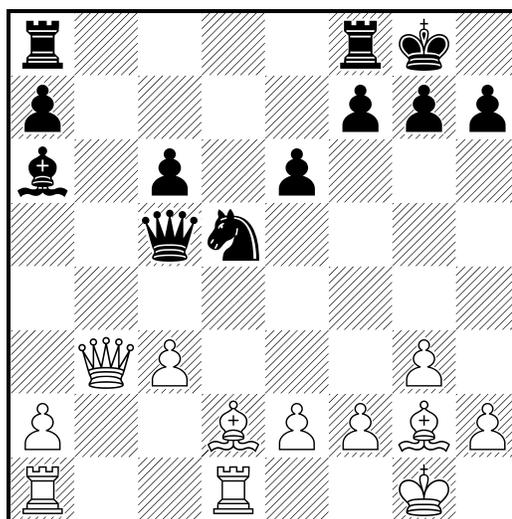
Kramnik, Vladimir
 Anand, Viswanathan
 WCC Bonn (10)

Finally Kramnik could make it! There were many newcomers at the press room today; they probably thought that the match would come to an end, so they wanted to be ready to take the final pictures. However, as Kramnik had anticipated yesterday, he was going to fight and he truly honored his words with a sensational win in only 29 moves. It was a bad day for Vishy, not only because he lost. What is quite remarkable is that he lost easily, something rather unusual for him. Well, there is always a bad day in the life of a super strong chess player, so he will have again a match ball when the match continues on Wednesday. **1.d4 ♘f6**

2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 The first indication that Kramnik is out for a big fight. **♙b4** The Nimzo Indian appears for the second time in the match. Kramnik was the first to play it as Black in the second game, where he had problems to make a draw. Now it's his turn with White. **4.♘f3 c5 5.g3** This line became very popular after Kasparov used it 5 times against Karpov during their second and third matches in 1985 and 1986. Later Kasparov played it a few more times, including games against Anand and Kramnik. **cxd4 6.♘xd4 0-0 7.♙g2 d5 8.cxd5 ♘xd5 9.♙b3 ♙a5** This is now considered the main line, but 9...♙b6 and 9...♘c6 had been played often as well.

[Kramnik won a blitz game against Kasparov in the line 9...♙b6 10.♙xd5

exd5 11.♙e3 ♙xc3+ 12.♙xc3 ♙g6
 13.0-0 ♘c6 14.♙fc1 ♙h3 15.♙c2
 ♘xd4 16.♙xd4 ♙e6 17.f3 ♙fe8
 18.♙f2 ♙h6 19.♙d3 ♙e7 20.♙c2
 ♙ae8 21.♙e1 ♙h5 22.♙g1 ♙f5
 0-1 Kasparov-Kramnik, Moscow 1998]
10.♙d2 ♘c6 11.♘xc6 bxc6 12.0-0
♙xc3 13.bxc3 ♙a6 14.♙fd1
 Protecting the bishop, so White is now threatening 15.c4 ♙c5



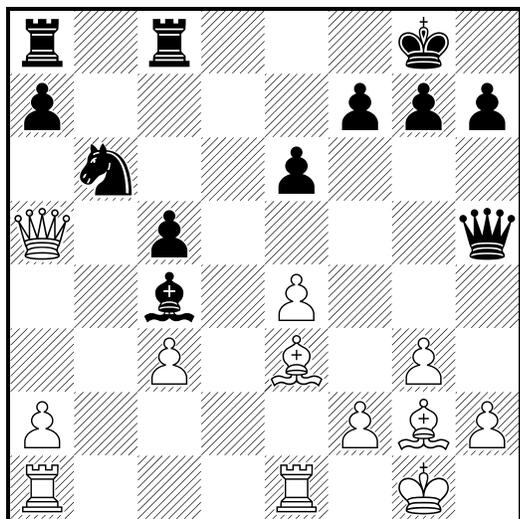
15.e4 ♙c4 we keep following the main line.

[Anand won a beautiful quick game after 15...♘b6 16.♙e3 ♙h5 17.♙d6?! ♘c4 18.♙xc6 ♘xe3 19.♙xa6? ♙ab8 20.♙a4 ♙b2 21.♙e1 ♙e2!!

0-1 Bacrot-Anand, Bastia 2001]

16.♙a4 ♘b6 17.♙b4 ♙h5 18.♙e1N Here comes the novelty. There are many games starting with 18.♙f4 or 18.♙e3, two logical moves, opening up new horizons for both the bishop and the rook. The white rook now voluntarily leaves the open file to occupy the modest square e1. It's all part of a concept than only a few players in the world are able to understand.

The immediate effect of this new move is that now Black has a choice. There were many lines worked out against ♗e3 or ♗f4 , now Black has to work in the dark since it's not clear yet where the bishop will finally be placed. **c5 19.♙a5 ♖fc8 20.♗e3**



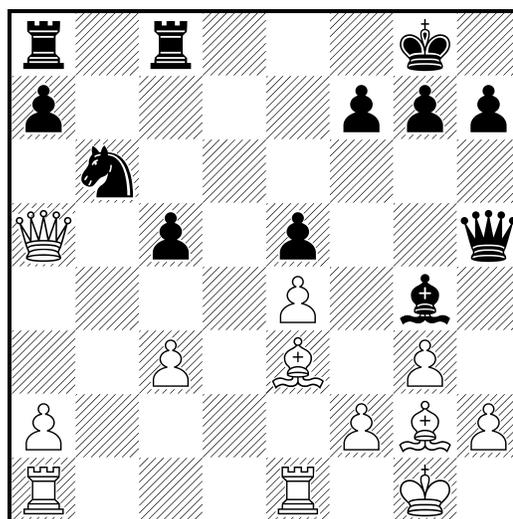
Why ♗e3 and not ♗f4 ? Nobody knew, but Kramnik did, since he was playing fast. Obviously he was still in his preparation. **♗e2 21.♗f4 e5** Is Black obliged to play e5? Hard to say, but one thing is clear, White was provoking him to play that move and now the bishop retreats again to e5, but this time with a trophy. **22.♗e3** An amateur chessplayer won't have any idea about what is happening. The bishop went to e3 in move 20, to f4 in move 21 and back to e3 in move 22. At the press conference, Kramnik said that the position is difficult to understand even for top players, since a piece here or there is able to change the whole assessment of the situation. **♗g4?** The first mistake as Kramnik pointed out in the press conference. The structure of Black's position is intact, but

the coordination among his pieces is deteriorating.

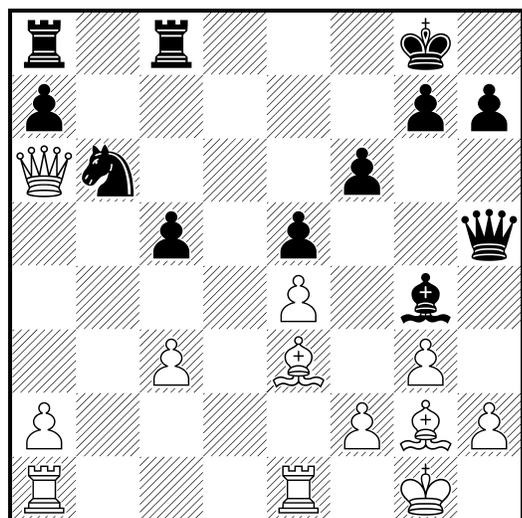
[22...f6 was best according to Kramnik]

[22...♘c4 23.♙a6 ♘xe3 24.♖xe2 ♘xg2 25.♙xg2 Was also a major alternative, leading to a simplified version of the game without the two minor pieces. Anand considered this possibility but rejected it evaluating his position as slightly worse. It would have been much better to suffer here than in the game.

Actually, that sequence would take us almost exactly to the position that appeared in the game Cheparinov-Carlsen, Khanty-Mansiysk RUS 2007 with the only difference that here the black rook is already in c8. Carlsen had a hard time to draw that game.]



23.♙a6! This is why ♗g4 was bad. From e2 the bishop was guarding the a6 square. White is now ready to start pushing his a-pawn and once it gets to a5, Black will be in serious trouble. **f6?**



The final mistake. Black won't be in time to control the c4 square. Actually, the battle for the c4 square is so important, that it proves decisive in the outcome of this game as we shall soon see. Maybe 23...♙e6 was a better resource for Black. **24.a4 ♖f7** There were many alternatives, but none of them seemed to be enough to equalize.

[24...♙e6 25.a5 ♙c4 26.♙b7±]

[24...♖c7 25.a5 ♘d7 26.♖ab1±]

[24...♙e8 25.a5 ♘d7 26.♖eb1±]

25.♙f1 ♙e6 It might seem that Black is in time to blockade on c4 as he has queen, bishop and knight, but unfortunately the tactics are working against him. **26.♖ab1** Which rook?. Deep Rybka as well as many grandmasters were in favor of the other rook. Kramnik did not take time to make up his mind, maybe he had taken that decision in his rest room, because when he came to the board he played this move instantly. **c4** Complete capitulation, forgetting about c4 and opening up the strong diagonal for the white bishop.

[26...♙c4?? illustrates why Black was

not in time to control c4. 27.♙xc4

♘xc4 (27...♙xc4 28.♖xb6)

28.♖b7+-]

[26...♙h8 also shows why black has to forget about the blockade on c4

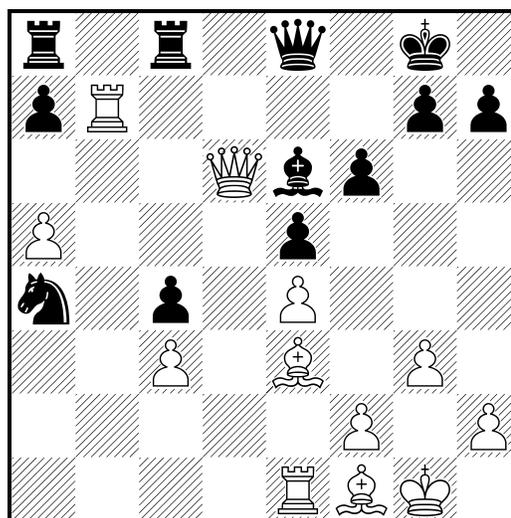
27.a5 ♘c4 28.♖b7 ♙g8 29.♙h6!!

gxc4 (29...♙f7 30.♖xf7) 30.♙xc4 a line Kramnik proudly showed after the game.]

27.a5 ♘a4?!

[27...♘d7 Offered more resistance but even so after 28.♖b7 it's best to forget about this game.]

28.♖b7 ♙e8 29.♙d6



There are some ways to avoid the immediate threat 30.♖e7, but then the White queen goes to b4 when the a pawn is falling, the knight is having a hard time on a4 and in general, Black's position is quickly collapsing. Anand, who was running out of time, decided to resign immediately.

After this game, the match gets fresh air, there is again a fight. Let's wait for game 11 on Wednesday that promises to be full of emotion.

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