A very typical first round game. Kramnik, with the white pieces, chose a very solid variation, trying to put some pressure without taking any risk. Anand played very principal and natural moves and on move 15th Kramnik took a pawn. But the compensation was very clear and Vishy did not suffer too much to hold the draw.  

1.d4 Easy to predict. Kramnik wasn’t very succesful with 1.e4 and on the last years he came back to his favourite queens pawn openings. 

1...d5 Anand could also go for 1..\(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}f6\) heading for the Nimzoiindian but that would be another story...

2.c4 \(c6\) The Slav, a very dinamic weapon which helped Anand to become World Champion in Mexico. Obviously, Kramnik should be ready against it, but the russian will soon come with a surprise.

3.\(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}c3\) \(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}f6\)

\[ \text{Diagram 1}\]

4.cd5!? The exchange variation. A very quiet choice which leads to symmetrical positions. Anand could hardly expect this move since it is well known that it promises almost nothing for white. cd5 5.\(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}f4\) \(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}c6\) 6.e3 \(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}f5\) Anand is not scared and goes for the main line 7.\(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}f3\) This was a real surprise. Theory considers this symmetrical approach to be completely harmless. [The more agressive alternative was 7.\(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}b3\) but according to actual theory black stands well also there. ]

7...e6 8.\(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}b3\) [Kramnik had tried once another move: 8.\(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}b5\) \(d7\) 9.0-0 \(c8\) 10.\(\text{\textit{\text{c1}}})\]

\[ \text{Diagram 2}\]

10.\(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}c6\) [ All these variations are very very solid. Playing with black, Kramnik could not win in an old game versus a weaker opponent. The game went 10.0-0 \(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}e7\) 11.\(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}c6\) \(bc6\) 12.\(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}a4\) \(h5\) 13.a3 \(a5\) 14.\(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}g3\) \(g3\) 15.\(h3\) \(c8\) 16.\(d1\) \(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}c8\) 17.\(\text{\textit{\text{\&}}}c1\) \(g4\) with an equal game, Djurhuus,R (2420)-Kramnik,V (2590)/Oakham 1992/ draw after]
49 moves] 10...c3 11.c3 c8 12.e5

We are following a well known variation. g4! Very precise. [After 12...bc6 13.f3 white can claim to be slightly better.] 13.g4 g4 14.b4 c6

15.b7 This capture is a new move, of course a very principal one. [Much easier for black was 15.0-0 b6 with equality, Nussbaecher,A (2120)-Seibold,T (2105)/Bayern 2002/and black drew in 23 moves] 15...c8 [It was possible to play more agressive with 15.a5 but after 16.b4 a4 17.0-0 b6 18.c7 b4 19.d6 c4 20.c5 and white is still a little bit better.] 16.c8 f8 17.0-0 Black has clear compensation for the pawn. In the next moves Anand keeps control of the open line and improves his position a5!?

[ Some alternatives look also good to keep the balance: 17.h6 18.f3 f5 19.g4 d3 20.f2 c2 ; 17.f6 18.f3 f5 19.g4 d3 20.f2 g5 21.g3 c2 ; 17.e2 18.fe1 d3 19.h4 a5 20.ed1 b5 with compensation in all three variations ]

A very committing move, leaving the pawn as a possible target for the opponent bishop but gaining space on the queenside. 18.f3 f5 19.fe1 g6 20.b3 f6

21.e4 Finally Kramnik decides to move forward, but black is ready. de4 22.f8 ed8 [Also strong looks 22...c2 with enough compensation ] 23.ad1 c2

24.e5 A clear sign that things don't go well for white. [The truth is that after 24.d5 e5! 25.d2 dc8 26.d6 c6! 27.g3 d8 black would be allright] 24...f6 25.e5 a2
Now the material is balanced. 26.a1 a1 27.a1 d5 28.c1 d7 29.c5 a7

The draw is obvious. 30.c7 c7 31.c7 c2 32.a5 b3

(Diagram)

And draw. Both players were very careful on this first game. The exchange variation proved too peaceful to create real problems for black. After this draw Anand will enjoy for free the initiative of the white colour on the second game.
Anand, Viswanathan
Kramnik, Vladimir

WCC Bonn (2) 15.10.2008

There was a lot of expectation about the opening moves. We can presume that Anand will start with his beloved 1.e4, but black’s answer can’t be easily anticipated. Will it be the solid Russian Defence? Maybe the Anti-Kasparov weapon, the Berlin wall? A respectable Caro-kann? Or a sharp sicilian? Only Kramnik knows...

1.d4 ¡Kind of surprise!

Of course Kramnik should be ready...

2.c4 e6 Main Kramnik’s weapon

Second surprise: in most of the games Anand was avoiding the Nimzoindia with 3...c3

From the very top players, only Shirov was playing this aggressive approach in the 90’s. Anand never had played this move before and Kramnik was never before facing it!

And the third and last surprise from white. The fashion here is now 4.c2, "a lo Capablanca". From the very top players, only Shirov was playing this aggressive approach in the 90’s. Anand never had played this move before and Kramnik was never before facing it!

And here it comes the second surprise from Kramnik. This early knight move is almost a novelty. It shows how deep knowledge and understanding has Kramnik when dealing with openings.

And the third and last surprise from white. The fashion here is now 4.c2, "a lo Capablanca". From the very top players, only Shirov was playing this aggressive approach in the 90’s. Anand never had played this move before and Kramnik was never before facing it!

The last try from white. Grab the pawn and try to keep it, very much in "computer style". Practical and psychological factors may have been taken into account by Anand when making this choice. Kramnik likes the pair of bishops, here he has to fight against them. Kramnik doesn’t like to give material so early, here he is pawn down. And most important: Kramnik likes to have the initiative in the opening battle: here he may be less prepared than his opponent. Nice plan but Kramnik had something to say... f5! The second choice of strong players, a very dynamic move which fights versus the advance e2-e4. Now it is Kramnik who is probably surprising his opponent. [The main line is 8...c5 favourite of Karpov] 9.c2 Most logical, insisting on playing e4 [Another popular moves are the quiet 9.h3 or the aggressive; 9.e4 fe4 10.c2] 9...d7! And here it comes the second surprise from Kramnik. This early knight move is almost a novelty. It shows how deep knowledge and understanding has Kramnik when dealing with openings. [The natural 9...0-0; and the bizarre 9...f4 have been tried] 10.e4 fe4 [Seirawan was proposing 10...f5?! but it seems to me that after 11.ef5 0-0 12.f4! it becomes strategically very risky for black] 11.f4 c5! [Much more passive was 13...c7 14.d3 0-0 15.0-0 c4 16.h3 ge5 17.ge5 f1 18.f1 w5]
22.\(\text{b1!}\) Here Kramnik understood that he was overoptimistic and thought for a long time. \(\text{h5!}\) The best defence! [After 22...\(\text{c4}\) 23.e5 or; 22...\(\text{e3}\) 23.\(\text{e5}\) white would be much better thanks to his strong knight] 23.\(\text{h3}\) \(\text{h4!}\) The Russian GM is going to play a string of precise defensive moves. [Again the alternatives were bad for black. If 23...\(\text{h6}\) 24.\(\text{e5}\); Or if 23...\(\text{e3}\) 24.\(\text{e5}\) \(\text{c4}\) 25.\(\text{f7}\) in both cases with a white advantage.] 24.\(\text{e4}\) \(\text{e5}\) 25.\(\text{f3}\) \(\text{h5!}\) 26.\(\text{f2}\) \(\text{f3!}\) 27.\(\text{f3}\) e5! After this active play things are not so easy for white. He needs to coordinate his queenside. 28.\(\text{c1}\) [I like to give the pawn back. After 28.\(\text{c2}\)! \(\text{c4}\) 29.\(\text{hhd1}\) it looks very promising for white, thanks to the pair of

19.\(\text{e3}\) \(\text{f6}\) 20.\(\text{d3}\) and white was better in Portisch,L-Kluger,G/Budapest 1962 (25); The computer proposes 13...\(\text{g4!}\)? 14.\(\text{e2}\) 0-0 and after 15.\(\text{h3}\) \(\text{f3!}\) and the game becomes a real mess] 14.\(\text{d2N}\) Strictly speaking this is the new move in this game. Anand is preparing \(\text{c4}\) to prevent the exchange of the light squared bishops. Very logical. [Worst for white was 14.\(\text{e3?!}\) \(\text{g4}\) 15.\(\text{g1}\) 0-0 and black is slightly better, Moehring,G-Neukirch,D/Ansbach-Buchholz 1965 ] 14...\(\text{a6}\) 15.\(\text{c4}\) \(\text{c5}\)

White will have problems to castle. The opening battle was won by black who has an easy game. 16.\(\text{d3}\) \(\text{g4!}\)? [Very reasonable was 16...0-0 17.\(\text{b4}\) \(\text{e3}\) 18.\(\text{e2}\) \(\text{e2}\) 19.\(\text{e2}\) \(\text{c5}\) with a good game for black.] 17.\(\text{b4}\) \(\text{e3}\) [Black could take some risk with 17...\(\text{b6!}\?) but Kramnik went for the most solid continuation.] 18.\(\text{e2}\) 0-0-0 This move was criticized by Anand. [Very safe was 18...\(\text{c5}\) 19.\(\text{d2}\) \(\text{e2}\) 20.\(\text{e2}\) \(\text{h6}\) preventing \(\text{g5}\) and getting a comfortable position for black.; Anand suggested 18...\(\text{e2}\) but after 19.\(\text{e2}\) \(\text{g5}\) 20.\(\text{e5}\) \(\text{e5}\) 21.\(\text{d6!}\?) white may be slightly better even after \(\text{d3}\) 22.\(\text{d3}\) ] 19.\(\text{e3}\) [ Maybe it makes sense for white to try 19.\(\text{e7?}\) \(\text{de8}\) 20.\(\text{e6}\) ] 19...\(\text{e3}\) 20.\(\text{f2}\) \(\text{g4}\) [Of course is weak 20...\(\text{c4!}\)? 21.\(\text{ac1}\) \(\text{db6}\) 22.\(\text{c4}\) \(\text{c4}\) 23.\(\text{c2}\) where white gets a dangerous initiative] 21.\(\text{g3}\) \(\text{df6}\?) This looks like a real mistake as both players admitted after the game. Black is losing coordination. [The natural 21...\(\text{g5}\) seems to hold the equality without much trouble.]

![Chess board diagram](image)
bishops and his better pawn structure.] 28...\(\text{Qf4}\)! Again Kramnik is going to find the more stubborn defence. 29.\(\text{a2}\) \(\text{Qd3}\)!

30.\(\text{c3}\) [ White could get some practical chances with 30.\(\text{d3}\)!? \(\text{d3}\) 31.\(\text{g4}\) ]

30...\(\text{Qf4}\) Of course black should be happy with the draw. 31.\(\text{c2}\)?! Ugly move. White’s rook on a2 was probably very unhappy with this decision. [After 31.\(\text{f2}\) \(\text{d1}\) 32.\(\text{c2}\) white is slightly better but black gets serious counterplay.] 31...\(\text{e6}\) [ Probably stronger was 31...\(\text{d6}\)! keeping the white king on the center. ]

32.\(\text{g3}\)! Good move. White king goes to a safer place and the pawn up remains. \(\text{d4}\) [32...\(\text{d4}\) On the press conference Anand said that after 33.c5 he couldn’t see a way to make progress. Well, white is pawn up and he can try to play \(\text{f3},

\(\text{c3}\), for example. It seems to me that white was still better and could go on with little risk. A demo variation: \(\text{f4}\) 34.\(\text{e3}\) \(\text{h6}\) 35.\(\text{h2}\) \(\text{g6}\) 36.\(\text{g3}\) \(\text{c4}\) 37.\(\text{b2}\) \(\text{d3}\) 38.\(\text{d3}\) \(\text{d3}\) 39.\(\text{d3}\) \(\text{d3}\) 40.\(\text{c3}\) \(\text{e6}\) 41.\(\text{b4}\) and white is undoubtedly pressing ]
Today we witnessed a brilliant game which ended with the victory of Anand playing the black pieces. Of course a very important point with great psychological impact.

I wrote some thoughts before the beginning of the third game which I would like to share with you: after the rest day, we should expect Kramnik playing a more ambitious variation in case Anand repeats the Slav Defence. Will it be a Meran or a sharp Moscow gambit? Or will Anand try to avoid the theoretical battle? Probably not, but who knows! Maybe the Russian will come with a surprise on his first move like Anand did on the previous game? I don’t think so...

1.d4
As expected, Kramnik is ready to show his weapons versus the Slav Defence.

d5 2.c4 c6
And Vishy doesn’t refuse the theoretical battle.

3...f3 f6 4.c3 e6 5.e3

Here we are. White doesn’t want to test his opponent on the ultra-sharp 5...g5 lines. 

\[ db7 6.d3 dc4 7.c4 b5 \] The Meran variation, which both players know very well.

8.d3 [ In the world championship in Elista Kramnik used 8.e2 against Topalov, but he didn’t get an advantage after the opening.]

8...a6! The fashionable move is 8...b7. The move played by Anand is considered to be too risky by the experts. So, we have a little surprise, but Kramnik is for sure well prepared.

9.e4 c5 10.e5 The direct attempt to refute black’s play. [ The previous experience of Anand was with the variation 10.d5 c7 11.0-0 b7 12.de6 fe6 which leads to a very complex struggle as in Karpov, A (2740)-Anand, V (2715)/Monte Carlo 1994 10...cd4 11.b5 ab5 [ Kramnik had already played this line with white. His most recent game with it went 11..e5 12.e5 ab5 13.b5 d7 14.d7 a5 15.d2 b5 16.f8 f8 reaching a position that actual theory considers to be good for white in Kramnik, V (2751)-Kasparov, G (2812)/Wijk aan Zee 1999] 12.ef6 gf6 13.0-0 b6 14.e2 [ Kramnik had some experience in this position but playing with the black colour: 14.e4 b7 15.d7 b7 16.d4 g8 was Kamsky, G (2695)-Kramnik, V (2710)/Linares 1994, which ended in a quiet draw.] I was wondering what the hell has Anand prepared since this line is considered to be complicated but quite good for white...]

14...b7! And this is the big surprise prepared by Anand and his team. Leaving undefended the b5 pawn black means taking a great risk. This is a novelty at top level since this move was only seen in a few amateur games. [ The experts are playing 14...b4 but the last results are not encouraging for black;]
The former 14...a6 is also in big trouble according to modern theory.

--- Position after 14...b7 ---

15...b5 Kramnik thought about 15 minutes before answering with this natural move. 15...f4!? with the standard idea of bringing the bishop to g3 is worth investigating.

15...d6! Aimed to prevent the white bishop going to g3 via f4. [After 15...g8 16.f4 white will protect well his king with the bishop on g3.]

16.Ed1! The best. [Very dubious is 16.d4? Ed8! 17.f3 Ed7 and black got a strong attack in Doeppner,T-Voigt,M (2305)/Germany 1993] 16...g8 17.g3! Again the strongest move. White wants to take on d4, and things look dangerous for black; but of course, Vishy was still in his home preparation. Ed4! The rook protects d4, preserving the harmony on the black camp.


--- Position after 18.Ed4 ---

A brilliant move! White sacrifices the bishop in order to take on d4 and start a direct attack. At the same time Kramnik avoids the "mine-field" that his opponent had probably set up on the other complex lines. 18...Ed4 Anand answered quite fast, showing that he was still on his home preparation. His clock was now on 1h 51m 19.Ed4 Kramnik spend barely 2 minutes to come with this move which he had calculated in advance. A practical decision, very understandable, and he got the prize to surprise his opponent. Vladimir's clock was now: 42 minutes [It was probably stronger the amazing 19.Ed4!? where probably Anand was better prepared. The position is very difficult to play but it seems that white has good chances to fight for
an advantage, for example: 0-0-0!? (19...f3?! 20.f3 d4 21...d1! d2 22.a8 e7 23.b7 and white is better) 20.d1! d5 21.b4 c7 22...dd4! c5 23.e1 f5 24.f4 f4 25.f4 a2 and I like white, since his king is better protected.) For the first time in the game we saw Anand thinking. 19...h5 After 43 minutes Vishy plays the more natural move. [It was interesting 19...g6!? since after 20.e6 fe6 21.d7 d7 there is not the strong d3 which happened in the game. But white has still resources, for example: 22.d3! g7 probably the best (The alternatives 22...g5?! 23.b7! b7 24.e4 a7 25.a8 a8 26.e6; or 22...f5?! 23.f5! look good for white) After the logical sequence 23.g7 g7 24.g4 h8 25.f1 g8 we reach a position similar to the one which occurred in the game. Black has compensation and only very deep analysis may show if this version is better.] 20.e6! [After 20.d7? d7 21.e6 d6 there is no way to reinforce the attack.]

---------- Position after 20.e6 ----------

A forced move but still nice. 20...fe6 21.d7 f8 22.wd3! Excellent play by Kramnik so far. There is a deadly threat to enter on h7 that black needs to meet. g7! Very logical: black wants to get rid of the strong white rook, even if that means to give back material. Anand was thinking a lot on his last moves so the tension was growing and growing. [22...c8?!

23.h7 g8 24.e7].

---------- Position after 22...g7 ----------

23.g7 [After the game Kramnik offered 23.d1! as an interesting alternative. In fact it is, and probably it may lead to a draw with precise play. Here are some analysis: g7 24.d7 e5 25.h7 d5.]

---------- ANALYSIS BOARD ----------

26.h8 f7 (It looks too risky 26.e7 27.g7 d6 28.d7 c5 29.c1 b4 30.c6 with attack) 27.h7 (Now it is white who should not risk. After 27.h5 g7 28.g4 f8 black should be better.) 27.f8 28.h8 f7 29.h7 and draw by perpetual
check.] 23...\textbf{g7} 24.gf4 White emerged with a clean material advantage. However, the queenside pawns are not dangerous yet and black gets excellent counterplay attacking the weakened position of the white's king. $\textbf{d8}$! Very precise again. Before going to g8 the black rook hits the queen forcing white to choose a worst square. 25.\textbf{we2} A very human move and maybe a good one! [It was playful 25.\textbf{wb3}? leaving the e2 square as an exit for the white king. After $\textbf{h}6$ white has a choice: 26.\textbf{e1}!? (After 26.a4 $\textbf{g8}$ 27.\textbf{f1} the move $\textbf{g}2$ is not so strong anymore but black may play $\textbf{g}2$! 28.\textbf{e3} $\textbf{e}3$ 29.fe3 $\textbf{h}2$ with at least equal chances) 26...$\textbf{g8}$ 27.\textbf{f1} $\textbf{g}2$ 28.\textbf{e3} $\textbf{d}4$ and the game could end in a draw after 29.\textbf{a3}! $\textbf{f}4$ 30.\textbf{f8} $\textbf{h}7$ 31.\textbf{f7} $\textbf{h}6$ 32.\textbf{f8} with perpetual check.] 25...$\textbf{h}6$

26.\textbf{f1} $\textbf{g8}$ 27.\textbf{a4}! [Kramnik's original idea was 27.f5?! but he understood that after $\textbf{g}2$ 28.\textbf{e1} $\textbf{c}6$! white is in trouble, for example: 29.\textbf{d2} $\textbf{h}7$ 30.\textbf{c6} $\textbf{c}6$! 31.\textbf{e2} $\textbf{b}5$ 32.\textbf{f3} $\textbf{g}4$! 33.\textbf{e1} $\textbf{f}5$ 34.\textbf{e2} $\textbf{e}4$ and black is playing for a win. ] 27...$\textbf{g}2$.

\textbf{------------- Position after 27... $\textbf{g}2$ -------------}

\begin{center}
\textbf{\[A\]} 32.\textbf{e1} $\textbf{h}1$ 33.\textbf{e2} $\textbf{c}7$ 34.\textbf{c3} $\textbf{f}7$ 35.f5 $\textbf{g}7$ 36.\textbf{f4} $\textbf{h}5$ 37.f3 $\textbf{e}5$ 38.\textbf{c7} $\textbf{g}8$ 39.\textbf{c8} $\textbf{g}7$ 40.\textbf{c7} and draw again! 29.\textbf{a3}?! Maybe this was the first mistake, as Kramnik pointed out at the press conference. [It was probably better 29.\textbf{d}1! , a very difficult move to find. Black can take the exchange after $\textbf{g}4$?! (maybe better 29...$\textbf{g}1$ 30.\textbf{d2} $\textbf{g}2$ 31.\textbf{e}3 $\textbf{f}2$ 32.\textbf{e}2 $\textbf{a}5$ 33.\textbf{c}1 $\textbf{c}7$ 34.\textbf{b}1 $\textbf{e}2$ 35.\textbf{e}2 $\textbf{f}5$ 36.\textbf{a}2 $\textbf{g}4$ 37.\textbf{d}3 $\textbf{d}1$ 38.\textbf{d}1 $\textbf{f}4$ 39.\textbf{a}5) 30.\textbf{e}3! $\textbf{e}3$ 31.\textbf{e}3 $\textbf{d}1$ 32.\textbf{d}1 $\textbf{g}2$ 33.\textbf{c}1! $\textbf{h}2$ 34.\textbf{c}6 .

\textbf{------------- ANALYSIS BOARD -------------}
\end{center}

... and here white would have more than enough compensation.] Back to the game: 29...$\textbf{g}1$ 30.\textbf{d}2 $\textbf{d}4$ 31.\textbf{c}2 $\textbf{g}4$?! [Probably better was the natural 31...$\textbf{f}5$! A) If 32.\textbf{d}3 $\textbf{g}2$! 33.\textbf{f}5 $\textbf{f}2$ 34.\textbf{d}3 $\textbf{e}2$ 35.\textbf{e}2 $\textbf{f}4$ black is better; B) And after 32.\textbf{b}3 $\textbf{c}1$! 33.\textbf{a}5 $\textbf{d}5$! is very strong. (33...$\textbf{c}2$?! 34.\textbf{c}2 $\textbf{c}2$ 35.\textbf{c}2 $\textbf{c}5$ 36.\textbf{b}1 $\textbf{b}5$ 37.\textbf{a}6 and black must give perpetual check since after $\textbf{d}5$ 38.\textbf{a}7 $\textbf{a}8$ 39.\textbf{a}1 $\textbf{g}6$ 40.\textbf{b}4 he has no realistic options to win.) 34.\textbf{c}4 $\textbf{b}7$ 35.\textbf{a}4 $\textbf{c}2$ 36.\textbf{a}6 $\textbf{d}7$ 37.\textbf{b}5 $\textbf{c}4$ 38.\textbf{b}3 $\textbf{d}3$ 39.\textbf{a}2 $\textbf{b}1$ 40.\textbf{b}3 $\textbf{c}2$ 41.\textbf{a}2 $\textbf{d}4$ 42.\textbf{b}8 $\textbf{b}1$ 43.\textbf{b}3 $\textbf{d}1$ 44.\textbf{c}3 $\textbf{d}8$ and black has a decisive attack; C) 32.\textbf{d}3?! the best practical chance. $\textbf{g}2$ 33.\textbf{b}3 $\textbf{d}3$ 34.\textbf{d}3 $\textbf{f}2$ 35.\textbf{c}3 $\textbf{f}4$ 36.\textbf{a}5 $\textbf{f}2$ and black is better] 32.\textbf{f}3? [It was necessary to give the

28.\textbf{e}1 $\textbf{h}3$?! Very ambitious. With little time on his clock Anand decides to go for the full point. [The natural move was 28...$\textbf{d}5$ and after 29.\textbf{f}1 if black wants to avoid the draw he can try $\textbf{g}2$! The game remains very complicated, probably with equal chances. A sample variation: 30.\textbf{a}3 $\textbf{h}2$ 31.$\textbf{d}2$ $\textbf{h}4$]
exchange in order to get some peace for the white king. After 32.\textit{d}d3! 33.f5 33.\textit{b}3 34.d3 34.\textit{d}d3 black is probably slightly better but things are not easy.] 32...\textit{f}5! Black is back on the driver’s seat.

---------- Position after 32...\textit{f}5 ----------

So far we have witnessed a high class game from both players, but now it came... 33.\textit{d}d3? In a difficult position and with less than 5 minutes on his clock white makes a horrible mistake. A pity for Kramnik, specially after he reacted so well to his opponent’s preparation. Tiredness, nerves, Kramnik only said after the game that he didn’t like the alternatives. [The only hope was 33.\textit{b}3 but after \textit{c}1! 34.a5 \textit{d}d5! black gets a very strong attack.]

(Anand said after the game that he was considering also 34...e5 35.a4 \textit{c}5 but there is not a win for black: 36.\textit{c}4! \textit{c}2 37.\textit{c}2 \textit{c}2 38.\textit{f}f2 39.\textit{b}3 \textit{f}3 40.\textit{d}d2 \textit{f}4 41.a6 \textit{c}6 42.\textit{b}3 \textit{g}2 43.\textit{a}3 \textit{f}2 44.a7 \textit{d}5 with perpetual check.; 34...\textit{c}2 35.\textit{c}2 \textit{c}2 36.\textit{d}c2 \textit{c}5 37.\textit{b}1 \textit{b}5 38.\textit{a}6 and the draw is clear in this endgame, as we previously analysed.) 35.\textit{a}4 \textit{b}7 and it looks like black should be winning. Some analysis: 36.\textit{b}5 (36.\textit{d}4 \textit{c}2 37.\textit{a}6 \textit{d}7 38.\textit{b}5 \textit{c}4 39.\textit{b}3 \textit{d}3 40.\textit{a}2 \textit{b}1 41.\textit{b}3 \textit{c}2 42.\textit{a}2 \textit{d}4 43.\textit{a}8 \textit{b}1 44.\textit{b}3 \textit{d}1 45.\textit{c}3 \textit{d}8 with a decisive attack) 36...\textit{c}2 37.a6 \textit{b}6 38.\textit{f}1 \textit{e}3 39.\textit{a}2 \textit{d}2 40.\textit{b}3 \textit{c}1 and black is close to win; It is already late for

---------- Position after 33...\textit{h}3 ----------

33.\textit{d}3? 33.\textit{d}3 34.\textit{d}3 \textit{a}4 winning ] 33...\textit{h}3?! Black is still better after this, but this move shows that Anand was also a bit nervous. [It was much easier 33...\textit{d}3! forcing the mate in a few moves: 34.\textit{d}3 (34.\textit{d}3 \textit{g}2 35.\textit{d}1 \textit{g}1 and mate) 34.\textit{c}4 35.\textit{d}2 \textit{c}1# mate!].

---------- Position after 33...\textit{h}3 ----------

34.a5? The last mistake, now it’s over. [White could fight much more with 34.\textit{d}d2 \textit{g}2 35.\textit{e}2 black is much better but he needs to find some precise moves: \textit{f}5 36.\textit{c}1 \textit{g}1! 37.\textit{d}1 \textit{h}2! and black must be winning.] 34...\textit{g}2 Black takes the queen and white is not in time to promote his a pawn. 35.a6 [if 35.\textit{g}2 \textit{e}4 36.\textit{e}4 \textit{f}1 winning ] 35...\textit{e}2 36.\textit{a}2 \textit{f}5 37.\textit{b}3 [if 37.\textit{c}1 \textit{f}4 38.\textit{d}1 \textit{d}4 black is easily winning, for example: 39.\textit{e}1 (39.\textit{c}1 \textit{e}5!) 39...\textit{g}1 40.\textit{d}2 \textit{b}1] 37...\textit{e}3 38.\textit{a}2 \textit{e}2 39.\textit{a}7 \textit{c}4 40.\textit{a}1 \textit{f}1 41.\textit{a}2 \textit{b}1 A fantastic fight!

0-1
Some people may say the game was boring: I don’t agree. It is possible to find many hidden things behind the curtains and a lot of interesting - and important - psychological questions. In my opinion both players were more or less happy with the draw beforehand. For Kramnik it was obvious, not only he was black but he is inclined to follow one of the golden rules of the russian school: after losing a game try to make a draw to recover. For Anand every draw now is a step to the title, and it feels good to go to the rest day having consolidated your advantage... Still, one could expect Anand to adopt a much more agreesive attitude, to take advantage of the "momentum" when his opponent may be was a bit down. But the opening choice by the indian was an indication that he wanted today a quiet game...

1.d4 ²f6  2.c4  e6  3.²f3

Anand is the first to deviate from the second game. Kramnik has played different systems here, including the Queen’s Indian and the Semislav but for today’s game he chooses the classical Orthodox Queen Gambit Defence, where he also has a good experience. d5 4.²c3 ²e7  5.²f4

This fashionable move is now more popular among the elite than 5.²g5 . Not a surprise, since Anand has in his team the young polish grandmaster Wojtaszek who is supposed to be an expert on this line. 0-0  6.e3 ²bd7

[ 6...c5 was for many years the main choice here. Kramnik lost it with to Leko in Brissago while Anand had some experience in this line with both colors, including a game with Kramnik: 7.dc5 ²c5  8.a3 ²c6  9.²c2 ( 9.cd5 ²d5  10.²d5 ed5  11.²d3 Karpov,A (2687)-Anand,V (2755)/Moscow 2002/draw in 114 moves ²b6  12.0-0 ²g4  13.h3 ²h5  14.b4 ²e8  15.²c1 a6  16.²a6 ²a6  17.b5 ²a3  18.bc6 bc6  19.²c6 Leko,P (2741)-Kramnik,V (2770)/Brissago 2004/1-0 in 69 moves)  9...²a5  10.0-0-0 ²e7  11.g4 Anand,V (2752)-Kramnik,V (2809)/Leon 2002/draw in 48 moves] 7.a3 A very solid choice which shows that Anand didn't want to take any risk before the rest day. Kramnik was doing fine against other moves: [ 7.h3  c5  8.cd5 ²d5  9.²d5 ed5  10.²e2 c4  11.0-0 b5  Piket,J (2633)-Kramnik,V (2758)/Monte Carlo 2000/ 0-1 in 41 moves;  7.²c2  c5  8.dc5 ²c5  9.0-0-0 ²a5  10.²b1 ²d7 Pelletier,Y (2479)-Kramnik,V (2760)/Zuerich 1999/ draw in 47 moves; The main theoretical discussion now goes 7.c5  c6  8.h3 b6  9.b4 a5  10.a3 ²a6 and black is doing well so far] 7...c5  8.cd5 ²d5  9.²d5 ed5  10.dc5 ²c5

We reach a classical isolated pawn position which actual theory considers to be perfectly ok for black.

11.²e5  The main move: on the long diagonal the bishop reinforces the control over critical squares like d4 and b2. ²f5! After some thought Kramnik improves on a previous game which he played with Kasparov. Most probably this was a surprise for Anand, since after this
move he started to think more than his opponent. [The main line considers to be 11...fxe6 I am still curious to know what Anand could have possibly prepared there, since the position is very dry and so far black is doing well there. Here are some relevant examples: 12...f6 (A game of one of the members of Anand team versus... myself! 12...e2 e5 13...e5 e6 14...f3 b6 15.b4 e4 16...d4 ffc8 17...d3 d4 18...d4 
½-½ Wojtaszek,R (2630)-Illescas Cordoba,M (2620)/Pamplona 2006) 12...f6 13...d4 d4 (One fresh game at high level: 13...d6 14.ed1 d8 15.b4 e6 16...b2 a5 17...d3 ab4 18.ab4 d7 19.0-0 
½-½ Khenkin,I (2655)-Berkes,F (2645)/Subotica 2008) 14...d4 d7 Kramnik didn't have problems to hold the draw in this slightly worst endgame. 15.f3 d8 16...d2 e6 17...d3 d4 18.ed4 f6 19.h4 g6 20...a5 d7 21...e2 a5 22.hc8 d8 23.h5 g7 24.f4 f5 ½-½ Kasparov,G (2838)-Kramnik,V (2002)/Moscow 2001] 12...e2 f6! After the inclusion of e2 and f5 white has less options. Kramnik’s move looks more natural to get full equality. [Another member of Anand’s team didn't manage to win this position despite he got a slight advantage: 12...d8 13.0-0 e4 14...c1 a6 15.b4 e6 16...b3 
½-½ Nielsen,P (2642)-Matros,A (2455)/FIDE.com 2002/ draw in 65 moves; At very top level we have a recent game which also ended in a draw, still black was suffering a little bit: 12...e4 13.0-0 e6 14...d4 
br6 15...d2 d8 16...c1 h6 17...g4 c1 18...c1 d5 19...e2 a5 20.f3 e6 21.b4 
ab4 22...b4 d4 23.ab4 d3 24.d3 d3 25...c7 b4 26...e7 Sokolov,l (2666)-Topalov,V (2769)/Villarrobledo 2007/ draw in 51 moves] 13...f6! [White managed to win with 13.0-0 but black could have easily improved with e5! (instead of 13...e4 14...f6 f6 15...d4 d6 16...d2 f8 17...de4 de4 18...d6 d6 19...fd1 ed8 20...d6 ed6 21...c1 b6 22.b4 e6 23...f1 and white managed to squeeze his minimal advantage in Tregubov,P (2636)-Goloshchapov,A (2563)/Muelheim 2008/ in 1-0 in 60 moves) 14...e5 e8 15...e1 f6 and black is ok] 13...f6 14...d4! The alternatives doesn't seem very promising. [After 14...d4 d6 15...d2 eac8 black improves on the game by Topalov since he didn't play e4; And if 14...d5 e2 15.0-0 eac8 16.e5 f5 e2 the game is drawish] 14...e6?! In my opinion black is too much in a hurry to equalise. There was no need to give the bishop. It's well known that the worst of bishops may be better than the best of knights! [The natural 14...e4 had been played. After 15.0-0 (One game went 15.c1 e6 16.f3 g6 and black is not worst; Flumbort,A (2499)-Goloshchapov,A (2563)/Baden Baden 2007/ draw in 21 moves) black can play 15...e6 16...c1 eac8 17...d2 d4 18...d4 d4 19.ed4 reaching an endgame similar to Kasparov-Kramnik which we already saw before. White's advantage may be microscopical.] 15...f5 f5 
16.0-0 Now white's game is a bit more pleasant to play. fd8?! Again Kramnik played very fast. This move allows white to set up some pressure on the queen side. [Why not 16...e5 with a direct attack on b2? After 17...b3 it may follow d4 and if 18...b7 de3 seems good for black.] 17...g4! e5? [Seirawan suggested 17...f6?! His idea was that after 18...b3 dc5 19.b5 b6 black is ready to break on d4. It may also be almost equal but still I prefer white after 20.fad1!? d4 21.b4 with some initiative] 18...b3! White's pieces are reaching a good coordination, with combined pressure on b7 and d5. dc5 [After the game Anand suggested 18...d4 but it's not so clear that black gets full equality after 19...b7 de3
(the computer recommends 19...d3!? but it looks very risky for black) 20.fe3  
\[21.\text{h1} \quad \text{and white is definitively slightly better.;} \quad \text{Maybe the bold 18...b6!? was not so bad. After 19.eac1 (If 19.efd1 eac8 black fights for the open line,) 19...d4 20.ee6 ee6 21.ee6 fe6 22.ed4 ed4 black has a little worst endgame that however should be a draw.} \] 19.eb5 b6 Kramnik looked a bit worried here. [It was bad for black 19...d4? 20.b4; After 19...e4 white doesn't hurry to take on b7 and may play simply 20.fd1 with somehow better chances] 20.fd1 d6

21.ed4?! Clearly not the best, white will lose coordination after this move. [At the press conference I asked the players for their evaluation after 21.eac1! white wants to play b4, cleaning the c line and keeping control of the game. It may follow \ad8 (The point is that after 21...a6 white can play 22.ee2; And if 21...h5 22.f3 ad8 23.b4; or 21...f5 22.f3 ad8 23.g3 e4 24.g2 white keeps a slight but comfortable advantage.) 22.b4 e4 (After 22...e6?! 23.e6 ee6 black is in big risk to loose the isolated pawn when white triples on the d line.) 23.ed4 Kramnik said that after g6 black's position is solid enough to hold the draw. Maybe true, but white has a nice position to play, pressing black with no risk at all. For example 24.d3 (24.a4?!; 24.d1?! f6! 25.f3 g5 26.b3 e6) 24...f6 25.f3 g7 26.d1.]

---------- analysis board ----------
looks dubious.) After 25.h3 \(g7\) black position is solid and it's not easy to find a way for white to increase the pressure.] 23...\(\text{ad8}\)  24.g3  \(g5!\) Excellent understanding by Vladimir Kramnik.

25.\(\text{ad1}\)  \(g4\)  26.\(\text{g2}\) [Computer likes 26.\(f1\) but if you go ahead with the natural moves \(d6\)  27.\(\text{ad2}\)  \(d4\)  28.\(a6\)  \(g5\)  29.\(b7\)  \(h3\)  30.\(g2\)  \(w7\) it understands that things are not so brilliant for white.] 26...\(e6\) Kramnik was visibly recovered at this point.

27.\(\text{ad3}\)  \(d4\)

28.\(\text{ed4}\)  \(h4\) After this move Anand's face showed some relief [If he would not have lost the previous game I bet Kramnik would have tried 28...\(d4!\) which is probably not enough to claim any advantage but makes life much more difficult for white. At the press conference Kramnik pointed that white could continue with A) In fact only 29.\(e1\) seems good enough to be taken into consideration, with the idea of doubling on the e line. After \(w6\) (Of course not 29...\(e2?\)  30.\(e2\)  \(e2\)  31.\(d6\) ) white has to choose: 30.\(\text{c3!}\) (if 30.\(\text{c3}\)  a5!  31.\(\text{c4}\)  \(e6\)  32.\(f1\)  \(d2\)  33.\(\text{c2}\) white holds but black is pressing. ;) Clearly would be a blunder 30.\(e3??\) \(e2\)  30...\(g7\)  31.\(\text{de3}\)  \(e6\)  32.\(w6\) \(f6\) and despite being equal it's still nicer to play this endgame with black.; B) An entertaining example of the dangers for white, just for fun: 29.\(f1?\)  \(w2\)  30.\(g1\)  a5  31.\(w4\) \(d3\)  32.\(f3\)  \(g3\)  33.\(d6\)  \(d6\)  34.\(f1\)  \(b5\)  35.\(w3\) \(d3\)  36.\(w5\)  \(f1\)  37.\(f1\)  \(d1\); C) 29.\(h1\) and he could not find a way to improve his chances. Under the threat of \(f3\) there were not so many alternatives: Kramnik pointed that he saw h4! C1) Ugly but better is 30.\(h3\)  \(a5\)  31.\(w4\) \(gh3\)  32.\(h3\) \(h3\) \(g3\)  33.\(g3\) \(f8\) equal but easier to play with black.; C2) The best would be probably 30.\(e3!\) when black can still try \(w5\) (worst is 30...\(g5?!\)  31.\(e8\) ) and after 31.\(w5\) \(b5\)  32.\(d6\) \(d6\) the game is around equal but again, black's play is easier; C3) and after 30.\(gh4\?\) he thought he could not play \(f3!\) because 31.\(w4\) takes with check. But in fact after \(f8\) black is winning an exchange: 32.\(f3\) (the point is that after 32.\(f3??\) \(d3\)  33.\(d3\) \(e1\) white gets mated ) 32...\(d3\)  33.\(d3\) \(d3\) with a serious black advantage.] 29.\(\text{d4}\)  \(\text{d4}\) Offering a draw which was immediately accepted by Anand. [29...\(d4\)  30.\(d4\) \(d4\) (30...\(\text{d4}\)  31.\(d4\) \(d4\)  32.\(b7\)  \(a5\)  33.\(f3\) \(g7\)  34.\(f2\) )  31.\(b6\)  \(\text{e1}\)  32.\(f1\) \(f3\)  33.\(g2\) \(e4\)  34.\(a6\) \(e1\)  35.\(g1\) \(f3\)  36.\(h1\) \(e1\) \(1/2=1/2\)
Today we saw the best performance of Anand so far. He played an almost perfect game to take the full point when Kramnik blundered heavily on move 29 after a tough battle. Black repeated the idea 14...\texttt{b7} in the Meran Variation of the Semislav defence which brought him success on game three. Kramnik's team had three days to study it but it was Anand who again took the initiative on the opening with a novelty on the next move. Vladimir was soon out of his preparation and black accumulated a nice time advantage on the clock. Despite being outprepared for the second time, the Russian overcame the psychological impact and reacted well, but Vishy played wonderfully and much faster than in previous games, showing great confidence and putting a lot of pressure on his opponent who finally collapsed. It looks that Kramnik is having big problems to keep the concentration when his opponent manages to press him for a long time in this kind of sharp positions.

\begin{center}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\begin{scope}
\draw (0,0) grid (8,8);
\draw[thick] (0.5,0.5) -- (7.5,7.5);
\draw[thick] (0.5,7.5) -- (7.5,0.5);
\draw[thick] (0.5,0.5) -- (0.5,7.5);
\draw[thick] (7.5,0.5) -- (7.5,7.5);
\end{scope}
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{center}

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.$\texttt{\texttt{f3}}$ $\texttt{\texttt{f6}}$
4.$\texttt{\texttt{c3}}$ e6 5.e3 $\texttt{\texttt{bd7}}$ 6.$\texttt{\texttt{d3}}$ dc4 7.$\texttt{\texttt{c4}}$ b5 8.$\texttt{\texttt{d3}}$ a6 9.e4 c5 10.e5 cd4 11.$\texttt{\texttt{b5}}$ ab5 12.ef6 gf6 13.0-0 $\texttt{\texttt{b6}}$ 14.$\texttt{\texttt{e2}}$ $\texttt{\texttt{b7}}$ 15.$\texttt{\texttt{b5}}$
So far we have seen the same moves as in the third game. Anand decides to avoid the main preparation of his opponent and tries a new approach. Till this moment both players were moving at lightspeed. $\texttt{\texttt{g8}}$!?

A novelty, changing the order of moves which makes for some subtle differences which Anand probably worked out as a part of his preparation for the match. [On the aforementioned third game we saw 15...$\texttt{\texttt{d6}}$ 16.$\texttt{\texttt{d1}}$]

16.$\texttt{\texttt{f4}}$ Kramnik answered very fast, so he was still on his preparation. Positionally, it makes a lot of sense to develop the bishop here, aiming to land it on g3 where it will help to protect white's king. $\texttt{\texttt{d6}}$! It seems that this natural move escaped Kramnik's team's attention, since he started to think a lot. White has to decide now whether to take on d6 or keep with the original idea of $\texttt{\texttt{g3}}$

17.$\texttt{\texttt{g3}}$
Played after 15 minutes. It is difficult to say which move was better. Kramnik's choice looks more ambitious but it will be well counteracted by Anand. [After 17.$\texttt{\texttt{d6}}$ $\texttt{\texttt{d6}}$ 18.$\texttt{\texttt{fd1}}$ black has a number of options, while the position remains unclear. One possible continuation would be e5 19.$\texttt{\texttt{d4}}$!?

$\texttt{\texttt{d4}}$! 20.$\texttt{\texttt{d4}}$ $\texttt{\texttt{g2}}$ 21.$\texttt{\texttt{d7}}$ $\texttt{\texttt{d7}}$ 22.$\texttt{\texttt{d2}}$ $\texttt{\texttt{h3}}$ 23.$\texttt{\texttt{h1}}$ $\texttt{\texttt{g2}}$ with a draw]

17...$\texttt{\texttt{f5}}$! A good move which poses a lot of practical problems for white. Black wants to advance to f4 and continue the attack on the king side. [Much weaker would be 17...$\texttt{\texttt{g3}}$! since after 18.hg3 white's king is much safer and black would have problems to continue with his]
plan since $\text{18.} e7$ fails to 19.$\text{d}4! ]$

**18.$\text{fc1}$?**  Probably a good move, taking control of the 'c' line and in particular of the c5 square, where the black queen may be able to switch to the kingside. However, Vladimir payed a high price for it: more than 40 minutes of his time, so he was now almost one hour behind on the clock. [It was very critical 18.$\text{d}4$ but it is understandable that Vladimir didn't want to test Anand's home preparation. By the way the move doesn't promise any particular advantage for white, just an unclear game. Black can try $\text{g}3$ (After 18...f4!? 19.$\text{e}6!$ fe6 20.$\text{e}6$ $\text{f}8$ 21.$\text{f}5$ $\text{g}7$ 22.$\text{d}3!$ white may have compensation, but not more. A sample line: $\text{c}6$ 23.$\text{h}7$ $\text{f}8$ 24.$\text{f}5$ $\text{g}7$ 25.$\text{h}7$ with a perpetual check) 19.$\text{h}3$ $\text{d}4$ 20.$\text{a}d1$ $\text{b}6$ and we reach a position difficult to evaluate. It seems to me that black should be fine. A sample line: 21.$\text{d}2!$ 0-0-0 (21...$\text{a}6!?; 21...$\text{d}8!?$) 22.$\text{c}1$ $\text{b}8$ 23.$\text{c}6!$ $\text{c}5$ 24.$\text{b}7$ $\text{b}7$ 25.$\text{c}3$ with an unclear fight; At the press conference Kramnik was right to point that after 18.a4?! f4 19.$\text{h}4$ $\text{c}5!$ black gets a strong attack transferring his queen to the kingside.; A journalist proposed 18.$\text{fd}1$? but after the forced sequence f4 19.$\text{h}4$ $\text{a}5!$ 20.a4 $\text{b}5!$ 21.ab5 $\text{e}5$ black has a decisive attack; It was still possible to go for 18.$\text{d}6$ $\text{d}6$ 19.$\text{fd}1$ as in the previous move. Now black doesn't have the move e5, but instead he gets a lot of interesting possibilities. One of them is $\text{e}7!$ where white has to be careful. 20.$\text{g}3!$ (20.$\text{d}4?\text{g}2$ 21.$\text{g}2$ $\text{d}4$; 20.$\text{d}7?!\text{d}5!$ 21.$\text{h}1$ $\text{d}7$ 22.$\text{d}4?!\text{d}4!$) 20...$\text{f}3!? 21.$\text{f}3$ $\text{e}5$ with an unclear game, where black seems to be allright] From this point Anand was also playing on his own and he did a good job indeed! His next moves show a deep understanding of the position. He found the way to play simple, which is many times the most difficult thing in chess. 18...f4! 19.$\text{h}4$ $\text{e}7!$ Black wants to clean the e7 square for his king. 20.a4! [After 20.$\text{e}7$ $\text{e}7$ it doesn't work 21.$\text{d}7!?$ $\text{d}7$ 22.$\text{d}1$ $\text{e}7$ and black's bishop is too strong] 20...$\text{h}4!$ 21.$\text{h}4$ $\text{e}7$ Once again Kramnik was faced with a difficult choice. He has a lot of moves but it's not easy to find a clear plan.

**22.$\text{a}3$**  The rook develops on the third rank, the same manoeuvre that put him in trouble on the third game of the match! This time it was not so bad, still I don't quite like it, but please, don't ask me why! There were a lot of possible ideas, most of them dubious. [With 22.$\text{f}3!?$ white stops the attack but his knight may stay out of the game for a long time.; Computers recommend 22.$\text{g}3!?$ but after fg3 23.$\text{hg3} \text{g}5$ black is doing well.; Asked at the press conference about 22.b4?! Kramnik gave the correct line: $\text{g}2!$ 23.$\text{g}2$ $\text{g}8$ 24.$\text{f}3$ d3 25.$\text{h}2$ $\text{f}3$ 26.$\text{b}6$ $\text{g}2$ 27.$\text{f}1$ $\text{b}6$ 28.$\text{d}3$ $\text{d}5$ and black has big compensation and better chances.; Maybe 22.$\text{f}1!?$ was useful, getting out of some nasty
tricks before deciding further actions.]

22...\texttt{ac8} Very logical; black adapts to the new situation and takes control of the open line. [22...g2? was not working anymore: 23.g2 g8 24.f3! e5 25.e5 f3 26.c7 and white wins; It was anyway possible to stick to the original plan with 22...g5!? with an unclear position] 23.c8 \ [Serawan suggested 23.d1 c5! 24.d7 where black may try d5!? (After 24...d7 25.ad3 e5 26.h5 white gets what he wants, but still there it seems unclear to me that white is any better.) After 25.f3 d7 black seems to be slightly better] 23...c8 24.a1 c5! Very consequent and playing quite fast. The pressure was again on Kramnik who had less than 25 minutes to reach the move 40. 25.g4 e5 26.f3 f6 27.e1 After this move white will have some little problems but it's difficult to find an improvement. [After 27.a5 h5!? black gets the initiative.; Maybe 27.d1!? to simplify the position. The game may follow e5 28.e5 e5 29.h4 f6 and now white may try 30.h7!? Black has compensation but maybe not for more than a draw, for example: g5 31.f1 g4 32.e1 g2 33.g2 g8

29.d4?? A decisive blunder. Kramnik miscalculated the forced line which will end with a deadly blow by black on move 34. Got he tired? Did he crack under pressure? We don't know, but the fact is that he still had 15 minutes on his clock and it was not so difficult to realise that taking on d4 is a losing move. \ [It was possible to play 29.d2 where after d3!? black may enjoy certain initiative.; At the press conference Anand pointed out that after 29.d7 he could play f3 (In fact maybe 29.d7!? could be more accurate, giving black some winning chances) 30.gf3 d7 and the Indian said that black is not worse here. He is surely right: in fact white should try to equalise with 31.e4! with good drawing chances.] After the forced moves 29...d4 30.d1 f6 34.e6 e6 35.e4 and white gives perpetual check before getting mated] 27.c5! 28.b4 c3! Again a strong move from an inspired Anand, forcing once again white to make a difficult choice. \ [Kramnik was expecting 28.e5 29.e5 e5 30.e5 e5 31.h4 f8 32.f1 and at the press conference he correctly assessed the position as slightly better for him.]
31.\textit{\textcolor{white}{\textbf{d}}4} \textit{\textcolor{black}{\textbf{\textit{g}}}4} 32.\textit{\textcolor{black}{\textbf{d}}7} \textit{\textcolor{white}{\textbf{\textit{f}}}6} 33.\textit{\textcolor{black}{\textbf{b}}7} \textit{\textcolor{white}{\textbf{c}1}}
\textit{\textcolor{black}{\textbf{f}1}}
Black delivered the winning stroke \textit{\textcolor{white}{\textbf{e}3}!}

35.\textit{\textcolor{black}{\textbf{f}3} \textbf{f3}} and white resigned
0-1
We saw today a game which probably may be decisive for the outcome of the match. Anand won for the third time, setting an almost unsurmountable advantage after only six games. White played again d4, but today allowed the Nimzoindian. Instead of the weird 4.f3, Anand went today for the Capablanca variation 4.\textit{c}2. In one of the main lines the world champion showed his superior preparation by introducing a novelty as early as move 9, so getting the initiative once again. Kramnik reacted well at the beginning to blunder later. "Deja vu" one frenchman would say. After snatching a pawn Anand went to win the game finding some precise moves at the critical moments.

\begin{game}
1.d4 \textit{d}6 2.c4 \textit{e}6 3.\textit{c}3 \textit{c}b4 4.\textit{c}2 \textit{d}5 cd5 \textit{d}5 6.\textit{f}3 \textit{f}5 7.\textit{b}3!? The only way to fight for the advantage in my opinion. [The same players had this position some years ago, but with opposite colors. It was a quiet draw: 7.\textit{f}5 ef5 8.a3 \textit{d}6 9.\textit{b}5 \textit{e}6 10.e3 \textit{c}6 11.\textit{d}2 \textit{e}4 12.\textit{d}3 a6 13.\textit{d}6 cd6 14.\textit{e}2 \textit{d}7 15.\textit{hc}1 \textit{hc}8 16.\textit{e}1 \textit{e}7 17.\textit{g}1 b5 18.f3 \textit{f}6 19.\textit{h}4 \textit{fd}5 20.\textit{e}7 ½-½ Kramnik,V (2790)-Anand,V (2770)/Frankfurt 1998] 7...\textit{c}6 [Anand himself defended the black side with another setup early this year: 7...c5 8.a3 \textit{a}5 9.\textit{c}4 \textit{c}3 10.\textit{c}3 \textit{bd}7 11.\textit{g}4 \textit{g}4 12.\textit{dc}5 \textit{d}5 13.\textit{c}2 \textit{f}5 14.\textit{c}4 \textit{e}5 15.\textit{e}5 \textit{we}5 16.\textit{g}2 \textit{d}7 17.\textit{d}5 ½-½ Eljanov, P (2692)-Anand,V (2799)/Wijk aan Zee 2008] 8.\textit{d}2 0-0 9.h3!? Here it comes the novelty! Anand knows that Kramnik analysis go very deep on the main lines so he is trying to get his opponent "out of book" as soon as possible in every game. A very sensible approach which is bringing him great success. [One of the first games with this line was precisely played with black by Anand in 1996: 9.e3 \textit{d}8 (Recently we saw 9...a6!? 10.\textit{e}2 \textit{d}6 11.\textit{h}4 \textit{g}5 12.g3 with an unclear game in Kobalia,M (2644)-Sadvakasov,D (2605)/Sochi 2005) 10.\textit{e}2 e5?! A dubious experiment in the Monaco blind/blitz...11.\textit{e}5 \textit{e}6 12.g4! \textit{e}5 13.de5 \textit{b}3 14.ef6 with better chances for white, Ivanchuk,V (2735)-Anand,V (2725)/Monte Carlo 1996]

9...b6!? After ten minutes thinking Kramnik finds a fine positional move. Black is going to follow a "light squares strategy", with a clear cut plan. Anand was took by surprise. [Probably the natural 9...\textit{d}8 was well analysed by Anand and his team; The attempt to get freedom with 9...e5?! is met by 10.g4] 10.g4 \textit{a}5 [Of course not 10...\textit{g}6? 11.\textit{g}2 and the black queen is in danger] 11.\textit{c}1 [Seirawan was proposing 11.g5!? which leads to a much sharper battle. Some variations: \textit{e}8 (11...\textit{d}7!? 12.\textit{e}4?! \textit{e}5; 11...\textit{d}5?! 12.\textit{e}4 \textit{c}3 13.bc3 \textit{d}6]
14.\(\texttt{b5} \texttt{b7} 15.\texttt{a4}\) 12.\texttt{e4} \texttt{a6}! \]

14.\(\texttt{b5} \texttt{b7} 12.\texttt{a3}\) [ Again it was possible the agressive 12.\texttt{g5}? but black seems to have enough resources. \texttt{e8}!? ( 12...\(\texttt{d7} 13.\texttt{e4} \texttt{e5}; 12...\texttt{d5} 13.\texttt{a3} \texttt{c3} 14.\texttt{bc3}\) ) 13.\texttt{e4} \texttt{d6} 14.\texttt{a3} \texttt{e4}!? ] 12...\texttt{c3} 13.\texttt{c3} \texttt{d5} 14.\texttt{d5} \texttt{d5} After the previous quiet moves we reach an endgame which was quite pleasant for Anand given the match situation. Kramnik had also reasons to be satisfied since he is close to equality after facing an annoying novelty.

15.\texttt{d2} \texttt{f6} 16.\texttt{g1} \texttt{ac8}

[ Why not first to attack on d4? After 16...\texttt{fd8}! 17.\texttt{e3} (if 17.\texttt{g2} \texttt{d4} 18.\texttt{d4} \texttt{g2} 19.\texttt{e6} \texttt{fe6} 20.\texttt{g2} \texttt{c5} black seems to be ok) 17...\texttt{ac8} the position looks pretty equal. After playing e3 white is deprived of using the third rank to activate his rook via g3 and also the d2 bishop rewmains quite passive. ] 17.\texttt{g2} Now white is slightly better. \texttt{e7}?! Kramnik was not happy with this move after the game. [ It was late for 17...\texttt{fd8}? 18.\texttt{e5}! ; It was possible 17...\texttt{e4}!? when after 18.\texttt{g5} (if 18.\texttt{f4} \texttt{a5}! 19.b4 \texttt{b3} 20.\texttt{b1} \texttt{d5} it is not to easy to punish black risky play) 18...\texttt{d2} 19.\texttt{d2} \texttt{a5} 20.\texttt{b7} \texttt{b7} and black may suffer a bit but with a correct defence I find it difficult to believe that black can be lost here. ; Kramnik suggested 17...\texttt{a8}!? which is better that the move played in the game ; Also 17...\texttt{b8}!? , proposed by Anand, makes a lot of sense.]

18.\texttt{b4} \texttt{c5}?! Three dubious move in a row and black is already in trouble. This pawn sacrifice could work but calculation is needed and Kramnik seemed simply unable to sit and work hard. [ Of course not 18...\texttt{fd5}?! 19.\texttt{e5} when white would be better; The modest 18...\texttt{fe8} 19.\texttt{e5} \texttt{g2} 20.\texttt{e7} \texttt{e7} 21.\texttt{g2} \texttt{c5} 22.dc5 \texttt{c5} 23.\texttt{c5} bc5 24.\texttt{g3} led to a very pleasant endgame for white but again black should not loose. ]

19.\texttt{dc5} \texttt{fd8}?! After thinking for ten minutes on the pawn sacrifice Kramnik spent now more than twenty minutes! A clear sign that things were going wrong for Vladimir...[ It seems to me that 19...\texttt{bc5}! was better. Probably white should not insist in keeping the pawn and be happy to be slightly better with 20.\texttt{b3}?! (if 20.\texttt{c5} \texttt{e4}! 21.\texttt{c8} \texttt{c8} black gets very good compensation. ; And in case of 20.\texttt{c5} \texttt{e4} 21.b4 \texttt{c5} ...]
22.bc5 \( \text{xf3} \) 23.\( \text{xf3} \) \( \text{c7} \) 24.\( \text{xd2} \) \( \text{fc8} \) 25.\( \text{c4} \) \( \text{xc5} \) 26.\( \text{xc5} \) \( \text{xc5} \) 27.\( \text{b1} \) g5 28.\( \text{b7} \) \( \text{c8} \) black may hold the endgame ] Now it comes a long sequence of moves after which Anand will consolidate his material advantage. 20.\( \text{e5} \) \( \text{g2} \) 21.\( \text{g2} \) bc5 22.\( \text{c5} \) \( \text{e4} \) 23.\( \text{c8} \) \( \text{c8} \) 24.\( \text{d3} \) \( \text{d5} \) 25.\( \text{d2} \) \( \text{c2} \) 26.\( \text{e1} \) a5?! [ Maybe it was better to insist on 29...\( \text{c2} \)!? Here is a sample line: 30.\( \text{f2} \) \( \text{e4}! \) 31.f4 \( \text{e4} \) 32.g5! (32.e3?! \( \text{c8} \) ) 32...h6! 33.\( \text{h4} \) ed3 34.ed3 \( \text{c1} \) 35.\( \text{d2} \) \( \text{h1} \) and white is better but black gets some counterplay] 30.e3 e5?! Again black finds the way to complicate the game but Vishy kept cool. 31.gf5 e4! 32.f4 \( \text{e4} \) 33.\( \text{d2} \) a4? Kramnik pointed this move as the final mistake at the press conference. Probably he was right. [ Black could get more drawing chances with 33...\( \text{c2} \)!? ; or 33...\( \text{e8} \)!? while admitting white is still clearly better.] 34.\( \text{f2} \)! After this move white gets the coordination he was lacking. \( \text{d6} \) 35.\( \text{g4} \) \( \text{c4} \) [ After 35...\( \text{f5} \) 36.\( \text{a4} \) \( \text{de3} \) 37.\( \text{e3} \) \( \text{e3} \) it would be a matter of technique ] 36.e4 [ Why not a simple retreat? After 36.\( \text{d1} \)! Anand told me that he was worried with the blockade of the black knights but to my view after \( \text{f7} \) 37.\( \text{d4} \) \( \text{db6} \) 38.\( \text{c3} \) white is simply two pawns up. ] 36...\( \text{f6} \) 37.\( \text{g3} \) \( \text{b2} \) Takes one pawn back but the position is still lost. [After 37...\( \text{e4} \) there is a forced variation: 38.\( \text{e4} \) \( \text{e8} \) 39.\( \text{c3} \) \( \text{c4} \) 40.e6 \( \text{d6} \) but then he saw 41.\( \text{g4} \)! (instead of 41.\( \text{f6} \)? \( \text{f5} \) ) 41...\( \text{e4} \) 42.\( \text{h6} \) and white is winning] 39.\( \text{f6} \) \( \text{f7} \) The game is over [ 39...\( \text{g6} \) was also loosing after for example 40.\( \text{e4} \) ] 40.\( \text{e4} \) \( \text{c4} \) 41.\( \text{f7} \) [It was faster 41.\( \text{g7} \)! \( \text{e6} \) 42.\( \text{f7} \) ] 41...\( \text{g8} \) [After 41...\( \text{g8} \) white may win with 42.\( \text{d6} \) \( \text{d6} \) 43.ed6 \( \text{e6} \) 44.\( \text{h6} \) \( \text{d6} \) 45.\( \text{f3} \) \( \text{e7} \) 46.\( \text{f8} \) where black king cannot avoid the defeat, i.e.: \( \text{d5} \) 47.\( \text{d2} \) \( \text{c4} \) 48.\( \text{e3} \) \( \text{b3} \) 49.\( \text{d4} \) \( \text{a3} \) 50.\( \text{c5} \) \( \text{b3} \) 51.\( \text{d6} \) ] 42.\( \text{d3} \)! The last precise move Anand had to
find. This wins by force. [His original idea was 42.\(\textit{f}6\)? \(\textit{f}6\) 43.\(\textit{e}f6\) but then he saw that after \(\textit{e}8!\) 44.\(\textit{d}1\) \(\textit{d}8!\) 45.\(\textit{c}2\) \(\textit{d}2\) 46.\(\textit{c}3\) \(\textit{f}2\) 47.\(\textit{c}4\) \(\textit{f}6\) 48.\(\textit{b}5\) \(\textit{f}4\) black could get this rook endgame which he thought should be winning but was not sure. In fact it may be a draw, i.e.: 49.\(\textit{g}4\) \(\textit{f}3\) 50.\(\textit{a}4\) \(\textit{h}3\) 51.\(\textit{b}4\) \(\textit{h}5\) 52.\(\textit{g}1\) \(\textit{h}4\) 53.\(\textit{b}5\) \(\textit{g}4\)] 42...\(\textit{d}b6\) The only square to prevent white’s rook entering on the seventh rank.

43.\(\textit{h}6\) [It was nicer 43.\(\textit{e}6\) \(\textit{g}7\) 44.\(\textit{g}3\) \(\textit{f}8\) 45.\(\textit{b}4\) \(\textit{e}8\) 46.\(\textit{g}8\#\) ]

43...\(\textit{e}5\) 44.\(\textit{f}6\) \(\textit{f}7\) 45.\(\textit{c}3\) \(\textit{c}3\) [Of course 45...\(\textit{b}c4\) 46.\(\textit{g}8\) \(\textit{g}8\) 47.\(\textit{g}8\) \(\textit{g}8\) 48.\(\textit{f}4\) is hopeless for black] 46.\(\textit{g}8\) \(\textit{f}6\) 47.\(\textit{g}7\) and Kramnik resigned

(Diagram)

1-0
Upon my arrival in Bonn, I could witness a heated debate about what would be the likely strategy for Kramnik in his next game, this very game that was played today. One argument was that since the match is so short, he was forced to play for all or nothing, even by using a lower reputation opening as the Benoni he used against Leko in the penultimate game of their Brissago match. Another approach was to play for a draw, so as to forget as much as possible the last two games, where he had been defeated.

In the end Kramnik opted to play correct chess and relied on a solid line of the Slav that he knows well. However, nothing seems to work for him so far, Anand was well prepared again, leading the game into an early ending where he was able to put pressure until finally a draw was agreed after Kramnik was forced to find many clever moves to survive.

Anand won't have a match ball tomorrow. His 5-2 advantage could lead him to end up the match by Sunday at best. For Kramnik, the game as White tomorrow will prove decisive if he wants to show that things are not over yet. A win by him could bring back to emotion to the match.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.\( \Box \)f3 \( \Box \)f6 4.\( \Box \)c3 dc4 [4...e6 led Anand to his remarkable wins in games 3 and 5. Understandably, Kramnik chooses a more solid path.] 5.a4 \( \Box \)f5 6.e3 e6 7.\( \Box \)c4 \( \Box \)b4 8.0-0 \( \Box \)bd7 9.\( \Box \)e2 \( \Box \)g6 10.e4 0-0 11.\( \Box \)d3 \( \Box \)h5 12.e5 \( \Box \)d5 13.\( \Box \)d5 cd5 14.\( \Box \)e3 \( \Box \)e8

Elista match, yes, that one where Topalov missed a simple mate in three to end up losing a few moves later, Kramnik played immediately 14...\( \Box \)g6 15.\( \Box \)g5 \( \Box \)e8 16.f4 \( \Box \)d3 17.\( \Box \)d3 f5 18.\( \Box \)e3 \( \Box \)f8 19.\( \Box \)h1 \( \Box \)c8 20.g4 with a sharp game; Previously Kramnik had been on the white side of this variation against his long time second and friend Bareev 14...h6 15.\( \Box \)e1 \( \Box \)e1 16.\( \Box \)e1 \( \Box \)g6 17.\( \Box \)e2 \( \Box \)c8 18.\( \Box \)d2 \( \Box \)b8 19.a5 \( \Box \)e7 20.\( \Box \)ec1 \( \Box \)d7 21.\( \Box \)b4 \( \Box \)c1 22.\( \Box \)c1 \( \Box \)c8 23.\( \Box \)d6 \( \Box \)c1 24.\( \Box \)c1 \( \Box \)c6 25.\( \Box \)c5 a6 26.b4 \( \frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2} \) Kramnik-Bareev, Bugojno 1999]

15.\( \Box \)e1 \( \Box \)g6 Again Kramnik deviates from the Elista match material. In one of the tiebreak games he had played [15...\( \Box \)c8 16.f4 \( \Box \)e1 17.\( \Box \)e1 \( \Box \)g6 18.\( \Box \)f1 \( \Box \)c2 which looked good but after 19.b3 \( \Box \)a5 20.\( \Box \)b5 \( \Box \)d8 21.\( \Box \)e2 \( \Box \)c8 22.\( \Box \)d2 \( \Box \)b6 23.\( \Box \)f2 a6 24.\( \Box \)f1 \( \Box \)c6 25.b4 \( \Box \)c2 26.b5 a5 27.\( \Box \)c3 \( \Box \)f2 28.\( \Box \)f2 \( \Box \)a7 29.\( \Box \)d2 he was forced to play very well to save the game, Topalov-Kramnik, Elista 2006] 16.\( \Box \)g6 hg6 17.\( \Box \)d3 \( \Box \)b6 The new move, but a logical one that did not take Anand by surprise. Known was [17...\( \Box \)e7 18.\( \Box \)d2 \( \Box \)c8 19.\( \Box \)fc1 \( \Box \)b8 20.\( \Box \)c8 \( \Box \)c8 21.\( \Box \)c1]
A very important moment in the game. At the press conference Kramnik said that he was expecting Anand to play 20. \( \text{d}2 \) if he wanted to play for a win, with the idea to attack on the king side. On the contrary, 20. \( \text{a}3 \) was the solid choice, leading to a drawish position. That was the approach taken by Anand, but the draw still seemed far away. 20. \( \text{a}3 \) \( \text{c}3 \) 21. \( \text{ac}1 \) \( \text{c}3 \) At this point Kramnik offered a draw. Anand delayed his forced recapture for about ten minutes, a time he spent in evaluating the peace proposal, which he decided to reject. 22. \( \text{e}3 \) \( \text{f}6 \) Black is more or less forced to react in this way, but White keeps a small pressure anyway. 23. \( \text{d}6 \) There are two possibilities in the horizon for White. Number one to play his bishop to c7, allowing him to double his rooks in the c-file. The other to push his pawns in the queen side. \( \text{g}5 \) 24. \( \text{h}3 \) After Anand played this logical but slow move, most commentators seemed to predict a drawish outcome of the game. At the

VIP room only GM Bareev, who had just arrived in Bonn, still had doubts about Black’s position. \( \text{f}7 \) [24... \( \text{e}5 \) 25. \( \text{d}5 \) \( \text{b}6 \) 26. \( \text{b}4 \) (26. \( \text{f}2 \) \( \text{c}5 \) 27. \( \text{c}5 \) \( \text{c}5 \) 28. \( \text{c}5 \) \( \text{bc}5 \) 29. \( \text{c}1 \) \( \text{c}8 \) is a little better for White, but just too little.) 26... \( \text{e}4 \) 27. \( \text{e}4 \) dc4 We shall see more of a position with this structure later in the game.]

In the press conference Kramnik was critical of the transfer of his king to g6 since he could have played in a similar way to what he did later in the game, saving two tempos. 25. \( \text{f}2 \) \( \text{g}6 \) 26. \( \text{e}2 \) \( \text{e}5 \) [26... \( \text{h}8 \) Was a move under investigation in the press room with a possible line running 27. \( \text{d}3 \) \( \text{g}4 \) 28.\( \text{hg}4 \) \( \text{g}5 \) 29. \( \text{h}1 \) \( \text{e}8 \) (29... \( \text{h}1 \) 30. \( \text{c}8 \) ) 30. \( \text{h}5 \) \( \text{g}4 \) 31. \( \text{ch}1 \) threatening 32. \( \text{exf}6 \) and 33. \( \text{h}4 \) \#; 26... \( \text{b}6 \) was also possible.] 27. \( \text{e}5 \) \( \text{b}6 \) [Nobody asked about 27... \( \text{a}5 \) at the press conference. The move is directed to stop \( \text{b}3 \)-\( \text{b}4 \), so that when Black plays \( \text{b}7 \)-\( \text{b}6 \) he will gain access to the c5 square with his knight. A possible continuation was 28. \( \text{d}3 \) (The logical 28. \( \text{c}7 \) leads nowhere after \( \text{b}6 \) ! 29. \( \text{c}3 \) \( \text{c}5 \) ! 30. \( \text{b}6 \) \( \text{e}4 \) 31. \( \text{c}8 \) \( \text{c}8 \) with great play for the pawn) 28... \( \text{b}6 \)
29. $\text{d4}$ Just in time to prevent $\text{c5}$
\[ 28.b4 $\text{c4} \text{ } 29.\text{c4} \text{ dc4} \text{ } 30.\text{c1} \text{ } 30.\text{d2} \	ext{was an interesting possibility here, trying to block the pawn with the king. As we will see later, the ending of } \text{+} \text{ against } \text{+} \text{ is not a draw as most people thought at this stage of the game.} \text{c8} \text{ } 31.\text{g4} \]

By this moment most people present at the press room evaluated the position as critical for Kramnik. There was no prospect at sight for this 3 pieces while White had a clear plan in mind, to play e3-e4 to transfer the king to d4, winning the weak c4 pawn. It was now when Kramnik showed the precise way to save the game. $\text{a5!} \text{ } 32.\text{b5} \text{ The most feared continuation. However, it was possible to play [ } 32.\text{ba5} \text{ ba5} \text{ } 33.\text{b1} \text{ When Black still need to play very well to equalize, since for instance c3} \text{ (} 33...\text{c5} \text{ } 34.\text{c5} \text{ } \text{c5} \text{ } 35.\text{b5} \text{ } \text{c5} \text{ } 36.\text{b6} \text{ } \text{e5} \text{ } 37.\text{c6} \text{ is still a minute better for White} \text{) 34.\text{d3} \text{ } \text{f7} \text{ (} 34...\text{c2} \text{ } 35.\text{c1} \text{ } \text{b6} \text{ } 36.\text{c2} \text{ } \text{c2} \text{ } 37.\text{c2} \text{ } \text{a4} \text{ } 38.\text{c7} \text{ again uncomfortable to Black} \text{) 35.\text{c2} \text{ } \text{c4} \text{ } 36.\text{b7} \text{ } \text{e8} \text{ ] 32...\text{c3!}} \]

33. $\text{c2} \text{ [ } 33.\text{d3} \text{ } \text{c5} \text{ } 34.\text{c5} \text{ $\text{c5} \text{ was similar to how the game continued}] \text{33...\text{f7}} \]

34. $\text{d3} \text{ } \text{c5!} \text{ Forcing the draw.} \text{ [ } \text{Many people were expecting 34...\text{g6?} \text{ 35.\text{c3} } \text{c3} \text{ } 36.\text{c3} \text{ as this ending was wrongly evaluated as drawn by many grandmasters and commentators around the world. As a matter of fact, taking the king to g3 to support the break on h4 leads nowhere, neither the eventual sacrifice with $\text{c7-b6}$ leads anywhere.} \text{ However, the current position is completely lost for Black. White has at his disposal a very strong plan which simply wins even after the best defense by Black. The concept starts by pushing the pawn to e4 to bring the bishop to the clever square e3, via a3-c1.} \text{ From e3 the bishop keeps the black knight tied to the defence of the pawn on b6, while keeping the black king defending his pawn on g5. Since ...\text{h6} \text{ is not possible because of h3-h4, Black will soon face zugswang losing the game.} \text{ During the press conference at the end of the game, both gladiators were questioned by GM Miguel Illescas about} \]
this ending and both of them, quite remarkably, had gone to depths when anticipating this ending, at different stages of the game, in most types of pawn configurations. A fact that speaks highly about their tremendous understanding of the position.

35...c5 36.c3 36.c3  White is a pawn up but his king has no way to penetrate.

All in all it was a well played game by both sides. Today Kramnik is White and the future of the match depends on whether he is able to react or not. Another draw would put Anand at only one point from keeping his title.

½-½
For the first time during this match Kramnik enjoyed a small, no risk advantage throughout the game. The bad news is that in a must win situation, he could not even come close to converting that slight plus into victory, so the match is now over.

With only 4 games to go, Anand needs only one win or two draws. One point is just enough to keep his title. The next game, scheduled for Sunday could be that final day, although most of us wish the match to extend till the very end to keep enjoying the excellent chess atmosphere here in the city of Bonn.

1.d4 infeld Anand plays professionally.

Even though he has been in command in the theoretical battle so far, he does not underestimate his opponent and thus avoids a last minute resource after three successful games choosing the Slav.

2.c4  e6 Here we are, just one move away from the Nimzo, Queen's Indian or the Catalan, an all time favorite of Kramnik.

3.f3 But no Catalan this time, he wants Anand to enter one of those super long lines of the Queen's Indian where he might have a special preparation for this occassion.

But not again, Anand returns to the world of symmetrical openings! 4.c3

Anand can now play 4...c6, transposing to games 3 and 5, full of unforgettable memories for him. Yet he has made up his mind in another direction, just to avoid miracles. dxc4 This should have come as no surprise at all for Kramnik, since Anand had played the same line 3 times against him in the past.

5.e4  b4 6.g5  c5 There are over one thousand games with this position in the mega base. In some 300 of them White has gone for the sharp 7.e5. Kramnik follows the main line 7.xc4  cxd4 8.xd4

a5 Anand plays the main move, supported by over 500 games by players of all level. However, he had never gone for this principal move against Kramnik.

First he tried two times the unpopular 8...d7 and then one time 8...xc3+

[ 8...d7 9.0-0  c6 10.c1 0-0 (10...h6 11.f4 0-0 12.e5 b8 13.g3 xe5 14.e1 d6 15.db5 xc4 16.xd6 xd6 17.xd6± Kramnik-Anand, Dos Hermanas 1997 ) 11.b3  e5 12.e2  c6 13.f3 b8 14.a3 ½-½ Kramnik-Anand, Linares 1997 ]

[ 8...xc3+ 9.bxc3 a5 10.b5+ d7 11.xf6 gxf6 12.xd7+ xd7 13.0-0 a6 14.b1 c7 15.g4 h5 16.h3 e7 17.f4 h4 18.f3 ac8 19.e5 xc3 20.exf6+ xf6 21.xc3 xc3 ½-½ Kramnik-Anand, Dortmund 2003 ]
9...\textit{b5}+ Faced with this position for the second time in his career, Kramnik goes for this well known check. Previously he had tried

[ 9...\textit{d}2 \textit{c}5 10...\textit{b}5+ \textit{d}7 11...\textit{b}3 \textit{e}7 12...\textit{d}3 \textit{c}6 13.0-0 0-0 14.a3 \textit{d}6 15...\textit{g}5 \textit{h}6 16...\textit{h}4 \textit{f}4 17...\textit{e}2+ Kramnik,-Lautier, Monte Carlo 1998 ]

9...\textit{d}7 10...\textit{x}f6

\textit{x}b5 A novelty. It’s quite remarkable to find a new move at such an early stage in a well known theoretical position, where hundreds of games have been played!

[Instead 10...\textit{xc}3+ 11.bxc3 gxf6 would have transposed into their Dortmund game five years ago. ]

11...\textit{d}xb5 The most logical

[ 11...\textit{b}3 was also a move, but for sure Anand was well prepared. ]

11...gxf6 12.0-0 A position very similar to this, with the nights on b5-d4 instead of b5-c3 has been reached a few times at the high level. \textit{c}6 At the press conference Kramnik admitted that he assessed this position as equal, although this time his opponent’s novelty

had not been dramatical, since he could leave the opening keeping a solid position. 13.a3 \textit{x}xc3 14...\textit{xc}3 \textit{g}8

Kramnik considered this move inaccurate, allowing him to get a slight edge. He was expecting 14...\textit{d}8 with equality 15...\textit{f}4 \textit{d}8

[ 15...\textit{b}6+ 16...\textit{f}2 ( 16...\textit{h}1? \textit{xb}2 ) 16...\textit{d}8 17...\textit{e}1 just transposes to the game ]

16...\textit{e}1 A move that would have looked poor had Black played 14...\textit{d}8, among others because of 15...\textit{d}4 \textit{b}6+

17...\textit{f}2 Now 17...\textit{d}4 would be simply met by 18...\textit{h}1

[ 17...\textit{f}2?? \textit{d}2!-+ ]

17...\textit{d}3 A move that nobody was expecting. As a matter of fact, there were several questions about it addressed to Anand at the postgame press conference. 18...\textit{e}2 \textit{d}4 19...\textit{e}1

19...\textit{b}5 was also possible but not promising anything special to White. \textit{a}6 A key moment, where White could try the knight sacrifice in d5. Many people were analyzing that move at the press room. 20...\textit{h}1
20.\text{\underline{d5}}? White is threatening 21. \text{\underline{xf6}}+ so Black has nothing but to accept the sacrifice \text{exd5} 21.exd5+ and return the knight immediately. The question is where should the king go? \text{\underline{f8}} (21...\text{d7} 22.\text{dxc6}+ \text{xc6} keeps intact the pawn structure on the queen side but in return leaves the king exposed in the open field. ) 22.\text{dxc6} bxc6 In this version Black has a safer king but a horrible pawn structure. However, there are many open lines and the black heavy pieces are working very well. ]

20...\text{\underline{f8}} Closing the door forever to the jump of the knight to \text{d5}. 21.\text{\underline{ef1}}

[ 21.a2 \text{d8} 22.c1 \text{d7} forced the black pieces to retreat but only temporarily ]

21...\text{\underline{g6}}!

Kramnik spoke highly about Anand's defensive resources in this game and he explicitely mentioned this move \text{\underline{g6}}

22.g3 \text{\underline{g7}} When all indicated that Kramnik was ready to start up an attack against the Black king, he suddenly changes plans and goes for 23.\text{\underline{d1}}?

that is certainly interesting as we will soon see. \text{\underline{xd1}}+ 24.\text{\underline{xd1}} The point of this exchange is that the Black rook on g6 is far from defending the central files. A moment that White may use to control most strategical squares. \text{\underline{h8}}

The king gives way to the rook so that it can return to the center.

25.\text{\underline{c3}}?! Yes, the night returns to his natural square but by doing so immediately, Kramnik allows Anand to return with his rook to the d-file

This might very well be another critical moment in this game, as White has two decent alternatives to improve the position of his pieces.

[ 25.f3 \text{g8} 26.d3 \text{c4} 27.b3 \text{c5} 28.b2 \text{g7} 29.e3 \text{d8} 30.xd8 \text{xd8} 31.g4 \text{e7} is not much, but Black is not equal. ]

[ 25.c2 \text{g8} 26.d2 \text{b6} 27.c3 \text{g7} 28.e3 A similar continuation, favored by Seirawan, where White gets a little pressure ]

25...\text{\underline{g8}} Now Black is in time to return to the d-file keeping his central domination,
so White is forced to play all his cards in the king side 26.\texttt{g2} \texttt{d8} 27.\texttt{h5}
For the first time in the game, a real threat! \texttt{g7} White now repeat moves to get closer to the time control at move 40
28.\texttt{g4}+ \texttt{h8} 29.\texttt{h5} \texttt{g7} 30.\texttt{g4}+ \texttt{h8} 31.\texttt{h4} \texttt{g7} 32.e5
[ 32.f5 \texttt{e5} looks OK for Black. ]
32...f5! After this cool move White has many checks but nothing else.

[It was probably possible to play 32...fxe5 33.\texttt{g5}+ \texttt{h8} 34.f5 \texttt{c4} but obviously here there is danger around the Black king. ]

33.\texttt{f6}+ \texttt{g8} 34.\texttt{g5}+
[ 34.h4? \texttt{e3} ]
34...\texttt{h8} 35.\texttt{f6}+ \texttt{g8} 36.\texttt{e2}
Once more Kramnik avoids the repetition but despite the apparent danger, Black has nothing to fear here. \texttt{c4}! 37.\texttt{g5}+
[ 37.\texttt{h3} \texttt{d3} ]
37...\texttt{h8} 38.\texttt{f6}+ \texttt{g8} 39.\texttt{g5}+ \texttt{h8}
Draw agreed. At the press conference Kramnik had to answer a few questions about why he did not continue playing.

There was no way to keep playing anymore, let's see the variations:

[ 39...\texttt{h8} 40.\texttt{h3} the move everybody wanted to play \texttt{d3}! threatening 41...\texttt{xc3} 41.\texttt{g2} White wants to break with g2-g4 of maybe even to march with the king towards h6 \texttt{d4}! The queen is ready to return to d8 to neutralize all threats, for instance 42.\texttt{h4}? \texttt{d2}! ]

\begin{center}
\includegraphics[width=0.8\textwidth]{chess_board.png}
\end{center}

½-½
It's not over until it's over. That was the message that Kramnik was about to transmit to all his fans during this game, until he offered to trade queens, to the surprise of everyone. He missed several strong continuations to increase his opening advantage, but he fail to find them and finally the game was drawn shortly after the first time control. It was anyway the longest game of this match and his first real opportunity to win a game.

Anand is now leading by 6-3, which means one more draw is all he needs to win this match, with 3 games remaining to be played. Most people here in Bonn believe that tomorrow the match will come to an end, but as Kramnik said in the press conference, he will try to avoid it by fighting till the very end.

Anand and Kramnik have played this opening with both colors several times, including games between themselves. From this point on, the lines become extremely complex, mostly because many of them may transpose into the others at anytime, so it's really hard to work out an independent line. 10.0-0 is the way to go for most games being played nowadays \( \text{\textit{bd7}} \)

11.\( \text{\textit{e5}} \text{\textit{g7}} \) 12.\( \text{\textit{xf7}}!! \) (12.\( \text{\textit{xd7}} \text{\textit{d6}} \text{\textit{a6}} \) 14.\( \text{\textit{h5}} \text{\textit{xf8}} \) 15.\( \text{\textit{xf8}} \text{\textit{xf8}} \) 16.\( \text{\textit{e5}} \text{\textit{b6}} \) 17.\( \text{\textit{b3}} \text{\textit{e7}} \text{\textit{xf7}} \) 13.\( \text{\textit{e5}} \text{\textit{d5}} \) 14.\( \text{\textit{e4}} \text{\textit{e7}} \) 15.\( \text{\textit{d6}} \text{\textit{b6}} \) 16.\( \text{\textit{g4}} \text{\textit{af8}} \) 17.\( \text{\textit{c2}} \text{\textit{f7}} \text{\textit{xf7}} \) 18.\( \text{\textit{e5}} \text{\textit{e7}} \) 19.\( \text{\textit{b6}} \) 20.\( \text{\textit{b3}} \text{\textit{c2}} \text{\textit{c2}} \) Anand and Kramnik have played this opening with both colors several times, including games between themselves. From this point on, the lines become extremely complex, mostly because many of them may transpose into the others at anytime, so it's really hard to work out an independent line. 10.\( \text{\textit{c2}} \text{\textit{c2}} \) This came as a surprise, as certainly this move is not one of the most popular in the present position.

[ 10.e5 was the early continuation, not in fashion anymore \( \text{\textit{h5}} \) 11.a4 \( \text{\textit{a6}} \) 12.\( \text{\textit{xe5}} \text{\textit{g3}} \) 13.\( \text{\textit{xf7}} \text{\textit{xf7}} \) 14.\( \text{\textit{fxg3}} \) \( \text{\textit{g8}} \) Kramnik-Anand, Belgrade 1997 ]

At the press conference Kramnik said that this time he wanted to avoid being behind in the clock as occurred in games 3 and 5. He reacted quickly saving time, and he played well indeed. 11.\( \text{\textit{d1}} \text{\textit{b4}} \)

This move was new, however it did not lead to a new position as now the computer showed some games where White had played 12.e5 and 12.\( \text{\textit{e5}} \text{\textit{e7}} \) Again Kramnik plays a new move and this time it can be called an absolute
novelty, leading to a new position. The move had been recommended by German grandmaster Lutz who annotated an important game played 8 years ago by Dutch GM Van Wely who was precisely Kramnik's secondant in the WCC in Mexico City, so Kramnik might have studied this position before.

\[ 12...\text{g8?!} 13.0-0 \text{e7} 14.a4 \text{a6} 15.\text{bxd7} \text{xd7} 16.d5 \text{b6} 17.d6 \text{d7} 18.f4 \text{xc3} 19.bxc3 \text{c5} 20.fxg5 \text{xe4} 21.d2 \text{d5} 22.h5 \text{g6} 23.f3 \text{d3} 24.xd5 exd5 25.de1+ \text{d8} 26.e7 1-0 \text{Van Wely-Dao Thien Hai, Istanbul 2000}\]

13.0-0

[ 13.\text{xd7} was suggested by Kramnik as a possible improvement after the game ]

13...\text{xe5}! 14.\text{xe5} 0-0

The position already looks OK for Black as it is not easy for White to organize his attack on the king side. For instance, after the normal break 15.f4 \text{d7!} the position becomes very suspicious.

15.\text{xf6} \text{xf6} 16.f4 \text{g7} While many grandmaster where calculating the consequences of 16...gxf4, Kramnik played quickly this move and as Anand admitted at the press conference, around here he started to feel that something had gone wrong with his previous play. 17.e5 A critical moment where Anand is ready to deploy his pieces in the Black's king direction and Black has to show a consistent plan. The computers were in favor of advancing the f-pawn to f6 or f5 to secure the king but weakening the position. Kramnik finds something much better. c5!

An energetic continuation, giving back his pawn for a strong initiative. 18.\text{xb5} \text{cxd4} 19.\text{xc4}

[An alternative was 19.f3 but after \text{xf3} 20.f3 \text{ac8} 21.\text{d4} \text{fd8} the position looks fine for Black ]

19...a5! Again a strong move by Kramnik and most people watching the game at the press room were really impressed. It's clear that Black has the upper hand 20.h1 There were other moves like 20.f3 or 20.d6, but h1 seems best. \text{ac8} Better than

[ 20...gxf4 21.f3 \text{xf3} 22.gxf3
(22.\text{xf3} \text{xe5}) 22...\text{xe5} 23.\text{xd4} when Black is still better but White has play]

21.\text{xd4}

gxf4 A move that was instantly criticized at the press room, probably without reason.

[21...\text{c2} 22.\text{f3} \text{xf3} 23.\text{xf3} gxf4 24.\text{g1} and White holds]

[21...\text{c5}!? This is the move everybody was expecting. At the press conference, Kramnik said he had tried to make it work but could not see how to continue after the best defense 22.\text{xf4} gxf4 23.\text{xf4}]

A) 24...\text{e3} 25.\text{d6}! (after 25.g3 \text{g4} the tactics were working nicely for Black) 25...\text{xe5} (25...\text{b8} 26.\text{c4} \text{h8} 27.\text{c2}) 26.\text{xc8} \text{xc8} with compensation but probably not more;

B) 24...\text{xe5} 25.\text{xf4} \text{xf4} 26.\text{xf4} \text{fd8} the ending looks very comfortable to Black]

22.\text{f3} \text{a6} 23.a4 \text{c5} 24.\text{xf4} \text{xe5} 25.b3?! \text{xb5} 26.axb5 \text{xb5} 27.\text{e4} \text{c3} 28.\text{c2} \text{e5} 29.\text{f2} \text{b8} 30.\text{f3}

\text{c5} Black has regrouped his pieces that are all working nicely. The big question is now how to make progress against best defense by White. 31.\text{d3} \text{c3} 32.g3 \text{h8} Creating the threat \text{xb3} 33.\text{b7}

Looks active but at the same time this move creates new problems for White.

f5

[33...\text{c7}! is much stronger since Black may be threatening 36...\text{b8}. Should White try to protect the b3 pawn with the natural 34.\text{c4} then he runs into nasty tactics by \text{g3}!]

A) 35.\text{g1}? \text{e5}! 36.hxg3 (36.\text{g3} \text{g3} 37.hxg3 \text{h5}+ ) 36...\text{h5}+ 37.\text{g2} \text{c2}+;

B) 35.hxg3? \text{g3}+

C) 35.\text{e7} \text{e5} 36.\text{g1} \text{f6} 37.\text{c5} \text{g5}]

34.\text{b6}

[34.\text{g7}+ \text{g7} 35.\text{c4} \text{f6} led to a better ending for Black]

34...\text{e5}?! Allows White to save the game

[34...\text{a7} 35.\text{e6} \text{b7}+ ]
36...e4!+– ]
[ 34...e5!? ]

35...b7?
[In time pressure Anand misses 35...xf5! exf5 36...xh6+ (36...fe1!? g7 37...e6 may even be stronger) 36...g8 37...g5+ (37...g6+ g7 38...e6+ f7 39...xf7+ xf7 40...d8+ f8 41...xf8+ f8 42...xf5+ ) 37...g7 38...xf5 ]

35...c7? A really poor decision since there was a lot of danger for the White king. At the press conference Kramnik said that he had not been good handling tactics in time trouble in previous games, so when he started here calculating the line 35...f4 and later discovered that it simply allowed mate in one, he decided to go for the ending.

[35...g8+ On his way to the press conference somebody informed Kramnik of this move that he later quoted 'as winning'. It's not easy to assess if the position is already winning or not, but certainly Black is clearly better with the queens over the board. ]

[35...c7+ was also a move ]

36...xc7 xc7 37.c4 e8?! 
[37...a4 immediately was the only chance to keep the fight on ]

38...d7 a4 now is much easier for White to make the draw 39...xc7
[39...a1= ]

39...axb3

40...f2?! Vishy had seen the line with d1 to search for perpetual on the seventh rank, but with only a minute left decided to play solid and then allowed sudden chances to Vladimir
[40...d1 b2 41...g2 ]

40...b8
[40...a8!? was probably more dangerous ]

41...b2 h5
[41...b4? 42...c8+ g7 43...xe6 ]
[41...e5 42...g2 ]
[41...f4 42...g2 ]
[41...c2 unfortunately for Kramnik, this natural continuation was not enough after the forced line 42...xc2 bxc2 43...xe6 b1+ 44...g2 c1 45...xc1 xc1 46...xf5 leading to a ]
theoretical ending where White puts his bishop in the long diagonal and his position is invulnerable. ]

42.\textit{g2} h4 43.\textit{c6}

[ 43.gxh4 \textit{a8} ]

[ 43.f2? \textit{a8} was the trick Kramnik had in mind as he revealed in the press conference although it may not me enough to win either. ]

43...hxg3 44.hxg3 \textit{g8} 45.\textit{xe6} \textit{xc4}  

After this result, Anand leads by 6-3 and needs only a draw to win the match. The next game, number 10, will see Kramnik as White trying to stop him at least for one day.

\textit{\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}}
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 Ʌf6 2.c4 Ʌe6 3.Ʌc3 The first indication that Kramnik is out for a big fight. Ʌb4 The Nimzo Indian appears for the second time in the match. Kramnik was the first the play it as Black in the second game, where he had problems to make a draw. Now it's his turn with White. 4.Ʌf3 Ʌc6 5.g3 This line became very popular after Kasparov used it 5 times against Karpov during their second and third matches in 1085 and 1986. Later Kasparov played it a few more times, including games against Anand and Kramnik. cxd4 6.Ʌxd4 0-0 7.Ʌg2 d5 8.cxd5 Ʌxd5 9.Ʌb3 Ʌa5 This is now considered the main line, but 9...Ʌb6 and 9...Ʌc6 had been played often as well.

[Anand won a beautiful quick game after 15...Ʌb6 16.Ʌe3 Ʌh5 17.Ʌd6?! Ʌc4 18.Ʌxc6 Ʌxe3 19.Ʌxa6? Ʌab8 20.Ʌa4 Ʌb2 21.Ʌe1 Ʌe2!! 0-1 Bacrot-Anand, Bastia 2001]

15.e4 Ʌc4 we keep following the main line.

[Anand won a beautiful quick game after 15...Ʌb6 16.Ʌe3 Ʌh5 17.Ʌd6?! Ʌc4 18.Ʌxc6 Ʌxe3 19.Ʌxa6? Ʌab8 20.Ʌa4 Ʌb2 21.Ʌe1 Ʌe2!! 0-1 Bacrot-Anand, Bastia 2001]

16.Ʌa4 Ʌb6 17.Ʌb4 Ʌh5 18.Ʌe1N Here comes the novelty. There are many games starting with 18.Ʌf4 or 18.Ʌe3, 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 $\text{e3}$ or $\text{f4}$, now Black has to work in the dark since it's not clear yet where the bishop will finally be placed. $\text{c5} \ 19.\text{wa5} \ \text{fc8} \ 20.\text{e3}$

Why $\text{e3}$ and not $\text{f4}$? Nobody knew, but Kramnik did, since he was playing fast. Obviously he was still in his preparation. $\text{e2} \ 21.\text{f4} \ \text{e5}$

Is Black obliged to play $\text{e5}$? Hard to say, but one thing is clear, White was provoking him to play that move and now the bishop retreats again to $\text{e5}$, but this time with a trophy. $\text{22.e3}$ An amateur chessplayer won’t have any idea about has is happening. The bishop went to $\text{e3}$ in move 20, to $\text{f4}$ in move 21 and back to $\text{e3}$ 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. $\text{g4}$? 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...$\text{f6}$ was best according to Kramnik ]
[ 22...$\text{c4} \ 23.\text{wa6} \ \text{xe3} \ 24.\text{xe2} \ \text{g2} \ 25.\text{xg2}$ 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. ]

$\text{23.wa6}$! This is why $\text{g4}$ was bad. From $\text{e2}$ the bishop was guarding the $\text{a6}$ square. White is now ready to start pushing his a-pawn and once it gets to $\text{a5}$, Black will be in serious trouble. $\text{f6}$?
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...\texttt{e6} was a better resource for Black. \texttt{24.a4 f7} There were many alternatives, but none of them seemed to be enough to equalize.

\begin{itemize}
\item [24...\texttt{e6}] 25.a5 \texttt{c4} 26.\texttt{b7±}
\item [24...\texttt{c7}] 25.a5 \texttt{d7} 26.\texttt{ab1±}
\item [24...\texttt{e8}] 25.a5 \texttt{d7} 26.\texttt{eb1±}
\end{itemize}

\texttt{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. \texttt{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. \texttt{c4} Complete capitulation, forgetting about c4 and opening up the strong diagonal for the white bishop.

\begin{itemize}
\item [26...\texttt{c4??}] illustrates why Black was not in time to control \texttt{c4}. 27.\texttt{xc4 xc4} (27...\texttt{xc4} 28.\texttt{xb6}) 28.\texttt{b7+} [26...\texttt{h8} also shows why black has to forget about the blockade on c4. 27.a5 \texttt{c4} 28.\texttt{b7} \texttt{g8} 29.\texttt{h6!!} gxh6 (29...\texttt{f7} 30.\texttt{xf7}) 30.\texttt{xc4} a line Kramnik proudly showed after the game.]
\end{itemize}

\texttt{27.a5 a4?!}

[27...\texttt{d7} Offered more resistance but even so after 28.\texttt{b7} it's best to forget about this game.]

\texttt{28.b7 e8 29.d6}

There are some ways to avoid the immediate threat 30.\texttt{e7}, but then the White queens 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.

1-0
The eleventh game turned out to be the last game of the match. In my opinion, it was the lowest quality game of all, as the direct result of the tension and the necessity by Kramnik to risk for a win.

1.e4

As it was easy to predict, Anand made the right choice to retain his title, 1.e4!, a powerful move that only Kramnik has been able to neutralize. He kept undefeated in 5 games against Kasparov in their London 2000 match and made 1. 5 out of 2 against Leko in their Brissago 2004 match. That was enough to convince his opponents that he is invulnerable in those grounds. Leko switched immediately to 1.d4, Topalov in Elista 2006 did not bother to try 1.e4 in a single game, and so had done Anand until today.

However, Kramnik's preparation against 1.e4 is directed to reach equality and no more. It's impossible to use the Berlin or the Petrov as a must win weapon. So what to do? Over the board, Kramnik improvised, played the always fashionable Najdorf, but soon landed out of book, felt uncomfortable with the position and made the wrong decisions.

c5 2.d3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 c6 5.c3 a6

The Najdorf is not new to Kramnik. There was a period of time when he switched to 1.e4 an had to face it quite a few times, in particular, 3 games against Anand, all of them ending in a draw. As Black Kramnik played the Najdorf against Anand in Dortmund 2004, where he lost in the line 6.Be3, that he was probably expecting this time.

6.g5 e6 7.f4 c7 A side line. Most players as White are afraid of 7...Qb6 which has been analyzed heavily with most lines leading to a good evaluation for Black. The problem with 7...b6 is that many variations are leading to a draw by force, so Kramnik could not go for it precisely today.

8.xf6 gxf6 9.f5 c5

At the press conference Kramnik said...
that he had found this move, probably a new move ..... The truth is that there are many games with this move, one of them played by Kasimdzhanov, one of Anand's seconds in this match. Kramnik was simply trying his best, but he was in unfamiliar grounds.

10.\texttt{\textbackslash&}d3 The main move. There is also 6.\texttt{\textbackslash&}e2, 6.\texttt{\textbackslash&}b3 and a few other minor moves \texttt{\textbackslash&}c6 11.\texttt{\textbackslash&}b3 \texttt{\textbackslashtextbackslash&}e5 12.0-0-0 exf5

An ugly move, an indication of the tension and the desire by Kramnik to complicate the game. In these Rauzer positions, taking on f5 is normally not good for Black. 13.\texttt{\textbackslash&}e3! Anand is really good at the white side of the Sicilian. At the press room most grandmasters where considering moves like 13.\texttt{\textbackslash&}f3, 13.\texttt{\textbackslash&}e2, 13.\texttt{\textbackslash&}d5 and 13.\texttt{\textbackslash&}b1 \texttt{\textbackslashtextbackslash&}g7

This came also as a surprise, but the alternatives were not looking better, for instance.

[ 9...\texttt{\textbackslash&}c6 10.\texttt{\textbackslashtextbackslash&}xe6 \texttt{\textbackslashtextbackslash&}xe6 11.\texttt{\textbackslash&}c4 \texttt{\textbackslash&}xd4 12.\texttt{\textbackslashtextbackslash&}xd4 \texttt{\textbackslash&}g8 13.0-0-0∞ is one of the latest games in this line at the high level, Radjabov-Grischuk, Sochi 2008 ]

14.\texttt{\textbackslash&}d5 \texttt{\textbackslashtextbackslash&}e7 15.\texttt{\textbackslash&}g3 \texttt{\textbackslashtextbackslash&}g8

[ 15...0-0 16.\texttt{\textbackslashtextbackslash&}f5 \texttt{\textbackslashtextbackslash&}e5 17.\texttt{\textbackslash&}f4± ]

16.\texttt{\textbackslash&}f4!

A critical moment, where most grandmasters evaluated the position as slightly better for White or unclear. The next two moves by Kramnik are dubious, clarifying the position in White's favor fxe4?!

[ 16...\texttt{\textbackslash&}e6 Kramnik had seen this move, but he did not like it. Anyway it looks better than taking immediately on e4. 17.\texttt{\textbackslash&}d1 fxe4 18.\texttt{\textbackslash&}xe4 \texttt{\textbackslash&}g4 ( 18...\texttt{\textbackslash&}f8!? ) 19.\texttt{\textbackslash&}d2 f5 20.\texttt{\textbackslash&}xd6+ \texttt{\textbackslash&}x8 and there is still a fight ]

17.\texttt{\textbackslash&}xe4 f5?! This allows a comfortable simplification by 18.\texttt{\textbackslash&}xd6+ \texttt{\textbackslash&}f8

19.\texttt{\textbackslash&}xc8 \texttt{\textbackslashtextbackslash&}xc8 20.\texttt{\textbackslash&}b1

From an unclear position we have
reached this one where White is about to gain a big advantage. To avoid it, Black has no choice but to exchange queens.

\[
\square e1+ 21. \square c1 \square e7 \\
[21...\square b4? 22.\square xf5+- ]
\]

\[
[21...\square b4 22.\square d3 \square xf4 23.\square xf4\pm ]
\]

22.\square d2! \square xd2 23.\square xd2 \square h6 24.\square f2

\square e3\pm At this point Kramnik offered a draw. He could not fight any longer.

It was a very good match, where both players fought hard over the board and at the same time were true gentlemen outside of it.

\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}