

Nat'l soccer

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 17: Sylhet moved into quarter-finals of the 18th Sher-e-Bangla national soccer championship beating Netrakona 1-0 at the local stadium here today.

Star-studded Sylhet, packed with five national footballers were upstaged by Netrakona who completely ran the show with repeated attacks, but due to poor finishing they could not break the deadlock.

The second half was much the same until Rehan of Sylhet was sent off in the 50th minute then Sylhet suddenly began to pick up their game and started to attack. Their persistence paid off when Rakib struck a 30-yarder ten minutes before the end.

Sylhet play either hosts Khulna or BUET, who meet tomorrow (Friday), in the quarter-final on Tuesday.

Nat'l youth cricket

Chittagong and Jessore qualified for the zonal finals of the Beximco 14th national youth cricket championship after winning their respective semifinals yesterday at the different zonal venues across the country, reports UNB.

In Group C match, Chittagong DSA registered a comfortable 87-run victory over Patuakhali DSA at Chandpur.

Chittagong 211 for 7 in 45 overs. Dolphin not out 79, Azim 38, Manoj 3/28.

Patuakhali 124 all out in 35.1 overs. Sabuj 57, Masum 4/19, Rashid 4/28.

In Group A match, Jessore defeated Manikganj by three wickets at Sakhrina.

Manikganj: 145 all out in 43 overs. Raseel 38, Manik 32, Saad 23, Ashiquezaman 5/30.

Jessore: 146 for 7 in 40.5 overs. Ashique Batti 32, Sadhan 20, Santanu 4/38 and Tapu 3/18.

Nirman cricket results

Sports Reporter

Motijheel Government High School and Mirpur Bangla School registered comfortable wins in their respective matches of the Nirman Schools cricket championship.

On the western strip of the Damdodi Cricket Stadium (DCS), Mirpur Bangla School outplayed BCSIR by six wickets.

BCSIR batted first and were all out for 120 in 33.1 overs. Bangla School played 26.4 overs to post 121 for four wickets.

Motijheel School beat Provat Vidy Niketan by 66 runs in the other match played at the Dhanmudi Club ground. Cezanned scored 56 as Motijheel batting first were all out for 197 in 35 overs.

Motijheel's Riyad took four for 19 as Provat were all out for 131 in 28.2 overs.

Parvez with 45 was the only batsman to offer any resistance.

Walkovers all over

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Biman and Bangladesh Paper Mills got full points in the other match played at the Dhanmudi Club ground. Cezanned scored 56 as Motijheel batting first were all out for 197 in 35 overs.

Motijheel's Riyad took four for 19 as Provat were all out for 131 in 28.2 overs. Parvez with 45 was the only batsman to offer any resistance.

Partex b'ball

Sports Reporter

Eagles Club defeated Fleet Club 86-82 in a keenly contested match of the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

The first-half saw Eagles lead 41-37.

Imon, who topscored with 19, was closely followed by Towfiq with 18.

Mahmudur and Fazal caged 28 and 14 respectively for the losers.

Azad Boys play Hornets today.

A mini WC

MIAMI, Florida, Feb 17: World Cup finalists Colombia, Sweden and Bolivia join the US squad here Friday for the Joe Robbie Cup, a tournament providing all four teams a key test in their title quest, reports AFP.

More than 40,000 spectators are expected for double-headers Friday and Sunday at Joe Robbie Stadium. Three points will be awarded for victories with ties worth one point to each side under the same format to be used at the World Cup, which opens June 17.

Sweden and Colombia meet Friday before the United States face Bolivia.

Army take over reins

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Army established an impressive lead in the medals table on day two of the 22nd national athletics championships at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Army, with a haul of 11 golds, 8 silvers and 5 bronzes, sat in the driver's seat ousting BJMC who ruled the first day.

Like the first day eleven golds were also decided on the second day though the meet was yet to see a new record.

The day began with the 20km walkathon where Army made a clean sweep winning all the medals — gold, silver and bronze. Naik Mahbubul Alam claimed the gold clocking 1 hour 40 minutes and 26.6 seconds. Lance Naik Sajjuddin Titu and Yunus Ali got the silver and the bronze respectively.

The second gold came for Army by Habilder Mostafa Talukder in the men's hammer throw event. He hurled a distance of 53.42 metres. Habilder Mominul Hoque of the same team managed the silver while BJMC's Montaj Mollah got the bronze.

In men's high jump Navy's Farid Uddin took the gold while Lance Naik Jahir Uddin of Army and Kishu of BJMC got the silver and the bronze respectively.

In the men's 1500m Lance Naik Ansar Ali Kohinor of Army captured the gold while Wahab Khan of Air Force and Abdur Razzak of BJMC had to be satisfied with the silver and the bronze respectively.

Shirin Akhter of BJMC won the women's high jump gold. Her team-mate Kalpana Biswas bagged the silver while Ferdousi Begum of Mymensingh took the bronze.

The women's 100 metre hurdles gold went to BTMC's Feroza Khatoun who clocked 15.3 minutes. Runa Laila of BJMC and Rita Barua of Customs managed to get the silver and bronze respectively.

The fourth gold of the day for Army came when Lance Naik Gias Uddin timed 48.7 seconds in the 400m men's hurdles. His team-mate Lance Naik Farid Khan Chowdhury got the silver while Milzar Hossain of BJMC took the bronze.

In women's 400m Sumita Goswami clocked 59 seconds

to claim the second gold for her BTMC. Two Nasima Akhter respectively from BJMC and Ansar took the silver and bronze respectively.

Men's triple jump gold went to Army's Habilder Nazrul Islam who crossed a distance of 15.14 metres. Lance Naik Alef Uddin also

Rahman won in a time of 9 minutes 33.8 seconds.

His team-mate Lance Naik Ali Kohinor of Army took the silver while able bodied seaman Anisur Rahman of Navy brought the bronze.

MEDALS TABLE

Following is the medals



UP & AWAY: Firoza Akhter of BTMC is on her way to winning the gold medal in women's 100m hurdles of the 22nd national athletics championships at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

from Army, got the silver while LAC Ferdousi Ali of Air Force got the bronze.

The lone gold for Air Force came from the javelin event. LAC Hafizur Rahman put a distance of 59.68 metre to maintain the first position. Custom's Mohiuddin and Army's Habilder Dulal Chandra Sarkar managed the silver and bronze respectively.

Army got another important gold from the men's 3000m steeple chase as Naik Mujibur

table after the second day of the 22nd national athletics championships (Tabulate under gold, silver and bronze) —

Teams	G	S	B
Army	11	8	5
BJMC	6	8	5
BTMC	2	1	1
Ansars	1	2	1
Air Force	1	1	3
Navy	1	1	1
Customs	0	1	3
Mymensingh	0	0	1
Kushidia	0	0	1
Rajshahi University	0	0	1
Total	22	22	22

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Azad Boys pulled off an exciting one wicket victory against Shantinagar A in a relegation match of Second Division at the Pallabi ground.

Shantinagar batted first and mustered 193 for six wickets with Amir making 63 followed Pavel followed him with an unbeaten 47.

Azad's Kashem was quite successful having a haul of three for 13.

Azad Boys were in all sorts of trouble as they went out in quest of 194 for victory as Suman of Shantinagar ripped through them with four for 34 but a series of middling contributions in tandem with generous share of extras saw them through. They posted 196 for nine from 39.3 overs.

Local hero Daehlie wins men's 10-km cross-country

LILLEHAMMER, Feb 17: Norwegian cross-country ski hero Bjorn Daehlie rediscovered his golden touch here on Thursday with a thrilling triumph in the men's 10km classic, reports AFP.

Daehlie, a triple gold medalist at Albertville two years ago but denied Monday's 30km gold by compatriot Thomas Alsgaard, saw off a gritty challenge from his Siberian archrival Vladimir Smirnov.

Smirnov, the runaway World Cup leader who had also settled for silver at last year's World Championships in Falun, was 18 seconds off the pace.

The bronze medal went to inspired Italian veteran Marco Albello, 33, who came home just four seconds later.

Russia's defending champion Lyubov Egorova swept to her second cross-country gold when she powered to victory in the women's 10km freestyle.

Italian fans also had plenty to celebrate as Manuela di Centan took the silver and world champion Stefania Belmondo got the bronze.

MEDALS TABLE

Medals table on the sixth day of competition at the Winter Olympics on Thursday (Tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):

	G	S	B
Norway	5	3	1
Russia	4	5	2
Italy	2	2	4
USA	2	2	0
Germany	2	1	0
Canada	1	0	2
Netherlands	0	1	2
Austria	0	1	1
Kazakhstan	0	1	0
Finland	0	0	2
France	0	0	1
Japan	0	0	1

Who will it be?

LONDON, Feb 17: Former England Cricket captains Ray Illingworth and Mike Smith are in a straight fight to become chairman of the national selectors, reports Reuter.

Illingworth, 61, and Smith 60, seek the post from which another ex-England skipper, Ted Dexter, resigned last season when England were trounced 4-1 by Australia in the six-Test Ashes series.

A five-man Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) working party looked at 21 candidates, ranging from current players to former Test stars, and now the 20 TCCB members must vote for Smith or Illingworth next month.

TCCB chief executive Alan Smith said on Wednesday the two candidates had "declared their availability" and were "enthusiastic to take on the job".

Smith captained England in 25 Tests during the mid-1960s and Illingworth led his country 31 times between 1969 and 1973.

New BBF body

Sports Reporter

A 27-member temporary executive body of the Bangladesh Badminton Federation, with Mujibur Rahman as the president and Mobin Uddin Ahmad as the general secretary, was formed by the National Sports Council yesterday.

Pak pace wrecks Kiwis again

WELLINGTON, Feb 17: Pakistan's fiery pacemen once again put New Zealand to the sword on the first day of the second Test today demolishing the home team for 175 on a near-perfect batting wicket, reports Reuter.

Tenace pace bowler Ata-ur-Rehman came out of the shadow of star bowlers Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis to dismiss three top batsmen.

Akram followed up last week's nine-wicket first Test haul with four for 60 as New Zealand again showed themselves unable to face an international bowling attack.

At the close Pakistan were 35 for one after losing opener Aamir Sohail leg before wicket to Danny Morrison for two.

It took Akram just four balls to send Bryan Young back to the pavilion in the morning session, trapping the hapless opener leg before wicket without a run on the board. Fellow opener Blair Pocock was bowled for 16 by Rehman and New Zealand went to lunch struggling on 49 for two.

Captain Ken Rutherford, who has berated his team for showing a lack of application, was dismissed off the first ball he faced after lunch, carelessly waving the bat outside the off stump and presenting a simple slip catch to Akram Raza.

Veteran batsman Andrew Jones grafted for 43 before English umpire Dickie Bird rather harshly adjudged him leg before wicket to a Rehman delivery.

Jones and left-hander Mark Greatbatch had added an invaluable 51 to bring up the century before Jones was dismissed.

Greatbatch, playing with his usual belligerence, struck five fours and a six in a 94-minute innings of 45, which turned out to be the highest score of the innings. The lower-middle order disappeared without trace.

The bowling was frequently wayward and the fielding sloppy but this proved unimportant against New Zealand's slapdash batting.

Akram, with 24 overs, and Waqar, with 22, topped under the hottest day recorded in Wellington this summer, gleefully accepting the wickets of fered up.

The Kiwis have had a dismal summer, losing a Test series 2-0 in Australia, failing to reach the finals of the World Series one-day competition in Australia, and suffering the indignity of losing the first Test in two and a half days last week.

In Auckland, New Zealand bowled well but were dismissed for 242 and 110. Today their batsmen showed a similar lack of application.

Pakistan, left with an awkward 12 overs to face, started at breakneck speed. Saeed Anwar hitting Morrison for

seven off the first over and scoring a sparkling 30 by stumps.

Sohail survived a loud leg before wicket appeal from Morrison before umpire Brian Aldridge gave him out off the next ball. He had scored just two.

Night watchman Akram

Rutherford c Raza b Rehman 45
Greatbatch c Latif b Waqar 7
Thomson b Akram 8
Blain c Saeed b Waqar 8
Hart not out 12
Morrison c Latif b Akram 5
Donli c Basit b Waqar 17
De Groen b Akram 4
Extras (lb-7, nb-4) 11
Total (66 overs) 175



Fast bowler Wasim Akram makes a leg before wicket appeal on the first day of the Second Test between Pakistan and New Zealand in Wellington yesterday.

Raza, who only arrived in New Zealand from Pakistan on Wednesday to replace injured leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, survived to the close.

New Zealand coach Geoff Howarth may have some good news on Friday. Heavy rain is forecast over the next 48 hours, possibly New Zealand's only chance of making the second of three Tests last a full five days.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of New Zealand's first innings on the first day of the second Test match against Pakistan today:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings
Young lbw b Akram 0
Pocock b Rehman 16
Jones lbw b Rehman 43

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-40; 3-49; 4-100; 5-126; 6-128; 7-140; 8-149; 9-170

Bowling: O M R W
Akram 24 10 60 4
Waqar 22 5 51 3
Rehman 15 4 50 3
Raza 6 4 7 0

PAKISTAN: First innings
Saeed Anwar not out 30
Sohail lbw b Morrison 2
Akram Raza not out 0
Extras (lb-2, nb-1) 3
Total (for one wicket) 35

To bat: Asif Mujtaba, Salim Malik, Basit Ali, Inzamamul Haq, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Ata-ur-Rehman.

Bowling: O M R W
Morrison 6 1 21 1
De Groen 3 2 6 0
Donli 3 1 6 0

Aussies suffer double blow

POTCHEFSTROOM, M. South Africa, Feb 17: An injury-hit Australian cricket team suffered another blow

on Thursday when skipper Allan Border suffered an attack of asthma, reports AP.

Border, 38, was unable to bat in the 35 overs before a torrential rain interrupted the Australians' final warm-up game against a President's XI squad at the Fanie du Toit Stadium.

Australia take on South Africa in the first of eight one-day internationals at Wanderers on Saturday.

Australia were 142 for five in 35 overs when play was finally called off due to the soggy outfield.

Border was treated by team physiotherapist Errol Alcott after the skipper suffered the

asthma attack. Fast bowler Merv Hughes who suffered a back spasm on Tuesday had a light workout before the game under the supervision of Alcott.

"He woke up without any pain. He needs to take it slowly. At this stage it is hard to rule him out for Saturday," said Alcott, referring to Hughes' availability for the first one-day international.

Mark Waugh continued from where he left off in the century against Northern Transvaal with yet another polished 55 off 49 balls.

After the early loss of Mark Taylor and Dean Jones, Waugh together with Boon (42) produced some exhilarating strokeplay, adding 75 runs in 56 minutes for the third wicket.

Waugh hit three towering sixes and four boundaries and

fell victim to off-spinner Shaheef Abrahams, one of the four coloured players in the home lineup graduated from the United Cricket Board's development programme.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA:
Taylor c Abrahams b Veenstra 9
Boon b Abrahams 42
Jones lbw b Williams 7
M Waugh c Brookler b Abrahams 55
S Waugh not out 14
Healy run out 0
Reffel not out 3
Extras (lb-7, w-5) 12
Total (five wkts in 35 overs) 142

Fall of wickets: 1-12; 2-38; 3-113; 4-131; 5-131.

Bowling: O M R W
Elworthy 6 0 13 0
Veenstra 6 0 18 0
Laing 8 0 41 0
Williams 7 0 27 1
Abrahams 8 0 36 2

Result: Match abandoned.

Seles' return still a mystery

PARIS, Feb 17: Monica Seles, who has not played tennis since being stabbed in the back by a crazed spectator 10 months ago, is not planning a return to the courts in the near future, reports Reuter.

Her representatives International Management Group (IMG) said in a statement issued on Wednesday: "She is not entered in any tournament this year and she does not know when she will be able to return."

IMB said the Yugoslav-born former world number one was still suffering emotionally from a knife attack by a spectator during a match at the Hamburg tournament on April 30 last year.

"Monica will not be ready to play tennis again in the near future," she said in the statement issued during the women's indoor French Open in Paris.

IMG agent Stephanie Tolleson, who represents Seles, said from IMG headquarters in

Cleveland Ohio, that although Seles was not down to play any tournament in 1994, a return during the year could not be ruled out.

Tolleson said: "She has not announced she will not play this year. It is completely up to the air. She doesn't know right now."

"It's safe to say these tournaments coming up around the corner, Indian Wells, Delray and the Lipton Championships, are ruled out. I don't know how much further past them."

"She is dealing with emotional issues. I don't think you can put a time frame on that."

The 20-year-old Seles, who dropped out of the world rankings on Monday after holding top spot from September 1991 to June 1993, was stabbed in the back during a changeover in a Hamburg quarterfinal against Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria.

She has not played at all since the attack and is no longer eligible for the world rankings because she has failed to play at least three tournaments in the last 12 months

She had dropped to 18th last week.

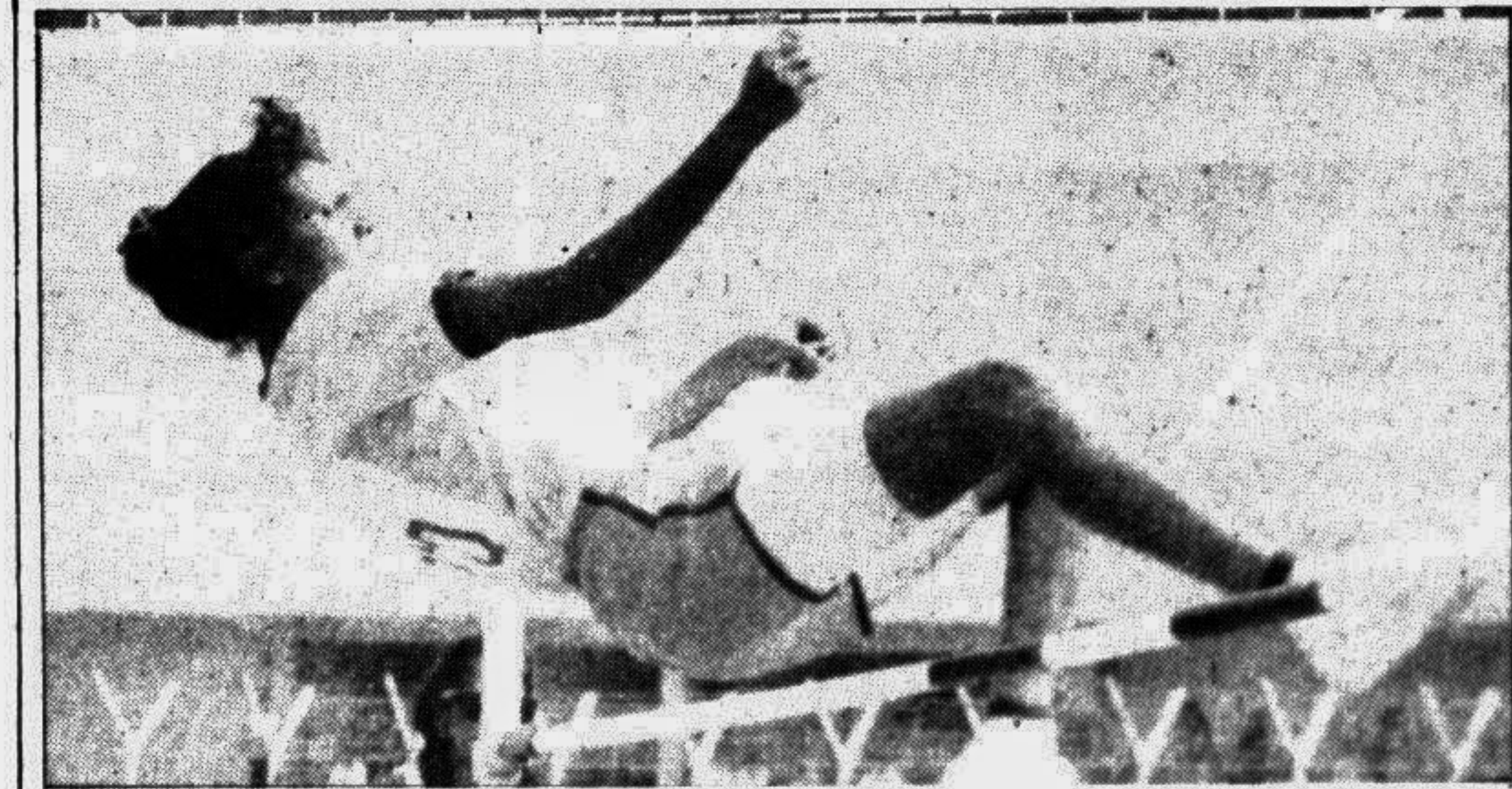
"The speculation about Monica's return to the tour heights as the draw for each week's tournament is announced and Monica does not want to mislead anyone," the IMG statement said.

"Monica has spent the past few months focusing on her physical rehabilitation in order to return to the sport she loves."

Last month's Australian Open was the fourth consecutive Grand Slam tournament Seles, the winner of seven Grand Slam titles, has missed.

Seles has said she feels she owed it to her fans and herself to return only when she is ready to play competitively again.

Asked how close Seles was to competing physically, Tolleson said: "She has already said she is playing without pain physically. As far as her tennis abilities (competitive form) I don't know. I haven't seen her play."



BJMC's Shirin Akhter is about to land after her gold winning soar in women's high jump on the second day of the national athletics championships at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.