### Rani on a roll

Sports Reporter

Holder Rani Hamid crossed a major hurdle in her detence of the national chess championship title defeating fellowaspirant Tanima Parvin in the second round of the 18th version of the meet at the chess room of the National Sports Council vesterday.

Rani, the lone International Women's Master of the country. playing with black pieces adopted the Apaline variation of the Sicilian defence which eventually proved to tough to penetrate for Tanima, who surrendered after 38 moves.

It was Rani's second successive win in the nine round Swiss League meet. She is now sharing the top spot with Afroza Khanom Babli, who also posted her second win at the cost of Masuda Begum.

Former champion Shabana Parveen Nipa, who recorded her first win yesterday defeating Farzana Khan Ava after only 26 moves, is closely following the table leaders with one and a half points.

Meanwhile, the remaining engagements of the day were still in progress till filing of this report.

## Eves' handball league April 6

Sports Reporter

The Wings Cup First Division women's handball league will be held at the Dhanmondi Women's Complex from April 6.

Twelve teams including five from outside the capital will take part in the meet, disclosed the chairman of the league committee Sayed Bazlul Karim at a press briefing held at the conference room of the National Sports Council yester-

The briefing was also attended by M A Hamid, the president of the Bangladesh Handball Federation and the finance director of the sponsors Wings Air Cargo Limited M Anwarul Karim.

### Alex, Glenn consensus

LONDON. Mar 23: England manager Glenn Hoddle and Manchester United's boss Alex Ferguson — at odds over the make-up of the England side for next Saturday's friendly with Mexico — reached an agreement Sunday, reports AP.

On Saturday, Ferguson withdrew three of his top players - Gray Pallister, David Beckham and Gary Neville from Hoddle's team for Mexico game at Wembley Stadium.

Pallister and Beckham sustained injuries in Manchester United's 2-0 Premier League win Saturday at Eyerton - and Neville missed the game with an ankle injury.

Ferguson said he couldn't afford to risk the three with the European Champions Cup Semilinal coming up next month with Borussia Dortmund.

But the two spoke Sunday with Ferguson agreeing to make Neville available.

"Alex and myself have spoken about the injury situation following the game at Everton which I was at," Hoddle said. "Of the United players origi-

nally selected for the England squad Gary Neville ... will be joining up with us tomorrow,"

"It was always clear to me however that Gary Pallister and David Beckham had longerterm injuries that will rule them out of the Mexico game."

The truce took the edge of Sunday's newspaper headlines, one of which in the tabloid News of the World showed photos of the two with the word "War" written above in a bold. red headline.

## Stich sent tumbling

ST PETERSBURG, Russia, 'Mar 23: Top seed Michael Stich was overwhelmed 6-2, 6-1 by Swede Thomas Johansson in the semifinals of the 300,000 St Petersburg Open on Saturday. reports Reuter. Stich looked out of sorts

throughout the match and, with eight double faults and only 40 per cent success on first serve. could never get his main weapon working.

The German complained to the referee during the match and again afterwards about

movement of the crowd which he claimed affected his concentration. "Johansson played better

and his mood was better." said Stich. "I am not very happy Fifth seed Johansson, who said he was satisfied with his

performance, meets Italian Renzo Furlan in Sunday's final. Brawlers to

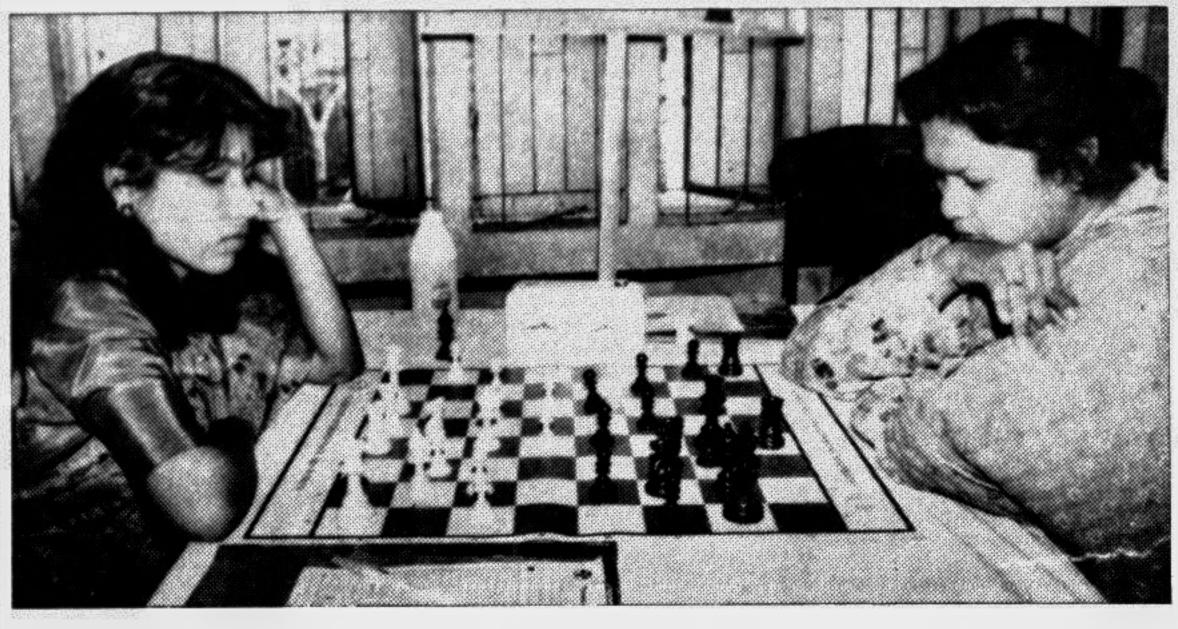
## be punished

LISBON, Portugal, Mar 23: Romanian Nica Panduru left a Benfica training session with a broken nose and a black eye after being punched out by Brazilian Jamir Gomes, news reports said Sunday, reports AP.

The two players clashed during a training session Saturday at Benfida's Estadio da Luz in Lisbon, and both players face tough sanctions by the club, the Daily A Bola reported.

The paper said Gomes lashed out at Panduru, downing him with a single punch, after the Romanian repeatedly kicked

Gomes on the shin. Both players will be left out of the side that plays at Amadora in the first division game Monday. The club is also mulling "tough, exemplary dis-ciplinary measures," said Benfica President Manuel Damasio.



Scene from yesterday's 18th national women's chess championship second round engagement between Zakia Sultana (R) and Nazrana Khan Eva at the NSC. — Star photo

# S Africa strike early

and later hit McGrath inside-

out over cover point for his sec-

while leg spinner Shane Warne

went wicketless for the first

time since Sri Lanka's first in-

nings in the third Test in Ade-

three wickets before lunch in

the space of 218 balls, including

overnight batsman Adam

in 84 minutes off 53 balls before

Bacher added just two runs

McGrath claimed his first

laide in January 1996.

Bacher for 96.

Gillespie picked up 3-75

PRETORIA. Mar 23: South Africa struck twice before tea Sunday to remove openers Mark Taylor and Matthew Hayden and take the upper hand in the third and final cricket Test against

Australia at Centurion Park. report agencies. had smashed a crackerjack 79

After skipper Hansie Cronje to give South Africa a 157-run lead. Australia crashed to 10 for

two in the 32 minutes of batting

Australia need 147 runs to

After left arm fast bowler

Brett Schultz had removed

Hayden (0) at the end of the sec-

ond over, fellow fast bowler Al-

lan Donald produced the best

delivery of the match as skipper

Taylor (5) edged a catch behind.

Matthew Elliott and Mark

Waugh were together at the

break on one and naught retail

Spectively.sev. N materal months

Cronje turned around what

looked like a precarious situa-

tion to a possible match-win-

ning one as he anchored the

Australian fast bowler

Glenn McGrath produced his

sixth five-wicket haul as South

Africa, which resumed the day

on 240 for three, slumped to

262 for seven, losing the four

McGrath finished with six

Cronje shared two partner-

ships, 68 runs for the eight

wicket in under an hour with

Lance Klusener (30) and over in

run-a-ball 37 runs for the ninth

Cronje, unbeaten on 22 at

the lunch break, cut loose soon

wicket with Allan Donald (8).

South Africa lower order.

wickets for seven runs.

for 86.

boundaries.

before tea on the third day.

make home team bat again.

McGrath trapped him leg before wicket. The right-handed opener who took 46 minutes and 30 ball to score his first run of the morning . batted 444 minutes for his highest Test score which included a six and 13 boundaries off 323 balls.

On Saturday a patiently constructed 94 from opener Adam Bacher helped South Africa to 240 for three at the end of the second day. Bacher's craftsmanlike con-

tribution gave the home side a first innings lead of 13 with seven wickets still standing and nightwatchman Pat Symcox there with Bacher on 5.

In Bacher, the side looks to have rediscovered the grit needed to take on the Australians. He shared partnerships of

102 with Brian McMillan and

101 with Darvll Cullinan in a

day of back-breaking effort from the Australian attack. After being all out for 227 on the first day, the second started well for the tourists when Glenn McGrath forced opener Gary Kirsten to follow a swinging de-

livery, musime - 19.11 has all The edge left the home side at 26 for one and, in the process, handed Australian wicketkeeper lan Healy his 300th Test victim.

But that was the only breakthrough of the session and it was only shortly before tea that Mark Waugh, brought on to rest the tiring first line of attack, had McMillan trapped for 55 from a sharp bat-pad chance snapped up by Matthew Hayden.

Having broken that partnership, the Australians again had to labour hard to split Bacher and Cullinan

They had to wait for another 100 runs to be added before Mc-Grath again made the break through.

Cullinan got an inside edge after, hitting two sixes and nine to a delivery which held its line He hooked Jason Gillespie and he departed for 47 with the South African total on 229. over square leg for his first six

Bacher survived the final overs — taking a superb rising McGrath delivery which followed him on the upper arm -

with the aplomb of a veteran. There is still a long way to go for the South Africans and memories of the first innings lead they held over Mark Taylor's side in Port Elizabeth before tamely surrendering, will haunt them overnight.

But with Bacher in form and on the way to his maiden Test



McGRATH .... 6 for 86 century and the bulk of the bat ting still to come, things look good for Hansie Cronje's team for the first time in the three-Test series.

#### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the third and final Test between South Africa and Australia at Centurion Park today: AUSTRALIA: First innings 227 (S Waugh 67; B Schultz 4-52)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 240-3): Kirsten c Healy b McGrath Bacher lbw McGrath McMillan c Hayden b M Waugh Cullinan b McGrath Symcox c Blewett b Gillespie Kallis c S Waugh b McGrath Cronje not out Richardson b McGrath Klusener b Gillespie Donald c Healy b Gillespie Schultz c Healy b McGrath Extras (b-11, lb-16, w-1, nb-5) Fall of wickets: 1-26; 2-128; 3-229; 4-252; 5-255; 6-262; 7-262; 8-330; 9-367.

Bowling	0	M	R	w
McGrath	40.4	15	86	6
Gillespie	31	13	75	3
Blewett	5	0	19	0
Warne	36	11	89	0
Bevan	15	3	54	0
M Waugh	7	1	34	1
(incomp	lete)			

#### Aussie-SA first **ODI Saturday** BRIDGETOWN.

PRETORIA, Mar 23: Australia made three changes to their squad for the seven oneday internationals against South Africa starting in East London on Saturday, reports

Left handed batsmen Matthew Hayden, Matthew Elliott and Justin Langer will return home after the third and final cricket Test.

They will be replaced by allrounders Michael Divenuto and Stuart Law and left-arm fast

bowler Brendon Julian. The three replacement play ers will arrive after the five-day Sheffield Shield final currently in progress in Perth. Western

Australia. But Australian skipper Mark Taylor, still in the midst of a slump, has decided to remain in South Africa despite receiving the option to return home by selectors chairman

Trevor Hohns. Hohns, who is in South Africa, said Taylor was told to base his decision on his 'recurring back injury and not his batting woes, which have caused him to go 19 Test innings without a half-century in the

last 15 months. Hohns said the three changes were a step toward separating the two forms of cricket - five-day Tests and one-day

internationals. What we are doing this tour is trying to separate the two," he

Squad: Mark Taylor (captain). Michael Di Venuto, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Greg Blewett, Michael Bevan, Stuart Law, Ian Healy, Brendon Julian, Shane Warne, Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath, Paul Reiffel and Andrew Bichel.

BCSIR programme

Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) has arranged a threeday programme to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Independence, says a press release.

## India 210 on Day One



Barbados, Mar 23 India were bowled out for 210 on the first day of their three-day match against Barbados on Saturday after collapsing in the final

session, reports Reuter. India. 126 for three at tea. lost seven wickets for 84 runs in the last session after losing the toss and being put in to bat.

Leg-spinner Dave Marshall was the scourge of the Indian batsmen, taking six wickets five of them after tea — for 62

Opener Ajay Jadeja, who did not play in the first two Test matches against the West Indies, provided the only real bright note for the touring Indians, scoring 50 before being caught by Stanton Proverbs off Ottis Gibson. Jadeja's innings lasted 223 minutes in which he faced 154 balls and struck 10

Jadeja and Vangipurappu Laxman put on 88 for the first wicket before Laxman was caught for 36 by Hendy Bryan at mid-off from Marshall's bowling immediately after lunch.

Fast bowler Bryan removed Rahul Dravid (19) who edged a lifting delivery to wicketkeeper

Courtney Browne with the score on 115, then Jadeja edged Gibson to Proverbs at first slip

without any runs being added. In the final session, Marshall claimed the wickets of Saba Karim (12). Noel David (4) Sunil Joshi (4). Dodanarsiah Ganesh (0) and Abey Kuruvilla

Bryan took the wicket of Saurav Ganguly for ten and Robin Singh fell to Gibson for the same score.

Navjot Sidhu, who made a double century in the second Test last week, came in halfway down the order and was the not out batsman on 32.

India have so far drawn all their games on the tour - the two Test matches and a fourday match against Jamaica.

## Annual sports

The annual sports meet of the Shaheed Anwar Girls' College concluded at the college premises at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday, reports

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman was present as chief guest and distributed the prizes.



A press conference was organised in connection with the forthcoming Wings Cup First Division women's handball league at the NSC yesterday. - Star photo

### Nirman cricket N'ganj Govt first in last four

golden

hockey tournament here today reports AFP.

Mohammad Shahbaz and Tahir Zaman peaked at the right moment, scoring two goals each to help the hosts achieve a satisfactory finish in a tournament that was held to celebrate their country's 50year of independence.

In reply, Jalakathi School could muster 106 for six before they exhausted their quota of overs. Yaad scored 26 followed by Manna, who contributed 22

Sports Reporter

were the first to make it to the

last four of the 15th Nirman

schools cricket championship

when the riverine port city out-

fit posted an exciting five-run

win over Jalakathi Govt School

at the Dhanmondi Club ground

side match which was held in

the afternoon due to unavoid-

able circumstances, the

Narayanganj boys scored 111

all out with one over to spare

with Shiplu notching highest

In the truncated 20-over-a-

yesterday.

Narayanganj Govt School

runs in the vanquished total. Meanwhile, in the other three billings of the day at different city venues. Scholastica. Satirpara KK School and Comilla Govt School moved into the quarterfinals eliminating their respective oppo-

Scholastica, the lone survivor among the three schools from Dhaka, stormed into the last eight with a thumping seven-wicket win over Narail

Govt School. Batting first, the Narail boys could only muster 99 runs for the loss of six wickets in their share of 20 overs with Helal and Yousuf contributing 21 and 19 respectively.

In reply, the reputed English medium school raced to victory scoring 103 for three in 17.4

Ridwan hammered a breezy 49 while Shafiguzzaman scored 38. The winners will feature in one of the three quarterfinals billed for today

They will meet Comilla Zila School, who in another engagement of the day at the remote Uttara Friends Club ground squeezed past Pabna Zila School by three runs. Sent into bat Comilla scored

92 for eight in their share of 18 overs. In reply, Pabna could manage 89 for nine before running out of overs.

At the Mirpur City Club ground Satirpara KK School recorded an impressive 27-run win against Arappur Pre-Cadet School on their way to set up a quarterfinal clash with fancied BKSP at the Mirpur Sheraton ground today.

In a truncated 15-over-a-side affair Satirpara, batting first. piled up a commanding 113/7 and then went on to shoot out their opponents for 86 in 12

## MSC meeting

Sports Reporter The annual general meeting of Mohammedan Sporting wil be held at the club pavilion in Motijheel today.

The meeting will start at 6 pm. The executive committee members, patrons and the general members of the reputed club have been asked to attend meeting, said a press release issued yesterday.

### '98 Cross Country Championships doubled?

TURIN, Italy, Mar 23: Next year's World Cross Country Championships are to be staged over two days instead of one. Primo Nebiolo, the International Amateur Athletic Fed eration (IAAF) president, said on Saturday, reports Reuter. Additional, shorter, races

for senior men and women would be also be introduced.

"A one-day event does not justify the expense, effort and organisation." said Nebiolo. The first day on the new

schedule will include the junior women's 4-km race and the shorter senior men's and women's races, probably over 4-km and 5-km. The second day's timetable will include the junior men's 8-km, the senior women's race, which will be extended to 8-km next year, and the senior men's 12-km race.

The news of an additional day will come as a shock to the organisers of next year's championship in Marrakesh. Morocco. Nebiolo acknowledged that they had not be told about the decision.

The change has still to be approved by the IAAF council. which will meet between May 29-31 in Athens, but that is believed to be a formality.

Nebiolo also said that he hoped future World Cross Country Championships would be staged in city centre sites like Sunday's event in Turin's Parce del Velentino.

#### CCC to play in 6s cricket tourneys Dhaka Commonwealth

Cricket Club (CCC) will take part in the two upcoming six-aside tournaments, which are to be held from 25th to 30th March and April 3 to 6 in the Thai capital of Bangkok, says a press release.

#### Taekwondo workshop A special training session on

Taekwondo, jointly organised by Taekwondo Association of Bangladesh and Nepal Tackwondo Association, is going on at the National Sports Council, says a press release. Interested participants, both

boys and girls, have been requested to contact chief trainer Mahmudul Islam Rana to enlist their names for the second batch of the free of cost work-

## Some solace for Pakistan



KARACHI, Mar 23: World champions Pakistan took third spot in the five-nation jubilee

by beating Australia 7-4

It was also Pakistan's first

win in the tournament after having drawn all their four previous games.

The Pakistani forwards started the match with a measure of authority. Their passes were timely and accurate. Right inner Tahir Zaman initiated a move from the right side and passed the ball to Kamran Ashraf whose timely pass was slotted home by Baber Abdullah in the ninth minute.

Australia forced four penalty corners but were unable to profit from them, despite a slipshod Pakistan defence. The pressure eventually told



German captain Christian Blunck holds the trophy aloft after the final of the five-nation hockey tournament. against Holland in Karachi yesterday. Germany won 3-1.

- AFP/UNB photo

though when Danish Kaleem allowed Matthew Smith's sight of goal in the circle to put the Aussies on the board in the

22nd minute. Pakistan moved into the lead again when Mohammad Shahbaz prodded home a rebound in the 27th minute, and

the home side went into the break 2-1 up. After the interval Pakistan moved further into the lead through Zaman with a 38th

minute penalty stroke. Australians hit back with a vengeance, scoring three goals in the span of four minutes all due to a frail Pakistan de-

Michael Brennan scored off a penalty stroke in the 44th minute. A minute later Baeden Choppy was lucky to get a ball that sneaked through Mansoor's pads to level the score at

In the 48th minute James Elmer put Australia in the lead for the first time when an accurate pass from Jay Stacy found him free in the circle. Elmer safely put the ball in the cage.

Buoyed up by a chanting home crowd. Pakistan replied with four goals, Kamran Ashraf scoring in the 58th minute while Mohammad Khalid sr. slotted home Pakistan's fifth in the 64th minute.

Star forward 24-year-old Mohammad Shahbaz, playing his 165th match, scored his second goal of the match in the 67th minute to make the score 6-4. This was Shahbaz's seventh goal of the tourney. Tahir Zaman hit the last nail with a 68th minute goal.

Australian coach Terry Walsh was dejected at the outcome of the match. It was a good fast game, full

of scores but there were some

questionable decisions in the

match." Walsh said without

detailing any particular inci-But on the other side of the field a smile finally crossed the face of Pakistan manager Tariq Aziz. "I told the boys to play

their usual game and I am

happy that they did.

This was the first Pakistan victory in the tournament after playing four successive drawn Olympic champions Holland

Tjust need something to get

me to expect to win." he said.

That's what it boils down to.

When I'm expecting to win. I'm a

different players. When I'm

wondering if things are going to

come together, it snowballs, on

Voinea of Romania warmed up

to the theme from "Mission:

Impossible," then lost to top-

ranked Pete Sampras 6-2, 6-0.

Second-seeded Thomas Muster

and No. 3 Michael Chang also

Seeds eliminated included No. 6

Thomas Enqvist, No. 13 Felix

advanced to the third round

In other men's play. Adrian

## take on Germany in the title decider later in the day. Agassi in the doldrums



not through."

Florida, Mar 23: Andre Agassi can be thankful he doesn't need because money.

he's not making much playing tennis lately. The two-time delending champion of the Lipton Championships lost his opening match Saturday to Australian Scott Draper, 7-6 (7-5), 6-1. The defeat was Agassi's fifth in a row, his worst slump, reports

Motivation may be a prob lem for the 26-vear-old multimillionaire, but he denies it. "I'm not tired," he said. "I'm

Still, Agassi's career has be-

come a celebrity tennis tour: one match and on to the next He has failed to win so much as a set in the past six weeks. losing to Greg Rusedski, Gustavo Kuerten, Javier Sanchez, Mark Philippoussis and Draper. His ranking has slipped from eighth at the beginning of the year to 13th, and he'll now drop

out of the top 20. In 1995, Agassi won 73 matches. This year he has won

On the women's side of the draw. 16-year-old Venus Williams rallied from a 5-1 deficit in the first set to beat Jennifer Capriati 7-6 (7-5), 3-6, 6-2.

"The phenom against the ex-

phenom." Capriati termed the

match. Williams' opponent in the third round Sunday will be another 16-year-old, top ranked Martina Hingis. "She's been around town and

the world," Williams said. "She's a globetrotter. "Im ready Agassi played as if he were double-parked against Draper, a 22-year-old left-hander ranked 79th. Agassi lost his

serve at love in the final game,

and the lackluster performance

ACROSS

1 Avoids

Diane

Arbus

12 Groom

13 Magic

15 X out

to-be

14 Director's

16 Tammany

17 Augury

19 Daughter

20 Farming:

22 River island

24 Venomous

27 Has a bug

"Ninotchka"

29 Regimen

35 Place for

league

40 Approxi-

42 TV revenue

a banjo?

32 Cole

36 On

37 Bush

38 Past

cartoonist

of Cadmus

ad-libbing

prompted speculation that he tanked the second set. Agassi said poor shot selec-

source

writer's

50 Relative

54 Infer

55 Belgian

56 Sweet

52 Made like

Hamilton

and Burr

liqueurs

57 Attendand

count

DOWN

1 Hardly

an elite

character

2 Lower-back

44 Song-

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

46 Information 4 Sqt., e.g.

muscles,

for short

3 Baker or

5 Madrilen

6 Gospel

ian miss

Winans

7 George

8 Hr. part

a thrill

across the

Pyrenees

10 Nada,

11 Woody's

Solution time: 24 mins.

tion is at the root of his trouble. "I wish sometimes I believed in invself out there as much as most people believe in my capabilities," he said. "I'm secondgussing myself a lot out there. It's something I'm going to have to get through." Because Agassi has lost his opening match in four consecutive tournaments, he has played

just eight times this year, making it difficult to shake the slump. It feels like a real vicious cycle at the moment," he said. "I need to get through some of

these tough ones to start putting it together. Agassi missed the lines by six feet against Draper and had particular trouble with his service return, normally the best

ANDRE AGASSI

tiebreaker, including once on

for the US Davis Cup team April

4 against the Netherlands.

Agassi owns a 13-match win-

ning streak in Davis Cup com-

petition.

12 Enthusiast

Russian

18 Bygone

21 Petrol

24 Invite

23 - Amin

25 Sermon

26 Delight

9 Producing 31 Recipe qty.

33 St.

subject

28 Outwitted

30 ld counter

the goalie

Bernard's

burden

34 GIs in the

41 "Waiting

for Lefty

42 OK in any

43 No slug-

47 Sheltered

48 X ratings?

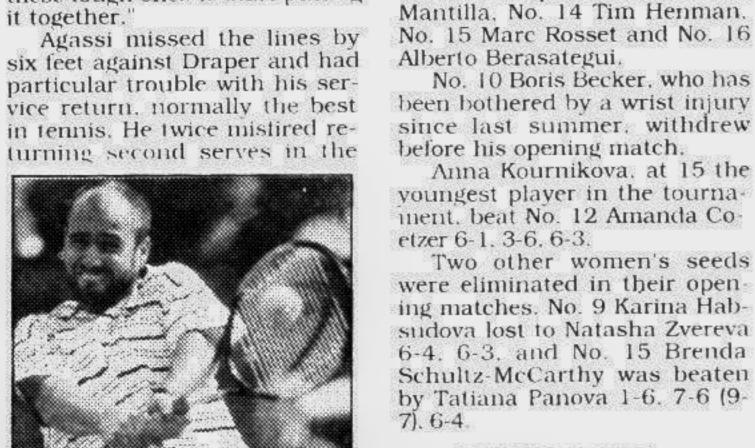
Scrooge

troupe,

53 Hope's

galley 39 Green

Agassi's next match will be



me quickly.

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Shantinagar Club posted an

identical lone goal wins over their respective opponents in the Second Division football league at different city venues yesterday. At the RAJUK ground Eska-

ton, aided by an early strike

Div II football

Sports Reporter

from Arif, prevailed over Mohakhali Eleven while Shantinagar defeated Adamjee SCC at Meanwhile, in the other

the Mirpur Stadium. billing of the day. Dhaka Wanderers shared honours with Muslim Institute in a goalless draw.

LSMKOTY BOR AMSS AX NTUIT OELSK IUBSG YKE GMTGK Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PERHAPS WHEN

TO CHUCKLE UP. Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals N The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to

locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

CRYPTOQUIP

CLOWNS GET INTO CARS, THEY GENERALLY LIKE

49 Combine 51 A screen