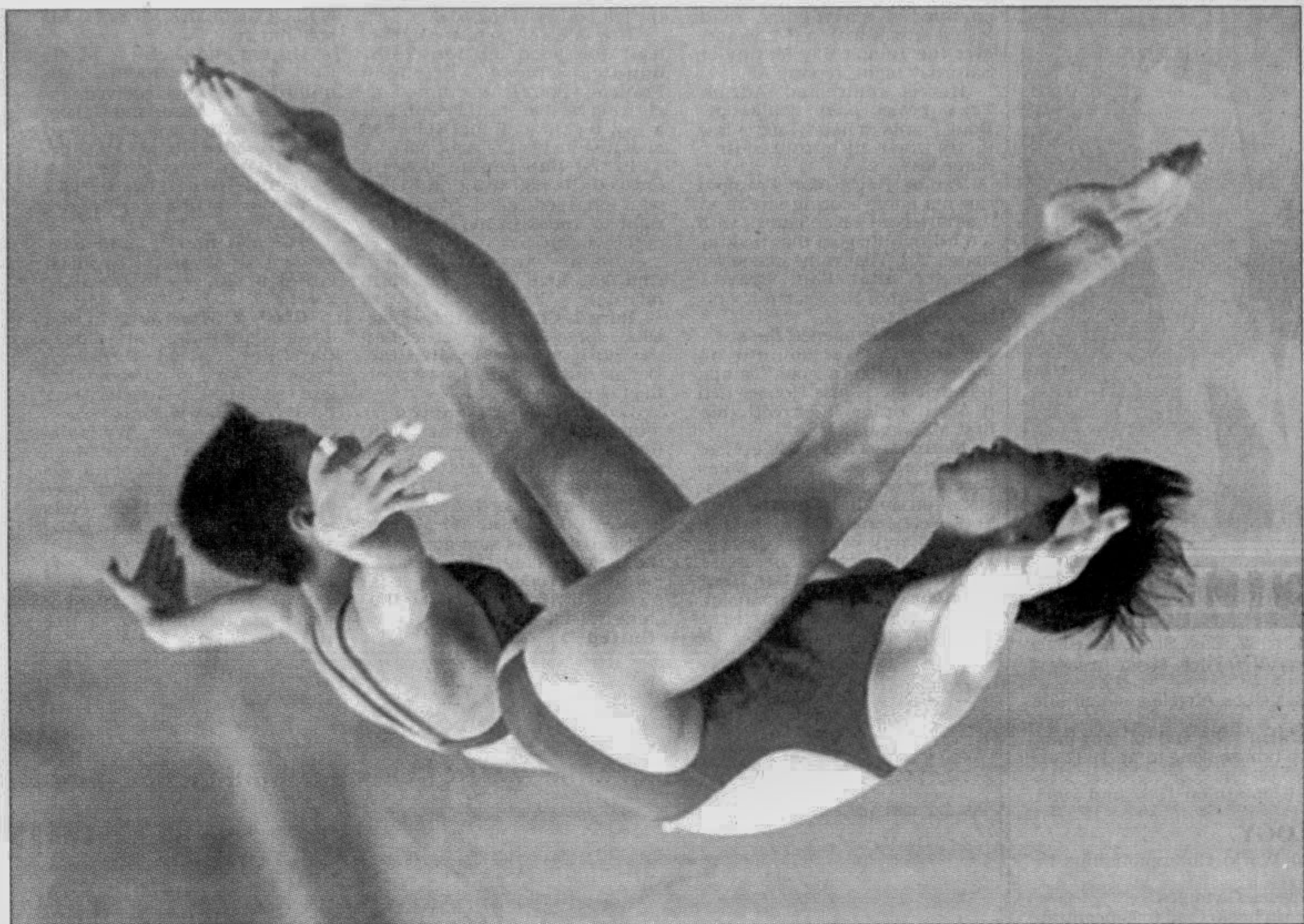


Spain beckons Bergkamp?

LONDON, July 27: Arsenal's Dutch superstar Dennis Bergkamp is being linked to a possible transfer to European champions Real Madrid, according to BBC monitored yesterday. The Spanish giants have reportedly bid 20 million dollars for the mercurial 29-year-old striker who was voted English-player-of-year during the 1997-98 season.



FLYING: The Chinese synchronized diving team of Cai Yuyan and Sang Xue in the midst of their dive in the final of event at the Goodwill Games on July 25. — AFP photo

USA, China in women's football final

UNIONDALE, New York, July 26 (AP/Reuters): Russia cornered the market in women's diving gold medals at the Goodwill Games on Saturday night when world champion Yuliya Pakhalina easily won the 3-metre competition.

Pakhalina, who said she was not upset about finishing fourth in the 1-metre diving Thursday, was in first place after all 10 rounds in her specialty.

In fact, she had enough points after nine rounds to win the gold medal. It was Russia's second gold in two women's diving events.

Pakhalina finished with 559.83 points, while silver medalist Chantelle Michell of Australia who finished third in this year's World Championships, had 488.19. Going into the final round, Pakhalina had 495.45 points.

Pakhalina so dominated the competition that she had 32 awards of either 8.5 or 9.0 from the judges, while Michell's had no scores that high.

In Central Park, American Karch Kiraly and Adam Johnson dominated the Aussie pair of Julien Prosser and Leo Zahner, 12-2, 12-10, for a spot in beach volleyball in Sunday's final.

In the first game, Kiraly, the 1996 Olympic gold medalist, and Johnson ran off nine straight points for a 11-1 lead. In the second game, Australia tied it 9-9 and 10-10 before Kiraly hit a pair of kills on his serve to win the match.

In soccer, the United States will play Monday for the gold medal against China.

In the first semifinal Mia Hamm scored three goals as the US women's soccer team beat Denmark 5-0 on Saturday night to extend their domestic winning streak to 37 games.

In the other semifinal, China beat defending World Cup champions Norway 4-2 in a shootout after a 1-1 tie. The championship game is Monday night.

Hamm scored her 95th international goal in the 75th minute off an assist from Christie Pearce. Hamm faked a defender from 12 yards out and shot into an open net for her ninth career hattrick and third this year.

Hamm scored five minutes earlier from 20 yards (18 meters) out. Her first goal came in the final seconds before, the half on an assist from Kristine Lilly to make it 3-0. Hamm's shot from 12 yards (10 meters) out on the right side deflected off Denmark goalie Christina Jensen into the upper left corner of the net.

Tiffany Milbrett opened the scoring in the 18th minute with a 10-yard (9-meter) shot in front of the goal on a pass from Hamm. Hamm shook off two defenders with the pass to a wide-open Milbrett.

Michael Akers got her 97th international goal in the 29th minute on a 35-yard (32-meter) blast into the left corner. Zhao Yan saved a penalty kick as China advance to the gold-medal match.

goals by Marianne Pettersen and Yunjie Fan.

In the shootout, Zhao knocked away Norway's second shot by Goril Kringen, and China clinched the victory when Kjersti Thun's kick was wide right.

Xie Huijun, Qiu Haiyan, Man Yanling and Sun Wen all converted for China. Hege Risse and Henriette Vikar scored for Norway in the shootout.

The men's triathlon title was won for the second straight time by Simon Lessing of Britain, while Australia's Loretta Harrop rallied to win the women's race.

Lessing, a nephew of novelist Doris Lessing, needed only to stay in touch with the leaders in the swim and bike ride to win.

The four times world champion was second out of the water, among the top trio in the bike and used his superior stride and speed to full advantage in the 10 kms run to defeat Australian Craig Walton by nine seconds.

Harrop, a former butterfly swimmer who turned to the

triathlon after missing out on the Australian national team for the last Commonwealth Games, shared the lead in the first two disciplines with American Barb Linguist.

Linguist, winner of a silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle at the 1987 Pan American Games, found Central Park less to her liking than the Hudson River and faded to fourth.

Harrop liked the water, loved the crowds and can now look forward to the 2000 Olympics in her native city Sydney. The women's triathlon is the first event on the programme in a country which worships the outdoor life and relishes each of the individual sports in the triathlon.

Cycling in an unusual team format, found the United States in front after the first of two days. Mike McCarthy won the men's elimination and scratch race, and the US trio of Paul Swift and brothers Jonas and James Carney took the Magic Mile. Olympic speedskating medalist Chris Witts was second in the women's sprint.

Rajshahi, Sylhet to host one-day internationals

Sports Reporter

The secretary of BCB's ground committee Alam Chowdhury left for Rajshahi yesterday with his member Shawkatur Rahman Chinu to work out the feasibility of holding one of the two one-day matches that Bangladesh is likely to play during October's mini-World Cup, officially the Wills International Cup.

The duo will inspect the pitch, already laid out by the local authority, and will also look into other facilities including accommodation and transport.

Earlier Alam, who is also responsible for preparing the Dhaka Stadium, venue of the knock-out tournament involving the nine Test-playing nations, visited Sylhet, the tea city which is likely to be entertained by the second match. But a decision regarding the venues will be finalised in the next Board meeting on August 21.

It was learnt that Bangladesh will play their first match on October 26 against the losing side of the tournament's opener, the fixture of which is yet to be finalised by the games ruling body ICC. But the date of the second is yet to be decided.

"We have already confirmed the fixture of the first match. But we are working on holding the second one which we are hopeful of organising during the tournament", said Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutul, a joint secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Gordon Greenidge bares his soul-III

Establish a strong domestic structure

A totally disrupted and destructive force behind the scenes who are just looking for self-importance and not promoting cricket for the betterment of the country. I am no scapegoat.

This is the final part. Part III, of the exclusive interview given by the Bangladesh cricket coach Gordon Greenidge to Al-Amin and Hassan Masood.

DS: Apart from this, sometimes the board says that you are the coach of the national team and sometimes they say that you are the Director of Coaching of the board. Can you say why they change their words?

GG: Well, maybe it should be made the coach of the national team because I think as Director of Coaching, I am given no autonomy. None whatsoever. I have not been consulted about anything to do with cricket because when I ask for information I don't get that. It's happening since my arrival. If I do not ask for they do not give. I can not ask. They did not consult me about this tour of England. We go to England and we have to sit down for our practice dates. We had to call for assistance because no practice was organised for us... all these sorts of things. I have lived in England for many years and you have not thought to even consult me for these things? Not even as Director of coaching? But I am not consulted. I am not consulted about anything to do with cricket. Decision are made and then I hear about it. Before they are made. I am not asked to give any representation. They simply don't ask for this. So you tell me I might as well just be called as the coach of the national team, and I think that is the way it perhaps should be because I am not given any authority. I am not given any position to make decisions. And I am not given any place to work so I have to work at home. I have to type my own report at home and I have to do all these by myself. They complain about the house and I am saying this is another situation where it is very little honesty going on in what is happening around. Very little. You go to one person he will tell you one thing, you go to another person he will tell you something else. You do not know who to play and you do not know which one is true. There are many problems in the whole thing. I am having many problems that I don't want to tell it to the press. I am having problems down with this place where I am living in. This is a big problem. I am supposed to feel certainly free to do my job. I have to worry about all these things to say that you have brought me here to do a professional job. Now you tell me if they expect me to be a professional person why are they not professional themselves?

DS: We have written in our report that you have been either underutilised or overrated. The second word we have mentioned actually to make it compact...

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DS: Okay, let us make it clear. You were underutilised. We have asked this question to the board president and the general secretary and they did not give us any clear-cut answer. So the second word is harsh, we are sorry for that.

GG: You are sorry for this? That does not clarify or that does not make the situation any better, simply because how many thousands of people in Bangladesh have read this.

DS: You don't read Bangla newspapers. You have not seen the comments they have made about you in the last one week...

GG: I would like those to be translated so that I can reply to those. Because what I am saying is the people are looking for a scapegoat. They are speaking that there is no development in Bangladesh cricket. I have said that they all stand back. I mean enjoy the success of the ICC. No body has got off their seats to do a lot of work for the development of cricket. But everybody still wants and expects Bangladesh cricket to go to international cricket or Test match and do better. Nobody is doing any work. Now, you tell me, is it a one-man job? Do you not think that behind the scene the organisation should start with a proper work plan before the players can be put into a situation where they can develop to an international standard?

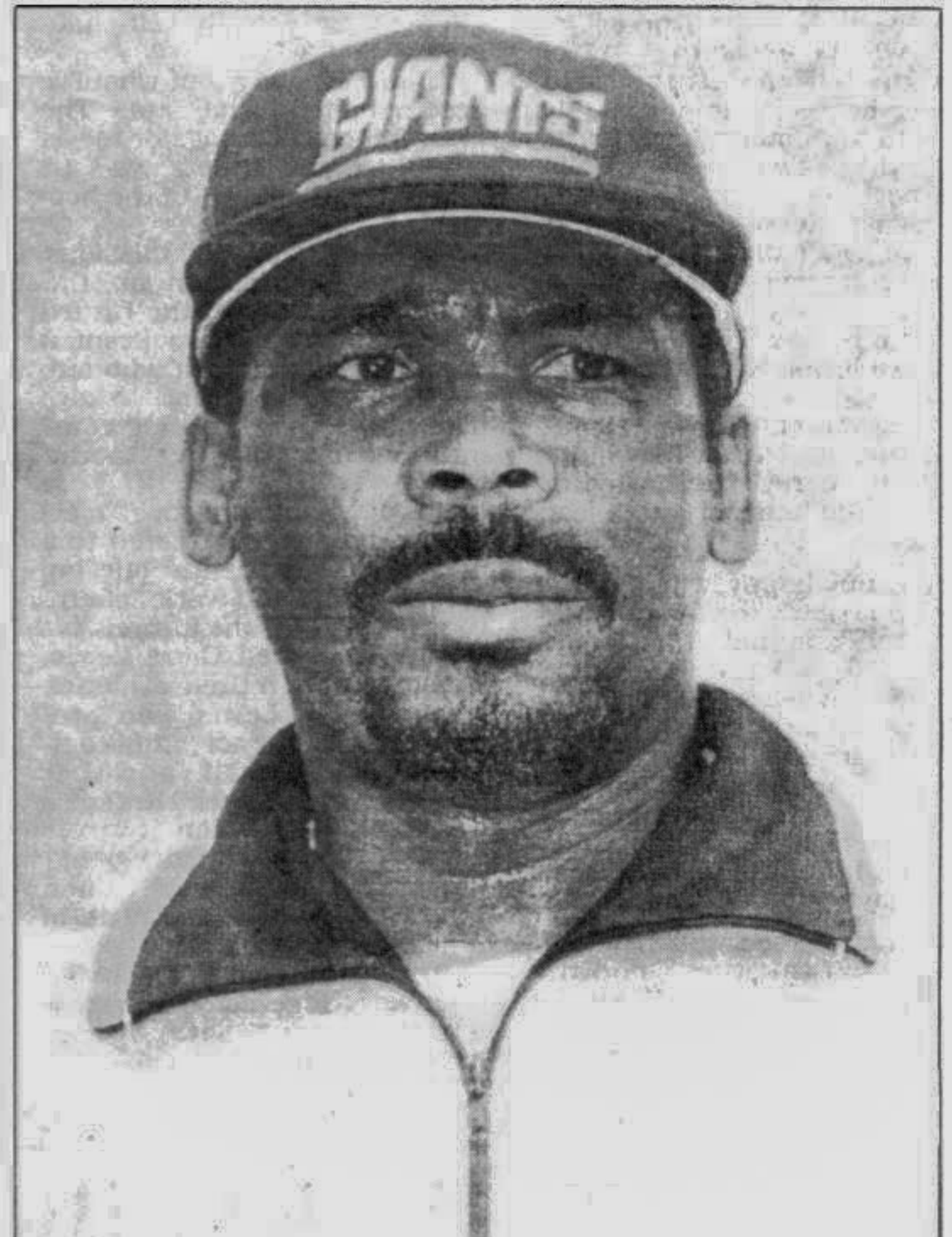
DS: Yes you are correct.

GG: So, which road are they following? Do you not think it is the cart before the horse?

Well that situation makes you to retract because it is character-damaging, regardless of whether it is read by a Bangladeshi or people in England. The point is when they read this what does it tell you? And it is in an article where Ashrafu Haque is supposed to be a part of. The point whether he said this or not, this to my credit is damaging. And I am not accepting this. I am expecting an apology for this and also I want this to go on record that I am not the party to be a scapegoat for what is happening in Bangladesh cricket. Because the people who are looking for others to take the blame, simply because of this lack of professional organisation.

DS: Now tell us what we can do.

GG: If we conduct the training session, we have to limit it. We have to limit our training sessions, or divide it up so that we have plenty of rest time in-between... simply because the players can not last. If we have a practice session we can not go through the full repertoire of cricket because you have to concentrate so much on one individual and you have not so much time to do this. If we go to train at BKSP, for some reason or the other, the players are taken back to Dhaka. If you don't have a proper session,



how much practice can you do? The bowlers have to bowl. But do you not think after one and a half hour they get tired? So if you have 12 or 14 players with four or three main bowlers, how can you conduct a training session? Do you not think that some batsmen are going to get less practice because you are not going to have the bowlers? So how do you expect to conduct all these practice sessions? All these things you could have told to the people involved but this will not make any difference because they do not... you do not have the facilities. There is no point talking about it. We have to make the best of what we have. So, you go on to do this programme with that argument. Now it comes to a stage where it is seen, rather it is obvious that to compete with other countries, our players can not do this. It is now said, or it is being talked, that it is because of management and coach. Now you can not inject skill into a person in a year and eight months what they should have achieved in their first, may be 12 years or 15 years of playing cricket because you are looking forward to start playing the game from about 14. So 14 plus 20 is 34 or 32. And if you start from 12 years it will be 25 or 26. So how can you expect all of these to happen with players who already are supposed to be established? Now this is not the younger players. These are the established players who also use the media to have praise for their mediocre performances. And it's true. They get 30 and they go for making nights. They organise the papers. These are mediocre performances but yet they get promoted. So, when are they going to get used to the proper bowler, bowlers who could hold a consistent line? They are not able to do this because they now realise what they have been doing, being so accredited for it is not sufficient. So the only way that this is going to make a change is to possibly at this present moment forget about all the allegations of Bangladesh cricket, look to establish a strong domestic structure that is going to give us a better chance of representation in the future. That is what we have to do. Get it right here first otherwise the players going abroad will always be disappointed. And those who are supposed to send them abroad, who are talking about all these money spending, are going to be continuously disappointed. So until they realise this, this will continue to happen. It's not going to matter if you send players regularly abroad, if you do not create a better structure for cricket locally. Then you will not be able to handle it internationally because they do not know how to adapt to it. But once you have the chance to play locally, there is always a better chance that they can represent themselves outside. That is the direction that we have to go in. But too much talk and no work... this disrupted and destructive force

national team and sometimes they say that you are the Director of Coaching. Why do they do this?

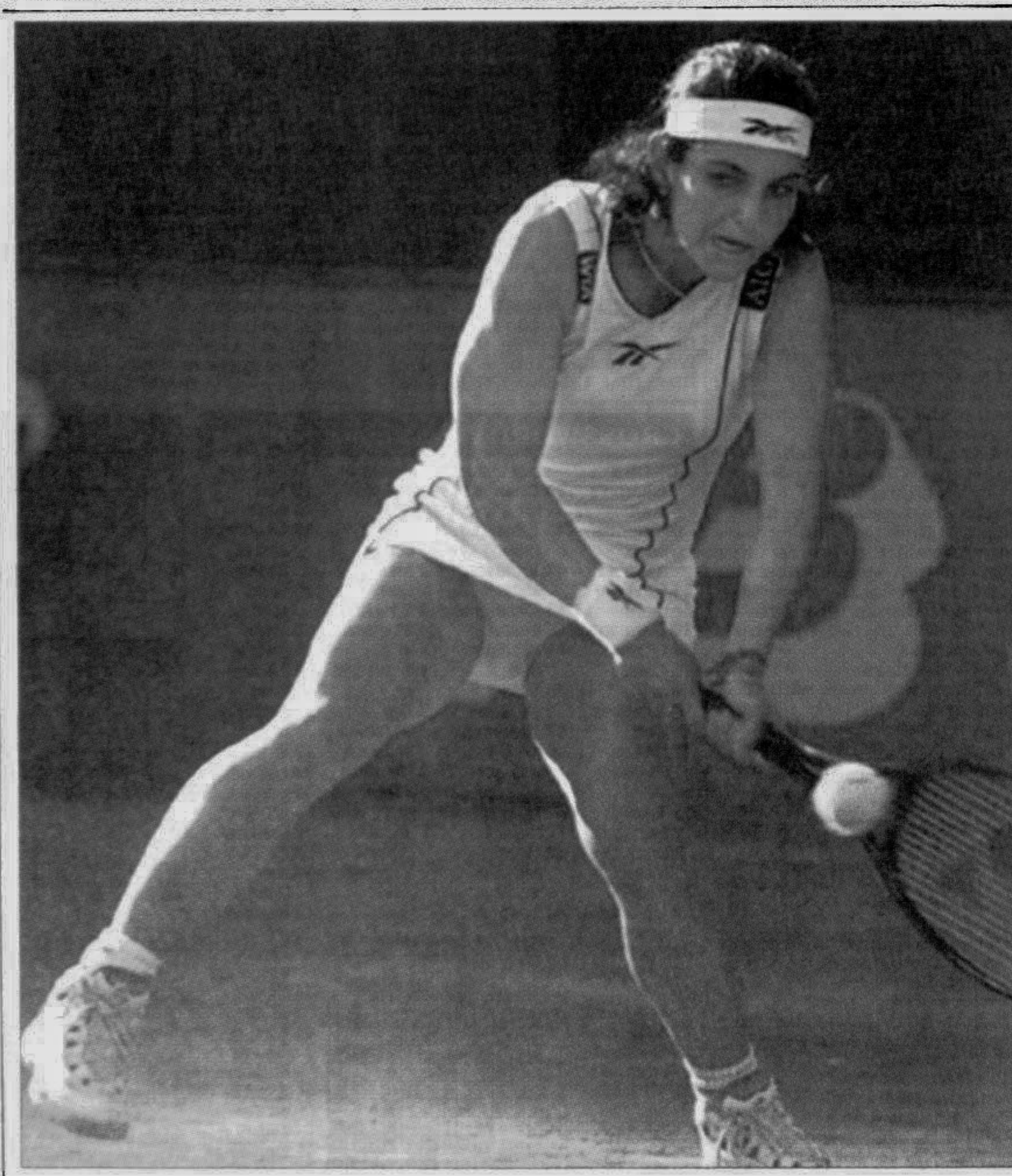
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Spanish veteran Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario playing a backhand during her Federation Cup semifinal match against Lisa Raymond of USA at Madrid on July 25. Sanchez-Vicario won 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-0. — AFP photo

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behind the scenes who are looking for just self-importance and not promoting cricket for the betterment of the country.

DS: There is a general view that if you had been without Gazi Ashraf, the players would have been more motivated....

GG: I don't think so, because even now I am trying to get to know the players and Lipu (Gazi Ashraf) has helped me in some way... in trying to establish some communication with the players. But that has been difficult also because I have said the players themselves were not honest in the UK.

DS: Sometimes the BCB says that you are the coach of the

national team and sometimes they say that you are the Director of Coaching. Why do they do this?

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