

Nat'l jr chess

Seventeen players finished on top of the points table after the second round of the 22 National Junior Chess Championship at Chess Federation auditorium yesterday, reports UNB.

They are: Syed Ejaz Husain, Mohammad Javed, Farhadur Imam, Ruhul Islam Baki, Mehedi Hasan Parag, Minhajuddin Ahmed Sagar, Nayem Arefin Ratul, Moksedul Monir, Mahabuddin Ahmed Robin, Dewan Riyad, Obaidul Islam Shaheen, Alam Miah, Shibli Noman, Ziauddin Ahmed, Zainab Abedin, Shahidul Islam and Mofazzal Hossain Hirok.

In the day's round: Ejaz beat Ehtesham, Javed beat Rashid, Farhadur beat Yusuf, Bobby beat Sindhur, Parag beat Ibrahim, Sagar beat Imran, Ratul beat Monir, Monir defeated Ashfaq, Robin beat Biru, Blad beat Saheb, Shaheen beat Nasim, Alam beat Sadi, Shibli beat Ali, Zia beat Sarwar, Shahidul beat Arefin and Hirok beat Sham-suddoha.

Meanwhile, the selection phase of the 22nd National Junior Chess tournament began yesterday at the same venue.

Milo U-15

Rajshahi College ground. In the first round, Khulna Tigers beat Sylhet Surma by six wickets at the local stadium while Rajshahi Tista recorded a four-wicket win over Chittagong Karnaphuli at the Government College ground.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BKSP v Barisal Maroons: Barisal Maroons: 105 all out in 40.1 overs (Tanvir 4/25, Iftekhar 2/12). BKSP: 106 for 1 in 32.2 overs (Naeem 55, Sabbir 26). Result: BKSP won by nine wickets. Rajshahi Padma v Chittagong Titas: Rajshahi Padma: 213 all out in 45 overs (Ariful 46, Monir 40, Saikat 2/30). Chittagong Titas: 171 all out in 44 overs (Mahbub 37, Zia 26). Result: Rajshahi Tista won by 42 runs. Khulna Tigers v Sylhet Surma: Sylhet Surma: 116 all out in 39 overs (Jewel 23, Shamim 3/11). Khulna Tigers: 117 for four in 23.5 overs (Shamin 50 n.o., Nahid 2/32). Result: Khulna Tigers won by six wickets. Rajshahi Tista v Chittagong Karnaphuli: Chittagong Karnaphuli: 164 all out in 42.5 overs (Rezaul 46, Tapu 32, Iuran 2/30). Rajshahi Tista: 168 for 6 in 35.4 overs (Sarfrax 58). Result: Rajshahi Tista won by four wickets.

Milo U-13

From page 13. sirabad High School ground while Khulna Tigers defeated Sylhet Surma by 18 runs at the Abdul Aziz Stadium.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Rajshahi Padma v Chittagong Titas: Rajshahi Padma: 128 all out in 41.1 overs (Sakhawat 21, Rizvi 20, Masud 3/10, Riaz 2/27). Chittagong Titas: 122 all out in 35.4 overs (Harun 36, Faruk 3/30). Result: Rajshahi Padma won by six runs. Barisal Maroons v Khulna Rupsha: Barisal Maroons: 307 for 9 in 43.1 overs (Debasulish 72, Israq 96, Kudrat 3/64). Result: Barisal Maroons won by three wickets. Chittagong Karnaphuli v Rajshahi Tista: Chittagong Karnaphuli: 234 for 6 in 45 overs (Tanim 35, Monwar 51, Roni 3/38). Rajshahi Tista: 236 for 9 in 42.2 overs (Rony 73, Rabby 2/32). Result: Rajshahi Tista won by one wicket. Khulna Tigers v Sylhet Surma: Khulna Tigers: 220 for 8 in 45 overs (Shovon 36, Rabi 26). Sylhet Surma: 202 for 7 in 45 overs (Billal 35, Tuslar 4/42). Result: Khulna Tigers won by 18 runs.

Pepsi sponsoring

From page 13. present. Anjan Chowdhury Pintu revealed that the Pepsi would pay Taka two lakh as sponsorship money for the tournament. Pepsi also pledged to patronise the meet for five years if the first edition is a success, he said.

The winners of the two-tier competition will receive Taka ten thousand while the runners-up will be richer by five thousand.

Alok Malik meanwhile said his company intended to sponsor more cricket tournament outside Dhaka. Pepsi would extend financial support to holding the First Division leagues in Comilla, Mymensingh, Jessore and Sylhet in future, he added.

The teams are: Group A: Ekata Sporting Club, Radhanagar Krira Chakra, PYC Green, Jugantar Krira Sangha, ICC and Sangram. Group B: Nimala Crazy Club, PYC White, Ekak Sangha, Abhijati Cricket Club, Shikharthi Sports Institute and Renkhasare.

Co-hosts in dispute



SEOUL, Jan 15: The first major public dispute between South Korea and Japan over the 2002 World Cup has erupted on the eve of Tuesday's 500 day countdown to the finals, reports AFP.

South Korea's organising committee (KOWOC) has complained to FIFA because Japan is putting its name first in promotional material, going against an accord under which Korea should become before its co-host. KOWOC officials said.

KOWOC made an official complaint to the International governing body last Thursday, a KOWOC spokesman said.

The two countries, who had been fierce rivals to secure the finals before, made were awarded the event, made an agreement in 1996 under which the official title is "2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan".

However the Japanese organising committee (JAWOC) has changed the order to Japan-Korea on its application forms for tickets for the finals which start on May 31, 2002. Tickets go on sale from February 15.

JAWOC has argued there was an unofficial agreement at the time that the rule would not apply to domestic promotional campaigns and only concerned the English title, officials said.

JAWOC has insisted it will continue to use Japan-Korea during the build up to the 32-nation competition, which is being co-hosted for the first time.

The dispute has marred what was meant to be a gala celebration start to the 500 day countdown. But the organisation has been marked by behind the scenes differences.

Japan and South Korea mounted bitter rival campaigns in the runup to the 1996 vote to see who got the 2002 finals. In the end, FIFA decided both should stage the first World Cup finals to be held in Asia.

But the two organising committees have kept very separate. Last year, Asian Football Confederation general secretary Peter Velappan, the FIFA coordinator for the World Cup, ordered Japanese and South Korean representatives to special meetings with the Dutch and Belgian organisers of the 2000 European Championships to push them to work together.

Velappan is in Seoul for a special countdown television show and concert on Tuesday that will include special messages from President Kim Dae-Jung and other key officials.

The rival committees are to launch a joint internet vote to let the public decide the name of the three World Cup mascots for the 2002 finals.

Both countries are ploughing ahead though with frenzied construction and renovation of stadiums. The Confederations Cup -- to be held in South Korea and Japan in June -- will be the first big rehearsal.

The opening match of the 64 match World Cup finals will be held in the South Korean capital on May 31, 2002. The final will be at the Yokohama International Stadium in Japan.

No way back Boris, Babs

MUNICH, Jan 15: A German court on Monday granted a divorce to former world tennis champion Boris Becker and his wife Barbara, just over a month after the shock news that their marriage was in trouble, a court official said, reports AFP.

The divorce followed a reported out-of-court settlement reached in the United States on the terms of the split.

"Boris and Babs" were known as one of Germany's most glamorous and popular celebrity couples until the December 9 announcement of a separation.

The Sunday edition of the German newspaper Bild said the deal stipulated shared custody of their two children, Noah Gabriel, seven, and Elias Baltasar, one, as well as alimony payments.

Under the reported deal reached in Florida, where the couple have a home, the three-time Wimbledon champion will pay his wife some 14.3 million dollars (15 million euros).

Barbara Becker is said to have been given the choice of retaining the couple's Florida home on Fisher Island, estimated at around three million dollars, or their house in the southern German city of Munich.

She had demanded sole custody of the children and the Florida house, where she has been staying with the children since the split, as well as alimony of 22 million dollars (23 million euros).

The 33-year-old former tennis star filed for divorce December 15 in the Munich court after his wife took the children to Florida, Barbara, also 33, retaliated by filing for divorce in Miami.

Anna a trendsetter

MELBOURNE, Jan 15: Anna Kournikova struck the first blow in the Australian Open's unveiling of her latest body-hugging outfit as she moved smoothly into the second round, reports AFP.

Sporting a bright yellow, sleeveless top, matching shoes and black shorts, Kournikova gave another demonstration of why, when it comes to attracting hordes of photographers, she has no peers on the circuit.

She also showed why, despite all the hype, she has still to win a single tournament after nearly four years on tour full-time.

After cruising through her first set on Court No. 1 against an Australian Open debutant, the Russian teenager suffered one of her habitual lapses in concentration and quickly found herself in trouble at 3-0 and then 4-1 down in the second.

But she pulled herself together in time to eliminate Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova 6-2, 7-5 and avoid what would have been a nerve-jangling third set.

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"But then I found my rhythm again and played well.

That gives her a great chance of at least matching her best Grand Slam performance to date, a semi-final appearance at Wimbledon in 1997.

Kournikova's best showing since then came in last month's New York championships in New York, where she lost out in a tight semi-final to world number one Hingis.

Her form so far this year however has been indifferent. After reaching the final of the New Year exhibition tournament in Hong Kong, where she lost to Jelena Dokic, she crashed out of last week's warm-up tournament in Sydney in the second round.

The start of the year has also seen her back in the gossip columns with confirmation of a bust-up with former doubles partner Hingis, who is playing here with Monica Seles.

Kournikova's glamorous image may have played a role in the trust, which was reportedly sparked by Hingis's jealousy at being outshone by a player who has enjoyed only a fraction of her success.



Anna Kournikova of Russia is ready to make a backhand return to Slovakian Daniela Hantuchova in the Australian Open yesterday. - AFP photo



HAPPILY NOT FOR EVER: An AFP file photo of Beckers, Boris (L) and Barbara, shows the couple at a golf tournament in Berlin on May 17, 2000. A German court yesterday granted them a divorce.

Maiden win for WI B

BRIDGETOWN, Jan 15: West Indies 'B', a team of promising under-23 players, notched their first victory of the regional Busta Cup cricket series with a comprehensive win over the Windward Islands on the third day of their second round match at St Vincent on Sunday, reports AP.

Suleiman Benn, a lanky left-arm spinner, hurried the developmental team to victory as the Windward Islands, trying to reach a winning target of 308, folded for 145 all out.

Benn, a 19-year-old from Barbados, took five for 51 from 23 overs to follow up his four for 36 in the first innings. Grenadian leg-spinner Camillus Alexander helped trigger the demise of his Windward Islands colleagues with four for 66.

In Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Keno Mason's gutsy innings of 82 kept England 'A' at bay as their match against Trinidad and Tobago ended in a tame draw on the fourth and final day.

In Bridgetown, Jamaica consolidated their first innings lead of 61 over hosts Barbados to reach 182 for four at the close of day three. West Indies left-hander Chris Gayle was undefeated on 97.

Earlier, 25-year-old all-rounder Gareth Brees took career-best figures of six for 47 with his off-spin to help dismiss Barbados for 213.

In St John's, Antigua, former West Indies vice-captain Carl Hooper continued his impressive return to regional first-class competition for Guyana.

The 34-year-old Hooper took three wickets as the Leeward Islands were bowled out for 277 to concede a first innings lead of 76. The stylish right-hander then topscored with 66 as Guyana ended on 176 for eight, an overall advantage of 252 entering Monday's final day.

Double delight for Wahid

Sports Reporter. Syed Wahid clinched the Gulshan Club tennis singles title beating Neaz Ahmed 5-7, 7-6, 6-2 in the final at the club court yesterday.

In the doubles final, Syed Wahid paired with Azmat Moyeen beat Shamsur Rahman Masuk and Neaz Ahmed 6-2, 6-3.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent. RAJSHAHI, Jan 15: Padma Kishore Sangha defeated Sagarpara Sabuj Sangha by 11 runs in the Shaheed Muktijoddha Fazul Haque Smriti Gold Cup tournament today at the Gogajari Women's Degree College playground.

Winning the toss, Padma Kishore batted first and collected 130 runs for nine in the stipulated 15 overs.

In reply, Sagarpara were shot out for 119 in 14.3 overs.

RU CRICKET. Sociology defeated Accounting by seven wickets in the Rajshahi University inter-department cricket tournament at the RU Stadium yesterday.

Winning the toss, Accounting batted first and collected 132 runs for all in 25 overs.

In reply, Sociology managed 133 for three in 23.5 overs.

AUSSIE OPEN NOTEBOOK

MELBOURNE, Jan 15 (AFP): Australian Open diary on Monday: Love was in the air at Melbourne Park on Monday. As Andre Agassi was being cheered on by his number one fan Steffi Graf, his Australian rival Lleyton Hewitt was out cheering on his paramour, young Belgian star Kim Clijsters. A bit of romantic support obviously does no harm: both Agassi and Clijsters stormed into the second round in straight sets.

Jeans and dresses suit Andre Agassi also appears to have something of a love affair with Australia's famously laid-back way of life. "I enjoy the easiness, that you can really only pack a pair of jeans and make it through the whole month," he revealed after his first round win. And that's not the only thing to the Las Vegas's liking down under at this time of year.

"I also like the weather... and the sun-dresses." A hint perhaps to Steffi, who is rarely seen in anything but trousers?

SAFIN CLEARED ON TANKING CHARGES. Grant Stafford, the South African qualifier who dumped Marat Safin out of last year's tournament in the first round, has broken his silence over the tanking accusations levelled at the Russian. After losing to Stafford, Safin was fined 3,000

Australian dollars for not giving his best -- a charge he has always dismissed as a smear. "I don't think he tanked. He tried his best. I've got really hot in Melbourne in the past and I got hot against Marat," said Stafford. "There was not a time when I thought he wasn't trying." (AFP)

MELBOURNE WEATHER LIVES UP TO REPUTATION... Fears of an Australian Open headache that would have the stars collapsing on the Melbourne Park courts proved to be unfounded as the city's notoriously fickle weather lived up to its 'four seasons in one day' reputation.

Temperatures that had edged into the 40s on Sunday halved overnight and a stiff breeze meant conditions were bordering on chilly as the action got underway under an overcast sky on Monday morning. "It was like being back in London," quipped Britain's Tim Henman.

BUT FANS KEEP COMING. The weather did not deter the fans from turning up in record numbers. A first day attendance of 34,878 was a new

record for the expanding venue, largely due to the opening of the new 10,000-capacity Vodafone showcourt. But it was not the most auspicious of debuts for the new stadium. The first match lasted only five minutes before American Brie Rippner sprained her ankle and was forced to retire, handing Monica Seles the easiest of first round victories.

CASH DIPLOMACY. Pat Cash would be well advised not to harbour any hopes of moving into diplomacy now that his tennis playing days are behind him.

After causing a furore by describing Lindsay Davenport as being built like a shot-putter, the former Wimbledon champion attempted to patch things up Monday by expressing the somewhat optimistic hope that "she doesn't take it as anything personal."

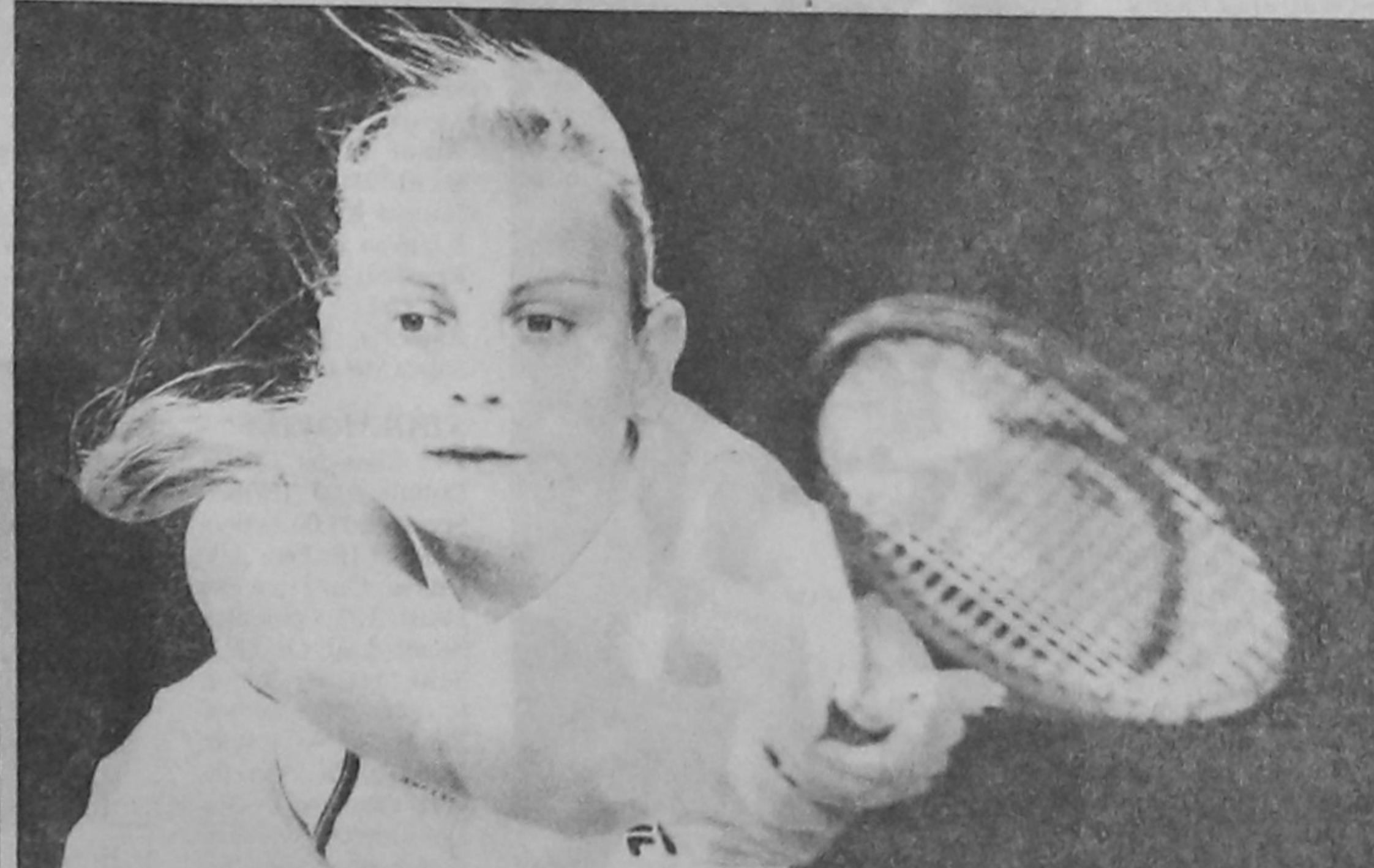
SHOT OF THE DAY. Galo Blanco's Australian Open ended on the first day with a four-sets defeat by US Open champion Marat Safin. But the Spaniard will go away with the memory of having pulled off one of the shots of the tournament. Chasing down a Safin lob in the sixth game of the second set, Blanco managed to produce a blistering passing shot back through his own legs to win the point.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Kegler's mecca 4 Radius's neighbor 8 Shea squad 12 Commercial 13 Lunchtime for many 14 Horne highlight 15 Abandon an argument 17 Rocker Hendrix 18 Responsibility 19 Jabbed 20 Blinge 22 Cherished 24 Seeger or Sampras 25 Negative aspect 29 Beatitudes verb 30 Goes it alone 31 Play Xanthippe 32 Ed McMahon, notably 34 Hamlet 35 Outcry of the avaricious 36 Kegler's mecca 37 Flower 40 Reddish-brown quartz 41 Mame, to Patrick 42 Bribe after the fact 46 Marathan, e.g. 47 Leading man 48 Pirouette 49 Union jack? 50 Rant 51 Many, many years 52 Use a stopwatch 11 Afore-mentioned 34 Zinger 36 Delibes opera 37 Poet 38 Waikiki winding 39 One time only 40 Traumatize 42 "Krazy" response 43 Oath 44 Bill's partner 45 Barbie's beau

Cryptogram grid with numbers 1-11 and letters F J S K Y D J K D U Y S K G T K B D Z H H G U H H G B Z K W H T D S W B S X X X F G S J H D Z K G S B

CRYPTOQUIP F J S K Y D J K D U Y S K G T K B D Z H H G U H H G B Z K W H T D S W B S X X X F G S J H D Z K G S B Yesterday's Cryptogram: PLAYFUL SIGN ON A SNOWFLOW READS: WE GET YOUR TRIFT. Today's Cryptogram Clue: D equals T. The Cryptogram 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.



Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia stretches for a return during her Australian Open first round match against Lindsay Davenports yesterday. - AFP photo