

Eva atop alone

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazrana Khan Eva took pole position in the Camellia 27th National Women's Chess Championship after four rounds when she defeated Masuda Begum at the BCF hall-room yesterday.

Eva, who has four points, is closely followed by Tanima Parveen and Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa who are level on 3.5 points.

In the other fourth round games, Tanima beat Shirin, Nipa beat Zakia, Rani Hamid defeated Mahmuda, Liza beat Evana and Moni beat Shimmi.

Media soccer final today

SPORTS REPORTER

The final of the fourth Meril Cup Media Football Tournament, organised by Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA), will be held today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Janakantha will take on Sangbad in the seven-a-side match that will kick off at 10am.

Dhaka Mayor Sadek Hossain will distribute prizes as the chief guest. Bangladesh Football Federation president SA Sultan, Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Kutub Uddin Ahmed and Anjan Chowdhury Pintu, managing director of sponsors Square Toiletries, will be present as special guests.

Lahore ODI

FROM PAGE 16 be good series but it doesn't mean that we can turn up the next day in a hope that we will win. We have to play well in the remaining matches to win," Dravid said.

Dravid singled out the presence of good fielders in his side as a big plus.

"Having fielders like Mohammad Kaif, Suresh Raina and Yuvraj Singh gives edge as they are class fielders."

Dravid said he was surprised at Inzamam's decision to bat first in the Rawalpindi match.

India is also sweating on the fitness of off-spinner Harbhajan Singh who missed the first two matches because of a finger injury.

TEAMS

INDIA (from): Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Suresh Raina, Mahendra Dhoni, Irfan Pathan, Ajit Agarkar, Zaheer Khan, Ruidra Pratap Singh, Sri Sreesanth, Murali Kartik, Harbhajan Singh, Ramesh Powar.

PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (captain), Younis Khan, Salman Butt, Imran Farhat, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Yousuf, Faisal Iqbal, Kamran Akmal, Abdul Razzaq, Navedul Hasan, Umar Gul, Arshad Khan, Yasir Arafat, Mohammad Asif. Umpires: Simon Taufel and Asad Rauf.

Aussie avenge

FROM PAGE 16

Left-arm seamer Nathan Bracken claimed 4-30 off six overs, while Symonds and left-arm spinner Brad Hogg took two wickets each.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the second triangular series limited-overs final between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday:

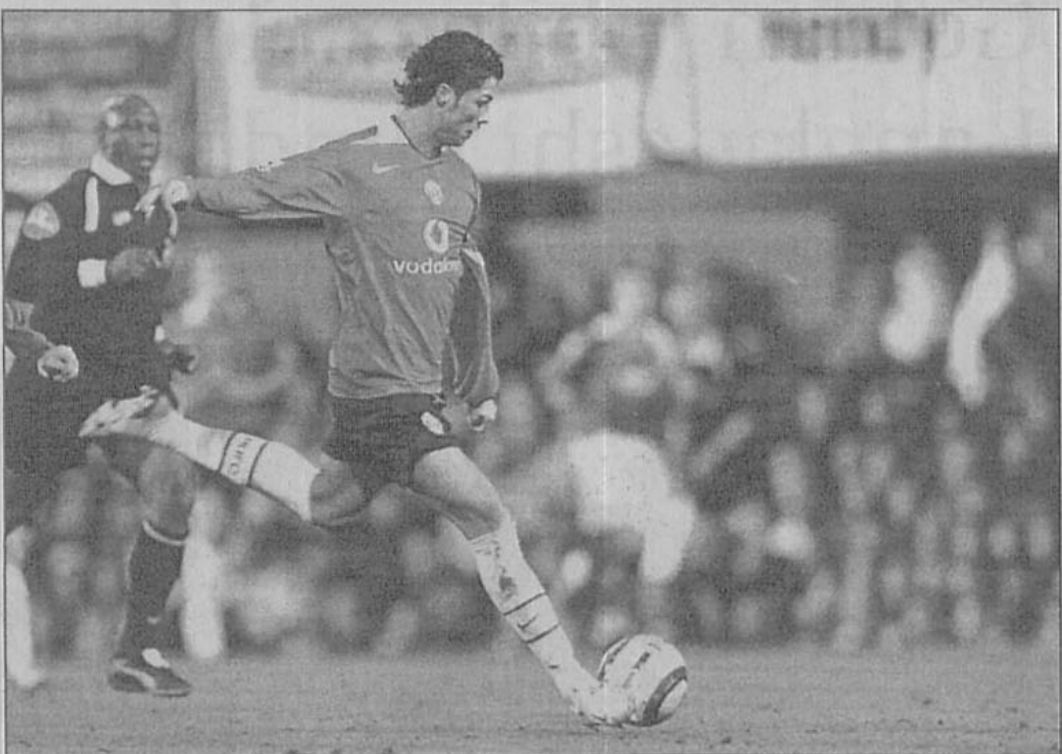
| | | | | |
|--|-----|---|----|---|
| AUSTRALIA | | | | |
| Gilchrist c Dilshan b Vaas | 0 | | | |
| Katich lbw b Vaas | 1 | | | |
| Ponting c Vaas b Perera | 124 | | | |
| Martyn c Jayawardene b Vaas | 8 | | | |
| Symonds lbw b Vaas | 151 | | | |
| Clarke not out | 54 | | | |
| Hussey not out | 23 | | | |
| Extras (lb-1, w-4, nb-2) | 7 | | | |
| Total (For 5 wickets in 50 overs) | 368 | | | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-2, 3-10, 4-247, 5-320 | | | | |
| Did not bat: Hogg, Lee, Bracken, Clark | | | | |
| Super-sub: Lewis for Martyn | | | | |
| Bowler | | | | |
| O | M | R | W | |
| Vaas | 10 | 0 | 56 | 4 |
| Perera | 10 | 0 | 72 | 1 |
| Kulasekara | 5 | 0 | 41 | 0 |
| Muralitharan | 10 | 0 | 99 | 0 |
| Dilshan | 2 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Jayasuriya | 8 | 0 | 52 | 0 |
| Bandara | 5 | 0 | 37 | 0 |
| SRI LANKA | | | | |
| Atapattu c Gilchrist b Clark | 24 | | | |
| Jayasuriya c Lee b Bracken | 20 | | | |
| Sangakkara b Bracken | 13 | | | |
| Jayawardene b Hogg | 50 | | | |
| Arnold not out | 64 | | | |
| Dilshan c Ponting b Symonds | 13 | | | |
| Kapugedara run out (Clarke) | 1 | | | |
| Vaas c Clarke b Hogg | 0 | | | |
| Bandara c Clark b Symonds | 0 | | | |
| Muralitharan c Lewis b Bracken | 27 | | | |
| Perera c Ponting b Bracken | 0 | | | |
| Extras (lb-4, w-2, nb-3) | 9 | | | |
| Total (All out in 36 overs) | 201 | | | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-26, 3-74, 4-116, 5-139, 6-145, 7-146, 8-147, 9-200 | | | | |
| Super-sub: Bandara for Kulasekara | | | | |
| Bowler | | | | |
| O | M | R | W | |
| Lee | 8 | 0 | 42 | 0 |
| Bracken | 6 | 0 | 30 | 4 |
| Clark | 5 | 0 | 28 | 1 |
| Lewis | 5 | 0 | 30 | 0 |
| Symonds | 5 | 1 | 32 | 2 |
| Hogg | 7 | 0 | 35 | 2 |

Result: Australia won by 167 runs and level the series at 1-1.

Man-of-the-match: Andrew Symonds.

Toss: Australia.

Umpires: Peter Parker and Mark Benson.



Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo is about to shoot in the second goal during their Premiership match at Portsmouth on Saturday.

PREMIERSHIP

Boro stun Mourinho's men

Football

REUTERS, London

Middlesbrough applied the brakes to Chelsea's Premier League title express in spectacular fashion on Saturday by humbling the champions 3-0 at the Riverside.

It was Chelsea's second league defeat of the season and only the third since coach Jose Mourinho took charge in 2004. It also equalled the worst defeat of Mourinho's coaching career.

Manchester United took advantage of Chelsea's rare slip by cutting the London club's lead to 12 points with a 3-1 victory at second-from-bottom Portsmouth. Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice before halftime.

Third-placed Liverpool won 1-0 at Wigan Athletic to end a run of three defeats in four games, while fifth-placed Arsenal needed a stoppage time equaliser from Brazilian Gilberto to salvage a 1-1 home draw with Bolton Wanderers.

Relegation-threatened Boro, without a home league win for six matches, made a perfect start when Fabio Rochembach punished some slack defending to score inside two minutes.

Chelsea were hampered by the

loss of William Gallas to injury and they slipped further behind on the stroke of halftime when Stewart Downing's shot beat Petr Cech.

Any hopes of a Chelsea comeback vanished after 67 minutes when Nigerian Aiyegbeni Yakubu powered past defender John Terry and rifled a shot past Cech.

It was Chelsea's worst defeat under Mourinho and came against a team hammered 4-0 at home by Aston Villa last week and 7-0 by Arsenal last month.

"We lost at Manchester City and we didn't deserve it, we lost at Manchester United and didn't deserve it, we lost today and did deserve it," Mourinho told the BBC, referring to the only other league defeats during his Stamford Bridge reign.

Chelsea have 66 points from 26 games with United on 54 and Liverpool on 48 with a game in hand. Tottenham Hotspur, who play bottom club Sunderland on Sunday, are fourth with 44 points.

European champions Liverpool handed recently returned striker Robbie Fowler his first start for the club since 2001 alongside Fernando Morientes.

But they were indebted to Hyspita to end a worrying slump that had brought just one point and one goal in their last four games as

their marathon season began to take its toll.

The Finland defender volleyed in after 29 minutes of his side's first league visit to Wigan.

"We worked very hard and showed a lot of character after the midweek defeat by Charlton," Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez told Sky Sports. "It was an important win."

United ran riot in the first half. Ruud van Nistelrooy nodded in his 22nd goal of the season after Ryan Giggs had hit the crossbar following a dazzling run. Ronaldo then hit a vicious shot past Dean Kiely and struck again to make it 3-0.

Portsmouth dominated the second half and pulled one back through Matthew Taylor but are now eight points from safety.

"If Chelsea have a bad spell, who knows what might happen, United boss Alex Ferguson told Sky Sports.

Injury-hit Arsenal looked to be heading for a third defeat of the season against Bolton after Kevin Nolan lobbed the visitors ahead at Highbury in the 11th minute.

Arsenal had forward Jose Reyes carried off on a stretcher before halftime as a result of a poor tackle by Abdoulaye Faye, but they grabbed a deserved equaliser when Gilberto converted a cross by Cesc Fabregas.

Ivorians greet their football 'heroes'

AFP, Abidjan



Several thousand fans were at the airport to greet 'The Elephants', who narrowly missed out on landing the country's second African Nations Cup title.

'You have lost but we remain proud of you,' adorned many of the banners displayed by the fans, whose only salvation from the political turmoil in their country comes from the football team which brings together the north and the south albeit briefly.

The fans fought to catch a glimpse of the squad -- who beat bitter rivals Cameroon and Nigeria on their way to the final --

with people climbing onto roofs of cars and on the shoulders of friends.

Ivory Coast's outstanding goalkeeper Jean-Jacques Tizie was overcome by their reception.

"We weren't expecting such an extraordinary welcome," Tizie told AFP.

"That only goes to prove the unique bond between the people and the team."

The football team has always tried to set an example to the rest of the country and after they had all but sealed their place at the World Cup finals last year, captain Didier Drogba led them in a peace prayer for the nation.

"Ivorians we beg your forgiveness. Let us come together and put this war behind us."

Drogba, who missed an open goal and then a penalty in the shootout against Egypt, was embraced by famed Ivorian singer Aicha Kone at the airport.

"Oh! look at him, he is so sad" said Kone, receiving simply a

thank you from the 27-year-old Ivorian captain, whose effigy was brandished by a lot of the supporters.

The team was due to meet with President Laurent Gbagbo -- who gave them a house each after they qualified for the World Cup finals -- in his palace after taking a motorcade through the capital.

Ivorian police desperately tried to clear a way for the motorcade as it threatened to be swamped by the crowds and it took four hours for it to edge its way through to the main stadium -- several supporters tried to climb onto the truck and shake hands with the players, who were smiling and some of whom were barechested -- where hundreds more fans awaited them.

As the motorcade made its slow progress it left a slew of detritus in its wake with hundreds of plastic sandals, Turkish slippers and shoes as well as the corpse of one fan, who was dressed just in the national flag.



Winners of the Dhaka Bank 20th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Tournament are seen with chief guest Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas (C) during the prize giving ceremony on Friday.

SERIE A

Sensini stalls Lazio on debut

AFP, Rome

Nestor Sensini's debut as coach of Serie A club Udinese ended in a 1-1 draw away to his former club Lazio on Saturday.

Sensini, supported by former Como coach Loris Dominissini, took over team affairs on Friday following the sacking of Serse Cosmi.

Sensini, who won a league winners' medal with Lazio in the 1999-00 season, chose to sit in the stands while Dominissini occupied the dug-out.

Lazio took the lead in the 20th minute when Tommaso Rocchi headed home Massimo Oddo's right-wing cross.

Udinese levelled six minutes later when Vincenzo Iaquinta scored a penalty after Rocchi had clumsily fouled Jose Vidigal.

A draw for Lazio maintained their unbeaten home record and lifted them up one place to eighth. Udinese climbed one place to 11th.

In Saturday's early match Chievo boosted their chances of a UEFA Cup place next season by winning 2-1 at relegation-threatened Treviso.

Guus wants part-time England job

INTERNET, undated

Guus Hiddink will only take the England manager's job if he can do it part-time for the first 12 months.

Sven-Goran Eriksson will end his reign as England coach after this summer's World Cup in Germany.

Dutchman Hiddink was one of the leading contenders to succeed Eriksson until Premier League chairman Dave Richards, one of the men who will pick the next England coach, said he wanted the next boss to be British.

Hiddink is currently Australia's part-time manager and is under contract with his club, PSV, until summer 2007.

He told the News of the World: "I will not break my contract with PSV but it is possible to take on the England duties as well for the first 12 months."

"It's something I have been able to do with the Australian national team."

"London is only one hour from where I live in Eindhoven, so the distance will not be a problem."

"I am used to living out of a suitcase. It has worked for me in the past."

Door open to England: Trap

INTERNET, undated

Italian legend Giovanni Trapattoni has suggested he would like a move to England.

The former Italy national coach has won virtually everything in the game, with eight league titles, a European Cup, three UEFA Cups and a Cup Winners' Cup to his name.

Trap has just left his job with Stuttgart after a poor run of form and now the former Juventus, Milan, Internazionale, Fiorentina, Cagliari and Benfica coach is considering a shock switch to the Premiership.

The veteran coach was not too disheartened about leaving Germany as he said he would have left in the summer anyway.

"June I'd have come back anyway, I'd have closed with Stuttgart," he told La Stampa.

"It was an environment that became unsustainable."

"I'd like to try an experience in England, it is a different world that I don't know -- but I'd like to know."

"I've always had the enthusiasm to continue doing good things elsewhere."

City Bank to sell

FROM PAGE 16

"We have struck a one-year contract with the bank which means it will cover three home series," said Mahbub.

TICKET RATES FOR BOGRA

ODE: Tk 50 (Gallery), Tk 500 (Club House), Tk 200 (Special Enclosure), Tk 1000 (VIP), Tk 1500 (Non A/C hospitality box, 3rd Floor), Tk 2000 (A/C hospitality box), Tk 1000 (Non A/C hospitality box, ground floor), Tk 1500 (VVIP).

TEST: Tk 20 (Gallery), Tk 100 (Club House), Tk 40 (Special Enclosure), Tk 200 (VIP), Tk 300 (Non A/C hospitality box, 3rd Floor), Tk 500 (A/C hospitality box, ground floor), Tk 200 (Non A/C hospitality box, ground floor), Tk 500 (VVIP).

Ticket rates for Bogra: ODE: Tk 30 (gallery), Tk 100 (Special Enclosure, East and West), Tk 500 (VIP), Tk 20,000 (A/C hospitality box, Package).

TEST: Tk 20 (gallery), Tk 40 (Special Enclosure, East and West), Tk 100 (VIP), Tk 20,000 (A/C hospitality box, Package).

PRIMERA LIGA

Real bounce back

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid restored some measure of pride after a midweek Cup mauling at the hands of Real Zaragoza as they chalked up their fifth league victory in a row with a 2-0 win at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

An early Robinho goal and an injury-time strike from substitute Raul Bravo earned Real a win over the struggling Basque side that lifted them to second, seven points behind Barcelona who visit third-placed Valencia on Sunday.

Defeat for Bilbao left them a point off the bottom with all their immediate rivals yet to play this weekend.

Earlier on Saturday fourth-placed Osasuna had to settle for a 1-1 draw at home to Real Zaragoza despite dominating their in-form opponents for most of the match.

The Navarrians got off to a flying start with a third minute goal when Zaragoza old boy Savo Milosevic headed in after midfielder Ludovic Deporte ballooned a cross into the area.

Zaragoza were a mere shadow of the side who demolished Real Madrid 6-1 in their King's Cup semifinal, first leg on Wednesday and rarely threatened the Osasuna goal.

But they still managed to snatch an equaliser against the run of play just before halftime when Argentine midfielder Leonardo Ponzio netted with a curling free kick.

Sevilla moved up to fifth place, five points behind Osasuna, thanks to a 4-0 victory at fellow Andalusians Cadiz.

Argentine Javier Saviola opened the scoring in the sixth minute and

fellow forwards Kepa and Frederic Kanoute grabbed late goals to complete an emphatic win for Juande Ramos's side.

Real Madrid, looking to bounce back after their humiliation in the Cup, made a promising start at San Mames when Robinho gave them a fifth-minute lead.

The Brazilian outpaced the Bilbao defence to latch on to a superb first time through pass from Zinedine Zidane and slotted a low shot underneath keeper Inaki Lafuente to score his fourth goal

by Iker Casillas.

Real always looked dangerous on the break, however, and had three good chances to extend their lead before halftime.

Robinho sliced a shot over the bar after being put clear and was denied as Lafuente got a foot to a powerful half-volley. The Bilbao keeper then produced a fine block to stop a Ronaldo drive soon after.

Bilbao enjoyed the lion's share of possession in the second half but although the home side put together some promising attacks



Real Madrid's Raul Bravo (R) roars for joy after his strike against Athletic Bilbao during their Primera Liga clash at the San Mames Stadium on Saturday.

against the Basques in the league and Cup this season.

Bilbao responded well after the setback and laid siege to Real's area but they were kept at bay by some assured defending from Jonathan Woodgate and several sharp saves

they nearly always broke down on the edge of the area.

Real made sure of the points when fullback Bravo side-footed into an empty net after Robinho had slid the ball behind the Bilbao defence in added time.

Ronaldinho rules out England move

Football

INTERNET, undated

Barcelona ace Ronaldinho has ruled out a move to England insisting he has no plans to quit Camp Nou.

The Brazilian superstar has been linked with a possible move to England with moneybags Chelsea believed to be ready to break the bank for his services.

Ronaldinho, who will come up against Chelsea in ten days time in the UEFA Champions League, says that he is currently happy with Barca in Spain.

"I had the chance to play for Manchester United and turned it down, so why would Chelsea be any different? I love life in Spain and I have no desire to leave Barcelona," said Ronaldinho.

"It's hard to imagine that I could possibly be any happier at another club - I don't think I would."

"I believe in loyalty and that would only ever change if Barcelona decided they wanted to sell me. There's no indication that will happen and I would be extremely disappointed if that was the case."

"I have a great relationship with the coach and officials and I love the fans. I also owe them. My career had gone through a difficult spell in France, it was the wrong move for me."

"And it just goes to show that money doesn't make you happy - no matter how much you earn. If you are not happy at work, it's no compensation. No matter who you are it's the simple things in life that lead you to believe that you can achieve any-

thing."

Meanwhile, Ronaldinho has warned Chelsea that Barcelona are determined to make up for last season's loss to The Blues in the Champions League by dumping them out of this year's competition.

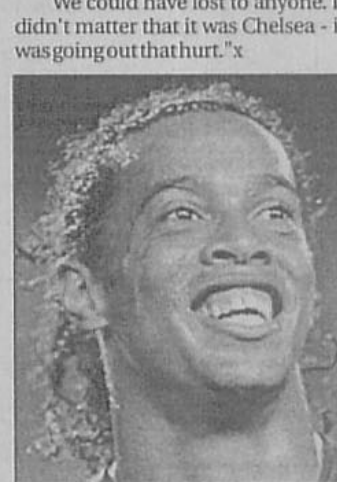
"Losing is not an option for us," added Ronaldinho. "Last season's defeat ruined a great season for me and with the World Cup finals upon us I don't want to go into the tournament with any negativity."

"My dream was to win the Champions League with Barcelona and I thought we had a great chance of going all the way until the horror show at Chelsea last season."

"It was a bizarre game. To go down 3-0 after 20 minutes would have killed off most teams. But we managed to get two goals back only to concede a fourth, and that was that."

"I didn't sleep well after that, I really didn't. I was heartbroken."

"We could have lost to anyone. It didn't matter that it was Chelsea - it was going out that hurt."



RONALDINHO

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| ACROSS | | DOWN | | | |
| 1 One who matters | 35 "On the Beach" author | 1 "Ship of Fools" ship | 23 That girl in olden days | | |
| 4 Booty | 36 Head of st. | 2 Un-essed | 24 In olden days | | |
| 8 Envelope part | 37 Hot tub | 2 Un- yielding | 25 Unpro-essed | | |
| 12 Mound stat | 38 Sister of Ruth, | 3 Throe zee | 26 Glutton | | |
| 13 Folk history | Anila and June | 4 Ski in a zee | 27 Wilde-beest | | |
| 14 Earning locale | 45 Bread spread | 5 Post-humous | 28 Cauldron | | |
| 15 Director Howard | 46 DEA agent | John Lennon | 29 Idolater's emotion | | |
| 16 Latin 101 word | 47 Hoedown stuff | 6 Bedouin | 31 Roman poet/satirist | | |
| 17 Burden | 48 Mongkut's kingdom | 7 Flee | 32 "Star Trek II" villain | | |
| 18 Tina Turner | 49 Stole fee? | 8 Dentist's directive | 34 Miss Piggy's pronoun | | |
| portray | 50 Prior to | 9 Unrivaled | 35 Baseball shoes | | |
| 21 Thiller | 51 Links target | 10 Touch | 36 Dwarf | | |
| 22 Existed | 52 Not so much | 11 Nuisance | 37 Out of (peevish) | | |
| 23 Seraglio | 53 Chances, for short | 20 Succumb to gravity | 38 "Non-sense!" | | |
| 26 Crome | | | 39 Medley | | |
| 27 Coll. transcript no. | | | 40 Conan of NPR | | |
| 30 "Zounds!" | | | 41 Glazier's sheet | | |
| 31 Glee | | | 42 Huxtable son | | |
| 32 Recognize | | | 43 Morgan or Virgil | | |
| 33 Ply paddles | | | 44 Delois | | |
| 34 Oktoberfest souvenir | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Solution time: 27 mins. | | | | | | | | | |
| C | R | S | M | H | A | S | T | E | |
| H | E | W | E | O | A | L | I | E | |
| A | D | A | D | E | G | E | N | E | R |
| R | E | M | S | T | E | A | K | | |
| T | W | I | N | E | R | R | O | L | T |
| R | E | N | E | W | A | S | E | E | |
| R | E | N | E | W | A | S | E | E | |
| H | A | U | L | E | R | R | E | V | |
| O | R | T | S | O | D | E | | | |
| A | F | O | R | T | A | G | O | | |
| Z | E | L | L | E | G | E | R | I | L |
| A | L | T | A | R | | | | | |
| G | I | D | D | | A | G | O | | |
| A | D | O | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|