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Academy game postponed

SPORTS REPORTER

GP-BCB Academy team's second one-day match against hosts Hong Kong was abandoned due to rain yesterday.

The rain stopped the match when BCB Academy were 60 for 3 in 6.4 overs after being put into bat first at Kowloon Cricket Club ground.

The visitors won the first game by 71 runs and play the third and last game against the home side at the same venue today.

Zaker posts solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

SA Zaker got rid of Ibrahim Hossain in the sixth round to take solo lead with an all-win record in the Metropolis selection chess tournament at the federation hall-room yesterday.

Nahid Parvej followed the leader with 5.5 points where eight players - Ibrahim, Nasiruddin Mahmood, Moniruzzaman Khan, SAM Naser, Sheikh Anwar Hossain, Amir Hossain, Obaidul Islam Shahin and Gysuddin Mithu -- were sharing the third spot with five points.

In other sixth round games, Monir drew with Mahmood, Nahid beat Shahjahan Kabir, Naser beat Nasiruddin Apu, Sheikh Anwar beat Hanif Mollah, Amir beat Fakir Abdul Fattah, Shahin beat Mohammed Salim and Mithu beat Faisal Hossain.



Did U Know?

Goalkeeper Arthur Wharton was the first black professional soccer player. He was born in Ghana (then Gold Coast) and played for English League team Rotherham United in 1889.



Sachin Tendulkar

(Star Indian batsman)
"I know that Adelaide hasn't been a great ground for me. I was determined to get a big one here and it also happens to be Sir Don's home ground."
After scoring his 39th career Test century against Australia on Thursday.



What to WATCH

STAR Cricket
Australia v India
Fourth Test, Day Four
Live from 6:00am (Sunday)

STAR Sports
Australian Open
Women's Singles Final & Men's Doubles Final
Live from 8:00am
FA Cup
Mansfield Town v Middlesbrough
Round-4
Live from 6:25pm
Arsenal v Newcastle United
Round-4
Live from 8:55pm
Wigan v Chelsea
Round-4
Live from 11:10pm

ESPN
FA Cup
Liverpool v Haverhill & Waterlooville
Round-4
Live from 8:55pm
Primera Liga
Sevilla v Osasuna
Live from 2:55am (Sunday)



India captain Anil Kumble drives during his dogged 87 as record-breaking Australian wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist looks on during the second day's play of the fourth and final Test at Adelaide Oval yesterday.

'You'll know if I quit'

New world record spurs Gilly

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Veteran Australian wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist vowed to depart cricket on his own terms here Friday after claiming the world record for dismissals during the fourth Test against India.

Gilchrist equalled South African Mark Boucher's milestone of 413 dismissals when he claimed the third of his four catches in the Indian first innings, bagging the record when he caught Anil Kumble off the bowling of Mitchell Johnson to end the Indian innings.

It was a satisfying and timely achievement for the 36-year-old, who has been under considerable scrutiny for dropped catches during the series, spilling four in the second Test in Sydney and another slipper on the first day of the fourth Test on Thursday.

Due to these errors, there has been renewed speculation about his longevity in Test cricket, but Gilchrist said the critics only spurred him on and refused to speculate on a timeline for retirement.

"I'm not going to hint as to what my plans are," he said. "I just want to keep playing. I've been enjoying it."

"I'll let the public and press know when I make a decision, whether that is tomorrow or in 12 months' time."

Gilchrist, who has 377 catches and 37 stumpings in 96 Tests, admitted he had been one of the main culprits in some unusually sloppy fielding from the Australians during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, including a string of missed chances on Friday's second day of the Test here.

However, he has no lingering concerns about his form with the gloves.

"I've made a lot of mistakes, but

if you rock up for 96 Test matches you are going to make the odd mistake," he said.

Gilchrist added he was thrilled to claim the record and paid tribute to the bowlers he has kept to throughout his career.

"I've had the best of the best," he noted. "Warney (Shane Warne), Glenn McGrath, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, all of them have been brilliant."

While it has been his wicketkeeping that has been under the microscope recently, Gilchrist's batting has also lost a little of its lustre in recent years.

Those who witnessed his World Cup final masterpiece and 59-ball Test hundred in Perth 13 months ago would not doubt his ability with the bat but his performances

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HIGHEST DISMISSALS FOR A WICKETKEEPER

Player	M	Dis	Ct	St	Best
AC Gilchrist (Aus)	96*	414	377	37	5 (5ct 0st)
MV Boucher (SA)	109	413	394	19	6 (6ct 0st)
IA Healy (Aus)	119	395	366	29	6 (6ct 0st)
RW Marsh (Aus)	96	355	343	12	6 (6ct 0st)
PJL Dujon (WI)	81	270	265	5	5 (5ct 0st)

The real subplot

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

It finally ended five minutes before noon, what could possibly have been Sachin Tendulkar's final masterpiece in the land that has adopted him as a beloved hero, and the passage of play that preceded the dismissal was stirring, featuring another compelling battle between the best bowler and the best batsman of the series.

Tendulkar had come out with intent written on his blade, and Lee with fire in the belly. The first half hour went to the batsmen -- Tendulkar clipped Lee's first ball to the square-leg boundary -- and he and Mahendra Singh Dhoni ran so aggressively that it drove the Australians to distraction. Tendulkar survived a run-out, benefited from an overthrow and Dhoni cracked a couple of crunching shots. In three overs, the Indian total had swelled by 24 runs. It was then that the Australians decided to change their line of attack -- rather, their length.

The fielder at point had been put back at the ropes from the first over but now square leg went back and, after Tendulkar steered one above the slip cordon, a third man materialised. Dhoni fell first, slapping a long hop from Mitchell Johnson to deep point. It was now left to Lee to resume hostilities.

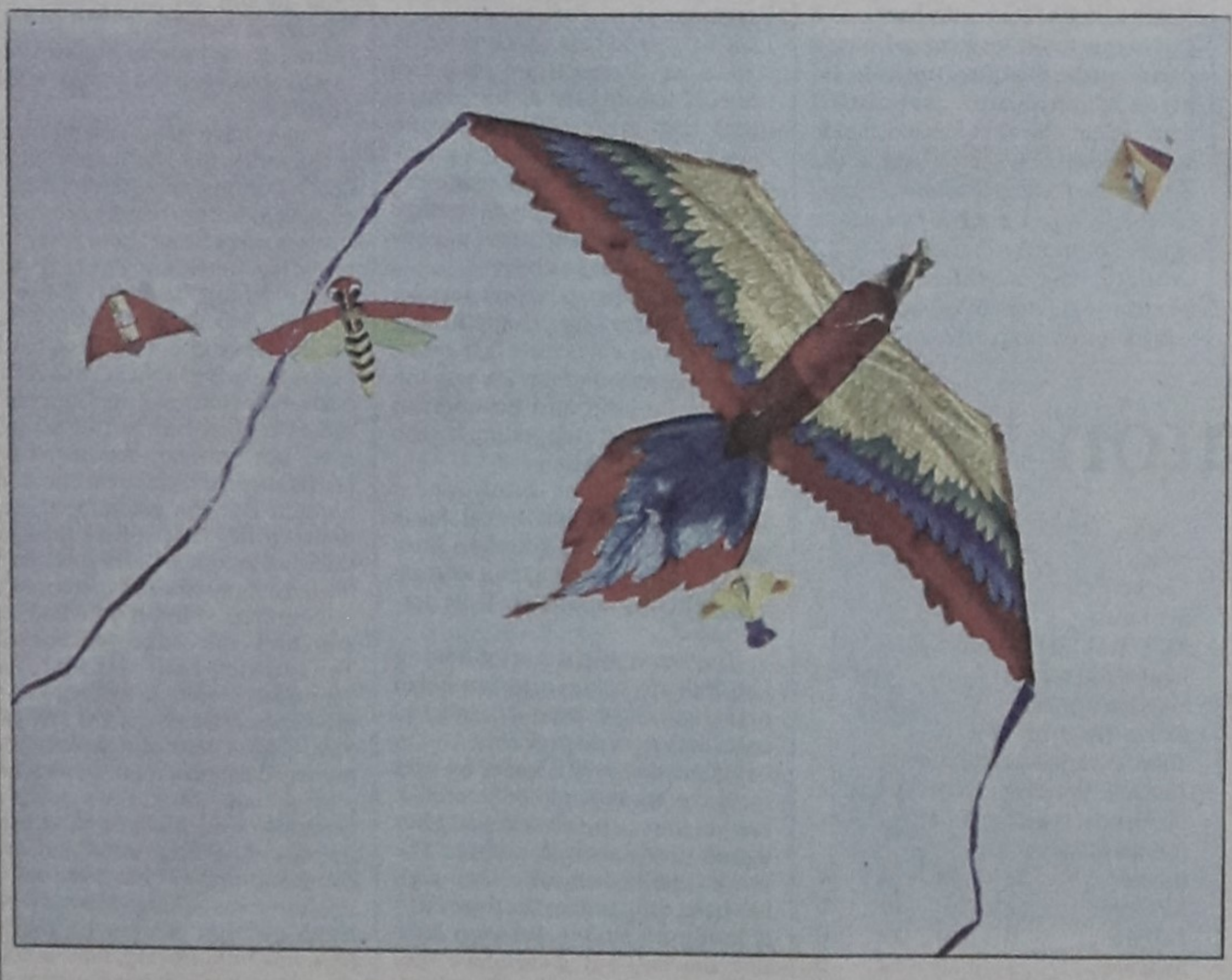
One ball went whistling past the off stump, Tendulkar cut one so hard it screamed through Mike Hussey's hands to the boundary, an attempted upper cut didn't connect, and another well-targeted

bouncer had Tendulkar hopping. The 150 came up with a picture-perfect cover drive that reduced the slip cordon to one as Ricky Ponting went to man the cover region. It was inevitable that the next ball would be short, and Tendulkar was ready. However, the pull is the only

stroke in his repertoire that betrays the ravages of time, and the ball sliced off his inner-edge for a painful blow to inner part of his knees, which required medical attention.

Lee repeated the ball after the interruption, and Tendulkar

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An eagle kite dominates the Cox's Bazar sky yesterday, the first day of the National Kite Festival at the tourist resort.

SA post 255-9

AFP, Cape Town

Captain Graeme Smith made 86 as South Africa recovered from a shaky start in the second one-day international against the West Indies at Newlands Friday.

South Africa made 255 for nine after losing their first two wickets for 18 runs.

Smith shared stands of 91 with AB de Villiers (45) and 72 with Jean-Paul Duminy (68).

West Indian Jerome Taylor dismissed senior batsmen Herschelle Gibbs and Jacques Kallis as South Africa made a poor start.

Taylor finished with took four for 34 and bowled an excellent last over in which he conceded only one run while three wickets fell, including two run-outs.

AB de Villiers survived a confident appeal for a legside catch behind the wicket off Edwards and took 16 balls to score his first run. But he then batted fluently to make his 45 off 59 balls.

Smith struggled early on but went on to make his 86 off 107 balls with 11 fours before edging off-spinner Marlon Samuels to wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin.

The left-handed Duminy made his third career half-century and his second in successive matches after being man of the match when South Africa won the opening clash in the five-match series by six wickets in Centurion Sunday.

Duminy started slowly but blossomed to earn the applause of his home town crowd when he reached his half-century. He was run out in the final over when wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin hit the stumps after a mix-up with Morne Morkel.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the South Africa

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Tendulkar hands baton to Kumble

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Captain Anil Kumble fell short of a second Test century but India's tail wagged strongly to help the tourists post a big score in the fourth Test against Australia here Friday.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, India were dismissed for an imposing 526 just after tea on the second day, Sachin Tendulkar top-scoring with a majestic 153.

In reply, Australia were 62 without loss at stumps, with Matthew Hayden on 36 and Phil Jaques on 21.

The Aussies had only one scare, when Jaques was almost run out on 12 by an alert Dinesh Karthik, the substitute fieldsman missing with a backhand flick at the stumps that would have had the opener well out had it hit.

In a blow for the Indians, opening bowler R.P. Singh left the field late in the day with what appeared to be a slight hamstring strain.

Harbhajan Singh, who made 63 in a century partnership for the eighth wicket with Kumble, conceded it was a good batting wicket, but was confident they could level the series.

"I think it's a very good wicket to bat on but we've got the runs on the board now so we can play around with our field and put them under pressure

and try to get the wickets," he said. "We have a good chance to beat them in this game if we bowl the right sort of length and if we take our catches."

Harbhajan said the Indians had proved they were the biggest threat to Australia's dominance in the Test arena.

"Any team is beatable if you play to your potential and we have got a very, very good team and great players," he said. "No team has challenged the Australians the way we have challenged them."

"We are not very far from them, they have done very well in the past, but I don't live in the past."

Kumble was the last man out in India's highest total at the Adelaide Oval, caught behind by Adam Gilchrist for 87 off the bowling of Mitchell Johnson, having added 58 for the last wicket with number 11 Ishant Sharma.

The catch was Gilchrist's fourth for the innings and earned him the record for wicketkeeping dismissals, his tally of 414 edging him one ahead of South Africa's Mark Boucher.

Gilchrist was thrilled to claim the record, noting that much of the credit belonged to the bowlers, and said the Australians were still confident of winning the match.

"It's two very tiresome days for us, but I guess it shows the wicket is a nice wicket," he said.

"Fortunately, we have got through tonight unscathed and

have a good foundation to work from and we can take a lot out of the Indian innings as encouragement for our batting."

In rallying from 359 for seven, the tourists were aided by a host of dropped catches from the normally clinical Australians.

India's hopes of posting more than 400 seemed in jeopardy when Tendulkar was the seventh man out, but Kumble and Harbhajan then frustrated the Australians by putting on 107.

Tendulkar holed out to Brad Hogg on the square leg boundary from the bowling of Brett Lee to end a memorable innings.

It was the first ball after Tendulkar received extended treatment to his knee, having been struck a painful blow when he miscued an attempted pull off the previous delivery from the Australian paceman.

Tendulkar went into the match with just 122 runs at 20.33 in his three previous visits to the Adelaide Oval, but made sure his last Test at the home ground of his idol Donald Bradman would be a memorable one with his 39th century.

He looked in magnificent touch on the second day, playing some glorious shots in the first hour of play before being struck by Lee the ball after reaching 150.

Tendulkar, who has 480 runs at 80 in the series, faced 205 balls and

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Djokovic banishes Federer

Australian Open
The Grand Slam of Asia/Pacific

AFP, Melbourne

Serbian young gun Novak Djokovic ended defending champion Roger Federer's record run of 10 consecutive Grand Slam finals to power into the Australian Open decider on Friday.

Third-seeded Djokovic confirmed his status as Federer's heir apparent with a tense 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) win in two hours 28 minutes to set up an intriguing final on Sunday against unseeded French sensation Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

It will be the 20-year-old Serb's second consecutive Grand Slam final after losing to Federer in last year's US Open final.

For the Swiss great, it was his first semifinal loss at a Grand Slam since going down to world number two Rafael Nadal at the 2005 French Open and halted his 19-match unbeaten run at the Australian Open.

"It's amazing, an indescribable feeling to beat the number one player of the world, probably one of the best players this sport has ever had, in straight sets," Djokovic said.

"I'm very, very proud of myself. It's very difficult to play against a player who is so dominant on any surface and he's been so successful for the past couple of years."

"I'm just so amazed at how well I coped with the pressure, in the most important moments I played my best tennis."

Three-time winner and top seed Federer also lost the second of his five Australian Open semifinals on hardcourt after falling to Marat Safin 9-7 in the fifth set of their epic

encounter in 2005.

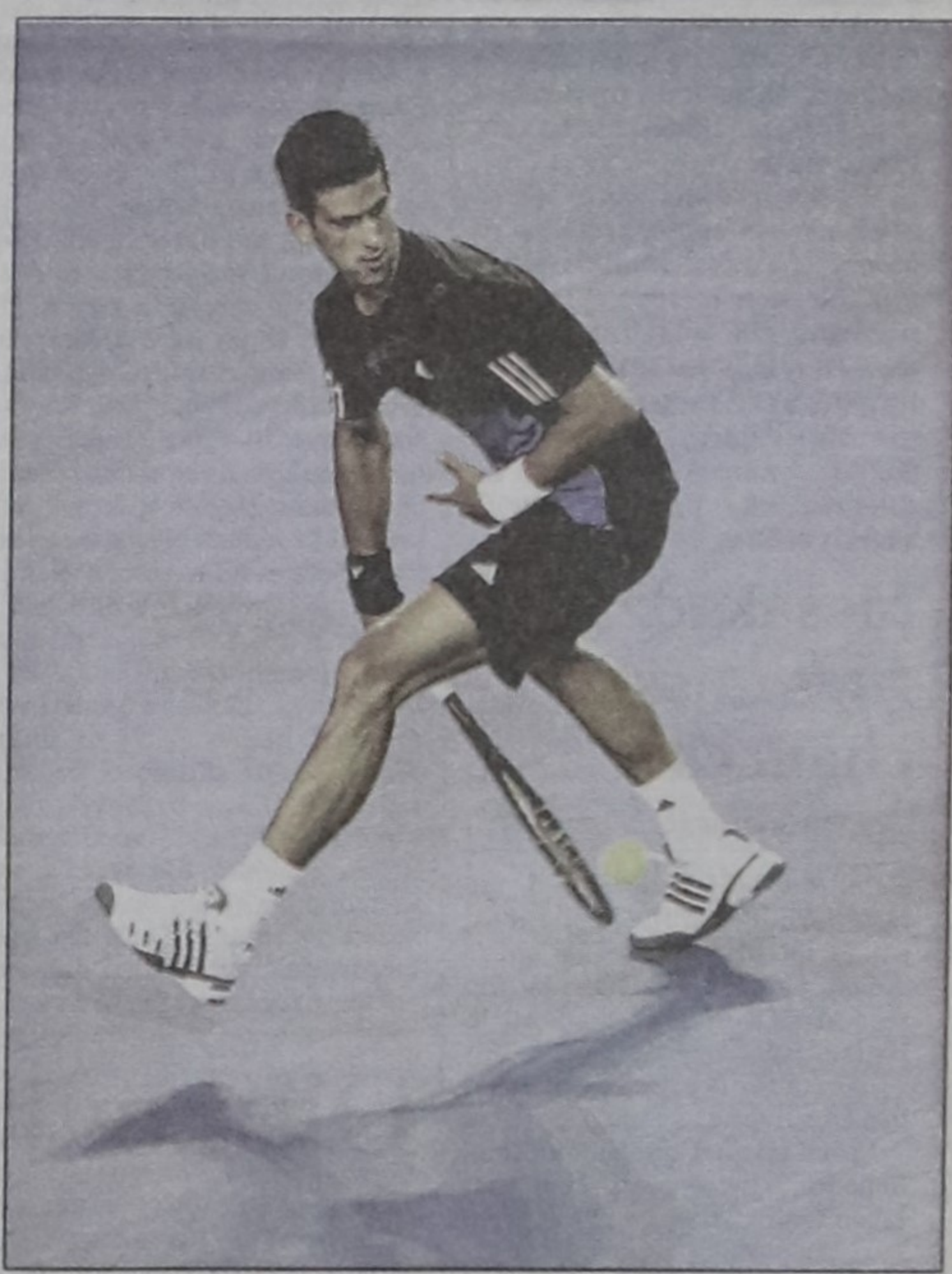
Defeat ended his bid for now of improving on his Grand Slam titles, remaining two behind Pete Sampras' record of 14.

"He made the more important

points today. It was a bit unfortunate for me, but he did play well and served really well when he had to," Federer said.

"There's no doubt I've played

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Serbia star Novak Djokovic plays a return between his legs during this semifinal match against Swiss Roger Federer at the Australian Open in Melbourne on Friday.

Nat'l Kite Festival begins

SPORTS REPORTER

Although the capital and most districts of the country were under the spell of un-seasonal rain making the winter bitter, tourists in sunny Cox's Bazar yesterday enjoyed the first day of the National Kite Festival with plenty of cheer.

For the visitors, the most favorite tourist resort in the country became an added attraction as about 300 huge, brightly hued and sometimes strange kites took wings over the Bay of Bengal and its silvery beach.

After passing through the special gate -- an 80-foot long dragon -- the big crowd at the Sugandha beach were in for a rare treat as they watched in awe, gulls and eagles take flight as if they were real birds.

There were other types of kites resembling the animal world such as kingfisher, dragon, dolphin, octopus, butterfly, frog, snake, dragonfly, sport kites like delta, box and stunt, Santa Claus, aeroplane

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Maria vows to set things right

Australian Open
The Grand Slam of Asia/Pacific

REUTERS, Melbourne

A quest to put things right after an Australian Open final thrashing at the hands of Serena Williams last year has inspired Maria Sharapova's drive for this year's title.

The 20-year-old Russian, who was beaten by the unseeded Williams 6-1, 6-2 last year, will meet fourth-seeded Serb Ana Ivanovic in Saturday's showpiece on Rod Laver Arena.

"From the beginning of the tournament, you want to go a step further than you've done in the past," Sharapova told reporters after she dispatched Jelena Jankovic in the semifinals.

"That's always your goal, and your mantra going into a tournament, no matter where it is, no matter how small or big a tournament."

mentis."

The world number five added her performance in reaching the final of the WTA Players' Championship in Madrid after an injury-affected year and a relaxing off-season had given her confidence heading into 2008.

"Before Madrid, I just said, 'look, I'm feeling pretty good. I'm just going to go there and give it a chance'."

"I did, and I didn't really expect too much from myself that week, and I really played great tennis."

"I felt like a lot of things had come together, and the off season was great. I was able to work on the court. I played a lot of tennis. I had some fun times."

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