

### Facile win for Sunrise

SPORTS REPORTER

Sunrise SC moved to fourth place in the Senior Division Football League with a rushing 3-0 win against Agrani Bank in yesterday's match at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

After Jewel Rana's 21st minute strike gave Sunrise a 1-0 first-half lead, Atik and Amin scored one each in the last four minutes to seal their fourth victory in eight matches.

Sunrise have 15 points while Agrani stuck to 10 from nine matches.

The day's other match between Wari and Purbachal ended in a scoreless draw as both clubs remained in the bottom half with eight and seven points respectively.

### Sakib new CCS president

SPORTS REPORTER

First Division side Cricket Coaching School (CCS) formed a working committee with Sakib Ali as club president and Parvez Yousof Chowdhury as general secretary.

This was announced yesterday after the January 28 annual general meeting of the club at its Kalabagan office.

Former national footballer and sports organiser Dewan Shafiq Arefin Tutul has been named as the chief adviser while Jasim Uddin Ahmed, Engineer Ramzan Ali and GS Hasan Tamim became vice-presidents.

The club survived relegation from First Division last season and will launch their campaign when the competition begins on February 18.

#### LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Shamima Akhter Liza maintained her winning run in the Preliminary Phase of the Aromatic Gold 29th Women's National Chess Championship when she won her sixth consecutive match yesterday.

Youngster Liza defeated Masuda Begum at the federation hall-room to take her tally to maximum six points.

Roksana Titli followed the leader with five points after beating Nusrat Jahana.

In their sixth round matches, Eva beat Mihir Arjunam, Shimmi beat Ahebi Sarkar, Zakia drew with Moni and Renu beat Saleka.

#### ANNUAL SPORTS

Begum Rokeya House emerged champions and Shamsunnahar Mahmud House runners-up in the annual sports of Shaheed Bir Uttam Lt Anwar Girls College.

About 600 athletes from four houses took part in 52 events of the daylong meet at the college ground.

Begum Nazneen Moeen, chief patron of Sena Paribar Kalyan Samity, distributed prizes among the winners as chief guest.

### Hope for young

FROM PAGE 20

A win for Milan in the game in hand would send the European champions into fourth place having climbed up from midtable recently following a woe-filled first half of the season.

Brazilian forward Ronaldo has missed much of the campaign through injury and cut a sorry figure on Sunday where he managed just 45 minutes in his latest comeback.

His contract is up at the end of the season but Ancelotti said the 31-year-old will stay if he regains fitness.

"On Sunday he was not in the best form to play. If I had had other possibilities I would not have sent him onto the field. If Ronaldo finds his best condition, his contract will be renewed," Ancelotti said.

The Milan boss also defended rivals Inter after the league leaders benefited from a number of recent refereeing decisions.

"Referees make mistakes because refereeing isn't easy. They have made mistakes with everyone. More errors in favour of Inter? It's just random," he said.

### 2m clamour

FROM PAGE 20  
"We also have to give tickets to our committees, the Bundesliga clubs, the regional organisations, our sponsors and the players' families get an allocation too."

For the two games in Klagenfurt, the DFB gets 5,722 tickets per game with 10,321 available for the game against Austria at the Ernst Happel Stadium, which has a capacity of 50,000.

Each prospective customer could order up to four tickets online until midnight on Tuesday, with tickets costing between 45 to 550 euros (65 to 799 dollars).

For each ticket, there is a five per cent handling charge with an extra 20 euros (30 dollars) charge for the posting of each order.

The total price is charged to a credit card as soon as it is dispatched.



Purbachal's Shipon (R) tries to stop a run by Wari midfielder Layek in a midfield clash during their Senior Division Football League match at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

## Aussies told not to tour

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Australian cricket officials have told their Pakistani counterparts that they have received security advice against touring Pakistan because of political unrest and violence, an official said Wednesday.

Australia are due to tour Pakistan for three Tests, five one-day internationals and a Twenty20 match next month but the fate of the series hangs in the balance after several Australian players raised security fears.

"We have received a letter from Cricket Australia (CA) and though they reiterated their commitment to supporting Pakistan cricket, they said that security briefings they have received are advising them against touring," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Nasim Ashraf told this news agency.

Ashraf met CA chairman Creagh O'Connor in Dubai earlier this month, a meeting which failed to produce a breakthrough as Australia continue to monitor the

situation in Pakistan.

Ashraf said the PCB had advised CA to send their security delegation to Pakistan a week after national elections on February 18.

"They (CA) have asked us whether we still want a security delegation sent here and if so when. In response to this, we have told CA that we still firmly believe that the environment for cricket and cricketers is still safe here and they must send their team on February 25," said Ashraf.

Ashraf said terrorism happened in other countries without affecting cricket.

"We stress that incidents could happen anywhere in the world. They happened in Sri Lanka, they happened in Glasgow last year when we were there for a one-day and bombs went off in England in 2005 when Australia were there," Ashraf said.

"We have to make decisions not just on perceptions, but on ground realities. We are making every effort to ensure the tour goes ahead. It would be a big loss to Pakistan cricket if they didn't tour."

Ashraf said there would be further talks on the tour between

the officials of the two boards on the sidelines of an International Cricket Council meeting in Malaysia next week.

"Our officials Shafiqat Naghmi and Zakir Khan will meet CA chief executive James Sutherland in Kuala Lumpur during the Under-19 World Cup and discuss arrangements for the security delegation with him."

Australia have not toured Pakistan since 1998. They forced Pakistan to play on neutral venues of Sri Lanka and Sharjah in 2002, a year after the 9/11 attacks on the United States sparked security fears in South Asia.

Pakistan have ruled out playing the latest series on neutral venues or relocating it to Australia.

PCB have also promised personal bodyguards and sniffer dogs to protect Australian players as part of planned stringent security usually reserved for visiting heads of state.

Every Australian player will be provided bodyguards, while roads will be closed to all traffic when the tourists travel to and from the grounds, officials said.

## 3rd party movement on?

FROM PAGE 17

implement those ideas while at the BFF, Salahuddin replied: "When I was at the BFF, I told every one in the first meeting that running football for ten months every year for two successive seasons would revive the game's status. It did not happen."

"I had no problems with the committee then but it eventually became a one-man show," Salahuddin said referring to president SA Sultan's activities. "I left because decisions were being imposed forcefully."

Chunnu believed that with more than 50 DFAs (district football association) already existing, it is possible to hold the election within a short time.

"Only time can tell whether the polls would be fair or not. But we can say that we have formed a strong FA in Narayanganj," the former national winger and president of the Narayanganj FA said.

"Although the BFF president has two nominees in the FAs, the DFA will elect the councillors, not the BFF chief," Chunnu commented.

"We also believe that the government's wish to involve the district commissioners in the FAs is a good idea. But if FIFA does not allow this now, the new committee can get back to FIFA and make amendments because without the help of the government, which owns the grounds and facilities, it is difficult to run the game in our country."

## Chambers feels Teary Obi

FROM PAGE 20

weekend's trials by UKA's interpretation of the rules but the governing body had to accept his entry after the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) declared he had not breached any competition or anti-doping regulations.

His runaway victory in Sheffield made him an automatic selection unless UKA found "exceptional circumstances" for not picking him.

They could not and Collins admitted: "All other things apart, he performed well at the weekend."

"There was a clear argument to take him and he could fetch home a medal."

But the road ahead for Chambers will be difficult with almost every top European promoter expected to refuse drug cheats entry to their meetings this year.

Barely had Chambers begun celebrating yesterday than Fast Track, organisers of international meetings on behalf of UKA, revealed there was no place for him in the country's top indoor meeting this weekend.

## Scots face

FROM PAGE 20

French player Franck Ribery will be missing with a hamstring injury, midfielder Mark van Bommel has a knee injury, and Belgian defender Daniel Van Buyten and French veteran Willy Sagnol are also out.

With captain Oliver Kahn sitting out the trip to Scotland and reserve goalkeeper Michael Rensing struggling with a back injury, third-choice keeper Bernd Dreher may be handed his chance to shut out Aberdeen.

## Siddons awaits

FROM PAGE 17

Siddons also talked about Cricket Australia's decision not to give Bangladesh any Test matches during the visit in August-September this year.

"I don't think there is any reason to be upset with the decision. It's important to play top teams like Australia but my personal opinion is to play more matches against the low-ranked sides. More you lose badly, more you lose confidence," he opined adding that it would be better for his side to play more four-day games.

In reply to a question he said that they could understand the exact position of injured opener Tamim Iqbal, who is likely to go for batting today after a long break.

The uncertainty over Tamim, who injured his thumb during the second Test in New Zealand, held back the final selection of the team for the first Test.

The 13-member squad will not be announced before February 18, according to chief selector Rafiqul Alam.

## Barca target

FROM PAGE 20

and vice president Ferran Soriano are known to be big admirers of Wenger and believe the Frenchman is the right man to replace Rijkaard.

Arsenal would resist any move to lure Wenger away from North London and the Frenchman only signed a new three-year deal at the Emirates last September.

## Head-butting

FROM PAGE 20

December after a period of rest and were looking forward to welcoming him back but instead he was loaned to Sao Paulo.

The striker was an instant hit in his first two seasons at Inter but has fallen by the wayside, suffering injury problems and a loss of form.

He has featured just four times in the league this season, scoring only once, and was almost transferred away from the San Siro in the summer.

## Cricket gathers

FROM PAGE 17

"We haven't decided on our final eleven. We only had a team meeting and without seeing the conditions tomorrow (Thursday) morning, we won't decide."

The Mehrab Hossain-led DOHS side have a young look to it as they face Surjo Tarun who have Khaled Mashud at their disposal as the veteran wicketkeeper is among the reserves for the first Test.

Mehrab and Anisur Rahman will give DOHS stability against Surjo Tarun, who earned promotion last year from First Division two seasons after they were demoted from this stage. Tarun has the likes of Nayeem Islam and Delwar Hossain to bank on with Nazmul Hossain Milon providing the fireworks.

Biman have the strongest team on paper with Nafees Iqbal, Alok Kapali and Mosharrar Hossain Rubel among their ranks. Their opponents City Club would look to Imran Ahmed and Arafat Salahuddin to give them impetus.

The short length of a Twenty20 game can work in favour of young and vibrant sides and that will exactly work in favour of side's like Sonargaon, who face Victoria.

In the ground's first match of the day, Abahani take on Kalabagan. Unfashionable Partex would depend heavily on Sylhet allrounder Rezaul Haque Nayeem against Young Pegasus to round off the first day's matches.

**FIXTURE**  
Mohammedan v BKSP (DCS), Abahani v Kalabagan (BKSP-2), City v Biman (BKSP-1), DOHS v Surjo Tarun (DCS), Victoria v Sonargaon (BKSP-2), Partex v Pegasus (BKSP-1).

## 2ND INDO-BANGLA Games fixture finalised

SPORTS REPORTER

The organisers have finalised the fixture and venues of all nine disciplines to be held at the 2nd Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games (February 22-26).

Most of the events will be held in Dhaka but adjacent district venues will also be used in the competition between Bangladesh and visiting West Bengal.

Only cricket will go outside the Dhaka division with the first two Twenty20 cricket matches scheduled for Bogra and Rajshahi.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh basketball team completed their warm-up with a 110-50 win against Bangladesh Navy on Tuesday. Earlier on Thursday, they beat the Philippines Embassy team 130-40.

**THE SCHEDULE**  
Volleyball: Feb 23-25 (Dhaka, Gazipur)  
Kabaddi: Feb 23-25 (Dhaka)  
Shooting: Feb 23-25 (BKSP)  
Cricket: Feb 23, 24, 25 (Bogra, Rajshahi, Fatullah)  
Swimming: Feb 23-25 (Mirpur)  
Kho kho: Feb 23-25 (Dhaka)  
Men's football: Feb 23-25 (Dhaka, Narshingdi)

Women's football: Feb 23-25 (Narshingdi, Narayanganj, Dhaka)  
Basketball: Feb 23-25 (Mirpur, BKSP)  
Athletics: Feb 23, 24 (Army Stadium, Dhaka)

## Ranjan, Delwar in 2nd round

SPORTS REPORTER

Local boys Ranjan Ram and Delwar Hossain moved into the second round of the Dhaka Bank 22nd International Junior Tennis Championships yesterday.

Ranjan came from a set down to oust Russian 629th World Junior ranked Ilya Osintsev 6-6, 6-2, 6-3 in over two hours at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna.

Delwar also came from behind to defeat fellow Bangladeshi Mazharul Islam 5-7, 6-1, 6-4.

In other boys' singles matches, Mohit Jayaprakash of India beat Moon Jong Sun (Korea) 6-4, 6-1. Wen Yao beat Wasin Wijaya 6-3, 6-3. Egor Kovalev beat Jugal Marfatia 6-4, 6-0. Priyank Gangadharan beat Sanjay Shankar 6-0, 6-2. Loic Ducourau beat Shabbaz Khan 6-4, 6-2. Yen Hsiang Lo beat Imran Chowdhury (USA). Lertchai Konppop beat Oh Su Bin 6-4, 7-5. Ahuja Sagar beat Ryan Ho 6-2, 6-2. Sergi Sikharulidze beat Tirumurti Viswajit 6-2, 6-3. Kim Ki Honn beat Haris Aditya Viswajit 6-2, 6-3. Paul Brown beat Naveen Sai 6-4, 6-1. Kwon Youg Jae beat Prithiv Sivasubraman 6-1, 6-3 and Ivan Regan Krijanto beat Tazmul Islam local player 6-0, 6-1.

In the girls' singles, Venkatesh Pojashree beat Maggen India 6-0, 6-1. Vivian Vaar beat Dali Shradha 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 and Petra Jorova beat MS Shivani 6-0, 6-0.

## Afro-Asia Cup may take a new look

CRICINFO, undated

The Afro-Asian Cup, the second staging of which took place in Bangalore in June last year, looks likely to undergo a radical overhaul of its format.

The event has raised valuable funds for the African Cricket Association and the Asian Cricket Council, but it has been less than a hit with audiences and has been roundly condemned as an unnecessary burden in an already packed international calendar. The third Afro-Asian Cup was initially scheduled to be held in Kenya in June 2008 but Cricinfo was told several weeks ago it was unlikely to go ahead.

But while there had been speculation the event would be ditched completely, it is now reported that the organisers are to propose a new format which would involve matches being on a country basis rather than continent vs continent, as is the case now.

There is already an Asia Cup -- the itinerary for the 2008 event in June was revealed earlier this week -- and to run alongside that there would be a new Africa Cup. That would be likely to feature South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya, as well as other countries such as Namibia and Uganda. The winners from the two continents, and possibly the runners-up as well, would then progress to the finals.

## Tug of war

FROM PAGE 17

Muktijoddha Sangsad under the auspices of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs organised the first edition of the meet in 2005 in association with the BFF.

"It is our tournament and we are going to hold it. Last year we could not do it because lack of ground," said Muktijoddha football team manager Abdus Sattar.

"We are thinking about bringing foreign teams this time. We have discussed this with the ministry but nothing has been finalised yet," he added.

Sources said that clubs from India and Oman could be invited to joint local clubs.

The trophy is also given by Muktijoddha Sangsad, who kept the title home after beating Brothers Union in the final.

# Back to 'dark days'?

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa has been plunged into a fresh debate over the racial make-up of its sports teams 14 years after the country emerged from apartheid into a unifying "rainbow nation".

As the cricket squad prepared on Wednesday to fly to Bangladesh after a furious row over the dearth of black players in its line-up, white rugby legends protested against government pressure on selectors to put skin colour ahead of ability.

"It is important for players and the country that teams be chosen on merit," former Springbok captain Wynand Claassen told AFP.

"No player wants to be known as a quota player."

The racial composition of South African sports teams remains an emotive issue for black and white alike nearly two decades after the lifting of international sporting boycotts of the 1970s and 1980s when the country allowed no black sportsmen to compete on the global arena.

And despite the changing face of the public and private sectors since the African National Congress (ANC) took over the government in 1994, the sports-mad nation's rugby and cricket squads and supporters remain largely white while football is widely perceived as a black past-time.

The country has failed to build

on a unique chance for sports unity since the first black president Nelson Mandela celebrated South Africa's 1995 rugby World Cup victory with the team, holding aloft the William Webb Ellis trophy in a replica captain's jersey.

Last week, national cricket coach Mickey Arthur was sacked as a team selector with Cricket South Africa (CSA) president Norman Arendse accusing him of "cocking a snook" at transformation after the provisional 14-man squad for an upcoming tour of Bangladesh included only four players of colour.

Arthur's ousting has since been overturned and the squad twice rejected by Arendse confirmed, but few believe that is the end of the story.

On Tuesday, a group of former Springbok rugby players and captains joined pressure group Afriforum for a meeting with South African Rugby Union president Oregan Hoskins, complaining about the use of race as a selection criterion.

Afriforum, which represents white minority interests, gave Hoskins a memorandum demanding a stop to racial discrimination.

Following South Africa's re-entry into international sport... the post-1994 ANC government has proceeded to follow a clear and aggressively pursued agenda to racialise sport, especially rugby, at all levels," stated the document.

The country saw the appointment last month of its first ever black Springbok coach, Peter de Villiers, who was quick to stress that merit rather than skin colour would determine selection.

De Villiers was chosen over

Heyneke Meyer, the white coach of the Pretoria-based Bulls, with Hoskins announcing at the time that "the appointment did not take into account only rugby reasons".

Meyer has expressed disappointment at the decision, stating at the weekend: "I am a South African, and if I cannot coach the Bulls, I don't want to coach at all."

Hoskins told AFP on Tuesday there was an urgent need for the sport to change its white image, but imposing quotas was not the way to do it.

"We tried it in the past but it was not successful because it had all sorts of negative connotations. People perceived it as a form of window-dressing while players themselves were made to feel inferior."

Vast numbers of South Africans were not exposed to rugby, said Hoskins, which prevented talented players from rising through the ranks.

Sports Minister Makhenkesi Stofile has said race quotas "are out" but selectors are left in little doubt that their jobs will be on the line if blacks continue to account for only a minority of squad members.

Even President Thabo Mbeki has entered the fray, saying the country might need to sacrifice results for a higher goal.

"It might not be that therefore you win all the games, but in the end you win this other thing which is building up of a truly representative South African side," he told lawmakers last year.

Parliament recently passed an amendment bill allowing the sports minister to issue guidelines for the promotion of "equity, representivity and redress in sport".

# England's back against the wall

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Eleven of England's cricketers went straight back into the nets on their day off, in a bid to turn their fortunes around after one of the most humiliating defeats of their careers. Tuesday's ten-wicket loss

to New Zealand at Hamilton has left England needing three straight wins in a row to rescue the series, with the next match getting underway in Auckland on Friday.

Five of the players involved in the defeat -- the captain Paul Collingwood, Alastair Cook, Owais Shah, Ryan Sidebottom and Stuart Broad -- chose not to take part in the voluntary practice, which followed a

stern dressing-down from the coach, Peter Moores, in the immediate aftermath of the defeat.

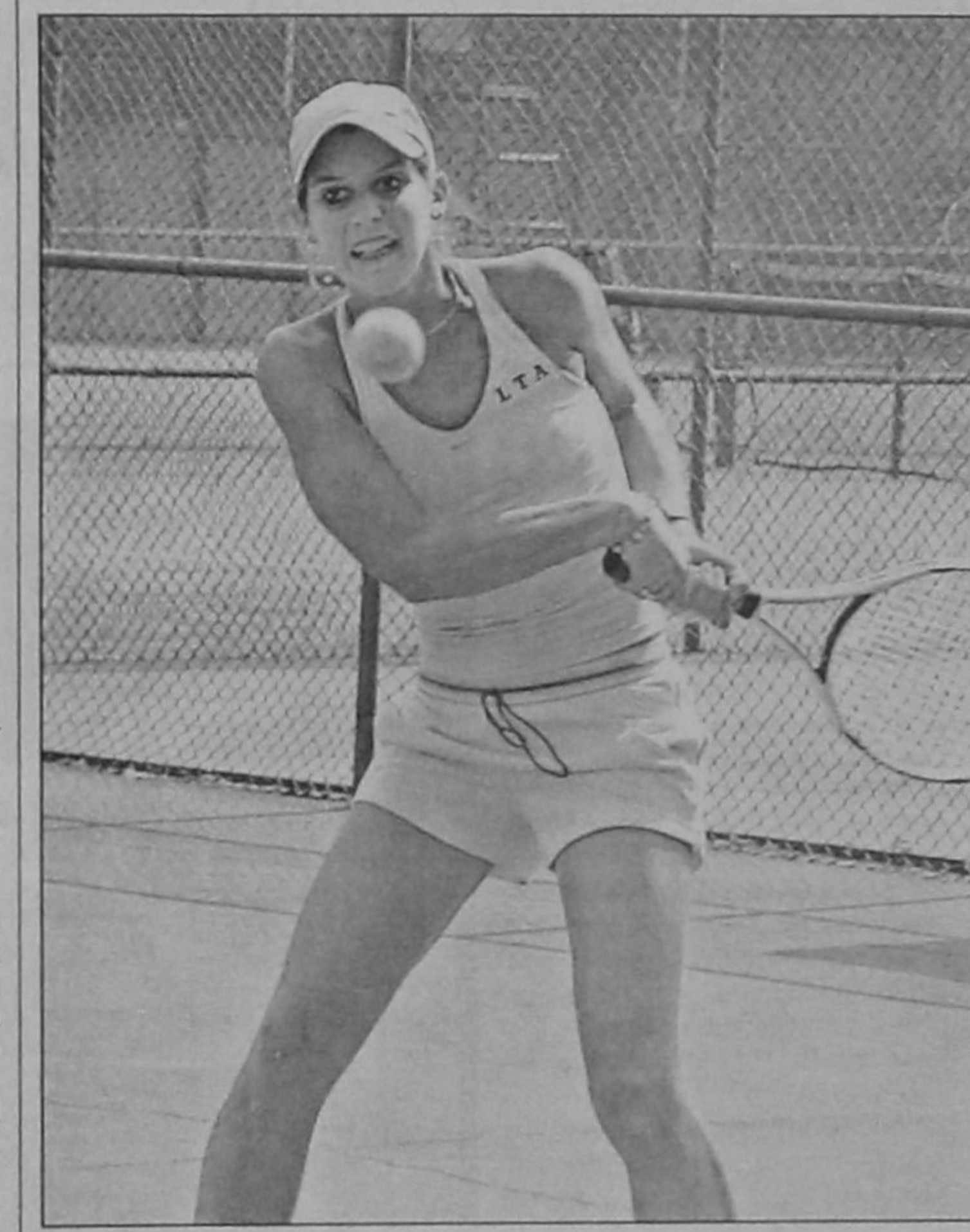
"There have already been a lot of words spoken in the dressing-room and we don't want those sort of performances again," said Collingwood. "You have to be honest as an individual and really talk as a team about where you've gone wrong. We feel we have let ourselves down and the supporters down, and because of that there are people in the dressing-room who are hurting."

One player in particular bore the brunt of the vitriol following the defeat -- Ravi Bopara, who seems set to lose his place to his fellow allrounder, Dimitri Mascarenhas. He chipped a full toss to midwicket to end a tortuous innings of 23 at Hamilton, having run out England's top-scorer, Cook, with a dreadful call for a single.

"We will tell him what a good player he is," said Collingwood, on Bopara's loss of form. "He's an exceptional player and we've all seen him play important innings for England. It's up to all 11 players plus the support staff in the squad to get behind players when they're going through a bad run of form."

Naughty-boy nets are only a skin-deep solution to England's current malaise, however. Collingwood admitted that he would much prefer to have a longer break to get his team refocused before their must-win match at Auckland. "It would have been a good thing if we'd have had a week until the next game," he said, "so we can really talk about things and get in the nets and do plenty of work."

"But if we turn it around quickly it could be a good thing, work in our favour and get on a roll again and hopefully win the last three games."



Vivian Vaar of Holland returns backhand against India's Dali Shradha during a girls' singles match of the Dhaka Bank 22nd International Junior Tennis Championships at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Speedometer  
4 Pub request  
7 Blunder  
11 Came to earth  
13 Fa-la-intervener  
14 Enlivenment  
15 Parlor piece  
16 Center gamul  
18 Director Lea  
20 Garb  
22 "A mouse!"  
24 Horse-radish kin  
28 Chess rocks  
32 Sealcoat selection  
33 "The Sultan of Swat"  
34 Wiggle product  
36 Hibernia  
37 Ram in the air

**DOWN**  
2 Part of Toro  
3 French city  
5 English Channel  
6 Unaccompanied  
8 Volcanic emission  
9 Lummock  
6 Nudge  
7 Corporal  
4 No cookie  
57 Gavel  
58 Mentor  
59 Have on  
60 1960s hallucinogen  
1 Part of Toro  
2 Fall (down)  
3 Stereo setup  
4 Volcanic emission  
5 Lummock  
6 Nudge  
7 Corporal  
8 No cookie  
9 Gold, in Guadalupe  
10 Tasseled top  
11 Part of Toro  
12 Petrol wogler  
23 Barrel  
25 Very dry  
26 Unlittered  
27 Misleading story-teller  
27 Mid-March date  
28 Group  
29 Emanation  
30 Mix  
31 Long lunch?  
35 Club  
38 Crazily