

Sathi meets Ayami in final

UNB, Dhaka

Top seed Sathi Sarkar set a final clash in the women's singles final of the Runner Group tennis tournament and BKSP's Ayami yesterday.

In the semifinals at the Ramna National Tennis Complex, Sathi beat Disha Islam 6-1, 6-4 while Ayami outlasted Ripa 6-1, 6-0.

Number one Amol Roy, Ranjan Ram and Alamgir Hossain advanced to the men's singles semifinals eliminating their rivals in the quarterfinals today.

Amol beat Omar Faruk Sunny 6-3, 6-3, second seed Ranjan defeated Mufazzal Hossain 6-4, 6-1 while Alamgir ousted Anwar Hossain 6-4, 6-3.

Amol and Ranjan also made the men's doubles semis beating Mizan and Mamun 6-0, 6-4 while in the other quarterfinals, Munir and Anwar defeated Bashir and Milon 6-3, 6-3, Niranjan and Mahmudul pair beat Nurul Islam and Arif 6-4, 6-4.

Rustom Ali, Tanjir Ahmed and Delwar Hossain reached the semis of the boys' singles (14 years age group).

In the u-12 boys' singles, Raqibul Alam, Delwar Hossain and Biplob Hossain made the semis.

Younis new

FROM PAGE 17 saying he did not want to be a dummy captain.

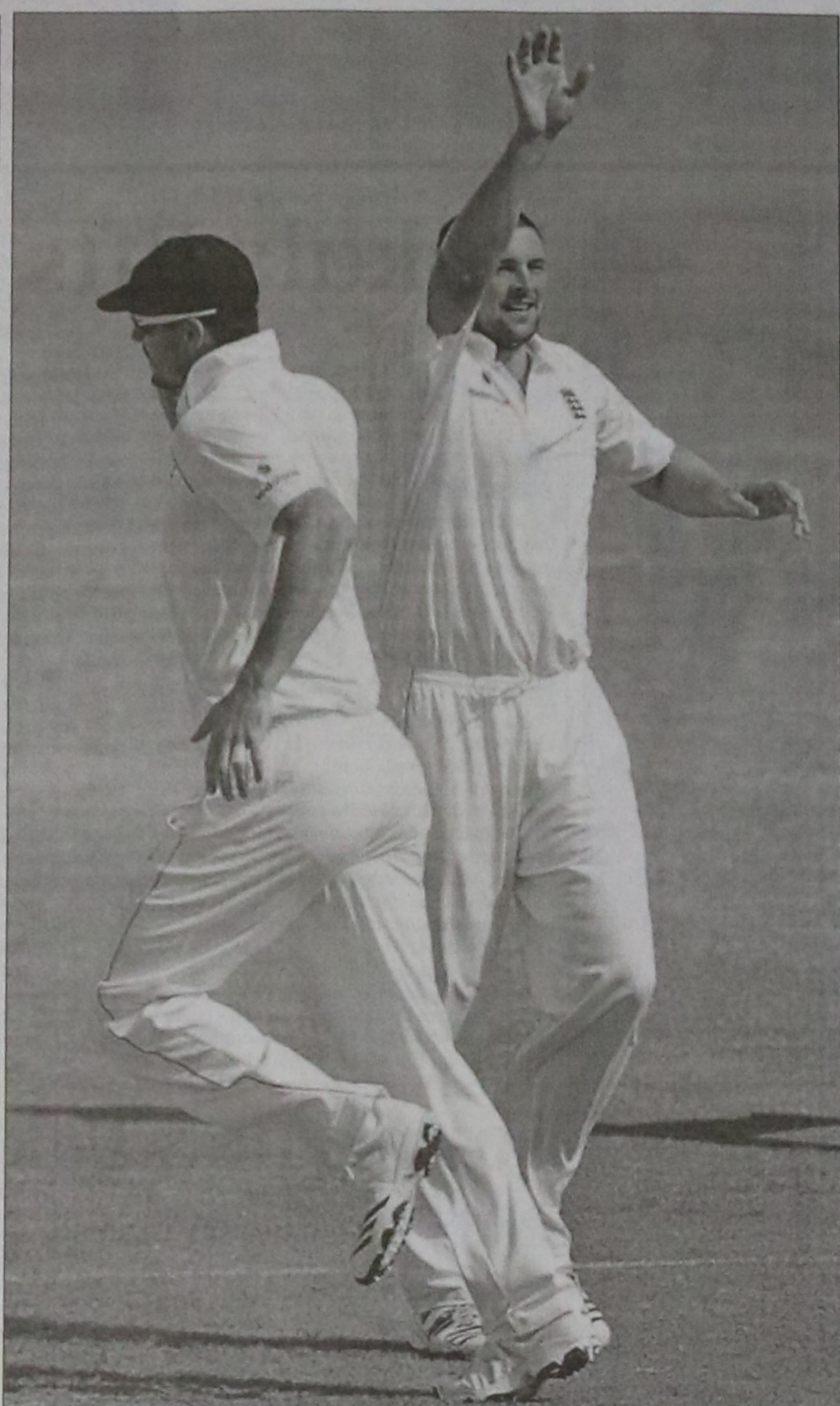
He was reinstated captain, however, for the Trophy after Nasim Ashraf replaced Shaharyar Khan as PCB chairman.

Malik led Pakistan in 36 one-day internationals -- 12 defeats and 24 wins -- including a Pakistan record 12-match winning streak.

Malik also led Pakistan in three Tests, losing two and drawing one.

In contrast, the 31-year-old Younis has led Pakistan in six one-day matches, winning two and losing four.

Younis will resume duties in the two-Test home series against Sri Lanka next month.



England XI fast bowler Steve Harmison (R) celebrates dismissing Kejel Tyson of St Kitts Invitational XI on the second day of their tour match at the Warner Park in Basseterre on Monday.

England's good workout

Cricket

AFP, Basseterre

England enjoyed another productive day in their opening tour match against St Kitts and Nevis on Monday even though the casualty list continued to mount.

Monty Panesar was the pick of the bowlers with four wickets, as England gained a first innings lead of 173, when they dismissed St Kitts and Nevis for 251 on the second day of three at Warner Park.

New captain Andrew Strauss then put the disappointment of a first-ball duck behind him with an unbeaten 59, and Alastair Cook continued from where he left off with 50 not out, guiding England to 118 without loss at the close.

But England suffered another injury setback, when first innings century-maker Ovais Shah was withdrawn from the match, after he awoke with blurred vision in his left eye from a scratched cornea.

Shah is the second player to be withdrawn from the match, following Andrew Flintoff, who was dispatched to Jamaica for a scan on a left-side strain sustained when bowling in the nets.

Shah is hoping for a speedy recovery, as he chases a place in the England Test line-up for the third time in his career.

"I don't know how I did it," he said. "The doctor didn't know either. She said it could have been anything, maybe a tiny bit of sand went in, and I just rubbed my eye."

"The doctor put some medicine in there, covered it up, and she reckons it should heal up overnight. Hopefully, it will be okay."

"I walked out of the hotel room and my vision was a little bit blurred. When I spoke to the physiotherapist, I was concerned about my eyesight going, but he said, 'You can't lose your eyesight overnight'."

But England hardly missed Shah when they batted a second time, as Strauss raced to his half-century in a little more than an hour, and Cook reached the landmark in the last over of the day.

Earlier, Steve Harmison struck early, when he had Kejel Tyson caught behind for three, but England's bowlers had to toil before Panesar removed Steve Liburd for 25 and Stuart Broad snared the home team's captain Shane Jeffers for 27 to leave St Kitts and Nevis 94 for three at lunch.

Jimmy Anderson set St Kitts and Nevis back further, when he bowled Junie Mitchum for nine and had Elsyro Powell adjudged lbw for 18 to leave the hosts on 138 for five.

Broad added the scalp of Codville Rogers, whose 63 was

the top score for St Kitts and Nevis, before he was caught at gully, and Adil Rashid claimed his first England wicket, when Terrace Ward was caught behind for one -- both wickets fell with the total on 155.

A stand of 78 between Akito Willett, the son of former West Indies spinner Elquemedo Willett, and Joel Simmonds added some respectability to the St Kitts and Nevis total before Panesar returned to mop up the tail with the last three wickets which fell for 18.

Broad ended with the impressive figures of two for 26 from 10 overs, and Jimmy Anderson took two for 48 from 12 overs.

England also have a three-day tour match against West Indies-A, starting on Thursday at the same venue, before travelling to the Jamaican capital of Kingston for the first Test which opens on February 4.

SCORES IN BRIEF

England XI: 424-8 declared (Shah 125 not out, Pietersen 103, Harmison 58, Cook 52; A Willett 5-118) and 118-0 (Strauss 59, Cook 50) v St Kitts and Nevis XI: 251 (Rogers 63; Panesar 4-53)

Clarke, Bracken

FROM PAGE 17 justify their positions ahead of the five-match ODI contest against New Zealand, which begins at the WACA on Sunday.

SQUAD

Shaun Marsh, David Warner, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Hussey, Michael Clarke, David Hussey, Cameron White, Brad Haddin, James Hopes, Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Bracken, Ben Hilfenhaus, Shaun Tait.

Bukola lifts

FROM PAGE 17 top of the scorers' list in the 74th minute but lost control from a fine shooting position during a melee inside the opposition area.

Rahmatganj, who has lost half of their 16 games, stuck to 20 points at seventh place.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN: Aminul, Nasir, Emmanuelle, Rajani, Saikat, Sharif, Arman Aziz (Pappu), Hazem, Maruf (Rony), Bukola and Komol (Faisal).

RAHMATGANJ: Ali, Jahangir, Ashraf, Shipon, Babu, Felix, Kabir, Hanif (Zakir), Ripon (Roland), Hirok and Idris.

Div 3 soccer kicks off today

SPORTS REPORTER

Muslim Institute will face BKSP in today's opening match of the Citycell 3rd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Eighteen teams, split into two groups, will compete in round robin format with the top four from each group qualifying for the super league.

Sponsors Citycell, who are Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) partner in progress, will provide the entire Tk 14 lakh budget of the league.

League committee chairman and BFF vice president Manzoor Hossain Malu informed at a press conference at the Bangabandhu National Stadium conference room that each of the teams will receive Tk 40,000 as participation money.

League committee deputy chairman and BFF vice president Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir, Citycell's deputy manager (events and sponsorship) Atiqur Akbar and organising committee secretary Mohammad Selim Khan were also present.

TEAMS

GROUP A: Muslim Institute, Swadhinata KS, Tongi KC, City United Club, Jirabo SC, Dhaka Juniors SC, Mirpur XI, Dilkusha SC and BKSP.

GROUP B: Anirban Sangha, Lalbagh SC, PWD SC, Rahmatganj SC, Rainbow SC, Kasaituly SKP, Shantinagar Club, Govt Printing Press and Rampura KC.

Djokovic pulls

FROM PAGE 17 again at their heat play.

"That's something we have to discuss in the future. Of course, it's concerning a lot of players," he said.

"As a tournament or as a tennis fan, you don't want to see a player retiring. You didn't pay for a ticket to come to see somebody retiring the match."

The seventh seeded Roddick, looking for another Grand Slam title to go with his US Open crown in 2003, was playing high-class tennis when Djokovic withdrew and may well have progressed regardless.

But he said the victory was hollow.

"I feel for Novak because he worked so hard to win the title and for him not to get a fair chance to defend it, it's too bad," Roddick said.

"But I was pretty happy with everything. I just kind of stayed the course. I felt good."

Like Djokovic, Bartoli also felt the effects of the searing heat in her match against Zvonareva, often bending double and sucking for breath.

She started strongly but rapidly wilted in a one-sided drubbing to a player who is now in her first Grand Slam semifinal in 25 attempts.

Zvonareva declared herself ready to win the tournament.

"If I'm in the tournament, I'm here to try to win it," she said.

ICL stars to fight with PCB

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan's Indian Cricket League (ICL) recruits have finally restarted a legal process to fight the bans imposed on them by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) from playing domestic and international cricket.

A letter has been sent by the legal firm of retired judge Fakhruddin G Ebrahim to the PCB on Tuesday on behalf of the players. Currently, however, the communication is not "a legal notice", a board official said.

"No legal action is being taken just yet but we have received a letter from the firm," the official told Cricinfo. "The letter asks us why we have banned them and under what rules."

The board has not

responded yet, though it is understood the issue will be brought up at the ICC executive board meeting due to take place in Perth on January 31. Only after a clearer picture emerges from there will they respond to the queries.

The move comes more than a year after a group of ICL players, led by Imran Farhat and Taufeeq Umar, first attempted to take the matter to court. They started the process towards the end of 2007 but it then petered out. The process has started again, said a prominent ICL player, because the environment is ripe for it.

"We tried doing it in 2007 but Nasim Ashraf [the then PCB chairman] had too many connections in the government of the time," the player told Cricinfo. "Whenever we did something or tried, it would come up against a dead end because Ashraf would use

his friends in power to stop proceedings. So we decided to just wait it out till the government changed. Now it has and so has the administration and we feel, from the comments they have made, that we can progress this time."

The current board administration under Ijaz Butt has been far more ambiguous about the ban on the players than the one under Ashraf and seems far more willing to look for ways out of the situation. Pakistan has 19 players in the ICL -- some of them, like Abdul Razzaq and Mohammad Yousof, still good enough to play for the country.

Javed Miandad, the PCB's director-general, has openly called for the bans to be removed claiming they hurt Pakistan and are only in place to appease BCCI interests. Butt, however, has been vague and often confused over the stance. He insists it is up to the ICC to resolve the matter and that the PCB does not want to ban the players.

"We don't want our players to be banned because they have contracts with the ICL," Butt said on a TV show two weeks ago. "But unfortunately we can't do anything unless the ICC changes its stance on this issue."

"The PCB has not directly banned the players, We have banned them under the ICC rules," he said. "The rules state that no tournament can be held without the home board's permission and, in the case of the ICL, the Indian board [BCCI] does not recognise it as it runs its own league, the IPL."

Board officials have been examining legal aspects of the case since before the letter was sent to fully brief Butt before he attends the Perth meeting. The letter has been sent on behalf of almost all of Pakistan's 19 ICL players and Moïn Khan, coach of the ICL's Lahore Badshahs team, is believed to be handling the matter as a representative of the sports.

All eyes on Murali

FROM PAGE 17

forward to that," he said.

"Their batting looks better this time, with Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag returning to the one-day squad. I think batting will be their strength. They also have two good pacemen (Zaheer Khan and Ishant Sharma)."

India won the last one-day series 3-2 in Sri Lanka without Tendulkar, Sehwag and Sharma, who were injured.

The Sri Lankan captain, without a half-century in his last 12 one-dayers, said he had been working hard on his batting and hoped to regain form.

"I'd like to get more runs and contribute more to the team's totals. This is something I have been working really hard. I hope I get it right against the Indians," said Jayawardene.

Indian captain Dhoni said his team had to adapt to the conditions early.

"We have two experienced players (Tendulkar and Sehwag) with us this time. A lot depends on the conditions here and we have to adapt quickly."

TEAMS

INDIA (from): Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh, Rohit Sharma, Suresh Raina, Ravindra Jadeja, Yusuf Pathan, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Munaf Patel, Pragyan Ojha, Irfan Pathan, Praveen Kumar.

SRI LANKA (from): Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Upul Tharanga, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Chamara Kapugedera, Thilina Kandamby, Jehan Mubarak, Farveez Maharoof, Muttiah Muralidaran, Ajantha Mendis, Dilhara Fernando, Nuwan Kulasekara, Thilan Thushara, Angelo Mathews.

Umpires: Brian Jerling and Kumar Dharmasena.



Assistant Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari hands over the champions' trophy to members of Nazrul House, who became champions in the annual sports competition of BAF Shaheen College, on the concluding day of the three-day meet at the college premises on Monday. Esa Khan and Shere Bangla finished joint runners-up.

Khelaghar

FROM PAGE 17

unbeaten run of form in the tournament. Chasing a modest target of 137, Rupali bank were restricted to 125-9.

Dhanmondi's Mostafizur top scored with 40 in his team's 136 for six in the allotted 20 overs.

In the day's last match also at CCG, Lalmatia (134-8) beat Dhaka Wanderers (131-7) by three runs to seal their first victory in the tournament.

Shahid's team

FROM PAGE 17 green. After the best ball was chosen all other players were to place their ball within one scorecard length before continuing play. This rule was applicable on the putting green as well.

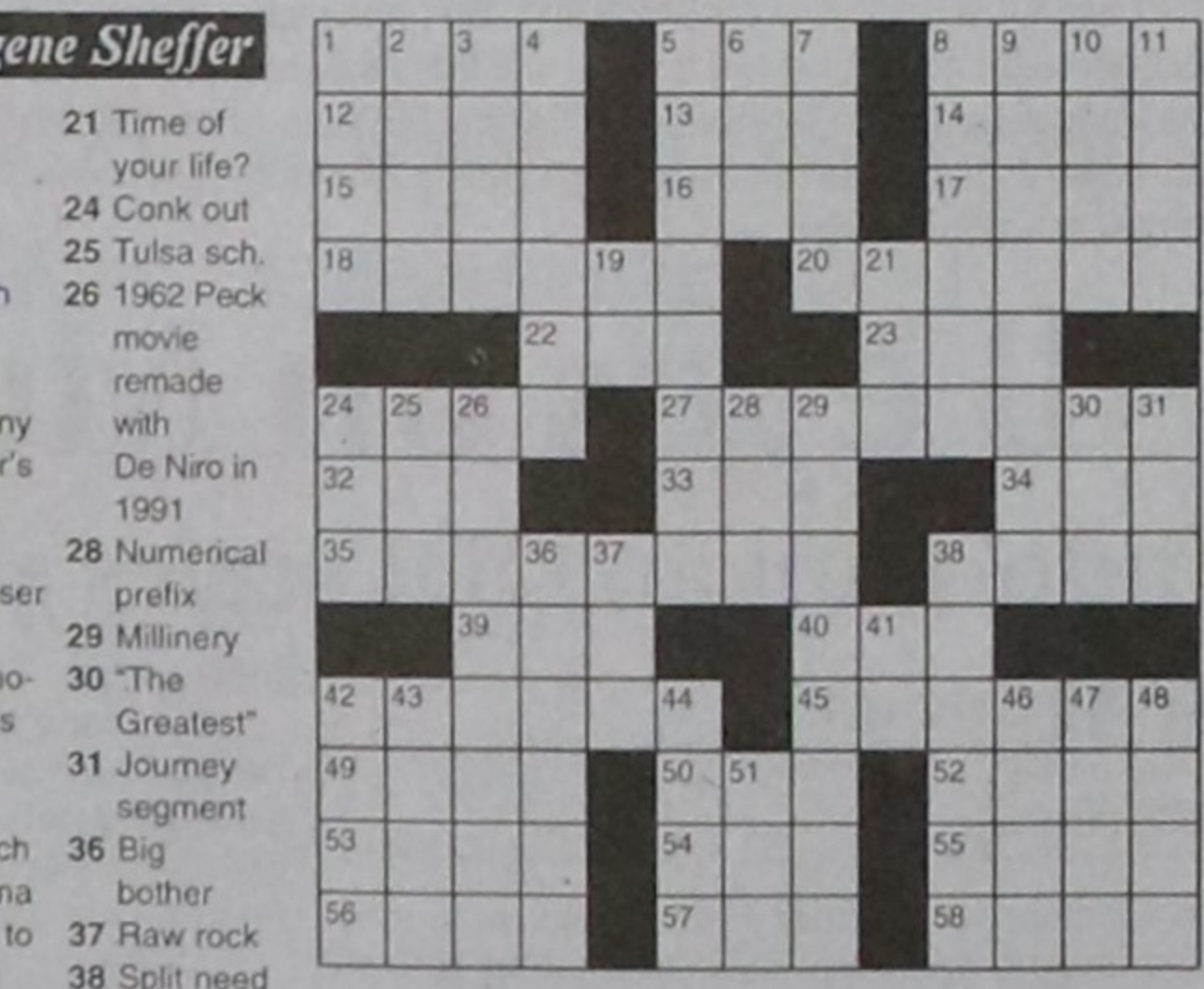


Did U Know?

In 2002 Swiss Sensation Martina Hingis contested her sixth Australian Open final. She won the first 3 (1997-1999) and then lost the next 3 (2000-2002).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 42 Balance, 45 Sent, 5 Prospector's hope, 5 Tie up the phone, 8 Distort, 12 Eye layer, 13 Have bills, 14 Tower city, 15 Sta- tioner's quantity, 16 -the ramps, 17 Meet Me -Louis, 18 Like debts, 20 Thingle, 22 Pigs' digs, 23 Solidify, 24 Harbor structure, 27 Airy, 32 George's brother, 33 Exist, 34 Heavy quaff, 35 Bliss, 38 Sailor's hose-gown, 39 Lashener, 40 'CSI' evidence, 41 Micro-wave, e.g., 3 Bound, 4 Grayish, 49 Bakery, 5 Tire, 50 2008, 5 Texas, 52 -want for Christ- mas..., 53 Caspian feeder, 54 Meadow, 55 Subject, 56 Withered, 57 Pitch, 58 Competent, 11 Power, 19 Tagged, 1 Mentor, 21 Time of your life?, 24 Conk out, 25 Tulsa sch., 26 1962 Peck movie, 28 Numerical prefix, 29 Millinery, 30 'The Greatest', 31 Journey segment, 36 Big, 37 Raw rock, 41 'Fuhged-daboudit!', 42 Comic strip, 43 Pink-slip, 44 Pinball, 46 Amorphous, 47 Hebrew month, 48 Eat in style, 51 Mauve



CRYPTOQUIP

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN A BIRD IS DILIGENTLY BUILDING ITS NEST IN A TREE, WOULD YOU CALL THAT BRANCH DRESSING? Today's Cryptquip Clue: X equals P