

School chess

SPORTS REPORTER

The 6th round of the 11th Standard Chartered School chess tournament ended on Sunday at the N.S.C Tower Auditorium Lounge. Four players are sharing lead in the points table with maximum 5½ points each in the Class VI to X Group. They are Abdullah Al-Saif, Ikramul Haque Siam, Debotpal Dey (India) and Rupesh Jaiswal (Nepal).

Tanzina Akter Tani is leading the Girls' section with a maximum 6 points after the end of the 6th round games. In the KG-Class V group, Fahad Rahman and Debdeeb Das (India) are jointly leading the points table with 5½ points each.

7th round games of all three groups will start on Monday at the same venue.

Zia seeks foreign consult

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh National Kabaddi team captain Ziaur Rahman left for Bangkok on Sunday for better treatment after suffering a serious knee injury during the Dinajpur Services Kabaddi finals on June 22.

Orthopaedic Dr. Sombat Rajviraj of Bangkok General Hospital will observe his condition on Monday and will advise accordingly.

Zia is being accompanied by Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation executive committee member Mir Kaisar Sadiq and BOA Medical Committee Chairman Dr Omar Faruq. Prior to leaving Dhaka, Zia thanked state minister for youth and sports Ahad Ali Sarkar and BOA Bangladesh Kabaddi federation for their assistance.

Martin wants new ball along with Bond

CRICINFO, undated

Chris Martin, the New Zealand seamer, has expressed his desire to team up with Shane Bond and the new ball at the international level. Neither are together on New Zealand's upcoming tour to Sri Lanka -- Martin is in the Test side, Bond in the one-day squad -- but Martin was keen to strengthen New Zealand's fast-bowling attack by forging a healthy pairing domestically.

Martin, 34, has returned to Canterbury for the 2009-10 season after spending the past four summers at Auckland and will share the new ball with Bond. "I think we can be a good partnership with the new ball," Martin told the Sunday Star Times.

No complaints

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express interest in a player unless they have been given written consent by their current employers to open negotiations.

If that has not been forthcoming, the player's current club could claim an indirect and illegal approach.

If Chelsea choose to go down that route, however, they would need to submit an official complaint, supported by a dossier of evidence, to the Premier League, and they have not yet taken that course of action.

For his part, Hughes -- who also confirmed his interest in Everton centre-back Joleon Lescott -- claimed City would back off if Chelsea continue to rebuff their approaches.

A spokesman for the Premier League said that no official complaint from Chelsea had been made.

Abu Dhabi

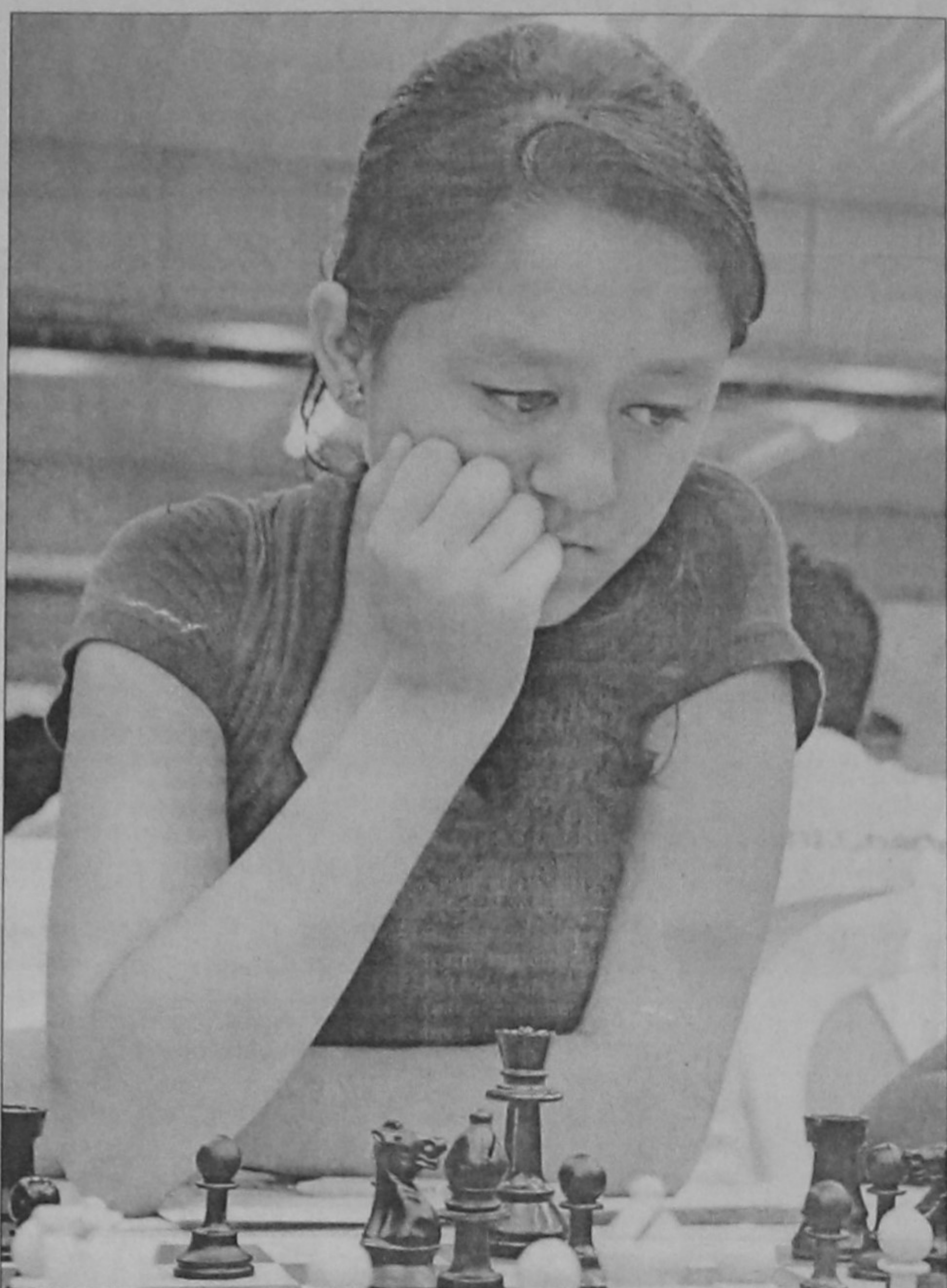
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caps, said he realised the Emirati league would be of a lower standard of football than Spain, but added that it had been an offer he and his family could not refuse.

Al-Jazira is owned by Sheikh Mansur Ben Zayed al-Nahyan, a member of the ruling family in oil-rich Abu Dhabi who is also owner of English Premiership club Manchester City.

Milan keen

FROM PAGE 20
"At the moment, Hernanes' valuation is not at €25m anymore, but I think that an agreement could be struck at €12-13m," the representative is quoted as saying at falcicromerato.it.

"But the real problem for Milan is the player's non-EU status. I know Leonardo is keen on him, but the Rossoneri first need to free up a slot for non-EU players."



Shanta Thapa of Nepal ponders her next move against Ananna Shretha of India during her sixth round game of the 11th Standard Chartered School Chess Tournament at the NSC Tower auditorium yesterday.

England sniff victory

FROM PAGE 17
Billy Doctrove although replays suggested the ball may have missed the outside edge -- one of several umpiring decisions Sunday that went against Australia.

But there was no doubt about Swann's next wicket, with Marcus North bowled between bat and pad to leave Australia 128 for five.

Injury-hit all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, who before this match said he would retire from Test cricket at the end of the Ashes, struck twice to reduce Australia to 34 for two before lunch.

But controversy surrounded both wickets, with veteran umpire Rudi Koertzen, standing in his 100th Test, missing a no-ball in the lead-up to Simon Katich's exit and then giving Phillip Hughes out to a disputed slip catch by England captain Andrew Strauss.

Fast bowler Flintoff, saw Katich guide his eighth ball Sunday to the gully where Kevin Pietersen safely held the catch.

But replays showed Flintoff had overstepped the crease.

That should have led to a call of no-ball from South Africa's Koertzen which in turn would have denied England their first wicket.

Ashes-holders Australia then saw Hughes, their other left-handed opener, on 17 edge Flintoff to first slip Strauss.

The 20-year-old started to walk off but was told to stay by Ponting, who on Saturday had seen England's Ravi Bopara reprieved after the umpires referred a low catch to TV umpire Nigel Llong.

But this time around Koertzen, after asking Doctrove if the ball had carried, gave the decision without calling for Llong's assistance.

Flintoff, the star of England's 2005 Ashes triumph, had taken two wickets for two runs in 20 balls.

Strauss, with rain in the air, declared before play Sunday on England's overnight second innings score of 311 for six.

That left Australia chasing a target that, were they to achieve it, would be a new world record for the highest fourth innings total to win a Test, surpassing the 418 for seven made by the West Indies against Australia in Antigua in 2002/03.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the second Ashes Test between England and Australia at Lord's on Sunday: ENGLAND: First innings 425 (Strauss 161, Cook 95; Hilfenhaus 4-103, Johnson 3-132)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 215 (Hussey 51; Anderson 4-55, Onions 3-41)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 311-6)

Strauss c Clarke b Hauritz 32

Cook lbw b Hauritz 32

Bopara c Katich b Hauritz 27

Pietersen c Haddin b Siddle 44

Collingwood c Haddin b Siddle 54

Prior run out (North) 61

Flintoff not out 30

Broad not out 0

Extras: (b-16, lb-9, w-1, nb-5) 31

Total: (For 6 wickets in 120 overs) 311

Did not bat: Swann, Anderson, Onions.

Fall of wickets: 1-61, 2-74, 3-147, 4-174, 5-260, 6-311.

Bowler O M R W

Hilfenhaus 19 5 59 0

Johnson 17 2 68 0

Siddle 15.2 4 64 2

Hauritz 16 1 80 3

Clarke 4 0 15 0

AUSTRALIA: Second innings

Hughes c Strauss b Flintoff 17

Katich c Pietersen b Flintoff 6

Ponting b Broad 38

Hussey c Collingwood b Swann 27

Clarke not out 60

North b Swann 6

Haddin not out 15

Extras: (lb-5, nb-4) 9

Total: (For 5 wickets in 49 overs) 178

To bat: Johnson, Hauritz, Siddle, Hilfenhaus.

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-34, 3-78, 4-120, 5-128.

Bowler O M R W

Anderson 12 2 57 0

Flintoff 14 3 35 2

Onions 6 0 35 0

Broad 9 2 23 1

Swann 8 1 23 2

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Russia's 2nd title in a row

AFP, Rome

Russia continued their synchronised swimming domination by lifting the technical team title at the World Championships here on Sunday for the second time in a row.

They finished with 98.833 points to beat Spain by just one point with China in third.

Anna Nasekina revealed the winning programme was the same as the one the team used in winning Olympic gold in Beijing a year ago.

"The first and most important thing is that we are really happy. We are a new and young team and we proved that Russia are the best in the world," she said.

"Today's programme was the same as at the Olympics but from next year we will change it."

Russia had won the inaugural technical team event in Melbourne two years ago when technical and free routines replaced the single team competition.

Russia also won the free team routine in Melbourne and won the last four editions of the old team event.

Their only defeat in team synchronised swimming at the World Championships since 1994 came in the inaugural free combined event in Barcelona in 2003, won by Japan.

However Russia won that too in both 2005 and 2007.

DU chess

SPORTS REPORTER

The fourth round of the Dhaka Inter-Department Chess Competition ended at the Shaheed Munir Chowdhury Auditorium on Sunday. Three departments are sharing the first position with 8.5 points each. They are Management, Finance and Physics. Maths and Language department are jointly holding the second position with eight points each. I.B.A. is holding third position with seven points.

The fifth and final round games will take place today at the same venue.

Vaas quitting

FROM PAGE 17

"It is a sad day for Sri Lankan cricket," Sangakkara told reporters. "Vaas is such a great player, one of the legends of the game."

"He must have thought long and hard about it, talked to his family and also spoke to me and the other players and decided it was time to stop playing Test matches."

"He stands out as a player. He has slogged year in and year out in conditions that are not ideal for seam bowling."

"The team has huge respect for him. He leaves behind a benchmark and I hope he will inspire young fast bowlers in Sri Lanka to perform like him."

Sangakkara said the three things that stood out in Vaas were "fitness, strength and class."

"Vaas stands shoulder to shoulder with the game's best," the captain said, adding that the seamer was certain to be included in the playing XI for the final Test.

Captaincy in question

AFP, Sydney

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Ricky Ponting's captaincy again came under scrutiny by the Australian media on Sunday as his team faced almost certain defeat in the second Ashes Test against England at Lord's.

Australia will need to set a new world record run chase, if they are to win after England reached 311 for six in their second innings on Saturday for a lead of 521 runs with two days remaining.

Ponting's unhappy match continued with Australia's proud record of not having lost at Lord's in 75 years under extreme threat when he fluffed two chances to put England under pressure.

His frustrations bubbled over when he exchanged words with star England batsman Kevin Pietersen and umpire Rudi Koertzen over a contentious catch.

"For someone who has just become Australia's second most experienced captain, Ricky Ponting should have known better," The Sunday Telegraph's Malcolm Conn said.

"His annoyed discussion with umpire Koertzen and toe-to-toe confrontation with Pietersen as Australia continued its second Test meltdown was a bad look."

Conn said it was one of the worst team performances in Ponting's time in the Australian set-up.

"Ponting will be remembered as one of the greatest batsmen of all time but his captaincy will be remembered in part for his approach to umpires and opponents," he said.

"Ponting spends too much time talking to umpires. It is a part of his game which international opponents have confided they do not like."

The Sun Herald said Australia faced a monumental struggle to save the second Ashes Test.

"Ponting missed a chance to run out Pietersen and then in the next over the Australian captain put down a simple chance at second slip with Bopara on nine," The Sun Herald's Chloe Salta said.

"Ponting again entrusted Mitchell Johnson with the new ball but he conceded almost a run a ball for three overs before he was replaced."

The Sunday Telegraph dwelt on Ponting's symbolic dropped catch.

"The inexplicable blunder to drop Bopara at second slip simply had to be seen to be believed as Ponting crouched low, got his fingers in front of his face but somehow botched the catch," the newspaper's Ben Dorries said.

"And to make matters worse the crowd roared and chortled every time the drop was replayed on the electronic scoreboard."

The Sun Herald's columnist Peter Roebuck said Australia have paid a heavy price for their profligacy with bat and ball.

"England have been superior with bat and ball and apart from Ben Hilfenhaus, the [Australian] bowlers hardly put together a single tight overlet alone a testing spell," he said.

"Having appeared efficient in [first Test] Cardiff, the Australians batting was bereft at Lord's."

ABC radio commentator Jim Maxwell said: "England sense victory and it is hard to see any other result with two days to play."

Lanka eye clean sweep

FROM PAGE 17

Vaas, 35, said on Sunday he will retire from Test cricket after the Pakistan series, but will continue to play limited-overs internationals.

The 110-Test veteran with 354 wickets was overlooked for the first two Tests, but has been recalled for the final match at the risk of changing a winning formula.

"There is a good possibility that we may go in with four seamers and leave out a bowler who has not done well," said Sangakkara.

Vaas could be the fourth seamer alongside Nuwan Kulasekera, Thilan Thushara and Angelo Mathews on a wicket that has taken a lot of rain over the last few days.

That would mean right-arm spinner Ajantha Mathews, who has been unimpressive so far in the series with just five wickets in four innings, would miss out.

Pakistan coach Intikhab

Alam said he hoped his team raises their game to earn a consolation win ahead of the five-match one-day series against Sri Lanka starting on July 30.

"It's not that we played badly overall, but we must find a way to stop these batting collapses," said Alam. "That has been our real problem in the series."

"We may have lost the series, but there is still a lot to play for in the last match."

Both teams will name their playing XIs before the toss on Monday.

The Test series comes just months after the Sri Lanka team bus was attacked by armed militants in Lahore as the side travelled to a Test match against Pakistan.

That March 3 assault saw six policemen and two civilians killed, plus seven Sri Lankan squad members injured, notably spin star Ajantha Mendis, and led to the

suspension of international cricket in Pakistan.

SQUADS

PAKISTAN (from): Younus Khan (captain), Salman Butt, Khuram Manzoor, Mohammad Yousuf, Misbahul Haq, Shoaib Malik, Kamran Akmal, Umar Gul, Saeed Ajmal, Mohammad Aamer, Danish Kaneria, Abdul Razzaq, Abdur Rauf, Fawad Alam, Faisal Iqbal.

SRI LANKA (from): Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Malinda Warnapura, Tharanga Paranavitana, Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samaraweera, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Angelo Mathews, Chamara Kapugedera, Rangana Herath, Ajantha Mendis, Chaminda Vaas, Thilan Thushara, Nuwan Kulasekera, Dhammika Prasad, Kaushal Silva, Suranga Lakmal.

Umpires: Simon Taufel and Ian Gould.

ZH Sidker football

SPORTS REPORTER

The second edition of the day-night ZH Sidker football tournament commenced on Sunday at the Millennium International School and College (MISC) ground in Monica real estate, west Dhanmondi. The tournament was inaugurated by Zainul Huq Sikder, chairman of Sidker Group. S. M Hayat UI Islam, principal of MISC was also present at the ceremony as the special guest.

Zhigatola Salek Garden and Tally office Eagle Sporting club faced off against each other in the opening match.



Students and guests jointly inaugurate the second ZH Sidker Football Tournament at the Millennium International School and College ground in the city yesterday.

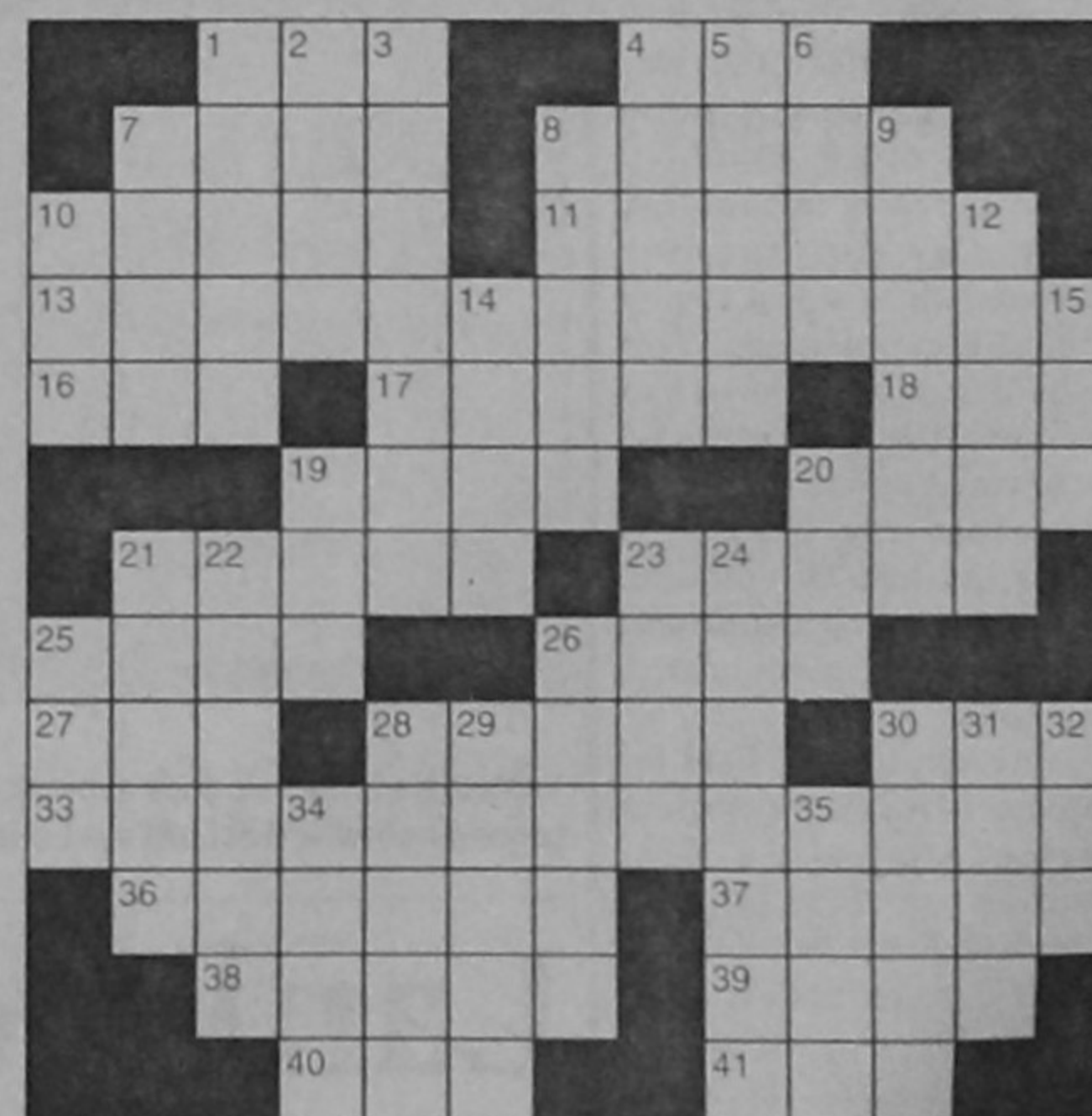
PHOTO: COURTESY

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	27 Tarzan's creator's T.G.I.F.	40 Afternoon affair	12 Marathons, e.g.
1 Part of Dietitian's stat	28 "Hammerin' Hank"	41 Barbie's companion	14 Run off course
7 Recognize	30 Schlep	19 Fa	15 "Of follower"
8 Express Schadenfreude	33 State of delusory happiness	20 Director's cry	21 "Pre-summed Innocent"
10 Paris' subway	36 Suitor's actions	5 Simoleon	22 Mandrill, e.g.
11 Boarding-house occupant	37 "Haystacks"	6 Pet food brand	23 Room access
13 Prankster's time	38 Art-class models, often	7 French military cap	24 Go wild Dict. info
16 Carnival city	39 News-paper page	8 React to a pun	26 Boasts
17 Camel's cousin	10 Scratch	9 Monotony	28 Comment to the audience
18 Lemieux milieu		10 Scratch	29 Sleep-clinic study
19 Wit-nessed			30 Sheets and such
20 Poolroom supply			31 Second-hand
21 Steak variety			32 Obtain
23 Gene Krupa's set			34 Lummax
25 Two-way battle in the ring			35 Block-head

Solution time: 21 mins.

SOCK	SCI	TAMP
CHOW	EAT	ARIA
AIDA	CROCKETT	
BOYCOTT	HEATH	
HAS	MAO	
FREAK	BURNETT	
CHA	SAD	EDN
CORBETT	ISLET	
ANY	ALL	
AMINO	ELLIOTT	
MEGA	WATT	GREW
IRON	DNA	HERO
SERA	OAR	TOMS



CRYPTOQUIP

S T Y I M S L S T D Y H L X

M T R Z F T S Z M F O L L X K N S J I

K Z R Z E D I T H T X I X D J L G S I E

"T W Z W N X G E E I X ' D Y I I O I X ?"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I DISCOVERED AN EXCELLENT FABRIC SOFTENER FOR THE CLOTHES DRYER, EVERYBODY WAS EX-STATIC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals O