

## GM chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master (GM) Reefat Bin Sattar and GM Abdullah Al Rakib secured full points while GM Enamul Hossain Razib stumbled in the 9th United Insurance and United Leasing GM Chess Tournament at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

Organisers, however, saw no problem on the weekly holiday after the annoying load shedding forced them to cancel all games at the venue where the generator went off after providing support for one-and-a-half hour during the load management.

The National Sports Council's engineer yesterday visited the venue and examined the generator while the NSC secretary assured the organisers to repair the air-conditioner of newly-built NSC Tower, the original venue of the tournament, in a couple of days.

Reefat defeated Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan, Rakib got a walkover against FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman, but Razib drew with FM Mehdi Hasan Parag.

Top rated Georgian GM Mikhail Mchedlishvili, as expected, got off to a winning start beating Sheikh Nasir Ahmed.

Indian GM Neelotpal Das beat Nepalese Badri Lal Nepali, Georgian GM Mehrab Gagunashvili beat Debaraj Chatterjee of Destiny, GM Anzar Ismagambetov of Kazakhstan beat Indian Vinod Kumar, GM Igor Rausis beat FM Mohammad Javed of Destiny, Indian GM Dibyendu Barua beat Jamal Uddin, Indian GM Tejaz Bakre beat Keshav Shrestha of Nepal.

## Aussies make

FROM PAGE 17

replaced by Graeme Swann -- the only specialist spinner on either side.

The pitch had taken turn on Thursday and the pressure was on the off-break bowler to produce a match-winning spell.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at lunch on the second day of the fifth Ashes Test between England and Australia at The Oval on Friday:

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight: 307-8)

Strauss c Haddin b Hilfenhaus	55
Cook c Ponting b Siddle	10
Bell b Siddle	72
Collingwood c Hussey b Siddle	24
Trott run out (Kitch)	41
Prior c Watson b Johnson	18
Flintoff c Haddin b Johnson	7
Broad c Ponting b Hilfenhaus	37
Swann c Haddin b Siddle	18
Anderson lbw b Hilfenhaus	0
Harmison not out	12
Extras: (b-12, lb-5, w-3, nb-18)	38
Total: (All out in 90.5 overs)	332
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-114, 3-176, 4-181, 5-229, 6-247, 7-268, 8-307, 9-308.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hilfenhaus	21.5	5	71	3
Siddle	21	6	75	4
Clark	14	5	41	0
Johnson	15	0	69	2
North	14	3	33	0
Watson	5	0	26	0

AUSTRALIA: First innings  
Watson not out 30  
Kitch not out 26  
Extras: (lb-4, nb-1) 5

Total: (For no loss in 20.2 overs) 61  
To bat: Ponting, Hussey, Clarke, North, Haddin, Johnson, Siddle, Clark, Hilfenhaus.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	6	2	20	0
Flintoff	6	3	7	0
Swann	4.2	1	15	0
Harmison	4	1	15	0

## MSC likely

FROM PAGE 17

prepared making an uncertainty of the tournament.

The football's governing body, however, had cleared their stance saying they had no scope to defer the tournament and as a worst-case scenario they would start the third edition of professional football league scrapping the Federation Cup this season.

After having formed a 24-member football committee a couple of days ago, the popular black and white outfit also confirmed the services of trusty coach Maruful Haq, who successfully guided Mohammedan to win the Federation Cup and the Super Cup and helped them finish behind champions Abahani in the second edition of the professional football league.

Manager Amirul Islam Babu and coach Maruful today are scheduled to visit Mymensingh where they are supposed to start their preparation camp from Sunday.

Maruful believed the time he was getting to prepare the boys was short, but he was confident of giving a competitive shape to the squad.



Grand Master Reefat Bin Sattar (R) ponders his next move against Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan during the 9th United Insurance and United Leasing GM Chess Tournament at the NSC conference room yesterday.

## Asif gets Pak recall

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan on Friday recalled controversial pacer Mohammad Asif but omitted experienced all-rounder Abdul Razzaq from their 15-man squad for next month's Champions Trophy.

Pakistan, who were originally to host the tournament before it was moved over security fears, are in Group A of the eight-nation event, to be held in South Africa from September 22 to October 5.

Asif was brought back in following a one-year ban, due to expire on September 22, having proved his fitness to selectors during practice matches earlier this month.

The ban was imposed after the 26-year-old failed a dope test in the inaugural season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) last year.

Chief selector Iqbal Qasim said Asif was ready to go.

"Asif is back after he satisfied with his fitness and this is the best possible team for an event which is regarded as the toughest of all the events as the world's top eight teams compete in it," Qasim told reporters in Lahore.

Asif, who burst onto the scene in 2005, has been one of Pakistan cricket's most colourful characters.

He hit the headlines for the wrong reasons in 2006 when, along with controversial fellow pacer Shoaib Akhtar, he tested positive for the banned steroid nandrolone.

Akhtar was banned for two years and Asif for one year, but the bans were overturned on appeal.

Asif was also detained at Dubai airport for 19 days while returning from India after featuring in the IPL in 2008.

He was found in possession of opium but

Dubai police deported him after they found the quantity of the drug was "insufficient" to make a case.

A Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) disciplinary committee fined him one million rupees (12,500 dollars) over the incident.

The PCB said on Friday Asif cannot attend preparation camp for Champions Trophy despite being recalled in the squad until his year-long doping ban expires.

"Contrary to media reports, we wish to clarify that as per the directives of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Asif cannot take part in training camp until his ban expires," the PCB said in a statement.

Doping ban on the 26-year-old fast bowler expires September 22, the day the Trophy starts in South Africa.

Asif, however, will be eligible to play Pakistan's first match against the West Indies on September 23 -- a day after his ban expires.

The Pakistan team is expected to attend a training camp in Lahore early next month before leaving for South Africa to participate in the Champions Trophy.

Asif is currently training at a local cricket academy under the guidance of former captain Rashid Latif. He refused to speak to media on Friday, saying he needed to get clearance from the PCB.

Razzaq, 29, struggled for fitness during Pakistan's tour of Sri Lanka earlier this month, the visitors losing the Tests 2-0 and one-day series 3-2.

## SQUAD

Younus Khan (captain), Imran Nazir, Misbah-ul-Haq, Umar Akmal, Shoaib Malik, Shahid Afridi, Rana Naved-ul-Hasan, Fawad Alam, Mohammad Yousuf, Kamran Akmal, Umar Gul, Mohammad Aamir, Mohammad Asif, Rao Iftikhar, Saeed Ajmal

## Rain threatens SL win

FROM PAGE 17

before stumps when he was caught in the slips off Nuwan Kulasekara.

Martin Guptill was unbeaten on 17 and Ross Taylor was on eight when bad light stopped play with 14 overs remaining in the day.

Rain has been forecast during the final day's play on Saturday in which Sri Lanka have three sessions to bowl out the tourists and take the lead in the two-Test series.

New Zealand may be without influential batsman Jesse Ryder and wicket-keeper Brendon McCullum in their second knock after the duo suffered a stomach bug and were confined to their hotel rooms on Friday.

"They are sick, very sick, but we hope they will be able to bat if required," said Kiwi coach Andy Moles.

"It's been a difficult day. Not only those two, but 13 of our 15 players have been hit by the bug. At one stage today, two of our support staff were in whites ready to go out and field."

"But that won't be an excuse. We are only looking to save this match and I am confident it can be done if the batsman show the application and determination they are capable of."

Sri Lanka accepted New Zealand's request to field reserve wicket-keeper Reece Young on Friday since Ryder had been nominated to don the gloves if McCullum got injured.

Rules do not normally allow anyone outside the

playing XI from keeping wicket.

Earlier, Thilan Thushara and Muttiah Muralidaran finished with four wickets each as New Zealand, replying to Sri Lanka's 452, were bowled out for 299 in their first innings.

Muralidaran, Test cricket's leading bowler, had Iain O'Brien caught behind to claim his 100th wicket at Galle and take his overall record tally to 774 wickets.

Thushara then bowled Daniel Vettori in his first over, but not before the New Zealand captain had contributed a defiant 42.

Dilshan, promoted to open the innings in this Test for the first time in his career, followed a brilliant 92 in the first innings with 12 boundaries and a six in his ninth Test century.

Dilshan held out little hope for New Zealand if bad weather did not interfere on Saturday.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Friday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 452 (Dilshan 92, Jayawardene 114, Samaraweera 159; Vettori 4-78, Martin 4-77)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Muralidaran	69			
Guptill b Thushara	24			
Flynn b Mendis	14			
Patel lbw b Muralidaran	26			
Taylor c P Jayawardene b Thushara	35			
Ryder b Kulasekara	42			
McCullum b Thushara	1			

ing to prep Semenya for the international spotlight and to have defused the debate before it went public.

"If Semenya has been let down, it is by the professionals whose job it is to look after her career -- from her trainers and managers to Athletics South Africa. Even Semenya's coach says that she has often been mistaken for a man," the Mail&Guardian said.

"They could not have failed to see this coming. But they have failed miserably in not settling the issue by taking the appropriate steps before it blew up into the traumatic controversy it is now."

The regional Daily Dispatch newspaper also accused ath-

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kulasekara	10	2	41	1
Thushara	23	2	81	4
Mendis	39	8	85	1
Muralidaran	42	10	73	4
Paranavitana	2	0	8	0

SRI LANKA: Second innings  
Paranavitana c Taylor b O'Brien 5  
Dilshan not out 123  
Sangakkara run out 46  
M Jayawardene c & b Patel 27  
Samaraweera c Taylor b Vettori 20  
P Jayawardene not out 30  
Extras: (b-5, lb-3) 8  
Total: (For 4 wks dec in 49 overs) 259  
Did not bat: Matthews, Muralidaran, Mendis, Thushara, Kulasekara.  
Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-120, 3-174, 4-205.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Martin	5	1	25	0
O'Brien	8	1	45	1
Oram	5	0	31	0
Vettori	19	3	81	1
Patel	12	0	69	1

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings  
Guptill not out 17  
Flynn c M Jayawardene b Kulasekara 0  
Taylor not out 8  
Extras: (b-4, lb-1) 5  
Total: (For one wkt in 13 overs) 30  
Fall of wicket: 1-1.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kulasekara	3	0	10	1
Thushara	2	2	0	0
Mendis	4	1	9	0
Muralidaran	4	2	6	0

## Goodwin's landmark innings

AFP, Taunton

Former Zimbabwe batsman Murray Goodwin made the sixth highest score in the history of English county cricket as his 344 not out helped Sussex reach 742-5 against Somerset on Thursday.

Goodwin's innings lasted 351 balls and included 43 fours and six sixes before Sussex declared.

The 36-year-old's mammoth score was a new individual record for Sussex and his team's total was their highest ever, beating the previous best of 705-8 declared against Surrey in 1902.

Former West Indies batsman Brian Lara holds the record for the highest score in first class cricket with an innings of 501 not out for Warwickshire against Durham at Edgbaston in 1994.

## Big guns sail into qtrs

AFP, Cincinnati

World number one Roger Federer was nearly blown off track by blustery winds, while Andy Murray and Rafael Nadal steered a steady course into the quarterfinals of the Cincinnati Masters on Thursday.

Swiss top seed Federer rallied for a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Spain's David Ferrer, conquering not only the world number 19 but also blustery winds to line up a meeting with Aussie Lleyton Hewitt.

Despite the difficult conditions, the top four seeds all advanced to the quarterfinals.

Murray, whose run to the title in Montreal last week saw him seize the world number two ranking from Nadal, defeated Czech Radek Stepanek 6-4, 6-1.

Nadal, the second seed despite his current No.3 world ranking, downed France's Paul-Henri Mathieu 7-5, 6-2, and fourth-seeded Serbian Novak Djokovic advanced with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over France's Jeremy Chardy.

## Don't paper

FROM PAGE 17

Ashraf after the ICC T20 World Cup failure and subsequent decision to remove him from the captaincy ultimately paid off.

One can't say only captain's performance is good enough for a team to show good performance but undoubtedly it's an added inspiration for the team. The latest example was Shabbir Ali Hasan who not only got support from his colleagues but also contributed with both bat and ball.

Everybody raised their voices against Ashraf's captaincy because he was totally demoralised due to his own poor performance and this also affected the team. There was evidence that the additional burden affected the highly talented batsman, who is yet to justify his talent as a batsman but the team needs his contribution as a batsman for continued success.

And refreshingly he got back his form in the tours after failure in the Test series in the Caribbean.

So, the bottom line is that we must think whether there is any valid point behind any criticism. After all, the more one rectifies their mistakes, the more they go ahead. And that is the exact direction where we want the Tigers to head.

## I want to be

FROM PAGE 17

Olympics last year and two at these world championships in Berlin, smashing the world records on his way to every title.

In the same stadium where American Jesse Owens won four gold medals, including three in the sprints, at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Bolt knocked off 11 hundredths of a second in each of his two gold medal races, the 100 and 200 metres.

He ran a jaw-dropping 9.58 seconds in the 100 before pulverising his 200 mark with a new world record of 19.19.

"I keep saying anything is possible. You work hard, you train hard. I still train very hard and running fast races doesn't change that," he said.

Bolt said he was not interested in convincing those who did not believe the records were a result of his hard work, saying that questions about doping were an inevitable part of athletics.

## Ashes still even: Siddle

Cricket

AFP, London

Australia fast bowler Peter Siddle said the fifth and final Ashes Test was still in the balance despite taking four for 63 as England, who won the toss, ended the first day at the Oval on 307 for eight.

Siddle, who closed the day's play when he had Graeme Swann caught behind, earlier took a trio of top order wickets in a match Australia only had to draw to retain the Ashes but England needed to win to regain them.

Both Siddle and England batsman Ian Bell, who top-scored with 72, said it was a case of honours even after stumps here on Thursday in a series all square at 1-1.

"I think we are in a pretty good position," Siddle told reporters. "To get eight wickets at the end of day and they are 300-odd, it's pretty even."

"With the new ball, there was plenty of pace but the pitch soon flattened out and we had to be patient and work harder," said Siddle, who also dismissed opener Alastair Cook, Paul Collingwood and Bell.

"There's a bit in it, if you're patient enough, with both bat and ball. Bell did a good job."

Siddle added: "The wicket looks fine from my eyes. There's definitely going to be a result."

The 24-year-old is now the leading bowler in the series with 20 wickets to his name after a nervy start to his first Ashes campaign.

"I'm disappointed with how I started the series but now I'm back on track," Siddle said. "But I just want to bowl well for the team, even if that means bowling maidens while wickets fall at the other end. I'm feeling more at ease in an Ashes series."

Meanwhile Bell said: "I guess with the starts we had, we could be in a slightly better position than we are now."



England pacer Stuart Broad celebrates after dismissing Australia's Michael Hussey (not in picture) on the second day of the fifth and final Ashes Test at The Oval in London yesterday.

## Serena, Sharapova advance

Tennis

AFP, Toronto

Second-seeded Serena Williams eased into the quarterfinals of the two million-dollar WTA hardcourt tournament here on Thursday with a straight sets victory over Ukrainian Alona Bondarenko.

Williams, the reigning Wimbledon, Australian Open and US Open champion, needed only 64 minutes to subdue Bondarenko 6-1, 6-4.

The American exacted a bit of familial revenge after third-seeded Venus Williams was eliminated in the second round by Alona's sister, Kateryna Bondarenko.

"I was just trying to be perfect and I couldn't get my serve in and got frustrated (in the second set)," said Williams. "I've been practicing a lot on my serve. It just hasn't been well."

Kateryna Bondarenko's run came to an end on Thursday at the hands of 14th-seeded Pole Agnieszka Radwanska.

Radwanska was up 7-5, 5-3 and 40-0 when rain stopped play, and when the match resumed she duly finished off a 7-5, 6-3 victory.

In the quarters, she'll face former world number one Maria Sharapova, who shrugged off a rain delay to oust seventh-seeded fellow Russian Vera Zvonareva 6-2, 7-

6 (7/3). "I thought it was a step up, definitely," said Sharapova, who is battling back after a shoulder injury sidelined her for 10 months.

"I had to (play) against somebody that I've had trouble against in the past who I usually play three sets against. It was good to finish the match in two, but I really had no choice. I had to pick it up."

Zvonareva appeared poised to turn the tables when she won four straight games in the second set.

"I think this is definitely a great result," Sharapova said. "I've already played against three great opponents and I'm going to play another opponent tomorrow and you just hope that with each match you can raise your level and play better."

Another comeback kid, Kim Clijsters, was unable to build on an early lead, getting off to a fast start against Jelena Jankovic before the fifth-seeded Serb -- winner last week in Cincinnati -- steadied to win 1-6, 6-3, 7-5.

In the quarterfinals Jankovic will take on Russian Alisa Kleybanova. Kleybanova toppled giant killer Aravane Rezaï 6-3, 6-4, a day after Rezaï dispatched world number one Dinara Safina.

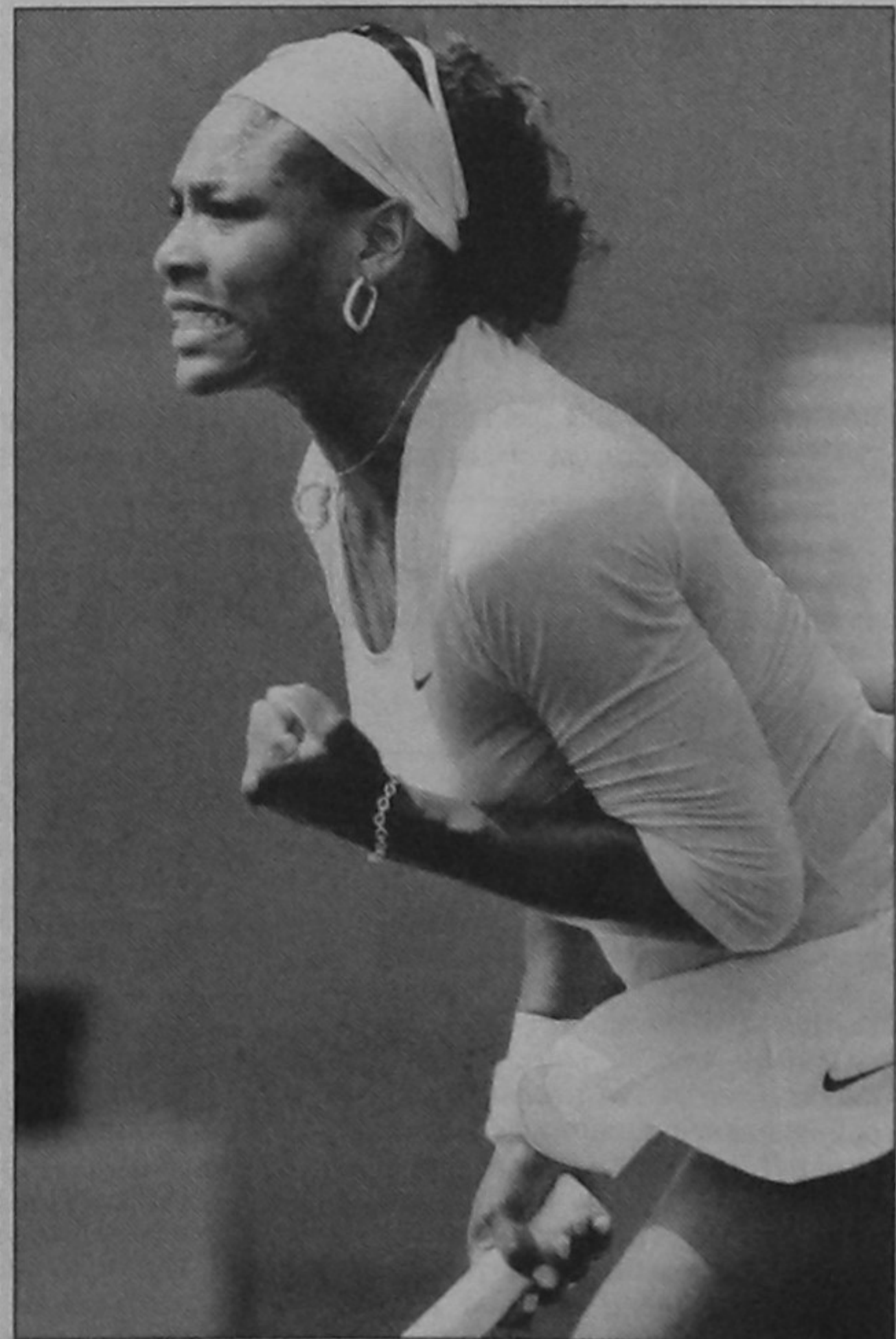
Fourth-seed Russian Elena Dementieva, the 2008 Olympic gold medalist, beat Israeli Shahar Peer 6-1, 1-6, 6-4.

In the quarterfinals Dementieva will face Australian Samantha Stosur, a 6-3, 6-1 winner over France's Virginie Razzano.

Czech qualifier Lucie Safarova booked a shot at Williams with a 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 victory over China's Zheng Jie.

While Safina's departure left Williams as the favourite, the American said she couldn't afford to think in those terms.

"I don't really think about it," she said. "I have to get to the final. I have to get there myself."



American Serena Williams exults after beating Alona Bondarenko of Ukraine in the Rogers Cup in Toronto on Thursday.